

Items from the War Diary of the 2nd. Derbyshire Yeomanry.

- 4.10.39. Approval to buy civilian overcoats at 27s.6d. each.
- 7.1.40. 2nd. Lt. Parkhouse, TSM Bell, Sgt. Godfrey, Cpl. Ward to RTO Southampton for attachment to 13/18 Hussars.
- 18.4.40 Courtmartial [REDACTED] Misconduct with ATS.
- 20.4.40. Orders rec'd to move to the Harrogate area on 27. April.
- 27.4.40. RHQ at HOBOKEN HALL A Sqn. HAMPSTHWAITE, B Sqn. RIPLEY, C Sqn. KNARESBOROUGH.
- 10.5.40 Notified of German attack on France and Low Countries.
- 11.5.40 Regt to become a "Flying Column"
- 22.5.40 RSM Goldup arrived.
- 30.5.40 Codeword Cromwell received.
- 31.5.40 Railway Crossing Fiasco!
- 2.6.40. Carrier patrols night and morning - ALDBROUGH to HORNSEA.
- 8.6.40. Moved to LOW WOOD, part of 4IB. - 2ID.
- 10.6.40 24 hour wireless watch to 2nd Infantry Div.
- 14.6.40 Berets withdrawn, to become an Infantry Battalion!
- 16.6.40 Regt. told, Not received with enthusiasm! 30 Volunteers to transfer to 12 Royal Lancers called for, almost all troops volunteered. Suggested name for the Regt. 12(DY) Bn. Sherwood Foresters.. Requested that cap badge be retained.
- 17.6.40. Weekly route marches, Molotov Cocktail training.
- 24.6.40 Barrack Damages bill received from Derbyshire Education Committee for £341. Nothing heard of this again after C.O. brought family influence to bear RSM Goldup returned.
- 29.6.40 Maj. Browne returned to duty. While attached to Bde. H.Q. 2Lt. Dunlop had his pyjamas and Sam Brown attacked by cows.
- 11.7.40 Change to infantry countermanded!
- 14.7.40. 10 RASC buses and drivers arrived to replace civilians.
- 26.7.40. 9 American cars bought.
- 4.8.40. 2nd. Lt. Dunlop apptd. a/Capt.
- 5.8.40. 2nd. Lts. Paton, Kilbane and Killick arrived.
- 9.8.40. American cars converted, Fast car Detachment formed, Maj. Clowes to command, Maj. Dent to take command of "C" Sqn.
- 15.8.40. 1315 hrs. Bombing raid on Driffield Aerodrome, no bombs in Repts. area. Parties sent to fill in bomb craters. During August fast cars out at night chasing lights only result one car written off after collision with C.O. 1st. Royal Scots.
- 2.9.40 2nd. Lt. Carter granted Three months sick leave.

14.9.40. 2230 hrs. Message rec'd " Stand to"ready to move in 4 hours.
 15.9.40. 1700 hrs. "Stand Down"
 18.9.40. 2nd/ Lt. Wrey to Standard Motors Coventry to collect
 Ten Beaverette Cars.
 20.9.40 2/Lt.Wrey returned with Beaverettes.
 2.10.40. Court Martial, [REDACTED] accused of spreading
 "Alarm and Dispondency", "Lord Haw Haw's" broadcast
 about the bombing of the aerodrome. Acquitted.
 12.10.40. One Troop "A" Sqn. to funeral of Home Guardsman
 who was accidentally shot during Browning Rifle
 demonstration. Capt. Dunlop Adjutant, Capt. Whetherly
 to Old Sarum.
 19.10.40. Regt. moved to Sand Hutton Area, "A" Sqn. Gate Helmsley,
 "B" Sqn. - Stamford Bridge, "C" Sqn. - Aldby Park.
 23.10.40. Four Humber Light Armoured Cars arrived from Chilwell.
 26.10.40. Composite Sqn. moved to Scarborough, took over from
 5th. East Lancs.
 6.11.40. 22 Armoured Cars arrived at Stamford Bridge - - Northants yeo.
 9.11.40. Composite Sqn, returned from Scarborough.
 21.11.40. TSM Bell posted to IO2 Octu.
 27.11.40 Regt. moved. "A" Grantley Hall- "B" Kirkby Malzeard-
"C" Ripon Racecourse - RHQ Ripon.
 12.12.40. Expert driver from GUY'S demonstrated how to drive an
 armoured car and got stuck, D.Y. helped him get out.
 23.12.40. Lieut. Tatton RAMC attached as MO.
 6.1.41. 2/Lt. J.N.Harris arrived
 24.1.41 2/Lt. Macnaghten arrived.
 25.1.41 2/Lt. Clough arrived
 19.2.40 Advance party left for new locatoin in Wotton-under-Edge
 area.
 28.2.40. Intake of 122 men from N.Staffs Regt.
 1.3.40. Lt.Col. Barnes relinquished Command, Maj. Browne took over.
 2/3.3.41 Regt. moved to Wotton Area. "A" & "C" at Wickwar, "B"- Charfield.
 5.3.41. SSM. Kiddell joined.
 6.3.41. Training of N.Staffs intake begun, under 2/Lt. Killick
 assisted by 2/Lt. Harris.
 12.3.41. 2/Lt. Amos joined.
 12.4.41. Water carts to Bristol for relief work after air raid.
 23.4.41. 2/Lt. Saunders joined.

- 24.4.4I. 2/Lt. Weston from "B" to HQ.
- 25.4.4I. Tpr. Jones, R. 5054638 died in Bath Military Hospital.
2/Lts. Mortimer & Smart joined.
- 26.4.4I. First Thompson Sub-machine Guns arrived.
- 9.5.4I. "C" to Linney Head.
- 12.5.4I. Court Martial, [REDACTED], AWL. 4 days -
84 days detention. Apprehended in Aberdeen in civilian clothes.
- 13.5.4I. While walking back to billets, Tpr. Townsend.H.V. 5056007
was involved in a collision with a car driven by Capt.Wrey
and fatally injured.
- 16.5.4I. Inquest on Townsend, Accidental Death. "B" to Linney Head.
- 24.5.4I. 1 NCO @ 6 men to Bristol on fire watching duties.
- 31. 5.4I. Bomb fell 25 yards from troop billet in Wotton, only one
casualty, Tpr.Ball.F. cut by flying glass.
- 1.6.4I. Move to new area - Charlwood. "A" & "B" Busper, "C" Bures Manor.
- 6.6.4I. 80 personnel unfit for RAC posted away.
- 13.6.4I. 2/Lts. Clear & K.C.Douglas posted to 55 Training Regt. *
for overseas draft.
- 2.7.4I. A/Capt. Langley-Smith assumes command "C" Sqn.
2/Lt. Killick appointed ADJUTANT; 2/Lt. Harris appointed A/Adjt.
- 8.8.4I. 2/Lt. Roberts joined.
- 18.8.4I. 2/Lt. Dobson joined.
- 8.9.4I. "D" Sqn. formed.O/C Maj. Boden, 2/Lt. Harris to be Captain &
2IC. Officers, Fitzherbert, Stansfield, Macnaghten & Alltree
- 9.9.4I. Lieut Eates joined - to "A" Sqn.
- 26.9.4I. Regt. moved off for "BUMPER"
- 30.9.4I. "C" Sqn. captured Inns of Court Officers Mess.
- 2.10.4I. Exercise "BUMPER" finished.
L/Cpl. Jones. R. 7899174 "A" Sqn DR. killed in crash
at Eyfield, Northants.
- 6.10.4I. See this date for complimentary remarks about "BUMPER".
- 10.10.4I. Regt. moved to Maresfield.
- 13.10.4I. 5 Daimler armoured cars arrived.
- 17.II.4I. 2/Lt. Thomas joined.
- 21.II.4I. 2/Lt. Akey joined.
- 30.II.4I. Roll of all officers on strength.

* DOUGLAS
KILLED IN
NORMANDY
SERVING WITH
SHERWOOD
RANGERS.

