

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

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M.F.M 11.  
40/P & 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
			<p>1<sup>st</sup> Bn. BLACK WATCH (RHR) &amp; CANADIA. FROM. 1<sup>st</sup> NOV 1942 to 30 NOV 1942. EAST WITTERING SUSSEX O.S. 132. 229169.</p>	

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East Wittering Sussex. Sheet 132 229169 (Billets)	1st Nov.		The violent downpour caused some damage to personnel as some 100 all ranks attended the Protestant parade in the BHQ area. The Padre warmed our dampened exteriors with a thundering oration, on Justice, Mercy and Truth; not to mention of course, our spiritual interiors. The C.O. has gone on a well earned privilege leave.	M.
	2nd Nov		The day dawned clear, and sunny bringing the start of another week. We were afforded some excitement, during the morning, by the appearance of a naval craft close inshore; it was identified by Capt. Boswell as an "R" boat and appeared to have anchored or gotten stuck, we weren't sure. After watching for a while the I.O. decided that he should ask if they were in trouble and went to find a signaller and some flags. The effort proved futile as the boat moved off before communications were established. We have been missing petrol from some trucks lately and the Provost Sergeant together with the local constable have their suspicions. A civilian tradesman is under surveillance.	M.
	3rd Nov		We were visited by the GSO 3 "I" and the I.O. from 2 Div this morning. Capt. Laver, Lieut. Spring, and our acting I.O. John Sharp had a long talk mostly about training of "I" men and courses and conferences for Div intelligence officers. Suggestions for an ambitious programme were put forward by Lieut. Spring and most heartily endorsed by us. In the evening an Aux. Services entertainment group came, and under the name of the Troupers put on their 298 performance for the troops, an excellent effort and well appreciated. Capt. Carnegie left for seven days privilege leave.	M.
	4th Nov		As a result of the newly received Bde Operation order the 2i/c in the absence of the C.O. made a reconnaissance with Col. Gamble of the 8th Sussex Bn Home Guard for the purpose of redistributing the H.G. Coy in and around the Selsey Area. They will help in the defence of the vital causeway and support our D Coy in reserve. The weather is dull and overcast and training is at a standstill due to our farm fatigue of some 200 other ranks.	M.
	5th Nov		The available officers and NCOs had a busy day in spite of the lack of men. The morning was occupied by a cloth model TEWT on wood clearing conducted by Major Rawlings while the	

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	5th Nov		<p>evening was spent in compass marching through the rain and mud. One hour and 36 mins was the best time made by "B" Coy over the three mile course. The new P38 platoon wireless sets were issued after a lecture by Lieut. Rolland. They are very compact weighing some eight pounds in all. The simple operation and throat microphone are the high spots, not to mention the obvious speeding up of communications.</p>	W.
	6th Nov		<p>Following yesterday's cloth model exercise the 2 I/C took us on the ground and went through the motions of clearing woods. Sections were made up of officers and Major Ritchie drew number one on the Bren. The last but one, of our "MISSING" personnel from the DIEPPE raid was today reported as being a prisoner which now makes a total of 67 who went 65 of whom are prisoners one Pte. Harwood, G.T. who died of wounds and Lieut. Colson as yet "unreported officially" The weather towards the end of the day was a considerable improvement of the morning.</p>	W.
	7th Nov		<p>Capt. Motzfeldt, Lieuts Bennett, Cundill, Carmicheal and Sharp were detailed to attend an Ampires conference on an Exercise called LOCKING which is to be run in conjunction with Combined operations naval and commando personnel. It should be most interesting especially for Lieut. Sharp who has been detailed to actually go to sea with the raiders. The second in command inspected the Support Company and in spite of the rain an excellent turnout of this new group was paraded, complete with weapons. In the evening, the I.O. acting upon a request from the Home Guard company Commander, called a surprise Practice Stand To. Although the show lasted until two o'clock in the morning, it was decidedly successful and all concerned were well pleased.</p>	W.
	8th Nov		<p>Selsey area had a Protestant parade whilst the Witterings went free. Our pipe band was invited to play for an RAF Church Parade at DAGHAM. The 2 i/c, Adjutant and Capt. Boswell attended and said that the Calgary Highlanders were also parading as a Battalion, and behind our Band! Some 300 RAF were on parade and the total turnout was most impressive I am told! Capt. Carnegie was warned to report to 2nd Div H.Q. as a learner with effect from 10th December. "C" Coy left on foot for KINGLEY VALE field firing scheme, they will be away 3 days.</p>	W.

