

2nd BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1941

From the end of November 1941 the Army Form C2118 was no longer used as a War Diary record, and was replaced by the following Main Diary and supplemented by other concurrent diaries kept by 1st Leicesters and British Battalion, and which have been inserted into this transcription.

Appendix

Main Diary Malayan Campaign - December 1941 to February 1942

December T.J.P. CAMP, ALOR STAR (MALAYA)

Dec 3rd

The battalion stationed in a wooden enhutment camp 10 1/2 miles outside Alor Star, Kedah, since February 21, 1941. Practised a new movement; the whole battalion was "Mecholised". e.g. two Companies and part of Battalion Headquarters were mechanised into 15 cwt trucks - the remaining two Companies ("A" and "C" Companies) - and part of Battalion Headquarters were carried in 16 3-ton lorries (with stores).

Dec 7th

1600: The alarm was sounded. Company Commanders reported to the Commanding Officer, who issued his orders which had been written and carefully prepared for weeks. The contents of these orders were:-

The Battalion was part of a force (The 6th Indian infantry Brigade) which was to advance into Thailand on orders. The 1/8 Punjab Regiment, with a Battery of 22nd Mountain Regiment were to move forward to Hadyai. After its capture, our Battalion was to move forward through the 1/8 Regt. and proceed to Singora in the following order:-

"D" Company - Advance Guard - Cmdr. Capt. A.C.A. Cater

A Section of carriers - Lieut. K.R. Bradley

A Section of Sappers and Miners - Lieut. Austin

One gun from 10 Battery, 22nd Mountain Regt.

2 Detachments Mortars - Lieut. E.W. Bateman

Main Body

Advance Bn. H.Q. - Lt. Col. G.E. Swinton V.C.

Intelligence Officer - Lt. A.J.H. Martin

Signal Officer - Lt. D.K. Smith

then

"B" Company (Capt. A.C. Hill)

Battalion Headquarters (Mortars - 2, Signal vehicle, Ammunition Vehicle)

A Section of carriers

"C" Company (Capt. C. O'N. Wallis)

"A" Company (Capt. J.A. Kerrich)

Remains of Battalion H.Q. (Major F.B.B. Dowling M.C.) covered by Carriers, who were to remain with the Battery.

Meanwhile, 2/16 Punjab Regiment were to proceed by armoured train to Hadyai, and release the 1/8 Regiment, who were then to follow up the 2/Surreys. The object was to hold Singora.

2000: With these objects in heart, the Company Commanders left the Commanding Officer, and saw the Companies loading their vehicles, and all awaited for the final word to move.

Dec 8th 0600: The Commanding Officer sent for Company Commanders, and informed them that the Japanese had attacked Kota Bharu, and fighting was in progress, but we were still "standing by".
0700: Aircraft was heard overhead but the unit remained in camp.
1140 (approx): Aircraft was again heard, and terrific reports acted in the direction of the Alor Star Aerodrome. (it was later confirmed that the Aerodrome has been badly damaged).
1500: Orders were received to occupy our defence positions on the Jitra Line.
Here again I will point out the disposition of Companies. "C" Company was on the right of the battalion front and inter-Brigade boundary, the 1st Battalion The Leicestershire Regiment being on their right and forward of "C" Companies position was known as the 11 1/2 milestone. To the left 1 1/2 miles (to the West) Battalion Headquarters and then 1/2 West of them at Budi was "B" Company. Then forward of "B" Company, along a canal about 3/4 mile was Pisang Wood where "A" and "D" Companies were in position. The left of the battalion were back to marshes and a railway which was protected and patrolled by 2/16 Punjabs. Throughout the night of 8th/9th stores and the guns were brought into position. It had rained and the ground was very muddy and heavy.

see App. 1
History of
"B" Echelon
see App. 2
Bn.
Movements
See App 3
Map of
Malaya
See App 4
Officers of
Bn.

Dec 8th - 11th **Extract from Notes on Malayan Campaign:**
Main Party: Jitra. "C" Company at 11 1/2 MS position. Bn. H.Q. 1 1/2 miles West of "C". "B" Company at BUDI - 1/2 mile West of Bn. H.Q. "A" and "D" Companies, Pisang Wood. ("D" Company mangoes)
Other Parties: 2/Lt. Meyers with "R" Company at Tanjong Pau camp.

