

Southwick in Hampshire Aux Diary

Located in Hampshire Record Office reference number 92M99.

Said to have been 'found in Birmingham'. Given by Whittall Kyle of Middlecroft Lane, Gosport, to Gosport Museum.

Reports relating to 1st to 21st August 1943, 24th October 1943 to 20th January 1944, 18th to 28th February 1944, and all reports following 12th March 1944, have been cut from the volume.

The diary was written by Sergeant George Gatrall. Entries were signed off by Lieutenant Robert J Welch and some footnotes (in blue) were added by him.

Patrols code name was "St George" and was made up of :
Sergeant George J Gatrall of 46 Tennyson Road, Copnor.
Leonard H Stubbington of "Oakdene" Southwick Road, Wickham
John H Francis of 28 Manor Park Avenue, Copnor
Horace R Crook of 48 High Street, Southwick
Percy W Crook of 58 High Street, Southwick
Charles A J Vince of Supply Stores, Wickham Common
Ronald W Copping transferred to Fareham Home Guard May 1943
Private Horace G Ferguson transferred from "St Vincents" to "St George"
Monday Aug 30th 1943.

Group 5 Commander - Lieutenant Robert J Welch of "Hillcrest", Droxford. He resigned 1st June 1944 following disciplinary action. He was a retired police officer.

Also mentioned in the Diary is :

Assistant Group 5 Commander 2nd Lieutenant Victor L Petersen of Stedhams Cottage, Droxford.

Other patrol leaders of group 5 mentioned in diary :

Sergeant Harry S Lee of Lee's Garage, Bishops Waltham
Sergeant Harold E Ponton of Rose Thicket, Hoegate, Soberton
Sergeant R J Bettesworth of Northend Cottage, Soberton
Sergeant Henry D Miles of Molenan, Station Road, Soberton
Sergeant Cecil A Watts posted to 30th Battalion Home Guard 1st November 1943. Lived at "Hawthorne" Newtown.

Lord Glanusk - Commander Auxiliary Units.

Major E B Clive - Hampshire IO
Group Commander of Group 4 - Lieutenant George Stokes of 149 Earls
Road, Southampton

Scout Section :
Lieutenant John Marchant

Lieutenant Allan

AUX UNIT SOUTHWICK SECTION

List of Explosives etc (Training)

Mills H E (Dummy) 5 in no.
 Blasting Gelatine [sic]
 Plastic
 Detonators
 Bickford Fuse
 Cortex “ [sic]
 Primacord “
 Orange Line
 Incendiaries Parrafin [sic] (Large)
 “ “ (Small)
 Magnet

List of Equipment

	Gatrall	Francis	Crook H	Crook P	Stubbington	Vince	Gopping
Battledress and trousers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Belt Leather	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Holster Revolver	1		1	1	1	1	1
Bed	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pillow	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Boots Leather	1		1	1	1	1	1
Boots Rubber	1						
Shoes Gymnasium	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Knives	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Truncheon Rubber	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Anti Gas Ointment (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Anti Gas Ointment (2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
First Field Dressing	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Water Bottle	1				1		
Suits Denham [sic]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Knuckleduster	1	1			1		
Gloves Woollen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greatcoat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Revolver	1		1	1	1	1	1
Rifle				1			1
Sten Gun							
Tommy Gun							
Groundsheet	1						
Titles & Flashes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Blankets	2						
Haversack	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Steel Helmet	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Eyeshields	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Respirator	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Leather Gaiters	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

List of Explosives etc (Operational)

Blasting Gelatine [sic]

Plastic

Mills H E

~~Sticky Bombs~~

Detonators

Pull switches

Press “ “

Time Pencils ½ Hr

“ “ 1 Hr

“ “ 1 ½ Hr

“ “ 2 Hr

Bickford Fuse
Cortex “ [sic]
Primacord “
Orange Line
L. Delay Pencils
A W Bombs
Adhesive Tape
Trip Wire
A P Switches
Crimping Tool

Allocation of Weapons & Ammunition

Gatral Revolver (No
Ammunition (Rounds 36)

Francis
R

Crook H
Revolver (No 675773)
Ammunition (Rounds 36)

Crook P
Revolver (No 631979) Rifle & 50 rounds No
Ammunition (Rounds 36)

Stubbington
Revolver (No 680368)
Ammunition (Rounds 36)

Vince
Revolver (No 672031)
Ammunition (Rounds 36)

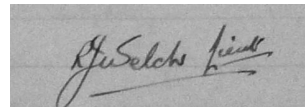
Copping
Revolver (Rounds 36) No 676874

Monthly Report (Oct 1942)

Thursday Oct 8th

Patrol met at Southwick at 8 P.M, and adjourned to the house of Auxilier Vince where Lieut Welch, QMS Petersen and myself acquainted the Patrol of the material they will have to use. Much interest was displayed in general. The meeting closed at 10.30pm.

Attendance : - Gatrall (Patrol Leader)
Auxiliers, Francis, Crook H, Crook P, Copping
Vince, Stubbington



R J Welch Lieut.

Sunday Oct 11th

Patrol met at Southwick at 10 A.M and we proceeded to Bishops Waltham where the Patrol was fitted out with uniforms etc and weapons available. Lieut Welch & QMS Petersen were present. Patrol dismissed at 12.30pm

Attendance : - Gatrall (Patrol Leader)
Auxiliers, Francis, Crook H, Crook P, Copping
Vince, Stubbington

R J Welch Lieut.

Thursday Oct 15th

Patrol met at Southwick at 8 P.M and adjourned to the house of Auxilier Vince. A lecture was given on the use of explosives, detonators, fuses, time pencils etc. A splendid interest was displayed by the patrol, who asked quite a number of questions, the meeting closed at 10 P.M

Attendance : - Gatrall (Patrol Leader)
Auxiliers, Francis, Crook H, Crook P, Copping
Vince, Stubbington

R J Welch Lieut.

Sunday Oct 18th

Patrol met at Southwick at 10.15 A.M and we proceeded by car to Soberton Chalk Pit for revolver, T.G & .22 Rifle firing. The results of the patrols first shooting were highly satisfactory and gives promise of a high standard of marksmanship after more practice. I

would mention specially the good shooting of Auxilier Francis with the T.G. The other members of the patrol also handled the weapons well. After the shooting the patrol saw a magnesium and paraffin incendiary ignited. The instruction closed at 1.00 P.M

Attendance ; - supervising the range, Lieut Welch & Q.M.S Petersen
Gatrall (Patrol Leader) Auxiliers, Francis, Crook H, Crook P, Copping, Vince, Stubbington

R J Welch Lieut.

