

Individual Auxiliary Unit Regiment members  
Called for service in June 1944

*Extract from Forbidden diary*

Action expected any time soon

Saturday [3 Jun 1944]

9.40pm Supper of fried bread, egg powder bread mand marge

Sunday [4 Jun 1944]

call to stay by telephone, call came at 4.30pm

Monday [5 Jun 1944]

Officers and N.C.O.s to meet in Wareham, meeting ends at 9pm

Orders received regarding kit, weapons, etc, etc

Given choice of weapons, I chose Tommy gun and 200 rounds of ammo.

Pistol and 36 rounds, went to bed at 11.30, couldn't sleep as planes and gliders all night, no enemy air activity

Tuesday [6 Jun 1944]

Two of our planes crashed quite near.

7am Jerry announced landings, British confirmed at 1pm

2.30pm meet at Wareham, Army lorries to Knitson Farm

4.30pm transferred to hill top to guard installations

Tents erected, camouflage nets on everything

R.A.F. Regiment and guard dogs on all day, Aux. Units at night.

Tea at 5.30pm

Next moving, assembling equipment, laying tripwires and booby traps on all approach paths and gaps, leaving pins in

11 pm mounted guard after pulling out all safety pins.

3 sentry posts, triangular setting, arms two Tommy guns, one Sten all loaded, changed posts clockwise every hour – crawling

Warned to expect paratroops or sea transported saboteurs

Challenge anyone walking, shoot to kill any person crawling, fire at any suspicious movement

Cold lying on ground, no cover, high wind, one walking challenge

Else O.K., planes all night, flares over sea and French coast

Heavy gunfire or bombs over Channel

Two hospital ships coming back all lit up with Red Cross.

Wednesday [7 Jun 1944]

Off duty at 2am, second guard arrives

A couple of hours sleep, new orders

Keep inside tents or quickly walk no more than half a mile away

Discussing orders (too complicated) and checking equipment 'til 11am

Several air raid sirens alarms but no Jerry, received one newspaper

Personal detail tobacco and letters arrive lunch 12.30

Played pontoon, lost over two bob.

Call to lay tripwires and traps. One man's device exploded

No harm, finished the job 10 to 6 [5.50pm] went back for tea

Tea finished and cleared so no tea, found some bread, marge and salt

Issued with steel helmets, what for!., very quiet, very nervy as still expecting paratroops.

Bombers coming back from Cherbourg.  
Discussing relatives and girl friends. Decent lot of chaps  
8 to a tent, 3 married, always losing things, many ships passing

Thursday [8 Jun 1944]

Night guard, second shift, very cold, headache but very alert  
Dawn broke about 4am. Larks singing at 4.30am, finished at 5am  
Day off today  
Breakfast at 8.30am fried sausage meat and bread  
10am to Commanders tent for orders, none received, passes for day  
Rocket firing Typhoons firing at sea targets, visited A.A. gun site, used predictor  
No papers or tobacco, 12.30 dinner  
Crept past guards into Swanage, against orders  
Visited Forces Canteen in Swanage, against orders  
Went in pub, Tony Holden played piano, sing song, good fun  
Bar girl plaited "Slashers"<sup>1</sup> hair with string, left 8.30pm crept back.  
On guard at 11pm, rain and fog, most uncomfortable, suspicious shots  
What!., at camp promoted to acting guard commander, fog thick "Alert"

Friday [9 Jun 1944]

Nightlong gunfire in Channel, off at 2.30am, straight to bed  
8.30am breakfast, tidy up tent, wet clothes everywhere, tent badly sited, promised rum issue soon, cleaned arms, checked ammo.  
NAAFI van arrived, tea and cakes until dinner at 12.30  
Best dinner; roast beef, 2 veg, prunes and custard  
Still rain and fog, sleep until tea. Army Commander unpopular

Saturday [10 Jun 1944]

Only activity one unseen plane, on guard at 2am  
Amusing, one man laces up boots on wrong feet, corrects in time  
Weather cleared, ships passing in moonlight, feet very cold  
A few planes, gunfire over channel, bursts of flak  
Off guard at 5am. Sleep until 8.30am, breakfast egg and liver  
Colonel visiting 1-2, spit and polish, tidy tent, clean guns  
18 gall's beer in CCS tent, cheers things up a bit  
Stuffed a sack for football, dinner mashed potato, meat gravy, rice pudding, quick!!  
Company commander visits "Any complaints?" - NONE  
2pm Colonel arrives, announces 2<sup>nd</sup> front news good  
Colonel thanks us for volunteering. Did we??  
Fall out, make beds, short rest, lovely weather, tea short of supplies  
Many planes about, Dakotas with fighter escort, tea 4pm  
Supper late bread and cheese, cocoa. On guard 10.30pm

Sunday [11 June 1944]

Capt. Hubbard brought my piano accordion breakfast 8.30am  
Fatigues, weapon cleaning and tidying tent all morning  
Passes issued for Swanage, party of six consists of;  
Sgt. Simpson, Sgt. Fooks, Cpl Holden, Cpl Miller, Pte Parker, Pte Outram<sup>2</sup>  
Swanage at 3.30 tea at Trocadero

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1 "Slasher" is George Oakley Parker

2 Percy Edwin Miller and Anthony Albert Holden were Privates not Corporals

Lettuce, watercress and jam sandwiches, cakes, tart, coffee  
NEW CRUSTS WITH JAM!!

## THE TROCADERO

Upstairs to rest room, two games of drafts with Sgt. Fooks, won both  
Wrote and posted letters  
Tony on the piano, good player, "Two in Harmony" just!!  
Cinema next "Schnozzle Durante" funny<sup>3</sup>  
Pub until 7.10pm Gordon Outram worried, back at camp 10.10pm

Monday [12 June 1944]

On guard at 1.30am very tired, quite sober, very alert  
Off guard 5am breakfast 8.30am  
Fatigues and cleaning til 11.00am Sing-song in tent  
Dinner at 12.30, good food, wonderful fruit tart  
shooting match at 2.00pm, good shooting, .22 sniper rifle  
I tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, tea at 4.15pm  
Letters arrived, mad scramble, another sing-song  
Supper at 8.00pm, rest, cup of tea at 9.30pm  
On guard at 10.30pm very cold, windy

Tuesday [13 June 1944]

Second guard late arriving but off guard at 2.30am  
Straight to bed  
Tues. breakfast 8.30am in pyjamas, late riser  
Parade for personal ammo and full mags  
Parade successful, everything balanced & accounted for  
No orders, back to tent for sing-song and yarns  
11.30am packing up. Quartermaster checks everything, all O.K.  
Worst morning shaving in cold water  
weather rain and fog and lousy dinner!!  
ready for return, all fed up and wanted to be dropped in France  
Paraded. Thanked by Captain. Impressed upon for secrecy.  
Uneventful all, not one round fired by Ack.Ack.!!  
Army lorries arrive  
Homeward bound

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Return to Ordinary Duties.

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*Fred Simpson's diary of duty at Knitson Farm communications site around D Day  
Transcribed by W Ward 23 Aug 2023  
Minor corrections of formatting, spelling and punctuation. Added dates for clarity  
Times changed to same format throughout for ease of reading  
Original transcript available in CART archive*

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3 This was likely "Two Girls and a Sailor" released in June 1944 <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x248hjo>