

Title pages will be prepared.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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1st Bn., ESSEX SCOTTISH REGIMENT

(Erase heading not required)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
DENTON	1 MAY 44		1 MAY to 6 MAY 44 Comd Diary att as Appx ' ' is a detailed log of bn activities during this period.	FD Appx 5, 6
	7 MAY 44		For the men, the day was one of rest, but the offrs and coy comds in particular were as busy as ever. The C.O. went to bde for infn re the trg of the engineer pl to be att to us this week. After his return, the coy comds were called in to discuss the syllabus, learn the location of trg areas, the eqpt available and in particular to nominate 2 offrs, 1 sgt and 5 cpls as instructional cadre for the engineers. Lt S.B. MacDonald and three NCOs will be responsible for the pl att to the RHLI and Lt R.S. Morgan and 5 NCOs for the pl att to us. C.O.s orders were at 1700 hrs today. Time now is too valuable not to hold orderly room on Sundays. Major Jones returned from Birmingham. He had been to #16 Cdn Gen Hosp for his medical examination and apparently went through with flying colours. The carrier pl complete with offr, loaded in preparation to return to our static posn in anticipation of trg in use of flame throwers.	APP 7 FD
	8 MAY 44		The pl of att engineers arrived 0830 hrs and the C.O. gave them a talk, using the sand-model used for Ex Kate, on the role of the engrs & inf in battle and outlined the difficulties that might be encountered by each. At the conclusion of his talk, Major Thomson took charge, and a model demonstration of inf/engr prep and carrying up for an assault crossing of a tidal estuary was given. The mornings work for our att personnel concluded with a brisk period of bayonet trg. Preparations for the bn sports day (this WED) got under way. Offrs in charge of various sports were busy organizing teams, the I.O. located and laid out a suitable field, Major Jones as sports offr held meeting at noon and at night for the purpose of coordinating all phases. One feature of this meet will be the forming of a pool of every barber in the bn. They will be on the sports field and spectators will have their locks shorn while watching the events. In the afternoon, a practical demonstration incl unloading, inspection, carriage and launching of storm boats was given by 'B' coy. Then the A tk pl demonstrated the use of trackway, ramps, the loading of jeeps and A tk guns and finally the engrs themselves did the actual work.	FD
	9 MAY 44		The trg of att engrs continues and considerable enthusiasm is being shown by all personnel on course. Throughout the day the field to be used for sports was put in shape and coys were given an opportunity to do some practicing and pick out the best to represent them in the events scheduled for the following day.	APP 1 FD

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	10 MAY 44		<p>Sports Day being laid on, the bn formed up at 0830 hrs and moved off by route march and lorry to Appleby where the use of a playing field had been obtained. At 0940 hrs, Major T.S. Jones, official chairman, opened the meet. The program was divided into hour periods in which teams of softball, under the direction of Capt Cohen, Volley Ball under the supervision of Capt Dann, and tug-of-war under Capt Tilston competed. Track and field events directed by Capt J.S.M. MacLellan and Capt T.E. Steele, also weight events with Lt Cropp i/c, carried on during and in the intervals between period. The morning was given over to heats in the 100-220 yd dash, finals in the 440 yd, running broad jump, shot-putt, and standing broad jump. Eliminations in volley ball, softball and tug-of-war were also carried out. A hot mess tin meal was served in the area at 1200 hrs. At 1330 hrs, the finals in 100-220-880 yd dash, mile and relay races with the play-offs in volley ball, softball and tug-of-war completed the syllabus. HQ & Sp coys fought for scoring honors, the latter gaining the majority of 35-31 on the strength of a softball victory. D coy was third with 25 pts. Individual honors were gained by Ptes Howlett and Cecile with four and two lts, respectively. Brig Lett paid an informal visit during the afternoon. The only casualty of the day was Pte Beneteau who suffered a face injury while playing softball. The weather was crisp and clear. A sidelight of the event was a barbers' competition in which seven barbers from the coys engaged in a non-stop hair cutting race throughout the entire day. In consideration for the innocent second men of the hair cutting teams, the contest was finally adjudged a tie. At 1830 hrs, a TEWT i/c of Maj Wansbrough, was carried out on the sand table constructed by 'I' sec in the BOR. The problems were an assault river crossing in the area of ANCOTTS for Friday.</p>	J.S.