Wed Oct 21st

The Patrol met at Southwick at 7P.M & proceeded by car to Hambledon. In the vicinity of the "Bat & Ball" a demonstration took place of the making up & laying a 2lb charge of explosive on to the driving sprocket of a tank. The process of making up & laying the charge was explained by Lieut Welch. After the charge had been fired by a ½ Hr time pencil, an inspection was made of the damage caused. Although the result was not quite up to expectation, much valuable information was gained. Lieut Welch dismissed the Patrols at 11.15 P.M

Attendance : - Gatrall (Patrol Leader)
Auxiliers, Francis, Copping, Vince, Stubbington,
Crook H, Crook P,

R J Welch Lieut.

Sunday Oct 25th

Patrol met at Southwick at 10 A.M and proceeded to the vicinity of Hipley Copse where explosive charges were laid in an Elm tree stump. Soberton & Newtown Patrols were also present and each leader made up & fired a charge. All patrols displayed a keen interest in this practical demonstration. Lieut Welch dismissed the patrols at 12.30 P.M.

Attendance : - Gatrall (Patrol Leader)
Auxiliers, Francis, Stubbington, Vince, Crook H, Crook P
(Copping could not attend owing to illness of his wife)

R J Welch Lieut.

Thurs Oct 29

Instructions were received from Lieut Welch to attack at map reference 073 291, which was an old Beech tree N of Southwick House. The attack was timed to commence at 2030 Hr and end at 2130 Hr. Two sentries were to be supplied by Newtown patrol and Sgt. Ponton to act as an observer. The patrol were to be split up so that 2 new men operated with a senior member. Owing to adverse weather conditions, the finding of the Beech tree rendered practically impossible so Sgt. Ponton chose an objective on the fringe of the wood and the patrols carried out a successful attack. This being Southwick patrols first night operation much interest was displayed.

Attendance : - Gatrall (Patrol Leader)
Auxiliers, Francis, Stubbington, Vince, Crook H, Crook P

(Copping was absent owing to working late)

R J Welch Lieut.

Monthly Report Nov 1942

Sun Nov 1

Patrol met at Southwick & a meeting was held and a lecture given on explosives etc. the mechanism of switches was particularly discussed. The patrol was dismissed at 12.30 P.M

Attendance
All members present

R J Welch Lieut.

Thurs Nov 5th

Patrol met at Southwick at 7.30 P.M and we set off on a walk in the surrounding district, much valuable information was gained by all. Section dismissed at 10 P.M

Attendance
All members present

R J Welch Lieut.

Sun Nov 8th

As I was unable to be present owing to work, I reported to Lieut Welch that Auxilier Stubbington had been chosen to be the Corporal of Southwick Section and he led the patrol in a further reconnaissance of the surrounding district, which he informed me was very instructive.

Attendance
All members except myself

R J Welch Lieut.

Thurs Nov 12th

A full report on an exercise which took place on this night has already been submitted to Lieut Welch.

Attendance All members present

R J Welch Lieut.

Sun Nov 15

On this day we took over from the Scout Section in completing O.B and the time was devoted to camouflaging same.

All members were present

R J Welch Lieut.

Wed Nov 18

All members were present working on O.B
Painting inside

R J Welch Lieut.

Thurs Nov 19th

7.30pm Patrol met at Southwick and proceeded to Rookesbury Hall, Newtown where a demonstration of unarmed combat was followed by a lecture on the Sten Gun. A very instructive evening appreciated by all. Patrol dismissed at 10pm.

Attendance All members present

R J Welch Lieut.

Sun Nov 22

Work continued on O.B Corp. Stubbington in charge

R J Welch Lieut.

Copping was absent owing to work

Thurs Nov 26

Work continued on O.B
All members present

R J Welch Lieut.

Sun Nov 29

Work continued on O.B
Copping and Francis absent owing to work

R J Welch Lieut.

Commenting on O.B I would like to express the appreciation of all the Patrol for the splendid O.B that has been provided and which we are determined to make into a first class habitation.

G Gatrall Sec. Leader

R J Welch Lieut.

Noted the fine starting spirit of all.

Thurs 3rd Dec

Owing to myself being mobilised, Corporal Stubbington took charge of Southwick Section. Work was continued on O.B. Laying wood floor etc. Lieut Allen visited patrol on this night.

Attendance Corp. Stubbington

Vince, Copping, Crook H, Crook P.

Francis was absent due to transport difficulties

R J Welch Lieut.

Sun 6th Dec

With Corp. Stubbington in charge, patrol continues work on O.B

Attendance Corp. Stubbington

Vince, Copping, Crook H, Crook P.

Absent: Francis due to work

R J W

Thurs 10th Dec

Work continues on O.B with Corp. Stubbington in charge. Acknowledged here receipt of 1 in no .22 rifle with silencer & telescopic sight & 200 rounds of ammunition.

Attendance Corp. Stubbington

Vince, Francis, Crook H, Crook P.

Absent: Copping, reason given working late

RJW

Sun 13th Dec

Having returned from the army on Fri. Dec 11th. I resumed duty on this day, work being continued on O.B

Attendance Sgt. Gatrall

Corp. Stubbington, Vince, Crook H, Crook P.

Copping

Francis was employed on his work that day

RJW

Thurs 17th Dec

Work continued on O.B

All members present

RJW

Sun Dec 20th

With Corp. Stubbington in charge Patrol continued work on O.B

Attendance : Corp. Stubbington

Vince, Crook H, Crook P

Copping

Francis & myself were at our employment

RJW

Thurs Dec 24

Working on O.B

All members present except Copping

RJW

Sun Dec 27

Working on O.B

Attendance Sgt. Gatrall
Crook H, Vince, Stubbington, Francis
Copping and P Crook absent

RJW

Thus Dec 31st

Working on O.B

All members present

5-1-43

R J Welch Lieut.

Sun Jan 3rd

Working on O.B erecting hammock racks etc

Attendance Sgt. Gatrall
Crook H, P Crook, Vince, Stubbington,
Copping
Francis absent away to work

R J Welch Lieut.

Thurs Jan 7th

Group night operation. Information was received from Lieut Welch regarding target which was the cricket pavilion on Soberton recreational ground. Attack to commence at 20.00 Hrs and end at 22.00 Hrs. My starting point was the "Roebuck". We set off across country and when approaching the objective I instructed Corp. Stubbington to take Vince & Copping and attack from the South whilst I took Francis, Crook H & Crook P & attacked from the West. The operation was very successful from my point of view. 4 men succeeded in placing their labels on to the objective, two men were unable to reach the target before 22.00hrs and one was caught going in. A good performance for a new patrol.

