

**1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT**

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**December**

**CHIETI**

- Dec 1st Bn at Chieti in Div Conc Area preparing to hand over stores and vehicles to 5 Div. Light training: Dog and Stick Walks, ABCA discussions etc. Lt CJH Hamblin reported to Bn ex-hospital.
- ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (AT SEA)  
NTR.
- Dec 2nd Preparations for hand-over continued. Admin Order No 7 issued. Capt RG Westworth rejoined Bn ex-hospital.
- ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (AT SEA)  
NTR.
- Dec 3rd Handover preparations continued.
- ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (AT SEA)  
NTR. Bn found party of 1 Sgt and 18 ORs for fire piquet, as part of Bde Gp on duty. Mounted 2000 hrs (3<sup>rd</sup> shift).
- Dec 4th Advance Party from 5 Div 5<sup>th</sup> Bn The Essex Regiment arrived from Palestine at 1400 hrs.
- ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (AT SEA)  
1000: Gun practice by all the guns on the boat.  
1600: Troopship tied up alongside dock at Haifa. Bn party on Fire Piquet dismounted and prepared to disembark.  
1700: Bn party, less those detailed for duties as under, disembarked in troop-carrying vehicles on quayside.  
1800: Bn Party arrived at 176 Transit Camp. Some confusion – nobody knew which tents had been allotted to the various parties of the Div Adv Party. Bn party finally settled in two tents near the NAAFI canteen, with Sgts and Officers in their respective lines.  
1900: Baggage and cleaning parties from the ship arrived in camp. Baggage stacked under cover and blankets sorted out and issued.
- Dec 5th Handover of all stores, vehicles etc. to advance parties from 5 Div commenced. Amendment No 1 to Adm Order No 7 issued. Handover of vehicles etc. completed.
- ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (HAIFA)  
All unit parties confined to camp all day. Rain started about midday, and continued intermittently all the afternoon and evening and most of the night. Tents were in a bad condition, and most of the party had a wet and uncomfortable night.
- Dec 6th Reveille 0600 hrs, breakfast 0630 hrs, dinner 1045 hrs. Bn left Chieti

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1230 hrs, and moved to Railhead Ortona in TCVs arriving at 1400 hrs. Train left Ortona at 1710 hrs.

ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (HAIFA)

Passes issued to Haifa, and transport arranged for half the party to proceed in the morning from 0830 – 1230, remainder from 1415 – 2230. At 1300 hrs instructions received to pack, and be prepared to move at short notice. Passes cancelled.

1700: Party moved off in TCVs and arrived at Camp 87 (2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Northants Regiment) at approximately 1900 hrs. Hot meal was ready and much appreciated as it was the best we had eaten since leaving Forli.

Dec 7th

Train travelled via Barlette and Gioia to Taranto, arriving at 1730 hrs. Troops detrained and marched to staging area. Adm Instructions for 52 Area received, and copies issued to all Coys.

ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (CAMP 87)

Bn Party commenced to take over tentage and accommodation stores, but a standstill order was received shortly afterwards as the Bde was in the wrong area. Passes were issued from 1300 hrs to 2300 hrs for the purpose of visiting Camp 80 where there was a cinema, but at 1530 hrs 1 Sgt and 13 OR were detailed to mount guard at 1700 hrs.

**TARANTO**

Dec 8t

The Bn settled in at the Staging Area.

ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (CAMP 87)

Orders received to pack up and prepare to move at 1230 hrs. Pay Parade at 1130 hrs. Advance party from 2 SOM LI arrived at 1200 hrs to take over the camp in our place.

1330: Bn party moved off in transport which had brought the 2 SOM LI party, and arrived at 5<sup>th</sup> Bn The Essex Regt Camp at 1630 hrs after two minor breakdowns had caused a slight delay. All arms and ammunition handed in to Bn amn stores immediately on arrival. Baggage unloaded and placed under cover.

Dec 9th

Adjutant called to Bde Conference at 2300 hrs. Information was that 4 Div was NOT now proceeding to Palestine. All stores and vehicles recently handed over to 5 Div are to be taken over again. QM and first party of drivers to proceed to Chieti for this purpose early am 10 Dec. Div to be ready to move to new destination within a few days.

ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (TEL AVIV)

Bn Party cleaned up and settled in at the new camp. Passes issued to Tel Aviv from 1400 – 2230 hrs. Transport provided by 5<sup>th</sup> Bn Essex Regt.

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Dec 10th QM and first party of drivers left for Chieti at 0600 hrs. Second party left at mid-day. CO went to Bde for conference at 1500 hrs

ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (TEL AVIV)

1 x 15 cwt and 2 x 3-ton trucks taken over from the Essex Regt. Passes issued to Tel Aviv, and one 3-tonner used to take the party.

Dec 11th Whole Bn marched to Taranto (4 miles each way) for showers.

ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (TEL AVIV)

Various small items of accommodation stores withdrawn from use by the Essex Regt and handed over. Passes issued to Tel Aviv.

Dec 12th CO held conference at 0900 hrs to discuss move. Lt DC Fuller left at 0930 to allot accommodation on troopship. Move Order No 1 issued. Bn left Staging Area at 1200 hrs and marched to Oil Wharf, Taranto (9 miles). By 1730 hrs all men and baggage on board the troopship 'Bonoforo'.

ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (TEL AVIV)

Programme of handing over tentage and accommodation stores arranged. Passes not granted at first owing to possibility of move, but granted at 1530 hrs.

Dec 13th 'Bonoforo' sailed for Greece.

ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (TEL AVIV)

Handover cancelled and stores handed back. No passes issued. Awaiting instructions. Major Paskins attended Conference at Bde at 2000 hrs, then issued orders at 2130 hrs. All baggage to be packed and loaded on truck by 2230 hrs 13 Dec. Rifles and amn to be drawn from store 2230 hrs. Reveille 0200 hrs 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. Ready to move at 0230 hrs.

