

**1936 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**  
**SUMMARY OF SECOND BATTALION DIARY 1936**

*January 1st*— Proclamation Day.  
Brigade Parade.

*January 3rd* — A draft of 40 other ranks left for England.  
Lieut. M. M. Alston-Roberts-West with a draft of 60 other ranks arrived from England.

*January 8th* — The Army Commander, Sir C. Norman MacMullen, G.C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., visited the Regiment.

*January 14th and 15th* —Regimental Rifle Meeting.  
Winner of Commanding Officer's Watch, Lieut. J. H. Hare.

*January 21st* —News received by wireless of the death of His Majesty The King Emperor.

*January 28th* — Day of mourning. Memorial Service held on the Maidan.

*February 2nd* — Draft of time-expired men left for U.K. including C.S.M. Prestney.

*February 3rd*— Lieut. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley returned from a tour of duty at Depot.

*February 8th* — Final of Regimental Individual Sports.

*February 10th*—Regiment took part in a demonstration of the working of a Battalion Intelligence Section, during the battalions occupation of a defensive position.

*February 11th-14th*—Quadrangular Athletic Tournament at Meerut.  
The Regiment second in both athletics and football.

*February 16th* — Presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to Armourer Staff Serjeant P. Jory, R.A.O.C.; Lance-Corporal D. Brewis and Private H. Sandford, by Brigadier A. K. Hay, D.S.O., O.B.E.

*February 17th* — Infantry Polo Tournament won by 2nd Gurkhas.  
Bareilly Week started.

*February 27th* — C.S.M. F. S. Soanes promoted Regimental Serjeant Major vice Regimental Serjeant Major G. W. Green, M.M.  
Regimental Team sports, won by A Company.

*February 28th*—Annual Inspection by Brigade Commander, Brigadier A.K.Hay, D.S.O., O.B.E.  
Draft arrived from Home Battalion under Captain L. W. Giles, M.C. Strength 42.

*February 29th* — B Company designated as Captain L. W. Giles, M.C., Company.

March 9th — 2nd Lieut. B. E. Barrow joined the Scinde Horse (14th P.W.O. Cavalry) after completing one year's attachment with the Regiment on the unattached list.

**1936 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*March* 10th— 2nd Lieut. R. A. Close joined the 5th Bn Punjab Regiment after completing one year's attachment with the Regiment on the unattached list.

*March* 11th — Lieutenants F. W. Lowndes-Stone-Norton, A. P. Godman and J. W. Warner passed Part (a) of Officers Promotion Examination.

*March* 18th — 2nd Lieutenants R. J. Henderson, H. T. Addams-Williams, and K. W. W. Duncan, U.L.I.A. joined the Regiment from R.M.C. Camberley.

*March* 19th— 2nd Lieut. D. J. Weymouth, U.L.I.A. joined the Regiment from R.M.C. Camberley.

*March* 31st — First Hill party under Command of Captain L. W. Giles, M.C., (consisting of B Company, signallers and details of other Companies) left for Dulikhet.

*April* 8th — Band proceeded to Naini Tal to carry out an engagement there during the Hill Season.

*April* 19th — Captain & Quartermaster C. T. Moody arrived with wife and child.

*April* 20th—The Regiment paraded for a Proclamation for the New Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow.

*May* 11th — The Regiment took part in a Brigade Parade at which a message from the New Viceroy was read out to all ranks.

Captain B. Burt-Smith, M.C., embarked at Bombay for U.K. on two months' leave pending retirement.

*May* 14th — Lieut.-Colonel J. J. Powell left Bareilly for two months' leave in U.K. The command of the Regiment devolved on Major W. L. Barnard.

*June* 1st—Jemadar Lai Singh proceeded on three months' leave prior to retirement.

*June* 12th — Inspection of all animals by A.D.V.S. Eastern Command who reported the condition of the animals to be excellent.

*June* 14th — Lieut. M. M. Alston-Roberts-West promoted Captain under Article 118 Royal Warrant for Pay, 1931 with effect from May 1st.

*June* 18th — Waterloo Day, observed as a holiday.  
Aquatic Sports.

*June* 23rd— Anniversary of the birthday of His Majesty The King Emperor. Brigade Parade cancelled owing to heavy rain. Day observed as a holiday.

