

2nd/6th BATTALION EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1940

Appendix

June BIHOREL

Jun 2nd The C.O .and Liaison Officer left for Nantes, together with one 15 cwt truck containing Regimental property and the Battalion drums which, owing to the dangerous situation that the Battalion was now in, it was decided should be stored. The party arrived at Nantes on the night of 2nd June, proceeded to Savenay and later located HQ 12th Division at Blain at about 2100 hours. They had travelled 280 miles that day.

SAINT VALERY-EN-CAUX

Jun 5th - 30th *No War Diary records held by National Archives for this period. On 8th June the Bn., under command 2 i/c Major D.G. Adams, along with the 51st Highland Infantry, were ordered back from Le Bois Robert to Saint Valery-en-Caux to join the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division to support Operation 'CYCLE', the evacuation of Allied troops. The Division were forced to surrender to Rommel on 12 June 1940. About 95% of the Battalion were captured or killed, the majority becoming prisoners of war on or before 11th June, including Commanding Officer Major D G Adams. (See Appendix "The Prisoners' Progress"). About 120 of the 2/6th were able to escape via the evacuations from nearby Veules-les-Roses and a small number, separated from the main battalion, escaped to the West via Saint Nazaire and other ports. The 2nd/6th Bn.was reformed before the end of the month at Haltwhistle, Northumberland, and were rejoined by escapees from France. Bn. War Diaries were re-started, and are held by the National Archives from August 1940 onwards.*