All members present.

R J Welch Lt.

Sun Jan 10th

At O.B. work resumed on hammock racks etc.

All members present.

R J W Lt.

Thurs Jan 14

Small night operation in conjunction with "Martinique" on their ground. Sgt. Watts passed along the information re objective which was at Map Ref 089 361 being a portable hut situated about 20 yards off the road with fairly good cover surrounding. Attack commenced at 20.00 hours in very bright moonlight which rendered operations fairly difficult, all the patrol reached the objective with the minimum of noise, (according to Sgt. Watts report) and although it was impossible not to be seen, my Patrol were allowed to place their labels on to the objective. This was good training for my men on how to approach the target and the exercise was appreciated by all. The whistle was blown at 22.00 hrs.

All members present.

R J W Lt.

Tues Jan 19

Working on O.B. Acknowledged here receipt from Lieut. Welch of the following:

12 in No. Blankets
6 in No. Groundsheets
4 in No. Sten Guns
1200 rounds Sten Guns
7 sets Knife-fork-spoon

R J W Lt.

Thurs Jan 21st

This was to have been a night march but owing to inclement weather we continued working on O.B.

All members present.

R J W Lt.

Sun Jan 24th

This was a Group shoot at Soberton Chalk Pit. The Sten Gun was demonstrated and all the patrol took the opportunity of firing same, for the first time. All men handled the gun very well, they also had practice with the .22 rifle.

All members present except Francis who was working.

R J W Lt.

Thurs Jan 28th

Small night operation with "Martinique" operating on my territory. The map ref. was passed to Sgt. Watts & Lieut. Welch. A full report of this operation was handed to Lieut. Welch.

All members present.

R J W Lt.

Sun Jan 31st

With Corp. Stubbington in charge the patrol went to Hambledon for a demonstration by the Scout Section with Lieut. Alan in attendance.

Present: Stubbington, Vince, Copping, Crook H., Crook P.

R J Welch Lt.

Thurs Feb 4th

With Corp. Stubbington in charge, as I was attending Sgts. course at G.H.Q. Swindon, the patrol took part in a group night operation, the objective being Misling Ford Bridge. From information received the patrol did quite well, 2 men reaching the objective, after starting off from Wickham. The exercise commenced at 22.00 hrs and ended at 24.00hrs.

All members present except Francis.

R J Welch Lt.

Sunday 7th Feb

Work was continued on O.B. And arms were inspected. Acknowledged here receipt of the following:

7 in No. Webbing Belts
7 in No. " Haversacks with straps.
7 in No. Canteens
6 in No. pairs of rubber boots

Returned to Lieut. Welch

7 in No. Leather belts
7 in No. Haversacks (rubber)

R J Welch Lt.

Thurs Feb 11

Work continued on O.B. erecting hammock racks etc.

All members present except Copping
reason:- working late.

R J W Lt.

Sun Feb 14

Under Corp. Stubbington the Patrol went to "Hill Crest", Newtown for Drill instruction by Lieut. Welch.

Present: Stubbington, Vince,
Copping, Crook H., Crook P.
Francis and myself were working

R J W Lt.

Tues Feb 16

Work continued on the O.B. corking corrugated iron which has shown a tendency to sweat quite a lot. This method of corking is quite a success.

All members present except Copping.

R J W Lt.

Thurs Feb 18

Work continued on O.B. Lieut. Welch and Lieut. Petersen, arrived at 21.00 Hrs and inspected the work in progress.

All patrol present.

R J W Lt.

Sat Feb 20

At approx. 15.00 Hrs on this day, the O.B. was visited by Lord Glanusk, Colonel Commander and Major Clive. Satisfaction was expressed at the general condition of O.B. and suggestions for improving entrances were given, these will be carried out in due course. At 20.00 Hrs a demonstration of an ambush was given on Broad Halfpenny Downs, Hambledon, in the presence of Colonel Commander and other officers. All patrol leaders were invited to inspect all the stages of this operation and much information was gained.

Please see to entrance door – make same lower, also do away with exit door and make tunnel exit door away from entrance.

R J Welch Lt.

Sunday Feb 21st

Again on this day all patrols were operating on various exercises on Broad Halfpenny Downs, Hambledon, and were inspected during training by Colonel Commander & Major Clive. No.5 Group were carrying out revolver practice on a moving target and grenade throwing. The officers present expressed satisfaction. On conclusion of the exercise all patrols were addressed by Colonel Commander who expressed his feelings on what he had witnessed and advised all men against complacency.

All the Patrols were present.

R J Welch Lt.

Thurs Feb 25th

Small night operation with 'Barbados' operating on my territorial. A full report of this has been given to Lieut Welch.

All the Patrol operated

R J Welch Lt.

Sun Feb 28

Combined explosives operation. All the men present made up a Unit charge on the instruction of the Sergts'. These were then fired. A further charge was laid on a tree stump and fired. Much interest was displayed by the men.

All the patrol present except Francis who was working.

R J Welch Lieut. 2/3/1943

Thursday Mar 4th

Group night operation, information was received that the objective was the hut on Goat House Hill Newton. Attack commenced at 20.00 hrs and ended at 22.00 hrs. when within 100 yds of the objective I instructed the Patrol to fan out in an easterly direction and attack individually. This proved fairly successful as two men succeeded in placing their labels on the objective under difficult conditions, as it was a fairly light night.

All the patrol were present

R J Welch Lieut.

Sun Mar 7

In accordance with orders received, to alter entrance and escape hatches to O.B this was proceeded with. The entrance was altered and camouflaged.

All the patrol were present

R J Welch Lt.

Thurs Mar 11th

Solo night operation. Map reference of objective was passed to Lieut Welch. The objective was a car placed in the trees on the edge of Southwick Common. As it was a very bright night I decided to exercise the Patrol for noise. I sat in the car and listened very carefully for any sound that was made as the Patrol approached the target and placed their labels. I was very pleased with the result as I only located noise from one man and I afterwards pointed out to him that it is very wise to avoid moving through dry leaves, if an alternative safe route is available. The Patrol was dismissed at 22.00 Hrs.

All the Patrol were present.

Noted with approval

R J Welch Lt.

