

WW2 War Diary of the 7th Battalion Cheshire Regiment – 1939 to 1943

September 1939 to June 1940 – Ref: WO 167/726, National Archives, Kew

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Macclesfield	1/9/1939	1600	Embodiment order received from London broadcasting station.
		1740	Code 'Clive' received from H.Q. 166 Inf. Bde.
		1815	All companies ordered to hold 1 st and 2 nd Emergency Platoons at required notice.
		1944	'C' Coy. Less 14 O.Rs. reported at Civil Defence area at Wilmslow.
		1947	Telegram from Bde Billeting Authorised. Bn. Attached to 176 Bde. 59 th Staffordshire Division.
		2250	All 1sdt Emergency Platoons for Home Security reported prepared in Drill Halls.
		2300	The following Officers reported for duty:- Lt. Col. R.L. Owen T.D. (Key party 25 Aug), Major W.W. Manton (Key party), Major C.J. Prescott (Key party), Capt. E.D. Boulton (Key party), Capt R.D. Ball (Key party), Capt E.G.S. Mather, Lieut J. Lewis (Key party), Lieut P.L. Rees (Key party), Lieut J.W. Dronsfield, Lieut J.M.E. Nahum, 2/Lt A. Speyer, 2/Lt P.A. Ferns, 2/Lt F.A. Jackson, 2/Lt J.E. Hartly, 2/Lt J.R. Ellwood, 2/Lt J. Hall (Key party), 2/Lt F. Dawson, 2/Lt H.G. Vernon, 2/Lt O.D.B. Coe, 2/Lt T.A. Bell, 2/Lt A.P.B. Smith, 2/Lt H.C. Rigby, 2/Lt A.O. Bridge.
	2/9/1939	1245	Captain Bond reports for duty.
		1400	King's and Regimental Colours despatched to The Depot, Chester for safe custody.
		1450	'B' Coy reported occupied Civil Defence area at Sandbach at embodiment strength.
		1506	'D' Coy reported occupied Civil Defence area at Sandbach at embodiment strength.
		1524	'A' Coy reported occupied Civil Defence area at Congleton at embodiment strength.
	3/9/1939	1115	11.15, Notification from London Broadcasting Station that a state of war existed with Germany as from 1100.
		1750	Visit of G.O.C. 55 th Division, Brigadier V.H.B. Majendie D.S.O. to Battalion H.Q.
		1800	Battalion strength of 27 officers and 693 O.Rs. reported to higher authorities (Officers of T.A.R.O. not called out).
	4/9/1939	0330	Preliminary warning 'Air Raid' received by Bn H.Q. Duty Officer.
		0405	'All Clear' signal 'Air 'Raid' received by Bn H.Q. Duty Officer. Drill Hall Tower sentry stood-to with telephone during this period.
		1000	Bn Inspection of all Drill Halls, Billets, Passive Air Defence Scheme Operations, and Administration (Bn Comdr accompanied by Adjutant).
		1600	Visit of Unit Hon Colonel to Bn Headquarters (Colonel the Hon R.W.D. Legh, D.L., J.P.)
		1730	Embodiment at full strength of 28 officers and 693 other ranks reported to Command, Division, and Brigade Headquarters.
	5/9/1939	0700	War Training commences for All Ranks.

		1600	Visit of Major S.D. Douglas-Jones D.S.O., M.C., Secretary County of Cheshire Territorial Army Association.
	8/9/1939	1530	'B' Company and 'D' Company dets. visited at Sandbach by G.O.C. 55 th Division, Major General .H.B. Majendie D.S.O.
	11/9/1939	1000	Personnel for Instructional Cadre at Regimental Depot left for Chester under 2/Lt F. Dawson (i/c). Strength 4 Sgts, 4 Cpls and 14 other ranks.
	15/9/1939	1700	Major W.W. Manton, Bn 2 nd in Command, left th Unit for a course at the Senior Officers School, Sheerness. Major C.J. Prescott appointed Bn 2 nd in Command vice Major Manton. Captain W. Kayley and Lieut F.S. Scott from the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers reported at duty with 'HQ' and 'D' Companies respectively.
	19/9/19 9	1000	Inspection of Battalion by Major-General Blakiston-Houston, Commander 59 th Divn, accompanied by Lieut Colonel Nettleford G.S.O. II. The Unit is now attached to the 176 th Infantry Brigade which is included in the 59 th Division. The Divisional Commander expressed himself as being well pleased with the efficiency of the Unit.
Macclesfield	20/9/1939	1200	Lieut J.M.E. Nahum moved to Aldershot on posting as M.G. Instructor to 168 th Infantry Officers Cadre Training Unit.
	25/9/1939	0900	Telegram received from Headquarters, Western Command, notifying early move of Battalion overseas.
Macclesfield	26/9/1939	1900	Telephone message from Headquarters, Western Command confirming early move of Unit Overseas, after training at Aldershot.
Macclesfield	28/9/1939	1230	Visit of Major General Majendie and Brigadier Short to bid farewell to the Battalion before its move south.
Macclesfield	2/10/1939	1000	Advance Party left for Aldershot commanded by Captain W. Kayley and compose of 2/Lt P.A. Ferns, R.Q.M.S Alcock and 11 O.Rs. Transport one 15cwt Truck and one motor bicycle.
Macclesfield	3/10/1939	1030	Battalion visited by Lieutenant-General Haining G.O.C-in-C. The Western Comand, who mentioned the good reports he had heard of the Unit and wished all ranks good luck.
Macclesfield Sandbach	4/10/1939	0930	The Battalion moved to temporary quarters near Badajos Barracks, Aldershot, by special train commanded by Lieut. Colonel R.L. Owen T.D., with Major C.L. Prescott as Second in Command and the following Officers: Captain J.H. Cubbon (Adjutant), Captain E.D. Boulton, Captain R.D. Ball, Captain R.M. Bond and Captain E.G.S. Mather. Lieut J.W. Dronsfield, Lieut J Lewis (Q.M.), Lieut H.G. Vernon and Lieut P.L. Rees, Lieut F.S. Scott. 2/Lieuts A. Speyer, O.D.B. Coe, J.E. Harley, J.R. Ellwood, A.P.B. Smith, F.A. Jackson, J. Hall, H.C. Rigby, A.O. Bridge, D. Barrett and T.A. Bell. Together with R.S.M. P. Vahey and 539 Other Ranks. Training under Company arrangements was carried out on the Aldershot areas.
Aldershot	14/10/1939		The Battalion was completed to full war establishment in personnel and vehicles. A draft of 214 other ranks (all trained machine-gunners) from the Regular Army Reserve joined the Battalion from training centres whilst personnel from the R.A.O.C. and R.A.S.C. have been posted. 161 vehicles are held by the Unit. Three days embarkation leave is granted to All Ranks.

