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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	1 SEP 44		<p>The Bn moved off from Cote Cote at 0900 hrs this morning. Again the weather was good and after a short stop at Bennetot, we arrived at the outskirts of Dieppe. We left the main road and proceeded along tracks to the area Leplessis but found that the bridges across the Lascie River were blown and that we were unable to get to the main LeHavre road and so proceeded into Dieppe. The Bn halted at Leplessis and took up positions there. A recon party under Major Mackenzie went into Dieppe and found quarters for the Bn there - in the event that word came for us to move in. The position at Leplessis was near the Canadian cemetery and it was found that the graves of Essex Scottish men who fell in the raid were well tended and that records had been kept by the citizens of Dieppe. The area around Dieppe proved to be one of the most heavily mined on the coast, and it did require care in order to avoid casualties. The Bn position was at the bottom of a steep hill near the Lascie River and BHQ was close by a ruined building which had formerly been a German barrack. At the foot of the hill were elaborate air raid shelters from which civilians were still emerging with their belongings. Three prisoners were brought in here, and gave information about the whereabouts of the enemy. At 1930 hrs, on information received from military and civilian sources, the C.O. sent out a battle group to search for a number of Germans believed to be in the vicinity of Luneray about 12 kilometres to the WSW. The gp consisted of 'A' coy assisted by carriers, MMG and A tk and was a most impressive sight, with armed men perched in every conceivable spot. Major McIntyre, OC 'A' coy, was in charge. The group made its way south the St Aubin Sur Soie, thence through Heufmesnil to Gueures, where contact was established with the 8th Recon who reported NO enemy in the vicinity. Major McIntyre decided to recon as far as Luneray and leaving the main force at Gueures, took three carriers with him. The recon party pressed on to Luneray and roared in like conquerors to receive a tumultuous reception and also to find a recon unit of the 51st Highland Div parked in the town square. The 51st had found no enemy in the area and suggested that Major McIntyre accompany them on a further recon - which he did after successfully clearing the populace from his carrier. He returned at 2230 hrs to Gueures, having found nothing and the battle gp made its way rather disappointedly, back to camp.</p>	<p>Appx 1, 5, 14</p> <p>HBF</p>
	2 SEP 44		<p>The Bn today moved into Dieppe. The move took place at 1330 hrs and our new quarters proved to be a modern school (Jules Ferry) which had been occupied by the Germans and had most of the necessities, though furniture and lights were lacking. We were soon settled in the building and it was a pleasant change after long sieges in slit</p>	<p>Appx 2</p> <p>HBF</p> <p>12</p>



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	2 SEP 44		trenches. The school was situated about 400 yds from the Rouen Dieppe highway on the LeHavre road. The town was placed in bounds to the troops until 2200 hrs and the pipe band played a concert in the town and also played retreat there. The town was not badly damaged by air raids or demolitions and the inhabitants seemed ready and anxious to do what they could for us. Offrs and sgts messes were soon established and were outfitted chiefly through the good offices of the mayor. In passing, it is worth noting that the Essex Scottish pipe band was the first to play retreat in the city of Dieppe.	HP
	3 SEP 44		This has been a great day for Canadians. Five years of war are complete. Everywhere the enemy is on the run and on this lovely Sunday, the Canadian army officially squared accounts for the losses of 1942. In the early morning, flowers were placed upon the graves of Essex Scottish men who fell at Dieppe. These were obtained from the citizens and together with those placed by other units, formed a magnificent background for the services which were held at 1115 and 1200 hrs. A strong wind blew and the great clouds and deep blue sky made the ceremonies most impressive. At 1400 hrs, the Bn shined and smoothed to the best of its ability marched past the Army Comd in the main square of Dieppe. The Bn after passing the reviewing stand, went down to the Esplanade where a short memorial service was held in front of the tobacco factory. The service included the Last Post, the Lament and then the Long Reveille. After the service, the C.O., Lt Col Bennett reviewed the Dieppe campaign and the men were led over the battle area by BSM Dixon and others of the unit who were there. Their interest in and recollections of various places were both touching and impressive. At 1800 hrs Retreat was played in front of BnHQ and at 1930 hrs Mess dinners were held in the offrs and sgts messes both of which were highly successful. The new Brig, Brig Cabellau was present, but unfortunately, due to the hasty preparations, many members of the unit at Div and elsewhere, were unable to come. The CO spoke of the Regt and expressed his hope that the Bn would live up to the standards set for it. Following the dinner, a dance for offrs of 4 Bde was held in the city and was much enjoyed by everyone, language difficulties being overcome by signs.	HP
