



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


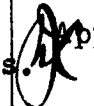


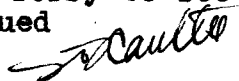
## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

1st Bn. The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada C.A.S.F.

M.F.M. 11  
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
	Mar.			
	1		Bright and sunny, mild. "O"Group meeting held at 1100hrs re scheme "Archie" to-Morrow. Coy Comdrs. meeting followed and a discussion about type of unit shoulder badge. This has not yet been decided definitely. Lieut John Halbert original Bn. I.O. was here for the week-end and is enjoying his work of G 31 at C.M.H.Q.	
	2		Clear and mild. First "Archie" message received at 0600hrs. "O"Group meeting at 0745hrs. Head of advance guard passed Bde S.P. at 0930hrs. C.O. received notification approach of enemy AFVs in vicinity Ashburnham Park at 1041hrs. A/Panzer positions were dived into with supporting arms. Bn. proceeded back to billets crossing Bde. S.P. at 1500hrs. Transport move appeared to go well. with exception of part of advanced troops taking one wrong road, no breakdowns or casualties on the trip. A discussion on the scheme by Bde. Comdr. is scheduled for 5 March.	 Appendix 5
	3		Clear and mild. Lieut-Gen. Montgomery. Army Comdr. met the C.O., 2i/c, Adjt., Coy. Comdrs. and RSM, at "A" Coy Mess at 0930hrs. His main interests were shown in age of Officers, quality of N.C.O.s and state of physical fitness of all ranks. He said that promotion of NCOs should be regimentally. Showed very little interest in digging of defensive positions and struck all as living up to his reputation as a man of action and decision.	 Appendix 6
	4		Rain mist and cold. Advice received of movement of selected instructor personnel to Canada. All available personnel proceeded to Jevington area for A/Tk Action Demonstration, showing use of 68 and 73 grenades. Tank ditches, weapon slits, wire, tubular scaffolding, Ect. against tanks. Unfortunately, in a way Churchills were used and the lack of effect of our weapons and obstacles against them had a somewhat depressing effect. The worst sight was to see the tank <u>ease</u> through tubular scaffolding, such as we have spent months erecting. The A/Tk ditch was a complete success and cheered us up. It is most important not to allow our men to become discouraged about their weapons and explain to them to keep an offensive attitude towards all tanks particularly light tanks. Lieut. John Kemp left to instruct Cape Breton Highlanders. C.O. attended a Bde. meeting to discuss counter attacks measures for the Direction Finding Stations, Beachey Head and Friston Aerodrome. Major Lyons and Lieut Guingue of the Sherbrooke Fusiliers completed their attachment with us and all are sorry to see them leave. Amendment No. 1 to 1 RHC. op. inst No. 4 d. 16 Feb. 42 issued	 APPENDIX 8   Appendix 7

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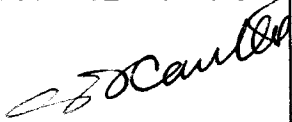
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	5		<p>Cold and misty. This day has seen a great change in the Bn. Majors A.W.Wright and H.M.Jaquays, Capt. J.G.Bourne, Lieut. G.M.G.Johnstone and a total of 15 Senior N.C.O.'s left for # 1 N.E.T.D. preparatory to proceeding to Canada. "Weir and Jake" along with the others will be greatly missed and the loss of the N.C.O.s leaves some of the coys. considerably weakened temporarily. Lieut. F.P.Griffin left for 5 Cdn. Inf. Bde. as a staff learner and Lieut. J.L.Carnegie replaces him as A/I.O. and so this diary gets a new scribe.</p> <p>The C.O. has been delegated the job of co-ordinating and co-operating in defence of certain CD/CHL Stations in our area. On inspection it appears role will be more of a counter-attack, than defence.</p> <p>Bde. Comdrs main points on scheme "Archie" were <del>exercise</del><sup>EXCESSIVE</sup> speed of M T and bunching, traffic control, communication and when A/panzer localities adopted, the choice of ground and co-ordination of attached arms. In following discussion, the importance of adequate D.R.s and the possibility of <del>our</del><sup>ONE</sup> all set with forward troops were taken up.</p>	
	6		<p>Cold and windy. Several Officers and other ranks suffering from colds. An R.A.F. demonstration, which promised to be interesting on Dive bombing and ground strafing, had to be cancelled due to three successive days bad weather.</p> <p>In the evening 2i/c, I.O. and Coy. Comdrs. attended a very interesting discussion on "Infantry <del>Arm</del><sup>Arm</sup> Tanks in the attack" The Scheme - One Inf. Coy. one Sqn. Churchills One Bty F.A. one Trp A/Tk guns. plus one section each carriers and mortars.</p> <p>The discussion was fast and furious on employment and disposition of attached troops. Little progress has been made in communication between Inf. and tank Comdrs. or in signals from Pls. to Trps. which is essential, but difficult in battle conditions.</p>	
	7		<p>Cold and windy, Further progress made on CD/CHL Stas. C.O. interviewed Lieut. J.P.Noad who is anxious to transfer to us. This Officer was in original POTS attached from Lanark and Renfrew Regt., A B.W. affiliate. Many news clippings arrived from Canada telling us of ten Officers from our reserve Bns. transfer to the new Royal Rifles of Canada. This is somewhat similar to World War No.1 when we supplied personnel to the Victoria Rifles of Canada.</p>	 

