

	<b><u>1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT</u></b>	
<b><u>1943</u></b>		Appendix
<b><u>MARCH</u></b>	<b><u>THE BARONY</u></b>	App. A
Mar 1st	Lt. St J.H. Summers, Lt. Turney and 2/Lt. J. Gould joined the Battalion from 9th Buffs. Draft of 30 P.Rs arrived and were posted to "R" Company. 08:00 Commanding Officer inspected Battalion Wheeled Transport loaded ready to move to port.	
Mar 2nd	08:30 Battalion Wheeled Vehicles left The Barony for Barry to be embarked there under Q(M)/ScC/ROS/W.S28 dated 23 Feb 1943. Route:- via Preston, Wellington (Sal). Convoy put up at Preston for night 2/4 Mar and Wellington (Sal) for night 3/4 March. Composition of Party. Officer i/c Capt. A. Smart, Lt. E. Maynard (Bn. T.O.), 106 ORs. Sgt. Gallon, Cpl. Manning, Cpl. Horn composed Vehicle Embarkation Party who embarked and stayed with vehicle.	
Mar 3rd	19 Tracked Vehicles of battalion proceeded to Dumfries and were loaded on flats. 14:30 Special train conveying Carriers and loading party to Barry left Dumfries. Composition of Party. O i/c Capt. L. Brown, Lt. B.A. Crutchfield, 21 ORs. Instructions received from ADOS that 2 carriers Universal would be picked up at Barry. Cpl. Marvesley, 3 Pl. sent as member of Embarkation Party. Capt. K.A. Fern posted to Home Details and appointed O i/c Home Details.	
Mar 4th	Lieut. S.B. Millar and 2/Lt. G.K. Barnett reported for duty from 10 Buffs and 14 D.L.I respectively.	
Mar 5th	08:00 22 Officers and 480 ORs under command of Commanding Officer were ferried by Tpt. to Milkbank, Lockerbie and there lined the route from Milkbank towards Hoddam Castle. 12:30 H.M. The King passed through the Bn. and on foot and inspected it.	
Mar 6th	Store for surplus property allocated to Bn. at 43/45 Bank Street, Dumfries. Lt. Turney posted to Home Details and sent to 10 Inf. Bde. H.Q. Lt. A.G. Frost re-posted to Bn. from Home Details and rejoined Bn. from 10 Inf. Bde. 20:00 Draft of 23 ORs arrived from 10 Buffs and were posted to 'R' Coy. C.Q.M.S. Lindsay and 70 ORs reported their return from Barry.	
Mar 7th	Major W.G.E. Nash Bn. 2 i/c posted to Home Details as in hospital. Major R.O.V. Thompson, R. Sussex Regiment, reported for duty and assumed the appointment as 2 i/c. 10:00 Adj. Proceeded to Brigade to collect Move Order,	

	instructing Bn. to move to port in two parties on 11 March 1943.	
Mar 8th	09:00 Capt. A. Smart and Lt. E. Maynard reported return from Barry with balance of wheeled vehicles Party. Capt. Smart reported safe arrival of convoy at port with exception of 1 x 3-tonner Austin G.S. which was damaged and replaced. He stated that bulk of Bn's vehicles had been embarked.	
Mar 9th	09:00 Capt. L. Brown reported with carrier Loading Party. He had been issued with 3 Carriers at the port, 2 Universal and 1 Mortar. 1 Mortar Carrier taken from the Barony was therefore replaced with the new Carrier. 18:00 – 19:00 2 x 3 tonners reported from Brigade for baggage loading. Message received from Brigade to send one Officer and three N.C.Os to be at Dumfries station at 07:30 hours on Wednesday 10 March to meet G 2. Party would proceed as for embarkation and would act as Advance Party. Companies made up to straight from 'R' Company. 21:30 Move Order No. 2 issued, giving instructions for loading of baggage and move of battalion (Copy of Move Order attached as App. "A").	
Mar 10th	06:45 Lt. G. Sloan and 3 N.C.Os "H.Q." Company departed for Dumfries Station as Advance Party. 09:00 Loading of baggage commenced for conveyance to Shieldhill Station. After baggage, kitbags taken to the station and stacked there for the night. Embarkation documents prepared.	