*July* 1st — Regimental football team under Lieut. H. G. Temple proceeded to Calcutta to take part in I.F.A. Challenge Shield.

**1936 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*July 13th* — Information received that 2nd Lieutenants G. N. A. Astley-Cooper and M. J. St. Aubyn have been posted to the 2nd Battalion and will join during the first half of the Trooping Season 1936-37.

*July 14th* — Gymnastic Competition, A, C and S Companies competed. B and H.Q. Wing will compete on return from the Hills.

*July 16th* — First Hill party returned from Hills. Strength 200.

*July 17th* — Second Hill party departed for Hills. Strength 200.

*July 18th* — Lieut.-Colonel J. J. Powell returned from two months' leave in U.K. and resumed command of the Regiment.

*July 20th*— Brigade T.E.W.T. for all officers.

*July 22nd*—A Company commenced Vickers Berthier gun firing on the range.

*July 28th* - Visit of D.A.D.H.

*July 30th* - Visit of D.A.Q.M.G.

*August 5th* — Inspection by C.C.M.A. commenced.

*August 7th* — Inspection by D.A.V.D.S.

*August 12th* — Inspection by D.A.D.O.S.

*August 17th* — Aerial photography course of one week commenced (six officers and intelligence section attended).

*August 27th* — Lieut.-Colonel J. J. Powell left for Dulikhet to inspect the detachment.

*September 9th* — Information received that the Regiment would move to Multan next year, being relieved by the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

*September 4th* — 2nd Lieutenants J. R. P. Montgomery and J. Granville promoted Lieutenants. Extract from *London Gazette* dated September 2nd.

*September 14th-16th* — Signallers classification.

*September 21st* — Collective training starts.

*October 6th* — Visit of District Commander.

*October 10th* — Bareilly October Week Polo Tournament starts.

*October 18th* — 2nd Lieut. D. H. Mappin, U.L.I.A. left to join the 20th Deccan Horse at Poona after completing his year's attachment.

**1936 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

*October 20th* —Band arrived from Naini Tal having completed the six months' engagement there.

*October 29th* — Regiment commenced march to camp.

*November 14th* —Regiment marched into Dhanauri Camp. Distance 185 miles.

*November 16th* — Platoon training started.

*November 23rd*—Company training started.

Draft of 36 left Bareilly for U.K. on Transfer to Army Reserve.

Draft of 90, together with 2nd Lieutenants Astley-Cooper and St. Aubyn, arrived at Bareilly on posting from 1st Battalion.

*December 3rd* — Battalion training started.

*December 10th* — News received by wireless of the abdication of King Edward VIII.

*December 12th*— Training finished.

*December 14th* —Camp struck and Regiment departed for Bareilly in two parties, rail and motor transport.

The whole Regiment, before leaving paraded to give three cheers for the Birthday of His Majesty King George VI.

M.T. party camped night at Ghurmujtesar.

*December 15th* —Rail party arrived Bareilly 0800 hours.

M.T. party arrived Bareilly 1600 hours.

*December 19th* — Draft of 22 left for United Kingdom for transfer to Army Reserve.

**1936 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

**SECOND BATTALION LETTER**

Dear Editor,

This is how we spent our time in 1936:

In January, February and March we were at Bareilly doing all the things we had forgotten to do in 1935 and indulging in athletics, cricket, football and rifle meetings; from April to half-way through October we had the hot weather and the hill season, when about 250 men were always away at our hill station, Dulikhet, and the band at Naini Tal; during this period we fired the annual weapon training course and completed individual training; finally from November to halfway through December we carried out collective training in camp.

The hot weather was remarkable for its moderation. It never got really unpleasant and there was excessive rainfall all the time, so much so that instead of our weekly route marches we had to substitute 'dog and stick walks' to the Ramganga floods and back.

We were rather upset to hear that we were to be allowed to remain in Bareilly only one more year and then have to migrate to Multan. However we have got used to the idea now and are not worrying. We expect to remain in Bareilly long enough to partake in the proposed Durbar at Delhi.

Sport has flourished when the weather allowed. Our football team was a really good one this year and did extremely well; our boxers improved a lot under Warner, and our athletic team under West's guidance did well at Meerut. About a dozen of us played polo regularly throughout the year, and the results in tournaments definitely improved. Our other sporting activities were confined to within the Regiment, for travelling expenses in India are so terribly heavy.