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	8		<p>Bright Sun and Mild The weather cheered up all, to-day. Coy Comds. meeting at 1100hrs, When following were discussed, Umpire reports on scheme "Archie" , the bus service for the troops, this appears to have become a survival of the fittest, and the men are not concerned on whose truck they ride! Higher command ordres a minimum of three days training per week. All coys to submit suggested promotions of N.C.O.s to complete establishment. The C.O. had difficulty in finding a volunteer to go to London re Titles Shoulder! Capt. R.B.Somerville left as an observer at ALG Course .</p>	
	9		<p>Fair and mild, Coy Comdrs with I.O. made a recce of CD/CHL Stas. and selected routes from billett area and assembly area, Subject to approval of C.O. It is difficult to tie in this new operation with present committments. however clarification is expected from Bde. The C.O. received an amusing letter from a female citizen who was very irate at the "abusive language" used by another woman " about the Canadaian Army" This brought to the C.O.s mind " When a man bites a dog, thats news " All Officers attended a lecture at Bde. on the " Bofors 40mm L.A.A.Gun and its A/Tk Role delivered by Lt.-Col. Travers R.A. The lecture was interesting from the view point of a dual role in A.A. and A/Tk work and the possible employment with a Bde. Group. The C.O. attended a Bde. Cmdrs Conference following the lecture Appendix A 1 RHC operation Inst. No4 d 16 Feb.42 Issued</p>	<p>Appendix 9</p>
	10		<p>Fair and mild , certain Officers attended a demonstration of the Bofors. The construction and action of the gun and the predictor were explained which was very interesting. We were impressed by the gun drill of a detachment. Not withstanding the fact that always happens in any demonstration , one spar of the mounting jammed.</p>	
	11		<p>Fog and rain, A bright spot in the day when Capt. Mitchell punned "Tanks for the boggy ride " wish strikes some as a new low. Part 1 Order Noll of this date. shows changes in Officer personnel of the unit. The personnel of the Bn. is ever changeing but the new switches are the most far reaching yet . Opinions are that we have not seen the last by any means. As more calls for instructors and staff are expected in the near future.</p>	<p>Caution </p>

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	MAR 12		<p>Fair and Cool. All Coys busy at Field Defences. Progress is being made in priority digging in the Areas, but few Coys are far advanced. Bde has laid down a minimum of three days training per week which leaves little time for digging.</p> <p>Lieuts J.L.CARNEGIE, H.L.CARSTAIRS, F.H.CUNDILL and V.WILSON/SMITH taken on strength of the Bn, from SPECIAL INCREMENT, and posted to B.HQ (I.O.) "D", HQ (3 Pl) and "A" Coys respectively. All were members original POTS and happy to get to the UNIT after a struggle for two and a half years.</p> <p>Lieuts M.G.MATHER, A.H.M.CARMICHEAL and L.P.CANDLER arrived from Reinforcement Unit as SPECIAL INCREMENT along with 12 Other Ranks for UNIT strength. Two Coys of the ROYAL REGT of CANADA have moved into our AREA and their Coy Cmdrs have regaled us with stories of their stay in ICELAND.</p>	
		13	<p>Bright sun and mild. Throughout the day, all Coys attended a showing of a training film on "GAS". It proved to be an excellent film, both in presentation and in refreshing us on procedure. The 2 i/c hopes to secure more training films as there is no doubt as to the value of "A single picture is worth a thousand words" Quotation? BHQ Officers and Coy Cmdrs attended a cloth model demonstration at Bde Mess at 1930 hrs on a "NIGHT ATTACK" put on by the CALGARY HIGHLANDERS. Their Officers appeared in their new "BATTLE DRILL ORDER" which embodies some clever ideas in wearing of Web Equipment. However this did not answer the many questions we all asked ourselves about the lecture. The B.M. has presented us with our training programme for the next three weeks which is a very comprehensive one and will keep all Coys fully occupied with schemes.</p>	
		14	<p>Bright and Mild. The C.O. left for a short course at Cmd Weapon Training School., combined with a week-end leave. As luck would have it, instructions from Div H.Q. regarding Instructor personnel for Canada necessitated his return in a few hours. The C.O. called a Coy Cmdrs meeting at 1930 hrs, when the following were discussed. Selection of Officers and N.C.Os to return to Canada. It appears these Officers will be placed in new English speaking Units in M.D. 4. We are asked to supply 1 Major to be C.O. or 2 i/c and two Captains as Coy Cmdrs, along with 3 W.Os, and 11 N.C.Os. The resultant changes in the Bn are hard to visualize and the C.O. wonders</p>	 

