

## 1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1940

Appendix

### **April LYME REGIS**

- Apr 1st 10:00 The Brigade Commander addressed the battalion in The Grammar School Ground, and spoke to the Bn. about the three "T"s. Thanks- for what the Bn. had done. Testing - which was to come. and Training - the good training the Bn. had done.
- Apr 2nd 12:00 The Adjutant visited Bde HQ to receive information re: move.
- Apr 3rd 15:00 Movement Order No. 1 issued. (Copies attached).
- Apr 4th Billets handed over to Advance Party of 4/5 R.S.F. and clearance certificates obtained.
- Apr 5th The Battalion left Lyme Regis in two parties to march to entraining station.  
07:15 Party A arriving at Axminster 09:45 hrs.  
08:45 Party B arriving at Axminster 10:45 hrs.  
14:00 Party A arriving Southampton.  
15:15 Party B arriving Southampton.

### **SOUTHAMPTON**

- Apr 5th 16:00 The Battalion embarked on S.S. "Ulster Prince" - Strength 643 ORs and 28 Officers - and waited in the Isle of Wight roads until 00:15 hrs 6.4.40.

### **CHERBOURG**

- Apr 6th 07:30 Arrived Cherbourg after a good crossing at 05:00 hours. Anchored inside the boom, and disembarked at 07:30 hrs.  
14:02 Left Cherbourg by train for Conlie. Arrived Caen at 16:30 hrs and stopped half an hour in order that troops have tea.

### **CONLIE**

- Apr 7th 07:20 Arrived Conlie 07:20 hrs. The Bn. had breakfast in field near station. Rifle Coys. were ferried to village of Tennie by M.T. where they were billeted. Remainder of Bn. were billeted at Conlie. Troops billeted in barns and outhouses and Officers in private houses. Very comfortable.  
18:00 Warning order received move to concentration area.
- Apr 8th 10:00 Adjutant attended a conference re. move of road and rail parties to concentration area.
- Apr 9th 15:00 Movement Order No. 3 issued as per copy attached.
- Apr 10th 07:00 Billeting party consisting of 2/Lt Molyneaux and 2 ORs left Conlie and proceeded to Evereaux to arrange billeting for Road Party proceeding tomorrow.
- Apr 11th 06:00 Road party consisting of 10 officers, 132 ORs and 43 vehicles

## 1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1940

Appendix

left for concentration area.

13:00 W.3008 & 9 despatched. Copies attached.

Apr 12th 1900 Main body left Sille le Guillame for Abancourt. Troops in cattle trucks, offices in carriages.

Apr 13th 09:00 Arrived Abancourt.

### **THOIX**

Apr 13th 10:00 arrived at Granvilliers. Companies marched to Company reas. Troops in billets, but of a poor type.

'A' and 'B' Coys. - Sentelie; 'C' Coy. - Dargies; 'D' Coy. - Offoy; 'HQ' Coy - Thoix

Lt. Col. Voisin relinquished command of the Battalion and assumed appointment of O.C. 111 Corps Reception Unit. Major D.G. Passmore assumed command of Battalion.

Apr 14th 09:30 Warning Order received for move of Bn. to Warlus.

18:00 Operation Order No. 1 issued for move. Copy attached.

22:30 The following message was received from 132 Infantry Brigade:-1. That the general standard of the billets vacated was exceptionally high, that it has been very favourably commented on by the French populace

2. The Div Cmdr came specially to Brigade Headquarters to say that he was extremely pleased with the saluting of all ranks in the Brigade area today and wishes them to know this.

### **GUIZANCOURT**

Apr 15th 09:00 Battalion left S.P. in order of march R. B Ech Tpt under Brigade control left at Thoix. The marching of the Battalion was good and we were again complimented by the Divisional Cmdr who watched the Battalion pass. The weather was bad and the furthest Company had to march approximately 22 miles.

"A" & "B" Coys - Camps

"C" Coy - Montagne

"D" Coy - Dreuil

"H.Q" Coy - Warlus

### **WARLUS**

14:15 Bn H.Q. established at Warlus.

21:00 Warning Order received for billeting parties to depart to 5 Queens at Bonniers at 14:00 hours on 16.4.40.

