

SECRET

ORIGINAL }
DUPLICATE } Strike out where
TRIPLICATE } not applicable.

WAR DIARY

OF

2nd Bn Sherfordshire Regiment

From *January 1944* To

Appendices To

26/Records

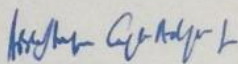
26/W.D.

432

26/W.D./A.

WAR DIARY

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices
Shortridge Hall,	4th Jan.44	Rehearsal for Exercise "PTARMIGAN". This was a demonstration of a Deliberate Attack through a minefield. 114 Bde and supporting Tps took part.	
Warkworth.	5th Jan.44	The I.O. proceeded on 2 Corps Intelligence Course at Morris Grange.	
Nr. Morpeth.	5th Jan.44	Lt. P.J.W. Cuckney promoted Captain w.e.f. 3rd Jan.44.	
	6th Jan.44	2/Lt K.H. Crockford was posted to the Bn and 2/Lt G.R. Bonass was attached. Lt G. Allen and Lt G.C. Lowe attached to the Bn.	
	7th Jan.44	Dress rehearsal for Exercise "PTARMIGAN". Exercise "PTARMIGAN". This went extremely well and the Brigadier was complimentary afterwards by G.O.C. 38(W) Inf Div. on the very valuable lessons learnt.	
	11th Jan.44	Advance parties for Move to the Isle of Wight left by road.	
	14th Jan.44	Road party for move left under command of Major J.C. Carver. The journey took four days and no vehicle in the Bn column was delayed for more than half an hour through any mechanical fault. Lt M.C.A. Vallenge joined the Bn.	
	15th Jan 44	2/Lt R.H. Jauncey joined the Bn.	
	17th Jan.44	Main Rail party left Northumberland for Isle of Wight. The arrangements worked extremely well. Tea was provided at Doncaster and Breakfast at Southampton by Movement Control.	
	18th Jan.44	The Main Party crossed to Cowes in the Paddle Steamer "SOLENT" and then entrained for Sandown.	
Sandown.	18th Jan.44	X.Y.S Coys and Bn H.Q. remained in Sandown and W Coy moved out to Shanklin.	
I.O.W.	23rd Jan.44	The Operational Role was very exacting. On Lt Lightbodys admission to hospital, Lt J.T.S. Buchan was temporarily attached to the Bn. The Bn received a letter from the ALNWICK Police congratulating all ranks on their behaviour in their last Station. 2/Lts A.B. Owles, J.A. Reckless and P. Alston. Lt Delplanque joined the Bn.	


 Lt Colonel.
 Commanding The 2nd Bn Herefordshire Regiment.

WAR DIARY.

Pro-forma in lieu of A.F.C. 2128

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
Sandown. I.O.W.	1st Feb.44	T/Captain J.D. Sale joined the Bn and took over command of "Y" Company.	
	2nd Feb.44	Captain (Q.M.) Brown E.R. appointed M.B.E. in New Years Honours List 1944.	
	4th Feb.44	Lt A de W Wigley proceeded on Pl Weapons Course at Bisley.	
	11th Feb.44	Exercise "EAGLET". This was to practise communications within the Division. It was a skeleton exercise with Bn H.Qs complete.	
	13th Feb.44	Lt A de W Wigley to be Acting Captain w.e.f. 4th Jan 44.	
	15th Feb.44	2/Lt G.R. Bonass proceeded on Battle School Course at 38(W) Inf Div Battle School.	
	17th Feb.44	Lt J.C. Lightbody rejoined the Unit and Lt J.T.S. Buchan departed.	
	20th Feb.44	The Bn was successful in three weights at The Southern Command Boxing Championships. The three successful boxers were Sjt C.Wills, Cpl J..Brougham and Pte R.C. Williams. Unfortunately they were eliminated in the Southern Section of the Army Finals.	
	24th Feb.44	I.O and I. Section proceeded on Course at 38 (W) Inf Div. Battle School. Lt. V. Mountford proceeded to 114 Inf Bde as Comd of the Defence Pl.	
	25th Feb.44	Exercise "EAGLET VI This was a skeleton exercise to practice communications, R/T and C.W. procedure and the movement of Bn. H.Q.	
	28th Feb.44	"Y" Company carried out a Field Firing Exercise on Cleveland Down.	
	29th Feb.44	A.C.G. addressed the Bn in the Pavilion, Sandown. Lt/Col W.A. Grey relinquished his command of the Bn and Lt/Col C.D. Barlow took over command. Lt/Col W.A. Grey gave a parting address to the whole Bn in the afternoon and there was a farewell party in the Officers Mess in the evening.	

