#### **SUMMARY OF THE FIRST BATTALION DIARY, 1935**

January 2.—2nd Lieut. J. A. J. Read went on Officers' course at Army School of Physical Training.

*January* 7.—Lieut. J. D. Palmer attended course for Intelligence Liaison Officers at 13 Squadron Royal Air Force, Old Sarum, from 7/1/35 to 25/1/35.

January 8.—The Regiment returned from Christmas Furlough.

Lieut. C. W. P. Branson to be Captain with effect from 26/12/34 (London Gazette).

January 25.—Quebec Platoon, strength 22, arrived from the Depot.

January 28.—Lieut.-Colonel Pargiter went on R.A.O.C. duties course until February 1.

January 31.—Garrison Inter-Company Run.

"C" Company gained 3rd place. "B" Company were 4th.

February 2.—2nd Lieut. P. T. van Straubenzee went to Army School of Hygiene, Aldershot, for a course until 26/2/35.

February 5.—The Regiment gained fourth place in the Aldershot Command Young Soldiers' Cross Country.

February 7.—A draft of the Regiment of Captains Randall, Jarvis, with 30 other ranks, embarked on H.M.T. Nevasa for the 52nd at Bareilly.

February 11.—The Band went to London for an audition by the British Broadcasting Company.

February 18.—2nd Lieut. R. A. St. G. Martin went on Young Officers' Course at S.A.S., Hythe, until 12/4/35.

February 19.—Annual Inspection by A.D.M.S. 2nd Lieut. A. Clerke Brown went on a course at the Army School of Physical Training until 6/4/35.

February 24.—2nd Lieut. A. J. R. Steele went on Education Course at Shorncliffe until 30/3/35.

February 28.—The Regiment obtained third place in the Aldershot Command Cross-Country.

March 1 and 2.—Aldershot Races. Captain Graham's horse, "Lady Forum/ won the open race.

*March* 1.—Inspection by D.D.V.S., who expressed himself extremely pleased with the condition of the transport and horses.

March 11.—The Officers' tactical week started.

- *March* 16.—The Serjeants' tactical week started. 2nd Lieut. P. T. van Straubenzee went on Cardon Loyd driving course with R.A.S.C., Aldershot, until 29/3/35.
- *March* 19.—The Regiment obtained fifth place in the Army Cross Country.
- *March* 22.—Bdsm. Hobson won the Army Middleweight Boxing Championship (Other Ranks). Bdsm. Blakemore was runner-up in the Bantam-weight.
- *March* 25.—The Regiment was second in the Brigade eliminating round of the Bronze Medal Tournament and qualified for the Aldershot round.
- *March* 26.—The Band Boys were beaten by the Camerons in the semi-final of the Aldershot Command Inter-Unit Boys' football competition.
- *March* 28.—Regiment Point-to-Point Race at Little Milton, Oxfordshire. Eleven runners. Won by Mr. R. C. L. Kennaway's (S.R.O.).

The Headquarter Wing (b) won the Garrison Inter-Company football competition.

- *March* 29.—The Band was inspected by the Commandant R.M. School of Music, Kneller Hall, who expressed his satisfaction that they had maintained their high standard.
- April 1.—Major Horley and Lieut. Lathbury attended a Staff College demonstration of Supplies in the Field.
- April 4.—Captain A. B. Hamilton retired on retired pay.
- Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham promoted Captain.
- Lieut. Hon. C. B. A. Bernard promoted Captain under Art. 118 R.W. for pay 1931.
- April 6.—Lieut. G. W. Lathbury went on a course at the Army School of Education until 18/3/35.
- *April* 8.—A practice parade, consisting of Officers and Skeleton Companies, took place in Aldershot for the Royal Review on July 13.
- April 9.—Captain W. A. R. Ames (Depot) appointed Staff Officer for P.T., Northern Command, April 4.
- *April* 17.—Bdsm. Hobson fought in LS.B.A. Championships at Aldershot and won the Middleweight Championship.
- April 22.—Captain H. S. Eagle (half pay) retires on retired pay.
- April 25.—Lieut.-Colonel L. L. Pargiter, D.S.O. attended an Artillery demonstration at Larkhill.
- May 1.—Support Company went to Netheravon for the Annual Concentration until May 12. The Regimental Transport obtained first place in the Brigade and second in the Division in the Driving competition.
- Lieut. J. D. Palmer went to Old Sarum to take over the duties of Intelligence Liaison Officer, 1st Division for the summer, with 13 Squadron R.A.F.