**AT SEA**

Dec 14th Normal ship's routine.

ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (TEL AVIV)

Transport moved off in Bde convoy at 0300 hrs. Bde convoy arrived at 163 Transit Camp Haifa at 0730 hrs, and breakfast was provided by Transit Camp. Baggage parties left for docks at 0900 hrs. Remainder of Div parties remained by the trucks parked on the square of the transit camp. Haversack ration issued for midday meal. Div parties embussed and proceeded to docks during the early afternoon. Bn Party arriving at docks at approximately 1445 hrs, and embarking at approx. 1530 hrs. The boat 'Empire Patrl' was not a troopship, and there was no normal messdeck accommodation. She was overcrowded in the holds so that there was hardly sufficient room for each man to sit on his kit, without any hope of being able to find

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sufficient room to lay down to sleep. A complaint was put through by higher authority about the overcrowding, and at about 1900 hrs 10 Inf Bde Gp and one Fd Regt (22 Fd Regt) was ordered to disembark. These parties were conveyed back to 163 Transit Camp, arriving at about 2000 hrs. Major Paskins and his batman remained on the 'Empire Patrol'. Rifles were put into store, and two blankets per man drawn up. Everyone was settled in by 2100 hrs.

Dec 15th

0630: Land sighted.

1000: 'Bonoforo' anchored in bay between Piraeus and Pat Faliron. Bn was warned to prepare alternative plans for landing. PLAN "A": - Against opposition – normal battle order with small packs. Rifle Coys and Tac HQ in first flight. Remainder to follow according to the progress made. PLAN "B": - If no opposition – normal dress for disembarkation (full kit and equipment).

1400: CO and recce party left for shore. Plan "B" to be carried out.

2000: Bn began to transfer to LSIs.

2230: LSIs pulled into landing berth at 336404. Bn disembarked, and by 2300 hrs all troops were embussed in TCVs ready to move.

2330: Bn arrived at destination, and Bn HQ was established at MR 379321 (Sh E 6 Glifadha). All Coys were in immediate area, and strong guards were mounted on all occupied houses.

Received from Bde: Copy of a Paper on Greek Resistance; Internal Security Operations in Greece; Proclamation (copy of leaflet dropped for civilians).

#### ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (HAIFA)

Reveille 0600. Blankets hand in on way to breakfast at 060. Rifles were drawn from store at 0700 hrs, and Bn party was embussed, ready to move to docks, by 0800 hrs. Bn party arrived at docks about 0830 hrs, and waited for the order to embark again on the 'Empire Patrol'. An Inquiry was held by the Embarkation Authorities, and it was finally decided that the boat – as she was then – was overcrowded, and no more troops were to go aboard, The 'Empire Patrol' then pulled out into the harbour, and a Greek Destroyer (escorting the troopship) pulled into her place. The Surreys and 2 DCLI parties were embarked on the destroyer, and extra rations put on board. As soon as this was completed the destroyer weighed anchor, and made out to sea in order to overtake the 'Empire Patrol'. The remaining parties of the Bde Gp and the Fd Regt were left on the quayside, and were believed to have been returned to the Transit Camp to await another boat.

Dec. 16th

Bn remained in location. Received from Bde: Message re supplies from 425DMA. Received from Bde: Message re carriage of arms. etc.

#### ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (AT SEA)

The Royal Navy Liaison Offer on board the destroyer 'Themistocles' gave the troops on board a short talk at 1030 hrs, and dealt briefly

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with the present situation in Greece, and the events leading up to it. The alarm signals were sounded at 1600 hrs, and the crew tested the guns by firing a broadside from all three 4" gun turrets. By nightfall lights could be seen showing from various islands as the destroyer proceeded through the Aegean Sea.

Dec 17th

Bn was allotted transport as follows: From 23 Armd Bde – 2 x 3 tonners, 1 x 15cwt, 1 utility car. From ML – 1 x 15cwt. From Para Bde - A L A/Tk, 2 jeeps. RASC – 3 x 3 tonners, 1 x 15cwt Dodge, 1 M/C.  
*0745: Patrol report to Bde:- Patrol to road block on main road met some drunken Greek soldiers. Otherwise NTR. Second patrol contacted road block sentries NTR.*  
1400: Bn warned to prepare to take over positions from 6 B W.  
1905: Orders received from Bde for Bn to move at 0400 hrs 18 Dec. Received from Bde: - 10 Inf Bde Gp Adm Orders No 1 & 2 (G), Message re opening of DMA, Safeguarding of Monuments.  
*1930: Odd shots heard on main road investigated, and found to be caused by drunken Greek soldiers.*

ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (AT SEA)

Dec 18th

0330: Bn HQ marched off to 6 R W area followed by Coys.  
*"B" Coy 34103902. "C" Coy 34133903. "D" Coy 34303635. "S" Coy 34283826.*  
0500: Bn arrived at new location. Bn HQ established 34233823. No incidents occurred during the changeover. Carrier PI ordered to relieve "B" Coy, and latter Coy then relieved "B" Coy DCLI.  
*0530: Changeover completed.*  
*0620: Bde informed of completion of relief.*  
*0740: One shell (75mm?) approx. 400 yds South of Bn HQ.*  
*0950: From Bde:- One Coy Surreys to relieve "B" Coy 2 DCLI immediately at 344406. CO informed, and "B" Coy Comd brought to Bn HQ.*  
*1005: "S" Coy ordered to send Carrier PI to take over from "B" Coy at old location.*  
*1010: "B" Coy Comd arrived Bn HQ and met DCLI IO. Guides laid on. "B" Coy to move in transport to DCLI location.*  
1030: Bde Cmd visited Bn HQ. *Visited OP in "D" Coy location with CO.*  
*1115: From Bde:- Advance party have arrived (from Palestine). Representative sent to quay to meet them. Advance party from Palestine disembarked at DID landing stage and rejoined Bn in present location.*  
*1500: "D" Coy report that RAP in house opposite their location have been informed by a shepherd that about 25 ELAS armed with rifles and an MG are lying up in the large cemetery awaiting the arrival of our next patrol (Bde informed, and "D" Coy ordered to send strong patrol to area).*  
*1600: Patrol went out from "D" Coy and came under occasional*

