

Sgt Alfred 'Alf' N Ellis – Diary 1942

28 Dec 1941	Attached to 8 th Div
8 Jan 1942	Detached 48 hr
14 Jan	Leave 10 days
23 Jan	Returned to Hundon
11 Feb	Address now 61 Clarence Street [Sudbury?]
Pages from 15 Feb – 15 March (incl.) blank	

20 March	0720-2320 Hundon – Highworth trek 225 miles
26 March	Cook located
28 March	Won S....?
30 March	House orderly
31 March	0730 M221575 0930-1830 Huggeshall (Uggeshall) Peasenhall (Peasenhall) Aerial H (U) = Chariot 3 - aerial broken P = Chariot 2 - R Control horrible mess, brought in with TR16
8 April	Leave. Arrived 1630
17 April	Returned from leave 2130hrs
20 April	<u>Left for Winchester</u> 0920 WO Z(?) 35602 WO103/61 to 596 M 1923hrs 2009 Hundon – London – Winchester c/o 43 Ruby Road, Bitterne 3/-
21 April	0800-2000 Southampton – Dorchester – Bridport and return 3/-
22 April	0800-1600 Southampton – Winchester – Wickham – West Moors – Bridport – Southampton – Winchester R9 both ways Cleaned WP + R9 both ways 1/6
23 April	0830-2010 Dorchester – Bridport – West Moors WP – cleaned + repaired R9 B – cleaned + repaired R8 3/-
24 April	0800-2000 Dorchester – Bridport – West Moors B – test failed (Lost Dial)

	D – unable to test	3/-
26 April	1100-1700 Winchester – Petersfield P – tested R7-8	1/6
27 April	Southampton to Blandford Car inspection	
28 April	0730-2020 Southampton – Dorchester – Bridport Workshop D – test to battlestat. <i>[Holmesley South Battle HQ]</i> R3 B – operation charts W – lock repaired	
29 April	MT Rest Day	
30 April	Winchester 0830-1815 Southampton – Winchester – Dorchester – Southampton – Winchester Pay + moving CTBA 14. WC Dorset	3/-
1 May	Rest Day	
2 May	0830-1900 Winchester – Blandford – Capt HH <i>Webson?</i> + Petersfield Work. Guarded Exercises Petersfield T broken	3/- 179m
3 May	0900-1530 Hut. Wickham + Petersfield W – R9 both ways (R24 – T26) With new T R8-9 after new headset inserted	76m 1/6 69
4 May	0830-1900 Omagh – West Moor + Salisbury	3/- 78
5 May	0830-1850 Salisbury – 14 batteries Blandford – Wickham 127 129	3/- 140
6 May	Rest day	
7 May	0830-1855 Salisbury – Pay – Battle Site <i>[Holmesley South]</i> R9 both ways	3/- 1/6
8 May	Rest Day (Stopped by MP)	
9 May	8030-1905 Salisbury (TR2) – Winchester – Wootton Hill (dug pit for box)	3/-
10 May	0830-1950	

	Hut Battle site – Wickham – Petersfield to R8-9 Set @ Omagh ...? Could not test 3/-
11 May	0830-1930 Wickham R7 Petersfield R7 West Moors R3 (R6) Wootton Hill R8-9 - all to Battle Site 3/-
12 May	0830-1915 Wootton Hill Test R9 Byfield – R8 Omagh West Moors returned set TR3 3/-
13 May	MT Rest Day
14 May	0830-1930 Wootton Hill – Omagh – Byfield R9 both ways Altered aerial to Byfield 128 Received Osterley R7 3/-
15 May	0830-1800 Omagh – moved aerials, received new sets. Tested with X [<i>Bill Air</i>] to Battle site R8-9 nearly all X's positions
16 May	0830-2100 3 – R6 ? – R9 Salisbury – moved aerials Went to West Moors – R6-7 3/-
17 May	0800-1845 Salisbury – West Moors – <i>illegible</i> R7 – 7 Osterley R6 – 9 Byfield 3/-
18 May	0830-2015 West Moors connected New ...? Station R8-9 to Byfield Froad's claims of £1.40 confirmed 3/-
19 May	0800- West Moors – inspection by General/Colonel 1/6
20 May	MT Rest Day
21 May	0830-2110 West Moors dismantled – station erected Monday. Changed batteries at Wickham (117.38) Tested received R9 3/-
22 May	Rest Day Vehicle inspection