	11 MAY 44		<p>Trg centered around the schene for FRI. At 0900 hrs, the coy and pl comds carried out a recce of the Assembly Area PARK HILL PLANTATION RP 3432, the Boat Off-Loading Area of the TRENT RIVER, across from ANCOTTS. Use was made of 'I' Sec OP and Air Photos and the party walked over the area. All coys in the meantime were on route marches, followed by a briefing of the men by pl offrs. The briefing was carried out at BnHQ where the sand table, constructed by 'I' Sec, was used for demonstration purposes. At 0900 hrs, a court martial convened for the case of A 49588 Sgt Kitchen, charged with AWL. Maj J.D. Buchanan, Duff & Hald R, President. Sp coy gave instruction to members of RGR in the use of Mortar and A tk guns. The Bn volley ball team, coached by Capt Dann, held a practice. Two showings of Abbot and Costello in "Ride Em Cowboy".</p>	appx 1. J.S.

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	12 MAY 44		At 0900 hrs, the Bn moved out to engage in Assault River Crossings at FLIXBOROUGH HERKINGS FM on RIVER TRENT. "H" hr for 'A' coy was 1030 hrs, 'D' coy 1130 hrs, 'B' coy 1230 hrs and 'A' coy 1330 hrs. The Exercise was carried out in three stages of crossing, attack and consolidation. Three objectives were taken. The Scout Pl acted as enemy, and 'I' sec est two OPs to report on action. 'SP' coy, not being engaged in this exercise, carried out weapon drill and general routine.	FF
	13 MAY 44		Coys carried out routine duties, incl bath parades, organized sports and general fatigues. Pay parades were held. A limited number of 24 hr passes were issued, restricted to a 10 mile radius. The weather continues fair, which judging from the stress being laid on hair-cuts, might be interpreted by the biblically minded as tempering of the winds to the shorn lambs. In the afternoon, the CO, 2 i/c and coy comds attended a TEWT at 5 Bde.	Appx 1, 2 FF
	14 MAY 44		Reveille at 0830 hrs, followed by Sunday routine. Church parades held. At 0900 hrs, RC mass was held in a local church. At 1030 hrs, Capt Cardy held a special Mother's Day service. In the afternoon, the bn softball team defeated the team of the Regt de Maisonneuve by a score of 14-5; in a game held at the SCUNTHORPE SPORTS GROUND. Prior to the game the winners of the Victory Bond Draw were announced, namely Cpl T.W. Ryan the winner of a \$100. bond; Pte G. Debus, Cpl J. Zverina and Major T.S. Jones, winners of a \$50. bond each. The volley ball team was defeated by the RHLI. Score 3-0. Capt D.W. McIntyre and Capt J.A. Baxter returned from a 3 weeks course at Barnard Castle.	FF
	15 MAY 44		Normal routine. Reveille at 0645 hrs followed by PT for all coys. Coy trg centered on Battle Drill, pl attacks and bayonet drill being especially stressed. In the morning all offrs studied Chapter II of "Fieldcraft and Battle Drill". The study group being i/c of Major Thomson and other offrs of 'A' coy. Sports work-out for all men competing in Bde sports meet. Sp coy carried out maintenance of vehicles and weapons. Lt Wilson made a recce of the ground in preparation for THU scheme. In the evening Jack Benny in "The Meanest Man in the World" was shown. It was followed by a concert given by the band of the R.C.E.	appx 4 FF
	16 MAY 44		A coy carried out exercises with the RHLI. B coy trg consisted of demonstration of pl attack followed by a bath parade. All pls of D coy engaged in stalking exercises and trained in selection of lines of advance. C coy wired in defensive posn at AMCOTTS in preparation for THU scheme. Padre Cardy held a padre's hour for D and C coys. Lt Wilson	FF /4

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	16 MAY 44	cont'd	and sec taped out the route to assembly area. Offrs were called to a meeting at BnHQ to be briefed for coming scheme. At 1000 hrs, the C.O. and adjt travelled to 2 CIRU at Cawthorne, about 4 miles from Barnsley. Purpose of the visit was to determine how the rfts will in future be sent to the field unit, and also to ascertain what former NCOs of unit were available. The C.I.C. is becoming increasingly apparent and it is becoming difficult to get members of the unit back once they have been S.O.S. This causes much discontent all round and offrs, NCOs and men who have soldiered for years with this regt resent being forced into another unit and separated from all their friends by the accident of a short hospitalization. C.O. reports the Essex Scottish boys there all beseeched him to do something to get them back before they were sent elsewhere. RSM Campbell also accompanied the CO and Adjt to 2 CIRU. From here he goes on to OCTU. CSM Hamilton is now A/RSM.	J.F.
