

1935 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

SUMMARY OF THE SECOND BATTALION DIARY, 1935

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

Officers (includes 3 posted but not yet joined)	30	
Warrant Officers	8	
Colour Serjeants	7	
Serjeants	26	
Corporals	42	
Buglers	16	
Boys	12	
Privates	802	
Total	943	British

Jemadars	1	
Havildars	2	
Naiks	2	
Sepoys	37	
Total	42	Indian.

January 1.—Inter-Company Advanced Guard Scheme.
"A" Company against "C" Company.

January 2.—Inter-Company day. Attack and Defence.
"B" Company against "C" Company.

January 3.—Regimental Advanced Guard Scheme near Kalkaji Devi.

January 5.—Regimental Scheme—Defence, near Tughlakabad Fort.

January 7.—Brigade Attack Scheme. Regiment in Reserve.

January 9 and 10.—Brigade 24-Hour Scheme. The Regiment carried out night march and dawn attack.

January 11.—The Regiment acted as enemy to Brigade.

January 12.—Eastern Command Smoke Demonstration.

January 13.—Long Service and Good Conduct Medals presented to:
C.S.M. E. Charles.
Sjt. J. Bennett.

January 16.—The Regiment marched to Balabgarh.

January 17.—Inter-Brigade Training started. The Regiment was left to hold up the yth Infantry Brigade, while the remainder of 8th Brigade moved against 3rd Cavalry Brigade.

January 18.—The 7th Brigade were successfully held up till mid-day, January 18, when 8th Brigade returned.

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January 19.—Scheme ended about mid-day, January 19.

The Regiment marched to Sailani, where it bivouaced for the night.

January 20.—The Regiment marched to Nuh, where it went into Camp.

3rd Divisional Conference at Palwal. All Company Commanders attended.

January 24.—Manoeuvres started. The Regiment acted as right flank guard to the 8th Brigade, which was advancing North from Nuh. Halted for the night in Brigade reserve at Sohna.

January 25.—Advance continued with the Regiment leading. Finally held up just South of Badshahpur. The Regiment held an outpost position for the night.

January 26.—Manoeuvres ended at 12.30 hrs.

The Regiment then marched to Jharsa, where tents shortly arrived.

The Commanding Officer was congratulated by General Collins, Commanding 3rd Division, on the work done by the Regiment.

January 27.—Conference on manoeuvres at Gurgaon. Most of the Officers attended.

The Regiment marched to Camp in Delhi Cantonments.

January 31.—Eastern Command Review at Delhi.

February 1.—Regimental Team under Captain K. S. Wooten gave a gymnastic item in the Eastern Command display.

February 2.—The Regiment marched to Delhi Fort. Halted at the Mutiny Memorial on the Ridge, and then marched through the Kashmir Gate, the first time since the Mutiny seventy-seven years ago.

February 3.—Marched to Ghaziabad.

February 4.—Marched to Pilkhua.

February 5.—Marched to Opherya.

February 6.—Marched to Gharmaktesat.

February 7.—The Regiment returned to Bareilly by train.

February 11.—"S" Company proceeded to Faridpur Camp to fire Part IV of the Annual Machine Gun Course.

February 16.—"S" Company returned from Camp.

Inspector of Messing visited the Regiment.

Lieut-Colonel J.J.Powell rejoined from sick leave and assumed command of the Regiment.

February 18.—A Draft of 18 N.C.O.'s and men left for England.

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February 25.—Administrative Inspection of the Regiment by the Brigade Commander, Lieut-Colonel G. O. de R. Channer, O.B.E., M.C.

March 2.—Captains L. R. Randall and J. B. Jarvis arrived from the 1st Battalion with a draft.

March 3.—Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., left for England on cross-posting to the 1st Battalion.

March 4.—Lieuts. H. E. Montgomery and P. J. Luard passed part (A) of their Promotion Examination.

March 7.—Captains K. S. Wootten and J. E. D. Kilburn passed part (C) of their Promotion Examination.

March 10.—and Lieuts. R. A. Close and B. E. Barrow, U.L.I.A., joined the Regiment for one year's attachment.

March 11 and 12.—Regimental Rifle Meeting. The Commanding Officer's watch was won by Lieut. J. S. R. Edmunds.

