

1934 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

SUMMARY OF THE SECOND BATTALION DIARY, 1934

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

Officers(includes 4 posted but not yet joined)	31
Warrant Officers	8
Colour Serjeants	6
Serjeants	25
Corporals	43
Buglers	13
Boys	15
Privates	780
Total	921 British.

Jemadars	1
Havildars	2
Naiks	2
Sepoys	36
Total	41 Indian

Proclamation Parade.

The Regiment took part in the parade at Mingaladon, while "C" Company attended the parade in Rangoon.

The Brigade Commander issued an order congratulating all who took part in the parade.

January 8.—Lieut. T. G. D. Rowley arrived on cross posting from 1st Battalion.

January 9.—Captain B. Butt-Smith, M.C., arrived on cross posting from 1st Battalion.

January 11.—Thirteen men left for England on cross posting to 1st Battalion, and transfer to Army Reserve.

January 23.—Lieut. C. Clifton and 20 other ranks arrived from 1st Battalion on posting.

January 26.—The Regiment were defeated at polo by Rangoon, who were beaten in the final.

February 1.—1st Jungle Warfare Column went out. It consisted of No's 10 and 12 Platoons and "C" Company Headquarters. They marched from Palon to Okhan.

February 5.—1st Jungle Warfare Column returned.

2nd Jungle Warfare Column went out. It consisted of "C" Company Headquarters and No's 9 and 11 Platoons. They marched from Okhan to Palon.

February 6.—Colonel Johnson inspected Regimental School.

February 7.—Information received that the Army Council had approved of the following as the centre badge on the Regimental Colours.

"A Bugle Horn stringed."

This will replace the United Red and White rose.

February 9.—2nd Jungle Warfare Column returned. 3rd Jungle Warfare Column went out. It consisted of two platoons of "B" Company. They marched from Palon to Pugyi.

1934 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

February 11.—The Lord Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan in India and the Island of Ceylon preached the Sermon at the Parade Service.

February 13.—No. 3 Jungle Warfare Column returned.
No. 4 Jungle Warfare Column went out. It consisted of two platoons of "B" Company. They marched from Pugyi to Palon.

February 17.—The 4th and last Jungle Warfare Column returned.

February 19.—Conference on Individual Training.

February 20-21.—Regimental Rifle Meeting.
Winner of Commanding Officer's watch: Sjt. Harcourt.

February 20.—Lieut. K. Bayley commenced staff attachment at Rangoon Brigade Headquarters.

Captain J. E. D. Kilburn to act as Adjutant during his absence.

Extract from *London Gazette*: 2nd Lieuts. to be Lieutenants, January 31 :—

P. J. Luard,
H. G. Temple,
A. P. Godman,
J. P. F. Miles.

February 22-23.—Brigade Exercise No. 1. Outposts round Tadagale Station.
Regiment out all night, conference 6.30 p.m. Dogras doing enemy.

February 26.—2nd Lieut. R. R. F. T. Barry arrived from U.K. on posting—and brought with him clock for mess in memory of Lieut. Slessor.

Draft which arrived January 23 passed off square by Commanding Officer.

February 27.—Captain B. Burt-Smith, M.C., on Board of Officers conducting examination for Staff College.

Brigade Exercise No. 2. Defence. A digging scheme.

Medical came out too and officers and senior O.R.'s went to see working of A.D.S.

Out all night.

February 28.—Adjutant's Drill.

H.E. Governor of Burma dined in Mess.

March 1.—Brigade Exercise No. 3. Attack.

Mixed enemy. Dogras and ourselves.

March 2.—Commanding Officers' Parade.

Practice for Brigadier's Inspection.

1934 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

March 3.—Brigadier C. C. Foss, V.C., D.S.O., inspected the Regiment (Ceremonial) and presented L.S. and G.C. medals to :

C.S.M. Soanes.

C.Q.M.S. Anscombe.

C.Q.M.S. Richards.

L.-Cpl. Coppock.

After breakfast, Subaltern Officers did Company drill.

