

1924 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

SUMMARY OF FIRST BATTALION DIARY.

January 2.—A party of 25 recruits arrived from the Depot.

January 8.—Lieut. C. A. Sawyer qualified in "Q.I." at a combined Rifle and Lewis Gun Course, at the Small Arms School, Hythe.

Captain and Bt.-Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., was posted to the Regiment to fill an existing vacancy.

January 9.—Captain W. G. Tolson, M.C., joined for duty and took over the command of "A" Company.

January 17.—2nd Lieut. D. M. O'Connor embarked for India on posting to the 52nd.

January 26.—Lieut. J. B. Jarvis passed "Distinguished" at the War Office School of Education, Shorncliffe.

February 4.—Major A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., proceeded to Oxford to take over the command of the Regimental Depot.

Captain C. W. H. Bailie, took over the command of "B" Company.

February 6.—A party of 28 recruits arrived from the Depot.

February 16.—Lieut. C. J. Eyston, passed in subject A for promotion to Captain.

February 21.—Information was received that Lieut. C. A. Sawyer was killed last night as the result of a motor accident near Challock, Kent.

He was buried on the 25th inst., at Little Milton, near Wallingford, officers from the Battalion and the Depot being present.

February 29.—Major G. E. Whittall, M.C., embarked for India on posting to the 52nd.

March 1.—2nd Lieut, the Hon. H. W. Amherst joined on first appointment and was posted to "A" Company.

March 3.—"B" and "C" Companies commenced Platoon Training.

March 5.—The King's and Regimental Colours were installed in the Officers' Mess, where it is intended they will be kept in future.

March 19.—In order that the wearing of the Regimental Button on the Service Dress, as authorized by A.C.I. No. 129 of 1924, might be carried out without delay, it was decided that these buttons would be placed on sale in the Regimental Institutes.

March 20.—Major J. J. Powell was posted to the Regiment to fill an existing vacancy.

March 22.—Eight officers attended the 10th Infantry Brigade Staff Tour, which took place in the Shorncliffe District.

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April 4.—2nd Lieut. A. J. Lucas joined the Regiment for six weeks' attachment from the Oxford University Officers' Training Corps.

April 17.—Lieut. D. C. Colvill, M.C., joined from the Regimental Depot.
Lieut. D. C. Colvill, M.C., qualified, Class I, at the War Office School of Education.

April 23.—"B" and "C" Companies were struck off duty to fire the annual range courses.

April 30.—Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C., was appointed Adjutant, *vice* Captain J. E. H. Neville, who has resigned his commission.

May 3.—Sergeant Richards and five bandsmen went to Wembley to take part in the massed bands performance at the British Empire Exhibition.
Regimental Sergeant-Major W. Whitton was posted to the Battalion from the Regimental Depot, *vice* Regimental Sergeant-Major A. J. Cowley, who proceeded to the Depot.

May 6.—Captain J. W. Meade proceeded to the Regimental Depot for a tour of duty, *vice* Major J. J. Powell.

Captain E. A. Packe, M.B.E., D.F.C., assumed command of the Headquarter Wing, *vice* Captain Meade.

Information was received that Captain E. A. Packe, M.B.E., D.F.C., had obtained a "Distinguished Certificate" at the Royal Air Force School of Army Co-operation.

May 16.—A party of 21 recruits joined from the Depot.

May 26.—"A" and "D" Companies were struck off duty to fire the annual range courses.

June 3.—The Regiment paraded to "Troop the Colour" on the Birthday of His Majesty the King.

Four guards were formed, one from each company, each consisting of 3 officers, 2 guides and 32 files.

The Regimental Colour was trooped.

No. 1 Guard (Escort to the Colour) "C" Company. Officer carrying the Colour: Lieut. D. S. Newton-King.

Sergeant carrying the colour: L.-Sgt. Giles.

June 6.—A party of 24 recruits joined from the Depot.

June 7.—The Machine Gun Platoon marched to Lydd to fire the machine-gun course.

June 9.—Captain A. M. Toye, V.C., M.C., was posted to the Regiment on promotion from the Middlesex Regiment.

