

**1934 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

**SUMMARY OF THE FIRST BATTALION DIARY, 1934**

BORDON CAMP, 1934

*January 23.*—The Regiment lost the second round of the Army Boxing Championships by 8 fights to 7 against the Somerset Light Infantry.

*January 25.*—2nd-Lieut. R. R. F. T. Barry embarked in S.S. *City of Simla* at Birkenhead for service with the 52nd in Burma.

*January 30.*—The Regiment lost the second round of the Boys Army Boxing Championships by 3 fights to 2 against the Somerset Light Infantry.

*February 1.*—2nd-Lieuts. F. H. G. Higgins and J. A. J. Read posted to the Regiment from Royal Military College.

Headquarter Wing won the Bordon Garrison Inter-Company Cross Country Run. Information received that Carden Loyds, on the scale of 2 per Mortar Platoon and 4 for Anti-Tank Platoon will shortly be issued to all Infantry Regiments for the First Division. In consequence 1 N.C.O. and 3 men are to go on an Internal Combustion Engine driving course.

*February 4.*—Captain A. B. Hamilton and Lieut. E. C. Richards joined the Regiment on cross-posting from the 52nd.

*February 6.*—The Regiment won the Aldershot Command Young Soldiers Cross Country Championship at Aldershot.

The Regiment won the Bordon Group Hockey Competition, by beating the 2nd Devon Regiment 5—4, thereby qualifying for the Aldershot Command eliminating rounds for the Army Championships.

*February 9.*—Lieut. C. W. P. Branson and Lieut. L. L. Falkiner completed a Cadre Course at S. A. S. Hythe.

*February 12.*—Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham proceeded on a course for Driving and Maintenance of Internal Combustion Engines at Farnborough.

*March 1.*—The Regiment were second in the Aldershot Command Cross Country Team Championships and so qualified to compete in the Army meeting.

*March 20.*—The Regiment was eleventh in the Army Cross Country Team Championships held in Windsor Park.

*March 24.*—Lieut. Hon. C. B. A. Bernard won the Mounted Infantry Cup for the second time at Arborfield in the Staff College Point-to-Point Meeting, on his own horse, "Martin Chuzzlewit."

*May 1.*—Captain J. B. Jarvis relinquished the appointment of Adjutant on completion of his tenure.

Lieut. Hon. C. B. A. Bernard appointed Adjutant (*London Gazette* dated 2/5/34).

Captain J. B. Jarvis appointed Staff Captain 3rd Infantry Brigade.

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*May 3.*—The Band of the Regiment went on a tour of Buckinghamshire from May 3 to May 8, playing at various towns and villages. It had not been heard in the county for many years.

Notified that 2nd-Lieut. A. J. R. Steele qualified Q.II on the 36th Officers Course at the A.S.P.T.

Notified that 2nd-Lieut. J. R. P. Montgomery and 2nd-Lieut. J. Granville qualified at Y.O. 13 Course at S.A.S. Hythe.

*May 8.*—The Regiment was issued with two Carden Loyds.

Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham and Cpl. Gilbey drove these from the Field Stores, Aldershot, to Bordon.

*May 12.*—Eliminating heats, Regimental Sports.

*May 14.*—Finals Regimental Individual Sports.

*May 17.*—Regimental Sports. Inter Company Teams. Won by "X" Company.

*May 25.*—The Mortar Platoon and other Officers and N.C.O.'s attended a demonstration of the new Light Mortar at Aldershot.

*June 2.*—The Regiment paraded with the Brigade for the King's Birthday parade.

First Light Infantry Club cricket match played at Winchester v. Greenjackets.

*June 4, 5 and 6.*—Regimental Rifle Meeting. 2nd-Lieut. J. R. P. Montgomery won the Regimental Championship. The Officers retained the Lea Cup.

*June 8.*—New Zealand Platoon arrived from the Depot and was posted to Letter "C" Company.

*June 14, 15 and 16.*—"S" Company and Letter "B" Company did their Company trek.

*June 18.*—The heats of the 3 miles in the Army Athletics Championship took place. The Regiment qualified for the final.

*June 20.*—The Duke of Connaught's Cup Riding competition took place in Aldershot. The Regiment gained 6th place.

*June 25, 26 and 27.*—Aldershot Command Rifle Meeting took place on Ash Ranges. The Regiment did not do well.

*June 27.*—Hindoostan Platoon arrived from the Regimental Depot and was posted to Letter A Company.

*June 28.*—The Regimental Dinner took place at the United Services Club, London.

*June 28 and 29.*—The Army Individual Sports took place. Lieut. C. L. C. Ward gained third place in the quarter mile and Captain J. B. Jarvis third place in the hammer throwing.

