

WAR DIARY

Unit:- 1st Bn The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)

Month:- February 1945

Commanding Officer:- Lieut. Col. J. Masterton-Smith

0545	1	YWATHITGYI	D Coy occupied OLD & NEW MILL areas	RMC
0725			P1 Comdr of A Coy 2 Manch reported under command	RMC
1000-1100			Breakfast (cooked) and water brought up by mules to all Coys	
1215			Brigadier and CRA visited Bn HQ	RMC
1300			Bde LO reported enemy MG on rd between D Coy and rly station	RMC
			D Coy patrol sent to investigate	RMC
1310			Brigadier and CRA left Bn HQ	RMC
1400			Two plns 2 Manch moved up to D Coy area	RMC
1430			Div Comd visited Bn HQ	RMC
			D Coy patrol returned N.E.S.	RMC
			Further details of 1st and 2nd Feb in APP I	APP I RMC
0900	2		O Gp Conf	RMC
1650			CO went forward to D & A Coys	RMC
1800			CO RETURNED TO Bn HQ	
			Coy disposition for night:- A at LF 224593	
			B at LF 243593	
			C at LF 235592	
			D at LF 226595	RMC
2000			Complimentary message to CO from Bde and Div Comdr passed to all ranks	APP II
			Own casualties - 9 Killed 20 Wounded	RMC
0600	3		Patrols from 400 yds EAST YWATHATGYI to 400 yds WEST PYIDAWTHA LF	
			2259 reported whole NORTH bank of IRRAWADDY clear	
			Patrol from Bn HQ to OLD MILL at LF 236599 contacted Def P1 NES	RMC
0845			Wounded Jap Sgt captured and sent back	RMC
0920			Bde Comd arrived Bn HQ	RMC
0935			CRA arrived Bn HQ	RMC
1000			B Coy patrol went through C Coy linked up with Def P1 then rejoined	
			B Coy NES	RMC
1015			C Coy patrol to Def P1 at OLD MILL, mopping up on way	RMC
1110			C Coy patrol contacted Def P1 NES	RMC
1200			Slight shelling on C Coy area, one man wounded	RMC
1400			Jap equipment, arms and amm collected and sent back	RMC
1410			6 Bde Comd, Bde Maj and CO 1st Royal Berks arrived at Bn HQ	RMC
1430			Above party with CO recce Coy areas	RMC
1545			CO and party returned	RMC
1550			Enemy shelled C Coy area	RMC
1600			RAF unexploded bomb demolished by RE party	RMC

1800			Pioneers completed Cemetery at LF 242597 Night 3/4 quiet except for one Jap straggler who was shot at in C Coy area I.O. 1st Bn The Royal Scots	RMC RMC RM Crockatt Captain, (The Royal Regiment)
0600 0845 0900 1200	4	YWATHITGYI	Mortar Pl moved out to support 1/8 LF in KYAUKSE area LF 3264 C Coy shot 1 Jap straggler Bn moved by MT to new location, relieved by 1 R Berks Bn settled in new location at LF 307686 Afternoon spent in improving area Strength:- 32 Offrs 675 ORs	RMC RMC RMC APP II RMC
1030	5	LF 307686	Public Relations Offr visited Bn Afternoon C & D Coys to Mobile Bath & Refit Unit	RMC RMC
1000	6		2 i/c's inspection of area Afternoon remainder of Bn to Mobile Bath & Refit Unit	RMC RMC
1000 1830	7		CO & IO recce area Kg LF 361696 Film show by Mobile Cinema Toc H gramophone recital	RMC RMC
0930 1000 1430 1830	8		CO to conf at Div 2 i/c & 2 i/c Coys recce Kg LF 361696 ENSA concert Gramophone recital by Mobile Cinema	RMC RMC RMC RMC
0900 1100 1815	9	LF 362694	Bn march off to new location Bn arrived at new location, dug in Dispositions:- HQ at Chaung LF 362694 A Coy at LF 360695 B Coy at LF 365696 C Coy at LF 363695 D Coy at LF 361692 Adm area remained at LF 307686 C Coy standing patrol with W/T to observe at Chaung junc LF 364682 B Coy " " " " " " " " " LF 354681	RMC RMC RMC RMC
0345 0615 0615 0730 1100 1815	10		B Coy patrol returned NTR C Coy patrol returned NTR Two patrols of D Coy left - 1 to contact 2 NORFOLK at Kg 386682 2 to contact 1/8 LF at YWATHIT LF 3166 D Coy patrols returned Bde Comd visited Bn Standing patrols of B & C Coys left for same area as 9th	RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC
0600 0645 0700 1830	11		D Coy patrols to 2 NORFOLK & 1/8 LF left B & C standing patrols returned NES D Coy patrol returned NES B & C standing patrols set out Strength:- Offrs 30 ORs 659	RMC RMC RMC APP III RMC

