

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
F.C. 2118.
-11-36 (9360)
H.Q. 1772-45-18

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 |
|------------|------|------|--|--|
| EASTBOURNE | 1 | Dec. | <p>Cold and misty. The C.O. to-day made a further recce. of the Downs Positions with a view to having certain concrete proposals to put before the Brigadier when he looks over the area tomorrow. The problem of trying to stretch one Bn over such a vast area still appears insoluble: the only solution seems to be to place our forces in such a position as to deny to the enemy the feature which would be most valuable to him as a bridge-head. The unit was notified today that, as one of the changes to be made in the new operational plan, the Hillforce is to be disbanded and our carrier Platoon is to revert under normal command. Today marked the beginning of a Div security week during which the Fd Security Sec. is going to try, by various ruses, to put our "Security Mindedness" to the test.</p> <p>2. Weather foggy, clearing at noon. In the morning the C.O. and Major Cantlie accompanied the Brigadier on a visit to the proposed new battle areas. The Brigadier was of the opinion that we must attempt, above all things, to dispose the Coys so that the Bn forms a tight knot which can fight in all directions, and even if surrounded, defend itself as a "keep" for several days. In other words, we are not to try to maintain a line but should merely hold an area and, if the enemy should sweep past through some unheld gap, we would hold our ground and leave it to the reserves further inland to launch the counter-attack. In the afternoon, all the drivers and transport personnel gathered at Wooton Manor for the presentation by the Brigadier of the Bde Tpt. Trophy. D-81243 L/Cpl Willoughby, J. made our first Security Week bag today when he caught a "Fifth Columnist" who tried to enter BHQ. offices with a bogus pass. Two officers of the Sherbrooke Fusiliers today arrived to commence a period of attachment to the Bn, for the purpose of observation and instruction. They are Major B.D. Lyon who is to be with BHQ and Lieut. P. Guingue who will work with "C" Coy.</p> <p>3. A heavy fog hung on the Downs the whole day except for a few hours in the middle of the day. Today was the occasion of the Corps Commanders' visit for which we have been making preparations for more than a week back. In the absence of Lieut.-Gen. McNaughton on sick leave, Major Gen. G.R. Pearkes is acting as Corps Commander and has apparently been delegated the authority to decide on the dispositions to be made in this new rearrangement of defences. All unit Commanders of the Bde Group gathered at Bde H.Q. where they were met by the Corps Commander; Brigadier Roberts (A/G.O.C. 2nd Cdn Div), the C.R.A. the Bde Comds, the G.S.O. I (now Lieut, Col. Churchill Mann) and others of the various Staffs.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">2/11</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2/11</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2/11</p> |

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-11-36 (9380)
H.Q. 1272-45-18

