

A sanguinary battle followed in the course of which the British forces lost 455 men killed and 176 wounded while the losses of the enemy were estimated at 2000.

It was here that the Berkshire Regiment won its title of "Royal" and since then a close liaison has been maintained between the two regiments.

Both Regiments celebrate "Tofrek Day" in commemoration of this notable day in their histories. To-day, the 22nd of March is "Tofrek Day".

After the African campaign the Regiment returned to India and saw service in the North West Frontier and in Chitral.

1914 saw the Battalion embark for France and the Great War. On the 26th September it disembarked at Marseilles, the first of the Indian Infantry to set foot in that country. The appearance of the troops caused great excitement among the inhabitants, particularly among the barbers who, knowing nothing about Sikhs, thought that the voyage and the long spell at sea were responsible for their beards!

For a year the Battalion fought with distinction under conditions, climatic and otherwise, which the men had never known. It was present and fought at Neuve Chappelle, Aubers, Ypres, St. Julian and Festubert.

At Festubert, Lt. (now Lt.-Col.) J. G. Smyth won his V. C., the second to be won in the Regiment.

In August 1915 the Regiment proceeded to Egypt where it took part in the Senussi operations and distinguished itself particularly at the action at Bir Shola. The following year the Battalion returned to India arriving at Peshawar on the 27th January, 1916.

This year saw them again on service on the Mohmand blockade. This was followed in 1919 by the Afghan war.

The Battalion proceeded overseas for the fourth time in 1920, this time to Mesopotamia where it took part in the suppression of the Arab rebellion and in the operations in Kurdistan in 1922 and 1923.

Followed a spell of comparative peace until 1936-37 when the Battalion found itself taking a very active part in the Waziristan operations. From these it has only recently returned.