0500	12	Lt Bagot and 4 men patrol to LF 393695 and observe area YWATHIT for enemy guns	RMC
0615		D Coy patrol left	RMC
0645		B & C patrols returned NES	RMC
0730		D Coy patrol returned NES	RMC
1100	LF 362694	RA OP reported 12 unidentified trucks moving between LF 364662 - LF 355681. Thought possibly Japs. D Coy + 2 Det Mortars + RA OP ordered to est themselves at Pt 452 at LF 349681 and investigate	RM Crockatt Captain, I.O. 1st Bn The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)
1200		D Coy set out	RMC
1245		D Coy arrived at pt 452 LF 349681	RMC
1315		D Coy ordered to link up with one tp 3 DG at approx LF 338668	RMC
1400		D Coy linked up with tp 3 DG	RMC
1430		One pl D Coy sent to investigate suspected enemy in LF sq 3666	RMC
1515		Pl D Coy having searched area report NES	RMC
1600		D Coy ordered to return to Bn area, transport supplied	RMC
1630		D Coy arrived back at Bn area	RMC
1630		Lt Bagot's patrol returned, reported br at LF 413704 blown, NES in YWATHIT & SAYE	RMC
1830		B & C patrol set out	RMC
0600	13	D Coy patrol set out	RMC
0600		B & C patrol returned NTR	RMC
0600		Lt Morse and one sec with W/T set patrol to Chaung junc LF 364682 SOUTH down chaung to br at LF 376660 to TA-EINDE LF 382661	RMC
0730		D Coy patrol returned NTR	RMC
0900		Lt Morse patrol in TA-EINDE reported NES, locals state no Japs there last 15 days	RMC
1130		Lt Morse's patrol returned	RMC
1830		B & C Coy patrol set out	RMC
2200		Lt JH Crockatt and 7 men patrol along SOUTH bank YEMYET-IN to YWATHIT LF 409713	RMC
0600	14	D Coy patrol set out	RMC
0600		Lt J H Crockatt patrol returned NES	RMC
0600		B & C Coys patrols returned NTR	RMC
0730		D Coy returned NTR	RMC
1830		B & C Coy patrols set out.	RMC
0600	15	B & C Coys patrols returned NTR	RMC
0600		D Coy patrol set out	RMC
0730		D Coy patrol returned NTR	RMC
1530-1630		Bde Comd visited Bn	RMC
1830		B & C Coys patrol set out	RMC
0600	16	B & C Coys patrol returned NTR	RMC
0600		D Coy patrol set out	RMC

0730		D Coy patrol returned NTR	RMC
0900		CO, IO & Coy Comds recce KYAUKSE LF 3264 area	RMC
1130		CO, IO & Coy Comds returned	RMC
1430		ENSA Concert for 1/3 Bn	RMC
1630		O Group Conf	RMC
1830		B Coy patrol set out	RMC
			RM Crockatt Captain, (The Royal Regiment)
I.O. 1st Bn The Royal Scots			
0600	17 LF 362694	D Coy patrol set out	RMC
0600		B & C patrols returned NTR	RMC
0715		D Coy patrol returned NTR	RMC
0830		Bn moved off to new location	RMC
0930	LF 320665	Bn arrived at new location and relieved 1/8 LFs	
		Dispositions:- Bn HQ & HQ Coy - LF 320665	
		A Coy - LF 348669	
		B Coy - LF 324661	
		C Coy - LF 329649	
		D Coy - LF 328648	RMC
		ROUTINE PATROLS:-	
1600		(1) Recce, B Coy one sec, time out 1600, time in 1830 Route, YWATHIT LF 3166 - Contact HQ BIC - AUNGYWA LF 3065 - kg wood LF 310648 - Pagoda LF 317648 - Kg wood LF 318652 - wood LF 332651	RMC
1700		(2) Recce D Coy, one sec, time out 1700, time in 1830, To KONYWA LF 3263	
1830		(3) Recce C Coy, offr and one sec, time out 1830, time in 0300, Route, wood LF 342655 - 6 MS rd and tr junc LF 371659 - NW up tr 1000 yds - S to just N main rd - WEST along main rd - wood LF 242655 - KYAUKSE LF 3264	RMC
0630	18	(4) Recce, B Coy, one sec, time out 0630, time in 0900, Route as per No 1	
0630		(5) Recce D Coy, one sec, time out 0630, time in 0800, Route as per No 2	
		All patrols returned NTR	RMC
0630		Pl of C Coy to est firm base at TA-EINDE LF 3866 while tks and pl 1/8 LFs in carriers recce area SOUTH	RMC
0730		CO & IO to OP in A Coy area	RMC
0800		Bde Comd arrived at OP	RMC
0800		Div Comd arrived at OP	RMC
1020-1200		Enemy slight shelling of TA-EINDE area	RMC
1130		Pl of C Coy left TA-EINDE	RMC
1230		Pl of C Coy arrived back	RMC
		CO returned to Bn HQ	

