

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

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			<p><u>FIRST BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH RIFLES OF CANADA</u></p> <p><u>1ST AUG. 1942 TO 31ST AUG. 1942</u></p> <p><u>POSITION:- LAST DAY OF AUGUST</u></p>	

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Chichester Area Camp Open Winkins SHEET 133 REF. 340309	Aug 1		<p>Clear and sunny. The Bn had to supply Traffic Control for the Bde. from EASTBOURNE to SHOEHAM, the men were taken out and dropped along the route. The Bn moved off in T.C.V. from HAMPDEN PARK at 1000hrs. The route was along the coast road. The convoy was well spaced but rather slow. Everyone was very sorry to leave EASTBOURNE and go back to a tented camp. We arrived in the new area at 1345hrs. The camp looks quite good, but is rather a long way from anywhere. CHICHESTER is over seven miles away and it is the nearest town of any size. There are a few small villages within 2 or 3 miles but they don't offer any amusements for the troops. The TANGMERE Group of aerodromes are very close in consequence there is always aircraft overhead, this gets very noisy at night. Lt.Col. Howard arrived for two weeks attachment, to observe the training. Capt. Motzfeldt arrived up from the Reinforcement Unit and was T.O.S.</p>	* App. #5
	Aug 2		<p>Raining and dark. Allen Boswell's captaincy came through the Blue Sheets today, everybody is most pleased, Allen is going on a Coy Comdrs course at SHILLINGLEE. There was great excitement in camp as a call for volunteers for a Parachute Bn was received. 1 Major, 1 Capt, 2 Subs and 4 O.Rs were to be picked from the Bde. There were many volunteers and the C.O. had to pick them. The man was overheard to say "No paratps for him as if you fail your TOETs the first time youre out" It rained all day, the camp seemed to take it, but is very dark. The high trees and thick foliage, keeps the rain out, but it drips through for a long time after it has stopped raining. The American style tents (165 lbs) are very roomy and the men are pleased with them, there are no floorboards, but beds are being rapidly constructed out of anything that can be scrounged, latrine scrim, etc.</p>	D.P.
	Aug 3		<p>Cloudy and thunderstorms. Capt. D.H. Taylor, Lieuts Carnegie and Barott, Sgt. Nicholson and Pte. Kean went to Bde. H.Q. in the morning, to be interviewed as candidates for the parachute Bn. Lieut. Carnegie was turned down due to his staff qualifications and Pte. Kean was also not accepted. The other three names were forwarded to Div H.Q. The men spent all day in one big fatigue party, digging a pipe line and generally improving the camp site. In the evening there were a series of explosions which kept getting louder and closer, we had no information of any demolitions, but after a couple of these explosions had thrown dirt around and the blast</p>	D.P.

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	Aug 3		had blown some of the flames in the lamps out, Bde. phoned to say they were engineers demolishing mines and the sappers did not know we were here! The camp is very dark even during the daylight and we must use lamps in the offices which makes it very difficult to work.	2/5
	Aug 4		Cloudy and cold. It was decided to open a wet canteen in the camp as there is no NAAFI, after a struggle we managed to get 6 barrels of 36 gallons. This may not be enough but will be better than nothing. The men appear to like CHICHESTER well enough but find it very full of troops. There are a number of recently arrived Americans who belong to the American Fighter Command and are stationed at TANGMERE, there are some reports of a few fights between the Americans and Canadians, but none of our Unit were implicated. In the evening Lt.Col.Cantlie held a meeting of all Officers, the matters discussed were many, the most outstanding points were the limited uses of M.T., the use of line ammo. in exercises and the forthcoming training for combined ops. The C.O. jayed down that he would deal severely with anyone causing trouble between the Canadian and American troops.	2/5
	Aug 5		Cloudy and cold. B and A Coys went off early in the morning on the start of a 48hr self contained scheme. This is the commencement of the new training schedule. The remaining Coys did battle drill and hardening up drill. The training area immediately around the camp is very good for fieldcraft and rough work in woods. We were warned to expect a visit from the C.G.S. Lieut.General Stewart who is inspecting training in England. Lieut.Carnegie and Lieut.Doheny visited the R.A.F. Regiment in TANGMERE in order to tie in our operational role with theirs. We are to be prepared to counter-attack the aerodromes if they fall into enemy hands. We were not ver successful in getting any work done, but at least they know we are here.	* APP.# 7 2/5
	Aug 6		Cloudy and cold. Lt.Col. Cantlie went out to visit A and B Coys at 0500hrs, he watched them complete a compass march through very thick woods. The average time taken by the pls. was about four hours. All the sections leaders took turns at leading the pls. In every case the pls hit the objective right on the nose. The men were very pleased to see the C.O. and appreciated his turning out. C and D Coys went out on their self-contained 48hrs scheme which follows along the lines of the	2/5

