

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

**SUMMARY OF SECOND BATTALION DIARY, 1930**

*January 1.*—The Regiment, less "A" Company, paraded at 9 a.m. and moved to Wetwin Camp for Collective Training.

The Regiment did not attend the Brigade Proclamation Parade but gave three cheers for H.M. the King Emperor before moving off.

The Regiment arrived at Wetwin at 12.10 p.m.

The remainder of the day was spent in pitching tents and settling into camp.

*January 2.*—"B," "C" and M.G. Companies and the Headquarter Wing commenced section and platoon training which continued until January 7.

*January 8.*—Companies commenced Company Training.

*January 10.*—A Draft of 72 other ranks under the command of Lieut. J. A. Theobalds and 2nd Lieut. R. H. Harden arrived, and were met by the Band of the Regiment which had marched in from Wetwin to meet them.

*January 12.*—"A" Company commenced Collective Training at Mandalay.

*January 13.*—"B" and "C" Companies carried out field firing.

*January 14.*—"B" and "C" Companies carried out an Inter-Company scheme directed by the Commanding Officer.

*January 16.*—Regimental Training commenced.

*January 17.*—Regimental Field Firing.

Schemes were held every other day with conferences on the intermediate days.

Five schemes were carried out. Attack (Field Firing); Advanced Guard; Defence; Withdrawal; Mountain Warfare Scheme and Perimeter Camp.

*January 27.*—Signallers' Collective Test.

*January 28.*—The Regiment returned to Maymyo.

*January 30.*—"C" Company, Signallers and Group 3, Headquarter Wing, commenced firing their annual course.

*February 4.*—The Commanding Officer inspected the Detachment at Mandalay.

*February 8.*—Captain Ogden, A.I.R.O., was attached until February 25 for Annual Training.

*February 13.*—Regimental Rifle Meeting.

*February 15.*—Reserve Machine Gunners commenced firing.

*February 17.*—"B" Company Revolver Course.

*February 20.*—"C" Company A.R.A. Competitions.

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*February 22.*—Transport under Captain Hamilton left for Khangyi Area for Training Camp.

*February 25.*—Non-Commissioned Officers' Promotion Examination.

*February 28.*—The Regiment left for Brigade Training in the Khangyi area.

*March 1—5.*—Brigade Training. Regiment returned on March 5.

*March 18—19.*—Regimental A.R.A. Competitions.

*March 20.*—A Draft of 95 other ranks left for the U.K. on discharge and transfer to the Army Reserve and Home Establishment. Lieut. A. B. Slessor was Draft Conducting Officer.

*March 21.*—The G.O.C. Burma District inspected the books of the Regiment.

*March 22.*—The Commanding Officer inspected the kits of the Machine Gun Company.

*March 24.*—Casuals commenced Classification.

1st Cadre Course commenced for N.C.O.'s of "B" Company, 3 Signalling and 2 Bugler N.C.O.'s.

*March 26.*—The Regiment carried out a route march—8 miles.

*March 27.*—A Draft of 2 corporals and 61 private soldiers and boys arrived from the U.K. under the command of Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C.

*March 31.*—1st Short Cadre Course commenced.

Lieut. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley arrived on cross-posting from the 43rd.

*April 5.*—Major J. J. Powell arrived on cross-posting from the 43rd after a tour of duty at the Regimental Depot.

*April 7.*—The Burma Rifle Association Meeting commenced.

*April 12.*—The Burma Rifle Association Meeting ended.

The Regiment won the following: The Barnes Cup; The Harcourt Butler Machine Gun Challenge Cup (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th); The Burma Rifle Association Machine Gun Cup (1st and 2nd); The Coombes Cup (Burma Individual Challenge Cup Revolver), won by Lieut. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley.

In addition the Regiment was 2nd in the following: The Dyer Challenge Cup; The Burnett Cup (Revolver).

Captain G. Naylor, M.C., was 7th in the Burma Individual Challenge Cup.

Lieut. R. H. Cooke and Lieut. J. D. Palmer went on combined leave to the United Kingdom.

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*April 14.*—The Ordnance Mechanical Engineer inspected the scientific instruments of the Regiment.

The Maymyo Horse Show commenced.

*April 15.*—The Maymyo Horse Show concluded.

The Officers were "at home" on this date.

