

Instructions regarding preparation of War
Diaries (which will be kept from first day of
mobilization, creation or embodiment), are con-
tained in F.S. Regs. Vol. 1.

Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

M.F.M. 11
12 2118
H.Q. 1772-39

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
Area "Z" Pulborough Sussex England.	1 May 1942	0830	Training continued and settling into new camp. Improvement of Lines carried out. Major J.E.C. Pangman former of O.C. of "A" Coy became acting 2i/c Bn. Major R.M. Hudson former acting 2i/c became O.C. "A" Coy. Capt. S.C. Heyes former Commander of No. 4 Platoon became 2i/c of "D" Coy Lieut. A.V. Malone former Commander of No. 1 Platoon became 2i/c of "A" Coy and Ass. Adjt. Lieut. R.A. With became acting Intelligence Officer. Lieut. J.L. Dampier transferred from "D" Coy to No. 1 Platoon H.Q. Coy Lieut. J.I. Mills became Commander of No. 4 Platoon H.Q. Coy Lieut. J. Arber transferred from "C" Coy to No. 4 Platoon H.Q. Coy as 2i/c. Lieut. T.A. Staunton transferred from "B" Coy to "C" Coy. Lieut. R.D. Medland transferred from "D" Coy to "B" Coy as 2i/c. Lieut. J. Price became assistant Transport Officer. Entertainment arranged by C.A.S. attended by all ranks in Pulborough. Part I Orders Part II Orders	Raul. App 1 App 2
	2 May	0830	Unit Training continued. Lieut. J. Price left to attend a course at Bordon, Hants. Lieut. A.I. Matheson left Bn to take up duties as I.O. at 8 C.I.B. Lieut. R.A. With took over duties as Bn. I.O.	Raul.
	3 May	0900	The Bn. Church Parade moved out of Camp and marched to St. Mary's Church in Pulborough. The Regiment was welcomed to the Church and Parish by the Rev. Frost, Vicar of the Church. The Service was conducted as usual by Capt. J.C. Clough. The R.C. Church parade was held separately. Lieut. H.E. Dalton returned from leave.	Raul
	4 May	0830	Training continued. Companies are marching regularly in order to condition the men in readiness for schemes expected in the near future. Capt. Scott the Army Welfare Officer visited the Unit. Lieut. R.C.S. Blue left for a 48 hr. leave.	Raul.
	5 May	0830	Training continued and 558 showered in Mobile Bath Unit (RCOC) between 0830 hrs and 1200 hrs.	Raul.

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Area "Z" Pulborough Sussex, England.	5 May	1930	C.O., 21/c., Adj., I.O., and Coy Comds. attended a meeting in connection with scheme Beaver IV at 8 C.I.B. Reports of one of our bombers having been shot down in this vicinity reached the Unit but no authentic report available.	Rawl
	6 May	0830	T raining continued. The first Formal Mess under Lieut.-col. J.G. Spragge and in this camp was held. C.O. called a meeting of Coy Comds at 2100 hrs. This was attended also by Adj., 21/c., I.O. and A/R.S.M. Fox. Lieut. R.C.S. Blue returned from leave. Lieut. J.L. Dampier returned from S.I. (Inf) Course.	Rawl.
	7 May	0830 2100	Unit training contd. Preparations being made for moving out for scheme "Beaver IV". Men rested during afternoon. C.O. called "O" Group.	Rawl.

