

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

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




OR

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

Title pages will be prepared.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Hove	Wed 1 Dec		Fair to fine with n.w. gusty wind. Trg films were shown this morning in the SAVOY THEATRE to which 8 offrs and 268 ORs paraded, headed by the Pipe Band. At 1330 hrs personnel selected by the various coys for the sending of Christmas Greetings to Canada met Public Relations Offrs and representatives of Pathe News at HOVE CRICKET GROUND. The I.O. instructed offrs of the Bn this afternoon in the new map reference code. During the evening all offrs attended a cloth model demon at 5 CIB.	
Hove	Thur 2 Dec		Rain at intervals throughout the morning, afternoon fair with some sunshine. "A" and "D" coys this morning held coy comdrs parades which incl interior economy, the checking of coy, pl, and section records, and ABCA lectures, while "B" coy spent the day on a route march, which included cross-country marching, the use of compass and practice of battle drills. At 1100 hrs there was a meeting of the Canteen Committee with a view to arranging a battalion Dance towards the latter part of the month.	
Hove	Fri 3 Dec		A dull wet day. "A" and "D" coys had all day route marches on the lines of that conducted by "B" coy yesterday, while "B" coy held a coy comdrs parade in the morning and were engaged in the afternoon on weapon trg and security lecture No.3 Lieut. G.D. Birks retruned tonight from a two months Intelligence Course held at MATLOCK, DERBYSHIRE.	

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Hove and Exercise "LITTLE JORDAN"	Sat 4 Dec		<p>Cold, fair to fine with fresh north easterly wind. There was no C.O's parade today on account of Exercise "LITTLE JORDAN", but a number of unqualified shots left at 0800 hrs for a day's shoot at KITHURST RANGES.</p> <p>"LITTLE JORDAN", a Brigade Signals Exercise, took place today, the main objects being to train sigs, att troops, and officers in handling of communications and signals procedure and to practice move to contact with the enemy.</p> <p>1st Bn The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada, left Hove at 0733 hrs and passed the S.P. at 0740 hrs with a convoy of 11 vehicles.</p> <p>Passing through SHOREHAM, UPPER BEEDING, BRAMBER, and STEYNING, thence proceeding north, we left the main road at CALCOTT WOOD and struck west, arriving in good time at the D.P. and were quickly in position in the harbour area, arriving at approximately 0900 hrs. The exercise commenced at 0930 hrs and our move to contact led us in a north westerly direction towards PULBOROUGH, in the vicinity of which, CODMORE HILL, the scheme terminated at 1618 hrs. A return was made to the coast by way of STORRINGTON, WASHINGTON, STEYNING and SHOREHAM and we were in billets by 1800 hrs. The new map reference point code was used today for the first time.</p>	



