

## 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary March 1944

MARCH 1944

1st March. Area KINGS LYNN, 076385, Weather Very cold.

0600 Rev.

0880 hrs. Training according to programme for A, B, C, C. & D Coys. HQ Coy under went lectures by an ? selection Board.

1400 hrs. Recreational Training.

1500 hrs. HQ Coy – Inoculations.

2nd March. 0600 hrs. Weathers Cold showers.

0900 hrs. Training according to programme.

Remainder of HQ Coy and part of "B" Coy underwent lectures by the Selection Board.

2i/c Bn. rtn. From leave. Bn. drew 16 x 15 cwt. Tpt.

3rd March. 0600 hrs. Rev.

0830 hrs. Training cont. according to programme.

4th March. 0600 hrs. Rev. Weather Cold & dry.

0830 hrs. Training cont. according to programme.

5th March. 0700 hrs. Rev.

1000 hrs. R.C. & C.E. Church Parades were held.

6th March. 0600 hrs. Rev. Weather Cold & dry.

0830 hrs. Pln. Training cont. according to programme.

7th March. 0600 hrs. Rev. Weather Dry & sunny

0830 hrs. Pln. Training cont. according to programme.

Approximately 20 reinforcements arrived in the Bn. in the morning and were received by the Adjt. (Capt. R.G. PEARCE MC). The C.O. was in London for the investiture of his Decorations.

8th March. 0600 hrs. Rev. Weather Cold & dull.

0830 hrs. Pln. Training cont. according to programme.

1400 – 1515 hrs. A Station HQ Signal Exercise was held in the Bn. area.

9th March. 0600 hrs. Rev. Weather Cold & dull.

0830 hrs. Pln. Training cont. according to programme.

"B" Coy carried out an Exercise with the Mortar Pln.

"C" Coy made use of the Bn. Battle Course.

"A" Coy also spent the day on an Exercise.

1730 hrs. Col. GREENWOOD, Hon. Col. Of the Queen's Regt. Arrived at Bn. H.Q.

10th March. 0600 hrs. Rev. Weather Cold & dull.

0830 hrs. Pln. Training cont. according to programme.

"A" Coy made use of the Bn. Assault Course.

Col. GREENWOOD watched the various Coys at training.  
"C" Coy moved to HILLINGTON G 1844 where they will carry out Coy training.  
15 reinforcements arrived in the Bn. in the afternoon.

- 11th March.           0600 hrs. Rev. Weather Warm & sunny.  
0800 hrs. Party left in Bn. transport from Market Square for Civic Reception given by the Borough of BERMONDSEY.  
0830 hrs. Pln. Training was carried on during the morning thus completing the Pln. Training phase of the Bns. Training programme.  
1400 hrs. The afternoon was spent in recreational training.
- 12th March.           0700 hrs. Rev. Weather Showers.  
1100 hrs. A C.E. Church Parade was held.  
2030 hrs. Party rtn. From Civic Reception.
- 13th March.           0600 hrs. Rev. Weather Windy.  
0830 hrs. Training was commenced at Coy. Level in accordance with the Bns. Training programme.
- 14th March.           0600 hrs. Rev. Weather Fresh & sunny.  
0830 hrs. Coy training cont. according to programme.
- 15th March.           0600 hrs. Rev. Weather Fresh & sunny.  
0830 hrs. Coy training cont. according to programme.
- 16th March.           0600 hrs. Weather cold & dull.  
0830 hrs. Coy training cont. according to programme.
- 17th March.           0600 hrs. Weather Windy & sunny.  
0830 hrs. Coy training cont. according to programme.
- 18th March.           0600 hrs. Weather Warm & sunny.  
0830 hrs. Coy training cont. according to programme.
- 19th March.           0700 hrs. Weather Warm & sunny.  
1000 hrs. R.C. and C.E. Church Parades were held.
- 20th March.           0600 hrs. Weather Warm & sunny.  
0830 hrs. Coy training cont. according to programme.  
1800 hrs. Maj. J. MASON who will Comd. the Bn. on the Bn. Exercise "Shiver" held an "O" Group.
- 21st March.           0600 hrs. Weather Cold & dull.  
0830 hrs. Coy training cont. according to programme.
- 22nd Mar. 0600 hrs. Weather Cold & dull.  
0830 hrs. The Bn. spent the morning preparing for the Bde. Exercise "Shiver"  
1300 hrs. Bn. HQ formed up and left the car park.  
Area 081378. 1315 hrs. Bn. HQ crossed the S.L.

