

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

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.

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.

1ST BN. THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			Narrative and Trace "Smashex"	Appendix 5
Scheme Smashex 682333	30Jun	1205	Bn. in Biv. Area. The 7th Bde are the attacking force and our bn. role is that of enemy. No action is expected before dark so enforced rest is ordered. There will be very little sleep for the next few days. First enemy sighted at 1950 hrs., advance recce party. Our patrols were out all night but met no opposition.	Km
Smashex 682333	1Jul.	0500	Breakfast. Dominion Day, clear and warm (not a holiday). Tac R. aircraft overhead, all men other than guards and patrols went to bed, the best way to keep them under cover. At 0927 the first enemy patrols were sighted first P.W. brought in at 1120 and his unit identified through a personal diary.	
Smashex 669338		1430	The P.W. escaped on route to Bde. This entailed a hasty move for our B.H.Q. as they know our posn. During the night our mine field was breached and at 0520 a withdrawal ordered. B.H.Q. withdrew to Horsridge Common 619344.	Km
Smashex 619344 456357	2Jul.	1330 1516	Enemy bringing heavy pressure to bear, withdrawal ordered. B.H.Q. in new posn. Our aircraft reported successful attack on bridge construction party at 626354. Report that enemy was now mobile and our recce unit withdrawing behind Grid Line 50. Withdrawal ordered at 2250.	Km
Smashex 378320	3Jul.	0025	Established in new posn. Enemy on Bognor Hill 4132. O Gp. Orders given for counter-attack at first light in conjunction with Tank Bde. Move to F.U.P. started 0415 hrs. The marrying-up process was smooth and completed on schedule and the combined force passed over start line at 0500 hrs. The enemy were taken completely by surprise, the objective was taken, and re-organization completed by 0545 hrs. (Cease fire at 0630 hrs. and return to Bivouac Area. Over S.L. for return to camp at 0840 hrs. Weather fair and warm and has been throughout the scheme.	Km
Moonhill 734417		1100	Bn. in camp. At 1400 hrs. there was a meeting of Coy Cmdrs. and senior offrs who had taken part in the scheme at Apsley Farm 553388 when the G.O.C. and senior div. staff offrs discussed and criticized Smashex I.	
Moonhill 734417	4Jul.	0700	Reveille. Fair and warm. Rest and recuperation.	Km

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Place	Date	Hour	
Moonhill 734417	5Jul	0600	Reveille. The morning was devoted to a discussion and review of Smashex I, the afternoon to breaching of minefields under the direction of R.C. E. personell. <i>Km</i>
Moonhill 734417	6Jul	0600	Reveille. Instructions for Disposal of Surplus Kit Preparation for Smashex II and practise disposal of kit. Due to our long residence in England there has been an amazing accumulation of gear and goods other than issue, soldiers, for the use of. The woollen goods discarded would carry a Russian division comfortably through a rigorous winter. <i>Km</i>
		1600	C.O. at Bde. O. Gp.
		1845	Screed and Trace "Smashex II" Liaison party met group from Assault Force.
Smashex II 733414	7Jul	0001	Bn. Crossed S.P., arrived at Biv Area 722334 at 0040 hrs. Patrols out immediately in Muggleswood and Shaves Wood areas. D.P. established on Westonbury Hill at first light. Patrols active throughout day, depth of mine fd. High Cross 685365 - Poynings 700312 established. <i>Km</i>
		1900	O Gp at 8 C.I.B. Orders for breadhing and break through of mine field by 8 Bde.
		2200	Bn. O. Gp . C.O's orders to coys. A Coy to do breaching, B Coy covering, B Coy in reserve.
Smashex II 722334	8Jul	0130	Breakfast. Compo rations begin to pall.
		0145	First marching troops leave for Assembly Area 702336. C.Os carrier broke down. Quick transfer to H.U. truck, compo rations for next 24 hrs. left behind (not far enough, unfortunately; they caught up).
		0345	Breaching of minefield commenced. 0600 Bn. through mine field, enemy have withdrawn. Artillery Tasks <i>Km</i>
			Sporadic fighting with enemy rearguard, recce unit. Bde in Henfield 6434 at 1030 hrs. B Bridges over River Adur blown. Transport (A Ech) dispersed. R.C.E. Bridging Coln start bridge at M.R. 626354.
		1200	Q.O.R. ford river at M.R. 627344 and advance on road HORSEBRIDGE COMMON-SMORRINGTON. Trace of Route <i>Km</i>
			Carrier and Mortar platoons over bridge in priority at 1400 hrs and become advance guard with A Coy, clearing small pockets of resistance. The men have been able to sleep only in odd moments since the night 5/6 and it is beginning to tell. At every

