

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Field	1 DEC	43	<p>Everyone seems to be doing two things at once this morning. The NCOs school is moving out. Baxing talent is reporting to the YMCA supervisor. Security lectures, MOs lecture and a special R.Cs Padre hour for all coys. Both mess halls, all lecture huts and the YMCA have been pressed into use and bodies of men go from one to another. The 2 i/c conducted a TEWT for all offrs covering our anticipated "Exercise Allways" in the mess at 1000 hrs. Lunch at 1130 hrs and at 1230 hrs the bn moved off, on foot to bde for the bde sports meet. The bn teams did exceedingly well and should have won every event. The rules were not well drawn however, and many arguments ensued over the results. According to the rules we won the message passing contest and the A tk gun race, but were probably correctly, despite the rules, placed last on the first, because of the inaccuracy of the message and the latter event was eliminated from the scoring by the Brig to settle the dispute after we had won it. We also placed last on the amn carrying race after it was found that through some oversight, we were one box short. We had such a lead however that we could easily have still won with the additional box had it been there. The carrier, truck pulling, dressing and wounded man races were won easily, giving us a lead of 8 points. The most important race of the day however, was the pl cross country race and the rules called for a precise dress and that all men should be from the same pl. We seemed to be the only ones who complied throughout with all rules and the other entries were about to be disqualified by the Brig when the C.O. suggested our team reduce its equipment etc as much as possible to that of the other teams so that we could have a race. This was done but even so one team had about half their men in light rubber shoes. The race on which 20 points were given, ended with the teams almost together with the RHLI and RRC each getting 10 points and ourselves 6. It appeared to us that both teams were well padded however, with outside men and one seemed to be composed about 1/3 Sgts. The padding was later found to be the case. Final score RHLI 45, Essex Scot 44, R Regt C 40. The C.O. is happy about the day however, and feels so strongly about the judges adverse decision on the A tk pl gun handling race he is allowing that pl to count full marks in the bn pl competition.</p>	<p>FF</p>
	2 DEC	43	<p>Today Majors F.A. Wansbrough and H.W.P. Thomson were discharged from hospital. They are coming right back to us but must go through 3 CIRU. How they don't like the idea. Orders have come through that all personnel must be back from leave by 1200 hrs 12 DEC 43 in preparation for "Frosty" or combined ops tra in Scotland. Our men due to leave tomorrow were despatched today, in order to be back by midnight of the 11th.</p>	<p>FF</p>

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	2 DEC	43	The 2 i/c, Adj. Q.M., Paymaster and Major Laide were NOT at their best today. Reason an imprompty party in honour of the COs birthday and a post mortem on the sports day. The C.O. supplied the drinks and a first class brand it was too. Brig Sager was in during the afternoon. He announced that he had disqualified the RHII and RRC in the cross country run because of their composite team. Thus we are now the winners by a huge margin. It's unfortunate these incidents occur. Sports meets should build esprit-de-corps and what happens - hard feelings on the part of many. The C.O. has challenged the other two bns to another pl cross country run, anytime, anyplace under any conditions. He would like to race every pl against the corresponding pls of the other bns, a fair test. C.O. left today for a short three day street fighting course in London. We'll bet the street fighting doesn't stop when classes are dismissed at 1700 hrs. B & D coys did their 25 mile route march. The boys are steadily working up to their objective of 40 miles in 18 hours. The evening movie at the YMCA was Betty Grable in "Hot Spot". Well named we'd say.	J.F.
	3 DEC	43	The morning started off like the veritable merry-go-round. Parades were cancelled, with a view of holding an identification parade to locate the soldier involved in a fracas at the Five Oaks Inn last night. After closing hours they had demanded that the pub- lican re-open. He had refused and someone had broken a window valued at £10-0-0. The proprietor was left with Major Thomson in charge of the investigation as all offrs then proceeded on a TWT under Major Mingay. It had to do with "Advance and river Crossings" and the ground selected was ideal. Our 2 i/c is an excellent instructor. Lt. R. Desmeules and Lt. C. Levesque, our two spec inc Fr Cdn Offrs returned to 6 CIRU. The former was handicapped by his lack of English but the latter had been a first class offr in every respect. We are sorry to have Lt. Levesque leave us. A special work party was sent to Flexham Ranges. They went out for two reasons (1) to build drains. (2) to appease one Lord Leccenfield who has been having a lot to say as to why this area shouldn't be used for ranges and who seems to be more interested in the assertion of his petty rights than in winning the war. Another work party went out in nine trucks for ammunition. They returned around 1800 hrs with them all loaded. Tonight we hear the 2 i/c is to leave us. He reports in the A.M. to HQ 3 Cdn Div to take over the duties of G.I. His departure will be a loss to the bn that will be difficult to make up.	J.F.

