

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

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (9/42)

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

Title pages will be prepared.

1st Bn. The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. (AF)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks, references to Appendices and initials |
|--------|----------|------|---|--|
| 652249 | 1 Apr 43 | 0600 | Reveille. | |
| | | 1500 | A Mosquito brought down by our own A.A. when it flew too low. It landed on the railway and held up traffic on the Brighton-Shoreham line. The pilot lost an arm and a leg in the affair; he had dived to avoid an Me. 109. | |
| | 2 Apr 43 | 0600 | Reveille. | |
| | 3 Apr 43 | 0600 | Reveille. | |
| | | 1330 | "I" Sgt. and Pioneer Sgt. went over the posns of B. C. and D coy. 9 Bn. Sx. H.G. with the H.Q. I Sgt. in connection with the survey of Defensive Installations. | |
| | | 1400 | C.O. lectured to all officers on Air Cooperation the subject of the course from which he had just returned. In particular - the new method of identifying spots on an oblique with points on the map by means of a fan shaped set of grid lines on talk was especially interesting. | |
| 643252 | 4 Apr 43 | 1000 | Church parade for BHQ, "HQ" Band, "Sp" Coy in Old St. Mary's Church SHOREHAM. This church dates back to early Norman times and the architecture impressed everyone. | |
| | | 1000 | I.O., "I" Sgt and Pioneer Sgt continued recce. this time of "A" Coy 9 Bn Sx HG posns. | |
| | | 1400 | C.O. left on priv. Leave. | |
| | 5 Apr 43 | 0600 | Reveille | |
| | | 0800 | Parades and Trg. | |
| | 6 Apr 43 | 0600 | Reveille | |
| | | 0830 | I.O. contacting other units in vicinity - RN, RAF, HG - re the P.D.I. in the area - all day. Also contacting 4 Arm'd Bde and 1 Cdn Arm'd Car Regt in regard to the Anti Raid Role. | |
| | | 1000 | German (?) Recce plane passed (make unknown) passed overhead, too high to distinguish anything but exhaust. | |
| | 7 Apr 43 | 0600 | Reveille. | |

RHB

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| | 8 Apr 43 | 0600 | Reveille. 3 off'rs and 27 O/Rs arrived from R.U. which is a welcome addition. | |
| | 9 Apr 43 | 0600 1000 | Reveille All officers at GOCs lecture on SPARTAN - Odeon Theatre HORSHAM. GOC 3 Cdn Div Maj Gen R.F.L. Keller outlined the events of SPARTAN which made intelligible the moves of the unit. He concluded by touching on future training especially in the matter of mines, - now definitely an infantry affair. The Report on P.D.I. completed was forwarded to 8 Cdn Inf Bde. | |
| | 10 Apr 43 | 0600 0930 | Reveille C.O.'s parade - Maj. V.A. Gianelli, T/Comd Q.O.R. of C. inspected the Bn. | |
| | 11 Apr 43 | 0700 1000 1500 1530 1700 | Reveille Church Parade for A Coy and A.T.S. A.A. Bty. This arrangement very popular with A Coy who regard the proximity of this A.A. Bty as a good thing. Stirling bomber crashed a few miles out. When the Walrus went to pick up the crew it was too heavily laden to take off so it taxied in. Q.O.R. of C. now placed a guard in spite of the availability of 2762 Sqn RAF Regt. C.O. returned from leave. Capt E.A. Dunlop Q.O.R. of C. returned from attachment to 2nd. Bn The Buffs in the First Army in Tunisia for a period of three months and proceeded to impart the lessons of experience. | |
| | 12 Apr 43 | 0600 | Reveille Meeting on Anti Raid Defence of Area. Representatives of 9 Bn Sx HG, RAF Regt, RAF Truleigh Hill, Aerodrome Shoreham, and 12 Fd Regt attended in order to straighten out smaller points arising. Anti Invasion Matters were postponed to a future meeting owing to the absence of the Navy and of any definitive Anti Invasion Operation Instruction. | |
| | 13 Apr 43 | 0600 1600 2030 | Reveille I.O. with L.D.A. at Shoreham Aerodrome considering defences there. Capt E.A. Dunlop spoke to all off'rs on his experiences in Tunisia. The talk, from one who had | |

Brig. Gibson, one of the Q.O.R. and Major ...

