

THE ROAD TO DUNKIRK



FORMAT OF TALK

THE BATTLE OF DUNKIRK

Battalions of the Royal Warwickshire Regt

The Wormhout Battle

Prisoners of War & the SS

The Dead of Wormhout

The Survivors of Wormhout

The Aftermath



DUNKIRK FACTS

GOC 3rd Infantry Division



7th Panzer Division

ROYAL NAVY LOSSES

6 x Destroyers sunk, 9 x Major vessels lost. 19 Destroyers Damaged and 100s of small craft sunk.

BRITISH ARMY LOSSES

Guns x 2,472 - Vehicles x 63,879 - Motorcycles x 20,548

Ammunition (Tons) x 76,697 - Stores (Tons) x 415,940

Petrol (Tons) x 164,929 - Cruiser Tanks x 161

Light Tanks (Vickers Mk VI) x 162. MGs x 11,000.

Infantry Tanks (Matilda) Mk 1 x 100 (Total sent to France)

Killed, Died of Wounds, Missing, POW – 68,111



ROYAL AIR FORCE LOSSES



931 Aircraft - Failed to return, destroyed on the ground,
damaged beyond repair.

1,526 Men Killed in Action, Died of Wounds, Lost at Sea,
POW – Majority of these were pilots and aircrew.

Squadrons – 1, 12, 54, 73, 114, 501, 600.

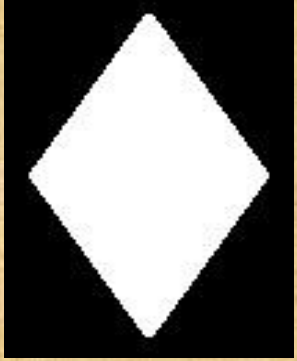
12th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regt

Battalion reached France in March 1940 and did valuable service in guarding docks, ammo depots, petrol and other supply dumps. The Bn was evacuated without loss from St Marlo and Brest by the 17th June.

Formed as a Garrison Bn 18.01.40 at Newton Abbot. Disbanded 19.03.42 personnel RA.

1/7th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regt 143 BDE

48th Division



Jan 1940 Arrived France stationed at Raches.

10th May moved to Brussels as A.A defence for BEF.

11th In position in action continuously next six days.

Worked under direct control of 1st Division.

17th May Reverted to 143 Brigade at Hal. Withdrawal to
Escaut Canal – The blooding of the Bn.

22nd bewildering withdrawals – slowly to the west.

25th Passed through – Orchies, Degregraincourt, Don-En-Sanghien and arrived north of Lille near Commines. Took up position covering the Commines Canal from Ypres to North of Houthem.

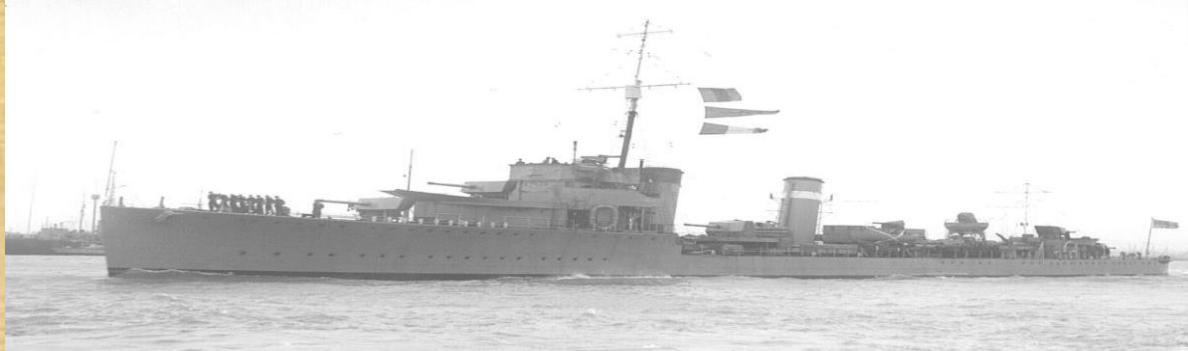
26th Moved to canal at Houthem.

