

May 1945

After crossing the Elbe the advance continued towards Lubeck on the Baltic coast. It was soon realised that German resistance had collapsed and thousands of prisoners were surrendering every day. PoW concentration areas, guards, admin support and interrogation all had to be completed. There were also considerable civilian issues to deal with.



A 'brew up' on the Lubeck road.



The advance to Lubeck



Rounding up German soldiers



The road to Lubeck

On the 5 May the unconditional surrender of German Forces was announced and as Pte Bob Price reflected; *That evening after a lovely sunny day, the whole platoon sat eating our meal together, looking around at this happy group, I suddenly realized that I was the only one left from the original platoon that had landed in Normandy 11 months before. I tried to remember all those missing faces, but found it very difficult; I must admit to shedding a tear and feeling a little sad.*

The battalion also had a minor firework display firing - now hopefully no longer required - very flares into the air.

The SHAEF signal announcing the surrender

M O S T I M M E D I A T E B R O A D C A S T
FROM SHAEF FWD 070410B
TO 8 CORPS 53 DIV 5 DIV 15 DIV 11 ARMD DIV
7 ARMD DIV 12 CORPS
FWD 20801 CONFIDENTIAL (.)
PARA 1 (.) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND SIGNED THE
UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF ALL GERMAN LAND, SEA, AND AIR
FORCES IN EUROPE TO THE ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AND
SIMULTANEOUSLY TO THE SOVIET HIGH COMMAND AT 0141 HRS CENTRAL
EUROPEAN TIME, 7 MAY UNDER WHICH ALL FORCES WILL CEASE ACTIVE
OPERATION AT 0001B HRS 9 MAY (.)
PARA 2 (.) EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY ALL OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS BY ALLIED
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE WILL CEASE AND TROOPS WILL REMAIN IN PRESENT
POSITIONS (.) MOVES INVOLVED IN OCCUPATIONAL DUTIES WILL CONTINUE
(.) DUE TO DIFFICULTIES OF COMMUNICATION THERE MAY BE SOME DELAY IN
SIMILAR ORDERS REACHING ENEMY TROOPS SO FULL DEFENSIVE
PRECAUTIONS WILL BE TAKEN (.)
PARA 3 (.) DOWN TO AND INCLUDING DIVISIONS, TACTICAL AIR COMMANDS
AND GROUPS, BASE SECTIONS, AND EQUIVALENT, NO REPEAT NO
RELEASE WILL BE MADE TO THE PRESS PENDING AN ANNOUNCEMENT
BY THE HEADS OF THE THREE GOVERNMENTS (.) ALL INFM (.)
CITE SHGCT SIGNED : E I S E N H O W E R
BT 070410B
BARM V HCO RD 216/8/9/20 =OU= =OU= 0841/07 AR K
7/5/45.
LUNDBECK. GERMANY

There was relatively little war damage in this region and on the 13 May the Battalion moved to Flensburg and occupied a Wehrmacht barracks.

On the 23 May the Battalion took part in the last operation in North West Europe of the war - Op BLACKOUT - the arrest of the Doenitz government..

ONE

ORIGINAL

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WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st. Bn. The Herefordshire Regt. at

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R. C. Fripp DSO.

Month and Year MAY 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Kollow.	1st.	0500	Bn. arrives Kollow, orders to proceed with minimum delay through Schwarzenbæk 8248.	
		0630	Hfd. group start advance. Mines encountered at intervals in road from X rds. 808500 to Havehorst 8152, knocking out 3 tanks and one carrier, causing cas. to bn. of 3 O.R's killed and one officer wounded. (Capt. Curtis, 2 i/c "A" Coy.)	WAR DIARIES SECTION No. 20000 G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon
		1230	Halt at Basthorst 8156 to allow R.E's to clear mines and time bombs from C.L. Various prisoners collected, most of them giving themselves up, and chiefly from 245 Eng. Bn. 245 Div.	
		1430	Advance continues to Hamfelde 8059 and Trittau 7780. Slight opposition met in latter town and artillery stonk laid on key cross rds. Enemy a/c attempted to bomb and strafe column. Small no. of enemy met South of Gronwold....	