- I.I2.4I Number of vehicles left Maresfield for embarkation port.
Tpr. Smith.J.W. 7936975 killed in accident near Chipping Norton
- 2.I2.4I. Message received - " 50% embarkation leave to be granted to the unit". "D" Sqn. to be left behind. Those left behind to become base details. All leave details away by 2030 hrs.
- 3.I2.4I. Order from War Office 8 Arm'd Div to mobilise for overseas To be complete by Dec. 16th.
- 5.I2.4I. Funeral of Tpr. Smith at West Croydon.
- 8.I2.4I. Court of enquiry declared [REDACTED] a deserter.
- 9.I2.4I. Return of first leave party, 10 absentees.
- 10.I2.4I. 2/Lt.Hoyne, Sgts. White and Muggleton on week's demolition course. Lewes.
- 15.I2.4I. Maj.Clowes left the Regt.28 Arm'd cars returned having been modified for desert service.
- 25.I2.4I. Officers v Sergeants football Draw 2 goals each.
- 31.I2.4I. [REDACTED] reduced to the rank of Tpr. for breach of military security, "Talking about Embarkation leave."
- 1.I.42. List of officers proceeding overseas.
Regt. Packing parades.
- 2.I.42. Court of enquiry - Absence of [REDACTED], "D" Sqn. declared a deserter.
- 3.I.42. Train party left for Linney Head.
- 6.I.42. [REDACTED] attempted to cut his wrists in the guard room. [REDACTED] failed to return from day pass.
[REDACTED] apprehended in Tooting, wearing civvy clothes & carrying a civvy I.D. Card and charged with attempting to desert & wilful self damage.
Court of enquiry declared [REDACTED] "D" Sqn. a deserter.
- 7.I.42. [REDACTED] reported to guard room after 28 days absence.
- 8.I.42 [REDACTED] sentenced to 28 days detention. Claimed to have been drunk and finished up in Iceland!
Sgt. Robotham injured at Linney Head, gun struck a telegraph pole and forced turret round.
- 12.I.42 Main party returned from Linney Head.
- 16.I.42 Capt. Killick to be Major and command "B" Sqn.
Capt.Robotham to be 2 I/C "B" Sqn. Capt.Harris to be Adjt.
- 19.I.42. 2Lt. Marsh, Sgts Frearson & Miller to Demolition course.

- 27.1.42. Sgt. Robotham discharged from hospital.
- 29.1.42. Cpl. Schadla-hall to officer selection board.
- 30.1.42 Training films "Shoot to kill" & "Under fire" shown in the gym.
- 1.2.42. [REDACTED] apprehended by civil police and returned to unit.
- 5.2.42 Court martial [REDACTED]. (Tooting) He had been punished earlier for absconding with a m/cycle, said he was fed up w with the army. Sentence: 9 months hard labour, but 3 months hard labour remitted. All ranks dance in the gym.
- 7.2.42. ENSA Party in the gym.
- 14.2.42. Sussex County AAA 5mile cross country run.
- 18.2.42. Capt. Weston to be 2 I/C HQ. Sqn.
- 19.2.42. 5 W/S Sgts and 5W/S cpls reduced to corporal and trooper
- 20.2.42. Court of inquiry into loss of rifle.
- 21.2.42. Ditto M/C Tools M/C Comb. "D" Sqn.
- 23.2.42. Lt. Eateas & Sgt. Armr. Smith to BSA course on 15mm Besa.
- 24.2.42. Court Martial [REDACTED], Not guilty of desertion but guilty of AWL. 90 days detention at Fort Darland.
- 3.3.42. 7885438 L/Cpl. Kay killed during driving instruction car driven by Sgt. Saxelby overturned, Sgt. Saxelby OK.
- 11.3.42. Court martial [REDACTED]. H.E. losing by neglect rifle and sling. value £7.12.3d. 21 days detention.
- 12.3.42. Court of enquiry- loss of registered letter. Post Cpl. held responsible and deprived of stripe.
- 16.3.42. First air raid warning of 1942, a/a posts manned. F.S.GPL. to check on rumour that Division was to move overseas on April 15th. Rumour not yet reached Maresfield. Regt. Orders Mondays to be "Make & Mend days in future.
- 18.3.42. Orders rec'd. Regt. to be ready to move overseas by May 1st.
- 21.3.42. L/Cpl. Price & Tpr. Knight injured by Canadian Army truck.
- 22.3.42. L/C. Price died in hospital.
- 24.3.42 First embarkation leave party left.
- 27.3.42. Visit by Lt. Gen. Montgomery, he congratulated regt. for cleanliness of camp.
- 29.3.42. Notification that Regt. to be commanded by L/Col. Allenby. L/Col. Browne & Maj. Pearson to be posted away.

- 1.4.42. 2nd. embarkation leave party left.
L/Col. Allenby arrived. Maj. Pearson not to be posted away if he can pass the Medical Board.
- 2.4.42. L/Col. Browne's Farewell message to the Regt. He thanked all ranks for their willingness and enthusiasm and cheerfulness in the way they carried out their duties. It had been a great privilege to command such a team.
- 3.4.42. Cpl. Schadla-hall to OCTU.
- 11.4.42. Some vehicles left for Staging Camp. Final destination not disclosed to crews but to be Hull.
- 12.4.42. Further vehicles left - for Dumfries.
- 13.4.42. Further vehicles left for Salford & Birkenhead & Dumfries.
- 17.4.42. ENSA Party in the Gym.
- 19.4.42. I64 O.R's posted to 52 Training Regt. Bovington.
- 24.4.42. L/Col. Allenby returned from leave with new 2I/C. Maj. P. Wiggin.
- 27.4.42. "A" Sqn. to travel detached from the Regt.
- 29.4.42. Court Martial - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] accused of theft of rations from Cookhouse. No findings arrived at by the Court.
Congratulated by ^{QM6} the way our vehicles had gone to the ports, they had given less trouble than any other formation.
- 30.4.42. Reps. of 27 Lancers arrived ref. taking over camp. Nominal Roll of Officers travelling overseas and being posted away. Nominal Roll of O/Rs Posted to 52 Training Regt.
- 1.5.42. Letter of regret and congratulations from L/Col. Barnes. Inspection by H.M. the King. Average age of the Regt. 25.
- 2.5.42. Lecture on the Sun Compass
- 3.5.42. Regtl. Church Parade, specially for Overseas Service.
- 6.5.42. Handing over to 27 Lancers.
- 7.5.42. Presentation by the officers to SGT. Jones-42 Years service. 2000hrs Regt. left Maresfield, 2130hrs. Left Crowborough.
- 8.5.42. Embarked aboard STRATHNAVER.
- 10.5.42. 2130hrs. SAILED. No war diary to kept aboard ship. Training programmes continued where possible. Crossing the line ceremony. Marching round the deck. Capetown.
- 5.7.42. Disembarked at SUEZ. 1930hrs. Train to Qassasin? Camp33 Tahag.
- 6.7.42. 0145hrs. Arrived at camp33.65m. from CAIRO 25 Miles to ISMAILIA. Regt. to be ready for battle by 14 JULY.

- 7.7.42. 7892239 Tpr. Smith injured in collision with RASC lorry. To hospital with head injuries. Individual desert training begun.
- 9.7.42. Capt. Meaby to No.6 General Hospital- Stomach trouble.
2/Lt. Oyston Ditto SQMS Rolfe to GHQ 2nd. Echelon.
- 11.7.42. Gens. McCreery & Norman visited.
- 15.7.42 Meaby & Oyston returned from Hospital.
- 19.7.42. 5054723 Tpr. Ryan "B" Sqn. involved in accident: To No.6 General, head injuries "Dangerously ill"
- 21.7.42. Formation of "Qatcol" ordered by 24 Armd. Brig.
"C" Sqn. petrol lorry burnt out during desert training.
- 27.7.42 ARW RED Enemy plain^{NE} seen to fall in flames NW of camp.
- 28.7.42 Court of enquiry "C" Sqn. petrol lorry- due to backfire.
- 29.7.42 Letter from Div. 8 ARMD. Div. will not now be going to forward area until further notice.
- 30.7.42. 2/Lt. Clark to No.2 General hospital.
- 31.7.42. Vehicle state 31.7.42
58 Arm'd Cars., 12 Daimler Scout cars, 32 Three tonners, 21 Smaller vehicles & 29 motor cycles. Plus LAD & RCofS.

