

**1938 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**  
**SUMMARY OF FIRST BATTALION DIARY, 1938**

*January 1st* — Brevet-Major T. J. W. Winterton seconded for service as an Instructor at the Staff College, Camberley, and appointed Local Lieut. -Colonel.

*January 4th* — Annual furlough period ended.

*January 5th* — The Regiment reorganized as a Rifle, Battalion with four Rifle Companies and a Headquarter Company.

*January 7th* — 22 other ranks, Royal Ulster Rifles arrived from Armagh for attachment pending drafting overseas.

Lieut. M. Darrell-Brown and 50 other ranks embarked at Southampton to join the 52nd at Bareilly.

*January 13th* — 13 other ranks, Royal Ulster Rifles, attached to the Regiment embarked for Palestine.

*January 14th* — Lieut. R. A. St. G. Martin to be A.D.C. to the Governor-General of South Africa.

*January 27th* — Captain R. H. Doyne embarked at Southampton *en route* to join the 52nd at Bareilly.

15 other ranks, Royal Ulster Rifles, arrived from Armagh for attachment pending drafting overseas.

*January 30th* — Major W. L. Barnard posted from the 52nd.

*February 2nd* — 30 other ranks, Royal Ulster Rifles, arrived from Armagh for attachment pending drafting overseas.

*February 16th* — The Regiment won the Garrison Cross Country Run by 80 points.

*February 18th* — ‘Waterloo’ Platoon (12 Regulars, 17 Supplementary Reservists) arrived from the Depot.

*February 23rd* — 22 other ranks. Royal Ulster Rifles, arrived from Armagh for attachment pending drafting overseas.

The Regiment won the Eastern Command Cross Country Run at Shorncliffe.

*February 28th* — 2nd Lieut. T. C. Spencer-Smith joined the Regiment on first appointment.

*March 5th* — Major W. L. Barnard retired on retired Pay.  
Captain A. M. Toye, V.C., M.C., to be Major.

*March 7th* — Felstead School O.T.C. visited the Regiment for their Field Day.

*March 8th* — 12 other ranks disembarked at Southampton from the 52nd at Bareilly.

**1938 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*March 16th* — Chigwell School O.T.C. visited the Regiment for their Field Day.

*March 17th* — Captain K. Bayley joined on posting from the 52nd.

*March 18th* — Major T. E. Withington, A.F.C., embarked at Southampton *en route* to join the 52nd at Bareilly.

*March 19th* — Sjt. Cutler and 18 other ranks arrived from the 52nd.

*March 20th* — Capt. J. A. Theobalds joined on posting from the 52nd.

*March 21st* — Lieut.-Col. A. C. M. Paris, M.C., attended a Senior Officers' Course at Netheravon.

Capt. K. Bayley seconded for duty at the War Office.

*March 25th* — 17 other ranks. Royal Ulster Rifles, embarked at Southampton for drafting to Palestine.

*March 27th* — Sjt. Gill and 23 other ranks embarked at Southampton for service with the 52nd at Bareilly.

*March 30th*—14 Regulars and 7 Supplementary Reservists, Royal Ulster Rifles, arrived from Armagh for attachment pending drafting overseas.

*April 4th* — Lieut. H. H. van Straubensee proceeded on a M.T. Course at Aldershot.

*April 26th* — 21 Regulars and 7 Supplementary Reservists of the Royal Ulster Rifles reported for attachment pending posting overseas.

*May 1st* — A detachment of 4 officers and 70 other ranks proceeded to Lydd to fire the Annual A/T Rifle and A.A. Courses.

*May 2nd*—2nd Lieut. T. C. Spencer-Smith proceeded on a P.T. Course at Aldershot.  
2nd Lieut. J. F. Ballard proceeded on an Educational Course at Shorncliffe.

*May 6th* — Information received that the 43rd would proceed abroad during the Trooping Season 1940-41.

*May 11th* — Metal badges of rank were taken into use by warrant officers and colour Serjeants. All ranks were authorized to wear trousers without puttees for all purposes except ceremonial or when otherwise ordered.

*May 17th* — 7 other ranks proceeded to London to act as gatekeepers at the Royal Tournament.

*May 18th* — 8 Regular Royal Ulster Rifles reported for attachment pending posting overseas.