	17 MAY 44		The camp rose, rubbed the sleep and mud from it's eyes and dispensed with P.T. After an all night rain, coy trg was mostly given over to cleaning up and drying out. The Pipe Band is away to play for the inspection of Cdn tps by Mackenzie King. At 1330 hrs the bn moved off to the SCUNTHORPE SPORTS GROUND where the Bde Sports Meet was held. After a slow start, during which the RHLI dominated the 100 and 220 yd dashes, Pte Pidgeon and Cecile placed 1st and 2nd in the 440 yd. Sgt Nadjiwon and Cpl Bourgeois took 2nd and 3rd in the mile, followed by the Sgt's 3rd place in the 3 mile, thus setting a hard pace for the nearest competitor the RHLI. The bn garnered most points in the jumping events. Ptes Quick and Hulett won the hop, skip and jump and running broad jump easily. Pte Quick and Capt Thompson took 2nd and 3rd places in the high jump. The bn's win of the mile relay finished the scoring, totalling 37 pts and tying the RHLI for 1st place. In the evening, Lt Wilson, accompanied by Cpl Bristol, completed the taping for the coy assault river crossing Ex. Major Jones visited the TRENT RIVER AREA for a final check-up of the storm boats.	J.F.
	18 MAY 44		Reveille at 0200 hrs for scout pl, 'I' sec and 'D' coy. After a sandwich and tea they moved off at 0400 hrs to trg area just EAST of GUNNESS GRANGE. H hr for first assault was 0600 hrs for 'D' coy. The crossing went well but a slight mix up in smoke plan as laid down for them by scout pl resulted in their attack not being up to its usual standard. Zero hours for the other coys were at 0730 hrs for 'C' coy, 0900 for 'A' coy and 1030 for 'B' coy. From the 'I' sec OPs the attack put in by 'C' coy was by far the	J.F.