Appendix 6

Appendix 7

Appendix 8

Appendix 9

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Place	Date	Hour	
Smashex II	8Jul	1200	Halt they drop and are asleep in a matter of seconds. The weather has broken and there are intermittent, heavy downpours.
		1800	Amberley 4632. Bridges blown, assault boats brought forward. Enemy A.F.V. in vicinity. C.O. decided not to cross river until A/Tk guns can come forward in support.
		2400	Carriers, A/Tk and A Ech vehicles over Greatham Bridge 4635 marching troops cross river Amberley - Bury in assault boats.
Smashex II	9Jul	0330	Objective and coys dug in. Enemy counter-attack at 0500 hrs heavy casualties inflicted.
Westburton Hill		0600	Cease Fire. Breakfast and to bed. A sleep of utter exhaustion. C.O. and Coy Comdrs. to G.O.C. review of scheme. Bn. move on first leg of journey to training area, arrived Castle Goring 1700 hrs. Clearing, rain has ceased. Very few men took advantage of opportunity to go out for the evening.
4232			
Castle Goring	10Jul	0700	Reveille. Resumed march 0830 hrs. Received first news of Canadians in Sicily from a civilian while on the march. It passed quickly down the lines, fatigue was forgotten, and morale soared high.
5324			
Training Area	10Jul	1145	Getting settled in training area, heavy rain. Moved into club house and out-buildings of golf club. The evening was spent re-newing old acquaintances in Shoreham.
649281			
	11Jul	0600	Reveille. Still raining. Rifle coys working in conjunction with Sp. Coy. in field firing exercise. All interest on Sicily. An 18 set was rigged up with an amplifier to get the news and a truck despatched to Shoreham to procur all available newspapers. Unceasing rain.
Training Area	12Jul	0600	Reveille. Rain. Field firing training continues but conditions very unsuitable.
649281		1300	Return to Camp.
Moonhill		1645	All troops back in camp.
734417			

(H.E. BICKFORD) Lieut.
Adlt. 1st Bn. 200th Regt. of

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Place	Date	Hour		
Moonhill 734417	13Jul	0600 1915	Reveille. Interior economy. Preparations for Ordnance Inspection . Mess dinner. Proposed by Capt. Clough that the officers give a party for the wives of the men who have married in this country.	Km
	14Jul	0600 1330	Reveille. Weather clear, fine, warm. From first light to about 0700 large formations of Fortress' passed overhead. Bn. paraded to the park at Burgess Hill to witness the 8 Cdn Inf Bde Sports meet. Considering the small number of entries - only A Coy's contestants, the Q.O.R. did fairly well.	Km
	15Jul	0600	Reveille. Weather fine.	Km
	16Jul	0600 1800	Reveille. Weather cloudy with showers. Bn. swimming meet at 'Stroods' won by Sp Coy.	Km
	17Jul	1303 1312	Air Raid (Red) Worthing. Air Raid (White) Worthing.	Km
		0600	Reveille. Weather fine. The bn paraded in the sports field in Bolney and practised for the inspection. The C.O. took the salute on the march past.	Km
	18Jul	0700 0800 1200	Weather fine and mild; sky overcast. Communion service by Padre. Company Comd meeting on recent minor troubles in Burgess Hill. Inspector Brown of Burgess Hill police attended and the difficulties - largely arising at out men trying to get into dances after 2200 hrs. - were straightened out and the situation explained on Company parades.	Km
	19Jul	0600	Reveille. Weather cool, sky overcast and cloudy. Coys preparing for the G.O.C's inspection with ceremonial parades and today com- centrating on interior economy.	Km

