

W A R D I A R Y

APPENDICES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 1942.

- ✓ Appx. 1. Part 1 Orders
- ✓ Appx. 2. Part 2 Orders
- ✓ Appx. 3. Weekly Syllabus of training
- ✓ Appx. 4. Orders for A.A. and Q.M.G. inspection
- ✓ Appx. 5. Coy in the attack schemes.
- ✓ Appx. 6. Signals scheme
- ✓ Appx. 7. New battle dispositions.
- ✓ Appx. 8. Coy in the attack scheme with supporting arms.
- ~~Appx. 9. Clipping showing our Boxing team. U. R.~~
- ✓ Appx 9. Weekly Field RETURNS

W A R D I A R Y

St.Rita's,
Eastbourne

- 1/1/42 Cloudy, rainy day. We had a number of visitors at Bn H.Q. Mess today to wish us a Happy New Year. No parades today, New Year's Eve passed quietly downtown. *29/1/42*
- 2/1/42 Training as per syllabus. Gen. Montgomery, commander of the South-Eastern Army today gave an address at Brighton, which all Officers attended. In an inspiring address he gave an outline of the general policy within his command and he made all officers present feel the seriousness of their responsibilities. *29/1/42*
- 3/1/42 Gen. Crerar, Acting Comd. of Canadian Corps this afternoon inspected our battle positions. He was accompanied by 2 Div. Comd. and Brigadier Whitehead. All our Coy. Commanders were present, but there was only time to go over the positions of "A" and "B" Coys. *29/1/42*
- 4/1/42 Rainy day. No events and no parades. *29/1/42*
- 5/1/42 Mr. Brian Goddard tonight gave an interesting lecture in "B" Coy's Mess hall. He was sponsored by the educational branch of the Army. His lecture was on current events and was much appreciated. Hockey game tonight. We played 5 RCA and lost 0-1. Training today as per syllabus. *29/1/42*
- 6/1/42. "C" Coy today practiced "Pevensy Afloat", our anti-raid measures. Everything went well except intercommunications. The No. 18 sets were not able to establish communication between the Bandstand and our Bn H.Q. No other events today. *29/1/42*
- 7/1/42 Clear and sunny, but cold.
All coys but "C" Coy did sports this afternoon. *29/1/42*
- 8/1/42. "A" Coy practiced "Afloat Pevensy" today. There had been no previous warning given to them. The practice started 0230hrs and it took approx. one hour before posts were manned and all details completed. No other events. *29/1/42*
- 9/1/42 Tpt. Holiday today. Due to the policy of economy in the use of petrol we now have three vehicle holidays a week. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We have received orders from Bde. to have our air sentries on the alert as a certain amount of machine gunning by German planes has been carried out in neighboring coastal areas. Large parties in the open must in the future have A/A protection. *29/1/42*

*W. Caulton
Lt. Col*

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St.Rita's
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10/1/42

Training in the morning. This afternoon Lt.Col.King, A.A.& Q.M.G. of 2 Cdn Div. called to see us to assist us with the solution of the many Q problems pertaining to our battle positions. He made a tour of the Coy localities. As the Coy Commanders and the C.O. were waiting for Col.King to arrive, the C.O. received the news over the telephone of his promotion to Brigadier of 8 Cdn Inf Bde in 3 Div. Whilst we all more or less expected that to happen it was quite a shock. We all know that he deserves the promotion but his departure will be a great loss to the Unit. He there and then announced that Major S.D. Cantlie will be taking over command. He wished Major Cantlie luck, asked us all to give him the same cooperation as we gave him. *App. 4*

11/1/42

Major Jaquays, Lieuts D.Cowans and D.Anyon with ²² O.Rs of "C" Coy left for Hayling Island to receive A.L.C.Training. A Bn chunnch parade was held in St.Andrew's Church. After the service Brigadier Blackader said goodbye to the Unit. He thanked all ranks for the cooperation they had given him. He asked us all to keep up the high standard of the Black Watch. There is no doubt that it was not an easy task to say farewell to a Unit with which you have been associated for so many years and in which are so many good friends. The B.G.S., Brigadier Simmonds, Brig. Roberts, Acting Comd. 2 Div and Brigadier Whitehead inspected our battle positions this morning and the result will most likely be ANOTHER MOVE. *2/11*

12/1/42

Captain Beattie of the 15 Queens arrived today. He is to be attached to us for the purpose of assisting in tactical training and promoting coordination between 12 and Canadian Corps. He will act as an umpire on unit exercises. Tonight Brig. Blackader was for the first time a guest in our Mess. The Mess gave a farewell party in his honour and all officers were present. Captain F.M.Mitchell, our Mess President proposed a toast to Brig.Blackader and during his speech gave an outline of the experiences of our unit during this war. When he came to the subject of the change of command, he used the phrase "The torch has been flung" and from then on referred to our ex-C.O. as the "flinger" and to Major Cantlie as the "flingee". He was very amusing. *2/11*

13/1/42

Brigadier Blackader left today on a few days leave before taking over his new command. Major Cantlie, Lieut. Kenny the A/Adjt and the I.O. went to Brighton to attend a lecture on ciphêr work. Tonight Major Cantlie, the Coy Commanders and the I.O. went to 5 Bde Mess where on a canvas model, Exercise Beaver(a recent skeleton exercise)was reenacted. The exercise was an invasion exercise and ended with a British counter-attack. Weather: snow. *2/11*

14/1/42

Snow. Briagdier Whitehead today went over our proposed new battle positions and laid *2/11*