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	18 MAY 44	Cont'd	best one carried out. On completion of exercise, companies returned to EAST bank and then by MT to camp. At 1430 hrs meeting by CO of coy comds and 2 i/cs to discuss exercise. Meeting adjourned for supper and continued to 2030 hrs. At 1430 Capt Cohen, Capt Cottrell and Lt Wilson were fortunate enough to be conducted on a tour through the APPLEBY - FRODINGHAM STEEL MILL, in Scunthorpe. These milss which obtain their ore in the vicinity from open pit mining, are among the largest in Europe, and handle approx 10,000 tons of ore daily. There are other large steel mills in the vicinity and although the name of Scunthorpe is not as widely known as Sheffield, yet this is one of the greatest iron producing cities in Great Britain.	FS
	19 MAY 44		Reveille and P.T. Coys given over to preparations for coming move. Members of Bn Sports Team with Lt Hodges and Lt Havill in charge entrained for DENTON in the morning. Col Macdonald left for Denton around noon. Camp and coy areas were policed and general clean up. All tpt was loaded for the move-off by 1800 hrs.	App 1 FS
	20 MAY 44		Reveille was at 0645 hrs but PT was dispensed with. At 0800 hrs the convoy was formed up and drivers briefed by Major Jones. At 0920 hrs the convoy passed the Bn SP, trg and rd junc MR 424302., and Bde SP at SCAMBY at 0950 hrs. Normal halts of 20 min to each even hr were observed with no long halts. Speed was 25 mi2h. Density 30 vtm. Bivouac area for night was AMPTHILL AND HOUGHTON PKS. At 2345 hrs personnel of coys remaining at STANTON WOOD CAMP fell in and at 0001 hrs the Bn under Maj Wansbrough moved off by march route to SCUNTHORPE RAILWAY STA, where it entrained at 0300 hrs, 21 MAY 44.	App 2, 10 FS
	21 MAY 44		Reveille for tpt en route to DENTON was 0645 hrs. Bde SP WESTONING was crossed at 0950 hrs. It proceeded by the given route to DENTON, arriving at approx 1800 hrs. The tpt was given traffic escort through the LONDON dist by members of the Metropolitan Police, and made the journey without accident of any kind. The Bn arrived at Shepherd's Well Sta at 1230 hrs where it was met by lorries of the RCASC, and taken to DENTON. The Pipe band went to Horsham for the day to play for a parade for the Empire Youth Movement. The weather at DENTON was chilly and windy, and many found it difficult to understand this English climate which seemed cooler in the Dover area than in the Scunthorpe area in lines. During the evening there was considerable activity in the financial side of the offrs mess as funds were raised to take over its share of the regt supply of NAAFI liquor for first month of ops. Finally the PMC and Mess Treas had the necessary amount and Lt Jones left for REDHILL. During the night his truck broke down near Maidstone /6	FS

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	21 MAY 44		cont'd but another one was despatched and completed the journey.	
	22 MAY 44		P.T. at 0700 hrs started the week off in Denton camp. The morning was washing and cleaning of equipment. At 0900 hrs, two offrs per coy and the WOs left for Folkestone to attend a lecture at the Odeon Theatre. The lecture was given by Col Hurley, formerly CO of the RHLI who is now S.C.A.O. of 2 Cdn Corps. His talk dealt with the function of the dept of civil affairs in countries that will be taken over from the enemy.	Appx 11, 12 JG
	23 MAY 44		The day began with brisk weather. The area took on a prison camp appearance as shivering wretches were herded into showers which the mobile bath had set up. With bath parades the coy routine was supplemented by short route marches and kit inspections. Lt Wilson and members of the 'I' sec and three sgts per coy attended a lecture at the YMCA hut TILMANSTONE at 1030 hrs, "Escape & Evasion" and was given by a naval Lt who had recently escaped from a PW camp in Germany, and the offrs heard it in the afternoon.	Appx 1, 4 JG
	24 MAY 44		A coy of four offrs and 72 ORs paraded at BnHQ at 0900 hrs in walking out dress, web belts and anklets. Maj D. MacKenzie was O.C. parade. The C.O. inspected the composite coy, and seemed pleased with the way all personnel had turned out. They were taken via lorry to Canterbury where an Empire Day Service was held in the Cathedral. Personnel representing all Cdn and Imp units in vicinity attended. Bands of various units, incl Bn Pipe Band paraded. The crowd just about filled the big Cathedral. The service was conducted by the Dean of Canterbury, sometimes known as the Red Dean for his supposedly socialist tendencies. In his address the dean welcomed and praised the members of the Cdn Army and Canada generally for the part played