	4 SEP 44		The Bn enjoyed a pleasant day in its billets at Jules Ferry school. Bath parades were held; washing was done; a baseball tournament was organized by Major Mackenzie and the ancient sgts - offrs rivalry continued with the sgts (as usual) on the winning end. The YMCA managed to get its third different film in three days and it was much	App 1 HP 73



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	4 SEP 44		appreciated. Dieppe was again open to troops until 2200 hrs and many of the men took the opportunity of visiting the town, finding the price of liquor almost prohibitive. About 50 reinforcements arrived and were received with open arms by the Bn.	APX
	5 SEP 44		Another day in Dieppe. This was a surprise as we had expected to move, but no word had, as yet, come through. The Bn had settled in comfortably and there were rumours to the effect that we should be pleased to establish a firm base in the town for the duration. Clothes had been washed, boots shined, socks changed, and the Bn was in good shape to take up the chase once more.	APX 1
	6 SEP 44		The Bn moved out of Dieppe at 1215 hrs. The weather was again favourable and the Bn was embussed for the journey to Dunkerque. F & A echelons moved along with us and an impressive column was thus formed. The straight good road led through pleasant country, with little sign of war about. The population in the rather shabby villages en route greeted us warmly and, as always, with the cry "Cigarette! Chocolate! At 1945 hrs, the column pulled off the road just north of Lepine and stayed there until 2200 hrs when we moved on again. The night was pitch black and rain began to fall, which, coupled with the cold, made things unpleasant. There was no sign of the enemy but the column moved slowly and clumsily due to the conditions.	APX
	7 SEP 44		The Bn pulled into an assembly area in a woods north of Quercamp and was thoroughly miserable. We took up a position and remained there until 1500 hrs when the Bn moved down to Quercamp, a small town which afforded some cover and better roads for entrance and exit. The pipe band played in the evening for the admiring populace and everyone dried out as the weather cleared. HQ here was in a rather dilapidated house the entrance to which was quite a problem in the dark. This was a Div concentration area and so far as we know we were headed for Dunkerque.	APX
	8 SEP 44		The Bn remained in Quercamp during the day, receiving several tips from Maquis as to the whereabouts of the enemy. Each of these proved to be a false alarm when investigated by patrols. At 2215 hrs, just as a drenching rain started to fall, word came in to move at once. The route was vague and the night very black and the prospect did not look inviting. The objective of the Bn was Osten, which was reported to be in the hands of the Maquis (or Belgian equivalent) The Bn was to	APX 14



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	8 SEP 44		move with the SX leading followed by the ERC and RHLL. All went very well as the rain stopped and a bright moon came out. We rolled through St Omer making good time and meeting no opposition.	HP
	9 SEP 44		At about 0500 hrs today, the Bn crossed into Belgium, continuing the movement without trouble. A wildly enthusiastic populace greeted us as we rolled along and apples, pears and tomatoes were thrown into each vehicle. The country side was most picturesque, with the clean colourful little houses and well kept farms. The Germans had flooded a good part of the land but after several detours the Bn passed through Fruges and moved unopposed into the city of Ostende. In Ostende we received a tremendous reception. Paper Belgian flags (bearing the advertisement of a margarine manufacturer) were on every vehicle. Wine and beer appeared as well as fruit and flowers and the people literally overwhelmed us with kindness. The children swarmed all over the vehicles and it was necessary to pull them from every nook and cranny before the Bn could proceed. The BnHQ billeted in a big school just off the Blvd Queen Elizabeth - again, a former German barrack. There was plenty of furniture and in short order, the Bn was well settled. In the evening, the pipe band played in the square and was literally mobbed by enthusiastic onlookers. Permission was granted by the CO for a part of the Bn to remain in town until 2130 hrs and a good time was had by all those fortunate enough to obtain this privilege.	Appx 2 HP