6 June	<p>Omagh – 0930-2005 130 Wickham 117.28 R9 Petersfield 98.99.92 R8 Received valves for Sgt Scott</p>
7 June	<p>0900-1830 1/6 78 West Moors 101.72.129 R9 – Byfield R8 - Osterley</p>
8 June	<p>Omagh. Chaney [<i>Capt OB Hall-Hall</i>] phoned. Meet @ 6. 1630 – Repaired TR18 – <i>illegible</i> + handset Went to 6 but Chaney did not arrive 0830-1915</p>
9 June	<p>Omagh. Phoned Chaney - phone again on Friday. West Moors – Osterley R8 both ways Byfield R7 TR3? WV 129 72.100.129 0830-1815 78</p>
10 June	<p>Rest Day Cleaned + greased car. Phoned hut</p>
11 June	<p>Received phone call from HQ – 1135 Petersfield R9 both ways Signal ...? Aerial 0830-1815 71</p>
12 June	<p>Phoned Chaney [<i>Capt OB Hall-Hall</i>] E [<i>Crawley</i>] phoned re car MT Rest Day</p>
13 June	<p>West Moors received TR3 Instructed by Chaney Wickham 38.86.117, TR26 R22 X [<i>Bill Air</i>] stated that no tests to be done but inspect 0830-1915 110</p>
Memoranda	<p>O1 TR3 72.101.129 2 - - - - 3 TR22 208.229.277 4 TR2 117.122.28 5 T26 R22 117.38.86 6 TR12 92.93.99</p>
14 June	<p>Omagh Wootton Hill site seemed quite dry, water drained out of box 0900-1605</p>
15 June	<p>Ring Chaney first thing. Be at 5 @ 2100hrs Wickham ...? + install operation.</p>

	Omagh R9-R8 0830-2245	62
16 June	Omagh Meet Chaney @ 6 1500hrs Chaney arrived but ...? to @ Omagh 0830-2000	
17 June	Rest Day Fixed transfers on Car	
18 June	Omagh – <i>illegible</i> – Southampton for work No claim	40
19 June	Rest Day	
20 June	Omagh Petersfield trying to find keys – unsuccessful 0830-1745	107
21 June	Petersfield – Omagh – Wickham R8-9 0900-1710	63
22 June	Omagh P.....? met Sgt Spencer Batteries	
23 June	Omagh Wootton Hill TR2 R9 – R2	
24 June	Rest Day Cleaned car + greased Repaired?	
25 June	Omagh Petersfield – Wickham 5 No test as when returned to Omagh set had broken down. Repaired set.	
26 June	Rest Day Vehicle inspection Received units and painted car wings	
27 June	Omagh Wootton Hill ...? TR2 Could not contact Omagh Directed aerial on Byfield R8 both ways	
28 June	<i>Illegible</i> 3 sets to Byfield R8 both ways R7-9? Petersfield - collected TR12 Returned to Omagh New lock?	68
29 June	Omagh – <i>illegible</i> Collected batteries at Omagh	175

