

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.

Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

M.F.M 11
40/P & S/37

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>1st BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH (RHR) OF CANADA.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">from</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>1st AUGUST 1943</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">to</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>31st AUGUST 1943</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CREECH WALK CAMP, HAMPSHIRE.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(UNDER CANVAS)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>REFERENCE SHEET O.S. No. 132, 084311</u></p>	

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Pulborough	Sun. 1 Aug.		Clear and mild throughout. There were no church parades but we had our usual G.1098 inspections, necessary as a result of exercise "Hammer", which took up the better part of the morning. Three weapon training instructors from the Hythe Weapon Training School arrived to train further twenty-two officers and N.C.O.'s as platoon weapons instructors. The course, which is to be of nine days' duration, starts tomorrow.	G.P.S.
Pulborough	Mon. 2 Aug.		Weather warm and sunny throughout. Companies continued with G.1098 inspections, battle drill and specialist training. "A" Company left by truck for a week on the night training course. The weapon training course commenced today. Support Coy. officers organised and ran a TEWT on "Defence" tonight for the benefit of all the other officers.	G.P.S.
Pulborough	Tues. 3 Aug.		An excellent day with sunshine throughout - fortunate weather for the Div. Sports Championships to be held at Horsham Cricket Grounds this afternoon. The Sports drew a good gathering and many senior officers were present. The G.O.C. took the salute at the parade of athletes and music was supplied by the 2 Infantry Band and the massed pipe bands of the Division. The championship was won by Divisional troops and 5 CIB was only able to place fourth. Sgt. Gale again distinguished himself, however, by winning the mile.	G.P.S. App.12
Pulborough	Wed. 4 Aug.		A clear and mild morning, sky becoming overcast around noon with rain threatening. The C.O. inspected battle drill by "B" and "C" Coys. on the Toat Farm area this morning. The M.O. today conducted a series of T.'s O.E.T. in first aid, results of which were duly entered in Service Books. A TEWT similar to the one held Monday was conducted by officers of Sp.Coy. tonight for all N.C.O.'s of the Bn.	G.P.S.
Pulborough	Thur. 5 Aug.		Heavy showers from around midnight until 0800 hours, thereafter sunshine, becoming dull and overcast with intermittent sunshine and showers for the rest of the day. A draft of 78 men arrived this afternoon & "C" Coy. should soon be at full strength.	G.P.S.
Pulborough	Fri. 6 Aug.		A dull cold morning, clearing towards noon, thereafter sunshine and fair visibility. We had a visitor this morning in the person of Major-General R.O. Alexander, D.S.O., who is observing the training of Cdn. forces in England.	G.P.S.

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Pulborough	Sat 7 Aug		A pleasant day throughout, mild with much sunshine. Coy lines were inspected after the Bn Parade this morning, and "A" Coy. returned from the Night Firing Course # T.A. 7. There were no parades this afternoon and the day passed uneventfully, personnel taking the opportunity of spending their leisure hours in Chichester, and Horsham, prior to preparations for moving out on Exercise "PICKAXE".	G.S.B.
Pulborough	Sun 8 Aug		Clear and warm. Practically all the dope is now in on Exercise "PICKAXE". We are to practice a complete move-out tomorrow with the details as close as possible to existing instructions governing mobilization and rear parties. The object of the Exercise, which commences on the evening of the 10th., and terminates on the 13th. is primarily to exercise comds in the task of breaking out of a bridgehead and capturing an important tactical feature, Practice of river crossings etc., and the mounting of a tk-inf assault. Lt.-Col. Cantlie will act as Brigadier on this Exercise and the Bn will be u/c of Major Rawlings.	G.S.B.
Pulborough and Ex "PICKAXE"	Mon 9 Aug		A close warm day with sunshine throughout. At 1000 hrs. marching troops passed the S.P. and arrived at Camp for the night near STEYNING at 1400 hrs. The excellent weather had almost the entire Bn in swimming shortly after arrival and troops later took full advantage of a blanket pass to visit STEYNING this evening, where local inhabitants cast jaundiced eyes on Canadians and their rapidly diminishing weekly ration of beer. We bedded down for the night in an excellent camp, with streams in abundance for washing facilities in the morning.	G.S.B.
South Downs Ex "PICKAXE"	Tue 10 Aug		Another warm and humid day. We passed our S.P. at 0800 hrs. after an early breakfast and proceeded, via STEYNING, BRAMBER and UPPER BEEPING, to our positions and trenches were quickly dug. Tpt. under command of Capt. Rolland moved in at 1530 hrs. At 2230 hrs. 2 Div were ordered to take over 3 Div bridgehead and a move was immediately made. We occupied defence positions on the high ground at BUSHY BOTTOM by 0100 hrs. Patrols were quickly out and troops slept in preparation for a big day tomorrow.	G.S.B.

