

2nd/6th BATTALION EAST SURREY REGIMENT

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Appendix

April RICHMOND

- Apr 1st 1 OR departed to 37 Infantry Brigade. Struck off strength w.e.f. 5 Jan 40. Major Adams departed for S.A. School, Hythe. Ceremonial parade held on Battalion parade ground. Salute taken by Col A.P. Drayson OBE TD DL, (honorary colonel of regiment).
- Apr 2nd 1 OR discharged under para 383 (xvi) (a) K.R. (Records letter 18 Mar 40).
- Apr 3rd A TEWT for officers and NCOs held under Battalion arrangements. BM attended. CO attended Battalion commanders' conference at Brigade HQ. 1 OR reported from HQ. 36th Infantry Brigade. Taken on strength.
- Apr 4th Orders for Advance Party received. Also instructions on the disposal of the under 19s. 1 OR reported from HQ 36 Infantry Brigade. Taken on strength.
- Apr 5th Officers and NCOs attended a demonstration of dugouts etc. at Chatham. Major Adams returned from S.A. School, Hythe.
- Apr 6th Ceremonial parade held at East Surrey ITC. Salute taken by Gen Sir Richard Foster KCB CMG DSO supported by Major-General Sir John Longley KCMG CB.
- Apr 8th CO informed under 19s of 12 Division Infantry Details. Advance party left for BEF under the command of Capt. N.F. Tannock. 15 ORs interviewed by board, consisting of Major D.G. Adams, Major H.E.P. Spearing and Major J.E. Edwards, for classification in order of merit as potential officers.
- Apr 9th Ceremonial parade on Richmond Green. Commander 37 Infantry Brigade inspected Battalion and took salute.
1245: Move Order dates received from Movement Control.
1440: 1 WO, 4 ORs left for 282 Battery RA, Ivy Arch Lane, Worthing. Attached to 12 Division Infantry Detail and temporarily struck off Battalion w.e.f. 13 April 40. (12 division AQ4 of 8 Apr 40).
- Apr 10th T/Major F.H.S. Palmer relinquishes second in command w.e.f. 11 Mar 40. T/Major F.H.S. Palmer relinquishes rank of T/Major w.e.f. 11 Mar 40. Major D.G. Adams appointed second-in-command w.e.f. 11 Mar 40 (Appendix to 12 Div Orders of 6 Apr 40, Serial No 28.)
2/Lt. J.C. Kenworthy reported for duty from Surrey ITC (CS 446 (AG 2) (o). Taken on strength.
- Apr 11th Capt. G.B. Shaw departed for 12 Division Infantry Details, Durrington-on-Sea. Temporarily struck off strength of Battalion
- Apr 12th 1405: the following departed for 12 Division Infantry details, Durrington-on-Sea: 2/Lt. J.W. Owens, 2/Lt. M.W. Wilkes, 2/Lt. H.A. Tyler, 2/Lt. J.C. Kenworthy; temporarily struck off strength of Battalion 1 WO, 133 ORs temporarily struck off strength of Battalion (12/Div/AQ4 on 8 April 40). Capt. F.H.S. Palmer posted to ITC, East Surrey Regiment w.e.f. 1 Apr 40. (WO telegram BR780(AG2(o) of 7 Apr 40). 2/Lt. P.J. Nye transferred from "B" Company to "C" Company. 1 OR reported from 308 ITC Devizes. Taken on strength.
- Apr 13th 1WO, 28 ORs transferred to ITC East Surrey Regiment. Struck off strength of

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Battalion (12Div/AQ2 of 30 Mar 40).

