

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.

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WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erased heading not required)

M.F.J
40/P/1

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>1st Bn. THE BLACK WATCH (R.I.R.) of CANADA. 1st JULY 1942 to 31st JULY 1942. EAST BOURNE, SUSSEX, ENGLAND</p>	

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SHEET NO 1
WAR DIARY

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

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PULBOROUGH	1 Jul		<p>Cloudy and cool. This being Dominion day, the Bn had a whole holiday. In the morning we had a Bn Sports day, the number of entrants was only fair but this may be explained by the fact that only one days warning was possible. "C" Coy left for CHICHESTER early this morning to prepare a camp for one of the Reg'ts returning from SIMMER. They went out as usual, crabbing that they were getting all the fatigues, etc. LIEUT.COL. A.T. HOWARD, V.D. and Lieut. Askwith paid us a visit in the evening. COL. HOWARD has just arrived from CANADA on a Cook's tour. The pipe band played ceremonial retreat, which was excellent. Capt. Minguay, of the Essex Reg't, who was attached to us and is now G3 OPS at Corps HQ spent the day with us, he does not appear to like his new job very well. Lieut. A.E.D. Hull, our new paymaster arrived today, and started taking over from Capt. Harvey.</p>	M.
PULBOROUGH	2 Jul		<p>Cloudy and warm. The Bn moved off at 0900 hrs on Bn exercise TOAT. Lieut.Col. Cantlie was directing the scheme and Major Rawlings was commanding the Bn. It was a good exercise and provided us with many lessons to be learnt. The main idea of this exercise was to practice a river crossing, the river was about four feet deep and twelve wide which made it necessary to actually wade across. Lieut.Col. Howard said a few words after dinner in the Mess in the evening, The gist of his remarks being how glad he was to get the truth, for himself, of what is going on over here and thus dispel any wrong ideas he may have had. Evidently there have been many unpleasant rumours concerning the Bn going around MONTREAL.</p>	APPENDIX 5. M.
PULBOROUGH	3 Jul		<p>Fair and warm. Bde Sports Day. Capt. Jarvis took the field and track team over to PETWORTH in the morning, (for the heats). Lieut.Col. Cantlie who is chairman of the Bde Sports Committee also went over in the morning to make final arrangements for the grounds and the afternoon show. The Black Watch team ran well, winning several events, but placed second in the aggregate total. Lieut. George Shand left for his new appointment of paymaster, he will be attached to the R.C.E.</p>	M.

SHEET NO 2
WAR DIARY

MFM 11
40/P & S/3

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PULBOROUGH	4 Jul		Cloudy and cool. Lieut.Col. Cantlie, Major Rawlings, Capt. Mather and Lieut Doherty recce'd the training area on the SOUTH DOWNS prior to exercise JUMBO with Major Ellis of the Welsh Fusiliers, who is attached to Bde HQ. This scheme is to be a Bn field firing exercise which requires very careful controlling if no one is to be killed. Capt. L.E. Harvey, the paymaster, left for his new appointment to the R.F.B. C.M.H.Q. he has been with the Unit for two years, overseas and with the N.P.A.M. since the early twenties. Lieut. H.G. Mackenzie, also left today for G.G.R.U. where he is to be attached to the Intelligence Coy.	M.
PULBOROUGH	5 Jul		Fair and warm. Today is Sunday and everything was very quiet, the men were getting ready for JUMBO and resting. The C.O. held a meeting of all officers and gave out his A & Q instructions. Major Mitchell made a recce of the different bivouac and concentration areas.	M.
PULBOROUGH	6 Jul		Clear and warm. Bn moved off for JUMBO from camp at 0830 hrs for the first concentration area, WIGAN HOLT COMMON and arrived there at 1030 hrs. In the afternoon, all Officers and N.C.Os., down to sec leaders went up to the downs onto TRAINING AREA 7 where we met the umpires, everyone was then taken over the ground and the scheme explained, this was done to ensure that every section knew what the other was doing and thus would not walk into fire from another platoon. While this was going on some tanks who were firing at each other appeared unexpectedly and everyone was forced to take cover. Capt. Mather and his party were in a group of farm buildings which were attacked by the Besa fire from the tanks -- Larry came out of the buildings many pounds lighter and claiming that never before had he realized how close he could get his body to the ground. The C.O. gave out his orders to his O Grp at 2000 hrs. BRIG. WHITEHEAD was present and made several comments criticizing the orders. The men, after resting all day, moved off to the assembly area at 2330 hrs.	M.