The Regiment won the 1st prize for the best turned out A.T. cart and pair of mules. This was won by the Regimental Transport, the Machine Gun Draught Platoon being 3rd.

*April 16—17.*—Burma District Sports. The Regiment competed against the Cameron Highlanders, and won by 9 events to 1, only losing the putting the shot. The Camerons easily won the tug-of-war, which event did not count for the Cup.

*April 21.*—Classes of Instruction under the Individual Training Programme, 1930, commenced.

*April 23.*—The Commanding Officer inspected the kits of the Headquarter Wing.

*April 24.*—Lieut. G. G. Hughes, Lieut. C. L. C. Ward and Lieut. P. F. Metcalfe proceeded on combined leave to the United Kingdom.

*April 26.*—1st Long and Short Cadre Courses ended.

*April 28.*—1st Drill and P.T. Class for N.C.O.'s of Letter "B" and "C" Companies commenced.

*May 2.*—The Commanding Officer and Adjutant went to Mandalay in connection with internal security measures. One platoon in Maymyo ordered to stand by at short notice until further orders on account of the arrest of Gandhi and the Bakr-Id Festival on the 10th.

*May 3.*—Captain E. C. Simmons, A.I.R.O., who was in the Regiment from 1917 to 1920, was attached to the Regiment for one month's training.

*May 7.*—Inspection by Superintendent of Physical Training and Weapon Training, Southern Command. Captain Burke saw one company doing Physical Training.

The Commanding Officer went on four days' local leave.

Major J. J. Powell assumed command of the Regiment.

*May 13.*—The A.D.M.S., Burma District, inspected the lines of the Regiment and also the last draft from the United Kingdom.

*May 19.* — 1st Drill and P.T. Instructors Course ended.

*May 19.* — 2nd Drill and P.T. Instructors' Course started.

"B" Company relieved "A" Company at Mandalay.

*May 22.* — British Officers' Local Physical Training Course started.

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*May 25.* — Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., proceeded on three months' leave to the United Kingdom.

Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., assumed command of the Regiment.

*June 3.* — The Regiment took part in a parade of the garrison in honour of the birthday of H.M. the King Emperor.

Information received that Lieut. K. S. Wootten had been promoted Captain with effect from January 9, 1930, and to remain seconded.

2nd Drill and P.T. Instructors' Course ended.

*June 4.* — 2nd Long Cadre Course commenced.

*June 6.* — Extract from the *London Gazette* dated May 9, 1930: Lieut. J. Thorne to be Captain, April 1, 1930.

*June 16—17.* — Non-Commissioned Officers' Promotion Examination.

*June 18.* —WATERLOO DAY. Sports were held in the morning, Cpl. Philpin winning the Individual Championship.

A Ball was held in the evening for all ranks and their friends. Approximately 600 people were present.

*June 19.*—2nd Short Cadre Course commenced.

Special Machine Gun Instructors' Course commenced.

*June 21.*—Information received that Captain J. Thorne had been posted to the 52nd on promotion.

*June 24.*—No. 5379099 Pte. Chapman, F., Letter "A" Company, died of cerebral malaria in the British Military Hospital, Maymyo.

*June 24.*—Lieut. J. A. Theobalds and 2nd Lieut. R. H. Harden proceeded to Pachmarhi to attend a Weapon Training Course at the Small Arms School (Pachmarhi Wing).

*July 1.*—The Regiment (less "B" Company and the Headquarter Wing) carried out a Quarterly Judging Distance Test.

*July 2.*—Captain C. J. Eyston proceeded to the United Kingdom on 78 days' privilege leave pending resignation.

*July 3.*—Information was received that Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham passed in subject (*b*) for promotion at the examination held in March, 1930.

The following results of the A.R.A. Competitions for last year were received:

King George Cup	11th place	Award : £400
India Cup (No. 7 Platoon)	2nd place	Bronze medals and £100
The Company Shield ("A" Company)	12th place	Award £200

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*July 8.*—All officers, warrant officers and non commissioned officers of and above the rank of serjeant attended a T.E.W.T. conducted by the Commanding Officer. (Burma Rifle Area—Subject: the Company as Advanced Guard in Encounter Attack.)

*July 14.*—The D.A.D.O.S., Burma District, visited the Regiment and inspected equipment, stores, etc.

