

**Original War Diary of 606 Coy (Palestine), Pioneer Corps (Transcription)**

**22 November 1940 – 31 August 1942**

**Transcript by:**

Yosef Shaked,  
Son of Nachum Mandel, a soldier in 606 Coy, Pioneer Corps.  
Address: Haifa, Israel

**Acknowledgements**

Dalia Rubinstein, a friend and a good manuscript reader.  
Yehuda Scheffer, Colonel (ret.), for the copies of authentic military documents that were invaluable for the interpretation of this diary. His assistance was particularly helpful in understanding the military background of the events in Greece and Crete included in the manuscript.

**Forward**

1. The company was formed in 22 November 1940 at Sarafand camp in Palestine (Eretz-Israel). All of the ordinary soldiers and most of the Non-Commissioned Officers were Jewish, the commander and most of the officers were British.
2. The name of the company was changed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1941 from "6 Company, Pioneer Corps" to "606 Company, Pioneer Corps".
3. During the period 1940 – 1942, the company served at these locations in the following chronological order: Palestine, Egypt, Greece, Milos Island, Crete, Egypt, Cyprus, Egypt.
4. The manuscript of the original War Diary is in the holding of "The British National Archives" Files: WO 169/581, WO 169/2423 and WO 169/6400, years: 1940, 1941 and 1942 accordingly.
5. The following War Diary pages of 606 Coy have not been found in the The British National Archives: pages recording events in Egypt from February 1941 – 8 March 1941, in Greece from 9 March –14 April 1941 and in Egypt during June 1941. Some of the events that took place during the above mentioned periods have been added as notes in chronologically relevant places based on information that was collected from other sources. Regarding the missing War Diary pages for June 1941, a possible

explanation could be that at that time the company was in the process of reorganizing.

6. On 15 April 1941, 90 soldiers and one officer of the 603 Coy Pioneer Corps were attached to the 606 Coy. As of that date, in most cases, the War Diary for Greece and Crete refers to both sections as 606 Coy. However, in the Heading of the War Diary there is a clear reference that the content of the diary refers to 606 Coy + a detachment of 603 Coy Pioneer Corps.
7. This War Diary describes events that took place in Milos from 23 April 1941 until 1 May 1941, although recorded very briefly (three lines). On the morning of 23 April 1941, 606 Coy Deputy Commander Captain Ernest Wallace Christie, MC. (Military Cross) was killed in enemy action - during the attack and bombing of the “PANCRATION” on its way to Milos Bay – by Italian airplanes. During the battle, the company shot down two enemy planes. The company arrived to shore in the early afternoon of that day. On 24 April 1941, the ship sunk. While staying in Milos Island, the company endured several air raids daily, shot down two enemy planes and overcame a heavy attack by 15 hydroplanes.
8. The events on the island of Crete – in which 606 company actions took place in the course of May 1941 - were written by an unknown soldier and signed by 2/Lt. Mordechai Shyfman. The person who recorded the events did not use fluent English, and therefore the records contain numerous spelling and grammatical mistakes. Some of the spelling mistakes were corrected and some grammatical mistakes were left in order to maintain the authenticity of the War Diary.
9. Notes and corrections would be greatly appreciated. Please contact: [Shaked60@gmail.com](mailto:Shaked60@gmail.com) .
10. Copyright © 2023 by Yosef Shaked.

### **Notes**

1. Additions and clarifications carried out in the process of writing the manuscript appear between square brackets [ ].
2. Deciphered acronyms also appear between square brackets [ ].
3. Names, interpretations and location names appear in *italics* and between square brackets, as well [ ].
4. Spelling errors appear between square brackets with equal marks [=].
5. Necessary grammatical corrections appear between square brackets and appear in *Italics* [*Italics*].