- May 3.—Major-General Kennedy, Commanding 1st Division, dined with the Regiment.
- May 6.—Jubilee day. The Brigade paraded under the Command of Brigadier P. T. Mackesy to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the accession to the throne of H.M. King George V.
- May 13.—The three miles in the Regimental Sports took place and was won by "C" Company.
- May 15 and 16.—Classification of Signallers. They obtained a satisfactory report.
- May 18.—Regimental Individual Sports took place.
- May 21.—Regimental Team Sports took place and were won by Support Company.
- May 24.—The Boys of the Regiment won easily the Boys' Garrison Sports.
- May 27.—The Commanding Officer and Lieut Hughes attended a Command Signal Demonstration.
- May 30.—A Brigade practice parade was held for the King's birthday parade.
- May 31.—Rifle Meeting. Regimental Champion, Captain G. C. H. Wykeham.
- *June* 3.—The Brigade and Royal Artillery stationed at Bordon paraded under Brigadier P. T. Maekesy to celebrate the King's Birthday.
- June 6.—The Regiment moved to Camp 22, Watts Common, Aldershot, to take over seating duties at the Aldershot Tattoo.
- June 7.—A practice "seating demonstration" took place.
- *June* 11.—The Colonel of the Regiment and Lieut.-Col. Pargiter visited the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.
- *June* 12.—The first public performance of the Tattoo took place, starting with the daylight rehearsal.
- *June* 15.—The Regiment won the N.A.A.F.I. Open Relay, open to all units of H.M. Forces, for the third year in succession.
- June 17.—Captain P. Booth went on an Anti-Gas Course until June 28.
- Duke of Connaught's Cup Competition took place; the Regiment was tenth, with 580 points out of 770.
- *June* 18.—Aldershot Command Athletics—Heats for the 3 miles. The Regiment qualified for the final.
- *June-* 20.—One-mile heats. The Regiment qualified for the final.

- June 24, 25, and 26.—Aldershot Command Rifle Meeting.
- *June* 27, 28 *and* 29.—Aldershot Command Athletic Championships. The Regiment won by 1/2 point; 43rd, 79 1/2; Royal Tank Corps, 79 points.
- June 30.—The Regiment moved back to Bordon.
- July 1 to 3.—"A" and "B" Companies march to Cowdray Park.
- July 3, 4, 5 and 6.—Aldershot Horse Show. The Regiment won the Arborfield Shield for the horses in the best condition and was fourth in the Infantry Transport Competition.
- July 4 and 5.—Army Individual Sports. 2nd Lieut. Steele second in the one mile.
- July 10.—The Regiment marched to Camp 46, Bourley Road, Aldershot, to take part in the Royal Review on the 13th.
- *July* 13.—Royal Review. Maj.-Gen. Sir John Hanbury-Williams led the Regiment past His Majesty, Strength of Regiment on this occasion: Lieut.-Col. Pargiter, 13 Other Officers, 283 Other Ranks.
- The Regiment returned to Bordon by bus.
- July 15.—Lieut. G. W. Lathbury went on an Anti-Gas Course at S.A.S., Porton, until August 8.
- July 17-20.—Captain C. W, P. Branson attended a Staff College Signal Exercise.
- July 18 and 19.—Army Team Athletic Championships. The Regiment obtained third place to the Royal Engineers, Chatham, and the Cheshire Regiment.
- July 21.—The Regimental Depot had an "At Home" day open to the public.
- July 22.—First day of the Regimental Cricket Week.
- July 25-28.—"C" and "S" Companies march to Wellington College.
- July 28.—The Regiment provided 1 Officer and 14 N.C.O.s for the 16th London Regiment's Annual Territorial Camp at Myrtle Grove.
- August 1.—Peninsular Platoon arrived from the Depot.
- August 5.—4th Bn. and Bucks. Bn. Annual Territorial Camps began. Officers and N.C.O.s from the Regiment assisted.
- August 12 and 13.—Battalion Training started. Approach March and attack Scheme over Thursley area, with one troop "A" Sqn., 4th Q.O. Hussars, returning to Barracks after breakfast on August 13.

