

## 1/6th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary May 1944

MAY 1944

- 1st May. Area KINGS LYNN, 076385.  
0900 hrs. B Coy and the Mortar Pln. Moved to HILLINGTON taking the place of A Coy and the A/Tk. Pln. Who returned to KINGS LYNN.
- 3rd May. The Bn. spent the day preparing for the Bde. Comdrs. Inspection which was to take place on the following day.
- 4th May. 0930 hrs. The Bn. paraded as if ready to move for inspection by Bde. Comdr. (Brig. M.S. EKINS).  
The inspection began with B Coy and then A, C, & D Coys.  
1330 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. Inspected the Bn. transport including "A" vehicles.  
1530 hrs. The Inspection finished and the transport dispersed.
- 8th May. 0530 hrs. The Bn. advance party moved off to the new area. The party consisted of the I.O. 2i/c's Coys and signal stores and ammunition 3 tonners.  
Note, The convoy moved south where they met at West Ham Stadium where they stayed the night before starting to prepare the vehicles for waterproofing.
- 9th May. 0810 hrs. The Bn. First Flight moved off. It comprised of A, B, C & D Coys, Carriers, Mortar and A/Tk. Plns. And all their vehicles together with Main HQ.  
The vehicles moved by rd. the "Marching Troops" by train.  
BRENTWOOD M 0413. 1530 hrs. The "Marching Troops" arrived at the marshalling area at BRENTWOOD in camp S5.
- 10th May. 0900 hrs. KINGS LYNN.  
The remainder of the Bn. (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> flights) moved to the area of DIDDLINGTON 2316.  
1100 hrs. "R" Coy moved to an R.M.U. at ALDERSHOT.
- 10th May. BRENTWOOD 0413. The Bn. spent the day improving amenities and settling in. half the Bn. were allowed into BRENTWOOD from 1200 hrs. until 2259 hrs.
- 11th May. The initial stages of vehicle waterproofing were started.
- 12th May. The R.M.O. (Capt. J. PRETSELL) attended an investiture at BUCKINGHAM PALACE where he was invested with the M.C. awarded during operations in ITALY.
- 20th May. 1000. The Div. Comdr. (Maj. Gen. G.W.E.J. ERSKINE CB, DSO) visited the Bn. and inspected vehicle waterproofing.
- 22nd May. 0900 hrs. the Bde. Comdr. (Brig. M.S. EKINS) gave a lecture to the Bn. N.C.O's on future operations.
- 26th May. 0200 hrs. The camp was "sealed" no one being allowed in or out of the camp.

28th May. 1100 hrs. The nonessentials of the First Flight which had so far been kept with the Flight were sent back with the non-essential transport to the Bn. residue at DIDLINGTON.

28th May. 1100 hrs. A Bn. Church Parade was held in the Bn. Lines.  
1200 hrs. Orders were received that the Bn. transport would move to its pre – marshaling area on Monday 29th May 44.

29th May. 1145 Hrs. The transport from the Bn. move to its pre- marshaling area under HQ Coy Comdr. (Maj. J. TACK).  
1200 hrs. All senior officers & Coy Comdrs. were briefed by the G.O.C. (Maj. Gen. G.W.E.J. ERSKINE CB, DSO).  
1400 hrs. The junior officers were briefed.

31st May. 1400 hrs. The transport party returned, all the Bn. transport having been loaded into our M.T. ship.

Lt. Col. M. Forrester DSO, MC.  
Comdg.  
1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regt.

31/5/1944.