

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.

WAR DIARY

Page 1.

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

~~OR~~

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to O. i/c 2nd Echelon for disposal.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
SOESTDIJK. MR 323023. Ref. Sh. 2. 1:100,000 Holland.	1st. Sep. Sat.		<p><u>1st. Bn. The BLACK WATCH (R.H.R.) of Canada.</u></p> <p><u>War Diary for the month of September 1945.</u></p> <p>Weather - rain in morning, clearing later. No parades have been called since we moved in and the men are still engaged in settling in and getting the corners rounded off. Field Marshall Sir Bernard Montgomery landed at nearby Soesterberg airport this morning and drove to Soestdijk Palace for an audience with Queen Wilhelmina. This palace is about 300 yards from the B.H.Q.. Celebrations are still going on, and this evening a fete was held in town where open air dancing continued until the early hours. The film "The Princess and the Pirate" was shown by the K. of C. in their building during the evening.</p>	FAW
	2nd. Sept. Sun.		<p>Weather - fair and warm. Voluntary Protestant Church Services were held in the Company areas during the morning. After our seven weeks stay in the "desert" around APELDOORN the men are taking full advantage of the fact that we are now stationed in a town, and very few of them remain in the company lines during walking out hours.</p>	FAW
	3rd. Sep. Mon.		<p>Weather - fair and very warm. Eight cross-postings into the Bn. took place today. Today, at Soesterberg Airport, was held the Fiestviering, preparations for which had been under way for some time. There was all the customary fun of the fair with a number of added attractions. The BLACK WATCH attended en mass, and from all accounts everyone had a most enjoyable time. Stage shows were held in the afternoon, and in the evening three open air dance-halls were functioning. Seven horse races were run off, in one of which Pte. LECLAIR, of C Coy. rode, failing however, to repeat the success which attended his efforts at BAD ZWISCHENAHN, at the field day there. The return trip from the Mardi Gras was made at 2200 hrs..</p>	FAW
	4th. Sep. Tues.		<p>Weather - fair and warm. The Coys. today started using the Bn. Parade ground for Coy. drill parades, three coys. daily. This will continue for the balance of this week. 30% Coy. strength may now be issued with afternoon passes and up to 2/3 of Coy. strength may walk out after 1700 hrs.. Late passes until 2359 hrs. may be issued to 10% of each Coy.. All privilege leaves have now been cancelled.</p>	FAW

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SOESTDIJK. MR 323023. Ref. Sh.2. 1:100,000. Holland.	5th. Sep. Wed.		Weather - fair and very warm. The news was received today that the 2nd. Cdn. Inf. Div. will commence the move to England on the 12th. of this month. Capt. S.E. GRIFFIN, the Adjutant, attended a meeting at Bde. H.Q. at 1400 hrs. to hear preliminary details of the move, and was at that time advised of the detail work which will be necessary within the Bn.. There were four incoming cross-postings today. The coys. will take turns in attending the mobile baths, this afternoon and tomorrow. Maj. R.F.DAVEY, O.C. of B Coy., made a trip to AMSTERDAM this afternoon to get details of a parade which will take place there on Saturday of this week. He will be O.C. the 5 Bde. Group on that occasion. The K. of C. no longer show their films in their own building but now use the local civilian theatre. Horse racing at Soesterberg Airport in the afternoon was attended by a large number of the troops in the area, for whom passes were made available. On this occasion Pte. LECLAIR rode three winners.	7AW
	6th. Thur.	Sept.	Weather - fair and very warm. At an early hour this morning the C.O., Lt-Col. V.E. TRAVERSY and Maj. J.F.BAILLIE, D Coy. Cmdr., left on a trip to Normandy. It is their intention to follow, as far as is possible, the route taken by the BLACK WATCH in coming through, and to take in the places at which the Bn. was actively engaged. All known details of the move were given out at a Coy. Cmdrs. meeting at 1130 hrs..	7AW
	7th. Sep. Fri.		Weather - fair and warm. Today the work party returned from the Mardi Gras at Soesterberg Airport. The Q.M., Capt. H.B.YUILE, attended a "Q" meeting at Bde. H. Q. in the morning, and the Adjutant, Capt. S.E.GRIFFIN, an "A" meeting at the same place in the afternoon, in connection with arrangements for the forthcoming move. Our M.O., Capt. W.B.SEYMOUR, left today, going to 6th. Field Artillery. His place was taken by Capt. G.I.THEAL who came to us from the QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS - being delivered in style, to the music of that regiment's pipe band. The K. of C. held their final canteen parade today. From now on they will be open from 1230-1400 hrs. and from 1900-2100 hrs..	7AW
	8th. Sep. Sat.		Weather - fair and warm. A meeting of all officers and n.c.os., down to and incl. sergeants, in the Div., was held at 1030 hrs. this morning in the Grande Hotel at HILVERSUM. Gen. G.C.SIMMONS, Comd. Cdn. Forces in the Netherlands, spoke to the	

