



The Second Royal Battalion (Ludhiana Sikhs)
11th Sikh Regiment

ON June 30th, 1846, Major P. Gordon, by order of Lord Gough, raised the battalion at Ludhiana under the name of the "Regiment of Ludhiana".

By October of the same year the strength of the Battalion was 1160 and in the following year it moved to Meerut where it received its first colours.

The first action of note in the regiment was its part in the time of the mutiny when it was stationed at Benares. There it was in charge of the treasury and prevented it from falling into the hands of the mutineers. Many awards for bravery were won and it was here that the first V. C. was won by Sergeant Major Gill of the regiment. He was awarded it for saving the life of Major Brett.

The Battalion next saw service during the Boxer rebellion in China in 1859 to 1862 where it took a prominent part in the defence of Shanghai against Tse Ping.

In the year 1880 the Battalion was fighting in Afghanistan with the South Afghanistan Field Force. It marched to Kabul, taking part in the battle of Ahmed Khel *en route*. It took part in the relief of Kandahar under General Roberts.

The Battalion was again ordered overseas in 1885 this time to Africa. One of its most famous actions took place at Tofrek in the battle known as MacNeill's zereba.

Here the Battalion with the rest of the force was collecting brushwood from the surrounding scrub to construct the zereba, when, with practically no warning, a fierce and sudden attack by overwhelming numbers of the Mahdi's men was made on the flank on which the Battalion was working. Luckily the men were working with their arms slung and were able to put up a stout defence giving time for the Berkshire Regiment to fall in and come to its assistance.