27th Germans broke through on left flank, by mid-day A & B Coys had been overrun. Counter attack led by the Adjut restored the situation.

28th “Grim battle, holding on by skin of our teeth”

31st Withdraw to Dunkirk.

1st June left via the Mole on HMS Malcolm for Dover.



CASUALTIES

Officers - 2 Killed, 5 Wounded, 8 POW, 1 Missing.

Other Ranks – 250 Killed Wounded and Missing.

DECORATIONS

1 x DSO, 3 x MC, 3 x DCM, 1 x MM. MID x 1+ ?

5111584 Pte A H GOODMAN 7BN ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGT



Home Town Warwick. Missing in action 16.07.40 Prisoner of War interned at Stalag 344 Lamsdorf Poland. Released 18.07.45.

8th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment 143 Bde 48th Division

11 – 16th May A B and D Coys Guarding vulnerable points.

17th Moved forward to form a bridgehead – canal in Hal.

18th Moved to the Perquiese area – Marched 45 Miles 27 Hours.

Large parties of refugees on the road. Small bridges blown.

20th heavy shelling around Bn HQ at Warnaffles Farm.

21st heavy shelling on the forward companies. The Germans crossed part of the canal in civilian clothes.

CO Led counter attack but was killed. Maj Lowe took command but was later killed.

22nd Maj Kendle assumed command.

22/23rd Moved to Axe. 23rd Moved to Auchy. 24th to Fournes. 25th Moved by transport to woods NW of Verlingham. 26th By bus to Warneton and took up defensive positions, moved on to Lys Canal then to area north of Comines which was to be held at all cost.

27th Battle began with very severe fighting, the battalion positions captured or driven in, but a ragged reserve line held.

28th A day of fierce fighting and most of the line held. Bn ordered to abandon the line and marched back to Messines and transport to Stavele.

29th In support near the Yser river. 30th Moved to Moeres.

1st June ordered to Dunkirk they arrived at the Mole 130 ORs 8 Offs

8th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regt

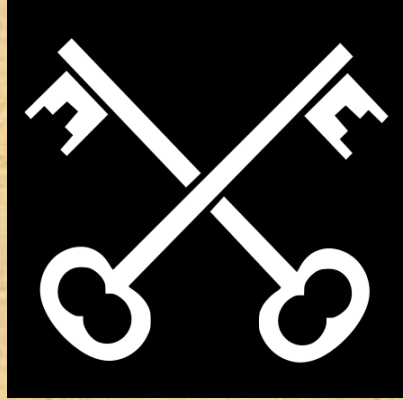
CASUALTIES

400 Men KIA, Wounded, POW, Missing.
7 Officers KIA, 5 Wounded, 5 POW, 8 Missing.

DECORATIONS

2 x MC – 4 x MM

2Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment



Sept 1939 Arrived France – BEF 5th Brigade 2nd Division

21st Mar 40 Left for Saar.

28th Took over an outpost line.

10th Apr Patrol came under fire near some old French Trenches.

Sgt Brown & Whitehouse awarded MM, Capt Fisher MC.

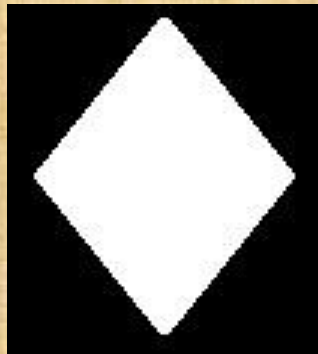
Battalion returned to Franco-Belgian frontier.

13th May now part of 48th Div left Le Forest.

14th Established on west side of Bois de Soignies (Waterloo)

16th In positions in the Foret de Soignies.

17th Withdrawn to Pepinghen – Cross country march.



18th Further orders to withdraw to St Pierre – Cappelle
In action all day, withdrawing followed by German advance.