August 15 and 16.—Combined Exercise with 2nd Cameronians (S.R.) over Hindhead, Bramshott and Weavers Down areas. The locating and delaying of a convoy with the help of aircraft reconnaissance.

Returned to Barracks after breakfast, August 16.

August 19-20.—Scheme set by the Brigade Commander, over Barnetside-Goleigh Farm area. Delaying action.

Post Classification test of Signallers, who received a very satisfactory report,

August 22-23.—Final Scheme of Battalion Training over Farringdon-Oakhanger areas.

August 26.—Bn. H.Q. and Signallers and Intelligence Section took part in 1st Div. Signal exercise.

August 28, 29, and 30.—Brigade Exercise No. 1 over Area Monkswood-Barnetside.

The Regiment acted as enemy to the Brigade and returned to Barracks 4 p.m., August 30.

August 30.—2nd Lieuts. P. G. F. Young, P. T. van Straubenzee to be Lieutenants, September 1.

The undermentioned University candidates to be 2nd Lieutenants 31/8/35 with Seniority next below 2nd Lieut. J. A. J. Read:—

Rowland Frederick Ellis Hill.

Frederick Richard Chancourt Bray.

The undermentioned Gentleman Cadet from the Royal Military College to be 2nd Lieutenant 29/8/35:—

Gordon Dudley Jephson.

September 2.—Captain G. C. H. Wykeham to Range-finding Course, Netheravon, until September 16.

2nd Lieut, A. J. R. Steele to S.A.S., Netheravon, Platoon Commander's Course.

September 3.—An excellent mobile scheme set by Brigadier Mackesy in the West Worldham area.

September 5.—Part V Annual Machine-Gun Course.

2nd Lieut. F. H. G. Higgins to Signal Officers Course at Army School of Signals, Catterick.

September 7.—Demonstration of Infantry Tanks in the Attack.

September 9-10.—Divisional training started.

Advance and tank attack over area Woolmer Forest to Hartley Mandill.

September 11, 12 and 13.—Inter-Divisional Exercise Left Barracks 20.00 hrs.; an encounter battle over the area Froxfield-Warren Corner.

September 16.—Moved to Andwell to bivouac for the Corps Exercise.

September 17.—War declared in the rain at 14.00 hrs.

Outpost for night about Sutton Scotney.

September 18.—Retired into reserve during the night to Weston Colley.

September 19.—"Peace" declared 17.40 hrs.

Regiment remained for the night at Weston Colley.

September 20.—The Regiment marched 25 miles with the Brigade back to Bordon Camp.

September 26.—Annual Inspection of the Regiment by Brigadier P. J. Mackesy, Commanding 3rd Infantry Brigade. His general observations on the Regiment in the Annual Report were: "A very fine Battalion with a magnificent spirit, determined to maintain their great traditions. A particularly fine body of officers."

September 30.—Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., went on Senior Officers Course at Sheerness.

October 10.—The Assistant Director of Remounts inspected the Transport and reported as follows:— "Of the Battalions of this Brigade the condition and turn out of the Oxf. and Bucks. Lt. Infty. was very good, and better than any of the remaining battalions."

October 22.—The Command Education Officer and the Inspector of Physical Training inspected the Regiment and expressed satisfaction.

*October* 23.—The Regiment beat 2nd Field Brigade R.A. 3—0 in the first round of the Army Football Association Cup.

October 29.—The Regiment beat the 2nd Wiltshire Regiment in the first round of the Aldershot Command Novices Boxing Competition.

*November* 1.—Captains P. Booth and G. C. H. Wykeham went to Company Commanders Course at S.A.S., Netherayon.

*November* 4.—Lieut. L. L. Falkiner went on a Small Arms Technical Course at Woolwich until December 13.

*November* 5.—2nd Lieut. R. A. St. G. Martin went on a course at the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot.

*November* 12.—The Regiment lost to the 2nd East Yorkshire Regiment in the second round of the Army Football Association Cup.

The Advance Party of the Regiment left for Colchester, under Captain and Quartermaster E. Smith and 2nd Lieut. J. A. J. Read.

