

1st/6th Bn, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

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Appendix

MAY ATHENS, GREECE

May 1st Issued to Coys: Details of Bde Rifle Meeting

May 2nd CO attended conference at Bde.
Received: Program for Cassino Day. Football: Bn won 4–1 against the combined team from 10 Inf Bde HQ and “C” Sqn Recce.

May. 3rd Party of 6 Officers and 62 OR proceeded to Bde for Rifle Meeting.
Leave party of two officers and 26 OR proceeded to Athens.

May 4th Coy teams competing in Bde Rfle Meeting. Issued to Coys: Postal Voting Cards AF B 2639 and 2645 for completion. Orders re-preparation of nominal roles for Educational and Vocational training purposes.
Received: Congratulatory Message from Field Marshal Alexander.

May 5th Coy teams competing in Bde Rifle Meeting (2nd day).

May 6th Bn Concert Party returned from tour of units in 10 Inf Bde area. BBC announced that negotiations were proceeding with Germany for unconditional surrender. Mr Churchill would speak on Thursday 9th May, but it was expected that VE Day would be announced before then. 1 Sgt and 5 OR proceeded to Glifadha Leave Camp. Football : “C” Coy beat “D” Coy 6–2 Issued to Coys: Bde Rifle Meeting Results. Admin details for Cassino Day. Congratulatory message from Prime Minister.

May 7th BBC announced at 20:00 hours that “Unconditional Surrender” had been signed at 0241 hours that morning at General Eisenhower’s HQ. VE Day would be celebrated on 8th and 9th May. Mr Churchill would make the official announcement at 1500 hrs on the 8th, and HM The King would speak at 2100 hrs Received: Routine for 8th May

May 8th Arrangements made for maximum number to listen to the broadcasts of Mr Churchill’s speech at 1500 hrs and HM The King at 2100 hrs Bn celebrated VE Day. No parades. Inter-Coy Tug-of-War at 1200 hrs - HQ Coy beat “D” Coy 2 straight pulls. “A” Coy beat “C” Coy 2 straight pulls. Pte Dutton posted to “X” Special Reception Camp for onward routing to UK for Compassionate Reversion.
Issued: Routine for 9 May
Received: Intelligence Review No 14.

May 9th VE Day celebrations continued. No parades. Inter-Coy Tug-of-War at 1145 hrs. HQ Coy beat “B” Coy 2 straight pulls. “A” Coy beat “S” Coy 2 straight pulls. Football: “B” Coy against “B” Sqn Recce result draw 1 – 1.
Issued: return routine for 10 May

May 10th Issued to Coys: Details for Exercise ‘Aris’. Details for Athens leave

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- details. Details for Glifadha Leave camp. BRO containing messages from CO on Cassino Day – 11 May – Details of Memorial Service and Sports Meeting.
Issued to Coys: Tug-of-War Training Instructions. Talks by Bn 2 i/c on Postwar Economic Situation. Employment of Manpower(details).
Received: Congratulatory Message from GREEKMIL. Bde Signal Instructions
- May 11th
Cassino Day celebrated. Church Parade Service held in the morning.
1330: Sports Meeting Results: HQ Coy 16 points, "S" and "D" Coys 13 points, "C" Coy 10 points, "A" Coy 5 points, "B" Coy nil points.
The last event (Tug-of-War) decided the final result in favour of HQ Coy. 1st pull was very long – touch and go all the time. 2nd pull was short, and "A" Coy collapsed quickly. Prizes were presented by the Div Comd. An effigy of Hitler was paraded round the track in a jeep during the interval with an escort of motorcyclists, and a running commentary was given by Sgt Taylor.
1930: Bn Concert Party gave a new show which was excellently put over.
2130 Film Show 'The Lady of the Town' was followed by a singsong with drinks and cakes provided, and at 2345 the bonfire was lit and the effigy of Hitler was ceremoniously burnt to the war-cries of the "Devil" and his assistants (provided by "C" Coy).
- May 12th
Leave party of 4 Officers and 56 OR to Athens.
Issued: Instructions for LIAP 11. Vocational Training Lectures.
- May 13th
Church Parade with the Official Thanksgiving Service as approved by HM The King. 4 OR proceeded on LIAP 11. 1 Sgt and 3 OR proceeded to Glifadha Leave Camp. Capt. JF Edwards promoted Major, and struck off strength to "C" BLU wef date of attachment (5 March 1945). Lt DC Smith promoted A/Capt vice Capt JF Edwards.
Received: Special Order of the Day by Field Marshal Alexander.
Issued: Bde Athletic Meeting Instructions. Visits to places of Historical Interest.
- May 14th
An accident occurred during the Battle Inoculation exercise for Greek National Guard Cadre Course. Pte Walker, CO's jeep driver, was seriously injured and evacuated to 53 General Hospital. 1 Sgt and 1 Pte of the Greek National Guard also sustained slight injuries during the course of the exercise.
- May 15th
5 OR joined Bn ex-LIAP.
Received: Int Review No 15.
- May. 16th
Conference held on Phase 1 of Exercise 'Aris'. 10 Sgts and 4 Cpls surplus to Establishment posted to 30 Reception Camp for onward routing to IRTD.
- May 17th
Issued: Details for Glifadha Rest Camp