**1938 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*May 21st* — Information received that the undermentioned officers passed a Promotion Examination in March:

Capt. R. T. Conant (d)

Lieut. A. Clerke Brown (b)

Lieut. H. H. van Straubenzee (b)

*May 27th* — Lieut. R. F. E. Hill proceeded on a Signal Course at Catterick.

2nd Lieut. M. N. Harbottle proceeded on a Mortar Course at Netheravon.

*June 2nd*— Capt. K. S. Wootten resigns his commission.

Lieut. L. L. Falkiner to be Captain.

*June 6th* — Advance Party proceeded to H.M. Tower of London to take over from 1st Bn. The Worcestershire Regiment.

*June 8th* — The remainder of the Detachment under the command of Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C. proceeded to H.M. Tower of London for duty there, pending the return from abroad of 1st Bn. The Irish Guards.

*June 10th* — Colchester Garrison Athletic Meeting was won by the Regiment.

*June 18th*— 19 other ranks of Royal Ulster Rifles were dispatched to join their unit in Palestine.

*July 1st* — Lieut.-Colonel A. C. M. Paris, M.C., to be Brevet-Colonel.

*July 2nd*— Capt. E. C. Richards seconded for service on the Staff.

Lieut. H. E. Montgomery to be Captain.

Lieut. J. A. G. R. H. Harden to be Captain under the provisions of Article 118, Royal Warrant for Pay and Promotion.

*July 4th* — Capt. J. A. Theobalds proceeded on a Company Commanders' Gas Course at Winterbourne Gunner.

*July 5th* — A party of 21 officers and non-commissioned officers went for a flight in a Troop Carrying Aircraft at Martlesham Heath.

*July 16th* — 21 other ranks. Royal Ulster Rifles, were dispatched to join their unit in Palestine.

*July 18th* — Lieut. J. P. F. Miles proceeded on a Gas Course at Winterbourne Gunner.

*July 29th*— 22 Regulars and 12 Supplementary Reservists joined from the Regimental Depot. The Regulars proceeded direct to H.M. Tower of London.

**1938 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*August 1st* — Major E. H. Whitfeld, M.C., and Major P. Booth seconded while serving on the Staff.

The undermentioned Captains to be Majors:

D. C. Colvill, M.C.

Bt.-Major T. J. W. Winterton

J. A. Theobalds

*August 10th*—29 Regulars and 12 Supplementary Reservists of the Royal Ulster Rifles joined from Armagh for attachment pending posting overseas.

*August 12th* — 25 Regulars and 3 Supplementary Reservists joined from the Regimental Depot.

*August 22nd* — Captain and Quartermaster E. Smith posted to the Regimental Depot.

R.Q.M.S. W. P. Warnock to be Lieutenant (Q.M.).

*August 24th* — 2nd Lieut. D. Stancomb and 37 other ranks proceeded to Wattisham Camp for duty as enemy to 11th Infantry Brigade.

*August 29th* — 2nd Lieut. G. D. Jephson to be Lieutenant.

*August 30th* — The undermentioned officers gazetted to the Regiment on first appointment

2nd Lieut. N. J. Callingham, Cambridge University

2nd Lieut. D. R. L. Bright, R.M.C.

2nd Lieut. R. Wrottesley, R.M.C.

*September 1st* — 23 Regulars, Royal Ulster Rifles, embarked at Southampton for Palestine.

*September 2nd* — 34 Regulars joined from the Regimental Depot.

*September 7th*—14 Regulars of the Royal Ulster Rifles joined from Armagh pending posting overseas.

*September 10th* — Major G. Naylor, M.C., having attained the age for retirement is placed on retired pay.

*September 28th* — Major A. M. Toye, V.C., M.C., attached to the School of Military Engineering, Chatham, for temporary duties.

*October 1st* — Rank of Warrant Officer Class III instituted.

*October 3rd*— Major J. A. Theobalds seconded for duty as G.S.O.3., No. 4 Bomber Group, R.A.F., Linton-upon-Ouse.

2nd Lieut. D. Stancomb attended a Military Hygiene Course at Aldershot.

*October 15th* — No. 5377851 Sjt. J. Chamberlain obtained a 'Distinguished' Certificate at the Hythe Wing of the Small Arms School.