March 14, 15, and 16.—Regimental Athletic Sports Best Athlete was L.-Sjt. Philpin.

March 15.—Captain J. A. Theobalds appointed Officiating G.S.O.III Eastern Command.

March 26.—Part of the families proceeded to Ranikhet and Dulikhet.

April 2.—Lieut. J. S. R. Edmunds and 5 Other Ranks left as advanced party to the Hill Depot at Kailana.

April 5.—2nd Lieut. S. Sparrow, U.L.I.A., joined the Regiment for one year's attachment.

April 9.—Lieut. M. Darell-Brown proceeded to Kailana.

April 12.—Brigadier A. K. Hay, D.S.O., O.B.E., visited the Regiment.

April 19 and 20.—The N.C.O.'s Promotion Examination for the 1st Hill Party was held.

April 29.—1st Hill Party left.

May 1.—Captain K. Bayley and Lieut. H. E. Montgomery proceeded on two and one month's leave respectively.

May 5.—Strong as possible Church Parade. Special Silver Jubilee Service.

May 6.—Silver Jubilee Celebrations. Regiment took part in March through Bareilly City. In the evening there was a Pagal Gymkhana, fireworks and illuminations.

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May 7.—Lieut.-Colonel J. J. Powell proceeded on ten days' leave. Major G. Naylor, M.C., took over command of the Regiment.

Gymnastic team gave a display at the Naini Tal Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

May 9 and 10.—Holiday in celebration of the Silver Jubilee.

May 13.—Captain K. S. Wootten proceeded on one month's leave.

Gymnastic team returned from Naini Tal.

May 16.—Lieut.-Colonel J. J. Powell returned from leave.

May 23.—Lieut. J. P. F. Miles proceeded to Ahmednagar for a Machine Gun Course.

May 25.—The Director of Military Prisons and Detention Bks. visited the Regiment.

May 28.—Lieut. A. P. Godman proceeded on ten days' leave.

May 29.—Major W. L. Barnard proceeded on two months' privilege leave ex-India.

May 31.—Lieut. H. E. Montgomery returned from leave.

June 1.—Retreat altered to 7 p.m.

June 3.—Holiday in celebration of the King's Birthday.

Information received that Lieut.-Colonel J. J. Powell, Captain F. Clare, D.C.M., and 23 Other Ranks of the Regiment had been awarded the Silver Jubilee Medal.

June 4.—Commanding Officers' Parade at which recipients of the Silver Jubilee Medal were presented with it by the Commanding Officer.

June 6.—Lieut. A. P. Godman returned from leave.

Captain F. Clare, D.C.M., proceeded on ten days leave.

June 7.—A.T.E.W.T. was held under the direction of the Brigade Commander.

Information was received that Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C., had passed in subject (d) (iv) for promotion to Major, thus completing subject (d).

June 8.—2nd Lieut. J. R. P. Montgomery proceeded on ten days' leave.

June 9.—Captain B. Burt-Smith, M.C., proceeded on leave.

The football team of the K.O.Y.L.I. visited the Regiment from June 8—June 12 and played two matches—results as follows :—

1st match, June 9.—52nd, 2 goals ; K.O.Y.L.I., 1 goal.

2nd match, June 12.—52nd, 2 goals; K.O.Y.L.I., 2 goals.

June 10.—Information received that:

Captain J. A. Theobalds and Captain K. Bayley had passed into the Staff College, Quetta.

Captain P. F. Metcalfe had been cross-posted to the Regiment from the 1st Battalion, and would sail during the first half of the trooping season.

Captain F. Clare, D.C.M., returned from leave.

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June 11.—Information received that the Regiment had obtained twelfth place in the Queen Victoria Trophy (A.R.A. Competition, 1934-1935).

June 14.—A case of foot-and-mouth disease was reported in Bareilly.
Major G. Naylor, M.C., proceeded on ten days leave.

June 23.—Lieut. H. G. Temple proceeded on one month's leave.
Regimental football team in charge of Lieut. H. G. Temple proceeded to Calcutta to take part in the I.F.A. Shield.

June 25.—Lieut.-Colonel J. J. Powell left for Kailana to inspect the Detachment of the Regiment stationed there.

