

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries; (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in U.S. Regs. Vol. 1.

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Phrase heading not required)

M.F.M 11.
40/P & 5/37

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

Title pages will be prepared.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			<p>1ST BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH (RHR) OF CANADA</p> <p>FROM 1ST JAN 1943 TO 31ST JAN 1943</p> <p>EAST WITTERING, SUSSEX</p> <p>REF. SHEET No. 132 M.R. 229168</p>	

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	1 Jan 43		<p>Cloudy and cold. Representatives of the Sgts Mess were reffered by Lt.Col.Cantlie in the Officer's Mess before lunch. Greetings were exchanged. The men had a good lunch of pork, ham and beer, and were waited on by the Cpls. News of another inspection was received. Mr.Sholto Watt a War correspondent representing Montreal Daily Star arrived to spend a few days with us. Being New Years Day it was a whole holiday. New Years Eve passed very quietly and without incident.</p>	D.A.B.
	2 Jan		<p>Clear and cold. Billets were cleared and inspected by Coys. Another vacancy for attachment to 1st Army in N.Africa was received. This practice is to become montlyly the idea being to form a pool of reinforcements in N Africa for the 1st Army. The early preparations for a trip by some drivers and Officers to Scotland fer Combined operations training, was started. Four Officers from 2 CDIRU arrived on Special Increment, Lieuts. Rea, Bourne, Dorrance and Neill. Ted Neill was one of our originals and returned to Canada to attend the OCTU last spring.</p>	D.A.B.
	3 Jan		<p>Clear and warm. No church parades. There was a meeting of all officers in BHQ mess. Lt.Col.Cantlie gave warning of the Spot inspection and a general "pep" talk to put every ounce of energy behind their work for the coming year. Lieut.J.Sharp and Sgt. R.H.Law were the two names submitted for N.Africa.</p>	D.A.B.
	4 Jan		<p>Cloudy and cold. Spot inspection was carried out by the Bde Staff. It was a "G" inspection. D Coy^{was} picked as the rifle coy to be inspected. One Platoon did Ts OET and another range firing, and the Coy Pl. and Sec. records were inspected. S Coy were tested and examined. On the whole the inspection appeared to go well. It was a general feeling that this sort of inspection was worth while and of good practical results.</p>	D.A.B.
	5 Jan		<p>Snowed during night, slushy and overcast in the morning. Details of the trip to Scotland are beginning to come through. The place is ROTHEsay. The number going will be 130 assorted ranks, and the training will be mostly waterproofing vehicles. This trip appears to be so secret that nobody knows anything or is willing to give any details. The Bn is going to run a Bn Battle drill School for three weeks and an assault course is being built between SELSEY & BRACKLESHAM BAY.</p>	D.A.B.

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	6 Jan		<p>Cold and raining. Capt.Griffin left for Scotland in charge of the advance party this morning, he will also do the A & Q work for the Bde. Work was being completed on the nominal rolls and for a while a real "flap" existed. The amount of definite information recieved is so little and inconsequential that it is almost impossible to make up rolls. In the evening the officers attended a Bde Study period in BOGNOR where the Calg.Highrs demonstrated battle procedure.</p>	D.H.
	7 Jan		<p>Overcast. The work for the Battle drill school is progressing and they will be run in two areas. Capt.Anyon will run one for B & D Coys and Capt.Motzfeltdt the other for A & C Coys. The Hockey team beat the Queens Own Camerons and are again undefeated with excellent prospects. Lt.Col.Cantlie spoke to all NCOs, Sgts and above. He pointed out that the time remaining was getting short and that they must start now to enforce discipline and get the men behind them. The C.O. pointed out that they(NCOs) were always on duty and any troubles off parade were to be settled by the Nco's in a definite manner and not by argument or persuasion. These means might cause ill feeling for a while but in action it would pay large dividends. In the evening an exhibition boxing match was held. Cpl Jim Willoughby, the provost Cpl, who is training the boxing team, organized the show. It was excellent and provided some of the best entertainment we have had for a long time</p>	D.H.
	8 Jan		<p>Clear and cold. D-81526 Pte.W.MacDonald died at 0935hrs whilst on P.T. parade in A Coy lines. A funeral service was held by Capt.Mackay in the afternoon before the body was taken to Chichester mortuary. The movement order for the Scotland party arrived and another advance party was despatched with vehicles in the afternoon. This special course being held in ROTHESAY is now known by code word AFLOAT 52.</p>	D.H.
	9 Jan		<p>Clear and very cold. The coys are now marching 15 miles in the morning periods and coming back for lunch. This appears to be very good training. The long rumoured Corps of Infantry came into effect on the 6 Jan, we received the white sheets today. It is still very vague as to what this Corps will encompass, but it must be for the good of the army, and of course will be accepted as such.</p>	D.H.