**Original War Diary of 606 Coy, Pioneer Corps (Transcription)**

**22 November 1940 – 31 August 1942**

<b>Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. [Field Service Regulations, Part II]. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.</b>  <i>Month and Year</i> <u>November 1940 – January 1941</u>			<b>WAR DIARY</b> <i>Or</i> <b>INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.</b>  <i>(Erase heading not required).</i>		<b>Army Form C. 2118.</b>  <b>Unit: 606 Coy A. M. P. C. (Palestinian)</b> [Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps] <b>Commanding Officer: R. L. T. Murray Major</b> [Rupert Luxmoore Tanner Murray Major]
Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.		Reference to Appendices.
Sarafand	22 <sup>th</sup> Nov 40	N R	Coy was formed and proceeded to Mena Camp near Cairo in three parties the last party arriving at Mena on 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov.		
Mena Camp	22 <sup>th</sup> Nov 40	"	Coy was employed daily on tent pitching.		
"	to				
"	30 Nov 40	"			
"					
Mena Camp	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec 40		Coy was employed daily on tent pitching.		
	to		" "		
	16 <sup>th</sup> Dec 40		" "		
Mena Camp	17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 40		Coy proceeded to the Western Desert [to Sidi-Hanish], arriving on the		
	"		morning of the 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec.		
Western Desert	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec 40		Coy was employed in digging in and making dugouts [in Sidi-Hanish].		
	to				
"	26 <sup>th</sup> Dec 40		100 men were employed daily clearing the railway		
"	27 <sup>th</sup> Dec 40		at Sidi-Hanish Station.		
	to		25 Men were employed road making at Kilo [Kilometer] 61 on		

	31 <sup>th</sup> Dec 40		rd [road] Marsa Matuch – Alexandria. daily	
			8 Men were employed daily as instructed for	
			austra New Zealand Pioneers at kilo [Kilometer] 11 on	
			rd Marsa Matuch – Alexandria.	
			20 employed daily constructing a dugout at Bagunh	
			Camp. Remainder of Coy on fatigues and construction	
			wall in camp.	
Sidi-Hanish	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 41 to		150 men worked daily at Sidi-Hanish station on clearance of track and on light railway construction.	
	25 Jan 41		8 men employed daily at Kilo [Kilometer] 11 as instructed for New Zealand Pioneer Coy. 25 man employed daily in road construction at Kilo [Kilometer] 61 road Mersa Matruh - Alexandria. Remainder of coy in fatigues daily in camp.	
	26 Jan 41		Coy moved by train from Sidi-Hanish station to Mersa Matruh.	
Mersa Matruh	27 Jan 41 to 29 Jan 41		Coy engaged in getting into Billets and etc.	
	30 Jan 41 to 31 Jan 41		Coy did one hour drill followed by one hour English lesson.	

Notes:

As mentioned above, the War Diary pages recording events: in Egypt during February - March 1941, and in Greece up to 14 April 1941, have not been found. However, information from other sources reveals:

- a. On 10 February 1941 the Company left Mersa Matruh (Lybia-Egypt border) and arrived by transportation to El-Amiriya Camp. On 7 March 1941, the Company left El-Amiriya Camp by train for Alexandria.
- b. The next day, the Company embarked in Alexandria Port on the light cruiser HMAS “PERTH”. On 9 March 1941, the Company disembarked in Piraeus, Greece and moved to Kokinia Camp near Athens.
- c. The Coy worked on the docks of Pireus Harbor unloading ammunition and equipment from ships and placing the cargo on trains leaving for the front.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Vol. I. [Field Service Regulations, Vol. I]. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.  <i>Month and Year</i> <u>March 1941 – May 1941</u>			WAR DIARY <i>Or</i> INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  (Erase heading not required).	Army Form C. 2118.  Unit: <u>606 + Detachment of 603 Coy P. C.</u> [Pioneer Corps]  Commanding Officer: <u>Major R. L. T. Murray</u>
Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Reference to Appendices.
Kokinia Pireus	15 Apr 41	1900	2/Lt. Shifman [= Shyfman] and 90 men attached to 606 Coy.	
	16 Apr 41		2 partys [= parties] consisting 210 men worked in Pireus and Eleusis.	
	17 Apr 41		215 men working party to Pireus and Scaramaga [= Skaramaga].	
	18 Apr 41		100 men worked under 2/Lt. Zhon in Eleusis.	
		0930	Heavy air attack on the harbour. 2 men wounded.	
	19 Apr 41		120 men under 2/Lt. Shifman worked in Scaramaga [Skaramaga].	
	20 Apr 41		120 " " [men under 2/Lt.] Ben Aharon " " [worked in] Eleusis.	
	21 Apr 41	1000	An order arrived from Force H.Q. [Headquarters] issued by Major Cotton stated all ranks are confined to camp and had to be ready to move within 2 hours.	
		1600	Another order issued by a/m [above mentioned] stated, Be ready to move within one hour notice. No transport. Carry only equipment and 2 days haversack rations.	
		2100	Order received from a/m. 2 Pal. Officers and 60 OR. [Other Ranks] full armed to be ready to move forthwith. Officer will report to H.Q. at 2200 Hrs.	
		2130	2/Lt. B. Zohn and 2/Lt. Ben Ahron detailed by Major Murray, went off.	
Kokinia Pireus	21 Apr 41	2200	60 Men of 606 + 603 detailed by Major Murray parade.	
	22 Apr 41	0030	2/Lt. Zohn left camp with his party for some unknown destination.	
		0200	2/Lt. Ben Ahron dito.	
		1000	Cpt. [= Capt.] McCulloch and 100 OR. equipped with rifles, 6 Lewis guns and 10,000 rounds amm. [ammunition] arrived to camp. According Major Cotton's orders detached himself [from 603 Coy] to 606 Coy.	
		1430	A message signed by Major Cotton arrived stated, All the troops stationed in Kokinia will	

