

On Razor's Edge: Individuals and the Experience of War

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BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE



**MORALE IN BATTLE:
ANALYSIS**

AH INNES

9500-8-47 (276)
H.Q. 223-14-4

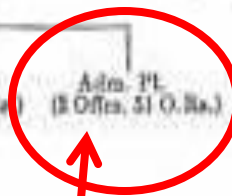
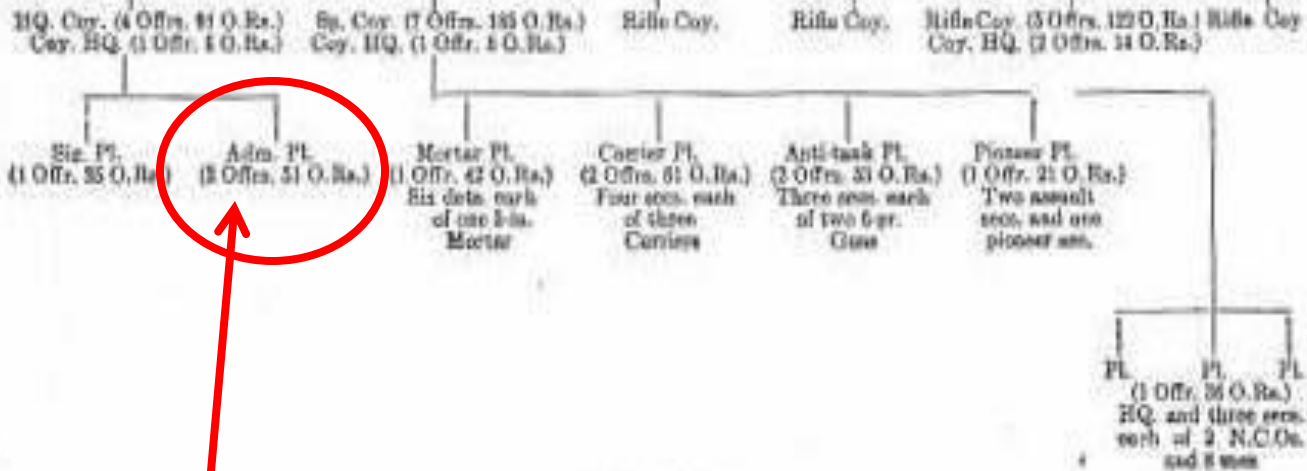
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- Leadership
- Discipline
- Comradeship
- Self-Respect

34030-2

ORGANIZATION OF THE INFANTRY BATTALION

B.N. HQ. (3 Ofrs. 41 O.Rs.)



PERSONNEL		WEAPONS		SUMMARY		TRANSPORT	
Ofrs.	34	L.M.Gs. -303 in.	11	Bicycles	31	Carriers Load	11
Other Ranks	819	P.L.A.T.	11	Motor cycles	27	Carriers universal	11
		3-in. Mortar	6	Cars, 4-wl.	1	Carriers universal fitted for 3-in. Mortar	1
		3-in. Mortar	26	Cars, 1-wl.	3	Trailer, 15-cwt., 2-wheeled	1
		4 prs.	6	Cars, 2-wl.	8	150 gallons water	
				Trucks, 15-cwt., office	1		
				Trucks, 15-cwt., transport	1		
				Trucks, 15-cwt., G.S.	26		
				Lorries, 2-ton, G.S.	12		

Note.—All totals include attached R.A.M.C., R.E.M.E., R.A.O.C. and A.C.C. personnel.

The Administration Platoon had 2 officers and 51 other ranks. It handled all logistical requirements of the infantry battalion.



**Rfn J.R. Ramage and W.H. Maharg,
of the Queen's Own Rifles testing
fresh water supplies which have
just arrived at the front line,
Bretteville, 20 June 1944.
Credit: Lt. Frank Dubervill
LAC, RG24, PA-190900**



**Corporal N.S. McDonald
Highland Light Infantry
Gathering eggs,
Vieux Cairen, 20 June 1944.
Credit: Lt. Ken Bell
LAC, RG24, PA-133114**



**Personnel of the Queen's Own
with a cow they milked daily,
Bretteville, 20 June 1944.
Credit: Lt. Frank Dubervill
LAC, RG24, PA-190901**

**As the campaign in Normandy
continued, milking cows was
forbidden and cow pastures
were often placed out of
bounds**



**Private H.B. Willis
Highland Light Infantry
Shaving during his spare time
Vieux Cairon, 20 June 1944.
Credit: Lt. Ken Bell
LAC, RG24, PC-136953**

Sanitation Order issued by Lt-Col. Jock Spragge, QOR on 13 June 1944

Copy 8.
13 Jun 44
In the Field.

To O. Cs A, B, C, D, Sp and HQ Coys.

From: Commandant, Q. O. R. of C.

Re: SANITATION

1. Simple elementary rules of sanitation are not being observed.
2. Men appear to be using any trench in sight for latrines and refuse dumps, and in many cases no trench at all.
3. Proper signs with arrows pointing to latrines and refuse dumps will be made immediately. These will be marked when filled in and no longer useful.
4. It is essential not only for the health of your men but also for those who follow, to practise strict sanitation. Lack of this may result in epidemics of the so-called filth diseases, through flies rats and lice etc. Casualties from these diseases not infrequently exceed those occurring in battle.
5. Coy Commanders will make this their personal responsibility.
6. Sanitary duties personnel will make routine inspections and offer criticisms and suggestions which will be followed when practical.