- 2.8.42. First surface mail received, Sheet 8.
Ever yone very pleased.
- 3.8.42 Firing 2Pdrs & 15mm on ranges. Maj. Dunlop, 2/Lt. Macnaghten and Saunders to IIth. Huzzars in forward area, Training.
3 days local leave granted by 'Arm'd Div.
- 5.8.42. Daimlers to Abbassieh for desert modification
- 9.8.42. Maj. dunlop & Macnaghten returned from IIth. H.
- 10.8.42 C20. Maj. Langley-smith & Capt. Weston to IIth. H. C.O.
- 13.8.42. 2L/t. Saunders returned. He had encountered an Enemy Patrol in the Qattara Depression but managed to extract his troop which was considerably outnumbered. Lt. Gregson (attached I2 Lancers, awarded M.C.
- 16.8.42. C.O. returned from IIth. H. Warning order received for move to 8 Army on 20 August.
- 17.8.42. New vehicles inc. 7 Jeeps arrived.
- 19.8.42 Main base party left for ABBassieh. Inspection by Maj. Gen. Norman.
- 20.8.42 Moved to forward area.
- 21.8.42. Reported to IOth. Arm'd Div. Allocated area 470804.
- 24.8.42 Capt. Meaby & 2Lt Stansfield To M.E. Training centre.
2 DY. Protecting front & left of Div. Area.
- 27.8.42. Sgts. Newman & Logan burned when arm'd car ran over a tin of petrol.
- 28.8.42 2L/t. Dobson to HQ 7 Armd. Div. as Liaison Officer.
- 31.8.42. 0700hrs. A Sqn. report info. from Royals that 500 Infantry crossed the minefield at 0702 hrs. Echelons withdrawing through RHQ via Diamond Track. 0926hrs. A Sqn. reported contact with enemy tanks, reported tank battle 1½ miles to the west. II enemy bombers overhead, engaged Stukas without success. 1640hrs. Hostile arm'd cars around Pt. 102. 1837hrs. Sqn. withdrawing under fire. C. Sqn. fired on at 1903hrs. 1942hrs. IO Armd Div. shelled & moving 1 mile north. 1956hrs. A Sqn. ordered to keep retiring slowly to PHQ. 2000hrs. A Sqn. ordered to harbour in area of Pt. 96.
- 1.9.42. 0815hrs. A Sqn. reports 500 MET. & 7 tanks in front of them. B Sqn. reports 2 A/T guns facing south. B ordered to be careful 1103hrs. A ordered to get as much rest as possible. 1127hrs. b stopped by 2 A/T guns, one troop has been bombed No damage. Continues reporting enemy movement. 1656hrs. 2.8Wheel & 6-4 wheel arm'd cars near them. C Sqn to take over B's left flank. IO enemy tanks dispersed by shelling. 1910 hrs. 2/Lt. Atkey wounded, shell fragments in back & shoulders, to I68 Fd. Amb. 1915hrs. B Ech. report British bomber landed in area, American pilot, wanted transport to

- 2.9.42. Corps Commander congratulates IO Armd. Div. on yesterdays battle. 0832hrs. "B" report picking up South African pilot who had been shot down. (SGT. White.) "C" busy all morning 1400hrs. B2A Ech. bombed after driving through minefield, no damage from either source. "C" ordered to keep in contact "A" to assist. Orders- follow if enemy withdrawing. 1740hrs. "A" being bombed, "C" worried about petrol situation. 1755hrs. "A" given permission to remain forward overnight. "C" will send troops forward at first light, "B" to relieve "C"? "A" to remain in position tomorrow.
- 3.9.42. 0732hrs. "C"? centre troop in trouble, has 3 tanks around him. 0800hrs. "C" ordered to keep in contact with enemy. Signs of enemy withdrawing. British fighter shot down over RHQ? pilot RCAF. Buried nearby. 2L/ts. Richardson-Jones & Marsh evacuated to MDS. Sqns. remained in contact. 1900hrs. "B" to retire to Ragil Depression, "A" at point 78 for the night.
- 4.9.42. Enemy withdrawing, troops to keep in contact.
- 5.9.42. "A" repots enemy troops moving about in front, "B" ordered to investigate tanks in PAGIL. 0948hrs. "A" troops held up by shellfire. 1037hrs "B" reports no tanks seen but 150 Met. 1050hrs. "A" - "Things getting exciting, do not wish relief yet" Ordered to withdraw forward troop. 1315hrs. loose mines seen. 1430hrs. I.O. to R.V. with "A" to collect prisoners. "A" & "B" kept contact with the enemy during afternoon, 1852hrs. "B" ordered to carry out bold recce at first light.
- 6.9.42. "B" morning spent in area of MUNASSIB Depression. German clothing maps etc. sent back to RHQ. Two prisoners from IBn. 155 Pz. Grenadier Regt. captured by 2L/t. Dunn "A". Sqn. revealed that Maj. Gen. von Bismarck had been killed on the first night of the attack. Position static in MUNASSIB, orders for tomorrow as for today. Body of Tpr. Sanders 4CLY. found in derelict tank, buried by SSM Bunston & Sgt. White. Map ref of grave recorded, grave marked by a wooden cross.
- 7.9.42. "B" 1836 Personnel casualty, fatal. Tpr Calladine large piece shrapnel entered chest. Shells hit the ground, bounce about 80 feet and burst. Orders for Sqns. No task tomorrow.
- 8.8.42. 2L/t. Dobson returned from 7 Armd. Div. Congratulations from Army Commander. See separate Signal.

- 9.9.42. 2DY to come under command 4Lt. Armd. Bde. "B" Sqn. to come under command IIth Hussars, "C" to relieve SAAC Regt.
- 14.9.42 "B" reports to IHH. Maj. Dunlop to 6 Gen. Hospital via II4 Ed. Amb. (Stomach trouble).
- 15.9.42 Capt. Meaby & " 2L/t. Stansfield returned from Tactical Course 2L/t. Smartt returned from 2 Gen. Hospital.
- 16.9.42. Little activity reported. Maj. Dunlop & SSM. Bunston
29.9.42 returned from hospital.
- 30.9.42. Sgt. Camp's Daimler struck by 10⁵mm shell, no personal injury damage to car slight, towed back.
- DIARY SHEETS FOR OCTOBER, ALL MISSING.
~~5 DAYS OF NOVEMBER MISSING.~~
- * 6.11.42. Heavy rain, practically all Bde. wheeled vehicles bogged. Mileage today ~~8~~ 190.
- 11
1.9.42. Early Nov. sheets found, out of order!
- 2.11.42. 4Lt. Armd. Bde. Orders -be ready to move from 1200hrs. 1030hrs. Prepare to move to Northern Front. Will be relieved by HCRegt. Wireless silence from 1300hrs. Move at 1400hrs. to EL ALAMEIN STATION. 1800hrs Laagered alongside coastal road.
- 3.11.42. C.O.s Conf. at Bde. order of march etc. Start at 0500 tomorrow.
- 4.11.42 Advance along coast road to BOOMERANG TRACK. 0800hrs. 1020hrs. C.O. returned with orders for 2DY to lead advance to FUKA. 1307hrs. "B" being shelled. 1326hrs. "A" & "B" ordered to keep out of trouble. 1320hrs. RHQ being shelled, withdrawing half mile. 1435hrs. 3MEIO9's dropped bombs among RHQ & Echelon. Many prisoners being left for I.C. to round up. 1700hrs. Lt. Fowke severely wounded in head. Bde. Laagered, but to be ready to move at 0200hrs. tomorrow.
- 5.11.42. 0530 Bde. Advance, 2DY leading. 0730hrs. 25 Mk.3 tanks engaged by the GREYS. "B" sent two lorry loads of prisoners back. 0925hrs. "A" reported FUKA L.G. clear. During morning many prisoners dealt with. 1500hrs. Held up by minefield 1555hrs "B" & "C" pass through gap. 1645hrs. RHQ through gap 1810hrs, laager after a busy day. Mileage today 52.
- 7.11.42. 2DY. ordered to move north and advance along the coast road. Road very congested. Laagered at GAPAWLA Mileage 31.
- 8.11.42 Advance along coast road, "C" leading. Turned west along track, passed through 22Armd. Bde. (Out of petrol) RHQ attacked by Spitfire. Road mined. 1800hrs. Maj.Gen. Lumsden arrived criticised speed at which Regt. had overtaken traffic on road. Regt. under command 8Armd. Bde. to by-pass MATRUH. 1730hrs. Two American war correspondents treated for wounds by MO. 1555hrs. Daimler a/c knocked out, Sgt. Lagan & I/cpl. F Field killed.

Sheet II.

