

## 1/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary April 1944

APRIL 1944

- 1st Apr. "Z" Coy formed to provide 1<sup>st</sup> Line Reinfs. Capt. LUGG apptd. Coy. Comdr.  
Training Inst. No. 4 issued by C.O.  
Exercise "SHUDDER". Lt. Col. GORDON DSO assumes Comd. Of 131 Bde. and Maj. K.A. JESSUP assumes Comd. Of Bn.  
1630 hrs. Bn. moved to first conc. Area HILLINGTON HALL 185447 (Sheet 57 O.S. 1" – 1 mile FAKENHAM refers).  
2000 hrs. Bn. moved in L.C.T. loads to new conc. NARFORD 2231.  
2400 hrs. "O" Group Bde. HQ.
- 2nd Apr. 0900 hrs. Bn. began advance.  
1200 hrs. Reached SWAFFHAM and cont. route via S. PICKENHAM to HALL Farm 331165 where defensive posns. were taken up for the night. Opposition during the move was brushed aside.
- 3rd Apr. 1200 hrs. Bn. moved to TOTTINGTON & formed a firm base.  
1930 hrs. Bn. arrived back to billets,  
U/M personnel have been mentioned in Dispatches :-  
6077288 QMS FRENCH E. 6086701 W/Cpl. GRAHAM D. 6093238 W/Cpl. BUSSEY E. 5951678 Pte. DRURY L. 6096 879 Pte. HISCOCK S.
- 4th Apr. Admin following exercise.  
1000 hrs. C.O. visited Div. HQ.
- 5th Apr. 0935 hrs. Visit of Gen. Sir IVOR VESEY. KCB, Col. Of the Regt.  
Insp. of the Bn.  
After Insp. men broke ranks & gathered round the General who gave a short address. At the conclusion three cheers were given. March past Gen. VESEY.  
1015 hrs. Gen. met Coy Comdrs. in Orderly Room.  
1030 hrs. Inspection of Presentation A/Tk. Gun & crew.  
1045 hrs. Demonstration of the "WASP" (Flame Throwers mounted on Carriers) by Carrier Pln.  
1100 hrs. Met all Offs. In the Mess.  
1130 hrs. Departed.  
1800 hrs. Training Conference.
- 6th Apr. 1000 hrs. Conference all Bde. Offs. & S.A. at KINGS LYNN. Talk by Brig. on Exercises SHIVER & SHUDDER.
- 7th Apr. 0830 hrs. Bde. T.E.W.T. for all Offs. Down to Coy Comdrs.  
1500 hrs. 10 Offs. And 20 N.C.O's of Bn. of Essex Regt. Attached to Bn.
- 8th Apr. Attached Offs. Attended lecture by C.O. on "Role of Lorried Inf. Bn." and lecture by Capt. SANDYS on A/Tk. Layout.
- 9th Apr. Easter Sunday.  
4 Attached Offs. & N.C.O's visited 22 Armd. Bde. HQ to inspect CROMWELL & A/A Tks.  
1430 hrs. Offs. V LCpls. Match.
- 10th Apr. 3 Offs. of the Cdn. Inf. Corps posted to this unit. Lts. BLANCHARD, CLOUTIER & LALONDE.

Attached Offs. (Essex) attended sand table discussion on fwd. body tactics by C.O. Demonstration of B. Drill Form. Sigs Demonstration by S.O.  
Sgt. GOLDING F.S.S. visited Coys to lecture on German Spies and their methods. Carriers left on 3 day exercise. B. Patrol left on 3 day exercise.