Apr 16th Bn. resting at Warlus.

18:30 O.O. No. 2 issued for move to area Pierragot.

Apr 17th Battalion HQ closed at Warlus. Bn. marched to Rubempre from Dreuil - a distance of approximately 26 miles. The Battalion marched well and was complimented by the Divisional Cmdr.

## 1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1940

Appendix

### **RUBEMPRE**

15:30 Bn. reached D.P. Coys were billeted at villages as under:

"A" Coy at Molliens

"B" Coy at Pierragot

"C" Coy at Mirvaux

"D" Coy at Rubempre

"HQ" Coy at Rubembre

Billets good and Officers Mess excellent. Hot bath available.

19:00 O.O. Number three issued for move to Bonnières.

- Apr 18th 07:15 Battalion assembled at Talmes for march to Bonnières, a distance of approximately 23 miles.  
08:45 Battalion passed SP. Divisional General saw the Battalion pass.  
15:45 Battalion reached DP. Raining hard, but troops very cheerful.

### **BONNIERES**

16:30 Bn. billeted in Bonnières. A wretched village and very muddy. Billets bad.

19:00 O.O. No 3a issued. Copy attached.

- Apr 19th 08:00 Battalion assembled at SP to march to Bermicourt, a distance of approximately 16 miles.  
09:25 Battalion past Brigade SP. Divisional Commander, Brigade Commander, and G.S.O. 2 of III Corps watch the Battalion pass.  
13:45 arrived DP. Guides met Companies and took them to their billets.  
"A" Coy at Fleury  
"B" Coy at Hernicourt  
"C" at Croix  
"D" Coy at Siracourt  
"HQ" Coy at Humeroeuille and Bermicourt

### **BERMICOURT**

14:00 Battalion Headquarter established at Bermicourt. British troops had not previously been billeted in this area. The billets are good and the Officers at Battalion Headquarters were billeted in a large Chateau.

- Apr 20th 11:00 Brigade Commander addressed all officers and W.Os and congratulated all ranks on their fine achievement in marching 100 miles in five days. Copy of his message is attached.
- Apr 21st 14:00 Recce parties left for Bailleul - HQ of 152 infantry Brigade - Major Duncan-Anderson, I.O. and 90 ORs.  
Bn. resting - all companies had Church Parade.
- Apr 22nd Billeting party left for Bailleul - Capt. Morgan M.F.L. and 8 ORs.  
Battalion were allotted baths at Pit No 2 Marles les Bains. Copy of Order attached. Conference at Brigade Headquarters to discuss the

## 1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1940

Appendix

five days march. Divisional Commander called at Bde and spoke for a few minutes.

Apr 23rd 14:00 O.O. No 4 issued for move to Bailleul. Copy attached.

Apr 24th 10:45 Bn. H.Q. closed at Bermicourt. The Bn. moved by transport to Bailleul.

### **BAILLEUL**

Apr 24th 16:03 Arrived Bailleul. "A", "C" and "D" Coys approx. 3 miles N.E. of Bailleul near Belgian Frontier. "B" and "HQ" Coys in Bailleul. "A", "C" and "D" Coys doing Frontier Guard - copy of instructions attached. Reserve Coys "B" and "HQ" find two men for Douane patrols, every other day - copy of orders attached. Major C.D. Armstrong M.C. assumed Comd of the Bn vice Major D.G. Passmore who resumed appointment of 2 i/c.

Apr 25th Major General His Highness the Duke of Gloucester accompanied by Div Cmd and Brig Cmd visited HQ Coy billets. Frontier duties carried out.

Apr 26th Army Cmd inspected billets.

Apr 27th 18:45 Air raid warning given. 5 enemy planes seen flying at approx. 15,000 ft.

19:15 Raiders passed

Apr 28th 15:30 4 Officers of 1st Bn. R.W.K. called. It was made known that the 1st Bn. R.W.K. was coming into 132 Inf. Bde and 1/6 Surreys were going to 10 Inf. Bde. in 5 Div. The date of the transfer was not known.

Apr 30th 14:00 Commanding Officer inspected all Coys with the exception of H.Q. Coy, and addressed all ranks.