Mar 11th	06:45 First Train party left The Barony for Shieldhill Station. 08:30 First Train Party left Shieldhill Station for port of embarkation. 08:15 Second Train party left The Barony for Shieldhill Station. 10:05 Second Train Party left Shieldhill Station for port of embarkation. 11:30 First Party arrived at King George V Dock, Glasgow and after clearing embarkation documents embarked on H.T. P,73. 14:30 Second party arrived at the Dock and embarked. Baggage loaded on to the ship.	
	<b>AT SEA</b>	
Mar 12th	10:00 Commanding Officer inspected the Mess Decks.	
	14:30 First practice Action and Emergency Stations. Ship moved off from King George V Dock and anchored off Gourock . Company spaces for Physical Training on Ship allocated.	
Mar 13th	P.T. for Companies started.	
	21:30 Message received from Brigade to detail ..... Signal Duties on bridge from 1400 hrs on 14th March.	
Mar 14th	10:30 Church parade held for Mess Deck H9	
	11:15 Church Parade held for Mess Deck G9	

	Programme issued to Companies allocating Training space.	
Mar 15th	Company Training started.	
Mar 16th	Ship sailed. 10:30 Emergency Rations drawn.	
Mar 17th	10:00 Ship's Inspection of G9 and H9	
Mar 18th	11:00 Cabin inspection. Cmd. Officer attended conference held by O.C. Troops, when destination was announced as Algeria. Maps, pamphlets and Intelligence Summaries drawn. 14:00 Comd. Officer announced destination of Ship to all Officers. Pamphlet, Notes for Troops proceeding to North Africa issued to all ranks.	
Mar 19th	14:00 Comd. Officer gave summary of conditions in Algeria and Tunisia to all Officers. 15:20 Action Station Signal given. 16:05 All Clear.	
Mar 20th	09:00 All Officers attended Cloth Model lecture by Commanding Officer on physical feature of North Africa. 14:00 All Officers attended lecture by 2 i/c on Campaign in Algeria to date. 14:50 Action Stations Signal given. 15:20 All Clear. Provisional Disembarkation Instructions issued to Companies. Copy at App. "B".	
Mar 21st	10:15 Commanding Officer addressed all ranks of the Battalion before disembarkation. 10:30 Packs drawn from hold. Battalion Standing Administrative Instruction issued. Copy at App. "C"	
Mar 22nd	06:30 'A' and 'D' Companies provided A.A. posts on B Deck, Port Side, Forward. Each Post consisted of 1 Officer and 12 ORs. armed with 6 L.M.Gs. Posts manned continually throughout 24 hrs with 4 Reliefs. 10:30 Q.M. drew Anti-Mosquito Cream, Water Steriliser Tablets and Ascorbic Tablets. A.M. Cream and W.S. Tablets issued to Companies. Ascorbic Tablets handed to M.O. 12:00 Commanding Officer attended conference held by C.G. Troops. 14:15 Commanding Officer gave disembarkation Orders to Company Commanders. A.Fs. B,103 and 199 to be handed to E.S.C. on arrival. Rate of exchange for Sterling 200 Frs to £. All troops to stand by on Mess Decks on arrival at Port. Arrival expected to be p.m. on Tuesday. Port probably Algiers. 15:30 Companies handed in Sterling to Adjutant. Battalion total £1582 - 2 - 0. 19:00 Companies made up to strength from "R" Company.	