There were no major items of interest during this month. Great importance continued to be attached to the Operational Role of the Bn and the state of readiness was kept at the highest pitch.

The numerous new officers who joined the Bn during the past two months raised some hope that the Bn might have a more important role in the future, but the formation of a fourth company had to be postponed due to the shortage of men.

As regards training, the variety of courses of all sorts and the number of vacancies allotted, if anything increased. The Brigadier attached great importance to correct Deployment on Field Firing and on giving all men an opportunity to fire by night.

W.A. Grey
Lt Colonel.
Commanding The 2nd Bn Herefordshire Regt.

WAR DIARY.

Proforma in lieu of A.F.C. 2128.

Inf.

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks on appendices.
Sandown. I.O.W.	1st.March.44	Lt/Col C.D. Barlow assumed command of the Bn vice Lt/Col W.A. Grey. The loss of Lt/Col Grey was felt by all ranks and the Bn wished him success in his new appointment.	
	3rd.March.44	Lts. W.G. Trotter and R.A. Delphanque were posted for service overseas.	
	4th.March.44	Lt V. Mountford was posted to H.Q. 114 Inf Bde as commanded of the Defence Pl. G.O.C. Home Forces, Lt.Gen. H.E. Franklyn KCB.DSO.MC. visited the Bn.	
	7th.March.44	Exercise "WIDGEON". This was a demonstration by the 5 K.S.L.I. of a Bn attack. 2 Herefords Support Company acted as enemy and also one Rifle Company. These were commanded Major Singleton.	
	8th.March.44	The Bn started an interchange of Officers and N.C.Os with the 60th Inf Regt, 9th U.S.Division, for periods of one week. This is proving a great success.	
	9th.March.44	Orders were received for the Bn to find a draft of 3 officers and 213 O.Rs for service overseas.	
	14th.March.44	The officers selected were, Capt J.H. Ridlington, Lt. G.A. Reckless and 2/Lt A.B. Owles. The draft was a great disappointment to the Bn but training is being carried on as fully as possible with particular attention to the training of Specialists.	
	15th.March.44	Cadres of Officers and N.C.Os are being run.	
	9th.March.44	A draft of 8 O.Rs arrived to the Bn from 20 I.T.C.	
	14th.March.44	Lt/Col C.D. Barlow gave his first address to the Bn.	
	15th.March.44	T/Capt P.J.W. Cuckney proceeded to A.tk Pl Concentration at HARLECH, North Wales.	
	17th.March.44	A further draft of 23 O.Rs had to be found by the Bn for 101 Reinforcement Group, 21st Army Group.	
	20th.March.44	A.I.A. inspected all the arms of the Bn.	
	21st.March.44	Composite Company from the Bn held a Field Firing Exercise on Cheverton Field Firing Range.	
	22nd.March.44	The Bn carried out Night Firing on Newtown Range, using 2" Mortar Illuminating Bombs and Verey Lights. These were used as an experiment and the exercise proved interesting and instructive, and was of great practical value.	
	17th.March.44	Exercise "WIDGEON". This was a skeleton exercise on the lines of the former WIDGEON and was more in the nature of a T.E.W.T. It was run by Major Gale and all Officers, W.Os and Senior N.C.Os attended.	
	20th.March.44	The Bn was turned out and this was done to test the new Operational Role. The although the normal means of recall was not used, by orders of Higher command, the Bn were in their posns in good time. And although a few alterations were necessary, on the whole the Operational Role worked extremely well.	
	21st.March.44	The Commanding Officer addressed all W.Os and N.C.Os in the Bn on dress turnout of all ranks, when on parade and off duty. In his opening remarks he stated that he had no complaint to make, but he thought that he would like everyone to be dress conscious. A committee consisting off the C.O. as chairman, Q.M., R.S.M., and all C.S.Ms was formed to bring forward suggestions for the improvement of "Turnout".	
	22nd.March.44	The wearing of respirators was reintroduced through-out the Bn for periods of half an hour.	
	21st.March.44	The personnel on Draft returned to the Unit after 12 days embarkation leave.	
	22nd.March.44	Field Firing was carried out by "Y" Company on Cheverton Field Firing Range and men also classified for their War Course.	
	22nd.March.44	The Rugby XV entered the 2nd Round of the Divisional Knockout Competition, by defeating 182 Field	

WAR DIARY.