June 27.—Information received that Major G. Naylor, M.C., and Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C., would be cross-posted to the 1st Battalion during the forthcoming trooping season, and that Captain F. Clare, D.C.M., would be cross-posted provided that there was a quartermaster on the Home Establishment eligible for posting abroad.

June 28.—Information received that Captain K. S. Wootten had been awarded the Silver Jubilee Medal.

July 3.—Lieut. H. E. Montgomery left for Mussoorie to take over the duties of Station Staff Officer, Landour.

July 4.—Captain J. B. Jarvis rejoined from Mussoorie, where he had been acting as Commandant, Landour Hill Depot.

July 12.—The Commanding Officer inspected the kits of Headquarter Wing.

July 17.—The Regiment was defeated in the I.F.A. Shield at Calcutta by two goals to one.

July 19-22.—Visit of the Rugby football team of the 2nd K.O.Y.L.I. A triangular tournament was held and was won by the K.O.Y.L.I.
The Regiment tied with the 23rd Field Battery, R.A.

July 20.—The Commanding Officer inspected the kits of Letter "B" Company.

July 27.—The Commanding Officer inspected the kits of Letter "A" Company.

July 31.—The 1st Hill party arrived at 6.55 a.m.
The 2nd Hill party consisting of Letter "A" Company, Signallers and Buglers, left at 7.45 p.m.

August 8.—Information received that Captain P. F. Metcalfe's posting had been cancelled.

August 10.—The Commanding Officer inspected the kits of Letter "S" Company.

August 12.—Information received that Lieut. M. M. Alston-Roberts-West had been posted to the 2nd Battalion.

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August 20.—Information received that Lieut. J. P. F. Miles had qualified at the S.A.S., Ahmednagar.

August 24.—The Commanding Officer inspected the kits of the Band and Indian Platoon.

August 25.—Lieut.-Colonel J. J. Powell proceeded on leave.
Major G. Naylor, M.C., assumed command of the Regiment.

September 9.—Information received that Captain F. Clare, D.C.M., had been cross-posted to the Home Establishment.

September 18.—2nd Lieut. R. R. F. T. Barry and the Regimental Rugby team left for Calcutta.

October 9.—Information received that His Majesty the King has approved the following alliance: Le Regiment de Joliette Non-permanent Active Militia of Canada, to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

October 12-15.—The families returned from the hills.

October 18.—Thirty men of the Signallers returned from the hills to do training in the plains.

October 23-26.—Eastern Command Air Co-operation Exercise.
Lieut. C. Clifton took part, as did the Regimental Signallers and Letter "C" Company.

November 2.—Marched to Fatehganj West.

November 3.—Marched to Mirganj.

November 4.—Marched to Dhamora Khanora.

November 5.—Marched to Ganeshghat.

November 6.—Marched to Moradabad and entrained for Roorkee.

November 7.—Detrained at Roorkee and marched out to Camp at Macharheri.
"A" Company and Buglers arrived at Camp from Kailana half an hour ahead of the Regiment.

November 8.—Platoon Training started.

November 14.—Company Training started.

November 28.—Battalion Training started.

November 30.—Smoke demonstration (grenade) given to Officers of 8th Brigade by "C" Company.

December 5.—The Regiment carried out A.M.G.C., Part V.

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December 9 and 10.—The Regiment took part in 3rd Indian Infantry Division Defence Scheme.

December 13-14.—Eastern Command Scheme.

December 15.—Marched to Camp at Roorkee.

December 16-17.—The Regiment moved from Roorkee to Bareilly by bus. This distance was 196 miles.

December 24.—Lieut. J. P. F. Miles took over the duties of Acting Quartermaster.

December 31.—Captain F. Clare, D.C.M., left for England on posting to the Regimental Depot.

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SECOND BATTALION LETTER, 1935

IT is a pleasant change to be able to record that, with the exception of the usual hot-weather hill detachments, the Regiment has spent the year together. After five years split up in Burma this is most welcome.

The first half of January was spent in camp at Mithepur, near Delhi. Here we carried out battalion and brigade training. Later in the month we had inter-brigade training, when the temperature fell well below freezing point, and operations at night had to be cancelled. This was followed by manoeuvres, after which we marched to New Delhi for the Eastern Command Review.

