

1/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment War Diary December 1944

DECEMBER 1944.

- 1st Dec. Area NEEROETEREN.
1030 hrs. The Comdr. of the 7 Armd. Div. Maj. Gen. LINES visited the Bn. and spoke to all ranks about manpower situation which was the reason behind the impending re-organisation. He bade farewell to the Bn. and wished God-speed to all who would shortly find themselves in new units.
1100 hrs. The adv. Party u/c Maj. W.G. COCKCRAFT left to recce a conc. area at POPERINGHE N. 46.
- 2nd Dec. 1400 hrs. Lt. D. WILKINSON-COX Q.R.R. and Lt. L.W. MADOX Q.R.R. with approx.. 50 O.R's posted to 1/5th Bn. Q.R.R. w.e.f. 1 Dec. Capt. K.J. KILLICK The Royal Berkshire Regt. 1 W.O. 2 and 3 Sgts. posted to 7 Armd. Div. Battle School as Instructors w.e.f. 1 Dec.
- 3rd Dec. 1500 hrs. The Bn. moved from present area enroute for new conc. area at POPERINGHE.
Route – OPOETEREN K 5476 – GRUITRODE K 4979 – MEEUWIN K 4580 – PEER K 4084 – BOURGE LEOPOLD K 2783 – DIEST K 1269 – LOUVAIN J 8658.
The Bn. leaguered for the night at the village of VELTHEM J 8161 only a short distance from LOUVAIN. Everyone had fairly comfortable quarters and the drivers particularly were glad to get to sleep after a very tiring night drive. The persistence of rain making the rds. greasy in conjunction with the glaring headlights of oncoming traffic also made it rather dangerous but fortunately there were no accidents.
Maj. D.A. GRANT (MC) Q.R.R. and Capt. A.K. HOWARD, @Sherwood Foresters' posted to this unit from 1/5th Bn. Q.R.R.
- 4th Dec. 0900 hrs. The C.O. left in advance for new area.
0910 hrs. The Bn. split up into Coy Gps. Proceeding at 10 mins. intervals left the leaguer area at VELTHEM J 8161 to complete before night the long journey to POPERINGHE. Route:- Brussels J 65 – ALOST J 4066 – OUDENARDE J 0957 – COURTRAI H 85 – MENIN – H 75 – YPRES H 56 – POPERINGHE. The Bn. arrived at POPERINGHE the new conc. area.
1700 hrs. The Bn. was completely billeted in the town in private dwellings.
The HQ's Offs. Mess was situated in the famous SKINDLES hotel well known during the last war. The evening was spent in settling in.
- 5th Dec. Area POPERINGHE.
Reorganisation was carried out during the day. Orders for the disposal of all unwanted kit handing in of all WD stores were issued. The drivers of all vehicles carried out thorough maintenance in readiness for the handover of them.
- 6th Dec. No actual work was executed by troops who were just waiting for their postings. All vehicles and m/c's were driven to YPRES and handed over to new drivers.
- 7th Dec. 1030 hrs. 250 O.R's proceeding to Northern Ireland for retraining as Infantry paraded in the main square prior to being conveyed by T.C.V's to YPRES railway station for the journey to OSTEND. The party was conducted by Capt. D.B. WATERHOUSE.
The C.O. waved a parting farewell to each truck as it moved out of the square. The adv. Party u/c Maj. E.G. SANDYS with Lt. (QM) G.R. FROST for the Bn. returning to England left POPERINGHE at the same time.
The following officers were posted to 1st Bn. (The Suffolk Regt.)
Capt. D.B. WATERHOUSE (Beds & Herts. Regt.)
Lieut. K.J. HARRIS (Bufs.)

Lieut E.C. READ	(Q.R.R.)
Lieut. A.E. LAWRENCE	(R.C.A.S.C.)

Capt. P.W.P. PLUNKETT posted to this unit from the 1/5th Bn. Q.R.R.

