

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

1945

Appendix

**February**

**KHALKIS, GREECE**

- Feb 1st 10 Inf Bde Op Instr No 3 (G) received. Bn remained in Khalkis area and continued training. Lt. DC Fuller attached Bde Battle School s instructor.
- Feb. 3rd "D" Coy provided all guards and essential duties for the day. Bn (less "D" Coy) celebrated Christmas Day in the traditional army manner. CO and the Bde Comd paid informal visits to Coy dining halls during the Christmas Dinner, and wished everybody the compliments of the season. Concert given by members of "B" Coy held in "S" Coy dining hall during the evening. Received from Bde: 'British occupation of Khalkis'.
- Feb 4th "D" Coy celebrated Christmas Day. Received from Bde, and issued to Coys: Intentions for 5 Feb. Op Instr No 1 (G) 3<sup>rd</sup> Leave Party of 40 OR and 4 Offrs (Major Paskins, Capt Matthew, Capt Layhe and Lt DC Smith) proceeded to Athens. 2<sup>nd</sup> Leave Party of 40 OR and 4 Offrs returned from Athens.
- Feb 5th Patrols carried out as planned. For full report see evening Sitrep from Bde timed 051955B. To Coys: Intentions 6 Feb.
- Feb 6th Patrols carried out as planned. For full report see evening Sitrep from Bde timed 061925B., and 'Report on Operation' sent to Bde. Paper on 'British Occupation of Khalkis' sent to Bde with Accommodation Return to Khalkis as App A. Op Instr No 1(G) as App B (not attached) – see App D, and Major FN Plastow's Comments on Personalities as App C. Lt CJH Hamblin posted to No 10 Transit Camp.
- Feb 7th From Bde: Road Report. To Coys: Intelligence Sitrep.
- Feb 8th CO held conference at Bn HQ at 1430 hrs. Bn Routine Order No 82 published, calling for drafts for inclusion in the proposed History of the Battalion. 4<sup>th</sup> Leave Party of 40 OR and QM( Lt CA Smith) proceeded to Athens. 3<sup>rd</sup> Leave Party returned from Athens. Lt HA Greenwood rejoined the Bn ex-hospital.
- Feb 9th "ORANGE" Warning given. Coys "Stood To" at 0930 hrs, and "Stood Down" after the CO had made a tour of inspection. CO held a Coy Comds Conference at 1400 hrs Amendment No 1 to Op Instr No 1(G) issued.
- Feb 10th From Bde: Intentions 11 Feb. To Coys: Discipline – WD Stores in possession of civilians. Football Match – Bn v Khalkis cancelled. Capt RWB Mitchelkrejoined Bn from Rear Party Italy.
- Feb 11th Command of Khalfis Garrison devolved on Lt Col CGS McAlester MC during the absence of the Bde Comd on a recce and goodwill mission. One section carriers investigated Vathi 2992 – no incidents. To Coys: Visit of Bde Comd. Football Match – Bn v Khalkis Union. Bn won 5 –

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2. Sgts Mess held a Social Evening. Evening Sitrep from Bde.

- Feb 12th "B" Coy carried out a two-day course in Watermanship under the guidance of 7 Fd Coy RE. 5th Leave Party of 40 OR proceeded to Athens. 4th Leave Party of 40 OR returned from Athens. OR Dance held in "HQ" Dining Hall at Hotel Palirria from 5 – 9 pm.
- Feb 13th Comd 12 Inf Bde visited CO during the morning. To Coys: Intelligence Sitrep.
- Feb 14th Div Comd visited Bn from 0900 – 1100 hrs. From Bde: Report – Recce and Goodwill Mission on 11 – 13 Feb. Details of Move.
- Feb 15th From Bde: Details of convoy for distribution of seed potatoes. To Coys: CO's memorandum on Training. Warning Order for Move.
- Feb. 16th Convoy under command Intelligence Sgt distributed seed potatoes as ordered, without incident. Move Order No 3(G) issued to Coys. 6<sup>th</sup> Leave Party of 40 OR proceeded to Athens. 5<sup>th</sup> Leave Party of 40 OR returned from Athens. Major WE Bruce-Jones and 101 OR joined Rear Party Italy on posting from No 1 IRTD.
- Feb 17th Admn Order No 1 issued to Coys. LF & ML(G) Intelligence Review received through Bde. Weather became very much colder throughout the day.
- Feb 18th Advance Party left for Athens, arriving at approx 1230 hrs. Coy representatives moved into their respective areas, and were accommodated for the night with 2 RF. At least one man to remain in each billet to be taken over in order that the civilian occupiers would not move back into the accommodation before the arrival of the Bn. Bn packed and ready to move early on 19 Feb. Advance Party from 6 BW arrived and accommodated in Bn area. Weather still cold. Major WE Bruce-Jones, Capt L Brown, Lt R Stephenson, Lt BN Willson, Lt JP Nichols, Lt EN Duke, Rev GHT Blake and 75 OR disembarked Greece and rejoined the Bn.

### **ATHENS, GREECE**

- Feb 19th Bn awaited arrival of 6 BW, then embussed in returning TCVs. Bn left Khalkis at 1345 hrs, arriving in Athens at approximately 1900 hrs. Ver cold journey through the mountains, with snow in places. Coys moved into Coy areas and settled in billets by 2000 hrs. Capt WA Baker (Rear Party Italy) admitted hospital (sick).
- Feb 20th Bn settled in. Weather still cold, with intermittent snow. Training policy: Confined to parades during the morning, so that the afternoons and evenings would be free for all personnel not on guard or essential duties.
- Feb 21st Coy PT parades in morning. Warning Order from Bde issued to Coys: Bn to be prepared to move at short notice. Bn may be required for

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security duties in Athens in view of possible political crisis. "Stand Down" order issued. From Bde: Evening Sitrep. Weather cold, with intermittent snow.

Feb 22nd

Coy Route Marches in morning. Weather very cold. Snowing practically all day.

Feb 23rd

RSM's Drill Parade. Weather still cold. Lt Col CGS McAlester MC posted to HQ Crete (promoted to Colonel). Major PM Plastow MC (No 2 I/c) assumed command of Bn. Lt DC Fuller ceased to be attached to Bde Battle School.

Feb 24th

PT parades in morning. Return of Accommodation Occupied in Athens forwarded to Bde. Weather improved during the day. Fine and sunny during the afternoon. Capt WA Baker discharged hospital, and rejoined Rear Party Italy. Copy of Text of Agreement signed on 12 Feb 45 between Greek Government and EAM received.

Feb 25th

1100: Church Parade held at Church of St Nicholas attended by all Offrs and 50 OR per Coy. Service conducted by Rev GHT Blake (Surreys). LF & ML(G) Intelligence Review received.

Feb 27th

Comd Offr and Adjutant attended conference at Bde HQ. 4 Div Op Order No 1 received.

Feb 28th

CO's conference held to discuss operational role in new area. Issued to Coys: Recce Party Orders. Op Order No 3(G). Orders fro Bde Comd's visit on 1 Mar. 5 OR proceeded to UK (LIAP). 10 Inf Bde OO No 4(G) received. 10 Inf Bde Op Adm Order No 6 (Greece) received.

NOTE: All incidents normally written up as the Intelligence Summary have been included in this narrative as the Bn was not carrying out an operational role, and there was little of interest to report.