We were ordered to march the first sixty miles of our return journey to Bareilly. This meant passing through Delhi, and we took the opportunity of visiting the Ridge Memorial, and of marching through the Kashmir Gate. It was, I believe, the first time that the Regiment has visited Delhi since the Mutiny.

Shortly after our return from Delhi, Colonel Powell arrived from sick leave, and assumed command of the Regiment. Soon afterwards Paris hurried off to England.

At the end of February the Bareilly Week was held. The chief feature of this week was the Infantry Polo Tournament. Sad to say, we were unable to enter a team owing to lack of ponies. Since then we have increased our stable considerably in numbers, though possibly not in quality. At the moment we have many keen, though inexperienced, players—but we lack a skilled player to train them and to mould them into a team.

This year our hill station was Kailana, which is only three miles from Chakrata. Chakrata was also being used as a Hill Depot for the detachments of regiments in the plains, as the Regiment normally stationed there was in Bengal. This was a disadvantage in many ways as it meant that there were very few permanent inhabitants to keep things going. This year "B" and "C" Companies have "held the fort" in Bareilly, while the others have been in the Hills. In 1936 they will go to Raniket, which is to be our hill station for the season.

The monsoon brought the Rugby season with it. Opponents are hard to find in Bareilly, but we succeeded in getting a number of games with the 23rd Battery and with a scratch side. The K.O.Y.L.I. came over from Agra to play us, and we also went there to play them. In each case we had good games, though they generally had the better of it. Injuries and illness combined to weaken the team that we sent to Calcutta, with the result that we were beaten in the semi-final after having won our first match.

The Soccer team had a poor season; they had a few good matches, but as a rule they failed to get going as a team.

Our Collective Training for the cold weather 1935-36 took place before Christmas, at Macharheri Camp near Roorkee. The camp was only about twenty miles from Kheri Camp, where we were in 1926. Our doings at Macharheri have been recorded in detail elsewhere.

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During the year Randall, Jarvis and J. R. P. Montgomery have joined us from the 43rd, while we have sent Paris and Naylor in return. Majors are now at a premium, and Barnard, our sole survivor, has to be guarded with care from higher authorities, when they are detailing hill depot staffs.

Once again we have some officers of the Indian Army Unattached List attached to us for their year's training. Close, Barrow and Sparrow arrived in the spring, and Mappin arrived in October just in time for Camp.

At the end of the year we set about re-staffing the depot. Wootten and Darell-Brown were sent off in November, and on December 31 Clare left us. Clare has spent the whole of his service with the 2nd, and it will be very hard to fill his place.

Yours,
52ND.

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MACHARHERI CAMP, 1935

THE Powers that be decided this year to site our camp near Macharheri Village, about 8 miles N.E. from Roorkee. Further, it was ordained that the Regiment should march to Moradabad, some 58 miles, and entrain there on the evening of November 6.

The dawn of November 2 saw the Regiment, less "A" Company and the Buglers, who were still in the hills, putting the final touches to packing up, handing over pets, keys, treasure chests, and all the paraphernalia which leads it to believe itself comfortable, and winding out of barracks, take the road to Moradabad.

The average daily march was 12 miles, short certainly in distance, but over a surface which played havoc with feet and through dust which was almost a constant companion. The officer who marched behind the Support Company's mules in rear of the column always arrived in camp looking like Father Christmas after a particularly snowy journey.

The four days that followed need little description. The scenery remained flat and uninteresting, with only an occasional village or bridge of boats to give any distraction from the monotony of lifting one leg and putting it in front of the other, knowing full well that your efforts will help to suffocate those in rear.

Once the routine had been arranged and laid down, the camp came down in the morning and went up in the evening with monotonous regularity and at times with surprising rapidity.

The Maharajah of Rampur entertained the Officers and Serjeants to a shoot on his private jheel on November 4. Duck were many and fairly tame, but the marksmanship was appalling; the writer himself having 45 misses out of 50 cartridges. He remembers that he did not feel very ashamed of himself at the time, though he refrained from mentioning the fact of a loan of 4 cartridges to a neighbouring gun.

On November 6 the Regiment reached Moradabad Station at 4.30 p.m., after a halt near the Ram Ganga Railway Bridge. The train was not ready owing to the presence of a circus whose elephants hindered the loading of our mules and entrainment did not take place till 8.45 p.m. The troops were remarkably cheerful throughout.