**1938 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*October 19th* — 22 Regulars, Royal Ulster Rifles, arrived from Armagh for attachment pending posting overseas.

*October 28th*—26 Regulars proceeded direct to the Tower of London from the Regimental Depot.

*October 30th*—Capt. H. E. Montgomery attended a Messing Officers' Course at Aldershot.

*November 2nd*— 17 Regulars, Royal Ulster Rifles, arrived from Armagh for attachment pending posting overseas.

*November 10th* — The Detachment at H.M. Tower of London was inspected by the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., C.M.G.

A draft of 22 Royal Ulster Rifles embarked at Southampton to join their Regiment in Palestine.

Information received that the undermentioned officers passed their promotion examination as shown below:

Capt. R. T. Conant	Subject (c)
Lieut. A. Clerke Brown	Subject (a) obtained a 'D'
Lieut. H. H. van Straubenzee	Subject (a)

*November 12th* — Lieut. A. Clerke Brown attached to the Regimental Depot pending posting.

*November 22nd*—Lieut. J. P. F. Miles assumes the duties of Staff Captain, 11th Infantry Brigade.

The Brigade Commander's Annual Inspection of the Regiment took place at H.M. Tower of London.

*November 23rd*— 12 Regulars, Royal Ulster Rifles, joined the Detachment at H.M. Tower of London pending posting overseas.

*November 25th* — 29 Regulars from the Regimental Depot joined the Detachment at H.M. Tower of London.

*December 1st* — The undermentioned officers joined the Regiment on posting from the 52nd:

Capt. F. W. Lowndes-Stone-Norton
Lieut. A. P. Godman
Lieut. J. W. Warner

*December 10th, 12th, and 16th* — The Detachment at H.M. Tower of London rejoined the Regiment at Colchester in three parties on relief by the 1st Bn. The Irish Guards.

*December 15th* — Capt. L. L. Falkiner posted to the Regimental Depot for a tour of duty. Capt. G. C. H. Wykeham posted to the Regiment from the Regimental Depot.

**1938 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*December 22nd* — 2nd Lieut. T. C. Spencer-Smith and Regimental Sjt. Major J. Dilley embarked at Southampton on H.T. *Dorsetshire en route* to join the 52nd in India.

*December 23rd* — Capt. E. C. Richards to be Major.  
Annual furlough period starts.

**1938 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

**FIRST BATTALION LETTER**

Dear Editor,

Looking back on the year 1938, one is inevitably oppressed with thoughts of things more important, if such a thing is possible, than mere items of Regimental interest. Wars and persecutions abroad and Cabinet Crises and Test Matches at Home all vulgarly blazoned forth by our regrettably unhampered press, hardly gave one a chance to collect one's wits sufficiently to give you our annual account of Regimental news.

As usual since our last letter several changes have taken place amongst the officers. George Naylor, I am sorry to say, is no longer with us. He reached the age limit last September and has now gone to help the R.A.F. set its house in order. Billy Barnard, who was due to come to us from the 52nd refused the last fence, to wit the Colonel's War Game, and is now instructing the inhabitants of Lowestoft in the gentle art of self-defence against an aerial attack by some unnamed power. Maurice Toye has taken himself off to Cornwall where I understand he is responsible for instructing members of the Territorial Army in P.A.D., A.R.P. and other matters connected with his own peculiar hobby of GAS. Jack Theobalds after a brief sojourn at Colchester has gone to Linton-upon-Ouse as G.S.O. 3 to No. 4 Bomber Group R.A.F., and Bayley who never even got as far as Colchester is safely ensconced in the War Office where one presumes he is busily engaged in preparing some new devilment to torture his less fortunate brother officers. Although neither of them were actually serving with the Regiment last year, we must record the fact that Peter Bernard and Metcalfe are both going to the Staff College in 1939; we take this opportunity of offering them our congratulations. Smith has gone to the Depot vice Clare and we extend a welcome to Warnock our new Quartermaster. Falkiner after six months summer holiday on the Compensation Staff has also gone to the Depot and Godfrey Wykeham comes back to us in his place. Higgins left us for a short stay at the Depot prior to sailing for West Africa. Arthur Clerke Brown after one or two false alarms has once more avoided going to India and has gone to the Depot instead. From India came Lowndes-Stone-Norton, Godman and Warner and to India go Ballard and Spencer-Smith. We are pleased to welcome Callingham from Cambridge and Bright and Wrottesley from Sandhurst. I feel it my duty to inform you that the marriage bug got loose this year and Conant, Montgomery, Luard and Temple all got bitten.

