

1st BATTALION THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT – JANUARY 1945

The new year saw more of the same! The cold, damp, short days and long nights, but there was an optimism that the war was being won and 1945 would see it end.

Losses continued to be made good with reinforcements coming direct from training units – many of them under the age of 20. Their training needed ‘finishing’ and the old hands in the Battalion were proud to welcome these youngsters and make them one of the team. At individual level they were taught how to survive in the field, what kit to pack and where to pack it – often very different to what they had been taught in training. Then at unit level working in a real section and company rather than a training one, and most importantly working with tanks. Many of the recruits had never seen a PIAT or a grenade let alone used them – they would now be common currency.

A Divisional Battle School was formed for individual and command training and the Battalion spent time ‘out of the line’ undertaking hard training.

WAR DIARY

The Brigade War Diary

SECRET 1

APPX "Z" forwarded under T&P SECRET COVER To GWR 121 A GP ON 2 FEB 45.

In lieu of AF C2116

Unit: HQ 159 INFANTRY BRIGADE (incorporating Bde Def Pl and L.A.D. att).

Commander: J.B. CHURCHER, DSO, Brig

WAR DIARY

Month and Year:	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Ref to Appendices
JAN 45	1 Jan 45		Bde remained in the area of BAEYEM 708942, 1 HEREFORD area BAEYEM 4 KSLI with 1 Bty 75 Lt 734922. 3 MN 718898. Patrolling activity reported.	
	2 Jan 45		Bde remained in same locations. Sgt Barclay of the 4 KSLI was awarded the Victoria Cross. This was announced on the BBC 2100 hrs news with the complete citation.	
	3 Jan 45		Bde remained in the same locations; no activity reported. Lt.-Col. Robinson returned to take cmd of 4 KSLI after being in ENGLAND for a short time undergoing an operation. During the night a patrol of approx 25 Bns crossed the MAAS and attacked a forward position of the 4 KSLI. Casualties were inflicted on both sides. Some civilians crossed the MAAS during the night including one U.S. Staff Sergeant who had been in hiding since February 1944.	
	4 Jan 45		No activity reported on the Bde front. Bde Hq's was entertained in the evening by a Belgian party called the Les Comedians Parties Belges, which was extremely well received by all the troops.	
	5 Jan 45		Bde remained in same locations. No activity reported. The Corps Cnd visited this Hq and was taken round Bns by Bde Cnd. The Bde Tac School opened at WERT on its third course.	
	6 Jan 45		Bde remained in same locations. No activity reported.	
	7 Jan 45		Bde remained in same locations. A raid was arranged by 3 MN on the Island by the Look at 735672. Fire Support was arranged - M2, 25 pr, etc. The raid failed owing to the current, which was too strong for the floating party. A Patrol was reported in the area POL but was not located. Repts of 2 KSLI and 7 SEAPORTS visited the 3 MN and 4 KSLI in readiness for the takeover on the 8th, when 4 KSLI and 1 HEREFORD are going to WERT for trg and refit etc., and 3 MN going to area BAEYEM; Bde Hq remaining in same location.	
	8 Jan 45		During the day the 7 SEAPORTS (46 Inf Bde, 15 (S) Div) relieved 4 KSLI. 2 KSLI (3 Br Div) relieved 3 MN. 4 KSLI and 1 HEREFORD going to the Barracks at WERT and 3 MN to BAEYEM. During the early evening 5 civilians crossed the MAAS (4 Dutch, 1 Belgian). There was a certain amount of SA fire exchanged across the MAAS South of HELL. Bde Hq remained in same location.	
	9 Jan 45		Bde remained in same locations. No activity reported.	(8)

Month and Year : JAN 45

Unit : Hq 159 INFANTRY BRIGADE (incorporating 159 Inf Bde Def Fl and L.A.D. att).