Roorkee was reached at 2 a.m., and the Regiment detrained shortly after dawn, breakfasted sumptuously with the 16th Foot on the local camping ground and set out for Macharheri Village about 9 a.m. It had rained most of the night before, and the sky was cloudy and threatening with a dull wind blowing from the north. The road lay along the Ganges Canal, and for the time the prospect was dismal, but soon the sun came out, drying the road and glistening on the snows of the Himalayas.

The Regiment marched on to the camping ground about mid-day to find "A" Company and the Buglers already there. Clare had arrived the night before by car and reported that he had passed a poor night. It appeared that the followers had spent most of the night acting as human tent-pegs while he manoeuvred basins to catch the drips which came through the side of the tent, and ever since dawn they had been hard at it clearing the scrub which covered the site.

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The site selected was one of considerable grandeur. To the east, at a distance of fifteen miles, the foothills rose from the plain culminating in the vast mountains covered in snow which so often directed our weary footsteps back to camp. To the north, the camp was bounded by a nullah; to the east and west by rivers, and to the south by a canal. Should the rain continue, it seemed probable that life would become extremely damp and that training would consist largely of aquatics followed by landings on the few bumps in the ground in the neighbourhood. It seems needless to add that the previous camp in this neighbourhood had been flooded out and that the supply lorries on evacuation had to be drifted down the canal to Roorkee in barges owing to the bad state of the roads and tracks.

All, for the moment, was well and the training areas were rapidly allotted. The next two days were spent in trying to discover areas where "lone trees," bushy top or otherwise, did not predominate so that some variation from the standard Indian Army fire order might be practised, but with little success.

Landmarks were few and far between, and the country was not one to venture upon unless fully armed with map and compass. Towards the end of camp, maps became unnecessary, and few will ever forget Gumanwala Wood, Majri Village, and that dead tree which loomed so helpfully in front of the Regiment during the night of December 2.

From November 8-27, companies trained their various component parts and eventually themselves. Practically every modern manoeuvre was carried out, and occasionally an unknown one as well, which added a spice of variety and did nothing to extinguish the amazing good humour of all concerned. The latter was largely fostered by the fine warm sunny days and cold clear nights, so clear indeed were the nights that amateur astrologers were at a premium, though in many cases what knowledge they had was largely fallacious.

The Green Howards arrived from Meerut during this period and lay alongside the Regiment until the end of camp. They brought with them a talkie cinema which, combined with the Regiment's, helped to pass the evenings very pleasantly. It is worth recording perhaps that this is the first time a talkie cinema has been available in camp, and it is to be recommended for future years.

From November 28 to December 7 the Regiment carried out battalion training. Here again every modern manoeuvre was practised, and the only unknown one was a night scheme carried out by day, an ingenious method of instruction as it presented a picture not easily forgotten. The Brigadier's test scheme of a night march and a dawn attack was carried out efficiently, in spite of the presence of the Divisional Staff who loomed unexpectedly out of the morning mists and began to ask questions, which is their privilege.

On December 9 the Division less one of the brigades dug itself into a defensive position. Much earth was moved and many yards of wire erected. It rained hard most of the day and life was becoming very unpleasant when at 4 p.m. the rain suddenly stopped and the rest of the exercise was passed digging and wiring to keep warm. At 10 a.m. the next day the exercise ended and the depressing task of filling in trenches was taken in hand. Some humour was extracted from it at the conference, but at the time there was little to laugh at.

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The conference was followed by an Artillery smoke demonstration at which the Regimental Syndicates saw very little as they had unfortunately been placed so far in rear that the attacking troops never reached them.

The following day Macharheri Camp was struck and packed off to the camping ground at Roorkee and the Regiment marched out to take part in an Eastern Command Exercise. That day the Regiment formed part of the main body of the Division advancing on Roorkee and except for finding three platoons for flank guards and A/T blocks, had nothing to do. The Brigade bivouaced for the night at a village about four miles from Macharheri, and at one o'clock in the morning carried out a night march almost to Roorkee. An attack was timed to be launched at 10 o'clock, but just previous to its delivery the orders were countermanded and the Brigade withdrew almost back to Macharheri, where it took up a defensive position facing a flank. The cease fire sounded at 4 o'clock in the evening.

