

**1933 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

**SUMMARY OF THE SECOND BATTALION DIARY, 1933**

January 1.—The strength of the Regiment on this day was:

Officers	25
Warrant Officers.	8
Colour Serjeants	6
Serjeants	28
Corporals	41
Buglers	15
Boys	13
Privates	<u>773</u>
	<b><u>909 British</u></b>
Subedar	1
Havildars	2
Naiks	2
Sepoys	<u>39</u>
	<b><u>44 Indian.</u></b>

2nd Lieut. J. H. Hare and 79 Other Ranks, drafts for "B" Company at Sale Barracks, Rangoon, and "C" Company at Port Blair, left Mingaladon.

*January 2.*—The Regiment left by special train for Rangoon at 6.25 a.m. to carry out a route march through the streets of Rangoon, instead of the usual Proclamation Parade.

The District Commander took the Salute in Sule Pagoda Road.

The Regiment returned to Mingaladon at 10.30 a.m. The remainder of the day was observed as a holiday,

*January 4.*—His Excellency Sir Philip Chetwode, Commander-in-Chief, inspected the Regiment on parade, and afterwards breakfasted with the Officers, After breakfast he visited the institutes and temporary church.

*January 5.*—One flight of R.A.F. machines carrying out a reconnaissance from Ambala to Singapore arrived. Four officers and four airmen were attached to the Regiment for two nights.

*January 6.*—Captain P. Booth rejoined from leave in the United Kingdom.

*January 7.*—Information received that Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., had died. The Regiment went into mourning for one week.

*January 9.*—Memorial Service for the late Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., held.

*January 10.*—Married families' Christmas party and tree.

*January 11.*—I.O.O. inspected Ordnance Stores.

*January 16.*—2nd Lieut. C. A. R. Campbell rejoined from the Army Signal School, Poona. Battalion Training commenced, Exercise No. 1 (Advanced Guard).

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*January 17.*—"B" Company arrived from Rangoon for Battalion Training. Conference on Exercise

*January 18.*—Information received that Major C. W. H. Bailie and 2nd Lieut. J. W. Warner had been posted to the 52nd.

The leave of Lieut. E. C. Richards extended to April 9, 1933.

*January 19.*—Exercise No. 2 (Night March, Assault, Bridging and Dawn Attack). Conference on Exercise No. 2.

*January 20.*—The O.M.E. inspected the scientific instruments of the Regiment. Exercise No. 3 (Defence).

*January 21.*—Information received that Captain F. Clare, D.C.M., and Lieut. E. C. Richards had been mentioned in dispatches for services in connection with the Burma Rebellion, 1931.

Conference on Exercise No. 3.

*January 23.*—Information received that 2nd Lieut. F. W. Lowndes-Stone-Norton had been posted to the 52nd.

Exercise No. 4 (Night Withdrawal). Officers and platoon Serjeants carried out a reconnaissance during daylight.

*January 25.*—Brigade Exercise (Night Advance and Dawn Attack).

Information received that Captain T. J. W. Winterton had been confirmed in the appointment of G.S.O. Ill, to the Commandant, Small Arms School, India, from January 6.

*January 30.*—Conference on Brigade Exercise.

"A" Company began twelve working days of Section Platoon and Company Training.

*February 1.*—Information received that Captain R. H. Doyne had been seconded as an Adjutant, Territorial Army.

*February 4.*—Captain P. Booth left to undergo a course at the Staff College, Quetta.

*February 7.*—Retreat and Marches played by the Band and Buglers and Pipe Band of the 1/17th Dogra Regiment.

*February 8.*—Captain K. S. Wootten rejoined the Regiment on ceasing to be seconded as an Instructor to the Army School of Physical Training, Ambala.

*February 10.*—One Indian Officer and 43 Indian Other Ranks (Sikhs) arrived on posting to the Regiment.

No. 7 Platoon fired the India Cup Match (A.R.A.) and scored 644 points.

*February 11.*—The Brooke Bond Cup (A.R.A. India) fired. Score: 575 (last year, 538). The A.D.M.S. Burma District visited the Regiment.