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*July 1.*—The Regiment marched to Camp 47 Aldershot, for Battalion Training.

*July 2, 3 and 4.*—Aldershot Command team athletics. The Regiment gained second place to the Royal Tank Corps and thereby qualified to enter for the Army Championships.

*July 4, 5, 6 and 7.*—Aldershot horse show. The Regiment gained third place in the Infantry Transport Competition.

*July 15.*—The Regiment returned to Bordon from Battalion Training.

*July 19 and 20.*—Army Team Athletic Championships. The Regiment won the Championships for the third time in the last five years.

*July 21.*—2nd-Lieut. B. W. Wood resigned his commission on account of ill health.

*July 23.*—Regimental day at the Depot and 1st day of the cricket week.

*July 27.*—South Africa platoon arrived from the Regimental Depot and was posted to Letter "B" Company.

*August 27.*—2nd-Lieut. P. M. Hughes promoted to Lieutenant.

*August 30.*—The following Gentlemen cadets from the Royal Military College to be 2nd-Lieuts. :

R. A. St. G. Martin,

H. H. van Straubenzee.

The Regiment moved to Fargo Camp, Salisbury Plain, to undergo Collective Training.

*September 1.*—The Regiment arrived at Fargo Camp.

*September 9.*—Lieut, and Quartermaster E. Smith promoted Captain and Quartermaster.

*September 21.*—The Regiment marched back to Bordon.

*September 23.*—The Regiment arrived back at Bordon.

*September 28.*—Mons Platoon arrived from the Regimental Depot and was posted to Letter "C" Company.

*September 29.*—2nd-Lieuts. F. H. G. Higgins and J. A. J. Read attended a Young Officers' Course at the S. A. S. Hythe from 8/8/34 to 28/9/34 and obtained a "QI" and "Q" certificate respectively.

*October 1.*—2nd-Lieut. R. A. St. G. Martin and 2nd-Lieut. H. H. van Straubenzee reported for duty on first appointment and were posted to Letters "B" and "C" Company respectively.

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*October 6.*—Maj.-Gen. Sir John Hanbury-Williams, Colonel of the Regiment, inspected the Regiment on parade at 12 noon and presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to C.Q.M.S. H. Hunt.

The dinner of the Old Comrades Association took place in the Devonshire Regiment's new Dining Hall at 7.15 p.m.

The Company numbered 700.

*October 11.*—Capt. C. R. Horley, M.C., promoted Major.

Capt. J. B. Jarvis restored to the establishment.

Lieut. G. W. Lathbury restored to the establishment.

*October 16.*—The Assistant Director of Remounts inspected the horses of the Brigade and expressed himself very well pleased with their condition.

*October 19.*—The Bordon Garrison Hunter trials took place at Oxney Farm.

A team representing the Brigade, and composed of two from each Regiment won the Inter-Brigade Competition.

*November 1.*—2nd-Lieut. P. T. van Straubenzee went on a Physical Training course.

*November 2.*—Lieut. R. H. G. O. Spence posted to the Regimental Depot for a tour of duty vice Lieut. R. T. Conant. The latter remaining attached until 31/12/34.

*November 2.* — Lieut. J. D. Palmer reported for duty on cross-posting from the 52nd and was posted to Letter "B" Company.

*November 8.* — Information received that Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham obtained a "QI" certificate on a Mortar Course which he attended from 6/10/34 to 26/10/34 at S.A.S. Netheravon.

Lieut. C. L. C. Ward obtained a "Q" certificate on a Machine Gun Course which he attended from 21/8/34 to 27/10/34 at the same school.

*November 9.*—Annual inspection of the Regiment by the Brigade Commander, Maj.-Gen. T. G. Dalby, D.S.O.

Pyrenees Platoon arrived from the Regimental Depot and was posted to Letter "A" Company.

*November 12.*—Capt. L. W. Giles, M.C., Capt. J. Thorne and Lieut. J. D. Palmer attended a Brigade Staff Duties Course lasting until November 24.

*November 13.*—Capt. S. C. P. Slattery and 2nd-Lieut. J. Granville and a draft of two N.C.O.'s and 60 Privates embarked at Southampton in H.T. *Nevasa* for India.

*November 21 and 22.*—Novices Boxing competition, which was won by Letter "C" Company.

*November 26.*—Lieut. J. D. Palmer proceeded to a Course of Aerial Photography at Farnborough from 26/11/34 to 14/12/34.

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*December 5.*—Bordon and Longmoor Individual Boxing Championships.  
The following of the Regiment won their weights:  
Bdsm. Hobson, Middle;  
Pte. Cook, Light;  
Pte. Blakemore, Bantam.

*December 7.*—The Regiment proceeded on Annual furlough from 7/12/34 to 8/1/35.