			<p>The following Officers of the Regular Army are posted to the Battalion. Captain Durnell R.W.K., and Captain Murphy, Devon.</p> <p>The following Officers of the Territorial Army are posted to the Battalion. Captain Wild and 2/Lieut Davison. R. Northumberland Fusiliers.</p> <p>All the above to complete to full was establishment in Officers.</p> <p>Major W.W. Manotn, 2nd in Command, rejoined the Battalion from a course at Sheerness</p>
	19/10/1939	1400	The Battalion was inspected by the Colonel of The Regiment (Colonel Arthur Crookenden C.B.E, D.S.O) in close column of companies. The Battalion then formed square and the Colonel of the Regiment bid farewell to the Battalion in an address, a copy of which is attached.
		1600	The Chief of The Imperial General Staff, General Sir Edmund Ironside, visited the Battalion with the G.O.C.-in-C, and after discussion with the Commanding Officer and Adjutant and an inspection of the quarter guard, he bid farewell to the Battalion and wished All Ranks Good-Luck and God Speed.
Aldershot	21/10/1939	1100	An Advance Party consisting of 2/Lieut P.A. Ferns, R.Q.M.S. Alcock, and one driver left in a 15cwt Truck for embarkation for overseas on joining the British Expeditionary Force.
	22/10/1939	0800	A Road Party consisting of officers, O.Rs. and all mechanised vehicles of the Battalion left by road for port of embarkation on movement overseas pending the arrival of the battalion to join the British Expeditionary Force. The party was composed as follows: Convoy Commander: Captain S.O. Murphy, Lieut. F.S. Scott, Lieut A.A. Dale R.A.O.C., Lieut J.W. Dronsfield M.T.O, 2/Lt A.P.B. Smith, 2/Lt. O.D.B. Coe. 132 vehicles (15cwt, 30cwt, and 3 ton), 41 Motor Cycles. Together with 226 Other Ranks.
	21/10/1999	1100	Visit of Brigadier General Sherman Miles, the U.S.A. Military Attache who inspected the Battalion on the eve of its departure for overseas as one of the first Territorial Battalions. Letter received from the Brigadier is attached.
	27/10/1939	0700	<p>The Battalion move by rail to port of embarkation on moving overseas to join the British Expeditionary Force. Including all those who had proceeded with earlier parties the roll of Officers of the Battalion on the move was as follows: C.O. Lieut-Colonel R.L. Owen T.D., 2nd I/C. Major W.W. Manton, Adjutant Captain J.M. Cubbon (The Cheshire Regiment), Major C.J. Prescott, Captain C.S. Durnell, Captain S.O. Murphy, Captain E.D. Boulton, Captain R.D. Ball, Captain R.M. Bond, Captain E.G.S. Mather, Captain W.S. Wild. Lieuts: F.S. Scott, M.G. Vernon, J.W. Dronsfield, Quartermaster J. Lewis, B. Molden (R.A.M.C.). 2/Lts J. Jall, M.C. Rigby, D. Barrett, A.P.B. Smith, J.E. Hartley, J.R. Ellwood, K. Telehard, O.D.B. Coe, A. Speyer, P.A. Ferns, A.O. Bridge. T.A. Bell, R.G. Abbott, and R.M.A. Davison. Attached Lieut A.A. Dale (R.A.O.C.)</p> <p>The roll of Warrant Officers was as follows: R.S.M. P. Vahey, R.Q.M.S. Alcock W.P., C.S.M. B. Clarke, C.S.M. N. Brown, C.S.M. H. Astill, C.S.M. J.S. Steele, C.S.M. N. Warburton.</p> <p>Orderly Room Sergeant: Colour Sergeant L. Peeree.</p> <p>A roll containing name of every other rank who moved with the Battalion in three different parties is attached.</p>

Southampton	27/10/1939	1200	The Battalion embarked in H.M.T. 'Manxman' (Isle of Man Steam Packet Co.,) and moved to convoy anchorage in Southampton water at 1500 hours. Escorted by five destroyers of the Royal Navy, the vessel moved with four others across the Channel to Cherbourg, after a normally good crossing. Disembarkation took place at 1030 hours on the following morning (Saturday, 28 Oct 1939).
Cherbourg	28/10/1939	1730	The Battalion entrained at Cherbourg Maritime Station and moved during the night 175 miles to La Hutte from whence proceeding to march route to billeting areas near Bourg le Roi. Here the motor transport convoy with all its personnel were met and absorbed into the Battalion establishment.
			<p>Record of address by the Colonel of the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, (Colonel A. Crockenden C.B.E., D.S.O.) to the Officers and men of the 7th Bn The Cheshire Regiment at Aldershot on Thursday 19 Oct 1939.</p> <p>I feel very proud to be able to come here today and see you on parade and to address you before you go on active service.</p> <p>In your ranks are some officers and men who have come to us from other Regiments. Nobody knows better than we do in the 22nd how unpleasant it must be to leave your own Regiment to go to another, especially on active service; but I can say this to these officers and men: we are glad to have you in our ranks. We welcome your discipline, your training, and above all, your skill. I feel sure that your service with us will add to the lustre of your own distinguished Regiments. We ourselves have had to send five hundred men to other Regiments because they were not trained in machine gun warfare. We hope you will be happy with us and get back to your own Regiments as soon as Service demands allow.</p> <p>The 7th Bn The Cheshire Regiment has a very distinguished record in the Great War. In Gallipoli, with the 4th Bn., they saved the British Force from disaster; an action which was never given sufficient recognition. They also fought at Gaza in open warfare, and they were specially sent for to go to France to lead the advance in open warfare on the fields of Champagne.</p> <p>From my own experience, I can tell you that your C. in C. Lord Gort is one of the finest living soldiers, and believe me, you are safe in his hands. I also know your Commanding Officer, Colonel Owen and his Officers have during the past years worked hard and faithfully to fulfil their high task. As your Colonel, and as one of its old Commanding Officers I wish you God speed.</p> <p>Finally I will say to you what I said to the 2nd Bn before they went on active service. It was what Moses, the great leader, said to Joshua who was going to take his place:-</p> <p>"Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them, for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee: he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee".</p>
			American Embassy Office of the Military Attache

