

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

1945

Appendix

**DECEMBER**

**STILIS, GREECE**

Dec 1st Major WE Bruce Jones rejoined Bn from Greek Battle School. Outstation Guards relieved as per instructions in App G 23 of November War Diary. 40 OR despatched on Class "A" Release (A/S Gp 24). Attended CO's Orders before departure.. 1 OR despatched straight from HQ 4 Brit Div on Class "A" Release (A/S Gp 24). The following extract was published in BRO's:

**THE LORD LIEUTENANT'S FUND**

'At a recent meeting of the Executive and Grants Committee of the Lord Lieutenant's Fund at Kingston-on-Thames, it was decided to make a grant of £25.6.6. to this Bn for general welfare purposes'.

Finals of LF(G) Boxing Competition. 10 Inf Bde 23 Armd Bde. 10 Bde won by 10 points. Surrey's representatives results as follows:

Cpl Berry – Walk-over. Cpl Ellis & Pte J. Mills - Won their bouts. Pte MacNeilly – Lost his bout. Rugby: v 2 DCLI & Bde HQ (friendly) Result: Lost 16 – 6 points.

Dec 2nd Lt Col HBL Smith, MC rejoined the Bn ex-LIAP and resumed command of the Bn. Major PM Plastow, MC relinquished Comd of Bn and resumed appointment of Bn 2 i/c. Major AWF Paskins, MC relinquished appointment of Bn 2 i/c. Major RG Westworth reverts to rank of T/Capt. vice Major PM Plastow, MC.  
Issued: Release.

Dec 3rd Brigade Commander, Brig. JA Mackenzie, DSO MC visited the Bn. Football: Bn "B" team v 2 Beds & \* Herts "B" team (friendly) Result: Won 1 – 0.

Dec 4th Rugby: Bn v 50 R.T.B. (friendly). Result: Lost 12 - 11

Dec 5th A.I.A's inspection of all rifles and LMGs commenced. Sgts Mess Dance held in Athens. Civil Affairs Report by Capt. RL Bates send to Bde.  
Issued: Guards.

Dec 6th CO held Coy Comds Conference – subjects – Promotions and Release. Adjutant & O.R.S.C. attended lecture at HQ LF© by O2E LO on Release Documentation.  
Football: Bn v 21 Coy RASC (4 Div League) Result Won 7 – 0  
Hockey: Bn v 2 R.N.F cancelled.

Dec 7th Officers Dance held in Athens.

Dec 8th A.I.A's inspection completed. Outstation Guards relieved. Capt. LF Macgregor and 2 ORs rejoined Bn ex=LIAP. Lt (QM) RG Horsman joined the Bn on first commissioning from the ranks. Capt. JG Quarrel appointed Education Officer vice Capt. RL Bates. Sgts Mess Dance held in Athens at 2000 hrs. Cinema Show in "Three Fishes" Canteen at 1930 hrs. Film "The Thin Man comes

## 1st/6th Bn, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1945

Appendix

Homes".

Rugby: Bn v HQ LF(G) (friendly) cancelled.

Dec. 9th Church Service held in "Three Fishes" Canteen at 0930 hrs. 45 OR posted from 1<sup>st</sup> Bn The East Surrey Regt. All personnel in Age Service Groups 25 – 28. 2 OR joined Bn ex-UK and taken on strength.

Dec 10th "HQ" Coy held dance in Athens. 7 OR rejoined Bn ex-LIAP.  
Issued: Personnel for Divisional Newspaper Unit. Clothing – Personnel proceeding on LIAP or Release.  
Football: 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Plastiras Cup (4 Div Zone~), Bn v 4 Div Sigs. Result Won 5 – 0.

