

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 (3Q72)

Original, duplicate and triplic. 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>1ST BATTALION THE BLACK WATCH (R.H.R.) OF CANADA</u>	
			<u>From 1st OCTOBER, 1943 to 31st OCTOBER, 1943</u>	
			<u>SHIELBRIDGE, ARGYLLSHIRE, SCOTLAND (Billets)</u>	Ref. Sheet O.S. 46 - 173935.

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Hove	Fri 1 Oct		<p>Fair and warm. The day was spent settling into new billets, selecting coy office locations and in general becoming conversant with the area. Most coys seem satisfied with their billet areas although a few minor changes may be necessary. 5 C.I.B. are represented by the Staff Captain and an L.O. only as yet, and their H.Q. is just two blocks away from our own. 4 Armoured Bde, 1 Cdn L.A.A. Bde and 5 Bde Sp Coy are also in this immediate area. The remainder of our goods arrived throughout the day from Pulborough at which spot the rear party, which includes the Carrier Pl, are clearing up and will eventually strike the camp. The Adj. composed Standing Orders Fire Orders, etc., today and we now must mount guard of 3 NCO's and 21 men by night in order to cover the area. In the evening the C.O. and Coy Comdrs left for 5 C.I.B. at 1800 hrs to attend the sandtable on TEWT "PUNCH".</p>	CJS
Hove	Sat 2 Oct		<p>Raining and cold but later developing into a fine afternoon. The C.O. and Coy Comds again left on TEWT "PUNCH"; this time they went to the South Downs area north of Brighton and did not return until 1700 hrs tonight. The BHQ Offrs Mess moved today from what will be Bde HQ Mess to 14 Norton Villas, but owing to lack of stoves all offrs were forced to patronize local restaurants throughout the day. In the afternoon word was received that the C.O.'s acting rank had been confirmed and that Capt. Motzfeldt and Lieut. Cassils had received their majority and captaincy respectively. Tonight we were notified that the C.O.C.'s inspection, temporarily postponed because of Field Marshall Wavell's inspection, will now take place on 6th October. The consequence was, of course, a rush to check records and get these ready for Wednesday.</p>	CJS
Hove	Sun 3 Oct		<p>A fine sunny day. Church parades were held this morning. The R.C.'s paraded to the Church of the Sacred Heart at 0900 hrs, and Protestants under the C.O. to St. Eustace's Church where the Padre held our service. Capt. Kemp and Lieut. Louson left today on another artillery exercise in which they will travel to Wales and endeavour to control the Artillery's fire. The C.O. held an O Group after Church Parade to discuss the forthcoming G.O.C.'s inspection. During the evening the C.O. was informed that he had received another appointment, G.S.O. 1 Liason at First Cdn Army. It came as a surprise and disappointment to us all, as we all felt that the Bn was cracking well under his commd. We are delighted to hear that we are still</p>	CJS