			leave the camp at 1515 Hrs. Proceeding to Pireus harbour to the Coal Quay to embark. No transport. Carry equipment and 2 days rations.	
		1515	1008 Cyprus Coy, 606 and detachment [of 603 Coy] marched off.	
Pireus		1710	Stopped the march in town. Heavy air attack on harbour.	
		1930	The 'PANKRATION' [= 'PANCRATION'] 600 tones, 5 ½ knots [= knots] speed, no life belts two leaking boats was occupied by Major Murray, Cpt. Christi [Christie], Cpt. McCulloch, 2/Lt. Shifman and 392 OR. of 606 and 603 Coy P. C.	
Pireus	22 Apr 41	1930	Also Cpt. Reed, Dr. Cpt. Makalidis, 2/Lt. Chikali and 200 men of 1008 Coy, also the Roman Catholic Padre Cpt. Grice.	
Pireus	23 Apr 41	0030	The 'PANKRATION' [= 'PANCRATION'] left harbour.	
Milos	23 Apr 41 to 1 May 41		Refer to the Diary kept by Cpt. Reed who was under the same command and under the same conditions. Sent to H.Q. M.E. [Headquarters Middle East] in the beginning of month May 41 from Crete.	<i>M. Szyfman 2/Lt. 603 Coy P. C.</i>
Crete	1 May 41	0730	273 OR. and Major Murray of 606 Coy P.C., 118 OR. Cpt. McCulloch and 2/Lt. Shifman of 603 Coy P.C. disembarked from the destroyer 'Havock' at Suda. Marched off from Suda according to the order given by Movement Control Officer to proceeding to Camp "D".	
		1100	Arrived at Camp "D".	
	2 May 41	1900	45 PAL. OR. who have arrived in small sailing boats from Greece joined this Company.	
	5 May 41	0900	Arrived at Suda Bay and made the Camp under olive trees as instructed by A.D.P.& L. [Assistant-Director of Pioneer and Labour].	
		1000	A report signed by Major Murray indicating deliveries of blankets, cooking, essentials and clothing has been submitted to A.D.P.& L. in Canea.	
	6 May 41		2 shifts of 150 men each under the supervision of Cpt. McCulloch & 2/Lt. Shifman worked in Suda docks.	

Suda Bay / Crete	7 May 41		2 shifts of 150 [men] each worked in the docks.	
		1700	Air raid warning. Few bombs have been dropped. No damage.	
	8 May 41		300 men in two shifts unloaded A.A. [Anti Aircraft] guns and ammunition.	
	9 May 41		285 men on work. Sick comprised 65 men.	
	10 May 41		34 men went to hospital. 225 men on work.	
		0915	Air raid in harbour. No damage. 1 Plane brought down by A.A. [Anti Aircraft].	
	11 May 41		225 men on work in the harbour in two shifts.	
	12 May 41		Dito. Air raid alarm in the afternoon.	
	13 May 41	0100 / 0430	Heavy bombing on the Suda Harbour. One small boat damaged.	
		0430	3 bombs exploded in the camp area. No casualties. 220 [men] worked as usual. 3 times interrupted by enemy planes.	
	14 May 41		220 men in Suda. 20 men on special job in Canea.	
	15 May 41		Same number [= numbers] in docks. Work slightly seased [= ceased], because of 7 air raids on which about 50 enemy planes took part. No damage. One wounded slightly.	
Suda Bay	16 May 41		200 men required for the dock. 100 each shift.	
		1715	35 enemy planes attacked in the harbour. One liner damaged. 2 smaller sunk. 4 killed, 35 wounded. Including 4 men of 606 Coy wounded.	
	17 May 41		150 men required for the docks.	
		1600	40 enemy planes attacked the dock. 1 direct hit on jetty. 1 direct hit on amm. [ammunition] ship which exploded. 20 killed on the ship. 1 on the jetty. 4 men of 606 + 603 Coy wounded and sent to hospital. 2 planes brought down by A.A. [Anti Aircraft].	
	18 May 41		100 men on work, which seased remarkable [= ceased remarkably]. 14 raids during the day. Slight damage on small barges. Few wounded. 3 planes brought down by A.A. 5 bombs exploded in area of 606 coy. No damage.	
	19 May 41	0630	The first air raid whilst men were on way to docks. The work in harbour very limit [= limited]. Continually raid.	
Suda Bay	20 May 41		The work in the harbour stopped.	

