

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 (9/43)

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
			<u>1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH (P.H.R.) OF CANADA</u>	
			<u>From 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 1943 To 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 1943</u>	VET
			<u>EAST WITTERING, SUSSEX. M.R.O.S. SHEET No. 133 - 229168</u>	

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East Wittering	May 1/43		Clear and cool, The C.O. inspected Support Coy., today and has now been to all coys, this week - he seems satisfied on the whole. Capt. Stuart of A Coy., was married today at West Wittering and most of that company and all the Officers attended. The bride was piped into the church to add atmosphere to proceedings. In the evening the C.O. and Officers attended the Lord Mayor of Chichester's "Wings for Victory" Dance.	at 
East Wittering	Sun May 2		Dull and cool with occasional showers. In the afternoon our advance party left for Petworth to take over the Cameron's Camp - it consisted of 6 Officers and 30 O.R.s During the afternoon the Cameron's advance party also arrived here. There is much activity in the packing line as we leave tomorrow - fortunately the Service Copps are providing a Transport Company so that we will ride in some degree of comfort.	
East Wittering	Mon May 3		Clear and Cool. The Bn. vehicles left at 0930 hrs and during the morning the hand over of billets was completed. The Troop Carriers left at 1330 hrs., and arrived at the new area about 1600 Hrs. The whole Bn. is thus together again. The new area seems a fine set up - on Lord Lichfield's estate and situated beside a little pond - Wild life is abundant as there are approximately 600 deer on the estate and several swans including a black one in the pond. There was just enough accommodation for us as the Camerons had, had to seal a few huts with stores they had left. Tomorrow we all start drilling.	
Petworth	Tues May 4		Sunny and cool, Coys drilled all morning on their own and in the afternoon a Bn Parade was held. Brig. McCarter of 6 C.I.B., to which we are now attached visited the unit today. The drill in the afternoon gave us a fair idea as to just what would be expected of us on Friday. The Bn. Formed up in line at the onset but the line was of such length that combined with the whistling of the wind the C.O.'s voice soon disappeared under the strain and it was found more advantageous to form the Bn. up in mass. The evening was enlivened with inter-coy baseball games which were well attended.	

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Petworth	Wed. May 5		Clear and cool. A recce was made this morning of the area we will bivouac in Saturday night prior to commencing Exercise Beach. We have just heard that we will have to wander further afield for this exercise before returning to our Wittering - Selsey area. The day was again devoted to parade, Squad drill and a considerable improvement was shown by all ranks. The evening again was devoted to baseball - the big game saw H.Q. Coy decisively swamp the Officers by 22-2.	<i>UGT</i>
Petworth	Thurs May 6		Cool and overcast. Reveille was at 0415 hrs., and the Bn. moved off from the area in Troop Carriers at 0600 hrs. There was quite a heavy frost and it was very raw. We drove to the Irish Guards Depot near Lingfield where the inspection was to take place. We had time to run through our routine once before Brigadier Whitehead the A/G.O.C. arrived to inspect us, we ran through the whole show exactly as it will be done for Her Majesty tomorrow. Brigadier Whitehead seemed well satisfied and so we broke off for haversack lunch. During the lunch hour we were treated to some spectacular squad drill by the Guards themselves - many observed that they were as much desirous of pleasing the Guards who would witness tomorrow's show as of impressing the Queen herself. After lunch we drilled again before returning to Petworth about 1730 hrs. The evening was spent in cleaning web, battle dress etc., for we leave early tomorrow.	<i>UGT</i>
Petworth	Fri. May 7		Cool and clear. The Bn. embussed for the review area at 0730 hrs. and reached the parade ground well before 1000 hrs. The day being fine everybody was in expectant good spirits. The Bn. formed up in review order at 1045 hrs and a few minutes later the Army Cmdr., The Corps Comdr., the A/G.O.C., The Canadian High Commissioner all arrived. Shortly after 1100 hrs. the large black Rolls Royce drove up and out stepped the Queen, for future historians she was wearing her favourite powder blue as well as a large Maple Leaf pin and a Black Watch pin. After we had received her with the Royal Salute she inspected the Bn and spoke to about 30 men in all who were later interviewed by the press. After the March Past she sat for a group picture with the Officers and then received them all whilst sherry was served. She expressed herself as being favourably impressed with the unit and remarked to the unit M.O. that he must have	<i>UGT</i> Royal Salute