WAR DIARY

Commander J.E. CHURCHER, DSO. Brig.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events and Information	Ref to Appendices
B.L.A.	10 Jan 45		Bde remained in same locations. During the night, 9 Civilians crossed the MAAS (5 Dutch and 4 Russian women). A Patrol attacked a position of 2 KSLI at PCL 714873. 3 casualties were suffered by 2 KSLI. Damaged inflicted on Bn NOT known.	
	11 Jan 45		At 1200 hrs, Bde Hq handed over responsibilities of the front to 11 Arm Div Hq. Bde Hq remained in the same location. The Bde Cmd left for BRUSSELS on a 48 hrs leave. Entertainments and trg were carried out by Bns.	
	12 Jan 45		No change.	
	13 Jan 45		" "	
	14 Jan 45		" "	
	15 Jan 45		" "	
	16 Jan 45		" "	
	17 Jan 45		" "	
	18 Jan 45		" "	
	19 Jan 45		At 0800 hrs the Bde took over cmd of the Bde sector. 7 SEAPORTHS, 2 KSLI, 3 MON and 15/19 H.	
	20 Jan 45		No activity reported. A Bde Offrs' Dance was held at the Appolo Hall, WEERT. Reprs of all the Div were there.	
	21 Jan 45		Lt Kelvington joined the Bde as Bde LD III to replace Lt Jackson DSO who rejoined 4 KSLI. 1 HEREFORD took over from 2 KSLI in the line. The take over was completed by 1100 hrs. 4 KSLI were put under cmd of 15 (S) Div to be at 1 hours notice to be counter-attack Bn.	
	22 Jan 45		At 1000 hrs, Field Marshall Sir Bernard Montgomery presented decorations and C-in-C's certificates to members of /Capt the Div at Bishops College, WEERT at the Hq 4 KSLI. The Guard of Honour was found by/Lt Jackson DSO and members IN Quash, of 4 KSLI.	
	23 Jan 45		The progress of the attack by our neighbours seems to be progressing well, and commenced to pinch us out; although no sign of withdrawal from our sector. 4 KSLI reverted to come under cmd, not having been used.	
	24 Jan 45		Bde remained in same locations. No activity reported.	
	25 Jan 45		Bd remained in same locations. No activity.	

Month and Year : JAN 45

WAR DIARY

Unit: Hq, 159 INFANTRY BRIGADE (incorporating 159 Inf Bde Def Fl and L.A.D. att).

Commander J.E. CHURCHER DSO. Brig.

Place	Date	Time	Summary of Events and Information	Ref to Appendices
B.L.A.	26 Jan 45		Bde recon patrol left for recon of new area in BELGIUM - area MERTIN. No activity reported.	
	27 Jan 45		Bde in same locations. Half the 1 HEREFORD position is now becoming unnecessary owing to the fact of the Commando Bde moving up across our front the other side of the river. During the night, the Commandos put on a raid on the Island 740870. Both sides received casualties. During the operation, 1 HEREFORD were able to clear the booby traps from the Lock gates at 734878. One PW was taken by the Commandos from 3 Bn Miller, of 606 Div.	
	28 Jan 45		No activity reported. The Bde Cmd left for leave in the UK. Lt-Col Turner-Cane DSO took over command.	
	29 Jan 45		The Bde remained in same locations, no activity reported.	
	30 Jan 45		No activity reported.	
	31 Jan 45		Capt K. Chapman 4 KSLI joined the Hq as a CIII understudy. No activity reported.	

The Battalion War Diary

Sheet ONE ORIGINAL

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1, Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.
Unit 1st Bn The Herefordshire Regiment
Commanding Officer Lt Col G.R. Turner D.S.O.

Month and Year JAN 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BAEXEM	1		Bn in reserve area. Bde Cnd visits coys during training.	
BAEXEM	2-7 (incl)		Bn in reserve area. Training carried out by pls. Training included range firing, W.T., and fire and movement.	
WEERT	8		Bn moves to Barracks at WEERT for training period of approx 14 / 17 days.	
WEERT	9-20 (incl)		Bn training period. Training included Inf / Tk co-operation, boating drill and river crossing, night patrols, elementary mine trg, weapon trg and firing, including a demonstration by "wasps". A Tk Pl at practice range for three days. Support Pls and Specialists trained under individual programmes. Carrier Pl re-inforced to four secs - full strength for the first time since August. Bde Cnd inspected trg on frequent occasions.	
WEERT	20		Orders to move to HEEL area 7188, tomorrow - patrols to be established tonight. The following (1) and (3) standing patrols manned as from cast light.	

