

**Extracted from the Regimental Chronicle of
The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry 1950**

**THE ROLL OF HONOUR (1939-1945) AND
THE REGIMENTAL WAR MEMORIAL TABLET**

Early in 1947 the Regimental Committee decided that a Roll of Honour should be compiled to commemorate the 1408 officers and other ranks of the Regiment who lost their lives in the Second World War. At the same time the Colonel of the Regiment proposed that a Regimental Memorial be placed in the Regimental Chapel, Christ Church Cathedral, in memory of all ranks of the Regiment who have given their lives for their Country and in the service of the Regiment since its formation. This proposal received the unanimous approval of the Committee and the Colonel of the Regiment undertook to make all the arrangements for the Memorial and approach the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, with a view to obtaining their permission for it to be erected in the Chapel.

The next step was to obtain the official list of officers and other ranks of the Regiment who had lost their lives in the war. It was found that the War Office had already compiled a Roll of Honour of officers for each Regiment but no lists were available from the Officer in Charge of Records. Mr. P. May, M.B.E., therefore, spent a week at the Record Office, Exeter and extracted the necessary particulars from the documents of deceased soldiers.

It was hoped to include in the Roll of Honour the names of all men of the Regiment who had lost their lives during the war but the Officer in Charge of Records stated that it would be practically impossible to trace those who had been posted away from the Regiment owing to frequent changes between Infantry Regiments, between Infantry and other arms and even services. It was decided, therefore, to include only the names of men who had lost their lives while serving with a Battalion of the Regiment.

The inscribing of the Roll of Honour has been done by Mrs. I. Wellington who did the work for the Roll of Honour for the 1914-18 war; the style of lettering, therefore, is the same in both books. The arrangements of the names, however, is different. In the 1914-18 book they are entered by ranks whereas this time they are in alphabetical order throughout.

The case for the Roll of Honour was made by Messrs. A. R. Mowbray of Oxford and is a replica of the one which contains the 1914-18 Roll of Honour. A silver key for the case was presented to the Dean at the Dedication Service.

The Memorial Tablet measures 3 feet 2 1/2 inches by 2 feet 9 inches and is incised in pure Roman lettering, gilded, on a panel of green slate from Coniston, surmounted by the crest of the Regiment and that of the Bucks Battalion carved in relief, coloured and metal leafed. The surrounding moulded frame is of English alabaster from Staffordshire. The Memorial was designed and executed by Edmund Ware, F.R.B.S., in collaboration with Sculptured Memorials of London. The inscription reads:

Dedicated to the memory of all ranks of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry who have given their lives for their Country and in the service of the Regiment since its formation in 1741.

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The Dean of Christ Church in consultation with the Colonel of the Regiment fixed the date for the Dedication Service, September 30th, 1950, and arranged the Form of Service.

Owing to the limited accommodation in the cathedral admission was by ticket: and for the same reason it was necessary to allow each ticket holder to be accompanied by one other person only. In addition to an announcement in *The Times.*, the *Daily Telegraph* and the newspapers of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, individual invitations were sent to all next-of-kin.

The normal seating capacity of the cathedral is only 800 but by hiring chairs and making use of all available floor space it was found possible to seat just over 1000 inside the building and an overflow of 250 was accommodated in the cloisters where the service was relayed.

On the day of the service it rained continuously but the inclement weather did not affect attendance and the cathedral was filled to capacity.