

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)

M.F.M 11.
40/P & S/37

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①

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Eastbourne	1 Nov	41	<p>Light showers in the morning; clear in the afternoon Lieut. Bourne and Lieut. Stikeman paraded to G.O.C. for interviews prior to recommendation for promotions. The 5th Bde golf team competed today with the 6th Bde team; the match resulted in a tie.</p>	F.P.G.
	2 Nov		<p>Scattered showers during the morning. 16 Officers and NCOs umpired a Home Guard scheme at WARTLING. "D" Coy today welcomed back Major A.W. Wright who has returned to take command of his old Coy. at the expiration of his period of attachment to the Holding Unit as O.C. The Black Watch Coy.</p>	F.P.G.
	3 Nov		<p>Weather overcast and cold. Transport Holiday. A barrage balloon was flown today in the Bn area: considerable interest and speculation was aroused until it was established that it was being used only for a test. (Mooring at 067205- Sheet 134)</p>	F.P.G.
	4 Nov		<p>The Bn paraded this morning at the Cricket Ground on SAFFRONS RD. for an inspection by the Brigadier as a rehearsal for the G.O.C.'s inspection on Friday 7th Nov. It was a bitterly cold, wet day and the long wait while the inspecting party checked over every man was enough to destroy any remaining love which anyone might have held for ceremonial parades. All the available transport was brought down for an inspection at the same time; it drove past the Brigadier on SAFFRONS RD. Major J.C. Routledge left the Bn today to commence his tour as O.C. The Black Watch Coy., at the Holding Unit in accordance with the present policy of having a Coy. Comd'r. from a field unit take over the holding unit increment for a period of six months.</p>	F.P.G.
	5 Nov		<p>Weather clear and bright. In a replay match with a 6th Bde team, the golf team from this Bde was beaten by one point. Included in the syllabus for today was a lecture period: latterly great stress has been laid on the importance of keeping the troops well-informed on the progress of the war and the political and economic background of the various campaigns.</p>	

F.P.G.
Cautley
1917

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	5 Nov		To this end, a period each week is set aside for lectures by the Officers on the current news and the war situation generally. The newly established Army Bureau of Current Affairs assists by publishing fortnightly a splendid little pamphlet called "War" which provides in a concise and easily-digested form a source of information for the lecturer. The men show a sincere interest in these periods and often it is quite amazing to note the keenness and intelligence with which they join in the discussions.	JPG.
	6 Nov		Weather bright and sunny. The C.O. addressed all the Transport personnel at Wooton House with a view to promoting a clearer understanding of the various transport regulations. He spoke of the manner in which the unit has been commended in the past on many of its M.T. moves but he emphasized again the importance of regular maintenance and cautious driving at all times. Sentries in the forward coys. were doubled during the night as a result of a bluish-green flare seen by the O.P. and by coast-guard posts in a general north-west direction. It was assumed to be a signal dropped by a friendly plane to indicate the proximity of a surface craft. The flare was seen at approximately 1920hrs. The additional sentries stood down at 0745hrs the following morning.	JPG.
	7 Nov		Weather clear but cold. The G.O.C.'s inspection scheduled for today was cancelled by a message received last night. Three Officers attended a demonstration by Units of the 38(Welsh) Div on the close support of infantry in the attack by artillery. The C.O. today issued to the Coys. instructions governing the selection of men from the ranks for commissions: formerly this Bn abided by the policy laid down by the Advisory Board of the Regiment in Canada of no promotions from the ranks but, now, in accordance with instructions from CMHQ, the unit is prepared to recommend to the O.C.T.U. certain selected NCOs and men. The possibility of winning a commission will act as a great incentive to some men who until now have felt there was little future for them in the ranks. <i>(Appx 1.)</i>	JPG.
	8 Nov		Weather clear and bright. Air-raid alert at 0010hrs; all-clear at 0120hrs. The Bn Soccer team lost 1-0 to an EASTBOURNE team in a game played this afternoon	JPG. <i>W. Cantor</i>