.....Lt. Col.,
(J. Spragge) O. C. Q. O. R. of C



**Maj. C.F. Kennedy and
Lt.-Col. C. Petch of The
North Nova Scotia Highlanders,
France, 22 June 1944.
Credit: Lt. Ken Bell
LAC, RG24, PA-133733**

**Note the Bren Gun carrier
behind the two officers.
A battalion commander in the
Second World War had greater
mobility than his counterpart
in the Great War**

THE "BIG 2" BUGLE

1ST BN THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA

B B C NEWS
0900 HOURS
2 JUL 44

D plus 26

Issued Daily (?) by B C R

No 12 Vol II

FRANCE

In NORMANDY British troops are building up the strength of their wedge south-west of CAEN. Yesterday they threw back persistent German attempts to break-through on their flanks. Our guns are sending back 4 shells for every one put over by the Germans. Allied Aircraft continue to give strong support in spite of bad flying weather. It is believed Rommel himself has taken command at the front. He has 7 Armoured Divisions at least and a major trial of armoured strength is imminent. American forces in the CHERBOURG peninsula have now taken 42,500 prisoners. A few Germans are still holding out in the north-west corner of the peninsula.

RUSSIA

On the eastern front Soviet troops have made another surge forward in White Russia. They stormed a 70 mile stretch of the river BEDZINA and captured BORISOV, the last big fortress before MINSK, which is now 40 miles away. Other troops are converging on MINSK from north and south. At the northern end of the White Russian front, the Soviet right wing driving past POLOTSK, yesterday captured two places 20 miles across the 1939 POLISH border.

ITALY

In Italy American troops on the west coast are within 15 miles of LEGHORNE. Br troops on the ADRIATIC have about the same distance to go before ANCONA. The German radio says that Hitler has declared FLORENCE an open city

PACIFIC

In the Central Pacific United States forces are consolidating their position on SIAPAN. In NORTH-BURMA the Chines under General Stilwell, are wiping out a Japanese pocket near MINCHOW, and have already made a good haul of equipment.

IN THE AIR

R & F and American heavy bombers, yesterday attacked launching sites for Flying-bombs. The Germans sent more of their robot planes over Southern England during the day and again last night. Some were shot down. Those that got through are reported to have caused damages and casualties,

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Someone once asked the late Bishop Taylor Smith, Chaplain General of the forces, if he knew the right way to heaven.

"Certainly", said the Bishop, "Take the first turn to the right and keep straight on."

H/Capt J C Clough, QOR Chaplain.

Example of the Queen's Own
Battalion Newspaper,
"The Big 2 Bugle"
2 July 1944

News updates in this issue
were for France, Russia, Italy,
the Pacific, and the air war.

Battalion newspapers always
mentioned news or jokes
specific to the unit.

"Donald"

France



"Doris"

1944

The activities of our two mascots in Sp Coy have been shrouded in mystery since the embarkation of the Regina "Fohms" into Normandy's fair countryside but at long last a few of their activities have come to light.

Both have made a safe landing and their morale at the moment is high, despite the tremendous shortage of worms as compared with good old C-7. Rfn Klughart, L. M. of 4 Pl was known as their dietitian in Hiltingbury but since the invasion, Rfn Chabluk has also put in a hand at this important task. Both of course, have to work in close contact with Sp Coy O&MS in order to "scrounge" the odd extra package of "hard-task." Doris takes a poor view of the "D" type of camp food, but favours the "A" type. She says a girl can hardly keep up appearances without the necessary fruit in her diet.

Their trip to this country was practically uneventful, having spent most of their time in a crate. "BUT that's the army, claimed Donald when interviewed by the Odn Press representative." "They never tell you what is going to happen next, and then, suddenly, you find yourself in the middle of some German-held defensive area with snipers all around with their eyes on you for a nice dusk-supper. I don't trust these Germans, though--and it's not safe to wander very far away from this here "A" Scholion as they call it."

Encore had it for a time that Donald had been promoted to the rank of Corporal, but on checking this with Col. Matheson, I find that someone has been pulling everyone's leg (including the ducks) Col Matheson feels at the moment that Donald has not had sufficient experience to take over command of a section--and added that Doris had better get busy and help Donald to produce a section. When his command is large enough he will undoubtedly get corporal's stripes and not before.

It is suggested that a paragraph be run at the bottom of all part I orders issued from this HQ giving a little info on the activities of these two mascots of ours, so if Sp Coy will appoint an editor to turn in a paragraph or two each day on the recent activities of our friends we'll do what we can. Credit for the excellent cartoon at the top of this page goes to "Squire" Sales, new addition to the En Int Sec. and he promises to do some more for us when the I.O. will give him the time.

So we'll leave them for now, preparing their slit-trench for the night at "A" Sch and hope they're not nearly so nervous about shelling as we are.

**"Donald and Doris Duck"
Mascots of the Regina Rifles**

News update for the troops

**Helped foster unit pride and
comradeship**

**The humorous nature of these
publications was a form of
coping mechanism**



**Rfn E. Deblois, takes a bath
with a little help from his buddy
Rfn J.C. Sackfield.**

Bretteville, 20 June 1944.

**Credit: Lt. Frank Dubervill
LAC, RG24, PA-190809**

**Comradeship was most
“intimate” on the section and
platoon levels. However,
battalion newspapers helped to
foster comradeship on a battalion
wide level.**