23rd	<p>02:45 Action Stations  06:30 "B" &amp; "C" Coys. took over A.A. posts from "A" &amp; "D".  07:00 All Clear. N. African coast sighted.  08:00 Action Stations.  08:20 All Clear.  09:00 Permanent Ship's Fatigues returned to Battalion.  10:30 Ship entered Port of Algiers. E.S.O. came on board.  Commanding Officer attended conference in O.C. Troops cabin.  11:20 Conference ended. Details of disembarkation. Battalion's disembarkation to begin at approx.12:45 hrs. 200 all ranks (incl. M.T. &amp; Carrier Drivers) to re-embark forthwith in S.S. Ormonde and S.S. Banfora and proceed Eastwards along coast to collect transport. Balance of Battalion to collect kits after disembarkation, proceed to Check Point and march to Transit Camp.  Composition of 200 all ranks re-embarking:-</p>	(1072a)																																												
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td colspan="2"><u>S.S. Ormonde</u></td> <td colspan="2"><u>S.S. Banfora</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Capt. A. Smart</td> <td colspan="2">Capt. J.F. Edwards</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Lt. E. Maynard</td> <td colspan="2">Lt. G. Sloan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M.T. Drivers, Fitters</td> <td>45</td> <td>A/Tk Pl.</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 3 Pl. Drivers</td> <td></td> <td>No. 4 Pl.</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. 4 Pl. Drivers</td> <td></td> <td>H.Q. Company, H.Q.</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M.C. Riders</td> <td>45</td> <td>S.Bs</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A/Tk Pl. Drivers</td> <td>6</td> <td>No. 5 Pl.</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Company Drivers</td> <td>20</td> <td>-</td> <td>=80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Batmen</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>=120</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<u>S.S. Ormonde</u>		<u>S.S. Banfora</u>		Capt. A. Smart		Capt. J.F. Edwards		Lt. E. Maynard		Lt. G. Sloan		M.T. Drivers, Fitters	45	A/Tk Pl.	30	No. 3 Pl. Drivers		No. 4 Pl.	25	No. 4 Pl. Drivers		H.Q. Company, H.Q.	7	M.C. Riders	45	S.Bs	4	A/Tk Pl. Drivers	6	No. 5 Pl.	12	Company Drivers	20	-	=80	Batmen	2				=120			
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	<p>2 Platoons "A" Company under command Capt. P.M. Plastow were left at the port to act as Baggage Party and Baggage Guard.</p>																																													
	<p>14:00 Battalion began to disembark. 2 i/c proceeded to Check Point. O.R.Q.M.S. proceeded to G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon with A.Fs. B.103 and 199s.  15:20 Battalion left Quay for Transit Camp.  16:15 Battalion passed Check Point. Met by 2 i/c and guide. Q.M., R.Q.M.S. &amp; Cooks sent on to make arrangements for arrival of Battalion.  21:00 Battalion arrived at Transit Camp "Z" near Cap Matifou. Bn. H.Q. and H.Q. Coy. marched all the way (17 miles). 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', &amp; 'R' Companies were lifted in Transport part of the way. Hot meal issued to Troops on arrival. Picquet posted.  Battalion disembarked at strength 40 Officers, 902 ORs, two men having been admitted to hospital on voyage.</p>																																													
	<p><b>CAP MATIFOU, ALGERIA</b></p>																																													
Mar 24th	<p>Camp Area cleaned.  10:30 Baggage started to arrive from Algiers.  11:30 Commanding Officer's conference to issue details of administration. Guard - 1 Sgt., 2 Cpls., and 12 ORs. responsible</p>																																													

	<p>also for finding A.A. Sentry. No 2 given 3 posts for A.A. protection of Camp. One Pl. detailed daily as Fire Picquet. Police picquet put on drinking water tanks and ablution benches. Capt. J. Watson, DCM sent to Algiers to draw Officers' Pay Advance Books and obtain particulars of outward mails.</p> <p>15:00 Capt. P.M. Plastow reported return of baggage party &amp; Baggage Guard. Some G.1098 and Kit missing. Orders issued to Company Commanders to dig slit trenches by tents. Address notified by A.P.O. as B.N.A.F. Companies informed.</p>	
