

WAR DIARY
1st/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

April 1940

<p>SHERBORNE 2nd April</p>	<p>0955 Hrs. The battalion left Sherborne in two trains at 0955 hrs and 1125. Reached Southampton at 12:30 hrs and 1400 hrs embarked in S.S. Duke of York which sailed at 1530 hrs and laid up in the Solent. Strength of the battalion was 30 Officers including. M.O. and Padre and 608 O.R's.</p> <p>Attached at Appendix "A" are copies of all orders — 4th K.O.S.B. Relieved the Bn. In Sherborne</p>
<p>SOUTHAMPTON 3rd April</p>	<p>0215 Hrs. The Bn. sailed from the Solent reaching CHERBOURG at 0930 hours. Having disembarked they marched to rest Camp D they march to The station, and entrained at 1600 Hrs. They reached LA HUTTE during the night.</p>
<p>LA HUTTE 4th April</p>	<p>0730 Hrs. The Bn detrained and marched by march route to Billeting area as follows, Bn. H.Q. and H. Company, St-Ouen-de-Mimbré. "A" & "B" Coys. St-Victeur, "C" & "D" Companies, Paice.</p>
<p>St QUEN DE MIMBRE 5th April</p>	<p>0700 Hrs. Captain A.U. Clark, The French liaison officer attached and 13 O.R's. Left the Divisional Assembly area for the Div. Concentration area.</p>
<p>7th April</p>	<p>1900 Hrs. Lt. CJ. Dawkins and 2/Lt H. Judge left the Bn. and were posted to No. 2 Infantry Base Depot.</p>
<p>8th April</p>	<p>0545 Hrs. The battalion Road party, consisting of six officers and 98 O.R's. Left the Divisional Assembly area for the Divisional Concentration area.</p>
<p>LA HUTTE 9th April</p>	<p>1845 Hrs. The battalion entrained for Move to Divisional Concentration area. AIRAINES.</p>
<p>AIRAINES 10th April</p>	<p>1410 Hrs. The battalion. Detrained and move by march route to Bullets area as follows. Battalion H.Q. and H. Company, WARLUS. "A" & "B" Companies Camps. "C" Company MONTAGNE. "D" Company DREUIL.</p>
<p>10th April</p>	<p>0930 Hrs. The commanding officer accompanied by 2/ Lt. R.F.H. Cowen and two O.R's left for the LILLE. Area.</p>
<p>11th April</p>	<p>0615 Hrs. The Bn. Advanced Party, consisting of Capt. A.U. Clark, 2/Lt. B.G.C. Hunt and 13 O.R's left for the LILLE area.</p> <p>2130 Hrs. The commanding officer, 2/Lt. R.F.H. Cowen, 2 O.R's and the battalion advanced party returned from the Lille area.</p> <p>1955 Hrs. Orders were received for the Bn. to be at six hrs. notice to move.</p>

14th April	1500 Hrs. Billeting party consisting of Major the Lord Sysonby the French liaison officer 1 Officer per company and 9 O.R's Left for RUBEMPRE.
WARLUS 15th April	0600 hrs. Battalion left by march route For. RUBEMPRE arriving at approximately 1630 hours. The distance covered by "A" & "B" companies was 27 miles. Billeted at CAMPS. There was a halt when tea was issued for 1½ hours just before crossing river SOMME. 0700 hrs. An advance party of Captain J. Dewsnap and four O.R's left for EST AIRES, H.Q. of 51 Div.
16th April	0600 hrs. Battalion left by march route for BONNIERES arriving at approximately 1600 hours, the distance covered was 21 miles. There was a halt for one hour North of DOULLENS. The billeting party of the same strength as on 14th April left immediately before the battalion.
17th April	0800 hrs. Battalion left by march route for BAILLEUL-LES-PERNES arriving at approximately 1730 hrs. the distance covered was 22 V1 miles. The divisional commander, Major General E.A. Osborne having marched for an hour at the head of the battalion took a Salute just before reaching ST POL. Immediately after passing this town there was an hour halt for tea. The Brigade commander Brigadier J.E. Utterson Kelso, having marched for two hours at the head of the battalion watched all companies march in and expressed himself satisfied with the manner in which the men marched and with the number who completed the March. He especially congratulated "C" Coy Major Clarks Company. The total distance covered in the three days was 70 ½ miles.
BAILLEUL-LES-PERNES 19th April	0845 hrs. The Commanding Officer, Major A.E. Clarke, Capt. J. Dewsnap and 2/Lt. B.G.C. Hunt left to report to 4th Black Watch at LA CRECHE to carry out a recce of position. posts. Frontier posts. Billeting party consisting of Capt. J. Dewsnap, one officer per A, B, D & H Companies and 10 O.R's left for LA CRECHE. 0900 hrs. Orders received for the battalion to be at 6 hours' notice to march was withdrawn. All ranks of C Coy. Under command of Major RE. Clark preceded by M.T. to LA CRECHE to take. Certain Control duties from 4th Black Watch.
22nd April	1030 hrs. Bn. left by M.T. for LA CRECHE arriving at approximately 1230 hrs LA CRECHE.
LA CRECHE 24th April	1330 hrs A draft of 60 O.R's from No. 2 I.B.D. joined the Bn.
25th April	0900 hrs. CSM Keen and 3 Sergeants were dispatched to No. 2 I.B.D. as 15' Reinforcements being surplus to establishment.

	H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester visited the Bn.
26th April	Capt. J.W.E. Blanch left the Bn. and was posted to command 131 Inf. Bde. A/T k. Coy.
30th April	1140 hrs. Air Raid warning received from Bde. 1215 hrs. "Raiders Pest" warning received from Bde. 2359 hrs. Strength of the Bn. 28 Officers, 740 O.R's