Dec 8th **Extract from Diary 1st Leicesters & British Bn.**
Main Party: Anan Bukit Jitra. 85 Officers and 629 O.Rs
Attached Party: Lt. Hart & 90 approx. at S.P.T. Rear Party.

Dec 9th Nothing to report on the battalion front, beyond enemy aircraft reconnaissance planes.

Dec 9th - 11th **Extract from Diary 1st Leicesters & British Bn.**
Main Party: Jitra. "D" Company ? Mangoia.

Dec 10th Again nothing to report on our front. News reached the Battalion that the small force (1/8th) sent into Thailand had successfully ambushed the enemy and put out of action some light tanks, with few casualties to themselves.
Brigade Intelligence report stated the enemy were on 28 1/2 milestone (Thailand and Malay border) and were being held by the 1/14 Punjab Regiment outposts. News also reached us regarding the losses of H.M.S. "Prince of Wales" and "Repulse". Severe shock.

Dec 11th "D" Company reported the 2/16th Regiment had contacted enemy patrols on the left flank at Kodiang cross roads. Firing was heard over by the right patrols. They also reported that the 1/8th Punjab and The Mountain Battery, which had formed a party into Thailand, had arrived in front of Pisang Wood and that the bridge in front of them towards Jitra has been blown. Orders were issued to them to fire all vehicles and go to "D" company.

ANAK BUKIT (One Mile beyond Alor Star)

Move 1

Dec 12th 1300: "D" Company report enemy patrols in woods opposite on the left flank, and heavy gunfire on the right on the Leicester front . (later learned that enemy tanks had been observed in front of the tank obstacle - 13 1/2 milestone).
1525: Lt. Col. Swinton spoke to all Company Commanders on the phone. "B" and "D" Companies were to withdraw at once to Anak Bukit for further orders. "C" Company were to conform ground and face East, and to find the Leicesters on their left. "A" Company were to withdraw to "B" Company's position. Battalion Headquarters were moving and would be off the Line. All further orders for "A" & "C" Companies would come direct from 6th Indian infantry Brigade Headquarters.
1800: Major Williams (6th Brigade Major) informed O.C. "C" Company of his task. To fill a gap between the river Bata and the Leicesters, but were not to become heavily engaged. Further orders to be issued later (these never materialised).
1930 approx: "C" company partially in new positions. No 13 Platoon only just arrived from old position but could not contact Leicesters on the left. Lt. Sear set out to find Leicesters and returned saying that he could not find them.
2015 approx: Major Harvey and Capt. Bradley of Leicesters appeared, and reported they were on a reconnaissance but could not find their unit. Fire was now heavy on the East of the road, with quite sharp battle on the Bata and occasional firing behind "C" Company's present position.
2040 approx: O.C. "C" Company ordered the Company to withdraw via Budi in two parts - Company Headquarters and 15 Platoon, and 13 and 14 Platoon with Mortars and M.G. personnel attached, and thence with "A" company down the line to Anak Bukit.
2230: First party reached Budi and waited with "A" company for second party until 2330 hours, and then withdrew according to plan. In the meantime "B" and D Companies had taken up defensive positions on the south side of the Bata (Kedah) river, East of Kepala Batas Rest House ("B" Company on the right).

Extract from Notes on Malayan Campaign:

Main Party: 1525: "B" and "D" to Anak Bukit via Railway Line. "A" to "B"s position at Budi. "C" move East to gap between River Bata and Leicesters. 2040: "C" Company H.Q. and 15 Platoon to Budi. "B" and "D" Companies at Kepala Batas Rest-house, South of Bata River.
Other Parties: 2040: 13 and 14 Platoons miss route and make for Alor Star independently. One section 14 Platoon missing.

