

WAR DIARY
1/6th Battalion the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)
C.O. Lt. Colonel I.T.P. Hughes, DSO, M.C.

APRIL 1940

YEOVIL 7 N.C.O's and 22 other ranks were posted to I.T.C. The Queens Royal regiment
1st April

ON THE MOVE The Battalion entrained and left YEOVIL in two trains at 0655 and 0710 hrs.
2nd April respectively. Arriving at Southampton at 0930 hrs. The Battalion then embarked in H.M.T. Archangel and left Southampton at 1200 hrs.. For the remainder of the day, the ship was laid up in the road.

ON THE MOVE At 0200 hrs. the ship moved off and arrived at Cherbourg at 0700 hrs.
3rd April The Battalion entrained and left Cherbourg at 1200 hrs. arriving at Segrie-Vernie at 2215 hrs.

The Battalion then proceeded to billets in various villages with Battalion headquarters at Neuvillalais, H.Q. and C Coy. at Neuvillalais B Coy at Vernia A and D Coys at Mezieres.

This Battalion is the first Battalion of the Queen's Royal Regiment to land in France during the war.

NEUVILLALAIS Information was received that the advance party, consisting of Captain E.S. Bingham, M.C. and six other ranks would be proceeding on the 5th of April 1940.

NEUVILLALAIS The advance party left by Rd.
5th April Move instructions number three were issued to all concerned.

NEUVILLALAIS Captain G.N. James relinquished the duties of messing officer and was posted
6th April to C Coy.

NEUVILLALAIS Lt. C.F. Greenwood and 2/Lt LS. Standing proceeded to I.B.D. The Transport
7th April Billeting Party, consisting of 2/Lt. G Girdwood and two other ranks proceeded by road. All transport was loaded in preparation for the road move.

NEUVILLALAIS The road party left at 0700 hrs.. The party consisted of 2/ Lt. R.M. Caton and
8th April 118 other ranks. The party spent the night 8-9 April at Evreux and arrived at Molliens Vidame at 1600 hrs., 9 April.

NEUVILLALAIS The Commanding Officer and two other ranks proceeded by car leaving at
9th April 0730 hrs. The Rail party, consisting of 23 officers and 592 other ranks, left Neuvillalais at 1415 hrs. and marched to Sille le Guillaume where they entrained at 1900 hrs the train left at 2130 hrs.

NEUVILLALAIS

10th April

At 0730 hrs. the train stopped at Rouen and tea was issued. The train arrived at Amiens at 1400 hrs. where the Carriers were detained. From there they were taken by road to Molliens Vidame. The remainder of the Battalion detained at Ailly Sur Somme at 1515 hrs. and marched to their respective billets. Battalion Headquarters and H.Q. Coy. being at Molliens Vidame, A & B Coys. at Oissy, C Coy. at Cavillon and D Coy. at Riencourt.

The Rear Party consisting of Captain A.R. Trench and 2 other ranks left Neuvillalais by road at 0630 hrs. and arrived at Molliens Vidame at 1700 hrs. The Commanding Officer, Captain E.S. Bingham M.C. and 2 other ranks left Molliens Vidame at 1000 hrs. with instructions to report to the Brigade Commander at H.Q. 15th Infantry Brigade at Perenchies. From there the Party proceeded to H.Q. 1st Bn. The Green Howards at Armentieres.

MOLLIENS VIDAME

11th April

The Commanding Officer and party received orders to report to H.Q. 2nd Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers at Commines. The advance party consisting of 2 officers and 10 other ranks proceeded to Commines to join the Commanding Officer, leaving Molliens Vidame at 0700 hrs. At 1500 hrs. the Commanding Officers received orders that he and the whole party were to return at once to Molliens Vidame.

At 1000 hrs. orders were received that Coy. Commanders and Signal Officer were to proceed to Commines at 0700 hrs. 12 April 1940. At 1930 hrs. this order was cancelled and the Bn. was told to be prepared for a 6 hour notice to move.

All trucks were loaded in preparation for a possible move.

MOLLIENS VIDAME

12th April

No further information was received re a possible move. E.N.S.A. concert at Amiens was attended by certain officers and other ranks.

MOLLIENS VIDAME

13th April

Promotions — Captain (A/ Major) J.V. Godfrey to be Temp. Major 18 Jan 40. Lieut. (A/Captain) A.R. Trench to be Temp. Captain 1 Dec. 39. Lieut. (A/Captain) P.E. Trench to be Temp. Captain 28 Jan 40. Information was received at 1930 hrs. that the Battalion would be moving on 15 Apr. 1940.

