

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

1940

Appendix

### July WEST WITTERING

- Jul 1st Coys. begin to prepare defensive positions. Wiring material arrived and wiring operations were commenced.
- Jul 2nd As the most likely time of attack is at dawn, the Bde. 'Stand To' from one hour before Sunrise until 'Beach Clear' is given by O.P. No. 1 at Cakeham Tower 220161.
- Jul 3rd Considerable air activity on part of English aircraft which were carrying out daily patrols.
- Jul 7th Civilian contractors erecting Pill Boxes along our front under supervision of R.Es. Div. Commander confirms the immediate award of M.M. to No. 6140956 L/Sgt. Cregan T. which was granted in the field on 31st May 40.
- Jul 10th 11:00 One enemy bomber sighted by O.P. No 1. Dropped salvo of bombs on Destroyer at Spithead. Plane driven off by A.A. fire.
- Jul 11th The following awards appeared in the 'London Gazette' : Lt. Col. C.D. Armstrong, M.C. awarded the D.S.O. 2/Lt G.G. Maggs awarded the M.C. No. 6142072 L/Cpl Pretty W. awarded the M.M.  
In connection with the award of D.S.O. to Lt. Col. C.D. Armstrong, M.C. the official record is quoted 'He led his Battalion with unflagging energy and by his personal example of courage, patience and coolness under fire, inspired at all with whom he came into contact. On more than one occasion he commanded forward patrols himself, and was responsible for killing an enemy patrol of one officer and three men and of bringing in their identifications. Under, and by reason of, his gallant command his young Territorial Battalion carried out most efficiently all the tasks allotted to it throughout the operation.  
Air battle over the Bn. sector. Strength 9 Heinkel bombers 7 Hawkers. One of the English planes crashed into the sea. One Heinkel brought down on beach at Selsey by A.A. fire. Three wounded Germans were extricated from wreckage and were sent by 2/Lt Edwards of D Company under escort to Chichester Barracks. Identifications were taken by the Battalion I.O. and forwarded to 10 Infantry Brigade. One of the prisoners was a Squadron Leader.
- Jul 12th Bn. F.D.L. changed on instructions from the Brigade Commander. "D" Coy. take up new defensive positions round Selsey Bill.
- Jul 14th R.A.F. fighting patrols rather more active than usual.  
"C" company move their position further forward on to the coast. Further Pill Boxes sited, total number of Pill Boxes to be erected in Bn. area now 27.
- Jul 15th 15:00 C. in C. Southern command visited the Battalion and inspected Battalion area.  
19:00 Air raid made on West Wittering aerodrome by one Dornier plane, which flew over Battalion H.Q. at about 400 feet. Markings of plane clearly seen. Eight bombs dropped in two salvos on or near aerodrome. No casualties. Dornier engaged by two Hurricanes and driven off in direction

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of Selsey.

- Jul 17th 21:25 Message received from Brigade that Germans may attempt landings in small boats for sabotage purposes.
- Jul 18th 13:55 Col. Hart L.D.V. reported parachutists over Bosham 2323 drifting in S.E. direction. Necessary action taken but no parachutists seen.
- 14:00 Brigade Commander and C.O. visited "A" Company front in consequence.
- Jul 20th 04:00 Following message received from Southern Command. 'Reliable information reports that Germans are likely to be landed in twos and threes on isolated part of the coast from fishing and other small craft from Ireland or France. Their object is sabotage in England.'
- 07:25 A Dornier flew very low over Battalion Headquarters and put in a burst of machine gun fire at the troops having breakfast.
- Jul 23rd 12:00 Commander 5 Corps visited area and called at Battalion Headquarters. He was accompanied by Divisional Commander and Brigade Commander.
- Jul 27th 00:20 O.P. No. 1 report three white illuminating rockets seen coming from direction of Nab Lighthouse.