Dec 11th Brigade Commander visited Outstation Guards at 0930 hrs. 1 OR (delayed ex-hospital) despatched on Class "A" Release (A/S Gp 24). 1 OR rejoined Bn ex LIAP.  
Football: Bn "B" team v 659 A.W. Coy, RE (friendly) Result lost 3 – 2.  
Professor Mounsey (hypnotist) and his wife (singer) gave a show in "Three Fishes" Canteen at 1845 hrs.  
Received from Brigade: Details of hallowing Service – Faliron Cemetery

Dec 12th Capt. FC Layhe assumed command of "B" Coy. Capt. JG Quarrel assumed command of "S" Coy. Capt. DW Danes assumed appointment of 2 i/c "D" Coy. 7 OR rejoined Bn ex-LIAP. 1 OR despatched on Compassionate Reversion to UK, and struck off strength of Bn. 1 OR despatched on Class "B" Release and sos of Bn.

The following was published in B.R.Os for information of all ranks:

### WINTER COMFORTS

The following have been received from the East Surrey Regiment Old Comrades Association, and will be distributed to Coys by the QM: 200 pullovers, 100 prs gloves, 230 prs mittens, 685 helmets, 540 scarves.

Details of Bde Church parade published in B.R.Os as follows:

### BRIGADE CHURCH PARADE

1. A Brigade Church parade will be held at 1115 hrs Sunday 16 Dec 1945 in the "Falmouth Packet" at 2 DCLI location.
2. The Service will be conducted by the Bishop of Portsmouth.
3. The following will attend from this Unit: "A" Coy 2 Offrs & 15 ORs ( incl. Major WRB Jones who will be in command). "C" Coy 1 Offr & 15 ORs. "D" Coy 1 Offr & 20 ORs. "S" Coy 1 Offr & 20 ORs (inc RSM)
4. ORs will parade at 1030 hrs in MT Park.
5. MTO will detail sufficient transport to convey the party to 2 DCLI location.
6. Transport will leave at 1040 hrs.
7. Dress: Battledress, Web Belt.
8. After debussing personnel will be formed up and march straight into the

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

1945

Appendix

Hut. Personnel will be seated by 1105 hrs.

Table Tennis top loaned to Bn by Brigade. Knock-out competition carried out to find a team to represent the Bn in Brigade Competition. MT Drivers class commenced. Sgts Mess Dance held in Athens.

Issued~: Copies of Special Army Order.

Camp Construction: Romney (PRI) sheeting 90%. Commenced outer sheeting on 24' Dining Hall.

Dec 13th One Officer (Lt NJ Evans) in a 15-cwt and two teams of 1 Sgt, 1 Pte and 1 Dvr and a 3-ton truck GS provided to assist in distribution of British Red Cross parcels in the area of Thebes and Levadhia. 6 teams were detailed by 10 Inf Bde under the command of Major AD Jefferson, 2 Beds & Herts to distribute 6,000 parcels to distressed villages in these areas as fairly as possible according to their needs. Brigade Commander visited Outstation Guards at 0930 hrs. Major H Norsworthy rejoined the Bn ex-course and LIAP. Major FC Layhe relinquishes rank and reverts to T/Capt. Capt. DW Danes relinquishes rank, and reverts to W/Lt. 1 OR despatched on Class "B" Release.

DARTS: Singles Knock-out Competition for selection of representatives for Bde team held at Beds & Herts Canteen "Bedford House" at 2000 hrs. 3 members of team were selected to represent Bde in the Division Competition. The results were as follows: 1st Prize 1500 drs Cpl Bygrave 2 Beds & Herts. 2nd Prize 1250 drs Pte Hancock 6 Surreys. 3rd Prize 750 drs Pte Holding 6 Surreys. 4th Prize 500 drs Pte Smith 6 Surreys. Two best losers: L/C Woods 2 DCLI, CSM Day 2 Beds & Herts.

Issued: Guards.

Hockey team from 2 RNF arrived and accommodated overnight. 20 German POWs commenced working on Camp Construction.

Dec 14th Lt-Col HBL Smith, MC assumed command of 10 Inf Bde during the absence of Brig. JA Mackenzie, DSOP, MC on recce. 2 ORs departed on LIAP 36.

Issued: Hallowing Service – Faliron Cemetery.

Hockey: Bn v 2 RNF (friendly) Result Lost 5 – 3.

Camp Construction: Romney (PRI Canteen) sheeting 100%, floor 80%.