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SOESTDIJK MR 323023 Ref.Sh. 2 1:100,000 Holland	8th. Sep, Sat. (con)		<p>assembly on matters pertaining to the move to Britain, and what we must expect there. His prognostication is that we should be in Britain within three days of leaving NIJMEGEN, and that our stay there would be between three and five weeks. In the afternoon one Coy. from the unit and one Coy. from the Regiment de Maisonneuve represented the Bde. in a parade in AMSTERDAM. The occasion of the parade was the Chinese celebration to mark their country's liberation from the Japanese. Maj. R.F.DAVEY was O.C. of the Bde. Group, the platoons from the BLACK WATCH being commanded by Lieuts. H.H.MACKAY, S.L.MARTIN, and H.A.D.SIMMONS. The route was about five miles long, past the saluting base in Dam Square. In addition to the marching troops there were innumerable Chinese dragons, and floats. The No.1 C.I.C. Band played for our contingent, and Dutch bands were elsewhere in the parade. The Parade Marshall was RSM HANG, of the Cdn. Artillery. The troops participating had supper at the Colonial Institute in AMSTERDAM, and remained in that city until the transport picked them up at 2200 hrs..</p>	<p>MAW</p>
	9th. Sep. Sun.		<p>Weather - overcast, clearing later. At 0900 hrs. this morning there was a Protestant Church parade for all ranks not on duty. This was followed by a R.C. parade at 1000 hrs.. With their time in this country getting short the men are getting in their last lot of sight-seeing and many go to the towns of HILVERSUM and UTRECHT on the week ends.</p>	<p>MAW</p>
	10th. Sep. Mon.		<p>Weather - fair and warm. The wheels are beginning to turn in connection with the move scheduled for one week today. There was a C.O.'s. conference held at the Grande Hotel, in HILVERSUM, this afternoon, the meeting being addressed by the commander of a repatriation unit, and the subject - what to expect in the way of documentation parades, etc., while we are in England.</p>	<p>MAW</p>
	11th. Sep. Tues.		<p>Weather - fair and warm. At an early hour this morning the C.O., Lt.Col.V.E. TRAVERSY, and Maj. J.F.BAILLIE returned from their trip to NORMANDY. At 1600 hrs. this afternoon the Coy. Cmdrs. attended a meeting at B.H.Q. when the information received at the C.O.'s. meeting yesterday was passed on to them. At 2000 hrs. word was received that our move had been postponed. No reason was given at this time for the postponement.</p>	<p>MAW</p>