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	MAR 14		if soon he will be alone with his batman.	AC
	15		Bright and Mild. The Bn held a Church Parade at 0930 hrs today. Spring is in the air as greatcoats were discarded. The names of Major J.C.Routledge, commanding our Reinforcing Coy at 2 C.D.I.R.U. and Lieuts J.R.POPHAM and D.COWANS were submitted to return to Canada. The Bde Cmdr would not permit Major J.B.WEIR to vacate the post of 2 i/c because of our present weakness in experienced senior Officers. Advice was received of the formation of a 2 CDN DIV A.L.C. SCHOOL near EASTBOURNE. We are called on to supply CAPT R.B.SOMERVILLE, LIEUTS F.P.GRIFFIN and V.E.TRAVERSY as Instructors. Capt E.H.ANDERSON AS M.O. and Lieut E.MOTZFELDT as I.O. and 35 Other Ranks in various general duties. The idea of the school is an excellent one and is received enthusiastically by all. The C.O. went to Bde and Div HQ in the morning. The C.O. left on a four days W.T. Course in the afternoon and the 2 i/c assumed command for the period.	AC
	16		Fair and Cool. The acting C.O. and Capt Beatty have toiled long hours in this weeks syllabus but have received many disappointments in what promised to be an interesting weeks training. The acting C.O. attended a DIV Conference at 1700 hrs when training, discipline and Administration were discussed and a policy laid down concerning them. All Officers attended a lecture at Bde H.Q. at 2000 hrs by the B.G.S. The subject was "TRAINING AND TACTICS GENERALLY". He dwelt at some length on taking up ANTI-PANZER LOCALITIES from an M.T. move and some points that had bothered us were cleared up. "Amendment to APPX "A" 1 R.H.C. Operation Instruction No 4 dated 16 FEB 42 issued.	AC APPENDIX 10
	17		Rain and Fog. The A/C.O. held a Coy Cmdrs meeting at 1400 hrs to make decisions on promotions of N.C.Os in the Bn. Recent losses necessitate a great many and there is much work and detail attached. Additional switching of Officers will be required and the C.O. hopes to have this settled in a few days. A period of transition such as this is very difficult for the Bn and reflects down to each and every man. First reports came in from our personnel who moved to A.L.C. School and they were not enthusiastic due to todays foul weather. Setting up a canvas Camp in the rain is not an agreeable start. Appendix "C" to 1 R.H.C. Operation Instruction No 5 dated 20 FEB 42 issued.	AC Appendix 11