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*sniping but suffered no casualties. No enemy found.*

*1745: Patrol returned from cemetery area. Reached farm. Combed area. No contact (Bde informed). Intentions: Night 18/19 Dec and 19 Dec.*

Patrolling by Coys throughout the day. 2 Officers and 34 OR – 1 OR left in hospital at Taranto before embarking for Palestine. Lt JWJ Davies rejoined Bn ex-ship's hospital. Armd car from RAF Regt allotted to Bn.

**ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (AT SEA)**

Next morning and all through the day the destroyer passed several rock islands, and finally dropped anchor at 2000 hrs off Piraeus. The Captain went ashore for orders, and returned about 2200 hrs with the news that the troops would not disembark that night but would wait until next morning – time not specified.

Dec 19th

*0255: "B" Coy:- patrol returned. NTR.*

*0345: "D" Coy:- patrol returned at 0200. NTR.*

*0945: "D" Coy:- A small patrol has captured some civilians believed to be supplying ELAS with food. Civilians sent to Bde.*

*1000: From Bde:- 3" mortars to be collected from 2 NF (Capt Layhecollectedd).*

*1100: Morning Sitrep from Bde.*

*1130: Co to Bde:- Civilians state that Red Cross van which we are holding visits farms, collects food, and takes it to ELAS. Bde replied Red Cross personnel say they supply ELAS hospital.*

*1135: Bde:- We can keep Red Cross van, and use it as an extra vehicle.*

*1200: "B" Coy relieved by 2 DCLI and returned to Bn area at 346387.*

*1900: Evening Sitrep and patrol warning.*

Bn remained in present positions throughout the day.

**ADVANCE PARTY TO PALESTINE (PIRAEUS)**

The troops had an early breakfast, and prepared to disembark at short notice, but had to wait until approximately 1430 hrs before an LCT came alongside. A fairly short trip along the waterfront, and the troops disembarked close to Athens to find transport waiting. This transport conveyed the Bn party along the coast road about three miles, and finally unloaded it and all the baggage outside the Bn HQ, where the party rejoined the Bn, which had landed from Italy two days previously.

Dec 20th

*0100: From "D" Coy:- Patrol Report – Patrol proceeded to cemetery 357395 – earthworks 356397 – and then to corner of village 358399. At this point they saw a house lit up and a lorry standing in front of it. They were challenged by a sentry, and a burst was fired at them from the house. Patrol returned the fire, and shouted to the enemy to surrender. Enemy surrendered, and patrol found three men and four women. The lorry contained cauliflowers. They were unable to start*

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*the vehicle, so patrol punctured tyres and returned (Bde informed).*

*0115: Prisoners arrived at Bn HQ.*

*1200: Prisoners despatched to Bde.*

*1230: Patrol has returned after going to school at 351398. NTR. (Bde informed).*

*From Bde:- Following reliefs will take place today: 6 Surreys with under comd one Coy 101 Bn Gk Nat Gd will relieve 2 RF and LRDG. Relief will commence 1900 hrs. 2 DCLI and one Coy 101 Bn will be relieved by 145 Bn Gk Nat Gd. Relief to commence 1400 hrs. On relief 2 DCLI are to move to 1/6 Surreys area, and take over from 1/6 Surreys when Surreys move out. One Coy 101 Bn Gk Nat Gd to come under command 1/6 Surreys forthwith.*

*1400: 2 DCLI arrived in area to take over Bn positions.*

*1745: Bn HQ moved off by march route and arrived at new location 35034135 by 1900 hrs.*

*1945: "D" Coy report all in at their new location 36104210.*

*2000: "C" Coy reported in to new location 36104210. :B: Coy reported in new location 35754200.*

*2010: "S" Coy reported in new location 35504180. Reported to Bde that relief of 2 RF now complete.*

*2130: "S" Coy carry out same patrol programme as friends.*

*2335: "B" Coy:- Our patrol has contacted "C" and "S" Coy. NTR.*

*Patrols carried out throughout the night.*

*Bn remained in position throughout the day.*

Dec 21st

*0025: "S" Coy:- First patrol have returned and report situation normal. NTR.*

*0300: "S" Coy:- Patrol has returned . NTR.*

*0305: Mortars:- NTR.*

*0508: "S" Coy:- Report party from Mortars has returned . NTR.*

*0600: "S" Coy:- Third patrol has returned. NTR.*

*0610: Sitrep to Bde:- Local patrolling carried out. Quiet night. NTR.*

*0910: "D" Coy:- Report enemy road block at 357412 about 2' high. 4 or 5 men were observed carrying large blocks to it. Fire was opened and the men ran away. The road is covered by fire. Intermittent sniping of orphanage building during the morning, and again during the afternoon. Fire returned with Bren and rifle. Several "hits" were observed, one sniper was wounded, and sniping ceased for a considerable period in each instance.*

*1135: Bde:- PW collecting post to be established 1400 hrs today at 334406, while we may continue to use 12 Inf Bde's collecting post here if more convenient. "S" Coy:- Sitrep – Considerable movement of civilians on road running North West between houses 198 and 201. Fired one burst at men believed to be armed. Houses in area searched – normal.*