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	8 Nov		It is learned today that Maj.Gen. V.W.Odlum, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., is being relieved of his command and is to take a post as Canadian High Commissioner in AUSTRALIA. The new G.O.C. the 2nd Div. is to be Brig. H.Roberts, M.C., formerly C.R.A. at Corps H.Q. The news of the new appointment is received with satisfaction and anticipation of a better divisional spirit.	7PG
	9 Nov		Weather overcast and cold. The Bn held a church parade this morning at St.Andrew's Presbyterian Church; the service was conducted by H/Capt D.B. Mackay and the sermon delivered by the Rev. James Reid, D.D., Before and after the service the Bn marched through some of the main streets of the town: 272 all ranks on parade. Major H.M.Jaquays and Lieut. J.R. Popham with a team from 15 Pl. left today to take a weeks' training with A.L.C's at HMS "NORTHNEY" on HAYLING ISLAND.	7PG
	10 Nov		Dull weather in the morning, clearing in the afternoon. Transport holiday. Rifle coys. busy on field defences and individual training.	7PG
	11 Nov		Weather wet and cold. All coys. except "C" Coy on route marches.	7PG
	12 Nov		Heavy rain all day. Lieut. G.C.Jarvis returned from 4 Corps Vehicle Maintenance Course. Lieut. J.P:G.Kemp left for Junior Officers Course at SHILLINGLY PARK. "A" Coy spent the day rifle shooting on CRUMBLES RANGE. In the afternoon the Bn Soccer team beat the 157 A.A. Bty. R.A. with a 3-2 win in which D-81692 L/Cpl.Bannerman distinguished himself with a "hat-trick".	7PG
	13 Nov		Light rain continued. "B" Coy on the rifle range. 14 Officers attended a reception for Maj.Gen. Odlum prior to his departure. The sentries were again doubled during the night as a practice measure.	7PG <i>C. Cantles Maj</i>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	14 Nov		<p>Weather overcast and colder. Brigadier Roberts made a quick inspection of the area accompanied by the C.O. Capt. E.A. Anderson, the M.O., attended a one day's course at the Army Agricultural School; there were no officers who would classify as farmers but "Andy" had at least shown a flair for weeding flower-beds at ALBUHERA, so he was considered to be the nearest approach to the requirements.</p> <p>Major Rawlings, Lieut. Griffin and Lieut. Anyon attended a lecture in BRIGHTON given by a member of the staff of the Coast Artillery School on the course of the Battle of Valetta in MALTA, a show which was memorable as the first and, to date, the only coast artillery action against M.T.Bs.</p> <p>Capt. B.R. Ritchie left today to attend the S.E. Command Inf. Coy Commander's Course at LAVINGTON HOUSE, nr PETWORTH.</p>	JPG
	15 Nov		<p>Weather dull and windy. Major Jaquays, Lieut. Popham and personnel from 15 Pl. returned from their A.L.C. Course at HAYLING ISLAND, full of blood-thirsty ideas. Another one shilling assessment was made against the men's pay on this pay-day as a result of barrack damages and deficiencies from previous billets. It was a bitter shock to the troops to find that the threat of their pay being taxed to pay for barrack charges should actually be put into effect. They had held the comfortable belief that this threat was merely a bluff.</p>	JPG
	16 Nov		<p>Heavy rain with blustering wind. A party made up of detachments from each coy. represented the Bn at a British Legion Church Parade this morning. Lieuts Griffin, Gault and Shand attended a demonstration at a place near TUNBRIDGE WELLS under the auspices of Corp, in which were demonstrated, firstly, a battalion sited and organized for a/tk action and, secondly, various examples of fieldcraft and camouflage. Nothing radically new or unusual but the work shown was of a uniformly high standard. Lieut. A.L. MacLaurin left to attend the 47 Div School of Battle Drill to observe there the methods of instructing in the use of the 3" Mortar.</p>	JPG Cautley May

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	17 Nov		Light rain in the morning. Transport holiday. Routine training as per syllabus.	FPG
	18 Nov		Scattered showers. Coys. made their usual weekly route-march: the rifle coys are gradually increasing the length of their marches, attempting to get back into the marching-fit condition they were in some months ago. In today's march "D" Coy covered a full 20 miles. Capt. R.B.Somerville and Lieut.V.E.Traversy arrived back today from their 4 weeks at the Advanced Assault Training Centre in WEST SCOTLAND, feeling physically tired but highly enthused over the work they had been doing. The course is one intended to teach ordinary troops(not just 'Commandos') the elements of street, wood and mountain fighting, field-craft, sea landings and unarmed combat and to bring the fighting units to a high standard of physical fitness by means of progressive and gruelling obstacle courses. They hope to introduce some of this training into the Bn., at least in a somewhat modified form. A reconnaissance by Major S.D.Cantlie, Major J.B.Weir and Lieut.M.P. McAndrew(RCE) of the approaches to the Downs showed that, in general, the existing tracks are not passable by wheeled M.T. Most of the tracks are passable at certain points and some would be entirely passable in favorable weather but none would be suitable to our "A" Echelon tpt. during heavy rain of any duration. (Appx 2)	FPG
	19 Nov		Light intermittent showers. C.O. left today to attend a Senior Officers W.T. Course(Hythe Wing S.A.School) for 3 days. Lieut.Buchanan and a fatigue party of approximately 30 are at present working on the repair of the steel scaffolding defences along the beach on the R. de Mais front. This is part of a scheme of work laid down for the checking of the scaffolding along the entire Bde. front; this Bn front is to be worked on later. In part 11 Orders (no.64) published today 168 L/Cpls and Ptes are listed as having qualified for the good conduct stripe.	FPG
	Nov 20		Weather dull and overcast. Great interest is aroused in the Bn by the news announced today that the VIII (Near East) Army under Gen. Cunningham opened, on the morning of 18 Nov., the long-awaited offensive in the WESTERN DESERT by crossing the frontier into LIBYA with a many-pronged attack	FPG Cantlie Weir