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Petworth	Fri. May 7		Cont;- very little to do with such fit looking body of men. The Bn, lined the route on her departure and cheered her lustily, after lunch the C.O. passed on Her Majesty's very complimentary remarks to the Bn. We then embussed for Petworth feeling well satisfied with our performance. The evening was spent in packing and preparing for the following day's move.	125
Petworth	Sat May 8		Rain and more Rain. The Bn. left Petworth Camp in the rain and marched the better part of the day in a heavy downpour across the downs to Patching where we fortunately had a good bivouac area and all ranks were able to sleep under cover, after supper the Bn. was allowed out until 2200 hrs., and as there was only one pub within miles it was soon drained as dry as the proverbial bone.	125
Patching	Sun. May 9		Cold and raining. The Padre held church parade at 0900 hrs in the garden of the house in which BHQ. was situated. The R.C.s paraded but their Padre never arrived from Bde., owing to a little map reading difficulty. In the afternoon our Padre brought mail and cigarettes from Wittering. After supper we left Patching for our approach march at about 1900 hrs. The Bn., reached the assembly area at 2100 hrs and coys were moved into position. Patrols were sent out to find out the strength of the 3 defended enemy localities. During the night our guards were caught flat-footed and the CO. was both shot and captured by enterprising enemy patrols which penetrated right to the office truck at B.H.Q.	125
Patching	Mon May 10		Still more rain, and a great Wind. O.Gp. was held at 0500 hrs and a right flanking attack was ordered on the right hand enemy locality. The attack went in at 0800 hrs and by 1030 hrs the hill top had been won. By this time the weather conditions were just about as bad as could be imagined. The Bn. concentrated at 1130 hrs., near 5 Wing C.T.S. for a conference and listened to a criticism of the attack. We then had lunch in the downpour and spent the afternoon organizing our defence and repairing the wire we had blown when the position was won from the Camerons. After supper we took up our defensive positions and sent out patrols to contact the attacking enemy the R.H.L.I. Night fell on a very muddy and weary tho' heroically stubborn group of defenders.	125

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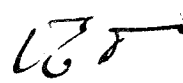

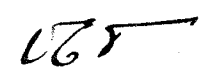
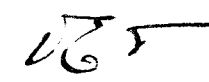
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Patchin g	Tues. May 11		Overcast and temperate. The Bn. left their Positions at 0630 hrs. to enable the attackers to mortar the hill prior to their attac k. We marched <del>back</del> to Patching where we arrived shortly after 0800 hrs and enjoyed a good breakfast then commenced the long march home We covered <del>about</del> 34 miles in all including one small detour around the airfield at Tangmere. We arrived abck at Wittering about 2100 Hrs and a hot meal was awaiting us. The C.O. left us during the day having been summoned to meet our new G.O.C. Maj. Gen. <del>Burns</del> , who until recently commanded a Brigade in the 4th Division. <i>BURNS</i>	
East Wittering	Wed May 12		Cloudy and warm. A few sore feet were in evidence today and some men were wearing soft shoes and walking pretty gingerly. There were changes in Officer personnell today as Lt. Griffin takes over the Pioneer Pl. and Lt. Rolland takes over cmd. of the A/Tank. pl. There were Umpires conferences for both Exercise Street Fighting which will take place at Eastbourne and also for Trojan another forthcoming exercise which would not directly affect the Bn.	
East Wittering	May 13		Clear and warm. Major Ritchie having gone on the Senior Officer's Course and Major Rawlings and Capt. Fraser being away umpiring N.E. 4 there is again a shortage of Officers apparent. The C.O. Visited Selsey today Coy Comdrs., meeting was held at 1930 hrs., tonight and the new G.O.C.'s orders re training were passed on by the C?O. as well as an outline of coming events. We shall apparently be very busy with more exercises and a Week at Kingley Vale in the offing.	
East Wittering	Fri. May 14		Clear and warm. Many new promotions were announced today amongst the N.C.O.s as so many have been accepted for O.C.T.U. lately. In the afternoon the Canteen Committee decided to go ahead with plans for a Bn. dance to be held with the C.O.'s permission on 21 May at the Royal Sussex Barracks in Chichester. Returns reached a new high today when we were ordered to submit the names of all ranks who had been scout master or patrol leaders in the Boy Scouts - Cubs unfortunately dont count.	