*1310: Bde:- Cancel plans for PW Collecting Post (now likely to be established in the school).*

*1320: "S" Coy:- Patrol returned – searched all houses in area South*

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*East of Carrier's HQ. Nothing found. Fired on from area of Police Station when crossing open space, and at X-roads in rear of Coy HQ.*

*1630: Sniping of Orphanage recommenced, and several came through the windows. Bren guns replied and sniping ceased. One sniper was seen to fall from a tree, and he was shot at as he ran away.*

*1730: From "B" Coy:- Sitrep and Intentions – no shots have fallen in Coy area to date. Day patrols searched all houses in rectangle bounded by rds (a) Main Athens Rd, (b) Coy HQ Rd, (c) Second parallel rd to Main Athens rd. (d) "S" Coy HQ rd. NTR. Several requests for food from local inhabitants. Night patrol to contact "S" Coy leaves at 2359 hrs will inform "S" by wireless 2345 hrs. Continuous patrolling round Coy Perimeter by night.*

*1710: Patrol Warning from Bde. Night 21/22 Serial 7, Surreys. Strength 1 and 16. Time out 1900 hrs. In by 2200 hrs. Task to investigate and clear area of new road block 357412. Serial 8, 1/6 Surreys, Strength 1 and 16. Time out 2300 hrs. In by 0300 hrs. Task to investigate and clear area 355414.*

*1900: "D" Coy report patrol has gone out.*

*2150: "D" Coy report patrol has returned. One prisoner. (Bde informed).*

*2305: "S" Coy patrol has gone out.*

*Received from Bde: 10 Inf Bde Operation Order No 1 (G). Letter re Christmas 1944. Letter re Occupation of Buildings during Operations. Letter re Control of Civilians.*

*Patrolling carried out throughout the night.*

Dec 22nd

*0250: "S" Coy:- Patrol has returned.(Bde informed).*

*0700: Patrol Reports to Bde:- Serial 7. - Strength 1 and 16. Time out 1900. Patrol investigated area of road block 357412, no opposition encountered. One prisoner with arms and ammunition taken. Patrol returned by 2150 hrs. Serial 8 – Strength 1 and 16. Time out 2300 hrs. Patrol reported whole area clear. ELAS believed to have left 2 hours earlier. 3 prisoners taken. Large number of empty amn cases found on the roof of a cinema and on other house tops. One house contained typewriters and papers, another contained NAAFI stores. Patrol returned 0250 hrs.*

*0630: Bde Tac HQ established in our location.*

*1000: "D" Coy moved forward to 35754165 in conjunction with move forward by 2 Beds & Herts and 2 DCLI.*

*1335: "D" Coy:- Patrol reports wood 35754165 clear of enemy, some wire and trenches found, patrol was fired on by an automatic from house 100yds East of the Eastern corner of the wood. Patrol returned the fire with all available weapons, and automatic has not fired since (Bde informed).*

*1400: "B" Coy Sitrep. Enemy fire from trench in road running South East from my HQ at a range of 600 yds. Fire was returned and four men ran into houses nearby. No further fire heard. Believed "D" Coy*



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*now engaging same area. Civilian car flying Red Cross flag moved from enemy's area towards main Athens rd 500 yds North of my position and disappeared.*

*1800: Sitrep to Bde:- Reported above facts. Patrol Intentions – Night 22/23 Dec. Surreys night 22/23 active patrolling to deny reoccupation by enemy of wood 360414. Tasks (a) to clear area North of Bde objective up to rd junc 363421 to commence 0800 hrs 23 Dec. (b) to take over from 2 SOM LI East of rd Leoforos Singros with one Coy. From under comd 2 DCLI to under comd 6 Surreys one Tp B Sqn 50 R Tanks at 1900 hrs 22 Dec. Boundary between 2 Beds & Herts and 6 Surreys incl 2 Beds & Herts rd from 364416 to 360414. PW Collecting Point will be established at the Orphanage 0800 hrs 23 Dec.*

*2200: Bde:- What are timings of "D" Coy patrol to wood? (inquiries made).*

*2230: Bde informed that patrolling is continuous throughout night.*

*2240: Bde:- Beds have been informed and will keep out of wood..*

*Warn "D" Coy that Beds are near Southern edge of wood.*

*2250: "D" Coy warned of above.*

*2255: From Bde:- What strength are patrols to wood? Bde informed they are section strength.*

Dec 23rd

*0700: Sitrep to Bde:- Quiet night. Local patrolling. NTR.*

*0900: "D" Coy report their task complete. No prisoners. Inhabitants friendly. Locals say that ELAS have withdrawn to Katsipodhi area (Bde informed)*

*1300: "B" and "C" Coys moved forward, and "S" Coy sent mortar pl to take up positions in houses on Eastern edge of the wood.*

*1330: Bn HQ left Orphanage to take over area left by "B" Coy.*

*1400: Bn HQ arrived new location 36754200.*

*1755: Sitrep to Bde:- "D" Coy cleared houses NE of wood 360415 without opposition. Enemy believed to have retired to area Katsipodhi. Locations: Bn HQ 36754200. "B" Coy HQ 36504265. Platoons 36304245. 36454260 36554255. "C" Coy HQ 36104212 Platoons 36054210 36124205 36424215. "D" Coy HQ 36104710 Platoons 36154180 36204170 36254165. Mortars 35804165 36854168. "S" Coy HQ and carriers 35504180. Otherwise NTR.*

*2010: From Bde:- Intentions night 23/24 Dec and 24 Dec. Night 23/24 Dec local protective patrolling. 24 Dec to remain firm in present positions, and carry out further intensive search for weapons and suspected positions in their area.*