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4	DEC 43		The normal Sat a.m. bn p parade was cancelled. In place of it all coys held their own individual inspection. The first hour and a half were spent in preparation for this, then the coy comds made their own tour of their area. The 2 i/c made a rapid trip thru kitchens, mess halls and other points used by the bn as a whole. Immediately afterwards Major Mingay left on a trip to determine exactly when he starts his new duties. By the way, our new messing offr Lt. R.A. Wright is doing a first class job. Today when asked "how is the food these days" the spontaneous reply was "I don't know what's happened to the cooks these last four or five days but we're sure eating a lot better." Last night it was decided to hold a dance in the offrs mess on 11 DEC 43. The Adjt is O.C. decorations and spent the afternoon in Horsham buying paint, wall cleanser and trying to get ideas for making of curtains or drapes. If successful in all his ideas his "return to civilian occupation" will most likely be interior decorator.	FF
5	DEC 43		A real frosty morning it is today. Protestant church parade at 1000 hrs with the pipe band in attendance. H/Capt Cardy delivered one of his "original" type of sermons. We are told it's theme was last Wednesday Sports Day. The Q.M. and Adjt went to Bde in the morning for a conference with the S.C. re Exercise "Frosty". At 1400 hrs the C.O. and A/2 i/c Major F.A. Wansbrough, also went to Bde to get more infan re same exercise. Immediately on their return a coy comds meeting was called and details of the two meetings were passed on. To night the C.O. went down to visit the newly started NCOs school, situated at Findon. Major F.A. Wansbrough and the padre accompanied him.	FF
6	DEC 43		It's difficult to believe but the fact does exist. Almost two full coys being employed on duties. The duty coy has one pl on leave, and what with the NCOs school, clerks school, men sick or excused duty, they haven't sufficient personnel. Next for duty coy is helping them out but calls for extra duties as hauling rubble, work party for the ranges, farm help etc, are so great that a second coy disappears also. This question of guards, duties and fatigues demands an analysis and action to correct. During the morning B & C coy trg concentrated on battle patrols, both lectures and practiced. In the afternoon, all coys busied themselves with getting ready to move out on "Exercise Allways". Just before noon all offrs and approx 40 NCOs took off to Harrow Hill to witness a demonstration "Crescendo", an inf bn attack supported by two fd regts and Bde Sp Gp upon a hastily prepared enemy position. The F.M.Rs were the inf bn and their formations and tactics were good. The artillery was the best we've ever	FF

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			seen. It was accurate, effective and impressive. Immediately after dinner the C.O. had a meeting of all offrs re Exercise "Frosty". It was interrupted in order to attend B, C and D coys amateur shows. No. 10 and 12 from B coy, 13 pl of C coy and 16 & 17 pls of D coy competed. The outstanding performance was that of 12 pl with Pte. Anderson, a negro soldier as master of ceremonies. Not quite so good, but close behind were 10 & 16 pls. Afterwards the C.O. continued the meeting of all offrs, reviewing the principles of the advance to contact phase of battle and the action demanded upon first bumping the enemy.	
	7 DEC 43		Reveille and breakfast a half hour earlier this a.m. in order to be ready for our move out. The Brig had put a blitz on the L.A.D. and workshop so we have enough tow-ers for our A tk guns but getting the hockey team to Brighton was a problem until the T.O. "Gus McCrimmon" convinced the RCASC offr to provide a TCV for this job. A good piece of work we think. The bn moved off from camp at 1000 hrs crossing the start line at 1020 instead of 1040. Major Laird was leading and got his times slightly mixed bringing about the 20 min error. Conc area was Cowdray Pk out of Midhurst. Arrival was just before noon. There is lots of room for us to spread out in this beautiful park and it seems a shame to even drive onto the ground with our heavy vehicles. A haversack lunch had been issued and this with hot tea served as lunch. It only took a short time to nestle into our area and in the afternoon the C.O. visited each coy checking their dispositions. Incidentally, Lt. W.C. Wilson our I.O. is with us again. He returned to us last night after the five weeks "I" course at Matlock. The "Q" branch gave us a first class stew for supper and shortly after the men started to bed down for the night. The C.O. went to bde for orders after which the dispositions of B & C coy were altered. The C.O. gave his orders to the bn at approx 2100 hrs and as we were not affected by anything until morning almost everyone was in bed by 2230 hrs. The weather was beautiful and all had a real nights sleep.	FT
	8 DEC 43		Breakfast at 0700 hrs and the marching tps with the command gp crossed the start line, behind the R.R.C. just after 0830 hrs. We are second bn in the order of march so our "F" Echelon moves from parking area to parking area under bde orders. South of Midhurst in vicinity of Cocking, the Royals ran into trouble and it was several hours before they were able to clear it up. Then we passed thru becoming leading bn and proceeded south towards Singleton. Just before reaching the village we bumped the enemy	FT

Instructions regarding preparation
War Diaries (which will be kept from first
day of mobilization, creation or embod-
ment), are contained in F.S. Regs. Vol.

