

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

Original, duplicate and duplicate 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><u>1ST BN. THE BLACK WATCH RAR OF CANADA</u></p> <p><u>FROM 1ST OCT 1942 TO 31ST OCT 1942</u></p> <p>POSITION AT <u>LAST DAY OF MONTH. EAST WITTERING - SUSSEX</u></p> <p>REFERENCE <u>O.S. SHEET 132 - 22901695</u></p>	

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Open Winkins Tented camp Re.Sheet 133. 341309	Oct 1st		<p>During the morning we were called out to guard a crashed aircraft which had hit near Westhampnett aerodrome. There was very little left of both plane and pilot. The former a Spitfire the latter Capt. Chambers of the 309th American Pursuit Squadron. In the evening a mess dinner was held, the occasion being the sad departure of Major Harry Hamer to Ordnance and the auspicious occasion of Major Ritchie leaving to be married. The evening was most successful and the general feeling is that we should have more dinners, especially after the move because due to the dispersion our "get-togethers" will be most infrequent. J.S.</p>	
	Oct 2nd		<p>Exercise THROTTLE 11 took up the whole day which incidentally was a beautiful sunny one. The scheme itself was undoubtedly a dismal failure in that it had most of the faults of its predecessor THORTLE 1 and also that it was juggled about to suit the programme of the Ministers of National Defense and Supply. The troops had a long day and were not rewarded by even a momentary glance at the distinguished visitors. J.S.</p>	App #6.
	3rd Oct		<p>Today we moved, at least in part, and one can safely say that in seeing the last of "Open Winkins" we are most fortunate. We have been subjected to an abnormal amount of rain and on the whole have spent a dismal stretch in this camp. "A", "C" and "D" Coys went out on foot to their new areas which are respectively, West Wittering vicinity 214171, East Wittering vicinity 238165 and Selsey Bill. The new billets are good and comfortable but in some cases will require a good deal of cleaning and patching up. Anything, however, would be a welcome change. J.S.</p>	
Billets East Wittering, Sussex. Ref.Sheet 132 22901695	4th Oct		<p>With the exception of a rear party under command Lieut. V.E. Traversy the remainder of the Bn moved out in the morning. "B" Coy to Selsey Bill vicinity 288120, BHQ & HQ to East Wittering. The rifle coy will be obliged to stay for a while in temporary quarters as requisitioning is not complete. The Battalion O.R. is also in a temporary position for the same reason, at the present they are on the ground floor of the BHQ Officer's Mess. J.S.</p>	
	5th Oct		<p>Eight officers from the Bn attended a lecture at East Grinstead subject matter is appended. The C.O. was present at a demonstration put on by the 2 pdr anti tank school at Beachy Head during the afternoon, he was not impressed despite the fact J.S.</p>	App #7.

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	5th Oct		that the Army Commander's son was running the show. Our first day at the coast was rather disappointing due to a rather heavy fog being present throughout the day. Liaison with H.G. and Coast Guard was set up, The I.O. Bill Doheny came back to us from Bde after an absence of six weeks.	
	6th Oct		A conference on Exercise THROTTLE 11 was held in the Maisonneuve area at Bognor Regis this afternoon. The Brigadier presided and the Chief Umpire gave the opinion of his staff. The proper method of employing carriers in this type of advance was discussed at some length. The general concensus of opinion was that they are not tanks and should not be used as such. The Brigadier expressed a desire that all units should build cloth models of a part of their area and practice Battle Procedure followed by TEWTs on the actual ground. In the evening the C.R.A. Brig. Tees lectured on the use of Arty and the necessity for mutual understanding of work to bring about close co-operation. The weather continues to be dull and overcast with fog.	
	7th Oct.		The 2 i/c recce'd the area with a view to finding ranges for field firing and anti-tank sub calibre work. The C.O. visited the Selsey Coys and had a talk to Capt. Stevenson who has returned from leave. Settling in and cleaning the area occupies the days and training as yet is practically nil. We are hunting for a new BHQ mess as "The Old Barn" is decidedly unsuitable, no hot water due to water in the basement and as an added attraction rats in the thatch.	
	8th Oct.		Fog and mist lifted enabling us to have a decent look around. The ISLE OF WIGHT can easily be seen. All convoys that go up and down the channel come between the forts and ourselves. The Bn is still settling in, there were certain changes in the billets necessary, and a great deal of cleaning up to do.	
	9th Oct		Foggy and raining. By the afternoon D.R. a new War Establishment was received. This establishment calls for a change in H.Q. Coy. The Carriers, mortars, a/tk and pioneer pls. join what now becomes the Support Coy. Signals, Ack Ack and Admin Pl. form an Admin Wing. This appears now to be getting closer to a sensible establishment. The Auxiliary Services started to get "cracking" and movies were shown in the messhall.	