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PULBOROUGH	7 Jul		<p>The Bn arrived in the assembly area at 0200 hrs after a very quiet but hilly march. The area was on the downs and just behind the start line for the first attack. Tea was served at 0300 hrs and the two fwd Coys started to move up at 0345 hrs. It was still dark at ZERO hour, 0400 hrs but the first attack went off well. The Coys re-organized the first objective and preparations were then made for the attack on the second objective. It was during this attack that the field firing began. The 3" mortars and M.M.Gs. provided very good covering fire and the men attacked firing their rifles and pl weapons at previously laid out targets. The second objective was reached and the third phase was just beginning when two cars appeared in target area and "cease fire" had to be sounded. The cars turned out to be the Bde Cmsds staff cars, he had been following us around and had punctuated every order given by any officer with very caustic remarks. He apparently found fault with everything. After the cease fire, BRIG. WHITEHEAD told the C.O. that it was done quite well, despite several mistakes. At 0930 hrs we formed up and marched off the DOWNS to WEPHAM where we had breakfast. Everyone was very tired and the prospects of a decent bivouac area on the coast so poor, it was decided to stay at WEPHAM until the next morning when we would take a long route home. The men rested all day. The C.O. and Adj't returned to PULBOROUGH, did some work and rejoined us later in the evening.</p>	APPX 6. W.
PULBOROUGH	8 Jul		<p>Fine and warm. Bn moved off from WEPHAM at 0830 hrs and came back through ARUNDEL, BURY and PULBOROUGH. It was a very pleasant day and we marched without tunics and stopped 1½ hrs for lunch. The Bn arrived back at camp at 1600 hrs. The total distance was 19 miles and the time taken was 6½ hrs which is very good time. The men were in good shape and there was little or no trace of tiredness. Three men fell out.</p>	W.
PULBOROUGH	9 Jul		<p>Cloudy and warm. The Coys started to do some extensive training in tank hunting as the C.O. wishes to have one sec per pl trained for this type of work. Seven Air Force Sergeants arrived and were shown around and taken out in carriers, they are to be attached for two weeks in which time they are to become 'army minded'. They find quite a change from the Metropole Hotel, BOURNEMOUTH, to this camp. The senior officers attended a cloth model demonstration at KIRFORD for the coming Bde exercise</p>	

