

**The following pages are a transcript of a handwritten list of places served and responsibilities during the Second World War by Captain Kenneth Charles Warburton Shawcross, No. 154421, R.A.M.C.**

**Note by transcriber:**

*The original record of the war service of Kenneth Charles Warburton Shawcross was written in ink on both sides of a sheet of airmail paper 6 inches wide by 14 inches long. I believe the record was written during the war as he moved from place to place; sometimes he wrote every day for a while but usually there were gaps of days, weeks or even months.*

*Part of the text has faded with age and some parts are blotted or smudged. Some entries are printed in block letters and are easy to read and other entries are very difficult, particularly those sections where he used tightly spaced cursive writing with Egyptian, Indian or Burmese place names. Where I am unsure regarding a word or phrase I have added a note or a question mark.*

*I have not fixed apparent spelling errors as these represent KCWS's understanding at the time and, in fact, some place names may have more than one spelling and it would be wrong to "correct" KCWS's spelling to the current standard. Frances Shawcross did a final review and edit and was able to identify some of the place names I had been unable to read.*

*To retain original character I have kept upper and lower case writing even when it changes during one entry line.*

**John F. Shawcross  
June 2013**

Transcript starts next page.

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## JOIN THE ARMY AND SEE THE WORLD?

[40]

*Cursed day*

NOV 14 joined the Army and went to Fleet (ALDERSHOT)

NOV 30 Joined 143 Field Ambulance, BRIDESTOWE.

Attached to H.Q. at BRIDESTOWE; Officers Mess LYDFORD; 3 day EXERCISE.

December 7<sup>th</sup> RELIEF M.O. 53<sup>rd</sup> ANTI tanks OKEHAMPTON

DEC 16<sup>th</sup> Sent to A.COY. TORRINGTON, VISITED {BARNSTAPLE, BIDEFORD.  
HATHERLEIGH}

DEC 29<sup>th</sup> RELIEF. ATT'D RASC CHILATON VISITED {PLYMOUTH, EXETER, TORQUAY,  
TAVISTOCK, STICKLEPATH, SOUTH. ZEAL}

[41]

Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Returned to Bridestowe to HQ 3 day exercise EXMOOR. Snow.

At SIMONSBATH 2 days 1300 ft above sea level.

Jan 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> LONDON, EXETER

[Jan 17<sup>th</sup> M.I.E.B]

Jan 19<sup>th</sup> RETURNED TO A.COY TORRINGTON

1 day EXERCISE. Jan 26<sup>th</sup> NORTH TAUNTON DISTRICT

MARCH 9<sup>th</sup> Relief MO 8<sup>th</sup> R. Warwicks btn. Tavistock.

MARCH 20<sup>th</sup> Returned to H.Q. BRIDESTOWE

3 day EXERCISE Ivybridge.

MARCH 28<sup>th</sup> 7 days leave ALTRINCHAM. LONDON.

APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup> Returned to Tarrington

APRIL 5<sup>th</sup> 3 day EXERCISE BODMIN- TRURO- ST. AGNES

APRIL 14<sup>th</sup> BRIDESTOWE EXERCISE 3 DAY. S.E DEVON. EXETER-TORQUAY

APRIL 20<sup>th</sup> 2 day EXERCISE. YELVERTON. - PLYMOUTH

APRIL 22<sup>nd</sup> TORRINGTON VISITED ILFRACOMBE

MAY 4<sup>nd</sup> (*sic*) EXERCISE EXMOOR. LYNTON - LYMMOUTH. (*sic*)

MAY 9<sup>th</sup> 2 days leave Altrincham. London.

MAY 11<sup>th</sup> TRANSFER TO H.Q. BRIDESTOWE.

MAY 15<sup>th</sup> 143 Field Ambulance moved to BAMPTON

MAY 17<sup>th</sup> RELIEF M.O. 1<sup>st</sup> OXON & BUCKS LIGHT INF. btn. at  
ASHBURTON. VISITED NEWTON ABBOT. TORQUAY

MAY 18<sup>th</sup> TORRINGTON

MAY 20<sup>th</sup> Returned to Bampton. Visited TIVERTON

JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup> 3 day EXERCISE MORTON HAMPSTEAD IVYBRIDGE. PLYMOUTH.