- 8th Dec. 1000 hrs. An Advance Instructional Party of Offs. and N.C.O's left POPERINGHE for England.
- 9th Dec. Maj. W.G.L. COCKCRAFT Q.R.R. relinquished his appt. as 2i/c Bn. and was posted to the 101st Rft. Gp. w.e.f. 6 Dec.
2/Lt. F.G. HAYES & 2/Lt. J.R. WILLIAMS (Royal Norfolk Regt.) posted to 1st Bn. Royal Norfolk Regt.
2/Lt. C.D. WESTBY (Royal Norfolk Regt.) posted to K.S.L.I. Capt. H.L. HODSON (Beds & Herts) posted to X (ix) List att. to 47 RHU. 9 O.R's posted to 21 Army Group Defence Pln.
- 10th Dec. 0730 hrs. 23 O.R's transferred to 5 Berks Regt. for Garrison duties. The end party which left POPERINGHE on 8th Dec. embarked from OSTEND to England.
1500 hrs. The following offs. left POPERINGHE for the journey to England after being posted to X(ix) List 44 RHU.
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| Capt. B.G. MEARA, | S.W.B. |
| Capt. J.D. CUTHBERTSON | Beds & Herts. |
| Capt. A.K. Howell | Sherwood Foresters. |
| Capt. A. Reed | Duke of Wellingtons |
| Lieut. E.D.J. MARTIN | Q.R.R. |
- 11th Dec. The Adv. Instructional Party arrived at Folkstone harbour. They proceeded direct on leave from the transit camp. No parades other than essential duties were carried out by personnel remaining behind.
- 12/13th Dec. Main task was the cleaning of billets and preparation for the early move on the morning of the 14th.
- 14th Dec. 0510 hrs. The main party of Bn. returning to England marched to the station in F.S.M.O. No time was wasted in standing about at the station and by 0600 hrs. everybody was entrained.
0630 hrs. The journey to the port of OSTEND commenced and by 1100 hrs. everybody had detrained there. The Tps. were compelled to wait on the platform for some time owing to very thick fog delaying the boat.
1230 hrs. The party was conducted to the transit camp where a hot meal was provided.
1330 hrs. Party marched to the docks for embarkation which was completed by 1400 hrs.
1400 hrs. Left harbour and commenced the journey, arrived off SPITHEAD in the early morning, and dropped anchor until daybreak owing to the anti-submarine boom being closed.
- 15th Dec. 1030 hrs. Disembarked at SOUTHAMPTON and carried by T.C.V's to a large Transit Camp 5 miles outside the town. Everybody had a hot meal at the camp.
1550 hrs. The Bn. carried by T.C.V's to EASTLEIGH Station and entrained.
1650 hrs. Train commenced journey to final destination. Tea was served for the tps. at LEICESTER station.
- 16th Dec. Arrived at APPERLEY BRIDGE station, YORKSHIRE and waiting T.C.V's conveyed the party to YEADON CAMP arriving there at 0430 hrs. the rest of the day was spent in settling in. owing to the Bn. being divided between two camps one at YEADON and the other at FERCLIFFE CAMP at PUDSEY approx.. 5 miles away some personnel who arrived at YEADON had to move subsequently to FERNCLIFFE.
Capt. H.L. HODSON (Beds & Herts) posted to 47 R.H.U. w.e.f. 8 Dec. 44.

