

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

**1931 THE REGIMENTAL CHAPEL IN CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OXFORD**

As nothing on the subject of the Regimental Chapel has appeared in any previous number of the CHRONICLE, although much has been written about this in other publications, it is necessary for the sake of permanent record to start at the beginning and repeat much that has already been published in other places. For some years it had been felt by many in the Regiment that a Roll of Honour should be compiled to complete in its fullest state the Regimental War Memorial which stands near Iffley to commemorate the loss of 5,878 officers and men of the Regiment who fell in the Great War. In the summer of 1929, therefore, Major Powell then commanding the Depot, with the authority of the Regimental Committee approached the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, with a view to obtaining a small space in the Cathedral where the Roll of Honour might be placed, and also, possibly the beginning of a Regimental corner in the Cathedral started. The scheme was most sympathetically received by the Dean and Chapter and an excellent site for the Roll of Honour allotted beneath a pillar on the south side of the Chancel and opposite to that where a Roll of the Christ Church men already stands. In addition the Dean and Chapter most kindly gave permission for the hanging on the adjoining pillars of the King's Colours of the 5th, 6th, and 8th Service Battalions, and 1st and 2nd Garrison Battalions of the Regiment (the Colours of the 2/4th Battalion already hung in the Cathedral and those of the 7th Service Battalion had been deposited in St. Giles' Church, Oxford). These Colours were issued in 1919 to each Battalion which had served overseas during the war, but too late to be presented officially to most of them before they were disbanded.

The Regimental Committee under the chairmanship of Brigadier-General Eden, who made himself responsible for compiling the roll of the names, now started to work on the details of the scheme. It was decided to enter the names of all, irrespective of Battalions served in, by ranks. This necessitated a great deal of rearrangement and attention, as the Battalion lists both of officers and men in the official casualty books were found to contain many inaccuracies and omissions. Great thanks are due to Lieut.-Colonel Crosse who typed the whole of the names recorded. The inscribing of the Roll of Honour was given to Miss I. Bass (afterwards to become Mrs. Sutton) of the Royal College of Art, and at various meetings at Cowley Barracks, at one of which she was present, all details as to the exact form which the book was to take were settled with her by the Regimental Committee. It was estimated originally, that the cost of the Roll of Honour and the emblazoning and fixing of the Colours would be about £500 and a fund was opened in October, 1929, to provide for this. Meanwhile, Major Powell had been succeeded in the command of the Depot by Lieut-Col. Paget and as a result of his mediations with the Dean and Chapter the original idea of a small space in the Cathedral for the Roll of Honour developed, through their great kindness and interest, into one of a Regimental Chapel in the South aisle. This large expansion of our original scheme necessitated, of course, a very great increase on the original estimate of cost and called for the services of a qualified ecclesiastical architect. A renewed call for funds was launched and met with prompt response and Mr. Rogers, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., the advisory architect of the Dean and Chapter, was entrusted with the work. His plans and designs were finally approved by the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church and the Regimental Committee (for the complete alterations and furnishing of the Chapel) in June, 1931.

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

Most generous offers during this time had been received from the 43rd and 52nd and from various bodies and individuals for all the main items relating to the furnishing of the Chapel and a date, Armistice Day, 1931, was able to be fixed for the Dedication Service.

By the good work of Mrs. Sutton, Mr. Rogers and Messrs. A. R. Mowbray of Oxford, who were responsible for the making of the furniture, embroidery and decoration of the Chapel, all was ready on the appointed day.