March 5.—Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., arrived from U.K. off leave and took over Headquarter Wing Competition shooting.

Brigade Exercise No. 4. Pipe line defence scheme. Out all night. 50 B.M.P. and some civil police cooperated also A.F.I, and A.C.'s. Dogras were enemy.

March 6.—"C" Company to Rangoon after Exercise No. 4.

Brigadier's final conference.

March 9.—Preparing for Brigadier's administrative inspection.

March 10.—Brigadier C. C. Foss, V.C., D.S.O., carried out administrative inspection of the Regiment.

March 13.—Reserve Signallers commenced classification.

Officers fired King George V Cup A.R.A. (Score 314)

March 14.—"B" Company to Sale Barracks.

"C" Company to Port Blair to relieve "A" Company.

Captain F. Clare, D.C.M., to Port Blair to return with "A" Company.

March 16.—Serjeants fired Royal Irish Cup (A.R.A. Non-central match). (Score 390.) (Creditable as it included a 32 and a 54.)

March 17.—Young Soldiers A.R.A. Team fired. (Score 604.)

March 19.—All available attended a demonstration of methods of de-contaminating a gas infected area.

Major-Gen. Deane Commanding Burma (I) District visited Mingaladon and also attended above Demonstration.

Lecture by Commanding Officer on Mesopotamia Campaign. Attended by District Commander.

March 20.—Revolver Casuals fired.

March 22.—Lieut. K. Bayley returned from Staff attachment and re-assumed duty as Adjutant.

March 28.—Information received that Major J. J. Powell had been selected to succeed Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C. in command on October n, 1934.

1934 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

April 1.—Individual Training started. Annual turn-over took place.
Regimental classes of instruction started.

April 9.—Regimental teams returned from Burma Rifle Association meeting, having won the following competitions :—
Harcourt Butler (M.G.) Cup.
Lewis Gun Cup ("B" Company team).
Team Revolver Cup (with a record score).
R.S.M. G. W. Green, M.M., won the Individual Revolver Cup and Sjt. Calver was second.
The team was third in the Machine Gun Cup, being one point behind the winners.

April 13.—Lawford Cup (hockey). The Regiment were beaten 3—0 by the Rangoon Customs.

May 4.—The Commanding Officer inspected Sale Barracks.

May 11.—The A.D.M.S. Burma District visited the Regiment.

May 12.—The Commanding Officer inspected "A" Company.

May 17.—Proclamation Parade. Sir George Stanley proclaimed Acting Governor General of India.

May 21.—The Executive Veterinary Officer inspected the chargers and mules of the Regiment.
Lieut-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., returned from leave and assumed command of Rangoon Brigade Area.

May 22.—Major J. J. Powell proceeded on leave.
Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., assumed command of the Regiment.

May 24.—No. 5381026 Pte. A. Richings died in the B.M.H., Mingaladon.

June 4.—King's Birthday Parade. The Regiment took part in the parade at Mingaladon, while "B" Company attended the parade at Rangoon.

June 8.—Outbreak of anthrax among cattle in lines of 1/17th Dogra Regiment (P.W.O.).
Mules inoculated against anthrax.

June 14.—Lieut. K. Bayley proceeded on two months' privilege leave.
Lieut. T. G. D. Rowley Acting Adjutant.

June 18.—Waterloo Day. Aquatic Sports and an inter-company water polo competition were held during the morning.
A pagal gymkhana was held in the evening.

June 25.—Inter-Company Open Boxing Competition.

June 27.—Inter-Company Open Boxing Competition.

1934 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

July 11.—Information received that Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., and Captain P. Booth will be cross posted from the 2nd Battalion to the 1st Battalion during Trooping Season 1934-35. Information received that the following officers will be cross posted from the 1st Battalion to the 2nd Battalion during the Trooping Season 1934-35 :— Captain J. B. Jarvis. Captain L. R. Randall. 2nd Lieut. J. Granville.