		0630	The first enemy reconnaissance planes came over.	
		0715	Like a cloud of mosquitoes appeared bombers and fighters from all directions. Bombing and gunning started all over the valley, in between Suda, Canea and the aerodrome.	
		1000	A rumor reported that parachutists [= parachutists] have been dropped near the aerodrome and the wireless station.	
		1015	According Major Murray's order 2/Lt. Shifman with 50 men guarded the Suda Canea road. Cpt. McCulloch and 50 men guarded the 42nd Street. All equipt [= equipped] with rifles and amm. [ <i>ammunition</i> ].	
		1200	Cypriot troops evacuating their camps past [= passed] through 606 Coy camp area.	
		1400	Appeared Lt. Col. Ride and the officers of 1005, 1006 & 1008 Coys. Lt. Col Ride ordered to establish one headquarter for the pioneers with Major Murray as D.C. [Direct Commander]. Air attack continues until dark.	
Suda Bay	21 May 41	0545	Many hundreds [ <i>off</i> ] enemy planes appeared. Heavy attack on petrol dump which was some 200 yards from camp. Big number of bombs fell in the camp area. All men in slit trenches except guards posted as yesterday.	
		1400	A.A. fire seased [= ceased]. The planes came to 50 feet above head. Heavy machine gunning all over the area. L/Cpl. Wagner deadly wounded.	
		1500	Col. Mc Knoll O.C. [Officer Commanding] Suda Sub-Area ordered to evacuate the camp proceeding to the hillside on the South.	
		1900	2/Lt. Shifman and 35 men went to the amm. [Ammunition] Dump at Tobruk Avenue for night work.	
	22 May 41		The Connection with D.A.D. [Divisional Ammunition Dump] had been cut off. Rations portion dropped down. 5 wounded during one day. Cpt. Dr. Stefanidis [Stephanides] with assistant of L/Cpl. Torbin runned [= running] an own hospital in a Hous [= house] air raid shelter.	
		1300	Report has been given to Major Murray that parachutists have been dropped on gliders in Wavel Street. They destroyed A.A. battery.	
Suda Bay	23 May 41	1030	Major Fanington cold [= called] in and informed that parachutists have occupied the Malma aerodrome and gliders with parachutists landed in Canea, but the wireless line is still held on.	
		1400	Greek policeman reported that parachutists have been dropped on the other side hill [= hill]	



			side] near the camp area of 606 Coy.	
		1410	2/Lt. Shifman went with 20 men to patrol the area.	
		1545	2/Lt. Shifman stated that report was false. It seemed to be 5 <sup>th</sup> columnist's work in mean to bring panic in the lines.	
		2130	Ordered by A.D.M.S. [Advanced Depot Medical Stores] through Major Murray. 2/Lt. Shifman and 40 men marched off proceeding to the wireless station to pitch tents for a hospital.	
	24 May 41	0545	2/Lt. Shifman reported that half of the tents were pitched during the night, also that at 2 am enemy planes dropped cases in the wireless area, by light of many lights shown [= shone] from the ground.	
Suda Bay	24 May 41	0605	Very high concentrated gun fire by low flying planes on the camps of the Royal Marines, Australians and Pioneers.	
		0720	Sgt. Loeb of 606 Coy reported. Whilst being in 7th G. [7th General] Hospital he had been captured by parachutists 4 days ago. He escaped in the same night. Capt. Stefanidis accommodated the Sgt. in his M.S. [Medical Service] room.	
		1945	Capt. McCulloch went with 40 men to finish pitching hospital tents.	
		2400	Capt. McCulloch reported that he found some of the tents burned, some riddled with bullets and he decided not to carry on.	
	25 May 41	0600	2/Lt. Shifman and 20 men proceeded to ammunition dump at Tobruk Avenue.	
		2000	2/Lt. Shifman reported back with the men. The gunning and bombing was going on from dusk to dusk. Force H.Q. [Headquarters] moved in 606 Coy's area.	
	26 May 41	0600	Capt. McCulloch and 20 men went to the amm. [ammunition] dump at Tobruk Avenue.	
		1500	Order from F.H.Q. [Force Headquarters] arrived. The camp has to be removed.	
Suda Bay	26 May 41	1500	Proceeding to the South, because the advanced [of] 3 miles.	
		2000	Capt. McCulloch reported that one man of his working party had been light wounded.	
		2100	The Coy left camp by sections.	
		2220	The Coy lingered south of Suda town under trees.	
		2230	Capt. Stefanidis went with his patients in two vehicles to embark.	