			<p>London October 24, 1939 My dear Colonel,</p> <p>Please accept on behalf of Captain Conrad and myself, our sincere thanks for the courtesy and hospitality shown to us by you and your Staff when we visited your regiment last Saturday.</p> <p>It was particularly interesting to see one of the first Territorial Battalions to leave for France on the eve of its departure, and have the opportunity to meet and talk with the Officer commanding it.</p> <p>Please convey our gratitude and good wishes to your officers.</p> <p>Sincerely yours, Sherman Miles, Brigadier General U.S.A. Military Attache.</p> <p>Lieut Colonel R. L. Oweb T.D. 7th Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment. Aldershot.</p>
			<p>The following letter was received from General Sir Edmund Ironside on 20 Oct 39, and was read to all Ranks of this Unit.</p> <p>The War Office, Whitehall, 19 Oct 39.</p> <p>"Dear Owen,</p> <p>I was delighted to have a talk with you this afternoon and to say goodbye to you. You will be the first of the old Territorials to go overseas and I congratulate you on the honour. I know you will live up to the name of the Regiment.</p> <p>The best of wishes to you and God speed to all the men.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Edmund Ironside.</p> <p>Bn Headquarters, Badajoz Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, 20 Oct 1939</p>
Bourg Le Roi	1/11/1939	0530	<p>The Battalion moving by road in its own M.T. vehicles at a total strength of 31 officers and 760 Other Ranks left billeting area for EVREUX.</p>

Evreux	2/11/1939	0500	Having spent the night in Company billets the Battalion moved on by road without any casualties to AIRAINES.
Airaines	3/11/1939	1000	After a French Army Mobile Column had passed through the town the Battalion moved on to the 2 nd Corps Area and billeted at Armentieres. Billets were fully occupied by 2200 hours the same night.
Armentieres	4/11/1939		The Battalion is attached to the 51 st French Division forthwith.
Armentieres	5/11/1939	0900	The Battalion moved from billets in the Armentieres area prior to taking over a sector of the RIVER LYS on the Franco-Belgium frontier from NIEPER to BOUSEBECQUE. The location of the Battalion w.c.f. this date was as follows: Battalion headquarters at Quesnoy-sur-Deul. 'A' Company at WEZ-MACQUART. 'B' Company at LABLEUE. 'C' Company at COMINES. 'D' Company at ST. MARGUERITE, and 'HQ' Company at DEULEMONT. Orders are received from Headquarters 51 st Division to the effect that the Battalion must be prepared to occupy the sector w.c.f. 9 Nov 39. The Battalion remains as Corps troops of 2 Corps and is to be permanently under their Headquarters for all matters of administration.
Quesnoy-sur-Deule	6/11/1939	1047	Enemy reconnaissance plane engaged by anti-aircraft artillery in the vicinity of Bn Headquarters.
	9/11/1939	1200	Battalion took over the sector of the Franco-Belgian frontier from Armentieres to Bousbecque . Copy of operation order for the occupation of the sector is attached herewith.
	10/11/1939	1000	Visit by Colonel Mackie R.A. to co-ordinate the artillery plan in connection with the defence of the Battalion sector on the rive Lys.
		1500	Visit of Captain N. Crockenden to Bn Headquarters. This officer was the first representative to reach the Battalion from the 2 nd Battalion of the Regiment situated in I Corps Area at le'Bar near DOUAI. He brought information regarding the defensive system occupied by that Battalion and also the information that they were the first Infantry Battalion of the Regular Army to land in France during September last.
	11/11/1939	1000	The Commanding Officer, attended by 2/Lt P.A. Ferns attended Armistice Day Mass at the Cathedral in Quesnoy-sur-Deule at the invitation of Monsieur le Maire.
		1530	Visit of the following officers of the 2 nd Battalion: The Commanding Officer, Lt Col R. Merton, M.C.; The Adjutant, Captain A.B. Barton, M.C.; and the Signal Officer, Capt. Cooke.
Quesnoy-sur-Deule	12/11/1939	0900	The Commanding Officer with 2/Lt A. Speyer and R.S.M. P. Vahey visited the 2 nd Battalion at Le Bar and after lunch went round the Battalion sector of the Belgian frontier.
	13/11/1939	1600	Visit of Sir Philip Gibbs, Chief War Correspondent with the B.E.F. in France together with four other reporters to learn of the situation in the Battalion area in view of the fact that it was the first Territorial Unit to occupy a sector in the British line.
	15/11/1939	1100	Visit of Lord Bridgeman Director of Training G.H.Q., and Lieut-Colonel G.H.C. Pennycock M.B.E. G.S.O. I. for Gas Training G.H.Q., on a visit to the Battalion as G.H.Q. troops.

	17/11/1939	0830	Visit of General Gaillard, Commanding 51 st Division D'Infanterie, under which formation the Battalion is operating in the LYS sector.
Comines	19/11/1939	1100	Visit of the Secretary of State for War (Rt Hon Leslie Hore-Belisha M.P.) accompanied by the Commander in Chief British Expeditionary Force (General Viscount Gort, V.C. K.C.B. C.B.E, D.S.O., M.V.O. M.C.,) to the Battalion Area. They were accompanied by members of the General Staff from Army Headquarters and the Commander 51 st French Division was also present in the Square at Comines to meet them. The Commanding Officer (Lieut. Col. R.L. Owen T.D.) and Adjutant (Capt J.H. Cubbon), after introductions, led the personnel present to the top of a private chateau on MONT WERVICQ from where a 'tour d'horizon' was given.
Quesnoy-sur-Duele	29/11/1939	1500	The Battalion assumed bridge guard duties over seven bridges on the river LYS from FRELINGHIEN to Armentieres. The Battalion took over Light Anti-Aircraft duties with effect 1200 hours this day at the following electric power stations: CENTRALE ELECTRIQUE de COMINES, CENTRALE ELECTRIQUE de LOMME, CENTRALE ELECTRIQUE de SEQUEDIN.
Quesnoy-sur-Duele	30/11/1939	1027	First visit to the Battalion Brigadier M.C. Dempsey M.C. Commanding 13 th Infantry Brigade.
Quesnoy-sur-Duele	2/12/1939	1000	The Battalion ceased to operate under the command of French 51 st Division and came under the operational command of 13 th Infantry Brigade. From same date Unit ceased to be attached to II Corps for administration and became attached to 4 th Division. Battalion Headquarters moved at 0915 hours to Brickworks Chateau, PERENCHIES and was established there at 1030 hours. At 1400 hours Unit responsibility for bridge guards over the river LYS from FRELINGHIEN to ARMENTIERES ceased as did responsibility for Light Anti-Aircraft defence of the CENTRALE ELECTRIQUE de COMINES. The former was taken over by INISKILLING and WILTSHIRE and the latter by CAMERONIAN. At 1610 hours 'HQ' Company at DEULEMONT and 'D' Company at WERVECQ moved to billets in the Perenchies area. 'C' Company at Comines continues to hold responsibility for manning the LYS sector with Machine Guns on MONT WERVECQ. The move was completed by 1710 hours.
PERENCHIES	5/12/1939	1100	Visit to Bn H.Q. by Lieutenant General A.F. Brooke, C.B., D.S.O., Commander II Corps. After discussion in the Battalion Orderly Room the Corps Commander visited 'D' Company's billets and inspected the guard.
ANNAPES	6/12/1939		A detachment from the Battalion consisting of 3 officers and 50 O.Rs. attended a parade held by 4 Division near LILLE. The detachment left PERENCHIES by M.T. at 1100 hours and halted for one hour on the outskirts of LILLE. They then proceeded by march route for three miles, to the grounds of a large chateau in the open country. The detachment was inspected by His Majesty The King to whom the Commanding Officer was introduced. His Majesty expressed interest at the fact that the Battalion was a Territorial Unit which had been in France for over six weeks. His Majesty was accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief, Major General The Duke of Gloucester, several Officers of the French Army and the Chiefs of all Staffs at G.H.Q. B.E.F., together with several War Correspondents. The list of the names of those composing the detachment is attached herewith.

