

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

FEBRUARY 1944.

- 1st Feb. Area HUNSTANTON.
0900 hrs. Cadre Course began for newly arrived officers and for selected N.C.O's
1700 hrs. All Offs. And selected N.C.O's attended lecture by C.O. on proposed new organisation of 7 Armd. Div.
1930 hrs. All Offs. Attended dinner given by Capt. Grey at the L'Estrange Arms, Old HUNSTANTON>
- 2nd Feb. 0930 hrs. Bde. Comdr. Spoke to the Bn. Briefly he made the following points:-
a. His pleasure at being given 131 Lorried Inf. Bde.
b. Importance of shooting, patrolling, river crossing, physical fitness.
c. Emphasized discipline, bearing, saluting, general turnout & behavior.
1000 hrs. Brig. visited Coys to watch training.
1930 hrs. Guest night – Brig. & B.M. entertained to dinner in the offs. Mess.
- 3rd Feb. C.O. proceeded on leave. Maj. W.D. Griffiths M.C. assumed Comd. Of the Bn. Maj. K.A. JESSUP assumed duties of 2i/c. C.O., 2i/c & Adj. Attended dinner given by the City of Lond Fishmongers Coy, who have adopted this Bn.
- 4th Feb. Training on Pln. Basis.
- 5th Feb. Training on Pln. Basis. With all the Bn. back from disembarkation leave normal training on a se. & Pln. Basis became continuous throughout week ending 5th Feb. 44 other activities included:-
(a) Setting up Rifle Range. (b) Cadre Course for newly joined offs. & N.C.O's. (c) Sand table completed for use of Coy Comdrs. (d) Coy & Bn. Training areas reced.
- 6th Feb. Sunday.
- 7th Feb. 0915 hrs. Brig. Visited Bn. & watched training. I.O attended conference at Bde.
- 8th Feb. Training.
9th Feb. Training.
- 10th Feb. Lt. J.R. CONRY & 19 O.R's of Rear Party left in ITALY posted back to Bn. Div. Comdr. Addressed all Offs.
- 11th Feb. Training.
- 12th Feb. C.O. rtn. from leave.
13th Feb. Sunday.
- 14th Feb. No. 2 Training Instructions. Issued.
- 15th Feb. "B" Coy provide demonstration Pln. Under Maj. R. CARVER MC to visit AMERICAN ARMY AIR CORPS units to demonstrate Queen's Bde. Battle Drill.
- 16th Feb. 1700 hrs. All Offs. Attended Brains Trust composed of Offs. From Bn. C.O. acted as question master.
- 17th Feb. 1500 hrs. C-in-C (Gen, B. MONTGOMERY) inspected all Offs. & men of 131 Inf. Bde. at CASTLE RISING N. of KINGS LYNN. In an address he said that :- (a) He had great pleasure in having 131 Inf. Bde. back in his

Comd. The Bde. had already travelled over 3,000 miles with him. (b) He appreciated the constant agitation for a second Front. Britain was already fighting in ITALY & BURMA on the Seas and in the Air over GERMANY. (c) When RAF had softened up GERMANY still further our task would be much easier. 0900 hrs. Maj. W.D. GRIFFITHS MC left to attend course at Snr. Offs. School. During his absence Maj. J.A. JESSUP assumed duties as 2i/c.

Special order of the day.

The C-in-C expressed great pleasure at his inspection of the Division today.

He had instructed me to say that he was much impressed by the keenness and soldier like bearing of the troops whom he saw and that it was a real pleasure to be with them again.

I would like this message conveyed to all ranks.

Signed G.W.E.J. ERSKINE Maj. Gen.

- 18th Feb. 1100 hrs. Training. CRA visited Bn.
- 19th Feb. 0930 hrs. Notification that Lt. Col. D.S. GORDON DSO had been mentioned in Dispatches. Training during week ending 19 Feb. on Pln. Basis. This included night exercises.
- 20th Feb. Sunday. Battle Patrol proceeded on Pioneer Assault Course at PRESTON, Lancs.
- 21st Feb. Training.
- 22nd Feb. 1000 hrs. Brig. Visited Bn. and watched Coys training. 2230 hrs. Air Aid warning. 2330 hrs. All clear. No incidents.
- 23rd Feb. 1530 hrs. "O" Group for Training Program.
- 24th Feb. Queen's Regt. Band arrives under Band Master – Mr R. BARSOTTI.
1539 hrs. 131 Bde. was inspected near CASTLE RISING by H.M. the King. The weather was cool dry and sunny and ideal for an inspection. H.M. spoke to several offs. And men of the 1/7th Queen's. the Ceremony concluded with 3 cheers for H.M. and a march past the Bde. Comd. Queen's Regt. Band played during inspection.
1930 hrs. Sgt's Mess gave dance to which Bn. officers were invited. Evening was a great success.
- 25th Feb. 1000 hrs. Div. Comdr. Visited Bn. and inspected training. 1630 hrs. Hon. Col. Of BN. Col. G.W. SIMPSON CMG arrived at Bn. 1930 hrs. Attended Dinner at off's. Mess. 2030 hrs. attended Queen's Regt. Band Concert in the Town Hall. Many civilian guest attended and an excellent performance was given.
- 26th Feb. 1045 hrs. Bn. lined up on the green and were inspected by the Hon. Col. At the conclusion of the inspection the Hon. Col. Made a short address to the Bn. Three cheers were given at the conclusion of the address and the Bn. marched past the Hon. Col.
1130 hrs. Col. SIMPSON inspected the A/Tk. Gun which destroyed most enemy tanks. In the N. African campaign.
1200 hrs. Col. SIMPSON visited Sgts. Mess. Maj. R. CARVER MC attended school of Inf. Capt. D.L. FENNELL assumes comd. Of "B" Coy.
- 27th Feb. 1330 hrs. Sunday. Col. SIMPSON departed.
- 28th Feb. 1100 hrs. Arrival of Personnel Selection Team consisting of 3 Offs. And 4 Sgts.
Object to subject every man to a mental test and complete from the results a comprehensive record useful for selecting reinforcements in the future.

29th Feb. Training on a Coy. Basis. Capt. J. FRANCIS MC (Adj.) posted to Staff College. Capt. G.H. COURCHEE assumed duties of Adj. During Feb. the re-equipping of the Bn. proceeded. A/Tk guns, Carriers arrived. The month was spent in training changing from the Pln. To Coy basis. 48 hr. exercises were held at the end of the month. Many offs. And O.R's proceeded on courses which included Boating, Intelligence, Pay Duties, Cooking, Waterproofing V.M. and camouflage.

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