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Place	Date	Hour	
	9 DEC 43		on cle ed, for wer sou the imp the all cal & I one of The cov con Bre lig wor arr dif he the was min wai was tps aut of ing ser

1st Bn., THE ESSEX SCOTTISH REGIMENT
Canadian Army (Overseas)

Appendices to War Diary
I Dec to 31 Dec 43.

1 ESR/ 3-6
12 JAN 44

NO	DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL	DUPLICATE	TRIPPLICATE
✓ 1	Part I Orders	X	-	-
✓ 2	Part II Orders	-	-	X ✓
3	A.P.s.W 3008/9	X	-	-
✓ 4	Training Syllabi	X	X	X ✓
✓ 5	Season's Greetings from C.O.	X	X	X ✓

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			<p>on both Levindown and Canada Hat Hill. D coy took on the latter, while B, C & A coys cleared up the Levindown situation. Both attacks were put in quickly and well executed, so much so that almost no casualties resulted. Proceeding southward more opposition was encountered passing thru Singleton, but the C.O. wasted no time, his recesses were fast and orders snappily given. D coy did not return to the road but continued south across country. Thus eventually all coys rejoined in a bn attack on "The Trundle" the most prominent hill in this part of the country at 1830 hrs. The rain made it impossible for vehicles to reach the top of the feature. A good area was found for them part way up, while B & C coys consolidated on the feature itself. A Coy, originally phantom, but now made up of the NCOs school, the hockey team and clerks school, called out from camp in the early morning by the C.O., occupied area West Dean. D coy & Bn HQ occupied area of West Dean Park. Dinner came up at approx 2300 hrs and everyone was ready for it. Checking of dispositions, digging and mine laying occupied most of the night. All had to be completed before "stand-to" ordered for 0700 - 0900 hrs. The night was a wet and cold one but by morning the work was completed. The rifle coys had dug deep and well, but Bn H.Q. with their assortment of odds and sods need constant attention to make them perform this necessary work.</p>	
	9 DEC 43		<p>Breakfast had been ordered for 0630 hrs but the cookers came up 45 min late. They had a legitimate excuse however. Dinner the night before had been so late that even by working all night they could not get the morning meal ready on time. But when it did arrive it was still dark, and some rain falling. How the Q.M. does his job so well is difficult to understand. No one could possibly complain of the well cooked hot food he dished out and there was lots of it. Immediately afterwards, the C.O. visited all the rifle coys to check their dispositions, fire plan and administrative details. He was well satisfied with their work of the previous night. By now activity was at a minimum. The battle had moved over to the EHLI area and we were doing nothing except waiting. This state continued until 1400 hrs when the cease fire came thru. Move home was by TCV but the S.P. was almost eight miles away and the TCVs had had to pass the tps that far back to reach it. It is difficult to understand why the staff of higher authority demanded this, and it was the cause of a great deal of bitching on the part of the men, although no complaints were heard up till then despite the weather, digging and sleepless night. The entire bn was back in camp by 1830 hrs, a hot meal served and so to bed after a wash-up.</p>	FD

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1 M.L. - 8-30 (1708).
H.Q. 1772-45-18

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	10 DEC 43		<p>It took the bn just a little longer than normal to start functioning this morning. It is usual after an exercise feeling. However by 0900 hrs the usual activity was appare- -nt. Security lecture, medical lecture and padres hour occupied the morning and in the afternoon most personnel busied themselves with cleaning up and washing both clothes and themselves to rid themselves of the dirt from "Allways". At night Major Wansbrough who is acting 2 i/c and the Adjt took themselves to bde for the dance being held there in the offr mess.</p>	FJ
	11 DEC 43		<p>All is activity this morning in anticipation of our move to Scotland for combined ops trg. Coy comds are busy determining just how many men they will have to borrow from Sp coy to bring their strength up to W.E. Other details of admn require attention too. Has everyone clean clothes, are both pair of boots in good repair and the numerous other small details, all of which require attention. At 1300 hrs all offr who participated in Exercise "Allways" went to the R Regt C for a conference held by the GOC. The General reviewed the mistakes and errors of the exercise so that they could be avoided in future. The only criticism of our regt was the crossing of the S.L. 20 min early, other than that, we were complimented on the speed and efficiency with which we operated, once given the task of vanguard. After the GOC had spoken the Brig followed and then a few words by each of the bn or sp arm comds. Lt.Col. Wilder of the Royals was particularly good when he pointed these errors were the result of lack of practice, not lack of knowledge. He also complimented control on the handling of the exercise and the ability and effectiveness of the umpires. During our absence on "Allways" Capt. J. MacLellan assisted by the pnr, padre, aux service offr and two batmen had painted and decorated the mess. On our return drapes had been hung, walls painted and decorated with regimental dicing, stoves polished and an indirect light- ing system installed. It was a sight to behold and predominating everything was the regimental crest, cast on brightly painted concrete mounted above the fire palce. "Jock" and his crew of workers are to be complimented on their effort for they have turned an ordinary drab Nissen Hut into a comfortable home. Of course the main reason for this decoration was the dance being held tonight. Guests started to arrive around 2100 hrs and as the stock of liquor and food was in generous supply, the party was a huge success. The Brig and some of his staff put in an appearance as did offr from the R Regt C & RHLL. Major Lund and Lts. Walton, Havill & Jackson came down from the R.U. accompanied by Major H. Kennedy and Capt. A. Hayes just returned from Canada, so all in all it was a rare night. Unfortunately to comply with the GOCs order,</p>	FJ