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Ex "PICKAXE" South Downs	Wed 11 Aug		Clear and mild. We "stood to" from 0545 hrs to 0615 hrs, thereafter breakfast at 0630 hrs, and then completed our slit trenches and camouflage of vehicles. The morning proved uneventful. At 1530 hrs 5 C.I.B. were ordered to capture BEEDING HILL and seize crossing of the River ADUR at BRAMBER, and we moved up as per schedule, supporting by fire the Calgarys in the assault. A move was made to LOCK BARN at 2100 hrs preparatory to forming and crossing of the river ADUR. The Sigs truck suffered a casualty following troops down a steep slope to this latter posn but luckily the driver escaped with minor injuries.	G.A.B.
Ex "PICKAXE" South Downs	Thur 12 Aug		At 0115 hrs the Bn moved to R. ADUR and successfully forced a crossing by assault boat. An approach was made on the opposite bank to BRAMBER where the bridge was taken over, enabling transport to move up at dawn. After breakfasting we moved at 0730 hrs for new positions at STEYNING ROUND HILL. At 0929 hrs our recce reported enemy armoured cars and infantry at CISSBURY RING and on the ridge therefrom north to No Man's Land. This information when passed to Bde, resulted in guns engaging the target almost immediately. At 1330 hrs we were ordered to move up to a new position on the DOWNS below WASHINGTON, arriving at approx 1700 hrs. Supper was served and the evening proved uneventful.	G.A.B.
Ex "PICKAXE" and Pulborough	Fri 13 Aug		Dull and cold with threatening rain. We waited all morning in anticipation of passing through 4 Bde, but no orders were received, and shortly after noon "negative" came through. Marching troops left the area at 1300 hrs and transport at 1345 hrs for the return to PULBOROUGH. On arrival and throughout the evening baths were much in demand and troops reclaimed surplus kit in order that full advantage might be taken of a possible nights out this weekend and during the coming week, prior to the move for "HARLEQUIN"	G.A.B.