JUNE 10<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> TAUNTON LONDON COURSE IN TROPICAL MEDICINE.

JUNE 28<sup>th</sup> RET'd BAMPTON

JUNE 29<sup>th</sup> TAUNTON- BRISTOL- CARLYLE- CARSTAIRS- EDINBURGH. DALKEITH-  
EDINBURGH. MANCHESTER ALTRINCHAM

JUNE 31<sup>st</sup> (*sic*) BUXTON

JULY 4<sup>th</sup> ALTR - DALKEITH- DIGS BUNNYRIG

VISITED EDINBURGH several times

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(Jfs note; the horizontal line above was used by KCWS in his war notes to show when he left Britain, and each year thereafter.)

JULY 28<sup>th</sup> GLASGOW CLYDE. EMBARKED ON S.S. VOLENDAM 26,000 tons 2 funnel  
DUTCH

AUG 2<sup>nd</sup> LEFT ENGLAND. PASSED AZORES

AUG 16<sup>th</sup> ARR FREETOWN. Heavy Equatorial rains, intensely hot and humid

AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup> LEFT FREETOWN

AUGUST 21<sup>st</sup> CROSSED EQUATOR

AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup> ARR. CAPE TOWN. GALE- VISITED TABLE MOUNTAIN, SIMONSTOWN,  
STELLENBOCH

SEPTEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> LEFT CAPE TOWN

SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup> ARR. DURBAN ANCHORED OFF SHORE

SEPT 9<sup>th</sup> DOCKED. NO SHORE LEAVE. DEPARTED.

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> Arr'd ADEN Stayed in harbor 2 days. No shore leave.

Sept 29<sup>th</sup> Arr'd at Port Tewfig. Proceeded same day by train to El Balah,  
arrived 11:30 p.m. very cold, moon, desert waste, what a place!

Oct 6<sup>th</sup> Posted to Abbossia, Cairo M.O Leave (jfs?) and Transit Camp.

M.O Signals. M.O Prison Camp. M.O R.A.C. M.O. Training depot.

OCT 20<sup>th</sup> Posted ambulance train Cairo to Marsa Matruh return. 3 trips. 7days almost  
continuous travel over desert mostly. Sand everywhere. Brought back 450 casualties.

OCT 28<sup>th</sup> Returned to Abbossia.

NOV 7<sup>th</sup> Posted to R.A Base Depot Almoya (HELIOPOLIS)

DEC 11<sup>th</sup> RETURNED 18<sup>th</sup> General Hospital.

[42]

FEB 18<sup>th</sup> DEP SUEZ ON ANDES

FEB 28<sup>th</sup> ARR COLOMBO

MAR 2<sup>nd</sup> SHORE LEAVE, VISITED GAUL FACE HOTEL

MAR 3<sup>rd</sup> DEP.

MAR 9<sup>th</sup> ARR BOMBAY. ANCHORED IN BAY

MAR 11<sup>th</sup> DEP BOMBAY

MAR 13<sup>th</sup> ARR KARACHI INTO HARBOUR. Water beautiful blue.

MAR 14<sup>th</sup> SHORE LEAVE

MAR 15<sup>th</sup> DEP. KARACHI

MAR 17<sup>th</sup> ARR BOMBAY, ANCHORED IN BAY

MAR 19<sup>th</sup> DISEMBARKED. PROCEEDED TO KIRKEE, POONA.

MAY 17<sup>th</sup> PROCEEDED TO BOMBAY No:4 Colaba. General Hospital

MAY 22<sup>nd</sup> CITY OF CANTERBURY, EMBARKED. TRIP TO COLOMBO.

JUNE 4<sup>th</sup> DISEMBARKED AGAIN BOMBAY

JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> CONVOY DUTY. PATIENTS. POONA. 24 hrs.

