

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.

WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (3072)

OR






1st Bn BLACK WATCH (RHR) of CANADA

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
HOVE, Sussex	MARCH	1 Wed	<p>Clear and cold.</p> <p>The Bn formed up on Fourth Ave at 0900 hrs and marched to HOVE RECREATION GROUND with the Pipe Band for the inspection of the 5th Bde by General Sir Bernard L Montgomery, K.G.B., D.S.O. After inspecting the Bde., the General addressed the troops who had broken ranks and rallied around his Jeep. "Monty" seemed quite confident of the outcome of forthcoming events, and said, "..... it was only a matter of finding a large enough sea to push Jerry into".</p>	 Reference Appendix No. 5
" "		2 Thurs	<p>Pleasant weather with sunshine throughout.</p> <p>As a result of the Canadians winning the first football match between the Cdns and Americans, a return match has been scheduled for 19th March and nominal rolls were submitted to-day of personnel wishing to see what should be a "very interesting game". These games, by the way, are played one half Cdn. rules and one half U.S. rules.</p>	
" "		3 Fri	<p>Clear and cold with some sunshine.</p> <p>An Army Inspection Team visited the Bn to-day to inspect Transport, Weapons and Kit, etc., In the afternoon a rehearsal parade was held on "The Drive" for the D.V's Inspection scheduled for the 9th March.</p>	
" "		4 Sat	<p>Fair and cool, overcast late in day.</p> <p>C & D Coys returned from BARCOMBE and WILMINGTON, 984231 & 854334 respectively, where they had spent a week's training under Company self-contained arrangements. C Coy had a "smoker" at the local pub in WILMINGTON to round off their week's extensive training. The I.O. returned from the Army School of Intelligence at MATLOCK, Derbyshire and privilege leave, and will be acting Adjutant for the next nine days while the latter is on leave. Lt-Col Cantlie inspected HQ Coy Transport to-day. Lieut D.C. Menzies returned from the Battle Drill Course at 5 CTS.</p>	
" "		5 Sun	<p>Cold and clear with some sunshine. Slight snowfall during night.</p> <p>A Protestant Church Parade was held at St. Cuthberts Church, HOVE, at 0915 hrs, Capt. R. Berlis officiating and Pipe Band attending. The Brigadier was also present. Word was received to-day that a Reinforcement Company may arrive soon, message from Bde to recce billets for additional accommodation for 5 Offrs and 120 OR's.</p>	

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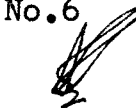

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HOVE, Sussex	MARCH 6	Mon	Clear with sunshine throughout. A party of 12 OR's left to-day to attend 2 Div Sniping Course which continues until 17 March. Sgt. D.W. MacKinnon was posted to 5 CIRU wef to-day. Preliminary arrangements were discussed today to billet the Reinf. Coy which now appears to be 5 Offrs. & 130 OR's. Lt-Col Cantlie, Lieut S.E. Griffin and party of 10, representing the Bn, left this afternoon at 1500 hrs for exercise "PLOT", which is to be a Bde Sigs scheme, lasting until to-morrow night.	
" "	7	Tues	Dull and cold with occasional sunshine. B Coy proceeded to Eastbourne for the day to do Street fighting under the direction of Capt Traversy and Lieut Tessier. Capt M.H. Cassils left today to attend a one day Flame Thrower Course at 6(C W) wing CTS.	
" "	8	Wed	Cold and Bright A Coy took their turn to-day at Street fighting at Eastbourne. Lieut J.C. Closson returned to 6 CIRU after a period of attachment with the Bn. Lieut J.P.D. Noad and Pte Major, R. left to-day to attend a Unit Vehicle Waterproofing Course at 1 CERU until 11th March. Retreat was played to-day.	
" "	9	Thur	Clear and cold with occasional sunshine. All Street fighting instructors ⁺ staff returned from Eastbourne last night to join the Bn for the inspection of the 2nd Div by H.M. King George VI. The Bn proceeded by transport to Billingshurst at 1000 hrs and after several hours of shifting positions right dressing etc, the Bn was hastily inspected by His Majesty and returned to billets at 1800 hrs. Lieut A.M. Monnin returned to 5 CIRU after being with the Bn for 2 months on Special Increment. Lt. Col. Cantlie left to-day to attend a one day flame Thrower Course at 6(CW) Wing CTS. Information was received to-day that the 1st line Reinforcement Coy will now consist of 9 Offrs and 159 ORs who will arrive Monday 13th March.	Reference appendix No.6 
" "	10	Fri	Cold and dull throughout. The Ides of March fell with a vengeance this year, as H.Q. Coy including cooks, drivers, bureaucrats and specialists went to the ranges for Piat, Sten and Grenade throwing at 0800 hrs, returning to their hide-outs at 1730 hrs. C coy had their turn at street fighting in Eastbourne to-day. Major A.G. Stevenson acted as Pres of a Hand-over Board at 2 Corps Def Pl to-day	