WAR DIARIES SECTION
No. 1
1 FEB 1945
G. H. R. 2nd London

WL 47721 998 2,000,000 2.43 W. H. & S. 51/8375

sheet TWO

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HEEL	21		Bn relieves 2 K.S.L.I. (3 Br Div) and takes up the following positions:- A 714884, B 718895, C 719886, D 729894, S coy with three sec Carriers 724896, ATK Pl defending Bridge 682886 in infantry role. Bn HQ 717884. Standing Patrols at (1) POL 714870 (1 sec by day and 1 pl by night) (2) 721875 (1 sec by day and 1 pl by night) with one sec patrolling WEST of river bank to incl POL and one sec EAST to incl ORCHARD 728877. (3) LOCK FORCE at 733879 (Pl throughout the 24 hrs) and during the hours of darkness (4) Recce patrols along river bank 734884 to 737890. Area SANIFORT 6888 to PANHEEL 6988 patrolled throughout the 24 hrs; Change over completed without incident. Standing patrols ordered to fire as much as possible to draw enemy fire and to keep a check of their presence. Enemy replied throughout the night. Enemy patrol of approx six to eight men seen NORTH of BEEGLEN. No action taken and not seen again.	

WL 47721 998 2,000,000 2.43 W. H. & S. 51/8375

Sheet THREE

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

Commanding Officer Lt Col G.R. Turner Cain
D.S.O.

JAN 1945
Month and Year.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HEEL	21	(cont) ; Approx 20 enemy seen in River Bulge NW of carrying straw etc; HQ of some kind indicated at DRIFT 750877, during day.	
HEEL	22		3" mortars fired at men seen yesterday NW of DRIFT, Not so many seen today. The Island 7367 and 7467, still occupied and spandaus still active.	
HEEL	23		No enemy seen all day. Patrols at POL 714870, and from SANTFORT BR; cancelled owing to 7th Arm'd Div advance along EAST bank of R. Maas. Section from Standing Patrol 722875 patrols POL at intervals throughout the night. 1930 A Coy fire at movement seen at 735896, . This was found later to be a food carrying party of 9th Bn Para Regt; 6th Airborne Div; who suffered one casualty- wounded.	
HEEL	24		7th Arm'd Div advanced to WEERD 7386 and SOUTH of LINNE 7485. To provide strong defensive positions at BEECLEN, A Coy moved to NORTH of village with positions ^{centred} on 733895. ATK Pl from SANTFORT BR;	

Sheet FOUR

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

Commanding Officer Lt Col G.R. Turner Cain
D.S.O.

JAN 1945
Month and Year.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HEEL	24	(cont)	... 682886 to SW of HEEL 714802. SANTFORT BR; taken over by strong sec of B Coy. Very little enemy activity seen in area DRIFT, and NW of LOCK FORCE 733879 suffer one casualty-wounded by premature ^{from} 2" mortar. Mortar Pl suffer one casualty- Killed 6 who fell on his own Sten Gun. Slight enemy shelling in Bn area during the night. Spandaus still active on Island.	
HEEL	25		B Coy moved from reserve area to position in WEST half of HEEL centred on 715884 to strengthen HEEL defences. LINNE captured by commando s/u/c 7th Arm'd Div; No firing from own LOCK FORCE owing to expected friendly patrol on Island which did not take place. Spandaus still active.	
HEEL	26		Expected Commando raid on Island again did not take place. Spandaus again active and engaged by LOCK FORCE and 3" Mortars. Die LO with Commando Force in wireless commn with this Bn.	
HEEL	27	2.30	Commando raid Island. LOCK FORCE temporarily withdrew for operation	

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Month and Year JAN 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HEEL	27 (cont)		...and returned when Island reported clear. Other patrols remained firm on ground during operation. The Island was in fact not cleared & the Cdo force. (withdrew with one PW)	
		0320	RE clear path to LOCK 733879 and clear the "cat walk" of wire and booby traps, thus making a safe route to NORTH side of Cat Walk.	
			No enemy interference. LO with SS Ede netted to our wireless for the operation for the Island.	
HEEL	28		Day and night quiet. The Commanding Officer appointed A/Brigadier during the absence of (the Brigadier whilst on leave)	
			Road 740866 to corner 731876 found clear of mines by Pioneers but found to be mined north of that point. Area also mined.	
			No attempt to pull owing to frost but path cleared 4' wide and taped. No enemy interference. Enemy on Island quiet.	
HEEL	29		Enemy on Island engaged by all pl weapons by Look Force. No return fire.	
		1830	Small Bosche patrol in ORCHARD 735895 fired at forward sec post, slightly injuring one man. They then made off and no further	

WL4774 208 2,000,000 3-48 W. H. & S. 81/8975

Sheet SIX
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Month and Year JAN 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HEEL	29 (cont)		...contact was made, although the ground was immediately searched.	
HEEL	30		Similar activity on the Island. Two enemy seen and engaged by small arms fire. 4 KSLI rescue party in area preparatory to handing over tomorrow.	
HEEL	31	0950	Proposed handing over to 4 KSLI cancelled. Expecting relief from other formation within 48 hours.	
		1300	"Deceiving" attack on Island with 2" Mortar and SA used, to draw enemy fire and observe movement. Three enemy seen and one killed (claimed). No answering fire, enemy seemed to be completely dominated by our LOCK FORCE.	