	27 May 41	0455	Capt. James reported to Major Murray that it had been a general break through and the H.Q. ordered to evacuate to the south coast for possible embarkation.	
		0505	Major Murray called officers and section commanders and ordered, that everyone shall find his own way south coast, he thanked for work done and God help you.	
		0515	The Coy dispersed into the hills.	
	31 May 41		Disembarked from "Glengyle" had only 280 OR. and 2/Lt. M. Shifman. Major Murray, Capt. McCulloch believed prisoners of war.	<i>Szyfman 2/Lt. 603 Coy P. C.</i>

Notes:

As mentioned above, the War Diary pages recording events in Egypt during June 1941, have not been found. However, information from other sources reveals:

- a. The Coy's soldiers were taken from Alexandria Port by transportation to El-Bisher Camp, and left for Palestine for a one week leave.
- b. During June 1941 the coy was in the process of reorganizing in El-Qassasin Camp. The missing commanding strength of the Company was replaced by British officers and Jewish officers. The strength of the Company was completed by ordinary soldiers from the Jewish Pioneer Corps (601, 609) that have not been sent to Greece, and a small number of British soldiers.

<p><b>Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Vol. I. [Field Service Regulations, Vol. I]. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.</b></p> <p><i>Month and Year July 1941 – August 1941</i></p>			<p><b>WAR DIARY</b> <i>Or</i> <b>INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.</b></p> <p><i>(Erase heading not required).</i></p>		<p><b>Army Form C. 2118.</b></p> <p><b>Unit: 606 Coy P. C. [Pioneer Corps]...</b></p> <p><b>Commanding Officer: Major I. W. Brooks...</b></p>	
Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.			Reference to Appendices.
Base. <i>[El-Qassasin]</i>	5 July 41		Capt. J. A. Stretch Pooled 2 <sup>nd</sup> in command, and in command pending affirmation of O.C. Also pooled 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. M. J. Sinto 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. M. Shyfman. Also British OR.s complement.			
	9 July 41		Musketing training commanded.			
	12 July 41		C.Q.M.S. [Company Quarter Master Sergeant] Britton returned to Base details. C.Q.M.S. Conn Pooled.			

	13 July 41		Verbal movement orders received. 1098 [= 1008 Cypriot Pioneer Coy] lodged. Use of range requested.	
	12 July 41		Major I. W. Brooks pooled in command.	
	13 July 41		Became fully armed. 2 machine guns Rifle ammunition etc. (Italia)	
Base.	17 July 41		Entrained.	
Port Said.	17 July 41		Detrained.	
	18 July 41		Embarked HMT [His Majesty Troopship] 'WARZAWA' [= 'WARSZAWA'].	
Famagusta	20 July 41		Disembarked.	
	20 July 41		Established Camp Stavros.	
	21 July 41		Company engaged in general Dock Work. The Company continued in this line of work to end of month. Serving.	
	31 July 41		General satisfaction. Major Brooks indisposed for past few days.	<i>J. A. Stretch Capt. for O.C. 606 P. C. 1/8/41</i>
Field.	1 Aug 41		Major I. W. Brooks admitted to hospital. Captain J. A. Stretch assumed command.	
	2 Aug 41	1600		
	5 Aug 41		Nothing of interest.	
	6 Aug 41		Major I. W. Brooks discharged from hospital and resumed command.	
	7 Aug 41		Air raid on harbour. 7 men wounded.	
	8 Aug 41	1500		
	20 Aug 41		Nothing of interest.	
	21 Aug 41		Air raid on harbor, we escaped casualties.	
	22 Aug 41	1500		
	31 Aug 41		Nothing of interest.	

