

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

February 1944

- 1st Feb. Farewell speech by Brig. M ELRINGTON DSO OBE at 9:45 hr's in town hall, HUNSTANTON on leaving Bn. to take over (177 Brig. 53 Div).
- 2nd Feb. Introductory talk by new of 131 brigade Brigadier end S. Erskine's act 0945 hrs in town hall. Lt. Col. H.R LUCE assumes Comd. of the Bn. Pln Comdrs training scheme continues. Programme attached (see app. II no. 1).
- 3rd Feb. Equipment, Mortar Pln. takes on charge 7 x carriers Mortars 3".
Local security instructions issued.
- 4th Feb. Friday, N.T.R.
- 5th Feb. Capt. P.N.P. PLUNKETT appointed Adjutant.
- 6th Feb. Sunday, Coy Comdrs conference. (see II 44 no. 3).
- 7th Feb. Monday, Officers day. The question of the advisability or otherwise of measuring the range of the 3" Mortar was discussed and lectures were given by the Comdg. Officer on the "Establishment" of the Bn. and then "The Establishment of our Armd. Div".
Maj. A.C.J. BORRETT appointed PRI and Lt. E.W. FRANKLIN posted to H Coy as admin officer to assist PRI and entertainments officer.
Capt. D. A GRANT appointed O.C. of "C" Coy.
Capt. H. SANCTUARY appointed 2i/c "A" Coy.
- 8th Feb. Tuesday, N.T.R.
- 9th Feb. Wednesday, C.O. Congratulations to Lt. Q.M. ALLWOOD, Mentioned in Despatches. "A" Coy ran a dance in the Kit Kat and the Bn. band played there and the dance was well attended by over 200 people including W.A.A.Fs from BIRCHAM NEWTON aerodrome, local A.T.S. ect. etc.
- 10th Feb. Thursday, 1 Officer and one N.C.O. on Divisional Mine School course.
Equipment, A/Tk. Pln. take on charge 12 x Lloyd Carriers.
- 11th Feb. 2/Lt. K. SHAW promoted to Lt. All Officers attended a talk given by Gen. ERSKINE One officer on D & M course. (see attached list. Appendix II 44 no. 5).
- 12th Feb. Saturday, Postings to "A" Coy:- Lt. CHURCHILL R.W. and CROOK W.T. and 2/Lt. Weaver S.
To "B" Coy 2/Lt. SADLER D.C. and WHEATLEY L.J.
To "C" Coy Lt. THEARLE P.A. and 2/Lt. SALDE A.J.
To "D" Coy Lt. CLARKE B J.
2 H Coy 2/Lt. BROOKMAN J.N.
A Rugby Football match, Bn. 11 versus R.A. from BIRCHAM NEWTON lost 11 - 3.
E.N.S.A concert at 1930 hrs in town hall-"French without Tears". Soccer match Bn. 11 versus R.A. Battery lost 7 -1. 2/Lt. SLADE promoted to Lt.
- 13th Feb. Sunday, N.T.R.