One Indian Officer and 40 Indian Other Ranks left on mustering out and transfer after 8 years' service with the Regiment.

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*February 13.*—Commanding Officers' Exercise for "A" Company.  
Weapon Training Casuals commenced firing.

*February 17.*—Young Soldiers' Cup (A.R.A.) fired, Score: 606 (last year, 591).

*February 20.*—The District Commander inspected the Regiment at normal work and saw :—

Band and Buglers.—Swimming.

"A" Company.—Physical Training.

Signallers.—Central Visual Scheme with 1/17th Dogra Regiment.

"D" (M.G.) Company.—Field Firing Demonstration.

"D" (M.G.) Company commenced Field Firing.

*February 22.*—Extract from the *"London Gazette"* of January 31: 2nd Lieut. C. A. R. Campbell to be Lieutenant (January 30).

*February 24.*—Major E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., proceeded to Bombay to take up the appointment of D.A.A.G., Bombay District.

2nd Lieut. M. Darell-Brown and 4 N.C.O.s attached to III Field Brigade A.F. (I) as Compensation Officer and Instructors during their annual camp.

*March 1.*—Lieut. J. D. Palmer rejoined the Regiment from officiating R.S.O.

*March 5.*—2nd Lieut. A. P. Godman rejoined from Port Blair to take over the duties of Quartermaster.

*March 6.*—2nd Lieut. J. W. Warner and a draft of 68 Other Ranks arrived.

*March 8.*—The Brigade Commander inspected "D" (M.G.) Company in the Drill Shed. Extract from *London Gazette* of February 14: "Lieut. J. A. Theobalds promoted Captain (January 28) under the provisions of Article 118 Royal Warrant for Pay."

*March 11.*—The Brigade Commander inspected "A" Company on parade.

Information received that Captain J. E. D. Kilburn and Captain M. H. S. Last had been posted and would join during Trooping Season 1933-34.

*March 13.*—2nd Lieut. D. Tin Hla, University Bn., I.T.F., joined for attachment.  
Duke of Connaught Cup, A.R.A., fired.

*March 14.*—The examination for 1st Class and Special Certificates of Education commenced.

"A" Company fired Company Shield. Score, 276.

*March 15.*—The Executive Veterinary Officer inspected the animals of the Regiment.  
King George V Cup, A.R.A., fired. Score, 368.

*March 16.*—Captain F. Clare, D.C.M., proceeded on eight months leave.

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*March 17.*—The Brigade Commander inspected the Detachment, Sale Barracks.  
Royal Irish Cup, A.R.A., fired. Score, 338.

*March 20.*—Lieut. F. W. Lowndes-Stone-Norton joined on posting from the 1st Battalion.  
"A" Company carried out Field Firing.

*March 21.*—Lieut. E. C. Richards rejoined from leave in the U.K.  
The H.Q. Wing fired the Company Shield, A.R.A. Score, 440.

*March 22.*—Annual inspection of the Regiment by the Brigade Commander.

*March 24.*—Information received that Lieut. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley passed the examination in subject (*a*) for promotion.

*March 25.*—Brigade Commander's inspection of stables and P.R.I.s books.  
Lieut. Harden proceeded on leave to the U.K.  
The Regimental Rifle team, consisting of Captain Theobalds, Lieut Ducat-Hamersley, 2nd Lieut Temple and 14 Other Ranks, L.A. teams from A and B Companies, and a Machine Gun team proceeded to Maymyo to fire in the Burma Rifle Association Meeting.

*March 27.*—Captain D. S. Newton-King, Sjt Nurden and Armr. S. Sjt. Jory (R.A.O.C.) arrived from the U.K., the former from sick leave, the latter two on posting to the Regiment.

*March 30.*—Lieut. Campbell proceeded on leave to the U.K.  
Lieut. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley appointed Station Signalling Instructor.

*April 1.*—2nd Lieut. Kangyi, U.T.A., arrived to do an attachment to the Regiment.  
Captain W. L. Barnard and Lieut. J. D. Palmer sailed for England on leave.