FRETIN	15/12/1939		The Commanding Officer (Lieut Colonel R. L. Owen) moved with the Brigade Commander (Brigadier M.C. Dempsey, M.C.) and the other four Commanding Officers of the Brigade to a chateau gardn at Fretin where he was with the remainder introduced to the British Prime Minister (The Right Honourable Neville Chamberlain, P.C.)
Wambrechies	21/12/1939	1630	The Commanding Officer (Lieut Colonel R. L. Owen, T.D.) and the Adjutant, (Captain J.H. Cubbon) visited the Commander 5 th Division at Wambrechies (Major General H.E. Franklin D.S.C., M.C.) when particulars of the Battalion task on the new Division sector were explained. The Division is likely to take over a sector incl Halluin – incl Armentieres about 1 Jan 40. The Battalion will be Divisional troops under this formation.
Wambrechies	22/12/1939		A period of cold weather set in over the Battalion area and conditions of extreme frost and thick fog were prevalent.
	25/12/1939		On the occasion of the first Xmas Day of the Battalion abroad since 1917 the day was observed as a holiday by those Officers and O.Rs of the Unit who were not on duty or at guard posts. Xmas Dinners were visited in each Company by the Commanding Officer, 2 nd in Command, the Adjutant, Quartermaster, and the R.S.M. Conditions of fog and extreme frost on the roads continued throughout the day.
Wambrechies	27/12/1939	1700	A night M.T. convoy exercise was held in the Armentieres and frontier sector. The route and march table for the exercise was as attached appendix.
	28/12/1939		Three inches of snow covered the Battalion area. Warmer conditions prevail. No serious traffic accidents have resulted from the weather conditions up to the present time although all vehicle services have been drastically curtailed.
Wambrechies	29/12/1939	1430	The Battalion was inspected by Major General H.E. Franklin D.S.C., M.C. Commander of 5 th Division who was accompanied by Major Verney G.S.O. 2. He made a tour of Company billets and talked with each Company Commander. It is officially notified that a Company from the Battalion will move to the French Sector of the Allied Line in support of the 15 th Infantry Brigade during the middle of January.
Wambrechies	30/12/1939		Wintry conditions continue. Several inches of hardened and frozen snow cover the areas making M.T. movement very dangerous. Extreme cold has not yet been experienced in this area of the British Zone. All billets are warmed, either by central heating or by stoves issued by the Ordnance Corps.
			51 Division d'Infanterie Le 29 Novembre 1939 Mon Cher General, Au moment ou la 51 Division va quitter la région et s'éloigner de votre unité, je tiens á vous exprimer les regrets que j'éprouve á la pensée de voir s'interrompre les excellentes rapports que nous entretenions tous deux. Je garderai le meilleur souvenir de votre beau Bataillon et je souhaite tres vivement que les circonstances nous permettent de nous recontrer dans l'avenir. Je vous prie de croire, Mon Cher Colonel,

			A mes sentiments les plus cordieux.
Perenchies	1/1/1940		The year opened under wintry weather conditions. The entire Bn are was covered with frozen snow to a depth of several inches and several degrees of frost were registered nightly. The Bn continued daily Machine Gun Training whilst Coy Commanders carried out intensive reconnaissance of their sectors in co-operation with the Inf Brigades of the 5 th Division.
Perenchies	13/1/1940	0900	'C' Coy, co-operating with the 15 th Inf Brigade left for II Corps Training Area in the area of ST POL for 3 days training exercises. Extreme weather conditions continue. Seventeen degrees of frost were registered and the cold has become intensified.
Perenchies	14/1/1940	0725	All troops warned to stand to at 4 hours notice by H.Q's 5 th Division.
		1005	Information received from French Frontier Guard that France-Belgian Frontier restrictions has been removed at 0400 hours this morning and that all barriers on the frontier had been lifted.
		1017	Orders from 5 th Div for Bn to take over additional Frontier Guards now held by 13 th Inf Brigade.
		1210	Information received from H.Q.'s 5 th Div to the effect that 'C' Coy are returning from Training Exercises in ST POL area, before 1300 hours this morning. Bridge Guards from WARETON to BOUSEBESQUE to be taken over by the Bn before 1400 hours today. These duties will be carried out by 'A' Coy.
		1317	Instructions proceed from G.S.O H.Q.'s 5 th Division ordering Bridge Guards previously detailed to be found by this Unit relieving 13 th Inf Brigade are not to take station. Unit holds itself in readiness for move this evening.
		1431	Information received from H.Q's 5 th Division, Bn will move immediately for operations under 3 Div.
		1609	Commanding Officer and Adjutant with advanced H.Q's left for H.Q's 3 rd Div LESQUIN.
Perenchies		1730	The Battalion (less Billet Guards) moved in Unit transport by route LOMME – HABOURDIN – ENNEQUIN - CROIX ST PIERRE – RONCHIN to LEZENNES, where billets were occupied by 2230 hours.
Lezennes	14/1/1940	2340	Operation orders received from H.Q's 9 th Inf Brigade regarding movement to be carried out during operations which are to take place in certain circumstances.
Lezennes	15/1/1940	0555	Operation instructions received from H.Q's, 2 Corps regarding the role to be undertaken by the Unit during the forward movement which is anticipated.
Lezennes		1140	'A' and 'B' Coys, 2 nd Bn The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers arrived in the town for billeting and remain under the orders of this Unit for movement only should same take place.
		1430	Commanding Officer attended conference at H.Q's 9 th Infantry Brigade.
		2230	Battalion Liaison officer reports to Head Quarters 9 th Infantry Brigade
Lezennes	16/1/1940	1000	Battalion Liaison officer reports to Head Quarters 9 th Infantry Brigade