- 17/18/19th. Area YEADON.
Reorganisation of the Camps as regards duties etc. in preparation for the future draft of 720 R.A.S.C. personnel for training.
- 20th Dec. 1030 C.O. held conference dealing with general training to be carried out by new draft.
- 21/22/23. General training and organisation of Bn. preparation of training programme for incoming draft.
- 24th Dec. The C.O. Lt. Col. W.D. GRIFFITHS DSO, MC left the Bn. for the purpose of attending a course at the Staff College, Camberley.
- 25/26 Dec. Very few tps. in camp owing to leave. 'Stand easy@ was the order of the day.
- 27th Dec. Further reorganisation.
- 28th Dec. Lt. Col. H.G. VESEY DSO, assumed the appointment of Comd. Officer.
- 29th Dec. The following officers were posted to the unit w.e.f. 19 Dec. 44.
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| Lt. J.N. POOLE | Royal Sussex. | |
| Lt. S. GOODWIN | Bufs. | |
| Lt. S.R. LUSBY | Beds & Herts. | |
| Lt. A. CARTWRIGHT | Warwicks. | |
| Lt. P.W. SHRUBSALL | Bufs. | |
| Lt. J.E. JESTER | S. Staffs. | W.E.F. 20 Dec. 44. |
| Lt. R. HEGGEN | R.W.F. | W.E.F. 20 Dec. 44. |
| Lt. J.P. SHEPHERD | R.W.F. | W.E.F. 21 Dec. 44. |
| Lt. J.E. BALFE | Middx. Regt. | W.E.F. 20 Dec. 44. |
| Lt. J.M. WEBB (MC) | R.W.F. | W.E.F. 20 Dec. 44. |
| Lt. J.G.M. FLEGG | Middx. Regt. | W.E.F. 23 Dec 44. |
| Lt. M.T. GEORGE | Middx. Regt. | W.E.F. 23 Dec. 44 |
| Capt. G. PHILLIPS | L.I.R. | W.E.F. 27 Dec. 44. |
| Lt. A.R. NASH | R.W.F. | W.E.F. 29 Dec. |
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| 16 O.R's posted to this unit, | 12 from Searchlight Regt R.A. |
| | 2 from 187 H.A.A. |
| | 1 from 187 H.L.I. I.T.C. Glasgow |
| | 1 from 10 B.W. |
- 30th Dec. Lt. T.M.S. DYRER (Bufs) posted to the Bn.
24 O.R's posted to the Bn. – 16 from 13 I.D. GRAVESEND.
8 from different units (incl. 1 WO, 1 Sgt. & 6 Cpls.
1 P.T. Q.M.S.I. posted to Bn.
1 R.E.M.E. Sgt. (Armourer) posted to Bn.
- 31st Dec. 1400 hrs. C.O. held conference – Subject – Training and reorganisation.
Lt. E.G. SHARP (R. Works) posted to Bn.
- Lt. Col. H.G. VESEY DSO.
Comdg. 1/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regt.

1/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment
Admin instruction No. 2.

6th Dec 44.

Advanced Parties

Officers

Major E.G. Sandys.
Lt. (QM). G.R. Frost.

O.R's.

C/Sgt.

Sopp

"

Burton, J.

"

Sheers, B.

"

Sullivan, J.

"

Harper, A.

Sgt.

Burgess, W.

L/Cpl.

Hennell, C.

1 x 3 tonner to YPRES – P.R.I. & Baggage.

Baggage. P.R.I. Stores. Office Equipment and Officers baggage to go on 14 Dec. with Cadre (no package larger than 1 two-man load.

2. Accommodation Stores.

Centralise all to QM Stores – R.Q.M.S 6 Dec. to be handed over on B.108 to incoming unit.

3. Draft conducting officers to go with "B" personnel.

Capt. D.B. Waterhouse 1st Suffolks)

W/Lt. A.M. Lawrence 1st Suffolks)

W/Lt. E.C. Read 1st Suffolks) will be posted this unit on completion of task and leave.

4. Officers of Cat "B" will move separately. Times later.

5. Personnel. As names called out at conference. Move tomorrow 7 Dec. to UK. Northern Ireland direct from OSTEND.

6. Notes for move.

a. Place of Parade Square. POPERINGHE.

b. O.C. Party – Capt. D.B. Waterhouse.

c. R.A.S.C. tpt. 17 T.C.V's will RV on Square.

d. Dress. F.S.M.O. incl. A/Gas eqpt., personal weapons, steel helmet on pack.
Blankets. 1 rolled on bolt at back. Greatcoat worn.

e. Capt. D.B. Waterhouse will conduct convoy to YPRES station and entrain party.

f. The personnel of "B" Cat. Will pass through 60 Transit Camp OSTEND.

In the event of bad weather parties may have to stay one or two nights. Full staging will be provided.

g. Lifebelts will be drawn from 60 Transit Camp.

h. Maj. E.G. Sandys and Capt. D.B. Waterhouse will report to DAQMG Post Office OSTEND at least 2 hrs. in advance of time for embarkation. He will have with him AF W 5169 (in sextuplicate) and a 3060 in duplicate duly completed and a nominal roll of the party in sextuplicate. These will be collected from the Adj. at 0900 hrs. 7 Dec. Instructions for disposal of forms are given on the form.

j. F.F.I. Certificated will be taken by Maj. E.G. Sandys and Capt. D.B. Waterhouse to UK and handed in at Port of Disembarkation.