July 4.—A party of 10 officers and 226 other ranks—"A," "B," and "D" Companies and the Signallers—proceeded to Bisley to mark in the National Rifle Association Meeting.

A party of 30 recruits joined from the Depot.

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July 21.—The Bisley detachment returned to Shorncliffe.

Information was received that Lieut. K. S. Jefferson had been appointed a Platoon Commander at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot.

July 23.—Lieut. D. S. Newton-King passed in subject A for promotion to Captain.

July 25.—A party of 30 recruits joined from the Depot.

July 30.—The Regiment gave a demonstration to the rest of the Brigade of "A Battalion on the Defence" near Paddlesworth.

August 2.—The Regiment took part in the Shorncliffe Garrison Torchlight Tattoo, which continued till Tuesday 5th inst.

August 7.—Regimental Rifle Meeting commenced.

Information received that the Regiment would move to the Rhine about the 29th of January, in relief of the 2nd Bn. K.R.R.C.

August 23.—Battalion Training commenced. Owing to foot-and-mouth disease, the move of the 10th Infantry Brigade to Aldershot for training with the remainder of the 4th Division was cancelled. Battalion Training was to be carried out instead locally at Shorncliffe, Dover and Lydd.

The first week of Battalion Training was carried out at Shorncliffe.

Captain T. B. Trappes-Lomax, Scots Guards, was attached to the Regiment for duty as an umpire during Battalion and Brigade Training.

August 30.—The Regiment marched to Lydd for the second week of Battalion Training. The Regiment carried out platoon field firing and the annual revolver course while in camp at Lydd.

September 4.—Information was received that owing to the very wet weather, the move of the Regiment to Dover for the third week of Battalion Training was cancelled.

September 9.—The following 2nd Lieuts. were posted to the Regiment on first appointment:— 2nd Lieut. A. B. Slessor, 2nd Lieut. C. B. A. Bernard, 2nd Lieut. R. H. Cooke (attached pending posting).

September 10.—The Regiment marched to Ringwood near Deal to carry out night operations.

A night advance with an attack at dawn was conducted by Major H. F. Whinney, D.S.O., O.B.E.

The G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command witnessed the operation and expressed himself as satisfied with the work carried out by the Regiment.

On the morning of the 11th, the Regiment was conveyed back to Shorncliffe by bus.

This completed the Battalion Training for the year.

September 16.—Information received that Lieut. K. S. Jefferson had been awarded a Higher Standard Physical Training Certificate at the Course at the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot.

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September 18.—Orders were issued that Buff Belts would be taken into wear for walking out, with effect from the 22nd inst.

September 19.—A draft of 30 recruits arrived from the Regimental Depot.

October 4.—The Battalion Training Cadre, under Captain A. M. Toye, V.C., M.C., started a ten-weeks' course for N.C.O.'s.

October 6.—Lieut. J. P. A. G. Graham proceeded to the Machine Gun School at Netheravon.

October 9.—Major A. C. M. Paris, M.C., proceeded to Shrewsbury to take up the appointment of D.A.A. and Q.M.G., Welsh Area.

October 15.—A draft of 3 N.C.O.'s and 98 other ranks under the command of Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., embarked in the s.s. *Marglen* for India.

October 17.—A draft of 25 recruits joined from the Regimental Depot.

October 29.—Information received that Lieut. M. H. S. Last had qualified at the School of Signals.

October 31.—A draft of 23 recruits joined from the Regimental Depot.

November 3.—Captain C. G. B. Stevens was posted to the Regiment.

November 5.—The Battalion witnessed a demonstration on Sir John Moore's Plain by No. 5 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

November 9.—Armistice Sunday. All Battalions of the Shorncliffe Garrison took their colours to church and laid them on the altar.

November 18.—Captain H. E. F. Smyth, M.C., proceeded to Aldershot to attend an Adjutants' Physical Training Course.

December 11.—Information received that Lieuts. Jarvis, Last and Stabbing passed for promotion in subject A.
Captain Smyth completed his Physical Training Course at Aldershot.

December 16.—Information received that Lieut. Newton-King is accepted for service in the Soudan.

December 20.—Major H. C. Whinney completed a course at the Senior Officers' School, Sheerness.