MOLLIENS VIDAME

14th April

The Advance Party consisting of Captain G.N. James and 6 O.Rs. proceeded by road. Move Orders were issued verbally to all Coy. Commanders. H.O. Coy. moved to Cavillon in preparation for the move of the Battalion.

ON THE MOVE

15th April

The Battalion left Cavillon at 0730 hrs. and marched to Flesselles where there was a halt for dinners. The march was continued and the Battalion arrived at Villers Bocage at 1500 hrs. The road party left Molliens Vidame at 1000 hrs. and arrive Villers Bocage 1200 hrs.

- ON THE MOVE**
16th April
- The Battalion left Villers Bocage at 0710 hrs. and marched to Doullens where there was a stop for dinners. The march was continued and the Battalion arrived at Villiers L'Hopital at 1615 hrs. The whole Battalion was billeted in the village for the night.
A Echelon transport left at 1200 hrs. under 2 i.c. and arrived at 1630 hrs.
B Echelon transport left at 1400 hrs. under 2/Lt. G. Girdwood and arrived 1800 hrs.
- ON THE MOVE**
17th April
- The Battalion left Villiers L'Hopital at 0730 hrs. and marched to St Pol where there was a stop for dinners. The march was continued and the Battalion arrived at Tangry at 1645 hrs. Battalion H.Q. and H.Q. Coy. stopped there and went to Billets. A and B Coys. proceeded to Sains and C and D Coy. Sachens. The Battalion had completed 63 miles in three days and reached its destination in splendid condition.
A echelon transport left at 1500 hrs. and arrived at Tangry at 1730 hrs.
B Echelon transport left at 1500 hrs. and arrived at 1800 hrs.
All transport moves were completed without a casualty.
- TANGRY**
18th April
- The day was spent in resting after the three days march.
One other rank was struck off the strength of the Battalion.
- TANGRY**
19th April
- The Commanding Officer and three Officers proceeded to H.Q. 1st Battalion, the Gordon Highlanders at Steenwercke returning the same day. Three other ranks were struck off the strength of the Battalion.
- TANGRY**
20th April
- All Coy. Commanders 5.O., and I.O. Proceeded to Steenwercke on a reconnaissance returning same day.
A draught of 28 other ranks joined the Battalion from I.B.D. and were posted as follows:- A Coy. 12, B Coy. 11, C Coy. 5.
Promotions. 2/Lt. H.W. Mingard promoted A/Captain with effect from 31 Mar.
- TANGRY**
21st April
- One Officer per Coy. and I.O. proceeded Steenwercke to take over billets and stores from 1st Battalion the Gordon Highlanders.
44 all ranks of D Coy. preceded by troop carriers to Steenwercke to take over the frontier position from 1st Battalion the Gordon Highlanders. The position was taken over at 1900 hrs..
- ON THE MOVE**
22nd April
- The Battalion debussed and left Tangry at 1115 hrs.. Both A and B Echelon transport followed the troop carriers and the convoy arrived at Steenwercke at 1315 hrs. Companies, debussed and preceded to billets. The remainder of D Coy. going up to join their advanced party on the frontier.
- STEENWERCKE**
23rd April
- The Commanding Officer took all Officers round the frontier position held by the Battalion.

- STEENWERCKE**
24th April
A draught of 25 other ranks joined the Battalion from I.B.D. and were posted as follows:- H.Q. Coy. 15, A Coy. 2, B Coy. 4, C Coy. 1. D Coy. 3.
Promotions. 2/Lts. to be War Substantive Lieuts. 25th March 40. 2/Lt. R.M. Caton, G.J.H.D. Collins, and C.A. Walmsley.
Lieut. D.J.H.D. Collins proceeded to 2 Corps Junior leaders school to join the staff of instructors. He was struck off the strength of the Battalion.
One private was posted to 2 Corps Junior Leaders school.
- STEENWERCKE**
25th April
Major General HRH The Duke of Gloucester, K.G., K.T. C.G.M.G., G.C.V.O., visited Battalion headquarters.
- STEENWERCKE**
26th April
A quiet day, nothing of Importance to record.
- STEENWERCKE**
27th April
Two other ranks rejoined the Battalion
- STEENWERCKE**
28th April
Church service for H.Q., B, & C Coys. was held in the square outside La Mairie Steenwercke.
- STEENWERCKE**
29th April
Promotions. A/Lieut. Col. I.T.P. Hughes M.C. to be T/Lieut. Col. 10th of February 1940. 4 other ranks were struck off the strength of the battalion.
- STEENWERCKE**
30th April
Air Aid Air Raid warning was given a 1200 hrs. with the all clear at 12:30 hrs.