JUNE 15<sup>th</sup> BEGAN 2 WKS COURSE AT COLOBA ON TACTICAL TRAINING IN MODERN  
MECHANISED WARFARE

JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup> EMBARKED EL MEDINA. Rough sea. Sick after Aden "Flu".

JULY 7<sup>th</sup> ARR SUEZ. Saw damn all!

JULY 9<sup>th</sup> DEP SUEZ. Thankful

JULY 13<sup>th</sup> SHORE LEAVE. SAW Queen of Sheeba Walls & Crotos city, & dead city

July 20<sup>th</sup> Disembarked Bombay. raining.

July 23<sup>rd</sup> Train duty to MADRAS. saw all sights, Connemarra Hotel, Fort, Chepueck(s?)  
Palace, Zoo. Ice Palace, museum etc.

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July 28<sup>th</sup> Arrived back in Bombay once more

July 29<sup>th</sup> TOOK CHARGE OF MEDICAL WARDS IN No.4 C.G.H BOMBAY

Dec 16 to JAN 5 LEAVE

[43]

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 1943 Returned to No4 IBGH I/C "C" ward

Jan 19-24 I/C MI room IGBH 1.B.6.11 (jfs this is not clear and is gobbeldy gook to me!)

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> TOOK OVER DUTIES OF STAFF SURGEON. BOMBAY

June 27<sup>th</sup> BY TRAIN TO BANGALORE

June 28<sup>th</sup> Stayed in 38. Mess Bangalore

July 8<sup>th</sup> By LORRY to 18<sup>th</sup> B.G. Hospital. 12 miles out

July 22<sup>nd</sup> First patient admitted to the hospital. DOING V.D. WARD

July 26<sup>th</sup> DOING SKIN WARD

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Aug 16<sup>th</sup> TOOK CHARGE OF MEDICAL WARDS B7 & B8

OCT 11<sup>th</sup> WAR LEAVE TO MYSORE, METROPOLE HOTEL . Chabmundi Hill, SERINGA  
PATAM, Scotts Bungalow, Sulton Tippu Tombe, Fortress, Palace, Prison, Maharaja's  
Palace, Zoo, Elephant Stables, Dam with fountains

Oct 16<sup>th</sup> Depart by bus for oota command (jfs last two words unclear)

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> Train for Bangalore.

Oct 29<sup>th</sup> TOOK CHARGE OF VD WARDS

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> TOOK OVER INDIAN MEDICAL WARD

DEC 3<sup>rd</sup> WENT ON JUNGLE TRAINING BANGALORE-MYSORE-NANJANGOOD

DEC 4<sup>th</sup> ARR. 20 IND CCS NILAMBUR. jungle and show (jfs unclear) Elephants

DEC 15<sup>th</sup> IND. BUS NILAMBUR-CALICUT. TRAIN CALICUT - TELLICHERRY

CANNANORE. HOTEL WESTCLIFFE ON SEA

DEC 17<sup>th</sup> TRAIN CANNANORE. CALICUT. OLAVAROT. COMBATORE. SALEM.

BANGALOR

DEC 25<sup>th</sup> XMAS IN WYE TANKS

[44]

JAN 1<sup>st</sup>

JAN 4<sup>th</sup> VISITED KOLAR GOLD FIELDS WENT DOWN CHAMPION MINE LONGEST  
SINGLE SHAFT IN WORLD 6650ft in 3 minutes, 11/4 miles, to 3560 feet below sea  
level.

JAN 10<sup>th</sup> Proceeded by rail with main body of unit to AVADI near (?) Madras.

FEB 21<sup>st</sup> POSTED ON PERMANENT DUTY TO 20 IND CCS "Y" TANK BANGALORE

APRIL 7<sup>th</sup> PROCEEDED ON TEMPORARY? DUTY

APRIL 8<sup>th</sup> Jhondabhavi-Bellary-Raichar-Secunderbad-Khammarancett-

Rahahmundry-Wisakhapatnam-Ichhapuram- Bhubaneswar (jfs plus other almost impossible to  
read names) About 1500 miles over gritty rough country. Kalyanding ferry five hour delay.