*November* 14.—The Regiment beat the 2nd Bn., Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in the second round of the Aldershot Command Novices Boxing Competition.

*November* 18.—Captain A. M. Toye, V.C, M.C., restored to the Establishment and joined on ceasing to hold a Staff Appointment with the Egyptian Army.

*November* 19.—The Regiment moved by rail from Bordon to Colchester at 9.15 a.m. and 10.45 a.m., and took over Hyderabad Barracks from 2nd Bn., The Middlesex Regiment. Strength: 27 Officers, 9 W.O.s, 571 Other Ranks.

December 4.—Martinique Platoon joined from the Depot.

December 5.—The G.O.C.-in-C, General Sir C. Deverell inspected the Regiment.

December 6.—The Regiment went on Annual Furlough until January 2.

December 8.—Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C., joined on cross-posting from 52nd.

December 11.—A Draft of 60 Privates under the Command of Lieut. M. M. A.-R.-West embarked at Southampton on H.T. Nevasa to join 52nd.

December 13.—The A.D.M.S. inspected the Regiment.

December 16.—Captain E. C. Richards is seconded for service as an Instructor of English at a French Military School.

December 25.—Captain D. S. Newton-King retires on retired pay.

December 30.—Information was received that the Regiment would become a "Rifle" battalion in the new Army Organization.

#### FIRST BATTALION LETTER

DEAR EDITOR,

1935 was a year of jubilations and celebrations; national celebrations and regimental celebrations: national for the Jubilee, and regimental for many officers who took unto themselves wives during the course of the year. Saturday after Saturday officers were seen donning their best morning coats; borrowing each other's waistcoats, trousers and ties; and setting off to drink champagne and wish the merry couple god-speed. Booth started the ball rolling, followed by Ames, Falkiner, Barnard, West, and finally Metcalfe, who chose a really foggy day in December. We all got there just the same—and enjoyed ourselves.

Of the national celebrations, the King's birthday took a minor part this year, though it was of note at Bordon, as it was the first time for many years that the Royal Artillery have been included in the parade on the Brigade Square.

The celebrations for the Jubilee took a great deal of our time. On the day itself there was a short parade on the Brigade Square, followed by an exodus to the great metropolis of the majority of the officers. Preparations for the Royal Review which was to take place on July 13th started early, for in May, Regimental Headquarters, all company commanders, and two men from each company, with ropes, were taken to Laffan's Plain. There was a replica of the Tattoo Arena, and after hours of waiting we marched past the Commander-in-Chief with our ropes; and then hurried back to Bordon by bus.

For the review itself we marched to Camp 46, Aldershot, on July 10. The following day there was a full dress rehearsal in the Tattoo arena. The day must have been the hottest of the year; the route to the arena was across rough, dusty ground, and the time allowed for the arrival of the parties of troops was excessive, so that we arrived on the ground hot (but not bothered) and very dusty.

The practice apparently went off satisfactorily for although some mechanical vehicles never arrived at all we were spared a further rehearsal on the 12th. On the day itself the weather was again very hot, but the timing was slightly readjusted. To get rid of the dust two men per company with dusters and boot brushes, accompanied the column as far as the gates of the arena, so that \ve marched past the King, led by the Colonel of the Regiment as undusty as could be managed. The Colonel of the Regiment then lunched with us in camp and we also had our photograph taken before returning once more by bus to Bordon.

We had already been into camp in Aldershot for three weeks in June for the Tattoo. We were in Gamp 22 at Watts Common, and the whole Regiment was employed in putting the populace into their seats. The expensive seats were easy and dull, but some of the outer stands were very hard work on Saturday nights. Horley's stand was nearly broken into on the first Saturday; the surging crowd was only stopped with the aid of hosepipes; if rumours at the other end of the arena had been believed, there were several dead and wounded lying about, and many fainting women. One fat woman did get stuck in the turnstile, and it was only by dint of much pushing and pulling that she eventually shot out like a cork out of a bottle, back the way she had come. We earned her everlasting thanks by opening a special gate for her, amid roars of laughter from her fellows. We knew the Tattoo tunes well by the end of the ten days; the Regimental Band is now forbidden to play any of them.