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(2) Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Hove (cont'd)	Sun 3 Oct		to be commanded by an officer of the unit however, as Lt.-Col. G.P. Henderson, MBE Officer Commanding the Algonquin Regt., has been named to comd the Bn. Lt.-Col. Cantlie is due to leave on 6th October but may be able to remain a day or two longer.	CJS
Hove	Mon 4 Oct		Overcast but temperate. 5 C.I.B. and the Calgary Highlanders moved into this area during the day. Our Sigs Offr Lieut. Smith, who has been with us since the end of February, left today, and Lieut. Girling, R.C.C.S. has replaced him. Capt. A.P. Bates, Lieut. D.A. McAlpine and Cpl. W. Thompson left today on Exercise "POOCH" which takes them to 1 CGRU prior to leaving to join 1st Div in Italy. Throughout the afternoon we expected a visit from the corps Comdr who is in the area inspecting billets, but this failed to materialize. The C.O. spent the afternoon in the Midhurst area as a member of a Bde syndicate on 2 Div TEWT "ACCELERATOR".	CJS
Hove	Tue 5 Oct		Showery and cool. A party of 15 offr's and 110 O.R.'s left at 0800 hrs for Trg Area 7 (Harrow Hill) to witness a smoke demonstration put on by the 8th Recce Regt. The demonstration showed the correct and various uses of 2" Mortar smoke and 77 Grenade by an assault troop and was watched by the G.O.C. The R. de Mais moved into the Brighton area today and established their HQ at the Spa Hotel. Local theatres were today showing pictures of our recent inspection by Lord Wavell. Capt. F.P. Griffin was named as an umpire on 3 Div's forthcoming Exercise "PIRATE". This evening we heard that 8 of our OCTU candidates had been selected and will be leaving us almost at once.	CJS
Hove	Wed 6 Oct		Dull with scattered showers. The A/Tk Pl left this morning for a two day shoot at BIRLING GAP. The Div Records Inspection took place this morning. Capt. R. Martin GSO 3 Ops seemed satisfied with the state of Coy records. At 1300 hrs the three Pls No.9 under Lieut. Robinson, No.11 under Lieut. Fox and No.18 under Lieut. Duffield went through some battle drill at WIGGONHOLT COMMON. No.18 Pl distinguished themselves by their excellent use of smoke and their speed in carrying out a secondary attack on an unexpected enemy position. On the whole the G.O.C. had few criticisms to offer though he stressed the handling of the 2" Mortar firing at low angles and being properly controlled.	CJS

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Hove (cont'd)	Wed 6 Oct	/	The shooting was then carried out at SULLINGTON RANGE - rifle results were only fair as it was a poor day for firing although LMG results were on the whole satisfactory. The G.O.C. indicated a policy of exercising each pl once every two weeks in battle drill whenever possible. Our new M.O., Capt. Ohlke, left on course today and will be gone 3 weeks. He is at 14 Cdn Gen Hospital.	CJS
Hove	Thur 7 Oct		A fine autumn day. The handover board for the change of Officers Commanding has been named and today we were visited by Major Montpetit, R de Mais, who has been named as President. During the afternoon the C.O. visited the S.A.Q.C. and then accompanied by the I.O. made a recce of Trg Area 5 in which much of our trg will presumably be done. In the afternoon and evening the Carrier Pl arrived from Pulborough rear party and the A/Tk Pl from BIRLING GAP.	CJS
Hove	Fri 8 Oct		Dull but mild throughout. All coys were busily occupied on handover 1098 checks. The C.O. visited the A.Q.C. this afternoon and we now have a garage requisitioned. Later in the afternoon the C.O. and I.O. recced the waterfront for a spot from which we can do combined operational trg. Hards were located and if we can arrange for the craft which seems probable, we should get some good trg. within the next few months. Lt.-Col. Henderson, MBE arrived at 1700 hrs and was met by Lt.-Col. Cantlie. In the evening a TEWT was held on a cloth model for all offr on the composition of a Vanguard Bn and Coy. The TEWT was conducted by Major Ritchie and representatives of 5 C.I.B. Sp Group were present.	CJS
Hove	Sat 9 Oct		Clear and warm. The Bn paraded at 0930 hrs for the last time under Lt.-Col. Cantlie. We then marched to the Lido Theatre where the C.O. made his farewell address before handing over his command to Lt.-Col. Henderson. The C.O. traced the highlights of the past six months, touching on achievements both creditable and otherwise. The Bn, he said, was currently the best in the Bde. and the equal of any in the Div, but this is not good enough - we must work towards one goal, to be the best Bn in the Div. The C.O. closed by announcing the results from the G.O.C's Battle Drill Inspection. The Bn secured the highest percentages in the Bde with an average of 76.66%, approximately 9% above the Div average.	CJS