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	20	Nov	<p>directed from SOLLUM, SIDI OMAR and as far south as JARABUB. Already our advance units are 50 miles into enemy country and so far have been met by very little opposition. The troops are following the events with great interest; to the army and civilians both, this offensive comes as the answer to a long-felt wish for some bold initiative on our part. Lieuts Colson and Wilson-Smith returned to the C.I.H.U. on the expiration of their period of attachment; they were replaced by Lieuts Bennett and Askwith who arrived this afternoon. Lieut. Griffin was today attached to BHQ to substitute for Lieut. Motzfeldt as I.O. which the latter is, at the German Language Refresher Course at the Intelligence Training Center, Cambridge.</p>	JPG
	21	Nov	<p>The usual dull weather, threatening rain, which never quite arrives. Field firing at SNAPHILL RANGE is forming part of the syllabus at the present time, two platoons a week, being put through the course. The flanking and overhead fire with live ammunition and ^{the} freedom with which the sections are allowed to use their weapons in unorthodox manners while on the move, all tend to lend an air of realism to the supposed attack. It is a splendid form of training and the troops participate with a zest which belies the opinion (so often heard these days) that the men are becoming too stale to fight. This evening a party of seven from 14 pl. attempted to pass through the wire defences of "A" Coy at their No. 1 post at the Bandstand on EASTBOURNE front. They managed to wriggle and cut their way through the wire and get up onto the promenade which formed the sentries beat; inasmuch as the rest of "A" Coy were forming a large (and decidedly partisan) audience it was not possible for the attackers to complete the proposed attack and disarm the sentries; the sentries became aware that the 'enemy' were close beside them and challenged. However, it was a splendid object lesson in the necessity for alertness and will probably serve as a caution to the men manning the waterfront posts; for "C" Coy it was a good piece of practice work for the type of thing they hope to be called upon to do shortly.</p>	JPG
	22	Nov	<p>Weather clear and bright. C.O. returned from W.T. Course. Although the subject matter of the course was not new, he was impressed by the excellence of the demonstrations. He hopes to introduce some of the teaching methods into our own W.T. Lieut Kemp returned from his Junior Officers Course. The Divisional eliminations for a cross-county race to be held against English units in the near future, were run off this afternoon. Honours were taken by the RHLI entries; this</p>	Cautley May

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	22 Nov		Bn only getting one man- Pte. Ayling of "B" Coy, in the qualifying class. A Bn boxing tournament, held in the evening, attracted sufficient entries for nearly 25 bouts and was very well attended by all ranks.	776
	23 Nov		Weather sunny and surprisingly warm for the latter part of Nov. R.C. Church parade only. Capt. Somerville and Lieut. Cowan left today for a two weeks period at the 47 Div School of Battle Drill where senior Officers from units in the whole Corps are to form a study course to decide how best a Cdn Corps School of a similar type could be set up and how the syllabus should be planned.	776
	24 Nov.		Weather dull with scattered showers. Tpt. Holiday. Training was under Coy arrangements and, as is always the case on Mondays, was limited to individual training in the vicinity of the billets. Lieut. MacLaurin left to be attached to Corp for a short period while discussions are held on the proposed syllabus for the Cdn Corps Refresher (3" Mortar) Course at which he is to act as an instructor. Some excitement was caused when two A.L.C.s were discovered during the night off the shore in the R de Mais area. They fired distress signals off Pevensy, the R de Mais stood to, fairly bristling with weapons, but the craft turned out to be carrying British troops who had lost their way while returning from a raiding party to the French coast. It was a good lesson to the shore troops to find how close these A.L.C.s may come before they can be detected.	776
	25 Nov		Scattered showers. Today was the start of bedding-disinfestation and exchange which is to go on this week, one coy each day. The R.H.C. won the first round of the Bde Tpt Competition (for which the Brigadier has presented a shield) by leading the other two units in an inspection of the carriers. Lieuts J.B. Cowans and J.E. Fox today arrived on attachment from CIHU. It is learnt today that Lieut. Gen. Crerar is posted to the 2nd Cdn Div as G.O.C. but this is only a paper entry; Brig Roberts still is in active command. It is rumoured that Crerar is to command a Corp in the proposed new two-corps organization.	776 Crerar may