*July 15.*—Training of young officers and officers going up for promotion commenced. Major Tolson and Captain Horan took Military History. Major Powell took Imperial Military Geography.

*July 16.*—2nd Long and Short Cadre Courses ended.

*July 17.*—3rd Drill and P.T. Instructors' Course commenced.

*July 18.*—"C" Company commenced Individual Training and were struck off all duties. Information received that 2nd Lieut. H. E. Montgomery was posted to the 52nd on first appointment.

*August 2.*—3rd Drill and P.T. Instructors' Courses ended.

*August 4.*—The training of the Regimental runners commenced. Information received that Lieut. G. C. H. Wykeham had been selected for cross-posting to the 43rd under the provisions of *K. R.* 1928, para. 194.

*August 5.*—Information received that a draft of 50 privates will embark on or about September 23 to join the 52nd.

*August 11.*—Information received that Lieut. M. T. Stephens had passed the examination for admission to the Staff College, Camberley, held in March, 1930.

*August 23.*—Lieut. J. A. Theobalds and 2nd Lieut. R. H. Harden rejoined the Regiment from the Small Arms School, Pachmarhi.

*August 27.*—Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., rejoined the Regiment from leave in the United Kingdom and resumed command.

*August 29.*—"C" Company completed Individual Training.

*September 1.*—Machine Gun Company commenced Individual Training.

*September 2.*—Machine Gun Company Tactical Exercise without Troops. Star Hill—Subject: Defence.

*September 5.*—The Annual Gymnastic Competition commenced, one company being examined each day. The Judges were the Commanding Officer, Adjutant and Quartermaster.

*September 6.*—Information received that Lieut. J. A. Theobalds and 2nd Lieut. R. H. Harden both qualified at the 4th Course, Small Arms School (Pachmarhi Wing), held from the 5th

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

July to the 15th August.

*September 8.*—Promotion Examination, Subject (c) Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C., sat as a candidate.

*September 9.*—The Commanding Officer, Adjutant and Quartermaster proceeded to Mandalay to judge "B" Company's Gymnastic team and to inspect the Detachment.

*September 12.*—Information received that Lieut. G. G. Hughes had been selected for a tour of duty at the Regimental Depot with effect from November 22, 1930 (Authority: W.O. letter P/28104/4(A.G.2 (o) ), dated August 5, 1930).

*September 15.*—"A" Company commenced Individual Training.  
Lieut. J. A. Theobalds and Lieut. K. Bayley proceeded to Rangoon to play in the Rangoon Gymkhana Rugby Football Competition.

*September 17.*—The daily ten minutes' musketry for all ranks recommenced.  
The Executive Veterinary Officer, Maymyo, inspected the chargers and mules in charge of the Regiment.

*September 19.*—Regimental Range-Takers' Test.

*September 22.*—The Inter-Company Rugby Football League commenced.

*September 23.*—"A" Company's Tactical Exercise without troops held.

*September 24.*—Regimental Runners' Training completed.  
Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., was appointed officiating Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, Burma District, with effect from June 17, 1930.

*September 28.*—The Regimental Association Football team left for Rangoon to take part in the Walter Locke Competition.

*October 5.*—The Regimental Revolver team fired for the Duke of Connaught's Cup and scored 247 points. This is a good score and should put the Regiment high up the prize list.

*October 8.*—Information received that Captain D. C. Colvill, M.C., had passed subject (c) for promotion at the examination held in September, 1930.

*October 12.*—A draft of 4 corporals and 29 other ranks and Armourer Staff-Serjeant Tunn left for the U.K. on transfer to the home establishment and Army Reserve.

*October 20.*—Promotion examination for subjects (b) and (d) held. Captain H. Vernon and Captain A. B. Hamilton sat.  
The Machine Gun Company were struck off all duties for firing their Annual Course.

*October 21.*—The Regiment carried out a route march, distance about 8 miles. One man fell out.

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*October 22.*—The G.O.C., Burma District, placed on record his appreciation of the services rendered by L.-Cpls. Tuck, Turley and Callear of the Regiment, attached District H.Q., in helping to extinguish a fire.

*October 23.*—A draft of 56 other ranks arrived from the 43rd with 2nd Lieut. H. E. Montgomery conducting.

*October-25.*—"A" Company completed Individual Training and took over all duties.

*October 27.*—Telegram received with the information that the Regiment had won the Walter Locke Football Shield.