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PULBOROUGH	9 Jul cont'd		JUMBO II which will be a Bde field firing exercise plus a Bn of tks plus the whole Div Arty. All the Bde Grp were present plus the senior officers of the Div Arty and the C.R.A. BRIG. P TEES. BRIG. WHITEHEAD started off by giving his criticisms of JUMBO I, which were numerous. "C" Coy returned from the camp building party at CHICHESTER satisfied at having done a good job.	W.
PULBOROUGH	10 Jul		Raining and cold. Lieut.Col. Cantlie, Lieut. Carnegie and Lieut. Doherty went out to go over the training area WEST of LEWES where JUMBO II will be held. All the commanding officers of the units taking part in the exercise met at the Grand stand, LEWES and started out over the ground at 1030 hrs. The scheme was explained phase by phase and we broke off for lunch at 1330 hrs. The Inf Comds were then told that they were to give out their orders at the cloth model in KIRDFORD at 1530 hrs. This did not leave much time for lunch and the writing of the operation orders, however, we worked hard and the C.O. was able to give out his orders O.K., the meeting finally broke up at 1730 hrs and we returned to camp. There is a very strong "labrumogram" that we will move to BRIGHTON shortly, hurrah! This is the kind of pleasant rumour that flies around the camp and is completely unreliable. Lieut. Murray Mather returned with the 28 O.Rs. from SIMMER, where they evidently had a very exciting and interesting time. They made several raids on the English coast, employing paratroops and all the latest weapons. We hope they won't have too long to wait before putting their training to test. Lieuts. R. MacDuff and J.L. Doucet were T.O.S. today.	W.
PULBOROUGH	11 Jul		Rainy and cold. Lieut.Col Cantlie held a promotion parade this morning at which 30 N:C.Os. to more senior rank. In the afternoon the C.O. was laying down law about P.T. when Bde phoned him and informed him that he was to take a seniors officers P.T. course! The Mess was very sorry to learn that Lieut. V. Wilson-Smith was admitted to the Neurological Hospital after his breakdown on return from G.H.Q. battle drill school. Vic. is a very popular officer and it is hoped that he will recover quickly. It was learned from WITLEY that Capt. E. Motzfeldt was released from close arrest and completely exonerated from all blame.	W.

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PULBOROUGH	12 Jul		<p>Clear and warm. There was a church parade for the R.Cs and Protestants, both, at 0930 hrs, the turnout was exceptionally good, 139 R.Cs. and 346 Protestants. At 1430 hrs all officers and N.C.Os. attended a cloth model demonstration for JUMBO II. Lieut. Col Cantlie gave the general outline of the exercise and then gave out his orders, it was very interesting and everyone got a good idea of what the exercise was about. The mobile bath made one of its welcome XXXXX and frequent visits, almost every man takes advantage of this arrangement and its hardly necessary to have bath parades except to stop the rush and not let anyone 'hog' all the hot water.</p>	M.
PULBOROUGH	13 Jul		<p>Cloudy and cool. All Coys did a ten mile forced march, they were attempting to do the ten miles in two hours, the record was "B" Coy who did the length in 1 Hr and 40 minutes, they were dressed in boots and P&T. shorts. "C" Coy went out in battle order and took 2 hrs and 10 minutes. These are very good times and it shows that with a little practice the whole unit could do it. The Signal Pl were classified by the Bde S.O. and all the signallers passed, they have been studying and practicing for this classification for several weeks. At 1630 hrs the C.O. held a meeting to discuss the A & Q for JUMBO II, during the meeting the C.O. read out a letter he had written to Bde pointing out the lack of reinforcement officers, there are only two available at WITLEY. This is very serious as we are continually being called on to supply officers for staff and instructional duties. Lieuts Shand and Mackenzie were XXX S.O.S. to the Pay Corps and C.G.R&U. respectively. In the evening we had a concert of ENSA arranged for by the K of C, it was a very good show despite the small number of actors (4). This is the first time since our arrival in PULBOROUGH that we have had any entertainment and its great success warrants more concert parties.</p>	M.
PULBOROUGH	14 Jul		<p>Cloudy and muggy. Coy representatives recce'd the bivouac areas for JUMBO II, this practice saves a lot of time when the marching column arrives and assures us that the men will be comfortable. The C.O. gave the C.S.Ms. and C.Q.M.Ss. of all Coys a 'pep talk' on the serving of meals and the wastage of food. There have been some complaints lately about the meals which have been unnecessary and this meeting should have the desired effect. Lieuts. W. Ewing and P. Mackenzie arrived from 2 C.D.I.R.U. for attachment, they have both arrived recently in this country. Lt.Col Cantlie attended a sports meeting at Div HQ in the evening and arranged for a Div Sports Day.</p>	M. APPX 7