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	26 Nov		<p>Weather clear and bright. Major Wright and Major Rawlings attended exercises with units of the 5th Fd. Regt. RCA at the Arty ranges at ALFRISTON yesterday and today; these exercises were intended to practice both arty and inf. Officers in co-operation between coy commanders and F.O.Os by wireless.</p> <p>"C" Coy firing its rifle practises on CRUMBLES RANGE</p> <p>Recce. work started today on the redispersions which are now to be made in the whole defence plan.</p> <p>Lieut. Col Churchill Mann relinquishes command of the 8 Recce. Bn to be the new G.S.O. 1 of the 2nd Cdn Div., replacing Lieut. Col Sherwood Lett who goes to take command of the S.S.R.</p> <p>Coy Commanders meeting at H.Q. Mess at 1945hrs in which the proposed tactical changes were explained by the C.O. and various training and "A&Q" matters were discussed.</p>	<p>JPC</p>
	27 Nov		<p>Weather dull and heavy mist.</p> <p>"D" Coy fired today at Crumbles range.</p>	<p>JPC</p>
	28 Nov		<p>Weather dull, heavy fog hanging over the Downs.</p> <p>The C.O., Major Cantlie and Lieut. Griffin made a recce on Windover Hill and Combe Hill the two highest features on the position of the Downs, within the Bde Sector and the two features which the Corp Commander, in his first visit last week, indicated to this Bn as the points which we should hold. But the problem of stretching one rifle bn. over such a vast area and still maintaining a strong defence ring with a feasible inter-communication system is an appalling one. It seems more likely that this proposed disposition will have to be considerably modified if it is intended that the Bn should be organized in any form of a "keep" and that only one zone or feature will be held by static defences.</p> <p>There was great excitement (and considerable celebration) at Wooton House this afternoon when it was learned that our Bn has won the Bde transport competition. The scores stood at 3261 points out of a possible 4000 for us, 3235 for the Calg. Highrs. and 2984 for the R de Mais, the points being awarded for condition of the vehicles and competence of the tpt. personnel. Great credit is due to Lieut. Jarvis, Sgt. Tweedale, and his staff.</p>	<p>JPC</p> <p>Cantlie</p>

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	28 Nov		Last night and this evening, for a 5 minute period, all beach lights in the Bde Sector were tested. The results, of the testing of the lights on "A" and "D" Coys fronts indicate that the equipment is certainly not 100% reliable; in the two instances lights burnt out before they had been alight more than 3-4 minutes.	7PG.
	29 Nov		Heavy fog lifting in the afternoon. Further recce. by the C.O. in the morning of the proposed positions for the forward coys on the east slopes of the Downs behind BEACHY HEAD. Major Rawlings left for S.E. Command Driving and Maintenance Course. Lieut. MacLaurin returned from his attachment to Corps H.Q. and started to unwrap his new toys which arrived today, the 7 Universal Carriers which the new establishment of the Mortar Pl. allows and which have been long-promised to us. This makes 3 Pl. complete in its equipment, and quite a formidable little force it is, too. Tonight the Officers Mess held its St. Andrews Ball at the Bde H.Q. Mess with all the traditional trappings. If St. Andrew could have looked in on the party when it was at its height, the C.O. beaming on everyone with benign smiles, Major Hamer, as Master of Cermonies, radiating a glow that was practically incandescent and the pipers reeling through the measures of the reel, the jolly old Saint couldn't have but approved fully of the zeal with which we celebrated his anniversary. Capt. Mitchell is demanding a partial rebate on the grounds that although he was there in body, he assures us he was not there in mind: the Mess Committee has not yet returned a ruling.	7PG.
	30 Nov		Weather cloudy and damp. Major J.G.K. Strathy, G.C. The Coy Commanders School in KINGSTON, ONT. today visited the Bn area and was taken on a tour of the coy positions in the morning by Major Cantlie. Lieut. Cassils arrived from CIHU on attachment with 32 O.Rs as part of a special increment of 94 all ranks to be attached to inf field units during the winter months. This additional personnel are much needed to make up for the deficiencies from which the coys constantly suffer as a result of leave, sickness, courses and special duties.	7PG. Cantlie map