

Robin William George Stephens

Captain

1st Battalion 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles (formerly 2/2 Gurkha Rifles)

Medal

India General Service Medal 1908 with five clasps: 'Afghanistan – NWF 1919', 'Waziristan 1919-21', 'Mahsud 1919-20', 'Malabar 1921-22', 'Waziristan 1921-24', and MID (Lieut. 2/2 *Gks*)

Honours

Mention in Despatches (London Gazette 12 June 1923)

For distinguished service during the operations in Waziristan, April 1921 to December 1921

Personal Details

Stephens was born on the 23rd of June 1900, the son of William Henry Stephens of the Ministry of Education, Egypt. He was educated at Bedford School (1907-10), Dulwich College Preparatory School (1910-13), and Dulwich College (1913-18). He played in the First Fifteen from 1916 to 1918, and was Captain of Athletics during the same period, winning the steeplechase, half-mile and mile races. He left school in April 1918, attended the Indian Army College at Quetta, and on the 15th of April 1919 he was commissioned into the Second Battalion of the 2nd Gurkha Rifles.

He participated in the Third Afghan War and the operations in Waziristan in 1919. On 1st November 1919 he was appointed Orderly officer to the COC Number 2 Sector, Lines of Communication, Manzai, and in this capacity took part in the campaign against the Mahsuds in the winter of 1919-20. On 12 June 1920 he was detached from his regiment and served as a GSO 3 until 15 October 1921, and then again from 3 November to 27 December 1921, with the Wana Column in southern Waziristan. He was mentioned in despatches for his services in this campaign.

Early in 1922 he took part in the campaign on the Malabar coast against the Moploh rebels. On 19 January 1922 he transferred to the 39th Royal Garhwal Rifles, and saw further active service in Waziristan between 1922 and 1924. In April 1925, when he was promoted captain, he was serving with the 11th (Training) Battalion of the Regiment. He was appointed Quartermaster of the 10/18th Battalion on 15 September 1925, and on 15

May 1926 was appointed Commandant of the Muscat Levy Corps. On 15 July 1929 he was officiating DAJAG Northern Command (India), and on 27 June 1930 was employed in the same capacity in Army HQ, India.

Captain Stephens resigned from the army in July 1931 and was declared bankrupt the following year.

He was a member of the Junior United Services Club.

Summary of Military Service

5 April 1919	Commissioned into 2/2 Gurkhas as 2 nd Lieutenant
15 April 1920	Lieutenant
19 Jan 1922	Transferred to 1/18 Royal Garhwal Rifles
15 April 1925	Captain
10 July 1931	Resigned

2/2 Gurkha Rifles

The 2nd Gurkha Rifles was originally raised in 1815 as the Sirmoor Rifles. The regiment particularly distinguished itself in the Indian Mutiny and the Second Afghanistan War. The Second Battalion was raised in 1886. The Regiment recruited Gurungs and Magars from central Nepal, and the regimental depot was at Dehra Dun. On the independence of India, the regiment became part of the British Army.

18th Royal Garhwal Rifles

Garhwalis come from the Himalayas just to the west of Nepal and throughout the nineteenth century many of them enlisted in Gurkha regiments. It was not until 1890 that a regiment was raised specifically for Garhwalis; it was designated the 39th Regiment of Bengal Infantry. The Garhwalis so distinguished themselves in the First World War that in 1921 their Regiment was renamed; the 39th became the First Battalion, 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles.