

① New Diagram.
② 10.

1 HEREFORD EXERCISE "HOLDIT"

S E R I A L N U M B E R

1. Instrs for conduct of Ex.
 2. General Idea.
 3. Special Idea - BRIT.
 4. Special Instrs - GERMAN.
 5. Time Table of Events.
 6. FRENCH Place Names.
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D I S T R I B U T I O N .

	Serial No.1.	Serial No.2.	Serial No.3.	Serial No.4.	Serial No.5.	Serial No.6.
"HQ" Coy.	1.	1.	1.	-.	-.	1.
"S" Coy.	1.	1.	1.	-.	-.	1.
"A" Coy.	1.	1.	1.	-.	-.	1.
"B" Coy.	1.	1.	1.	-.	-.	1.
"C" Coy.	1.	1.	1.	-.	-.	1.
"D" Coy.	1.	1.	1.	-.	-.	1.
OC "D" Pl RASC.	1.	1.	1.	-.	-.	1.
B Bde Sp Gp (4 NF).	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.
Capt. C.M. Mason.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.
OO	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.
ZIC	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.
Adjt.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.	1.
MD.	1.	1.	1.	-.	-.	1.
159 Inf Bde.	2.	2.	2.	2.	2.	2.
Spare.	3.	3.	3.	3.	10.	3.
File.	2.	2.	2.	2.	2.	2.
War Diary.	2.	2.	2.	2.	2.	2.

SERIAL NO.1.

INSTRS FOR THE CONDUCT OF EX.

REF MAPS : WOLDS Continental map using FRENCH place names (see serial No.6)

1. OBJECT

- (a) To practice the bn in the attack and consolidation.
- (b) To practice thorough recon and observation.
- (c) To practice new attack fms.

2. DURATION

0630 - 1800 hrs on each 15 and 31 DEC 43.

3. TPS TAKING PART

BRIT - 15 DEC - "A" and "C" Coys.

31 DEC - "B" and "D" Coys.

Both Dates - Tac Bn HQ, "S" Coy less two socs carriers.
 RAP and SBe for two Coys.
 1 NCO and 12 men to rep fwd tps 3 MON, provided
 by "D" Coy - 15 DEC, "A" Coy - 31 DEC.
 One m.m.g. Pl "B" Bde Sp Gp (4 NF).

GERMAN - Both Dates - OC Enemy - Capt. C.M. Mason.
 One skeleton Coy (40 men) provided by -
 "B" Coy on 15 DEC.
 "A" Coy on 31 DEC.
 Coy snipers under SIM.
 One sec Pars.
 "I" Sec OP.
 One A tk gun (A tk pl.)

4. DRESS AND DISTINGUISHING MARKS

BRIT - Donims over 2nd suits BD with FS10.
 Camouflage Nets on Steel Helmets.

GERMAN - Certain personnel in German Uniforms.
 Remainder - Donims and FS Caps.

5. TRG EXPEDIENTS.

BRIT - NO blank will be carried except by party rep 3 MON who
 will carry 30 rds each man.

GERMAN - 50 rds blank per rifle.
 9 Brons to be provided by "D" Coy on 15 DEC and "A" Coy
 on 31 DEC. WTO will provide 500 rds .303 for each bron
 for firing into ground. All empty cases will be picked up.

6. AMM.

BRIT side less party rep 3 MON will carry full G.1098 scale of ALL
 types of amm incl unprimed grenades.

7. DIRECTING AND UMPIRE STAFF

Director : Lieut. Colonel J.B. Churcher.

Asst Director : Major I.K. Freeland.

serial .1 (Contd)

Umpires

- (a) 15 DEC - "A" Coy - Capt. J.F. Croomo, 8 NOOs "B" Coy.
"C" Coy - Capt. R.W. Lench, 8 NOOs Carrier pl.
Carrier/Mortar Gp - Capt. R.C. Fripp, 1 mortar pl NOO.
Pnrs - Lieut. J.G. Roberts.
Pool - R.S.M., C.S.M. Muirhead - "S" Coy.,
3 Ptes - "S" Coy.

(b) 31 DEC - To be detailed later.

(c) ALL UMPIRES WILL WEAR WHITE ARMBANDS,

8. UMPIRES' RECOE.

- (a) 0800 - 1300 hrs, 13 and 30 DEC respectively.
(b) RV Orderly Room 0855 hrs except personnel "B" Coy who will RV TIBTHORPE GRANGE 424769 at 1000 hrs 15 DEC.
(c) Tpt - 2 1/2 15 cwt, one TCV.
(d) OC Enemy and NOO 1/c party rep 3 EDN will also attend recoe (see para 5).

9. PREPARATION OF GERMAN POSN.

- (a) German tps for 15 DEC will prepare enemy posn on 14 DEC.
(b) RV TIBTHORPE GRANGE 1400 hrs.
(c) Tps will remain out on the ground during night 14/15 DEC.
(d) "D" Coy cooks will feed ALL enemy.

10. CLOTH MODEL.

The Ex will be preceded by a Cloth Model Ex on 13 and 30 DEC respectively at 1630 hrs with the object of studying the technique to be practised on the ex. ALL Offrs and NOOs taking part in the ex incl Umpires will attend. Place :- "I" Sec Office, FIRBANK.

11. FINAL CONFERENCE.

For ALL offrs and NOOs who took part in the ex incl umpires - 1800 hrs, 16 DEC and 1 JAN respectively in "I" Sec Office.

12. INSTRUMENT.

- (a) 18 set Comd not.
(b) One 19 set will be allotted to each:-
Director (in COs carrier)
OC Enemy.
Tao Bn HQ.
(c) New map ref code will be used.

ACK.

GENERAL IDEA.

1. The invasion of FRANCE has been in operation for three weeks. YORKSHIRE reps a part of NORTHERN FRANCE.
2. On 14/30 Dec 43 8 Corps with RIGHT Gds Armd Div and LEFT 11 Armd Div broke through the breach made in the GERMAN posns by 12 Corps in area ARRAS (BEVERLEY), and adv NORTH on centre lines respectively LA ROUE (CRANSWICK) 4971 - GOURNAY (DRIFFIELD) - GARTONIER (GARTON-ON-THE-WOLDS) 4579 and LANNION (LUND) 4467 - REDAN (BAINTON) 4471 - TIBERT (TIBTHORPE) 4475 - DOUAI (WETWANG) 4078.
3. 159 Inf Bde were leading adv of 11 Armd Div.
4. By 1600 hrs 14/30 Dec 43 8 N YEO had been halted by a considerable minefield covering an enemy posn on high ground SOUTH of DOUAI, but Gds Armd Div were still adv slowly on high ground NORTH of GARTONIER. 4 KSLI, the leading Bn on Div centre line were in posn on high ground about FERME TIBERT (TIBTHORPE LODGE FM) 427761 and were under considerable MG and mortar fire from reverse slopes and high ground NW of CHATEAU TIBERT.
5. 159 Inf Bde were then ordered to breach the minefield by a night attack to enable 29 Armd Bde to pass through to capture DOUAI.
6. Gist of Bde Comd's Plan :-
 - (a) Night attack and breaching of minefield to be carried out by 3 MDN sp by Div Arty, Bde Sp Gp and 4 KSLI as left flank protection.
 - (b) 1 HEREFORD remain in res in area CHATEAU NANCY (KIRKURN GRANBE) 442765 and be prepared to exploit NW from bridgehead tomorrow".

1 HEREFORD EX "HOLDIT".

EX SECRET.

SERIAL NO. 3.

SPECIAL IDEA - BRIT.

1. Night attack by 3 MON was only partially successful and by 0800 hrs 15/31 Dec 3 MON was disposed as follows, with one gap only completed in the minefield EAST of CHATEAU TIBERT at 427771 :-

Fwd Tps "A" Coy - 200 yds NORTH of CHATEAU TIBERT.

" " "B" Coy.- on high ground NW of CHATEAU TIBERT.

" " "C" Coy - about 425771.