*April 3.*—Individual Training commenced. Annual turnover took place and new classes of instruction formed.

*April 5.*—Lieut. E. C. Richards assumed the duties of officiating Staff Captain, Rangoon Brigade.

*April 9.*—Lieut. H. E. Montgomery was admitted to hospital.

*April 10.*—The District Rifle Meeting teams rejoined.

The following were the results:—

Dyer Cup (Rifle).—2nd.

Barnett Bros. Cup (Revolver).—1st.

Barnes Cup (Rifle, Serjeants).—1st.

Orr Cup (Rifle, Officers).—2nd.

Lewis Gun Cup.—1st. Harcourt

Butler Cup (M.G.).—3rd.

Coombes Cup (Revolver).—1st (Lt. Hamersley),

B.R.A. M.G. Challenge Cup.—1st.

Innes Cup (Rifle, Young Soldiers).—2nd.

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*April 13.*—Lieut. H. E. Montgomery discharged from hospital.

*April 18.*—T.E.W.T. on Duties in Aid of the Civil Power.

*May 1.*—Information received that Lieut. C. L. C Ward will be posted to the 1st Battalion on completion of his tour of duty at the Regimental Depot.  
Captain D. S. Newton-King admitted to hospital.

*May 3.*—Military Display given by the Regiment in conjunction with the 101st Dogra Regiment at the Gymkhana Club, Rangoon.

*May 4.*—Non-commissioned Officers' promotion examination held.  
Captain K. S. Wootten proceeded to Maymyo as Instructor to a District Physical Training Course.  
Lieut. E. C. Richards admitted to hospital.

*May 5.*—2nd Lieut. H. G. Temple proceeded to Belgaum to undergo an Anti-Gas Course.

*May 8.*—Relief of detachments commenced.  
"A" Company proceeded by march route to Sale Barracks, Rangoon.  
"B" Company embarked for Port Blair, Andaman Islands.

*May 11.*—Captain D. S. Newton-King and Lieut., E. C. Richards discharged from hospital.

*May 13.*—2nd Lieut. D. Tin Hla ceased to be attached to the Regiment.

*May 18.*—Letter "C" Company arrived at Mingaladon on relief by "B" Company at Port Blair.

*May 20.*—1st Drill and Anti-Gas Cadre ended.

*May 22.*—The Monsoon broke.  
Second Weapon Training Cadre commenced.

*May 23.*—Brigade Lecture by the Commanding Officer; subject: "Le Cateau."

*May 24.*—Lieut. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley proceeded on ten days' leave.  
Seventeen Officers and N.C.O/s visited the Burma Oil Companies' refineries, at Syriam.

*May 30.*—Brigade Lecture by Lieut. E. C. Richards ; subject: "The Soviet Five Year Plan."

*May 31.*—A second party of eighteen visited the B.O.C. refineries at Syriam.

*June 3.*—A Regimental Parade was held to celebrate the King's birthday.  
Information received that Lieut. J. D. Palmer -qualified in subject (*b*) for promotion.  
Information received that the Regiment obtained fourth place in the Brooke Bond Cup for 1932-33.

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*June 6.*—Lecture, "Accounts," by Major J. J. Powell.

Lecture, "The Burma Oil Company," by Mr. Carpenter, B.O.C.

*June 7.*—The E.V.O., Burma District, inspected the chargers and mules of the Regiment.

*June 9.*—A promotion examination for the N.C.O.s of "C" Company held.

*June 10.*—The second Weapon Training Cadre ended.

*June 12.*—The third Weapon Training Cadre began.

*June 13.*—H.Q. Wing T.E.W.T.

Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., proceeded on leave.

Major J. J. Powell assumed Command of the Regiment.

*June 19.*—Owing to Waterloo Day falling on a Sunday, it was observed to-day.

The Inter-Company Aquatic Sports were held in the morning and a pagal gymkhana in the afternoon.

*June 20.*—Professor Beasley lectured on "Sino-Japanese Relations."

*June 27.*—Lecture by the Rev. G. F. Stephenson on "' The Beginning of Things."

*June 29th.*—2nd Lieut. M. Darell-Brown admitted to hospital.