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			festivities stopped at 0100 hrs.	
	12 DEC	43	Sunday again but not a day of rest. Personnel returning from leave must be warned and prepared for Exercise "Frosty". This is the unofficial code name for our combined ops trg in Scotland. Coy comds are still busy borrowing men from Sp coy to bring themselves up to strength and CSM Wilkinson of Sp coy is trying to deal with the problem of taking our duties by the rear party, when he doesn't know who will be on the rear party. The CSM is making a real effort and is coping with the situation effectively. CQMS Jeffery appeared before the C.O. today and was remanded for a summary of evidence. He has been charged with stealing 5600 cigarettes, the property of the C.O., intended for free distribution to the men.	FT
	13 DEC	43	Final preparations are being made for the move to Scotland. Coy comds are making their final adjustments after learning who has come back from AWL, and who has gone AWL and to ADS during the last 24 hrs. We are moving on two trains, 20 offrs and 420 ORs on the first train from Christ Hosp Sta at 1620 hrs and 9 offrs and 179 ORs on the second from Horsham at 1910 hrs. Baggage for both trains was delivered in the morning, the bn formed up at 1620 hrs to be addressed by the C.O. and thanked for their good work on "Allways". Then led by the pipe band the first train load marched off. All went well and at the station before entraining the greatcoats were distributed, tea served and then off on our long trip. Sandwiches, cheese, raisins and an apple comprised the supper. About 2130 hrs a stop was made at Essendine for tea after which the C.O. made a tour of the complete train. He stuck his head into every compartment ensuring that the men were as comfortable as possible and soon afterwards everyone had settled down for the night.	FT
	14 DEC	43	By daybreak (which is not early but about 0900 hrs) we were well into Scotland, in the vicinity of Glasgow. Our train is an old one and none too well equipped. Already 50% of the coaches are out of water. We are due at our destination Dalnally Stn at 1120 hrs but the train is several hours late. No tea stop has been laid down for this morning so the only drink available is the water in our bottles. How much the comfort of the men would be improved if they would stop for tea and water at least twice in every twenty four hours. Around 1100 hrs the C.O. in conversation with one of the train crews learns we are headed for Greenock, the RHII destination. This calls for a conference of train staff, a long halt and then we proceed to back up until we get on	FT

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			<p>the right line. By now all our rations have been eaten so everyone is hungry also. En route we skirt the famous and much sung Loch Lomond and despite the unpleasant weather, concluded it certainly had possibilities of having "bonny, bonny banks". Around 1600 hrs we arrived at Dalnally, to be met by tpt and delivered to our ten day home at Castle Camp, Inveraray. The 17 mile drive was an interesting one, thru wooded country with the occasional glimpse of a loch and we are sure it would be most beautiful if the mist and falling darkness didn't obscure most of it from view. The advance party had done their work well. It was only a question of minutes for the coys to be led to their quarters and then to the mess halls for a hot meal.</p>	
	15 DEC 43		<p>For the men today is an easy one. They were given time to settle in, then appeared on muster parade and went for a short route march in the morning. After lunch all attended a demonstration of types of landing craft and then made use of the scrambling nets under the CTC instrs. For all officers and twenty NCOs it was a different story. They were kept busy all day. Starting at 0900 hrs they attended lectures or were shown films of aspects of combined ops trg until 1830 hrs. Included were opening address by the commandants Brig, Sir John Laurie. A combined ops film as well as one showing the landing in Sicily. Then a lecture on the naval aspects of combined ops. After lunch onto the landing craft demonstration followed by a lecture "Military Aspects of Combined Ops" by the G 1, LtCol A.J. Turner, MC. This being a British staff, we then had our break for tea when the C.O., 2 i/c, Adjt and coy comds returned for a trg conference. After dinner the C.O. held his own coy comds meeting to make definite plans for the next day.</p>	JF
	16 DEC 43		<p>Trg doesn't start until 0900 hrs up here but it is scarcely light then. For the coys to be at their beaches for this time, it means leaving around 0800 hrs and while it is still very dark. This morning A & B coys went out for trg with the small type landing craft. They took off from Auchnatra beach landing at Ard Na Slaite or Ardno Beach where attacks were put in. C & D coys were out on what the syllabus described as "boat pulling" but which turned out to be simply rowing a heavy, life boat type of craft with large and unweildy oars. Our only comment on this particular event is that the crews should be taught one fundamental fact re rowing, i.e. oars are dipped into and removed from the water in unison, not in succession. Immediately after lunch, the entire bn turned out for a demonstration of beach signs followed by a film "Beach Organization." The theatre is the best camp cinema we've ever seen and must seat</p>	JF

