

**Extracted from the Regimental Chronicle of  
The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry 1931**

DESCRIPTION OF THE REGIMENTAL CHAPEL OF THE OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
LIGHT INFANTRY IN THE CATHEDRAL, CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD.



THE REGIMENTAL CHAPEL, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
THE SCREEN AT THE WEST END

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THE south choir aisle which has been allotted by the Dean and Chapter as the repository of the Colours, the Roll of Honour, and other memorials of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry is part of the 12th century Church, and has the main part of its walls and vaulting—and its share of the choir arcade—of this date. The Altar which formerly stood here has long been destroyed and the Piscina sawn off flush with the wall, probably when the 17th century wainscoting was carried out; the restoration of these features is included in the present memorial scheme.

The windows of this aisle are all modern, having been inserted by Scott in his extensive repairs of 1870-72 in place of the 17th century stonework which had supplanted the originals. The inner arch and vaulting ribs—lavishly decorated with the "ball-flower ornament" of the period—of the East window are survivals from the 14th century. On the south wall is a small 17th century brass, and there are a dozen or so of modern memorials including a portrait-bust in marble of H.R.H. the Duke of Albany, Queen Victoria's youngest son, formerly a member of the House.

All the glass in the windows is modern with the exception of the small westernmost window which is of great interest, containing a portrait figure of Dr. King, the first Bishop of Oxford, and a view of part of Osney Abbey of which he was the last Abbot, and where his episcopal throne was placed on the first foundation of the See. His tomb-monument—formerly embedded in the wall below this window—now stands detached and just west of it; the pilaster and vaulting shaft between window and tomb mark the western limit of the Chapel now newly defined.

The furniture of the Sanctuary forms a complete equipment, and comprises:—Foot-pace, Altar, Reredos, Frontal, Curtains, Linen Cloths, Carpet and Communion Rails, together with the Altar Ornaments, viz., Chalice and Paten, Flagon and Alms-dish, Crewetts and Candlesticks, Altar-Book and Cushion.

About nine feet at the east end of the Aisle have been raised five inches and *paved in Portland stone slabs* with occasional smaller squares of slate in the manner of the old pavings still found in the Cathedral. The damaged *Piscina in the south wall* has been fitted with a new dished bowl (connected with original drain) and a small Credence shelf.

**The Altar** is a massive table of oak with six turned legs and moulded stretchers; the Mensa will be covered with *linen cloths* and vested with *Frontal and Frontlet* of deep red and gold brocatelle with short pendent orphreys of red damask silk embroidered with the Arms representing Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire within floral wreaths; the Regimental badge (the Horn) is repeated on the Frontlet.

**The Reredos** of oak is about the same length as the Altar, namely seven feet, and three feet high finishing flush with the window-sill above. It is entirely gilded and its surface is covered with a kind of arabesque overlaid pattern introducing the Fritillary of local fame. Its chief features are three roundels carved in high relief with wreaths of flowers, the two outer circles containing shields with the emblems of St. Michael and St. George, while that in the centre enshrines and supports the Crucifixion Group.

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The figures of Christ and SS. Mary and John are in lime tree, the work of Mr. Alec Miller of Campden, and are decorated in gold and colours. The outer frame of the Reredos has trails and other ornaments of black and gold and gold and black alternately, and from each end of it project rods carrying the riddels or wing curtains which are of red and gold in generous folds.

[The Architect has been influenced in his design by the very dominant glass in the window above (Burne-Jones) and was unwilling to introduce statuary or colour which might in any way conflict with it; the all-over gold effect and the three roundel motif were adopted as a foil rather than a challenge.]

**The Plate**, The silver flagon has been selected from the officers mess plate of the 43rd Light Infantry (1st Battalion). The silver chalice and paten are by Messrs. Barkentin & Krall who have also made the alms dish and candlesticks. The alms dish is repousse copper silver plated in a bold 16th century design, the candlesticks are brass gilded and have massive lion feet.

**The Altar Book**, from the Oxford University Press, is in the famous "Fell" type with red rubrics and decorations on hand-made paper; it has been specially bound in "Rifle" green morocco with the Regimental badge stamped in gold on the front.

Before the Altar is a fine antique Bokhara rug.

