

1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1945

Appendix

APRIL

ATHENS, GREECE

- Apr 1st Easter Sunday. Church Services held: Parade Service (non-denominational) (Capt GHT Blake; Holy Communion (Capt Hansen 2 DCLI); R.C. Mass (Father Woods, 10 Fd Amb)
- Received from Bde: Warning Order for LIAP 9th. Issued from Bde: Review of Political Situation in Kardhitsa (to Bde). 1T Number of S.E.E. (Sports, Education, Entertainment). Cinema show in evening - Mickey Rooney in 'Andy Hardy's Blonde Trouble'
- Apr 2nd Easter Monday. Issued: Orders re Brigade Guard. Warning Order – Move of "B" Ech.
- Apr. 3rd "S" Coy met 2 Beds & Herts "A" Coy in semi-final of Bde Football Competition. Result :Draw 0 – 0. Basket Ball match played in the evening between Ciommanding Officer's team and Brigade Commander's team. Bde Comd arrived early and inspected the Guard. He and his team stayed to dinner after the match. At times it was difficult to tell if the game was basketball or rugby, particularly during the last five minutes "all-in". Result: Comd. Offr's team won 10-0.
- Apr 4th Palamas (T 0619) and Sopades (T 0504) visited, and political questionnaire completed and sent to Bde. No copy kept. Adjutant visited Bde to discuss plans for V-E Day. "S" Coy provided Guard at Bde HQ. Received: Notification of visits to sea. Issued to Bde: Particulars of Age and Service Groups.
- Apr 5th Issued: instructions ref visit to sea. General Instructions "Ex Observation". Basketball: Offrs v Majors Result 6–11
- Apr 6th First party of one officer and 28 OR proceeded to the sea. Bn teams taking part in Bde rifle competition. Issued: Instructions for Anti-Malarial Course
- Apr 7th Bde Rifle Competition second day. Results: HQ Coy 1st 261 points; "C" Coy 2nd 254 points; "D" Coy 5th 235 points; "A" Coy 8th 231 points; "S" Coy 12th 213 points; "B" Coy 15th 201 points.
- 0800: 2 Pls "D" Coy moved to Mouzaki S 6917 to investigate trouble reported by Gk Nat Gd. Report stated that Gk Nat Gd were fired on with M.G. by ELAS
- 1600: "D" Coy returned from Mouzaki where they had received a very friendly reception, and were cheered as they marched into the village. major WBE Brown, MC interviewed Vassilios Ngikos. Reports sent to Bde. Private Roberts posted to 3 Transit Camp for onward routing to

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- UK (PYTHON). 2 Offrs and 28 OR proceeded on leave to Athens. PRI opened the canteen in the Bn lines.
- Apr 8th Voluntary Church Service in the morning, followed by Free Church communion - conducted by Rev GHT Blake. Semi-Final Brigade football competition. "A" Coy 2 Beds & Herts 2 v "S" Coy 0. 5 OR proceeded on LIAP 9th. Received: LF ML(G) Int Review No 10.
- Apr 9th C1 (4 Div) (Lt Col Escott) visited Bn in afternoon. Bn practised for Sports. Issued: Instructions PI Battle Competition. General Instructions for Offrs TEWT. 2nd Issue of SEE.
- Apr 10th Bn Sports Meeting held. Result "S" Coy 1st.
- Apr 11th *No War Diary Entry*
- Apr 12th Death of civilian at Grizanon T 0437 investigated and found to be due to man tampering with unexploded ammunition left around after arms dump destruction by British troops. Five people killed and five wounded. 2 DCLI dealing with situation. Issued: Amendment to General Instruction for Ex "Observation". Details of Anti-Malaria lectures. Malaria Standing Orders. Instructions for Bde M/C Trials.
- Apr 13th 2nd Leave Party proceeded to the sea. Capt. Baker and 30 OR. Offrs attended TEWT on River Crossing. Bde Comd attended part of the discussion.
- Apr 14th Signals team won Bn Basketball Final. Film show in evening "Miracle of Morgan's Creek" and "Destroyer". Received: LF and ML(G) Int Review No 11.
- Apr 15th Voluntary Church Service. Leave Party proceeded to Athens. (2 officers and 28 OR, including successful Rifle Team in Bde Competition - HQ Coy. Bn Tug-of-War team won preliminary round v t2 Beds & Herts - 2 pulls. Pte Nichols dispatched to UK (PYTHON) Issued: Instructions for Div Comd's visit.
- Apr. 16th Rehearsal for Div Comd's visit. Bn Tug-of-War Team beat Bde HQ - two pulls. Gk Nat Gd personnel returned to unit on completion of course - satisfactory results obtained by all students.
- Apr 17th Div Comd's visit. Following the inspection the Div Comd addressed the Bn and declared himself extremely pleased with the way in which the Bn had fought in North Africa, Italy and Greece. After his farewell speech the Div Comd took the salute as the Bn marched past. Bde Sports Meeting held in the afternoon. Div and Bde Comds attended. Results: 2 Beds & Herts 1st 30 1/2 points; 6 Surreys 2nd 30 points; 2