- 8.II.42 No trace of the operator Tpr. Paxton. - Posted "Missing"
- 9.II.42. "B" reportt Misheifa clear. No mines. "C" L/T. Watney Tpr. to moveleft of t e road, Lts Alltree & Macna ghten sent in support. Came under fire, one Daimler bogged, Macnashteen tried to tow it & became bogged, shelling intensified, Alltrees car hit, Watney rescued the 6 crew members. 2L3t Alltree, Tprs. Watts & Wilson missing. Later: Macnaghten's car found burnt out and the others ransacked.
- 10.II.42 "C"petrol lorry blown up while with Echelon. Cause not known. "A" advanced towards BUQ BUQ, Lt. Walker's troop engaged 4 enemy armd cars & destroyed one, rescuing two British soldiers who had been riding on the outside of one since being captured.
- 11.II.42. "C" crossed frontier wire.
- 12.II.42. "A" towards EL ADEM, Lt. Hoyne's troop attacked German column Hoyne's car penetrated by A.P. sverely wounding Hoyne, car brought back by driver & operator.
- 13.II.42 "A" probing around GAZALA.Fired on from road. RHQ came under small arms fire. Lt. Walkers car mined
- 14.II.42. Lt. Clough's troop attached to Bde. Col. & detailed to secure Martuba Airfield.Maj. Killick & 45 OR's to T.D.R. Maj. Killick to hospital, (Jaundice)
- 18.II.42 Capt. Lord William Taylour suffering with diphtheria.
- 19.II.42. C.O. visited all Sqns. to congratulate all personnel on their parts in the recent operations.
- 21.II.42 Move to MARASSAS on coast near the sea.
- 25.II.42 Lt. Watmey to hospital. Capt. Weston to base to collect reinforcements. Tpr. Finch-Crisp killed by bomb on HALFAYA PASS while driving captured vehicle. Lt. Eatees to hospital. Capt. Robotham sick.
- 27.II.42. Lt. Eates returned. Lt. Molineux to hospital (Jaundice) RSM. Goldup evacuated (Hernia)
- 29.II.42. "B" Sqn. reformed. Capt. Harris Acting CO. LT. Eates Acting ADjutant. Capt. Robotham evacuated (Jaundice)
- 30.II.42 Lt. Amos's troop to 8 Army HQ. for escort duties.
- 4.I2.42. 7893008 Tpr. Nelson.G. death on Halfaya Pass on 15.II.42 confirmed by GHQ. Capt. Wrey & Lt.Marsh returned with reinforcements.LTS. Owen & Stensfield's troops to XXX Corps.
- 5.I2.42. All armd. cars to be handed over to TRG.
- 6.I2.42 Capt. Harris appted. Acting Major. Capt. Weston apptd. 2/I/C"B" Maj. Robotham sick.27 Armd. cars left under Comd. Maj. Dunlon.
- 10.I2.42. CO., Maj. Langley-Smith & Lt. Clough evacuated. Maj. Wiggin to Acting CO.

- 16.12.42. The period to the end of 1942, and beyond, is a period of Order, Counter Order and Dis order. Little of major interest although many promises of more armd. cars etc. which never materialised. Lt. Gen. Horrocks visited the Regt. on 20th. Dec. Lt. Thomas Apptd. Acting Adjutant. On Christmas Day SSM. Bunston was wounded, it is thought by an old Italian grenade. (See Sgt. White for full storey) Reported later to be critical.
- Jan. & Feb. 1943 Some Armd. Cars were received but had to be handed over to TDR. the main activity was the ferrying of supplies to the forward area. Total carried during FEB. 68,000galls Pet. 4,000galls Diesel & 3tons of bombs. Promotions :- SSM Glarvey to RSM. SQMS Powell to SSM, Sgt. Collins to SQMS. FEB. 14th. Arab accidentally shot. "C" Sqn. Area. Enquiry conducted by Capt. Weston. Most of the month taken up ferrying various types of Armd. cars and Scout cars. Maj. Pearson posted Home. Capt. Robotham promoted Major. Notification of MC. to LT. Hoyne, 25.3.43.
- 8.3.43. Regt. to move to MENA tomorrow. Maj. Robotham remain with rear party, including witnesses for Court Martial [REDACTED]
- 9.3.43. Regt. moved off 0530hrs in convoy of 81 vehicles.
- 12.3.43. Arrived Cowley Camp MENA 1600hrs. 1 Sgt. & 10 G.Rs. ACC(ex. 2 R.GI Hussars). posted to Regt.
- 13.3.43. L/Cpl. Williams found shot in the head. Later said to have been accidental.
- 22.3.43. Maj. Robotham and rear party arrived from MRassas. [REDACTED]
- 29.3.43. Educational visit to Cairo Airport, 24 all ranks, visit included flight over city.
- 1.4.43. Move to SIDI BISHR Camp. Lt. Jones(QM) promoted Captain. WEF 1 Nov. 42.
- 15.4.43. 2/Lt. Schadla-Hall joined Regt.
- 23.4.43. Lts. Smart, Dunn & Schadla-Hall plus 100 ORs left for ferrying duties. Lt. Birkett to tough tactics course at GENEIFA. Maj. Harris on desert training with Protection Troops.
- 28.4.43. 30 Officers & men to tour of El Alamein Battlefield.
- 30.4.43. 3 casualties to protection troop when car overturned during desert training.

MAY DIARY ENTRIES MISSING

Lt. STEVENSON & TPR. WELBURY DIED IN ROAD ACCIDENT } NEAR
& Lt. YATES, BROKEN JAW. } TEL. AVIV

TPR. WHITEHEAD ACCIDENTALLY SHOT & KILLED
ABOARD SS PRONTO.

- 1.6.43. Maj.Dunlop returned from HQ 'th. Army. Ship security Gp. returned to Regt.
- 2.6.43. Majs.Dunlop, Langley-Smith, Harris, Robotham & Capts. Meaby, Macnaghten & Ashford, Lts.Oyston & Dobson to 7 Day Combined Ops. Course at Kabrit.
- 6.6.43. Lt.Col.Palmer arrived.
- 7.6.43. Lt.Col.Palmer to combined Ops. Course.
- 9.6.43. Lt.Col. Allenby admitted to 64 Gen Hospital.
Order rec'd 37 Brick(2DY) to move to Givet Olga on 10 June.
- 10.6.43. Regt. moved in two parties, Road & Rail, to Palestine
- 14.6.43. Regt. arrived at GIVET OLGA. 2DY now becomes base unit for 37Brick. Lt.Col.Palmer to Command. Rank Full Col.
Numerous promotions for Officers plus attachments.
- 15.6.43. 8Army & 30 Corps Protection Troops returned to Regt.
- 19.6.43. COs Parade, inspected the Regt. Expressed pride in assuming comd and stressed the importance of the task in hand.
- 22.6.43. Maj.Prithvi Singh, Jaipur Guards attached as Liaison Officer.
)- --- -----
- At this point there are a number of sheets of the Diary covering the activities of Lts. Mortimer & Walker's Protection Troops at 8 Army HQ? but nothing about those at XXX Corps.
- 1.7.43. Postings of 2DY personnel to 37Brick cancelled, to remain on Regtl. strength.
- 17.7.43. Capt.Killick appointed GSO III HQ. 8ARMY.
CO. returned from CAIRO - eventual return to Armd. Cars confirmed.
- 19.7.43. Mine explosion on Demo beach, one Sapper killed & two injured members of Mech.Equip Detch. Demo cancelled.
- 23.7.43. Visit by O.C. 10 Indian Div.
- 20.7.43. Court of Enquiry into death of Sapper Phillips. Advance parties to new location.
- 21.7.43. C Sqn. Route march to new location.
- 22.7.43. Move to new location, HQ. at JENIN. A?B&C at MUQFIPILA.
- 27.7.43.GHQ Letter: 2DY will remain on the WE of an Armd.Car Regt during the time it is employed as a Basic Brick Unit.
- 28.7.43. Maj.Dunlop appt. 2IC. 2DY.
- 3.8.43. Warning Order Main body of Brick to move to KABRIT on 6 Aug.
- 11.8.43. 23 Medically unfit O.Rs to RAC Base Depot.
- 16.8.43. C Sqn. mortar firing.
- 18.8.43. [REDACTED] Insubordination. Court of enquiry-damage to 3" mortar on charge to C Sqn.
- 19.8.43. Lts.Thomas & Owen to MEOSB) application for regular commission.
- 21.8.43. Capt.Eates to MEOSB (application for regular commission.)