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Bolney	15 Jul		<p>Clear and warm. The Bn moved off at 0825hrs and passed through BILLINGHURST, the Bde. S.P. at 1020hrs and after halting an hour for lunch arrived at the concentration area in BOLNEY at 1630hrs. The length of the march was 17.5 miles over a very familiar route, it was quite a hot day and in consequence was quite a hard march. The coys were bivouaced in good areas and everyone spent a comfortable night.</p>	W.
Lewes	16 Jul		<p>Cloudy and threatening rain. The Bn started out on the last leg of the march down to the Downs at 0830hrs. Lieut.Col.Cantlie and Lieut Doheny went to Bde. at 1030hrs for a meeting on further changes in the exercise. They went over the ground again and saw where the targets were laid out. The marching troops arrived in the final concentration area at 1400hrs which is also the bivouac and assembly area, this area is on the Downs inside the LEWES racecourse and the only cover being gorse bushes. After a hot meal the Officers and Pl. commanders went out with the C.O. to go over the exercise on the ground. This job of going over the ground takes about three hours as the area concerned is considerable. At 1730hrs the C.O. attended a meeting at Bde on A & Q matters concerning the move back to PULBOROUGH. At 1830hrs the C.O. received his orders from Brig.Whitehead who held his "O" Gp under cover on the Bde. Start Line. The C.O. held his O Gps conference at 1930hrs for the rehearsal of JUMBO 11 on the following day. The Tank commander and Lt.Col.Todd of the 4th Fd. Regt our supporting Arty were present. All ranks were allowed out to LEWES for the evening.</p>	W.
Lewes	17 Jul		<p>Raining. The full dress rehearsal started by crossing the start line at Zero 0900 hrs. The intermediate objective was reached, and the tps pushed on to first objective BALMER DOWNS. The tank Bn plus our carrier Pl. came in from the right flank. The timing was very good and the objective was taken over and reorganized by the Bn at 1005hrs. There was a hold up at this time by the R de M. who were to come up and go through us. Finally the R de M. their objective and we were ordered to move on to our final objective. HIGH PARK RIDGE. This move was completed and the objective reached at 1415hrs. The practice was over. Hot tea was brought up and the coys marched back to assembly area independently. There was a final meeting at Bde.H.Q. at 1500hrs for any changes arising out of the rehearsal.</p>	

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	17 Jul		<p>Brig.Whitehead gave out his orders at 1900hrs to all commanding officers, Brig. Tees the C.R.A. 2nd Div, arrived a little late with his staff. Brig.Whitehead asked him why he was late and Brig.Tees answered he could find no guide! which was true and Brig.Whitehead had to start over again. It rained all day and most of the equipment and blankets were wet but the men made the best of it and settled down for the night. It is quite a sight to see a Bn of men who were civilians not long ago bed down and be comfortable with two blankets, a gas cape and a ground sheet in the rain.</p>	W.
POYNINGS	18 Jul		<p>Cloudy. Everyone was awakened at 0600hrs by the sound of Arty shells going overhead while the Arty were registering. Zero hours was set for 0800hrs and the Bn started to assemble at 0730hrs. The 3" mortars opened fire at Z-2 and the attack started. The first Arty concentration at RIDGE 1 was excellent. The attack went through well and the 1st objective BALMER DOWN was reached in good time. The Div Arty concentrated on the rear slope, some of the shells landed very close to the Churchill tanks who were attacking from the flank and some of the shrapnel flew back over the advancing troops, one NCO was just nicked by a piece. The attack was pushed on and the final objective HIGH PARK COTTAGES was reached at 1313hrs. This final attack was one of the best sights seen by the men of this Bn for a long time. The Div Arty plastered the ridge with H.E. and smoke, the 3" mortars and M.M.Gs thickened up the fire, and the infantry with the tanks in an infantry cum tank manouvre. The smoke was most effective and battle conditions were quite reliably simulated. The exercise finished at 1330hrs and the Bn formed up and moved to a concentration area near POYNINGS about seven miles from BRIGHTON where they arrived at 1600hrs. After a hot meal all ranks were given leave to BRIGHTON until midnight. The C.O. authorized transport to BRIGHTON and a large percentage of men took advantage.</p>	APPX 8 W.
POYNINGS	19 Jul		<p>Clear and sunny. The men were allowed out from 0600hrs until 1700hrs most of the men rested and sun bathed. At 1815hrs we fell in and started to march back to the same bivouac area in BOLNEY. The march was quite pleasant, only seven miles. As we marched up the main BRIGHTON RD. the Sunday evening crowds lined the roads and it reminded us of Bleury Street.</p>	W.