July 27.—Lieut. J. A. G. R. H. Harden took over the duties of Acting Adjutant from Lieut. T. G. D. Rowley.

August 1.—Information has been received that Captain S. C. P. Slattery has been cross posted from the 1st Battalion to the 2nd Battalion and will join during the current Trooping Season.

August 6.—Ceremonial Parade for the laying of the foundation stone of the new Mingaladon Cantonment Church by Brigadier C. C. Foss, V.C., D.S.O.

August 7.—Flags half-masted for the funeral of President Hindenburg.

August 13.—Captain J. A. Theobalds rejoined the Regiment from combined leave, and was attached to Letter "A" Company prior to proceeding to Port Blair.

August 14.—Lieut. K. Bayley and Lieut. H. E. Montgomery rejoined the Regiment from privilege leave.

August 15.—Lieut. K. Bayley took over the duties of Adjutant from Lieut. J. A. G. R. H. Harden.

August 17.—Information was received that No. 5380733 Pte. J. Bedford, passed the British Service Urdu Test (other ranks).

August 21.—Captain J. A. Theobalds proceeded to Port Blair for duty with the Detachment.

August 28.—Regiment defeated Rangoon Gymkhana (B) (6—3) in the first round of the Scottish Public Schools Rugby Cup.

August 30.—The Regiment lost (5—0) to the eventual winners, Rangoon Gymkhana (A) in the semi-final of the Scottish Schools Rugby Cup.

September 1.—Information received that the Colonel of the Regiment has sanctioned the wearing of the Regimental tie by all ranks who have served or who are serving in the Regular Battalions of the Regiment.

The Commanding Officer inspected Letter "B" Company in Sale Barracks, Rangoon.

September 12.—The Inter-Company Gymnastic and P.T. Competition was ended. Winners—Letter "A" Company.

September 13.—A Pagal gymkhana was held in the evening, but after an hour had to be ended owing to heavy rain.

1934 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

September 22.—Lieut. T. G. D. Rowley left to take over the appointment of Station Staff Officer Bareilly.

September 25.—Captain M. H. S. Last proceeded on three months' leave pending retirement.

September 27.—Major G. Naylor, M.C., arrived from Port Blair.

September 29.—The Commanding Officer inspected Letter "D" (M.G.) Company.

October 2.—The advance party, consisting of Major G. Naylor, M.C., Lieut. R. H. Harden and 85 other ranks left for Bareilly.

October 3.—Information received that Lieut. J. D. Palmer had been cross posted to the 1st Battalion and 2nd Lieut. J. R. P. Montgomery posted to the 2nd Battalion.

October 4.—Eight other ranks left for England on posting to the Depot and transfer to the Army Reserve.

October 10.—Information received that in future the Machine Gun Company is to be known as the "Support" Company. We thus come into line with the practice at home.

October 11.—Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C, left for England on termination of his period in command.

October 12.—Information received that Lieut. R. H. Harden had been selected to take over the appointment of Adjutant at the Regimental Depot on May 13.

October 22-24.—Interim inspection of the Regiment by Brigadier C. C. Foss, V.C., D.S.O., Commanding Rangoon Brigade Area.

October 26-27.—Signallers Individual Classification.
Thirty-eight passed as trained signallers.

October 31.—Regimental cross country run. Won by Headquarter Wing.

November 1.—Indian General Service Medal taken into wear.

November 5.—Special Brigade Order of the Day:— "The Brigadier wishes to place on record his appreciation of an act of gallantry performed by No. 5374219 C.Q.M.S. Stanley Thame, 2nd Bn. Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, while acting as an Instructor at the Mingaladon Bombing range on 31st October, 1934. During the practice firing of live grenades, a faulty round of ballistite failed to project the grenade entirely from the discharger cup. The lever of the grenade flew off and the grenade sank back into the discharger cup. C.Q.M.S. Thame seized the rifle from the firer and threw it over the parapet of the trench, where the grenade very shortly exploded wrecking the discharger cup and the fore-end of the rifle. This non commissioned officer's presence of mind and cool courage in a dangerous situation undoubtedly averted a serious if not fatal accident'

1934 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

November 7.—The following extract from the *London Gazette* was received :—
Lieut.-Colonel G. E. Whittall, M.C., on completion of his period of serving in command is placed on the Half Pay List (October 11).
Major J. J. Powell to be Lieutenant-Colonel (October 11).