Into thirty hours the Directors managed to cram an advanced guard, night march, day attack, withdrawal and adoption of a defensive position. As a practice for writing orders this was excellent, but little effort was made to maintain interest for the rank and file, and to them the withdrawal from Roorkee, which they knew to be their peace objective, was very disheartening. The cause probably lay in the fact that a change of command took place in the middle of the exercise. As a machine-gunner succinctly remarked, it was hardly the time to play "out one."

That night, December 14, was spent in bivouac not a mile from the final position, and the Regiment, in high spirits, marched to Roorkee the next day, arriving just before noon. "A" Company with various attached officers and men left for Bareilly that evening, the remainder moved by lorry on the 16th to Garmuktesar, where a further split took place. The whole Regiment was back in Bareilly by midnight, December 17.

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THE KASHMIR GATE, 1857 AND 1935

AT dawn on September 14th, 1857, an assaulting column under command of Colonel G. Campbell of H.M. 52nd Light Infantry and consisting of:

250 men of H.M. 52nd Light Infantry under Major Vigors,

500 men of 1st Punjab Infantry under Lieutenant Nicholson.

250 men of Kumaon Battalion under Captain Ramsay,

stormed and captured the Kashmir Gate, Delhi.

At the head of the column was the gallant "exploding party" consisting of Lieutenants Salkheld and Home of the Engineers; Serjeants Carmichael, Burgess and Smith of the Bengal Sappers; Bugler Hawthorne of the 52nd (who accompanied the party to sound the advance when the gate was blown in); and eight native sappers, under Havildar Madhoo, to carry the bags of powder. At the edge of the cover, the powder bags were transferred to the European soldiers.

Here stood the heroic little band, forming a forlorn hope, feeling themselves doomed to almost certain death, waiting in suspense for the appointed signal. It came. The covering fire suddenly ceased, and out moved Home with four soldiers, each carrying a bag of powder on his head; close behind him came Salkheld, port fire in hand, with four more soldiers similarly laden; while, a short distance behind, the storming party 150 strong under Captain Bayley (great uncle of Lieutenant K. Bayley, the present Adjutant of the 52nd Light Infantry), of H.M. 52nd Light Infantry followed up by the main body of the column in rear.

The gateway as in all native cities, was on the side of the bastion, and had an outer gateway in advance of the ditch. Home and his party were at this outer gate almost before their approach was known. It was open; but the drawbridge so shattered that it was very difficult to cross. However, they got over, reached the main gate, and laid their bags unharmed.

So surprised were the enemy at the audacity of the proceeding, that they only fired a few straggling shots, and made haste to close the wicket with every appearance of alarm, so that Lieut. Home, after laying his bags, jumped into the ditch unhurt. It was now Salkheld's turn. He also advanced with four other bags of powder and a lighted port fire. But the enemy had now recovered from their consternation, and had seen the smallness of the party, and the object of their approach. A deadly fire was poured upon the little band from the top of the gateway from both flanks, and from the open wicket, not ten feet distant. Salkheld laid his bags, but was shot through the arm and leg, and fell back on the bridge, handing the port fire to Serjeant Burgess, bidding him light the fuses. Burgess was instantly shot dead in the attempt. Serjeant Carmichael then advanced, took up the port fire and succeeded in the attempt, but immediately fell, mortally wounded. Serjeant Smith, seeing him fall, advanced at a run, but, finding that the fuse was already burning, threw himself down into the ditch, where the bugler had already conveyed Salkheld. In another moment a terrific explosion shattered the massive gate. The bugler sounded the advance, and then with a loud cheer, the storming party was in the gateway, and in a few minutes more, the entire column; and the Kashmir Gate and Main Guard were once more in our hands.

(Extract from *The Punjab and Delhi in 1857*, by the Rev. J. Cave-Browne, M.A.)

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On February 2nd, 1935, at about 2.15 p.m. the 52nd some 600 strong, once again entered the Kashmir Gate, but on this occasion to the strains of the Regimental March and under peace conditions. It was a thrilling moment and no doubt will be a cherished memory to all those who were fortunate enough to be on parade. It also came as a fitting climax to some five weeks' training in the area around Delhi, on ground which must have been covered by the 52nd during the Mutiny.