1430 1600 1700		2 Div Concert Party show for 1/3 of Bn B Coy patrol as per No 1 17 Feb D Coy patrol as per No 2 17 Feb Strength 29 Offrs 669 ORs. Both patrols NTR	RMC RMC RMC RMC APP IV
0100 19 0630 1145 1430 1600 1745	LF 320665	A Coy patrol to TA-EINDE, Route, down tr running SE from SAUSAGE feature LF 349678 to TA-EINDE and back NTR B & D Coy patrols as per Nos 4 & 5 17 Feb Both NTR Corps Comd visited Bn 2 Div Concert Party show for 1/3 of Bn Beer issue B & D Coy patrols as per Nos. 1 & 2 both NTR D Coy recce patrol to br at LF381604. Route axis main rd KYAUKSE LF 3264 - PAGODA LF 3860	RMC RMC RMC RMC RM Crockatt Captain, I.O. 1st Bn The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)
0100 20 0330 0330 0630 0730 0730 0900 1000 1430 1430 1600 1700 1745		A Coy patrol to TA-EINDE as per 19 Feb. NTR D Coy recce patrol returned, reported br at LF 381604 intact. Saw two Japs 200/300 yds on rd EAST of br at LF 318604. One Jap seen MS 20 area. Four newly dug posns and one Jap 40 yds SW of rd at MS 20/20½ B & D Coy patrols as per Nos. 4 & 5 both NTR Pl of C Coy estab firm base at TA-EINDE for armd coln supporting 2 NORFOLK attack on SAYE LF 4068 C.O. to O.P. near C Coy area C.O. ordered Pl of C Coy to return C.O. returned to Bn HQ Lecture by Div Educational Officer 2 Div Concert Party show for 1/3 of Bn B Coy patrol as per No. 1 D Coy patrol as per No. 2 D Coy fighting Patrol to br at LF 381604. Route, axis main rd, KYAUKSE - Pagoda. Tasks, 1. Recce wood at LF 371606. 2. Capture a Jap.	RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC RMC
0100 21 0200 0630 1330 1440		A Coy patrol to TA-EINDE as per 19th Feb. NTR D Coy patrol returned. Reported being fired on from Jap posn area approx LF 365609. Rifle and grenades only. Patrol shot one Jap but failed to recover body, no prisoners taken, own tps no casualties B & D Coy patrols as per Nos. 4 & 5 Both NTR C.O. reced area 1½ miles SE KYAUKSE LF 3264 B Coy moved to new area approx 1½ miles SE KYAUKSE See App. Def Pl take over B Coy old posns at LF 324661 Mobile baths and clothing change for all available Bde Comd visited Bn	RMC RMC RMC APP VI RMC RMC

