

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries; (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in C.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><u>1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH (P.H.R) OF CANADA</u></p> <p>From <u>1<sup>ST</sup> FEB 1943</u> To <u>28<sup>TH</sup> FEB 1943</u></p> <p><u>EAST WITTERING, SUSSEX REF. SHEET 132 MR. 229168</u></p>	

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	1st Feb		Clear, Wind diminishing. We heard today that Major Mitchell is to leave and is going to 1 C.T.S. to take over the OCTU school. He is to become a Lt.Col. This will make the 8th Lt.Col. that has gone from this Unit. Late last evening the long expected new establishment arrived. Everyone is terribly busy sorting it out and finding how we stand. The main points are these:- There is to be H.Q.Coy again and three Rifle Coys. The carriers are losing a section and the A/Tk Platoon is getting two more weapons. When available the A/Tk platoon is to be equipped with 6 pdrs. The infantry section is to be increased to 12 men.	G.S.B.
	2nd Feb		Blustery and cold. There is much discussion as to what Coy is to disband. It is generally believed that it will be C Coy, as they are the newest Coy. The new estate is to be in effect the 1st Feb so four Lieuts and several NCOs have left to go to the Holding Unit. We are all sorry to see them go but expect to see them all back shortly. The Officers had a farewell party for Lt.Col.F.M.Mitchell.	G.S.B.
	3rd Feb		Fair and very damp. The new establishment is still taking up much of our time. The Ack-Ack Platoon is to be disbanded and Drummy Birks is to be the new Intelligence Officer. Everyone is all keyed up about the approaching 2nd Div Boxing Championships that are to be held in Bognor Regis tomorrow.	G.S.B.
	4th Feb		Clear and mild. Major Rawlings came back from his staff course after an absence of 8 weeks. The Boxing Team unfortunately was beaten in Bognor Regis by the score of 24 to 20 points. It was rather hard to take as our opponents were the 8th Recce who we look upon more or less as our cousins, because so many of our lads are now in that Unit. There were some excellent bouts, the most outstanding one being Pte.Sudds of the Black Watch and L/Cpl Wellman of the 8th Recce. Pte.Sudds was victorious.	G.S.B.
	5th Feb		Overcast with showers. It has definitely been established that C Coy is the one to be broken up. The break up and total change over will come into effect 1200hrs tomorrow. We are now preparing for a stand to Exercise on the week end called Watchdog. Capt.Allan Stevenson and Lt.Askwith returned to the Bn and were TOS. Capt.Stevenson had been on course, but Lieut.Askwith had been away from us about a year performing staff duties.	G.S.B.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	6th Feb		Pouring rain and very cold. A dismal day for a dismal job, that of rearranging the Coys. C Coy was chosen to be split up since it was to all intents the junior Coy, the greater part of the men having come to the Bn since Dieppe. Capt. Fraser becomes O.C. of Support Coy, Capt. Griffin and Stevenson remain respectively at A and B Coys, and Major Ritchie becomes O.C. the newly constituted C Coy. Since there is no AA Platoon any longer, O.C. of that erstwhile Platoon, Lieut. G.D. Birks becomes the new diarist and I.O. and Lieut. Chapman, who carried on here for a few weeks returns to B Coy.	GFB
	7th Feb		The day began with the receipt of the code word which started WATCHDOG at 0605. The stand to was an easy one for us, and was complicated only by Bde insisting that we move our Battle H.Q. from its normal position for Anti Raid without warning to the position for Anti raid with warning, a move of several miles. Since the whole point of the exercise was that it was without warning (presumably) we will have to wait for the umpires conference to find out what it was about. The only complaint of the men was that they couldn't properly enjoy the first egg, complete with shell, that we were to have for breakfast for the first time since Christmas.	GFB
	8th Feb		The day began clear and cold and later developed into rain and wind squalls. The CO went to London very early, to watch the OCTU selection Board interviewing candidates. The air is full of rumours of forthcoming schemes, for this month alone we know definitely of firing at Bisley Range later this week, and a scheme called ELM late in the month and also we are hearing of a honey called "SPARTAN" early in March. Great demands are being made on the Bn for Officers and NCOs to act as umpires, coaches and instructors and at times we feel positively denuded of necessary men.	GFB
	9th Feb		The day began with a return of a howling gale and pouring rain. The gale of about a week ago was the most severe the south coast had had in many years, and we were extremely lucky in that our area sustained only minor damage, although it is an extremely exposed one. The CO attended a conference on WATCHDOG and it appears that all raids are to be treated as without warning and our H.Q. should move automatically to another Battle H.Q. The officers equipped with binoculars, attended an artillery lecture at Salsely in the evening. However, the IO and TO because of having to leave for the lecture late, arrived at	GFB

