

1959 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd.

THE 1ST GREEN JACKETS, 43RD AND 52ND
MARCH THROUGH OXFORD

ON 28th July a letter was received from the Secretary to the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Oxford, informing us of the City Council's decision to invite the Regiment to exercise its privilege 'to enter the City of Oxford in full panoply with Colours flying and band and bugles playing'. With the approval of the Colonel of the Regiment, the Commanding Officer, Lieut-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, O.B.E., replied that the Regiment would be 'delighted to accept and very honoured to do so'.

Initial planning for the parade was made at a meeting at the Town Hall with, in the chair, Mr H. Plowden (Town Clerk) and attended by Mr C. G. Burrows (Chief Constable), Mr A. Rooke (Secretary to the Mayor), Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, Capt. W. M. Cracknell (Adjutant), R.S.M. Shepherd and Lieut.-Colonel J. Granville (representing Regimental Headquarters). The Mayor invited those attending to lunch in the Mayor's Parlour after the meeting and perhaps it was the excellence of the meal and drinks provided, that sealed the very cordial relations that existed between the City Council and the Regiment throughout the planning stages and execution of the parade.

The Regiment arrived in Oxford on the morning of 10th September, a day typical of this year's wonderful summer and one on which for comfort it is less exhausting to be a spectator than a participant on a parade. The move was made from Tidworth and Warminster in Regimental transport under Captain A. J. Howland.

The Regiment's strength for the parade was twenty officers and 360 rank and file. On parade was every officer and soldier who could be spared from essential duties at Tidworth, Warminster, Netheravon, Hythe and Mons O.C.S. It was unfortunate that greater numbers could not be mustered but such is the present dispersion of the Regiment, O.R.Q.M.S. Bayliss was left as Orderly Officer at Tidworth for the day!

The T.A. Centre, Marston Road, was used as a base for the parade. There the Regiment debussed, had dinner, changed into best battle-dress and, after the parade, had the meal given by the City Council. The buildings are very convenient for this kind of affair and thanks are due to members of the permanent staff there for the excellent arrangement made for the Regiment.

Large crowds in Oxford gave a warm welcome to the Regiment during its march along the prescribed route. Particularly of interest were the band and bugles in their new uniform. A special greeting to the Regiment, and in particular to R.S.M. Shepherd, was given by a party from 5817 National Service Group who turned out complete with a banner to cheer the Regiment in St Clement's. They had been 'demobbed' that very day!

Whilst the Regiment was making its way to St Giles, a large number of past and present members of the Regiment, including a strong contingent of Old Comrades, assembled in the enclosures by the saluting base on the terrace of St John's College. Amongst such a large and distinguished gathering it would be invidious to mention a name here and there but it is of interest to record that the last three commanding officers to precede Lieut.-Colonel M. N. Harbottle, namely Brigadier P. G. F. Young, Brigadier J. A. J. Read and Colonel R. A. St G. Martin, were there to watch the parade with critical eye.

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Whilst waiting for the arrival of the Regiment, spectators at St Giles were entertained with martial music from the loudspeaker van and inspired by the arrival of the Mayoral procession of the City Council, robed, with mace, headed by the Mayor, Councillor Brewer, and the Colonel of the Regiment. The sedate speed of this procession provided a remarkable contrast to that of the arrival of the Regiment at its accustomed pace.

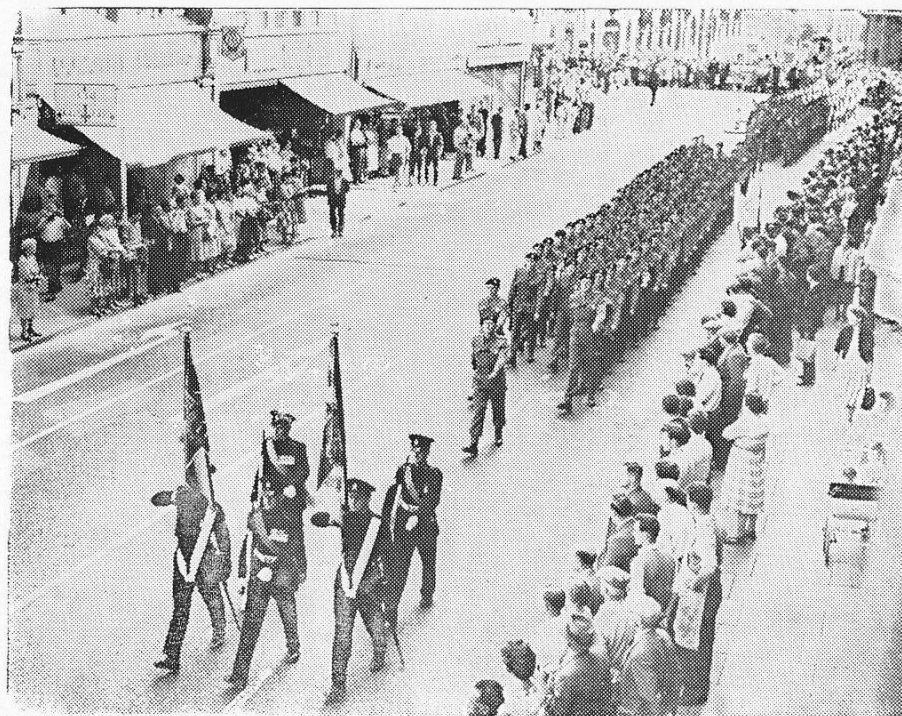
At St Giles the salute at the march past was taken by the Mayor. With him on the saluting base was the Colonel of the Regiment. The Oxford City Council were seated in a special enclosure at the foot of the platform.