Proforma in lieu of A.F.C. 2128.

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks on Appendices.
Sandown. I.O.W.	22nd.March.44 Cont.	Regt. R.A. by 19pts to 8 pts. The Soccer XI entered the 3rd Round of the Divisional Competition by defeating the Divisional Signals by 8 goals to 1 Night Firing continued and further lessons were learnt by those taking part.	
	25th. March.44	Lt. M.J. Wheelock assumed the duties of Bn I.O. vice Capt O.T. Bulmer who was posted to H.Q. 114 Bde as Bde I.O.	
	27th.March.44	T/Capt J.H. Ridlington and four other officers together with 213 O.Bs proceeded on Draft RKBQM. The Divisional Knock-out Football Match (3rd Round) 2 Herefords v 5 K.S.L.I. resulted in a decisive win for the Bn. The result being 2 Herefords 4 and 5 K.S.L.I. Nil.	
	31st. March.44	The Bn had a Turn-out during the morning to show the opposite numbers of the 5 K.S.L.I. the posns of the Bn during Stand-To. 5 K.S.L.I. are to change over with the Bn on Friday April 7th.44.	

The Draft of 5 Officers and 213 O.Bs which had to be found during the month was notably a great disappointment, but training continued with especial emphasis on specialist training. The Operational Role remained unchanged and the depleted companies had to be reformed to meet the requirements. One company was formed and split up into Two Groups for the defence of the V.Ps. One Group to each V.P. One company was also formed for the Counter-attack role. This was found to work extremely well and no major alterations had to be made to the Operational Role.

The Bn XV and XI had a successful month and reached the 2nd Round and Semi-finals respectively in the Divisional Knock-out Competition.

C.O. Bulmer

Lt.Colonel.
Commanding 2nd Bn Herefordshire Regiment.

WAR DIARY.

Pro-forma in lieu of A.F.C. 2128

Place.	Date.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to appendices.
Sandown. I.O.W.	2/4th April 44	Exercise "NIGHTINGALE" This was a Bde exercise mainly to test the Bns in their operational roles. The Bn moved out to the concentration area but was not called upon to counter - attack any positions. There was great activity by enemy agents on A.A. Sites and various V.Ps on the Island.	
	8th April 44	All officers were ordered by the Commanding Officer to wear O.Rs Cap Badges.	
Shanklin. I.O.W.	11th April 44	Unit censorship was brought into effect. All letters and private correspondence to be posted through unit channels and censored by unit censor officer.	
	12th April 44	The Bn moved to Shanklin and took over the Operational Role from The 5th Bn. K.S.L.I.. The 5 K.S.L.I. took over the Bns old Role in Sandown.	
	14th April 44	The Bn started an Officers and N.C.Os Tactical Cadre under Major Gale. Also a Junior N.C.Os and Ptes W.T cadre was commenced under Capt A deWigley. the unit W.T. Officer.	
	15th April 44	The Bn held its first dance in the new location.	
	16th April 44	The Commanding Officer carried out a full kit inspection and also an inspection of all billets. Capt Cuckney was attached to U.S. Army for a period 16 - 22 April.	
	18th April 44	Lt. P Alston proceeded on Course to Rifle Wing No 25, 38th Div. Battle School.	
	21st April 44	The Bn Football XI beat the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders in a match held at Ventnor. An unfortunate accident occurred in which Pte Carthy 4032919 was killed by a Motor-cycle. His death was felt by all personnel of the Bn.	
	24th April 44	Major P.E. Barnsley proceeded on Senior Wing Company Commanders Course Serial No 28 at School of Infantry, Barnards Castle.	
	25th April 44	An E.N.S.A. Show was presented to the Bn and was held in the Town Hall, Shanklin. It was "Birth and Melody" and was certainly the best show that the Bn had seen for some time.	
	27th April 44	Telephoneless Days were introduced throughout the Div and communications are maintained by the use of 18 sets. One day per week is laid down as a Telephoneless day.	
	28th April 44	In the Final of the Div six a side Hockey Competition, the Bn beat the 38 Div Signals A in a hard fought contest.	
	29th April 44	Exercise "LOCUST" This was an exercise set by Bde of a ^{Co} attack supported by Artillery. The exercise went off very well and the companies who carried out the attack went in with energy.	
30th April 44	The Rugby XV played the Brecknock Bn, S.W.B. at Newport but the opposing team were too strong and after a hard game beat the Bn team by 35 pts to Nil.		
		All 24 hour passes were suspended indefinitely.	

There were no major items of interest during this month. Training was kept up to a very high pitch, despite the Bns Operational Role. The state of readiness was maintained throughout and the Bn was turned out on several occasions. The Bn was reorganised on its move to Shanklin and two rifle companies were formed in place of the original company groups. The Rugby XV reached the finals of the Div Knockout Competition and the Football XI also reached the Finals.

cdBaker
Lt Colonel.
Commanding The 2nd Bn Herefordshire Regiment.

WAR DIARY.

Place.	Date.	Summary of Information.
Shanklin.	1st May 44	T/Capt P.W. Tomlinson joined the Bn and was posted to "W" Coy.
	2nd " 44	The Bn had a practice turnout at 0430 hrs to test the new additions to the Operational Role.
	4th " 44	The Bn held a party for all ranks in the Town Hall, Shanklin. It included a dance and cabaret besides some very amusing sideshows. All ranks enjoyed themselves and it is hoped that many more such evenings will be arranged.
	6th " 44	Exercise "LIVELY". This was an exercise set by the Brigade Commander. The Bn was turned out in the early hours and although minor setbacks occurred the Bn got into its concentration area in good time. In support were tanks of "A" Sqn. Royal Gloucester Hussars. "Live enemy" were placed out under the direction of the Brigadier. The Operational Role worked out well and attacks were made on the V.Ps which were the responsibility of the Bn.
	8th " 44	T/Capt A de Wigley was attached to 38(W) Inf Div Battle School as an instructor. Lt. P.G.N. Kilvington joined the Bn and was posted to "W" Coy. Capt. C.E. Russell proceeded on Course No 5 at the Army School of Chemical Warfare.
	9th " 44	The Brigadier held a conference on Exercise "Lively" and he stressed the importance of being on the alert and at an instant state of readiness.
	10th " 44	The Bn Cricket XI played the R.A.F. Regt at Ventnor and won easily by 9 wickets.
	16th " 44	Exercise "STAYOUT" The Bn moved out to live in the concentration area for an indefinite period. Only essential personnel were left in billets, and normal training continued to be carried out.
	18th " 44	The Officers and Sjts challenged the Officers and Sjts of the 181 Bty R.A. to a football match. It was an amusing but hard fought game and the Bn team won by 2 goals to 1.
	21st " 44	The Bn held its first Open Air Church Parade for some time and it was conducted by the Senior Chaplain to the Division. Our own Padre was unfortunately in hospital after a motor-cycle accident.
	22nd " 44	Lt. M. Wheelock proceeded on a War Intelligence Course at Matlock School of Intelligence.
	23rd " 44	An "O" Group exercise was held and the purpose was to practise the preparations and orders for a Bn counter-attack on a defensive posn.
	27th " 44	The Cricket XI played the 5 KSLI and the result was a decisive win for the opposing team.
	29th " 44	Exercise "NONSTOP": This was a platoon competition for platoons found from units within the Brigade. It consisted of a 10 miles forced march followed by a platoon attack. Points were gained for smart turnout, clarity of orders and finally for the attack. The Bn found two platoons for this exercise and the one found by "W" Coy tied with the Brigade Defence Platoon for first place. All platoons put
	31st " 44	Exercise "NONSTOP". This was a platoon competition for platoons found from units within the Brigade. It consisted of a 10 miles forced march followed by a platoon attack. Points were gained for smart turnout, clarity of orders and finally for the attack. The Bn found two platoons for this exercise and the one found by "W" Coy tied with the Brigade Defence Platoon for first place. All platoons put

WAR DIARY.

Place Date. Summary of Information.

Shanklin. 31st May 44

a very good show and they showed keenness throughout. The Brigade commander congratulated the winners.

Summary - During the month the Grading of Men in their Physical Efficiency Tests were carried out and it was found that the men took great interest in the tests. Intensive Weapon Training and N.C.Os Cadres were continued. Although the Bn were living out, training went on as usual and all personnel settled down well to the new conditions. Throughout, the Bn remained at an instant state of readiness and many TMS were carried out in the Operational Role.

C. B. ...
Lt. Col.
The 2nd. Bn Herefordshire Regiment.