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Area Z Pulborough Sussex	9 May	0045 0102	The Bn. moved into positions for embussing by Coys. T.C.V.'s drew into their respective positions. The M.T. Column moved out of the Camp, which the Pioneer Pl commanded by Lieut. T.E. Parkinson had constructed, after a brief period of occupation. This was the first time the Unit had been under canvas since Newfoundland. It was very fortunate in having perfect spring weather with no rain. This was the first day of R.S.M. H. Fox's new acting rank, he having taken the place of R.S.M. G. Alexander who left on 7 May '42 for 3rd C.I.R.U.--Both have seen long service with the Regiment.	Rawl.
Cowdray Park Sussex		0230 1000	The Transport arrived in the Bde Concentration Area and was led into positions by Companies by the guides of the Advance Party. The necessary guards & patrols were posted and the Bn quickly settled down to sleep. The C.O. and I.O. attended a Bde 'O' Group. The remainder of the day was spent in performing necessary duties & resting the men. The weather still remained perfect. Many of the men stripped to the waist & lazed in the sun. They will probably have to sleep in the rain before long. This spell of ideal weather has lasted several weeks & is bound to break during a scheme. Preparations were made for an early departure on 10 May.	
	10 May	0500 0630 1400 1700 2330	Reveille The Unit moved out with T.C.V.'s headed for Bn H.Q. established and Rifle Coys in defensive position in surrounding area. The C.O. & I.O. looked at Coy positions. The C.O. held Bn 'O' Group. About this time it started raining. The farmers needed it for their much needed crops but the Army did not & in plain language said NO. The Bn. moved off by M.T.	Rawl.
Scaynes Hill	11 May	0130	/as the M.T. entered the Wood Considerable difficulty was met with/which was it was to park owing to the softness of the ground after the rain. It was found also that the wood was not as large as shown on the map owing to part having been cut.	Rawl.

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Scaynes Hill	11 May	0130	Major Grout who was in charge of the advance party had selected two separate woods merely to be used if the main one became overcrowded. It was found necessary to use this extra space. Practically no sleep was had as a result.	Rawl.
		1200	The Companies were in an Assembly Area near CHALEY and during the afternoon moved out to locate the enemy to the East. It was though they might be encountered in large numbers but as it turned out only small forces were discovered. Our Carriers clashed with a small force of the enemy Carriers. A prisoner was taken & interrogated by us but little useful information resulted. Our tps were withdrawn suddenly by T.C.V. & on foot.	
		1700	Practically the whole of the Bn back in the Concentration Area. The C.O. was called to a Bde 'O' Gp.	
		1730	Bn 'O' Gp. Ordergs given for a move.	
		2115	The Bn. moved again. This time on foot.	
Fletching Sussex		1130	The Bn. moved into its area & the troops were l able to get some sleep.	Rawl.
	12 May	0500	Bde 'O' Group was attended by C.O. and I.O. but as little information could be given at that time they were told to be ready for another call at any time.	
		0800	Another 'O' Group giving orders for a march to the Coast.	
		0915	The Unit marched out on foot by a route leading through HAMSEY and LEWES for SEAFORD. The Road ahead was blocked by "Blown" bridges & roads ahead under "heavy artillery fire" The only way to reach our objective was to climb the Downs & cross them. It was a hard climb over after a hard day's march. The transport had to make a long detour to the WEST before it could cross.	
		2330	A meal was given to the men. By this time all were badly in need of food & rest. Rum was issued to some Companies - Our First Issue.	
Seaford Sussex		2400	Bde 'O' Gp attended by C.O. & I.O. Orders were received for a river crossing and an "attack" on FRISTON Airport.	