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POYNINGS	19 Jul		We arrived at BOLNEY at 2030hrs and spent the night there. The carrier and mortar Pls. left for new camps CHICHESTER are, they will take it over and act as advance party.	W.
PULBOROUGH	20 Jul		Cloudy and close. The Bn fell in at 0715hrs, to start the march back to PULBOROUGH The march went quicker than expected and we arrived back at 1515hrs it was a long march and the men felt weary at the end. There were a large number of complaints of sore feet, which is probably due to the forced 10 mile march just before the exercise. Fifteen officers and NCOs attended a lecture at HORSHAM on MIDDLE EAST by Sir Roland Storrs. We were informed that we would relieve the 3rd Div in EASTBOHRNE on the 25th Jul 1942 while they were on an exercise. This is very good news as this Bn feels that they belong to EASTBOURNE and EASTBOURNE belongs to ehm. Since our first visit there many men have married EASTBOURNE girls.	W.
	21 Jul		Cloudy and close. Major Rawlings and Major Mitchell recce'd our new camps near CHICHESTER, their opinions were conflicting but nevertheless agreed that it would be better than our present locat ^o n. Chaos nearly reigned in the BOR today as everything seemed to pop up at once, besides moving twice in the next week various courses. Lieut.Candler came in from the A/Tk platoon and advises that everything seems to be going very well and that the men are keen on their new weapon. The C.O., 2 i/c., Adj. and Coy Commanders attended a cocktail party at Bde.H.Q. after which they were sent to PETWORTH to visit the R.M.R. camp which is supposed to be a model camp, the Bde.Comds idea of doing this is a little vague.	W.
	22 Jul		Cloudy. The Coy Officers held TEWTs for the coys and ran coy exercises. In the afternoon, Mr.Papich a native of YUGOSLAVIA, spoke to all ranks on the invasion and aftermath of Yugoslavia, it was a most interesting talk. At 1500hrs the C.O. held a meeting to discuss the forthcoming moves to EASTBOURNE and CHECHESTER. At 1600hrs all officers went to the Drill Hall in HORSHAM for the first in a series of lectures on Continental operations. COMBINED.	

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	22 Jul		<p>The G.O.C. Major General J.H. Roberts, M.C., prefaced the opening lecture with a few remarks the gist of which follows. The 2 CDN Div may expect to be used in a Div or larger scale raid on enemy or occupied territory during the next few months, for this we must start special training by 1 AUG at the latest and, from that date on we must be ready to move on twenty four hours notice. This is very encouraging news and General Roberts' sincerity in this bucked us all up considerably. The lecture proper was given by Lt. Col King, AA&QMG 2 Div on the difficulties encountered by the 4 and 6th Bdes while training at the Isle of WIGHT.</p>	m.
	23 Jul		<p>Windy and cool. The film "Next of Kin" was shown to all ranks during the morning, the men liked it and I think benefited more from it than from any number of security talks. The second lecture in combined ops was given at HORSHAM, this lecture dealt with the training and organization for raids. The lecture was given by Lt. Col Gosling of the Camerons whose Bn was to have raided some part of the continent but was cancelled at the last moment. In the evening all officers of the Bde Gp attended a discussion on JUMBO 11. Major General Roberts was present and gave his criticism of the exercise. his criticism took about fifteen minutes and was excellent. Brig. Whitehead went into more detail and the lessons learned were discussed. The main lesson was the A/Tk guns must not expose themselves or take up positions on open ground on forward slopes. The C.O. attended a Bn Comds conference at Bde H.Q. after the Jumbo discussion at which points concerning training at the coast, training in the new areas and carrying of respirators slung from the haversack were discussed.</p>	APPX 9. m.
	24 Jul		<p>Clear and fine. Two advance parties were dispatched, one to EASTBOURNE and one to CHICHESTER. The former to take over from the Q.O.R. and arrange for the billeting, the latter, to take care of luggage etc. which is not going to EASTBOURNE. The Bn spent the day packing and getting ready for the move.</p>	m.
	25 Jul		<p>Foggy and damp. The Bn left PULBOROUGH by TCV's at 1000hrs and stopped a half hour for lunch in BRIGHTON and arrived EASTBOURNE at 1406. It was an excellent convoy and went at a good speed. The men settled down very quickly most of them in their old billets. Everyone except the duty coy was allowed out. The actual take over was</p>	