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			comfortably at least 600 people. Afterwards the men stayed on for the films and lectures the offrs and NCOs had had yesterday while those offrs and NCOs went onto their smaller lecture hall for a lecture on "Beach Organization". This was followed by a lecture on a high level (almost staff work) on "Landing Tables and Scales". Only certain offrs remained for this including the C.O., 2 i/c, Adj't, I.C. and Q.M. plus coy comds and their 2 i/cs. It was delivered by the DAA & QMG, extremely well prepared and delivered and brought home the vast amount of work, detail and organization necessary for a successful landing on a defended coast line.	
	17 DEC 43		B & C coys were off before daylight (not so early as it sounds but at about 0800 hrs) to Auchnatra Beach for their turns at trg with the small assault craft and LCIs. A & D coys moved to the pier in the village for LCI drill. These latter vessels are large enough to carry a coy at a time and are the type we may be expected to use as a follow up division when we get around to the invasion of the continent. The afternoon programme was identical to that of the morning, the coys only switching their trg so that all would cover the same type of work by the end of the day. The FGCM of CQMS Jeffery was held today. It looks as tho it might be a prolonged affair. The first witness was held by the court for over an hour. Those out in the boats this afternoon had an unpleasant time. Our threatening clouds decided to drop their rain and everyone got reasonably wet. One comforting thought however, we have the baths today so many of the men can get a hot shower and clean up on their return. Trg ended today at 1630 hrs. The C.Os daily trg meeting was held immediately afterwards and with a free night most offrs, WOs and Sgts went to the dance at the large NAAFI at Duke's Camp. It was a pleasant relaxation in this large and comfortable building and was a break enjoyed by all who attended.	FJ
	18 DEC 43		This morning all the coys went out to practice in fact what until now had been only theory. The coys each embarked in succession in four LCAs from Auchnatra, proceeded across Loch Fyne to land on the prepared beach at Ardno. Having crossed the beach at top speed each coy followed the signs taking them thru the transit and assembly areas and so onto Ard Na Slaite. Back onto the LCAs to be brought to the beach at Inveraray where the C.O. was checking the time required to disembark. Our time is not as fast as it might be. We take 25 seconds to unload an LCA of 35 men and they tell us it can be done in 9 seconds. How it's done is hard to say for our men come off in rapid succession and at full speed. In the afternoon A & B coys went out for boat	FJ

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	19 DEC	43	<p>pulling while C & D coys took off for the watch tower on top of our highest adjacent hill. C coy reported a questionable record time of 14 min from their lines to the tower but somehow we can't help but take this report with a grain of salt. The day has been a wet and rainy one. We were to go out tonight on ISI and land on a prepared beach from small craft but the G 2 phoned to cancel the event. This announcement when made to the assembled offrs was heartily cheered.</p> <p>Although it's Sunday trg starts at 0900 hrs. The entire bn with the exception of the coy comds went to the main cinema to hear a lecture on The Royal Navy. It was informative and well delivered with sufficient humor to make it interesting. A film "Landings at Salerno" followed and then several trg films including one showing the Eight Army in action. In the meantime the coy comds were at Hells Glen to look over the ground for the field firing exercise. The enemy posn is a difficult one to reach and the steep ravine between the start line and the posn will make for many tired men and perhaps a few casualties. The weather again necessitated the postponement of our planned afternoon exercise - Landing on a Shallow Beach. Practice in new battle drill tactics was substituted except for A coy who decided to try to equal C coy's time in the mountain climb. It couldn't have been as good for we've heard no boasting tonight. The mortar pl got in some firing at Hells Glen this afternoon. Capt. Burgess reported first class scores as bombs were on the target with a minimum of ranging. The Brig and his staff and the G.O. were entertained at tea at the castle by the Duke of Argyll. The G.O. reports a most interesting visit to this famous castle and a renewal of the old feud with the Campbells, for the Duke is chieftain of Clan Campbell, and the Macdonalds were undoubtedly a bad lot, especially the Antrims, according to the Duke anyway.</p>	<p>FF</p>
	20 DEC	43	<p>Exercise "Furnace" is our programme for today. The bn embarked on landing craft at Admirals Beach and moved 7 or 8 miles down Loch Fyne to land on the beach near the town of Furnace. Rain came down soon after boarding the craft and this coupled with a rough sea which kept breaking over the bow, soon had everyone thoroughly wet. A few were sea sick. On landing, to simulate actual warfare, land mines and other explosives were detonated. One which exploded under water just as our ramp was lowered threw a geyser of water into the air and landed in the craft. It was as effective in soaking everyone as a first class fire hose. Our beach was a prepared one so we passed thru the transit area to assembly area quickly. Here a short stop</p>	<p>FF</p>