by them in the present struggle. He enumerated the ideals for which we fight, a better world of freedom and social security, and expressed the hope that these ideals would be fulfilled. All Protestant padres were in attendance. At conclusion of service, there was a march past, the GOC and the Dean in scarlet robes taking the salute. The coy which appeared one of the smartest in the march past, then embussed for Maidstone where the corps Field Day took place. Members of bn represented the 2 Div. While no Essex Scottish gained any individual honors, the 2 Div ran away with the meet, amassing a total of 74 pts to 26 of the 4 Armd Div and 17 by 2 Cdn Corps Tps. The Bn pipe band was among the massed Pipe Bands that paraded during the halves. In the evening, a showing of John Wayne in "Old Oklahoma". Throughout day, messages of various enemy actions were handed in IOs from 1 Cdn Army HQ to various offrs in unit. This activity constituted Ex Spandean II. It is an exercise to test speed with which infm can be passed from field units to higher HQ.	JG

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WAR DIARIES OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials	ces id
	25 MAY 44		At 0900 hrs, 'A' coy formed up for COs inspection. Coy lined up and general salute was given. After initial inspection by C.O., adjt inspected nominal rolls, pay books; QM checked contents of small packs, webbing, identity discs, and all kit listed in Pt III paybooks. RSM inspected for G1098 amn and cleanliness of weapons. Armourer checked serviceability of weapons. M.O. gave physical exam for V.D., feet, skin and mouth in particular. The med sgt gave T.O.E.T. on 1st aid to batmen, dvrs and NCOs. Tpt also had complete check for tools, cleanliness and maintenance. At completion of inspection, the C.O. gave a talk to the men in which he explained that this was a concentration area and action might be in the not too distant future and passed on to them Gen Montgomery's ideas for the invasion and his views as to the future course of the war. 'A' coys inspection was completed in a.m., 'C' coy in the p.m. C.O. later reported this to be the best of the coy inspections. 'A' coy started 1st of weekly 24 hr passes in the evening. Night trg for scout pl, 'I' sec, 'C' coy and 'Sp' coy except for pnr pl. 'Sp' trained in placing weapons in firing posn under cover of darkness and doing night compass marching. A tk pl returned from two day firing at BIRLING GAP near Eastbourne. In the afternoon, a demonstration of carrier borne flame throwers was carried out in the valley NW of BnHQ and was quite an impressive sight. Construction of unit small arms range in valley near BnHQ is coming along well. The pns and bulldozer from the RCE are gradually changing area on the far side of the valley into butts of considerable length.	FS	
	26 MAY 44		Clear fair day. Various coys held bath parades at the mobile bath which was stationed at 4 Bde HQ. At 0900 hrs the CO accompanied by the Adjt carried out an inspection of 'B' coy. An offr from movement control addressed all offrs of the unit at 1500 hrs. He explained what would happen in the concentration area, marshalling area and embarkation pt. He also discussed various types of administration which would be carried out. In the evening an ENSA show was put on in the NAAFI tent near BnHQ. The show had plenty of pep beautiful girls, good songs and was much enjoyed by all present. One of the high lights of the program was an impromptu number in which Major Wansbrough was involved. One of the torch singers in a song of special appeal, fastened her eyes on the Major and soon hewas on the stage helping her to complete the number. The selection ended with a Hollywood finish, not only thoroughly enjoyed by Major Wansbrough, but by all tps present. After the show, the artists were entertained in the offrs mess. Around 1800 hrs, Major Brady arrived back at the unit from 1 CORU and will be TOS this unit. He is looking forward to adopting the kilt, as his future dress. Lt Jones went to Aldershot Kit Storage Depot to deliver surplus kit which was still held to unit. At 2230 hrs, 3 pls from 'B' coy engaged in a night attack. The exercise took the form of 3 offensive patrols acting against enemy	appx 13 FS	

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	26 MAY 44	cont'd	under cover of darkness. The scheme took place in the areas of DOVER-CANTERBURY Rd, TAPFINGTON-HALL Fm and area of Sp coy. 2 recce and 1 fighting patrol engaged the balance of coy acting as enemy. The operation was completed at 0300 hrs. Rfts consisting of 17 ORs arrived by rail from CDRG. 12 were assigned to 'A' coy, the balance to 'B'.	