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Moonhill 738414	20Jul	0600	Reveille. Weather sky overcast.	Km
		1000	Rehearsal "on the green" in Burgess Hill. Brig. K.G. Blackader attended and took the salute. Major S.M. Lett arrived back with the unit from Senior Offrs. School.	
	21Jul	0600	Reveille. Weather slight drizzle gradually getting worse.	Km
		0900	Parade by Coys, last minute preparations.	
		1000	3 Cdn. Div. Band arrived.	
		1330	Bn. moved off to the Green in Burgess Hill for the G.O.C.'s inspection. The weather grew steadily worse and the inspection took place in a downpour. Major S.M. Lett 2 i/c marched the Bn. past the G.O.C. Lt.-Col. J.G. Spragge and Brig. K.G. Blackader were at the saluting base. In spite of the weather the inspection was a fair success.	
		1540	The G.O.C. and guests for the inspection returned to the mess at Moonhill for tea.	
		2000	A dance was held in Moonhill and a dance at Gravenhurst for the men from B and Sp. Coys.	
	22Jul	0600	Reveille. Weather slight drizzle but clearing in the afternoon.	Km
		1000	Offrs and Sgts. attended a lecture in the Studio Theatre Hassocks on Conduct if Cut Off or Captured by Lt. Instone of the War Office.	
		1330	100 all ranks from Q.O.R. of C. attended 3 Cdn Div Sports meet in Horsham. Q.O.R. of C. scored two thirds.	
			A dance was held in Burgess Hill for men of Moonhill area.	
Moonhill 73844 Gravenhurst 704437	23Jul	0600	Reveille. Weather overcast, cool. Scramble nets slung in coy areas and will be in use daily.	Km

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Moonhill 738414 Gravenhurst 704437	24Jul.	0600 1400	Reveille. Pioneers building dummy L.C.A. and assault course on Bolney Range. Swimming meet at Burgess Hill pool. Q.O.R. won 'Services Relay'. The team - Sgt. R. Guiton, Sgt. C. Warner, Rfn. Mitchell, Rfn. J. Moore. Rfn. J. Porter won the diving competition.	Km
Moonhill 738414 Gravenhurst 704437	25Jul	0700 0930 1100	Reveille. Clear and warm. Church Service at Gravenhurst. Church Service at Moonhill. One of the loveliest days of the year, only men on duty remained in camp.	Km
Moonhill 738414 Gravenhurst 704437	26Jul.	0600 0830 0900 1830	Reveille. Weather cool, damp mist, overcast. Gas chamber for all coys. to test respirators. 3 Pl. field firing in Area. Baseball - Burgess Hill - 12 Field Regt. 13, Q.O.R. of C. 6	Km
Moonhill 738414 Gravenhurst 704437	27Jul.	0600 0930 1700	Reveille. Weather fair, warm. 'Mine Circus' at Moonhill Camp for 'A' and 'C' Coys. 5 Pl. left for Beachy Head to shoot on 28th.	Km
	28Jul.	0600 0945 1600 1830	Reveille. Weather fair and warm - Visibility poor, misty. 'A' left camp and proceeded to Bolney where they will train on assault course. 5 Pl. returned from Beachy Head.--could not shoot because of fog. Baseball - N.S.R. vs. Q.O.R. of C. - Q.O.R. 20 - N.S.R. 4.	Km
	29Jul	0600 1330 1930	Reveille. 'A' Coy back in camp at 0430 hrs. after night scheme. Sports afternoon, baseball, swimming at Burgess Hill & Stroods. Lecture to officers by Major S.M. Lett on Combined Ops. Second anniversary of Bn. landing in England.	Km
	30Jul	0600 0915 1900	Reveille. Fair and warm. 'A' Coy. started forced marches 10 miles in 2 hrs. Bn. ball game Q.O.R. of C. vs 8 R.C.A.M.C. - Q.O.R. of C. 19, R.C.A.M.C. 4.	Km

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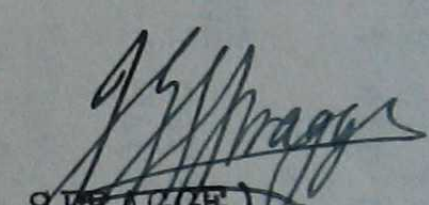
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Moonhill 738414 Gravenhurst 704437	31Jul.	0900	<p>Reveille. Weather fair and warm, visibility good. Training carried on all day. Physical training more intensive. Each company having daily peridds on the scramble net and rope climbing. Letters to Capt. Clough from Matron "Sunshine House" East Grinstead Street Plan of Eastbourne</p> <p style="text-align: right;">  (J.G. SPRAGG) Lt.-Col. Comd. 1st Bn. Q.O.R. of C. </p>

Appendix 10
Appendix 11

(R.E. BICKFORD) Lieut.
Adlt. 1st Bn. Q.O.R. of

BATTALION ORDERS
BY
MAJOR S.M. LETT
T/Commanding 1st Bn. The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

PART ONE

PART I ORDERS

26 July, 1943.
No 70

LAST PART I ORDER ISSUED 24 Jul '43

"A"

COMMAND

During the absence of Lt.-Col. J.G. Spragge on duty, Major S.M. Lett is temporary detailed to command the Bn. in an acting capacity w.e.f. 23 Jul '43.
Bde Order 56 d/23 Jul '43

Capt. H.E. Dalton is granted the powers of a detachment commander during the absence of Major C.O. Dalton from 26 Jul to 7 Aug '43 inclusive.