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Pulborough	Sat 14 Aug		A dull humid morning after a night of intermittent rainfall. Afternoon slightly improved but showers commenced in early evening and continued throughout the night. There were no C.O.'s parades or inspections today, the morning being occupied with pay parades, unpacking of G 1098 equipment and a general cleaning up. A fairly large number of personnel were allowed on privilege leave but must return by the 19th for Exercise "HARLEQUIN". The A/Tk pl left for a five day shoot at Lydd. G 1098 equipment had the usual inspection this morning following "PICKAXE". All offr's down to coy Comds attended a post "PICKAXE" conference in the Regal Cinema Petworth at 1000 hrs, and Major Ritchie left on a preliminary recce of the area of Exercise " HURRY " HARLEQUIN".	G.S.B.
Pulborough	Sun 15 Aug		A mild pleasant day with sunshine throughout. There was no Protestant Church Parade today but we had an R.C. parade at 1000 hrs, in the village conducted by H. Capt. Kenny of Bde. A large amount of information has now been passed down to us on Ex "HARLEQUIN", which most certainly promised to be one of our best schemes so far. Already among troops there is much conjecture as to whether or not this might materialize into what all have been looking forward so eagerly for so long.	G.S.B.
Pulborough and Ash Ranges Aldershot.	Mon 16 Aug		Warm and mild throughout with a fair S.W. wind. Major Ritchie and three Sgts. left today on Ex "HURRY", a preliminary to Ex "HARLEQUIN". A party for a shoot at Ash Ranges, consisting of 20 officers and 246 OR's, left in full marching order at 1700 hrs for Pulborough Station where they entrained for Ash, arriving at 1955 hrs. There are also detachments to leave from the R de Mais and Calgarys, and personnel will qualify in both rifle and L.M.G. during their two days stay.	App 8; G.S.B.
Ash Ranges Aldershott and Pulborough	Tue 17 Aug		Mild and pleasant throughout. An excellent day for the Ranges. Unclassified shots fired practices 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 this morning and afternoon, our cooks arriving at 1300 hrs and serving lunch on the Ranges. Results were good and the few men who failed to qualify spent the evening on further shooting.	G.S.B.

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Ash Ranges Aldershot and Pulborough	Wed 18 Aug		A dull and overcast morning, later developing into a excellent day with much sunshine. Further rifle practices were carried out this morning for failures of yesterday, while Bren Gun practices 1, 2, 3, and 4 were completed throughout the day. The party marched to Ash Station and entrained at 1958 hrs, arriving Pulborough at 2130 hrs.	G.S.B.
Pulborough	Thur 19 Aug		Dull and overcast throughout. Packing for the move is now proceeding very fast. Capt. Kemp and five Offrs with 26 OR's left as advance party to CREECH WALK CAMP, Hants, our concentration area for Ex "HARLEQUIN"	G.S.B.
Pulborough	Fri 20 Aug		Warm and mild with excellent visibility. Another day of packing with training at a minimum. CF's A109 and 113 were completed by all ranks and checked by Coy Comds prior to their being handed to R.P.O. and his staff in the morning.	G.S.B.
Pulborough and Creech Walk Camp-Hants. Ex "HARLEQUIN"	Sat 21 Aug		Dull and showery throughout with much wind. Surplus kits were stored early and transport moved at 1245 hrs u/c of Capt. Rolland. Phase 2 of the move, consisting of marching troops followed at 1345 hrs and entrained at Pulborough Station. Vehicles arrived at Creech Walk Camp at 1515 hrs and were quickly in position and a nice comouflage job speedily completed. The balance of the Bn in todays move arrived at Droxford Station at 1800 hrs and were transported to camp by T.C.V's. A hot supper was quickly served after coys were allotted their respective lines. This camp is staffed entirely by British troops, and the "Hotel" system in force leaves nothing to be desired.	G.S.B.
Creech Walk Camp Exercise "HARLEQUIN"	Sun 22 Aug		Mainly dull and overcast with intermittent showers and occasional sunshine. Today was a fairly busy one for troops, time being mainly spent on weapon cleaning and camouflaging slit trenches etc. The four meals served daily here, appeal to all, although tea and supper are fairly scanty and moves are being made to get us back to the three meals per day we are accustomed to. C.B. was lifted tonight and although pubs, restaurants etc. are out of bounds, troops may visit shows in the neighbouring towns and villages.	G.S.B.