*December 18.*—2nd-Lieut. J. R. P. Montgomery embarked at Southampton on H. T. *Neuralia* for India.

*December 22.*—Major and Bt. Lieut.-Col. R. J. Brett, D.S.O., embarked at London on S.S. *Otranto* for Egypt to take up his appointment as G.S.O. British Troops in Egypt.

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**FIRST BATTALION LETTER**

DEAR EDITOR,

I suppose that a letter to the CHRONICLE should be chronological. I will therefore start with January 1, 1934; when nothing happened. The Regiment is all on leave at that time. A few men and fewer officers look after the barracks and answer the paper which emanates from the Aldershot Command at all times of the year.

Most of us returned during the first week of January to continue Individual Training, and on the 25th Barry sailed from Birkenhead to join the 52nd.

The boxing got going again, but though the standard was an improvement on last year, we could get no further than the second round, when we were beaten by the Somersets.

The garrison inter-company Cross Country Run took place on February 1. Headquarter Wing won it.

On the same day we were told that we were really to get Carden Loyds. Two for our Mortar Platoon and four for the Anti-Tank Platoon. In consequence, Wykeham, and three men, had to go on a new course for learning to drive and maintain Internal Combustion Engines.

Incidentally, it seems difficult to make these particular engines internally combust, and when they have done so, they are extremely difficult to keep on the road, apart from the fact that the driver's seat is on the exhaust pipe.

Hamilton and Richards joined us from the 52nd on February 4, just in time to see us win the Aldershot Command Young Soldiers Cross Country, and if they could have been in two places at once, they would have seen us beat the Devons at Hockey, on the same day, thereby winning the Bordon Group Hockey. Both very satisfactory results, as we had won neither of these events before, and it augurs well for these two sports next year.

Richards in actual fact saw neither, as he could not face Bordon for another month yet. Higgins and Reade joined us from Sandhurst on March 1.

To jump to a different subject, but to keep to dates it was about this time that the War Office eventually approved that our centre badge for the Regimental Colours should be a "Bugle Horn stringed" instead of the "United Red and White Rose." Evidently the latter device had been given to us in 1882, in common with other Regiments, who had no other special device at that time.

Now, back to running, we were second, in the Aldershot Command cross country on March 1, but could do no better than eleventh in the Army three weeks later: you cannot do well in the latter, unless you have some "star" individuals, and these we have not got at present.

On March 24 Bernard won the Mounted Infantry Heavy Weight Cup, for the second time, on Martin Chuzzlewit. In fact the old horse beat the whole field, light weights included, some of whom were carrying two stone less.

On May 1 the same rider mounted a different horse,, and took over the appointment of Adjutant from Jarvis while Jarvis took over the duties of Staff Captain to the Brigade.

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On May 3 the band started on a tour of Buckinghamshire, where they had not been seen for many years. This time they did not "proceed by march route" they went by bus, making their headquarters at the Depot. In the five days' tour they played at Newport Pagnell, High Wycombe, Wooburn Green, Slough, Aylesbury, Marlow and Chesham. They were very much appreciated, especially by the Territorials, who also very kindly entertained the band after some of the functions.

On May 8 two Carden Loyds actually arrived, one driven by Wykeham. He got them from Aldershot without a breakdown.

The first Light Infantry Club cricket match took place at Winchester on June 2. The Green Jackets just won a good match.

J. R. P. Montgomery won the Regimental Shooting Championship this year. It seems to be the first time that it has been won by a Second Lieutenant. The Officers also won the Lea Cup again, which made us think that we might do well in the George V Cup, but when we came to fire it later, the Officers appeared to have forgotten a great deal of the little they knew about shooting, and we only got eleventh place, three places worse than last year.

We did better in the Duke of Connaught's Cup, we were sixth in the Command. This is a riding competition for all mounted officers of dismounted units, trying to mount their horses, dismount, mount again, remain mounted over flat ground, and a few obstacles, whatever the horse may do. The horse is also supposed to do what the rider wants it to do: if he doesn't, you lose marks. The only occasion on which this does not apply is if the horse and rider come to one of the obstacles and the rider (taking fright), does not want the horse to negotiate it. If the rider is then so strong that he makes the horse not jump, you still lose marks. To me it doesn't seem logic.

Now the camping season starts, and on July 1 we moved out to Camp No. 47, Bourley Road, Aldershot. It looked exactly the same as last year, particularly so as there had been no rain since we left it, so the grass was the same colour.

We continued our battles with the same sort of uncivilized enemies, and did some bridging, and each scheme took place partly at night, as it always does in the Aldershot Command, as otherwise people would get very tired of seeing the same piece of ground.