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	Aug 6		of the other two coys. There was a lecture in the evening by Lieut. Rolland on the 11 set and the ways to "net".	2/5
	Aug 7		Cloudy and cold. All Officers attended another in the series of Combined Ops lectures at the PLAZA Theater in CHICHESTER. This lecture was on the organization and training of an Assault Bn. The G.O.C. Lieut. General Roberts held a conference of all Brigs and C.O.s immediately after the lecture. Security and possible future plans were discussed. C and D Coys returned from their scheme very pleased and asking for more. When the men ask for more they certainly must have enjoyed it. Lieut. Louson arrived from WITLEY, he has been on the P.E. there for well over a year, it is intended that he become Messing Officer. Lt. Col. Cantlie and Major Mitchell attended a demonstration of the A/Tk Pl. at BARNES GREEN they said the gun drill was excellent and our pl. appeared very efficient. The Wet canteen was officially opened, it is being operated by the K of C. with Canteen Accts Funds.	APP #7 2/5
	Aug 8		Cloudy, cold and raining. There was some water trouble early this morning and yesterday, but this situation has been remedied and if there is no wastage we may have water all day long. Lieut. Duchastel the pioneer officer has arranged for hot water showers anytime between 15-- and 1900hrs every day. This will be a great help and will make life more pleasant here. The weather has been very bad since our arrival, and it is a standing joke to ask what it is like outside, due to the heavy foliage it is always cold and damp, and now that there has been so much rain the ground is very muddy. Capt. Harvis is having difficulty to get his trucks out of their stands. Lieut. Barrot and a small party of NCOs left for the RCEs, he is to teach them battle drill.	2/5
	Aug 9		Sunny and clear. There were two church parades on the green immediately in front of the camp. The Protestant parade was a drum head service with the pipe band in attendance. The R.C. Parade was taken by the R de Mais. Chaplain Capt. Laramains. Both parades were very well attended. All Officers had to read "The Officer and fighting Efficiency" and a chit to the effect that this had been done had to be sent to Bde.	2/5

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	Aug 10		Raining and cold. A and C Coy left on another self contained exercise. This exercise is the practice compass work and map marching by night. The mortar platoon under Capt. MacLaurin left for a concentration area near LAVINGTON where they are to be brigaded under the C.R.A. The reason for this is for the Arty and the mortars to get together and learn each others capabilities. Lt. Col. Cantlie, Major Mitchell and Lieut. Doheny started working on the TEWT FOOTHOLD which will be a combined ops signal exercise TOPSY. It rained all day and A and C Coys got very wet on their exercise. Major Ritchie came in, in the evening to see if he could get a rum ration but with no avail.	X X 2b
	Aug 11		Clear and sunny (for a change). An anti-tank Regt Officer gave the Coys a series of lectures on the "Recognition and destruction of enemy tanks" In the afternoon he showed the film "Know thine enemy". These were very good and all ranks benefited by them. The syndicate working on FOOTHOLD was to Bde to study aerial photographs of the area and beaches. In the afternoon an RCASC officer turned up and asked where and what time we wanted the T.C.V.s. We were to practice embussing and debussing by night and by day. This was arranged for the following morning. All week end leaves were cancelled as a field firing exercise is coming up over the week end. Speaking to Lieut. John Kemp today and he informed us that he was now a Captain, this is very good news and everyone was very pleased. He will hold this rank whilst employed at C.T.S. John Kemp came through by providing us with a set of combined ops. pamphlets which he scrounged from Capt. Beveridge came down from 2 Echelon for a few hours. Bill was looking very well and it looks as though his new job of handling reinforcements suits him very well. It rained during the day keeping the score perfect for the month.	 2b
	Aug 12		Overcast but not raining (yet). Bn did the embussing and debussing by dark and by day. Reveille was at 0330hrs. The man had not apparently forgotten anything they learnt. The embussing by dark was good and silent, the only noise was made by the RCASC drivers, yelling and slamming the doors. Lt. Col. Cantlie and Lieut Carnegie liaised with the R.A.F. and report that there is a lot of work to be done in this connection.	 2b