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Creech Walk Camp Exercise "HARLEQUIN"	Mon 23 Aug		Mild and pleasant with sunshine throughout. Physical training this morning was limited to trunk, leg and arm exercises due to the necessity of remaining within the area of the camp. H.Q. however, rigged up a rope between the firs and personnel spent an hour in climbing in the Commando style. Rifle inspections were held at 0930 hrs throughout the Bn, and the T.O. held a complete check of motor cycles. The C.A.H. ran two shows simultaneously tonight in adjacent marquees, which were very largely attended. Balance of the Bn arrived by road and rail tonight. Battle Drill tests and gas training occupied the remainder of the day with the rifle coys.	G.D.S.
Creech Walk Camp Exercise "HARLEQUIN"	Tue 24 Aug		A pleasant day of sunshine with excellent visibility. After P.T. the usual rifle inspections were held by the various coys, thereafter specialist trg, Padre's hour etc. occupied the remainder of the day. Transport personnel are enjoying a real orgy of inspections - it is quite a while since so many vehicles were off the road at the same time. Maj.-Gen. E.L.M. Burns visited camp this afternoon and the I.O. left at 1330 hrs for a conference at Div H.Q.	G.D.S.
Creech Walk Camp Exercise "HARLEQUIN"	Wed 25 Aug		A mild and pleasant day after a night of heavy rainfall. P.T. Bath parades and Specialist Trg filled the day, which was uneventful. The C.O. and Adj. had a busy day compiling loading tables. Capt. Ross was today advised of his transfer to the 1st Div. effective an early date.	G.D.S.
Creech Walk Camp Exercise "HARLEQUIN"	Thur 26 Aug		A dull and overcast morning, clearing up around noon and sunshine thereafter. The Bn commenced this morning the practice of embarking on L.C.A.s, proceeding to Gosport and going through all the drills before returning in trucks. We had another draft of 48 all ranks today. The Pipe Band played retreat at 1815 hrs. Transport have now commenced a truck check, M.C's having now been completed. Major Brocklehurst, one of the Beach Gps, commenced a series of lectures tonight for officers, on Beach Gps and their organization and functioning.	G.D.S.

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Creech Walk Camp Exercise "HARLEQUIN"	Fri 27 Aug		Dull and cold after a night of intermittent showers, clearing up around noon and clear and mild for the remainder of the day. There was further practice today on LCA's at the coast, and all ranks have now been allotted to their respective craft. A course on German Identification etc. commenced at 5 C.I.B. this morning for all "I" personnel. Retreat tonight was played by the Pipe Band of the Calgarys in full dress uniform.	G.A.S.
Creech Walk Camp Exercise "HARLEQUIN"	Sat 28 Aug		Morning cold and overcast after a night of heavy rainfall. There were no C.O's parades this morning. H.Q. and Sp Coy left at 0815 hrs for a route march, returning at 1130 hrs. This afternoon personnel gathered in craft loads and were given complete and detailed instructions on embarking and debarking with exact positions of vehicles.	G.A.S.
Creech Walk Camp Exercise "HARLEQUIN"	Sun 29 Aug		Dull with intermittent showers throughout the morning, afternoon and evening. A Protestant Church parade was held in the area behind the K of C tents at 0900 hrs and an R.C. parade at 1000 hrs. Thereafter we had no parades and troops spent the balance of the day in the neighbouring villages and towns.	G.A.S.
Creech Walk Camp Exercise "HARLEQUIN"	Mon 30 Aug		Cold and overcast with intermittent showers. "B" Coy and some of our Sp coy vehicles and guns with a troop of LAA and A/Tk troops put on a full scale loading on a beach near Gosport this morning, which was witnessed by the Brigadier. Four LCT's were used and as with previous practices during the past week, much valuable experience was gained. Pay parades were held in Camp throughout the morning and afternoon.	G.A.S.
Creech Walk Camp Exercise "HARLEQUIN"	Tue 31 Aug		Mainly dull and overcast with sunshine at intervals. There were muster parades this morning, thereafter bath parades, after which coys viewed the film "Malaria and the Mosquito". Capt. Griffin lectured officers and NCO's at 1800 hrs on the organization of the various areas passed through prior to embarkation for overseas. The band of the R.C.C.S. played selections tonight at a concert in Camp held near the mess tents, which was very largely attended.	G.A.S.

S.S.T. Cantlie
Lt. Col.
O.C. 1st. BN. THE BLACK WATCH.
(R.H.R.) OF CANADA.