- 22.8.43 Moved back to GIVET OLGA in two parties, Road & Rail.
- 25.8.43. Road party arrived at GIVET OLGA.
- 26.8.43 20% personnel to be granted 7 days leave, for each period.
- ██████████ found Guilty.(42 days Field Punishment) To 22FPC.
- 4.9.43. COs. Parade.
- 11.9.43. Rgtl. Route March, 10 miles, led by Lt.Col.Dunlop.
RQMS.Brookes posted to base.SSM Kiddell apptd. RQMS.
- 28.9.43. Leave period terminated.
- 2.10.43. CO to Kabrit.
- 4.10.43. Capt.Weston posted to home establishment. Majs. Meaby & Robotham
now the only original officers remaining with the Regt.
- 13.10.43. Brick Swimming Gala, very successful.50 metres Freestyle won by
L/Cpl.Wallis "D"Sqn. Sgt.White 2nd. "B"Sqn. Capt.(QM) won the
won the Diving.
- 30.10.43. Advance party left for QASSASSIN.
- 5.11.43. Road party left for QASSASSIN, train party followed.
- 7.11.43. Road party arrived.
- 8.11.43. 2DY to start training for RAC role.
- 9.11.43. Court of Enquiry ref 2 tents stolen during Advance Party's
first night.
- 14.11.43. Rear party arrived from Hadera.
- 15.11.43. King Farouk injured in road accident. Taken to British Mil.
Hospital. Communique signed by 2nd British & 5 Egyptian Doctors.
Rgtl. Guard supplied by 2DY.
- 17.11.43. Guard at hospital continues.
- 20.11.43. Tailor attached to camp reported that 42 pieces of battle dress
and his sewing machine had been stolen during the night.
- 25.11.43. Most secret warning order- 2DY to be prepared to move at 24 hours
notice. Move is overseas.
- 26.11.43. Notification that 2DY will hand over 37 Brick to R.Welch.
- 27.11.43 Winter clothing taken into use. CO's Parade, Col.Dunlop read
out warning order for movement overseas, called for complete security.
Royal hospital Guard inspected by Maj.Gen. AMR PASHA.
- 1.12.43. Lt.Col.Dunlop attended lunch given at the hospital by Egyptian ^{Royal}
household, gratitude expressed for the Rgtl. Guard on King Farouk.
- 4.12.43. Reorganisation of "DY on dissolution of "D" Sqn.
- 7.12.43. 2DY ceases to be Basic Unit 37 Brick. Rehearsal for Generals
inspection.CO thanked all ranks for their efforts and announced
that King Farouk was to present the Regt. with a trophy in
recognition of the services of the Royal Guard. This is unique.
- 8.12.43. Inspection by Maj.Gen. Norman who congratulated the Regt.
on its turnout. It had been noted at GHQ. the very good spirit
with which we had tackled all the tasks allotted to us, we were
leaving a very good record behind in the Middle East.

- 9.I.43. Movement order received. Regt. to move en-bloc in one ship.
- 11.I.43. Lt. Dobson, 18 Subalterns & 120 O.Rs to Port Said for instructions on Oerlikon Guns. AA duties on ship.
- 12.I.43. CO & QM to Cairo to await air transport to UK.
- 13.I.43. Lt. Dobson's party left for Port Said.
- 15.I.43. Main body left QASSASSIN, embarked on ORION, Regt. under cmd. Maj. Dunlop.
- 16.I.43. 16.00hrs. Sailed from PORT SAID. (Heavy rain)
- 4.I.44. Liverpool, awaiting berthing.
- 5.I.44. ORION berthed at Prince's Landing Stage. Christmas Day was celebrated west of PANTELLARIA. CO came aboard as soon as the ship docked. 1700hrs. Unloading began.
- 6.I.44. Regt. moved into Hartwell House Camp, near Aylesbury.
- 7.I.44. Dispersal on overseas leave.
- 21.I.44. Re-assembly after leave. Regt. to reorganise as a Recce Regt.
- 24.I.44. Visit by GOC 51 (H) Div.
- 28.I.44. GOC's Inspection. He congratulated the Regt. on its turnout and bearing and said that the Highland Div. was glad to have 2DY with them. Draft of 29 OR's from 38 Recce.
- 31.I.44. Drafts from:- 38 Recce, 1 Off. & 60 ORs. 80 Recce, 6 OFs & 10 ORs. The Officers:- Lts. Oliver, Collins, Millington, Biggs, Milne, Newman & Geeson.
- 1.I.44. Draft. from 161 Recce:- 90 ORs.
- 3-6.2.44. CO attached to 15 Recce.
- 7.2.44. Sgt. Baum & Sgt. Robotham awarded TA Efficiency Medal.
- 12.2.44. Light model Respirators received.
- 14.2.44. Parade & Inspection by Monty.
- 18.2.44. Lts. Green, Ellis and Lace arrived from 80 Recce.
- 21.2.44. SSM. Saxelby posted to RAC Depot Catterick.
- 28.2.44. Inspection by H.M. the King
- which concluded with the usual
- congratulatory remarks.
- 2.3.44. Lt. Thomas to be Acting Captain, w.e.f. 14.I.44.
- 6.3.44. A/Tank Batt. firing at Foulness Ranges.
- Troop and Sqn. Schemes to begin.
- 8.3.44. A/Tank Batt. returned from ranges, made very impressive shooting. 192 Rounds fired at stationary & moving targets 86% hits achieved, 100% on stationary.
- 13.3.44. GOCs Inspection of all phases of the Regts. Training.
- 14.3.44. Lt. Geeson awarded 1939-43 Star.
- 15.3.44. [REDACTED], absent without leave. Reduced to the ranks.
- 18.3.44. A/Tank Batt. to Harlech Ranges. 71 ORs joined from 30 Recce.

- 26.3.44.. A&B Sqns. to Boyton Ranges. A/Tank Batt. returned from Harlech.
- 27.3.44.. RQMS Kiddell Appointed RSM
- 28.3.44.. C Sqn. to Boyton.
- I.4.44.. Inspection by Duke of Devonshire, accompanied by Lt.Col. Barnes and Lt.Col.Browne.GOC.5I(H)Div. also attended. The Regt. did well on Exercise CURB?(Letter from DIV).
- 3.4.44.. Move to WEETING Hall, Brandon.
- 8.4.44.. 39 ORs joined from 34RHU.
- 10.4.44.. RSM Glarvey returned, RSM Kiddell reverts to RQMS.
- I3.4.44.. Unit Censorship introduced.
- 15.4.44.. Armd. cars firing - Stanford Battle Area.
- 16.4.44.. Carriers - ditto -
- 17.4.44.. A/Tank Batt. to Foulness Ranges.
- 21.4.44.. SQMS North to be ~~WO II~~ WO II (SSM.Powell to hospital) Sgt.Miller to be SQMS.
- 24.4.44 Operation SNAFFLE began. Ended 27.4.44.
- 26.4.44.. IO Jeeps arrived.
- I.5.44.. A/Tank Batt. to Foulness. Court of Enquiry- injury to Sgt.Haines, extracting cartridge from sand filled mortar bomb.
- 3.5.44.. Court of enquiry: Damage to Bren Gun and loss of four blankets on charge to HQ.Sqn. SQMS.KAY posted to home details. Service Chevrons & wound stripes issued.
- 6.5.44.. Following Sgts. to be SQMS'S, Frearson, Muggleton& Upton. 76 ORs. posted to RHUs.
- 10.5.44.. Carrier Battle Practice- Stanford Battle Area.
- ~~11.5.44~~ to 13.5.44.. a/cars Battle practice Stanford. Waterproofing of vehicles begun.
- 16.5.44.. Regt. at six hours notice to move. WEF 21 May.
- 19.5.44.. SSM.Bunston posted to home details. SQMS.White promoted SSM.
- 20.5.44.. "C"Sqn. left for marshalling area. 24hour leave stopped.
- 23.5.44.. Waterproofing completed.
- 24.5.44.. Civil Police report ENEMY AGENT seen to drop by parachute from hostile aircraft.
- 26.5.44.. L/Cpl. McNally shot by RAF sentry on Hockwold Road, admitted Newmarket Hospital with gunshot wound in buttocks.
- 27.5.44.. Court of enquiry into above.
- 6.6.44.. 0415hrs. Regt. left WEETING HALL. 1150hrs. arrived Marshalling Area. Regt. divided into 2 parties, to travel in 2 ships. RHQ &"A" Sqn. in FORT YALE?"B" in Fort Assinboine.
- 10.6.44.. Ships in convoy assembly area.

- 10.6.44. Depth charges dropped by escort vessel. No visible result.
- 11.6.44. Anchored amongst mass of shipping.
- 12.6.44. Unloading began, stopped by R.N. orders.
1400 hrs. TAC RHQ made a dry landing. HQ established at Colombiers-sur-Seulles. "B" Sqn. already in position.
"C" Sqn. at Periers with I52Bde. "B" Sqn. gave warning of snipers.
- 13.6.44. "C" Sqn. under comd. I53 Bde. Casualties "C" Sqn. 30Rs missing.
- 14.6.44. CO to Div. ("C" Sqn. arrived Colombiers 8 June, moved on 9 June to Periers, Sgt. Jackson & Cpl. Troupe wounded by shell 13 June crossed ORNE, one carrier KO'ed. Cpl. Taylor & Tprs. Smith. N. & Highly missing. "C" ordered to try to enter HEROUVILLETTE.). Herouvillette entered and held.
- 15.6.44. Awaiting orders.
- 16.6.44. Enemy attacking ESCOVILLE and HEROUVILLETTE, both attacks driven off. RHQ & "B" move to ST. Aubin d'Arquinay. "C" entered ESCOVILLE, took 8 PWs. Ordered to hold until relieved. Sgt. Simpson killed. LRC. burning.
RHQ & "B" moved to near LE MESNIL. 1600Hrs. "B" relieved "C" in ESCOVILLE. "C" & "A" moved to RHQ area. Lts. Milne & Bodycombe wounded. 5 ORs KIA, 8 ORs missing, 20Rs accidental injuries in action.
- 17.6.44. One enemy PW returned by "B" Sqn. Heavy mortar fire on village. RHQ mortared, CO wounded. and Cpl. Jones also. casualties evacuated, Maj. Dunlop assumed comd. Mortaring of Escoville continues. "A" report little activity all day. B Echelon shelled in area St. Aubin. 2230hrs. "B" report 3 houses on edge of village held by enemy, suspected OP. Herouvillette, receiving shells and mortars. "B" Carrier Tp. and "A" Assault Tp. attempted to clear house, unsuccessful. 4 missing ORs led by Cpl. Thompson returned, but L/Cpl. Williams killed, by bomb.
- 18.6.44. Enemy patrols working around Escoville. RHQ mortared. Mortar Tp. attached to "B". Occupied houses now clear. Enemy inf. engaging armd. car troops on edge of village. First mail from UK arrived. GOC 51 Div. visited RHQ. "C" relieved "B" in Escoville.