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Exceat Bridge Cuckmere River Sussex	13 May	0130	The River was crossed & attack carried out successfully. The attacking Coys spent the remaining time before daylight on the Downs in the rain and B.H.Q. was established at WESTDEAN on the East side of the River.	Rawl.
		0800	Everybody was pretty well exhausted by this time but rum in the tea at breakfast half an hour's sleep made a great difference to the general outlook.	
		1030	Bde 'O' Group. Orders to attack and destroy the remaining enemy on the Downs towards Eastbourne with the aid of tanks. Enemy resistance completely collapsed & the worn out troops were spared further movement. Orders to stand by were given.	
Friston Sussex		1600	The Bn. drew into a Concentration Area where the news reached the troops that "Beaver IV" had ended. The news that the Q.O.R. was to relieve the I R.H.R. (Black Watch) for a month was made public. Blistered feet & fatigue were forgotten and the men who all knew something of the billets they were to take over got busy cleaning themselves up.	
	14 May	0830	Major Pangman left with the advance party to take over Black Watch billets.	Rawl.
		1145	The Bn. marched off for WILLINGDON.	
Ratton Wood Willingdon Sussex.		1330	While the turnover of billets was being completed the troops were fed and allowed to rest.	Rawl.
		1900	The take over was completed and The Q.O.R. moving in.	
Willingdon Sussex	15 May	0830	The Billets taken over by the Bn met with the great approval of all ranks. The Unit set about settling down to such comfortable quarters with enthusiasm & hoped that the big scheme "Tiger" might not materialize, or at very least, hoped it might be delayed. A forlorn hope!	Rawl.
	16 May	0830	The time was spent chiefly in straightening out the Regiment's affairs. After sleepless nights & constant marching the rest & shelter & facilities for cleaning bodies, clothes & equipment proved very welcome. The idea of having to go out on a longer & harder scheme so soon after "Beaver IV" seems not to raise any great enthusiasm.	
		1330	The C.O. took a recce party to the top of the Downs where the Unit Battle stations lie. Brigadier Blockader was present.	Rawl.
	17 May	0930	Church Parade	
		1000	Service in St Elizabeth Church, Willingdon. Capt. Clough conducted the service after the Rev. Hamilton, Vicar, had welcomed the Regiment to the Parish.	Rawl

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Ratton Wood Willingdon Sussex	17May	1000	Major Stewart preached the Sermon & afterwards lunched at Bn H.Q. Officers Mess at Ratton Wood.	Raul.
	18May	0830	Parades in Coy areas. Preparations for the scheme "Tiger" being made. All are guessing at the time & day. All seem reconciled to its inevitability.	Raul.
		2000	A meeting was held with Home Guard Officers present at "Ratton Wood". Tentative plans were laid for the training of H.G. personnel by the Regt upon its return from "Tiger". The Home Guard seemed pleased at the prospect of the willing co-operation promised by the Q.O.R. of C.	
	19May	0830	The C.O. called a meeting of Coy & Detachment Comdrs & discussed what seemed probable moves & other matters relating to the scheme "Tiger".	
		1000	C.O. & I.O. attended Bde O Gp at Crossway Ho. Upper Dicker where Bde has its H.Q. On the return trip to Bn Area they made a quick Recce of Abbott Wood allotted to the Bn in the Bde Concentration Area. It was found that a large portion of this wood had been felled & that the true picture was not given by the map.	Raul.
		1215	C.O. called a Bn 'O' Group following which all concerned dashed madly off to arrange for the move ment of troops & vacating of Billets. The I.O. whose whole morning had been occupied ran round in small circles for a short time but managed to get himself organized & eventually with the help of good N.C.O's to restore order out of chaos.	
		1400	Maj Pangman, 2i/c went forward as advanced party to plan Coy areas in the Bn. Concentration Area. Billets were turned over to the incomng "Wolf" force & the Bn. moved to RATTON WOOD close by to await marching orders.	
		1700	C.O. held an 'O' Gp.	
		2340	M.T. began moving into column	
		2400	M.T. moved off for S.P. (0020 hrs) on route to Bde Concentration Area.	
	20May	0035	The first of the foot troops moved off in order to pass the Start Point at 0100 hrs.	Raul

