

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

1st Bn BLACK WATCH (RHR) of CANADA.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

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
BROUGHTON, LINGS.	MAY 1st 1944	MON	<p>Overcast and cool, brightening up towards evening.</p> <p>Yesterday's War Diary, that is, the 30th Apr., finished off for the month with the Bn participating in Exercise KATE II, and bivouaced in a forward assembly area at FOXHILLS PLANTATION, preparatory to making a Brigade assault on AMCOTTS village, the RHC being the only troops on the ground.</p> <p>The Bn crossed the start line at 1130 hrs advancing SOUTH to NEAP Ho., and crossed the river TRENT in three waves. A and B Coys. in the first wave, C and Bn. HQ. and some of Sp. Coy in the second, with D Coy and the balance of Sp. in the last wave. AMCOTTS village was soon cleared and the Bn moved forward $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond the village church. "Cease Fire" was sounded at 1530 hrs and TCVs arrived at 1630 hrs to transport the troops back to camp.</p> <p>Recreational transport was again laid on to take the boys into SCUNTHORPE.</p>	Reference Appendix No. 5
"	2nd	TUES	<p>Overcast and threatening rain all day.</p> <p>For the first time since leaving FOLKESTONE, the sky has been really overcast, and it looks like our spell of good weather has come to a finish. Lt. Col. CANTLIE addressed the officers and NCOs of the Bn in the morning regarding the two short exercises just completed and voiced his policy as to future efficiency requirements within the Battalion. A and C Coys. spent the afternoon packing up for a repeat performance of KATE I and II, this time being enemy for the 4th Bde. A bath parade was arranged for those who weren't able to go on Sunday.</p>	
"	3rd	WED	<p>Fair and cool.</p> <p>The threatening clouds blew over during the night and the weather turned quite cool with a raw wind blowing. A Coy. left this morning to join C Coy. as enemy for the 4th Bde on Exercise KATE III. It has been decided that 3 60 cwts will go to SCUNTHORPE every night as Recreational Transport, parties being under escort of Officers or NCO's. Word was received that most of the Rear Party at FOLKESTONE will join us very shortly for the balance of training in this area.</p>	
"	4th	THURS	<p>Overcast and cool.</p> <p>The weather remained overcast and raw all day with a light shower in the afternoon clearing by supper time. The demand for enemy for the 4th Bde increased, so practically all of D Coy had to be rushed out to area SCUNTHORPE, where the exercise</p>	

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BROUGHTON, Lincs.	4th	THURS	(cont'd) was taking place. One of the largest mails the Bn has received for many a day, arrived to-day, when 120 bags of parcels and letters caught up to us. L/Cpl Sauve, the Postman, could be seen sorting "far into the night".	
"	5th	FRI.	Clear and cool Clouded over before dinner and our first real heavy rain continued all afternoon. A, C, and part of D Coys returned at 1430 hrs from exercise KATE III & IV. The rain flooded our camp-site and parties were seen all over camp busily digging trenches around the shelters, particularly HQ Coy kitchen, which almost washed away. The rain let up about 2100 hrs but weather remained quite cool.	
"	6th	SAT.	Overcast and raw. Our once clean grassy roads have been turned into a quagmire with the vehicles churning up the mud - "Shades of Pullborough", so all available men spent the morning filling the roads with branches and boughs to give traction to the trucks. The first half (transport) of the Rear Party arrived at 1830 hrs, having come up with the R de Mais convoy.	
"	7th	SUN.	Clear and cool The Bn moved off by transport at 0830 hrs for a Brigade Church Parade at SCUNTHORPE, Capt. JHR Percy (Calg. Hghrs) and Capt. B W Kenny officiating at the services. The "marching personnel" of the Rear Party arrived by TCV from SCUNTHORPE under Capt A.P. Boswell at 0815 hrs, leaving a very small Rear Party in FOLKESTONE to look after the billets. The Intelligence Section spent the day building a "super" sand table, taking in the river TRENT from GARTHORPE to AMCOTTS area, for Bn use.	
"	8th	MON.	Fine and warm. All coys busied themselves with following the syllabus which is under Bn arrangements for the whole week, and is to include TEWT's on more river crossings and night training.	
"	9th	TUES	Fine and warm The sand table, so well made by the I Sec, is being used constantly by all coys and	