- 19.6.44. Continued shelling of Escoville. GOC 51 Div. delighted with achievements of the Regt. and surprised that we were able to hang on in Escoville. No news of Capt. Oyston. Capt. Eates assumes cmd. "C" Sqn. RHQ area mortared, no cas.
- 20.6.44. 153 Bde. relieves 2DY. Regt. to be responsible for bridges over Orne and Canal. One carrier tp. "A" Sqn. to remain in Escoville. On main road shell struck a passing jeep killing all occupants and wounding Capt. Thomas and 3 ORs. Some shelling in area of the bridges.
- 21.6.44. Reorganisation and rest.
- 22.6.44. 6 Airb. Div. ammo dump hit. Shell fragments falling in Regt. area, carried on for some hours. Colombelles bombed by Mitchells & Bostons. Congrats from 21 Army Gp. to 51 Div.
- 23.6.44. Occasional shelling of area 2 ORs wounded. SQMS Freerson to 77MDS, sick, malaria.
- 24.6.44. Increased shelling of bridges, quite a proportion of duds.
- 25.6.44. Heavy shelling of RHQ area, Sgt. Greaves wounded, several vehicles damaged. "A" Sqn. relieved airborne troops in area Bas de Ranville. Shelling of bridges continues. One carrier tp. "A" Sqn. remains in Escoville.
- 26.6.44. 10 ORs joined as reinforcements.
- 28.6.44. Lt/COL. Serocold joined and took command of Regt. SQMS Burgin joined "A" Sqn.
- 1.7.44. Regt. continues to be responsible for bridges, spasmodic shelling continues.
- 3.7.44. Flying bomb passed overhead. Floating mine blew up on boom south of ORNE Bailey Bridge. Tpr. Baglin killed & L/Cpl. Forrester wounded. German naval Officer in wetsuit captured by I Gordons.
- 4.7.44. Regt. A/Tank battery claimed one FW 190 shot down. "B" Sqn. jeep badly damaged by shellfire. One mortar written off.
- 5.7.44. 33 ORs reinforcements arrived. Lt. Davies, W arrived. Congrats from Monty to I Corps. The following died of wounds: Sgt. Greaves, RHQ? Cpl. Jones "C", L/Cpl. McDonald "B" & Tpr. Hooper "B". Visit by GOC 51 Div.
- 6.7.44. Sgt. Heslin "B" killed by shellfire and LT. Owen slightly wounded. Tpr. Burton "C" killed accidentally, M/Cycle accident.
- 7.7.44. "B" Ech. shelled, Cpl. Smith, REME LAD Killed.
- 8.7.44. Usual shelling.
- 11.7.44. Lt. Oliver wounded, (Exhaustion) evacuated. Heavier shelling than usual. Carrier Tp. in Herouvillette relieved by "A" Sqn. assault tp.
- 12.7.44. Tpr. McLaughlin accidentally injured.
- 13.7.44. Residue troops from England arrived. Lt. Lace evacuated sick.
- 14.7.44. Lts. Stansfield, Schadla-Hall, Bulman and 154 ORs joined Sqn.
- 15.7.44. Regt. moved west of canal. Tpr. Bradshaw evacuated, exhaustion.
- 16.7.44. II ORs reinforcements arrived. Regt. to relieve 3 Recce Regt. Lt. Green joined, 2/Lt. Barton joined.
- 17.7.44. Reliefs carried out without incident. Regt. in Blainville area. Lt. Lace rejoined. Tpr. Wright "B" Sqn. accidentally injured.
- 18.7.44. Some shelling during night, "A" Sqn. 5 cas. Sqn. withdrawn from the "island". Heavy bombing attack on Colombelles area. "A" Sqn. 2A/car tps & assault T. re-enter island, +B" Sqn. One carrier tp. to Herouville. "A" Sqn. report own arty fire dropping short. White flag flying from "Chateau". "C" Sqn. report large numbers of PWs being recieved-600 brought in by Canadians. Lt. Marsh killed by small arms fire.. Wounded: Lt. Bulman, L/Sgt. Skevington, Tpr. Sawyer, Tpr. Threadkell L/Cpl. Metcalf, Cpl. Bell, L/Cpl. Flippance, Tprs. Corner, Dryden, Bailey, Jefferson, Jackman, Lloyd, Cpl. Blair, Sgt. Archer, L/Cpl. Tomblin, Tprs. Maddock & Locket.

- 19.7.44. "B"Sqn. report a quiet night, Adv. Sqn HQ mortared at 2230hrs. Otherwise NTR. & Canadian Recce completed mopping up on island.
- 20.7.44. Quiet night, very heavy rain.
- 21.7.44. Rain continues. Lt.Green posted to IO4 Reft. Centre.
- 22.7.44. Heavy shelling "B"Ech. AREA.Capt. Jones lightly wounded. Remains on duty.
- 23.7.4 . "B"Ech. shelling continues, 100 shells fallen in 24hrs. Casualties: Killed Tpr.Taylor. Wounded: L/Cpl.Gage,PTE. Pegler, Tprs.Shirley,Rogers,Jackson,Andrews,Thompson.Cftm.Walker. Evac. exhaustion, L/Sgt.Carson. "B"Ech. allowed to move to safer location(I Corps)."B"Ech new location Le Homme. Memorial Service at Blainville conducted by Rev. Jones.
- 26.7.44. Main 5I Div.HQ. moved to area RANVILLE.
- 27.7.44. OI30hrs.Enemy air attack,large bomb landed IOft. from "C"Sqn. armd car, fragments penetrated visor. Tpr.Roberts injured while outside car.2 A/cars damaged.Some casualties to other troops in the area. UEXP bombs in civilians garden. REs couldn'T help, Regt. ordered to erect warning signs.
- 28.7.44. One Daimler A/car taken on strength, promise that Humbers will be replaced by Daimlers.
- 29.7.44. Visit by new GOC 5I Div. Maj. Gen. Rennie.

Here follows two Operations Reports by "A" &"B" Sqns, for 16,17 &18 July. These are too detailed to include in a summary but can be made available.

- 3.8.44 - 8.8.44 Operation Totalise. Regt had to supply armd vehicles to carry infantry in the attack, also armd cars as control vehicles. No major damage to vehicles. Three armd cars bogged in bomb craters. Canadians bombed by own aircraft.

The following Awards were notified for the action at Escoville:

MCs. Maj.Harris,Lt.Clough& Lt.Richards. MMs:-Cpl.Thompson, Cpl. Wilmott, L/Cpl.Ball & TPR.Bayliffe.

- 8.8.44. Further bombing by Allied aircraft. "B"Ech. to Blainville.
- 9.8.44. "A"Sqn. recce towards ST.SYLVAIN. Warning by GOC to take care at BILLY-"No VCs". 3Tps LRC blown up, crew safe. Div. report Tiger tanks ahead, sqn. says they appear to be dummies. Tp. within one mile of ST.SYLVAIN. Polish Armd Div. attacking ST.SYLVAIN. Tp. attacked by own aircraft. One carrier knocked out by Poles? Poles are NOT in St.Sylvain. "A" &"C"Sqns ordered to remain in position. Tprs.Hunn & Tanner , wounded, Cpl.Ball wounded,remained on duty,Tpr.Alder Battle accident.
- 10.8.44. "A"Sqn. handed over to I52Bde. Recovered LRC which was blown up previous day (under fire) "B"Sqn.area shelled - no damage.
- 11.8.@@. Lt.Bulman wounded. L/cpl.Baldwin & Tpr.James killed,L/cpl. Morgan,Tprs.Chapman, Stannard & rogers wounded. Tpr.Tilling evacuated, Exhaustion.
- 12.8.44. "B"Sqn. detailed for offensive recce of ridge east of St.Sylvain. 1730hrs. "B" moves off. See war diary for summary of the action, in which 4 Ors were were killed, 3 missing, 1 officer and 7 Ors wounded and avacuated 5 ORs wounde and remained on duty. Killed: Sgt. welbourne, L/cpl.Shipp,Tpr.Colson. Wounded:Lt.Biggs,Sgt.Madden,Cpl.Gaylor, Cpl.Higgs,L/cpl.Slawson, Trott,Tprs.Martin,Jackson & Woolven. Remd. on duty:Sgt.Norcott,Cpl.Miles,Tprs.Cameron, Gerrard & Witchell.:Missing,L/cpl.Mitchell,Tprs.Hall& Etherington.. 2330hrs. Splinters from very heavy shells fell in RHQ area, said to be 28cm. from area of Le Havre- 30 miles away.