By the end of January, 1935, the 52nd were camped in Delhi New Cantonments (some twelve miles southwest of Delhi City), after training culminating in manoeuvres, and the biggest review India had seen for ten years. Higher authority had ordered five days marching as part of the homeward journey to Bareilly. The first stage of the march was to Delhi City. The Kashmir Gate was not on our route, but Paris, who was commanding, decided that the opportunity was too good to be missed. Accordingly the following route was planned. From New Cantonments along Ridge Road, then skirting the north-west edge of Delhi City, to come into the city through the Kashmir Gate and so on to our camping-ground on the south of Delhi Fort. A total march of about seventeen miles, but it was well worth it.

Ridge Road runs along the southern half of the famous ridge overlooking Delhi from the west, and from the ridge there is a magnificent view of the city. After leaving Ridge Road, the Regiment marched through the north-west suburbs of the city and then climbed the southern end of the northern half of the ridge. It was here, during the siege, that the attacking troops were camped and the guns in position. On this hill now stands the Mutiny Memorial. The Regiment halted for half an hour and all companies inspected the Memorial. There are a number of tablets, including one to Lieutenant J. H. Bradshaw, 52nd, who was killed in the assault on the Gate.

On the march being resumed, the route was along the north of the city, outside the city wall. Here we passed on our left, Ludlow Castle (now the Old Delhi Club), which was the rendezvous for the assaulting columns on the early morning of September 14th, 1857. We then turned south along the main motor road leading through the Kashmir Gate.

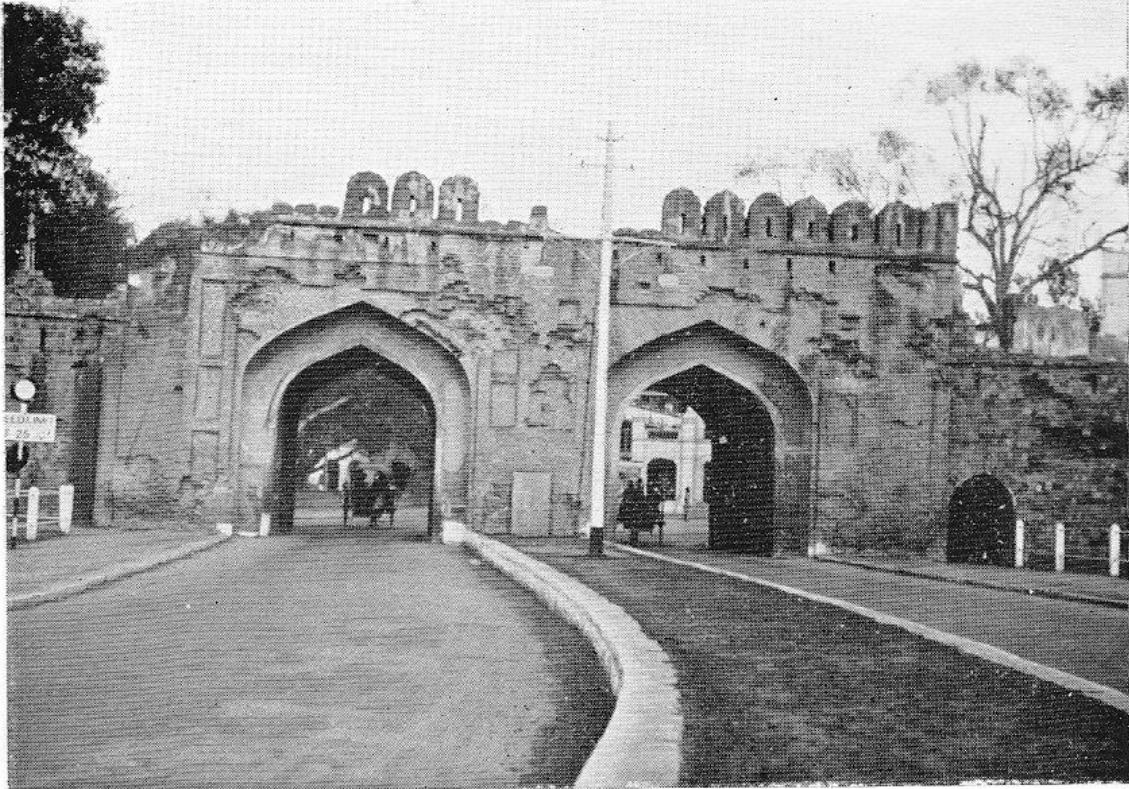
The Gate, although not imposing, is now a protected monument, and still bears many signs of the bombardment preliminary to the assault. The ditch no longer exists, and on the outside, between the two arches of the Gate is a memorial tablet to the "Exploding party" including Bugler Hawthorne, V.C.