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Hove	Sun 5 Dec		Fair to fine with heavy frost during night. There were no church parades today. "A" coy spent the day on KITHURST RANGES while "C" coy were on a day's battle drill on the Downs. Lieut. G.D. Birks left today as L.O. to 5 Cdn Inf Bde.	
Hove	Mon 6 Dec		Cold with a fair wind. All available offr and 38 NCOs left by truck at 1020 hrs this morning to attend Exercise "CRESCENDO" a demonstration held at Trg Area 7, the object of which was to show an inf battalion attacking a hastily organized posn in daylight with particular reference to: (a) the formation and method of advance adopted by the unit and sub-units, and (b) fire support by battalion weapons and sp arms. Lt.-Col. Henderson was announcer and the demonstration was witnessed by the G.O.C. and many high-ranking staff offr.	
Hove	Tue 7 Dec		Dull and overcast. This morning 275 all ranks paraded to the SAVOY THEATRE, BRIGHTON, for a showing of trg films which commenced at 1000 hrs. The C.O., BHQ offr and Coy comdrs attended a 3" mortar demonstration at the new 2 Cdn Div Mortar School near STORRINGTON. The morning was profitably spent watching the methods employed in teaching the principle of shooting the mortars as a battery. Once again our Hockey Team had a win this morning, defeating 5 Cdn Inf Bde by the decisive score of 14 - 0. The Pipe Band played Retreat in Norton Road at 1630 hrs.	
Hove	Wed 8 Dec		Dull with intermittent showers throughout. Bath parades, aircraft recognition lectures, weapon drill occupied rifle coys throughout the day. Models for the aircraft recog were available in a hut at Hove Cricket Ground.	
Hove Ex. "ALLWAYS"	Thur 9 Dec		Dull and cold throughout. Exercise "ALLWAYS" commenced today. The object of the exercise was to practice inf bde gps in: (a) adv to contact with the enemy, (b) attack on unfortified posns, and (c) occupation of a bde drf locality. RHC were slightly <sup>late</sup> due to units ahead of us in convoy being held up, but once on the rd we moved in good order, embussed via STEYNING, STORRINGTON, PULBOROUGH, rd junc 445348 FITTLEWORTH 4438, rd junc 411399 and rd junc 413408 to our concn area at COWDRAY PARK 3441, ready to operate by 1500 hrs. The Harbour party i/c 2 i/c left at approx 0800 hrs and were in posn to guide in sub-units to their respective areas.	



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"ALLWAYS"	Thurs. 9 Dec		The R. de Mais occupied outpost posn, this evening and throughout the night and the exercise, in so far as it concerned us, was not due to start until 0730 hrs tomorrow, 10 Dec. An "O" Gp. was held at 1830 hrs. A hot meal was served at approx. 1730 hrs we had wireless silence at 2200 hrs and tps bedded down for the night; the three blankets taken were welcome in this very cold weather.	
Ex. ALLWAYS	Fri 10 Dec.		Cold and dull. Marching tps were on the move by 0730 hrs. First contact was made with the "enemy" just North of COCKING on the road from MIDHURST. After a series of coy engagements the Bn objective was reached and the high ground south of COCKING secured. The Calg Highrs then passed through us to continue the advance to SULLINGTON. At night fall we bivouaced in our defensive posn. Our patrols were active during the night but no contact was made with the enemy on our front. The night was again cold and clear with heavy frost.	
Ex. "ALLWAYS"	Sat. 11 Dec.		Heavy frost until 0930 hrs; thereafter snow; afternoon; slushy and damp. During the night the R. de Mais. passed through us then the Calg Highrs to get into posn. for an attack on the TRUNDLE. At first light we moved into an assembly area for an advance and attack on enemy posns in GOODWOOD PARK, but before we got the word to go an alternative plan was put into effect for us to move east to give closer support to the right flank of the remainder of the Div. Our axis of advance was CHARLTON - EAST DEAN to UPPER WATTHAM HILL and the operation was to be carried out in a series of company battles for commanding features. This continued successfully until about noon when the exercise was declared negative. The Bn. gathered in EAST DEAN and then moved by foot to the embussing point and so home by TCVs to a late supper. A successful scheme from which certain important lessons were learned and some new drills practiced.	
Hove	Sun 12 Dec		Clear and cold with a fair n.e. wind. Due to our late arrival from Ex. "ALLWAYS" last night, Church Parades scheduled for this morning were cancelled. Lt.-Col. Henderson left today on a Cdn School of Artillery Course at SEAFORD COLLEGE. The course will last from 12th to 18th December inclusive, and in his absence, Major Mitchell will assume command. The I.O. proceeded on course 717 (Enemy Army) to CMHQ for one week.	



