

## 2nd/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1940

Appendix

### July HALTWHISTLE

- Jul 1st 1 OR. of this Unit evacuated to the U.K. reported from No. 5 I.B.D. Taken on strength.
- Jul 2nd 1200: Bn. moved to new camp ¼ mile West of old one.
- Jul 3rd Lt. J.A. McKenzie R.A.M.C. reported to this Bn. as M.O. Taken on strength.  
2015: 2/Lt. J.H. West reported to this Bn. from 12 Div. Details, Redhill. Taken on strength.  
Lt. G.C.K. Reid R.A.M.C. reported to this Bn. as M.O. vice Lt. J.A. McKenzie. Taken on strength.
- Jul 4th 1940: Capt. J.A. Dixon of 1/6 Surreys and 2/Lt. Mitchell of 1 Surreys acting as escorting officer reported to this Bn. with 1`30 ORs. from the 50 Holding Bn. The East Surrey Regt. ORs. taken on strength.  
Capt. J.W. Hicks, with 22 ORs. as reinforcements and 44 ORs. of this Unit evacuated to the U.K. reported from the I.T.C. Kingston. Taken on strength.
- Jul 5th Lt. J.A. McKenzie R.A.M.C. under instructions from the A.D.M.S. left this Unit. Struck off Bn. strength.
- Jul 6th 0530: 37 Inf. Bde. defence scheme received. Object: To assist L.D.V. in preventing operations by enemy parachute troops, and to prevent the occupation of the Bde. camp by enemy troops. Bn. to be held in reserve to carry out active operations. One Pl. of not less than 1 Offr. and 30 ORs. at 10 minutes notice to move.
- Jul 7th 1830: Unit issued with 20 Bren L.M.Gs., 12 A/Tk rifles, 16 Sig. pistols, and 1 Thompson Sub-Machine gun.
- Jul 8th 1945: Warning Order for move received from 37 Inf. Bde. Bn. to be prepared to move to Norwich. Advance party of 1 Offr. and 6 N.C.Os. (W.Os. or Sgts.) to be ready to move at 10 minutes notice.  
1500: Message received from 37 Inf. Bde. "No move today, probable time for move 0625 hrs tomorrow".  
1600: Orders received from 37 Inf. Bde. for advance party of 1 Offr. and 2 ORs. to leave for Norwich at 1700 hrs. Bn. to move at 1810 hrs 9 Jul 40.  
1700: Advance party left for Norwich.  
1940: 2 ORs. of this Unit evacuated to the U.K. reported to Bn. Taken on strength.  
20000: C.O. held conference and issued move orders. Bn. to come under O.O. of 2nd Corps H.Q., Cambridge. Units responsible for own A.A. defence during move.
- Jul 9th 0845: Bn. entrained and moved off. Destination changed from Norwich to Swaffham.

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1940

Appendix

### SWAFFHAM

1945: Bn. arrived. H.Q. established at Drill Hall. Bn. under direct O.O. of West Norfolk Sub Area.

2000: C.O. departed with Comd. 37 Inf. Bde. to Cambridge for conference. Received orders to relieve troops of the 52 Div., acting as static ground defence for aerodromes in the West Norfolk Sub Area in order to release 52 Div. for duties as Mobile Force.

Jul 10th 1000: C.O. and staff left for recce of aerodromes and posns. Bn. ordered to relieve. Found all fixed posts held by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> R. Norfolks, 53 Bde., 18 Div. Visited 7/9 R. Scots 155 Bde., 52 Div. Informed that 52 Div. not supplying any static garrisons for ground defence of aerodromes, their primary task being to protect the aerodromes by patrols and supply a mobile force in the event of an enemy invasion.  
1730: C.O. returned from recce.  
1900: C.O. and Adj. departed for conference with Comd. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps. Received orders that Bn. would augment the existing ground defence plans of the following aerodromes: Bircham Newton, Docking, West Raynham, Great Massingham, Watton, Marham, Barton Bendish, Bodney, Feltwell, Methwold, Mildenhall, and supply guards for the pumping station and booster pump at Fakenham.

Jul 11th 1000: C.O. visited aerodromes at Feltwell and Watton to liaise with their ground defence officers.  
1130: 2 ORs. reported from 12 Div. School, Groombridge. Taken on Bn. strength.  
1630: The following Officers reported from the I.T.C. Kingston. Taken on strength.: Lt. J.W. Creasey, Lt. G. Dickson, 2/Lts. R. Humphries, E.P. Downs, E. Vose, J.L.J. Meredith, D.C.S. Meek, J.E. Spence, D.G. Leach, R.F.W. Walker.  
1820 The following Officers and 120 ORs. reported from the 12 Div. Detail, Redhill. Taken on Bn. strength.: Capt. G.B. Shaw, 2/Lts. J.W. Owens, P.J. Nye, J.W. Owens, M.W. Wilkes, H.A. Tyler.  
2115: Conference of all Officers. O.O. No 1 issued.