"C" Company struck off all duties for firing their Annual Weapon Training Course.

*October 28.*—Annual Classification of the Regimental Signallers.

The Regimental Polo Team left for Myitkyina.

Captain K. Horan assumed command of the Regiment.

*October 29.*—Sanitary Demonstration in the 3/20th Burma Rifle Lines. 2 (all available) officers attended.

Lieut. K. Bayley proceeded to Mingaladon to carry out the Classification Tests of the Signallers of the Cameron Highlanders.

*November 4.*—Annual Sanitation Course for other ranks began. 24 attended.

*November 7.*—The Regimental Polo team returned from Myitkyina.

Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Sanderson, D.S.O., resumed command of the Regiment.

*November 9.*—Lieut. P. F. Metcalfe rejoined from leave in the U.K.

*November 10—11.*—Regimental holidays.

*November 12.*—Nonne Bosschen Ball cancelled owing to rain.

The Director of Medical Services, India, inspected the Regiment.

*November 14—15.*—Nonne Bosschen Sports held and resulted as follows :

H.Q. Wing       1st.

M.G. Company   2nd.

"A" Company    3rd.

"C" Company    4th.

"B" Company    5th.

*November 17—18.*—2nd Class Education Examination.

*November 17—22.*—First Anti-Gas Training Cadre Course held. All available N.C.O.'s of the Headquarter Wing attended.

*November 19—21.*—Novices' Boxing Competition held.

*November 23.*—Machine Gun Company proceeded to Wetwin Camp for field firing.

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*November 25.*—Relief of the Mandalay Detachment carried out.  
"C" Company to Mandalay, "B" Company to Maymyo.

*November 26.*—Company Commanders Conference.

*November 27.* Captain T. Booth rejoined the Regiment from duty as Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor of Bihar and Orissa.

Lieut. R. H. Cooke rejoined the Regiment from leave in the U.K.

Extract from the "*London Gazette* of November 1: Captain K. Horan to be Major (October 11, 1930).

Lieut. J. A. Theobalds appointed Adjutant vice Captain K. Horan.

*November 28.*—"A" Company, the Band and Buglers and half No. 3 Group, began their annual Weapon Training Course.

*November 30.*—Regimental Serjeant-Major E. Smith, D.C.M., M.M., and a draft of 55 other ranks left for the U.K. for transfer to the Home Establishment and Army Reserve. Captain H. Vernon conducted the draft to Bombay.

The Machine Gun Company returned from Wetwin Camp.

Information received that Captain T. J. W. Winterton will be posted to the Regiment during the present trooping season.

Information received that Major W. G. Tolson, M.C., will be cross-posted to the 1st Battalion during the present trooping season.

*December 1—6.*—Second Anti-Gas Training Cadre Course held. All available N.C.O/s of "B" Company and 8 of the Signallers attended.

*December 6.*—Information received that Major K. Horan had been posted to the 2nd Battalion on promotion.

*December 8—13.*—Third Anti-Gas Training Cadre Course held. All available N.C.O.'s of the M.G. Company, 3 signallers and 1 staff-serjeant, I.A.S.C., attended.

*December 9.*—The A.D.V.S., Eastern Command, inspected the mules and chargers of the Regiment.

*December 10.*—The Burma Bolshies gave their second concert in Barracks.

*December 11.*—Lieut. J. D. Palmer rejoined from leave in the U.K.

*December 14.*—Captain P. Booth proceeded to Mandalay to take over command of the Detachment.

*December 17.*—Major J. J. Powell, commanding Detachment, Mandalay, rejoined at Maymyo to take over the duties of Senior Major.

The postponed Nonne Bosschen Ball was held and was attended by about 500 people.

*December 21.*—Captain H. Vernon rejoined the Regiment from draft-conducting duty to Bombay.

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*December 24.*—Holiday.

*December 26.*—Holiday.

*December 29.*—Commanding Officer's Parade in practice for the Proclamation Parade on January 1.