Dec 15th Notification received that officers in A/S Group 21 report to 30 Reception Camp 20 December. 6 OR rejoined Bn ex LIAP. Draft of 83 OR arrived ex-UK and taken on strength of Bn. "C" Coy held a dance in Athens.

Issued: Voluntary Deferment of Release. Release Dates for Officers 22 – 24, ORs 25 and 26.

Camp Construction: Romney floor 100%, completed sheeting of 24' dining hall. Outstation Guards changed.

Football: Bn v 11 CM Bty (4 Div League) Result Won 8 – 0.

Dec 16th Bde Church Parade held. CO commanded the Parade during the absence of the Bde Commander.

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

**1945**

**Appendix**

- Issued: Hallowing Service – Faliron Cemetery.
- Dec 17th Hallowing Service took place at Faliron Cemetery. The Bishop of Portsmouth conducted the ceremony. Arch-Bishop Demoskinos, Regent of Greece, was present and gave his Blessing. 25 OR despatched to 30 Reception Camp on LIAP 37.  
Issued: LIAP Eligibility. Christmas arrangements – Outstation Guards.
- Dec 18th Received from Bde - Div letter on Relief of 4 Ind Div. App E1  
Bde Table Tennis Competition at 2 DCLI postponed to 21<sup>st</sup>. Rugby v 4 Div HQ cancelled owing to bad weather.  
Issued: LIAP.
- Dec 19th Capt. DC Fuller assumed command of “A” Coy vice Major WEB Jones. Sgts Mess Dance held in Athens. British and Greek table Tennis professionals gave an exhibition at the “Falmouth Packet”. 2 DCLI extended an invitation to all members of the Bn who cared to watch them. Cinema show in “Three Fishes” Canteen. Film – Jack Benny in “Fifth Chair”,  
Issued: Pulling forward of A/S Gps 25. Christmas arrangements for Outstation Guards. Notice in BROs – Bn team for Bde’s “Golden Bullet” rifle meeting.  
Football: Bn v 30 Field Regt., RA. (4 Div League). Result Lost 5 – 1.  
The following extracted from GROs:  
MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES. The King has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Italy:  
Capt. DJ Dempster. Capt. JF Nichols. 6144220 CQMS Trowbridge, T. 5118557  
Sgt Bennett, J. 6149865 Sgt Large, L. 6144203 Sgt Simmons, A. 6141236 Sgt  
Watts, T. 6139532 Sgt Sames, H. 6150012 Sgt Spence, A. 6144022 Cpl  
Cottingham, S. 6146554 Cpl Norey, W. 615278 L/C Harvey, S. 6291859 L/C  
Phillips, A. 6151289 L/C Ballard, J.
- Dec 20th Commanding Officer interviewed all CSMs at 1430 hrs ref Guards.
- Dec 21st
- Dec 22nd Brigade Commander returned from recce. Lt-Col HBL Smith relinquished command of 10 Inf Bde. CO addressed the Bn at 0900 hrs, and spoke of the change-over with 4 Inf Div. Capt. RG Westworth appointed A/Major vice Major CW Deayton-Groom (Released). Lt DW Danes appointed A/Capt. Vice Major RG Westworth.  
Issued: Release – Gp 25. LIAP.  
Football: Bn v 212 Area (friendly) Result Lost 6 -0 1.  
Hockey: Bn v 2 DCLI (friendly) Result Drew 3 – 3
- Dec 23rd Issued: CO’s letter ref Christmas Day Church Service. LIAP. Python 31. Inter-Coy Football Competition. Football Semi-Final.