	27 MAY 44		Early reveille for 'A' & 'C' coys and after breakfast, they moved off by lorry to LYDDEN-SPOUT Ranges near Folkestone where they engaged in a day's small arms firing. 'D' coys shooting was cancelled and practice for the coming inspection was held in its place. After the scheme of the night before, 'B' coy carried on inspection practice on its syllabus, followed in the afternoon by Bren Gun shooting at the ranges.	appx 2 FS
	28 MAY 44		At 0900 hrs, the Protestant Church parade formed up and moved off by MT for St John's Church, Folkestone, arriving there about 0930. At 0942, Brig Lett arrived. The service commenced at 0945 hrs. Thru a misunderstanding, as to RV for choir the organist was supported by 2 offrs and the pipe band. H/Capt Cardy was in charge of service and in his theme stressed the need of confidence and conviction for tps going into action, drawing a biblical parallel with the strength Peter found in his convictions after the crucifixion. The church was a fine structure and the service was one of the best which has been held for some time, and all seemed to feel that the service had a greater significance than any preceding one. At the conclusion of service, those who wished, broke off and remained in Folkestone for the rest of the day. At 0945 hrs, the R.C. parade moved off by march to HQ, 6 Bde where a mass was held. Brig Young accompanied by Senior RC Chaplain attended the service. The mass was well attended by members of the unit. At 1330 hrs, the CO held an 'O' Gp.	FS
	29 MAY 44		At 0800 hrs those who were to attend the DVs inspection formed up and at 0845 parade moved off by MT to Inspection field near Whitfield, Map Ref 7463. The unit was represented by 400 ORs and dress was walking out dress, anklets and web belt. The Bde consisting of HQ 4 Cdn Inf Bde, R Regt C, R.H.L.I., Essex Scottish, 11 Cdn Pm Amb plus Div Sp Units consisting of HQ details, 2 Cdn Inf Div, 3 Cdn L.A.A., RCE, 2 Cdn Div Sigs, plus 2 corps Tps under comd of HQ Cdn Inf Corps, 2 Cdn CBO Staff RCA, 2 Cdn Corps Sigs making a total of 3140 personnel were drawn up in hollow square with one open end. The tps were lined up in fm in two groups of four ranks each. When parade was formed up it was taken over by LtCol Macdonald, senior Bn comd, who in turn handed the parade over to Brig Lett. At approx 1000 hrs a small convoy of Cadillacs and Buicks pulled up and General Dwight	FS

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	29 MAY 44	cont'd	<p>Eisenhower, Supreme Comd Allied Forces, stepped from the American green coloured staff car onto the parade ground. The General Salute was given and played by the Pipe Band. Gen Eisenhower was accompanied by LtGen G.G. Simonds, Comd 2 Cdn Corps and MajGen Foulkes, Comd 2 Cdn Inf Div. The following offrs were then presented to Gen Eisenhower: Brig Lett, Brig A.B. Mathews, DSO, CGRA 2 Cdn Corps; Brig G. Walsh, DSO, CE 2 Cdn Corps; Brig S.F. Clark, CSO 2 Cdn Corps; Brig G.R.D. Farmer, ED, DMS, 2 Cdn Corps; Col B.C. Leech, ADMS, 2 Cdn Inf Div; Col O.H. Barrett, DBST, 2 Cdn Corps; Col D.G.J. Farquharson, OBE, DDOS, 2 Cdn Corps; Col M.C.G. Meighen, DIME, 2 Cdn Corps; Col R.F.H. Massey-Westropp, MC Trg Adviser; Col J.J. Hurley, Sr Vic Affairs Offr, 2 Cdn Corps; LtCol P.W. Moncel, GSO I, 2 Cdn Corps; LtCol A.F. Knight, AQMG, 2 Cdn Corps; LtCol C.R. Archibald, GSO I, 2 Cdn Inf Div; LtCol L.A. Deziel, AA & QMG, 2 Cdn Inf Div. The command was then given for the Bde to "Inward Turn" and the groups of four ranks took up positions facing each other with the offrs equally placed across the front of each group. Gen Eisenhower then walked between the two groups pausing frequently to speak to various personnel. From his rapidly fired and varied questions insight into the General's worldly knowledge was gained by those who happened to be within hearing distance. Following this, the tps gathered around a jeep in centre of square and Gen Eisenhower spoke briefly to them. He