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	9th Nov		A repetition of yesterday's gorgeous weather is certainly welcome; although cold, it is beautifully sunny and clear. The area of GREATHAM FARM which we had tried to get for a local field firing range has been turned down as being too large; under the circumstances the 2 i/c and I.O. had to spend some time decreasing the size of the area, and reducing our ambitions from a field firing range to an ordinary 400 yd rifle and mortar range. We were the recipients of eleven more "Jeeps" this afternoon. They will replace the P.U vehicles and station wagons.	Wf.
	10th Nov		The I.O. and Capt. Bannister the H.G. Adjutant receded the area around MILD FARM with a view to tying in the depth defences behind the WITTERINGS. It was the C.O.'s wish that this should be done in order that the local Home Guard should be familiar with their role in support and also that we should know exactly what they were doing. During the afternoon 40 officers and Nco's down to Sergeant's attended a lecture at Bognor Regis, the subject "The evasion of capture" the lecturer a Mr. Butler from M.I.9, The War Office. He dealt at some length with methods of escape and methods of avoiding capture and rejoining ones unit. Most interesting and graphically illustrated with true incidents of this War.	Wf.
	11th Nov		Today being Remembrance Day our sole link with the Past was in the wearing of the poppy the King having stated that time-off for services could not be spared in the midst of a second war, Training therefore went on as usual. The C.O., 2 i/c went to watch "D" Coy going through their field firing paces at KINGLEY VALE. In the evening the C.O. had a meeting of all Coy Commanders and BHQ officers during which the Brigs. forthcoming inspection was discussed together with exercises STAGGER - GANDER and the large scale exercise WATCHDOG. St Andrew's Ball which is being held at the Old Barn (Officers Mess) East Wittering on the evening of 28th Nov.	Wf.
	12th Nov		The C.O. paid a visit to Bde where he took up several points on forthcoming exercises. During the afternoon a draft arrived from WITLEY with Lieut. D.H. Chapman and four other ranks. This officer was one of the ones who has been with the 2nd Bn B.W. for some time Lieut. Duffield now with "A" Coy was taken on strength; he was formerly with the Quebec Royal Rifles. In the evening a meeting was held at Bognor Regis on the Winter Educational Programme,	Wf.

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	12th Nov		which incidentally is quite extensive. Teachers are supplied by the Unit and many of the men have been quick to take advantage of this opportunity. Major Ritchie is to teach practical electricity, C. pt. Motzfeldt, German; Lieut. Jean Duchastel, French; Sgt. Tweedeale Mechanics; Capt. Griffin, Mathematics; Cpl Walker, Radio, etc.	u.
	13th Nov		Despite the unfortunate combination of day and date nothing of particular bad fortune eventuated. The day was very cold and overcast and already the beaches are seriously short of driftwood. It was discovered that our field telephone wires to "B" and "D" Coys had been cut in seven places in the Selsey Area and about 20 yds of wire were missing. It was done in broad daylight and there is no clue as to the perpetrators whether malicious or mischievous. The locals have been complaining about the mud distributed on their road by our "B" Echelon so the Co. reccecd a new site. The present one is certainly a morass.	u.
	14th Nov		The day was very cold but clear and sunny. The C.O. 2 i/c and RSM made an inspection of "A" and "C" Coy cookhouses, and "B" and "D" Coy Offices., where things seemd to be satisfactory. While on his rounds the C.O. made final arrangements for the Bde Comd's inspection to be held Monday morning. Lieut. BIRKS our first A/A officer for some time left today for a short course in anti-aircraft.	u.
	15th Nov		A R.C. parade was held in the Wittering area at 0900hrs . The day was clear and cold at first, later becoming overcast, thereby spoiling plans for a lazy afternoon sunbath. We receive word that Lt. Col de Rome of the R de Mais was succeeded by Major Bisailon. The 2 i/c Major Rawlings went on leave today prophesying that the African situation would be well in hand by the time he returned. The awaited captaincies came through for Jean Duchastel, our Q.M. and "BOB Pilot who is at Corps as Camouflage and Chemical Warfare Officer.	u.
	16th Nov		The day opened very cold and slightly overcast, not at all the kind of weather for a Bde Comd's inspection. "B" and "D" Coys had reveille about 0300hrs and marched to our parade ground in East Wittering in plenty of time for the inspection which began at 0930hrs and lasted	