Early in 1938 vague rumours reached us to the effect that we were for duty in London during the summer. Sure enough early in June Charles Colvill set forth with about 200 men, nearly all we had, bound for the Tower of London where we were to take over duties from the Worcestershire Regiment until the return of the Irish Guards from Egypt some time in September. Unfortunately they were sent to Palestine, and it was not until December 16th that our Detachment was able to return to Colchester. It was undoubtedly a very interesting experience for the Regiment, but six months was too long, particularly as we were short of men, and consequently guards and other duties came round more often than was desirable. I understand that another scribe is writing you an account of our experiences in the Tower so I will not take up any more of your space, except to say that we duly performed the Ceremony of the Keys once nightly to an appreciative audience, and that showing uncles and aunts round the Crown Jewels, dungeons and places of execution was a good way of ensuring that we would not be forgotten by them at Christmas.

While we were at the Tower we were all very pleased that the Colonel of the Regiment came up to inspect the Detachment there. I enclose some photographs of his visit which I hope you will find room for. Our Brigade Commander also came up to the Tower for his Annual Inspection of the Regiment.



**1938 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

Being at the Tower of course interfered with all our normal activities so I have not very much else of interest to record. Training was practically nonexistent. Some of us went to Wattisham in August to assist the remainder of the Brigade at their training camp, otherwise nothing was done at all. 1939 promises better things as we have been told that we are not going to be taken for the Tattoo or any other side shows, so we shall have the whole summer to play with our carriers and other new toys. Sport suffered equally, hardly any cricket was played. We were third in the Eastern Command Athletics, but won the Garrison Athletic Cup again, were beaten in the second round of the Army Hockey by the Lancashire Fusiliers and succeeded in winning the Garrison Cross-Country Run by a comfortable margin. Other contributors should have sent you their account of sports, both field and blood, so I will say no more about them.

On our return from the Tower we were greeted with the welcome news that we were to have wash basins with H. and C. put into our bedrooms. We knew this before we went away in June and we must congratulate the powers that be on their astonishing foresight in not getting on with the work while the Mess was empty. That they should have chosen the very day of our return to commence operations necessitating the evacuation of all bedrooms and the kitchen is well-nigh incredible, but nevertheless true. However, we have managed to forestall them for a few days until we have had time to move into the East Surrey Mess at Goojerat Barracks which is at present unoccupied.

The great frost caught most of the officers unprepared as far as their motor cars were concerned, and anti-freeze mixture and bonnet lamps were much in demand. The Second in Command having chosen the Cadre Office as his sanctum was immediately flooded out by a burst water pipe. However he got his own back by allowing his bath to overflow and flood the Mess.

On reading my last letter to you in search of inspiration I see that I informed you that our foreign tour had been postponed to 1941-42. This has now been cancelled and we are due to go abroad during the trooping season of 1940-41. Although our stay in Colchester should normally end next winter it is generally believed that we shall stay on here for our last year at home.

Towards the end of September the CRISIS overtook us and we were plunged into warlike preparations such as had never been seen before. To begin with most of the Regiment was in London, where I gather they hardly knew that war was imminent until van Straubenzee, complete with tin hat and gas mask, led his M.T. bravely into the Tower. Not to be outdone they hurriedly bought fourteen tons of sand for the Warders children to play with, and took the flutter valves out of their containers, just to make quite sure that someone should be gassed and that the show would not fall flat. Down at Colchester three old men appeared who proceeded to hammer a wooden box into the walls outside Orderly Room. When the box was finished it was to be filled with sand; unfortunately the whole thing collapsed as the last shovelful was going in. We used sand-bags instead and they looked much more solid and splinter proof. It was a great relief when the tension eased and we could return to normal.

I hope Mr. Editor that next year I shall be able to give you a more normal account of our military activities after we have been allowed to play at soldiers for twelve months.

Yours, 43rd.