Dec 12th **Extract from Diary 1st Leicesters & British Bn.**
*Main Party: 0800: Lt. Newland & Platoon - "B" to "C" Right. 1200: Lt. Oldridge & H.Q. to E end of Bye-Pass
 1300: A Platoon to Lt. Newland's position.
 1600: "D" Coy to Rimba. "C", "A" & H.Q. to S. Bata W of Bridge.
 "B" Echelon, part Pioneers & Stragglers to T.J.P. - A.B.S.
 Attached Party: Major Anderson 100 1/14 Punjab - "A" Company Area. Lt. Newland & Lt. Chippington Pl. missed Bn. Continued S. 2 Sections of "B" remained at original line. Capt. Thompson & remainder of "B" missed Bn., lay up S of Bata River.*

ALOR STAR (One mile beyond Gurun)

Move 2

Dec 13th 0500: "A" Company and part of "C" Company arrived at Anak Bukit, very exhausted, to be sent at 0600 hours to Simpang Ampat, and await instructions. Meanwhile the 28th Brigade and the 15th Brigade were to be withdrawn to a new line. The 1/8th and 2/16th Punjab Regiments were ordered to Alor Star, while "B" and "D" Companies East Surreys covered the withdrawal.
 0900: O.C. "A" and "C" Companies, East Surreys received instructions to return to Alor Star and take up a defensive position on the south of the river (West of main road).
 NOTE The road was now almost packed with troops and vehicles moving down the road, with apparently no control.
 0930: "A" and "B" Companies and Battalion Headquarters are over the main bridge in Alor Star. News had now been received that Nos 13 and 14 Platoons of "C" Company with attachment under Lt. Sear were at the Civil Hospital. Lt. Bradley (Carrier Officer) with eight carriers drove back and assisted these men back on carriers. During this time three enemy motorcyclists got through and quickly drove over the main bridge. Fearing further enemy penetration, an order was given by Maj. Gen. Murray-Lyon to blow the bridge.

see App.5
 report by Lt. Humphries (No 7 Pl "C" Coy).
 see App 6.
 2/Lt J.D. Carter 9 Pl. report

Dec 13th Lt. Bradley was now on the wrong side of Alor Star bridge with some 50 men and 8 carriers. Quickly the carriers were disarmed, and attempts were made to put the carriers into the river, as suddenly the town became a battlefield. As most of the men had piled their arms and were on the opposite side, Lt. Sear, with Lts. Bradley and Cross, seized 3 L.M.G. which were at hand, and engaged the enemy who were firing from houses, while the men got into boats and crossed the river. During this small operation Lt. Sear was mortally wounded but, by his fine courage and determination, he had enabled the remainder, some 60 men, to get back to safety. Throughout this day the Battalion held Alor Star. All the troops were tired.

Dec 13th 1700: "C" Company was ordered to move To the 2nd milestone South of Alor Star, and to take up a defensive position on the right of the road (East) while Major Harvey (Leicesters) took a small detachment of Leicesters (all that was known to be left), on the left or West side. They were to cover the Battalion from Alor Star, each Company reporting to O.C. "C" Company. The withdrawal commenced at 18:00 hours to 19 milestone. Again down this road came troops of all units, some not knowing what was happening or where they were going. It was a pitiful sight. Finally at 2000 hours all Companies had reported through except "A" and "B" headquarters, but

their Companies had passed through. O.C. Rearguard waited until 2030 hours and then withdrew with the 2/9th Gurkha's carriers covering them to Simpang Empat. where are they embussed and joined the Battalion at 19 milestone about 0300 hours.

Dec 13th

Extract from Notes on Malayan Campaign:

Main Party: 0500: "A" and part "C" Companies to Anak Bukit

0900: Bn. to Alor Star (South of river).

Other Parties: 13 and 14 Platoons brought from Civil Hospital by Carriers.

Main Party: 1800: "C" Company to 2nd MS ,then to 19th MS. "B", "D" & "A" H.Q. with 8 Platoon to 19th MS by 0400 hrs.

Other Parties: Lt. Carter with 9 Platoon to Sima Yen - Taiping. Lt.

Humphries with 7 Platoon to Simam Limau - Penang - Singapore.

Extract from Diary 1st Leicesters & British Bn.