30 June	Omagh Petersfield - allocated batteries from 6
1 July	Leave 1-10
10 July	Returned 1205
11 July	Omagh <i>Nothing ?</i>
12 July	Omagh <i>Nothing to do ?</i>
13 July	Omagh West Moor with X [<i>Bill Air</i>] Tested set from X's ear, everything OK 0900-1745 1/6 78
14 July	Omagh West Moors tested to site fixed at top road No result 0900-1800 1/6 75
15 July	Rest Day Car to <i>DSM?</i> for inspection
16 July	Omagh Wootton Hill - for test to top road Men working, could not test Southampton – for <i>Davey?</i> + <i>Moriarty?</i> 0900-1899 1/6 80
17 July	Rest Day
18 July	Isle of Wight – could not test until 1700 4 R7-7 0730-2210 3/- 144
Memoranda	3. R8 708.229.277 4. R2 99.122.284 1. R3 72.92.107
19 July	Omagh – supplies etc supplied for test site 1000-1710 63
20 July	Omagh Blandford – taking tools to X [<i>Bill Air</i>] Dorchester – West Moor Affixed label 0730-1735 1/6 149
21 July	Omagh Met X Took J [<i>Brown?</i>] to Taunton for tests Went to Battle site, arranged spot for aerial 0830-2300 1/6 242
22 July	Omagh Petersfield – met Sgt <i>Kitson?</i>

	Left and erected tent. Brought bedding from Portsmouth to site.? sleepers + pole @ Eastleigh and <i>Wind....?</i> 0820-1735 107
23 July	Omagh – rang Chaney [<i>Capt Hall-Hall</i>] re sleepers + pole and? 15
24 July	Rest Day
25 July	Omagh – West Moor Byfield R9 Osterley R9 0820-2150 72
26 July	Omagh Rang Chaney and set up link @ 6 <i>Illegible</i> 0700-1640 6
27 July	Omagh – met Mr <i>Lloyd</i> ? Received – <i>illegible</i> – for that. Petersfield – erected tent 0820-1800 107
28 July	Omagh – changed plugs <i>Highworth?</i> Took tent + ...? That for Mr <i>Lloyd's</i> driver 0830-2000 130
29 July	Rest Day
30 July	Omagh – West Moors - <i>illegible</i>
31 July	Rest Day
1 Aug	Omagh Byfield hut X's car broke down Fixed aerial ...? ?... Omagh - Osterley TRD 4 0820-2200 50
2 Aug	Omagh – checked stores + <i>illegible</i> Workshop for? brush
3 Aug	Omagh – OK Byfield – fixed gate Osterley – <i>illegible</i> Omagh – J [<i>Brown?</i>] changed batteries 117.129.92 0830-1730 93
4 Aug	Omagh Eastleigh for sleepers Workshop with car (ignition trouble) Fixed sleeper on site 0900-1800 39
5 Aug	Rest Day
6 Aug	Omagh – Petersfield

	J [Brown?] met X [Bill Air] Arranged ...? For Monday Blandford - for TR2 Returned to Omagh 0900-2245	115
7 Aug	Omagh - 3 SM New engine arrived X by phone	
8 Aug	Omagh Car to 3SM Coy	
9 Aug	Omagh Tried to repair TR2 Found resistance 5000 ohm is broken down	
10 Aug	Omagh – rang X	
	Brought up pole from L?hill Rained off during afternoon. Went to site in evening + tried to bore holes but unsuccessful	
11 Aug	Omagh X testing with Byfield X called in afternoon – told to erect pole aerials for testing Thursday	
12 Aug	Omagh Testing with Byfield Erected aerials + poles 1. R1 ---- R4 2. R2 ---- R3	
13 Aug	Omagh Testing from site to 1 + 2 and Byfield 1. R1 ---- R4-5 2. R2 ---- R4 Byfield R9	
14 Aug	Omagh Testing from site to 1 + 2 and X 1. R1 ---- ? 2. Rs ---- R3 X illegible	
15 Aug	Omagh – repairing flaw – <i>Repaired ..? in ..? Arranged for pole – illegible</i> <i>Phoned ..?</i> <i>Arranged for him to conduct trials ..?</i>	
16 Aug	Omagh – IoW – Blandford – Petersfield – Portsmouth – Winchester – West Moors – <i>illegible</i> for Sgt Kitson? for <i>illegible</i> Collected batteries for 3 from E [Crawley] 0745-2215	226