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|------------|------|------|---|--|
| EASTBOURNE | Dec | 3 | <p>After a preliminary discussion of the general plan the group proceeded to the Beachy Head area where the Coy defence localities of this Bn area to begin by noon, the placing of the Coys was complete and the defence plan consolidated. General Pearkes' manner in going about a job like this is most impressive - an admixture of boldness and restraint, firmness and tact. The result of the morning's work was that he put into effect precisely his own ideas yet everyone was completely satisfied with the dispositions and no one felt he had been dictated to. The Bn O.P. which hitherto has been manned 24 hrs a day by personnel of the "I" Sec. from their locality on the edge of BEEHIVE PLANTATION was today vacated in accordance with the new policy now in effect that guards, patrols etc should be reduced to an absolute minimum. It is felt that our present air supremacy and the absence of any imminent danger from enemy attack warrants this reduction. All officers this evening attended a lecture in Bn H.Q. Mess by Major A.W. Wright, on Infantry co-operation, in which was emphasized the necessity for closer liaison between the two arms and for a better understanding by Coy Comdrs of the way in which the F.O.O. is used.</p> | <p>Appx 6</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i></p> |
| | | 4 | <p>Cloudy but no fog. We are told now that we must make immediate plans for moving billets nearer to the battle positions. In addition to the move of "C" and "D" Coys which was planned before, it is now necessary to find new quarters for BHQ., the essential personnel of HQ Coy and to shuffle "A" and "B" Coy. Several officers attended a demonstration held today at the 47 Div School of Battle Drill near HAYWARD HEATH. It appears that Battle Drill will shortly form an important part of our training syllabus,.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i></p> |
| | | 5 | <p>Overcast and damp but no rain. During both morning and afternoon, recce's of possible new billets were made. Despite the large number of buildings which should be available for occupancy as a result of the civilian evacuation from the Town, it is not easy to find billets which satisfy all our requirements. Many of the best billets in the West edge of the Town have already been taken by the 31 Tank Bde on their arrival in October. During the afternoon a demonstration of Fieldcraft was staged by 15 Pl. of "C" Coy and was attended by the Bde Comds and all available officers and N.C.Os. Lieut. D.H. Taylor today officially takes over the Carrier Pl. vice Capt. J.W. Knox.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i></p> |
| | | 6 | <p>Scattered showers and a blustering wind. Major Cantlie today assumed command of the Bn during the period of the C.O.'s seven days Leave.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i></p> |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks, references to Appendices and initials |
|------------|------|------|--|--|
| EASTBOURNE | Dec | 6 | Lieut. E. Motzfeldt returned from his German Language Refresher Course with some most interesting tales to tell of Nazi cupidity and stupidity. | <u>29/11</u> |
| | | 7 | Weather clear and bright. HQ Coy and BHQ this morning held a Church Parade to WILLINGDON Church while "C" Coy attended service at Stone Cross. | <u>29/11</u> |
| | | 8 | Overcast but relatively mild. Tpt. holiday. The Coys are busy planning the details of this defence localities; in accordance with the Corps Comdrs wishes, this is being done in the form of TEWT'S for the Pl. and Sec. Comdrs. S.E. Command security week commenced today, it is expected that the English F.S. personnel will be more difficult to catch than our divisional men were. Lieut. Rolland is supervising these days, periods of instruction in R/T procedure over our own 18 sets and the II set on a Bde hook-up. All officers are being encouraged to attend wherever possible in order to improve their technique. | <u>29/11</u> |
| | | 9 | Weather dull with scattered light showers. Today a Capt. Haslett of the Algonquin Regt, an instructor in "I" duties at Kingston, Ont. spent some time at Bn H.Q. observing the functioning of our "I" section. | <u>29/11</u> |
| | | 10 | Drizzling rain and strong wind all day. The Bde Comds attended a demonstration of tank hunting put on by a composite Pl. of "A" Coy under Lieut. Traversy on the shore road near BIRLING GAP. The spectators were all most impressed by the excellence of this carefully executed demonstration. | <u>29/11</u> |
| | | 11 | Bright and sunny; A further increment of Officers from C.I.H.U. arrived today for a period of attachment. Lieut. F.H. Cundill is to go with 3 Pl, Lieut. J.L. Carnigie with "D" Coy and Lieut. I.H. Louson to "A" Coy Comdrs meeting at 1345 hrs. Major Cantlie passed on material from the unit Comdrs meeting at Bde yesterday: mostly administration matters. The move to new billets must be completed by 20 December. | <u>29/11</u> |

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11-36 (9300)
H.Q. 1772-45-18

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|------------|------|------|--|--|
| EASTBOURNE | Dec | 12 | Rain all day with a strong wind. The supporting arms are still being worked into our defensive scheme. Today Major Cantlie and Major Cort of "D" Coy, Toronto Scots. Regt. (MG) made a further recce of the Coy areas with a view to placing the MMG's which are being allotted to us. Lieut. Slater returned to duty with the carriers today after his recent bout of suspected pneumonia and scarlet fever. C.O. and Adj. attended a lecture at Bde HQ by Lieut.-Col Pike, a local zone Commander, in which the junction of the H.G. in local defence was explained to us once again. | <u>29/11</u> |
| | | 13 | The usual morning routine of inspections by Coy Comdrs. The report received today of the divisional Security week shows that, even after this length of time, the "Security-mindedness" of our units still is not up to scratch. Although 1 R.H.C received no adverse reports there were some very poor lapses at certain other H.Q.'s. It appears that sentries do not properly understand how to scrutinize identity cards and passes. L/Cpl Mercier, the Bn Postal Clerk, proudly announced a new record today. In all 61 bags were received. Battles may come and go but the paramount importance of mail remains as one of the soldiers' first concerns. "C" Coy have recently been carrying out night exercises against H.G. defences at various V.Ps. such as waterworks, power stations and permanent guard posts. For the H.G. it is splendid training in alertness and for "C" Coy it is practice in the type of work which they hope shortly to do in reality. An example of this of exercise is the attempt made by 15 Pl. of "C" Coy, to pass through the line of defences of the H.G. near COWBEECH on the night of 13/14 Dec. The results were in favour of the H.G., only 9 of the 27 attacking party being able to get through without capture; the H.G. gloated over their success but were somewhat impressed, nevertheless, by the difficulty of catching a night patrol properly trained, properly dressed and and moving with stealth. | <u>29/11</u> <u>Appx 7</u> |
| | | 14 | Cold and windy. "D" Coy church parade this morning. The C.O. returned from his leave today, greatly rested. No other events. | <u>29/11</u> <u>Appx 8</u> |
| | | 15 | Dull and cold weather. Lieut./Col. Blackader will be acting Bde Comd of 5 Cdn Inf Bde, commencing today, during Brig. Whitehead's leave which will last for one week. | <u>29/11</u> |
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11-36 (9360)
H.Q. 1772-45-18