[Handwritten signature]
 Major
 Offr Comd 1st Bn Herefordshire Regt

WL4774 208 2,000,000 3-48 W. H. & S. 81/8975

Wintering on The Maas – Part 4

The good news was that for some the first UK leave since the Battalion had landed in Normandy, with them leaving for UK on the 1 Jan amid friendly jeers from less fortunate comrades who had been unlucky in the ballot and would not be going until April. On 12 Jan the Division was visited by Field Marshal Montgomery who personally conferred on officers and men decorations won up to this stage of the campaign. The Battalion sent a representative party to witness the ceremony and to hear his

words of congratulations for the past and encouragement for the future. This period of reserve, part of which was spent at Weert, finally came to an end on the 21 Jan, when the Battalion again returned to the Maas, this time to the Heel sector, just South of the previous one.



The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Turner-Cain is presented with the Distinguished Service Order by Field Marshal Montgomery



WO2 Evans is presented with the Distinguished Conduct Medal by Field Marshal Montgomery

Heel, Beegden, Panheel, Pol, Wessem, Pannenhof are all names for the same thing - patrols, OPs, shelling and being shelled. The enemy behaved about the same here as elsewhere along the river, and it was just a question of keeping an eye on him and stopping him up with mortars or artillery, if he moved about too much or fired his artillery too often. The piece de resistance of this position was 'Lock Force' and the island. That was the only really troublesome fly in the ointment. A platoon occupied a position overlooking the lock gates and the island and their role apart from observing and preventing enemy crossings was to keep firing at the enemy on the island just to check that they were still there. After firing their Mortars, PIATs or rifles the enemy would reply and so it went on. There was only something like a platoon of them there and nobody could quite understand why they stayed. On one occasion a sentry spotted a couple of them digging and opened up with his rifle at about 450 yards. They immediately disappeared below ground and exposed the blade of a spade. Accepting the invitation the sentry fired 5 rounds application with the obliging Bosch signaling his shots!

Bob Price in his books expands on the life of a 'ordinary' soldier during this period – although he readily admits he was more fortunate than others!

On 30th December I was picked with eleven others out of the company for guard duty at Battalion HQ. This was no ordinary guard; we were each issued with a new uniform and given

the whole day to prepare. That meant blanching belt and gaiters, polishing boots and brasses, and also making sure your rifle and bayonet were spotless. The next morning we fell in outside Company HQ to be inspected by the Company Commander, the whole Company were watching from a distance. The major walked along the ranks inspecting each one of us in turn, he then picked the two men he thought had got the smartest turnout. No one was more surprised than me when I was one of those chosen. We were dismissed and returned to our billet, while the rest of the guard went by truck to Battalion HQ to complete their guard duties. I was now excused all duties for the next two days. The rest of the platoon gave me some stick with a few choice words I couldn't repeat here. I had the last laugh though, when they had to get up the next morning and go out training in the snow, I stopped in bed! For the next week we did training from first light until our midday meal, it was quite hard work in the snow covered countryside. After our meal the afternoons were free time, it gave us a chance to catch up with our letter writing, reading or playing cards, which was one of our favourite pastimes.

About a week later, just before we fell out for the day the sergeant major warned us not to forget that the Company Commander was holding a full company inspection the next day. 'Get your rifle and equipment cleaned up this afternoon, you've got plenty of time, so I don't want any excuses tomorrow' he shouted.

After more snow in the night we woke to a clear cold morning; after breakfast we got ready for the inspection parade. The dress was 'Battle Order', that meant steel helmet, rifle and bayonet, belt with small pack and ammunition pouches, in other words dressed for action. The whole company lined up in the monastery courtyard, the 3 rifle platoons, now all at full strength and company HQ a total of 110 men. Each platoon was inspected in turn by the Major and the platoon commanders. He then addressed the whole company and congratulated us on our turnout. Ten days ago when we arrived here, as you can imagine we looked a bit like, Dad's Army. Today I must admit we looked pretty good in our new uniforms and scrubbed equipment. What happened next came as a complete surprise to everyone, the three platoon commanders then picked out the best turned out soldier in their respective platoons, the reward for those chosen was three days leave. When my name was called out as 9 platoon's candidate it came as a complete shock, I couldn't believe my luck. I didn't know where we were going but I would certainly make the most of it.

