

**The War Diary of Major Raven of Hoxne  
Auxiliary Units References  
Intelligence Officer is Captain Andrew Croft  
Auxiliary Units are referred to as 'Mobile Squad'**

**Starts May 14<sup>th</sup> 1940**

**August 5 1940** Major Croft called to form Mobile Squad to work with road blocks. Ten to be detailed to meet him here at 8pm Thursday 15.

**August 8** [writing in a different hand] - To South Green, Sailor's Pool & Dickinson's Pit for site for Croft's demonstration & for Sailor's Pool post with Wright.

**August 10** Typed orders etc. After Lunch Cpt Croft called wishing to advance time of demonstration from Thursday to Tuesday evening: he went on to see Wright: settled for Tuesday. Buck to bring over contingent from Stadbrooke too.

**August 13** 7.30 pm Demonstration by Capt Croft at Dickinson's attended by 4 regular Captains. Revillon and contingent from Stadbrooke under Buck along with our own. Arranged for a further practice next Tuesday at 7.15  
[Oposite page of diary, in pencil] Croft left cases of S.I.P Bottles [self igniting phorous] 12 in case. 9 on the 16<sup>th</sup>

**August 16** Re-typed lists of men. All men to register with Police.  
12 o'clock Croft called to discuss new squad and leader etc  
7 o'clock Wright called to discuss above.

[Original hand takes over writing]

**August 20** Captain Wills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kensingtons. Demonstrated at Dickinson's – 12 present. Instructed G Thirkettle verbally that he would be put in charge of the Mobile Squad. To come and see me one night at about 9pm.

**August 21** sent details [on oposite page] of mobile squad to Croft

Hoxne: Thirkettle G (I/C of)

Witton G

Steward H

Banham J

Rush K

Knights H

Denham: Brett C

Riches A R

Watling A

Syleham: Page H

Gissing B

Revell H

To Captain Croft,

The Vicarage, Kelvedon, Phone Kel 19, Essex

Captain Wills,

2<sup>nd</sup> Kensingtons, Claydon (351)

**August 21** 8 o'clock Went through Calendar 1937 with George Thirkettle til 9.15

**August 26** Wrote to Captain Wills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kensingtons, Claydon

**August 28** Saw Gordon Whitton [Auxilier]

**September 3** Captain Croft called at 12.20pm  
8pm G Thirkettle to see me – gave him details of Mobile Squad arranged to meet on Sat and dig up necessaries.

**September 7** Removed box of tricks and handed over to G Thirkettle. [Opposite page - in pencil] Removal of H.E [High Explosives] to Thirkettle's Farm 4

**September 8** 2.40am Sent Edward and George Thirkettle round with S.I.P Bottles.  
[suspected Cromwell Alert]

**September 17** Captain Croft to see me about Mobile Squad.

**September 18** G Thirkettle wants to make a secret rendezvous of M.S [Mobile Squad] on Rushes land [Cpl 'Ken' Rush]

**September 24** G Thirkettle and R Rush to see whether a 'hidey-hole' can be found for mobile squad. Wants pass

**September 25** Sent Thirkettle a pass.

**September 27** Corporal G Thirkettle to Mobile Squad's course with Croft. Major E Borrow supplied 8 petrol coupons to be refunded by Capt Croft.

**October 4** 5pm Captains Croft and Bush called about returning coupons for Mobile Squad – 8 coupons to HQ.

**November 3** G Thirkettle came to see me about hide out for mobile section

**February 15** 1941 Made out complete list of personnel up to date for Major F.T Wright. Strength 134 excluding Dickinson, E.J.P.R and H.P.R [Raven] and mobile squad of seven.

**March 8** Return to Majors Borrow and Wright as to equipment issued to Mobile Squad from Platoon Stores and that issued by Captain Croft of mobile unit.

**April 7** Rejoined for duty with No.1 Corporal C.A. Brett, A. R. Riches, and A. J. Whatling [Originally recorded as being from Denham]

**Diary ends August 16 1941**