- Apr 14th 0730: Road party left for BEF under the command of T.O., 2/Lt. P.C. Kimmerling. As O.O.No 1.
- Apr 15th 1530: 124 ORs arrived from ITC, East Surrey Reg't. Taken on strength.
- Apr 16th 1 OR transferred to ITC, East Surrey Reg't. Struck off strength of Battalion
- Apr 17th O.O. No 20 issued. Copy attached. 1 OR discharged under para 383 (xvi)(b) KR. (Records letter dated 21 Mar 40. 1 OR struck off strength (UPT CREC No C/30757 (A1) of 12 Apr 40).
- Apr 18th Commander 37 Infantry Brigade visited Battalion HQ. Inspected candidates for OCTU. Capt. G.L.A. Squire departed for Military Administration Course No 3 and will report to 12 Division Infantry Details on 11 May 40. Temporarily struck off strength of Battalion 1 OR reported from ITC, East Surrey Reg't. Taken on strength.
- Apr 19th 2/Lt. P.J. Nye departed for 12 Division Infantry Details and will attend Divisional School of Instruction 29 Apr 40 to 10 May 40. Temporarily struck off strength of Battalion
- Apr 20th 1 WO, APTS instructor posted to 1st Training Battalion RE. Ceases to be attached to Battalion (CREC 49116 /G (PT) of 16 Apr 40. 9 ORs attached to 12 Division Infantry Details. Temporarily struck off strength of Battalion (Authority: 12 Division AQ4 of 8 Apr 40.).
1700: Battalion HQ at Pembroke Lodge closed down; reopened at same time at Richmond Drill Hall.
- Apr 21st Weather: bright; Temperature: mild. 1 OR reported from 36 Infantry Brigade; taken on strength. Orderly room Sergeant attached to Infantry Records Section, GHQ, 2nd Echelon. Battalion entrained at Richmond for the purpose of proceeding to join the BEF Details as per O.O.2.
0919: 1st train party left, consisting of "A", "B" and "C" Companies: Major D.G. Adams, accompanied by the IO.
1200: Battalion HQ closed at Richmond Drill Hall.
1219: Battalion 2nd train party left, consisting of Battalion HQ, "D" and HQ Companies. OC train: CO.
1220: First train party arrived at Southampton.
1455: Second train party arrived at Southampton. Embarkation strength: 22 officers, 11 WO ares, 20 Staff Sergeants and Sergeants, 546 rank and file. Total 631.
1535: Depart from Southampton S.S. "Ulster Prince", carrying: 2/6 Surreys, Field Park Company, 23rd Division HQ, 23rd Division Postal Unit, 23rd Division Employment Platoon. Total: 33 officers, 966 ORs. O.C. troops: Lieutenant-Colonel H.S. Burgess TD.

LE HAVRE

- Apr 22nd 0800: Battalion disembarked at Le Havre. Met by O. i/c Advance Party, Capt. N.F. Tannock. After meal at the docks Battalion preceded by road to Chateau d'Eprenesnil, near Fontaine La Mallet: about 6 km north of Le Havre; ref sheet 4 Havre – Amiens pt L 5431. Weather: bright; Temperature: humid.

CHATEAU D'EPREMESNIL

1100: Battalion HQ set up at Chateau d'Eprenesnil. Large well-built building, about 80 years old. Fine, high position; surrounded by wooded country giving good cover from ground and air. Officers' quarters on first and second floors; Battalion HQ ORs on third-floor, 24 rooms in use as quarters. Ground floor for administrative offices and officers' mess. "A", "B", "C" and "D" Companies in tents in the Chateau grounds. Cookhouse in barn at rear of Château; messing in marquees at rear of Chateau. Sketch map attached giving positions. Approximate area of grounds: 30 ha. Nature of ground: 6" inch rich soil, clay subsoil Brigade HQ: Chateau la Grande Heuze, near Bellencombe. MO inspected water supply. Water at Château fit for neither washing nor drinking. To be brought from village source and chlorinated. Letter from DCRE, Le Havre. Will fit up our lorries as water carriers. (Ref: DCRE 87). Letter from Havre garrison: code word for Havre Garrison. Also copy 54 of O.O. No 1 and Part B.

1600: CO visited Commandant of Le Havre Garrison at HQ, Hotel Frascati, Le Havre. 3 ORs transferred to HQ 12 Div.; struck off strength of Battalion 2 ORs admitted to hospital; struck off strength of Battalion

RICHMOND

2/Lt H.J. West attached to 12 Division Infantry Details for all purposes; temporarily struck off strength of Battalion.

