

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
40/P & S/37 (3072)

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>1st BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH (RHR) OF CANADA</u> <u>From 1st January, 1944 to 31st January, 1944</u></p> <p><u>Hove, Sussex (Billets) Ref Sheet OS No. 134</u></p> <p><u>724237</u></p>	

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Hove	Sat 1 Jan		Cloudy and mild throughout. New Year's Day - the fifth of the War and the fourth the Battalion has spent in England - finds all ranks in accord in believing that this year will see us in action and in the hope that this will be the year of final victory. A day of rest for all with the exception of the minimum for essential duties was accepted by many with appreciation for an opportunity for relaxation after the seasonal celebration.	CSS
Hove	Sun 2 Jan		Cloudy and overcast with occasional showers. A Protestant Church Parade was held this morning. The Parade fell in at 0900 hrs on Fourth Ave., and marched behind the Pipe Band to St. Cuthbert's Church, where the Padre conducted a special New Year's Service.	CSS
Hove	Mon 3 Jan		Dull and fairly mild throughout. The Brigadier and Lt.-Col Henderson spent the afternoon watching "B" & "D" Coys go through their paces in battle drill. In the evening the Bn Boxing Team met the Calgary Highrs Team at the Drill Hall, Hove Cricket Ground. Some fine bouts were witnessed and we were fortunate in securing a margin of one point to put us in the lead and win the Brigade Championships, to the great delight of the large number of R.H.C. personnel present. Our winners were Ptes Hudson & Davidson of "A" Coy. Ptes Rose and Burdon of "D" Coy. Wilson of Sp and Cpl. McVey of "C" Coy. Ptes Davidson, Wilson & Burdon winning by technical knockouts. At the completion of the Boxing bouts the crowd was entertained to a fine exhibition of wrestling. All voted the show a huge success and credit was due to Lieut. E.J. Neill, Sgts. Graham and Willoughby for the time and effort so willingly expended to make the evening such an enjoyable one. The Brigadier was present and spoke briefly over the public address system, congratulating all concerned on a very fine show.	CSS
Hove	Tue 4 Jan		Dull and mild throughout. Battle Drill, weapon trg and lectures on mines occupied rifle coys today. The I.O. attended a lecture at Div. H.Q. on low grade cipher.	CSS
Hove	Wed 5 Jan		Cold but bright and sunny. The second of the series of typhus inoculations was given today. "D" Coy were out tonight trg at sub area 1 of trg area 8. Major E. Motzfeldt is in charge of the night training during the week.	CSS

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Hove	Thu 6 Jan		Dull and cold. 116 all ranks attended trg films in Brighton today. Bath Parades and Kit Inspections were held in the afternoon. An uneventful day.	CSS
Hove	Fri 7 Jan		Fair and cold with fresh S westerly wind. Visibility good. The "I" Sec. plus 4 men from Sp Coy trained today with the Arty at ALFRISTON RANGE, Shelling Reports, Spotting flashes and plotting results on maps was practiced. Also a demonstration of the firing of 25 pounders was given and the Flying Jeep was seen in action spotting targets and giving the Arty result of fire. Altogether a highly instructive day.	CSS
Hove	Sat 8 Jan		Dull and showery. After a period of drill for all coys this morning the usual coy Comds inspections were held. Respirators were today issued from Stores to individuals who will be responsible for their maintenance. Capt Boswell is to be our new Gas Offr vice Lieut D.C. Menzies.	CSS
Hove	Sun 9 Jan		Cloudy with westerly wind; local visibility fair. There were no church parades today. Major Motzfeldt and our Battle Drill Instrs left on a final recce today of the Battle Drill area on the Downs. An intensive two weeks course will be given all ranks and arrangements have been made for the serving of a hot midday meal daily.	CSS
Hove	Mon 10 Jan		Cloudy and cold with occasional slight rain or drizzle. The Battle Drill School under comd of Major Motzfeldt commenced today; the area is an excellent one for the purpose and a cloth model has been laid out in a temporary H.Q. at the Golf Clubhouse so that pls may familiarize themselves with the ground and landmarks prior to trg. All subalterns today and for the rest of the week will attend a Refresher Course under Major F.P. Griffing.	CSS

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Hove	Tue 11 Jan		Rain intermittently throughout the day. 200 all ranks attended a very fine showing of trg films at the ASTORIA Cinema this morning. The highlight was an excellent film of the Commando Raid on Vagsoe, which was really appreciated by all. The Bn Soccer Team scored another easy victory today, the total of 19 goals to nothing against the 18 Ed Amb by a team that rarely exerted itself being more indicative of cricket than football.	CSS
Hove	Wed 12 Jan		Cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle; visibility fair. The third of the series of typhus inoculations was given today, and troops breathed a sigh of relief when this the last - of these "shots" was completed. The Medical Offr continued today with lectures and lecture-demonstrations on "First Aid for Fighting Men" all coys will be given these during the week.	CSS
Hove	Thu 13 Jan		Drizzle and rain throughout; visibility poor. "C" Coy spent the day on an LMG shoot at KITHURST RANGE. Pay parades were held throughout the day - the battle school arriving after last parade and holding the paymaster and staff much later than usual.	CSS
Hove	Fri 14 Jan		Dull and mild throughout. An uneventful day. Trg continued as per syllabus and there was nothing of special interest.	CSS
Hove	Sat 15 Jan		Mild and with intermittent showers during afternoon and evening. Brig. Whitehead today relinquished command of 5 Cdn Inf Bde and will, we understand, shortly leave for Canada. There is no news as yet as to who has been appointed in his place. A small party of men today left under comd of Capt. Rolland for a sight-seeing trip of WINDSOR and ETON.	CSS
Hove	Sun 16 Jan		Weather fine but with widespread fog; easterly wind; visibility poor. Capt. Rolland took a parade of approx 300 Roman Catholics to the Church of the Sacred Heart at 0900 hrs this morning. Lt.-Col Henderson has been appointed Acting Brigade Comd pending arrival of Brig. Whitehead's successor and took up duties at 5 Cdn Inf Bde today.	CSS

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Hove	Mon 17 Jan		Dull and cloudy with intermittent slight showers. 128 aml ranks attended trg films in the SAVOY Theatre this morning, the following films being shown - "Everybody's Business", "Carrier Weapons" and "Wavell's 30,000". The later was very much enjoyed by all. "B" Coy spent the night on the Downs and fighting patrols went through mine fds complete with trip wires and booby traps; it was more of less an inoculation of fire and valuable trg.	CSS
Hove	Tue 18 Jan		Dull and overcast throughout with intermittent showers; fair south-westerly wind; visibility fair with occasional heavy fog patches. Lecture on mines, security, a padre's hour and wpn trg occupied rifle coys during the day. "C" Coy carried out night trg on the lines of that conducted by "B" Coy yesterday.	CSS
Hove	Wed 19 Jan		Fair to cloudy; visibility fair; gusty s.w. wind. Bath parades were held throughout the day, also cloth model exercises and a sports period. "D" Coy completed their night trg tonight.	CSS
Hove	Thu 20 Jan		Dull and mild throughout. A most unfortunate accident occurred this morning when "B" Coy was carrying out PIAT firing in Trg Area 37 ² . Lieut. G.S. MacInnes fired an H.E. bomb, of which a portion of the cartridge apparently blew back, striking him in the head. This happened at about 1015 hrs and Major Stevenson and Sgt. Foam conveyed him to Victoria Hospital, Lewes. There he was visited by the C.O. the 2 i/c, the Padre H/Capt. Berlis, and the M.O. Capt R.F. Ohlke. A civilian brain specialist was called in and one from No. 1 Cdn Neuro Hospital at Basingstoke. An operation was performed in the evening which at first appeared successful but at 2047 hrs, Lieut. MacInnes passed away.	CSS
Hove	Fri 21 Jan		Drizzle intermittently throughout; the day; mild and overcast. Cloth models, security lectures, bayonet fighting and gas trg were the highlights of today's training.	CSS

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Hove	Sat 22 Jan		Cloudy with rain and drizzle; south-westerly gusty wind. The ribbons for the Cdn Volunteer Service Medals were handed out today. A total of approx 750 all ranks were entitled to wear them. Incidentally, all ranks are being instructed on the correct wearing of this ribbon - it was not a Black Watch man picked up by the Provost some few nights ago for the wearing of the ribbon on his leather jerkin.	CJS
Hove	Sun 23 Jan		Cold with occasional showers and westerly wind; visibility good. There was a Bn Church Parade this morning to St. Cuthbert's Church, Hove. Reference was made by the Padre to the accidental death of Lieut. G.S. MacInnes, thereafter the sermon was conducted by the late Chaplain to the Scots Fusiliers.	CJS
Hove	Mon 24 Jan		Cloudy with intermittent rain throughout; westerly wind; visibility fair. Lieut. F. Girling, RCCS, was transferred today and replaced by Lieut. H.F. Pedlar. A barrage balloon from a convoy in the Channel broke away from its ship this morning and came down over the area of the Battle School on the Downs; the balloon was finally presented to the "I" Section for disposition. The new G.O.C. 2 Cdn Div, Major General Foulkes, C.B.E., visited the unit at 1000 hrs. He was accompanied by his ADC Lieut. E.C. Argue, and Capt. R.G. Slater G-3 (I). His programme included a visit to the RHC Battle School where four pls (one from each rifle coy) are undergoing trg under the direction of Major E. Motzfeldt. In the same area he saw a number of 2" mortar teams qualifying and the 3" mortar pl doing drill with the setting out of OPs. One pl which had finished the two weeks course put on an attack which went well notwithstanding the fact that the 2" mortar team all but set the Clubhouse on fire. At 1130 hrs the G.O.C. spoke to all offrs of the unit at 87 George St. His address was directed to all subalterns but applied to all offrs. He stayed to dinner and left to inspect the Tor Scots at 1315 hrs.	CJS