R.L.B.

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| | 13 Apr 43 | 2030 | been there, on his actual experiences, was worth a dozen books couched as they always are in stiff and formal terms. The importance of individual weapon trg., of patrolling and of Field Engineering of Arty. and of Aircraft Recognition were stressed - also the relation of discipline to morale under fire. The story of the engagement in which the first German pzKW VI was knocked out and which the Buffs accomplished was told and the history of that day pointed out the usual lessons but much better for being actual. | |
| | 14 Apr 43 | 0600 1300 1800 2000 | Reveille Capt. E.A. Dunlop lectured to "A" Coy and aroused considerable interest. The questions by the men were however severely practical - confined to eating, how much marching - and any women. Formal mess. C.O. 2 i/c Adjt and I.Os. of the Bde at Bde for a conference on SPARTAN. Brig K.G. Blackader spoke on the report from 1 Cdn Corps which generally recommended the infantry but stressed certain points such as R/T procedure, Bn HQ procedure and Admn matters such as casualties. | |
| | 15 Apr 43 | 0600 0900 1330 | Reveille Capt E.A. Dunlop spoke to BN.HQ and "HQ" Coy. Lecture to "B" Coy. In both of these lectures great interest was shown, the trend of interest a bit more military than in "A" Coy. | |
| | 16 Apr 43 | 0600 0930 | Reveille Lecture, Capt Dunlop to "B" Coy. Notes taken by "I" Sec. The lectures are arousing great interest and discussion around the battalion. | Appx 5 |
| | 17 Apr 43 | 0030 0130 0800 1330 | Air Raid. Warning Red followed by a plane flying low and bursts of M.G. fire. This turned out to be a British plane and fire was from an A.A. post. However one man out "joy riding" in a Bn truck thought retribution had overtaken him in the form of a German raider firing on him and was so unnerved that he drove the truck up the ramp of the Upper Shoreham Bridge and suffered multiple injuries and "CHARGES" in consequence. All clear - no raider appeared. Coy Trg according to syllabus. During the afternoon and evening a party was held in the Offrs. Mess for the C.O.'s. first anniversary. Brig. Gibson, one of the Q.O.R. and Major J.E.C. Pangman, now at Staff College, were among visitors. | R.B. |

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| Place | Date | Hour | |
| | 17 Apr 43 | 2300 | "B" Coy attacked R.D.F. station TRULEIGH HILL with partial success. Exercise. |
| | 18 Apr 43 | 0630 | Reveille. The weather continued remarkably clear and warm and spring growth a month ahead of usual. |
| | | 1000 | Newspaper report this season the earliest in 50 years. |
| | | 1200 | Compulsory Church Parade for "C" Coy. Voluntary for B.H.Q. H.Q. & Support, at St. Marys Church, attendance quite good. |
| | | | A Coy attack on TRULEIGH HILL R.D.F. Station, partial success. Operation order and Intelligence Trg report. EXERCISE "TOULON". There were three Alerts during the day. No raider appeared. |
| | 19 Apr 43 | 0600 | Reveille. Weather overcast, some rain. |
| | | 0800 | Trg according to SYLLABUS. |
| | 20 Apr 43 | 0600 | Reveille. Weather, clear and sunny. |
| | | 0800 | Trg according to SYLLABUS. |
| | | | A/Capt. Mills S.O.S. to 4 C.I.R.U. on rotation of Officers. Capt. S.C. Heyes joined Bn, rotation of Officers. |
| | 21 Apr 43 | 0600 | Reveille. Weather clear, cool easterly winds. |
| | | 0800 | Trg according to syllabus. |
| | | | Capt. Nickson to command "C" Coy. Lt. Fleming to command "A" during the absence of Capt. Dampier (leave). |
| | 22 Apr 43 | 0600 | Reveille. Weather stormy and cool. |
| | | 0945 | Move to demonstration area. |
| | | 1100 | Demonstration of German tactics, organization and drill by 1 Cdn Div German Dem Team, the demonstration consisted of. 1 German pl on the approach march. 2 pl in the attack. 3. Right & wrong way of handling P.W's. 4. German words of command. 5. German squad drill using German words, of command. 6. the German pl in defences. The demonstration was was very interesting and effective although marred by bad weather. When visibility was limited to about 100 yds at times, and also spoiled by about only $\frac{3}{4}$ of the spectators being able to see and hear.. |
| | | | A draft arrived from the R.U. Major D.S. Cameron, & Capt. L.J. Griffith of 10 C.R.U. were att. to the Regt. for Trg. C.S.M. Faust P. and L/Cpl. Stewart A.E. att from 1 C.G.R.U. for Training. |
| | | | Capt. J+L. Dampier ceases to hold powers of detachment commander w.e.f. 22 Apr 43 |