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	10th Oct.		Fair and clear. Capts. Stevenson and Fraser and Lieut. Ewing went off to the Battle Drill School. Most of the day was spent by the Coy Officers checking the billets, etc. after a week of cleaning them up. Discussions on the new establishment. There is an increase of Officers and weapons. The C.O. decided to adopt the new organization immediately.	J.P.
	11th Oct.		Cloudy to fair. Church parades in the morning. As it cleared up in the afternoon we were able to see a large convoy of LCAs and LCTs come in to PORTSMOUTH. This is quite a pass time for after living in the bush where all one could see was the tree in front of you we are now able to watch ships and aircraft along a good piece of coast.	J.P.
	12th Oct.		Cloudy and cold. Capt. Henry of the S.A.S. inspected the weapon trg. and then gave us a lecture on how to teach weapon training effectively. In the afternoon some officers attended a lecture on the Battle of BURMA. The farm fatigues which started today, number 260. These men go out early in the morning and work on the farms, mostly pulling potatoes and roots. The men like this work as it is quite a change for them and they get 1 pint of beer or its equivalent in cash (1 shilling). After work the officers of BHQ fired and threw mortar grenades, incendiary bullets, etc. it was a good idea as many of the officers and Office staff had not done so before.	J.P.
	13th Oct.		Clear and warm. The weather has been very indefinite, but the natives assure us it will be fine soon. Lt. Col Cantlie made a recce of the area between BRACKLESHAM BAY and SELSEY looking for an area where we might put on a Bn exercise. The C.O. has the I section building a cloth model of the area of the area and proposes to run cloth model discussions and TEWTs before an actual exercise begins, with the man.	J.P.
	14th Oct.		Cloudy, windy and cool. An Ordnance team came down to inspect the weapons of the Bn. In the afternoon Lieut. Pufncl of the R.N. gave a lecture on Submarine warfare and the problems of H.A. Ack Ack for warships. It was an excellent lecture. Lt. Col Cantlie who is acting Bde. Comd. for the week spent the day at Bde H.Q. battling the bump. Lieut. J. Rolland was defending Officer at an F.G.C.M. he was most amusing about the case. He went to the court with a suitcase full of scrap papers, during the trial he kept pulling these papers out and looking very learned and objected to everything. He got the man off.	J.P.

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	15th Oct.		Clear and warm. As practically all the men are on fatigues there is practically no training going on. The cloth model discussion was held this morning all Officers and NCOs attended, the arguments were good and good discussions followed. The general feeling is that a good deal was learnt and more of this type of training should be done.	J.P.
	16th Oct.		Fair and clear. Major Rawlings, Capt. Carnegie and Lieut. Traversy went up to WITLEY to visit the new draft which arrived 7th Oct. The draft consisted of Royal Rifles 2 Officers and 70 O.Rs, Victoria Rifles, 4 Officers and 104 O.Rs, Black Watch, 4 Offrs. and 104 O.Rs. This draft was called very quickly and came from all over Canada. The men are a very fine looking group. Two Captains and many confirmed NCOs arrived this is contrary to practice and is causing some discussion. Capt. A.L. MacLaurin's and Lieut. F.H. Cundill's names were submitted to return to Canada as P.O.W. escott they are both very pleased at the prospect of a month's leave at home which this trip allows. Some bombs fell in our vicinity in the evening, at least well within earshot.	J.P.
	17th Oct.		The men have all taken advantage of our proximity to the Channel to go fishing in the surf and also to go to the extreme of an October dip in the ocean. Sanity returned in the form of a Bn order placing the beaches OUT OF BOUNDS. The mines are the worry, not the fishing or swimming. The C.O. as acting Brig. invited the 2 i/c, Major Mitchell and the Adjutant to a dance at the Bde Mess, reports have it that the outing was a success. Cloudy and overcast.	J.P.
	18th Oct.		The New R.C. Padre from Bde. Capt. Kenny called a parade at BHQ in the morning. The Officers of BHQ had a grenade and bomb throwing "bee" during which the RSM distinguished himself. He put a sticky grenade into a scrap buoy which was on the beach and proceeded to walk to a safe position. The grenade went off and the round buoy split in two halves and went sailing skywards. It is reported that the pieces landed pretty close to him causing no little anxiety in the ranks. Capt. Boswell came to take over the duties of Coy Comd of the New Administrative Wing.	J.P.
	19th Oct.		Lieut. Van Bosch of the RCNVR stationed at Selsey Bill gave a lecture on Aircraft Recognition which was excellent. He is acknowledged to be one of the highest	J.P.