Jul 12th 0715: Move of Pls. to aerodromes commenced. Owing to shortage of tpt. and extent of area move not completed until 1215 hrs. Pls. reporting at Bircham Newton, Docking, West Raynham, Great Massingham, Watton and Bodney were not expected, and no instructions had been received from Sub-Area as to their duties. Pl. reporting at Mildenhall returned to Feltwell on being informed that they were not required, nor was there any accommodation.  
1000: Orders received from Sub-Area that Bn. would relieve 121 Road Construction Coy., R.E. of their Road Block commitments in the Thetford area by 1800 hrs 13 Jul 40.  
1500: Recce party of 1 Offr. and 1 OR. contacted R.Es. at Thetford. Commitments consisted of 5 Road Blocks requiring a total force of 1 Pl.

## 2nd/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1940

Appendix

2330: Orders received from West Norfolk Sub-Area for 1 N.C.O. and 3 men to report to the civil police at Thetford and Brandon to assist at traffic control points at Thetford bridge and Brandon railway station. Men to report at 1600 hrs 13 Jul 40.

Jul 14th Bn. ordered to be prepared for any eventuality. All ranks to remain in barracks and sleep fully clothed. (2 nights only).

Jul 15th 1200: 1 Offr. and 27 ORs. reported to Mildenhall aerodrome for ground defence duties. On orders from West Norfolk Sub-Area.

Jul 17th 1800: 3 ORs. reported from H.Q. 12 Div. Taken on strength.  
1630: Lt. Col. N.B. Brading reported to Bn. from I.T.C. Kingston, and assumed comd. Capt. E. Tebay appointed temporary 2 I/c. 1 ) R. reported from I.T.C. Kingston Taken on strength.  
1700: 2 I/c and I.O. visited Sub-Area and received instructions to make a recce on coast line between Wells next the Sea to Brancaster, to gauge possibility of enemy landings and methods of defence.

Jul 19th Orders received from Sub-Area for Bn. to provide motorised patrols and O.Ps. on coastline Wells next the Sea to Brancaster, strength 3 Pls. To be in posn. by 1000 hrs 21 Jul 40.  
1100: C.O. visited 37 Inf. Bde. H.Q. Norwich.  
1247: 1 OR. reported from I.T.C. Kingston. Taken on strength.  
2000: 2 I/c and I.O. departed on recce of coastal area to arrange accommodation for Coy. taking up patrol duties.. Lt. Col. H.S. Burgess granted leave.

Jul 21st 1200 3 Offrs. and 85 ORs. left Bn. H.Q. to take up patrol duties on coastal area. Lt. Col. N.B. Brading assumed command West Norfolk Sub-Area.

Jul 22nd 2/Lt. J.E. Spence att. West Norfolk Sub-Area as I.O. 2/Lt. P.J. Nye att. 37 Inf. Bde.

Jul 24th 1100: C.O. and I.O. attended demonstration of "Air Recognition Signals".

Jul 26th Lt. J.N. Creasey att. West Norfolk Sub-Area as Staff Capt.

Jul 28th 1700: Orders received from Sub-Area for Bn. to relieve R.Es. of defence of Denver and St. Germans sluices by Wednesday 31 Jul 40. Immediate recce to be made.  
1715: I.O. departed for recce of Denver and St Germans sluices.  
2/Lt. J.E. Spence returned to Bn. from duties with Sub-Area.

Jul 29th 1125: 2 I/c made recce of area in which Bn. has defence commitments by air from Marham aerodrome.  
1800: Major H.L.B. Ellis reported to Bn. Taken on strength as 2 I/c.  
2345: Information received from 155 Bde. that Bn. would be relieved of its defence commitment at West Raynham, Watton, and Bodney aerodromes by 1400 hrs 31 Jul 40.

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Jul 30th      1100: 2 I/c and O.C. "B" Coy. met by Comd. Cambridge area.  
Inspected new duties to be assumed by Bn.  
0400: Comd. Cambridge area inspected coastal commitments with  
C.O. (Denver sluice and Brancaster). Later proceeding to Holkham  
Gap and Wells next the Sea.  
1930: 2 I/c and C.O. "B" Coy. returned to Bn. H.Q.

Jul 31st      Relief of West Raynham, Watton and Bodney aerodromes by 155  
Bde., and the relief of the R.Es. at Denver and St. Germans sluices by  
this Unit postponed until 1 Aug 40.