Sun Mar 14

On this day the work of altering and re-camouflaging the escape hatch was carried out thus completing the order given by Lieut. Welch

Copping & Crook. P. were absent.

Reason given: Pressure of work.

R J W Lt.

Thursday March 18

Night firing of Sten Gun and revolver was carried out under the supervision of Lieut. Petersen. Results regarding my Patrol were disappointing. It being evident that further practice is essential before any degree of efficiency is reached. Patrol 'St Vincent' were also firing.

Copping was absent.

Reason Given: Working late.

Train on snapping in front of a Mirror

R J Welch Lt.

Sun Mar 21st

Daylight reconnaissance. I instructed the Patrol that I would be sitting in a car within a quarter of a mile radius of the spot where we held our solo night patrol on March 11th and that they were to locate the car without being observed by me, and return to their starting point which was the O.B.

I returned to the O.B. after about 1½ Hrs and questioned the Patrol and was quite satisfied that they had located the car. This was proved by the fact that I had placed several objects on or near the car and by individual questioning was able to find out what each man observed.

All the Patrol were present.

R J Welch Lt.

Mon Mar 22nd

Leaders meeting at "Hill Crest", was also attended by Lieut Stokes who offered suggestions for carrying out a competition between groups. A lengthy discussion took place on the subject. It was also decided to devote the whole of April to completing outstanding work on O.B Dumps etc. and the meeting closed at about 23.00 hrs.

R J Welch Lt.

Thurs March 25

Night exercise in cooperation with "St Vincent". Sergt. Ponton as Harlequin and one sentry provided by each Patrol. Information was received that the objective was a car placed on grass triangle at Ashlands Corner. Operating from the OB we arrived cross country to within 200 yds of the objective then split into three groups, attacking from South, East & West. This proved very successful as every man reached the target, placed his label and got away without being heard. This was very pleasing as it shows that the patrol is improving regarding night operation. Patrol dismissed at 23.00 Hrs.

All members present.

Exercise noted "Good Work" R J W Lt.

Sunday Mar 28th

In a disused chalk pit near Southwick some good shooting with the .22 rifle was carried out. After this we proceeded to "Hill Crest" and joining up with the other patrols, were given elementary drill under the supervision of Lieuts' Welch & Petersen. Following this the following stores were issued:

- 3 in No. pairs of dark glasses (rubber).
- 5 in No. Candles
- 1 roll of trip wire.
- 1 roll of Primacord (50yds)
- 12 tubes of camouflage paint.
- 3 in No. tin openers.
- 1 box of explosive (Gelatine [sic])
- 6 in No. Revolver lanyards
- 7 in No. Ration boxes
- 1 in No. Electric Cycle Lamp

1 box A.W bottles

All the patrol were present.

R J Welch Lieut. 31/3/1943

Sgt. Gatrall

Please include "Grid" (Date, Time, place) in monthly reports of Inspection of Arms etc.

R J Welch Lieut. 31/3/1943

Full report for April

As decided at leaders meeting, the month of April was devoted entirely (with the exception of Sun 18th) to construction work. We commenced working on construction of ammunition dump, and according to orders received had to build one large enough to be able to get inside comfortably. We commenced work on Thurs 1st April, and unfortunately encountered solid clay which considerably hampered progress. With the exception of the shelves & hinging lid, this is now complete. Work was next started on Observation Post and this is also nearly completed. Attendance was good through the month with the exception of Copping, and action will be taken to replace this man. On Sun April 18th Corp. Stubbington, Pte. Francis and myself attended a very instructive demonstration of Camouflage & Unarmed Combat at Chandlers Ford. Sandbags and paint were issued for the making of camouflage suits. On Sunday April 4th all members of Patrol brought their firearms along to the O.B for inspection, and I would report that they are all well kept.

R J Welch Lieut. 3-5-43

Sgt. Gatrall

I note by your Report that R Copping is not likely to become an efficient Auxilier. He will have to be asked to resign of his own free will. I would like to convey my appreciation of the hard work done by yourself and your Section. I am sure you have in your Section men, who will prove " Good & True Auxiliars"

R J Welch Lieut.

3-5-43

Report for April

Sun May 2

Patrol met at Southwick at 10.30 A.M and proceeded to chalk pit by O.B for a .22 rifle shoot and instruction on how to set trip wires some good shooting was seen at about 50yds especially from Pte Crook H. The Patrol was dismissed at 12.30.

All attended except Coppin
R J Welch Lt.

Thurs May 6th

Although the programme stated that daylight reconnaissance was to be carried out, permission was obtained from Lieut Welch to finish making the lid of O.P and fixing shelves in ammunition dump, this was carried out. The Patrol was dismissed at 10 P.M. I also contacted Pte. Copping on this evening and informed him that owing to non-attendance and lack of interest in the patrol. I required his resignation and if this was not forthcoming, action would be taken for his dismissal.

All the rest of the Patrol attended
R J Welch Lt.

Sun May 9th

Patrol was met by Lieut Welch at Southwick at 10 A.M and proceeded to a suitable spot in the vicinity for explosive practice. Each man made up a unit charge, and after being examined by Lieut Welch, they were connected to a Cortex [sic] circuit and fired. After this had been successfully carried out, the patrol were instructed in making up a combined explosive and incendiary charge suitable for destroying a petrol dump. This also was made up by the patrol correctly, and fired. A further demonstration of felling a small tree using 2 8oz sticks of B.G was carried out under the supervision of Lieut Welch and after a very instructive lesson the patrol was dismissed at 1P.M.

R J Welch Lt.

Thurs May 13th

Patrol met at Southwick and proceeded to Soberton chalk pit for revolver and sten gun firing. Lieuts' Welch and Petersen were in charge of the range. Some good practice was obtained and would especially mention the revolver shooting of Pte. Francis who promises to become and [sic] excellent revolver shot, he was the only man to get six shots on the target, very creditable. Patrols were dismissed at 9.30 after being visited and addressed by Major Clive.

All members present
R J Welch Lt.

Congratulations to Francis + H Crook on their firing practice.

Sun May 16th

This morning was spent in a cross country walk in the area. Starting from Southwick we proceeded West for about 2 miles then turned North for ½ a mile and completed the triangle back into Southwick, during the course of this operation note was taken of likely places for ammunition dumps etc, and suitable spots for laying ambushes.

All members present
R J Welch Lt.

Put plenty of this work on, very necessary
RJW

Thurs May 20th

A further demonstration of making up and firing charges was carried out with Lieut Welch in attendance. Each man making up & firing his own charge. Patrol dismissed at 10 P.M.