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Hove	Mon 13 Dec		Cloudy during morning, becoming fair to fine in afternoon. "B" Coy spent the day on an all day tactical route march, which included map reading and pl flanking movements with special attention to details of battle procedure. Other coys were busy with cloth model exercises, LMG, 2" mortar and PIAT trg. Sgt. Willoughby is to be further congratulated on his trg of this year's boxing team; seven out of ten of our candidates at Eastbourne tonight secured wins.	
Hove	Tue 14 Dec		Dull and cold. "C" coy today proceeded on an all day route march on the lines of that of "B" coy yesterday. Intimation was received today of an impending visit by Col. Ralston, Minister of Defence for Canada, and that we are to take part in a brigade parade scheduled to take place at HOVE CRICKET GROUND on Friday, 17th Dec.	
Hove	Wed 15 Dec		Cold with intermittent showers throughout the day and night. Pay parades were held throughout the morning and afternoon for all coys with the exception of "D", who were paid yesterday in order that they might spend today on an all-day tactical route march. Map reading, grenade trg and lectures based on Security Pam No.5 occupied the remainder of the day for the other coys.	
Hove	Thur 16 Dec		Cold and dull. There was a Bn parade this morning at which the men supplied by Sp and HQ coys were allocated to the four rifle coys, this being all we are to put on the DVs parade tomorrow. At noon another parade was held and the Bn marched to HOVE CRICKET GROUNDS where was held a full-dress rehearsal by Brigade, at which the Brigadier and G.O.C. were present. Tps spent the remainder of the afternoon and evening in putting final touches to web and equipment. All brass has now to be covered with black camouflage paint and helmets have been de-sanded and repainted in this colour and a hackle painted on the side.	
Hove	Fri 17 Dec		Cloudy and foggy throughout with a fresh s.s.e. wind. The morning was spent in final preparations for the DV inspection. The fall in was at 1330 hrs and after preliminary inspection the Bn moved off at approx 1415 hrs for HOVE CRICKET GROUND where the entire Bde was soon assembled. Col. Ralston arrived at approx 1600 hrs and after a speech to the tps took the salute at the march past. Massed Pipe Bands of the Bde	



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Hove (cont'd)	Fri 17 Dec		played throughout. Lt.-Col. G.P. Henderson was present and led the Battalion today. Immediately after the proceedings he left to complete his course at SEAFORD COLLEGE.	
Hove	Sat 18 Dec		Dull and showery throughout. The Battalion paraded at 0915 hrs and headed by the Pipe Band, marched to the SAVOY THEATRE, where the entire 5th Brigade were represented at a showing of trg films on: (a) Camouflage, (b) the importance of Fire Power, (c) Security and, (d) Night Recce Patrols.	
Hove	Sun 19 Dec		Dull and with intermittent showers throughout. An R.C. Church Parade was held this morning at the Church of the Sacred Heart and Protestants paraded at 0900 hrs and marched with the Pipe Band in drenching rain to where the Padre held the service, in St. Cuthberts Church.	
Hove	Mon 20 Dec		Cloudy with scattered showers and strong south-westerly wind. There was an Ex. "ALLWAYS" POST CONFERENCE this morning at WORTHING for all available offr. "B" and "C" coys spent the day in an all day tactical route march, while "A" coy, after spending the morning on a cloth model exercise, had no parades during the afternoon but spent 8 hours during the night on night trg. Lt.-Col. Handerson left today as Visiting offr to the OCTU Selection Board sitting tomorrow and Wednesday. Our soccer team suffered their first defeat of the season this afternoon, a strong Navy team beating them.	
Hove	Tue 21 Dec		Cloudy with occasional showers and strong s.s.w. winds. Unclassified shots embussed at 0815 hrs and left for a days shoot on the LMG at KITHURST RANGES. Map reading, cloth model exercises and bathparades occupied most of the coys today, and "E" coy spent eight hrs on night trg.	



