

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

MARCH 1944.

- 1st Mar. Trg. Cont. on Coy basis. 18 O.R's posted to Bn.
1700 hrs. Trg. Conference held.
- 2nd Mar. 1000. hrs. C.O. visited Bde.
1500 hrs. Sand Table Exercise held for all offs. Reps attended from 1 R.T.R., J Bty. 3 R.H.A., 65 A/Tk. Regt. The problems discussed arose out of the situation following an Armd. Break through from an imaginary bridge head formed on the continent. 1/7th Queen's dance band was formed under CSM WAITE.
- 3rd Mar. 0800 hrs. A rep party of 100 offs. And men left to attend a Civic Reception given by the Borough of Southwark at the Edrich Hall, Borough Polytechnic, London.
- 4th Mar. Training.
- 5th Mar. Sunday.
- 6th Mar. 12 O.R's posted to Bn. from 101 R.H.U
- 7th Mar. Training on Coy. Basis.
- 8th Mar. Training on Coy. Basis. 1700 hrs. C.O's conference on Trg.
- 9th Mar. Training.
- 10th Mar. "A" Coy on 48 hrs. exercise.
- 11th Mar. 1400 hrs. Bn. played 1/5th Queen's at football. Result 2-2. 3 O.R's posted from R.H.U.
ENSA show in Town Hall.
- 12th Mar. Sunday.
- 13th Mar. Training – "C" Coy in Attack.
- 14th Mar. 13 O.R's posted to Bn. "B" & "C" Coys night exercises.
- 15th Mar. 1700 hrs. Trg. Conference. New tpt. Establishment discussed. "A" Coy assault boat trg. "B" Coy – Coy. in Attack.
- 16/17/18th. Inter Coy exercise between "B" & "C" Coys. 5 O.R's posted to Bn. Bn. played RAF at hockey – result 2-3 and at football – 5-2 E>N>S>A> presented "HAPPY HIKERS" in Town Hall. Well attended.
- 19th Mar. Sunday.
2200 hrs. Air Raid warning. Sounds of bombs & heavy gun fire from the E. – no incidents locally.
- 20th Mar. 1200 hrs. C.O. & umpires for Bn. exercise "SHIVER" left for recce of area. "B" & "C" Coys assault boat trg. NARFORD LAKE.
- 21st Mar. 1300 hrs. "SHIVER". Bn. left HUNSTANTON for conc. Area 2195 (O.S. THETFORD 1" to 1 mile refers)
Maj. K.A. JESSUP assumes comd. Of Bn.
1700 hrs. Bn. arrived Bn. arrived in conc/ area.
1800 hrs. "O" Group attended by Coy Comdrs. & Reps of Attd. Arms.
- 22nd Mar. 0500 hrs. "C" Coy began Mar towards THETFORD.

0700 hrs. Fwd. body moved off on centre line THETFORD, CROXTON, TOTTINGTON followed by main body. Throughout the day various actions were fought culminating in the clearance of the enemy from TOTTINGTON area S. of the R. WISSEY.

1700 hrs. Conference on exercise.

1800 hrs. return to billets.

23rd Mar. 1100 hrs. Trg. Conference.

0830 hrs. – 1630 hrs. Carrier exercise at SYDERSTONE 2951. 41 O.R's posted to Bn.

24th Mar. "A" Coy exercise in Coy Battle Procedures, in preparation for an attack. "D" Coy exercise in advance attack and re-organization.

2000 hrs. Offs. Mess gave a dance. 1/7th Dance band played. Evening a great success.

25th Mar. N.T.R.

26th Mar. Sunday.

27th Mar. 1700 hrs. Rev. BOSTON gave lecture on "History of Small Arms. His lecture was made very interesting by the production of old pistols and blunderbusses which were handled and fired by the audience.

Capt. E.M. FRENCH promoted A/Maj.

1400 hrs. 2i/c & I.O. did recce of area of inter Coy scheme.

28th Mar. 0930 hrs. C.O. attended conference at Bde.

1500 hrs. Coys attended Trg. Film. "A" Coy night scheme. 81 O.R's posted to Bn.

29th Mar. 0830 hrs. Signals exercise for all Offs.

1700 hrs. Trg. Conference.

30th Mar. "A" & "D" Coys did combined exercise.

31st Mar. 0900 hrs. "O" Group to discuss exercise "SHUDDER". Day spent in preparation of scheme.

Summary of months activities.

- a. Trg. Continued on a Coy level culminating in Bn. Exercise "SHIVER"
- b. Signals Trg. in the slightly modified wireless procedure.
- c. Range Practice, Small Arms, A/Tk. Guns, Mortars & PIAT.
- d. Assault boat Trg.
- e. Sports including Football & Hockey.
- f. Refitting of Bn. equipment continued.

Lt. Col. D.S. Gordon, DSO.

Comdg.

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