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SOESTDIJK. MR 323023. Ref. Sh.2. 1:100,000. Holland.	12th. Sep. Wed.		Weather - fair and warm. Pay Parades were held today for all Coys., and Bath Parades to the Mobile Bath for all rifle coys.. We have been given to understand that the postponement of the move is in some way concerned with the shipping problem, and we are eagerly awaiting clarification of the question.	M.W.
	13th. Sep. Thur.		Weather - fine in morning, clouding over in afternoon. A Bn. Parade was held this morning on the Bn. Parade Ground. At this parade the C.O., Lt-Col. V.E. TRAVERSY, talked to the men, giving them all the information he had been able to gain on the postponement, and telling them of the procedure we will follow from the time we leave here until our arrival in England. He also spoke of the tentative arrangements which had been made regarding our arrival in Montreal. A final Canteen parade was held for A and B Coys. when the men were given a quite considerable free issue. In the afternoon we received a visit from Brig. W.J. MEGILL, D.S.O., who commanded this Brigade through the action in Europe, and presently C.O. of the 9th. Bde., C.A. O.F., and Lt-Col. R.L. ELLIS, D.S.O., Comd. 5 C.I.B.. Together with Lt-Col. V.E. TRAVERSY, O.C. the BLACK WATCH, they visited around the companies when Brig. W.J. MEGILL said his farewells to some of the old members of the regiment whom he knew. A Coy. held a party in the evening in the K. of C. Hall. The men each brought a lady and the evening started off with a dinner following which there was dancing. By popular vote it was the best party yet.	M.W.
	14th. Sep. Fri.		Weather - overcast and raining. Final free H. of C. parades were held today for the remaining companies. The C.O., Lt-Col. V.E. TRAVERSY attended a farewell dinner at Bde. H.Q., for Brig. MEGILL.	M.W.
	15th. Sep. Sat.		Weather - overcast with showers. A Bn. parade was held at 0900 hrs. this morning at which Lt-Col. R.L. ELLIS, D.S.O, Comd. 5 C.I.B., was present. A message was received during the course of the day, and immediately circulated to the companies, that the move of the 2nd. Div. resumes on the 18th. of this month, and that the BLACK WATCH will move on the 22nd. Instead of the 1500 men per diem which it had been the intention to clear, at the start only from seven to eight hundred will move daily, which number it is hoped will be increased. The Div. will be clear of the continent by the 25th., according to the schedule, and clear of England by the end of October.	M.W.

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SOESTDIJK. MR 323023. Ref.Sh. 2. 1:100,000. Holland.	15th. Sep. Sat. (con)		Sixty men from this Bn. under the command of Capt. J.B.MULHEARN, and the Pipe Band of the CALGARY HIGHLANDERS represented the Bde. this afternoon in a parade in ROTTERDAM in connection with the celebration there of the Chinese liberation. Our representation lead the parade which consisted of floral cars, Chinese dragons, etc.. The parade started at 1400 hrs. and the men had completed their participation by approximately 1515 hrs. when trucks picked them up and brought them back to UTRECHT where supper had been laid on for them. In the evening they attended a dance in that town. H.Q. and Sp. Coys. officers held a party this evening in one of the Hotels in SOESTDIJK, and Maj. E.S.DUFFIELD, M.C., and Maj. R.F.DAVEY represented the BLACK WATCH at a regimental officers party given by the REGIMENT de MAISONNEUVE.	MW
	16th. Sep. Sun.		Weather - overcast. At 0300 hrs. this morning the clock was set back one hour and we returned to "A" time. No Bn. Protestant church service was held this morning but the padre, Hon. Capt. A.REOCH, visited all the companies. A church service was held at 1100 hrs. for the R.C. personnel in one of the local churches.	MW
	17th. Sep. Mon.		Weather - overcast. A quiet day. Arrangements are going on apace for the final move to NIJMEGEN, next Saturday.	MW
	18th. Sep. Mon.		Weather - clear and warm. Another quiet day. The men are packing the last of their souvenirs and getting them off in the mail before the Post Office closes tomorrow. A Sergeants' dinner was held in the evening in the Q.M.Stores.	MW
	19th. Sep. Tues.		Weather - Overcast in morning, heavy showers later. The final Bn. parade in this area was held at 0900 hrs. this morning, with 295 all ranks on parade. A Garden Party was held by the Officers at B. H. Q. this afternoon. The lawn, however, was rather damp, and the major part of the festivities was held indoors, dampening the spirit of the affair not at all. The Bde. Commander, Lt-Col.R.L.ELLIS, D.S.O., was among the guests present.	MW
	20th. Sep. Wed.		Weather - clear, sunny and warm. The Adjutant, Capt. S.E.GRIFFIN, visited the 4th. Bn., at NIJMEGEN, this afternoon to obtain information pertaining to our arrival there. Maj.ANDERSON, 2 i/c the HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY OF CANADA, C.O.F., the unit which	MW