<p><b>Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Vol. I [Field Service Regulations, Vol. I] and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.</b></p> <p><i>Month and Year</i> <u>Septmber 1941 – October 1941</u></p>			<p><b>WAR DIARY</b> <i>Or</i> <b>INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.</b></p> <p><i>(Erase heading not required).</i></p>		<p><b>Army Form C. 2118.</b></p> <p>Unit: <u>606 Coy Pioneer Corps...</u></p> <p>Commanding Officer: <u>Major J. A. Stretch</u></p>
Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Reference to Appendices.	
	6 Sep 41		Maj. [= Major] I. W. Brooks was drunk or dummy and behaved very badly.		
	7 Sep 41		Consulted staff Capt., re above Maj. Brooks admitted to hospital. Capt. J. A. Stretch assumed command. I submit report on Maj. Brooks conduct to higher authority.		
	10 Sep 41		Accused Maj. Brooks suspended and under arrest.		
	11 Sep 41		Capt. J. A. Stretch recommended by O.C. sub area to be Local - Temp (unpaid) Major.		
	12 Sep 41		Summary of evidence in the case of Major Brooks, commenced.		
	14 Sep 41		Capt. J. A. Stretch interviewed by S.O.C. [Senior Operations Commander] Area regarding appointment to Local rank of Major.		
	14 Sep 41		The Brigadier accorded.		
	21 Sep 41		Jewish New Year Eve 1½ days holiday granted by higher authority A Rabbi attended and full religious exercise was available. The break was much appreciated by all ranks.		
	22 Sep 41		Jewish New Year Day the holiday continued.		
	1 Oct 41		Jewish Day of Atonement 1½ days released from duties. Senior Jewish Chaplain to Forces attached + spend 3 days in camp full appportunity for Relgious Experience, was given. The Chaplain expressed his complete satisfaction and congratulated the CO [Commanding Officer] + officers on their mens [men's] comfort + happiness.		
	22 Oct 41		Court Martial of Major I W Brooks advised that Major G. Pape, at present at P.C.B.D. [Pioneer Corps Base Depot] is appointed to command of unit, VICE Maj. Brooks CRME/P/21743/Ag3. (D) dated Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup> 1941.		

<p><b>Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Vol. I. [Field Service Regulations, Vol. I]. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.</b></p> <p><i>Month and Year</i> <u>November 1941 – May 1942</u></p>			<p><b>WAR DIARY</b> Or <b>INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.</b> <i>(Erase heading not required).</i></p>		<p><b>Army Form C. 2118.</b> <b>Unit: <u>606 Coy Pioneer Corps</u></b> <b>Commanding Officer: <u>Major A. G. Pape, R. E.</u></b> <b>[<u>Royal Engineers</u>]</b></p>
Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Reference to Appendices.	
Field	1 Nov 41		Refresher Musketing course commenced.		
	3 Nov 41		Range exercise commenced (Range exercise accommodation is very limited only 4 joining at a time).		
	4 Nov 41		Major A G Pape – RE. [Royal Engineers] attached Pioneer Corps. reported for duty and assumed command. Captain J. A. STRETCH resumed 2 <sup>nd</sup> in command.		
	10 Nov 41		Shipping requierments having eased, a full training programme is resumed. Training continued to the end of the month almost without interruptions. There was nothing of further interest.		
Field	1 Dec 41		Company commenced intensive infantry training programme.		
	1 Dec 41		Company took over defensive position in Famagusta.		
	4 Dec 41		Company removed temporarily from under canvas into billets, pending completion of winter hut quarters.		
	14 Dec 41		Company celebrated Feast of Tabernacles [= Hannukka].		
	22 Dec 41		Four sections of the Company took up Battle positions in readiness to defend the docks & Harbour at Famagusta.		
Field	24 Dec 41		Capt. J. A. Stretch. 2nd in Command returned to P.C.B.D. [Pioneer Corps Base Depot] for re-posting. 2/Lt. R. A. Beavan appointed Captain & 2 <sup>nd</sup> in command of Company.		
	28 Dec 41		One Company of 2 H.L.I. [2nd Highland Light Infantry] relieved our Company of Battle positions. 606 Company P. C. detailed as reinforcements to Company of 2 H.L.I.		
Field	6 Jan 42		19 reinforments arrived from P.C.B.D. [Pioneer Corps Base Depot], + were taken on the strength of the Company.		
	8 Jan 42		4 sections of the Company under 2/Lt. M. J. Sinto took up battle positions from the H.L.I. [2nd Highland Light Infantry] for 24 hours on the Docks + Harbour at Famagusta. Three gun		