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

**SECOND BATTALION LETTER, 1930**

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

In the concluding paragraph of our letter last year we expressed two hopes, firstly that our dilapidated exchequers might be replenished, and secondly that we should be able to give a good account of the doings of the Regiment in both military and sporting spheres when writing our 1930 letter. In the first case our hopes have been shattered. Burma is a very expensive country in every way. From the officer's point of view, wages of servants and the cost of food, etc., are very high. A sais's pay is Rs.22 a month as against Rs.18 in Calcutta and less in other parts of India, and we only got it down to Rs.22 after defeating a strike for Rs.25. Other servants vary in proportion. Scandalous when one thinks that in Lucknow in 1908 a sais was contented with Rs.8 and was a far better man than his counterpart of to-day. Other ranks suffer in the same way, their luxuries and entertainments cost more than in India owing to the expense of transport. Further, our anxiety to keep up the inter-company competitions, Regimental banner, etc., entails a constant stream of football, boxing, athletic, cross-country and other teams moving backwards and forwards between headquarters and the detachment in Mandalay, with the consequent heavy drain on the Regimental funds. The result of keeping the Regiment together in this way, however, is worth the extra expense as long as the fund will continue to stand it.

To counteract this financial gloom, however, we venture to think that the activities of the Regiment both at work and play have been crowned with success. The majority of these subjects will find a place elsewhere in this CHRONICLE, it is unnecessary, therefore, to do more than touch on them here. To commence with the military side, the Regiment moved to Wetwin Camp on January 1 for company and battalion training, returning to Maymyo on January 28.

On the move again on February 28 we went out to the Khangyi area for brigade training until March 5. During these two trainings we tried out the new organization and gained experience in the handling of the Regiment with only three rifle companies and a machine gun company. This works well enough when the Regiment is on its own, but when training in brigade with Indian units the British Regiment is at a disadvantage. The Indian battalion only having one platoon, a portion of the British machine gun company is invariably taken away to provide covering fire for the brigade, and the company is therefore constantly overworked. As regards weapon training, the improved standard reported in our last letter, has, we are glad to say, been maintained and the 1929-30 figure of merit went up to 4.88, an advance of 1.03 over the preceding year. The companies who have already fired the 1930-31 course, sad to say, have so far not come up to this mark. The reason is hard to find, but can only be put down to the large drafts of old and tried shots that have departed to civil life.

Our first year of serious attempts in the A.R.A. Competitions have been rewarded with three mentions in the prize list, a good start which we hope to improve on this season. The Regimental revolver team, in the training of which Clare took immense pains, has acquitted itself well in the Connaught Cup for 1930-31, obtaining 247 points, which should be well up in the prize list. Nos. 1 and 11 platoons have also made most creditable scores in the India Cup, 1930-31, the former having considerably surpassed the score made by the winners of the Cup last year.

Good results were obtained in the Burma District Rifle Association Meeting; amongst other successes, Ducat-Hamersley, just landed from England, carried off the largest Challenge Cup that ever was seen in the Individual Revolver.

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

The Signallers have acquitted themselves with their usual success, obtaining 51 qualified signallers in their individual test and an excellent report both in this and their collective test.

The Band, under the leadership of Mr. Pipe, has made great strides and is really on its way to attaining the high standard of the 52nd band before the great exodus in 1924. The number of boys over establishment which we were allowed to enlist is a great asset, and we now have a boys' band in addition to the military and dance bands. The last-named has had constant engagements at the Maymyo Club, Mandalay, Namtu and other places with the result that the emoluments obtained from the engagements of this and the full band have at last squared the immense deficit of the band account.

Bugle-Major Robinson, who has taken over the Buglers from Bugle-Major Brett, who has left us for civil life, has to his credit that he can at last parade 52 efficient buglers in the ranks. These buglers, of course, are not only employed in this capacity but are also trained to form the Regimental runners in the field.

In the world of sport, the Regiment has had a creditable year. The polo team so far is unable to record a win, but has succeeded in getting into two finals and winning one subsidiary. New blood is coming on apace and, with the return of Booth, we hope that success will come our way in the near future.

The football team surprised us with their efficiency. Keeness we knew they had, but we hardly hoped to win the Walter Locke shield in Rangoon, the blue riband of football in Burma, where the standard of play is decidedly good. The greatest credit is due to the team for their grit and determination in winning after one replay in the semi-final and two replays in the final.

Rugby football has also greatly improved throughout the Regiment, as was evident in the inter-company competition. The Regimental team played well in Rangoon and were unlucky to lose in the final by a try scored in the last five minutes.