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	Aug 12		<p>D Coy held a Coy Dance in EAST DEAN, the funds were provided by the Canteen Fund. The C.O. and Adj. attended, the dance was a great success and the men all enjoyed it. The sensation of the evening was caused by Pte "Killer" Cleary, appearing with a good conduct stipe on his arm, notwithstanding his six pages of M.F.M.6. Capt. Parker the Bde. S.O. explained the new signal code which will come into effect on the 15th. It does away with the old four letter call name and reduces the procedure considerably.</p>	<p>2/5</p>
	Aug 13		<p>Cloudy. All Officers attended a lecture on Combined Ops given by Lt. Col. Menard of the F.M.R. The lecture was Div Reserve Bn. The exploitation and withdrawal. Major General Roberts stressed the importance of conserving ammo. as all we will have will be what we carry personally. All the remainder of the Bn attended a lecture on BELGUIM before the war, and the present organized system of resistance, sabotage. The lecturer was Mr. Koelman a member of the Belgian Government. It was an excellent lecture and the men were most interested. Lt. Col. Cantlie left at 0730hrs to attend a senior officer's Battle Drill school at DURHAM. The C.O. was a little anxious about the course and left with mixed feelings! ! Lieut. Noad and 16 O.Rs were T.O.S. from WITLEY. Most of the ORs have been down before, and one returning from course. Lieut. Noad transferred from the C.A.S.C. having once belonged to the LANARK and RENFREW Regt which is affiliated to the Black Watch. Major Mitchell, Lieut. Doheny and Sgt. Connor attended a discussion at Bde. H.Q. on FOOHOLD. The discussion was to make up Bde Operation Orders. Major Rawlings returned from umpiring an exercise in SCOTLAND. The exercise was the practice landing and the maintaining of an expeditionary force. As Major Rawlings was leaving GLASGOW four smartly turned out men of this Unit asked him for a "loan" on the station platform. He told them that he didn't usually do this but as they were returning from leave he gave them 10s. After the train left his batman told him they were A.W.L. and had no intention of returning.</p>	<p>2/5</p>

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	14 Aug		<p>Cloudy. The court martial of Sgt. Saxton and Cpl Beer took place this morning, they were charged with selling rations to civilians. B and D Coys went out on an all day scheme. The exercise was to practice mess tin cooking. They cooked two meals out and returned at 2000hrs. It was brought to our attention that 2 CDIRU have submitted the names of three men of our reinforcing coy for OCTU. It is not clear yet whether these men are intended for 2 CDIRU or 1 RHC, but former practice was that the regiment choose the candidates from the field.</p>	<p>x 2/s</p>
	15 Aug		<p>Raining. A party left with Capt. MacKay to attend the Army Sports meet at Aldershot, there were no Black Watch contestants. The four rifle coys left for a field firing exercise on training area 6 near WASHINGTON. They were transported by TCVs. It rained all day and night and the men felt miserable.</p>	<p>x APP #6 2/s</p>
	16 Aug		<p>Raining heavily. The field firing exercise was carried out successfully despite poor visibility, everyone concurred that it was a most successful show. They returned to camp by TCVs and arrived independently. C Coy was confined to Barracks and put on one hour notice, the reason given being a scheme FORD 1. There was a lot of speculation as to whether there was to be a raid, and the command coy was to go along. Capt. John Tayer came back from G.H.Q. Battle school, completely sold and considerably bleeded as to mental outlook!</p>	<p>x APP #8 2/s</p>
	17 Aug		<p>Arose this morning to be completely shocked by what appeared to be a beautiful sunny day "outside". Major Mitchell returned from the Signal Exercise "POPSY" quite pleased and reported it as being a success. C Coy has been hard at LCP loading procedure and the proper equipment to be carried by the men. Captain Hicks of the Royal Regiment of Canada reported where to help us, the reason being that he had had the assault training on "the island" during Summer 1.</p>	<p>x APP #9 2/s</p>
	18 Aug		<p>Another beautiful sunny day- two in succession! During the morning we have had several alerts combined with distant crumps perhaps in the direction of Portsmouth. C Coy left today at 0900hrs via TCVs. They have gone without Coy Headquarters, only three platoons commanded by Lieuts. M.G. Mather, J.D. Colson., and Peter Barrett.</p>	<p>2/s</p>