The following morning I went training with the rest of the platoon as usual, but after our dinner I got changed into my best battle dress, put my toilet requisites in my small pack and went to join the rest of the lads that were going to the rest camp with me. As the truck moved out of the courtyard the lads leaning out of windows gave us a noisy send off with whistles and a few unprintable remarks. It didn't take us too long to reach our destination; the rest camp was situated in a fairly large Dutch town in modern school buildings. Our dormitory was on the second floor, the room held 12 single beds complete with mattress, pillows and blankets, the whole building was central heated, what luxury! In the dining hall we'd got Dutch girls to wait on us, with four meals a day, there was also a separate canteen where we could get tea and biscuits or a glass of beer. A games room, reading and writing room and a large lounge. In the town there was a small NAAFI shop where you could buy all your personal requirements such a soap, toothpaste or razorblades. The theatre and cinema shows were free and there was no restriction on what you did, if you wanted to stop in bed all day you could. All this and about a dozen Dutch girls looking after all your needs - well nearly all! If only I could stop here for the rest of the winter. I think for me the one thing I really appreciated was the female company. After living for so long in such a close all male environment it was so nice just to sit and talk to a Dutch girl. In the evenings the girls came

into the lounge and we played games, or just sat in groups and talked. It was nice to hear their experiences under the German occupation and their hopes for the future; also they were interested to hear about England and our families. Our 3 days leave soon went by, much too quickly for me. With the weather so cold outside it was a different world inside with central heating and a cheerful atmosphere - who in his right mind would want to leave a place like this? But unfortunately our time was up; we sat in the lounge waiting for our transport to arrive, watching the children playing on their toboggans in the snow. The afternoon went by and still no transport, so eventually we returned to our rooms and then down to the dining hall for our tea. We spent another pleasant evening in the lounge playing cards with our Dutch hosts, hoping they'd forget us again tomorrow. But of course that was wishful thinking, the following day the truck finally arrived for us at midday. We said our good-byes and started our return journey back to the Battalion.

We soon found out why they didn't pick us up yesterday, the Battalion had all moved into a large barracks on the outskirts of Weert. For the next week we did six hours intensive training each day in bitter cold conditions with snow falling on most days. The training ground was about four miles from the barracks, the walk there wasn't too bad, but the return journey was hard going. Wet socks and freezing conditions don't go well together, and the cold made my leg ache. At least when the training was over we'd got a nice warm barrack room to return to and a bed to sleep in at night. There was a canteen in the camp Tom, Stan and most of us used it at night, but we also went into town the 'Div Club', and the cinema in spite of the weather. I was disappointed that I was unable to get a birthday card for my girlfriend's 21st birthday - 17th January - although I'd tried everywhere. I knew she would understand. The Battalion moved back into the line about 20th January, I was left behind. Five out of each company had to get cleaned up, Blanco belt and gaiters and attend a parade the next day. About 0900 hours we marched into the town where we joined other regiments in a large hall. We were to form the audience for a medal presentation ceremony by Field Marshal Montgomery, it was quite an occasion and the only time I saw the Commander of Second Army. The ceremony over we marched back to barracks, then after dark we joined our respective companies in the line somewhere on the banks of the river Maas. It was my 20th birthday and I was surprised to find cards and several parcels waiting for me when I arrived back, we had quite a party that night.

Over the next fortnight we moved several times performing the same tasks, patrols or just holding the ground, we slept in empty houses in small villages along the line of the of the river. From time to time there were fierce artillery duels, which usually started when we were trying to get some sleep. If our village was the target that night we took cover in our trenches outside.