*July 3.*—Information received that Major E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., had been appointed D.A.A.G., Bombay District, from May 20.

*July 4.*—Lecture by Major M. L. Hayne, 1/17th Dogra Regiment, on "Civil Disturbances—Peshawar, 1930."

Captain W. L. Barnard rejoined from leave in the U.K.

2nd Lieut. M. Darell-Brown discharged from hospital.

*July 7.*—2nd Lieut. M. Darell-Brown proceeded to Ahmednagar to undergo a course of instruction at the Small Arms (M.G.) School.

Lieut. F. W. Lowndes-Stone-Norton took over Sub-Editor of the *Regimental Journal*.

*July 9.*—Lieut. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley admitted to hospital.

*July 10 .*—Letter "A" Company's T.E.W.T. "The Attack" abandoned on account of rain.

*July 11.*—Lieut. J. D. Palmer rejoined from leave in the U.K.

*July 12.*—2nd Lieut. H. G. Temple admitted to hospital.

*July 14.*—Information received that Captain A. B. Hamilton and Lieut. E. C. Richards would be cross-posted to the Home Establishment during the forthcoming Trooping Season.

Information received that 2nd Lieut. H. G. Temple qualified at the Anti-Gas School.

*July 15.*—2nd Lieut. P. J. Luard admitted to hospital.

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*July 16.*—Lieut. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley discharged from hospital.

*July 17.*—"A" Company's T.E.W.T. completed.

*July 18.*—Lecture by Major Drummond, R.A.M.C. on "Tactical Handling of Div. Medical Units"

*July 19.*—Quarterly Audit Board began.

2nd Lieut. H. G. Temple discharged from hospital.

The Commanding Officer proceeded to Promé to attend the unveiling of the Police Memorial.

Professor Gordon Mackay lectured on "Repercussions of financial policy on the soldier."

*July 21.*—Information received that 2nd Lieut. J. W. Warner had qualified as a Judge and Instructor in Boxing.

*July 25.*—Lecture by Major J. J. Powell on "The operations in Mesopotamia at the end of May, 1915."

*July 28.*—The District Commander visited the Regiment at normal work.

*July 29.*—The District Commander visited the Detachment, Sale Barracks.

*August 1.*—Lecture by Mr. C. W. Scott on "In a Puss Moth to Burma."

Letter "D" (M.G.) Company T.E.W.T. "Rearguard and Withdrawal."

Lieut. K. Bayley rejoined from leave in the U.K.

*August 3.*—Major-General P. R. C. Commings, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commander, Rangoon Brigade Area, left for England.

*August 4.*—Demonstration of "How to take a Squad in P.T." by Captain K. S. Wootten.

*August 5.*—Information received that No. 5376897 L.-Sjt. C. Jackson had obtained a Distinguished Certificate at the Army School of Signalling, Poona.

Commanding Officer's Inspection of H.Q. Wing.

*August 6.*—2nd Lieut. J. W. Warner admitted to hospital.

*August 8.*—Lecture by Major A. P. S. Churchill, 1/17th Dogra Regiment: "The Crossing of the Shumran Bend."

*August 11.*—Information received that Captain B. Burt-Smith, M.C., Lieuts. C. Clifton, T. G. D. Rowley and J. S. R. Edmunds had been posted to the 52nd and would embark during the current trooping season, Also that on vacating his appointment as Adjutant.

Captain J. A. Theobalds would be attached, pending restoration to the establishment.

Information received that all Officers and Men of the Regiment, who were in Burma between the dates, December 22, 1930, and March 25, 1932, would receive the Indian General Service Medal with Clasp "Burma 1930-32."

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*August 12.*—Examination held for 2nd Class Certificate of Education.  
Continued on August 14 and 15.

*August 13.*—Long Service and Good Conduct Medals were presented by the Brigade Commander to the following :—  
R.S.M. G. W. Green, M.M.  
C.S.M. R. S. Prestney.  
Sjt. A. Bearsley.