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	10 Jan		Clear and cold. The main body of AFLOAT 52 finally left at 1800hrs. Lt.Col.Cantlie Major Mitchell, Lieut.Traversy, almost all the drivers in the Bn and the complete A/Tk Pl. went. Major Ritchie, Capt.Fraser, Lieut.Doheny will sub for the regular staffs in the C.O's absence. The unit will now have to carry on with a skeleton admin. wing as practically all the drivers have gone.	D.B.
	11 Jan		Clear and cold. The two battle drill schools got off to a flying start. Capt.Motzfeldt school opened in Goodwood Park and Capt.Anyon in Selsey. Major Ritchie attended a C.O's conference where the GOC Maj.Gen Roberts, DSO MC gave the COs an outline of the new organization. Roughly as follows the Bns have three coys, the fate of Support Coy uncertain. Lines of communication units to be established. These units will absorb large numbers, estimated requirements 42000 men per division. It was hinted that there would be many promotions and a general reorganization of the whole army.	D.B.
	12 Jan		Cloudy and mild. Information was received that all promotions and confirmations in commissioned and non-commissioned ranks are frozen until further orders. Capt. Fraser, A /2i/c attended an A & Q conference at Div H.Q., the new system of cooks all belonging to RCASC and only through that service may they receive trades pay, the use of mobile laundries and general discipline was discussed. The cesspool troubles have become serious again and during a lecture by a Coy Comd. on reasons and remedies, Lieut.Candler coined a new Bn motto "Nemo pe impune cesspit" freely translated meaning "Everyman must hold his water". In the evening an excellent ENSA Concert.	D.B.
	13 Jan		Clear and warm. Asked to submit a name for ADC to the 1st Corps Comd, a nil report was sent in. There were two minor accidents on the SELSEY battle drill school we are allowed 10% accidents but of course we should never fill the quota.	D.B.
	14 Jan		Very heavy rains and cold. The ground was sadly flooded which delayed the Bde inspection team who inspected us on A & Q matters. The inspection was very thorough	D.B.

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	14 Jan		The BOR was inspected by the Staff Captain, who also questioned the A/Adjt on procedure relating to injuries, Courts Martial, etc. The MFM 6 of Admin Coy were examined and the QM and his stores thoroughly inspected. It appeared as though everything went O.K. The Bn hockey team won again, they have been playing hard and very well all year. Unfortunately conditions do not allow us to use transport to carry spectators and the men feel they are being forgotten, this is not the case.	D.B.
	15 Jan		Clear and warm. A warning of many future exercises to come was received. They will be signal exercises, using the three Coy Bn. The pipe band under its new pipe major Cpl Hector Macdonald played ceremonial retreat on the village main street. Eleven RCAF officers and Sgts arrived and were posted to Coys.	D.B.
	16 Jan		Cloudy and cold. Instructions for PICKWICK & WATCHDOG were received. The Battle Drill schools have been a great success this week. The finale for the week was running over the obstacle course, the best obstacle was using a swinging rope to cross a stream, due to so much rain the stream was swollen and the only way over was through the water, several men went under water, however, everyone enjoyed the run and benefited greatly by it.	D.B.
	17 Jan		Clear and sunny. No church parades. Major Ritchie ordered a skin inspection for A & C Coys as reports of scabies were going around. Capt. Cohen who is relieving Capt. MacLeod is a dermatologist and has found quite a number of scabies, this may be due to the terrible condition of the cesspools.	D.B.
	18 Jan		Clear and sunny. A number of air raids last night but no bombs in this area. The battle drill school had a few more minor accidents. Rumours of new War establishments were flying about, but nothing concrete or definite has come down yet.	D.B.
	19 Jan		Overcast. Bn H.Q. moved off to take part in Exercise PICKWICK an exercise employing the 3 rifle coy Bn. The plans were to be carried out on French maps to accustom personnel in working with these maps. Capt. Mackay opened his Bn study center, which is a billet he has taken over for his educational work, here will be quiet rooms where men can study and work. The War office educational courses, are going extremely well and are being well received by the man.	D.B.