App 8

App 8

R.H.B.

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| | 23 Apr 43 | 0630 2345 | Reveille. Weather Stormy. "NO PARADES" Following an all clear, Heavy A.A. fired about ten rds.. No report of enemy activity. Capt. S.C. Heyes granted powers of detachment commander, and to command "A" Coy. | |
| | 24 Apr 43 | 0600 1000 | Reveille. Weather clear and cool. C.O. inspection at Buckingham Park. Inspection by Major Lett 2 i/c, in the absence of the C.O. who was at Bde. H.Q. with adjt. Major J.W. McClain Q.O.R. of C. now at C.M.H.Q. visited the Regt. | |
| | 25 Apr 43 | 0630 0900 1000 | Reveille. Weather. Fair with periods of sunshine. Cool. Church Parade "C" Coy Southwick Parish Church. Church parade St. Marys Church. B.H.Q. H.Q. Sp "A" "B" Coyss this being Easter Sunday the ban on Bell ringing was lifted and the church bell summoned the people to church.. A silence broken only twice while the regiment has been in this country, once at the relief of Tobruk and again at Christmas 1942. | |
| | 26 Apr 43 | 0600 0800 | Reveille. Weather Stormy. Coy Trg according to syllabus. Formal dress on the 83 anniversary of formation of Q.O.R. of C. Major J.W. McClain Capt. Fess and Capt. Dunbar were visitors. | |
| | 27 Apr 43 | 0600 0800 1135 1530 | Reveille. Occasional clouds, cool breeze. Coy Trg according to syllabus. Planning orders for Exercise "BEACH" C.O's. O.Gp. for Exercise "BEACH". Capt. Dalton T.O.S. on return from instructing at C.T.S. | |
| | 28 Apr 43 | 0600 1330 | Reveille. Weather clear, slight breeze. Bn March to exercise "BEACH" | |

APPX 9

RKB

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| 607244 546289 | 28Apr. | 1330 1430 1635 1845 | Bn. left Billets. Upper Shoreham Br. 642251. S.P. Arrived Muntham Crort C.O. O.Gp. Bridgehead established Upper Beeding 6329. Findon 5628. Burpham 4728. Abel B.H. have a advanced to Windlesham House School 853304. Baker B.H. are est Blackpatch Hill Wood 5329. Enemy hold Highden Barn Area 548360 in strength. This area to be cleared before further adv can be made. | |
| | | 1930 2000 2200 | C.Os. recce 1930-2145 hrs. Coy. Comds Recce 2000 - 2145 hrs. Recce Patrols to go out at 2300 and 0300hrs 29 Apr. 3 patrols at each time composed of 1 section each with offr. i/c to cover Coy area decided on by previous Recce. Password "Toronto". | |
| 551311 | 29Apr. | 0300 0500 0730 0830 0930 1030 (1115 (1230 (1300 (1315 (1345 1400 1430 | Patrols report Enemy Posns located and apparently patrols not seen as they were Not challenged. Patrols confirm Enemy location and extend Recce. No interference. Reveille. Weather clear & warm. C.Os Ogp. Plan to attack Enemy posns from the east at 548348. "C" Coy leading. Enemy posn. at 545310 and 542310 then to be attacked by "B" Coy and "A" Coy respectively. Zero 1030 hrs. Capt. H.S. McRae left exercise prior to leaving for duty with 1 Cdn. Div. H.Q. Attacked opened. "C" Coy successful. "B" Coy successful. "A" Coy successful. Cease fire. Dinner. Offrs. to Div. H.Q. Major. Cameron. Capt. Hiscott, Capt. Green, Capt. Parkinson & Lieut. Herbert went to 3 Cdn. Div. H.Q. prior to taking part in Exercise "Welch". They returned from Div. H.Q. at about 1800 hrs and left immediately for camp. | |