Now for a short resume of our deeds in sports and competitions. We won the Aldershot Command Athletics again by a margin of half a point from the Royal Tank Corps. This was the third time during our four years at Aldershot. In the Army Sports we could only get third place, but we made a good effort; we had some bad luck, particularly, in that West developed an appendicitis just at the crucial moment.

In the Army Individual Sports, Steele was second in the mile, and he was selected to run for the Army against the Navy and Air Force. Sjt. Smart was fourth in the Pole vault. We also won the N.A.A.F.L relay for the third year. They are pleased to see us there now, and they still admire the way we make such a long journey each year.

In the boxing we improved and got into the third round when we were beaten by the Cameronians. In the Aldershot Command Novices boxing we got to the semi-finals when we were beaten by the 60th. We had an I.S.B.A. champion in Bdsmn. Hobson, who won the middle-weight championship—a very fine performance.

In the hockey last year we reached the third round, and this year we have so far survived the first round.

The Band Boys did well; they got into the semi final of the Aldershot Command Boys' Football, when they were beaten by the Camerons, who were much bigger than our little chaps; and later in the year they easily won the Bordon Garrison Boys' Sports, carrying off nearly every event. It was a great day, as up to this year they had only won one championship event, i.e., the sack and potato races.

Our Transport did well again this year; they won the Arborfield Shield at the Aldershot Show, for the fittest and best turned out infantry light draught horses; they were also fourth in the Infantry Transport competition, and Lathbury got sixth place in the Infantry Chargers class with Cairo. They won the Brigade Driving competition at the Machine Gun Concentration and were second in the Divisional one. The D.D.V.S. gave them an excellent report after his inspection, and so did the D.A.D.R., an extract of whose report will be found in the 43rd Diary.

Other horsey activities were not so successful, but they were amusing, and not disgraceful. At the Bordon Hunter Trials the Brigade team were this year beaten into second place by the 2nd Brigade, but we beat the Guards Brigade. Bernard got into the final judging with Cobweb and Cairo in the local class, and Conant did well at the Aldershot Trials with one of our new chargers just arrived from Melton. Polo was given a lead by Rupert Conant; Booth and Bernard also played and an account of the game in which a Regimental side beat a Gunner side will be found in the Polo notes.

Always the most exciting event of the equine year in Aldershot is the Duke of Connaught's Cup. It was rumoured that last year should be the last, but it was found that the Aldershot Command would be quite unable to assess the better qualities of the Infantry regiments and their officers, unless the competition took place. Also the Cambridge Hospital was getting short of patients. It was decided, therefore, to carry on the competition in a more complicated form, except that the only rule which allowed regiments to cheat was cut out, as any officer is now allowed to ride instead of only mounted officers; but those that did ride had to do a march (riding) of six miles in an hour without getting hot, bothered or falling off (our best phase).

They then had to be inspected and looked at (good phase); next, we reined back in line, did a little *haute ecole* and sword drill (a pathetic phase); and last we did our usual jumping, with a post and rails put in as well (successful phase). We finished up without any awful mishap, and without anyone being carried involuntarily through the beauties of Aldershot, eating alfresco meals in Cocked Hat wood; but we only got tenth place, as we had not learnt that for the "pathetic phase" we ought all to have practised under a cavalry serjeant-major for four months.

In point to points our records were not so good as usual. Graham won the open race at Aldershot on Lady Forum, Higgins got second on his father's mare in a large field at the Craven meeting, only just being beaten by a very good horse of Maurice Kingscote's and Hughes's Wavendon was second in the Army meeting.

The Regimental race was won by Kennaway, and we provided more horses and riders to finish than any other race of the day, but even so the drop fence took toll of something like seven riders; people fell in all directions, but only Bernard and Philip Straubenzee were taken to bed. Unfortunately, no one could take part in the Mounted Infantry race this year as it was the day after the Regimental race.

A lot of officers have left us, but we never seem to get as many back. Randall and Jarvis left us for the 52nd at the beginning of the year, and West at the end of it.