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- 14/1/42 down the Coy areas. Hockey game tonight. We defeated R de Mais. 4-1. *29/1*
- 15/1/42 Major Cantlie today showed the new dispositions to the Coy Commanders. It looks as if we shall have to dig our positions very shortly. To enable us to live near our battle positions we shall have to move our billets to the Ratton and Lower Willingdon area. *Appx 7*
29/1
- 16/1/42 Training as per syllabus. Tonight our boxing team defeated the R.R.C 20-15 in the 2 Div Semi-finals. The contest was actually 5 Bde versus 4 Bde. *29/1*
- 17/1/42 Training as per syllabus. Major Cantlie received his promotion to Lt.Col today. It's an interesting fact that his father commanded this unit during part of the last war. This afternoon there was a 5 Bde Cross country running competition for Bn. and Arty Regt teams. We won by default being the only Unit to field a complete team. We then took on a combined team from the Calg.Highrs and R de Mais and won 141-139. *29/1*
- 18/1/42 No parades, no events.
- 19/1/42 Snowing. The country, owing to recent snowfalls looks very much like Canada these days and skiers have been seen on the downs making us all feel a little homesick for the Laurentians. Lt.Col. Cantlie will during this entire week be attending a study group for Commanding Officers at Brighton. It now appears as if we shall have to move the entire battalion to Willingdon. We shan't like giving up our comfortable billets here. *29/1*
- 20/1/42 "B" Coy today put on the "Coy in the attack" scheme umpired by Capt.Beattie. This afternoon at 1400hrs a signals exercise was put on, testing our intercommunications on action stations. Everything went well except intercommunication with "C" Coy, which is too far away to make a No. 18 set work satisfactorily. The scheme ended at 1600hrs. Our hockey team tonight defeated the team of the Calg.Highrs. 2-0. Tonight Coy Commanders meeting at the mess where the C.O. outlined the policy of work and training for the next few weeks. *Appx 5*
Appx 6
29/1
- 21/1/42 "A" Coy today did the "Coy in the attack" scheme. The rest of the Bn training as per syllabus. Hockey game tonight at Brighton. It was 5 Cdn Inf Bde play-off. The league having ended in a tie between R.H.C. and 5 RCA. The game was a "sudden death" playoff and the score was 2-0 in our favor. *29/1*

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- 22/1/42 "C" Coy did the "Coy in the attack" scheme. No other events. *SM*
- 23/1/42 "D" Coy did the "Coy in the attack" scheme. Tonight at 5 Bde Mess all Officers participated in a cloth model exercise of a rifle coy, plus carrier Pl. less ~~the~~ section of carriers and two 3" Mortar detachments in action against paratroops. This scheme will be carried out on the ground next week. The scheme tonight gave rise to quite a few discussions and ended at 22oohrs. *SM*
- 24/1/42 Very mild springlike day. All the snow is practically gone. In the morning training as per syllabus. This afternoon our cross country team participated in a Divisional competition. The team took second place which wasn't bad considering that it had only had three days training. Tonight our boxing team won the 2 Cdn Div championship, defeating the team of 8 Recce. Bn at Lewes. The team distinguished itself by its appearance, aggressive spirit and excellent condition. *SM*
- 25/1/42 Catholic church parade, no other events. Capt. MacKay our padre, has been admitted to hospital with appendicitis. *SM*
- 26/1/42 Today "B" and "D" Coys did the "Coy in the attack" scheme which we carried out on the canvas model at Bde H.Q. last friday. The scheme took place in vicinity Langney - Polegate. No other events. We are having some difficulties with our billeting problem in our new area. There are not sufficiently many empty buildings to house the entire unit and we may have to requisition occupied houses, which is proving to be an exceedingly unpopular move. *SM* *app. 8.*
- 27/1/42 Training as per syllabus. The first game of a two game total score playoff for 2 Cdn Div championship was played this morning at Brighton against 4 RCA Score 1-1. *SM*
- 28/1/42 Pleasant sunny day. Usual day of work and training. We are still supplying personnel for working parties withing the Bde area. Scaffolding party on the beach, working party for the construction of a proper road to the Downs from Willingdon and we shall soon have to supply a working party for the digging of a ditch for a water main, at Bde H.Q. ~~Lt. Col~~ Lt. Col Stanton Mathewson visited the Mess today. The final game for 2 Cdn Div hockey championship was won by us at Brighton tonight. We defeated 4 RCA 2-1. *SM*
- 29/1/42 Clear day. "C" and "A" Coys went through the "Coy in attack" scheme against paratroops. "A" Coy put up an exceptionally good showing, completing their task 45 mins ahead of schedule. *SM*

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WAR DIARY

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30/1/42

Pay day and muster parade. Usual work and training. Orders have been received to go ahead with the digging of our positions on the Downs. Next month we are contemplating to move our billets to this new area. "C" Coy provided a firing party at the funeral of a Sgt. of the Home Guard (Eastbourne). *29*

31/1/42

No events today. This may have seemed an easy month but there have^s been a tremendous amount of work to do to coordinate our activities between work and training. As a whole it has been a satisfactory month and things have run smoothly. During the month, apart from the change in command, other important changes have taken place, in that, Major J.B. Weir has become 2 i/c, Captain B.R. Ritchie has taken over command of "B" Coy replacing Major Weir and Lieut. A.P. Boswell has become 2 I/c "C" Coy. All these changes took place with effect from 12 Jan. *29*

*W. Daulton
Lt. Col.*