		1210	Visit to Bn Headquarters from Commander 3 rd Div (Major General B.L. Montgomery, D.S.O., M.C.)
		1830	Liaison Officer visits H.Q.'s 9 th Infantry Brigade. Issue of final Battalion operation order for anticipated move.
Lezennes	17/1/1940	0700	A heavy fall of snow which persisted through the evening of 16 Jan 40 was followed by a keen frost during the night. The day opened bright and clear with a keen biting wind from the north. The movement of mechanical vehicles was rendered most dangerous by the state of the roads and within the Unit all motor-cycling was suspended as a safety measure.
		0900	Battalion Liaison Officer returning from H.Q.'s, 9 th Infantry Brigade reports the situation unchanged with all Units still remaining at 4 hours notice to move. A tendency for the situation on the German frontiers with Holland and Belgium to become very much easier was reported in the press. After an inspection of the Battalion Billets in the village it was evident that although conditions were cold most of the troops had succeeded in spending a reasonably warm night and obtaining some sleep. The issue of movement orders having been completed, there remained only the work of improving the billets and welfare conditions as far as is advisable owing to the temporary nature of the stay of the Unit in this area.
Lezennes	18/1/1940	1000	After a further fall of snow the weather remains cold with frost and slippery road surfaces. Liaison Officer (2 nd Lt J. Hall) returning from 9 th Infantry Brigade H.Q.'s notifies the withdrawal of orders placing the Battalion at 4 hours notice to move. Mails for the Bn from England are secured for the first time since Monday 15 Jan 40. Notification received from H.Q.'s 2 Corps to the effect that leave to the United Kingdom which was suspended for the first Bn party on 14 Jan 40 would be re-opened for the same party on Friday 19 Jan 40. Instructions received from H.Q.'s, 5 th Division ordering the Battalion to hand over to 6 th Bn, The Argyle and Southern Highlanders.
Lezennes	19/1/1940	1000	A clear bright day with continued frost and bad road conditions. Commanding Officer (Lt-Colonel R.L. Owen) and the Battalion Intelligence Officer (2 nd Lt P.A. Ferns) moved to H.Q.'s 5 th Division, WAMBRECHES in connection with handing over to 5 th Division, M.G. sector to 6 th Bn The Argyle and Southern Highlanders.
		1135	Information received from H.Q.'s 3 rd Division notifying the move of the Battalion to 1 st Corps area on 22 Jan 40.
		2100	First Leave party consisting of Major W.W. Manton and 19 O.R.'s left the Bn for 10 days in the U.K.
Lezennes	20/1/1940	0900	Instructions received from higher authority to the effect that the Bn will revert under command of 5 th Div taking over M.G. dispositions from 2 nd Bn Middlesex Regt. This will involve little movement as 5 th Div will shortly take over 3 rd Div area where the Bn is now situated. Similarly the Bn dispositions 5 th Div area will now be taken over by 2 nd Bn Middlesex Regt.
		1000	Company Commanders from the Bn and 2 nd Middlesex Regt left for brigade sectors to take over dispositions in detail.
		1100	Detachment of two Companies 2 nd Bn The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers left to join their unit in TOURCOING.

		2020	Orders received cancelling previous instructions regarding 'take over' from 2 Middlesex in 3 Division Area. Bn to move to I Corps area in vicinity AUBIGNY-au-BAC. 'A' Coy are to remain in LEZENNES under command of 15 th Infantry Brigade prior to move to the SAAR Front on 24 Jan 40.
	21/1/1940	0930	Confirmation of move to I Corps Area received from Headquarters 3 Division.
		1200	Advance Billeting Party left for AUBIGNY commanded by Captain E.D. Boulton and composed of the R.S.M., French Liaison Officer, R.Q.M.S., 4 Sergeants, 4 Drivers, and 4 Motor Cycle Despatch Riders. Snow fell intermittently throughout the day, and road conditions deteriorated still further.
	22/1/1940	0730	Move of Bn (Less 'A' Coy) to I Corps Area commences.
		0800	Advance from 'A' Coy move to SAAR front composed of Captain R.D. Hall with driver and soldier servant in 1 8cwt truck.
		0900	Commanding Officer and Adjutant left LEZENNES for AUBY to visit 4 th Bn The Cheshire Regiment which Unit arrived in France twelve days ago.
Aubigny-au-Bac		1230	Bn Headquarters established in furnished mansion in the main square.
		1400	All Companies reported in Battalion area as follows: Bn HQ, 'HQ' Company and 'D' Company at Aubigny-au-Bac. 'B' and 'C' Companies at Fressin.
	23/1/1940	0930	Commanding Officer and Adjutant left for Headquarters 1 st Corps at DOUAI where they were interviewed by the Brigadier General Staff (Brigadier A.E. Percival, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., of The Cheshire Regiment) and Staff Officers all departments.
		1700	Letter received by Commanding Officer from the Commander 2 CORPS copy of which is attached.
	24/1/1940	0700	'A' Company at full war establishment in personnel and vehicles left LEZENNES for PERENCHIES for entrainment on move to SAAR Front.
		0900	First Operation Instructions received from Headquarters 1 st Corps regarding the role of the battalion in the event of any forward move taking place. The Unit is posted as 1 st Corps Troops and will continue training in local training areas for the time being.
Aubigny-au-Bac	30/1/1940	1215	I Corps Operation Instruction No 21 received dealing with the role and movement of the Bn in the Corps in the event of the Allies being invited into Belgium following a German invasion of Holland and Belgium or of Belgium alone.
		1400	The Commanding officer (Lt Col R.L. Owen) and Adjutant (Captain J.H. Cubbon) together with soldier servants (No 4124496 Pte Jones and No 4125974 Pt Gray) left by road to visit detached Company on duty with the SAAR Force. Conditions on the road were bad and several degrees of frost were registered throughout the day. A very dangerous ice surface covered most parts of the route and rain repeatedly froze on the car windscreen. The following route was covered: Cambrai, St Quentin, La Frere, Laon, Rheims, which was reached 1910 hrs.
Rheims	31	0830	With slightly improved road conditions during the earlier part of the day the following route was covered: Chalons-