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(4) Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Hove (cont'd)	Sat 9 Oct		No.9 Pl was given 71%, No.11 Pl 68%, and No.18 Pl under Lieut. Duffield secured 91% the highest mark in the Div. Lt.-Col. Henderson remarked on his pleasure at being chosen to command the Battalion, and then he led the Bn in three cheers to wish the ex C.O. the best of luck. The Bn then marched off under the new C.O. and Lt.-Col. Cantlie took the salute. We heard this morning that the Calgary Highlanders are off to Scotland next week for a week's trg and that our turn will come in the near future. A party of approximately 130 all ranks left this morning early for KITHURST RANGES under command of Capt. Taylor. They returned this evening having classified a further 65 men.	CSS
Hove	Sun 10 Oct		Overcast and misty, developing into a sunny afternoon. The offrs this morning continued their TEWT, leaving at 0815 hrs for the area of ALBOURNE GREEN 7035. There they covered pl, coy, and Bn attacks, as well as discussing flank guard protection and the duties of a Scout tp of the Recce. They returned about 1400 hrs more than ready for lunch. Exercise "DITTO" umpires left tonight. Eight men from the 2nd A/Tk Regt. were today attached to our Carrier Pl for a week's course in Carrier Driving and Maintenance.	CSS
Hove	Mon 11 Oct		Fair and mild. All rifle coys, with the exception of "C", the duty coy, left this morning on all-day route marches. Lt.-Col. Cantlie left today to take up his new appointment.	CSS
Hove	Tue 12 Oct		Heavy mist, clearing in mid-morning. A party of HQ, Sp and "A" Coy personnel left this morning for KITHURST RANGES under command of Capt. Rolland. Once the mist had raised they were able to fire the four Bren Gun practices. "B" Coy left early for trg area 5 where they are to remain overnight on 2 days field firing - 2 dets of mortars accompanied them. The remainder of available personnel attended training Films this morning at the Lido Theatre. During the afternoon we were visited by Major Kingsmill of 1st Cdn Corps Intelligence.	CSS

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(5) Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Hove	Wed 13 Oct		Clear and fine. A relatively quiet day throughout. During the afternoon the umpires from Exercise "DITTO" returned, as did Capt. Kemp and Lieut. Louson who had been to Wales with 2 Div Artillery. The main body of the Calgary Highlanders left here today for special trg in Scotland. In the evening "B" Coy returned from Trg Area 7.	CSS
Hove	Thur 14 Oct		Rain and showers intermittently throughout night and early morning, thereafter fair but overcast. Brigadier Whitehead visited us today and spent the morning in inspection of billets, paying particular attention to cookhouses. Pay parades were held throughout the day, and in the evening the M.O. lectured to all offrs in the Offrs Mess on "Scabies". At 1930 hrs there was a discussion at Bde. on the forthcoming exercise "PRODDER", which was attended by the C.O., Capt. Glassford, the Adj. and T.O. Several over age and category men left today for N.E.T.D. for re-allocation.	CSS
Hove	Fri 15 Oct		Cold and overcast throughout. The eight men from the 2nd A/Tk Regt. who have been attached to our Carrier Pl for driving and maintenance, have today returned to their unit. Lieut. Neill was ready this morning for Exercise "PIRATE" only to be advised later that the water-proofing, on which he was to observe and study problems, had been postponed temporarily. Exercise "BLURB", an offrs signal exercise, took place this morning in the Cricket Grounds. The Pipe Band played "Retreat" in the dark tonight. The time originally fixed, 1900 hrs, proved much too late.	CSS
Hove	Sat 16 Oct		A bright day with sunshine throughout. C.O's parade was held at 1100 hrs at Hove Cricket Ground, HQ and "A" coys being inspected. Lieut. Neill left this morning to study water-proofing on Exercise "PIRATE". Information came in today on Exercise "GOAT" to be held at Scotland. The approximate time of our leaving is 28 Oct. and our return 8 Nov. We understand that on arrival the various coys will be split up at several camps, BHQ to be at "ACHARADALE".	CSS