RLB

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| Place | Date | Hour | | |
| Highden Hill 548348 | 29 April | 1430 | Coy 2i/c, under Major Lett recce area Highden Hill. running west to 542310 for Coy Posns. | |
| | | 1630 | Bn moved in Coy area, repaired wire and est posns for the night. | |
| | | 2100 | It commenced to rain drizzel which developed into a steady rain lasting all night. | |
| | | 2200 | Supper. | |
| Montham Court 546289. | 30 May | 0500 | The C.O. had returned to camp earlier in the evening under orders to attend a Court of Inquiry. Major Lett took over command. | |
| | | 0800 | Reveille. Heavy mist and rain. Visibility almost Zero. Only one Enemy patrol had been seen during the night. | |
| | | 1000 | Bn. moved from posns on hill to observation posn on opposite slope. Weather slightly improved. | |
| | | 1230 | R de Chaud started attack on posns previously held by Q.O.R. Their attack was well timed and mortar fire impressive. | |
| Upper Shoreham Bridge 642251 653249 | | 1245 | Moved from Observation to Bivouac Area. | |
| | | 1330 | Dinner. | |
| | | 1520 | Bn. moved by march to Shoreham Billets. | |
| | | 1540 | Passed North Shore Regt at approx 595248 as they were moving to Highden Hill for Exercise "Beach". | |
| | | | Arrived. | |
| | | | On the evening of 27 April Mr. Sholto Walt, Military correspondent for The Montreal Star visited the Q.O.R. | |
| | | | On arrival back in camp we learnt that Capt. H.S. McRae had met with an accident while moving to 1 Cdn. Div. H.Q. The Jeep he was riding in being side swiped by a heavy trailer. He suffered a broken arm and lacerations of the head. His batman and the driver of the Jeep were uninjured. | |
| | | | S.O.S. to 3 Cdn. Divl H.Q. as L.O. - Capt. J.L. Dampier. | |

R. Richford
2/adjt.

for

J.G. Spragge
(J.G. Spragge) Lieut-col.
Comd 1st Bn Q.O.R. of C.

R.L.B.

40
BATTALION ORDERS
BY
Lt.-col. J. G. Spragge
Commanding 1st Bn. The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (AF)

SHEET ONE

PART I ORDERS

14 Apr. '43.
No 32

LAST PART I ORDERS ISSUED 9 Apr. '43.

" A "

1. POSTINGS:

Capt. E. A. Dunlop T.O.S. from #4 C.I.R.U.
w.e.f. 11 Apr. '43. and posted to Bn H.Q.

Lieut. D. D. Owen T.O.S. from #4 C.I.R.U.
w.e.f. 10 Apr. '43. and posted to " A " Coy.

" B "

2. POSTINGS:

B63694 Rfn. Parsonson, W.G. T.O.S. from
HQ. #3 Cdn Div. w.e.f. 8 Apr. '43. and is
posted to HQ. Coy.

3. COURT OF INQUIRY:

A Court of Inquiry as detailed herein will
assemble at the call of the President to
inquire into and report the loss of the bolt
of rifle No. 214472, formerly on charge
to B63823 Rfn. French, E.H.

President:

Capt. O.A. Nickson.

Members:

Lieut. F.L.J. Martin.

Lieut. M.H.W. Leaney.

4. P. A. D.

P.A.D. orders have now been distributed and
posted in all billets. The attention of all
ranks is drawn to these ORDERS

5. BICYCLES:

The practice of riding two on a bicycle is
an offence against the civil by-law in this
area and the practice MUST cease forthwith.

6. DRESS:

WEB BELTS must NOT be dyed black. Only
members or ex-members of the Band who are
at present in possession of black belts
may wear them. WEB BELTS should be
blanched with NO. 3 BLANCHE the practice
of Bleaching belts will cease.