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East Wittering	Sat May 15		Fair and warm. Our purchases of Victory Loan Bonds have now reached \$ 4600 and today is the last day of the Loan. On Monday we are to have a demonstration on the Jeffreys Projector or PIAT as it is known. This afternoon judging from the <del>modus</del> of all ranks to Chichester should be a merry one for all ranks. Those of us who remained basked in the warm sun.	LB
East Wittering	Sun. May 16		Clear and Sunny. Another beautiful day. The Witterings are fairly bursting with weekend visitors and many people seem to be moving into the area for the summer months. The path beside the dragons teeth beside the beach was patrolled by civilians all day. In the late afternoon we witnessed a fine sweep of fighters and bombers going off to do a job on the enemy - they flew over the channel at a very low altitude. It has been a very fine and restful weekend for us all.	LB
East Wittering	Mon May 17		Clear and fine. In the morning all coys gathered at Greatan Farm to witness the PIAT demonstration. The weapon was shown to be a very accurate one at 100 yds and it has good penetration. Several members of the Bn. including the C.O. fired the weapon. In the evening a special lecture was given to all Officers, W.O.s and Sgts. by the G3I from 2nd. Div. - it was a most interesting evening.	LB
East Wittering	Tues May 18		Clear and fine. Exercise Magpie started this morning and Capt. Stevenson who went as A/C.O. the Adjt, Sigs O. and personnel left at 0830 hrs. By 1530 they had still not reached Chichester but appeared to be resting comfortably in their vehicles beside the the road. A recce was made at Kingley Vale in the Afternoon to select coy areas for the various field firing schemes which the Bn. will do whilst staying there next week. The Advance party under Lieut. Griffin left today for Pulborough to prepare the camp for our future occupancy.	LB
East Wittering	Wed May 19		Overcast and warm. Throughout the day there was much confusion as to whether exercise "Street Fighting" will take place tomorrow or not, Bde decided that it should be held on Friday instead, but as all arrangements have been made for the Bn dance on that day we loudly protested this last minute change.	LB

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East Wittering	19 May 1943		During the evening word was received that the exercise would be run off as scheduled but that we would entrain at Bognor Regis instead of Chichester. In the late afternoon the Magpie boys returned from a somewhat bewildering exercise.	LB
East Wittering & E'bourne	20 May 1943		Clear and fine. The Rifle Coys left at 0600 hrs in transport for Bognor under command of Major Hunt. After a considerable wait at the station we boarded the train at 0800 hrs and proceeded to Eastbourne. We marched to the area which was about 2 blocks square and the coys took turns at attacking and defending the bomb wrecked evacuated houses still standing in the area. We had a haversack lunch and at the end of the afternoon after a brief criticism of the methods used the Bn. returned to the station and entrained at 1800 hrs. The Bn was met by transport at Bognor Regis and returned to billets arriving back about 2100 hrs.	LB
East Wittering	21 May 1943		Warm and bright. Capt. Motzfeldt arrived and took over H.Q. Coy. First of series of lectures for "I" Sec. held at Bde H.Q. today. The Battalion Dance was held at Chichester tonight at the barracks. Guest artistes from London - Quiz contest (arranged and conducted by Gerry Wilmott of broadcasting fame) and the R.A.F. Dance Band under Stan Coster combined to make the evening a memorable one. Special thanks are due to Cpl. H.C. Wilson, chairman and Supervisor B.J. O'Callaghan of the Auxiliary Services for the success of the show.	LB
East Wittering	22 May 1943		Clear and cool. Entire <del>of</del> absence of sunshine today, The usual Saturday morning inspection of billets and Coy. Comds inspections. Beach regulations still unchanged. troops only allowed to go swimming under supervision of an officer; civilians disallowed on beaches. Kingley Vale training postponed until 31 May - 5 June. Promoted Captains today, Kemp, Rowland, Bennett.	LB
East Wittering	Sun May 23		A Beautiful day with sunshine throughout, sky became overcast after supper. Both Protestant and Roman Catholic church parades today. The O.C. received from Gen. Creerar from Headquarters 1st. Canadian Corps. a number of pictures taken during Her Majesty the Queen's inspection of the Battalion. These were gratefully acknowledged and Gen. Creerar assured that several particular photographs in which the Queen is shown talking to some of the troops would be passed on to the men concerned with his compliments, who will doubtless appreciate their possession as a reminder of a very	LB