TWO

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WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form 2118.

Unit 1st Bn. HEREFORDSHIRE REGT.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R.C. FRIPP. D.S.O.

Month and Year MAY 1945.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Gronwold	1st.	1430	(cont....) NIGHT (1x88 H.O'D) and Bn. took up positions in this town. During day 300 POW taken. Total cas. 3 O.R's killed 7 - 8 O.R's wounded. One officer wounded.	
	2nd.		KSLI Gp. passed through early A.M. and captured Bad Oldesloe 7482 1200 Hfd.Gp. advanced to capture Reinfeld 8145. Route. Schenberg 7868. Eicheide 7672, Stubben 7874, Gr.Boden 7977 Rethwischdorf 7880, Frauenholz 8081, Reinfeld 8185. At Rethwischdorf many POW's taken, mainly from local AA units and the wounded making their way from the Russian front to Hamburg to seek medical aid. Reinfeld captured with little opposition, and large numbers of Germans gave themselves up. Town was held by an R.A.D. unit who "Downed weapons" Approx 2,000 P.O.W's taken during the day and night from various Wehrmacht, and Luftwaffe Units.	

THREE.

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Month and Year... MAY 1945

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form G 2118.

Unit 1st. Bn. The Herefordshire Lt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R. C. Fripp DSO.

Summary of Events and Information			References to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour	
REINFELD.	3rd.		Two German POW selected from yesterdays batch were placed on one of the leading tanks to effect the surrender of Bad Segeburg.
		0800	Hfd. Gp. moved and surrender of Bad Segeburg effected at 1110 hrs. Slight mopping up necessary in outskirts only. The town sports ground was selected as a POW collecting point, and all Germans in services directed to it. Many thousands eventually made their way to the field during the day and night.
BAD SEGEBURG	4th.		Collection of POW's continues unabated all night and all day and again many thousands pass through. "B" Coy was clear wooded area NW of Segeburg and effect the surrender of a complete LAA unit with its equipment. Bn. maintains same positions with control points on all roads. Stand still order to 21st. Army Group and un-conditional

FOUR.

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st. Bn. The Herefordshire RegimentCommanding Officer Lt.-Col. R.C. Fripp DSO.Month and Year MAY 1945.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BAD SEGEBURG	4th.		(cont...) surrender in NW Germany to be in force from 0800 hrs	
	5th.		10 REINFORCEMENTS TO THE BN.	
"	5th.	0800	Germans surrender unconditionally in NW. Europe.	
			Bn. maintains same positions and control points.	
			POW collecting pt. cleared of all Germans and the former	
			Army Major for the town - Major Chlebrushe placed in	
			charge of any further remnants under Bn. supervision.	
"	6th	1000	Church Parade.	
"	"	1100	Battalion March past. Brigadier J.B. Churcher DSO taking	
			the salute.	
"	7th.		15th, Scottish Div. pass through to occupy Kiel and	
			canal area. End of European War announced.	
"	8th.		V-E Day celebrated.	
"	9th.		Nothing to report.	
"	10th.		Deputation from Russian civilian camp at Wahlstedt 6298	

FIVE

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Month and Year **MAY 1945**

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit **1st. Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment**

Commanding Officer **Lt. Col. R. C. Frapp DSO**

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Bad Segeburg.	10th	(cont)reported a shooting incident in the village on May the 8th. ^{WHEN} which some Russians were shot by German Wehrmacht personnel. Investigation proved this report to be correct and six bodies of Russians were found. The German villagers were made to collect the bodies and dig the graves, after which the Russians buried their dead. A full report of the incident, together with names of persons suspected to be responsible for the murders, was forwarded to Field Security Police. The Russian D.P. and PWX camps were afterwards visited by an officer every 12 hours.	
"	11th & 12th.		Nothing to report.	
"	13th.		Bn. moved to occupy Flensburg, Route Neumunster 4751 Rendsburg, 2636, Schleswig 2663, Flensburg 2294 was reached during the afternoon, the Brigadier taking the salute in the town square as the motor vehicles passed through.	Appendix A(1)

Six

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st. Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R.C. Fripp.