**The Communion Rail** is in the form of a balustrade with turned rails and occasional panels decorated in black and gold; this, in common with all the other furniture of the Chapel is of oak, stained dark and dull polished, the "style" adopted is based on examples of the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

The Chapel is three bays in length, corresponding with the first three arches of the arcade between it and the choir on the north side. The Sanctuary, just described, occupies the eastern bay but allows access to the High Altar seats. Beneath the arch of the second bay and attached to the pillar facing west is the *Memorial Tablet to the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars*. This is in walnut wood, as it is close to the Bishop's Throne in which that material predominates, and has the following inscription incised and gilded on an ebonized ground :—

IN MEMORY OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF  
THE OXFORDSHIRE YEOMANRY WHO FELL  
IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS 1914-1918

with the badge and title of this Regiment in colours below.

Beneath it is a desk with carved brackets carrying the Roll of Honour in the form of a book bound in red leather containing the names of the officers and men of the Regiment who fell In the war.

Opposite the tablet, hung from the east side of the next pillar is the Regimental banner moved here from the north-west angle of the central tower.

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The third bay is peculiarly the Shrine of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Here, on a massive stand of oak in a glass-covered case is the *Roll of Honour of the Regiment*.



THE REGIMENTAL CHAPEL, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
The Lectern with Roll of Honour

It is a magnificent volume bound at the University-Press, and consists of vellum leaves containing, after the dedication, ornamental title pages, and list of battalions, the list of officers, warrant-officers, non commissioned officers and men who fell in the war and will conclude with a list of the gifts to the chapel. The illumination and writing, the mere volume of which, apart from its great beauty, represents very close and arduous work, has been carried out by Mrs. I. Sutton, A.R.C.A.

*The Case for the Roll of Honour* has the name of the Regiment and the badge (the Crown and Horn) included in the decoration and a specially designed silver key will be used at its dedication, of which a replica will be deposited in the Regimental Museum.

*An Alms Box* in pillar form stands near the Roll of Honour to receive contributions to the up-keep of this part of the Cathedral.

On the pier east of the Roll of Honour is a Tablet bearing the following inscription recording the formation and dedication of the Chapel:-

THIS REGIMENTAL CHAPEL OF THE OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY WAS DEDICATED ON THE IITH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1931, BEING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMISTICE OF 1918, BY THOMAS, BISHOP OF OXFORD, IN MEMORY OF THE 5,878 OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS, NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE REGIMENT WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1918.

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At the west side of the Chapel is the *Screen* separating it from the transept aisle. This has on its western side the arms representing Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire emblazoned in two of the tracery panels, with the badges of the Regiment and of the Bucks Battalions included in the decorations.

*The frieze* is partly gilded and the finials and other ornaments above the cornice are similarly treated. On each side of the central doorway are stalls with desks facing east., the rest of the space between them and the Sanctuary being occupied as occasion requires by chairs of suitable design placed two and two on each side of the central gangway; these each bear the name of a member of the Regiment killed in the war.

*The Colours* of the 2/4 Battalion, the 5th, 6th and 8th (Service) Battalions, and the 1st and 2nd Garrison Battalions emblazoned and netted, are laid up in the Chapel. They are suspended (hanging straight) from the caps of the piers on the north side, two to each pier.

The whole of the furniture, embroidery and decoration of the Chapel has been designed and supervised by Mr. H. S. Rogers, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., of Oxford, and, except where otherwise stated above, has been carried out by Messrs. A. R. Mowbray & Co., of Oxford.

**LIST OF GIFTS TO THE REGIMENTAL CHAPEL**

The Reredos and part of the Altar Plate: 43rd Light Infantry (1st Bn.)

The Screen: 52nd Light Infantry (2nd Bn.)

The Altar Rails: Regimental Depot.

The paving of the Sanctuary: 3rd Bn (Special Reserve).

The North Stall and Desk: 4th Bn. (Territorials).

The South Stall and Desk: 1st and 2nd Bucks. Bns. (Territorials).

The pair of Candlesticks on the Altar: 5th (Service) Bn.

The Emblazoning of the 6th (Service) Bn. Colour: 6th (Service) Bn.

The Memorial Tablet: 7th (Service) Bn.

The Altar and hanging of the Colours: The Regimental Old Comrades Association.

The two Crewetts for the Altar: Bucks. Bn. Old Comrades Association.

The Lectern for the Roll of Honour: Oxford City Branch of the British Legion.

The Altar Frontal and Frontlet with embroidered Orphreys: The Ladies of the Regiment, and of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Individual members of the Regiment and friends: the Alms Dish, the Silver Dish for Communion Bread, the two Prayer Books for Clergy Desks, the Altar Curtains, the Piscina, the Rug in the Sanctuary, the Book on the Altar, a Fair Linen Cloth for the Altar, the Silver Key for the Lectern, the two Cushions for the Altar Book, the Chalice and Paten, the thirty-eight kneeling Hassocks, the thirty-eight Memorial Chairs.