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	25 Jul		not too good, the billets were not left clean as they should have been and the Q.O.R. apparently have not had much experience along these lines, as they were not very particular in the checking, etc.	W.
	26 Jul		Cloudy and cool. There was an Officer's meeting in the mess at 1130 at which some of the A & Q problems which might come up during our stay in EASTBOURNE were discussed. CSM Smith, A.F., and Sgt. Tessier were advised that they would write their OCTU exams on the 30 July. The men took good advantage of the full day to spend with their girls and friends in EASTBOURNE.	W.
	27 Jul		Foggy and raining. There were a few air raid alerts during the night and early morning., but no bombs or strafing in this area were reported. The Divisional Sports meet which was to have been held in HORSHAM was postponed on account of rain. The Bn did P.T. and Battle drill on the downs, in the morning, and had organized sports in the afternoon.	W.
	28 Jul		Sunny and warm. A really lovely summer day, one of the first this year. A lecture on Bangalore torpedoes was given to the Officers and NCOs, then the Bn divided into two groups, saw a demonstration of setting and blowing these torpedoes. Everyone was most impressed with the destruction done to the wiring. In the afternoon fifty men went to HORSHAM to attend the Div Sports meet. The 5th Bde did not do very well only making four points as an aggregate total. The massed pipe bands were under command Pipe Major Sutherland and they were very good.	W.
	29 Jul		Cloudy. All Coys attempted to do 10 mile route march in two hours, the route was over the PEVENSEY FLATS and the times were better than last week. The control for exercise HAROLD is next door to us and Generals MONTGOMERY and CRERAR plus a very large staff have been coming and going all day. Major Ritchie and Capt. Stevenson who are umpiring this scheme dropped in for a few minutes and expressed criticism of 3rd Cdn Div, which is understandable as the 3rd Div have not had many exercises and in consequence have not been able to learn by experience.	W.

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	30 Jul		Sunny and warm. The troops were paid this morning, so there will probably be a "good time in the old town tonight". An aeroplane was reported down in our area this afternoon and we were ordered to send a guard out over it. The guard went out but could not find the crashed aircraft, all they saw was the R.A.F. looking for it too, so they returned to billets.	W.
	31 Jul		The movement table for our move home came in this morning and we leave for our new area near CHICHESTER at 1000 hrs, 1 Aug. The Q.O.R. advance party came back at noon to take over as the exercise was over. The troops cleaned the billets and moved off to HAMPDEN PARK where we were to bivouac for the night. The hand over was completed by 1600 hrs and there was no trouble as we handed back about twice the amount of accommodation stores we took over. Everyone was very sorry our stay in EASTBOURNE was at an end, it was wonderful having billets again with hot and cold running water and being able to go up and down stairs and not just in and out of a tent flap. The training during our stay was from 0900 to 1200 hrs then organized sports every afternoon. It was a very delightful week.	W. S. P. Cantlie S. P. CANTLIE Lt. Col. O.C. 1st Bn. The Black Watch, (R.H.R.) of Canada.