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	18 Aug		<p>During the morning Lieut. J.W. Sharp acting I.O. (Bill Deheny being on privilege leave) made contact with Col. Wills of the local Home Guard at Chichester. Names were exchanged as well as operational roles and we offered instructors for any purpose at any time. During dinner this evening Major Rawlings got a call from the B.M. to lead up a station wagon with a quantity of 3" mortar bombs and personally deliver them to a map reference north of Portsmouth. Major Rawlings and John Sharp set out with speed and secrecy to the unknown destination. On arrival they were met by Major Dezisle the DAAG of 2 Div and Larry Mather who escorted them through a maze of streets to the quay-side of a troop carrying ship of the LCP mother ship variety. The bombs were quickly transferred and immediately the ship cast off into the stream. It was the start of a raid C Coy and the mortars must be going to see action! On the return trip Major Rawlings was warned about speeding in his attempt to preserve security by getting out of the area in a hurry.</p>	<p>2/5</p>
	19 Aug		<p>Rain early this morning, dull now but improving. Air activity continued all through the night and is still going on. The eight o'clock news gave out that we had made a raid on Dieppe and that it was still in progress. The BBC said it was mostly a Cdn raid and that tanks had been used. We were given warning from 5 CIB that we might have to move into the 4 CIB area and preparations were made. Also Bde. ordered priority of the digging of slit trenches and doubling of AA protection. Consequently all training and fatigues were stopped. Cpl. Farrell and Pte. Pilkington returned from C Coy having missed the boat. Their story appears in Appendix No 10. Tonight A Coy had their dance in East Dean which was considered to be a distinct success in spite of the weather. Pte. Deodati was the shining light by dint of having rendered "Brother can you spare a dime" in what might be called a distinctly minor key! Mr. Hull the Paymaster added to his already large popularity by providing the piano work for the orchestra.</p>	<p>x APP No 10</p> <p>2/5</p>
	20 Aug		<p>After a rainy night the morning broke more clearly and on getting to breakfast we were told that Capt. MacLaurin had brought his mortars back from Dieppe and had arrived in the early hours. His account of the raid written by him, appears as Appendix No 11. During the day we were naturally flooded with stories and rumors</p>	<p>* 2/5 APP No 11</p>