In athletics, unfortunately, there are no big meetings in which we can compete. We, therefore, have no chance of emulating the wonderful victory of the 43rd in the Army Athletic Championship, the news of which everybody in the 52nd was overjoyed to hear, and which we all hope they will repeat next year. Our only team contest is against the regiment stationed in Rangoon at the annual Burma District Sports held in Maymyo. We had a really good team this year, trained and led by Ward, and succeeded in defeating the Camerons in every event except putting the shot. We hope to repeat this against the Buffs next year.

Boxing has been confined to regimental competitions, except for a triangular contest against the Royal Navy and the Cameron Highlanders in Rangoon in January. The former has, however, brought out a lot of new talent. We have been presented with a very fine cup by friends of the late J. D. C. Holland and F. C. Holland, both of whom served in the 52nd, in their memory. This was presented to the Commanding Officer in London this year and is given to the winning company in the open regimental competition. It is known as the Holland Cup, and was won this year by the Machine Gun Company.

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

The Regimental Banner for the Sports Year ending March 31, 1930, was won by "B" Company for the second year in succession. They will, however, have to get a move on if they are to retain it for a third year.

In the April Horse Show at Maymyo our ponies carried off a good proportion of prizes, the Colonel winning the Cup for the best stable of three ponies, and between us four more were secured. During the rains our jockeys were always to the fore in the Races, and a number of officers supported the paper-chasing, Horley being a most ardent enthusiast.

Waterloo Day was celebrated as usual by the Individual Sports, Corporal Philpin winning the Individual Giampionship. In the evening the Waterloo "All Ranks" Ball was again a brilliant function, attended by about six hundred in all, of whom half displayed great energy and competence in the Terpsichorean art whilst the other half showed equal zeal and capabilities at the throne of Bacchus.

Nonne Bosschen Week was a tale of misfortune. The inter-company sports billed to take place on the 11th had to be postponed owing to the sodden state of the ground; however, these were held on the 14th and won by the Headquarter Wing; in the tea interval the Regimental Gymnastic Team, trained by Corporal Osborne, gave a display. Severe critics would no doubt say that they lacked the finish of Wootten's great team, but nevertheless they were excellent and earned the highest praise from the General and all the spectators. With the Nonne Bosschen "All Ranks" Ball again ill luck followed us; owing to lack of accommodation the supper and bars, etc., have to be in tents for these large entertainments. At 3.30 p.m. on the 12th all was ready, tents electrified, decorations complete, and Horan with his staff were surveying their handiwork when down came a cloudburst, and in no time all was converted into a quagmire, with the result that the ball had to be hastily cancelled, to the great disappointment of all and a heavy financial loss to the Regiment. However it was held on December 17 and was voted an even greater success than the Waterloo one.

During the year 220 N.C.O.'s and men have embarked on homeward-bound transports, and the 52nd have lost a large number of sterling men whose departure we all regret. Amongst them is Regimental Serjeant-Major E. J. Smith, D.C.M., M.M., who served 22 years with the Regiment, the last 6 as Regimental Serjeant-Major, and in him we have lost a most loyal soldier of the 52nd. On the credit side we have received drafts from the 43rd of 185, whom we feel sure will go far to replace those lost to us, but not far enough, however, as insufficient are forthcoming to fill the vacancies and we are considerably under strength. Changes in officers have been numerous. Hughes, one of our polo team and no mean exponent of the high jump, has gone to the Depot. Tolson, who has manipulated our Regimental accounts with eminent success for several years, also a dashing member of the polo team, has since September 24 acted as D.A.A.G. to the District, and leaves us for the 43rd on January 17. Closely following him goes Wykeham, Cadre officer and energetic organizer of boxing and gymnastics. Powell, uprooted hurriedly after his tour of duty at the Depot, Colvill, Theobalds, Harden, Ducat-Hamersley and Montgomery have joined us during the year, and Winterton, Richards and Campbell should be with the 52nd by next March. Although cross-posted last year to the 43rd we feel that the most creditable feat performed by Stephens in defeating the Staff College examiners at such an early age, and at his first attempt, must find a place of record in this letter, as he joined, and up till last year, served continuously with the 52nd.

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

Christmas has been celebrated in the usual cheery way of the East; the annual football match after church on Christmas Day between the Signallers and Buglers, the latter played on to the field of contest by the Band, has been played and won by one goal by the Buglers. The writer is just recovering from the annual tour of all the platoon Christmas dinners with the consequent liberal libations, and so ends another year and another 52nd letter.