It is difficult here to write about the Service of Dedication and Ceremony in Christ Church on November 11, 1931. Much has already been written before. It seems sufficient to say that it was as near perfection as anything can be and that it will never be forgotten by anyone who was privileged to be present in Christ Church Cathedral on that day. The magnificent and impressive rendering in music of the spirit of the Service by the Band and Buglers of the 43rd, assisted by the choir and organ, heard in the beautiful setting of Christ Church Cathedral can seldom, if ever, have been equalled and certainly has never been surpassed, in a ceremony of this nature. The Dedication service was conducted by the Bishop of Oxford (Dr. T. B. Strong) accompanied by the Dean of Christ Church (Dr. H. J. White), Bishop Shaw, Dr. Cooke and Dr. Russell. All arrangements for the invitations and seating for the service, which involved some 1,000 people, had been carried out by Col. Paget and the Depot Staff, and worked without a hitch. Past and present commanding officers of the Regiment attending were the Colonel of the Regiment, Gen. Sir John Hanbury-Williams, Maj.-Gen. H. R. Davies, Maj.-Gen. Sir Robert Fanshawe, Brig.-Gen. the Earl Carnwath, Brig.-Gen. A. J. F. Eden, Brig.-Gen. C. G. Higgins, Brig. F. H. Stapleton, Col. E. A. E. Lethbridge, Col. A. G. Bayley, Col. E. R. Clayton, Col. R. L. Ovey, Col. J. A. Bailard, Lieut.-Col. R. G. H. Hughes, Lieut.-Col. A. E. Sanderson, Lieut.-Col. F. T. H. Bernard, Lieut.-Col. O. V. Viney, Lieut.-Col. C. R. C. Boyle, Lieut.-Col. W. F. R. Webb, Lieut.-Col. C. Wheeler, Lieut.-Col. M. W. Edmunds. Mr. Roger Spence represented Lord North, the Hon. Colonel of the 4th Battalion.

Among others present were the Bishop of Buckingham, Maj.-Gen. Martelli (representing the G.O.C. Southern Command), Maj.-Gen. Fuller (Commanding 48th South Midland Division), Lord Cottesloe (Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire and Colonel of the Bucks. Battalion), the Mayor of Oxford, the Mayor of Woodstock, the Mayor of Chipping Norton, Lord Saye and Sele, Sir Michael Sadler, The Senior Proctor and Junior Proctor, the Registrar of the University, the President of Magdalen, Mr. Atkinson, Lieut.-Col. Farquharson, Maj.-Gen. Swinton, Col Tredennick (Commanding 145th Infantry Brigade), the Deputy Mayor of Oxford, the City Rector, Mr. Rogers (the Architect), the Rev. Canon Edwards, the Master of St. Peter's Hall, the Chief Constable of Oxford, Air Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, Capt. G. T. Arlett, Capt. W. A. R. Ames, Miss Ashhurst, Capt. Arbuthnot (Chief Constable, Oxfordshire), Lieut-Col. S. E. Ashton, Capt. C. W. H. Bailie, Capt. B. Burt-Smith, Capt. W. L. Barnard, Capt. G. T. Button, Capt. R. C. Bourne, M.P., W. Sinclair Baddeley, Esq., Capt. E. T. C. Bower, Lieut.-Col. G. Blewitt, Lieut.-Col. C. S. Baines, Lieut.-Col. R. J. Brett, Lieut.-Col. A. J. N. Bartlett, Capt. W. G. Clarke, Lieut. R. T. Conant, Miss E. M. Cobb, Major H. C. Ducat-Hamersley, Capt. R. H. Doyne, Capt. H. G. Dashwood, Sir George Dashwood, Capt. R. R. Henderson, M.P., Lieut.-Col. W. C. Hunter, Major C. F. Henley, Lieut. J. E. D. Kilburn, Major H. N. Kermack, Rev. H. E. Kendall, Major G. F. Mockler, Mrs. Mockler-Ferryman, Capt. J. E. H. Neville, Lieut.-Col. F. J. Newton-King, Capt. D. S. Newton-King, Major H. D. Parkin, Lieut.-Col. B. C. T. Paget, the Hon. E. Ponsonby, Lieut.-Col. G. F. Paske, Capt. F. S. Siggers, Capt. J. R. Randall, Lieut.-Col. D. M. Rose, Capt. F. M. Roberts, Capt. T. Rodocanachi, Capt. P. M. Ridout,

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

Major A. V. Spencer, Col. A. E. Stanton, Major L. F. Scott, Lieut.-Col. J. A. Southey, Major W. G. Tolson, Lieut.-Col. W. E. C. Terry, Lieut.-Col. the Viscount Valentia, Mrs. E. D. White, Lieut.-Col. R. E. Watt, Lieut.-Col. J. T. Weatherby, Mrs. A. A. B. Wykeham.

At the conclusion of the Service in the Cathedral all past and present officers of the Regiment and their wives, about 250 in all, were entertained at luncheon in the beautiful Christ Church Hall by the Dean of Christ Church and Mrs. White.