	10 SEP 44		See Appx ' : letter from CO to Col Prince dated 13 SEP 44. Bn moved a battle group to Westende.	HP Appx 1, 2
	11 SEP 44		At Lombartzyde: See Appx ' : letter from CO to Col Prince dated 13 SEP 44.	HP
	12 SEP 44		At Lombartzyde: See Appx ' : letter from CO to Col Prince dated 13 SEP 44.	HP
	13 SEP 44		The Bn moved out of Lombartzyde bound for Dunkerque at 1030 hrs today. It was, as usual, a magnificent day and the convoy made excellent time as it rolled through Nieuport and Fruges to tail the rest of the Bde which had been at Bruges. The trip was without incident and we passed from Belgium into France, almost with regret as we had received such a wonderful reception in Belgium. The route led through Rexpoele to West Cappell where the Bde took up positions with the RHLL forward on the left, the ERC on the right and the Essex Scots in reserve. There were still enemy in the /5	Appx 13 HP

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	13 SEP	44	ancient fortress of Berques which lay to the north across a canal and the two forward Bns immediately commenced active patrolling to find a crossing and a method of passing the flooded areas. In the meantime, the Bn took up a position at West Cappell. BnHQ was in a fine old chateau owned by a most charming old lady who was kindness itself to everyone. The members of BnHQ wallowed in luxury for the period of our stay there. The role of the Bn was not a difficult one, at the moment, and we settled in immediately.	
	14 SEP	44	The weather was fine again and the Bn remained in a static role. OPs were established and the other units in the Bde were active in patrolling. A good deal of useful information was received from civilians but the day was spent in feeling out enemy defences. The YMCA produced a movie and both troops and civilians (mostly refugees from Dunkerque and Berques) enjoyed it. The pipe band played in front of the chateau and Retreat was sounded there for the especial benefit of our charming hostess.	App 1.
	15 SEP	44	The attack on Berques was set up today. There were only about 150 men commanded by a Lt in the town according to all reports and the Bn role was that of firm base to the attacks of the BNLI and the RBC. The boys moved forward to take over RBC positions several kilometres to the north but BnHQ remained at the chateau. The attack went well across the canal and the Bn was expecting to receive orders to move up, when surprisingly, the order came to cancel the whole affair. We were a bit in the dark as to the reason for this but were pleased enough to sit back and enjoy a quiet night. However, the order to move came at 0240 hrs on 16th morning, and there was a wild rush to get things in shape. An illuminated address, bearing an Essex Scottish shoulder flash, badge and suitable blurb was presented to our hostess prior to departure.	
	16 SEP	44	The Bn moved out of West Cappell at 0400 hrs, on the long road to Antwerp. The Bde starting point was Bexpoede and the Bn led the column with the BNLI and RBC following. It was pitch black at the hour of starting and a slight delay was incurred in manoeuvring, but time was quickly made up when we hit the main road. In a way, we were sorry not to have had a crack at Dunkerque, but understood that Imperial troops were to have their turn as we had had ours at Dieppe. Incidentally, a rather interesting story later came out of Berques, which the Lt and his 150 men had been told to defend to the death. It appeared that half of his men wanted to surrender /6	



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	16 SEP 44		and his half wanted to retreat and his, leaving the Lt beset on all sides to blow his brains out. The morning proved to be fair, but cool and the column made very good time down the main road through Poperinghe, Ypres, St Julien and Roulers. The fresh green countryside around Ypres and St Julien showed no signs of an earlier and more bitter war. Memory is short, it is true, but most of the troops, many of them unborn when these names were on all tongues, knew well of these places and took a keen interest in all that they saw. Of particular interest was the magnificent war memorial near St Julien post which the column rolled at high speed to testify to our fathers that we still sought the foe. At midday, the Bn passed through Ghent, from which Dirk galloped the news. It proved to be a large, clean and interesting city but we rolled quickly through the outskirts. Late in the afternoon we arrived on the outskirts of Antwerp and slowly