Main Party: Jitra to Ars and South

0500: Major Kennedy, Capt. Roberts & 43 O.Rs. W. Coast.

0530: Bn. H.Q. and remnants of "A" Company & remnants of "C" Company s.w. to Railway, thence to Anak Bukit, S. to Alor Star by Road.

1400: C.O., Capt. Green, Lt. Brotchie & 35 W of town cross river and joined E.S.R. Capt. Burder, Capt. McGwire & Crosswaite & remainder unknown.

Attached Parties: Lt. Newland & Lt. Chippington & 1 Pl. to A.B.S. S of River to E.S.R. Major Harvey, Capt. Bradfield & Carriers. Capt. Thompson & party to Coast with Pls. of "D" separately. Coy. and 2 Sect. "B" to Railway, thence to Anak Bukit, S on road. Night at Police Station N of A.B.S.

GURUN (Five miles beyond Gurun) - SUNGEI PATANI

Moves 3 & 4

Dec 14th

0400: Headquarters of "A" and "B" Companies arrived at the 19th milestone, having lost their way out of Alor Star, and gone towards Kuala Kedah.

1530: "B" Echelon arrived with hot food. First hot meal for two days.

0600: Major Dowling C.O. has a conference. Enemy have moved forward faster than expected. "D" Company will take up a position on the left of the road (F.D.L. road to Kedah Peak Bungalow). "B" on the right of the road. "A" & "C" Companies in reserve. "C" Company watching the right flank and railway. Battalion Headquarters was established. Capt. Hill 2 i/c Battalion. Capt. Vickers O.C. "B" Company.

0930: O.C. "C" Company instructed to recce position about Guar Champedak railway station with the object of holding the railway station and right flank.

1200: "C" Company move up railway line to new position with Carrier personnel as reinforcements. "B" Company and "C" Company were to liaise with each other.

1400: 2/16th Regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Larkin arrived at station and thickened up the right flank.

Dec 14th

1500: Brigade Commander (Brig. Lay) ordered alteration of plan. "D" Company 2/Surreys under orders of Major Andrews (1/8th Punjabs), were allotted main road with two weak companies. "D" Company 2/Surreys to support this unit and the rest of the Battalion to remain.

1600: Enemy tanks appeared on the Gurun-Champedak crossroads (3 tanks

and 10 or 12 trucks with troops). These were engaged by our anti-tank guns.

1700: 3rd Cavalry put in a counter-attack which was a failure.

1800 approx: Brig. Lay (6th Indian infantry Brigade Cmdr.) ordered "A" Company Surreys and all troops are available (Battalion H.Q.) to counter-attack and regain the crossroads. This also failed. The troops were ordered to remain on the ground. Lt. J. Quarrell, who seeing an enemy tank, stalked it and was in the act of throwing a grenade into the open turret when he was seen and the enemy opened fire on him with their A/Tank gun, severely wounding him in the arm. He was rescued by R.S.M. Worsfold.

During this counter-attack two deeds should be recorded. 1) Sjt. Harrison of the Carriers showed great bravery and fine example by encouraging all he saw to move forward, he himself completely disregarding any danger (now a prisoner-of-war at Kuala Lumpur). 2) Action of Lt. Quarrell quoted above.

Lt. Wilkinson (M.C.O. 6th Brigade) and R.S.M. Worsfold with C.S.M. Foley and some 10 men remained forward as a standing patrol.

2000: Lt. Wilkinson, hearing movement on the road, challenged, to be met by a volley of fire. He was wounded in the shoulder and later arrived very exhausted at "C" Company H.Q. at 08:00 hours 15-12-41.

2100: Heavy firing took place on both sides of the main road.

2130: The ration party with "D" Company found that they could not return on the road to Gurun, so they had to make a detour through the woods.

2359: Major Dowling held a conference which all Company Commanders attended except O.C. "C" Company and there informed all that a counter-attack was taking place at 0400 hours by "D" Company

see App. 7
Report by
Capt. Carter
"D" Coy.

Dec 14th

Extract from Notes on Malayan Campaign:

Main Party: 0900: Gurun. "D" Company left of road, "B" Company right, "A" & "C" just North of village.