- 13.8.44. Intermittent shelling of "B"sqn. area. 1 Officer and 3 ORs wounded. Lt.Davies,Sgt.Webley, Tprs.Anthony & Martin.
- 14.8.44. "C" Sqn. to patrol towards GLATIGNY. "B" Sqn. at 30 minutes notice to be under comd. I44PAC. I400hrs. Bombing raid by RAF heavy bombers went wrong, own troops were hit with many casualties. One man from "A" Sqn. missing. "B" Sqn. troops dispersed by bombing. I630hrs. "B"- all troops now reformed, Two men missing. 2100hrs. "B" formed up with I44 RAC eastern side of St.Sylvain. Missing after bombing: Sgt.Ashton,Cpl. Longley & Pte.Garrett (ACC attached) Tpr. Middleton evacuated-Exhaustion.
- 15.8.44. "B" resumed advance towards ESCURES. took 15 prisoners For details of the actions involving "B" & "C" Sqns. see Diary. Casualties: Killed, Sgt.Bennett. Wounded,Lt.Brown, Tprs.Green Mallory, Sgt.Hale. Missing,Cpl.Gray, Tpr.Grimley. Battle accident,Sgt.Rowley & L/c.Milbourne.Exhaustion, Cpl.Windsor.
- 16.8.44. See DIARY for details. River Dives crossed. Casualties, Killed, Cpl.Ball, wounded,Maj.Meaby. Exhaustion,Lt.Alwis. All 3 Sqns. pushing ahead to St.PIERRE. Warning not to use church towers for obs.points because of booby traps. Leading car of "A" Sqn. knocked out by tank, no casualties. Arty denied the shell which wounded Maj.Meaby was a friendly "short"
- 17.8.44. All 3 Sqns recce-ing on Div. front. Capt.Eates to command "A" Sqn. Promoted to Maj. One American & one Canadian airman reached our lines after being shot down. See DIARY for full details. Casualties: Killed, L/C. Pringle.Wounded, remd on duty Capt.Dobson. Wounded Sgt.Lennard. Missing,Sgt.Freestone, L/c. Nelson, Tpr. Hancock. Battle accident, L/c Buck, Tpr. Miller.Now known :Cpl.Gray & L/c.Nelson killed. Evacuated exhaustion, Tprs.Kett & Redford.
- 18.8.44. "B" Sqn. reorganising, "A" being strafed by own aircraft "C" had a very successful day and reached Castillon, shot up a half track,captured 10 PWs. one 75mma/tank gun and a lorry loaded with ammunition. Casualties: Wounded,Sgt.Yates, Cpl. Schand,Tpr.Keoghan. Battle accident, Tpr.Redmond. Exhaustion:L/c.Holmes,Tprs.House & Phenix.
- 19.8.44. "A" & "C" recce-ing forward."C" capture three members of I2 SS Pz.Div. Arty.Reg. Casualties: Wounded,Tprs.Jones & Kitchen Missing: Tpr. Beatty. Battle accident, Sgt.Bartley. Exhaustion:Sgt. Archer. TPR.Cooksey. Found by another unit suffering from exhaustion: Cpl. Longley.(Missing after RAF bombing raid).
- 20.8.44. "C" busy all day. "B" at 30 minutes notice. I745hrs.Div. sent for CO.- task for "B". "B" probing forward until 2150hrs. when withdrew for night.("B" moved through very close country, a/cars couldn't traverse their guns, only one man wounded, Sgt.Morgan,remained on duty. "C" had Cpl.White wounded
- 21.8.44. Morning diary unreadable. "B" probing forward, "A" warned to be ready to move.(I410hrs) I430hrs, "A" crossing river. 2030hrs. "B" handed over to "C".Very successful day for "B" 21 PWS taken for one man wounded Tpr. Allinson. Lt.Sheppard evacuated, exhaustion. Sgt. Quartermain a pptrd SQMS "B" Sqn. Div. intention to capture LISIEUX, 2DY to protect flank.
- 22.8.44. No move.
- 23.8.44. No move.
- 24.8.44. No move. (This is the first day since landing that the Regt. has heard not a single round of gun fire).
- 25.8.44. I625hrs. "A" warned to be ready to move. I800hrs. moved to area 6586.
- 26.8.44. 0700hrs. Op. cancelled. Regt. moved to new location via LISIEUX, 24 reinforcements from 34PHU.

Note: A great many places the Sqns. moved to or reported on are four or six figure map references which are meaningless without a map.

- 27.8.44. "A" moved at first light with I54Bde. Sqn.HQ with I54 Tac.
"B" to stand by to move with I52 Bde.
- 28.8.44. "A" held up by felled trees, "B" similar and fired on by
75mm. gun. foot patrol reached the SEINE, took 6 PWs.
"A" under comd. I54 Bde., "B" under comd. I53 Bde. investig-
ating caves one OR killed, one OR wounded, two MAQUIS killed.
Tpr. Kniveton KIA? SGT. Tucker wounded, remained on duty.
- 29.8.44. GOC wants further info about the caves from 2 civilians who
are said to have worked in them.
- 30.8.44. "BE" traced one man and took him to Div. 1000hrs. "C" entered
caves, found one enemy straggler. In area Caumont 24 PWs
mostly Russian. Lt. Jones "C" leading recce of caves and
RE officer wounded by mine on road.
- 31.8.44. Prepare to move towards St. Valery.
Total casualties since landing in France:-

Officers		ORs.	
KIA	I	KIA	2I
Wounded	I6	Wounded	I33
Missing	I	Missing	I6.
- 1.9.44. Quiet day. Seine crossed at Elbeuf. "A" entered St.Valery.
- 2.9.44. "B" to recce line of River Durdent. "A" captured 4 deserters
all from Alsace Lorraine.
- 3.9.44. Parade by pipes and drums of Div.
- 4.9.44. RHQ at Gonnevillle. "C" troop came under mortar fire, no cas.
"B" & "C" took over OPs from 49 Recce. "B" withdrawn.
- 5.9.44. OPs established, some mortar fire. "A" took over.
- 7.9.44. Preparation for assault on Le Havre.
- 8.9.44. Notified that Lt. Bulman died of wounds. on I2 Aug.
- 9.9.44. DAIMLER armd cars replaced HUMBERS.
- 10.9.44. Refugee control points established.
- 11.9.44. A/Tank troop fired 40 rounds H.E. per gun on designated
targets- this is the first time they have been in action.
- 12.9.44. Combined assault tps meeting little opposition, numerous
prisoners, Total bag 3 Officers and 310 ORs. Assault Tps. w
withdrawn and dispersed to Sqns.
- 13.9.44. L/c. Curle & Tpr. Lawrence (C Sqn.) killed by german mines.
- 14.9.44. Training and shooting on ranges. Otherwise quiet.
- 27.9.44. "A" Sqn. left for DUNKIRK area
- 28.9.44. Regt, less "A" Sqn moves towards Holland.
- 30.9.44. Arrives area Heist-op-den-Berg
- 1.10.44. "B" under comd. I53 Bde. relieving units of I5 Scottish Div.
in the area of St.Oedenrode.
- 2.10.44. RHQ & "C" moved from Heist. "B" to be relieved at last
light and return to Regtl. Comd.
- 3.10.44. Regt. under Comd. I52Bde. Takes over from 2 A&SH.
"B" patrol came under fire and Tpr. Fox killed and Tpr.
Abbot wounded.
- 4.10.44. "B" Single rounds 'Moaning Minnie' falling. "B" & "C" NTR.
A/Tank tp. 6 RPG HE harrassing fire. Patrols out during
the night. / 3 inch mortars & A/tank guns firing,
no results seen. Contact patrol to I Gordons reported.
- 5.10.44. 0630hrs small attack on "B". Heavy mortar fire some casualties.
CO returned with Maj. Dunlop wounded. (Mortar burst)
0715hrs. "B" confirmed enemy withdrawn. own troops
wounded. "C" NTR. Mortar crater proved to be "2Icm. "
nebelwerfer. "B" patrol took 3 prisoners.
Casualties:- Wounded, Maj. Dunlop, Sgt. Life, Cpl. Martin,
L/Cpl. Lawrence, Tprs. Orgar, Hilton, Jocelyn.
Missing, not seen after walking away from area:- Tprs.
Parkinson and McDade.
- 6.10.44. 0205hrs. patrol from I Gordons reported. "B" 0645hrs. two
men buried in slit trench by shellfire, excavated unhurt.
1000hrs. Div. arty fired Victor targets. "B" & "C" some small
arms firing, but no great activity.