It was about this time that Jim our section leader had to return home on compassionate leave and I took over the section. I immediately ran into trouble with the platoon commander, some of his orders were absolutely ridiculous. I had to parade the men for inspection at first light and he expected their boots and brasses to be polished. Everyone knows you can't polish wet boots, and we never carried metal polish in the line. In no time the whole platoon was in revolt. One snow covered night, right on the banks of the river, he crept up behind Simo the Bren gunner and accused him of being asleep on guard. Simo was furious and thrust the barrel of the Bren in his stomach and threatened to shoot him on the spot. When I arrived to see what all the commotion was about I had to separate them, they were screaming at one another. I was glad when the platoon sergeant arrived and they both listened to his reasoning. Simo was later put on 'Open Arrest'. I could never understand why this Canadian

officer was in the British Army, he hated the British - well it always appeared so! He seemed to antagonise everybody he made contact with and in the end lost the respect of his men. It was only the tact and diplomacy of our platoon sergeant that held the platoon together at this difficult time. This bitter cold weather was beginning to have an effect on everyone and the job we were doing didn't help.

During this period 7 Armd Div with commando units under command was pushing up north towards Roermond on the other side of the river. As they cleared the area up, so the Battalion's southerly company's position became redundant; but progress was slow. The ground on the opposite bank of the river south of the island was eventually cleared and a commando unit launched a night attack on the island itself. This was not successful so the vigil of Lock Force continued. With the situation still much the same the Battalion handed over to 46 Marine Commando unit on 2 Feb and withdrew to Weert Barracks.

By that time the Allied Forces were commencing to regroup for the spring offensives and preliminary operations preparatory to crossing the Rhine.

Casualties

Two casualty was recorded in January

Name	Initial	Rank	Number	Company	Cause	Date	Location
Loombe	S	Pte	5779942	S	KIA	25/01/1945	Heel
Lewis	W	Pte	4105646		Died	27/01/1945	Belgium

The War Diary for 25th reports the death of one soldier – presumably Pte Loombe of the Mortar Section S (Support) Company, who fell on his sten gun setting it off and shooting himself. The sten gun was acknowledged as a dangerous weapon which a knock or drop could set it firing, many accidental deaths and woundings are attributable to the 'flimsy' nature of the gun.

The Sten was a blowback-operated 9x19mm submachine gun firing from an open bolt with a fixed firing pin on the face of the bolt. This meant the bolt remained to the rear when the weapon is cocked and on pulling the trigger the bolt moves forward from spring pressure, picking up a round from the magazine and firing it all in the same movement. There is no breech locking mechanism; the rearward movement of the bolt caused by the recoil impulse is held by the mainspring and the bolt's inertia, hence the possibility of a 'accidental discharge'. It had a simple design generally of 'pressed' metal plate making it cheap to produce and was used extensively by resistance groups and underground movements.

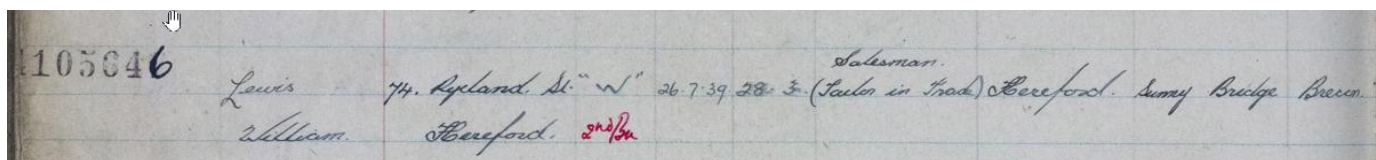
It was designed by R Shepherd and H Turpin and produced by Enfield hence 'STEN'.



William Lewis died and is buried Oostende cemetery, it is not known if he was serving with the Herefords at the time.

The term 'died' means he was not Killed in Action nor Died of Wounds *on the battlefield*. It is probable he was wounded or 'sick' and was 'passed back' along the medical evacuation chain and died in the Ostend area.

Pte Lewis from Hereford had enlisted in the 2nd Battalion in July 1939.



Wounded

There are no known reports of woundings in January

Honours & Awards

There were no Honours or Awards made in January

Officers' Plot

See Separate post

ORs' Strength Return

<i>Date</i>	<i>WO1</i>	<i>WO2</i>	<i>CSjt</i>	<i>Sjt</i>	<i>Cpl</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>Bglr</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Establishment	1	7	6	38	72	689		813	
13/06/1944								913	Rail Party 384; sea party 529
01/07/1944	1	7	7	39	72	673	6	805	
29/07/1944	1	7	8	38	74	594	6	728	
02/09/1944	1	7	9	41	70	582	6	716	
30/09/1944	1	6	13	36	62	539		656	
28/10/1944	1	7	10	39	64	565		686	
28/12/1944	1	8	8	36	71	764		888	
27/01/1944	1	8	8	36	69	751		873	