The Command Athletics and the Horse Show, were also going on at the same time; in spite of that we were second in the former, and third in the Infantry Transport at the Show. Both these competitions have reached an amazingly high standard, and it requires a very great deal of organization and hard work to be up with the leaders.

Ward had also run third in the Army Individual quarter mile, and Jarvis got third in the Hammer Throwing.

In spite of the pessimists, we won the Inter-unit Athletic Championships, for the third year in the last five. It is a very difficult thing to win the Aldershot and Army Sports, as the team has to be on the top of its form on both occasions, and as every one knows it is not easy to have one man exactly fit for two big events one soon after the other. It is thirty times as difficult with a team of thirty men.

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On August 30, the Regiment started to march down to Salisbury Plain. The first night we bivouaced at New Arlesford, the second we went into a standing camp at Stockbridge, and the third day we got to the Brigade Camp at Fargo, which is just beyond Larkhill.

It was very nice seeing General Eden and Rupert Stephens, on the way down.

During our various trainings, we had one great night on Salisbury Plain, groping our way from beyond Urchfont Down, back to Lavington Folley. We got to within 400 yards of our destination before we decided to make a detour. We were by no means the only soldiery to be wandering round that night. The whole plain was full of flashing torches, lorry lights, lost horsemen, stranded artillery and snoring soldiers. I only met one man who knew where he was. That was lucky as he told us where to go, and we arrived at Lavington Folley, weary, but in time. The following Sunday, the Padre took as his text, "Seek and ye shall find"—he admitted it was unkind of him.

The last scheme: the big manoeuvres; was also amusing. We got to Marlborough in lorries and met the Tanks there, we fought them and captured some. We then stayed on in the town for two peaceful nights. There was one, not so peaceful when at 2 a.m. the first night an enemy tank, not bothering about little things like imaginary mines and road blocks came through the main street at top speed, firing its machine gun and eighteen pounder. It broke quite a number of windows and is supposed to have woken up some of the inhabitants. Luckily there was only one addition to the British Empire that night, and it is reported that mother and daughter are both doing well.

After that we motored back to Fargo, to find that our tent had already been taken back to Ordnance, and the next day we started our march back to Bordon, encamping and bivouacing at Stockbridge and New Arlesford again. We got wet the first day's march, and very wet on the last day, but that did not matter, and by lunch time we were back in Bordon, ready to start Individual Training again,

Martin and H. H. van Straubenzee joined on October 1 from Sandhurst.

On the 6th, the annual dinner of the Old Comrades' Association took place. The Devonshire Regiment lent us their dining hall for the occasion, and in recognition of this we gave them a trophy for inter-company cross country running. The company numbered 700, a record I believe. It is very nice for us to see old members of the Regiment down here, the great difficulty of course is to find a place big enough for the dinner.

On the morning of that day, the Colonel of the Regiment inspected us.

The Bordon Hunter trials were the next excitement, we entered a lot of horses but did no good except in the Inter-Brigade team event, which the brigade team won, beating the Guards Brigade and the Second Brigade. The team consisted of two horses from each battalion and one from the Brigade Staff. The two horses representing the Regiment were Bernard's Mount Eliot, and his charger Cobweb, ridden by Bernard and Lathbury respectively.

On November 1 hunting started, this is not such a stupid remark as it sounds, in fact it means a lot, as several packs in England had to put off their opening meets for more than a week, owing to there having been no rain for months.



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The following day Palmer joined us from the 52nd.

The annual inspection of the Regiment took place on November 9, it passed off as usual, the remainder of the day being observed as a holiday.

On November 13 Slattery and Granville sailed for India. It was only by luck that Granville took with him his khaki drill. It had to be thrown into the boat after "anchor had been weighed" and it was only the terrific strength of Firpo Ward which heaved it over the intervening ocean.

On December 7 the Regiment went on Christmas leave. On the 18th Montgomery sailed for India, and on the 22nd Brett also sailed away, but only as far as Egypt. He thought it was quite far enough to go to start with, and I am sure he was right.

On December 31 the year ended.

Only two treatises have had to be written this year one is on dress, the other on Battle Honours. Some new Army Dress regulations have been evolved and Regiments have been asked to send up any differences, which had been customary for any length of time. The only one allowed us was the wearing of the white tie. The wearing of trousers and shoes, instead of overalls and Wellingtons was not mentioned, in the new book, and on going through it, we found a great many other differences. We now hope that they will be officially allowed us by the War Office, when they have sifted out the claims from every Regiment. From what I hear that will take a long time.

The battle honour question is to decide finally on any more honours claimed by Regiments. A committee has been set up by the Regiment to decide on this, and the 43rd is represented by Withington, James Neville, and Young, who are working hard at the job now.

This time next year we hope to have left our hutments, and to be safely housed in brick buildings at Colchester.

Yours sincerely,  
43RD.