"D" Coy - in ros, and forming gapping parties around and track junc 427767.

2. The rd was badly cratered near 427767 and will take 24 hrs to make fit for traffic, while gapping ops were impossible WEST of the rd and NORTH of 427775, as enemy had observation from about high ground 413768 and MG, mortar and arty fire was intense and accurate.
3. A battle was raging on high ground 4361 in Gds Armd Div area, and infm has been received that GERMENS were being pushed back NW.
4. At 0900 hrs the following Warning Order reached 1 HEREFORD from the CO who was fwd with the Bde Comd on high ground NW of CHATEAU TIBERT with Bn 'O' Gp waiting at 424771 -

"Bn will attack high ground 412779 NOT before 1045 hrs RIGHT A/B Coy LEFT C/D Coy (.) Carrier/Mortar Gp RIGHT flank protection (.) Assembly area EAST of gap about 430770 (.) A Ech remain present location (.) Coy carriers only with Coys (.) 50 rounds SAA extra per rifleman".

NOTE.

1. Ex starts at 0900 hrs when CO sends for 'O' Gp who have come through gap on foot or M/C.
 2. Bn and M&G Pl B Bde Sp Gp will be conc area CHATEAU NANCY by 0900 hrs with F Ech only, having debussed at X Rds 454773.
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1 HEREFORD EX "HOLDIT".

EX SECRET.

SERIAL NO. 4.

SPECIAL INSTRS - GERMAN.

1. GERMANS will occupy a def posn on high ground about 411770 as shown on the ground by the Asst Director during recon on 13/30 Dec 43.
2. All posns will be dug and camouflaged. ALL ranks will act realistically.
3. Posn will be occupied by 0820 hrs 15/31 Dec except for counter-attack force which will rehearse their role from 0830 - 0900 hrs.
4. A series of incidents will be staged during the recon of BRIT side as set out in TIME TABLE OF EVENTS. The times laid down must be adhered to.
5. GERMAN 'I' Sec OP will carefully note any movement spotted on the BRIT side and at what time.
6. GERMAN Pns will lay mines and booby traps as directed by the Asst Director.
7. Men who are dressed in GERMAN uniforms will man LMGs and OPs on fwd slopes and will carry out the counter-attack.
8. Brens will fire live SAA into holes in the ground. An NCO will be with each bron.
9. On capture of objective GERMANS will withdraw to re-entrant 403776 from which counter-attack will be staged. Some snipers will remain behind to harass BRIT during mopping up.
10. Sigs Offr with 18 sot will act as GERMAN interceptor sot.

TIME TABLE OF EVENTS.

SERIAL NO. 5.

Serial. (a)	Time Approx. (b)	Event. (c)	Remarks. (d)
1.	0820.	Enemy in posn.	
2.	0830.	Party rep 3 MON in posn.	
3.	0840.	Bn 'R' Gp at 3 MON view pt 423772.	Comd Bde Sp Gp required. ALL Offrs Umpires " .
4.	0900.	WARNING ORDER to Bn. 'O' Gp to view pt.	
5.	0905 - 0925.	Orders to 'O' Gp. Intermittent enemy MG and mortar fire starts and continues until zero.	
6.	0930 - 0945.	Bn moves to assembly area 430770.	Arty fires smoke to cover close approach. (Umpires).
7.	0925 - 1015.	Recoe by Coy Comds and Specialist Pl Comds.	Liaison with fwd Coy Comds 3 MON.
8.	1015.	Coy Comds' orders. Mortar Pl starts ranging.	
9.	1045.	Pl Comds' orders.	
10.	1100.	Fwd coys, carrier/mortar gp, recoe parties, A tk Pl and MMG Pl (on foot), FOOs, Pnrs, and Tac Bn HQ move through gap to PUP.	Essential vohs for consolidation under "g" Coy Comd remain 430770 until zero, then move through gap to 425771.
11.	1110.	Arty cones and smoking of DOUAI start.	Umpires.
12.	1113.	4.2" Mortar cones start.	Umpires.
13.	1115.	Z E R O. MMGs on left flank start.	
14.	1120.	4.2" Mortars lift.	
15.	1120- 1130.	Mopping up on fwd slopes and crest.	Three prisoners in GERMAN uniforms to be taken.

