

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

JANUARY 1944.

- 1st Jan. At Sea, returning from ITALY to U.K.
0900 hrs. 1/5th Queen's gave demonstration to all Bde. Officers entitled :- "How to make Training more Interesting.
- 2nd Jan. Day spent in lectures. 1600 Great activity on part of escort vessels.
Depth charges were dropped. No other incidents occurred. 1630 hrs. The Coast of Ireland seen, weather was wet & cold.
- 3rd Jan. Day spent in preparation for disembarkation.
- 4th Jan. 1500 hrs. Arrived off GOUROCK in the CLYDE. Ship anchored.
- 5th Jan. 1430 hrs. Bn. transferred by lighter to GREENOCK. At GREENOCK men left kit on Rly. Stn. And march to Transit Camp where an excellent meal was served.
1930 hrs. Half Bn. entrained at GREENOCK and left for HUNSTANTON (NORFOLK).
2330 hrs. Remainder entrained.
- 6th Jan. 1130 hrs. Arrived HUNSTANTON and occupied billets prepared by Advance Party.
Bn. Offs. & Sgt's Messes had been prepared. 1430 hrs. "O" Group all Offs.
Duties apportioned to various offs. – Messing, Welfare, Sport, Billeting etc.
- 7th Jan. 1000. Hrs. C.O., 2i/c & I.O. visited Field Firing Range near OLD HUNSTANTON and training areas.
- 8th Jan. General admin and settling down in new billets. Weather cold and dry was a great change from the temperatures the Bn. had experience during the previous year an a half.
- 9th Jan. 1500 hrs. Sunday. "O" Group for leave arrangements.
- 10th Jan. 0640 hrs. Leave party for N. England left by train. 0925 hrs. First half leave party for Greater LONDON and S.E. of ENGLAND left by train.
- 11th Jan. 0844 hrs. MIDLANDS party left.
- 12th Jan. 0920 hrs. Second half LONDON and S.E. ENGLAND leave party left by train.
- 13th Jan. Bn. on leave.
- 14-19th Jan. Lt. Col. (QM) C.H.J. STAMMER arrived back in this unit.
- 20-25th Jan. Training Instr. No. 1 issued see Appx. 'A' General Instrs. Issued see Appx. 'B'
- 26th Jan. 0430 hrs. First leave party rtn'd.
- 27th Jan. 1100 hrs. C.O. visited Bde.
2145 hrs. Heavy explosion from direction of WASH. Thought to be British planes unloading bombs.

- 28th Jan. 1000 hrs. Brig. L.G. WHISTLER DSO paid farewell visit to Bn. and speaking to the assembled offs. & W.O's said how sorry he was to be leaving and how much he had appreciated the co-operation received in the past from all offs.
 1400 hrs. Offs. Mess Meeting.
 2200 hrs. 3 offs. Joined Bn. Lts. P.M. JONES, H. LOFTHOUSE, & J. STIMSON.
 2200 hrs. Air Raid warning – no appearance of hostile aircraft.
 2245 hrs. all clear.
- 29th Jan. 1130 hrs. New Bde. Comdr. Brig. EKINS visited Bn. HQ.
 1930 hrs. ENSA Concert Party performed in Town Hall.
- 30th Jan. Sunday Lt. W.J.V. LANE arrived back in this unit.
- 31st Jan. 1700 hrs. "O" Group Bn. HQ 1800 hrs. 7 Offs. Arrived Lts. R. SMITH, D. CLEWS, P. GREENALL, 2/Lts. D.R. ANDERSON, L.C. CROSS, G.I.S. BURNETT & E.C. READ.

Lt. Col. D.S. Gordon
 Comdg.
 1/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Appx. 'A'

1/7th 1. The Queens Royal Regiment Training instruction No. 1.

1. General policy.

During the first three weeks of Feb the Bn. will be busy on re-equipping and generally preparing itself for future operations.

It is essential that full advantage is taken of the period available to get all ranks fully trained with our new equipment and to build a reserve of trained personnel for the Specialist Plns. show that personnel can if necessary be interchanged and junior officers and N.C.O's prepared to take over from the senior ones.

2. Immediately after leave.

a. Will be spent in correlating the organisation of all Coys. and Plns.

It is a essential that all Coy. HQ's personnel are complete to establishment and as few changes as possible done after this. Specialist Plns. of HQ Coy. must be brought up to 100% strength. This will in many cases reduce the strength of rifle Coys. but it is expected that the first line reinforcements will shortly be posted to the Bn. in which case all Plns. should be brought up to strength.

a. Before training starts therefore complete your organisation arrange the duties which will be necessary to ensure a smooth and efficient running of the Coy.

Arrangements must be made for administrative personnel such as Orderly's, Sanitary men, Clerks and Cooks to get some training each week or when we get into the field and their duties here become non existent, they will be a drag on the Coy.

3. Period 31st Jan - 20th Feb.

This. Will be spent in individual training including the training of specialists and reserves and a junior N.C.O's Cardre, a Junior Officers Cardre will be started concurrently with the N.C.O's Cardre.

4. Individual training.

- a. The number of men available may be small owing to other commitments see below. This must be appreciated but the fewer men the easier should it be to make their training interesting. That is the first point I wish all officers to consider when working out training periods. The more work that can be carried out on a competitive basis the better.
- b. I have already had comments given me of the excellent bearing and appearance of the troops in the town. Short periods of drill will be carried out each week but I do not want the CSM to invariably command, he should supervise and the junior officers and Sgts. made to drill the Coy., this helps to give them confidence.
- c. Regular P.T. each morning tends to become boring and I would rather see short cross country runs or obstacle courses in F.S.M.O. carried out.

Bayonet drill, boxing or other games may be included in the programme but normal matches will be played in the afternoon. Cooks orderly's storm and etc must take part in one of these forms of daily exercise. I also expect to see the Pln Comdr. taking part in whatever his men are doing and not just standing about watching.
- d. The country close by is ideal for training in individual and section Stalks and this can be organised and made very instructive on a competitive basis.
- e. All men must be capable of handling any arms in the Coy. Rifle, Bren, 2" Mortar, Grenades, Machine Carbine's, PIAT's, T.O.E.T's should be brought up to date. I hope to get a 30 yards range constructed for zeroing and instructing bad shots.