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Hove	Tue 25 Jan		<p>Cold and with occasional showers afternoon and evening. Fair visibility and westerly wind. 136 all ranks were available and attended a showing of trg films this morning at the Astoria Cinema, Brighton. Lieuts. Mackenzie and Tessier, with the "I" Sec and two weapon trg NCOs left at 1200 hrs for GOODWOOD HOUSE where a demonstration and lecture on German Weapons was held, later followed by the firing of the various weapons at KINGLEY VALE. Our soccer team had another win today, beating the Calgarys by the decisive score of 6-0. All available offr's attended the funeral of Lieut. G.S. MacInnes at 1300 hrs at BROCKWOOD Cemetery. The bearers were six men of Lieut. MacInnes' pl., led by the pl Sgt., Sgt. Foam. The pall-bearers were Lieuts. J.E. Fox, G.B. Knox, F.T. Rea, G.T. Trower, J.K. Neil and J.E. Pope. The service was a very simple one, conducted by the Padre, H/Capt. R.J. Berlis. Pipe-Majpr MacDonald and one piper played the lament "Flowers of the Forest" and Drummer Woodard sounded the "Last Post" and "Rouse" on the bugle. A number of offr's from 5 CIRU and Capt. J.W. Beveridge from 2nd Echelon were also present.</p>	CSS
Hove	Wed 26 Jan		<p>Clear and cold. A further batch of innulations took place today; these were mostly men on course and leave when the initial inoculations took place at the beginning of the month. This practically completes the course for the Bn.</p>	CSS
Hove	Thu 27 Jan		<p>Clear and Mild. There was an assault bridging dem at 1000 hrs today at PARHAM PARK 493339 attended by Capt. Traversy, Lieut. Hollinger, Pope, Duffield, and 15 other ranks from Sp Coy. The final batch of our motor cycles are undergoing painting and overhauling prior to a forthcoming ordnance inspection.</p>	CSS
Hove	Fri 28 Jan		<p>Dull and mild. Bath parades, coy comds parades, lectures on security, and mines, gas lectures and weapon trg occupied coys during the day. Coys were paid during the day and muster parades were held.</p>	CSS

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Hove	Sat 29 Jan		Dull and mild; visibility good. Drill and coy comds inspections were held throughout the morning. Lieut. E.S. Duffield was in charge of a party of 30 ORs which left this morning on a two days sightseeing tour of Exeter. The highlights of the trip which was very much enjoyed by all, were visits to the Priory, Cathedral and Guildhall, a walk around the old City Walls, tea as guests of the mayor and a Dance at the Civic Hall. Our new Brigadier arrived today - Brig. J.C. Jefferson, DSO, late of the Loyal Edmonton Regt. We understand that only yesterday he was on the Italian Front and arrived by plane to take over his new command.	
Hove	Sun 30 Jan		Clear and fine with sunshine - one of the best days of the month, if not the best. An RC Church Parade was held in the Church of the Sacred Heart at 0900 hrs this morning; approximately 100 other ranks attended under comd of Capt. Rowland. We received a warning order today that the Bn will be inspected by the G.O.C. 2 Cdn Corps on the afternoon of Thursday, 3rd February; also, that the G.O.C. will address all offrs at Brighton on the morning of Wednesday, 2nd February.	CJS
Hove	Mon 31 Jan		Dull and cloudy with threatening rain; fair s.s.w. wind; visibility good. The "I" Sec today commenced an intensive four weeks course under Lieut. R.G. Weeks of the Int Coy of 1 C.G.R.U. Now that the typhus inoculations are practically completed, the M.O. has commenced smallpox vaccinations. Many and varied were the comments when the first batch of troops lined up; M.Os parades have been coming fast and furious this past month.	CJS

Q. P. Henderson

LT. COL.
C.O. 1st. BN. THE BLACK WATCH.
(R.H.R.) OF CANADA.