

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in F.S. Regs. Vol. 1.

WAR DIARY 1st Bn. Black Watch (RHR) of Canada.

M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (3072)

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to O. i/c 2nd Echelon for disposal.

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Place	Date Apr	Hour 1944	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
HOVE, SUSSEX	1st	Sat	A cold morning but turning fine and warm in the afternoon. Lieuts McGill, Dorrance, and Griffin, CSM Jackson and Cpl Mason left early as a recce party to meet the SC and layout the Bn assembly area for Exercise "STEP" in Westfield Place, Sir Harry Newmans estate (237358 sheet 135) near Battle, Kent. The Bn left at about 0930 hrs by unit tpt and TCVs, arriving at the assembly area approx 1300 hrs. The afternoon was spent in getting organized and settling down. The men were free to go out that night and many took the opportunity of visiting the nearby villages, while others attended the KofC movie in camp.	Ref Appx No 5.
WESTFIELD PLACE KENT	2nd	Sun	Light rain to start with, turning brighter later. BHQ offrs, Coy Comds and specialists pl Comds attended a Sand model TEWT at 5 Bde HQ during the morning. The afternoon was free for all to get caught up on a lot of odd jobs, the tps getting in some sun bathing and sports. The A/Tk pl who had been on a shoot and the Pipe Band who had been away at the London "Salute the Soldier" week joined the Bn during the afternoon and evening. A Bde O Gp was held at 2100 hrs were we received preliminary orders for a move sometime the next day.	
WESTFIELD PLACE KENT	3rd	Mon	Dull and cloudy but not cold. The exercise proper started today with the Div Recce Reg't leading 6 Cdn Inf Bde West out of the brhead formed previously (in theory only) by Brit tps. 4 Cdn Inf Bde followed later and at 1530 hrs 5 Cdn Inf Bde moved passed the Bde SP by march route (F Ech came up afterwards) to a conc area in the fields at 142313 sheet 135, near NINFIELD, KENT. It commenced to rain during the early evening and continued all night. A Bde O Gp was called for 1800 hrs and then at 2100 hrs the Comds from RHC and R de Mais met Brig McGill at 6 Bde HQ to liase with their two fwd Bn Comds. 4 Bde was still in reserve. 6 Bde had led the adv all day and were now stopped just short of the River CUCKMERE opposite ALFRISTON. The Scout pl maintained OPs in the FMR area all night and up to the time of our crossing.	
NINFIELD, KENT	4th	Tues	Colder and still a light drizzle. During the morning the CO and Coy Comds, ^{made} extensive recces of the river while the Bn was marching up to a new conc area in the woods in square 9822 sheet 134 near FOLKINGTON, SUSSEX preparatory to crossing the River CUCKMERE that night.	

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NINFIELD, KENT	4th	Tues	<p>(continued)</p> <p>In the afternoon the Unit ^{got} moved up to a field at 003237 sheet 134, near POLEGATE, SUSSEX as the rain had made the tracks far too muddy to get into the rifle coy areas. A further 0 Gp and then a final co-ordinating conference were held at 5 Bde HQ during the afternoon while Coy Comds were making reces with their Pl comds and carrying out briefing. After a last Bn 0 Gp at approx 1800 hrs, the Bn moved up to the river and took up a posn to make an assault crossing, using the regular assault boats. H hr was set 2200 hrs. R de Mais were on our left and Calg Highrs in res, 6 Bde forming the firm base. The crossing went reasonably well, but the usual snags over the arrival of boats and the lack of information about the river again cropped up. Light enemy resistance was met but was repulsed with slight losses. A few PW were taken. After a normal period of time the Coys gained their objectives without meeting any further serious enemy posns, reported success and the Bn consolidated, dug in and was prepared to defeat the expected enemy counter attack which actually never came in. At this stage the Engrs started on their bridging.</p>	
ALFRISTON, SUSSEX	5th	Wed	<p>Dull and chilly with very poor visibility during the morning. By first light both R de Mais and ourselves were firmly est on the high ground WEST of ALFRISTON and Calg Highrs had moved in behind us. A Bde 0 Gp was held at 1300 hrs shortly after which the Calg Highrs and the Camerons of Can, who had been placed u/c 5 Bde for the op, with tks in sp, passed thru and extended the brhead to the West and NW. During the early evening we were ordered to pull in our tail and as a result BHQ, HQ Coy and Sp Coy with all the tp had to make a rapid move up on the hill where they took up posns actually in front of the fwd coys! This was done so that 4 and 6 Bdes could come across the river and conc below the hill preparatory to passing thru 5 Bde to continue the adv. The night was quiet with no enemy activity at all.</p>	
ALFRISTON, SUSSEX	6th	Thu	<p>Windy and chilly with thin sunshine. The four Bns at present in 5th Bde continued to consolidate their posns on the high ground during the whole day-still no sign of the enemy. A good deal of cleaning up and re-organizing was done and with Bde HQ very close it was convenient for offrs to get certain matters straightened out with them. A couple of meetings were called and we were given the general plan for the following day. In general the day was spent in planning and arty registration (in preparation for a "live" shoot tomorrow) but by</p>	