moved into the centre of the city to receive a tremendous welcome. After riding themselves of enthusiastic admirers the troops cooked a meal on the street and waited for word to move into the Bn areas. This came only after dusk as the enemy was quite active on the northern outskirts of the city and the Essex area had been under shell fire. The recon party suffering three casualties in the vicinity of the prospective BnHQ. At 2230 hrs, the Bn was well in position taking over from the RLI, who were able to give us much useful info. BnHQ was in an enormous block of flats situated, appropriately on Canada Lane. The enemy was fairly active and an occasional shell whizzed overhead. The Bn position bordered the railway tracks near the suburb of Merxem. Our position was on the right front, with the RLI to the left and rear and the BRC behind us.	HA
	17 SEP 44		The Bn's role was merely a holding one until the 5th and 6th Bns moved up. The weather was clear and OPs for which there were many choices, were set up. The day was quiet except for occasional shelling and patrols were tied up during the afternoon for the night. The ground to the north which was very low, lying was flooded by the Germans who were anxious to do as much damage as possible. Liaison was established with the Belgian Makis and the LO att to the Bn proved to be a most charming and interesting Mr Feby who later was to be a great help to us. The Pipe band played in a city park in the evening and were mobbed, as usual, by admirers so much so that the pipers had virtually no privacy from that time on. This was the first of a number of appearances in Antwerp.	appx 2 HA
	18 SEP 44		The Bn continued to sit tight and gather info. An alarm was sounded during the night but it proved to be false. The task was made difficult by civilians who swarmed	HA

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	18SEP44		all over the front, engaging in all sorts of peculiar tasks. Many reports were turned in, and the enemy reacted quickly to all our movements. A mess was set up in each of the coy areas and in BnHQ and there was considerable comfort in the midst of desolation.	HA
	19SEP44		The weather continued fair and warm. There was little change in the situation and the Jerrys remained at a distance shelling us. The chief target was BnHQ which was an enormous rectangular block of flats, split in the centre by a drive way and having a large courtyard in each half. The shells, for the most part, bounced off the block and did little damage to anything except the owners pocketbook. Leave was instituted on a basis of 7 1/2 of the Bn at a time and passes were issued for a 4 hour period. The troops found beer and plenty of fruit in Antwerp as well as ice cream and a great rush on the soda fountains began.	Appx 1 HA
	20SEP44		This was another quiet day marked only by occasional shelling. Due to the high tides occasioned by the autumnal equinox the area to the North of us and on B coys front was flooded. The flooding continued to rise and extended also to the East on A coy's front. Patrols were sent out and one recon patrol caught an enemy patrol asleep and captured 4 of 6, killing one other. The prisoners proved to be young and unprepossessing. The Bn was reorganized on a 4 rifle coy basis today after having had only 3 coys for some weeks. The day drew to a close and the Bn was expecting a peaceful night, when suddenly a vicious attack burst upon the 'Z' (Dog) coy area. An enemy fighting patrol of considerable strength crossed the canal from the East, moved over the railway embankment and right in on the coy positions. For a short time things were quite serious as enemy MGs put down a great deal of fire and 88mm guns pounded coy HQ. Two carrier secs were moved to 'Z' coy left flank, but the personnel of one sec were casualties almost immediately and the other carried on alone. After a sharp skirmish during which 'Z' coy forward secs were withdrawn, mortar fire was brought down, the Arty covered the canal bridge and the enemy began to retreat. At 2224 hrs they had retreated across the railway embankment and 'Z' coy had regained its positions. A pl from 'A' coy was brought down to assist in consolidating the area and took up a position on the left flank well forward. It was during this action that the C.O., Lt Col Bennett was wounded by shrapnel in the leg. He received a nasty knock but carried on until the action was brought to a successful conclusion. He had become admired and respected during his short stay with the Bn, and his going was a great loss to the Essex Scottish. His command was left in the capable hands of the 2 i/c,	HA /8



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	20SEP44		Major Mackenzie. The Bn suffered a number of casualties in this short but vicious attack, and did well to stave off the strong German force.	AP