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Hove	Sun 17 Oct		A dull windy morning with heavy rainfall until approximately 1100 hrs. Church Parades were held this morning, R.C.'s left at 0830 hrs to attend the Church of the Sacred Heart, while Protestants under the C.O. attended St. Cuthbert's in a downpour. The Co., Adjt., and I.O. left to recce the area and probable route of the Bn on Exercise "PRODDER". Capt. F.P. Griffin, who is away on Exercise "PIRATE", received his majority today.	CJS
Hove	Mon 18 Oct		Fair and fine with a fresh S.W. wind. The C.O. left this morning for the Cdn Trg School at Havannah Barracks, Borden, Hants, where a Visiting Day had been arranged for Senior Offrs. Normal trg was witnessed as well as several demonstrations, thereafter short talks were given by Wing and Sub-wing comds, and discussions followed. At 1900 hrs there was a discussion in the Offrs Mess on the forthcoming Exercise "PRODDER", at which the C.O. gave out the route and tpt arrangements.	CJS
Hove	Tue 19 Oct		A wind of gale force throughout the day with a stormy sea. Our I.O., Lieut. G.D. Birks, this morning was advised that he is to attend a two months' course at the School of Military Intelligence, Matlock, Derbyshire, on a date shortly after the termination of Exercise "PRODDER", and was replaced as I.O. today by Lieut. S.E. Griffin. Coys were mainly occupied on aircraft recognition, the PIAT Mortar and bayonet trg, also further lectures were given by the I.O. on organization, weapons and characteristics of the German Army. Our Hockey Team commenced trg at the Brighton Rink while Sgt. Willoughby continues to put his boxers through their paces at Hove Cricket Ground.	CJS
Hove	Wed 20 Oct		Fair to fine after heavy rainfall during the night. We received our Warning Order on "PRODDER" this morning. The Bde Gp is due past the SP at 0500 hrs, which means a very early reveille tomorrow. This morning coys marched to the Lido Theatre and viewed a Combined Ops Training Film, while preparations for "PRODDER" took up most of the afternoon. Troops went to bed early in anticipation of an early start in the morning.	CJS

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(7) Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Hove	Thur 21 Oct		<p>We arose at 0145 hrs and breakfasted at 0230 hrs. The sky was starless but it was difficult to judge just what kind of a day we could expect. The T.C.V's were loaded at 0330 hrs and we passed the Bn SP at 0400 hrs. The Bde SP was not in evidence at the expected spot but we found it in Worthing much to our surprise, and we did in fact pass it at almost exactly 0500 hrs as planned. It was a slow convoy as the FMR pulled in ahead of us and though the route was a good one there seemed to be halts innumerable. We travelled via ARUNDEL, CHICHESTER, HAVANT, FAREHAM and thence North to WICKHAM, BISHOP'S WALTHAM, and our concentration area arriving at approximately 1015 hrs. The cooks quickly went to work and we lunched at 1230 hrs. At 1400 hrs the C.O., Adjt., and I.O. attended an "O" Gp at Bde previous to this all our supporting arms had reported in. Bn "O" Gp was held on their return at 1530 hrs and we were told to be prepared to advance east towards CORHAMPTON by 1630 hrs. "D" Coy our Adv Guard Coy did leave then but the enemy were close at hand and our advance was halted. The C.O. and I.O. again went to Bde after which it was decided to move "D" Coy about 1500 yds forward but held the remainder of the Bn in the concentration area. This was done and the rest of the Bn bedded down in the rain which had been falling almost ceaselessly all day. At approx 2300 hrs the remainder of the Bn was ordered to move forward and take up a defensive position in the general area of "D" Coy which was accomplished in good order and we once more bedded down and continued our sleep.</p>	
Exercise "PRODDER"	Fri 22 Oct		<p>Morning fine, later intermittent showers throughout afternoon and heavy rain during night. After sleeping out the night breakfast was served at 0630 hrs and a move made at approx 0800 hrs towards CORHAMPTON. Information was received almost immediately that the road near MEON had been cratered and we were forced to seek cover for some little time while repairs were in progress. On finally reaching CORHAMPTON, lunch was served shortly after 1300 hrs, and shortly thereafter the C.O. and I.O. reced our forward area, visited Bde. and an "O" Group was held. Zero hour was fixed at 1630 hrs and our objective as OLD WINCHESTER CAMP (0740). Muddy, slippery roads were responsible for our second accident to motor-cyclists at this point. Pte. Hubbard had been taken to Hosp yesterday when "clipped" by another D.R., now Sgt. Willoughby skidded into the rear of a private car and sustained slight injuries. Bn HQ was then established after the move up at STOCKS FARM, by MEONSTOKE, and after consolidation on our objective being taken, the Bn rested for about an hour in and around OLD WINCHESTER CAMP and HILL.</p>	