CHATEAU D'EPREMESNIL

Apr 23rd Weather: bright, rain from 1600 hours through night; temperature: humid.
0015: air raid warning sounded.
0100: all clear signal sounded.
Letter from DAQMG, Le Havre: 1 NCO, 10 men to report to 11th Gen Hospital Casino. (Ref: HG/12). Letter from 37 Infantry Brigade: DRLS2 commence 23 April 40. Rest: 37/1/G. Letter from 37 in Brigade: Battalion allotted one agent from French Mission. Ref: 37/2/G.
1700: Officer of Field Hygiene Company visited Chateau re. water problem. Arrangements made for two 300 gallon cask to be used in transporting water from village source.
1930: The following message received from 37 Inf. Brigade: two German parachutists landed between Amiens and Arras. British car stolen number unknown. Men very young. Wearing British officers' uniform. Detain if seen. Information circulated throughout Battalion. 1 OR admitted to hospital; struck off strength of the Battalion.

Apr 24th Weather: wet, ground muddy; conditions in tents bad; temperature: humid.
Letter from SC 37 Inf. Brigade: ref 37/FL/AQ: 12 Div. Employment Platoon, 2/6 Surreys to find 10 rank and file for first month. Letter from BM 37 Inf. Brigade: ref. 37/FI/G. Wearing of respirators not necessary unless an emergency arises; not to be published in orders.
0925: CO, Adjutant, OC "C" Company, TO and 1 OR (I, section) made a recce of area of duties to be taken over by "C" Company at Fecamp and Les Ifs.
1000: Major Blewitt telephoned on behalf of ADMS. Motor ambulance belonging to 4 L of C Motor Company detailed for our use. Attached to us but stationed in Foret de Montegoon; will report to us daily at a time to be fixed by MO. Whole place a sea of mud; men's boots not dry for last 10 days. Repairs impossible owing to the state of boots; no spares

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whatsoever.

1420: Commander 37 Inf., Brigade visited Battalion HQ.

Apr 25th Weather: Unsettled, bright periods; temperature: mild; ground still very muddy. Letter from B.M. 37 Infantry Brigade: ref. 37/5/G.: Allocation of duties: 2/6 Surreys at Le Havre. From BM 37 Inf. Brigade: ref 37/F3/G: location statement, 12 division. Letter from DAAG. 12 Division: Drunken men to be invariably taken into custody.
1013: CO, Adjutant, OC "D" Company and 1 OR (I Section) made a recce of the area of duties to be taken over by "D" Company at Bolbec. Inspected Field Bakery and visited D.I.D.: decided that Company HQ would probably be set up at the latter.
1615: Commander L of C Northern District visited Battalion HQ. OO No 3 issued; copy attached. P A D scheme prepared and put into operation; copy attached.
1734: The following message received from 37 Inf. Brigade: ref m/s O 62 dated 23 Apr 40. Vigilance may now cease.
2015: OR reported discovery of pieces of army greatcoat found under bushes, about 2000 yards SE of Battalion HQ.
2115: Matter reported to Havre Garrison; copy of report attached.
2345: Air raid warning sounded. Defence posts manned; mobile column stood to.

Apr 26th 0055: All clear signal sounded. Weather: Dull, rain during the morning; temperature: mild.
Letter from SC 37 Inf. Brigade: re Brigade Orders No 2: Serial numbers to be removed from old transport, kit etc. Letter from BM 37 Inf. Brigade: re 37/F2/G.: All AA activity to be reported to Brigade HQ immediately.
0945: OR from FSP reported at Battalion HQ to inspect clothing found in bushes. 10 ORs detached from Battalion to 12 Division Employment Platoon for all purposes.
1450: CO, Adjutant, IO, TO and 1 OR (I Section) located aerodrome ref Sheet 4 Havre - Arras L4731; made recce on surrounding country. Report attached.

Apr 27th 0812: Weather: unsettled, bright periods; temperature: mild. Mud beginning to dry.
0812: "C" Company moved from Battalion HQ to take up duties at Fecamp and Les Ifs. Marching out strength: 2 officers, 109 ORs including 1 OR attached from I Section
Boot question acute. 600 pairs of good boots handed in prior to Battalion's departure to this country, and now authority received to draw 20%.
0932: "C" Company arrived at Fecamp Took over billets at "Patronage et cercle – St Louis de Gonzague. Messing hall - 1st floor; men's quarters - 2nd and 3rd floors. Messing temporarily with 6 Company 2 Stevedores RE: cookhouse being built in grounds. Officers temporary billeted in tent in billet grounds; hut being built by RE.
1130: GOC 12 Division visited Battalion HQ.
Air Defence Officer, HG, visited Battalion HQ. Given the necessary information re. Battalion defence scheme; four posts prepared in chateau grounds during the week, positions shown on the attached sketch map. Strength return of officers and ORs forwarded to 2nd Echelon; copy attached.