Bellary on foot. Kesagi 3 1/2 miles in truck over railway bridge 90 feet over 1 1/2 wide  
ravine. Anicut ferry across five rivers (?) look half mile wide brownish water. Trucks  
onto train for 50 miles to cross wide roadless rivers. Asanoe over 1 1/2 mile railway

bridge by truck. (jfs note; writing very blurred here but I think I give a sense of what is going on) Arrive Calcutta  
 April 20. Grand Hotel evening.  
 April 22. Calcutta depart. Broad gage, 36 hours truck on train- change narrow gage-12  
 hours trucks on trains—Ferry- 300 miles(?)—staying camps (?) via Gohata to Golaghat.  
 April 28<sup>th</sup> arr Golaghat made M.O. I/C camp. Bungalow. Jeep. Rains.  
 May 2<sup>nd</sup> VISITED JORMAT SAW COLONEL BENNETT  
 MAY 5<sup>th</sup> VISITED DIMAPUR. (MANIPUR)  
 MAY 7<sup>th</sup> DEP. GOLAGHAT-RAIL-DIMAPUR-LUMDING-GAUHATI – PANDU crossed  
 ferry over Bramhaputra by moonlight. Train to Calcutta  
 9<sup>th</sup> MAY ARR. CALCUTTA STAYED at GRAND HOTEL.  
 11<sup>th</sup> MAY TRAIN HOWDAH STN.- EAST COAST TO MADRAS. Stayed in Macays Gardens  
 Hostel.  
 Arr. Madras 13<sup>th</sup>. BANGALORE Y TANK. Felt off colour. Severe pains. B.T MALARIA. F  
 JUNE 13<sup>th</sup> SENT ON GAS COURSE BANGALORE- GUNTERKAL. DEVALILI.  
 JUNE 17<sup>th</sup> RETURNED TO UNIT VIA BOMBAY  
 JULY 12<sup>th</sup> Admitted to BMH Bangalore Carbuncle of face. discharged July 19<sup>th</sup>  
 JULY 27<sup>th</sup> Completed 3 years overseas service.

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AUG 27-30 BLOOD TRANSFUSION COURSE BANGALORE  
 OCT 5<sup>th</sup> WAR LEAVE. BANGALORE-JALAPET. ERODE. COIMBATORE. OOTECAMUND-  
 WOODCOCK HALL  
 OCT13 COUNTRY BUS 7:30 AM – OOTE-GUDALUR. NILAMBUR. CALICUT.  
 CANNANORE 10.0 PM. HOTEL SAVOY  
 OCT19 TRIP TO TELLICHERRY  
 OCT 20 RETURN TO Y TANK BANGALORE  
 NOV 9 POSTED TO 34 IND FIELD AMBULANCE at VADIGAN HALLIE  
 NOV 10 TWO DAYS by ROAD VIA CHICKMUNGA To JUNGLE NR. SHIMOGA  
 NOV 20 BALLIONOIA – BANGALORE. Bangalore 7 days return.  
 NOV 29 Ditto Ditto Ditto 4 days ditto.  
 DEC 9 DEP. BALLIONOA road to SHIMOGA TRAIN TO BANGALORE  
 DEC 10 DEP BANGALORE- TRAIN MADRAS- CALCUTTA- PARBATIPUR- FERRY TO  
 PANDU- RAIL GASHATI- MANIPUR- LUNG DING-DISRIGAO-. LEDO  
 (Transcriber note; about here he crossed into Burma)  
 DEC 20 BY AIR DAKOTA PLANE- MAHLU- TRAIN. JEEP DUKWIN (?) - TO NABBA  
 DEC 23 MARCH TO PINTU 15M. 26<sup>th</sup> 5 MILES TO LANGWA  
 DEC 27 MARCH TO KATHA 18M INSPECTED BY GENERAL