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BROUGHTON, Lincs.	9th	TUES.	(cont'd) platoons in sand table exercises for the forthcoming river crossings. It looks like our good weather has returned again, and the camp is beginning to be dry underfoot once more.	
"	10th	WED.	Warm, but overcast, mist clearing after lunch. Bn training continued as per syllabus. The Scout Pl and Int Sec joined those of the R de Mais and Calg Highrs for Bde instruction by Capt. Doheny on O.P. work and in the afternoon, field sketching. The RHC beat the Calg Highrs with a score of 22 to 6 at softball in the first game of the inter-Bn playdowns to pick a representative to play the 4th Bde winners at the Inter Bde Sports Meet to be held on Sunday 14 May	
"	11th	THURS	Clear and warm. Bath Parades occupied most of the morning and in the afternoon the rifle coys practiced carrying and loading Storm Boats at BURTON upon STATHER, with personnel from HQ and Sp Coys going out there in the evening. The RHC lost out to the Calg. Highrs in a soccer match to decide a team to represent the 5th Bde at the Inter Bde Sports Meet on Sunday 14th May.	
"	12th	FRI	Clear and quite warm. A C.O's Parade was held at 0930 hrs with special reference made to recent breaches of security regarding our base station, also that we would quite likely be inspected by the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. R.L. MacKenzie King, in the near future and that the usual "good show" would be put on by the Bn for that event, despite certain political viewpoints. A Bn Sports Meet was held in the afternoon at the Co-Operative Employees Recreation Ground in SCUNTHORPE, with D Coy carrying away the honors. L/Cpl C. Anderson and Cpl T Garvin, both of D Coy, tied for highest individual points. Capt. J. Duchasteland a small party returned by transport to FOLKESTONE. The RHC softball team lost to the R de Mais with a score of 17 to 13 to-night, thus eliminating us from the Inter Bde play-offs. The Senior Officers attended a TEWT at 4EDE HQ in the evening.	
"	13th	SAT	Fair but overcast. The new "olive drab" paint (similar to that used by the U.S. forces), which is	






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BROUGHTON, Lincs.	13th	SAT.	(cont'd) soon to be seen on our vehicles, was tried out to-day on the Int Office 60 cwt, causing numerous and various comments. The Senior Officers attended a TEWT at 5Bde HQ in the forenoon.	
"	14th	SUN.	Cloudy with occasional light showers. A voluntary Church Parade was held back in the woods, Capt. R Berlis officiating. The Bde Sports Meet was held at SCUNTHORPE in the afternoon with such novelty events as a "hair-cutting contest", and a "three-man-race". In the evening the BnHQ, HQ and Sp Coy Officers' softball team beat the rifle coys officers' team 22 to 14 in a three-studded game. Capt. V Traversy pitched for the winners throughout with Lieut Noad relieving Capt. JPG Kempin the 5th inning for the "riflers".	
"	15th	MON.	Fair but overcast and rain during the night. Bath Parades were held during most of the morning, with Pay Parades in the afternoon, which latter occasion caused a shrinkage in the attendance for an excellent concert after supper, given by the band from #1 CERU.	
"	16th	TUES	Fair, later overcast with light showers. The 5th Bde Track and Field Day was held in the afternoon with the RHC taking first place. The scores were, RHC 52, Calg Highrs 38, R de Mais 7, and Bde HQ 1. In the evening, the Int Sec proceeded to area RISBY WARREN, MR 3933, and laid cable preparatory for to-morrow's Bn attack under title, Exercise XXXX . To-day saw the start of the painting of large white star and circle on our vehicles, a marking adopted for all allied vehicles.	
"	17th	WED.	Overcast with showers in the morning, later clearing. Using tapes previously laid by the Int Sec, the Bn crossed the S.L. in LOW SANTON at 0905 hrs for Exercise XXXX . A Bn attack was put in on the high ground, area 3833 as a practice exercise employing the use of tapes and the "Long Tail Formation" for a night attack to be held later on in the evening. In the evening, the Bn was again brought forward by transport and crossed the S.L. at 0030 hrs for another Bn attack, using tapes and the same formations, consolidating at 398334, sheet No.33.	Reference Appendix No. 5 