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	MAR 18		<p>Rain and Mist. The field firing to have been held today was cancelled due to a 4 C.I.B. exercise, in the Area of the Range. With the whole Division doing collective training now, the Area is alive with Troops and Bde and Bn schemes loom large on the next two months training. Lieut ERIC MOTZFELDT returned from the Interrogation Course and had many interesting facts to pass on. He completes this Course over the week-end with some practical interrogation. Samples of the Regimental Shoulder Badges arrived. Two, in the Regimental Colours, are very smart looking and the decision is left until the return of the C.O.</p>	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
	19		<p>Rain and heavy Mist. The Bn less one Coy did an exercise in the ATTACK commencing at 0830 hrs. The poor visibility did not aid the exercise and atmospheric conditions affected the 18 R/T sets. The same lessons of "bunching" and carelessness in all-round protection were again obvious.</p> <p>Very welcome news was received from the Civilian Police who have Command Instructions to take over the issuing of passes to civilians for fishing and entrance to the beaches. This work can be much better handled by them. The C.O. returned from his WPT course and is full of enthusiasm over the "BLACKER BOMBARD" and pretends to consider the idea of having one installed in his Station Wagon. LIEUTS J.E.FOX and W. DOHENY arrived from 2 C.D.I.R.U. the former on demand draft and posted to "C" Coy, the latter on SPECIAL INCREMENT and posted to B.H.Q.</p>	Appendix 12 <i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
	20		<p>Rain and Mist. "D" and "B" Coys did an "INFANTRY COY CUM TANKS IN THE ATTACK" exercise in the JEVINGTON area today. A squadron of CHURCHILLS, Sec of A/TK guns and imaginary TP. of FD. ARTY came under Command, Again, weather conditions were not favourable, but both Coys learned a great deal in co-operation with the Tanks and it is hoped we will have many more opportunities of working together. 11 N.C.O.s were S.O.S. to No 1 N.E.T.D. today pending return to CANADA, also Major J.C.ROUTLEDGE from Command our Reinforcing Coy at 2 C.D.I.R.U. No word has been received as to departure of LIEUTS D.COWANS and J.R.POPHAM. Exercise BEER has been postponed from 22 to 23 MARCH 1942.</p>	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
	21		<p>Fair and Cold. The C.O. held an "O" Group at 1400 hrs. Scheme "BEER" was discussed and an Order of March was distributed. Other instructions were similar to those</p>	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>

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	MAR 21		for Scheme "ARCHIE" and lessons learned in this scheme were again repeated. Following this a Coy Cmdrs meeting was held. The C.O. pointed out the importance of full information on work tickets issued on Vehicle holidays. Discipline and Administrative questions were discussed. Capt J.A.KENNY is proceeding to Bde shortly and the C.O. has appointed the present I.O. to act as Adjutant and Lieut J.E.FOX as I.O. The scribe of the diary hopes he will have many days with the Adjutant before he leaves us.	AC
		22	Dull and Cool. The C.O. ROYAL REGT OF CANADA visited us in the afternoon and discussed our present Beach Role. It is hoped we can pass this present role on to the R.R.C. and so be free for our anti-raid role at the Direction Finding Stations.	AC
		22	There was no Church Parade and the day was devoted to rest and letter writing	
		23	Fine and Mild. First message scheme "BEER" received 0625 hrs, Bde warning order. Bn acting as Bde Advanced Guard crossed Bde S.P. at 0900 hrs. A certain amount of confusion resulted in running into another convoy at POLEGATE. C.O. received warning of approaching AFVs and gave A/Pz Gps orders to dive into localities vicinity ASHBURNHAM PARK. The Bn resumed its movement at 1400 hrs and again Gps dove into A/Pz Gps vicinity WHILIGH and MOSEHAM. The move to billets commenced at 2030 hrs. The exercise was a great improvement on "ARCHIE" and went smoothly. There were few mistakes made and all appeared to know what was required of them. The M.T. move was very good except for some lighting on housings at night. This has been taken care of. No casualties except I.O. m.c. who argued with rear of Office Vehicle. LIEUTS J.R.POPHAM and D. COWANS, CSM Foam, PSM.TURNBULL and SGT WARD were S.O.S. to 1 N.E.T.D. preparatory to returning to CANADA, to posts with other Units. The Officers, both senior subalterns left with many regrets, as had those of us left behind. Both were very well liked and their loss is a real one to the Bn and "C" Coy.	APPENDIX 13 AC
		24	Fair and Mild. Bn H.Q. and H.Q. Coy moved today and now the Bn is together at RATTON Area. Billets taken over are some of those occupied by us in the Autumn of 1941. The move went smoothly and was completed by 1630 hrs. All Officers attended a Bn Cloth Model exercise at 1400 hrs on "INFANTRY CUM TANKS IN THE ATTACK" which was very interesting. The C.O. 2 i/c, Adjt, I.O., and S.O., attended a discussion at Bde H.Q. at 2000 hrs on Bde Standing Orders and Battle Procedure.	AC Dawkins