Yours,  
52ND

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

**BRIGADE TRAINING IN BURMA**

The year 1930 has earned for itself an important place in the history of the Army in Burma, in that it was the first occasion on which Brigade Training has taken place in that country. However, before attending this historic gathering, it was necessary for us to work through the ordinary curriculum of training of which this would be the culminating point. This we proceeded to commence immediately on our arrival in Burma. The facilities for doing any serious training in the field during the time the Regiment was stationed in Calcutta having been nil, we welcomed the opportunities offered to really get down to it once more.

On December 1, 1929, the Machine Gun Company went into camp at Wetwin for its first M.G. concentration since formation. Unfortunately, the eternal financial stringency would not allow of the M.G. Company of the Camerons or Punjabis being moved up from Rangoon, with the result that the concentration consisted of the 3/20th Burma Rifles, 1/5th Mahrattas and ourselves. Wetwin training area, although not very extensive, is quite good, and the variety of its features makes it very suitable for the practice of all forms of warfare; further the absence of villages and the ease with which the country can be cleared of its few inhabitants makes it an ideal spot for field firing and machine gun practice. The Machine Gun Company carried out a lot of useful training, and earned a glowing report from Brigadier Scott, Commandant, Small Arms Schools, India, who said that he was particularly impressed by the keenness of officers and men, and the intrepid driving of the A.T. carts by the personnel of the Indian Platoon over the difficult hilly and rocky country. The Company returned to Maymyo on December 21, and we all became involved in the celebration of Christmas, a far more serious business out there than in England where everybody, who can, goes off on leave.

January 1st saw the Regiment on the move again *en route* for Wetwin Camp to carry out Company and Battalion Training. The steadiness (?) of the mounted officers was well demonstrated on parade prior to marching out on this day. Being unable to attend the Proclamation Parade, three cheers were given for His Majesty the King Emperor before marching off; on the first "Hip" the mounted officers, with one accord, charged the Commanding Officer, this scene has been immortalized by Slessor in his cartoon in the *Regimental Journal*. In fairness to the officers it must be said that they were mounted on chargers lent by the Gunners, and that the erratic behaviour of these said chargers on this and subsequent occasions must lead us to imagine that they were more at home on the polo ground than the parade ground.

The camp itself at Wetwin is quite a pleasant spot, about eight miles from Maymyo. Situated on the side of a hill, the ground has to be cleared of jungle each year before the regiments go out. Water is brought in a pipe line from a spring and then distributed through the camp in split bamboos, after which the medical authorities make the drinking water undrinkable by the simple process of chlorination. Ample accommodation is available for the Regiment and transport but little room for any games, however, two basket-ball pitches afforded a considerable number a lot of amusement when off training, and many heated contests took place. The first fortnight was taken by section, platoon, and company training, the majority of the time being devoted to the two former, as the lack of training during the past two years made it necessary to obtain a thorough grounding in the elementary work before going on to anything more advanced.

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

Company training culminated in a battle between "A" (Naylor) and "C" (Booth) Companies with a proportion of machine guns on either side. It would be inadvisable to express an opinion as to which side was victorious, suffice it to say that the intense discussion which ensued between the Commanders after the battle and that they wished to fight it over again another day showed that the object had been attained. Each company with a section of M.G. Company attached carried out a field firing exercise, using ball ammunition with great animation and no casualties.

The last ten days were devoted to battalion training, and five exercises, including Regimental field firing, mountain warfare and perimeter camp were carried out. The field firing brought back memories of Kokrail when the 43rd were at Lucknow, as it is so seldom, especially in England, that an attack scheme over a real bit of country can be carried out with ball ammunition. Conferences on the previous day's work were held every other day when everybody down to the junior lance-corporal had an opportunity, not always sought after, of stating their actions, good or bad, and their reasons for same. These conferences, as opposed to those dreadful discussions directly after the operation known so well by all of us, when the chief anxiety is to get home and anybody who dares to speak is rewarded by scowls, gave an opportunity for the commanders to consider their actions, the umpires to trace the course of the battle, and the director to consider his remarks. In addition to being instructive to all of us, these meetings brought into being a league amongst the junior officers known as the "Raspberry and Apple League" (cribbed, it is feared, from the 43rd), by which praise by the Commanding Officer on the action of some unit or individual earned for the unit concerned a good mark, or "Apple," whereas adverse criticism obtained a "Raspberry." To some this may appear a most unmilitary and frivolous proceeding: in actual fact, however, it necessitated such a close attention to the details of the conference and so much discussion afterwards on the points in question, that it proved an adjunct to instruction. There is no question that we all gained a lot of useful experience and instruction from this badly-needed training, and that the efficiency of the Regiment as a fighting unit was much improved. All worked with the greatest keenness and it was a most enjoyable month. Good weather, though very cold at night, healthy exercise, and good food, especially the strawberries, provided one got there before Firpo Ward and Jeeves Bayley, kept us all fit.