All present

R J Welch

Sun May 23rd

In a field near the O.B the patrol were instructed on dummy Mills throwing, after which a suitable spot was found and a .22 shoot took place. A good all round improvement in shooting was noted. Patrol dismissed at 10P.M

All Present

R J Welch Lt.

Thurs May 27th

Patrol met at O.B to prepare same for coming week-end operation.
Dismissed at 9.30 P.M

All attended except from Crook P.
who was working late.

R J Welch Lt.

Sat May 29 & Sun May 30

This was a week-end operation commencing at 7.30 P.M on Sat.

Patrol met at Southwick and proceeded to "Hill Crest" for pay parade and issue of some stores, after this began the first stage of the night operation. The target for the operation was situated in Beckford Lane between Southwick and Newtown. "St Vincent" & "St George" were working together. The order issued to the patrols was as follows:- On a gate leading to the objective for the night patrol, a three figured number was placed in a prominent position, one sentry was posted and the patrols were sent out on daylight reconnaissance, with orders to observe and bring back the number, in mind, to the patrol leader, without being seen by the sentry. In the event of none of the patrol being successful each leader had a sealed envelope containing the number. It was unnecessary to open this as all the patrol succeeded in bring back to me the correct number.

At the conclusion of the daylight reconnaissance we returned to the O.B at about 10 P.M where we had supper and prepared for the night patrol. The attack was planed between 12 MID and 2 A.M. The objective was a car placed just inside the gate used for the daylight reconnaissance. One sentry was supplied by each patrol. We left the O.B at about 11.45 P.M and I led the patrol in stages, to within 100yds of the objective from the South. I then took one man forward with me to observe the position of the target, and the disposition of the sentries. I told my man I would endeavour to reach the target myself and if I failed he was to make an attempt. After watching the sentries carefully I succeeded in reaching the target and placing a magnet with label attached onto the rear hub of the car. I also was successful in reaching the last bound where the rest of the patrol were waiting without having been seen or heard by the sentries.

We then made our way back to the O.B arriving there at around 3 A.M. At 3.30 A.M we

were visited by Lieut Welch and after commenting on the operation, we slept in the O.B until about 9 A.M. Breakfast was cooked, and after cleaning up the O.B the patrol gathered outside for arms inspection, these were satisfactory. I would comment here, that this was the first time the O.B has been used for cooking and sleeping, and no ill effects were noticeable, the patrol were dismissed at 11 A.M. and all agreed that this week-end exercise was instructional, as well as successful.

A very satisfactory report

All members present

R J Welch Lt.

During this month Pte. R W Copping has been dismissed from the patrol.

Acknowledged here receipt of the following stores :-

50 Detonators
50 Pull Switches
50 Press Switches
1 Thermometer
1 gal jar Rum
1 Compass no 8988

Sgt. Gatrall
R J Welch Lieut.

10.6.43

Sgt. Gatrall

Please see to general camouflage of top of OB and pathway also damp the earth near ammo dump down a bit more (4-203s please). Your section work in general is very satisfactory. Keep it up Sgt. We want an extra good group. Make sure that all "boots leather" are in good condition and all studs in. We are G.H.Q Troops.

R J Welch Lieut. 10.6.43

Report for June

Thurs June 3

Patrol met at Southwick and proceeded to O.B where we commenced making camouflage suit.

Dismissed patrol at 10 P.M

R J W Lt.
All patrol present

Sun June 6

Patrol met at Southwick at 10 A.M and proceeded to a suitable spot near O.B where we had a .22 rifle shoot. Some good shooting resulted. Patrol dismissed at 12.30 P.M

All patrol present

Thurs June 10

Patrol met at Southwick at 7.15 P.M and proceeded to Goathouse Hill where a .300 rifle shoot took place. Lieuts' Welch and Petersen were in charge of the range and some very good shooting was recorded. The Patrols were dismissed at 10 P.M

Francis was absent owing to
working late

R J W Lt.

Sun June 13th

Patrol met at Southwick at 10 A.M and proceeded to Glenville Woods near Hambleton for daylight reconnaissance. Sentries were posted at intervals of about 100 yds on the main ride running through the wood. Each patrol leader had orders to lead his men through the wood & crossing the ride without being observed. This was successfully carried out by my patrol. Lieut Welch dismissed patrols at 1 P.M

All patrol present

R J W Lt.

Thurs June 17th

This was a highly successful group explosive operation carried out near Hoe Gate. Each patrol leader received instruction from Lieut Welch to select a suitable single tree and instruct his patrol on felling same, this being good training for road Block work. I selected a tree about 18" in diameter, and instructed by me, my patrol laid a charge of two, 2 1/2 lbs sticks of Gelatine [sic] on to the tree. The charges were then inspected by Lieuts' Welch and Petersen and afterwards fired. All charges laid by each patrol, were successful, each tree being felled. After this some charges were laid under some tree stumps and fired, the value of tamping being well demonstrated. After a very instructive operation Lieut Welch expressed satisfaction and dismissed patrols at 10 P.M

All members present

R J Welch Lieut.

Sun 20th June

Patrol met a [sic] Southwick at 10 A.M and proceeded to O.B where we transferred all explosives to newly constructed dump, and afterwards had some dummy Mills bomb throwing. Patrol dismissed at 12.30 P.M

Crook H absent owing to work

R J Welch Lt

Thurs June 24

Patrol assembled near O.B where section drill took place. Section was instructed on the correct way to fall in, part arms for inspection and saluting, a fairly good standard was observed. Patrol dismissed at 10 P.M after all arms had been inspected.

All members present

Sun June 27

Patrol proceeded to "Hill Crest" where we were to have section drill & arms inspection. This did not take place as we were instructed by Lieut Welch that a number of new Aux Units had to be opened and checked. This was carried out. The patrol were dismissed at 1 P.M

Crook P absent owing to work

Sgt. Gatrall
R J Welch Lieut. 8-7-43

Good work Sgt. Your section is certainly getting on with their work efficiently and well
R J W Lt.

Report for July

Thurs July 1st

Patrol met at Southwick at 7 P.M and proceeded to Hoe Gate for camouflage practice. Each leader took his patrol and placed them in positions to suit each type of camouflage suit. The other patrols then walked along the road and made observations afterwards reporting any men they had observed. Some excellent work in placing the men was performed by the leaders concerned. Lieuts' Welch and Petersen were present and expressed satisfaction.

Patrols were dismissed at 10 P.M

All members present
R J Welch Lt.