19th The men drunk with fatigue marched on. 5am picked up by
the Battalion Transport. By 8am arrived at Hollain.

20th Positioned on the river Escaut. In action all day.

21st All companies engaged in heavy fighting. Maj Morley KIA.
CO evacuated with burst gastric ulcer.

22nd Moved to rest area at Wez-Velvain – Sleep/Rest.

23rd Moved to Mannenville and on to Lille into billets – re org.

25th Left Aubers in RASC lorries for Hoogstade.

26th Arrived at WORMHOUDT – C Company to 48th DIV.

2BN ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGT

CASUALTIES

2 x Officers KIA. 6 x Officers Wounded. 4 x Officers POW
6 x Officers Missing.

400 x Other Ranks Killed, Wounded and Missing.

HONOURS & AWARDS

DSO x 1. MC x 4. DCM x 2. MM x 4. MID x 3 + ?

5105030 L/CPL S M HOLDER 2BN ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGT.



Pte Holder was a regular soldier and at some period 1936-39 he was part of a small detachment of Royal Warwick's in Palestine attached to the South Staffordshire Regt. He was evacuated from Dunkirk and discharged sick or wounded.

WOII Frank Charles Smith 2Bn Royal Warwickshire Regt CSM "C" Company KIA Bray Sands Dunkirk 29 May 1940



By the KING'S Order the name of
Company Sergeant-Major F.C. Smith,
The Royal Warwickshire Regiment,
was published in the London Gazette on
26 July, 1940.
as mentioned in a Despatch for distinguished service.
I am charged to record
His Majesty's high appreciation.