After the march past the Regiment wheeled at the War Memorial at the northern end of St Giles and formed up in a line opposite the saluting base to give the general salute. The Mayor then addressed the Regiment, and the Commanding Officer replied.

After another general salute, the Regiment marched off under the command of Major J. M. A. Tillett, to Keble Road and thence by transport back to Marston Road, where a meal was provided at the City of Oxford's expense. The officers and their wives were entertained to tea by the Mayor and City Council in the Mayor's Parlour.

Thus ended a very notable parade at which the Regiment undoubtedly created a very favourable impression on the citizens of Oxford by their drill, turnout and bearing. From a historical aspect the parade was unique in that it was the first occasion that a 'Green Jacket' Regiment has carried colours and also the first occasion on which the Regiment has carried out 'Green Jacket' drill on a public ceremonial parade.

The Regiment's thanks are due to the City of Oxford both for the honour accorded and the hospitality given.



The Colour Party and Support and Headquarter Companies marching up Cornmarket

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DETAIL OF PARADE

Commanding Officer	Lieut-Colonel M.N. Harbottle, O.B.E
Second-in-Command	Major J.M.A. Tillet
Adjutant	Captain W.M. Cracknell
Regimental Serjeant-Major	R.S.M. A. Shepherd

The Colour Party

Lieutenant J. P. Watts: Queen's Colour
2nd Lieutenant P. G. Costley-White: Regimental Colour
C.Q.M.S. Trahearn, C.-Sjt Bailey, Sjt Haydon: Escorts

No. 1 Coy ('A' Coy)

Major P. E. Gerahty
Captain C. A. S. Hinton
Lieut. M. J. C. Draco
2nd Lieut. J. G. C. Goodwin
C.S.M. Ball C.Q.M.S. Alcock

No. 2 Coy ('B' Coy)

Major P. J. E. Durant, M.B.E.
Lieut. M. J. Massy-Beresford
2nd Lieut. E. J. H. Acton
2nd Lieut. R. P. Radcliffe
C.S.M. Abbott C.Q.M.S. Dean

No. 3 Coy ('SP' Coy)

Major W. S. C. Chevis
Lieut. J. M. Meade
2nd Lieut. C. S. Downie
2nd Lieut. M. Whitfeld
C.S.M. Kears
C.Q.M.S. Bullen

No. 4 Coy (H.Q. Coy)

Major R. M. Colvile
Captain J. D. F. Mostyn
2nd Lieut. A. J. Davies
C.S.M. Hornblower
C.-Sjt Musty

Band and Buglers

Bandmaster: H. Kenney, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.
Bugle Major: B. Dunwell

C.S.M. Arthurs was Right Marker for the Regiment

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**ADDRESS BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF OXFORD TO
THE REGIMENT ON THE OCCASION OF ITS MARCH
THROUGH THE CITY OF OXFORD
ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 1959**

Colonel Harbottle, Officers, Warrant Officer, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd. When, in 1948, the citizens of Oxford conferred upon the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Regiment the privilege distinction of freedom of entry into the City on ceremonial occasions in full panoply with colours flying and band and buglers playing, they did so to mark in a formal manner the long and close association between the Regiment and the City and to pay tribute to the glorious and distinguished service of the Regiment over a period of two hundred years.

This afternoon as the 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd, you could have enjoyed that privilege of your own right but you do so on this occasion by invitation of the City of Oxford, because once again the citizens of Oxford would wish to place on record their appreciation of the services you have rendered in the defence of our Country and in the preservation of that for which we all desire—the peace of the world. They also wish you to know that, though the Regiment has again changed its name, that close association with the City still remains, not in any way diminished but rather strengthened by the respect and the affection which we hold for you in the place which has for so long been your home.