17 Aug	<p>Omagh – IoW Omagh 3 R3-4 – <i>illegible</i> Repaired set TR8 <i>condenser?</i> and ...? (4) 99.122.288 (3) 122.228.277 0900-1730 115 / 95</p>
18 Aug	<p>Omagh – <i>illegible</i> 0900-1730 95</p>
19 Aug	Rest Day
20 Aug	<p>Omagh – Portsmouth – Petersfield – <i>illegible</i> – West Moor ? + formalised Kit for Sgt <i>Kitson?</i> R5 Byfield both ways (1) 92.129.117 0830-2140 160</p>
21 Aug	<p>Rest Day Oil change Saw X [<i>Bill Air</i>] Received? for Sgt K (gave him X's TR8) TR15 from Highworth</p>
22 Aug	<p>Omagh Billet hunting – no luck 0900-1730 25</p>
23 Aug	<p><i>Illegible @ 6</i> ? @ Sgt <i>Kitson?</i> M216788 0815-1750 95</p>
24 Aug	<p>Omagh – rang X <i>Illegible</i> Blandford 0900-1945 147</p>
25 Aug	<p>Omagh Blandford to Battle site <i>signed off?</i> <i>Illegible</i> @ Blandford 0745-1845 61</p>
26 Aug	<p>Osterley <i>Illegible</i> 0900-1945 127</p>
27 Aug	<p>Omagh – <i>illegible</i> R5 ?.....? bad interference 38.86.116 – TR12</p>
28 Aug	Rest Day Inspection
29 Aug	Omagh? To go to Osterley ...? help to – <i>illegible</i> – on zero
30 Aug	<p>Omagh <i>D..?</i> – West Moor Byfield – R5 both ways 92.117.129 TR3 92.117.130 0700-1845 81</p>

	0830-1915	132
11 Sept	Omagh – New site. Pay Byfield – repaired <i>respirated?</i> plug, now OK 0830-1900	62
12 Sept	Working for X Visited new site 0830-1800	19
13 Sept	Omagh – <i>illegible</i> 0830-1700	77
14 Sept	Omagh Phone X Met at new hut Omagh 1 (West Moors) R5 both ways Replaced new handset 0830-1845	113
15 Sept	Omagh ...? Petersfield to – <i>illegible</i> Erected aerials to? 0830-1850	77
16 Sept	Omagh – cleaned up new site all day Met X Moved stores into hut Rest Day	
17 Sept	Omagh RE5 re stores phone Taunton Saw Cpl T? Omagh West Moors <i>Illegible</i> Fitted a new step into dugout Wire ...? was unsuccessful	108
18 Sept	Omagh – new site 0830-1840	23
19 Sept	Omagh – new site Met X 0830-1930	32
20 Sept	Omagh Sent SV ...? order. OK after – <i>illegible</i> Phoned X re leave instructions – to phone HQ re leave to be from 28 th 0900-1700	19
21 Sept	Omagh – new site West Moors R5 both ways Message from Chaney to go to 6 0830-1915	72
22 Sept	Omagh	

	Petersfield – new aerial. New set + batteries. Bad interference but when no ...? R4 both ways 0830-1930 71
23 Sept	Omagh Phoned X Go to 6 to camouflage hatch + tested TR19 86.72.92 R4 both ways 0830-1945
24 Sept	Omagh – <i>illegible</i> from X to fit zero. Made arrangement to start Friday
25 Sept	Omagh Zero Erecting aerials Put camouflage all day
26 Sept	Omagh Zero Camouflaging aerials. Saw X Went to Petersfield for testing R&F? General result 72.92.86 Moved to new site for Omagh
27 Sept	Omagh - <i>illegible</i>
	Wiring for lights Wickham fix aerial fault TR2 278.284...? R5 both ways
3 Oct	Section
8 Oct	Arrived 1900 Pay Waiting all day for E Took car to <i>Cadnam</i> ? Met E
9 Oct	Omagh Rewired battle site for electricity. There all day
10 Oct	Omagh – finished wiring X at new hut 2
Memoranda	Met guardian for Herbert
11 Oct	Rest Day Car maintenance
12 Oct	Omagh Dismantled old Omagh site all day through: telephone and electricity
13 Oct	Omagh Telephone on my ...? at Byfield