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	9th Feb		the wrong one, feeling very conspicuous with their binoculars around their necks, and could not get out because of the crowd. Our hockey team won the first game 3 to 2 vs. Corps Troops for the Army Championship. The second and final game will be played Friday, total goals of the two games to win.	GFB
	10th Feb		Clear and cool. Plans go forward for exercise "PORCUPINE" to be held this coming weekend. This exercise is apparently a scheme to train the Bn in attacking a defended locality held in sufficient strength to warrant deploying the whole Bn. As this was originally arranged for four rifle coys and with the present three coys, it will take a bit of doing for the C.O. D-82395 Sgt. Labelle was the victim of an unfortunate accident with a blind grenade about noon and died in the Hospital at 2045. We hear continually of the bombings of our old home in Eastbourne, and now the bombings are catching up with us, as Chichester caught a bit of it in the afternoon, and was declared out of bounds to all ranks for 48 hours. In the evening officers and sgts. attended a lecture by Commander Woodruff, R.N. of "The fleets lit up" fame, on the convoy to N. Africa and the landings in vicinity of Oran. The Commander evidently thinks well of nothing but the Navy and the Fleet Air Arm.	GFB
	11th Feb		Clear and warm. The Adjutant spent the day at the Reinforcement Unit finding out about the new set up. Our reinforcements will now come from No. 5 C.I.R.U. Lille Barracks, North Farnborough. Capt. Motzfeldt is in administrative charge of all Black Watch reinforcements, and in charge of one of the training coys. For reinforcement purposes we are now grouped with the Eastern Ontario English Regiments. The 2 i/c is to spend two days with the 5th Fd. Regt RCA on a firing scheme. In the evening a Coy Comdrs meeting was held and future exercises were discussed as fully as possible, with special stress on security and safety precautions.	GFB
	12th Feb		Cool and cloudy. Our hockey team lost the second game in the quarter finals for the Army championship 4-2. Although they had won the first 3-2 the winner was decided by total goals of the two games.	GFB

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	13th Feb		Clear and cool. A quiet day with all ranks preparing for early rising tomorrow for Exercise Porcupine. Sgt. Labelle was buried at Brookwood this morning. Lt. J.W. Sharp left for NETD on his way to be attached to the First Army in N. Africa. Lieut. Rolland, our Sigs. officer has been sent to the hospital with a serious case of pneumonia and Lieut. Askwith becomes Acting Sigs Officer.	G.A.B.
	14th Feb		The day dawned clear and cool, but the Bn by dawn was far away from the area. The marching troops left approx at 0300hrs for Chichester where they entrained for South Lancing for exercise Porcupine. The scheme went off successfully and all ranks were back in billets by 1930hrs. The only thing of note was the number of lame legs and blisters raised by several officers in BHQ. A good number of our transport drivers were on the return march and they were heard to remark that while they had driven to Chichester hundreds of times they had not realized until now actually how far away it was.	G.A.B.
	15th Feb		Clear and cold. All our time now is being spent recovering from one exercise and preparing for another. Today the men are repairing the ravages of Porcupine. In the evening the officers and NCOs heard a lecture by Lieut. Goldie on "Claims and how to avoid them" What we needed after that was a lecture on how to avoid such lectures.	G.A.B.
	16th Feb		Clear and cold. The men had a semi-holiday to make up for losing their Sunday holiday and also to prepare for the shoot at Bisley tomorrow. It begins to look as if on any scheme in which we use the railway, we will have to march to the station, and the special trains run at an unearthly hour. The men have to get up in the middle of the night and return very late. The 2 i/c spent a very long day sitting on Courts Martial not returning until after 2300hrs.	G.A.B.
	17th Feb		Clear and cold. Approx. four hundred all ranks rose at 0100hrs to march to Chichester. The firing at Long Siberia Range was over by 1400hrs but the returning train did not leave until 2000hrs. Fortunately the day had turned warm and the men suffered no discomfort. An amusing incident occurred in the afternoon when a route march was called in the afternoon for those of HQ Coy who were left behind. When the RSM called the parade, one Sgt., two Cpls., and one L/Cpl. were all that fell in. Sp the lonesome four held their own Bisley shoot on the beach.	G.A.B.