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	16th Nov		<p>until 1145hrs. The Brig. inspected clothing and web equipment, the Bde. Major some arms and ammo, and Capts Payan and Ellis respirators, identity discs and first field dressing. It appeared that while the dress was better, the arms and web equipment were not up to par. It seemed that the Coy Comds did not follow the C.Os instructions to the letter. It was a lengthy inspection with a biting wind in the men's faces but fortunately they were allowed some latitude in endeavouring to keep warm. Lieut. Sharp who has been our A/I.O. during Lieut. Doheny's illness left today on an A/Tk gun course, which unfortunately is just long enough so that he has to be SOS. Educational Classes were begun under the supervision of the Padre.</p>	
	17th Nov.		<p>Another cold clear day with a heavy hoar frost on the ground. It would appear that our winter has begun. Our Adjt A/Capt Carnegie left in the morning for 2 Cdn Div where he will be attached as a staff learner, and Lieut. V.E. Traversy assumed the Adjutantcy. Col Pawle, Chief Umpire to Div came to the mess in the evening and gave a lecture to all Officers of the unit and of Bde H.Q. on umpiring. Afterwards the C.O. held a Coy Comds meeting where he announced that the Bde Comd. was so dissatisfied with Monday's inspection that he will hold another one on the 30th of this month. This will certainly help Exercise STAGGER live up to its name since it begins the following day. Lieut. Cundill in the absence of Lieut. Doheny, attended a meeting of all I.Os in the 2 Div where suggested plans for the Intelligence Section were discussed, and it was revealed that maps should be a bit easier to get in the future.</p>	
	18th Nov		<p>A very cold and overcast day. Lieut. Ewing returned from the CCS where he occupied the same room as our I.O. Lieut. Doheny. He says that he may return within a week. The C.O. spent the day inspecting an Ordnance Base Depot for accommodation stores, where he was shown the best way of utilizing the various items. Members of the party were particularly interested in a complete kit for an A.T.S.</p>	
	19th Nov		<p>Weather somewhat warmer but threatening rain. In the morning the C.O. attended a meeting for umpires on Signal Exercise "GANDER". In most of these signal exercises the C.O. has the dual role of Commanding Officer and Battalion umpire. Lieut. C.W. McCaw and four other ranks joined us as reinforcements today.</p>	