David Margesson

Secretary of State for War

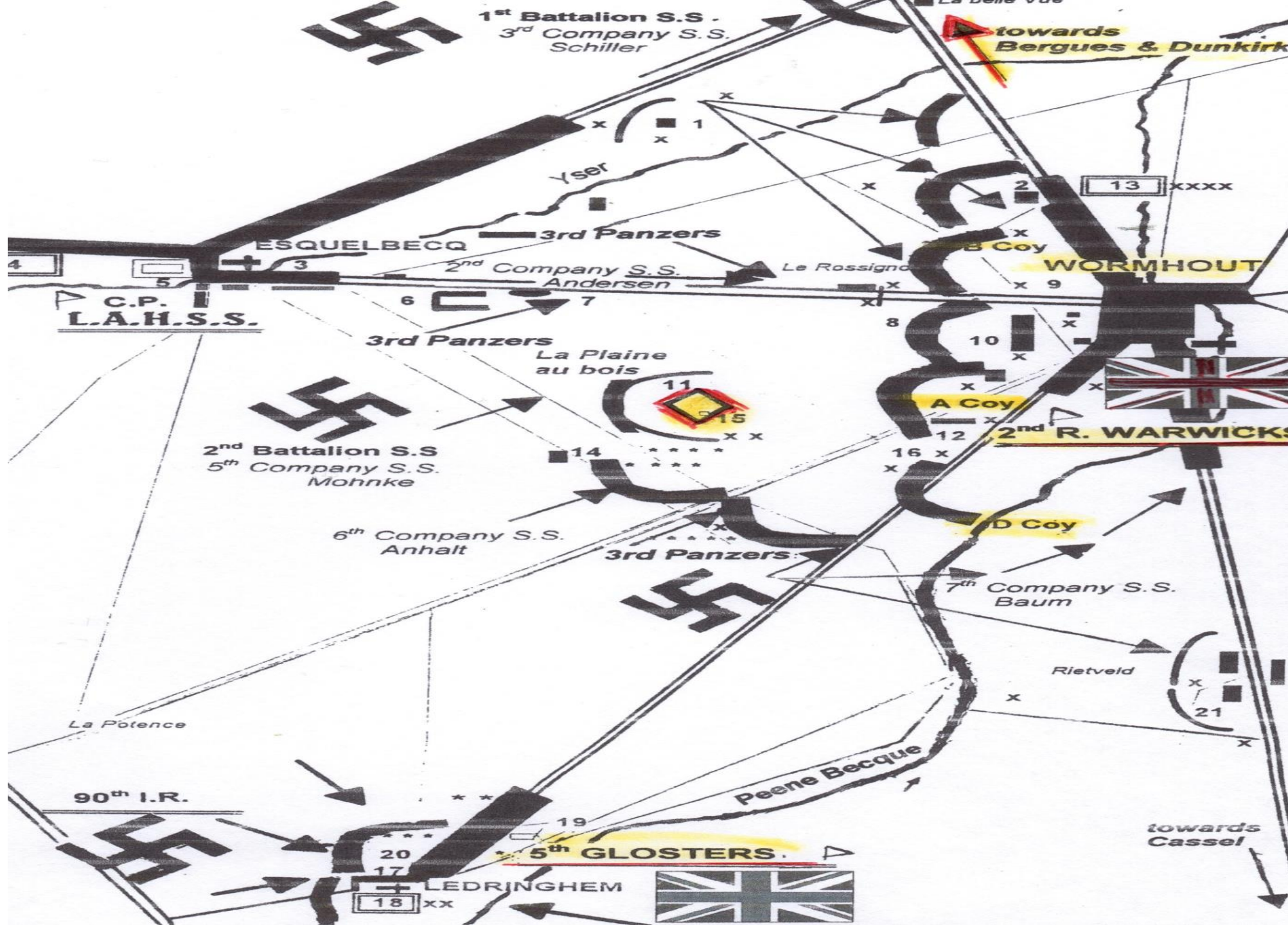


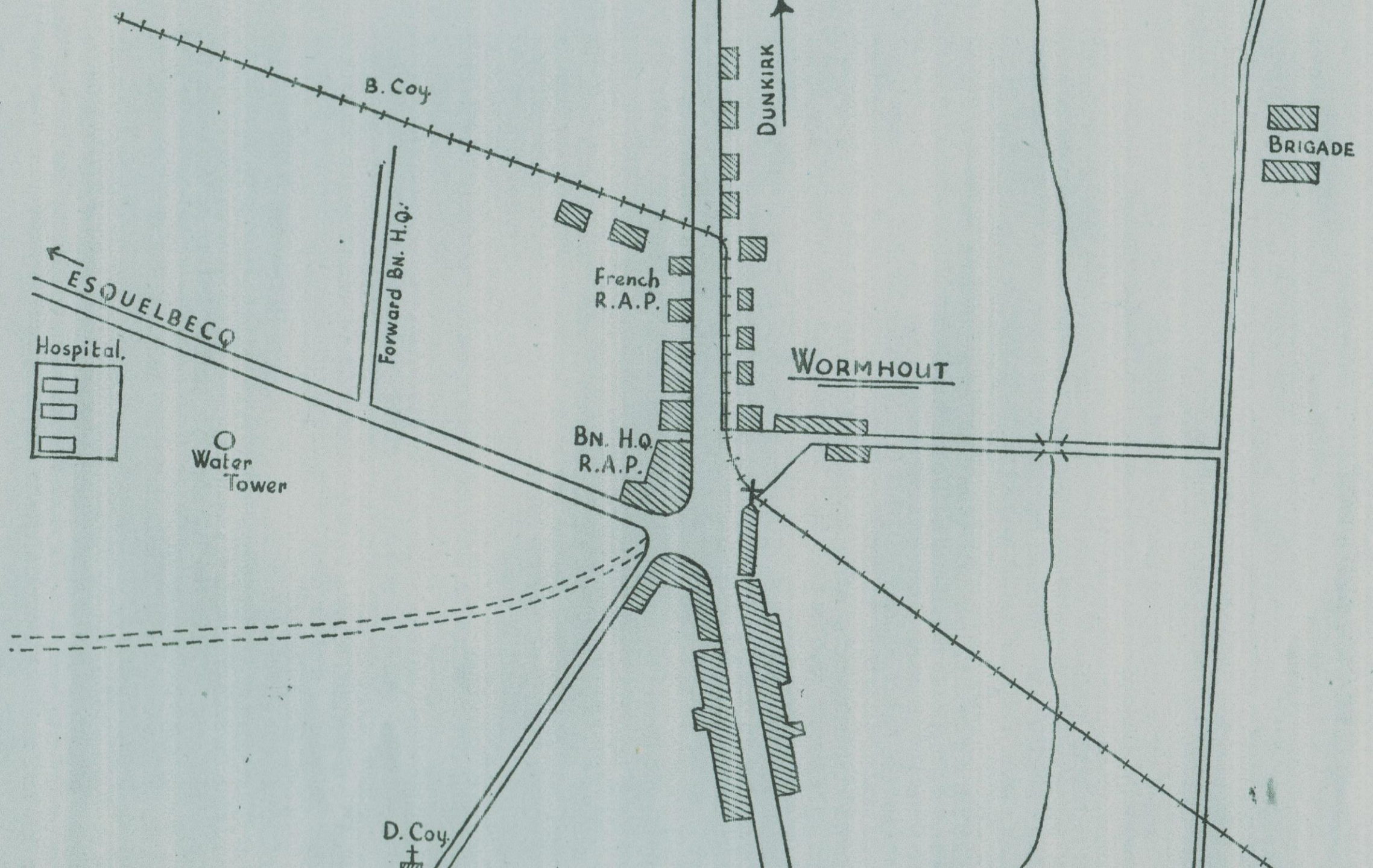
BATTLE FOR WORMHOUT



- 26th May The Battalion arrived at Wormhout. – Took up positions and dug in. With support from two MG Platoons 4th Cheshires and 53rd Anti-Tank Regt.
- 27th The area was bombed by 15 planes and the Pioneer Plt had casualties.
- “C” Company withdrawn to defend 48th Division HQ.
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- 28th At 12 noon 200 enemy east of the Dunkirk road. Heavy fire and shelling.
- Positions overrun by tanks . CO with 65 soldiers escaped to Brigade HQ.
- 29th Survivors reorganized with LT-Col Hicks as CO. Defence positions.
- 30th Orders to move to Bray Dunes Dunkirk arrived 5 am at 10 am the remains of 144 Brigade evacuated in small boats. After 13 days in contact with the enemy.







THE KILLING OF PRISONERS

28th May 1400hrs German tanks and troops in Wormhout ,
1500hrs Germans in full control, some prisoners killed on site.
50 prisoners were rounded up and moved close to Wormhout
church. They were marched North then to the Ledringham
road. On route Pte Albert Evans reported seeing 15 men shot.
Also men who could not keep up were shot or bayoneted .

Eventually arriving at a Barn/Milking shed!



THE BARN





5099997 CSM
Augustus JENNINGS

2Bn Royal Warwickshire Regt

KIA 29/30 May 1940

Age 36

Buried Esquelbeco Military
Cemetery



5108000 Sgt Stanley Moore
2Bn Royal Warwickshire Regt

Missing - Died 11/30 May 1940 Age 24

Esquelbeco Military Cemetery

Husband of Martha Louisa Moore of
Paddington London

53157 Capt James Frazer LYNN – ALLEN D Company
2Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment.



Escaped with Bert Evans but shot and
killed in a pond near to the Barn.

Husband of Beryl Lynn – Allen of
Tyndrum Perthshire.

Commemorated on the Dunkirk
Memorial

Recommended for MC

5100381 WOII (SGT) Charles Alfred Dodd
KIA 28 May 1940 Buried Wormhout



5107786 PTE ALF TOMBS - 2BN ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGT



Survived the Massacre, lay covered by the dead bodies and soaked in blood.

Together with four others escaped across country but were captured again. But this time treated well.