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Exercise "PRODDER" cont'd.	Fri 22 Oct		Then word having been received to advance further, commenced in the pouring rain a journey which became an absolute nightmare to vehicles. Thick mud and large pools on a narrow road combined with a pitch black night made this a trip long to be remembered. One by one D.R's were forced to have their bikes placed on trucks; only three motor-cycles out of a total of 25 completed the journey on their own, while several trucks were left until the morning for the fitters. We finally bedded down at approx 0100 hrs on the 23rd.	CJS
Exercise "PRODDER"	Sat 23 Oct		Clear and fine with some sunshine, later dull and showery. The Bn moved off after breakfast following the F.M.R. through CHALTON and then along another miserable muddy road in the general direction of COMPTON. There we were told to take up a posn on ROUND DOWN with the FMR on our left on MAIN DOWN. It was here we were visited by the Army and Div Comdrs and the BGS. After a Bde "O" Group in the early afternoon a Bn attack was organized on TUMULI and road west of NORTH MARDEN with zero at 1730 hrs. There was some doubt as to the exact location of TUMULI but the attack went in and was successful. The tanks then gave chase to the enemy and while this was in progress and the Bn was consolidating the cease fire order came through, At 1830 hrs. We were then ordered to RV at CANADA HAT HILL near SINGLETON where eventually the troops got embussed into TCV's and the Bn tpt was sorted out. The Bn proceeded to HOVE by various routes travelling most of the night and arrived home early Sunday morning. During this stage of mild confusion a rather amusing incident took place in the C.O's Carrier. One of the Signal operators wanted to pass a message to control but got mixed up and said "OBO 1 message to OBO 15, over". At which the other signaller snatching the microphone from his palm replied "OBO 15, pass message, over". Then both operators sat impatiently waiting for the message which never came. Major E. Motzfeldt today returned from Coy Comdrs School.	CJS
Hove	Sun 24 Oct		Showery until noon, thereafter sunshine and clear. Movement around billets was negligible until late in the afternoon when troops arose refreshed. An uneventful day.	CJS