Sun July 4

Patrol assembled at Southwick at 10 A.M and proceeded to Soberton Chalk Pit for Sten gun firing. Some good targets had been made by Sgt. Lee and each patrol fired at the targets which were afterwards checked by the markers. Some good performances were registered. Lieuts' Welch and Petersen present. Patrols were dismissed at 1 P.M.

All members present
R J Welch Lt.

Thurs July 8

Patrol met at Southwick at 7 P.M and proceeded to Hole Farm for explosives practice. Each patrol leader had been instructed by Lieut Welch to bring all the old issue of Gelatine [sic] as some was deteriorating and Lieut Welch demonstrated the means of disposing of same, by burning it. This was successfully carried out. Afterwards each patrol leader selected a tree for felling as practice for road block work. The members of my patrol made up a charge of three, two & a half pound sticks of gelatine [sic] and after being inspected by Lieuts' Welch and Petersen the charges of all the patrols were fired. Each

charge was successful in felling the tree, on which

P.T.O

it had been placed. After a very instructive evening the patrols were dismissed at 10 P.M

All members present
R J Welch Lt.

Sun July 11

Patrol met at Southwick at 10 P.M and proceeded to Creche Wood for Daylight reconnaissance. A number of red flags had been placed in position at the S. end of the wood with a sentry supplied by each patrol guarding same.

Each patrol had orders to commence from the N. end of wood, and all had to endeavour to work through the wood noiselessly, and without being observed by the sentries, collect one of the red flags and return to a prearranged rendezvous. The operation was very successful as all the flags were captured and very little noise was reported by the sentries, which was very satisfactory, considering the number of men engaged on the operation. Lieut Welch dismissed patrols at 1 P.M.

All members present
R J Welch Lt.

Thurs July 15

This evening was spent in exploring some of the ground in my territory and much valuable information was gained.

Crook P was absent owing to work
R J Welch Lt.

Sun July 18

Patrol proceeded to Baddesley for live Mills bomb throwing, Lieuts' Marchant, Welch and Petersen were in charge of the Bombing pits.

Each patrol had orders to bring a box of Mills H.E and see that they were thoroughly clean before throwing. Each patrol in turn threw a 4 second Mills. After this each patrol leader was instructed to take charge of the pit. After a successful morning, the patrols were dismissed at 2 P.M

All members present
R J Welch Lt.

Thurs July 22

Patrol met at Southwick at 7 P.M and we had a .22 shoot. Some good shooting resulted.

Patrol dismissed at 10 P.M

Crook H was absent owing to work
R J Welch Lt.

Sat July 24

Information was received from Lieut Welch that this was a daylight reconnaissance followed by a night patrol in Grenville Woods. Instructions were that, I had to establish a base S.W of the woods. The objective was a tent and a car placed in the woods. N. E of the woods a path had been flagged by Lieut Petersen leading to the objective. After establishing my base, rather more South than directed owing to getting maximum cover I led my patrol at about 9.30 P.M along the East edge of the wood about 10yds inside same. About 150yds from the objective, I sent 1 man to observe the position of the flagged path, whilst I and the other men endeavoured to locate the position of the objective. At about 10.45 P.M we returned to our base having completed the first part of the operation successfully. After a discussion between ourselves we decided it was not advisable to carry out the night patrol along the same route as the daylight reconnaissance, so we planned a route and decided on our bounds (see map in book). At 11.30 P.M I decided that it was dark enough to commence the night patrol. The arrival at the third bound brought us fairly close to the flagged path. I crawled to the gate, which was open, and carefully tested for any trip wires which may have been placed. After finding all clear I led my men to within 75yds of where I imagined the objective was, and then decided to split up & attack individually, (See map) It was very dark inside the wood and extremely difficult to move without making noise. However I personally made fair progress but when within 10yds of the objective, the

P.T.O

whistle was blown, signifying the end of the operation which was timed for 2 A.M. It afterwards transpired that both my other men were picked up by the sentries. All agreed however that it was a very instructive operation and some good information was learned.

Corp. Stubbington & Pte Crook P. were unable
to be present
R J Welch Lt.

Thurs July 29

Under Corp. Stubbington the patrol went to Wallop Wood for arms inspection and making up Booby traps.

R J Welch Lieut. 9/8/43

Sgt.

Work of Section very satisfactory. Give plenty of arms inspection. Please get escape hatch done. Collect new "aux units" 4 in no at "Hillcrest" as soon as possible.

R J Welch Lieut. 9/8/43

1st to 21st August 1943 pages cut out.

Sun August 22

Work was commenced on new escape hatch on the order of Lieut Welch.

Patrol commenced work at 8 AM and ceased at 4.30 PM. Good progress was made.

All members present
R J Welch Lt.

Thurs Aug 26

Work continued on escape hatch from 6 PM to 11 PM

All members present
R J Welch Lt.

Sun Aug 29

This was to have been a group booby trap demonstration, but permission was obtained from Lieut Welch to continue work on escape hatch. Work commenced at 8AM and ceased at 4.30P.M This work is now completed, except for connecting to O.B. This can be done from inside O.B.

All members present
R J Welch Lt.

Mon Aug 30

Leaders meeting at "Hill Crest". Pte Ferguson was admitted to "St George" on his application for a transfer from "St Vincent", thus bringing my patrol to full strength. Details concerning the coming competition were discussed at length, and patrol arrangements settled.

R J Welch Lt.

The rifle in the care of Crook P, which was the subject of the armourer's report, has now been attended to by myself personally, and is now in excellent condition. The whole patrol have since been given strict orders by me as to the care of arms.

R J Welch Lieut 6/9/43

Sgt. Gatrall

Sgt. Gatrall

Please convey to all your section my appreciation of the work done. Give as much time as you possibly can to training for competition. Carry on with the good work.

R J Welch Lieut 6/9/43

Report for September 1943

Thurs Sept 2nd

Instructions received from Lieut Welch that the whole of Sept to be devoted to

training for competition. Patrol met at O.B where syllabus of competition was discussed, and lecture given on explosives. Questions were asked on this subject and satisfactory answers given by patrol in general. Dismissed at 10PM.