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DCLI 3rd 28 points.

- Apr 18th CO attended conference at Bde. New Bn Concert Party, under the management of Sgt Hasting gave first performance to the Bn in the evening. Issued: Warning Order for Move. Advance Party Orders. Received: Special Order of the Day from Field Marshal HR Alexander. Special Order of the Day from Div Comd. 5 OR rejoined Bn ex-LIAP. Lt DC Fuller admitted 53 General Hospital (strained leg while running in Bde Sports Meeting).
- Apr 19th Advance Party moved to new area Stilis Y 47540. CO held Training Conference at 1400 hrs. Visit by 'Amusiliers' South African Concert Party consisting of 10 men and 11 women performed at 1500 hrs before a very large audience including personnel from Bde etc. Issued: Notes on Conference. Move Order No 6. Directive to civil authority.
- Apr 20th Bn packed and prepared to move. Issued: Orders for Rear Party.
- Apr 21st Bn, less Rear Party, moved by road to new location - tented area near sea in area Stilis. Bn HQ established at MR T4953 (sheet 1/100,000 T7).

STILIS, GREECE

- Apr 22nd Bn settled in at the new location.
- Apr 23rd Settling in and general administration continued. Rear Party arrived at new location. Issued: Details for LIAP 10th. Details for Bde M/C trial. Lt NA Greenwood posted to 10 Inf Bde. Lt HHG Bayniss posted from 10 Inf Bde.
Received: LP and ML(G) Int Review No 12.
- Apr 24th 4 OR departed to 430 IMA for onward routing to UK on LIAP 10th. Leave Party of 2 Offrs and 28 OR proceeded on leave to Athens.
- Apr 25th CO addressed the Bn. Issued: Operation Order No 4.
- Apr 26th PI Battle Competition held.
- Apr 27th PI Battle Competition completed. Winners 9 PI (Lt JWJ Davies – PI Com received a prize of two days leave in Athens). Bde Comd arrived on tour of inspection in the afternoon.
1430: Bde Concert Party gave a Dress Rehearsal Show preparatory to going on tour.

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- Apr 28th Bde Comd inspected the Camp. Div Comd visited Bn in the evening. Film Show "Song of Bernadette" in evening. Capt. GW Ward posted to "B" BLU. Lt DC Fuller re-joined Bn ex-53 General Hospital.
- Apr 29th Church Parade held at 1000 hrs. (Non-denominational). Bde Comd departed . 9 PI (1 Offr and 19 OR) proceeded on leave to Athens.
- Apr 30th Lt Raynhan proceeded to Bn Leave Camp in Athens to take over command from Captain Brown. 1 Sgt and 3 OR proceeded on 7 days leave at Glifada Camp. Bn Concert Party proceeded on tour giving shows to the following units: Bde HQ and 2 Beds & Herts; 2 DCLI and "C" Sqn Recce; 10 Fd Amb. Received from Bde: LF and ML(G) Int Review No 13.