1/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment
Admin instruction No. 3

7th Dec 44.

1. Disposal of Category "A" Personnel.

A. Guides. Capt. G.I.S. Burnett will report 1200 hrs. 8 Dec. 44 to 51 (N) Div. Report Centre at ROULERS 7670 to guide Transport and Conducting Officers and N.C.O's from BRIT DIV to HQ Coy area.

B. Accommodation.

O.C. HQ Coy will arrange parking places, accommodation and rations for 3 BRIT DIV representatives for 8/9 Dec.

2. Despatch of Category "A".

O.C's Coys will arrange to march all Cat "A" Personnel on to Main Sq. POPERINGHE at 1000 hrs. 9th Dec.

R.S.M. will form up parade with 5 Coy Gps., the roll will be called and personnel will reform up on markers for their respective Bns.

Tpt. As arranged by Bn. 3 BRIT DIV.

3. Haversack ration containing unexpired portion of days ration to be carried on men.

4. Drafts will take :-

A Full Personnel kit.

B Full personnel Arms.

C Full clothing with blankets.

5. Dress. A F.S.M.O. Greatcoats worn, Jerkins under Greatcoats, Steel Helmets on packs.

B Individual rolls of blankets will be carried and will travel with the men.

6. All Category "A" Personnel will be warned by 1200 hrs. on the 8th Dec. of their impending move on the 9th Dec.

Move of Category "C" Instructional Staff.

The following Officers, N.C.O's and Men will hold themselves in readiness for a move on the 9th December.

Officers.

217346	W /Capt. T/Maj.	D.L.	Fennel (OC).
121061	W/Capt. AA/Maj.	L.W.	Karn.

S/Sgts., Sgts., L/Sgts.

6459477	A/CSM	Thomas,	J.
6097087	W/Sgt.	Best,	J.
5837024	W/Sgt.	Hearst,	T.
6096914	W/Sgt.	Puncher, MM	H.
5439082	W/Sgt.	Mattews,	H.

6084729	W/Sgt.	Cassell, MM	J.
6780869	W/Sgt.	Hill,	J.
5956365	A/Sgt.	Ring, MM	P.
5888309	A/Sgt.	Golding,	H.
6089895	A/Sgt.	Allen,	J.
5954112,	L/Sgt.	Kilby,	P.

Rank & File.

5888437	W/Cpl.	Stapleton,	K.
5116464	W/Cpl.	Bibb,	G.
6097963	W/Cpl.	Farrington,	S.
6090214	W/Cpl.	Sneath, MM	A.
608984	W/Cpl.	Baker,	L.
5439092	W/Cpl.	Pethick, DCM	W.
6093238	W/Cpl.	Bussey,	E.
5888326	A/Cpl.	Hinton,	S.
5888394	A/Cpl.	Mitchell,	P.
6097368	Pte.	Appleton.	R.

Dress. F.S.M.O. 1 Blanket on the man.

Documents. Adj. will hand to O.C. Parties prior to departure.

8. Billeting.

Lieut. P. Plunkett will arrange to hand over to reps of 29th Armd. Bde. all vacated billets.

Coys will conc. to minimum number of billets with remaining personnel and inform billeting officer.

Billeting Officer will visit Coys twice daily to learn the billeting state.

(Sgd) W.D. Griffiths

Lt. Col.

Comdg.

1/7th Bn. Queen's Royal Regiment.

1/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment

Admin instruction No. 4

12th Dec 44.

1. Move to Port of Embarkation.

The move will be on 14 December.

2. DRESS. F.S.M.O., 1 blanket rolled round pack.

3. Routine.

14 Dec. 44

Reveille

0400 hrs.

Breakfast	0430 hrs.
Parade & Roll Call.	0510 hrs.
Arrive Station.	0545 hrs.

Roll Call, - Capt. G.I.S. Burnett will call the Roll.