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ALFRISTON, SUSSEX	6th	Thu	(continued) early evening tps of the 4th & 6th Bdes began passing thru our posns to a fwd assembly area for their joint attack tomorrow. Another quiet night because all tps had been cleared from Alfriston Ranges in anticipation of the arty fire.	
ALFRISTON, SUSSEX	7th	Fri	Still windy and dull and again poor visibility. Because of the hy mist H hr for the two-Bde attack, which is to be sp by seven fd regts, was postponed from 1000 hrs to 1300 hrs. At that time however the guns, which had been registering all morning, opened up and the attack went in. Shortly afterwards 5 Bde got the order to return to billets and as the morning had been largely spent in packing up in anticipation of this move we were soon ready to pull out. The marching tps were tptd by TCVs from ALFRISTON to ROTTINGDEAN from where they marched home, the balance of the Bn travelling later in unit vehs. Both patties arrived in HOVE approx the same time and after unloading vehs everybody was glad to get back to their billets for a wash and clean up and supper. And so ended another scheme.	
HOVE, SUSSEX	8th	Sat	Fair and warm. The day was spent in checking and straightening up eqpt, re-organizing offices and billets and generally "make and mend". Unit censorship of mail commenced today which is one of the first "signs of times". CSM A.F. Leitch returned from leave this evening and was hurriedly called to report to the BOR where the Col informed him of his appointment to Regimental Sergeant Major filling in the vacancy created by RSM Notman leaving the Bn.	
HOVE, SUSSEX	9th	Sun	Clear and warm. Church parades were held at both St Cuthberts and Church of the Sacred Heart at 0930 hrs. Capt R. Berlis officiating at the Protestant service with the Pipe Band attending. There was a very good turn out for the Easter Sunday service, mainly due to the fact that no personnel were on leave or away as we received word last night that all leaves are cancelled until further notice.	
HOVE, SUSSEX	10th	Mon	Clear and cool. The Bn turned out in great numbers for the Training Film parade to the Astoria Theatre Brighton. Balance of the day was occupied with "blanchoing" web and cleaning up for the Brigadier's inspection tomorrow.	

