

**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.

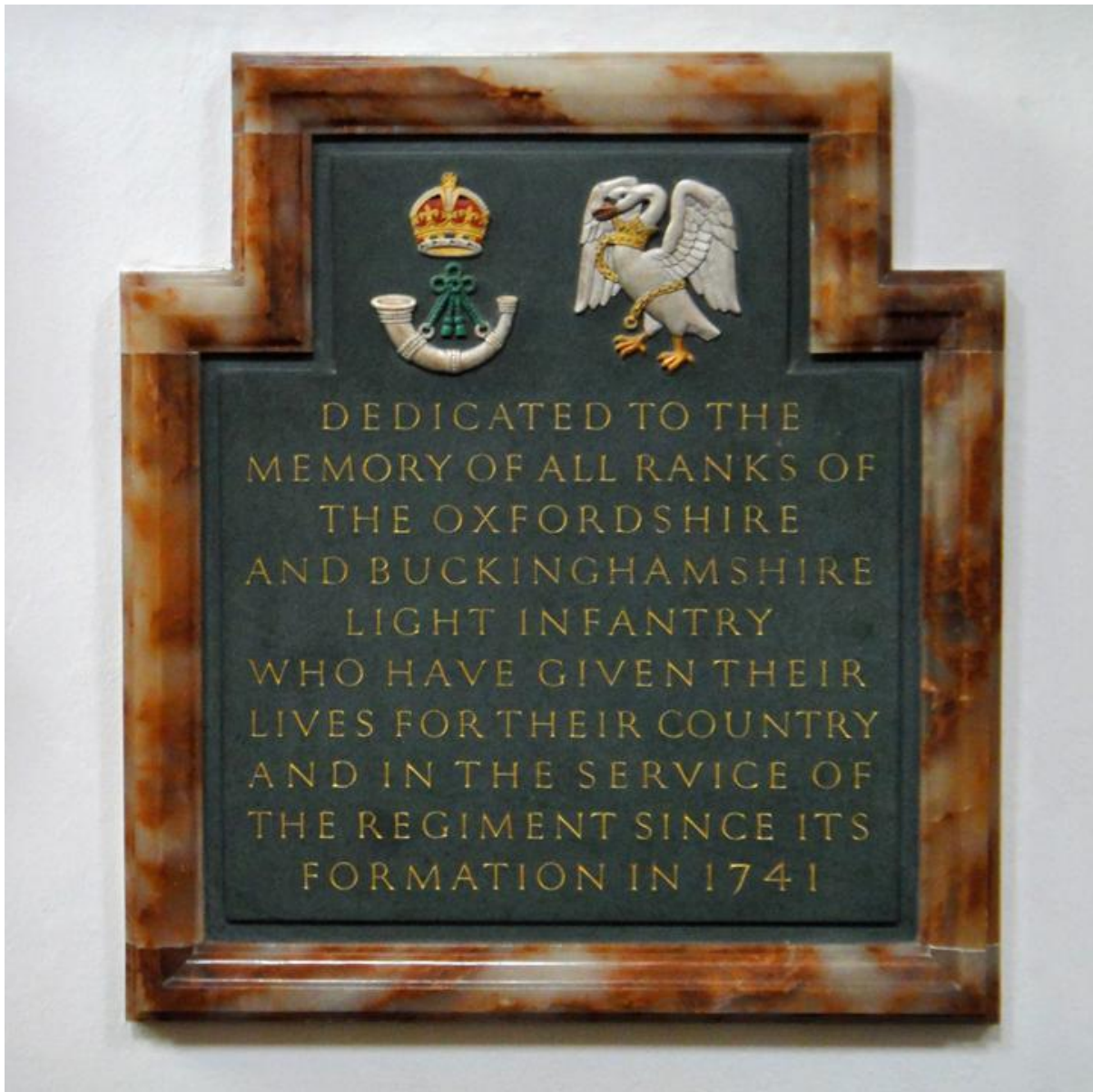
The inscribing of the Roll of Honour has been done by Mrs. I. Wellington who did the work for the Roll of Honour for the 1914-18 war; the style of lettering, therefore, is the same in both books. The arrangements of the names, however, is different. In the 1914-18 book they are entered by ranks whereas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