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Hove	Mon 25 Oct		A pleasant day with sunshine throughout. The advance party i/c Major Ritchie left at 1400 hrs for the area of Exercise "COYOTE II". Bath parades were held by all coys throughout the day and some hardening up training was commenced in anticipation of the forthcoming exercise.	CGS
Hove	Tue 26 Oct		Mild with sunshine throughout. Coys spent the greater part of the day in preparation necessary for the departure to Scotland tomorrow. Notification was received from 2 Ech this morning to SOS and despatch to 5 CIRU, effective 29th Oct., 13 driver-mechs surplus to w.e. The Brigadier spent some time around our area this morning and lunched at the Officers Mess. The Pipe Band played "Retreat" at 1745 hrs.	CGS
Hove and Exercise "COYOTE II"	Wed 27 Oct		Dull and overcast. Due to a last minute alteration in time of departure, reveille this morning was at 0600 hrs and breakfast at 0630. Baggage was at HOVE STATION at 0830 hrs and coys arrived there at approx 0945 hrs. entraining shortly thereafter for departure at 1030 hrs. A total of 30 offrs and approx 400 O.R.'s leaving for the two weeks Combined Ops trg. During the afternoon we stopped for a tea halt at ESSINDINE. In the middle of the night the train was broken at Edinburgh and "C" coy proceeded direct to OBAN, the balance of the train carried on the GLENFINNAN.	CGS
Exercise "COYOTE II"	Thur 28 Oct		Fair and chilly. We were about 3 hrs late arriving at GLENFINNAN where "A", "B", HQ, and BHQ detrained. "D" coy carrying on to LOCHAILORT. "A" and "B" coys travelled by tpt to GLENBARRODALE and SALEN respectively. HQ and BHQ took ferry down LOCHSHIEL to ACHARACLE and then by road to SHIELBRIDGE LODGE. "D" coy marched from LOCHAILORT to ROSHVEN. "C" coy meantime had detrained at OBAN, taken a steamer to TOBERMORY and there a naval craft to GLENCRIPESDALE. The balance of the day was spent in getting settled down in billets, and quarters are comfortable in Nissen Huts.	CGS
Exercise "COYOTE II"	Fri 29 Oct		Bright and warm. At our HQ at SHIELBRIDGE this morning Major Motzfeldt took over the admin duties from Major Ritchie who is returning to HOVE. Capt. Bennett, the Padre, and the I.O. took a party consisting of the RSM and 11 men on a hike into the hills north of the camp. The afternoon was spent by the rifle coys in a gruelling track of overeight miles to hills in their various areas. The pace set by the instructors most certainly convinced all ranks that twelve days of such trg will most assuredly	CGS

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Exercise "COYOTE II" cont'd	Fri 29 Oct		accomplish the object of hardening. Hot showers and bed proved most welcome tonight.	
Exercise "COYOTE II"	Sat 30 Oct		Dull and chilly. First parades for all coys today were to the jetties where instruction was given on LCP (M's), coys landing and practicing landing on rocky beaches in their respective vicinities. The afternoon was spent with toggle ropes climbing buildings and cliffs, building bridges and making rope ladders. By night time it was felt that there was nothing that could not be done with the toggle rope, and one man was heard to say, he was sure he could cook a meal. Morale was good the training is different and good fun, and meals are good. Capt. Taylor twisted his ankle today on the assault course and was taken to the RAP for treatment. At HOVE today, Major Mowat and Sgts. McEwen, Nicholson and Hooper, left as umpires on Exercise BRIDOOON" toward SANDRINGHAM. This exercise will take them as far as HUNSTANTON, in NORFOLK, below THE WASH.	CJS
Exercise COYOTE II"	Sun 31 Oct		Rain intermittently and windy throughout. Every day is a weekday up here. "B" Coy went swimming at the jetty in battle order this morning and found that their "Mae Wests" supported the loads very well, but came to the conclusion that the northern water is much too cold for comfort at this time of year. Coys were all briefed today for Exercise "RAID". All possible detail was covered in the cloth model and from air photographs and intelligence summaries. Capt. Tilbrooke, a C.T.C. instructor gave personnel instruction to HQ coy on toggle rope uses and knots. At night the C.O., Adjt. and a party of 12 under Major Motzfeldt were observers for Exercise "RAID" at KENTRA BAY. "D" Coy came in at 2100hrs and "B" coy at 2300 hrs. As well as exercising the coys in recce raiding the scheme took the form of night battle inoculation. All Hell broke loose on the beach, deafening explosive charges, flares over the whole area, Brens firing tracers past our ears and 3" Mortar firing HQ and Smoke. The wire was breached, pl's went about their jobs, the required information was obtained, and at the end of the allotted thirty minutes on shore a mad race took place back to the boats.	CJS

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Exercise "COYOTE II" cont'd	Sun 31 Oct		<p>A very few unfortunates failed to get back on time and were taken off later by the enemy. It was a royal reception for our "Commandos" and a real good battle inoculation. All ranks went about their jobs commendably and the value of full and clear orders ahead of time was proven.</p> <p><i>O.P.H. done</i></p>	<p><i>CS</i></p>