	21SEP44		After the skirmish of the previous night, the Bn prepared for further eventualities, but none were forthcoming. A close check was kept on enemy activities, but the OPs were considerably hampered by poor visibility. A great deal of information came in, however, as everyone was on his toes. The enemy was not very aggressive, but kept us advised of his presence with occasional mortaring and shelling. The 7 <sup>th</sup> leaves were continued and bath parades to Antwerp were held. There proved to be a number of public baths in the city - some of them positively luxurious.	Appx 1 H
	22SEP44		The weather was clear again and there was not a great deal of enemy activity. A fighting patrol was lined up to go to Marxem from which the enemy were reported to have withdrawn. Events proved this info to be false as the patrol had gone only a few hundred yards when the officer in charge, Lt Crane was wounded by a rifle grenade. The patrol was then withdrawn as no covered approaches were available and the houses in the area were plastered with Arty and mortar fire. By this time, we were getting used to the landscape, which was by no means an attractive one, and could refer to the "Station" Haystack Farm, Chateau etc as old friends and with reasonable certainty that the listener would know what was meant. The Bn area was bounded on the south by the docks of Antwerp, on the east by a railway embankment beyond which lay flat open country to the NE and the industrial suburb of Marxem to the SE. To the north lay flat marshy country, presently inundated and dotted with wire and slit trenches. On the West lay the Schelde and many docks and warehouses which were patrolled by Makis.	H
	23SEP44		Another beautiful day, though the tang in the air made one apprehensive of a cruel, cold winter. The enemy continued to be rather passive, though popping over shells and mortar bombs occasionally. The Arty and mortars took on a number of suspected positions and did a lot of damage. 'D' says day was enlivened by a direct hit on Coy HQ by a heavy calibre shell, forcing movement of the Coy office to the basement.	Appx 1 H
	24SEP44		During the early hours of the morning, the ERC put in an attack on Marxem and a diversion was created by the Arty and mortars who shelled the area to the north, the patrol got into the town found strenuous opposition and withdrew. The day was similar	Appx 2 H



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	24 SEP 44		to the ones past. The enemy let us know of his presence by occasional shelling. Our patrol programme was being pressed home more each day, but due to the difficulties of the terrain, information was difficult to obtain. Most of the information came in from civilians who were in the best position to know, but it was difficult to sift the gold from the dross. Rumours spread like wildfire through Antwerp at the least provocation and some of the stories were very wonderful. One man who claimed to have swum the canal to Merxem reported in great excitement, that 2000 Germans there, were ready to surrender, upon the appearance of a small patrol. This unfortunately, was not the case. In the evening a dance for officers was held in Antwerp and several of the senior officers attended.	#A
	25 SEP 44		The weather was turning definitely cooler but the day was quite clear. There was little enemy activity and our own was confined to patrols and Arty once again. There was little to enliven the day except that the Makis obtained a German tank somewhere and started to try it out, causing consternation on all sides. Germans were variously reported as laying cables, farmers digging potatoes and Germans being Germans. Many of the reports were true in no chances were taken. Mortar and Arty fire being brought to bear on suspicious characters.	#A
	26 SEP 44		The patrols returning in the early morning reported brushes with the enemy. The day was a repetition of previous ones. At 2030 hrs an 'O' Gp was called at Bde and a Battle Gp was teed up to advance and seize Beckeren while the 5th and 6th Bdes swung around to the right in an encircling move. Information had the enemy pulling back but he still seemed to be able to put up a strong front. In any event, the plan never came off due to the difficulty of finding bridges across the canal and routes across the flooded areas to the canal.	App 1, #A
	27 SEP 44		Once again the day was given over to active patrolling. A fighting patrol was sent to the station and again ran into heavy fire suffering three casualties. In Merxem an RRC patrol again ran into trouble and had a hard time getting out of the town, which was now reported held by Dutch and Flemish SS tps. Enemy mortar and shell fire was on the whole, on a smaller scale though 'B' coy reported one stormy period in its area. B coy teed up standing patrols to take the station and hold it. This was accomplished though after some trouble had been encountered. Our A-A and Ft Arty shelled the familiar landmarks and did quite a lot of damage. The weather was	#A /10