*Message received from Bde ordering B Echelon to move to new area. Advance party from B Echelon proceeded to new area at Nea Smirni. Lt LV Cooker with 22 OR from Italy disembarked and joined the Bn.*

Dec 24th

*0400: "S" Coy:- Mortar Pl contacted "S" Coy at 0320 hrs NTR.*

*0410: Sound of small arms fire and tank from the North. Firing continuous. Bde have no information, but are inquiring. Div say RFs holding line of river to North have been attacked. 2 houses blown up. Brisk fighting.*

0420: *Small arms fire from South (Beds informed that this fire is in front of their "D" Coy area 365410).*

0430: *Sounds of explosions and SA fire to the North. "Stand To" ordered.*

0435: *Above information given to Comds "C" and "S" Coys. "S" Coy report firing in Mortars area.*

0450: *Some explosions and SA fire from the North.*

0500 *"Stood Down".*

0630: *Sitrep to Bde:- Local patrolling. NTR.*

1600: *From "B" Coy:- Patrol Report – Strength of patrol one Officer and 14 OR and 1 Sherman tank. Patrol to investigate presence of ELAS in factory 100 yds South of building 170. Factory was entered. No ELAS were found on inside, but on investigating in rear of factory, patrol was fired on from a house 30 yds away. On advancing to clear the house patrol was fired on again. One Greek National Guard was wounded. On entering the house it was found clear of ELAS who had just escaped out of the back of the house, running into 'tin-town'.*

1640: *Patrol returned under covering fire of the Sherman tank.*

1820: *From Bde:- Evening Sitrep. 6 Surreys search of area continued during day, some suspects arrested, and arms found. Intentions from Bde – Night 24/25 Local protective patrolling. 25 Dec searching for arms etc in Bn area to be continued.*

2000: *Half B Sqn less one troop come under command 12 Inf Bde wef 25 Dec. One tank will remain with each Bn. Tp Comd to be with 2 Beds & Herts. Remaining Tp will be remaining under orders OC B Sqn. Bn remained firm in present positions. Local protective patrolling throughout the night. B Ech moved from old location and Bde B Ech area established at Nea Smirni 353413.*

Received from Bde: *Christmas Greetings from Maj Gen AD Ward (Div Comd). Special Order from Lt Gen PM Scobie, C-in-C LF & ML (G). Christmas message from Sir Harold RLG Alexander, C-in-C Mediterranean Theatre.*

Dec 25th

0915: *Sitrep from Bde:- 6 Surreys and 2 DCLI- a quiet night.*

1500: *From Bde: It is thought that ELAS may be aggressive tonight on the grounds that we may be relaxing on account of Christmas Day. All ranks should be warned. (passed to Coys).*

1925: *Evening Sitrep from Bde:- Search of present areas continued. Some suspects detained, otherwise NTR. Approx. 40 suspects passed back from Collecting Point. Intentions – night 25/26 Dec local protective patrolling. 26 Dec search for arms, etc in Bn areas to be continued.*

2245: *From "B" Coy:- Large fire started 50 yds East 12 Pl area. Another one believed starting. (Bde informed, Beds & Herts informed, CO went to "B" Coy).*

2310: *From CO:- Fire obviously bogus – petrol or oil. Treat all fire engines as hostile. Bn to "Stand To". Passed to Coys.*

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- 2330: Co:- Send more 2" mortar HE to "B" Coy.  
2345: CO:- "Stand Down", but leave double sentries posted.  
10 Inf Bde Op Order No 3 (G) received.
- Dec 26th
- 0115: "B" Coy Sitrep. NTR.  
0120: CO:- Normal manning of sentry posts at Coy's discretion.  
0830: Sitrep from Bde:- Two large fires started 2230 hrs near 6 Surreys area at 363423 burning petrol and oil. Believed to have been intentionally lit by the enemy. Otherwise NTR.  
2030: "D" Coy patrol to X-rods 36654200 has just left.  
2315: Patrol from "D" Coy returned.  
Search of areas continued throughout the day. Casualties: One killed in action, 2 wounded and evacuated. Lt (QM) CA Smith, Lt DC Smith, Lt EK Mansfield and Lt RA Brissenden with 45 OR (including MT personnel) disembarked Athens and reported to Bn. Some vehicles disembarked.
- Dec 27th
- 0855: Morning Sitrep from Bde:- 6 Surreys patrol to X-rds 36654200 went out at 2030 hrs, and found an improvised road-block of cement blocks and railway lines 2 ½ ' high at the X-rds. 4 enemy were seen approaching road block from the North East, and they ran into a house at 36774200 when engaged. MG fire was then opened from a basement door which killed one of the patrol. Patrol charged the house firing TSMGs and throwing in grenades. No sounds or movement were heard, and patrol moved about openly in the square. 4 enemy are believed casualties.  
1015: CO attended "O" Group at Bde.  
1400: CO held "O" Group at Bn HQ.  
Received from Bde: 10 Inf Bde Op Order No 2 (G). Message re supplies.  
1920: Issued to Coys: Op Order No 1 (G)  
2015: Sitrep from Bde:- NTR.
- Dec 28th
- 5 OR disembarked during the night with vehicles, and reported to Bn. Tac HQ left Bn HQ at 0230 hrs and established in "D" Coy's old HQ at 36484137 by 0250 hrs.  
0230: Tac HQ party left Bn HQ.  
0250: Tac HQ established in "D" Coy's HQ.  
0300: "B" Coy:- Moving now. (Bde informed).  
Attacks on Hill 129 and Hill 100 began at 0300 hrs and were carried out without opposition. A brisk exchange of fire occurred after Coys were firm on objectives. Capt FC Layhe received superficial GSW to neck, but remained on duty.  
0301: "D" Coy and "C" Coy moving now (Bde informed).  
0353: "S" Coy report APPLE (on hill 100). Brisk exchange of fire. 3 PW and 1 Breda MG. (Bde informed).  
0358: "S" Coy:- Confirm APPLE. Brisk exchange of fire continuing, but firm on objective. Sunray 9 slightly wounded.  
0415: CO to "S" Coy:- When prisoners are sent back, shoot to kill if

there is any attempt to escape or rescue. "S" Coy:- Enemy automatic fire continued. Several groups of 4 or 5 enemy seen.