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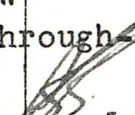

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Hove	Wed 22 Dec		Fair to fine with westerly wind. "A" coy spent the day on an all day tactical route march, other coys were busy on TOETs Rifle and LMG, map reading and cloth model exercises. The object of the cloth model exercises during this week was to instruct pls by problems involving consolidation after a quick attack. Bayonet fighting took the place of PT throughout the week, all personnel parading with a rifle and bayonet and being exercised vigorously in their use in fighting.	
Hove	Thur 23 Dec		Intermittent showers during morning, afternoon fine with occasional sunshine. At 0915 hrs all ranks paraded under the Pipe Band to the REGENT THEATRE for a showing of the following trg films: (a) The Pl in assault (b) the War Production Board Film "We sailed at midnight" (c) Security and (d) The Corporal who was a Sgt. Representatives of all units within the Bde were present and the Management of the theatre presented the current edition of Gaumont British News to round off the morning. Most coys spent the afternoon on Sports, and later "C" and "D" coys spent eight hours on night trg.	
Hove	Fri 24 Dec		Fair to fine with some sunshine. Security lectures, weapon trg, demolitions and 2" mortar and PIAT drills occupied coys today while special fatigue squads were busy throughout on cleaning and painting of mess halls in preparation for Christmas Dinner tomorrow.	
Hove	Sat 25 Dec		Cloudy with fog patches, light north westerly wind. Breakfast this morning was at 0745 hrs and Christmas Dinners in lavishly decorated mess halls at 1200 hrs. The C.O. visited each mess hall in turn and was piped in by the Pipe Major, speeches were made to the tps by the C.O. respective coy comds and greeting exchanged, thereafter the meal continued. Each <del>pl</del> was fortunate in having a ration of turkey while we appreciated also the gift of Her Majesty the Queen who sent us a shipment of Christmas puddings. Approx 4 offrs and 40 ORs from the Hants and Dorset Regts of the 43 Div are spending Christmas with us, while the Bn has sent a like number as their guests.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Hove	Sun 26 Dec		Fair with extensive fog in morning, wind calm. There were no Church Parades this morning, but tps took advantage of the many Christmas Services held in Hove. During the afternoon the Bn was guest to approx one hundred local children and a highly successful party was held in the K of C Canteen.	
Hove	Mon 27 Dec		Overcast with fog, visibility poor, improving in afternoon. Cloth model exercises gas trg, tank recog, and LMG trg occupied coys during the day, the IO lectured "C" coy during the morning on German Documents. From 1600 to 1730 hrs all offr's met at St. Mary's Hall, Kemp Town, and were given a lecture on Exercise "ALLWAYS" by <del>Mr.</del> -Col. Pawle, which was very much enjoyed. "A" coy spent a night on trg.	
Hove	Tue 28 Dec		Fair and fine, light variable wind. Pay and Muster Parades were held throughout the day. The Bn shon in sports today, in the morning we defeated the Calgarys 3-1 in the Bde Hockey finals and during the afternoon beat the 18 Fd Amb at soccer by the decisive score of 6-1. A very successful Dance was held tonight in the Royal Pavilion, Brighton. Music was supplied by the South Saskatchewan Regt Orchestra and there was an exceedingly large attendance of all ranks and their ladies. It was our first Regt' Dance in Hove.	
Hove	Wed 29 Dec		Dull and cold all day. The whole Bn underwent inoculation against Typhus. Apart from this, normal trg continued.	
Hove	Thur 30 Dec		Fair and warmer. Trg as per syllabus all day. A lecture for all offr's was held at 1600 hrs when Capt. Kemp, the Bn WFO, spoke on Range procedure and in particular coaching and the weapon trg policy to be followed in future.	
Hove	Fri 31 Dec		Bright but cold. A demonstration for all offr's and 1 NCO from each pl was given near Findon on Fd Firing, which was put on by the SSRs for the whole Div. This being New Year's Eve there was a general holiday feeling in the Bn as the tps prepared to usher out, in traditional Black Watch style, another year spent in England. Here's hoping 1944 will see the Bn in action and then a triumphant return to Montreal.	

*D. P. Henderson*  
LT. COL.  
O.C. 1ST. BN. THE BLACK WATCH,  
(R.H.R.) OF CANADA.