1600		Def Pl patrol as per No. 1 NTR	RMC
1700		D Coy patrol as per No. 2 NTR	RMC
2130		15 - 20 Japs seen by C Coy at approx LF 333647 Japs dispersed when fired on Patrol sent in direction of Jap movement reported NES	RMC
0200	22	A Coy patrol to TA EINDE as per 19 Feb NTR	RMC
0630		Def Pl patrol as per No. 4 NTR	RMC
0630		D Coy patrol Route KONYWA LF 3263 - contact B Coy on NW rd at approx 23½ MS - up rd to KYAUKSE NTR	RMC
0730		Mobile Baths and clothing change for all available during day	RMC
0750		Bde Comd and C.O. move to O.P. in A Coy area	RMC
		Pl of A Coy in carriers start deception move to TA-EINDE then down tr to SOUTH while 1/8 LF attack in area LF 371605	RMC
0945		Pl of A Coy recalled and arrived back at 1050 hrs	RMC
1145		C.O. returned to Bn HQ	RM Crockatt Captain,
1600	LF 320665	Def Pl patrol as per No. 1 NTR	I.O. 1st Bn The Royal
1700		D Coy patrol as per No. 2 NTR	Scots (The Royal
		One sec D Coy to guard crashed HURRIBOMBER at LF 325635	Regiment)
0100	23	A Coy patrol TA-EINDE NTR	RMC
0630		Def Pl patrol as per No. 4 NTR	RMC
0630		D Coy patrol as per 22 FEB BTR	RMC
0900		1 i/c and I.O. recce new area at NATKA YAING LF 2465	RMC
		Mobile Baths and clothing change until 1030 hrs	RMC
1210		2 i/c recce returned	RMC
1430		Toc H gramophone recital at CHAUNG-U LF 2968	RMC
1600		Def Pl patrol as per No. 1 NTR	RMC
1700		D Coy patrol as per No. 2 NTR	RMC
0200	24	A Coy patrol to TA-EINDE NTR	RMC
0630		Def Pl patrol as per No. 4 NTR	RMC
0630		D Coy patrol as for 22 Feb NTR	RMC
0950		Maj Gen Wimberley & Bde Comd visited Bn	RMC
1130		Maj Gen Wimberley, Bde Comd & C.O. left Bn HQ	RMC
1250		C.O. returned to Bn HQ	RMC
1600		Def Pl patrol as per No. 1 NTR	RMC
1700		D Coy patrol as per 22 Feb NTR	RMC
1830		Pl of C Coy sent to guard tk blown on mine at LF 377660	
		Second Pl of C Coy warned to move at 0630 25 Feb in carriers as escort to tp 3 D.G. to destroy enemy dug in round MAHINDRA DAL Regt at SAYE LF 4068	RMC
1900		D Coy warned to move am 25 Feb to take over protection of amn dump at MS 30 rd SHWEBO - SAGAING	RMC

1940		Standing patrol C Coy ordered to estab itself on IRRAWADDY at TADAING LF 084606	RMC
0600	28	C Coy patrol returned NTR	RMC
0615		Bn marched off, order of march - C, B, Bn HQ, HQ Coy, D & A to MYITTHA LF 1259 thence across IRRAWADDY in amphibians	RMC
1200	LF 102577	Bn across IRRAWADDY. Dispositions:- Bn HQ, HQ Coy LF 102577 A Coy - LF 107573 B Coy LF 098572 C Coy LF 102572 D Coy LF 096576	RMC RMC
1330		Recce patrol from C Coy to lake at LF 096561	RMC
1600		C Coy patrol returned, reported lake dry. Two vehicles seen on bend in Chaung LF 092558 - PAGODA at LF 083541 Complimentary message from Div Comd passed to all ranks, see App	RMC APP VII
		RM Crockatt Captain, I.O., 1st Bn. The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)	

Appendix I.

YWATHITGYI D 2 and 3 1 and 2 Feb 45.

Reference Maps 1/25,000 NGAZUN sheet 3.

(all attached to Air photograph
Appendix VII of Enlargement of YWATHITGYI
War Diary, 1st Bn.
The Royal Scots
for Jan 45.

1 February.

During the night 31 Jan/1 Feb a patrol from "A" Coy contacted B and C Coys and found no enemy. A patrol of D Coy contacted A Coy and found no enemy.

In the morning Lt. Renwick's pl rejoined B Coy from the OLD MILL, where it had spent the night. Two plns 2 MANCH reported to come under comd Bn. One pl was put under comd D Coy, and one pl put under comd A Coy, down on the river bank. The latter was given the task of engaging any enemy craft attempting to cross the IRRAWADDY.

At 0745 enemy guns from south of the IRRAWADDY shelled the Bn HQ area and the OLD MILL. No casualties were suffered.

At 1000 hrs a party of three Japs were seen drawing water from the river in front of C Coy. These were engaged by rifle fire and one Jap was hit.

At 1300 hrs patrol of C Coy went forward to try and pin point LMG posns which were holding up the Coy 31 Jan. On the ground near the beach two JAPS dived into a posn 200 yds in front of our line. On the return of the patrol, the posn was engaged by 3" Mortar fire. The enemy were seen withdrawing from it, and the posn was set on fire.

At 1430 one sqn HBs straffed the Mango grove at the west end of the village. Local reports stated later that twelve enemy were killed by it.

At 1500 hrs A Coy found a wounded JAP in their area and made him a PW. He was badly wounded and died before giving any info.

At 1525 two JAPS were seen crossing the IRRAWADDY in a boat. The boat was sunk by MG fire of 2 MANCH and the occupants thought killed.

As dusk approached enemy sniping was encountered by the fwd tps in the village. But this died down as darkness fell, and a quiet night followed.