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BROUGHTON, Lincs.	18th	THURS	Cool and overcast but rain held off. Due to last night's exercise, reveille was postponed to 0800 hrs. Throughout the day Pl Cmdrs and NCO's were briefed on the sand table regarding exercise JANE III, which is to take place to-night. The Bn moved out by TCVs at 2130 hrs to an assembly area in COLEBY WOOD, MR 343386. Three taped routes were laid down by the Int Sec from the high bank near road, down to the beach to guide the boat-carrying parties.	Reference Appendix No. 5 
"	19th	FRI	Overcast, clearing in afternoon, and heavy rain during night. The Bn commenced moving forward from assembly area at 0200 hrs, and C Coy started sliding the Storm Boats down to the river bank at 0245 hrs. "H" hour, which was 0330 hrs, saw C Coy crossing the river in the first wave. D Coy followed the same routes and theoretically would have carried second wave of boats, but instead, used the Storm Boats C Coy had just crossed in. After D Coy, the remainder of the Bn used one route and were ferried across from the ferry sites set up by the beachmaster, Major E Motzfeldt. Up to the time of crossing, the Bn can be congratulated as to the absolute absence of noise, but unfortunately the coy of Engineers attached for this exercise, had only 4 hours experience with these particular boats and engines, and the actual crossing wasn't entirely too successful. TCVs brought the Bn back for breakfast at 0730 hrs, and sleep was the order of the day until noon. The "Sports Party" of 15 O.Rs under Capt. JPG Kemp, left by rail for FOLKESTONE at 0815 hrs. The afternoon was occupied with packing up trucks and personal effects preparatory to to-morrow's move back home.	
"	20th	SAT.	Overcast and raw with cold strong wind at night. The "Vehicle Party" under Capt. V.E. Traversy marshalled at 0730 hrs and commenced rolling for FOLKESTONE at 0815 hrs. Arriving at AMPHILL PARK at 1800 hrs, bivouacing there for the night. Bath parades were held in the morning for the "marching party" and in the evening the Recreational Transport took the lads into town for their "last fling" in SCUNTHORPE.	Reference Appendix No. 5 
"	21st	SUN.	Overcast all morning, clearing in the late afternoon with showers in the evening. The "Vehicle Party" marshalled at 0730 hrs and commenced the last lap to "home" at	

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BROUGHTON, Lincs.	21st	SUN.	(cont'd) 0820 hrs. Word was given to the drivers that shortly after arrival at FOLKESTONE, all vehicles would be waterproofed. Sounds suspiciously like "Der Tag" was at last approaching. Shortly after leaving the Metrop. Police escort outside of LONDON, Sgt. N. Mayo had an accident when his motorcycle collided with a civilian car, and was rushed through to FOLKESTONE on the RAP truck. The vehicle party arrived at "home" station at 1800 hrs to find that the "HQ Party" under Major E Motzfeldt, which had left BROUGHTON this morning, had just beaten them in. The "Marching Party", under Major F.M. Mitchell, after having spent the day cleaning up the camp, left BROUGHTON Camp by foot at 1925 hrs and took their departure from SCUNTHORPE by rail at 2200 hrs.	
FOLKESTONE, Kent.	22nd	MON.	Overcast, clearing as day advanced. The "Marching Party" arrived at FOLKESTONE at 0745 hrs, marching back to the billets to the tune of the Pipes and spent the day getting settled once more. Although some of the lads are glad to be back home, quite a number were quite happy in our "shanty town" camp of old pieces of tin, tarps, petrol tin wash-basins, and tea on the fire all hours of the day, and with the pubs in SCUNTHORPE to occupy their time in the evenings. Somehow, FOLKESTONE doesn't hold the same attraction for them as did HOVE and BRIGHTON. A lecture for all available officers was held in the local theatre by Col. Hurley, C.C.A.O. II Corps, on the activities and functions of Civil Affairs. The 2 Cdn Div Sports Meet was held in the afternoon.	
"	23rd	TUES	Fine and warm. 24 hour "rest" leaves started to-day on the scale of one per man per week, within a 20 mile radius. The Bn started its tour of one week as Duty Bn on the Operational Role - we send a dawn patrol to check the beach line, as well as being ready to answer any calls from the posts along our sector of the coast. Great excitement was caused this afternoon, when the guard picked up a civilian on the waterfront who appeared to be acting suspiciously, but upon examination by the Int. Officer, it was found that he was from the Ministry of Information. Volunteers were called for by the M.O. to be guinea pigs for an experiment with the new "V Pack". Everybody	Reference Appendix No. 7