We welcome you home again this afternoon, we thank you for the services you have rendered. We admire your deportment and we wish the Regiment in all future years continued honour, glory, and success.

REPLY BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Mr Mayor, I would like to thank you on behalf of all those on parade for the very kind words with which you have greeted us. It is indeed a high honour that you have done us to-day, in inviting us to march through the streets of the City of Oxford, and so exercise those privileges which were conferred on the Regiment eleven years ago. I can assure you, Sir, that we are very pleased to be back here once more in our home City.

I know and appreciate the tremendous amount of work and planning that has gone in to making this parade possible and I would like all those who are responsible, to know how grateful we are.

I would like to echo the sentiments that you have just expressed in describing the link and close ties that exist between the City and our Regiment. Although we have changed and lost our County title, and although we may wear a new badge in our berets, fundamentally nothing has changed. The link that has been so strong in the past between us both is, I know, as strong to-day as it ever has been, and we hope that the strength of that tie will never lessen, but will grow stronger, in the years to come.

Now that national service is drawing to an end we need to build up our regular strength, and it is from this City and from these two Counties that we hope, and wish to see, the bulk of our recruits come, for as you have said, Sir, in only that way can we ensure that the close ties which have existed between us will be maintained.

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It is fifteen years since this Regiment last served a home tour in this country. Except for a few transient visits it has been abroad since 1944. I am confident, Sir, when I assure you, that in all that time we have tried our utmost to give a good account of ourselves and to uphold those high traditions and standards of service, discipline and behaviour that we have always set ourselves and of which, I believe, we can be justly proud. In this respect the part played by many young men of Oxford, both regular and national service, deserve our grateful recognition and I think this an appropriate occasion to record and acknowledge the excellent service that they have given to our Regiment.

During our tour of duty at the School of Infantry, Warminster, where we shall be in the public eye most days of the week, we will strive to set an example which is second to none.

Finally, Sir, I would like you to know how deeply conscious we all are of the honour and the hospitality that you have accorded us to-day, and to thank you once again for making this parade and our presence here possible this afternoon.

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**THE PRESENTATION OF THE BUGLE MAJOR'S STICK AT
BICESTER**

SHORTLY after the Regiment returned home from Cyprus, the Urban District Council of Bicester, on behalf of the people of the town, informed the Regiment that they wished to make some presentation to mark the the long association between the town and the county Regiment, and to express their appreciation of the Regiment's service in Cyprus. This offer was most gratefully accepted, and a bugle major's stick was selected as being a most appropriate and fitting gift since the stick then in the Regiment's possession was old and rather worn.

The new bugle major's stick was shown to the Bicester Council, who thoroughly approved of the Regiment's choice, and a date was fixed for the presentation to take place.

On Sunday, 20th September, a contingent from the Regiment went to Bicester to take part in the ceremony. Before the parade started, Mr S. A. Winterborne, chairman of the Bicester Urban District Council, entertained members of the Regiment and the Town Council to tea. Among the guests were the Colonel Commandant, Major-General Sir John Winterton and his wife, Colonel and Mrs Martin, Lieut.-Colonel Harbottle, Lieut.-Colonel Morris, and Major and Mrs Colville.

After tea, the Council and the guests moved to the dais and enclosure in the Market Square. At the same time, the Regimental band, followed by the colour party with the colours carried by Lieut. Watts, and the guard of honour, found by Headquarter Company and commanded by Major Colville, left the T.A. Headquarters in Chapel Street and marched through the town to the Market Square. There the band halted, while the colour party, and guard of honour formed up facing the dais.

The Chairman of the Council then inspected the guard of honour, escorted by the Colonel Commandant and Major Colville. On completing his inspection the chairman made his address in which he spoke of the history of the Regiment and the association between the Regiment and the Town. In reply, the Colonel Commandant expressed his gratitude for the gift and said that this generous gesture of the people of Bicester would be greatly appreciated by all past and serving members of the Regiment. The stick was then handed by the Colonel Commandant to Bugle Major Dunwell.

The presentation ceremony over, Retreat was sounded and the parade ended with the playing of the evening hymn and the National Anthem. The parade dispersed, and the crowd, amongst whom were many former members of the Regiment, left the Market Square for their homes.

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Bugle Major's Ceremonial Parade Stick

Presented by the Bicester Urban District Council on behalf of the inhabitants of Bicester to the
1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd, in recognition of the services of the Regiment at home and abroad

Presented 28th September 1959