During the day plans were made for the capture of the rest of YWATHITGYI the following day. It was decided that A Coy should continue the advance on a three pl front through the rest of the village, supported by B Sqn 3 DG and four WASPS. The adv was to be preceded by air and arty conc. D Coy was to hold itself in immediate readiness to help "A" Coy. One Pl of B and C Coys were to follow A Coy with the task of mopping up.

2 February.

The day started with A Coy taking a further wounded PW near their coy posn. Again the PW was too badly wounded to give any inf to prove of immediate use.

During the morning the Def Pl was relieved by 1 Pl DLI and returned to defend Bn HQ.

Owing to the forthcoming air strike on the west end of YWATHITGYI, D Coy had to evacuate its posns in the OLD MILL, and withdraw 500 yds North. This took place at 1030 hrs without interference from the enemy. At the same time A Coy moved up into "B" and "C" Coy area, and formed up ready for their advance. The tks moved up to join them shortly after. At 1150 hrs the air and arty programme began, and was as follows :

1150 - 1225 Three sqns THUNDERBOLTS bombed and strafed D, E and F (See air photograph).

1225 - 1233 Seven btys guns put down arty conc on C and west end of B. Immediately the air strike had ended D Coy reoccupied its posns in the OLD MILL and immediately came under fairly hy mtr and M.G. fire, which lasted for about ½ hr.

A Coy had meanwhile started to push fwd with the tks supporting them. The adv started well. The tks engaged all enemy foxholes and the Coy continued fwd until the right hand pl got held up by hy MG and rifle fire at approx 234595. This pl was held up until 1330 when it eventually by-passed the posn. Meanwhile the other two pls had advanced to the main rd running north from the PO. At the rd A Coy paused to re-group for the advance on the rest of the village, and by 1350 had reached the line of the PAGODA at 232594, still meeting sniper fire.

One tp 3 DG had been ordered to capture the CEMETERY, and by 1425 they reported it clear of the enemy. This area had previously been heavily mtrd and MGed by two dets mtrs and pl 2 MANCH from OLD MILL.

At 1435 the CO issued orders to OC "D" Coy, to take up a posn on A Coy's right flank, and for A Coy to close up to the left. Both Coys were then ordered to continue the advance. The Def Pl relieved D Coy in the OLD MILL. At 1440 the CO issued orders to OC C Coy to move into the P.O area and consolidate.

By 1500 D Coy was in line with A Coy, and the adv continued. A certain amount of enemy shelling landed in the MILL area, but in the village oppsn was becoming lighter. A Coy had, however, by-passed an enemy posn at 1330 and one Pl B Coy was now mopping up this area, supported by one tp tks and one WASP.

The adv of the leading tps continued to the west end of PYIDAWTHA, which they reached at 1632, and they were then ordered to consolidate, with D Coy at approx 226595 and A Coy at 224593. A Coy sent a patrol fwd to the west end of the Mango Grove, who saw four JAPS running away and fired on them. They did not pursue them further, and having searched the remainder of the area, it returned to its Coy.

The whole Bn then consolidated for the night with A, C and D coys as above. "B" Coy extended its posns down to the IRRAWADYY, bn HQ remained unchanged.

The casualties in the day's ops were 9 ORs killed and 20 ORs wounded.

During the night 2/3 Feb, much movement was heard in the village - mostly JAPS who had been cut off trying to get to the river. Two JAP parties were fired on during the night. One was in a boat attempting to cross the river, the other was a party attempting to launch a sampan. In the former, the party's boat was sunk by MG fire, and the latter were grenaded. Screams and groans were heard from both, but it was impossible to assess casualties in the dark.

3 February

On the morning 3 Feb mopping up ops continued, and by midday the village was reported clear of the enemy.

At 0825 one JAP Sgt was taken PW and was only slightly wounded in the foot. This PW was most informative. He gave his Coy as 5 Coy, 124 Regt, and its strength at approx 80. There were addtl, Supernumerary tps attached to this Coy, and the total JAP garrison in YWATHITGYI - PYIDAWTHA is estimated to have been about 100 all ranks.

Apart from slight enemy shelling the day was quiet, and the afternoon was spent by recce parties 1 BERKS seeing over the posns. 1 BERKS relieved the bn am 4 Feb, an additional PW was taken and one JAP killed as the bn came out.

Own tp casualties for the whole action were :-

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
15 ORs	Lt. Pomphrey 36 ORs	-

Jap casualties estimated at

	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>PWs</u>)
By Bn	40	?	4) A total of 60 plus
By a/c	20) killed and 4 PWs.
(plus possible a few) (this is probably
more killed crossing) a modest estimate,
IRRAWADDY)) as the Jap Sgt said
) there were few
) survivors.

RM Crockatt Capt
IO 1 RS