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	19th Oct.		<p>authorities in this branch of work. We received warning that the G.O.C. 2nd Div would inspect our Unit on the 21st, it is to be a full ceremonial parade. All Coy Comds. attended a meeting in the evening called by the C.O. to discuss the parade. Very foggy and damp throughout the day. Three alerts in our area today. No signs of enemy aircraft however.</p>	W.P.
	20th Oct.		<p>In the morning the Brig. arrived to discuss the forthcoming inspection, several new points came up which were passed on to a meeting of all Officers held at the Mess this afternoon. The arrangements are completed to take over the premises of Taylor Hunt Ltd. as a Bn H.Q. During the day the move was completed and the mess is now free from the inconvenience of an Office in the lower rooms. The wet weather went unnoticed as the men spent the day indoors "spitting and polishing". This latter operation came to a temporary standstill caused by a shortage of blanco. We have been notified to Transfer Lieut. W. Ewing to the 2nd Armoured Bde as L.O. w.e.f. 5th Nov. This is a decided loss, but one we have expected as he was on our "Suitable for Staff list".</p>	W.P.
	21st Oct.		<p>The morning of the Big Inspection dawned fine and clear which allowed us to go out early and prepare for the afternoons fray. Our final fall in was at 1330 with the arrival of the G.O.C. as scheduled at 1400hrs. His inspection lasted for over an hour in which we were subjected to a most thorough scrutiny, clothing, boots, ammo, weapons, discs, etc. A march past was followed by a few words from the General in which he asked for our co-operation in keeping the appearance of the 2nd Div up to its usual high standard. Some further remarks were passed the sum total of which was nil. On the whole it appeared to be a good turnout on our part.</p>	W.P.
	22nd Oct.		<p>A draft of 4 Officers and 10 other ranks arrived from WITLEY today composed of 2 Offrs. from the R.R.C. and 2 from the V.R.C. they are namely Lieuts. G.D. Birks, E.S. Duffield, W.V. Aslin, W.A. Magill and they are posted on strength of A, B, C coys respectively. "A" Coy left on foot for the field firing at KINGLEY VALE despite the cold wind and overcast sky; they will be away until Saturday.</p>	W.P.

APP # 8

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	23rd Oct.		The anti raid signal Exercise SNODGRASS was held today and was almost a total failure due to being constantly out of touch with Bde and the other units. Sgts. Deegan, Martin, Mowat and Cpls Evans and Forsyth were warned to report to NETD for return to Canada as instructors.	APP #9 W.S.
	24th Oct.		The bright sunshine and resultant warmth are a welcome change after the cool days just past. The C.O. and 2 i/c inspected the Offices and billets down at Selsey Bill and appeared satisfied. Our I.O. Bill Doheny has left us again unhappily for all this trip ends in the hospital; he has a serious leg infection. It looks as if Sharp will have to come back again. Lieut. P.H. MacKenzie is warned to replace Lieut. Carstairs at 5 C.I.B. as L.O. effective the 28th, the latter is reporting to 2 CDIRU pending transfer to a higher formation. It would appear that Harold is "gone but not forgotten". Shortly after lunch today we were treated to a sight that few of us will forget. A formation of some eighty to a hundred bombers composed of Lancasters, Wellingtons and Manchesters sailed over the coast at sea level bound for (as we later learned) a daylight attack on Genoa in Sunny Italy. They were escorted by some twelve squadrons of fighters who went out simultaneously over Bognor Regis but which we did not see. Our people at Selsey Bill actually waved and saw acknowledgements from the crews. Most exciting.	W.S.
	25th Oct.		The usual students attended the Sunday educational classes at Chichester. B and D Coys had a church parade and the spiritual ardour went undampened in spite of the sudden downpour which came upon them en route. The religious mixture is worth mention, the congregation mostly C of E being harranged in a Methodist Church by a Presbeterian minister. Capts. Stevenson and Fraser spent the week end away from the Battle Drill School and paid us a visit. It is with deep regret that we have to report that our Sr. Captain (Stevenson) was a defaulter and as such was obliged to clean all the Pl. weapons. He said the school time pieces must have been fast.	W.S.