Area 089950. 1400 hrs. after forming up in convoy the Bn. moved off from WEST WINCH in the following order – Bn. H.Q, A, B, C, D, HQ Coys.

Area 211950. 1645 hrs. Bn. arrived in Conc. area having passed through STOKE FERRY, METHWOLD, BRANDON & ELVEDEN.

1700 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. (Brig. M.J. EKINS) arrived at Bn. Tac. HQ and held an “O” Group.

1830 hrs. A Bn. “O” Group attended by officers from the supporting arms was held at Tac. HQ.

23rd Mar. 0345 hrs. Rev. Weather Fresh & sunny.

0500 hrs. The 4 Rifle Coys left the concentration area on foot along the rd. to THETFORD.

0615 hrs. The Supporting Arms and Recce unit began to leave the conc. area.

0730 hrs. Bn. HQ left the conc. area.

Area 323016. 0730 hrs. Tac. HQ and the 4 Rifle Coys arrived in THETFORD. The fwd. body comprising “C” Coy the Carriers Pln. 2 Detachments of the Mortar Pln. One Sect. of the A/Tk. Pln. And Tac HQ supported by “C” Sqn. of 4 C.L.Y. “M” Bty. Of 3 R.H.A. and 1 Tp. Of S.P. A/Tk. Guns (Norfolk Yeomanry formed up and advanced along the Bns. Axis. The recce unit, 8 Hussars then left THETFORD along a roughly parallel axis on the right flank.

Area 329049. 0815 hrs. The 2 Sects. Of Carriers leading the Fwd. Body reached the first bound. HOP. Meanwhile the Main Body comprising D, B, A Coys Bn. HQ and the remainder of the A/Tk. And Mortar Plns. Was following up the Fwd. Body.

0825 hrs. Two of the leading carriers were K.O’d.

Area 357052. 0840 hrs. The 8 Hussars reached their first bound, WINE.

0915 hrs. An A/Tk. Gun was K.O’d.

Area 378085. 0930 hrs. The 8 Hussars continued to advance, no enemy movement being seen by any of their Sub-units. The second bound WOMEN was reached.

Area 325082. 0930 hrs. The leading carriers reached SKIP the second bound on the Bn. axis.

Area 421124. 1015 hrs. 8 Hussars reported that a bridge was blown and the approaches mined.

Area 328096 hrs. 1025 hrs. The Fwd. Body was held up by enemy M.G’s on Frog Hill so “C” Coy prepared to attack with artillery support.

Area 399130. 1045 hrs. 8 Hussars reached Lodge Farm their third bound SONG from which no enemy movement could be seen.

Area 328096. 1100 hrs. “C” Coy successfully took Frog Hill thus reaching the Bns. Third bound JUMP.

Area 452107. 1120 hrs. 8 Hussars made a report on a blown bridge.

Area 328096. 1145 hrs. The Bn. advanced from Frog Hill, “C” Coy moving across country on the left flank with “D” Coy on the right flank followed by “B” Coy, Tac HQ also moved up on the right with “A” Coy remaining in reserve.

Area 336114. 1400 hrs. As “A” Coy was held up by M.G. fire a smoke screen was put down by the arty. Meanwhile “D” Coy were moving up on the right flank until they were in a position to fire on the enemy.

Area 349118. 1430 hrs. Supported by mortar fire “D” Coy attacked and took STAGGER the Bn. forth bound. The Bn. then consolidated, Coys taking up the following positions :- “B” – 352114, “D” – 349118, “C” Coy 343117, “A” Coy 345114, Tac HQ was at 348113 and Main HQ. at 335103.

1540 hrs. The Bn. was warned that an armoured attack was imminent, 10 Mk. IV tanks had been seen moving South from WATTON.

1600 hrs. One enemy Tk. Was K.O'd at 500 yds.

1615 hrs. The Exercise finished and the Bn. conc. at STAGGER.

1645 hrs. The Bn. moved off and proceeded to Threxton (344183) where tea was issued and the Bn. travelled back to KINGS LYNN via SWAFFHAM.

24 – 31st Mar. Area 076385. Weather Fresh & sunny.

Coy Training continued according to programme. A Guard of Honour was chosen and rehearsed for the visit of the Regt. On April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Lt. Col. M. Forrester DSO, MC.

Comdg.

1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regt.

31/3/1944.