Nobby Clarke ran a most successful Race Meeting in September for tonga ponies ridden by men of the Regiment, although for sheer spectacular entertainment it did not compare with the Bareilly Race Meeting organized by a City Magistrate. This gentleman obviously fancied himself as a jockey for he appeared dressed like Fred Archer-cum-Foreign Legionnaire, with spurs a foot long. He rode a very moderate horse in the first race and started favourite (somebody obviously knew something). When the starting bell was rung, he was seen to be fifty lengths in front and galloping like fury for home. His three rivals were still waiting for the starter to drop his flag, which he then proceeded to do. The result was a handsome victory for the favourite. Somebody objected, but the one and only bookmaker had by then paid out, so nobody was interested. In the second race, this by now famous man finished fourteenth out of fourteen runners, and then staggered even the most hardened spectators by objecting to the first, second and third for bumping and boring. The last race was the 'Grand National', the course being the same except for the addition of one hurdle. The winner never saw the hurdle and galloped straight past it; so they gave the cup to him and the stakes to the second, who had jumped it.

The band spent the hot weather in Naini Tal, where they had an engagement for the season. They played regularly to the public on the promenade and at numerous dances and other entertainments. The dance band improved out of all recognition during the year and is now good.

**1936 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

In October the High Powers decided that for the good of our souls and their pockets it would be nice for us to walk to camp, about 185 miles away. We offered to buy a train and so to save our boot leather and sanity but that was Viewed with grave concern and considered too daring — so we walked, as we always knew we should do in the end.

One of the objects of the march was to show the flag in obscure and distant parts of India. This we did, but not many came to look at it, and those who did were hurried away by black policemen on white ponies.

After the fifth day we left the road altogether and did the remaining 127 miles on sandy tracks, on many of which we had to march with intervals of 50 yards between platoons. We were stopped by closed level crossing gates in one place, and the officials there pointed to the signals which were down and assured us the express was just coming. Sure enough it came, and consisted of a trolley worked by two coolies with an inspector in a bowler hat sitting in the middle.

It took seventeen days and seemed longer; on the other hand the march produced its incidents and we had our moments. For instance one Sunday we had a halt and played Nagina United at football on a ground chiefly remarkable for the absence of cross bars on the goal posts, and the presence of a telegraph pole in the middle, a definite *hazard*.

During the march we organized a clever postal system for communication with barracks. We had two bags, one with us and one in barracks. The first day out we all wrote our letters in camp, put them in the bag and away it went with the ration lorry back to barracks. Two days later the bag from barracks arrived.

We opened it with trembling fingers and drew out our own letters that we had written. Once more somebody had blundered.

Dhanauri Camp itself was rather congested, units being almost on top of one another. We had only four weeks' training, which is not enough in which to carry out platoon, company and battalion training with any degree of thoroughness. Our Part V which was watched by the Army Commander, included taking the whole regiment, less animals across the Ganges Canal (about 80 yards wide, with a strong current) in flat bottomed boats. During the night the news came through by wireless that the King had abdicated and the remainder of the exercise seemed rather flat.

We gave a tea party one afternoon for the Indian Officers of the other regiments in the brigade, namely the 2/3rd Gurkhas, the 2/18th Royal Garhwal Rifles, and the 3/18th Royal Garhwal Rifles. This proved to be a tremendous success. Those of us who could not talk Hindustani, talked in any other language we could think of, and conversation and rum flowed unceasingly for hours.

We left for Bareilly again on December 15th, all going by lorry except S Company, who went by rail with the transport. Before leaving we formed up and gave three cheers on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King George VI.

**1936 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**2nd Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY**

There have been many changes in the officer line. West took over Adjutant in February, when Bayley and Theobalds went to Quetta. Burt-Smith and Edmunds retired from any further participation in army life and are now training people to wear gas masks and horses to jump respectively. Moody arrived to take over the Quartermastership, whilst Hamersley went to West Africa and d'Arcy Montgomery was cross posted home. Luard had the misfortune to get sprue and was sent home with the idea of becoming Adjutant at the Depot, in May 1937.

Other arrivals were Giles, Clarke, Bray, Astley-Cooper, and St. Aubyn.

Yours,  
52nd.