0416: "D" Coy:- Report PLUM (on hill 127) (Bde informed).

0417: "C" Coy :- Report PEAR (on hill 127) (Bde informed).

0418: "S" Coy:- Not sending PW yet as escort cannot be spared.

0500: "D" Coy :- All quiet, no opposition on way to objective. Am clearing two rows of houses on right flank. Have seen no road blocks.

0506: "S" Coy:- Three men, incl one Sgt0 missing from the Carrier Pl in the direction of automatic fire. Sentry heard giving challenge in Greek.

0525: "S" Coy:- Missing men found. They were cut off in a house. One enemy walking down street fired at and seen to fall. 20 ELAS reported in two nearby houses. Am attacking with Piats.

0530: "C" Coy:- NTR.

0623: "S" Coy:- Have occupied two high points. Many enemy around this area. Am continually engaging with fire. Fired three Piats at house known occupied by enemy. No further fire from house. Am very tight on objective. (Bde informed)

0710: From Bde:- Start clearing L of C now. Beds left their FDLs at 0700 hrs. Right to left: "A", "D", "B" Coys.

0711: "B" Coy informed of previous message. "B" Coy Beds are on their right.

0740: "B" Coy:- No opposition so far. Odd shots from North and North East not aimed at Coy. Points of origin being engaged by Beds' tanks. Have cleared up to third lateral. (Bde informed).

0745: "S" Coy:- Report enemy running from houses 600 yds East of hill 100 as their houses are being engaged by Beds' tanks We are also firing on them from our own positions.

0800: "B" Coy:- PHASE I complete – no opposition (Bde informed. "S" Coy informed).

0835: "B" Coy:- PHASE II complete – no opposition. 2 tanks have gone forward, are firing to East.

0840: "S" Coy:- Hill 100 clear of all enemy, had good shoot at retreating enemy. Sending back 3 PW. RAP carrier wanted for badly wounded PW. (despatched).

0845: "C" Coy:- Our location is Western summit of Hill 129. We have only fired at opportunity targets, and fire has been returned.

0905: "S" Coy:- Are being sniped from North East of Hill 100.

0910: "B" Coy:- Report PHASE II and IV complete, tank has gone to "D" Coy to attempt a shoot.

0945: "B" Coy:- Have contacted "C" and "S" Coys. Tanks have gone to "C" Coy to attempt a shoot.

0950: "S" Coy:- Enemy casualties: 1 killed, 4 PW (one wounded) – many probables in area.

0955: "B" Coy:- Allies have commenced PHASE I and when completed will go into PHASE II. They will remain there until we move.

1000: "C" Coy:- Tanks are moving to smaller hill to get better observation.

1005: "D" Coy:- Have seen many enemy in gps of 2s and 3s. No set plan apparent. Have had a good shoot – modest estimate 12 – 20 hits.

1015: "B" Coy:- Report one rifle and amm captured. English-speaking woman states that several ELAS moved North from the area at about 0600 hrs today. Can they start the next Phase? CO's repl:- NO.

1040: "D" Coy:- Many enemy in small groups seen entering building 171. Tanks are engaging. (Bde asked to stop).

1105: "S" Coy:- Tanks are now with us as shoot was not possible from 129. Tanks engaging building 171.

1145: Bde:- Bedford Coys are at 378414, 375414, 373414 and report line MOLLY.

1200: "D" Coy:- Report tanks firing into their area. Bde informed, and replied that they are stopping them.

1214: "B" Coy:- Sitrep NTR.

1215: "S" Coy:- Tanks have stonked factory 171, and there has been no firing since.

1230: "D" Coy:- ELAS wearing German helmets observed within 50 yds of Coy HQ. 2 were shot (Bde informed).

1350: "D" Coy:- Exciting two hours with considerable amount of sniping from close quarters. Some enemy got within 20 yds of one pl. They threw grenades, ans shouted to our troops to give themselves up "We are Canadians". Reported to be dressed in German helmets and dark uniforms. They were driven off in confusion. Sniping now reduced and chiefly from factory area. Apparently enemy are withdrawn there.

1355: From Bde:- Beds at HELEN pushing on to LINDA. Be prepared for next phase soon. "B" Coy informed.

1410: "S" Coy:- Being mortared continuously. Direct hit on HQ. No casualties. (Bde informed). CO to "S":- Send tanks to "B" Coy.

1415: "D" Coy:- Beds 200 yds away, apparently don't know us and are engaging us with fire. (Bde informed).

1420: "B" Coy told to report when ready for next phase.

1435: "S" Coy:- Mortaring has recommenced. There was a pause of 5 mins. Tanks have left us now.

1440: "B" Coy:- Tanks have reached our location.

1450: Brigadier gave HELEN (passed to "B" Coy).

1545: "B" Coy:- We are at x-rds 374417. National Guard with Beds already in area (Bde informed).

1550: "S" Coy:- They are troubled with snipers between ourselves and MORRIS. "S" Coy ordered to clear down to MORRIS and then make firm on hill 100 for the night.

1600: "B" Coy told to make firm on rd junc 374417.

1615: "D" Coy:- We have good tank target – possible attack forming up. Can we have a tank?

1630: Tank sent to "D" Coy – guide to meet it at Church.

