

1/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary December 1944

DECEMBER 1944.

Area ROTHEM K 602744.

Rest period with,

1. Reorganisation of Bn. following upon "Split up" of 131 Queen's Bde. involving in the main the reforming of "C" Coy
2. Daily Training for all Coys & Plns.
3. Information talks and discussions.
4. Maintenance of all vehicles.
5. Various recreational activities available daily.

1st Dec. Maj. D.A. Grant MC transferred to 1/6th Queen's.
Lts. J. FRANKLIN & D. B. BANGHAM to 1/7th Queen's.

2nd Dec. N.T.R.

3rd Dec. Capt. P.N.P. PLUNKETT relinquishes appt. as Adjt.
Capt. D.R. WATSON relinquishes appt. as I.O. & appt. Adjt.
Lts. A.L. TREWBY appt. I.O.
7 officers and 122 O.R's Reinforcements received & posted.

4th Dec. N.T.R.

5th Dec. Capt. H.D. MOORE MC R.A.M.C. relinquishes appt. as Bn. M.O.
Capt. D. MITCHELL appointed Bn. M.O. pro-tem.
Capt. P.N.P. PLUNKETT transferred to 1/7th Queen's.

6th Dec. 1000 hrs. At BAEE 5186, address by G.O.C. 7 Armd. Div. to all officers & large percentage of men of Bn.

7th Dec. Area K 728681.
Bn. moves via x rds. 591708, BERG Bridge, 618692, SITTARD 6968, to WENR 7268, where it relieved 3 Coldstream.
Slight enemy shelling of fwd. areas causes casualties of 2 x O.R's killed.
Immediate emergency commission, rank 2/Lt. granted to CSM LESTER & Sgt. OVERINGTON.

8th Dec. N.T.R.

9th Dec. Night 8/9. 3 Standing patrols at 731701, 737698 & 751695 – last named engaged enemy patrol and inflicted casualties. 1 Recce patrol to KLEINWEHRHAGEN 7570 to find details of enemy defences there did not reach objective owing to wire & obstacles.

10th Dec. Night 9/10, 3 Standing patrols had N.T.R. 2 Recce patrols 1. To find details of enemy defences in HONGEN 7370. 2. Similarly to W. end of KLEINWEHRHAGEN 7570.
Capt. R.J. DEMO? Assumes comd. of A/Tk Pln. Capt. C. DEARN? evacuated sick.

11th Dec. Night 10/11. Standing patrols had N.T.R. 2 Recce patrols 1. To x rds. 730704 to 742706 had N.T.R. 2. To 739704 saw enemy patrol but did not contact them.
Change over of Coys effected during morning.
Capt. D.A. Watson relinquishes post of Adjt. Appointed A/Maj. And O.C. "A" Coy.

Lt. J.D. WHEATLEY relinquishes post of S.O. Appointed A/Capt. and Adjt.
Lt. M.L. BAKER Appointed A/Capt. & Battle Patrol Comdr.

- 12th Dec. Night 11/12. 5 Standing Patrols out to ambush and shoot up enemy posts had N.T.R. Gunners engage 5 x A/Tk. Guns in HONGEN area and K.O'd 2 with 1 near hit.
- 13th Dec. Night 12/13. 3 Standing Patrols that at 749696 engaged enemy patrol & inflicted casualties. 2 Recce Patrols, 1. To report on enemy defences in HONGEN 7370 had little to report. Similarly to GROßWEHRHAGEN 7370 had N.T.R. Battle Patrol of 12 O.R's formed u/c Capt. M.L. BAKER.
- 14th Dec. Night 13/14. 3 Standing Patrols out. 1. At 751695 was fired on by Spandaus & 2nd at 731701 was heavily Mortared but suffered no casualties. Recce patrol to HONGEN area and to cutting a 742700 met opposition at last place. 2 Enemy patrols one armed with British weapons had spirited battle on one front.
- 15th Dec. Night 14/15. 3 Standing patrols out. 1 at 701701 had strong enemy working party active near them this night. Details for home leave for Bn. personnel issued.
- 16th Dec. Night 15/16. 3 Standing patrols had N.T.R. Fighting patrol to cutting at 742703 heard enemy there.
- 17th Dec. Area K 701662. Night 16/17. 3 Standing Patrols had N.T.R. Fighting Patrol (Battle Patrol) unable to locate enemy post in cutting at 742703. Bn. relieved during afternoon by 3rd Coldstream Guards and move via SITTARD 6968 to rest area at MUNSTERGELEEN 6865 & 7066.
- 18th Dec. Night 17/18 Battle Patrol repeat Fighting Patrol of previous night & engage enemy position at 742703. Capt. A.D. PAYNE appt. Bn. M.O.
- 19th Dec. N.T.R.
- 20th Dec. During morning Bn. move to WEHR 7267 and relieve 3rd Coldstream Guards by 1230 hrs. Slight shelling & Mortaring of fwd. areas. Lt. HOGARTH & 35 O.R's join Bn. 9 x O.R's leave under "PYTHON" scheme.
- 21st Dec. Area, K 728681. Night 20/21. 3 Standing patrols had N.T.R. 2 Recce Patrols 1. To GROSSWEHRHAGEN 7570 heard much enemy movement there. 2. To penetrate HONGEN 7370 and establish in house there for succeeding day were unable to establish task. 1400 hrs. 4.2" Mortars heavily stonk GROSSWEHRHAGEN 7570 and have "Brew up" there. 1600 hrs. During early night much transport movement heard in HONGEN 7370 and along rd. from HAVERT 7272 – HEILDER 7471 - SAEFFELN 7571, noise may have been simulated.
- 22nd Dec. Night 21/22. 3 Standing Patrols had N.T.R. save heavy tpt. Movement above. 2 Recce patrols 1. To HONGEN 7370 found enemy active there. 2. To cosp at 726703 found enemy patrol (?) in occupation.

1400 to 1600 hrs. 3" Mortars stonk copse at 726703. Some enemy movement of tpt. Heard and working parties active on our front. Battle Patrol disbanded.

- 23rd Dec. Night 22/23. 3 Standing Patrols had little to report.
1530 hrs. 3" Mortars stonk KLEINWEHRHAGEN 7570.
Gunnery K.O'd 1 A/Tk. Gun and have near hit on another in HONGEN area 7370.
Slight shelling of our fwd. areas.
- 24th Dec. Night 23/24. 3 Standing Patrols, a listening patrol at 745706 and an ambush patrol to 728704 all had N.T.R.
Slight enemy Mortaring of fwd. areas during day.
- 25th Dec. Night 24/25. 3 Standing Patrols had N.T.R. save for occasional activity in HONGEN 7370.
O.P. report slight enemy movement on foot in HONGEN 7370 & GROSSWEHRHAGEN 7570.
- 26th Dec. Night 25/26. 3 Standing Patrols had N.T.R.
Change over of Coys effected during morning.
Spandaus active intermittently all over front during day.
- 27th Dec. Night 26/27. 3 Standing Patrols had only slight tpt. Movement in HONGEN 7370 to report.
- 28th Dec. Night 27/28. 2 Standing Patrols reported as above but included some tracked vehicles.

29th 30 & 31st missing at present.

Lt. Col. Freeland DSO.

Comdg.

1/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regt.

31/12/1944.