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- May 18th Bde Sports Meeting held. Results Surreys 44, 2 DCLI 33. Party proceeded to visit the scene of the Battle of Thermopylae. Leave party of 4 Officers and 56 OR proceeded to Athens. Pte Harvey posted 2 "X" Special Reception Camp (Python). Received: Special Army Order.
Issued: BRO containing copy of the Special Army Order and a Congratulatory Message from General Sir Richard Foster KCB CMG DSO Colonel of the Regiment. Details of Broadcast Commentary on Bde Sports Meeting. Results of Bde Sports Meeting, and Amendment. Details of Recce Party. Details of Courses for Greek National Guard.
- May 19th No War Diary entry.
- May 20th Students arrived for new Greek National Guard Cadre Course. 1 Sgt and 4 OR proceeded on leave to Glifadha Rest Camp. Recce Party of 7 Officers departed at 1000 hrs and proceeded to Larissa area to inspect Beds & Herts location
- May 21st Phase 1 of Exercise 'Aris' carried out by "D" Coy with "C" Coy acting as enemy.
Issued: Details of Leave to Athens.
- May 22nd Conference held on Phase 2 of Exercise 'Aris'. Greek National Guard (Stilis) requested assistance as most of the National Guard troops had gone by caique to investigate trouble reported at Molos, and 20 Andartes were now reported to be in the area of Stilis. Orderly Officer, 1 DR and Greek interpreter went to investigate, and "S" Coy stood too, but no disturbance occurred. For full details see appendix C5.
Issued: Documentation, Release, Python, Far East.
Received: intelligence Review No 16.
- May 23rd Conference held on Ex 'Aris' Phase 2.
- May 24th Leave to Athens. 4 Officers and 56 OR, Age and Service Release Rolls received from O2E. Div Comd visited Bn, arriving at 1100 hrs, inspected all Coy lines and watched training including rifle teams on the sea range.
- May 25th Coys ordered to take necessary action to check and confirm Age and Service Groups of all their personnel
Issued: Details of Sailing Club Personnel
- May 26th Coys busy on documentation
Issued: Details of Bde Comd's talk to Officers and NCOs
- May 27th MINERVA Movement Order received for O2E for 235 OR and 10 waiting men to be dispatched to reach Italy by 4th June for posting to 1RF. rRoll of eligible personnel prepared. Phase 2 of Exercise 'Aris' carried out by "A" Coy with "B" Coy as enemy. 1 Sgt and 2 OR

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proceeded to Glifadha Rest Camp. Film Show in evening 'Bridge over San Luis Rey'.

Received: Message from GOC.

Issued: PRI Welfare Circular No 1. Training of Greek instructors.

Lt. HA Greenwood posted from 10 Inf Bde wef 28 May. Lt EHR bird attached to 10 inch Bde wef 28 May.

May 28th

4 Officers and 56 OR proceeded on leave to Athens. Nominal Rolls of Personnel eligible for MINERVA received from O2E. O2E draft roll differed considerably from our own roll of eligible personnel, so representations were made through Bde and division for permission to send the personnel on our roll (i.e. all those people in the higher age/service groups with the least service abroad). Film show in the evening 'Halfway House'. Major AWF Paskins MC rejoined Bn ex-LIAP. Major CW Dayton-Groom relinquishes appointment (vice Major Paskins returned). Major PM Plaskins MC proceeded on Maintenance by Air Course at Old Sarum, Salisbury (proceeded by air) Lt EH Duke posted 5 RWK wef 29 May. 4 OR rejoined Bn ex-LIAP. Issued: Instructions ref MINERVA. Amendments No 1 & 2 MINERVA.

May 29th

Orderly room Sgt Clerk (Sgt Simmons) despatched to O2E to take over duties from ORQMS Scriven (due for early release). L/C Robinson promoted A/Sgt (vice Sgt Simmons) and assumed the appointment of Orderly Room Sgt Clerk. 4 OR proceeded on LIAP 12. Received: Intelligence Review No 17 Issued: Further instruction re MINERVA Training Programme for week ending 2 June.

May 30th

Draft of 183 OR (i.e. those men who were on both O2E and Bn Roll of "eligibles") were dispatched to Athens for onward routing to 1 RF in Italy. Late in the evening orders were received that O2E agreed to the Bn sending the personnel shown on our roll and ignoring the O2E draft roll.

Received: Road discipline.

As no operations were carried out during this month there was nothing to report in the Intelligence Summary.