			sur-Marne, Chaumont, St Mihiel, Vigneulles, Chambley, Mars-le-Tour, Gravelotte, Metz, which was reached at 2015 hrs. Conditions on the high ground west of Metz were very poor and all road traffic was seriously handicapped by the icy conditions of the roads. The Commanding Officer's car on several occasions failed to grip the road when mounting hills and had to be pushed on to the snow surface at the side of the road.
			'A' Company, 7 th Battalion The Cheshire Regiment War Diary
Brickery	10/5/1940	0600	N.C.O.'s exercise at GENECH: News received by wireless of enemy advance into Low Countries: moved back to Brickery and reorganised.
		1200	Coy ready to move, (a) CALCUTTA party, (b) DELHI party, (c) Balance to I.C 'HQ' Coy.
		1530	Moved off behind No & T.C.P.
		2130	CALCUTTA party arrived BRUSSELS having dropped DELHI at NEDER BRAKEL: Great crowds held up tpt. 2/Lieut Abbott's truck delayed and finally lost (Spent night with police Post).
		2230	Established staging area at R.V.
Brussels	11/5/1940	0500	Brussels bombed
		0700	Missing truck and party reported: 1 Div started pressing through staging Area fully organised. Many stragglers reported, mostly hungry. 2/Lieut Abbott involved in accident and evacuated to hospital.
	12/5/1940		1 Div nearly through. Rations running short. Indented for petrol and rations from 1 Div and obtained them.
	13/5/1940		Routine in Staging Area. Brussels bombed. Many stragglers accommodated.
	14/5/1940		Routine in Staging Area.
	15/5/1940		
	16/5/1940		Belgian withdrawal announced. Preparation to leave.
Brussels	17/5/1940		Moved from CALCUTTA to Gendarmaine. All Staging Area and attached personnel on Traffic Control for evacuation Brussels. Men very tired, many having been on duty for 48 hours.
	18/5/1940	0400	Left Brussels in rear of 1 Div. Roads very congested. Progress slow. Arrived NINOVE: hot meal. After rest moved to Neder Brakel: Rested Coy.
Neder Brakel	19/5/1940	1400	Rested most of day. Refugee control recce.
		1800	Left Neder Brakel for Refugee Control on road to RENAIX: Established six posts. My HQ at Quatre Vents. Some thousands of refugee passed through followed by 1 Div.
	20/5/1940	1000	Enemy bombing Renaix-Quatre Vents. 'A' Coy Refugee Control Posts started to withdraw. C.S.M. Clark reported at

			Quatre Vents wounded. I sent him in his truck. Cpl McLellan arrived in Guards Truck. All posts through.
		1130	Very heavily bombed. P.U. only truck remaining at Quatre Vents. Left with Pte Whittaker and Pte McKie and caught up Colonel. Given Aubigny an Bac as R.V.
		1300	Halted at TOURNAI for meal. Moved to AUBIGNY.
		1600	Stopped at CANTIN by Capt Boulton who informed me that enemy were in CAMBRAI. Decided in absence of C.O. who did not know this, to make Brickery Bn R.V.
		1700	Met C.O. on the road who gave me ANNAPES as R.V. Went to the Brickery and collected rations left there.
		1800	Arrived at ANNAPES. Saw 12 men 'D' Coy only. Informed that PERENCHIES was new R.V.
		2000	Arrived at PERENCHIES. Meal and rest in old H.Qs.
	22/5/1940	0700	'A' Coy in position in wood at PERENCHIES. Reorganised. Hot meal issued.
		1200	Ordered to move to ANNAPES.
		1450	Left PERENCHIES.
		1600	Arrived LE HERON Fm. Ordered to R.V. Later at WANNAHEIM. Slaughtered pigs, fowls, etc, and collected all available rations. Pte Greenacre broke his leg on the way.
		2000	Moved to WANNAHEIM. Established advance and rear H.Qs, three platoons billeted in one large farm.
	22/5/1940		Visited Headquarters 42 nd Div. Div Cmdr gave 'A' Coy task of holding Div reserve line. All morning taken up by recce and occupation. Digging hard in afternoon, camouflage material obtained from farms. One section still in mobile reserve in farm. A very strong position; good field of fire for each section.
	23/5/1940	0600-1200	Inspection of Section positions. All sections continued digging during night. In most cases, each section was fully dug in by dawn.
		1400	Visited Bn HQ and then section positions.
		1600	C.O. arrived. Coy advance H.Q.
		1630	C.O. visited each platoon.
		1800	Message arrived re-move.
		1900	Received order to move to BOUVINES together with map and tracing of pill boxes.
		2100	O.C. Coy and recce party for BOUVINES. Pte Wilden wrecked his machine (M/C) in darkness. Gas Warning issued on road. Definitely Tear Gas was present for two miles. Made fruitless recce for pill boxes which were not found until dawn 24 th . Mostly the pill boxes did not exist in fact.
	24/5/1940	0400	All sections in position on ground if not in pill boxes.

		1400	Many adjustments made. F.D.C's issued.
		1420	C.O. visited CYSOING position.
		2300	4 Pl (Sgt Stockton's Section) fired on fixed line in reply to S.O.S. and shot into South East Lancs Area (No casualties).
Bouvines	Sat 25/5/1940	1800	Recce all morning with 126 Bde Cmds. Visited Bn H.Q. Met C.O.'s of King's Own and East Lancs. Arranged further recce for next day. Shelled heavily in Bouvines. Box Barrage put down 80 in front of Coy Adv H.Q. Reported to Bn and Bde.
	Sun 26/5/1940		Recce all day with King's Own and East Lancs. Forward sections were ordered to forward position, to be in occupation by 2100 hrs. One section 4 Pl was late.
		2100	Called at Bde H.Q. Withdrawal ordered. Suggested change in M.G. plan. Bde Cmdr agreed. Suggested two fwd sections should cover withdrawal of Bde and that I should move to 5 Pl on Rly to cover withdrawal of those two exposed sections. Orders issued to platoons: Situation: 1 Section: 6 Pl fwd on right (CYSOING) 1 Section: 4 Pl fwd on left 2/Lieut Hartley i/c. Five Secs: 5 on rly covering withdrawal of fwd secs: 2/Lieut Bridge i/c. One Sec: 6 pl under cmd E Lancs One Sec 4 Pl mobile reserve with Capt Wild at LESQUINS.
		1150	Handed over farm in BOUVINES to E Lancs and moved to 5 Pl with one Bren gun and Hd Qrs. Disposed of all Coy baggage. All men very tired. Area being heavily shelled. Destroyed Coy docs.
	27/5/1940		126 Bde thinned out during morning. A/T Units left.
		1200	Reported to Bds H.Qrs saw all CO's.
		1700	Message received – plan changed. Ordered to R.V. at BIZET.
		2100	Many roads in vicinity BOUVINES now blocked. Issued orders to fwd sections to withdraw with Units and left BOUVINES with HD Qrs and 5 Pl.
	28/5/1940	0400	Picked up 4 Pl on way. Arrived LOMME. Much congestion on roads. Enemy armoured car opened mortar fire down column. Parked trucks and took up a position covering main road. 5 Pl operated with a mixed force and ordered to cover a counter attack.
		0500	Made for LOMME Brickery. Parked trucks in sheds; put all available guns in position and prepared hot breakfast.