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	20 Aug		<p>as to the action and a feeling of anxiety over C Coy's fate was most prevalent; Capt. MacLaurin had not seen them. Pte. O'Toole of C Coy arrived in during the afternoon, rather shaken and with an injured ankle sustained in attempting to disembark at Dieppe. Due to the nature of his injury he was unable to continue and re-embarked. What story he told is also appended (Appendix #12) A bomb was heard to land after dark near our area. A.A. Fire and alerts continue.</p>	<p>x 2/5 APP #12</p>
	21 Aug		<p>Exercise Phillip was off today as scheduled and was a definite success, much was learned however and we intend to repeat this type of exercise. The Brigadier attended and no unfavorable comments were expressed. Capt. Taylor commanded the composite Coy with Capt. Stevenson as 2 i/c. Our Adjutant commanded one platoon and a redness of the face was noticed at the conclusion. In the afternoon Major Rawlings had occasion to get the services of an Arty F.O.O. for a forthcoming scheme and was duly connected with the 11th Fd. Arty as he thought. It turned out however to be the 11th Fd. Ambulance and in spite of the obvious difficulties he was able to convince a puzzled Medical Officer of the advisability of sending an F.O.O. on the date required. Very persuasive? Col. A.T. Howard was suddenly told to pack up and proceed to N.E.T.D. A Battalion parade was held and Major Mitchell introduced him to the men (in the absence of the C.O. and 2 i/c) and his farewell was most moving. The C.O. returned with plans of new organization which came out of his sojourn at the Battle School. For the purpose of official records C Coy has been reported as Missing and as a result Major Ritchie and Eric Motzfeldt spent the day searching hospitals.</p>	<p>x APP #13</p> <p>2/5</p>
	22 Aug		<p>Raining today again but trying to clear. Major Mitchell, Bennett, Cassils and Doucet went to 4th Bde via 2 Div to assist in reorganization. Reinforcements arrived from Witley to replace depleted Coy. 60 all ranks approx. Eric Motzfeldt and Bill Doheny went to Portsmouth and Southampton looking for eyewitness accounts of our Coy. They found the Naval Officer who landed our lads, and although he could give no information was most complimentary. This evening Donna Taylor was warned to pack up and to go to the Paratroops.</p>	<p>2/5</p>

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	23 Aug		<p>Cloudy. Church parade well attended. During the day a memorial service was held under Div auspices at Brookwood Cemetary for the men who didd. Several Brass hats were in attendance and one of our men Pte. Williams was buried. He was a victim of the accident. Tom Anyon and Egan Chambers came in, the former from CTS and the latter from Witley, both on strength.</p>	<p>2/s</p>
	24 Aug		<p>Sunny today and the morning started with the departure of Capt. Taylor to Manchester. After lunch Ack Ack firing was heard and seen overhead the target being a Jerry observer who dropped no bombs but left a vapour trail which was clearly visible. The Padre left to teach history and geography to the 2nd Paragroups Bn. In the afternoon Capt. MacLaurin made a recording for the CBC, his script is shown as Appendix No 14</p>	<p>2/s x App # 14</p>
	25 Aug		<p>Rather unusual but we had rain all day! This morning the C.O., 2 i/c and Adj. went to Bde. for a conference on exercise Stranglehold which is to be held on Sep 1st. They returned with the narrative and traces, it will take the form of a EEWI changing to a signal exercise down to Coy Commanders. After the conference it was announced that this Bde. had been allotted 2 awards and 2 mentions for our part in the Dieppe show. It is generally felt by all ranks in the picture that the appended recommendation are well deserved and are truly representative of the grand job done by all our men, let us hope they bear fruit. Major Mitchell and Rennie Bennett came in for dinner and during their stay they told us the story from the point of view of the Essex Scottish, where they are convening boards of adjustment. The other offrs. on the same work are Doucet and Cassils with the RHLI. Casualties with both these regiments are extremely high. Cpts. Stevenson and Fraser are working on the Combined Ops. scheme scheduled for presentation to the Press next Friday, it looks very good. It is virtually exercise Phillip with some changes and additions. Billy Boheny left for Bde. today to replace the I.O. there for a spell, a month is mentioned. John Sharp is going to bat for Bill here in the unit.</p>	<p>APP # 15</p>
	26 Aug		<p>We were treated to no ordinary rain during the night, torrential is the proper adjective and our camp was nearly washed down the hill. The C.O. attended a meeting at 2 Div about our Patches. The General felt that shapes should be uniform throughout The Division so our design is automatically out. We hhave however retained our red, and blue, with the possibility of some green in the background. We all want something</p>	<p>APP # 16</p>