TIME TABLE OF EVENTS (Continued).

Serial. (a)	Time approx. (b)	Event. (c)	Remarks. (d)
16.	1135.	Objective captured. Consolidation starts.	Enemy posts and snipers to be mopped up - mines and booby traps cleared.
17.	1135.	Essential vehs ordered fwd to RV behind objective.	One A tk Loyd blown up by mine and man-handled fwd.
18.	1145.	Enemy counter-attack by fire.	Umpires.
19.	1205.	Enemy counter-attack.	Will reach BRIT fwd Pts.
20.	1210.	Res Pl right fwd coy counter-attacks sp by LMGs and carrier/mortar gp.	
21.	1300.	Consolidation complete.	Casualties evacuated. Amm replenished. Digging. Mines being cleared. Carrier screen out. FRENCH peasants arrive with infm. (FSP).

BETWEEN 0925 - ZERO THE FOLLOWING INCIDENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN GERMAN POSN.

0940.	(a)	Party lays mines astride track.	Snipers will observe and fire at movement of "R" and "O" Gps.
0945.	(b)	Party carries amm boxes to LMG posts.	
0955.	(c)	Wounded man carried back on stretcher.	
1010.	(d)	A tk gun man-handled into posn and camouflaged.	
1025.	(e)	Man with wireless set puts up more aerial.	
1035.	(f)	BRIT aircraft attacks posn. Riflemen fire at it.	Weather permitting.
1040.	(g)	Cooking fire gives off smoke.	
1045.	(h)	Enemy mortars range on to 420776.	Umpires.

1 HEREFORD EX "HOLDIT".

EX SECRET.

FRENCH PLACE NAMES.

SERIAL NO. 6.

<u>ENGLISH.</u>		<u>FRENCH.</u>
BEVERLEY.	c -	ARRAS.
DRIFFIELD.	-	GOURNAY.
LUND. 4467.	-	LANNION.
BAINTON 4371.	-	REDAN.
TIBTHORPE 4375.	-	TIBERT.
WETWANG 4078.	-	DOUAI.
TIBTHORPE GRANGE 425769.	-	CHATEAU TIBERT.
TIBTHORPE LODGE FM 4375.	-	FERME TIBERT.
WOOD. 413777.	-	BOIS LONG.
HUGGATE LODGE. 3977.	-	HUGOT.
TIBTHORPE HO 421758.	-	PETIT TIBERT.
KIRKBURN GRANGE 442765.	-	CHATEAU NANCY.
GARTON -ON-THE-WOLDS 4579.	-	GARTONIER.
CRAWSWICK 4971.	-	LA ROUE.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I and the Staff Manual respectively. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C 2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn The Herefordshire Regt

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. J. R. Churcher

Month and Year DEC 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appen.
HORNSEA	1.	1730	Bn. attended lecture by Maj. Bouch.M.C. Subject - Experiences of an Inf Bn in North Africa.	
HORNSEA	1		"D" Coy Night Firing at ROLSTON RANGE	
HORNSEA	2		Officers Day T.E.W.T. - Demonstration given by A/Tk Pl.	
HORNSEA	3.		"C" Coy. Night Firing at ROLSTON RANGE	
	5-6		Carrier & Mortar Pls proceeded to WHEEDALE RANGES to practice Carrier & Mortar Combat Gps. Also Pioneer Pl to practice demolitions.	
	6.		"C" Coy., fired Bren Course at ROLSTON RANGE	
	7.		Div Ex. "BEVERLEY II" (Skel Ex) Object - (a) To practice wireless procedure with emphasis on the use of C.W. (b) procedure at Div Order Gp. & the issuing of orders	
	7		Personnel Selection Team attached to Bn for Selective Testing of all O.Ps.	
HORNSEA	7		"D" Coy fired Bren Course	