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The Dedication Service was conducted by the Bishop of Oxford (The Right Rev. Dr. K. E. Kirk) assisted by the Dean of Christ Church (The Very Rev. Dr. J. Lowe). Among those present were the Bishop of Dorchester (The Right Rev. G. B. Allen), Dr. F. L. Cross. Dr. V. A. Damant, Lord Sandford representing Lord Bicester (Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire), the Mayor of Oxford, the Mayor of Aylesbury, the Town Clerk of Aylesbury, and many past and present officers of the Regiment including the Colonel of the Regiment General Sir Bernard Paget; Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham; Major-General Sir John Winterton; Brigadier-Generals A. J. F. Eden and C. G. Higgins; Brigadiers H. E. F. Smyth, R. J. Brett, M. W. Roberts and A. M. Toye, Colonels J. A. Ballard, E. R. Clayton, O. V. Viney, R. H. Doyne, P. Booth and R. F. Symonds; Lieut.-Colonels J. T. Weatherby, G. Blewitt, A. J. N. Bartlett, J. J. Powell, E. H. Whitfeld, H. T. Birch-Reynardson, F. Clare, L. W. Giles J. E. D. Kilburn, P. J. Luard, J. W. Nicol, R. D. R. Sale, C. L. C. Ward, W. L. Barnard, H. H. H. Boehm, C. Clifton, H. J. Mogg, H. H. van Straubenzee, E. Holt and A. J. Marigold; Majors G. H. Greenwell, E. K. Blyth, A. Clerke Brown, J. F. Nicholson, P. T. van Straubenzee, P. R. Hayter, R. A. St. G. Martin, E. A. Braybrooke, J. Granville, R. J. Howard, Sir Philip Whitehead, Bt., R. E. Munsey, W. P. J. Warnock, W. G. Older, M. C. Wiggins and M. N. Harbottle.

The service was most impressive and beautiful. At the beginning of the service following the procession of the choir and clergy, the King's and Regimental Colours of the 4th Battalion T.A. were carried into the cathedral by Major D. H. Morris and Lieut. D. K. Maclachlan and were received by the Dean who placed them on the altar.

The Fanfare of Trumpets was sounded by eight students from the Royal Military School of Music, KnellerHall.

The Lesson was read by the Colonel of the Regiment.

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CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, OXFORD



FORM OF SERVICE FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE ROLL OF HONOUR
AND THE DEDICATION OF THE REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL TABLET
OF THE OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY
30 SEPTEMBER 1950 AT 3 P.M.

GOD save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King!

HYMN

LET saints on earth in concert sing
With those whose work is done;
For all the servants of our King
In earth and heaven are one.

One family, we dwell in him,
One Church, above, beneath;
Though now divided by the stream,
The narrow stream of death.

One army of the living God,
To his command we bow;
Part of his host hath crossed the flood,
And part is crossing now.

E'en now to their eternal home
There pass some spirits blest,
While others to the margin come,
Waiting their call to rest.

Jesu, be thou our constant Guide;
Then, when the word is given,
Bid Jordan's narrow stream divide,
And bring us safe to heaven.

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Then, all kneeling, the Minister shall say,

O Lord, open thou our lips;

Answer. And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Priest, O God, make speed to save us;

Answer. O Lord, make hast to help us.

Here all standing up the Priest shall say, .

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

Answer. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Priest. Praise ye the Lord.

Answer. The Lord's Name be praised.

PSALM 121 *Levavi oculos*

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh even from the Lord: who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;

So that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in: from this time forth for evermore.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

THE LESSON
REVELATION VII. 9-17

AFTER this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of water: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

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NUNC DIMITTIS

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

FANFARE OF TRUMPETS

The Bishop, the Dean, and the Colonel of the Regiment will then proceed to the Chapel, the Congregation still standing. The Colonel of the Regiment will move to the Roll of Honour and, unlocking the case in which it is kept, give the key into the hands of the Dean, saying,

VERY Reverend Sir,

On behalf of the officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, I beg you to accept in custody and keep in this Cathedral Church this Roll of Honour in which are inscribed the names of the officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Regiment who laid down their lives for their King and Country in the Second World War.