1200: "C" Company to Railway Line east of "B".

Other Parties: 2/Lt. Meyers and part of "R" Company join Battalion

Extract from Diary 1st Leicesters & British Bn.

South to Gurun

Main Party: 1 Coy (Capt. Marshall) 130. 70 from "B" Echelon & Stragglers form 2 Coys, Capt. Marshall & Capt. Bradfield S of Gurun 1900 hrs. Lt.

Patterson & 20 to Yen

Attached Parties: Parties separated from Bn. H.Q: 4 parties of "D"

(including 2 sections of "B") Major Kennedy & 43, Capt. Thompson, Capt.

Burder & 70 approx. stragglers.

BUKIT MERTAJAM

Moves 5 & 6

Dec 15th

0300: Enemy pressure became more severe on the main road. Fight was then with forward troops, enemy breaking through 1/8 Punjabs. "A" Company (what was left) was put in as a stop-gap. It was then that Capt. J.A. Kerrich was killed by a sniper.

0400: Major Dowling went to Brigade to inform them what was happening. In the meantime the enemy had broken through the 1/8th Punjabs and were moving down the main road. No communication existed between the

Bn. H.Q. and any Company at this time. Lt. A.E. Howard, the adjutant, went in the meantime to O.C. "D" Company to give orders to counter-attack, at 0430 hours, the crossroads. This was never carried out as the Artillery Barrage was over before the Company could move, and also the enemy counter-offensive altered things.

see App. 8
for 2/Lt.
Falkner
report.

0500 approx. The enemy attacked and surrounded 6th Brigade H.Q. and Battalion H.Q., killing in Bde. the B.M. B.I.O. Staff Captain, and in Battalion H.Q. it is still uncertain what happened. Capt. Gilbody was wounded in the stomach, and Lt. Martin was wounded in the buttocks. The following Officers were missing after the Gurun battle on the 15th December:-

see App 9
map Gurun
& Kampar

Major Dowling	Commanding Officer
Captain Hill	2nd i/c
Lt. Smith	Signal Officer
Capt. Bradley	Carrier Officer
Lt. Bateman	Mortar Officer ***
2/Lt. Bradford	
2/Lt. Meyers	
Capt. Thomson	Medical Officer
Capt. Hawthorne	Chaplain

*** This officer has since been reported as a prisoner-of-war at Kuala Lumpur.

The following Officers were missing but have since reported back to the unit, having made their way through the jungle and suffered many hardships:-

Capt. Cater	O.C. "D" Company
Lt. Howard	Adjutant
Lt. Bobe	"D" Company
Lt. Bond	"D" Company
2/Lt. Falkiner	"D" Company
2/Lt. Humphries	
2/Lt. Carter	"A" Company

The following Officers were wounded and were evacuated to Hospital:-

(4341)

Capt. Gilbody	O.C. H.Q. Company
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(4342)

Lt. Martin	I.O.
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0700: Meanwhile "D" Company, under Major Andrews (1/8th) were ordered to withdraw round Kedah Peak (Mount Jerai) and make for the coast (West). This withdrawal of 1/8th Punjabs and "D" company opened up the main road, thus enabling the Japanese to surprise Battalion H.Q. and later Brigade H.Q. Also at the same time "B" Company on the left of the road were left completely alone until now, when they were attacked but held their ground, until they found the enemy behind them and withdrew Eastwards to 1st/2nd Gurkhas across the railway about 1210 hours. "C" Company meanwhile, with the 2/16th Regiment at the Railway Station, had no attack at all beyond small patrols. Lieutenant-Colonel Larkin and Capt. Wallis at 1030 hours decided to recce. the position out on the right and South as they had no orders, and the firing was nearly all behind them. 1200: After a reconnaissance Lt. Col. Selby, 1/2 Gurkhas, was contacted, and he ordered 2/16 Punjabs and "C" Company to move down to him 1/2

mile from Gurun railway crossing, and East of it. "C" Company never found 1/2nd Gurkhas, so marched through the rubber estates on the East of the road and railway to Bedong. This force consisted of 94 "C" company men and 23 "B" Company men under Lt Bruckmann.