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	20 Jan		<p>Cloudy and raining. AFLOAT 52 came back less drivers and vehicles. Everyone enjoyed themselves and learned as much as they could, but there was a feeling that a good deal of time was wasted. The Black Watch came through again with the most efficient vehicles and the best behaved. The course dealt mostly with waterproofing and very little else. More air raids but again nothing near us. Our old home of EASTBOURNE has been getting "it" rather heavily which causes some anxiety to the many husbands whose wives live there. Lieut. Doheny, who has been the diarist since June of last year left late this afternoon to take up his new duties as I.O. for the 5th Cdn Inf Bde. "Dombey" will be missed around the Mess, but he well deserves his new job. The new I.O. is Lieut. Race Chapman.</p>	D.P.B.
	21 Jan		<p>Clear and warm. The chief topic of conversation remains the new reorganization. Very little is known yet as to exactly how we will be affected. Our Bn Boxing Team, which has been training very hard for some time, met the Calgary Highlanders and won 8 out of 11 bouts, thereby qualifying for the Div semi-finals.</p>	D.P.B.
	22 Jan		<p>Clear and warm. Remainder of personnel from AFLOAT 52 returned with the vehicles, also feeling that the course was a waste of time. In the evening our Officers performed a playlet on exercise "Moose" in Bognor Regis. It went off well, and the comic touch was supplied by Lieut. Rolland acting as a D.R. among other things. To supply veresimilitude he galloped about. One of the audience was heard to remark that at least he had brought his handle bars with him. Referring of course, to John's sweeping mustache.</p>	D.P.B.
	23 Jan		<p>Cloudy but still warm. News was received that Capt. Motzfeldt is to go to Witley to command The Black Watch Coy, replacing Major Evans who is joining the staff of the pre-O.C.T.U. School. Major Hunt of the V.R.C. who was attached to us Jan 14th for an indefinite period, continues to visit the different groups around B.H.Q. finding out how a Bn is run in the field.</p>	D.P.B.
	24 Jan		<p>Clear and cold. Protestant and R.C. Church parades were held in all areas. Our padre, Capt. Mackay, scolded us all for our sins, as he put it "For the first time in a long time" At 1100hrs the C.O. held a reception for the R.C.A.F. personnel</p>	D.P.B.

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	24 Jan		attached to us, and who are leaving shortly. Lieut. Alstair Fraser from CMHQ spent the day visiting the Mess.	D.B.
	25 Jan		Cold with a high wind blowing, and a near cloudburst in the afternoon, which didn't improve our pot-holed roads, which probably will not dry out now until the middle of summer. The C.O. recce'd the area for the inter-Battalion scheme which is to be held over next weekend.	D.B.
	26 Jan		Clear and cool. Lieut. F. Rea was taken on strength from the Special Increment. The attached R.C.A.F. personnel return to their Unit today. They were with us about two weeks, and seemed to find their stay instructive and enjoyable. Sholto Wall, of the Montreal Star, with Capt. Heamish of CMHQ visited us again. They visited our Bn Battle Drill School and were amazed at the vigor of the training. Mr. Wall supped at the Sgts Mess to get their viewpoint. There was a Coy Commander's meeting in the evening to organize the forthcoming scheme, which as yet has been assigned no name, although in unofficial quarters it is known as the "Four day Revolving FAFU"	D.B.
	27 Jan		Overcast but warm. We have been extremely fortunate so far this winter in that we have had no protracted cold spells. Although there has been a great deal of rain, it has come mostly at night, and the men have suffered no serious discomfort, except when they have to walk over some of the roads. A short while ago, Capt. Fraser, becoming disgusted with the roads in the Selsey area, about which the town would do nothing, had his company trucks load some shale from the beach and fill up the worst of the holes. A short time after the Bn received a bill for 10 yards of gravel. Gross ingratitude!	D.B.
	28 Jan		Overcast and warm. The Bn Battle Drill schools wound up today and were very successful. There were no serious injuries and the staffs are to be congratulated in the remarkable results obtained. Lieut. E. S. Griffin and five O.Rs were taken on strength today. Mr. Griffin is a brother of our Capt. Griffin. The boxing team won 7 out of 10 bouts against F.M.Rs and go into the Div finals. Our hockey team tied the Essex Scots at Brighton and thereby won the Div championship.	D.B.

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	28 Jan		Major Mitchell went on leave and Major Ritchie becomes acting 2 i/c.	D.R.
	29 Jan		Clear and springlike. Request received to submit names of 18 O.Rs to act as escorts for POWs being sent to Canada. Although this figure represents the total required of the Div, we were asked to cover them all thereby causing a great deal of excitement. The revolving scheme exercising the coys in active patrolling, night attack and defence, was begun during the day by B and D Coys. As the C.O. is acting Bde.Comd over the weekend, he will be kept rather busy doing that job and supervising the scheme as well.	D.R.
	30 Jan		Cool with our usual strong wind. Mr.Kemp and Mr.Magill returned for the weekend. Things were very quiet around the area with the Coys out in the revolving scheme which is being worked out on STROUGHTONDOWN. The C.O. remarked that the conditions were some of the hardest we had ever worked under, chiefly because of the wind and rain.	D.R.
	31 Jan		No church parades. We received a special warning of gale conditions during the day, and for once the prediction was correct. The combination of gale and continual rain squalls. Conditions on the scheme were frightful and everyone was glad to get home. The new war establishment came through late in the day, and a Coy Comds meeting was held in the evening. It goes into effect immediately and the next few days will be extremely busy ones. January was remarkable chiefly by its lack of really cold weather, and for rumours and speculations concerning the new establishment.	D.R.

Stanton