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	18th Feb		Clear and warm. We are receiving many hints that the scheme to be held early in March is to be a real "Doozer". Great concern is being shown by the Bde. Comd in the marching physical condition of the men. All training must be subordinate to the conditioning of the men. We are also receiving more information on ELM which starts the 22nd. Our concentration area is to be in our old camping ground around Pulborough and as usual we hear that that area is pretty well flooded. Five officers joined today. Lieuts. Magill, Neill and Rea are taken on strength immediately, and Lieuts. McInnis and Murray taken on as Special Increment.	GAB
	19th Feb		Clear and cold. We havent had any rain for a week but our mud puddles and drenched fields show no sign of drying.	GAB
	20th Feb		Clear and warm. Preparations go forward for exercise ELM which looks like a tough preparation for SPARTAN which will be tougher yet. We have just received the preliminary instructions for it, and the bump is colossal. The "O" Gp for "ELM" was kept waiting for hours because instructions did not come down from Bde for hours; and then the C.O. and Adjutant could not attend since they were commanded to the finals in the Army Boxing Championship.	GAB
	21st Feb		Overcast and warm. Up for an early start. Were carried to Chichester in TCVs and then an 18 mile march to our old camp at Pulborough. Most of the men had hoped never to see the place again, and it certainly had not improved any on second view. We arrived early enough to get bedded down before dark, so it was not too bad. The C.O. is acting as Bde. Comd. and Major Rawlings is acting as C.O.	GAB
	22nd Feb		Overcast and warm. Since we were acting in the role of reserve Bn we spent the morning sitting around, and then the afternoon threading our way through traffic jams. It was dark when we reached our bivouac area. Patrols were immediately sent out, and prisoners began to arrive in droves. It turned out that the mystical enemy had been told that a truce had been declared until first light and consequently had gone to bed, we had to let them go.	GAB

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	23rd Feb		<p>Overcast and warm. We were roused early and the acting C.O. want to an early O Gp at Bde, only to find out that we had nothing to do but sit tight and let the 4th Bde go through us to make an attack. Negative on the scheme was received before 1000hrs, and the rest of the morning was spent readying for the march back to our billets, which were about 25 miles away. We started marching at 1300hrs and arrived around midnight weary and exceedingly footsore. The general feeling was that "ELM" was planned as a fancy name for an out and out conditioning route march. Word was received that Lieut. Cowans is to be SOS to the P.E. at the holding unit on the usual rotation of Officers. Our Padre Capt. Mackay, who has been with us since our mobilization, is leaving us to become a senior at Div and he is being replaced by Capt. Goforth. We shall miss the Padre's thunderings.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">GFB</p>
	24th Feb		<p>Clear and warm. We didn't see the sun for the three days of the scheme and now that we're back we have a perfect spring day. Perhaps we should be thankful that it didn't rain either. Advance parties of the "Greek" Bn arrived during the evening. This ersatz Bn is relieving us while we are on "SPARTAN". Great excitement during the night when an enemy craft was supposed to have landed agents somewhere in our area.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">GFB</p>
	25th Feb		<p>Clear and warm. Today was A &amp; Q day for all of us. We are endeavouring to bring all our equipment up to scratch. Word was received that Capt. Anyon and five Sgts. were to go back to Canada, as instructors. Preparations go forward speedily for Spartan. We are leaving only a minimum rear party. Late in the evening we were told that the C.O. was going on a long awaited leave, and going immediately. We were also told that our first move in "SPARTAN" was to be 30 miles north and it was to be by TCVs. We kept patrols out all day guarding the bridges on the roads into Chichester, and asking every one for their identity cards. Two really suspicious characters were found</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">GFB</p>
	26th Feb		<p>Clear and warm. The continual good weather is still a source of amazement. All ranks are actually harbouring thoughts of spring. In the afternoon the Officers attended a conference on "ELM" and the GOC, who presided, didn't pull any punches on telling what was wrong.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">GFB</p>

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	27th Feb		Clear and warm. More or less orderly confusion around our area. The "Greek" Bn has moved in, in its entity and the local inhabitants are bewildered by the density of the Canadian population. Capt. Jarvis left for Corps as ADC to General Crerar and Capt. Fraser moved back to C Coy from Support Coy.	G.S.B. G.S.B.
	28th Feb		Clear and warm. The Bn is a beehive of industry and we have been warned that we will move thirty miles sometime after 1700hrs.	
			Edward Rawling, Maj acting O.C. 1st Bn The Black Watch (R.H.R.) of Canada C.A.O	