

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

1941

Appendix

**December**

### **SOUTHAMPTON**

- Dec 1st Remainder of Advance Party proceeded to Hartley Row, together with majority of Battalion stores etc.
- Dec 2nd Battalion moved by M.T. to Hartley Row, leaving Southampton 09:30 hours and arriving at Hartley Row at approximately 1400 hours. The Commanding Officer inspected all billets etc. after the departure of the Battalion from Blighmont Barracks and Foundry Lane schools, Southampton, and made known to the Battalion through the medium of Battalion Orders that he was very pleased to be able to say he found the rooms occupied by O.Rs of all Companies left in a very clean condition and well up in keeping with the traditions of the Regiment.

### **HARTLEY ROW**

- Dec 3rd Divisional Commander visited Battalion and looked at accommodation.
- Dec 4th Commanding Officer made inspection of all billets in the Battalion. Each man was standing by his bed. Major L.H.B. Lethbridge reported his arrival to the Battalion from No. 3 I.T.C. (East Lancs Regiment) and assumed duties of 2 i/c.
- Dec 5th - 7th Battalion training in barracks.
- Dec 8th Major General D.G. Johnson V.C., C.B. (Inspector of Infantry) inspected the Battalion. A number of Cadre Courses of various periods in length commenced.
- Dec 9th In accordance with instructions received from S.E., respirators were worn between the hours of 10:00 and 10:30 on this day. This was to be repeated weekly.
- Dec 10th Battalion training in camp. On the Battalion leaving 5 Corps the following message was received from Commander 5 Corps: 'It is with very great regret that I have to say goodbye to 4 Div. Its departure will be a heavy loss to 5 Corps. I want to thank all ranks for the energy and thoroughness with which they have trained themselves into a first-class Division. I also want to say how much I appreciate the loyal and cheerful way in which the Division has always done all that has been asked of it, and especially for the most valuable help it has given in training other troops in the area. I wish all ranks the best of luck in their new role'.
- Dec 11th Bn. H.Q. Skeleton Exercise held. N.A.A.F.I Canteen opened.
- Dec 12th Bn. training in camp.
- Dec 13th Ash Range allotted to Bn.
- Dec 14th Bn. X-Country Run.
- Dec 15th Bn. Church parade held in Parish Church, Hartley Row. Preacher: Rev. Rees Jones - Padre of 2 Bn. Beds and Herts Regt.
- Dec 16th/17th Div. Skeleton Exercise held.

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- Dec 18th General Sir Richard Foster K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Col. of the East Surrey Regt. inspected Bn. and the following message was afterwards received from him: ' I was very much impressed by the appearance of all ranks when I visited the 1/6th Bn. on 18th Dec. 41. The turnout was excellent and the handling of arms and steadiness in the ranks very good. It gave me great pleasure to start the cross-country run and to witness the finish, and there is no doubt that the Bn. is very fit. I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Happy Xmas and all success in 1942. I feel certain that the 1/6th will acquit itself nobly whatever happens and wherever it goes. The Best of Luck'.
- Dec 19th - 24th Bn. training in camp. Training films shown on evening of 19th.
- Dec 25th Xmas Day Dinner given to all Cpls. and under. This consisted of turkey, pork, baked and boiled potatoes, sausages, sprouts, Xmas pudding and beer.
- Dec 26th Bn. Rest day.
- Dec 27th Officers Week Commenced. Christmas Greetings have now been received from Brig. O.M. Wales, Commander 10 Inf. Bde. and all ranks, also from all ranks 70th Bn. Greetings were received from Col. A.P. Drayson M.B.E., T.D.
- Dec 28th - 31st Bn. training in camp. Exercise 'Beaver' on 30th/31st (1 Officer and 2 ORs attended). Brig. Wales took over command from Brig. Clutterbuck at beginning of December.