1600: At Bedong the force then marched along the railway to Sungei Patani, sending Lt.Bruckmann with two men on cycles on the main road. All communications with our own troops had disappeared, and where our new line was no-one knew.. At Bedong the 3/9th Gurkhas were met, who were resting, having been on the march for days. The distance covered by this force was approximately 23 miles.

2200: At Sungei Patani the force arrived and was taken by lorries to Bukit Mertajam to find the Battalion "B" echelon, which it was unable to do.

Dec 15th

Extract from Notes on Malayan Campaign:

Main Party: 0900: Remnants of Bn. H.Q., "A:", "B", and "C" Companies by various routes to Sungei Patani.

Other Parties: "D" Company, under command of Major Andrews, 1/8th Punjabbtto Yen - Tanjong Dawai - Penang.

Lt. Bateman and other small parties lost and finally captured.

Dec 15th

Extract from Diary 1st Leicesters & British Bn.

Gurun

Main Party: 0730: Capt. Bradfield's Coy., Lt. Newland, Lt. Chippington & C/Sgt Dixon to Gurun for counter attacks W of Cross Roads. Coy. scattered.

0930: Withdraw to S. Lallang. 2 Coys. Capt. Marshall, Capt. Green

Attached Party: Lt. Newland & Pl. Kedai Peak & S. Lt. Hart & 60 from S.P.T.

TAIPING

Move 7

Dec 16th

0300: At Sungei saw Maj-Gen Murray-Lyon for the last time. He was replaced.

0930: "C" Company moved by train to Bukit Parritt and later on by train to Taiping arriving at 14:00 hours. In the meantime (on December 15th) Capt Vickers with two platoons of "B" Company withdrew to 1/2 Gurkhas behind Gurun (East). At 18:00 hours he withdrew under Lieutenant-Colonel Selby, marching all night to Sungei Patani, where again he was brought by lorry to Bukit Patani and located "B" Echelon.

1700: Captain Gingell (Q.M.), Captain Vickers, Lts. Bruckmann, Abbott, Barnard, and Carter, and some 150 men with the Battalion M.T. joined forces with Captain Wallis at Taiping, making a total of 260 odd at St. George's School, Taiping.

Thus, 8 days after the commencement of the war the Battalion had used up practically all its first-line reinforcements and had, for the moment, 10 Officers and 260 men, out of a total of 31 Officers and 760 (approx.) men who had gone to war.

Dec 16th -
20th

Extract from Notes on Malayan Campaign:

Main Party: Parties arriving. Remnants of Bn. move to Ipoh to reform with 1/Leicester Regt. Taiping. Small parties arriving at Ipoh.

Dec 16th

Extract from further Leicester's notes

Sungir - Lallang to SPT thence to Sungei Dua. Lt. Newland and platoon rejoin.

Dec 17th **Further Leicester's notes**
Sungei Dua via Bukit Merjatam to Taiping

IPOH

Move 8

Dec 18th **Extract from further Leicester's notes**
Taiping
2000: Leave for Ipoh

Dec 19th **Extract from further Leicester's notes**
Ipoh. From Brit. Batt with E.S.R.

Dec 19th Battalion arrived just after midnight 18/19 December and moved into St Michael's School where 1st Leicestershires arrived about one hour later. The day was spent in resting. Orders were received that the two Battalions were to combine and Lieutenant-Colonel C.E. Morrison M.C. was appointed to command the combined Battalion, which was to be known as "The British Battalion" .

It was decided to have two Leicester and two East Surrey Companies and that H.Q. Coy. and Battalion H.Q. should be half and half. Small parties of Officers and men from various M.R.Cs. and hospitals arrived during the day.

Dec 20th - **Extract from further Leicester's notes**
22nd *Ipoh. "A" & "B" Leicesters, "C" & "D" Surrey, "H.Q." 50-50*

Dec 20th The next three days were spent in rest, re-organisation and re-equipping the Battalion. During this time, Officers and men continued to rejoin from M. R. C. and hospitals, most of whom had left Kedah in native craft after the debacle at Jitra and Gurun. Much attention was given to the men's feet and the Battalion grew gradually into a fit fighting unit.

