

1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

January

KABRIT, EGYPT

see map

- Jan 1st Bn commenced training at ME CTC Kabrit. High incidence of sickness, especially among new draft. 80 reported sick today. Comd Off and 2 i/c visited IRTD, Geneifa to interview officers as prospective reinforcements. 1 Officer and 20 ORs proceeded to Amriya to collect vehicles. 2 Officers, lacking in experience, and 19 NCOs surplus to WE posted to IRTD. 19 private soldiers posted here in exchange.
- Jan 2nd 3 Officers posted to the Bn for training. Pioneers Cadre Course ended. Bn practised landings from assault crafts.
- Jan. 3rd Cliff scaling. Sally Port Drill and use of scrambling sets practised by Bn. "A" and "C" Coys zeroed rifles at Geneifa Range. Intelligence Section visited the War Room at the CTC. 12 carriers collected from Geneifa Station.
1799: Comd Offr briefed all Officers and NCOs for exercise 'SEAHORSE'. CTC instructions, Bn Warning Order and Landing Tables issued. No written orders issued.
- Jan 4th Bn on exercise 'SEAHORSE'. Div Comd, Major-General Hayman-Joyce, DCO, and Bde Comd Shoemith, OBE attended.
- Jan 5th 6 anti-tank guns, 6 x 3" mortars, and 8 snipers' rifles collected from ADOS.
1300: Comd. Offr held Coy Comds training conference.
Bn on individual training and route marches.
- Jan 6th "B" Coy zeroed rifles on Geneifa Range. Bn of Section Training and Assault Courses. Zero losses. Comd. Off. Detailed plan of Exercise "SEA URCHIN". CTC Exercise Papers, Bn Warning Order and Landing Tables issued. No written orders issued.
1700: Comd. Off briefed all Officers and NCOs for Exercise "SEA URCHIN". Training programme issued.
- Jan 7th Bn on Exercise "SEA URCHIN".
0500: 2 i/c attended Bde "Bidding for Exercise "DUCHESS".
1700: Comd. Off. Held briefing conference for exercise "SEAGULL".
- Jan 8th 0900: Comd. Off and Adjt held "Bidding" conference for exercise "DREDGER" at the CTC. Representatives of all supporting arms. Bn on individual training. Major Nash, Adjutant, Sis Offr and Coy 2 i/c attended Signs conference on exercise "RADISH".
1900 – 0100: Bn engaged on exercise "SEAGULL". BLO and party attached to the Bn for training.
- Jan 9th 1000: Bn Church Parade. Farewell message received from General Eisenhower on his departure from the command. Interior economy and games in afternoon. Comd Off prepared exercise "DREDGER".
- Jan 10th War Office controlled stores issued. Company training. Comd Off

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- attended conference at HQ 2 DCLI on RE work in Combined Operations. SORE CTC presided.
1700: Comd Off briefed Bn and Supporting Arms for exercise "DREDGER".
Film "Next of Kin" shown to new members of the Bn.
- Jan 11th 1100: Coy Comds' conference on training. Bn messing meeting. Major A Smart presided.
Bn prepared for exercise "DREDGER", which commenced at 2100 hrs night on 11/12 Jan.
"A" and "C" Coys fired at Geneifa range.
Bn prepared for exercise "DREDGER" which commenced at 0100 hrs night of 11/12 Jan.
- Jan 12th Rest after precise until 1200 hrs. 2 i/c gave lecture on compass work to all PI Comds.
1500: Capt Jenkins lectured to all Officers on "Reinforcement in Combined Operations".
All Officers and NCOs attended Bn briefing for "DREDGER".
- Jan 13th Bn plan made for exercise "Duchess". All Officers attended Bn briefing for "DUCHESS". Comd Off admitted to hospital with malaria (relapse). Major JA Garmons-Williams assumed command.
- Jan 14th Bn briefed for exercise "DUCHESS" Exercise commenced 1300 hrs
- Jan 15th 1000: Exercise ended. Bn prepared for move to Ataka. All officers attended a final conference on the exercise. The following were mentioned in despatches for services in the Tunisian campaign:- Lt Col HAB Bruno, MBE (killed), Lt G Dowler, Lt AWF Paskins, 6144763 Sgt W Bevan, 6143324 Sgt E Holt, 6144204 L/Cpl J Simms, 6144232 Sgt A Weston.
- Jan. 16th Bn moved to Ataka and took over camp vacated by 2 RFs. Major JA Garmons-Williams visited Comd Offr in hospital.
- ATAKA**
- see map
- Jan 17th General settling-in. Games in the afternoon. Recreational transport run to Tewfik.
- Jan 18th PI training in the morning. Games in the afternoon.
- Jan 19th All Officers photographs taken for identity cards. Pioneer PI Course in Mine Warfare commenced. Specialists struck off all duties for intensive training. Individual training continued.
- Jan 20th Two day PIAT instruction commenced. 1 week's company runners course commenced under company arrangements. Major WCE Nash attended a Bde Training Conference.
- Jan 21st Bn attended camouflage lecture in Div. Area given by the ME Mobile Camouflage Unit. Major GC Maggs, MC appointed Unit Security

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Officer.

- Jan 22nd Major WCE Nash and Adjutant visited Comd Offr in hospital.
Individual training.
- Jan 23rd Bn Rest day. C of E Service given by Rev Wilson, Padre 2 DCLI.
Recreational transport run.
- Jan 26th Instructions received that MEF address to be used forthwith.
- Jan 27th Lt Col ROV Thompson returned from hospital and resumed command
of Bn.
- Jan 28th - 31st *No War Diary entry*