			sections also took up positions.	
	13 Jan 42		4 sections + 3 Gun sections of the Company under 2/Lt. Sinto took up Battle Postions from the H.L.I. for 24 Hours on the Docks + Harbour at Famagusta.	
Field	16 Jan 42		4 sections + 3 gun sections of the Company held a successful field day.	
	22 Jan 42		4 sections + 3 of the Company under 2/Lt. Sinto took up Ballte Poistions from H.L.I. for 24 hours on the docks + Harbour at Famagusta.	
	29 Jan 42		39 ORs embarked for Sarafand to be trained as N.C.Os [Non-Commissioned Officers] at the Palestine Recruiting Training Depot.	
Field	4 Feb 42		Company held a field day in its Battle Positions.	
	5 Feb 42 to 27 Feb		Company employed in strengthening Battle Positions.	
	12 Feb 42 to 28 Feb 42		200 Civilian laborers employed in assisting company to strengthen Battle Positions.	
	18 Feb 42		30 reinforcements arrived from P.C.B.D. [Pioneer Corps Base Depot] were taken on the strength of the Company.	
	28 Feb 42		Company proceeded to Battle Positions to take part in 25 Corps [25 Corps - Cyprus Volunteer Force] field exercises which continued until March 1 <sup>st</sup> 1942.	
Field	12 Mar 42		Gun sections took over Battle Positions from 2nd H.L.I. for 12 hours. Remainder of Company employed at Famagusta Docks to assist movement of 10 Ind. Inf. Bte. [10th Indian Infantry Battalion] which left the island.	
	17 Mar 42		Company held a field day.	
	1 Mar 42 to 31 Mar 42		Company continued its training program.	
Field	3 Apr 42		Lt. Col. Murray, Famagusta Brigade commander, + Staff Captain, Famagusta Brigade, visited the unit's Camp, + made a tour of inspection.	

	7 Apr 42		Capt. Beavan + 2/Lt. Sinto company toured Company's defence positions in Famagusta Old Town in Company with Major Shaw 2ed o/c of 74 <sup>th</sup> (C of G) Heavy A.A. Regt. R. A. [74 <sup>th</sup> (City of Glasgow) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery].	
	9 Apr 42 to 15 Apr 42		Sergt [Sergeant] Dumay Company Chief Machine-gun unit master, taught Det [Detachment] Mewar infantry [= Mewar Bhupal Infantry, Indian State Force] how to manipulate Schwarzlose machine-guns. Letter of appreciation was received from O.C. [Officer Commanding] Det:	
Field	5 <sup>th</sup> May 42		The Company received instructions from Famagusta Brigade to organise sections to defend a part of the beach near the Company's camp in the event of sporadic landing raids at night. The Company took steps to hold practically one mile of sea front in the event of such emergency. Personnel held in readiness to meet the possibility of these raids consists of two rifle and Tommy Gun Sections, and one complete gun section with 4 Schwarzlose M.Gs, 4 Hotchkiss M. guns and 2 Breda M.gs. [Machine-guns].	

<p><b>Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Vol. I. [Field Service Regulations, Vol. I]. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.</b></p> <p><i>Month and a Year <u>May 1942 – August 1942</u></i></p>			<p><b>WAR DIARY</b> Or <b>INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.</b> <i>(Erase heading not required).</i></p>		<p><b>Army Form C. 2118.</b> <b>Unit: <u>606 Company, Pioneer Corps</u></b> <b>Commanding Officer: <u>Capt. R. A. Beavan</u></b></p>	
Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.			Reference to Appendices.
Field	14 May 42		Company received instructions from Famagusta Brigade to provide a meal for 840 Greek military refugees.			
"	15 May 42		O.C. Company received letter of appreciation from staff Captain, Famagusta Brigade for "able & cheerful way in which the feeding of the Greek military refugees was carried out"			
"	13 May 42	X	Capt. R. A. Beavan, Second in Command, took over temporary command of Company. C [Cyprus] authority: PL/96130, 9.5.42, D.A.D.P.L. [Deputy Assistant-Director of Pioneer and Labour] Troops, Cyprus. X			
Field	15 May 42		Major A. G. Pape, R.E. [Major Alick George Pape, Royal Engineers], embarked Famagusta in order to report to P.C.B.D. [Pioneer Corps Base Depot]. C authority [Cyprus authority]:			

			PL/96130, 9.5.42 D.A.D.P.L. Troops, Cyprus).	
"	16 May 42	0100	O.C. arranged rehearsal for sections detailed to deal with sporadic Raids.	
"	18 May 42		Report on above was submitted to Famagusta Brigade. Staff Captain replied that rehearsal was "highly satisfactory".	
"	29 May 42		Lt. A. S. Nahamias admitted to hospital.	
Field	29 May 42		No 1 section trained in night operations.	
"	30 May 42		" " "	
"	31 May 42		" " "	
"	1st May 42 to 2nd May 42		Company employed on unloading ships at Famagusta Docks. Numbers employed varied from 10 to 160 daily Frequently during these periods. Company provided night guards for the Docks during the greater part of the periods mentioned.	
	3rd May 42 to 18 May 42			
	21 May 42			
"	25 May 42 to 31 May 42			
Field	18 June 42		Report on above was submitted to Famagusta Brigade. Staff Captain replied that rehearsal was "highly satisfactory".	
"	10 June 42		Lt. Nahamias discharged hospital. Re-joined unit same day.	
"	21 June 42		Strength of Company: 3 officers and 259 ORs. Establishment: 4 officers + 342 O.R.s. Docks reinforcements arriving daily 166. Ammunition guards etc required occasionally in addition. 16 "crocks" [=disabled] on Company's strength.	
Field	25 June 42		G.O.C. [General Officer Commanding] visited docks some men of the Company have been employed for 11 months + five days except for brief intervals.	
"	Practically daily during month		40 to 166 Ors employed on Docks.	
"	30 June 42		Strength of Company: 3 officers + 242 other ranks.	



