

UNIT INSPECTION REPORT.

UNIT..... R.H.C. (Black Watch) of Can......

DATE OF INSPECTION... 15 OCT 40......

PART I - TRAINING

1. Individual Training:-

(a) Anti-gas. Hardly any 3rd strings on capes properly. Some respirators without cotton waste -- some had two jars of ointment -- No one apparently had ointment and cotton waste in cape pocket -- Respirator haver-sacks generally dirty.

Generally considerable doubt regarding alarms and correct action when sprayed.

Considerable proportion of personnel slow in adjusting facepieces, and many were allowed to wear chin strap of steel helmet on the brim which meant dropping the helmet when coming to the gas position and making it impossible to place the chinstrap under the chin once the facepiece had been adjusted.

Spare clothing and decontamination reserces all in Bn. H.Q. Present practice is to break this equipment down to companies.

Pioneer Pln. seem familiar with their duties although not actually examined as a platoon in anti-gas duties. Standard of anti-gas training is [considered fair.

(b) S.A.T.

Each man in each section should be trained to normally carry out the duties of a particular number in the section. He then should be trained to perform the duties, if necessary, of the number next senior.

A.T. rifle crews should be carefully selected and must be first class shots, and should form part of platoon H.Q. and not belonging to a particular section. The system aforementioned was not being followed in at least two companies inspected.

Several cases of rusty bayonets and one A.A.L.M.G. mounting badly rusted were noticed.

If not already, the practice arrangements should be ~~made~~ for L.M.Gs and A.T. rifles to be returned to coy. stores each day on completion of training. L.M.G.'s and A.T. Rifles were noticed during the inspection in barrack rooms and apparently not required for training. (satisfactory.

The standard of S.A.T. training is considered, otherwise, generally

(c) Field Craft.

No opportunity of observing.

(d) Field Works.

No opportunity of observing.

(e) Signalling Strength - One officer and 33 other ranks plus 27 other ranks training as a reserve.

Lieut. Keeney - a very keen and qualified instructor.

N.C.Os keen but require further course, and about 50 per cent of the regular personnel require considerably more training. The 27 other ranks training as a reserve also require considerably more training.

Section equipment is in good condition but they are short of Fuller-phones, Telescopes and # 1B R/T sets.

There is believed to be the makings of a first class signal section.

Medical Officer, (Lt. Medical and Sanitary Duties) Anderson, R.C.A.M.C. joined Unit just prior to embarkation. He has shown great aptitude, is very keen, and is believed to be quite capable of efficiently carrying out duties of Reg. Medical Officer. N.C.O. i/c Stretcher Bearers well qualified, the remainder of the Stretcher Bearers are well trained, and arrangements are being made to qualify those not already in possession of first aid certificates. The S/B Sec. was examined at work, the quality of work was good and individual questioning revealed good knowledge of their work. Suggest further training with Coys in Training Area would be beneficial to the Squad as a whole. Two men of the Squad have taken Courses in Sanitary detail and one in Water Detail. On questioning these latter mentioned men they revealed good knowledge of the procedures of their duty. The Unit at present has not a water cart available for duty but are using tanks set up on a lorry. In general it is the opinion that the Stretcher Squad is fairly well trained and will improve.

(g) General Remarks. Every officer and N.C.O. should check up on the first parade each day and make sure that every man is accounted for and have this information readily available at all times.

Every platoon commander, platoon sergeant and section commander should have a roll book showing men on parade or otherwise employed each day, together with full particulars of each man.

Every man should be thoroughly familiar with names of the various officers holding key positions in the regiment, should know the brigade of which his unit forms a part and the names of other units in the brigade, and should know the name of the brigade commander.

During the early part of the inspection there appeared to be a considerable number of classes working indoors. It is considered that classes should make a practice of working outdoors unless the weather is definitely unsuitable.

2. General Discipline of Unit. (Dress and Equipment).

Considered generally satisfactory.

3. Collective Training.

No opportunity of observing.

PART II - ADMINISTRATION.

4. Care and Maintenance of M.T.

Satisfactory. Two trucks off road waiting for spare parts. Div. Signs require stencil marks to be painted over. T.O. complained spare parts for M.T. very slow in coming through.

5. Medical; Hospital admission on account of:-

(a) Accident.

Since arrival of the unit 24 sept '40, there have been four hospital admissions due to accidents, none of which were motor accidents.

(b) Venereal Disease.

There have been three cases of venereal disease, since arrival of the Unit in this area, one of which was gonorrhoea and two syphilis.

(c) Other Illnesses.

Largely comprised of common colds and influenza. Two cases of psycho-neurosis which will probably be the subject of Medical Board Proceedings at an early date.