[45]

JAN 1 CROSS IRRAWADDY BY FERRY  
 JAN 2 Twenty miles by transport to PYACONG  
 JAN 3 (?) 10 miles by MARCH to ASURGI  
 JAN 5 16 miles by MARCH to KUNCHAUNG  
 JAN 6 BILLETED IN HOUSE. BIT OF LUCK AS RAINING HEAVILY. 8 hours.  
 9 JAN TO 2N (?) BUFFS on TEMPY DUTY. FLETCHER SICK. BY ROAD TO POINT. 6 miles  
 from MABEIN  
 17 JAN LIVING IN A HOLE. LIFE QUITE AMUSING nevertheless.  
 20 JAN WALKED 12 MILES TO KONKHA. 400 yds from Japs. Daily air strikes

26 JAN POSTED TO 154. Br. FLD. Amb. - CAR TO KOTA. FLYING Jeep - YAMBO-TWINGE.

27 JAN SENT I/C SECTION ATT EAST LANCS REG.T.

FEB 3 MARCHED TO YENYA-U. 4M SMALL VILLAGE. FIRST DECENT BATH AND CHANGE FOR 7 (days?)

FEB 5 MARCHED TO PINTAN- HILL TRACT. MULES ONLY TRANSPORT

FEB 6 MARCHED TO THITWEBIN. WONDERFUL PROCESSION MULES. CARTS. OXEN. CARTS. HANDCARTS

FEB 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH TO KYAUK MAW, SMALL VILLAGE

FEB 12 MARCH TO KINWE. IN A BIT OF JUNGLE

FEB 13 MARCHED TO M.25. DUG WELL IN. JAPS WITH ARTILLARY

FEB 20<sup>th</sup> ROUGH CROSS COUNTRY MARCH THROUGH WAIST HIGH RIVER TO 1250

FEB 22<sup>nd</sup> TRAN TO L.A.S. RWF<sup>y</sup> AT THITSENGON.

FEB 24 TO PINKAN I.M. (jfs could be 1M)

FEB 28 TRANSPORT TO MAGIQUIN.

MAR 1<sup>st</sup> OVER KIM.CHAUNG FERRY VIA SINDAGON TO ONMA

MAR 4 ADV. TO M.18

MAR 5 FORWARD - COOY AMBUSHED AT M.15, UNCOMFORTABLE 1 hour.

MAR 15 BY TRANSPORT TO MONG. MTT (jfs or MIT) REJOINED HQ 154 FOR REST

MAR 22 MOVED By M.T to MOGOCK 4,800 ft above sea level.

APRIL 2 BY M.T 75M VIA MONGLONG TO HAMSAN

APRIL 3 BY JEEP 54M MONGLONG. PLANE VIA SHEWBO TO MANIWA  
(Transcriber note moving back into India via what is now Bangladesh)

APRIL 5 DACKOTA VIA COMILLA TO CALCUTTA

APRIL 6 TRAIN VIA NAGPUR TO BOMBAY

APRIL 8 STAYING CHATEAU WINDSOR BOMBAY

APRIL 14 TRAIN TO DEOLALLI, STAYING IND TRANSIT CAMP

APRIL 29 TROOP TRAIN TO BOMBAY. EMBARKED ON STRATHMORE

APRIL 30 SET SAIL FOR HOME - AT LAST

MAY 4<sup>th</sup> PASSING THROUGH GULF OF ADEN TO RED SEA - VERY HOT

MAY 6<sup>th</sup> STOPPED AT PORT SUDAN

MAY 8<sup>th</sup> ARR SUEZ, PASSING THROUGH SUEZ CANAL WHEN CHURCHILL ANNOUNCED V.E. DAY

MAY 9<sup>th</sup> ARR PORT SAID

MAY 11<sup>th</sup> STARTED ON LAST LAP OF THE 8000M JOURNEY FROM BURMA

MAY 16 ARR GIBRALTER

MAY 18 DEP GIB

MAY 22 ARR.

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