Field	4 July 42	1600	Self [ <i>Capt. R. A. Beavan</i> ] + Lt. M. J. Sinto attended G.O.C's [General Officer Commanding] conference of officers in the island.	
"	5 July 42	0730	Lt. Sinto Proceeded by air to Palestine for indefinite compassionate leave.	
"	8 July 42		Strength of Company: 2 officers and 234 ORs.	
"	9 July 42		no 11838 Pte. Singer P. [R. not P.] killed in accident on Famagusta Docks.	
"	10 July 42		Pte Singer buried in Military Cemetery, Famagusta.	
Field	12 July 42	1100	1 N.C.O. [Non-Commissioned Officer] + 6 ORs (as a Guard) at harbor proceeded from Famagusta Docks on minesweeper for an unknown destination. Duties: To guard Italian submarine crew prisoners aboard the minesweeper.	
"	13 July 42		2/Lt. Svarcmans A. [2/Lt. Svarcmans Abrams] taken on strength of unit W.E.F. [With Effect From] 13.7.42.	
"	16 July 42		Unit fostered incoming unit - 1205 I. A. P. C. [1205 Indian Auxiliary Pioneer Corps].	
Field	16 July 42	1000	Cont [continuation] of inquiry on Pte Singer.	
"	18 July 42		Unit handed over all stores to 1205 I. A. P. C.	
"	18 July 42		Unit handed over all weapons except 2 Bredas [Machine-guns] + 2,000 rounds for same to D.A.D.O.S. [Deputy Assistant-Director Ordnance Service] 25 Corps [25 Corps - Cyprus Volunteer Force].	
"	18 July 42		1205 I. A. P. C. took over dock duties from this unit.	
"	19 July 42		Unit handed over transport to 1205 I.A.P.C. [1205 Indian Army Pioneer Corps].	
"	20 July 42		Anniversary of unit being stationed in Cyprus.	
"	1 to 17 July 42		150 – 160 ORs employed daily on Famagusta Docks.	
Field	21 July 42		Unit received final instructions to move from Cyprus.	
"	22 July 42	0930	Company embarked Famagusta Docks with 3 officers + 245 ORs.	
"	23 July 42	1200	Company disembarked Egypt.	
"	23 July 42	2100	Company arrived P.C.B.D. [Pioneer Corps Base Depot, in <i>El-Qassasin Camp</i> ].	
"	24 – 26 July 42		Capt. Wellington O/C 1039 Port Operating Coy, R.E. interviewed all ORs of unit + selected personnel for 1039 Port Operating Coy, R.E.	
"	28 – 29 July 42		200 ORs pitched tents in camps at Tahag.	
"	30 July 42		Jewish chaplain visited Company, + addressed same.	
Field	2 Aug. 42		140 ORs proceeded to Haifa on being posted to 1039, Port Operating Coy, R.E. [Royal Engineers].	
"	3 Aug 42		Remainder of Company awaiting instructions for disposal.	
"	9 Aug. 42		2/Lt. a. [A.] Svarcmans attached temporarily to 609 Coy, P. C.	

"	10 Aug 42		35 Or's proceeded to Palestine on 14 days leave.	
"	12 Aug 42		Letter received form Lt. M. J. Sinto stating that at expiration of leave he was attached to P.C.D. [Pioneer Corps Depot] Sarafand.	
Field	16 Aug 42		Lt. Sinto rejoined Unit.	
"	19 Aug 42		All remaining Palestine ORs posted to H.Q. Palestine Wing, P.C.B.D. [Pioneer Corps Base Depot, in El-Qassasin Camp].	
"	20 Aug 42		United Kingdom Staff (ORs) posted to H.Q. Wing, P.C.B.D.	
"	23 Aug 42		Lt. A.S. Nahmias, Lt. M. J. Sinto + 2/Lt. A. Svarcmans posted to P.C.B.D.	
"	31 Aug 42		Company Headquarters awaiting final instructions for winding up.	