As of 15 Oct '40, there are 10 men of this Unit in Hospitals as follows, 1 at Canadian Medical Centre, Bordon, 1 at Convalescent Depot, Brixham, 7 at 15 Cdn. Genl. Hospital and 1 at Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot.

6. Discipline.

(a) Regimental Conduct Sheets.

One Company checked and sheets found to be in good shape, and up to date. Official cases for Field Conduct Sheets not yet all issued; four required.

(b) Courts Martial.

NIL since arrival in United Kingdom.

(c) Civil Convictions.

NIL since arrival in United Kingdom.

7. Orders.

Part I Orders.

Good. Issued daily at about 1600 hrs. Order Boards should be provided in Barrack Blocks and Orders posted thereon for all to see.

8. Orderly Room Organization.

Very satisfactory. Bn. has one duplicating machine, purchased from Regt.'l Funds. Difficulty experienced in obtaining stencils and paper. Issue duplicator not yet received. Files in good order.

9. Interior Economy.

(a) Unit Lines and Parade Ground.

Clean and well kept.

(b) Accommodation.

(i) Messes

Officers:- Back rooms, kitchen need through cleaning.

Sergeants' :- Old building, but satisfactory.

Men's :- Modern and well equipped.

(ii) Barracks.

Generally clean. One barrack block had blackout boards up, but this is being corrected. Some hand wash basins need cleaning. Very little uniformity in laying out of kits. Two H.Q. Coy. barrack rooms were definitely untidy. Regt.'l standard lay-out for kits should be decided upon and diagram posted in each barrack room.

(iii) Garages.

Clean and well kept.

(iv) Workshops .

Shoemakers - 4 men employed - untidy.

Barber - Coy. arrangements

Tailor - On leave

(v) Bathing facilities.

Bathing facilities seem adequate. One Co'y. is put through each day. Thirty-six men can be accommodated at one time. There is no complaint as to hot water, plenty being available at all times.

(vi) Guard Room.

One cell full of rubbish - otherwise Guard Room found to be clean and in good order.

(vii) Lecture Rooms.

Clean and satisfactory.

(viii) Recreation Rooms.

N.A.A.F.I.

(ix) Barrack Damages.

Large number of windows broken in barrack rooms. Bn. states these have been brought to attention Engineers. So far no barrack damages collected from men.

(c) Q.M. Stores.

Q.M. on leave. Stores clean and well kept. Some difficulty reported in obtaining clothing. Q.M.S. stated there were long periods spent in waiting at Ordnance Stores, and in many cases no stores available.

(d) Fire alarms and fire fighting arrangements.

Satisfactory - several men questioned and all knew what to do in case of fire.

(e) Administration of Messes.

(i) Officers Mess.

C.O. is reorganizing book-keeping system. Audits carried out regularly.

(ii) Sergets. Mess.

Appears to be well run, but suggestion made to C.O. that more officer supervision desirable, especially regarding collection of cash. Sergeants contribute 2/6 monthly.

(iii) Men's Mess.

No extra messing collected from men. Cook complained insufficient meat to give men roast beef, and therefore he had to serve stew and minced meat. This is being corrected by asking Aldershot Command to loan unit instructor cook. Some unit cooks should be sent on course and this is to be arranged.

(f) Regimental Accounts.

Audits.

These carried out in accordance with regulations.

Bank Accounts.

Regt. '1 Funds in Bank of Montreal, Canada.
Officers' Mess - Lloyds Bank, Aldershot.
Sergeants' Mess - No bank account.

Cash - how handled.

Officers' Mess - by secretary
Sergeants' Mess - by N.C.O.s (see para 9(e)(ii))

(g) Aux. Services.

(i) Entertainment.

Aux. Service officer (Salvation Army) reported as good organizer. Unit has movie shows, and good supply magazines.

(ii) Recreation.

$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week devoted to recreational training.

(iii) N.A.A.F.I.

C.O. states prices considered somewhat high. On the whole, generally satisfactory.

PART III

10. Complaints. (K.R. Can. 418).

NIL

11. General remarks on Administration

The administration of the battalion is sound. Shortage of officers on courses, leave, etc. is evident in the fact that those officers at present with the Bn. are very busy. C.O. states he has 7 W.O.s III awaiting disposal, but would prefer to await R.H.C. reinforcing officers than to employ officers from Inf. Holding Units.

PART IV - OFFICERS

RANK	NAME	AGE	SERVICE	DATE OF PRESENT RANK	SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS	PRESENT APPOINTMENT	REPORT ON CHARACTER AND EFFICIENCY (To be filled in and initialled by C.O., in consultation with Comd., 2 Cdn. Div.)