- 11th Apr. 0830 hrs. Bde. TEWT attended by attd. Offs. D.R's Map Reading Course began.  
1400 hrs. Conference on Censorship. From this date Censorship came into force and Bn. adapted A.P.O. address.
- 12th Apr. 0900 hrs. Attd. Offs. attd. Sand table discussion by C.O.  
1415 hrs. Attd. Offs. attd. Lectures on Volturmo Crossing by C.O.  
1700 hrs. Training conference.  
1930 hrs. Bn. night exercise..
- 13th Apr. Training on Coy basis.  
Notification received that Maj. JESSUP K.A. had been Mentioned in Dispatches.
- 14th Apr. Training on Coy basis.
- 15th Apr. Admin Inspection  
1930 hrs. ENSA produced 'Taming of the Shew' in Town Hall.
- 16th Apr. Sunday.
- 17th Apr. Training on Coy basis.
- 18th Apr. 1000 hrs. Training conference.  
1500 hrs. Bn. left for Exercise POACHER".
- 19th Apr. 1930 hrs. Bn. rtn'd. From POACHER.
- 20th Apr. Admin C.O. proceeded on leave.
- 21st Apr. Maj. W.D. GRIFFITHS MC rtn. to Bn. and assumed Comd. In the absence of the C.O.
- 22nd Apr. ENSA presents Lew Stone & his band in the Town Hall.
- 23rd Apr. Sunday.
- 24/25th Trg. On Coy basis.
- 26th Apr. 0830 hrs. Bn. Sigs. Exercise. Junior Offs. were given an opportunity to practice speaking on the wireless.  
1700 hrs. Trg. Conference.
- 27/28 Apr. Trg. On Coy basis.
- 29th Apr. 1430 hrs. Bn. sports meeting held on recreation ground. Events included running, high jumping & tug of war. "Z" Coy won greatest number of points.  
Side shows gave added amusement. Bn. band played throughout.  
Refreshments were served to all spectators. Lt. Col. D.S. GORDON DSO rtd. from leave.  
1930 hrs. ENSA show in Town Hall.  
2000 hrs. Dance in Offs. Mess.

30th Apr. 1200 hrs. Sunday, 1/5, 1/7 Queen's and 58 Coy RASC paraded on recreation ground for address by Div Comd. Maj. Gen. G.W.E.J. ERSKINE DSO.  
 After Inspection the Div. Comd. Made a short address. Main points, enormous preparations had been made for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Front.  
 Every possible eventuality had been considered. The impending amphibious operations were to be the largest ever carried out in the history of warfare. He went on to express his confidence in the future.  
 Finally he mentioned some of the points that might be bothering the tps. E.g. stoppage of leave. Parade concluded with a march past.  
 1430 hrs. Dets of 1/5 & 1/7th Queen's paraded with Civil Defence units in a "Salute the Soldier" demonstration. Lt. Gen. K. ANDERSON KBE, MC, GOC Eastern Command gave an address. Ceremony concluded with a march past.

Lt. Col. D.S. GORDON DSO,  
 Comdg.  
 1/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

#### Officer List April 29th 1944

Lieut.-Colonel D. S. Gordon, DSO.	G. Howards		
Major W. D. Griffiths, MC	Queen's		
Majoy K.A. Jessup	Queen's		
Major P. C. Freeman MC	Queen's		
Major N.A.H. Marsden	Queen's		
Major E. M. French	R.W.F.		
Capt. D. L. Fennell	Queen's		
Capt. E.G. Sandys	Queen's		
Capt. G. H. Courchee	Essex		
Capt. T. H. Kemp	Queen's		
Capt. A.R. IUGG	Hamps.		
Capt. B. G. Meara	S.W.B.		
Capt. E. S. Corbett	Hamps.		
Capt. J. M. Skillington	R.W.F.	Lieut. J.R. Conry	Devons
Capt. J. A. Beard MC	Recce.	Lieut. B.C. Cloutier	Cdn. Inf.
Lieut. J. B. L. Ainsworth	S. Staffs.	Lieut. P. Greenall	Queen's
Lieut. H. L. Hodson	Som. L.I.	Lieut. R. Blanchard	Cdn. Inf.
Lieut. G. W. Bevan	Queen's	Lieut. W. J. Lalonde	Cdn. Inf.
Lieut. A.H. Beveridge	Queen's	Lieut. E. A. Hughes	Devons.
Lieut. A. Reed	Duke of W.	Lieut. E. D. J. Martin	Queen's
Lieut. E. G. Dever	Kings.	Lieut. W. B. Channell	Bufs.
Lieut. P. Hoggarth	Hamps.	Lieut. R. Snaith	Queen's.
Lieut. A. J. Dunston	R. War.	Lieut. D.R. Anderson	Queen's.
Lieut. J. K. Wood	(U.D.F.)	Lieut. L. C. Cross	Queen's.
Lieut. H. T. P. Large	(U.D.F.)	Lieut. E.C. Read	Queen's.
Lieut. W. J. V. Lane	(U.D.F.)	Lieut. C.	Wilts.
Lieut. J. Stimson	Queen's	Lieut. A.G. Rich.	Queen's
Lieut. B. M. Jones	Queen's	Capt. C. H. J. Stammer, (QM)	Queen's
Lieut. D. Clews	Queen's	Capt. J. Sheehan,	R.A.M.C.
Lieut. H. Lofthouse	Queen's	Rev. J. Macintosh	R.A.Ch.D.