- 6.IO.44. 1905hrs. "B" trip wire in front of FDBs touched off, Fired on by bren, cow was the culprit. Patrols active at night, patrol from 5 Camerons reported.
- 7.IO.44. "C" five deserters brought in. One OR killed & one OR wounded by shellfire. KIA, Sgt. Haines, wounded Tpr. Neil, both mortartp. fairly quiet day with patrol activity.
- 8.IO.44. Patrol activity. Incendiary rocket bombs identified as 32cm. filled with IIGalls oil.
- 9.IO.44. "C" fired on 5 Camerons patrol who did not know the password and wounded two of them, evacuated by 2DY. "B" recce patrols out drew Spandau fire. No patrols tonight.
- 10.IO.44. Paid on enemy by "b" assault tp. supported by 2 Tns 9 RTR Churchills, 4.2 mortars, MMGs and arty. See Diary 9 & 10 oct. for full details. 34 prisoners, no casualties. One deserter arrived with hand luggage. "A" Sqn. arrived from Dunkirk. Settled near RHQ.
- 11.IO.44. Quiet day.
- 12.IO.44. "B" relieved by "A". Lt. Geeson joined patrol of I Gordons. Lts. Capel & Jackson joined from 34 RHU. Sgt. Minns wounded, remained on duty.
- 13.IO.44. N.T.R.
- 14.IO.44. "A" patrol to recce ground for raid with 9 RTR tomorrow.
- 15.IO.44. I Gordons report that their raid produced 2 PW only. Raid on enemy was similar to that of 10.IO.44 but only found 3 dead Germans who had been dead for some time. After the raid 50 mortars landed in "A" area. Cas: One OR slightly wounded.
- 16.IO.44. "B" relieved "A". One shell near Lt. Clough's car, Tpr. Howell wounded. It is thought that the shell was one of ours.
- 17.IO.44. "B" daylight patrol saw no enemy.
- 18.IO.44. Own 3" mortars in action. "B" fired on movement in woods.
- 19.IO.44. Frans Kuijl of Eindhoven attached as interpreter. Regt. relieved by 15 Recce.
- 20.IO.44. COs O Group re operation "COLIN".
- 22.IO.44. Regt. relieved 7 A&SH. Tynhoons attacked woods on Regt's front. Mine lifting party under Capt. Dobson cleared mines for 5/7 Gordons to pass through. 40 mines lifted.
- 23.IO.44. OPERATION COLIN. See Diary for details. Wounded:- Lt. Atkey, Lt. Schadla-Hall. Tpr. Gore. Lt. Randall wounded and remained on duty. KIA. Tpr. Mees.
- 24.IO.44. COLIN continues. KIA. Tprs. McKay, Bell, I/Cpl. Coates. Wounded:- Lt. Geeson, I/Cpl. Hudson, E** Cpl. Neal, Tpr. Rick, Tpr. Abel. Tpr. Wallis wounded, remained on duty. Missing:- Cpl. Poe, Tprs. Thompson, Phillips, Ellerbeck & David.
- 25.IO.44. COLIN continues. Snipers a nuisance.
- 26.IO.44. COLIN continues.
- 27.IO.44. Colin continues. Signal from Div. Immediate award of MM to Tpr. Bake. KIA. L/c. Calvert. Wounded, Col. Grayson, Tpr. Wise. Wounded, rem'd on duty, Tpr. Pinders.
- 28.IO.44. Sqn. revert to Regt. control.
- 29.IO.44. N.T.R.
- 30.IO.44. "B" relieve 5 Seaforth. Orders from Div. Regt. to relieve Bde. of 15 (S) Div. along AFTWATERINGS canal. Casualties:- Wounded, Cftm. Donnelly and Cftm. Woods, rem'd on duty
- 31.IO.44. "B" to relieve 53 Recce. at OSS. "A" & "C" busy along the canal. Tpr. Cogan wounded.

Casualties to date in Europe: KIA. 1 Officer, 30 ORs.
 Died of wounds. 1 Off. 9 ORs.
 Wounded. 21 Officers, 153 ORs.
 Missing. 1 Officer, 21 ORs.

31
 10
 174
 22
 237

- I .II.44. "B" Sqn. contacted 53 Recce. "A" to be relieved by I52 Bde. "B" 2 tps. in LITH. "A" & "C" kept busy observing on canal. Tpr. Kitchen wounded, remd on duty.
- 2.II.44. "A" report a very quiet day.
- 3.II.44. Maj. Dunlop returned from wounds.
- 4.II.44. Operation GUY FAWKES. Quiet day on Regtl. front.
- 5.II.44. Patriot patro;s active. "A" assault tp. returned from GUY FAWKES - no casualties.
- 6.II.44. Quiet day. A/tank guns fired on boats. Regt. to be relieved by II Hussars.
- 7.II.44. II Hussars tae over. Regt. moves to area ST.MICHELGEESTSLA
- 8.II.44. "B" to NEDERWIERT, Regt. remain in present position. "B" took over from 5 Camerons. NTR since.
9. IO & II. Quiet days. Congratulatory sig. from GOC 5I Div.
- 12.II.44. Three assault tps. under Capt. Dobson to relieve I BW. remd. "B" to remain in situ.
- 13.II.44. Sqn. reps to new area.
- 14.II.44. Regt. (less "B") in area HEEZE. Operation ASCOT began.
- 15.II.44. Assault tps. relieved by I5(S) Div.
- 16.II.44. Regt. moved (less "B") to area NEDERWEEFT. LT. Atkey returned from hospital.
- 17.II.44. Regt. moved to area HEIJTHUIZEN.
- 18.II.44. Shelling area ROGGEI "A" carrier damaged. Mah. Eates posted to UK. preparatory to Staff Course at QUETTA. "C" under comd. I54 Bde. Sgt. Weston & Tpr. Pinder wounded.
- 19.II.44. Sgt. Plant and Tpr. Lewis turned up in I BW. FDLs, having been captured by an enemy patrol. (See three pages of the diary for full details.) "C", a strong counter attack supported by SP gun, Sgt. Weston's car bogged and was destroyed by Tp. Leader. See diary for full details. Signal received from Brig. Oliver congratulating "C" for having done extremely well.
- 20.II.44. At last light another counter attack as "C" was handing over to 7 BW. broken up by Arty. fire. Heavy german shell fire personnel and vehicle casualties. "C" Casualties:- Wounded; Lt. Milne, Cpl. Rushton, Tprs. Kitchen, Gale and Goodchild.
- 21.II.44. Div. moved forward.
- 22.II.44. Congratulatory message to 5I Div. from XII Corps
- 23.II.44. Regt. moved to NIJMEGEN, to provide local protection for the bridge. Ordered to fire at a ny thing floating down. Then followed a period when large quantities of ammo. of all descriptions was expended. Checks were kept on the water level on the "Island"; Jet propelled planes were seen, the vapour trails of "W-2's" could be seen in the distance and shelling of the bridge area took place regularly, RHQ had to move after Tpr. Wordman (on sentry duty) was killed. Other casualties:- Lt. Birkett wounded, Tpr. Royds a ccidentally wounded. Lt. Atkey was admitted to hospital, effects of earlier wound. Missing believed killed while on leave in ANTWERP, (V2 hit a cinema) Tprs. Jowett & Swain. Tpr. Towers injured.
- 20.I2.44. Regt. relieved by 2 Kensingtons (M.G. Co) 49 Div.
- 21.I2.44. Regt. moved to area LOUVAIN, under comd. 9 U.S. Army.
- 22.I2.44. Regt. warned to be ready to move to area MAASTRICHT.
- 23.I2.44. Regt. moved to area NW of AACHEN.
- 24.I2.44. Div. authorised Christmas festivities, be ready to move on 26th.
- 25.I2.44. Regt. moved to area LIEGE. RHQ at MERVY "A" Sprimont, "B" HONY, "C" - St. SEVERIN. "B" to provide two LOs at MERVY US VII Corps and US XVIII Corps
- 26.I2.44. VI's falling in div. area. 5 men in jeep dressed as G.I's drove up to sentry with story of paratroops about to drop in the area, Then drove off. General warning issued.