

But by early September, the end of the first season, the soldiers were well and truly glad to be leaving Chipping. The lack of amusement was not the only reason. No-one had bargained for the Chipping rainfall! What had started out with such high expectations foundered by the end in a sea of mud. It had been one of the wettest summers for many years. The troops got frequent soakings, the tents leaked and the road from Longridge through Chipping to the camp was churned up with the increased cart traffic. Not all the rifle ranges could be used because many of the firing points were under water.

However the troops did their best and in early September as a grand finale a company of the Prince of Wales troops returned for a day (by train) to engage in "The Battle of Chipping" !!

THE BATTLE OF CHIPPING Tuesday 6th September 1892

Extracts from the Preston Guardian.
10 & 17 Sept 1892.

"Arrangements were made last week for a miniature battle between the troops at Chipping and the garrison from Preston. The ground selected for the operations was near Longridge, but the weather prevented any engagement taking place. Major-General Julian Hall, commanding the North-Western District, was to have acted as chief umpire. He was at the camp on Tuesday accompanied by Colonel Spence, A.A.G., and after watching the field firing of the 2nd East York he inspected the 3rd Battalion Manchester regiment. The weather was very unpropitious, and all engaged got wet. On Saturday the "Battle of Chipping" was to have been fought, but the railway authorities at Preston were unable to bring Colonel Wardrop and his troops on to the ground, and the event was again cancelled."

"As a fitting conclusion to the first season's occupancy, as a military encampment, of the land under the heights of Parlick Fells, a sham fight between the men under canvas there and the garrison at Fulwood took place on Tuesday. The fight was fixed for an earlier date, but several inevitable delays have occurred. The two forces engaged were styled respectively the northern and the southern, the former consisting of the troops at Chipping, and the latter the infantry from Fulwood, with the 12th Lancers as cavalry. The southern force left Preston in a special train at nine o'clock in the morning, with the exception of the Lancers who proceeded by road. The Lancers attracted a considerable share of attention, as they passed through Longridge. The attacking force was under the command of Colonel Gordon, and the defenders were under the direction of Colonel Allen. Colonel Berkeley, commanding the 47th Regimental District, was the referee. The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment detained at Longridge, and moved cautiously in the direction of Chipping. The defenders were seen near the Derby Arms, and the opposing forces were soon hard at work in mimic warfare. For a general idea of the engagement it may be stated that the defenders were supposed to hold their own and to drive back the enemy on the left at Fairclough. They had also to drive them back in the centre, by the Derby Arms and pursuing them in the direction of Garstang to inflict a heavy loss on their ranks. On the right the southern forces, supported by the cavalry, had to hold their own at Wheatley and bivouac along the Loud to the Derby Arms. It is stated that the Lancers managed to elude the scouts of the defenders, and reached the camp without being perceived. In that event, the honours of the fight will probably be awarded to the attackers. The engagement commenced about 11 o'clock, and continued through a drizzling rain for about a couple of hours. At the conclusion, the attacking infantry, numbering nearly 300 men, returned to Longridge, and thence proceeded by train to Preston. The defenders, who consisted of the Manchester Militia, and numbered about 500 men, returned to camp. Arrangements for their departure will shortly be made. The total number of men engaged in the fight was about 1,000, and the mimic warfare was witnessed by a large number of interested spectators."