The Dean will accept the key and will lock the case containing the Roll of Honour, and will say,

GENERAL Sir Bernard Paget, officers, warrant-officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, I accept the custody of this Roll of Honour, and will see to it that we keep it well and safely in this Cathedral Church. May it be to the members of your Regiment who come into this their Chapel, to us who worship regularly in this Cathedral, and to all others who enter this building, a perpetual reminder that during the long years of the war the soldiers of the Regiment fought and died nobly for their King and Country.

And may it teach those who come after so to follow the example of their valour, discipline, and self-sacrifice, that they may with them attain the reward of everlasting life, and pass from the trials and conflicts of this present world into the everlasting peace of the world to come, through the merits and mediation of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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The Bishop will then proceed to the Memorial Tablet, and the Colonel of the Regiment will approach him, saying,

REVEREND Father in God,

On behalf of the officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, I beg you to dedicate this Tablet (here the Colonel unveils the Tablet) to the Glory of God and in memory of all those who have given their lives for their Country in the service of the Regiment since its formation in 1741.

The Bishop will then dedicate the Tablet, saying,

IN the faith of Jesus Christ we dedicate this Tablet to the memory of those members of the Regiment who in all the years since its formation have given their lives for their country, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Let us pray

O LORD, we beseech thee of thy merciful goodness to accept this offering we make, not of our own but of thine, for all things come of thee, and of thine own do we give thee: and grant that this Tablet, which neither art nor costliness can make meet for thy service, may ever be hallowed by thy blessing, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O LORD God of the spirit of all flesh, we commend to thy mercy the souls of our brethren who have departed this life in thy faith and fear, and we pray thee to give them rest in the light of thy countenance, in the paradise of joy, whence sorrow, and sighing, and weeping are fled away in the fellowship of thy Saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: deal graciously we pray thee with those who mourn, that casting every care on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAY the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

FANFARE OF TRUMPETS

When all have returned to their seats, the Choir will sing the Anthem, the Congregation being seated.

I HEARD a voice from Heaven saying unto me, Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours.
Amen. (GOSS)

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Minister. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father.

Priest. O Lord, save the King;

Answer. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Priest. Give peace in our time, O Lord;

Answer. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Priest. O God, make clean our hearts within us; *Answer.* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE PRAYERS

O GOD, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast set up on earth a Kingdom of holiness, to measure its strength against all others: Make faith to prevail over fear, and righteousness over force, and truth over the lie, and love and concord over all things; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOD, who hast made every calling of man acceptable to thyself, if only thy glory be intended in it: Give us day by day the desire to do our work, of what sort soever it be, for thine honour; and the joy of rendering it to thee well done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORD God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray thee, thine Almighty arm to strengthen and protect all who serve in our Country's Forces in every peril of sea, land, and air. Shelter them in the day of battle, and in the time of peace keep them safe from all evil; endue them with loyalty and courage; and grant that in all things they may serve as seeing thee who art invisible; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

O VALIANT Hearts, who to their glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle-flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the Land you loved.

Proudly you gathered rank on rank to war,
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave
To save mankind — yourselves you scorned to save.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made,
Into that light that nevermore shall fade;
Deep your contentment in the blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God.

Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,
While in the frailty of our human clay
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self-same way.

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Still stands his Cross from that dread hour to this
Like some bright star above the dark abyss;
Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.

These were his servants, in his steps they trod,
Following through death the martyr'd Son of God:
Victor he rose; victorious too shall rise
They who have drunk his cup of Sacrifice.

O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our Dead,
Whose Cross has bought them and whose Staff has led
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing Land
Commits her Children to thy gracious hand.

BENEDICTION

LAST POST

REVEILLE