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	27SEP44		cloudy and cool and sweaters were becoming a necessity. There was no further word on a move though it seemed likely that some activity would soon be forthcoming.	AB
	28SEP44		Patrols pierced to the outskirts of Beekeren to the north and past the station and reported enemy still in the vicinity. During the morning an 'O' Gp was held at Bae, at which the new CO, LtCol J.R.C. Pangman was present. The meeting was at 0930 hrs and there the plan to sweep the enemy back was given out. The plan was to use a bridgehead across the Antwerp-Tournhout canal which has been established by the British 49th Div. The 5th Bde were to cross there and then swing to the NW and take up a position in the area Brecht, while the 6th Bde provide a diversionary attack and either crossed the canal on their own front, or crossed farther to the East over a bridge SE of Brecht. The two bdes aided by the 27th Can Armoured Regt (less 1 sqn) were then to wheel to the west and either catch the enemy north of Antwerp between themselves and the 4th Bde or force the Germans to the North. The task of the 2nd Div was to clear the whole area up to Walcheren island which was itself to be cleared by a combined ops force. The 4th Bde, therefore, remained in its present positions approximately, albeit with a far greater area to cover due to the movement from the right flank of the 5th and 6th Bdes. The RRCs who had been resting peacefully on the outskirts of Antwerp were detailed to cover the area between the 6th and 4th Bdes and the Essex Scottish Carrier pl was placed u/o the RRCs for this purpose. The move necessitated some slight adjustment of the Bn positions and these were carried out. Meanwhile, the PHLIs on our left flank, who had moved forward some days before, also had a wider area to cover. A Bn 'O' Gp was held at 1330 hrs at which the new CO was introduced to the senior offrs. There was little activity during the day. After dark a patrol was sent out to relieve the sec in the station and another in the direction of Ft De Merxem to the NE. Both patrols were approximately a Pl in strength and an interesting night ensued. Congratulations were in order today to Major Steele, MC; RSM Dixon, Bar to the MM he won at Dieppe.	AB
	29SEP44		During the early hours of the morning, the pl sent to relieve the standing patrol in the station reported that, on approaching the station, they were fired on by our own weapons from the area. Various methods of getting in touch with our sec, believed still to hold the station were tried. None succeeded in drawing anything but fire and an attack was tied up with 12 pl who had started for the fort covering 11 pl who had started for the station. 11 Pl got to within a short distance of the objective /11	AB



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	29 SEP 44		but were greeted with a great volume of MG fire and due to the exposed nature of the ground could not attack. Capt Cowling, in charge of the 2 patrols was killed and the patrols were ordered to withdraw. How the enemy succeeded in taking over the post from our sec is not known, because no fire was heard and no movement detected in the area prior to the departure of the relief pl which occurred shortly after dusk. In any case, the sec was gone and has not been seen since. Casualties altogether were 1 killed and 7 missing. The day, otherwise, was a carbon copy of those past. The Arty set fire to the town hall in Mernan and a few other fires were started but the enemy whose defence had been extremely good, still was active. During the day, 2 Red Cross men arrived at BnHQ seeking permission to go to Mernan with supplies which were urgently needed. Unfortunately, they were about to drive into the dragon's mouth in a German ambulance which they had captured. They were dissuaded as it was felt that the Germans would not approve.	
	30 SEP 44		A very quiet day, cloudy and cool. The enemy was even less active than usual and had apparently, demolished 5 houses in the area directly to the East of C coy (who had exchanged positions with 'B' Coy) possibly to clear his field of fire or to prevent our using them. Patrols as usual, were sent out and kept contact with the enemy but there was little real activity. It was reported that the 5 Bde had all crossed the canal and were consolidating in the face of fairly heavy opposition.	Appx 1
<p><i>J.E.C. PANGMAN</i> (J.E.C. PANGMAN) Lt Col, Officer Commanding, 1st Bn, The Essex Scottish Regiment.</p>				