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	MAR 24		We are supplying a guard at BIRLING GAP and when arrangements for billets were taken up with H.M.Coast Guard we received these answers "Why! the Army cannot come in here this is Government property" and "Leave my wife alone with Canadian soldiers while I am out on patrol? Not me."	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
		25	Fair and Mild. A TEWT for Officers was held today in "A Bn in the Attack". The exercise was interesting and some new ideas of employment of Bren Carriers were brought out. The G.O.C. 2 DIV CMD, BDE CMDR 5 CIB attended. An Officer and two clerks arrived to make "A Personal History and Intelligence Test" of all Subalterns and Other Ranks in the Bn, as this takes approximately 30 minutes per man we expect to get to know them well and it would not be surprising to have them come into action with us! Administrative arrangements for VIC I are under way. This exercise is a practice of "STAND TO" and "ACTION STATIONS" and requires an evacuation from billets of all personnel.	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
		26	Fair and Mild. The Bn carried out a day exercise in attack. The C.O. was well pleased with it and the G.O.C., a visitor, seemed to approve of the exercise. The day was an ideal one for the Bn. The Adjt has issued Administrative Instructions for exercise VIC I which covers all necessary moves. The C.O. held an O Gp at 1630 hrs when Administration for VIC I was discussed. 18 Other Ranks arrived from 2 C.D.I.R.U. O.C. "D" Coy has been appointed O.C. turtles left behind in one of the billets by a young girl and is responsible to the C.O. for their welfare, physical, spiritual, and mental!	APPENDIX 14 APPENDIX 15 <i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
		27	Fair and Mild. STAND TO for VIC I exercise received at <del>OHIO</del> <sup>OHIO</sup> hours stores and equipment were in place and posts 30 p.c. manned by <del>0535</del> <sup>0535</sup> hours ACTION STATIONS received at <del>1200</del> <sup>1200</sup> hours. The day was spent in digging positions and Administration. Lt.Gen. CRERAR A/G.O.C. and BRIG V.WHITEHEAD arrived at Battle H.Q. at 1500 hrs and inspected A, B, C.Coys positions on the DOWNS. The G.O.C. was well pleased with the site and considers we are in a very good position, from which it would be difficult to dislodge us and from where we can operate quickly against air-borne troops. The "invasion" was built up by Sitreps until finally we were attacked by the enemy .	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i> <i>[Handwritten signature]</i>

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	Mar 28		<p>Fair and mild, patrols were carried on throughout the night and small bodies of enemy engaged on several occasions, most of the activity was on the DOWNS. "STAND DOWN" was received at hrs and all Coys were in billets by 1120hrs. The usual "fifth column" activity was encountered throughout the scheme. On the shore communications were good, except for considerable interference on the 18 sets during the night. The order for "B" Echelon tpt moving back soon after "STAND TO" is one which could be partly revised. Some essential vehicles go back, which leaves administrative work in the air during the period to "ACTION STATIONS" and move to BATTLE H. A new intelligence log was kept which is included as an appendix. Mortar carriers from REGT de MAISONNEUVE and CALGARY HIGHLANDERS were pooled with ours and used as trp carrying vehicles in a HILL FORCE.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">App. 16</p>
	Mar 29		<p>Fair and mild. The Bn held a Church Parade to ST. ELISABETH'S CHURCH. The vicar said "Truly 1942 is a great year, when 600 Presbyterians gather in a Church of England and a Catholic plays the organ! The C.O. held a Coy commanders meeting at 1130hrs. Due to regulations regarding use of W.D. petrol and vehicles our Bus service for the troops is discontinued. The officers of the Bn held a Tea in the afternoon, which was a success and a surprise to all, when the tea actually appeared.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">App 17</p>
	Mar 30		<p>Dull and fog. The day was split up by Pay and Muster Parades and some work was done in Field Defences. 120 men were put through the Personal Selection Tests, which are being held in H.Q. Coy mess hall. Major Hamer returned from London with the Pipe Band, where they had taken part in Warship Week. He was well pleased with their performance and claims our Band stood out amongst all the others. Precedence was surely shattered, when they marched ahead of a detachment of the Royal Navy in one of the parades. All officers attended a lecture on "Battle Procedure" at 2000hrs, by Major Rawlings. The talk was designed to give us a set plan that will save time in recess and issuing of orders. Lieut. T.M. Barott was T.O.S. from 2 CDIRU and posted to H.Q. Coy as learner to T.O.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">App 17</p>