			No one knew where the enemy was, at least two Inf Bdes seemed to be looking for him and there appeared to be nothing else to do under the circumstances.
		0830	Left Brickery and made for Armentieres. Found all roads closed by French. Only open road was occupied by German armoured car which French were attacking. Sent Lieut Hartley to French Commander and asked permission to leave for PERENCHIES. This I was informed, was impossible. Engaged enemy bomber with Bren and sent 2/Lieut Hartley back to French. This time we were lucky and allowed to proceed. The route to Bizet lead through PERENCHIES and with 2/Lieut Hatley in front on a motor cycle the column set off at what probably exceeded the normal m.p.h.
		1030	Arrived BIZET. Coy rested.
		1730	Orders from C.O. 'A' Coy's task was to take up a position on either side of the bridge over YSER on main road to DUNKIRK route NEUVE EGLISE – POPERINGHE – PROVEN.
		1815	Left BIZET. The road was difficult, badly shelled in places, very congested and the night was dark. The Coy became separated in PROVEN. POPERINGHE was burning. Coy 8 cwt abandoned before BIZET on account of 2 punctures and only one spare wheel.
	29/5/1940		Progress was slow. O.C. Coy got off truck and walked last few miles to ROUSEBRUGGE. Great congestion near bridge over YSER.
		0800	Head of 'A' Coy (Now much scattered) arrived at bridge.
		0815	Saw C.O. who ordered me to put out one PI on either side covering bridge.
		0830	126 Bde Cmd arrived – same orders. No guns yet available.
		0900	One MG arrived. Men now thoroughly mixed up, many asleep on troop carriers.
		0915	Ordered 2/Lieut Hartley to left position with one M.G. and one Ant/Tank rifle. 2 nd M.G. turned up a few minutes after.
		0930	Ordered 2/Lieut Bridge to collect tools from abandoned trucks and to take 4 men to dig the right section area (I was informed at this time that only 4 guns remained with 'A' Coy). He went off with one L.M.G. and one Anti/Tank rifle. Two more M.G's arrived. Reported this to 126 Inf Bde and sent Capt Wild with them in a truck to hand them to 2/Lieut Bridge. Sent all spare personnel with Colour Sergeant back.
		1200	Established advanced Coy H.Q's. Liaised with R.A., R.E's and Inf covering bridge. Last of British troops appeared to be going through.
		1300	Saw G.O.C. 44 th Div and asked for information. He advised that M.G. sections would move back at 2200 hrs at latest.
		1400	Sent Capt Wild and C.S.M. to both Secs to let them know that (i) They must expect to hold out until 2200 hrs

			(ii) They were under command of E Lancs and that the rear Coy Cmdr would tell them when they could move.
		1530	Tried to find other Units H.Q's but failed.
		1600	Sent back Capt Wild with all spare men from HQ Coy. Here now remained Major Durnnell, C.S.M. Wagner, Sgt Stockton and Pte Allen on the bridge. An A/Tank rifle, S.A.A. and grenades were collected from abandoned trucks. Made contact with Coy Cmdr E Lancs and King's Own.
		1615	ROUSEBRUGGE heavily shelled.
		1700	2/Lieut Hartley reported at H.Q. O.C. Coy explained the situation, especially his route to DUNKIRK.
		1715	Made further recce of positions. There appeared to be a delay in blowing up the bridge. Village heavily shelled.
		1915	2/Lieut Bridge reported by Orderly.
		2000	Left ROUSEBRUGGE for Bde H.Q. Abandoned truck soon after. Arrived 'A' Coy 2 Cheshires. Rested for night.
	30/5/1940	0700	Left 'A' Coy 2 Cheshires at LESMOEURES.
		0730	Reported at 126 Bde H.Q.
		1415	In UXHEM area. Units of 42 Div were on the move to DUNKIRK. Touch was lost with 126 Bde. Decided to move to the beach.
		1600	Arrived beach east of DUNKIRK. Reported to 1 Div and ordered to embark with 2 Cheshires.
		2000	Sgt Stockton and Pte Allen embarked with a few other men of 7 Cheshires. Major Durnnell and C.S.M. Wagner were detailed for special duty.
	31/5/1940	0100	Major Durnnell and C.S.M. Wagner embarked. This was the last of 'A' Coy. Signed: C.S. Durnnell, Major.
			<p>SPECIAL ORDER</p> <p>The Commander 2nd Corps has asked me to convey his warm congratulations and thanks to the 5th Division and to other troops who fought so gallantly in co-operation with the 5th Division on May 27th and 28th.</p> <p>It is his opinion that it was entirely due to our action that the who Corps was able to effect a withdrawal and that unless we had held the YPRES – COMINES Canal so successfully the safety of the whole B.E.F. might have been put in serious danger.</p> <p>I am confident that this fact will be confirmed by History.</p> <p>It is a matter of great satisfaction to all of us that we were able to carry out such a vitally important task with complete success.</p> <p>It was not done without heavy loss. This must be so always when troops are asked to hold wide frontages to the last.</p> <p>It is sad to see such fine Units reduced by casualties to their present small number but it would be much worse if</p>

			<p>they had not achieved a vital task and inflicted far heavier losses on the enemy. I am indeed proud to have under my Command such a splendid body of Troops and to all Commanders and troops I offer my sincere congratulations and thanks. Signed H.E. Franklyn Major-General Commander 5th Division. Field: 29th May, 1940</p>
<p>Bridestowe Bangor Braco</p> <p>Bromborough</p> <p>Sandbach</p> <p>Sandbach</p> <p>Cookstown</p>	<p>16/6/1940 17/6/1940 7/7/1940</p> <p>24/10/1940</p> <p>29/11/1940</p> <p>20/12/1940</p> <p>Jan 1941 17/2/1941</p> <p>11/4/1941</p>		<p>Extracts from 7th Battalion Cheshire War Diary WO 166/4196 - Jun 1940 to Dec 1941 (England, Scotland & Northern Ireland) 16 Jun Bridestowe, Devon 17 Jun Bangor, Wales where remained for rest of June until 7 July 7 July Move from Bangor to Braco, Perthshire 24 Aug, Braco - It was notified that Major J H Cubbon had been awarded the Order of the British Empire & CSM R.L. Davies the DCM for services with the Battalion in France 1940. 29 Oct Bn moved from Braco to Bromborough, Cheshire 25 Nov A Coy at Bolton, B Coy at Childwall, C Coy at Holmes Chapel, D Coy at Neston. HQ Coy at Sandbach 29 Nov BN HQ moved from Bromborough to Sandbach On 20 Nov 1940, A O Bridge was listed a 2/Lieut in 'A Company along with Capt K Tolchard, Lieut Speyer, 2/Lieut Davison, 2/Lieut Nash. 20 Dec 1940, Supplement to London Gazette contained the following mention in Despatches: Lieut-Col R L Owen TD, Major CS Durnell, Lieut J Lewis, Sht WE Hibbard, Cpl K A Biden Jan 1941 HQ at Sandbach. A Coy at Bolton 17 Feb 1941, Sandbach. MEEANEE Day. The anniversary was marked by all Coys by a short ceremonial parade at which the history of the battle was recounted to the men. (Capture of Sindh Region in what is now Pakistan). 19 Feb 1941, A O Bridge listed as 2/Lieut as of 3rd May 1939 29 Mar 1941, Sandbach. Instructions received for embarkation to Northern Ireland B Coy The Argory near Moy, C Coy Belle Vue, Enniskillen, D Coy Ballinamallard 11 Apr 1941, Northern Ireland. HQ and A Coy at Cookstown, 24 Sep 1941, AO Bridge is listed as a Lieutenant 2 i/c 'A' Coy.</p>