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

**1945**

**Appendix**

- Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Warning received, and "A" Coy "stood to", but no action was required., Sgts Mess Dance held in Athens. Capt. DW Danes assumed comd of "D" Coy vice Capt. LE Matthew (UDF). CO, 2 i/c, Adjt attended Brigade party.  
Football: Bn v 2 DCLI Semi-Final of Knock-Out Competition. Result Won 2 – 1  
Personnel on Goodwill Mission returned to spend Christmas with the Bn.  
Camp Construction: Romney and 24' Dining Hall ready for Christmas.  
Electrical system nearly complete throughout the camp.
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day. Holiday celebrated in the traditional Army style. Church Service held in PRI Canteen at 1030 hrs.
- Dec 26<sup>th</sup> Holiday. Information received that His Majesty The King had approved the award of MBE to Major CW Deayton-Groom. Congratulatory message sent off to him at 310 Transit Camp. 55 OR despatched on Class "A" Release (A/S Grp 25 – First Party). 2 OR despatched on Class "A" Release (A/S Grp 25 – Direct from Div HQ).
- Dec 27<sup>th</sup> Major WEB Jones and 35 OR departed on LIAP 38. Outstation Guards changed. Information received that the rate of exchange had been changed to 12000 drachmas to the £ as from 0800 hrs.  
Issued: Financial Situation.  
CO attended party at Div "A" Mess at 2030 hrs.
- Dec 28<sup>th</sup> "B" Coy and personnel, relieved from Guards, celebrated Christmas. Major AWF Paskins departed to 30 Reception Camp for onward routing on Class "A" Release (A/S Grp 22). Personnel on Goodwill Mission continued their mission. 2 OR despatched on Python 31. 1 OR rejoined Bn ex-LIAP.  
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS The following messages were received: From 2 E Surrey Regt "Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Lt-Col. Buchanan and All Ranks". From 2/6th E Surreys "To All Ranks every good wish for Christmas and New Year. From all Ranks".
- Dec 29<sup>th</sup> AEC Inspectors arrived at 1130 hrs. Met by CO and Major H Norsworthy and shown round camp.  
Football: Final of "Plastiras Cup" (4 Div Zone Final and 4 Div League Match). Bn v @ Beds & Herts Result Won 7 – 2 (Dryden 3, Watson 2, O'Farrell, Edwards).
- Dec 31<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Report on Area 3 sent to Bde.  
Issued: Release A/S Grp 25. LIAP.  
Camp Construction: All foundations now laid and four more huts to be completed. Brigade All Ranks dance held at Eglie Cafe Zappion Gardens from 1930 hrs 31 December to 0100 hrs 1 January 1946. Civilian Dance band played until 2215 hrs. Military Dance band from 2215 hrs to 0100 hrs.

**SUBJECT Relief of 4 Ind Div SECRET 4 Brit Div 93/G 17 Dec 1945**

App E1

1. It has been decided that 4 Brit Div will relieve 4 Ind Div in the `North of Greece.
  2. The Divisional Commander wishes all ranks to be informed verbally by a responsible officer of the outline plan, and the reasons why the change is being effected.
  3. Normal Military Security will be observed, and moves will NOT be discussed with civilians or any other non-service personnel. The date of the move is NOT yet known with any degree of certainty, and will not be communicated to the troops until it is finally settled.
  4. Some notes on the reasons why the move has been ordered are given below:
    - (a) The Govt of India has been pressing the British Govt for a long time for the return to India of the Indian troops who have fought in Europe. The British Govt has now agreed that Indian troops shall leave Greece early in 1946. Orders have therefore been issued for 4 Brit Div to relieve 4 Ind Div in the North of Greece.
    - (b) Other British troops will take over the present responsibilities of 4 Brit Div in Southern Greece.
    - (c) A considerable reorganisation of the British Army is taking place in the New Year. 4 Brit Div is to be re-organized so as to become a Regular Division. All troops should be informed of the outline plan given in para. 4 of 4 Brit Div Op Instr No 9 dated 9 Dec 45. A copy of this para is attached to this letter at App "A" for easy reference. This plan is still subject to certain alterations. It is not certain whether 1/6 Surreys will remain in Greece or will move to Italy.
- The Divisional Commander is well aware of all the work undertaken by units to make the best of their present areas for the winter. Units will have to move to new locations where the accommodation is poor. The move will probably take place at the time of the year when weather conditions are at their worst, and when the numbers leaving the Army for Release are at their highest. These facts are known, but it is possible that political and shipping conditions may necessitate the move taking place during the most difficult period.
- The Divisional Commander wishes these facts to be made known. The move will be a difficult one, and will call for a great effort on the part of all ranks in order to make it a success.

Lt-Col G.S.