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	26 Aug		seen as our Div. is the only Infantry Group without Regimental Identity Patches, of the written variety. Our anti-raid role for this area is published and appended (Appx. 17)	APP #17 JWS
	27 Aug		A break in the weather rewarded us with a really beautiful day throughout. Any number of us have remarked how a little sunshine serves to spruce up a dismal mental attitude. I say this referring to the perpetual dampness of this camp, even the clothes hanging up in the tent and in the trunks turn mouldy, without careful watching. The scheme for the Press was rehearsed all day today the Brigadier being in attendance. This afternoon - he evidently was satisfied as no abusive criticisms were forthcoming. At a Coy Commanders meeting held this afternoon the following changes were made in the Officer personnel. To command A Coy Capt. A.P. Boswell with Capt. John P. Taylor 2 i/c Capt. G.C. Jarvis goes in as 2 i/c B Coy but remain for the time being slated as T.O. B Coy gets Lieut. T.D. Anyon as second in command while Lieut. J.E. Fox goes to 2 CDRU to be instructor replacing Val Traversy. The latter arrived today with Frank Cundill and 24 O.Rs reinforcements from WITLEY. The officers are posted to C and D Coys respectively and TOS.	JWS
	28 Aug		Another grand day which is an act of providence well appreciated, it will serve to get the Press in a good mood for our scheme. Doucet was at First Cdn Army H.Q. today for an interview about possible staff work for him. The daily turnover of officers is so hectic that these days I shudder to think of the result of this type of moving about added to casualties. Our scheme went off as per schedule this afternoon. The spectators arrived at 1530hrs on the range where they were put into the picture, the balloon went up right on time with Spitfires followed by our 3" Mtrrs then the troops. Timing and effect were perfect and I'm quite sure the group of Cdn Editors present were suitably scared of the apparent indiscriminate firing about them and fully impressed by what they saw. Great credit must go to Allen Stevenson for his preparation and direction of the scheme. Among the military visitors with the Brig. were Lt. Col. Rutherford the G.I. of 2 Div. The C.O. of the Maisonneuve and behind the camera direction was our AL Fraser. Total score for the shoot, no casualties, no errors, general approval. The Pipe Band played a ceremonial Retreat as only they can. The copies of cables reprinted and received a couple of days ago are appended (Appx 19) They deal with congratulations from the Prime Minister and Col. Ralston over Dieppe. At first I was	APP #18 APP #19 JWS

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	29 Aug		<p>Showers throughout the morning all nicely topped off by a comparative cloud burst in the early evening. All the drainage ditches around the tents overflowed and we were treated to general floods. wet shoes, boots in fact everything that was on the ground Don't suppose anything will dry now till we get out of the dampness of this wood. In the morning a F.G.C.M. was convened to try Ptes. D-81909 Pte. Downey, J.A. D-82080 Pte. McRae, G.A. - D-81272 Pte. Bowman, G.A. - D-81303 Pte. McNeill, G.H. as this is being written from notes a few days later the promulgation is complete and the sentences can be divulged, they are respectively 90 days, 270 days, 120 days 60 days, detention. Major Evans was in for a while from WITLEY and appears to be in good form, terribly busy he says. He was told that Lieut. J.E. Eox was going to him to replace V.E. Traversy we are sorry to lose the Foxer but then these changes are uncontrollable.</p>	ms
	30 Aug		<p>Weather doubtful all day. A protracted period in the morning was used to bolster up our defence against any further floods. R.C. parade was held in our lines at 0900hrs Our carriers one section strong together with CSM's Murray, Simms, Bleasdale, Sheppard and Mr. MacDuff, Chambers, McKenzie went to the CTS5 wing Battle drill school for 3 weeks. Before leaving our Sergeants Major were standing about talking to the C.O. and the latter remarked to me after how smart these men were in appearance. There is no doubt about it this is so, we are indeed fortunate to have men of their calibre as our senior W.O.s.</p>	ms
	31 Aug		<p>Very little to report on today's movements. The weather continues to be wet and miserable with a sea of mud over all our roads. This month of August will be memorable for the fact that nearly three years from our time of mobilization the Unit has seen action and suffered casualties at the hands of the enemy. This latter fact has served to galvanize interest once again and bring us all back to the harsh realities of War. We have all lost friends and in so doing our efforts are renewed and we look to the time when we may go into battle to avenge these losses, and bring to a conclusion the war which has torn us for so long.</p>	ms. C. M. Cantley H. Col