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HOVE, SUSSEX	11th	Tues		<p>Warm and overcast.</p> <p>The Bn marched up to Hove Recreational Grounds for another inspection. This time it was the Brigadier McGill, who, although he had been with us on two exercises hadn't made an official inspection of the Regiment. After his inspection the troops rallied around his jeep "a la Montgomery" to listen to a brief address on forthcoming events. The afternoon was occupied with the final inoculation for Typhus.</p>	
HOVE, SUSSEX	12th	Wed		<p>Very warm-real spring weather.</p> <p>The citizens of HOVE again saw the Bn formed up for an inspection, this time on the Drive for Col, Currie, a former member of the Black Watch, now ass't minister of National Defence. The "Salute the Soldier" campaign officially opened within the Bn today for the purchase of Victory Bonds.</p>	
HOVE, SUSSEX	13th	Thurs		<p>Dull and warm.</p> <p>The Pioneer Pl left this morning for 3 days special training under 2 Div RCE. Lt. Col. S.S.T. Cantlie, Lt S.E. Griffin and party of 14 under Sgt J. Walker, representing the Bn, left to take part in the Corps signal Exercise "LAST". This exercise is scheduled to run from the 14th to 19th April.</p>	Reference Appendix No 6
HOVE, SUSSEX	14th	Fri		<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>Pay XXXXXXXX parades to-day so troops in excellent spirits.</p>	
HOVE, SUSSEX	15th	Sat		<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>The Bn was picked to represent the troops stationed in HOVE for the "Salute the Soldier Parade" in and around HOVE with a march past in front of the Town Hall. The Mayor of Hove, complete in Napoleonic costume took the salute. The 6th Victory loan campaign officially opened with the Bn well on its way towards the objective.</p>	
HOVE, SUSSEX	16th	Sun		<p>Overcast and rain all day.</p> <p>As results of a midnight O Gp A Coy under Major F.P. Griffin moved at 1000 hrs from HOVE to WOULDHAM, KENT on the river MEDWAY to spend 2 days practising crossing a tidal estuary with the new type Storm Boats. The advance party of 32 under Major E. Motzfeldt moved to our new billet area at FOLKESTONE, KENT. No holiday to-day- the balance of the Bn either at ranges or out on Training area. The Range Party returned from KITHURST without having fired a shot due to rain which continued all day.</p>	

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HOVE, SUSSEX	17th	Mon	Warm and overcast. The Bn reached objective of \$24,000 on Victory Loan Campaign with more yet to come in. Bath parades were held for most of the Bn.	
HOVE, SUSSEX	18th	Tues	Fine and warm. Bn started packing up trucks and general cleaning and scrubbing of billets preparatory to move tomorrow, to new billet area. "A" coy less an instructional group of approx 18, travelled from WOULDHAM to our new location at FOLKESTONE.	
HOVE, SUSSEX	19th	Wed	Clear and warm. HQ Coy and all Bn transport bid good-bye to HOVE at 1010 hrs, moving by road to new Station at FOLKESTONE by 1715 hrs. This station is in the concentrated area of British, American, Commando and Canadian Troops. The billets are old hotels reminding us of the pre-war holiday traffic, with hot and cold water in every room. The Bn was warned about "Shelling" siren, as this place has been shelled from the French shore. A composite company from the Bn, principally made up of officers and NCOs under Major G.C. Fraser arrived at WOULDHAM, KENT where they were joined by the Exercise LAST party (the exercise having finished at LENHAM at 1500 hrs) to do special training in assault crossing of a tidal estuary. A composite coy from the Calg Highrs also underwent the same training as "A" Coy, instructed by Major F.P. Griffin.	
FOLKESTONE, Kent.	20th	Thurs	Foggy in morning clearing to a real spring day at noon. The balance of the Bn (rifle coys), less the composite coy under Major G.C. Fraser arrived by rail at 1630 hrs. Lt. Col. Cantlie, Lieut S.E. Griffin and small party who were on exercise "LAST", together with composite coy arrived in FOLKESTONE at 1800 hrs.	
FOLKESTONE, KENT	21st	Fri	Clear and quite warm but cloudy in the afternoon. Everybody busy to-day- the troops getting settled in the new billets, the transport men busy cleaning up vehicles; the fitters opened shop in a vacant lot from their vehicle and the "Sr Offrs" busy trying to exterminate the rats in the various kitchens. The cooks helper in "A" Coy had one leg of his battle dress gnawed away last night. The Medway River mud must be more appetizing than the men's rations! Retreat was played on the waterfront at 1745 hrs. The Calg Highrs main body arrived in this new area to-day.	