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			<p>took place and our haversack lunch eaten. As a follow up div we are now to break out of the bridgehead, already established by the assault div. We start to march with the object of capturing a mythical aerodrome when at the perimeter of the bridgehead we came under fire. The C.O. had his "O" Gp in a small wood adjacent to the main road and organized his bn attack. This was put in quickly (A & B fwd with C passing thru A to capture a second feature. The enemy posn was on high ground, but well concealed altho steep approaches existed. The artillery conc kept the enemies heads down and when it was lifted the final assault was successful. All coys then made their way across the rough, boggy and wet hills, to reassemble on the main road several miles nearer home to resume the return march to their billets. The one day exercise was a planned one and brought out many of the points of combined ops trg.</p>	
	21 DEC	43	<p>Today's programme calls for coy attacks, which are "wet" in all respects - also cold. The coys in turn embark at Salmon Beach, are transported across Loch Fyne for a fd firing exercise at Hells Glen. The area is well named, being rough highland country, cold and windy, boggy and wet, interlaced with the nucleus of numerous creeks. The C.O. had succeeded in placing his enemy posn in an area that necessitated crossing two deep and extremely rough ravines. To negotiate these was a treacherous task but each coy did it successfully and with no accidents. It speaks well for the trg of the men and the attention given to the crossing of these hazards by the ofrs & NCOs. D, C & B coys attacks were put in smoothly and effectively but A coys orders became "garbled" somewhere from time of issue to time of receipt, and their attack started out wrong. It was necessary to stop them, call them back and start over. The second time all went well, the enemy were annihilated and A coy was at liberty to return to camp and to prepare for our final exercise of this specialized trg. D & C coys boarded the RFA Ennerdale at 1800 hrs and B & C coys and BnHQ embarked on S.S. Duke of Argyll at 1900 hrs. During the evening Col. Macdonald held an "O" Gp for the ofrs on each ship to make sure that all were in the picture. At 2100 hrs tea and cake were served to the men and soon all were bedded down for the night.</p>	FF
	22 DEC	43	<p>Reveille was at 0615 hrs and breakfast was completed by 0715 hrs. Tps on board S.S. Duke of Argyll boarded LCAs and moved toward the head of Loch Fyne at 0805 hrs. A short time later the S.S. Duke of Argyll hoisted anchor and left for more active operations. Between 1015 hrs and 1115 hrs the coys landed at Ardinglass Beach, passed through the Transit Area to the Concentration Area in the vicinity of Ardno. Col.</p>	FF

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			<p>Macdonald moved forward along the Hell's Glen Rd to make his recce. An O.P. was chosen on a high crag from which both enemy localities could be clearly seen. Coy comds arrived about 1215 hrs for the "O" Gp. Zero hr was set for 1300 hrs so that little time was lost in getting the bn into action. Maj Gen Burns and Brig Sager both struggled up the hill to the O.P. and were present to hear the orders and see the attack go in. A coy took the enemy ravine posn while the enemy knoll posn was taken by a frontal attack with D coy rt and C coy lt, while B coy provided S.L. and flank protection. The bn put on an excellent show and Gen Burns commented favourably on the exercise. On completion of the attack tps reembarked at Ardno Beach and landed at Salmon Beach. An issue of rum did much to make the lads forget the cold and wet weather of Hells Glen. During the evening some members of the regt found relaxation at the REME dance held in the NAAFI Hall, Inveraray. From all reports the affair was quite a success.</p>	FJ
	23 DEC 43		<p>Reveille and breakfast a half hour later as only preparations for our move back to our permanent camp take place today. During the a.m. all coys were busy returning stores and cleaning billets and lines. The Adjt. and Q.M. had their numerous small details to look after and the cooks with numerous helpers were still making sufficient sandwiches for almost 700 men for three meals. This involves cutting mountains of bread and to provide a filling for them causes the Q.M. no end of worry. The rear party leaves tomorrow and we expect them home in time for Xmas dinner but the vehicle party does not leave until the morning of 26 DEC. Arrangements have been made for their Xmas dinner and day to be spent in conjunction with the R Regt C rear party, under C.T.C. supervision. The local camp authorities have been most co-operative and we are sure will provide a satisfactory day for the boys. A late dinner was served and at 1600 hrs tea and biscuits after which the men were loaded into vehicles and transported to Dalnally Sta. This 17 mile trip was a slow one as the narrow winding semi-mountainous road was wet, slippery and in spots covered with ice. Unfortunately our train came in with two less coaches than we had on our up journey. It meant putting up to eight men in a compartment - a mighty tight squeeze. At Stirling we were given another coach and 56 men from C coy who were scattered throughout the train were amalgamated into it, relieving the general pressure but still making a very full train. Coys issued their rations, soon everyone was settled in comparative comfort and we were on our way back to HORSHAM.</p>	FJ