Ames went as G.3 Physical Training, Northern Command. Young went to West Africa in the summer, and Richards went to France in December as an Instructor at the Ecole Special de Guerre in France. Hamilton, Eagle and Newton-King unfortunately decided to try civilian life, the first-mentioned as a barrister, and the last as a farmer in South Africa. Paris and Colvill joined us from the 52nd, and Toye from his ten years as an instructor to the Egyptians at Cairo. We have also obtained three "youngers": one from the R.M.C., one from Oxford, and one from Cambridge. They were difficult to get hold of, as the first one got an appendicitis and then another measles. The only one who arrived on the correct day hurried off very shortly to have his nose operated on in the Cambridge Hospital.

Courses have gone on much as usual. Wykeham spends most of his time at Netheravon. Paris has been to the Senior Officers' School and obtained an "A" and Straubenzee Major went on a mechanical driving course; he did well until it came to driving: he was in a lorry, and when he saw another one coming towards him, he went straight into the ditch.

The Band maintains its high standard of music playing. We never see them in the spring and summer, but this year, to add to their triumphs they were filmed at Brighton. They are being "released" next month.

"C" and "S" Company did a Company March to Wellington College and had a great time bathing and demonstrating. Those who were at that seminary of sound learning and education will be pleased to hear that Thomas Lemmey dined one night and the old man had to be escorted very carefully home.

Battalion training took place over the usual places: Weavers Down, Devils Jumps and the Devil's Punch Bowl; and Brigade Training and Divisional Training over in the Priors Dean to Farringdon Area. For manoeuvres, we lost several officers on important staff duties: Horley as Divisional Liaison Officer, Branson as an Assistant Provost Marshal (they now have Rolls Royces instead of Austins), Lathbury as Brigade Transport Officer and Palmer was still away on his Intelligence Liaison duties with the Air Force. We went down to the Basingstoke-Sutton Scotney area. The first night was misery; we were in bivouac, the rain never ceased to fall and the wind never ceased to blow throughout the night; it cleared slightly the next day, but not much. It was still wet enough for the directors to advance the hour of start by some six hours. This created a fog of war, but it was a welcome move. That night, a fine one, we spent on outpost round Sutton Scotney. The next night we moved back a few miles and luckily got into some good farm buildings, for there was another filthy storm. Next day was fairly fine; we got all muddled up with the 2nd Division, who tried to pinch our barns, and amid much comings and goings, alarums and excursions, the cease fire went at 5.40 p.m. We had, however, seen more of the enemy than usual, and the information was good, so that we did know roughly what was happening all the time. General Eden came to see us; he is a marvellous man, he must know the smell of the Regiment, for he has not failed us on a manoeuvre for many years. On September 19, the day after the war ceased, we marched the twenty-five miles back to barracks. We started last in the Brigade, but finished second.

The Brigade Commander inspected us on September 26 and gave us a good report.

Before we left Bordon we gave a sherry party; the first guests arrived at six o'clock and the last ones at ten past eight; the time of their departure was not recorded. There was then a continuous flow of sherry in various houses; officers were limited to ten glasses a day until we got into the train for Colchester on November 19.

The move went very smoothly; two trains carried us, leaving about 10 a.m., and getting to Colchester about 4 p.m. There were no casualties; no one was train sick, homesick, or ordinary sick as far as we know.

Colchester seems a good spot and the barracks are comfortable. It is very nice being once again in brick buildings and it was nicer still to see Guy Blewitt here within an hour of our arrival. He has already entertained us lavishly, and has also allowed us to play squash in his brother's court, which incidentally is an excellent one. The hunting, as everyone knows, is all plough, but, as everyone says, you really do not know what it is to hunt in a plough country unless you have tried it: some of our horses don't understand it at all either; some ditches they don't see, others when they see them they won't jump. For the real brave hunting man the former is preferable, as at least the rider gets to the other side of the obstacle. General Higgins has given us a hunting map, which will be very useful in spite of his fears that we may only need it for T.E.W.T.S. and dinner parties. I have every hope that it will chiefly be used for its correct purpose, though I fear his son (and some others) may also use it to find their way to the local point-to-points.

The hunting folk here seemed to know us on our arrival; one oldish dame rode up to a young subaltern (who had been educated at Eton College) and said, "Are you of the 43rd. I hear they all come from Eton or Wellington; which were you at?" Quickly came the answer, "Neither, Brighton College." Poor dame, she rode away disconsolate, the visions of the dinner party for her daughter died away; she must try again later.

Yours, 43RD.