emphasized the importance of the job ahead, but with a team spirit not only in the units themselves but between units and higher formations. He felt certain that it would not take long to bring the job to a successful conclusion. Following Brig Lett called for three cheers for the Gen and from the enthusiastic response could be gauged the respect and high esteem held for him. In the afternoon, the rifle coys received lectures in first aid and discussion groups on European Affairs were held by Educ Cpl Barry. Much enthusiasm was shown in these discussion periods. The 30 yd range was used for the first time today and construction of weapon pits at 150 yd distance was carried out. The Sten Gun range just west of rifle range was completed so there should be plenty of opportunity for SA practice during the rest of our stay in the area. In the evening "Gentleman Jim" was shown at the NAAFI tent. At 2000 hrs the 21/c and I.O. went on a recce to Coles Dane, Map Ref 3172 about 7 mi east of Maidstone.</p>	<p>FF</p>
	30 MAY 44		<p>B & C coys on 24 hr leave. Word was received that in the afternoon, the Brig would thoroughly inspect one of the remaining rifle coys. At 1315 word was received that 'A' coy was the "lucky" coy and at 1400 the coy was drawn up for the inspection complete. The Brig was accompanied on inspection by Col Macdonald. The Gen salute was played by the Pipe</p>	<p>FF</p>

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	30 MAY 44	cont'd	Band and a thorough inspection was carried out and the men were tested in weapon and gas trg and first aid. Kit and stores and records were also checked. The Brig was well pleased and told the coy it was by far the best coy inspection in the three units. At 1800 hrs, HQ coy was thoroughly inspected by Col Macdonald. Members of rifle coys made use of newly constructed SA range carrying out both Bren and Rifle shooting. Pay parades were held in A and B coys. In the evening a showing of "Thank Your Lucky Stars" was shown by YMCA. The C.O. was so pleased with 'A' coy's inspection that he donated £6 to the coy to help pay for a coy party.	JS
	31 MAY 44		Following PT and breakfast, coys of bn that had not been paid held pay parades. Rifle and Bren shooting continued on range. The personnel from 11 pl engaged in a practice of the consolidation exercise they are to demonstrate to bn. In the afternoon A coy held a tabloid sports meet while C coy made use of range. D coy was absent from Bn area on 24 hr leave. Bright yellow metal signs have now been placed in the camps throughout area and resemble those used on Ex Harlequin. This perhaps indicates that we are in an exercise of a similar nature to Harlequin. Our own regt'l provost are also to be complimented on their excellent sign making efforts. The army has become sign conscious and our unit is keeping well to fore in this respect. Early in the evening, the C.O., I.O. and Capt Johnston went on a 24 hr leave. At 2330 hrs, A 21896 Cpl Rossell, A.E. and E 49772 Pte Willis, C.C. were detailed to proceed to Folkestone. En route the sta wagon driven by Cpl Rossell approached Whitehorse Hill at the same time as an LAA Bedford truck approached from the opposite direction. On the crest of the hill the LAA lorry was passed by a Cdn vehicle which turned into Cpl Rossell's side of the road causing Cpl Rossell to swing to the right hand side of the road where he crashed head on into LAA Bedford. Cpl Rossell and Pte Willis were seriously injured and taken to 2 C.C.S. The Bedford was returning from bty party in Folkestone loaded with WAAFs, the collision causing severe injuries to two WAAFs and shock to several others. The two injured WAAFs were taken to the RAF hosp at Hawkinge. When unit was notified of the accident, the T.O., Lt J.S. Watt and Padre Cardy left immediately to investigate and get particulars of the accident.	Appt! JS

B. J. S. Macdonald
(B.J.S. MACDONALD) LtCol,
Commanding Officer,
ESSEX SCOTTISH REGIMENT.