1645: "D" Coy report one OR wounded.

1900: Locations: "B" Coy HQ 373416 Pls 373416 373417 373417.

**1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT**

1944

*Intelligence Summary (Italics)*

Appendix

*"C" Coy Pls 373421 374420 374426. "D" All round 374421. "S" Coy HQ and Carriers 371416 Mortars 372417.*

*1920: From Bde:- Intentions night 28/29 Dec Coys will be located in tight Coy localities with local protective patrols to ensure against raids. Probably direction of raids from IMITTOS area. 29 Dec to clear area from Pt 129 373421 to rd Vouliagmenis from left rd junc 378419 to rd junc 374417 (location "B" Coy 6 Surreys). To commence 0730 hrs. Probable future ops – 2 Beds & Herts to take over present area held by 6 Surreys in addition to area at present held by 2 Beds & Herts. 6 Surreys to clear area South West corner cemetery 379427 – Church 377432 – rd Leoforos Alopekis – Angelis rd to exclude cemetery.*

*1950: Evening Sitrep from Bde. Considerable progress during day against uncoordinated resistance including widespread sniping and some mortaring. Considerable enemy casualties believed inflicted. Clearing of Katsipodhi area from rd Vouliagmenis 378420 to incl feature 372417 and Pt 129 374421 nearing completion. In addition area up to track from 369418 to 366420 has been occupied and searched. 6 Surreys remain firm on features occupied before first light – one Coy cleared route from 365414 to 371418 and ground between two features in area 374417. Party of ELAS wearing German helmets approached "D" Coy during the day, and called on troops to surrender. They were driven off. Many enemy observed in factory area Key 171. Location Bn Tac HQ now 36484138.*

*2210: "S" Coy:- Mortaring left of Mortar positions (mortars seen falling in valley between Tac HQ and Point 100).*

*2200: "S" Coy:- Bearing to mortar 100° Mag (Bde informed).*

*2245: "D" Coy:- Considerable Spandau fire from direction of camouflaged factory, but nearer, also mortaring.*

Dec 29th

*0105: "C" Coy:- Our North West position attacked by a number of ELAS who were beaten off, and then went to the area of the Church (Bde informed)*

*0135: "B" Coy:- Several weapons fired near this area. No shots by our own sub-units. No shot has fallen in this area.*

*0305: "B" Coy:- One enemy taking shots at Hill 129 from a point 600 yds East of our location. Two mortar bombs fell in sub-unit area – no casualties.*

*0600: Bde Major:- Operations of Beds & Herts delayed one hour (does not affect us).*

*0645: "D" Coy:- Sitrep. ELAS attacked throughout night and tried to infiltrate engaging with Spandau, automatics etc. 4 75mm shells landed in area from approx due East. All attempts to infiltrate repulsed. Casualties: 1 OR killed, 1 Officer slightly wounded, and one OR wounded.*

*0650: "B" Coy:- Considerable firing but no casualties. No fire returned. "S" Coy:- Sitrep – Continuous SA fire from LMGs from friends on right all night, firing in our direction. Saw two civilians,*

*who they believe enemy, show a light. They were fired on by short bursts of TSMG. Otherwise NTR. (Bde informed).*

*0830: "B" Coy:- Progress slow. 3 PW evacuated through Gk Nat Gd with Beds.*

*0900: "B" Coy:- 3" mortar bursts in Mortar Pl area from bearing 90° Mag (Bde informed).*

*0905: "B" Coy:- Amm and explosive dump found at 385418 handed over to Gk Nat Gd who are working with Beds. Dump consisted of 4 doz block charges, 2,000 rds SA303, 24 sticks dynamite, 24 rds Luger, 6 grenades, 1 Verrey light pistol and 24 cartridges (Bde informed).*

*1040: "B" Coy:- Sitrep. We are 150 yds from AUSTIN. Have contacted "C" and "D" Coys. Beds are at AUSTIN on their side, isolated firing.*

*1045: "S" Coy:- 1 casualty from sniping from left of Mortar Pl area.*

*1100: "S" Coy:- Casualty died of wounds.*

*Bn continued to clear area throughout the morning, but progress was slow.*

*1130: Lt-Gen Hawkesworth and Maj-Gen Ward visited Tac HQ.*

*1130: "B" Coy:- Now at AUSTIN. Rifle and automatic fire from IMITTOS and factory area. Coy Comd making recce for more suitable position as AUSTIN is overlooked to the East*

*1200: Nine suspects and 1 fighting ELAS brought in to Bn HQ by 101 Gk Nat Gd from area of "B" Coy – escort arranged to PW Collecting Point.*

*1310: Bde:- "B" Coy are to move back to area 377419. CO informed of this over the air at "D" Coy, and he gave orders to "B" Coy. They are established tight near the 'M' in Vouliagmenis.. CO:- Ask Bde if they are required to move..*

*1340: Bde:- Yes – to the area previously ordered.*

*1400: "D" Coy:- Vehicles seen proceeding North from camouflaged factory Key 171.*

*1500: "B" Coy: Have cleared up to church 37704228 and consolidated in position ordered 37654195. (Bde informed).*

*1640: "D" Coy:- Report seeing about 100 men believed armed coming from re-entrant 392414 and entering houses at 392416. (Bde informed), and RA took on target.*

*2014: Intentions – Night 29/30 Dec 50% "stand T" for all rifle coys- no patrolling. 2 Beds & Herts and 6 Surreys remain present area and continue the search for arms and equipment. B Sqn 50 RTR One tp remains under comd each 2 Beds & Herts and 6 Surreys. One tp reverts to comd B Sqn.*

*2020: Sitrep from Bde. Op of clearing Katsipodhi area completed during day to Div right boundary. Opposition including mortar fire from the East was fairly heavy during the morning but slackened in the afternoon. Considerable activity observed in area Key 171 382418 and suspected mortar positions engaged by arty and own mortars. Total PW evacuated to Div Cage today 35.*

*Received from Bde: Message re night positions. Tactics at night.*

*Copy of Opening Speeches at Greek Conference.*

**1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT**

1944

*Intelligence Summary (Italics)*

Appendix

Casualties for day: Lt HG Theobalds admitted to 10 Fd Amb (BC). 2 OR killed in action. 1 wounded and reported died of wounds. 1 wounded and evacuated.