Eventually the combined Battalion was up to W.E. (790 approximately) and was able to send 120 men to 7 M.R.C. These were mostly men suffering from bad feet.

When all stragglers had arrived, the combined battalion was organised as follows:

THE BRITISH BATTALION

C.O.	Lt. Col. C.E. Morrison, M.C.	Leicesters
2nd i/c	Major Harvey	Leicesters
Adjutant	Major C.O'N. Wallis	E. Surreys
Signal Officer	Capt. G. Roberts	Leicesters
Ass/Adjutant	Lt. P.J. Marley	Leicesters
Pioneers	Lt. G.H. Green	Leicesters
Carriers	Lt. L.P.B. Bingham	E. Surreys
Quartermaster	Capt. W.G. Gingell, M.B.E., M.M.	E. Surreys
Asst. Quartermaster	Lt. J. Greasley	Leicesters

M.T.O.	Capt. L.W.St. McNair	Leicesters (A Echelon)
Asst. M.T.O.	Lt. J.T. Barnard	E. Surreys (B Echelon)
Mortars	Sergeant Perkins	E. Surreys
O.C. H.Q. Coy	Capt. A. Marshall	Leicesters
I.O.	Lt. G. Oldridge	Leicesters
Medical Officer	Capt. A. Roy	R.A.M.C.
Chaplain	Reverend J. Short	R.A.Ch.D.

A Coy (Leicesters)

Capt. F.C.T. Thompson
2/Lt. G.E. Chippington
2/Lt. A.E. Newland

B Coy (Leicesters)

Major I.W. Kennedy
Capt. D.F.B. Ley
2/Lt. G.H. Hart
2/Lt. P.B. Brotchie

C Coy (E. Surreys)

Capt. P.A.O.K. Bruckman
Lt. R.H. Cross
2/Lt. R.J. Randolph
2/Lt. R.I. Cave

D Coy (E. Surreys)

Capt. W.G. Vickers
Lt. S.S. Abbott
2/Lt. J.D. Cartewr
2/Lt. B.H. League

R.S.M. J.T. Meredith
R.Q.M.S. Livermore
Asst./R.Q.M.S. Murdy
B/Mr. E.E. Manley

Leicesters
E. Surreys
Leicesters
E. Surreys

A Coy (Leicesters)

C.S.M. Bates
C.Q.M.S. Barnes

B Coy (Leicesters)

C.S.M. Barlow
C.Q.M.S. Leavesley

C Coy (E. Surreys)

C.S.M. Shemmings
C.Q.M.S. Ives

D Coy (E. Surreys)

C.S.M. Swanson
C.Q.M.S. Bullard

H.Q. Coy

C.S.M. Godbold (Leicesters)

Spare

C.Q.M.S. Vaughan (E.Surreys)

C.Q.M.S. Cahill (E. Surreys)

C.Q.M.S. Hewitt (Leicesters)

Dec. 22nd

During the 20th and 21st the Battalion was treated to a sight of our aircraft for about the only time during the campaign until the arrival at Singapore. These however, were evacuating Ipoh on the 21st, and the Battalion, in the conspicuous red brick school near the railway, was lucky not to be bombed during one of the many visits of enemy aircraft.

The British Battalion was in the combined 6/15 Bde under Brig .Garrett and the same Brigade Staff. The 2/9th Jats,, who were combined with 1/8 Punjabs and the 1/14 Punjabs, formed the other two Battalions of the Brigade.

Orders received for Battalion to move to Kampar the next day. C.O. and Company Commanders to go there for a reconnaissance. Maj. Gen. Sir Lewis Heath, G.O.C. visited Battalion and addressed all Officers and N.C.Os.

Weapons:

As ordnance had not enough Bren guns to make up deficiencies, the Battalion was issued with Lewis and Vickers Machine guns instead, but even then there were not enough for one per section. There were no 2 inch mortars for issue, and the Battalion only had one or two per Company.

There were similarly only four 3 inch mortars. The carrier platoon was brought up to 10 carriers.