4. Nominal Roll will be obtained from the Adjutant on 13 Dec 44.

5. ENTRAINING DETAILS.

(a) Entraining Station – POPERINGHE.

(b) Personnel will march to the Station under comd. of Capt. G.I.S. Burnett to arrive at 0545 hrs. 14 dec.

(c) The Bn. party will form up outside the station and will be called fwd. to entrain by O.C. train.

(d) Timings:-

(i)	Depart POPERINGHE –	0632 hrs.
(ii)	Arrive OSTEND -	0830 hrs.
(iii)	Embark.	1030 hrs.

6. O.C. Train.

(a) O.C. Train will be Lieut. P.N.P. Plunkett.

(b) O.C. Train will liaise with R.T.O. POPERINGHE not later than 0530 hrs. 14 Dec 44 to allot accommodation on the train.

(c) List of units with strengths to entrain as per Appendix “A” (Not to all address’s).

7. BAGGAGE.

(a) Officer i/c – Lieut. A.E.B. Beveridge.

Other Ranks.	Sgt.	Andrews DCM.	I.
	Cpl.	Wallace	J.
	L/Cpl.	Baldwin	L.
	L/Cpl.	Alldis	L.
	Pte.	Hawkins	W.
	Pte.	Lodwick	E.
	Pte.	Hurst	E.
	Pte.	Luton	D.
	Pte.	Minns	G.

The above parade at QM Stores at 1345 hrs. 13 Dec 44.

(b) TPT.

1 x 3-Ton,
1 x 15 cwt.

(c) collection & Delivery to Ship.

(i) The TPT will call at QM Stores at 1400 hrs. and at Bn. HQ at 1420 hrs. 13 Dec.

(ii) All Officers kits will be centralised at Bn. HQ by 1300 hrs. 13 Dec 44.

(iii) When all Baggage is loaded the Baggage party will move to 60 TRANSIT CAMP OSTEND and will stay the night. On arrival at OSTEND Off. i/c will report to (E.S.O./Port Comd) and work under his direction.

(d) After all baggage is delivered to the ship baggage party will collect life-jackets and 48 hrs. voyage rations from 60 TRANSIT CAMP.

Ration Strength of party:-

7 Officers,

84 O.R's

91 Total All Ranks.

Baggage party will meet train at OSTEND at 0830 hrs. 14 Dec 44.

8. G1098 STORES.

All remaining G1098 Stores i.e. Cooking Equipment will be centralised in one room at Bn. HQ.

Sgt. Richards (ACC) will arrange for utensils used for breakfast on 14 Dec. 44 to be cleaned and placed in control room. The room will then be locked and the key handed over to BRASOO.

9. BLANKETS.

All personnel proceeding to the UK will carry on their person one blanket.

The remaining blankets will be handed in, rolled in bundles of 10 and placed in control room at Bn. HQ by 0400 hrs. 14 Dec 44. (Note – Baggage Party will hand in blankets by 1200 hrs. 13 Dec 44).

10. Officers Mess.

Officers Mess will close after dinner 13 Dec 44.

11. Rations.

(a) On 14 Dec 44 a very substantial breakfast will be prepared for all ranks. Bn. HQ cookhouse will cater for officers and QM Staff in addition to normal numbers.

(b) All ranks will be issued with a haversack ration for the journey at breakfast meal 14 Dec.

(c) Baggage Party will carry in addition to (b) above 1 days rations which will be handed in to 60 TRANSIT CAMP.

(d) R.Q.M.S will dispose of any surplus rations.

12. TPT.

RASC personnel have reported to the Bn. to dispose of unit tpt. After the Bn. has left this area.

(a) Tpt. Sgt. will detail each RASC driver to a definite veh. And make all arrangements with NCO i/c RASC drivers for disposal of vehs and Part X Orders.

13. In addition to para. 12 above 1 x 3 ton will convey ACC personnel to 53 RHU BRUGES, u/c Sgt. Richards. (ACC).

This Party will leave POPERINGHE at 1000 hrs. 14 Dec.

14. Billets.

All billets now occupied will be left scrupulously clean. RSM & RQMS will personally inspect their respective billets before departing.

G.H. Courchee
Capt. & Adjt.
1/7th Queen's.