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Place	Date	Hour		
Abbott Wood Arlington Sussex	20May	0130	<p>Mt. moved into Concentration Area guided into respective positions by Advance Party. The marching tps. moved into Area and Bn.H.Q. established. After a short time spent in settling into Coy area many lay down in their greatcoats, blankets not being in use during the scheme, and slept.</p> <p>A good breakfast was served which was missed by some who failed to wake for it. On awakening & hearing that the rather uncommon dish boiled eggs had been on the menu their chagrin was great.</p> <p>The Bivouac area was spread with sleeping troops & well camouflaged vehicles. Later the fog lifted & the sun shone through the Oaks to reveal the tired unshaven faces of sleeping men in the mass of Bluebells which covered the ground under the trees. A strange contrast.</p> <p>Lieut Fess (Q.O.R. of C. M.C.O. at Bde. liaised with the Bn.</p> <p>The C.O. & I.O. attended Bde O Gp at "The Priory" UPPER DICKER to which point Bde. has moved.</p> <p>Confinement to the lines was lifted and a percentage of the troops allowed to move in a less restricted but still limited area. Most of the men went as far as the local Inn and drank the place dry.</p>	Rawl.
		0335		
		0500		
		0530		
		1130		
	21May	0830	<p>In view of the hard marching ahead the C.O. ordered as much rest as possible for the Bn. In consequence breakfast was later than usual. Rain fell during the night but most of the men had foreseen the likelihood and constructed shelters with their groundsheets. Sentries reported the sound of bombing at some distance and at times flashes hit the sky. They thought it came from one of the coast towns. It was reported that an enemy plan was brought down off Beachy Head yesterday. A number of "Hit & Run" raids have been made along this part of the coast lately.</p> <p>The C.O. with a party left on a Recce of ground we expect to occupy to during our march East against Kent.</p> <p>Recce Party returned with report that no enemy had been encountered nor any sign of them found.</p> <p>Lieut. W. Fess came from Bde during afternoon with liaison matters.</p> <p>The C.O. held Bn. 'O' Gp for the night move to the next Concentration Area.</p>	
		0945		
		1330		
		1330		
		1630		

Raul.

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Bentley Wood East Hoathly Sussex	21May	1900	Maj Pangman left with Advance Party for the new area to guide the Bn in M.T. & Coy positions.	Raw
		2000	After serving with Q.O.R. of C. for 19 years Lieut J.H.K. Booth left the Unit to join No 1 Dental Company at ANGMERING-ON-SEA.	
		2315	M.T. passed Bn. S.P. on the Road to Bentley Wood. The remainder of the Bn. prepared to leave.	
	22May	0010	All the Tpt with the exception of the M.O.'s lorry had left. The evening was fine with a good m on which started some of the men singing in the usual 'harmony' whilst others whilst others hurled mocking insults at their efforts. They were tired of waiting about by the time the order to prepare to move was given and willingly prepared for the march.	Raw.
		0020	The Bn. moved off marching in the now unusual formation of column of route with an interval of 50 yards between Platoons as ordered by Bde. A safe formation at night with no enemy aircraft about & much easier to march in than single file. Mr. Monohan, the Auxiliary Services Officer, met the column during a halt with his tea car and handed out much appreciated tea and biscuits.	
		0400	The column split split up and Coys were led in by their guides to their positions. The transport had arrived ahead & was already parked & the personnel settled. The foot troops quickly settled down to sleep, some oversleeping breakfast time as usual and regretting it later.	
		0500	Breakfast and afterwards rest for the troops for the remainder of the day except for the carrying out of normal camp duties.	
		1800	The C.O. called on 'O' Group and issued orders for the night's move.	
		2230	The transport moved out and the foot troops settled down to await their time to move.	
Roeheath Chailey Sussex	23May	0120	The Bn. remainder of the Bn moved out on foot for the last lap before reaching the Corps Concentration Area.	Raw
		0515	The Bn moved into its area in the Cdn Corps Concentration Area and was dispersed to Coy areas. Breakfast was quickly finished & the men settled down to rest for the day.	