November 11.—Nonne Bosschen Day.
Armistice Day.

"B" Company and the Band and Buglers attended the Parade Service at the Rangoon Cenotaph. The remainder of the Regiment paraded at Mingaladon.

November 15.—The families left for Bareilly.

November 17.—Final inspection by Major-General D. Deane, C.B., D.S.O., Commanding Burma (I) District.

November 20.—The Regiment embarked at Rangoon in S.S. Talamba.

November 22.—The Regiment disembarked at Calcutta.

November 23.—The Regiment left for Bareilly in two trains.

November 25.—The Regiment arrived at Bareilly.

November 27.—Letter "C" Company arrived at Bareilly from Port Blair.

December 5.—Major-General R. J. Collins, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Commander Meerut District, visited the Regiment.

Lecture by District Commander : "Modern developments in weapons"

December 6.—Captain S. C. P. Slattery, 2nd Lieut. J. Granville and 65 other ranks arrived on posting from the 1st Battalion.

December 7.—A draft of 19 other ranks left for England on transfer to Army Reserve.

December 9.—Lieut. R. H. Harden left for England on posting to the Depot.

December 17.—No. 5379223 Pte. B. Follows died in the British Military Hospital.

December 21.—General Sir Norman MacMullen, K.C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C, General Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Command, inspected the Regiment.

December 28.—The Regiment proceeded to Mithepur Camp, Delhi, in two special trains to carry out Battalion and Brigade Training and Eastern Command Manoeuvres.

December 29.—Lieuts. M. Darell-Brown, A. P. Godman and H. G. Temple rejoined from leave in U.K.

1934 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

SECOND BATTALION LETTER, 1934

THE beginning of the year found the Regiment just as split up as it has been for the last four years ; "A" Company were in the Andamans, and "C" Company were in Sale Barracks, Rangoon.

During January Burt-Smith, Clifton and Rowley arrived from the 43rd on cross-posting. In February Barry also arrived.

At the end of January we entered for the Lim-Chin-Song Polo tournament, but were defeated by Rangoon,, the eventual winners.

During February Jungle Warfare was the fashion. Four columns were sent out, one after another, to the country about Palon, which is about sixty miles north of Rangoon. This country was one of the worst areas during the rebellion, and many of the fields are still abandoned. It is country in which it is really difficult to locate an enemy. Each column consisted of two platoons with some signallers and buglers attached. They were out for five days each, giving demonstrations of fire power and practising the usual operations of jungle warfare. One unexpected result of these operations was the surrender of Bo Aw, one of the last of the rebel leaders. He had been hiding in the Palon area, but said that he was tired of being chased by the troops, and therefore surrendered to the Civil authorities.

The latter half of February was devoted to Brigade training. The term "Brigade" training was something of a misnomer, as there were only two battalions to take part, and they were each short of a company. We were allowed to bring "C" Company out from Sale Barracks to take part, but "A" Company were, of course, still in the Andamans. The schemes were carried out largely at night owing to the heat by day. The only item of note was a patrol by Clifton, during which he listened to the opposing commander giving out his orders for an attack, and finally had to demonstrate his speed across country at night so as to escape from a patrol of the Dogra Regiment.

The Regimental Rifle Meeting was held on February 20 and 21. Teams from the Company in Rangoon were brought out to take part. This resulted in a reasonably good entry being obtained in all events. The Commanding Officer's watch was won by Sjt. Harcourt.

Early in March Paris returned from Northern Command, while later in the month we heard that Powell had been selected to succeed Colonel Whittall in command.