*August 15.*—Lecture : "The Burma Forest Service" by Mr. C. W. Scott, O.B.E., D.F.C.  
Lieut. E. C. Richards ceased to be employed as Offg. Staff Captain, Rangoon Brigade Area.

*August 18.*—A party of 18 Officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s paid a visit to the Ahlone Forest Depot.

*August 20.*—No. 5178266 Pte. J. E. Windsor died in the B.M.H., Mingaladon.

*August 21, 22 and 23.*—Individual Boxing Competition.

*August 26.*—Captain J. A. Theobalds proceeded on 12 months combined leave. Lieut. K. Bayley took over the duties of Adjutant.

*August 29.*—Lecture, "The Future of the British Commonwealth—Eclipse or Ascension," by Prof. G. Mackay, D.C.M., M.A.

*September 5.*—Lecture on "Rice" by Lieut.-Colonel E. K. Glazebrook, A.D.C.

*September 6.*—A party of 15 Officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s visited a rice mill.

*September 7.*—A party of W.O.'s, N.C.O/s and men were shown over H.M.S. *Enterprise*.

*September 12.*—The Regimental XV were beaten by the Rangoon Gymkhana Club in the Rangoon Rugby Tournament.

*September 12.*—"C" Company T.E.W.T. "The Defence."  
Lecture on " The Burma Railways " by Mr. G. A., Hicks, Agent, Burma Railways.

*September 13.*—A party of Officers and N.C.O/s visited the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company's Dockyard.

*September 19.*—Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., returned from leave.  
Lecture on " The Irrawaddy Flotilla Company " by Mr. A. McGibbon.

*September 21.*—Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., assumed the appointment of Offg. Commander, Rangoon Brigade Area.

*September 27.*—Major J. J. Powell proceeded on leave. Captain W. L. Barnard assumed Command of the Regiment.



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*October 3.*—The ribbon of the Indian General Service Medal was taken into wear by those entitled to it.

*October 5.*—Captain D. S. Newton-King, Lieut. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley, Lieut. E. C. Richards and 19 men left Burma for England. The first two officers for posting to the Depot. Lieut. Richards on cross-posting to the 43rd, and the men for transfer to the Army Reserve.

*October 6.*—Extract from *London Gazette*, August 29, 1933 : 2nd Lieut. M. Darell-Brown to be Lieutenant, August 28.

*October 7.*—Captain A. B. Hamilton left for England on cross-posting to the 43rd Light Infantry.

*October 16.*—Lieut. J. S. R. Edmunds arrived from 43rd Light Infantry.

*October 17.*—C.Q.M.S. Holland and a draft of 30 men left for England.

*October 27.*—Captain J. E. D. Kilburn, Captain M. H. S. Last and 91 Other Ranks arrived from England.

*October 29.*—Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., ceased to hold appointment of Offg. Comdr., Rangoon Brigade Area.

*October 30-31.*—Promotion Examination for N.CO.'s of "A" Company.

*November 1.*—Drill Memoranda 1933 taken into use.

*November 6.*—Local Field Engineering Course started and was attended by 2nd Lieut. J. W. Warner and 16 N.C.O.'s.

*November 7.*—Signallers' Classification, 36 classified.  
Captain F. Clare, D.C.M., returned from leave in England.  
C Company proceeded to Rangoon in relief of A Company.

*November 8.*—A Company left Rangoon for Port Blair. Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., proceeded to Port Blair on Inspection Duty.

*November 11.*—Nonnebosschen Day. Armistice Day.  
C Company, Band and Buglers attended service at Cenotaph in Rangoon.

*November 16.*—Field Engineering Course ended.

*November 17.*—2nd Lieut. J. H. Hare and a demonstration platoon proceeded to an A.F.I. Camp at Moulmein.

*November 18.*—B Company arrived in Mingaladon from Port Blair.  
Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., returned from Inspection Duty at Port Blair.

*November 21.*—Lieut. R. H. Harden returned from leave in England.

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*November 23-25.*—Individual Athletic Sports.

*November 27-29.*—Non-commissioned Officers' Promotion Examination.

*November 29.*—Demonstration Platoon returned from Moulmein.