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks, references to Appendices and initials |
|------------|------|------|---|--|
| EASTBOURNE | Dec. | 16 | Dull and overcast. Lieuts. Shand and Anyon left today to attend 4 day umpires Course. Great activity due to our impending move. - Major C.I.H. Bowen who has been attached to us for about 3 months left us today to return to his unit in Canada, (The Governor Generals Footguard). He has become a good friend of ours, always cheerful and pleasant and we shall quite miss him. | 29/11 |
| | | 17 | Overcast and cold. Coy Comds meeting at Bn HQ where the move to new billets was planned. All Coys except "A" Coy will move to new billets as per attached location statement - All the new places promise to be most comfortable. | 29/11 |
| | | 18 | Today was spent moving and we closed Bn HQ at "HADLEIGH" at 1400 hrs and opened at the same time at "ST RITAS" which was formerly "B" Coy H.Q. As we now have no Coy manning the shore front, a system of patrols has been instituted as an Anti-raid measure. This system started functioning today. | 29/11 |
| | | 19 | Weather Overcast. All Coys busy getting properly established in their new billets; Bn HQ and HQ. Coy, Officers Mess is in "CLOONA" upper Carlisle Rd. and is no doubt the most comfortable abode we have had during our stay in England - compared with last winter, when we practically lived on the roads doing tactical schemes and M.T. moves, we're all living in the lap of luxury. Our move and the changes in our tactical role has caused a slight upset to the local Home Guard who has, up to date, only concerned itself with the defence of the perimeter of Eastbourne - They now find that the defence of the shorefront in the event of 'Action Stations' will be part of their role - they will be calling for more recruits to enable them to carry out this additional task. | 29/11 |
| | | 20 | Cold, but bright and sunny. Lieut. A.L. MacLaurin returned today from Cdn. Corps 3" Mortar Course where he was an instructor. | 29/11 |
| | | 21 | Brig. G.V. Whitehead this morning made a tour of our new posns on the downs, He, our C.O. and the Coy Comds, went over the Coy dispositions in great detail and the Brig. | 29/11 O.P.A. 9 |

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F.C. 2118.
No. 11-38 (3880)
H.Q. 1772-48-18

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|------------|------|------|--|--|
| EASTBOURNE | Dec | 21 | and the C.O. personally sited the Sections Posts and M.G. Posts. It was a beautiful morning with a heavy fog lying over the Town. Leaving the Downs we could only see a few tall Smokestacks and a couple of Church steeples. The morning went quickly and only "A" and "B" Coy dispositions were decided upon. Instead of having patrols along the shore at night, it has now been decided that our N.C.O. and three men of the duty Coy will nightly man the Bandstand (051175). Their role will be one of watching and to keep in hourly communication with the other points along our front from which a lookout is being kept. | <p style="text-align: right;">29/11 Off 12</p> |
| | | 22 | A recce was made of an alternative battle HQ for the Bn sites for O.Ps. and AA, LMG posts were decided upon. This battle HQ will only be occupied if STRRITAS becomes untenable through enemy action. It is in Paradise Wood, (029169) and offers good concealment and good intercommunication with A, B and D Coys. Lecture by I.O. to B Coy on treatment of P.W. A great drive for physical fitness has commenced within the Bn, to enable us to bear the strain of present day warfare. The M.O. has already remarked upon the good results of this drive. It does mean a bit reshuffling of older personnel but it tends to make the unit a more efficient striking force. | <p style="text-align: right;">29/11</p> |
| | | 23 | Lt.-Col. Blackader today attended a lecture given to commanding officers by Lt.-Gen. Montgomery at HAYWARDS HEATH, where he expressed his wishes regarding training and general policy - Paul Bartel, a journalist on the staff of the Times gave a lecture to the Bn on "Underground Activities in France". He drew an interesting picture of present conditions in France although his manner of presenting it was rather uninspiring as he read his complete lecture. | <p style="text-align: right;">29/11</p> |
| | | 24 | Exercise "Presto". This exercise lasted all morning and the purpose of it was to test communications and the organization of Battle HQ - Only Bn HQ participated. The exercise went according to plan and no startling revelations resulted. Tonight due to Xmas Eve celebrations an odd fracas or two occurred in the Town. Our C.O. has been made responsible for the conduct of all military personnel in Eastbourne. XXX | <p style="text-align: right;">29/11 OVER</p> |