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24	DEC	43	<p>Stop for tea at Newcastle at 0800 hrs. It is a pleasant break to get some fresh air and a hot drink. The train is only a half hour late - much better than we had hoped for in view of the Christmas season. The coaches as on the up trip are short of water. Why can't water be taken on during the tea stop? Good time is maintained all morning and by 1230 hrs we had passed Clapham Junction. If our engineer isn't careful he'll have us home on time. We arrived at Horsham Sta just over a half hour late. The bn started to march to camp by coys, each led by a pipar, to be picked up as quickly as possible by what tpt was available as a shuttle service. The rear party had not been resting during our absence. On arrival we are greeted by newly erected wire, freshly painted posts and white washed curbs. In front of the BOR Capt. J. MacLellan had erected a large Christmas Tree and to top it all a superb flag pole from which flew The Union Jack. Then came the business of preparing men for leave. Getting passes in order, paying the men and sending them off to the Sta. But everything went off satisfactorily and most offrs found time, later in the evening to wander to the Toat Club after the luxury of a hot shower. At 1700 hrs the rear party in charge of the Q.M. and I.O. left by MT for Dalmally where they boarded the train at 1800 hrs. Around 2045 hrs they arrived in Stirling only to find that the Christmas Eve supply of beverages was very limited.</p>	<p>FF</p>
25	DEC	43	<p>It's Christmas Day. In camp many are carrying headaches from the previous evening's celebration, but the spirit of Christmas is in the air. The rear party arrived back in camp around noon. Christmas church service and communion was held at 1100 hrs for Protestants and 1145 hrs for R.Cs. Before the service Christmas Carols were sung. The Sgts very pleasantly entertained the offrs in their mess and Brig Sager visited us there. At 1500 hrs offrs, WOs and Sgts served the men Christmas dinner. It was a real spread with practically all the trimmings. Everyone enjoyed it "to the full" and the C.O. managed during a brief lull in the festive din to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. At 1700 hrs the offrs sat down to their Christmas dinner. Cpl Hosie, Mess steward and Cpl Baker, cook, had done a good job and when the meal was finished expressions of satisfaction were seen throughout the dining room. During the remainder of the day many opened Xmas gifts, read greetings from home and thought of their families and friends back home. In the evening "Road to Glory" was shown at the YMCA hut. Major Mingay spent the day with us and reports a most amusing story of how his batman Pte. Wilson, lay out scores of Lorne Scots in a mild difference of opinion at 3 Div HQ. It finally became a question of HQ which had to go - Wilson or the Lorne</p>	<p>FF</p>

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			Scots pl - and Wilson won. Bravo Essex. The best Christmas in England for the Regt.	
26	DEC 43		Sunday was pretty much a day of complete rest. Many were absent on leave or spending the day with friends in the surrounding area. The camp was practically deserted and very quiet. In the evening however, activity increased somewhat as the NAAFI staff entertained their friends at a party. The Q.M. and Messing Offr report the evening as being a highly successful one.	FT
27	DEC 43		The week reluctantly got under way. Although civilians kept Boxing Day as a Holiday the Army overlooked this and got down to business again. The NCOs school which had been interrupted by Exercise Frosty moved off the its quarters at Findon. The Court Martial of CQMS Jeffery continued. Inthe afternoon Col. Macdonald made a recce of trg area 7 in preparation for the bn demonstration which is to take place on Wed. Courts of Inquiry were convened to inquire into and report on (1) the injury sustained by Pte. W.A. Parsons when the ramp of an ICM fell on him during trg in Scotland (2) the absence of Pte. E.L. Smith (21 days) (3) the loss of a 2" mortar which accidentally fell into Loch Fyne during movement of tps from ISI to LGAs via the scrambling net. "Escape to Glory" was shown at the Y.M.C.A. during the evening.	FT
28	DEC 43		Trg for the day consisted of general cleaning, weapon inspection and German identifications for B coy, Battle drill and 30 yd range for C coy, battle drill and TOET for D coy. In the morning Col Macdonald and all coy comds went to Harrow Hill in trg area # 7 to recce the ground to be used for the Bn demonstration on Wed. In the afternoon the C.O. addressed all coys in the Y hut and explained to them just how the exercise would be conducted on the following day. During the day, the hockey team held another practice in Brighton. In the evening an excellent Boxing Show was put on in the Y Sports tent. The show was in charge of Y Supervisor Cody Moffatt who also refereed the bouts. Visiting opponents were from the American Army Camp near Billingshurst. The American lads were all negroes and put on an excellent show. All bouts were called "draws" and the bouts met with the whole-hearted approval of the large audience. Evidence of the evening's action is being carried by L/Cpl Cecile as he exhibits one eye with a coloured back-ground. Toward the end of the show Col Macdonald complimented the boxers on their fine display and their sportsmanship. The O.C. the American party spoke briefly thanking Col. Macdonald and hoped they would be able to arrange a return bout in the near future.	FT