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FOLKESTONE, KENT	22nd	Sat	<p>Clear and cool.</p> <p>A/Tk Platoon spent all day on Lydd Ranges. The Bn supplied 100 all ranks under Major G.C. Fraser and the Pipe Band as part of the Folkestone "Salute the Soldier Parade". Bde HQ moved to-day to GOULE area preparatory to Exercise "KATE". The balance of instructors who were at WOULDHAM, KENT for the river crossing returned to to-day, after having instructed the RCRC and Essex Scottish of the 4th Cdn Inf Bde.</p>	Folkestone
FOLKESTONE, KENT	23rd	Sun	<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>A study Group consisting of the CO, QM, IO, and 5 Coy Comdrs and 12 ORs proceeded NORTH at 0715 hrs by transport to the XXXX area of WINTERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE, where they are to spend the following 2 days discussing and planning the assault crossing of a tidal estuary. After approx a 250 mile trip, the party arrived at their destination, (MR 394334 sheet 33). A meeting was held by the Brigadier in the Drill Hall at SCUNTHORPE in the evening. Meanwhile the Bn loaded trucks in the morning and in the afternoon did some sun-tan bathing. Orders were finally received at 1700 hrs regarding the move tomorrow. Capt. M. Cassils left the Bn being SOS to 4 CIRU. Lieut R. Tessier left D Coy for the Mortar Pl while Lieut Price was TOS D Coy from the Reinforcement Coy. Capt. R. Bennett returned to the Carrier Platoon and Capt. D. Cowans filled in the vacancy of 2 i/c B Coy from the Reinforcement Coy.</p>	Reference appx 7
FOLKESTONE, KENT	24th	Mon	<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>The Bn left by transport, our own vehicles and 14 new 10 ton TCVs, at 0915 hrs heading NORTH through CANTERBURY, across the Weald of Kent, through LONDON, under Metrop Police escort, St. Albans and as far as FLITWICK. All through Kent the road was lined with apple orchards shrouded with blossoms, others with herds of sheep grazing under the apple trees, and then miles of hop fields. Seeing such grand scenery makes the life of a soldier less grim and one forgets some of the sordid sides of the army. Major E. Motzfeldt met the Bn at 1930 hrs and we were soon settled in the bivouac area. E Coy or Reinforcement Coy moved out of FOLKESTONE to-day to 2 CBRD. Meanwhile up north, the C.O. held a meeting after which the party spent the morning with a recce of the river TRENT. The afternoon was spent at a sand model discussion at Bde HQ and the evening at a further planning meeting for our own Bn.</p>	

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FLITWICK, LINCOLNSHIRE	25th	Tues	Overcast and cool, clearing as day advanced. The Bn rose at 0500 hrs and were on the move again at 0630 hrs. The route took us through STAMFORD, GRANTHAM, LINCOLN and finally to BROUGHTON, LINCOLNSHIRE by 1630 hrs where the Bn was met by the C.O. and party. A Bde meeting was held for those up north in the morning at SCUNTHORPE, after which the party moved the Bn area to HERON HOLT WOOD(422293 sheet 33). The remainder of the morning was occupied with further planning, after XXXX lunch another meeting at SCUNTHORPE. Shortly after this the Bn arrived. We soon got settled in a large pine wood forest to set up camp for the duration of the exercise. The Pipe Band played "Lights out" for the first time since last fall in PULBOROUGH.	
BROUGHTON, LINCOLNSHIRE	26th	Wed	Clear and warm. The day was spent principally with the Coy Comds, Pl Comds and NCO's making a recce of the river TRENT, area AMCOTTS, where it has been decided we will make a crossing. The A/Tk platoon had the use of 2 storm boats, and with one of their guns, practised loading and ferrying the river. The transport started maintenance on their vehicles and the ground was strewn with engine parts and bodies twisted or suspended in all kinds of shapes around the motors. In the evening a number of the boys took in the "beautiess" of SCUNTHORPE, a small iron foundry town 6 miles away. It seemed like hundreds of "heavies" from the 5 nearby airfields kept up a steady procession over the camp long after "lights out."	
BROUGHTON, LINCOLNSHIRE	27th	Thur	Clear and fresh in morning turning quite warm as the day advanced. The Intelligence Office has been functioning 100 per cent as an information centre so far on this scheme, with a steady crowd around its several large notice and map boards, and a bulletin of the world events has been issued twice a day from news gathered over the Radio News Bulletin. The rifle Coys in relays practised carrying, loading and crossing the river in Storm boats from 1000 hrs to 1400 hrs, but the programme of HQ and Sp Coys for the afternoon was cancelled. The Bn formed up on "assault scale" in their various "boat loads" at 1915 hrs and crossed the start line at 2000 hrs for exercise "KATE I" marching approx 6 miles to a forward assembly area on the opposite side of SCUNTHORPE for the night.	REF APPX N ^o 8.