"B"

2. DRESS

All khaki and Green F.S. Caps are to have black buttons. If present buttons are brass they will be blackened forthwith. Coy 2 i/c's will immediately arrange for the blackening of said buttons.

3. MEAL ROUTINE - MOONHILL

Breakfast	0700 hrs	0730 hrs.
Dinner	1215 hrs	1230 hrs.
Tea	1700 hrs	1730 hrs.

Saturday supper - 1630 hrs.

Sunday Breakfast	0730 hrs	0800 hrs.
Dinner	1200 hrs	1230 hrs.
Tea	1630 hrs	- -

4. RATION STRENGTH

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>
24 July '43	33	672
25 July '43	31	670
26 July '43	28	675

R. L. Bickford Lt.
(R.L. BICKFORD) Lieut.
Adjutant, 1st Bn. Q.O.R. of C.

NOTICES

SHOW - 1900 hrs 26 Jul '43 in the N.A.A.F.I. - For Me and My Girl.

29 Jul '43 and posted to Sp. Coy.

The w/n personnel are T.O.S. from 1 C.A.S.C.R.U. and
29 Jul '43 and posted to H.Q. Coy.

A49710 Pte. Butler, H.N.S. A22105 Pte. Connor, H.N.

The w/n personnel are T.O.S. from 4 C.I.R.U. v.e.s.
29 Jul '43 and posted to Sp. Coy.

B114117 Pte. Stroux, P.

B65769 Rfn. Houghton, H.P.

B65760 Rfn. Jackson, D.

B42072 Rfn. Starostic, H.

B42168 Rfn. Van Hatter, A.J.

3. NATION STRENGTH 29 Jul '43 - 30 Officers, 662 Other Ranks

4. DRESS Summer dress when worn, will consist of shirts, sleeves
rolled, collars turned in, web belt with loops buttoned
over, no suspenders. Rank badges MUST be worn and
officers will wear collar and tie.

Coy. Orders may order summer dress as they see fit, but
when ordered all ranks within the coy will dress
uniformly.

Summer dress will NOT be worn for ceremonial, or Church
Parades, or for walking out.

5. DIVINE SERVICE R.C. service at 1100 hrs. in W.A.A.F.I.

(P.L. BICKFORD) Lieut.
Adj. 1st Bn. Q.O.R. of C.

MOVIE to-night in the WAAFI at 1930 hrs (Panama Hattie).

CASUALTIES

RECENT DEATHS

B4377 Rfn. Gallant, J.W.L.) S.O.S. to #4 C.I.R.U. of

B63727 Rfn. Gibson, J.E.) Headley Downs Detention

The w/m personnel are T.O.S. from 1 C.A.S. C.R.U. 29 Jul '43 and posted to H.Q. Coy.

A49710 Pte. Yotter, H.F.S. A22195 Pte. Connor, H.B.

The w/m personnel are T.O.S. from 4 C.I.R.U. w.e. 29 Jul '43 and posted to Sp. Coy.

B114117 Rfn. Giroux, P.

B65769 Rfn. Houghton, M.B.

B65760 Rfn. Jackson, D.

B42972 Rfn. Starostic, J.

B42166 Rfn. Van Natter, A.J.

3. LOCATION BIRMINGHAM 29 Jul '43 - 30 Officers, 562 Other Ranks

4. DRESS Summer dress when worn, will consist of shirts, sleeves rolled, collars turned in, web belt with loops buttoned over, no suspenders. Rank badges MUST be worn and officers will wear collar and tie.

Coy. Orders may order summer dress as they see fit, but when ordered all ranks within the coy will dress uniformly.

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(P.L. DICKFORD) Lieut.
Adjt. 1st Bn. Q.O.R. of C.

MOVIE to-night in the NAAFI at 1930 hrs (Panama Hattie).

CASUALTIES

DEATHS

B64877 Rfn. Gallant, J.W.L. S.O.S. to #4 C.I.R.U.

B31227 Rfn. Gibson, J.E. Hendley Downs Detention

w.e.f. 22 Jul '43.