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	19th Nov		In the afternoon the C.O. went to Bde for a conference on Exercise "STAGGER" and afterwards attended a farewell dinner for the Bde. Major, Maj. Houghton, who is going to Corps.	W
	20th Nov		The C.O. discovered this morning that the farmer who owns the field we have used as a Bn parade ground, had begun his fall plowing. Since we needed it for the Bde Comd's inspection we were quite concerned. However the farmer agreed to hold his work in abeyance until the 30th. The A.D.M.S. Col. C.W. Fenwick visited us today and inspected the stretcher bearers, water and sanitary details. He was most complimentary. In the evening the C.O. held a Coy Comds meeting, covering the inspection, Exercise "STAGGER" and general training. The C.O. laid down very definite rules for the inspection. The day was fairly warmer and cloudy.	W
	21st Nov		The C.O. and skeleton BHQ went on a stand to at our battle H.Q. before dawn for the Signal exercise "GANDER" It was a cold and overcast morning and as our role in the exercise was a static one, most of our efforts were directed towards keeping warm. Fortunately we received a negative in time to get back for dinner. In the afternoon we received with great rejoicing word that the Bde Comds inspection would be held Saturday morning the 28th instead of the 30th as originally scheduled. This gives us more time to prepare for "STAGGER"	W
	22nd Nov		The day was cold and clear and there was skim ice on the puddles that remain on some of our roads, although it hasn't rained for some weeks. Our Padre was kept busy in the morning holding services at 0900hrs in Selsey, 1015hrs in East Wittering and 1115hrs in West Wittering. We wore great coats for the first time on parade.	W
	23rd Nov		The week opened inauspiciously with the weather continuing clear and cold. The Bde. Comd spent the afternoon with the C.O. making a close check on petrol and use of transport. The men continue to be occupied chiefly discussing and preparing for the Inspection, "STAGGER" and "WATCHDOG".	W
	24th Nov		The officers spent the day liaising with their opposite numbers with the other Bns in the Bde in connection with "STAGGER" In the morning they were at the Calg. Highrs and in the	

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	25th Nov		<p>Afternoon with the R de Mais. Operational roles were studied thoroughly. In the evening Col. Pawle gave his concluding lecture on "Umpires" and had an excellent sand table to demonstrate his ideas.</p> <p>The day started foggy but soon cleared off. The C.O. went to Rear Corps H.Q. early in the morning to see a demonstration of Combined Ops., and came back with a good many ideas. It is interesting to note that a FGCM of one Pte. Powell, which has been outstanding for over a year was finally brought to a conclusion with Mr. Candler acting as our legal officer</p>	W.
	26th Nov		<p>The day was occupied by a Bn Signal exercise. The morning for battle stations anti-raid with warning, and the afternoon battle stations anti raid without warning. The C.O. knew last night, although it didn't become known in Bn generally until today, that Exercises "STAGGER" and "WATCHDOG" were cancelled. The sighs of relief from all over the Bn area could be clearly sensed, if not heard. Lieut. D.C. Menzies and none other ranks arrived at the Bn today.</p>	W.
	27th Nov		<p>Coy Comds held inspections of their coys prior to the Brigadier's inspection tomorrow. Everyone is doing their darndest to prevent a reoccurrence of last inspection.</p>	W.
	28th Nov.		<p>The Bn fell in at 0815hrs and the Bde Comd <sup>Brig.</sup> G.V. Whitehead, <sup>V.D.</sup> arrived at 0900hrs. The inspection was very thorough and the results good. Only a few small errors were found. The Bde. Comd complimented Capt. MacLaurin and the Support Coy on their appearance. The inspecting party went over to SELSEY area and inspected billets and records. In the afternoon the guests for the Ball started to arrive. Major Rawlings was O.C. Quartering and he met the arrivals and <del>sick</del> took them out to the hotels and coys. The Ball started at 2130hrs and continued through until 0500hrs. It was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves. The turn out was excellent, about a hundred present and ex-officers. The following were some of the units represented by the old Officers. Corps H.Q., 2 Div H.Q., 3 Div H.Q., CMHQ, CRU:H.Q., 1st Bde H.Q., 5 Bde H.Q., 8 Bde H.Q., 8 Recce, NNSR., Capt Breton Highrs., Brig. Blackader was the senior Black Watch Officer. The spirit of the whole ball was excellent and everyone expressed the desire that it should be repeated annually.</p>	W.



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	29th Nov		Clear and sunny. There were no parades. The visiting officers visited the Coys. <i>and saw a lot of friends they had not seen for many months.</i>	
	30th Nov		Cloudy. 2 Officers from 30 Queens called in at BHQ. They are sending a detachment to SELSEY to guard the RDF station. The C.O., 2 i/c attended a <del>big</del> conference at Bde H.Q. for the forthcoming tank training.	<i>W. Cantlie</i> (S. D. CANTLIE) LT. COL. C.O. 1ST BN. THE BLACK WATCH. (C.H.R.) OF CANADA.