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	23 May	1100	The C.O. and I.O. attended a Bde 'O' Group.	
		1430	The C.O. Coy Cmds & I.O. with one umpire and Lieut. Gondor of the C.H. of O. with an umpire made a recce of the first line to be held in the coming move towards Kent. This line is known as "MONTREAL" line.	
		1700	Rain started & continued heavily all night. Luckily the farm at which the Unit was bivouaced was large with large barns and buildings in which most of the men were able to sleep. Observation Posts were established on the 'Montreal' line but were withdrawn at dark.	Raul.
	24 May	0700	Observers were again out on Montreal line. Breakfast was eaten & apart from necessary guard & patrol duties etc. the men were able to rest & clean up after the rain though the camp remained wet & muddy all day.	
		1400	The C.O. & I.O. attended a Conference at Bde.	
		1700	The C.O. called a Bn. 'O' Gp.	
		2100	The men were fed late as this was likely to be their last square meal for several days. Preparations were made for the night move. This was a large scale affair with all supporting arms involved and took considerable organising.	
		2300	Troops & transport moved off in one column. The Q.O.R. was leading Unit in 8 Bde Gp. The 8th the leading Bde in the 3rd Division. In consequence the accurate timing of the 7th & 9th Bdes depended largely on the punctuality of the 8th. This means a hard march at a stiff pace to achieve success. Success was achieved in as much as the Dispersal Point was passed with time to spare.	Raul
Great Bairden Mayfield Sussex.	25 May	0545	Bn. H.Q. established., Observation Posts appointed & guards posted while vehicles were camouflaged & breakfast prepared. The men who were not immediately on duty were soon in their blankets in corners sheltered from the strong wind.	

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Great Bairden Mayfield Sussex	25 May	0545	Rawl.
		1400	
	26 May	0430	
		0530	
		1700	Rawl
		2000	
	27 May	0830	Rawl

Aircraft activity was considerable as the sun rose,. Planes circled at low altitudes & great speed as they searched the ground for information. of the opposed forces of Kent & Sussex. During the morning dive bombers attacked the position & "casualties" were sustained. Aircraft remained active all day. Information came in regularly of enemy movement but up to this time no actual contact had been made by the Q.O.R. This state remained for the rest of the day.

Stand To.
Breakfast followed by the day's work of recce patrols, manning positions with an occasional brush with the enemy.
Rain set in again which lasted on and off all day. Many prisoners came in; some had no rain capes & had not eaten for some time. Difficulty was met with in their evacuation. Spirits were generally low owing to the bad weather and discomfort of wet clothes & blankets.
The C.O. who was at Bde called the I.O. to a Bde 'O' Group. 'B' Coy had to take over a sector of the line in place of a much larger composite force consisting of detachments of 3 other units. This part of the line was held overnight by patrolling. The Coy had brushes with the enemies patrols but the night passed without any serious trouble.

No drastic change in the position. A number of prisoners were taken & vehicles captured. For a short time the weather was windy but fine. Later, however, the rain returned. By this time all were resigned to the discomfort of being wet & cold. Sleeping in damp clothes & putting on wet boots & socks at stand to became one of the most unpleasant parts of the day. The good reputation of the English climate was getting was soon discredited. The the spell of perfect weather seemed to have good for good.

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Shovers Green	27May	1200	The Bn marched out for WISKETTS WOOD via Shaver's Green. Soon after arriving the enemy was reported close at hand but nothing was seen of him by the unit.
		1500	
		1600	
		1730	
Wiskett's Wood		2200	Bde 'O' Gp. Bn moved again after a quick supper. Soon after arriving rain set in & the Bn turned in quickly. The Carriers made recces before dark & brought in one prisoner. The Enemy seemed fairly close at hand.
Rectory Goodhurst Sussex.	28May	0400	The C.O. had been in touch with Bde during the early hours of the morning. The result was an order to be ready to move in 50 minutes. The Bn marched out without breakfast but nor sorry to leave amiserable bivouac. Breakfast was eaten soon after arriving. Three motor cycle prisoners of the 11th Armoured Division who apparently had been on short rations gladly became the Regiment's guests for breakfast. During this move the M.T. was delayed by a blown bridge but quickly made up the lost time. Many Canadian troops were moving by various routes in pursuit of the withdrawing enemy.
		0500	
		0700	
Great Chart Ashford Kent	29May	1200	The C.O. held an 'O' Gp & issued orders for the move out. The Bn. marched out on what turned out to be the hardest march it had experienced since mobilization. Many men dropped out with bad feet to be picked up by what transport was moving with the Column.
		1430	
		0230	The Bn at last reached its destination everybody exhausted after 12 hrs of marching without food. The last meal had been a light one at midday on 28 May. Unlike the enemy who according to reports from prisoners were short rationed, the Q.O.R. had been well fed up to this point considering the supply difficulties. The distance for the day's march was estimated at about 35 miles.
		0330	
			Although no previous recce had been made of the area to be occupied a large barn was found for A Coy - H.Q. Coy excpet the personnel still with the separated Tpt and for B.H.Q. The other Coys were able to get some sleep in their Coy areas. This was short & unsatisfactory sleep as they had to stand to at the usual hour.

