

853 Quarrying Company (BD) and 7 Bomb Disposal Company RE.

Late October to 27 November 1940, Reference Number War Diary WO166/3928, held at the National Archives.

Commanding Officer Captain J Setchell.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events	References
			With 7 BD Company	
	? Oct		Capt Lucas and his Coy Headquarters remained at the Buchis to act as an advisory capacity to Capt Setchell. Lt Butler and 100 Section remained at ? to act also as training personal for the new Coy. Lt Plant and Lt Lacker? Lt ? are to attend a Bomb Disposal Course at Melksham.	
	3 November		Spr J Clifton 2005772 found dead in bed, ? Fox ? ? / Certified death.	
	4 November		Inquest on Spr Clifton attended by Capt ? at ? Office Bristol, found to have died from natural causes from Internal Haemorrhage.	
	5 November		Received news than an Officer Lt Adam of 853 Quarrying Coy (BD), Corporal Lillyman and L/Cpl Andrews of 98 Sect, 7 BD Coy were killed in a Bomb explosion.	
			853 Quarrying Company (BD)	
Brislington. Nr Bristol	5 November		Lance Corporal J H Brown of C Section stationed at Upwey, Dorset, died in Portway Hospital, Weymouth. Cause of death – Aneurysm of the Aorta.	
	6 November		Casualties: Lt Adam O i/c D Section stationed at Upwey, Dorset killed along with two NCOs of 7 BD Coy, when dealing with an unexploded bomb at Yeovil. The circumstances of the accident were as follow:- 2/Lt Adam, i/c mixed working group of 853 Coy RE and 7 BD Coy RE acting under the instructions of Lt Saul of the latter Coy, was dealing with an uncovered 250kg UXB enemy time bomb. Serial 464 in Yeovil Area. At 1315 2/Lt Adam went down the hole accompanied by Corporal Lillyman of 7 BD Coy. L/Cpl Andrews of 7 BD Coy remained at the top of the hole which was about 25' 0" deep. Spr Bairstow of 853 Coy and Spr Pennycok of 7 BD Coy were sheltering in a hut 16 yards away from the hole.	

			Cpl Lillyman was heard to shout that the bomb contained two 17 fuzes. 2/Lt Adam was believed to be fixing remote control apparatus to permit the safe withdrawal of the fuzes. The bomb detonated at 1325 while Lt Adam and Cpl Lillyman were down the hole. L/Cpl Andrews was blown a distance suffered severe head injuries. Of the bodies of 2/Lt Adam and Cpl Lilleman, but few remains could be found. The body of L/Cpl Andrews, and the remains of 2/Lt Adam and Cpl Lillyman were removed to the Mortuary at Yeovil Cemetery.	
	24 November		Air Raids: Exceptionally heavy enemy air raids on Bristol commenced at 1830 and terminated at 2330. Damage to Coy billets and property was confined to windows at the Rookery, Coca Cola and Gilda Fctories. Bristol City Centre extensively damaged by fire. Fifteen HE bombs fell within 250 yards of Coy HQ. Telephones out of order. Public electric and water sources affected. Casualties. Spr N Hill killed during the raid while voluntarily acting as stretcher bearer. It is believed that he was struck by an incendiary bomb.	
	25 November		Public electric services restored at 1700. Reports of UXBs came in, in a constant stream.	
	26 November		Moves. H Section – i/c Lt Devitt moved from Brislington to Winchester to assist in BD Works in 6 Region and to work under operational control of 6 BD Coy. Authority:- Sn Comd Teleprinter, and SCZ/4360/RE dated 26 Nov 40.	
	27 November		Moves. L Section – i/c Lt Deacon moved from Huts at The Rookery, Bath Road to Winash Farm, Brislington. K Section – i/c Lt Ross moved from Brislington to Dorking to assist in BD Work in 6 Region and to work under the operational control of OC 6 BD Coy RE. Authority SN Comd phone message and SCZ/4360/RE dated 26 Nov 40.	