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	26th Oct.		<p>At noon today we were treated to a shower of metal in and about the Wittering area. The solution was that some of our A.W. Rockets had burst overhead, fired probably from Hayling Island. These rockets I understand are an anti aircraft devise which consists of a container filled with bits of scrap metal, rusty nails, etc., which is thrown into the air and bursts on a time fuse; the resultant splatter of metal in the air is said to have rather a devastating effect on hostile aircraft. All this was at the height of a "Double Red" air raid warning, the coast on both sides of us took quite a pasting. The following promotions were authorized by the C.O. today: CQMS Young to be CSM of the Admin. Wing; CQMS Fulton to go to "A" Coy; Sgt. Marsh to be CQMS of the Support Coy; Cpl Walker of the Medicals is to be L/Sgt Storeman of the Admin Wing; this last appointment is virtually the job of a CQMS for which there is no vacancy in the establishment. Sgt. White of the A.A. Pl. reverted at his own request to the rank of Pte. and goes to join the Cdn Military Concert party as a saxaphonist.</p>	
	27th Oct.		<p>Just as I feared, John Sharp arrived back to fill Bill Doheny's shoes as I.O. The Brig. having returned from leave our battle positions are to be changed slightly with regard to the reserve coys D and C. The C.O. and Lieut. Traversy recce'd these new positions to day and have settled on new areas and a new B.H.Q. During the afternoon the D.A.A.G. 2 Div, Major Dezzell, paid us a visit. Capt. MacLaurin took Sgt. Marsh to the Palace for his investiture. No story yet but it will be forthcoming.</p>	
	28th Oct.		<p>The C.O. and 2 i/c spent the day at the Army Physical Training School at ALDERSHOT, The classes there at present demonstrated most efficiently the various phases in this important branch of Army Training. The C.O. was most impressed with the teams handling an ordinary log through definite precision movements. At noon we were treated to quite a display of A.A. puffs overhead, the enemy planes were apparently too high to be visible from here.</p>	

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	29th Oct.		<p>After yesterdays good weather todays rain came as a disappointment. During the A Coy scheme in the GREATHAM FARM area Capt.Griffin was unfortunate in having one of his 2" mortar smoke bombs land in a haystack. The resultant conflagration was most effective not to mention the expense. Sgt.Marsh told me about the investiture this afternoon and said in part that they were all carefully rehearsed prior to the King's arrival and then in order of merit of the award they marched up to the dias and being hatless they bowed and were announced by name and regiment, the individuals then stepped forward shook hands and were decorated. His Majesty said that the B.W. was a grand Regiment and asked Marsh the particulars of his length of service both at home and in England. When answered he again shook hands and said "fine, keep up the good work". Bow and Exit!</p>	
	30th Oct.		<p>In the morning the C.O. took Jean Duchastel up to the Brig. for his promotion parade; the captaincy is well deserved and should be along soon. John Sharp paid the I.O. a visit in hospital and although Billy seems to be quite happy, well, the infection will take some three weeks to a month to clear. The C.O. had a meeting of all Coy Commanders before dinner and the forthcoming inspection of the Brig. was the main topic, it was also announced that on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd December we would undergo an exercise bearing the appropriate name of STAGGER during which we would be called upon to march some 60 odd miles. In the afternoon the G.O.C. 1st Cdn Corps paid a visit to our area and witnessed a B Coy scheme in the GREATHAM FARM area. General Crerar was satisfied as no record of adverse criticisms has come to hand-yet! Capt.N.L.C Mather came in with a letter from his brother Murray who is a DIEPPE prisoner in which our fears about John Colson are confirmed, He said that he was beside John when he got hit and most certainly never knew what hit him. A grand officer and the first of us to die in this war in the service of King and country.</p>	
	31st Oct.		<p>Early this morning we were treated to the sight of some 15 vessels steaming towards Portsmouth. The day being fine and clear, we were able to establish the fact that they were LCPs but whether they were loaded or not we were unable to see. Shortly before 0800hrs this morning 2 MEs 109 passed overhead at about 1000ft. or less, they apparently were not of murderous intent as no hostile action was presented. They escaped out to sea followed by a stream of tracer. And so the thirty eighth month</p>	

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	31st Oct.		<p>of War closes with heroic resistance before Stalingrad by our Russian allies. The start of a new offensive by the Eighth Army in the East and the struggle for the Solomons as yet undecided. The RAF continue to rain bombs on Europe with devastating effect. For our part; a month of movement and reorganization and general bedding down for the long Winter vigil on the coast.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>JP.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Eduard Bawling Maj</i> A/D.C. WATCH (RHR) CANADA O's</p>	