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29	DEC	43	<p>Reveille was a little earlier this morning so that by 0800 hrs the first tps were moving off by MF to trg area 7. The day was dull with a very low ceiling. On arriving at Harrow Hill the area was found to be quite foggy with visibility of perhaps 500 yds. However the C.O. put the bn through a dry practice of the attack using frontal attack, wedge formation, one pl up, D coy rt, B coy lt, with A sp D and C sp B. Carriers and mortars were allotted normal attack tasks. The scheme was set up so that fire North-South ridges A,B,C,D and E were used. Ridge A was the S.L. while C and D contained enemy posns. Slight adjustments in timing were found necessary after the dry practice. Lunch was served at 1230 hrs. These haversack lunches seemed tastier than usual and we pass the compliments on to our efficient Messing Offr, Lt. Ron Wright. At 1345 a D.R. was sent with a message informing the inspecting offrs of the poor visibility (now about 150 yds). However, the D.R. was unable to contact the inspecting party with the result that they arrived at Michelgrove Pn. The Inspection Party was comprised of Lt.Gen. E.W. Sanson, CB, DSO, Comd 2 Cdn Corps, Maj.Gen. E.L. M. Burns, Comd 2 Cdn Inf Div and Brig J.E. Sager, ED, Comd, 4 Cdn Inf Bde. The inspecting offrs were driven by jeep to Harrow Hill and on seeing the mists in that vicinity decided that the demonstration should be called off. The bn returned to Slinfold Camp with feelings depressed, both by the lost opportunity of putting on a show for the "Brass Hats" and also because through unforeseen circumstances the bn welcoming committee for the Inspecting Offrs was not at correct W.E. when it arrived at the Michelgrove Rv. In the evening the C.O., All majors and Cpts went to 4 Bde HQ. to listen to a review of Exercise "Allways". Col Pawle had excellent constructive criticism for some 50 min which was followed by a lengthy review of "Allways" and "Frosty" by Brig Sager. Entertainment was provided at the YMCA hut by an ENSA party which was entertained after the show in the Offrs Mess.</p>	FF
30	DEC	43	<p>Trg for the day consisted of battle drill "Pl in the attack and defence" for B & C coys while D coy went to Colgate Ranges. Capt. Cottrell was kept quite busy throughout the day and evening dolling out the final pay for the year 1943. In the afternoon CQMS Jeffery, S.S. left for the prison at Lewes where he will serve a two year term. He was found guilty of selling cigarettes, the property of the regt. The YMCA was the scene of gay activity when about one hundred children from Slinfold School and Billingshurst School were entertained. Supervisor Cody Moffatt was in charge of the party and was assisted by several offrs, NCO s and men. Several Mickey Mouse movies were enjoyed by the children after which lunch and candies were served. Santa Claus</p>	FF

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in F.S. Regs. Vol. 1.

WAR DIARY

OR

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	31 DEC 43		<p>in the person of L/Cpl Barclay of HQ coy arrived amid the swirl of pipes and distributed a gift from the Christmas tree to each child. The party concluded around 1630 hrs and by the expressions on the children's faces one could tell they had enjoyed every minute of it. In the evening some of the offrs were guests of the offrs at the nearby American Camp (South of Summer's Place) and enjoyed the evening very much.</p> <p>A 12 mile route march was the trg for B, C & D coys in the morning. The afternoon was given over to sports and soccer seemed to provide plenty of exercise for most of the personnel. Several members of the regt who did not get special leave at Christmas left in the afternoon for special New Years Leave. Around 1600 hrs Capt Johnnie Maclellan and his A tk pl returned from a 3 day shoot at Burling Gap. They report a big improvement in score over the last shoot. Although nosed out of top place by the R Regt C the pl feel certain that next time they will have the high score. In the evening the offrs held a New Years Eve dance in the mess. Although several were absent on leave a moderate number enjoyed the evening to the full. Music was supplied by the YMCA amplifying system with a few special numbers rendered by a coloured pianist from the nearby American Camp. Visitors were present from the RHLI and 4 Bde. At 2400 hrs Col Macdonald wished everyone a Happy New Year and announced the location of the Mistletoe. Following the COs example the guests were soon lined up to take full advantage of the New Years' Custom. By special permission of G.O.C. the party continued until 0200 hrs when it was brought to a conclusion by an unusual rendition of the National Anthem by Lt. Roy Taylor. The evening was considered one of the best New Years' Eves spent in England. And so a most interesting year in the life of our Regt ends, a year in which under two C.Os we completely recover from the disaster of Dieppe. We face 1944 realizing how portentous it will be for us but with complete confidence in our own ability and that of our comrades to face any test or perform any task given to us, with credit to the finest and best traditions of the Regt.</p> <p><i>B. J. S. Macdonald</i> (B. J. S. MACDONALD) Lt. Col., Officer Commanding, ESSEX SCOTTISH REGIMENT.</p>	J. J.