Dec 30th

*0730: Morning Sitrep to Bde. Quiet night. NTR.*  
Bn remained in area and continued search for arms and equipment  
*0816: Sitrep from Bde. Quiet night. No incidents to report.*  
*1500: Op Order No 3 (Greece) received from Bde.*  
*1600: CO to "B" Coy:- Send a patrol as far as Church 377412 to contact 2/4 Hamps.*  
*1630: "B" Coy:- Patrol has left.*  
*1715: "B" Coy:- Report that patrol has contacted 2/4 Hamps at Church 377414. NTR (Bde informed).*  
*1800: Sitrep to Bde. Locations unchanged. Bodies of 3 more ELAS who were killed on Eastern edge of Pt 129 yesterday morning have now been discovered. One Schmeisser and 2 rifles found. "B" Coy contacted 2/4 Hamps at Church 377412.*  
*1915: Sitrep from Bde. Gen Foundry Key 171 3841 occupied by 2 DCLI with no opposition except a little sniping from the East Total PW evacuated to cage 53. 101 Gk Nat Gd to take over comd of Katsiphodi area with 6 Surreys boundaries when 6 Surreys move out – Bn HQ 368417. 147 Bn Gk Nat Gd 2 Coys under comd 6 Surreys.*  
*2030 Bn Operational Order No 2 (Greece) issued.*  
Received from Bde: 10 Inf Bde Order No 3 (G). Minefields in Greece.  
Issued to Coys: Op Order No 2 (G)  
Soup kitchen opened at Filopappos under command Capt LE Penn, and staffed by OR from B Ech. Served an average of 30,000 people a day.

Dec 31st

*0710: Bn HQ established in "B" Coy's old location 377419 .*  
*0730: "S" Coy:- We have crossed SL.*  
*0810: "C" Coy:- Progress very satisfactory.*  
*0810: From Bde:- Hamps have reached their objective, and are now clearing backwards. "C" and "S" Coys informed.*  
*0850: "S" Coy:- Carrier pl on NED. Mortar pl nearly there (Bde informed).*  
*0855: "C" Coy:-We are on NED (Bde informed).*  
*0925: "B" & "D" Coys:- Are married up with tanks ready to move. CO ordered them to move right away.*  
*1020: Bde Comd:\_ New objective in accordance with plan to make complete line with Greek Mtn Bde.*  
*1025: "B" Coy:- Report ALAN (Bde informed). "B" Coy ordered to push straight on to GEORGE and make firm.*  
*1035: "D" Coy:- Ordered to do the same.*  
*1050: "D" Coy:- Have passed ALAN. "B" Coy:- Report GEORGE (Bde informed).*  
*1110: "D" Coy:- Report GEORGE (Bde informed).*  
*1130: Hamps attacked at 1130 going ahead. DCLI reached new location.*



**1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT***Intelligence Summary (Italics)*

1150: "C" Coy:- Is moving ahead.  
 1155: "S" Coy:- Report PLUM (Bde informed).  
 1200: "S" Coy:- Have contacted CO 2 DCLI.  
 1207: "C" Coy:- Report APPLE (Bde informed).  
 1210: "C" Coy:- Report having contacted troops of Greek Mountain Bde (Bde informed).  
 1230: "B" Coy:- All complete at PLUM.  
 1230: From Bde:- PW CP now at RAZZLE.  
 1258: "C" Coy:- Have contacted friends on left.  
 1300: "S" Coy:- Have contacted friends in front.  
 1400: Tac HQ moved forward.  
 1415: Tac HQ established in new location 38644200.  
 1500: From Bde:- Inter Bn body between 6 Surreys and 2 DCLI all incl 6 Surreys – rd from schools at 390421 to 392423 body between 2 DCLI and 6 Surreys and 2 and 3 Greek Bdes. 38964291 South East along road to 39104270 North East along road to x-rds A KORAI KOINONIAS TON ETENON South along KOINONIAS TON ETENON to rd junc 39474223 thence South East to 39874198.  
 1830: Sitrep to Bde. Locations: Tac HQ 38644200. "B" Coy 389422. "C" Coy 393428. "D" Coy 387426. "S" Coy 392423. 3 Coy 147 Nat Gd in "D" Coy area. 4 Coy 147 Nat Gd in "S" Coy area. No opposition met during day. Contact made with Gk Mtn Bde forward 2/4 Hamps LEFT and DCLI RIGHT also contacted. Considerable quantity of ammunition returned.  
 1930: Intentions night 31 Dec/1 Jan. No patrolling. 1 Jan searching for arms etc in Bn areas to be continued. PW Collecting Point established same place 0800 hrs 1 Jan.  
 1930: Evening Sitrep. Adv continued with 2 DCLI right 6 Surreys left. No opposition encountered. By 1200 hrs task day was completed. 6 Surreys and 2 DCLI having cleared up to the Div body and contacted 3 Gk Mtn Bde. Total PW evacuated to Bde Collecting Point 24.  
 Parties of ex-hospital personnel disembarked and arrived at B Echelon as follows: 9 OR at 1500 hrs, 15 OR at 1900 hrs, 13 OR at 1<sup>st</sup> Jan.