*November 30.*—2nd Lieut. J. P. F. Miles and a Demonstration Platoon proceeded to an A.F.I. Camp in Rangoon.

*November 30 to December 2.*—Nonnebosschen (Team) Sports. Won by Letter "B" Company.  
*December i.*—Information received that Captain C. R. Horley, M.C., had been posted to the 43rd Light Infantry on completion of his tour at the Depot.

*December 3.*—Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C, Captains W. L. Barnard, D. C. Colvill, M.C., and J. E. D. Kilburn left for Kalaw to attend a District Tactical Exercise.

*December 5,*—A party of two Officers and 250 men left for Rangoon to take part in the Tattoo.

*December 11.*—2nd Lieut. J. P. F. Miles and his demonstration platoon returned.

*December 12.*—A party of 29 men left for England on transfer to the Army Reserve.

*December 12-16.*—Rangoon Searchlight Tattoo. *December 18.*—Tattoo Party returned.

*December 23.*—Information received that Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., and 2nd Lieut. R. R. F. T. Barry had been posted to the 5 2nd Light Infantry.

*December 26,*—Information received that Cpl. Turk had won the Welter Weight Championship of the Army in India.

*December 29.*—Information received that Captain W. L. Barnard had been promoted Major (November

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**SECOND BATTALION LETTER, 1933**

DEAR EDITOR,

January 1 saw the Regiment as split up as ever with B Company in Sale Barracks, Rangoon, and C Company in the Andamans; in this depleted state we shall remain till we leave for Bareilly in the trooping season of 1934-35.

Once we had shaken ourselves down and the polo team had returned from Mandalay, we started so-called battalion training which some found a severe strain on the imagination with only one rifle company and the Machine Gun Company to start with; however, after the first scheme, B Company joined us from Rangoon and eased the strain.

The training area which lies just outside the barracks consists partly of very broken ground with small hillocks, unfortunately all covered with thick scrub which in places is almost impassable, and partly of paddy fields which are only negotiable in the dry weather. Altogether, it is most disappointing and makes anything above company training very difficult.

The rains here are most depressing, lasting from May to well into October; this year we were lucky in the majority of the 95 inches annual rainfall falling early; the weather definitely improved in October, but not sufficiently for polo to start before the end of November. Most of the Regiment seemed to spend some time in hospital, chiefly from dengue, which became an absolute scourge, starting with B Company in Sale Barracks, in the middle of March; after decimating this company it somehow found its way to Mingaladon and did not abate till nearly everyone had fallen a victim.

We have had two visits from the Navy this year. H.M.S. *Emerald* came in January and H.M.S. *Enterprise* in September, on both occasions life became very hectic, not only in the social world, but also in the athletic, and visits of all descriptions were exchanged. To show what could be done, A Company put on a mammoth fete and dance for the *Enterprise*, which was a huge success and which was attended by the Regiment *en masse* and by a very fair sprinkling from Rangoon.

The Colonel and Powell visited the Andamans on the change of companies in November and May, and each spent six days at Port Blair which were fully employed in sampling all the amenities of the place, bathing at Corbyn's Cove, doing a little clay-bird shooting, and touring round the place; a little time, however, was left to inspect the poor quarters of the detachment on Ross Island.

In February a change in the composition of the Indian platoon occurred; the Kumaonis, who had served with the Regiment since Razmak in 1924, were drafted away to the 19th Hyderabad Regiment, their place being taken by Sikhs from the disbanded Sikh Pioneers. In spite of many appeals and protests, we were forced to say good-bye to Subedar Govind Lall and his men; their departure was a source of mutual regret. They had served the Regiment most loyally and efficiently, and had done all they could to maintain the very high standard in everything which was set by the Subedar.

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In August arrived the news that the Indian General Service medal with clasp "Burma 1930-32" was to be awarded to those who served in this country during the rebellion. Our role had not been a glorious or active one except in the case of C Company, who toured far and wide in the Shwebo district which they" certainly kept quiet; otherwise we were merely passive in Maymyo, Mandalay, Rangoon and Meiktila.