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East Wittering	Sun. May 23		Cont;- happy and inspiring occasion. The 2 i/c left on leave today.	VB
East Wittering	Mon. May 24		Heavy rain and Blustering wind. Bn. left at 0230 hrs for field firing at Siberia Ranges, Bisley, walking to Chichester and entraining for Brookwood at 0540 hrs. The O/C today left on leave. Intermittant showers throughout afternoon and evening.	VB
East Wittering	Tues May 25		A dull day throughout. Battalion returned from Long Siberia Ranges, Bisley at 0630 hrs. detraining at and walking from Chichester in much rain and wind. Movement orders out today for summer camp, but Battalion will first undergo a few days battle drill under Capt. Motzfeldt in its Battle School area.	VB
East Wittering	Wed May 26		Dull with intermittant showers throughout day. A Focke-Wulf 190 was reported over area at 1330 hrs., chased by Spitfires. Raids on Coastal towns increasing over past week especially weekend. when fatalities were fairly haevy during a noon hour raid.	VB
East Wittering	Thurs May 27		Weather today, morning cloudy until 0900 hrs, thereafter bright subshine with fair south-westerly wind. Packing of stores is proceeding at a fast pace and boxes are at a premium. The "I" office flooded today with the return by the Coys of maps, pamphlets etc., accumulated during the winter. There is obviously a tremendous amount of work to be done here in sorting and returning superfluous material to Bde.	VB
East Wittering	Fri. May 28		Dull morning developing into bright day and pleasent evening. Due to anticipated move troops were paid this morning after a muster parade and farewells commenced with the evening. Many strong friendships have been formed in this part of the country and the general feeling on our forthcoming departure is one of deep regret	VB
East Wittering	Sat. May 29		Weather clear and fairly warm entire day. Inspection of billets by Company Commanders followed an early morning of intensive cleaning up, advance party left by truck for new area ( site of one of last summer's Camps.) at 0930 Hrs. There was an accident this afternoon to the Adjutant's wagon, which overturned in a ditch and passengers escaped serious injury the only person removed to hospital being that bright ornament of the orderly room, Pte " Daniel" Boone, suffering from a broken collar-bone.	VB



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East Wittering	Sun. May 30		Weather today, cloudy throughout morning, sunshine thereafter. Battalion left for Kingley Vale this morning arriving in afternoon( after a fairly warm march) at area of training in battle drill for the next week. the rest of the day was spent in completing preparation of camp site There are a number of marquees and tents here, altho' insufficient to accommodate the entire Battalion.	VGT
<del>EEKK</del> Kingley Vale	Mon. May 31.		Intermittant showers throughout the day left troops in a poor frame of mind to tackle night movement and crossing obstacles exercise commencing at 2300 hours.. This latter exercise was called to a halt at approximately 0030 hrs. during a drenching downpour. Hot cocoa on return to camp helped considerably to brighten spirits, which were at a low ebb previously and troops bedded down tired and fairly happy after first day's field exercises.	VGT

S. S. T Cantle

LT. COL  
O.C. 1ST. BN. THE BLACK WATCH.  
(RETIRED IN CANADA)