

1/5th Bn. The Queens Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary March 1944.

March 1944

- 1st Mar. Wednesday. A/Tk Pln. firing on Holme Range.
1st of a series of French classes held 1515 hrs to 1600 hrs in I office, eight men attend.
1900 hrs in town hall the Bn. Legion Concert party "Fen Frolics" present a musical show "Fragments".
- 2nd Mar. Thursday. 1700 hrs Officers discussion.
1. Map reference code.
2. Counter Battery work.
3. M.T. movement discipline, see below.
17 reinforcements received and posted to Coys "A" 4, "B" 2, "C" 2, "D" 3, "H" 6.
M.T. Moves and Discipline. Lorries go to Coys, it is not necessary to have a embussing Pt. Coys rarely generally given time passed S.P. Liaison between unit gps at "O" Gps to ascertain last vehicle known to people behind and use of D.R's. Carriage way kept clear at all times, Officer at S.P. to check vehicles through, Officer at Bde. S.P. (probably not) 40 often 30 minutes halts, 20 minutes every hrs. Div. flag the route but each unit responsible for finding their way.
- 3rd Mar. Friday, Equipment, M.T. took on charge 27 x 15 cwt Fords, 27 x BSA 500cc motorcycles, 3 x 2 seater Austins.
0830 hrs personnel attending civic reception at Guildford left.
Find Maj. BURTON umpires course for all available Officers and N.C.O's (app. 44 no. 1).
- 4th Mar. Saturday. Training of umpires, 48 men on course from 0930 hrs until 1330 hrs.
2000 hrs at Town Hall E.N.S.A. presents "Showpiece".
Reception at Guildford, Parade and Luncheon.
- 5th Mar. Sunday. All S.M.L.E. Mk 3 rifles called in.
- 6th Mar. Monday. Personnel to Guildford reception return.
Captain H.D. MOORE R.A.M.C. assumes duty of R.M.O. vice-captain M.J. RIDDELL posted to L.A.A.
Regt.
- 7th Mar. Tuesday. Officers evening discussion period cancelled.
3 Mk. 4 LE Rifles issued and Sten guns.
48 hrs scheme "D" Coy.
- 8th Mar. Wednesday. Farewell message from Lt. Col. C.F. Luce to all members of Bn. on leaving Bn.
- 9th Mar. Thursday. Officers Evening Discussion Period – Talk by Div. education Off. on A-B-C-A. and work of Div. Education in field.
Sten Gun Course (Approx. 2 days) for N.C.O's
48 hrs. Scheme (A & B Coys).
- 10th Mar. Friday. 48 hrs. Scheme (B Coy).
- 11th Mar. Saturday. Lt. C.F. DICKSON posted to A/Tk. Pln.
Lt. Col. H. WOOD assumes Comd. of Bn.
- 12th Mar. Sunday. N.T.R.

- 13th Mar. Monday. C.O. meets all Offs. At 1800 hrs. in his office.
Lt. W.E. FRANKLIN appointed Bn. Messing Officer.
20 Reinforcements received from 2/6th Bn. E. Surrey Regt. All posted to "H" Coy.
- 14th Mar. Tuesday. The Bde. Comdr. addressed all Offs. Of the Bde. in Town Hall HUNSTANTON at 1700 hrs. and sketches outline of future Operations and Training to prepare for these.
5 Reinforcements received from 2nd Bn. E. Surrey Regt. All posted to "H" Coy.
- 15th Mar. Wednesday. N.T.R.
- 16th Mar. Thursday. At 1700 hrs a talk by Bde. Sp. Grp. Off. on M.G. Pln. and 4.2" Mortars at Offs. Evening Period.
30 Reinforcements received & posted to Coys (A-3, B-9, C-9, D-9).
Coy Exercise to practise a Coy acting as an Advance Guard to the Bn. in rapidly overcoming minor resistance. "A" Coy.
- 17th Mar. Friday. Bn. library opened each night 1800-1900 hrs. at Glebe Hotel.
Bn. Exercise (as per 16th March) - "B" Coy.
- 18th Mar. Saturday. Ex. "Shanks" - "A" Coy with u/c rep Carriers Pln., Sec. Mortars, 1 Sec. A/Tk Pln. For 2 days to practice a Coy Gp. Leading the Bn. In the advance & clearing a Tk. Battlefield after dark.
III 44 nos. 5 & 6
- 19th Mar. Sunday. Ex. "Shanks" "B" Coy as above for 2 days, with "A" Coy, 2 Tps. 5 R. Tks. & 1 O.P. Party "D" Bty. 3 R.H.A.
- 20th Mar. Monday. At 2000hrs. the Adelphi Players present "The Bachelor" by Turgenea?.
- 21st Mar. Tuesday. The C.O. addresses all Offs. & N.C.O's of "A" & "B" Coys at 1730 hrs. in H.Q. Coy Rec. Room on "Coy Scheme".
All Offs. To become proficient with M/c by April 1st.
68 Reinforcements received & posted to Coys. ("A"-14, "B"-14, "C"-18, "D"-18).
- 22nd Mar. Wednesday. Bn. Football 11 plays R.A.F. Regt. At MARHAM, lost 6-2.
At 1200 hrs. lecture on USA & Great Brittain by Mr. BENJAFIELD at SANDRINGHAM Hotel.
GERMAN Lessons in "I" Room - instructor A.E.C. Sgt. 1715-1815 hrs.
Security - memorandum from Supreme Comdr. Gen. DWIGHT EISENHOWER on need for highest standard of individual security to be maintained.
- 23rd Mar. Thursday. Offs. Training Period 1700-1900 hrs. - Wireless Exercise, Coy Exercise (as per 16th) - "C" Coy.
- 24th Mar. Friday. Exercise, (as per 16th) - "D" Coy.
- 25th Mar. Saturday. ENSA Show - "Think of a Number" at Town Hall 1930 hrs.
- 26th Mar. Sunday. At 1930 hrs. in Desert Rat Theatre, KINGS LYNN, "Music Lovers Concert".
- 27th Mar. Monday. At 1630 hrs. in SANDRINGHAM Hotel, a lecture "History of Small Arms".

- 28th Mar. Tuesday. At 1000 hrs. at the SANDRINGHAM Hotel a mobile cinema show. (Pln. In Attack & Street Fighting).
(III 44 no. 8).
- 29th Mar. Wednesday. Bn. Football 11 played DOCKING R.A.F. at DOCKING, won 3-1.
32 Reinforcements received.
- 30th Mar. Thursday. Ex. "Shiver" (Ref. Maps She. 55, 65, 66, 76 & Special Sheet 1:50,000 THETFORD)
1330 hrs. Crossed S.L.
1425 hrs. At KINGS LYNN.
1540 hrs. At Conc. Area, Bn. HQ at 213949.
- 31st Mar. Ex. "Shiver" cont. & conc.
(III 44 no. 9).

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

31/3/1944