			<p>Oct 1941, still at Cookstown</p> <p>4 Nov 1941, C.O. visited A Coy at Clogher 8 Nov 1941, A Coy leaves Clogher for Ballinamallard</p> <p>18 Dec 1941, Army Commander visited A Coy. Lt A O Bridge commanded the coy in the absence on a course of Capt R M Bond. A demonstration was given of a platoon coming into a defensive position. The Div Cmdrs & Lt Col R L Owen TD were present.</p> <p>27 Dec 1941. GCM of Lt RMA Davison promulgated. Sentenced to be dismissed from the Service.</p> <p>WO 169/5005 - APR 1942 TO DEC 1942</p>
At Sea Cape Town Bombay	1/4/1942 18/4/1942 6/5/1942		<p>1ST APR AT SEA 18 Apr Arrived Cape town, shore leave given, good reception 6 May Arrived Bombay 7 May 1600 1dt prt of HQ, A and C Coys entrained at Victoria terminus for destination Ahmed Nagar 9 May to 30 May training 31 May entrained for Barkakana</p>
Ratu	3/6/1942		<p>1 Jun Nagpu - very hot = 3 heat exhaustion cases taken to hospital 3 Jun Arrived Ratu. . Camp situated in mango grove on fair slope at 9 M.S. on rd Ranchi - Lohardaga. Bad malarial area. Considerable difficulty on water which allowed 3/4 gallon per man 4 Jun Major C S Durtnell admitted to hospital 7 Jun Private Conterio drowned while bathing in Ratu dam 9 Jun Major C S Durtnell discharged from hospital In Ratu until 30 Jun</p> <p>12,19,26 jul 1942 - Lieutenant A O Bridge present in roll of officers 1-10 Aug Makmandro</p>

Bombay	19/8/1942		15 Aug Bn moved from Ratu for entrainmen at Barkakana station to Bombay
Euphrates	27/8/1942		19 Aug Arrived Bombay 20 Aug Ship HMT Varsova sailed
Basra	30/8/1942		27 Aug arrived at mouth of Euphrates 28 Aug Extremely hot and casualty list high 30 Aug sailed up river to Basra. 1600 hrs Bn marched to Maquil station and entrained for 38 Rest Camp. Chaplain, Captain Dronsfield and 2/Lt Davey and Lt Coltart admitted to hospital. 2 Sep - 38 rest Camp, Zubair, Basra. Major C S Durtnell suffering from heat stroke and 3 other officers admitted to hospital. Total number of officers and O.Rs. in hospital: 85. 9 Sep Major C S Durtnell discharged from hospital
Baghdad	14/9/1942		14 Sep The Bn left Rest camp for Zubair station and entrained for Baghdad at 1730. 16 Sep Bn left Baghdad and entrained for Khanaqin city.
Khanaqin	17/9/1942		17 Sep Left Khanaqin city for night at Sar-I-Mil.
Kermanshah	18/9/1942		18 Sep arrived at final destination Kermanshah 25 Sep 'A' Coy went on night exercise
			On 27 Sep roll, Cap Buckley, Lieut A.O Bridge and 2/Lt J Davey marked as at 61 BGH Shauba, and return is 'particularly requested.
			2 Oct Commanding officer admitted to No 17 CCS suffering from neuritis. 25 Ors returned to unit from hospital. 5 Oct, Kermanshah - Lieut A.O. Bridge returned from hospital 7 Oct, 1 Pl of A Coy went out on 3 day exercise 17 Oct - A a D Coys to move to QUM. Kermansha placed out of bounds owing to bread riots.
			31 Oct and 28 Nov 1942 roll, Lt A.O. Bridge listed as present.
Qum	Nov 1942		November - Digging in at QUM December - QUM
	25/12/1942		14 Dec - Pl exercise by A Coy. 25 Dec 1942. Efforts to provide Xmas fare for the Bn were not in vain. Turkey, chicken and ducks were in evidence. There was ample beers for all ranks of each Coy. 26 Dec - First fall of snow. A.O Bridge not on roll list of officers of 26 Dec 1942.

Qum	Jan 1943		<p>A.O Bridge is though on roll list of officers of 3 and 10, 17,24,31 Jan 1943</p> <p>WO 169/10192 Jan 1943 - :</p> <p>Qum in Jan 1943</p> <p>25 Jan 1943 - Exercise Recce patrol located enemy infantry at 359074. Engaged my M.G. fire at 3000 yds range.</p> <p>8 Feb - Moved to Baghdad</p> <p>12 Feb - 30 Mar - At Damascus, training, a few court martials of Privates</p> <p>A.O Bridge not on typed roll list of officers of 21,28 Feb 1943, but on hand written roll for 27 Mar 1943, and on typed roll for 24 Apr 1943</p> <p>1 Apr 1943 A O Bridge among officers attending 'dry shod training course no 5 at HQ 5 Div for 4 days</p> <p>3 Apr 1943 Lt Col R L Owen TD received orders to report for duty at AAG (L), GHQ, MEF, and left Bn with C S Durnnell assuming command.</p>
Baghdad Damascus	8/2/1943 12/2/1943		
Damascus	4/4/1943		<p>4 Apr Damascus : M G Coys continued mountainous warfare training</p> <p>All April at Damascus</p> <p>May, training, Damascus</p>
Damascus	30/5/1943		<p>30 May 1943, Lieutenant A O Bridge, after nearly 4 years with the Battalion as a platoon commander and most recently as administrative officer left the Battalion on posting for duty at M1 11 at GHQ, MEF</p>
Sicily, Motta Belpasso Consilina Potenza Boiano Monteverde Lanciano	4/8/1943 6/8/1943 26/9/1943 1/10/1943 1/11/1943 1/12/1943 18/12/1943		<p>4 Aug 1943, Sicily, took part in attack on Motta</p> <p>6 Aug 1943, attack at Belpasso</p> <p>26 Sep Sala, Consilina</p> <p>1 Oct , Potenza</p> <p>1 Nov, Boiano</p> <p>1 Dec 1943, Monteverde</p> <p>18 Dec 1943, Lanciano</p>

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