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|------------|------|------|---|--|
| EASTBOURNE | Dec | 24 | and the personnel of the unit has therefore been asked to make their conduct an example to other units, and it is noticeable that this is already an accomplished fact. | <i>2/11</i> |
| | | 25 | Xmas day: Today the Mens Dinner as always on Xmas Day resembled as nearly as possible the Xmas Dinners which they would have had at home. In all Coys the officers and Sgts waited on the men. H.M. Queen Elizabeth, our Colonel-in-Chief had sent us enough Xmas Pudding for the entire Bn, which was much appreciated. The C.O. visited all the Coy Messes and wished all ranks a Merry Xmas. Altogether this is a pleasant Xmas in pleasant surroundings. The Offrs of the Bn HQ and HQ Coy Mess had their Xmas at night. Capt F.M. Mitchell, O.C. HQ Coy and Mess President proposed a toast to Lt. Col. Blackader. He spoke for all the offrs and expressed in his usual quiet way their appreciation of the efforts which the C.O. has always put forward to make this unit worthy of its name and Tradition. | <i>2/11</i> |
| | | 26 | Usual day of training. Tonight the C.O. addressed all the offrs of the unit at HQ Mess when he passed on his ideas gained by Lt. Gen. Montgomery at HAYWARDS HEATH. He made an inspiring plea to all officers to take stock of themselves as regards their ability to carry out the tasks which may be demanded from them and to see to it that any present weaknesses be corrected without delay. | <i>2/11</i> |
| | | 27 | Our Soccer Team this afternoon defeated Eastbourne soccer team 3-0. Both teams evenly matched and it was a good game. | <i>2/11</i> |
| | | 28 | Church Parade to St. Andrews Church. Protestants of all Coys paraded. Doctor Reid, the pastor, is one man whom all ranks really like to hear. Our Padre, Capt. Mackay conducted the Service. After the service the Bn marched back through the Streets of Eastbourne, lead by the Pipe-Band. | <i>2/11</i> |
| | | 29 | Major N. Armstrong, sent to us under Cdn Corps arrangements started today a series of interesting fieldcraft demonstrations which will be shown to all Coys during the next 3 days. Major Armstrong, an Englishman, served with the Canadians during the last War and is well known in Northern Canada. Major Armstrong stressed the value of properly trained Snipers during modern warfare. | <i>2/11</i> |

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40/P & S/37

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|------------|------|------|---|---|
| EASTBOURNE | Dec | 30 | The C.O. and all Coy Comds today attended an all day demonstration of Battle Drill by the Calgary Highlanders. The demonstration showed what feats of endurance under battle conditions can be achieved by intensive training. The demonstration platoon put a great deal of zest and enthusiasm into the job and, incidentally, seemed to be enjoying it themselves. | <i>8/11</i> |
| | | 31 | A and B Coys put on a demonstration showing the uses of the No.73 grenade including an improvised bangalore torpedo produced from an ordinary piece of pipe and the explosive from three #73 grenades. The results were interesting in that they showed what can be accomplished by a unit with its ordinary equipment, provided that they use imagination and initiative. To night we come to the end of another year and taking all in all this has been a good year for this unit. True we have not come to actual grips with the enemy but the year has been a successful one in that we, through incessant training, have our little portion of the war machine to a point of efficiency where we, as a unit, are fit to discharge any task which we may be ordered to perform. Our morale is good and find the occasional period of boredom has not in any way diminished the pride and interest which all ranks have in THE BLACK WATCH. | <i>8/11</i> <i>S. Cantley</i> <i>mg</i> |