A full and varied Individual Training programme kept us employed during the rains. Lectures of considerable interest, arranged by brigade, were a welcome change and were much appreciated. Food for thought on subjects of general and topical interest was provided by several professors from the Rangoon University, and interesting lectures followed by visits gave us a more than passing glimpse of the working of the Burma Oil Company, the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company and the Burma Railways.

The officers turned their hand to theatricals in June and July, and produced a thriller, called *The Joker* which they put on in Mingaladon for the benefit of the Regiment, and then took to the Gymkhana Club in Rangoon. This, to our surprise, proved a huge success, for we were all the greenest of amateurs, so that a project of this nature was a bold experiment.

In the way of sport, 1933 has not been a good year. Polo has suffered from the effects of Rangoon, and losses in ponies have been heavy: two have died from kumrie, and another is so uncertain as not now to be up to tournament form. As usual, it is almost impossible to buy new ones in this very restricted market. Yet polo in Burma is probably in a more promising condition than for many years past.

We put in a team for the Lim Chin Song in February in Rangoon and for Maymyo in April, but without success; plans for October week in Maymyo fell to the ground, and in the end I don't think we could have found a side at all owing to a fresh outbreak of casualties and sickness. It had been our intention to have gone to Pyawbwe to stay at the Military Police Stud Farm and play continuous polo with the reserve battalion who could have mounted us, but difficulties over housing and particularly heavy rains in September made it impossible.

A few of us have been out regularly with the Country Club, who hold their paper-chase meets near Mingaladon. These were Barnard and Temple and occasionally Theobalds, Godman and Luard. Barnard's "Equity," a fine horse which he bought a year ago after carrying him most successfully the whole season, developed kumrie in October and had to be destroyed, the Colonel's "Coldstream" also died earlier in the season.

Some have indulged in a little small game shooting; bags of snipe are in no way comparable to those at Mandalay. The Colonel had good sport at Christmas, and Darell Brown went up the Chindwin to shoot jungle fowl on the rebound from the Mandalay week, while Newton-King and Hamersley tried their luck after bigger stuff in May without success.

At football the Regiment had an indifferent season; we never could find a satisfactory team, and we met defeat early in the Walter Locke which we had won three years ago, and in the league we showed very mediocre form. Rugby is as popular as ever and, thanks to Luard who led the team very successfully, we were able to field a hard-working team who could be relied upon to try out all opponents.

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In boxing we have done distinctly well, winning the Inter-Services Tournament in January, securing two Burma champions, and an Army and R.A.F. champion in Cpl. Turk. We did not fare so well in the quadrangular tournament, when the *Enterprise* was in, but even so, our team put up a good show.

At the Burma Rifle Association meeting at Maymyo we entered for most events and were every bit as successful as in 1932, a very creditable performance, as all practice had to be carried out at Mingaladon under very different conditions of light and temperature. We won the Serjeants' match, the Lewis Gun Cup, the Machine Gun Challenge Cup, and both the team and individual revolver matches. Hamersley has thus won the individual cup three times out of the four he has been in Burma.

The Rangoon Searchlight Tattoo, which we put on with the 1/17th Dogras (P.W.O.) in December claimed all our energies for quite a time, and luckily was well received by the citizens of Rangoon of all nationalities. If forecasts are true, it should prove of considerable assistance to regimental charities.

Changes in officers have been heavy. On the debit side there has been Booth to Quetta, and Whitfeld to D.A.A.G., Bombay, two serious losses to polo. Hamilton and Richards to the 43rd, Newton-King and Hamersley to the Depot, and Campbell, who has resigned. The arrivals include Wootten, who soon made his presence felt in the gym. world, Naylor from the A.F.L, Lowndes-Stone-Norton and Warner early in the year from the 43rd, and Kilburn, Last and Edmunds in October. A change of adjutants took place, and Theobalds went home on a year's leave in September to make a change in his surroundings and to work for the Staff College.

On reading this through I find that possibly I may have painted rather a gloomy picture of 1933, but for all our disappointments there were many bright spots,, and the Regiment is in as good trim as ever, full of expectations and hopes for success in 1934.

Yours,  
52ND.