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Maplehurst Kent	29May	0430	Stand to. It was hard to get the weary men out of their warm beds in the hay. Breakfast. The C.O. held an order group. Orders were given for the attack on ASHFORD. "D" Coy was the first to move to attack positions. The Bn suffered many 'casualties'. "A" Coy was almost completely "wiped out". A large percentage of B.H.Q. was 'killed'. The 'corpses' enjoyed baths, showers, shaves & much needed rest. B.H.Q. - A Coy and the H.Q. personnel present were very fortunate in being at an old moated house in which was billeted a bomb demolition squad whose hospitality was good to meet with. Showers, Baths & all assistance were willingly offered. At about 0345 hrs just after the Bn arrival Lieut Catt rose from his bed & supplied beer to the Colonel & one or two other Officers of the Regiment. Some of the men were amused by an English soldier whose dangerous job was handling huge unexploded German time bombs. He informed them that he was a non combatant & as he wanted to see some action seriously considered transfer to an Active Unit. ASHFORD proved to be a very strongly fortified town & the attack failed. Aircraft was active at very low altitudes. During the late afternoon the fighting seemed to reach a standstill. Rumours of a late move spread so the troops now well trained in being prepared, became busy getting ready to move at short notice.	Raul
		1100		
		1200		
		1315		
		2330	Reports of enemy movement out from ASHFORD came in so recce patrols were sent out and all troops stood to.	
	30May	0100	No sign of enemy movement in the immediate Bn area was found and everybody stood by to move.	Raul
		0130	The bn moved out. It turned out to be the longest march of the scheme and the day one of the hardest.	
		0615	The Bn moved into an area in a wood near MAPLEHURST. Breakfast was eaten soon after arrival & the camp settled down to rest hoping for an unbroken spell of sleep.	
		1100	The C.O. & I.O. were called to a Bde 'O' Group where orders were issued for a further move. The unexpectedness of the order created some serious difficulties but all were quickly active and ready.	

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Maplehurst Kent	30May	1430	The Bn left for the long second part of the day's march. Much transport of both the English & Canadian armies was moving and proved a serious hindrance several times during the march & caused delay. On route it was learned that the scheme had officially ended. News well received.	Raw
Tidebrook Wadhurst Sussex		2230	The march ended with an estimated credit to the Bn of 37 miles for the day. Owing to the traffic congestion the cooker trucks which were sent ahead to prepare food for the men went astray thus frustrating good management.	
	31May	0100	Food was given to the men who had managed to stay awake for it. Many had not, so the die hards had more than they could eat & went to their beds in the barns & outside completely exhausted but well fed.	Raw
		1100	Breakfast was served and followed by everybody having as thorough a clean up as possible. The day was spent in resting & only necessary duties were carried out. The Bn. ended a busy month of moves and schemes hoping for a more settled month of June.	
<div><div>Appendix No.</div><div>Volume XXIV</div><div>1 - 31 May</div></div>				
		1	Part 1 Orders	1 May '42
		2	Part 2 orders	1 May '42
		3	Field Return - Officers	8 May '42
		4	Field Return - Other Ranks	8 May '42
		5	Exercise "Beaver IV"	
			Movement Order	8 May '42
		6	Bn Training Syllabus	
			4 - 9 May	9 May '42
		7	Ex. Tiger Movement Order #1	19 May '42
		8	Ex. Tiger Order of Battle	19 May '42
		9	Field Return - Officers	22 May '42
		10	Field Return - Other Ranks	22 May '42
		11	Field Return - Officers	29 May '42
		12	Field Return - Other Ranks	29 May '42
		13	Snapshots at farewell dinner for Lieut-col H C MacKendrick	31 May