Most men were made up with clothing and boots, but all were not complete with equipment.

Dec 23rd

Extract from further Leicester's notes:

Ipoh to Kampar

KAMPAR

Move 9

Dec. 23rd

C.O, Company Commanders and Platoon Commanders left by road early for final reconnaissance. Major Wallis brought the Battalion by rail later in the day.

The Battalion moved into their Company areas at Kampar and Battalion Headquarters was temporarily established in a house on the East of main road.

The Battalion was not then in the front line as the 28th Brigade was in position at Dipang at the road junction to the North, but their role, when pressed, was to fall back Eastwards and then South, down the road that ran parallel to the Kampar Road and some two miles over the mountains to the East of it.

Dec. 24th

From 24th to 30th the Battalion worked hard digging,

clearing and wiring. Enemy planes were over most days, flying low and well able to pick out all section posts. For the first two days, the Perak Volunteers helped in the work, but they were then moved South, leaving behind attached to us, however, one M.G. Platoon (Lt Greatham) and one Infantry Platoon (Lt. Mackey) - all British. Lieutenant Carson, also of the Perak Volunteers, was attached to us as interpreter and did excellent work throughout the rest of the campaign on special reconnaissances.

see App. 10.
Map of Kampar

Hired Chinese labour from the local tin mines was also at first plentiful, but after some bombing and machine-gunning from the air, they all vanished into the hills to the East. Battalion Headquarters moved from a house to a rubber plantation West of the road where it was more central and less of an aiming mark.

Dec 24th - 30th ***Extract from further Leicester's notes***

Kampar. 1/2 mile North of Kampar

Perak Volunteers M.G. Pl. Greatham, Infantry. Mackey, Carson ... attached

Dec. 24th - 30th

During this period, also, numerous reconnaissances were carried out in the hills to the East to find the most likely approaches on that flank. Lieutenant Carson and L/Cpl Cooks (E. Surreys) did most of these.

The hills, though steep and covered with thick jungle, had many paths in them through which the enemy could be guided, and there was always a danger of enemy filtration on this flank. One safeguard, however, were the numerous Chinese refugee encampments, through which Lt. Carson hoped to get early news of any enemy movements.

In spite of various orders and warnings, the whole area was full of Chinese from the mines, and later, when the enemy got nearer, it was impossible for O.Ps. to distinguish one from the other, especially as the Japs had frequently been known to dress up as Chinese.

Dec. 25th

Short service conducted by Rev J Short on one of his flying visits to the Battalion. Free issue of beer obtained by Q.M. and also turkey and local livestock made a good Christmas dinner.

BETWEEN KAMPAH AND BIDOR

Move 10

Dec. 26th

Captains Cater and Howard, and Lt Bobe (all E. Surreys) report, having been missing for some time. Sent to Kuala Lumpur to refit and fall into the hands of Corps H.Q. who keep them.

Dec. 27th

Lieutenant-Colonel Moorehead M.C. of 3/16 Punjabs takes

- over 15th Brigade and moves Bde. H.Q. up into Kampar from some way South. Enemy air activity increases.
- Dec. 29th "D" Company (Capt .Vickers) moves North to bridge south of Dipang and covers 28th Brigade over river and remains there all night.
- Dec. 30th "D" Company remains North all day but withdraws in the evening after a slight contact with enemy.
 Capt. Marshall (Leicesters), Lt. Abbott (E. Surreys) and ILt. Hart (Leicesters) all evacuated - sick.
 During period at Kampar over 100 all ranks were evacuated with malaria as a result of exposure at Jitra.
- Dec 31st ***Extract from further Leicester's notes***
Kampar
- Dec. 31st Enemy aircraft active from dawn, and mortar and artillery fire start to fall on position. Enemy pressure increased during the day, and it was all against "A" Company who had a trying day and received some casualties.
 An aircraft was shot down by small arms fire during the day and was claimed by the Battalion (and all other units in the area).
 The enemy attacks died down in the evening, and the Battalion line remained intact .
 Major Harvey was sent back to Division to recce ... Bde in Sungei area and returned the following evening.