A large crowd saw the Regiment march through the Gate and greatly interfered with arrangements that had been made to secure good photographs.

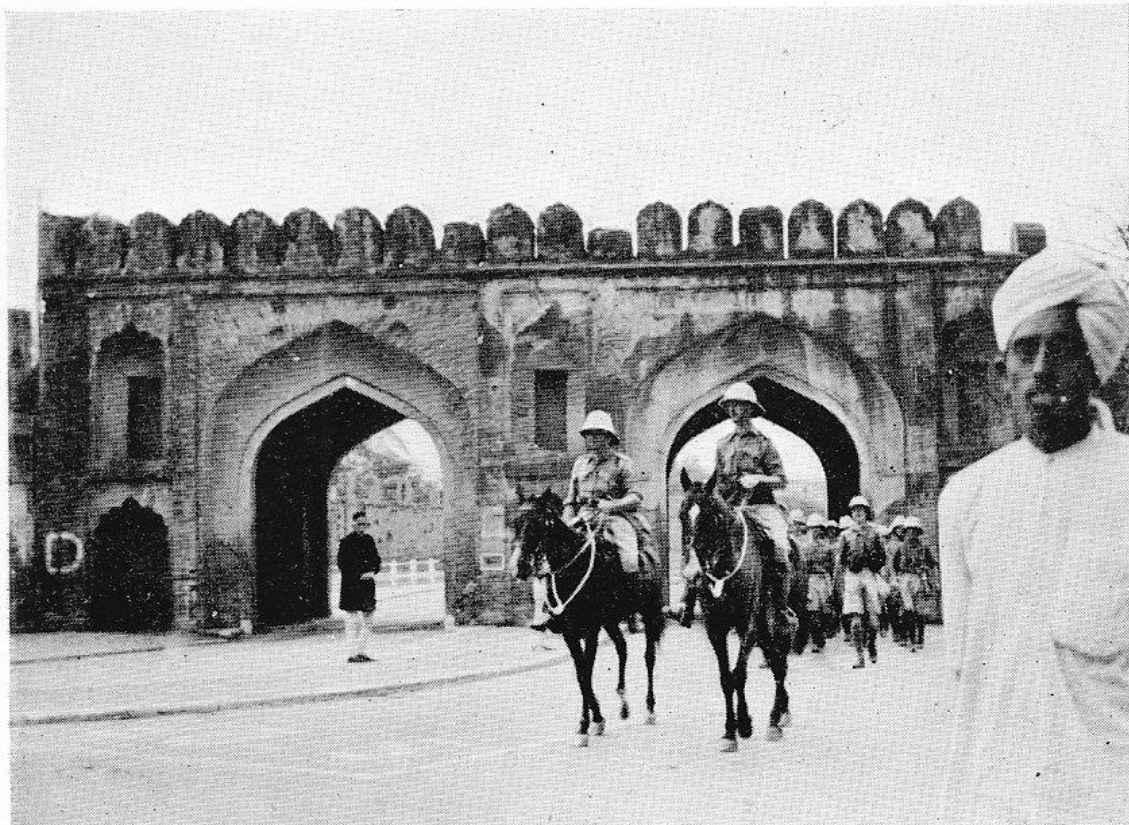
Some 400 yards inside the city, we passed on our left St. James's Church. It was here that Colonel Campbell concentrated his column after severe fighting during the course of the day in the area towards the Jumna Musjid.

And so to our camp south of Delhi Fort, a camping-ground probably more dirty than in Mutiny days.

1935 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY



THE KASHMIR GATE, DELHI, 1935



THE 52ND ENTERING DELHI BY THE KASHMIR GATE

1935 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
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THE 52ND ENTERING DELHI, KASHMIR GATE IN BACKGROUND



THE BAND AND BUGLERS LEAD THE 52ND IN BY THE KASHMIR GATE