POW No 1144 Interned at Stalag Lamsdorf

BERT EVENS 2BN ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGT



**OST OF ALL YOU FIGHT
R YOUR BROTHERS'**
Bert Evens today. Right, the
in Wormhoudt where
ldiers of the 2nd Battalion
e Royal Warwickshire
re massacred; SS-
upstürmführer Wilhelm
hnke, who gave the order
at no prisoners be taken;
rdered British captives
Wormhoudt; and how the
nkirk evacuation was
ported, June 1940

Under age and not sent to France until May and only been in D Coy a few days before capture. Position overrun by tanks and infantry, captured by a river. Taken to the Barn, and in the doorway with Capt Lynn – Allen. Grenades thrown wounded in the arm escaped with Capt Lynn – Allen. POW, arm amputated, repatriated 1944.

5105748 Pte George Reginald West
Died 22 July 1990

Enlisted Jan 1930

Served - Palestine, Egypt,
India.

Discharged to Reserve 1938

June 1939 Recalled to BEF
with advance party 1938

Escaped from the Barn at
Wormhout lay under dead
and wounded.

MID LG 14.11.46



PTE JIM DUTTON 2BN RWR



**Jim Dutton . . . out of
the cold.**

BIRMINGHAM POST 29 DEC 1976

Jim Dutton aged 50 one of only 11 Survivors of the Wormhout Massacre in May 1940 when men of the RWR were massacred by the SS. He was discovered living rough in a derelict house. The council's housing dept have now found him a council flat.



CAPT WILHELM MOHNKE SS

Born 15 March 1911 in Lubeck
Won two Iron Crosses in Poland
German Gold Cross in Russia
May 1940 OC 5 Coy 2Bn
Adolf Hitler SS Brigade
SS BRIGADE COMD 1945
POW Russia 1945 – 1955
Pension of £20,000 per year 1999

May 1940
in Flanders



The
forgotten massacre

Guy ROMMELAERE

2nd edition

Mr G.R. West

5105748

H.Q.Co (signals)

1st & 2nd.Btn

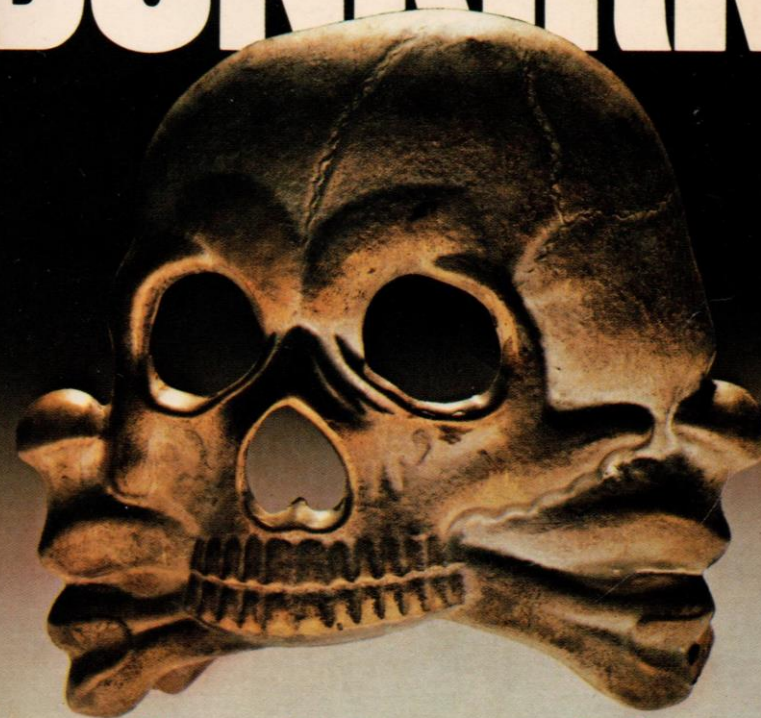


Royal
Warwickshire
Regiment

1930 - 1945

LESLIE AITKEN

MASSACRE ON THE ROAD TO DUNKIRK



Never before revealed –
the bloodiest slaughter
of World War II

2001





Dunkirk Medal

Instituted by the Mayor of
Dunkirk 1960

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