Mar 25th	<p>09:30 Adjutant and Capt. P.H. Mornement proceeded to I.B.D. to arrange for dispatch of 1st Reinforcement Company. Arrangements made for Company to join No 3 Battalion I.B.D. on Saturday 27th March.</p> <p>Adjutant contacted G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon and saw O.R.Q.M.S. and then contacted Algiers Area H.Q. Programme arranged for Rifle Companies to bathe at Cap Matifou and fire on a local range. Lt. B.A. Crutchfield promoted A/Capt. w.e.f. 3 March vice Capt. K.A. Fern posted to Home Details.</p>	
Mar 26th	<p>09:30 'B', 'C' &amp; 'D' Companies proceeded on Route March.</p> <p>14:30 Company Commanders sent to Algiers to open Imprest Accounts.</p> <p>17:00 Orders received from Algiers Area for Battalion to move to Bone by rail from Rouiba Station at 0930 hrs on 31st March. Baggage to be loaded commencing at 10000 hrs on 30 March. 7 days rations to be taken. Three blankets per man to be taken.</p> <p>17:30 Message received from Algiers Area to take forward second blanket issued by reception area and indent for third blanket on DADOS, Algiers Area.</p>	(1046a)
27th	<p>09:00 Bn. H.Q., 'A' Coy., and 'H.Q.' Coy. proceeded on Route March.</p> <p>09:15 'R' Coy, under command Capt. P.H. Mornement marched out to join No 3 Bn. I.B.D. Strength 6 Officers, 128 ORs. Inspected by Commanding Officer before departure.</p> <p>10:00 Commanding Officer inspected camp. G.2 visited Battalion. He said that Battalion might be forwarded by sea and NOT by rail.</p> <p>15:15 C.R.A. visited Battalion. First returns as at 12:00 hrs sent to G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon.</p> <p>18:00 Rail movement table received from Algiers Area for move from Rouiba on 31 March and orders of Officers commanding troop trains.</p>	
Mar 28th	<p>Voluntary Church Services held.</p> <p>11:30 Officers from 473 Company R.A.S.C. visited Battalion. Arrangements made for 12 x 3 tonners to report to Battalion at 08:30 hrs on 30 March to convey baggage to Rouiba Station.</p> <p>14:15 All Officers proceeded to G.B.D. Cap Matifou to attend a lecture on conditions in forward fighting areas.</p>	

	17:30 First mail received from England. Q.M. drew third blanket from DADOS, Algiers Area for forward move.	
Mar 29th	<p>Air Mail letters sent home by all ranks of Battalion.</p> <p>09:00 Inter-Platoon race organised by 2 i/c to Cap Matifou via Ain Taya. Race won jointly by 9 Pl. and 18 Pl.</p> <p>09:30 Company Commanders proceeded to Algiers to draw pay. Q.M. tried to make up kits lost during voyage from DADOS, Algiers Area, but unsuccessful.</p> <p>09:30 Commanding Officer and Adjutant and Messing Officer (Lt. D.V.R. Martin) and Capt. J.O. Strode (Baggage Officer) proceeded to Rouiba Station to make recce.</p> <p>14:30 Commanding Officer issued orders for move.</p>	
	<b>IN TRANSIT BY RAIL</b>	
Mar 30th	<p>11:15 12 x 3 tonners reported from 473 Company R.A.S.C. Baggage Party commenced to load baggage into transport and dump it at Rouiba Station.</p> <p>15:00 Baggage couvert arrived at Rouiba Station. Baggage loaded into couvert. 7 days transit rations issued to Q.M. by Camp Commandant and loaded on train.</p> <p>18:00 Capt. J.O. Strode reported loading of baggage completed. One Platoon 'C' Company under Lt. R.A. Grigg remained at station as Baggage Guard.</p>	(1047a)
Mar 31st	<p>08:30 Serial Markers under R.S.M. sent to Rouiba Sation.</p> <p>09:00 Leading troops commenced to march to station.</p> <p>10:30 Clearance certificate obtained from Camp Commandant and last troops quitted camp.</p> <p>11:00 Battalion entrained. 48 hrs rations issued to each serial. With Battalion were 4 Officers, and 67 ORs. 10 Infantry Brigade Workshops R.E.M.E., and 11 Officers and 147 ORs. of a draft entrained at Maison Blanche.</p> <p>13:37 Train left Rouiba.</p> <p>15:15 Arrived Menerville.</p> <p>16:09 Departed Menerville</p> <p>17:45 Arrived Aona.</p> <p>18:43 Departed Aona.</p> <p>20:20 Arrived Bouira.</p> <p>20:25 Departed Bouira.</p> <p>22:15 Arrived Beni Manceur. Tea issued to Battalion.</p>	