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FOLKESTONE, Kent.	23rd	TUES	(cont'd) thought it was a new type of ration, including Major F.P. Griffin, who asked his group to "play the game and not eat at canteens or visit any pubs but give the experiment a real trial". They returned from the R.A.P. with long faces and generally disgusted as it turned out to be an experiment for preventional cure of V.D. The shelling sirens went about 2330 hrs, we opened up a half an hour later. One shell fell near here destroying 3 houses, killing 2 people and sending 5 more to hospital.	
"	24th	WED	Overcast and occasional showers. The Corps Sports Meet for Field and Track events was held to-day with the 2nd Div taking top honors. A special Church Service was attended by 75 all ranks and the Pipe Band at Canterbury Cathedral as part of the 2 Cdn Inf Div Empire Day Service at 1030 hrs. The Very Rev Hewlett-Johnson, Dean of Canterbury, preached the sermon. It has been announced that a bottle of "scotch" has been procured for each officer and NCO down to and including Sgts, to be taken by them for the first 30 days of operations.	REF APPY Nº 10 
"	25th	THURS	Fair and cool. The WOs and Sgts attended a MI - 9 Lecture in the morning, given by Lieut Harrigan, R.N., on how to escape if made a Prisoner of War, and finishing up with his recent escape, after having been a prisoner since the fall of TOBRUK, North Africa. The Officers attended a similiar lecture in the afternoon.	
"	26th	FRI	Fine and warm. Administrative work continued all day, as it has all week, throughout the Bn with Kit Inspections, Amm. checks, weapon inspections, and bringing up to-date all records. Retreat was played by the Pipe Band at 1800 hrs.	
"	27th	SAT.	Fair and overcast. A Bn Parade was held at RADNOR PARK, FOLKESTONE from 0900 hrs to 1030 hrs, Pipe Band attending.	

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Place	Date May	Hour 1944	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
FOLKESTONE? Kent.	28th	SUN.	Fine and quite warm. Church Parades were held to-day with the Protestant Parade moving off at 0900 hrs to Folkestone Congregational Church, Radnor Park, Capt. R. Berliss and the Pipe Band attending. The R.C. Church Parade left at 1010 hrs for their service held at PARADE GROUND, 18th Cdn Fd Amb. Col. M.C. O'Neill, M.C., Principal Chaplain RC for the Cdn Army Overseas, preached the sermon. The heavy rumblings of the latest aerial bombardment on the French coast, which started last night, continued all day and night, and were of such intensity as to cause the buildings over here to shudder.	REF APPY NO 9
"	29th	MON.	Fine and very warm. Reveille was advanced to 0500 hrs this morning, as the Bn moved off at 0705 hrs by foot for SHORN CLIFFE CAMP, SANDGATE, to take part in the inspection of the 5th Bde and attached troops by General Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Commander Allied Forces. After a warm march to the camp, the troops appreciated his punctuality and off-handed manner, as the orders were "stand easy" for the inspection. His jovial and honest-looking countenance soon won the hearts of the troops and after addressing them from the top of a Jeep as to what support would be given for the impending invasion both from the air, land and sea; how much he thought of the Canadians in Italy; and generally how confident of the outcome; a spontaneous thundering applause was given him before the the prosaic and usual three cheers were offered. The Pipe Band spent the afternoon playing during intermissions for a Gymkhana held at ASHFORD. Lieut. S.E. Griffin left with a small party of 6 to represent the Bn in a 6 day Signal Exercise.	
"	30th	TUES.	Fine and very warm. The C.O. started his inspectional tour of a Coy per day, by inspecting HQ Coy at 0830 hrs, which is to include personnel, equipment, billets, transport, and coy. records.	Reference Appendix No. 8
"	31st	WED	Fine and very warm, heavy electrical storm in afternoon. Sp and B Coys were inspected by the C.O. to-day as part of his week of inspections. Pay Parades were held throughout the day. The Sgt's Softball team won by default from the Bde HQ team. Once more the French shore received the nightly aerial bombardment, and the Bn billets rocked and shuddered from the concussion 20 miles away.	

S.S.T. Cantlin COL.
O.C. 1ST BN. THE BLACK WATCH.