In April the usual teams went to Maymyo to take part in the Burma District Rifle Meeting. This year we were not so successful with the rifle, but we only lost one competition with the other weapons.

We won the following cups :

Harcourt-Butler Cup (Machine Gun Sections).

Lewis Gun Cup.

Team Revolver Cup.

The Team Revolver Cup was won with a record score, the team being Clare, R.S.M. Green, C.S.M. Balaam, and Sjt. Calver. The Lewis Gun Cup was won by a team from "B" Company for the fourth year in succession. In addition to the team events R.S.M. Green won the Individual Revolver Championship, and Sjt. Calver was second.

1934 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

The tragedy was that we failed to win the Machine Gun Cup (Machine Gun Platoons), being beaten by one point. This was the only cup that we had won every year since we arrived in Burma, and we had hoped to win it for the full five. Actually we have won both the Machine Gun Cups, the Team Revolver Cup, and the Lewis Gun Cup for four out of the five years.

As soon as the Rifle Meeting was over, the Maymyo Week with its polo tournaments started. An account of the polo is given in the polo notes. After the polo was over we sold the majority of our ponies, as they were too small to be of any use in India.

The first of May brought with it the beginning of the Individual Training Season. This saw the production of the most terrifying programme of lectures, exercises and discussions. Once started, however, they proved to be of considerable interest, and certainly have served to brighten us up for Bareilly.

The start of the Individual Training season also means that the leave season has started. About the end of March the usual parties had departed home on leave. At the same time Colonel Whittall disappeared into the jungles to the north-east of the Triangle. Two months later he emerged with the head of a takin, the only one that has ever been shot.

With the break of the monsoon at the end of May the jungle becomes too malarious to be suitable for a long leave from Rangoon. As a result several of us took advantage of the fact that we are so near China and Japan, and visited them. Rowley got as far as Hong-Kong, while Bayley and Montgomery had a fortnight in Japan.

In June the officers produced a play, the *Monkey's Paw*. This was produced in the Regimental Theatre and was a definite success.

On August 6, Brig. C. C. Foss, V.C., laid the foundation stone of the Cantonment Church. The church was not finished when we left Mingaladon, but arrangements had been made to include a Regimental Memorial.

During the monsoon months both Rugby and Soccer have been in full swing. The Rugby team under Barry have shown immense improvement, and are to be congratulated on the fine show that they put up. They were only beaten by a single converted goal by Rangoon, the winners of the tournament, who were never so closely pressed in their other matches. The Soccer team were less successful. They played hard, but they were unable to finish off their attacks.

Paperchasing was well supported during the season, a good number having turned out regularly. In addition Edmunds and Clifton have been successful in the various point-to-points.

Although the monsoon this year has been just as heavy as it was last year, we have had much less sickness. This is difficult to account for. It may be that we have become acclimatized. Both our predecessors have had the same experience of one healthy year and one unhealthy, but in one case the first year was the healthy one. It would appear to run in cycles.

1934 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

On October 11, Colonel Whittall left for England on the termination of his time in command. We were very sorry to lose him. On November 16 the 60th arrived to relieve us at Mingaladon, and on the 20th we embarked for Calcutta in S.S. Talamba. On the 22nd we arrived at Calcutta, but all hopes of an hilarious night were soon shattered, as we were engaged until nearly midnight in unloading the ship. The following day we left for Bareilly, where we arrived on the 25th.

Two days later "C" Company arrived from the Andamans, and the Regiment was again united, for the first time in five years.

During December each company marched out to Faridpur, and spent two nights in bivouacs. It was cold after Burma, but we soon became acclimatized.

The end of the year finds us in Camp at Mithepur, which is eleven miles from Delhi. We are at the moment engaged in Battalion and Brigade Training, while at the end of January we take part in manoeuvres.

To date Bareilly has fulfilled our hopes. The grounds of all sorts are numerous and good—especially the Polo ground, which claims to be one of the best in India. The cold weather climate is perfect, and once again we have the whole Regiment together. The outlook for the future is good.

Yours,
52ND.