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Apr 28th

Weather: dull; temperature: cold. Letter from General Staff; ref. 12/26/G: Enemy aircraft not to be engaged by LMGs unless within effective range. Copy No 1 of Defence Scheme from 37 Inf. Brigade. From GHQ: ref. GHQ No 9: Notes on German air operations in Poland. From 12 Division: PAD scheme. Also copy No 70 - Prisoners of War.

1115: CO, Adjutant, 2i/c, IO, TO and OC "A" Company visited the Mayor, Fontaine la Mallet, to obtain permission to train in the vicinity; Made a recce of Foret de Montegéon, including Hippodrome du Havre for likely training grounds.

1215: Liaison Officer Pierre Leveque reported for duty from 12 Division. DCRE, HG, visited the Battalion HQ for queries.

1600: OC "C" Company assumed command of troops, Fecamp, vice Major J. MacAllister. Detachments and duties as follows:-

No 3 Dock Group RE	1 Officer 22 ORs	General dock engineering
6 Coy. Stevedore Bn RE	2 officers 131 ORs	Unloading and discharging of cargo. (ammo)
RAOC	1 officer 24 ORs	Checking amm. unloaded.
HLI	1 officer 30 ORs	No specific duty; moving away shortly.
CMP	5 ORs	Garrison Police.
NAAFI	3 ORs	Small canteen near "C" Coy billets.

Apr 29th

Weather: dull, range from 1300 hours through the night; temperature: falling, rather cold. Duties for 14 days detailed as follows: Platoon Training: "A" Company; training program attached. Duties, Havre Garrison: "B" Company; duties, Fecamp: "C" Company; Duties, Bolbec: "D" Company.

0951: "D" Company moved from Battalion HQ to take up duties at Bolbec. Marching out strength: 4 officers and 99 ORs, including 1 OR attached from I Section.

1122: "D" Company convoy arrived at Bolbec.

1140: Convoy split into two parties: One for DID, the other for Field Bakery.

1145: "D" Company HQ set up at billets 19 Rue du Vallot, Bolbec. House of 6 rooms: Officers and WOs quarters on 1st floor; men quartered in attic. On ground floor: Company office, men's mess and ablution benches. 10 minutes walk to town and Field Bakery. 2 ORs admitted to hospital; struck of strength of Battalion.

1500: Battalion fire orders issued. Copy attached.

CO, IO, and TO visited Hiring Officer, Capt. Watkins, regarding training & digging areas; left letter stating would like use of all pasture land in sheet 4 Havre - Amiens square L 53; also field SE Chateau. To send copy of letter to Town major.

1600: OC "D" Company reminded that soldiers must not work with detention prisoners; party at DID to be transferred to Field Bakery.

Apr 30th

Weather: wet, bright periods at intervals after 1100 hours; condition of ground: waterlogged; temperature: rather cold.

1030: Commander 37th Infantry Brigade visited Battalion HQ with Lt. Evans (Brigade TO) and Lt. Charley (Brigade Liaison Officer). Town Major called at Battalion HQ regarding training and digging areas. Gave permission for all pasture land including the Foret de Montegéon to be used for training as long as crops were not damaged. AndWill make arrangements for digging grounds.

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1459: CO, Adjutant, and 1 OR (I section) made a further recce of the aerodrome between Bleville and Octeville ref. sheet 4 Havre - Amiens pt L4731. Arranged to meet Commandant du Group Risachers and Commandant de la Compagnie de l'Air Juguers at 1000 hrs 2 May 40.

ROUELLES NEAR LE HAVRE

Apr 22nd - May 15th Battalion situated as follows; Battalion HQ and "B" Company at Rouelles. "A" Company at Froberville. "C" Company at Bolbec. "D" Company at Fecamp and Les Iles. During this period the local defence of Le Havre was in the hands of the French and under the command of Admiral de Villaine. Lieutenant-Colonel Burgess was instructed by the OC Le Havre to make all liaison arrangements with the French Navy, Army and Air Force and to coordinate the whole local defence scheme. One company from the Battalion was to be held in readiness at all times to act as a mobile column. A warning was received that the Battalion had been selected to join the Saar Force.