- 14th Feb. Monday, Officers Day.
Maj. B.E.L. Burton attached for training from 21 Army Group HQ.
One Officer and 1 NCO on Div. Mines School Course.
- 15th Feb. Tuesday, Notes on Pln. training attached. (App. LL 44 no. 6).
- 16th Feb. Wednesday. N.T.R.
- 17th Feb. Thursday, At 0930 hrs practise parade for C. in C. inspection.
At 1145 hrs Bn. went by transport to G 136447.
At 1500 hrs. Gen. Sir BERNARD LAW MONTGOMERY C. in C. inspected 131 Bde & attached units and give a short address.
By 1600 hrs Bn. had returned to HUNSTANTON.
One Officer and one NCO on Div. Mine School Course.
- 18th Feb. Friday, Equipment, 19 Carriers Universal taken on charge by Carriers Pln.
Coy Comdrs conference. (II 44 no. 7).
- 19th Feb. Saturday, congratulatory message from Maj. Gen. G.W.E.J. ERSKINE CB, DSO C.O. of 7th Armd. Div. containing details of C. in C. appreciation of troops bearing on the parade. Thursday Feb 19th.
C.O. constitutes a system of credits i.e., one days leave granted to other ranks for outstanding cases, of turnout, initiative etc.
Rugby Football, Bn. 11 versus London Fire Service at BECKENHAM (lost 11 0.
ENSA Concerts at 1930 hrs in Town Hall – “Stand by for Ken”.
- 20th Feb. Sunday, N.T.R.
- 21st Feb. Monday, 1 Officer, 1 NCO on Div. Mines School Course.
M.T. Course (internal) duration 14 days.
- 22nd Feb. Tuesday, Officers Evening discussion (slides and R.T.).
Equipment, A/Tk Pln. take on charge 6 x 6 pdr. A/Tk guns.
- 23rd Feb. Wednesday, 2/Lt. D.B. BANGHAM joined Bn. and posted to “D” Coy.
Social and Whist drive for N.C.O’s and O.R’s at town hall 1930 hrs organised by ladies of Hunstanton for 2 Bn’s of Queen’s. A dance was held in the Officers Mess for local residents who had been actively promoting the welfare of the Bn.
- 24th Feb. Thursday. At 12:45 hrs. Bn. went by transport to 136447 for inspection by His Majesty King George the 6th which took place at 1545 hrs., his majesty being accompanied by Maj. Gen. ERSKINE GOC 7th Armd. Bde. and the Corps Comdr. Gen. BRICKSELL.
Lt F.J. COX joined Bn. and posted to “B” Coy. 1 Officer and 1 NCO on Div. Mine School Course.
- 25th Feb. At 1000 hrs. a visit of inspection by Div. Comdr. Maj. Gen. ERSKINE.
Congratulatory message from Maj. Gen. ERSKINE on appreciation of His Majesty the King of the first appearance and pleasure in seeing troops of the 7th Armd. Div.
Information room Peterborough private hotel no. 14 Cliff Parade now open for talks etc.
An Officers discussion was held in the evening under Lt. Col. LUCE on the use of the 3” Mortar.
(See att. sheets II 44 no. 8).

- 26th Feb. A concert of popular music play by regimental band in town hall at 1930 hrs. at 11:30 hrs. Parade of O.R's wishing to attend civic reception at GUILDFORD March 4th for inspection by C.O. to choose personnel to attend.
Equipment, M.T. took on charge 13 x 30 tonners 1 x 15 cwt. office truck and 1 x Staff car (C.O.)
- 27th Feb. Sunday, N.T.R.
- 28th Feb. Monday, 1 Officer and 1 NCO on Div. Mine School Course.
"A", "B" & "C" Coys on 48 hr. scheme.
- 29th Feb. Lt. J.C. INGAFIELD joined the Bn. and posted to "C" Coy. "D" Coy on 48 hrs. scheme.
Officers. Evening discussion order of March of Bn. on road moves.
Forward body under 2 headings (a) On foot, (b) In lorries with or without tank support. Wit tanks the order of march should be 1, A recce group consisting of a tank recce a squadron of tanks and an armoured O.P. 2, A Comd. Group probably ? Inf. Bn. Comd. 3. An Armd. Group consisting of Dingoes recce Group and 2 Carrier patrols (all replaced by light tanks in new W.E.) followed by 2 Troops Tks. Sqn. HQ R.M.O. etc. 4 Inf. Group. 5, Support Group containing Mortars & A/Tk guns followed by R.H.A. Bty. & R.E's. 6, Without tanks (not very likely) Carrier Pln. less 1 Sec. gap behind depends on 'time' on time required to send back news of trouble and give time to Comdr. to stop front ? until clear of trouble re time depending on state of the comms. D.R's etc. of comms on ground. Should be at least one mile. Then Coy Comd. (questions of protection a difficult one if not in front how can he stop front vehicles quickly) Rifle Pln. and R.E. Recce 2 A/Tk guns 2 other Pln's. 3" Mortars R.A. etc. then Main guard same conditions given length of gaps before (very important to avoid) premature combatant Bn. Comd.er with Bty. Comd. who "floats" between ? and vanguard O. Grp, R.E. Coy, Coy A/Tk Pln. less 1 Sect., Mortar Pln. less 2 detachments B.H.Q. A/Tk R.A. R.A. etc. Sect. Carriers.
(A) On foot in close country no carriers ahead - If open may carry out Recce. Inf. Pln. Coy Comd. (Distance not matter 300 x) O. Group Pln. H.Q, Wireless truck, 3" Mortar. The question of transport no hard and fast solution found. Use gap between Pln's to ? transport forward.

Lt. Col. H.R. Luce,
Comdg.
1/5th Bn. The Queen's R.R.

29/2/1944.