We were now prepared for brigade training, which took place in the Khangyi area about forty-two miles from Maymyo. This is an ideal piece of ground for training purposes. A vast expanse of open and undulating country rising in places to quite high hills, the low ground mostly grass with boggy patches in the valleys, the high ground rocky and covered in scrub and in some parts wooded. The bugbear of finance again intruded itself, and the budget would only run to five days' training, and would not allow of the expense of our marching to the area. On February 22nd, therefore, the machine gun and regimental transport left Maymyo by road under Hamilton, and marched, together with the mountain battery and other transport, to the Khangyi area, halting three times on the way. On February 28 the Regiment, less the Company at Mandalay and transport, entrained at Maymyo station, and after a journey of three and three-quarter hours detrained at Nawngkhio, just short of the Gokteik viaduct on the Lashio line at 12.30 p.m.

**1930 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

After loading the mule transport and bullock waggons, which were awaiting us, we had a meal and set out on our march to Khangyi. This proved, in the opinion of all, including the veterans, one of the most trying marches the Regiment had done for years, and the way in which the last drafts only just out from England, and mere boys they looked, stuck it speaks volumes for their grit and determination. No appreciable distance, only ten miles, it seemed like thirty, very hot, a bad road, clouds of red dust and all against the collar. However, we arrived at last and marched into camp at 140 to the Regimental march, saluting the Brigadier, Rangoon Brigade, at the gate. His only greeting was a sarcastic remark on the pace at which the Light Infantry marched. Obviously he did not belong to that elite corps.

Being the last regiment to reach the camp, the others having arrived some days before, we found that we were the mugs as regards tentage and, when the whistle blew for raising all the tents of the Regiment, many could not be pitched as they were poleless. However the indefatigable Clare soon rectified this, and all was well.

The Brigade, commanded by Brigadier Watson, consisted of the Rangoon Brigade Headquarters with an improvised Signal section consisting mainly of Cameron Highlanders, the 7th Mountain Battery, R.A., 3/20th Burma Rifles, 4/5th Mahratta Light Infantry, the Regiment, a company of the Mule Corps, and a Medical unit. Major-General Coningham, assisted by the District Staff and a host of umpires, acted as Director during the manoeuvres. Although we had no mechanized force or Air Force, the exercises carried out were very interesting and instructive, they gave the Regiment a chance of working with other troops and commanding officers an opportunity of commanding their regiments and a brigade, instead of always having to act as Director,

The Regiment returned to Maymyo by train on March 5, the transport proceeding by road as before. So ended our Collective Training period for 1930, and early in April Individual Training commenced, thereby starting the whole routine over again. During this Collective Training period we had our first opportunity of studying the tactical handling of the new organization of three rifle companies and a machine gun company. It was also the first appearance in the field of a Regimental Intelligence Section, apart from the good work done by this section, the personnel were undoubtedly fit at the end of training, as Ward, an athlete himself, expected every man of his section to be able to move at a run all day without feeling tired. We, out here, can claim few advantages in training over the Regiment at home. No tanks, armoured cars, and other atrocities come our way to give us practical demonstrations for the questions we have to answer in our promotion exams., *but* the Regiment does consist of about 800 live men, and has real sections instead of skeletons and flags, a very appreciable advantage for training commanders in the field.

The Regiment was awarded an excellent annual report so the efforts of all were rewarded.

There is to be no brigade training next year, but the Regiment, with a section of the Mountain Battery, are to go on a "Show the Flag" march through a troublesome area west of Shwebo in January, and to camp for battalion training in February and March.

52ND.