D.S.O.

References to Appendices

Month and Year May..1945.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Flensburg	14th.&15th.		Battalion settles in Grenzland Barracks. All Germans with the exception of 12 retained for maintenance duties quitted the barracks.	
"	16th.		Training commences. C.O.'s policy to train young soldiers over age service group 25 in specialist roles and to prepare old soldiers under that group for their civilian posts. For this policy to be carried out, men were posted to "S" and "H.Q." Coys. for training in specialist roles leaving the rifle Coys. of relatively low strength. Great stress was to be placed on sporting activities on an organised basis.	
	17th.		Nothing to report.	
	18th.		Nothing to report.	
	19th.		Nothing to report.	

SEVEN

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Month and Year May. 1945.

WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st. Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Fripp D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Flensburg.	21		The Brigadier inspects the barracks. Meyn. 0993 and Meynfeld patrolled by area patrol.	
	22		Schafflund 9306 patrolled. 405871 Pte ROBERTS, H. of 'C' Coy AWARDED C.I.C.'S CERTIFICATE.	
	23		Operation Blackout - the object of which was to liquidate the puppet German Government formed by Admiral Doenitz, with the 15/19 Hussars and the 1st. Cheshire co-operating.	
		0930	Phase I. The Bn. moved off, and divided into two groups.	
			(1) The CARRIER section followed by "A" and "C" Coys. in T.C.V's and Command Post moved up the Flensburg Glucksburg Rd. via Flensburg 245953 and halted with the head of the column at road junc. 249961. (2) "B" and "D" Coys. in T.C.V's moved up the coast rd. from Flensburg to MURWIK 246964 and halted at rd. junc. 246962.	
		1000	The Bn. was ready and in position.	
		1005	The Bn. received the order to commence.	

EIGHT

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit.....

Commanding Officer

Month and Year May 1945.

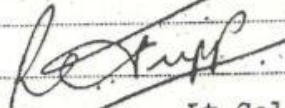
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Flensburg	23	1005	Phase II "D" Coy. moved to seal the South and South West escape ways at 248964 and 249965 while "B" Coy searched the buildings at 249964, and "C" Coy sealed the road from the coast at 249969 to 253966 whilst "A" Coy searched Admirals Doenitz house and the marine barracks, also hospital at 253970. The 15/19th. Hussars sealed the S.E. corner of the area and the carrier 4 remained in reserve. Command Post and the prisoner collecting were at 253966. The Germans were taken by surprise and the operation was successful, a total of 756 prisoners were taken, among whom the following were the most important:- Grand Admiral Doeritz Admiral Lindeman, Korv.Kpt.von Krosig, Min.Rat.A.D.Stellrecht Min.Rat.Seifort, Oberst.i.G.Wirsing, Oberstlt.Antonuis, Gen.Lt.Thomake, Major i.G.Heich, General Major Scheffer.	
"	24th.		Nothing to report.	

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Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R. C. Fripp D.S.O.

Month and Year, May 1945.

Month and Year		Summary of Events and Information		References to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
Flensburg.	25		Town patrols arrested 12 German military personnel for being on the streets without passes.	
"	26		Nothing to report.	
"	27		159 Inf. Bde. held a thanksgiving service at the Garrison Church, followed by a march past, with the Brigadier taking the salute.	
	28		Nordhackstedt 0591 patrolled. One German arrested in Flensburg for not observing the curfew.	
	29		Hemp 9201 Reistriek 8801, Proding Forst 0994 patrolled.	
	30		Langerau 0378 patrolled. 15 REINFORCEMENTS TO THE Bn.	
	31		Lindwith Forst 0787 patrolled.	
			 Lt Col: Cmd 1st Bn The Herefordshire Regt	