	Rest of day erecting aerial + reflector for <i>Gony?</i> R3 both ways Received wire to ring Chaney each day @ 9.30
14 Oct	Omagh Chaney, Y + X testing from Omagh + RS to Omagh 2 Omagh RO Byfield (BS) R4 Omagh 2 R3-4 both ways Message to go to Osterley Thursday
15 Oct	Omagh + Osterley Met X Took dud valves + stores J [<i>Brown?</i>] told to go to HQ on Monday K [<i>Ellis</i>] to take over Omagh 1 + 2 to be transferred to 16. Byfield to go to 16.
16 Oct	At Omagh with BS all day cleaning + testing. X phoned to say not coming but will arrive tomorrow to keep continuous watch from 11.30hrs
17 Oct	Omagh Testing with X Byfield + Osterley Byfield in touch with X Omagh could not contact 5.275.101 275
Memoranda	Omagh D [<i>Sgt G Spencer</i>] 0 BK 1 M [<i>Sgt Scott</i>] 2 AB 3 M 4 M 5 N [<i>Foard</i>] 6 N
18 Oct	MT Rest Day
19 Oct	Omagh – Byfield – Osterley With stores Collected Sigs Dunford and David Car inspection
20 Oct	Omagh Testing. Fuse broken in TR19 R5 both ways TR12 both aerials – took engineers to do
21 Oct	Omagh

	Phoned Chaney Sig David to exchange with Wake 5 re camouflaged + buzzer fault fixed
22 Oct	Omagh + Osterley with Sig David Collected Sig Wake, arranged new billets + pay. Rang Chaney but line out of order
23 Oct	Omagh Rang Chaney Island ...? cancelled – <i>illegible</i> Visited Byfield with two ...?
24 Oct	Omagh all day operating Visit from Chaney
Memoranda	1771
25 Oct	Omagh all day operating Message from Chaney to meet @ 10.00hrs
26 Oct	Omagh to 3 – <i>illegible</i> - down @ if weather too bad to do any work - <i>illegible</i>
27 Oct	Omagh R5 both ways 4 TR22 92 86 3 TRD 126.80.276
28 Oct	Omagh Bath again. Workshop with car Chaney @ Omagh (Phone Thursday morning) Operating during day
29 Oct	Omagh – new billet Byfield
30 Oct	Omagh – Petersfield + 5 hrs on ...? to P. 5 R4 - R5 6 R4 - R5 Byfield R5 2 R5 - R5 Osterley R5 1 - -
1 Nov	Omagh + Osterley for meeting with X Discussion re stores
2 Nov	Omagh W/S Section inspection Received stores from Osterley for B/S
3 Nov	Omagh 1 – 5 – 6 After turning <i>loss? ...?</i> Omagh to 2 5 R5 both ways 6 R5 ----- Fixed top buzzer @ 5
4 Nov	Omagh 1 – 1 tested from 2 R5 both ways X visited with ...?

5 Nov	Omagh all day Arranged to go to Byfield Friday
6 Nov	Omagh Pay Byfield <i>Fixed loss ?</i> Arranged to meet H [<i>Gilbert</i>] @ 0900hrs Saturday
8 – 9 – 10 – 11 Nov	<i>illegible</i>

Letter code for names

Y Major
D Sgt George Spencer
E Crawley
H Gilbert
J *Brown ?*
K Sgt Alf Ellis
M Sgt Scott
N Foard
O ??
Q Orr
S Caldow
X Bill Air
Z ??
Chaney Capt OB Hall-Hall

* *West Moors* □ *This is the St Leonard's hotel site where we know the operator, Ted Harvey and his assistant Betty the barmaid. The exact site hasn't been located. There is some suspicion that this is an unusual site as forms part of Osterley network. To do so presumably would need multiple aerals. [Will Ward]*