All members present
R J Welch

Sun Sept 5

Patrol met at Southwick 10AM and proceeded to foot of Shoot Hill Nr. Newtown where drill instruction was given by Lieut Welch. No 1 patrol was also present. Each Sgt. Afterwards instructed his own patrol. Dismissed at 12.30PM

All members present
R J W

Tues Sept 7

Agreed by my patrol that in view of heavy training programme for the competition, Tues night would be parade night in addition to Thurs & Sun for the four men and myself forming the team. On this night we met at O.B at 7 PM and managed to get in a good hours drill in daylight. After this we adjourned to the O.B and all members of patrol made up a unit charge. Lieut Welch arrived and the charges were taken to a safe spot & fired on cordtex circuit. Dismissed at 10PM.

R J Welch

Thurs Sept 9

Patrol met at O.B at 7.30 P.M Further drill instruction was given while the light held. Afterwards went down O.B and a lengthy discussion on the questions on explosives for competition took place. I had six copies of the competition questions & answers and a memory test of that proved quite successful. Dismissed at 12.30 AM.

All present R J Welch Lt.

Sun Sept 12

Patrol met at Southwick and proceeded to field at bottom of Shoot Hill. In conjunction with No 1 Patrol, mills H.E throwing and stripping was carried out. The throwing being done at varying distances as per competition. Drill instruction was also given. Dismissed at 1 P.M

All Patrol present
R J W

Tues Sept 14th

Met at O.B at 7 P.M where a further lecture on explosives took place. Lieut Welch arrived at 8 P.M and after some good, neat unit charges had been made up, they were fired on a cordtex circuit.

Dismissed at 10 P.M

R J W

Thurs Sept 16

Patrol met at O.B for drill instruction and a further lecture on explosives.
Dismissed at 10 P.M

All present

R J W

Sun Sept 19th

Patrol met at Southwick at 9 A .M and after marking some targets we proceeded to Chalk Pit on Portedown Hill and set up a course for the efficiency race. The course agreed entirely with the one laid down for the competition excepting the obstacles, for which we substituted a crawl. This was good practice and some good times were recorded. Each man had at least three attempts. Dismissed at 12.15 P.M

All present

R J Welch Lt. 9/10/43

Tues Sept 21st

Patrol met at O.B for further drill instruction and explosive demonstrations. Lieut Welch was present and charges were fired. Dismissed at 10 P.M

R J W

Thurs Sept 23rd

Proceeded to Chalk Pit on Portedown Hill for revolver practice. Afterwards adjourned to O.B where final instructions as to dress etc for coming group final was given.

Dismissed at 10 P.M

all preset

R J W

Sun Sept 26th

Patrol met at Southwick at 9 A.M and proceeded to Wallops Woods for Group Final. Course for Mills H.E throwing was first laid out, and with Lieut Petersen in charge. I had the satisfaction of my patrol winning this event with 19 hits. Next event for me was the drill for which my patrol & No 2 tied for first place. After this, the course for the efficiency race was laid out. My patrol also secured first place in this event, with No 5 patrol a close second. The .22 grouping event was next. For some reason or another no outstanding performances were recorded by any patrol. The result was that my patrol secured second place in this event. We thus had the satisfaction of winning this group final.

I would point out that this particular contest was well organised by Lieut Welch & Petersen who put in some very hard work judging the events. The patrols were finally dismissed at 5 P.M.

My team for Competition
Sgt. Gatrall
Aux: Francis
Stubbington
Vince
Fergusson [sic]

R J Welch Lt. 9/10/43

Tues Sept 28th

Training continued for county final of competition. Lecture in O.B on explosives and review of previous Sunday effort. Dismissed at 10P.M

R J W

Thurs Sept 30

Patrol met at O.B for drill instruction after which demonstration of combined H.E & incendiary charges took place in O.B. Dismissed at 10 P.M

All present

R J Welch

I would like to thank Lieut Welch for valuable assistance during training period and for training stores provided, this being a great asset. I would also mention the whole-hearted support given by my patrol, who gave so much of their time for training.

The new man Fergusson [sic] responded very well, hence my decision to include him in the team, after only a months training, and I was well satisfied with his performance.

Noted R J Welch Lt.

Received from Lieut Welsh : -

7 in No Webbing Holsters
7 " " " Pouches
7 " " prs " Gaiters

Returned :-

7 Leather Holsters
7 prs " Gaiters
1 First Aid Box

R J Welch Lieut 9-10-43

No 5 Group "Competition Results" Oct' 1943

	H.E Mills	22	Efficiency	Drill	Totals
Sgt. Gatrall	5	4	5	5	19
Sgt. Bettsworth	4	3	2	5	14
Sgt. Ponton	3	5	3	2	13
Sgt. Lee	2	3	4	3	12
Sgt. Watts	3	3	1	4	11

R J Welch Lt 9-10-43

Report for October 1943

Sun Oct 3

Patrol met at Southwick at 10.30 A.M and proceeded to chalk pit on Portedown Hill for drill instruction & .22 shoot practice for competition. Dismissed at 1 P.M

All patrol present

R J Welch Lt.

Tues Oct 5

Patrol met at O.B at 7.30 for lecture on explosives, a combined charge was also made up & patrol were afterwards questioned by me, as to the amount of stores they would draw for making up a similar charge. After a lengthy discussion patrol dismissed at 10.30 P.M

Full team for competition present

R J W Lt.

Thurs Oct 7th

Patrol met at O.B for further explosives lecture dismissed at 10 P.M

All patrol present

R J W Lt.

Sun Oct 10th

Patrol met at Southwick at 9.30 A .M and proceeded to Grenville nr Hambleton for a daylight reconnaissance staged by Sgt. Watts for my competition team. Two members of my patrol carried out duties as sentries. Six different targets had been placed and manned by a sentry. Lieut Petersen and my team for the competition were each given a separate map after having drawn lots for the different objectives. An hour & a half was allotted for each man to find his objective and bring back information to

Sgt. Watts as to type of objective and various numbers placed for observation. Results were very satisfactory and I would take this opportunity of thanking Sgt. Watts for arranging an admirable operation, which necessitated a great deal of his spare time being taken up.

After this a .22shoot was carried out. Patrol dismissed at 2.30 P.M

All patrol present
R J Welch Lt.

Tues Oct 12th

Patrol met at Southwick at 7.30 and proceeded to Chalk pit on Portedown Hill for .22 shoot. Targets were placed and illuminated by the means of an electric torch, and some good shooting resulted. Lieut Petersen was in attendance and dismissed patrols at 9.30 P.M

all patrol present

R J Welch Lt.

Thurs Oct 14

Patrol met at O.B at 7 P.M and final instruction on explosives was given. Lieut Petersen was in attendance and final arrangements were made for the competition. A lengthy discussion took place & patrol dismissed at 12.15 A M

all patrol present
R J Welch Lt.