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HOVE, Sussex.	11	Sat	Cold and dull. Support Coy detached themselves from their vehicles to-day to receive instruction in Street fighting at Eastbourne, this being the conclusion of the Street fighting School.	/
" "	12	Sun	Mild throughout day. There was an R?C Church Parade held to-day at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Hove at 0900 hrs. The service was conducted by H/Capt Kenny, the Bde Padre. A Symphony Concert was given at Princess Hall Brighton by the Ford Symphony Orchestra (War Workers) this afternoon. Two oranges (those globular fruit with tawney coloured skin) per man were issued today.	/
" "	13	Mon	Mild and overcast with occasional sunshine. C&D Coys spent all day on Kithurst Rifle Ranges, while B Coy received instruction on Mine Laying, Breeching and Lifting at the Bn Mines School under the direction of Lieut N.E. Buch. At 1600 hrs the Reinf Coy, now known as E Coy arrived at Brighton station and marched to the billet area. Pipe band attending, with Capt D.C. Cowans O.C. Coy. Many old faces were seen again who had been S.O.S. through hospitalization etc including Sgt. J. Deegan, Pte McWilliam and Pte Lapierre.	/
" "	14	Tues	Overcast in morning and rain all afternoon. B Coy started the ball rolling for the rifle coys by proceeding to Coombes Hill Barn in the afternoon to do practical mine laying, breeching and lifting a mine field. All personnel who had not been finger-printed and "mugged" went to 2 Div to have this done.	/
" "	15	Wed	Fair and overcast. D Coy spent the day on mine instruction at the Hove Cricket Ground under the Bn mines school. The German weapon demonstration originally scheduled for to-day and tomorrow was cancelled. B/Sgt D.F. MacDonald (Att'd from Gren Guards) was dispatched to 1 Can OCTU selection centre today. Pay parade today. R.C. Padre's Hour was held at the Church of the Sacred Heart today. Lieut J.A. Comeault and Lieut Falardeau returned today to 6 CIRU after a period of attachment with the Bn.	/

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HOVE, Sussex	MARCH 16	Thurs	Fair and warm. A & B Coys spent the day on Kithurst Rifle Ranges.	
"	17	Fri	Fine and warm. The Bn moved out by transport and march route on the first practice pack of the season, under title exercise "Pack", incorporating a more or less complete pack causing an addition of grey hair to most of the Coy Comdrs' heads. Spent day at Highpark Cottages, north of Brighton, at various types of training. Weather turned very hot at noon. Returned to billets on foot at 2130 hrs. Sgt Gaudard was married today with Sgt A.L. Turnbull acting as best man. The Pipe Band left today for the holding Unit where they are to practise with other Can Pipe Bands in preparation for playing at the Can-Amer Football Game, and also to play in London for the "Salute the Soldier" week. They will be away until the 1st April.	
"	18	Sat	Fine and cool. Coys spent the morning recovering their kitbags and accn stores from coy dumps with the usual arguments as to the ownership of beds, mops, brooms etc. The Sgt's Mess held a farewell party and supper for R.S.M. Notman at 77 George St. at 1800 Hrs. Major Mitchell and Capt Stuart represented the Officer's Mess and everybody had a good time, entirely from the liquid refreshment and not from the reason of the party. Capt. K.J. Roots Loyal Edn. Reg't recently returned from service in Italy, visited and addressed the Scout Platoon, as he was one of the originators of the Pl idea in the 1st Div.	
"	19	Sun	Slightly overcast and cool. Church parades for both R.C. and Protestants were held at Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Cuthbert's respectively at 0930 hrs. The return football match between the US Army and Can Army took place at White City Stadium London to which many of the boys attended.	
"	20	Mon	Fine and warm. Weapon T.O.E.T.'s for all Coys were started with the Bn Inspection Team under Capt. J.P.G. Kemp and Lieut A.R.W. Robinson. B & C Coys starting. 1 Offr and 20 OR's attended a cooking demonstration at Holmwood this afternoon. R.S.M. Notman left	

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HOVE, Sussex.	MARCH 20	Mon	(Cont'd) the Bn today after acting as R.S.M. since the date of mobilization. His departure will be felt among all ranks as he had become quite a figurehead, and XXXX no more will be the nickname of "Pete the Pig" be bandied around, out of his hearing of course. C.S.M. Murray took over as acting R.S.M. until a new appointment will be made. Much conjecture as to who the new one will be. A Coy had a day of Mines instruction on Laying, Breeching and lifting a minefield.	
" "	21	Tues	Dull and cool. A Coy had their practical mine laying in the morning and D coy took over for their turn in the afternoon at Coombes Hill Barn. B & C Coys spent all day at the Gas Compound at 6 CTS under Lieut D.C. Menzies. TOET'S continued in relays all day.	
" "	22	Wed	Fair and overcast. Lieut R. Chapman was taken to hospital today suffering from the Flu, and Lieut P. Webster was also taken to hospital as result of burns suffered when a thunderflash prematurely exploded while he was acting as an umpire on exercise ALLEZ. Maj Mitchell was Bn umpire on exercise ALLEZ for all three Bns. in 5th Bde. R de M today, Calg Highrs tomorrow and RHC the day after. We were supposed to receive a quantity of German weapons for demonstration purposes today, but as usual most of them were not available and those that were, were not German. C Coy spent the day at Mines instruction. A lecture for all Officers was held this evening to demonstrate the use of the new Slidex Code.	
" "	23	XXXXXX Thur	Fine and warm. HQ Coy had TOET's today with cooks, drivers, specialists etc, seeing their weapons for the first time in many a day. C Coy had practical mine laying and breeching at Coombes Hill Barn. The afternoon and evening were spent preparing for exercise ALLEZ to-morrow.	
" "	24	Fri	Fine and warm clouding over late. The Bn moved out by TCV's and unit transport early in the morning and was in a concentration area at Lewes by 0900 hrs to take their turn at exercise ALLEZ.	

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HOVE, Sussex	MARCH 24	Fri	(cont'd) The Calg Highrs and R de M having done the same exercise the two days previous. This was a one day affair to practise deployment, recce drills and leap-frogging; to exercise scout platoons; and to gain experience in the assessment of enemy strength. The Bn under the C.O. advanced North on a single thrust line and soon bumped small pockets of enemy, whose resistance XX steadily increased until a two coy attack became necessary to continue the advance. During the afternoon, after overcoming other main enemy resistance and obstacles we hit the first main outpost position on dominating ground which required a Bn attack to smash. This went in successfully and after we had consolidated on the high ground West of Barcombe the "cease fire" was sounded. The Bn. was mustered and we returned to Hove the same way we had come up. A successful days training.	 Ref Appendix No 7
"	"	25 Sat	Cool and overcast. Major F.P. Griffin, Lieut E.S. Duffield and Lieut S.E. Griffin attended a lecture on Sniping at 2 Div H.Q. this afternoon. A test of various methods of loading Coy vehicles was held this morning. The results were inspected by the C.O. and a Staff Captain.	
"	"	26 Sun	Fair and cool. The Bn. under the 2i/c (the C.O. being Bde umpire) moved out at 1330 hrs in unit transport to a concentration area NW of Barcombe for exercise VICI which was a Bde scheme in the form of a continuation of exercise ALLEZ. We were in position by approx 1500 hrs but the scheme was not to start until 1900 hrs. During the night 26/27 our Bn which was up front put out strong patrols from the forward Coys and the scout platoon. Much valuable information about the enemy was brought in.	
"	"	27 Mon	Fine and warm quite cold in evening. At first light the R de M moved XXXXXX through us and crossed the start line only to be opposed by a fairly strong enemy force immediately they did so. After a successful Bn Attack they took up a position on the high ground and the Calg Highrs passed through them to continue the advance, which they did until they reached Town Little-worthy where they encountered a strong enemy position. When they had put in a Bn attack and crashed this, the R de M and RHC moved up the axis for a final assault before dark on the next main enemy strong point on the high ground South of Newick.	

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HOVE, Sussex	27	Mon	<p>(Cont'd)</p> <p>This was attacked in two phases. Phase 1 saw the RHC securing the ground on the right and then Phase 11 was a pass through by the R de M for an attack on the left. This Bde show was successful just after dark when the scheme terminated at 2100 hrs. All three Bns then moved to a bivouac area for the night-ours being about 1½ miles back down the axis. Sgt T. Thomson, who was been Int Sgt for a year was SOS to 4 CIRU wef today. Two carriers fitted with Wasp 11 Flame Throwers were down from Bordon today.</p>	REF APPX N° 8
" "	28	Tues	<p>Cool and clear.</p> <p>The Bn set out for home in the morning-the rifle Coys marching, the balance by unit transport. On arrival at Hove at 1130 Hrs, the balance of the day was spent in getting unpacked, cleaned up and settled away again. A good worthwhile exercise.</p>	
" "	29	Wed	<p>Cool and clear-real spring weather.</p> <p>B/Sgt MacDonald, having failed his pre OCTU Selection relinquished his status as a pre OCTU Cadet and was SOS to 2 CIRU.</p>	
" "	30	Thur	<p>Warm but slightly overcast clearing later in the day.</p> <p>A party of approx 4 Offrs and 12 OR's left very early in the morning to attend a demonstration of German Tanks, Armoured Cars and AFV's at Chobham Common. The A/Tk Pl left for Lydd Ranges for today and tomorrow.</p>	
" "	31	Fri	<p>Clear and quite warm.</p> <p>The Bn spent all day packing and cleaning billets preparatory for departure tomorrow on exercise "Step". This is another complete pack and understand this scheme is to be of a week's length. A promotion meeting was held late in the evening in which CQMS C. Price was appointed to CSM of B Coy, Sgt Turnbull, A.L. promoted to CQMS of A Coy and CSM J. MacDougall transferred to D Coy. These changes will not take place until termination of to-morrow's scheme. Another practice load up of unit transport was held with the RHC being the guinea pigs for all units in the S.E. Command, and a retinue of high priced help looked on. Sgt. W.E. Streeter was despatched to 1CASRU today. ALLEZ and VICI Post exercise conferences were held at Bde HQ to-night.</p>	501B J. Mitchell was the IRHL.