Sun Oct 17th

Patrol met at Southwick and proceeded to Dean Farm for the Hampshire Finals at 8.30 A.M. Full reports of this are, of course, to hand. The fact of my patrol occupying 5th position, was not unsatisfactory from my point of view, bearing in mind that they were completely against more experienced patrols. I was disappointed with the result of two events, namely Mills throwing & explosives, and detected an attack of stage fright as far as these events were concerned. I am however satisfied in knowing they can do better, as they have proved to me in the course of training. I would add that the whole arrangements for this final were excellent, and great praise is due to those responsible.

Team was :- Sgt. Gatrall
Pte. Francis
“ Vince
“ Fergusson [sic]
“ Crook H.

Corp. Stubbington assisted judges etc

R J Welch Lt.

Thurs Oct 21st

Patrol met at O.B and the time was devoted to cleaning up in general.

all present R J Welch Lt.

24th October 1943 to 20th January 1944 pages cut out.

Sun Jan 23

Patrol met at Southwick and in my absence (owing to work) Corp. Stubbington took charge & some dummy Mills throwing and .22 shooting took place,

Francis & Crook P were absent owing to work.

R J Welch Lt.

Tues Jan 25

Leaders meeting at Wickham presided over by Lieut Welch, where programme for Feb was arranged and discussion on various points took place.

R J Welch Lt.

Thurs Jan 27

Patrol proceeded to O.B where a lecture on explosives took place. Before leaving the parafin [sic] stove was filled and lit according to instructions received to enable O.B to be kept as dry as possible. Pte. Crook P. volunteered to visit the O.B each day for the coming week, to keep it filled and burning continuously.

All patrol present

R J Welch Lt.

Sun Jan 30

Patrol met at O.B and some .22 shooting took place in addition to a discussion on Mills H.E Bombs.

Francis & Fergusson [sic] absent owing to work.

R J Welch Lt.

Sgt. Gatrall

8-2-44

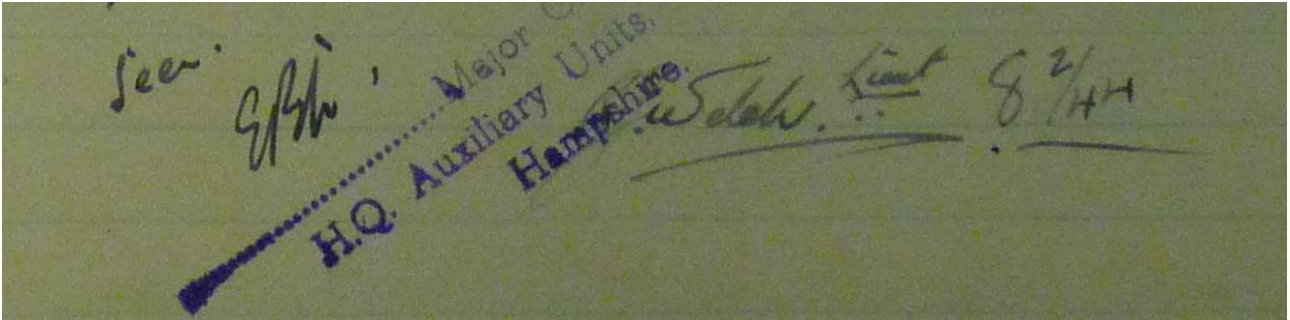
"Hillcrest HQ"

Your section work is most satisfactory. Keep up the good work. Please take your "field telephone" from here as soon as possible and test them out. Also check up on any operational Sten 9m/m ammo. If you have any marked ("B. E. 42 Early British") (or old U.S.A ammo) return same to me for exchange "Urgent". Bring this book with you when you attend leaders meeting.

R J Welch Lieut 8/2/44

Signed E B Clive ?

Stamp Major IO
HQ Auxiliary Units
Hampshire



Report for February

Thurs Feb 3

Small night operation in conjunction with "St Vincent" map reference received from Sgt. Miles 025.339 which was the bridge at Mislingford. Although this was a bright moonlight night two members of my Patrol succeeded in placing labels on to the objective, which I considered very satisfactory. Lt Welch was in attendance.

All patrol present.

R J W Lt.

Sun Feb 6

Patrol met at Southwick at 9.30 and we proceeded on a march in the area, the object being to note likely spots for ammunition dumps & likely places for road ambush S.W. of O.B. Much valuable information was obtained

Ptes' Francis & Crook P. were absent owing to work

R.J.W. Lt.

Thurs Feb 10

With Lieut Welch in charge of range, night shooting with Sten & revolver was carried out at Southwick Chalk Pit.

Pte Fergusson [sic] was absent owing to working late

R.J.W. Lt.

Sun Feb 13

Patrol met at Southwick where an inspection of arms were carried out by me. All weapons shown were in good condition. After this some .22 shooting took place.

Ptes Francis, Crook P. absent - reason work

R.J.W. Lt.

Thurs 17

Patrol met at O.B. where on instruction, all Sten ammo was inspected, as all mine was marked B.E.42 this was returned to Lt Welch for exchange.

All patrol present.

R J Welsh Lt.

17th February 1944 to 2nd March 1944 pages cut out.

Report for March 1944

Thurs Mar 2

Patrol met at Southwick at 7.30 pm and proceeded to O.B. for arms inspection. All arms shown were in good condition.

All Patrol present.

R J W Lt.

Sun Mar 5

Patrol met at Southwick and proceeded to "Hill Crest" where elementary drill was carried out by all patrols. Each sergeant took the parade in turn.

Dismissed at 12.30pm

Crook H. & Crook P. absent owing to work

R.J.W. Lt.

Thurs Mar 9

Patrol met at Southwick at 7.30 and as this was a moonlight night we proceeded to the spot selected for the coming ambush demonstration where a rehearsal of this event took place. Each man was detailed for his particular duty. And I afterwards questioned them to ensure that they understood the part they had to perform. All patrol present.

R J W Lt.

Sun Mar 12

Patrol met at Southwick and proceeded to "Little Switzerland" for explosives practice Lieut Petersen being in attendance. Each Patrol had previously decided the nature of the charge they would set up. I supervised my patrol in setting up a land mine, coupled up with a pull switch. After being examined by Lieut Petersen and explaining principle to the newer members of the group, the charge was successfully fired. After making up & firing some unit charges, the parade was dismissed at 1pm.

Corp. Stubbington & Crook H. & Crook P. were absent owing to work.

R.J.W. Lt.

No further entries.