

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

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

WAR DIARY  
OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY  
(Erase heading not required)

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

Original, duplicate and triplicate 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
Bournemouth 541120	1 Nov 1943	0600	Reveille - rainy	
		1030	Swim parade for "A" Coy	
		1200	"D" Coy plus 25% HQ proceed on privilege leave	
		1600	Five N.C.O.'s arrive on Spec Inc. First to be had on this basis - Sgt O'Sullivan who left us in Sussex N.B. returned with these men.	
		1730	Air raid - Three bombs dropped causing some casualties & damage - Q.O.R. personnel outdid themselves by appearing on the scene with trucks within five minutes of the bombing, digging casualties out of wreckage & driving them to hospital. According to remarks passed by civilians later in evening, they were very favourably impressed by our boys quick actions. This was the first experience of an air raid for many of the men & so naturally it was the sole topic of conversation for balance of day.	
		2330	Most of first flight leave men return by late London train & of course some confusion was encountered by men trying to find their quarters. Out of 193 men in this flight only one was A.W.L.	RLB.
		2345	An unexploded bomb discovered & reported at 59 Shaftesbury Ave MR 537132. Road roped off.	
Bournemouth 541120	2 Nov 1943	0600	Reveille - very dull with plenty of rain.	
		0900	"A" Coy leaves for weeks fatigue at Weymouth.	
		1300	"B" & "C" Coy attend trg films shown in mess hall.	
		1330	Lt-col J G Spragge returned from Bde H Q where he has been acting in capacity of Bde Comd	
		1630	Formal change of guard complete with flag & bugler - quite an impressive ceremony, the first to take place for some time.	RLB.
Bournemouth 541120	3 Nov 1943	0600	Reveille - clear & fairly warm.	
		1330	"B" Coy on sports parade	
		1600	Sketch for kit-layout	RLB. appx 5
Bournemouth 541120	4 Nov 1943	0600	Reveille - clear & mild	
		0800	Coys on normal trg. "A" Coy still at Weymouth on fatigue & "D" Coy on leave.	
		1400	Lecture for Officers and some N.C.O.'s by Lt-col Bell Irving of Seaforth Highlanders	RLB.



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Bournemouth 541120	5 Nov	1830	on Sicily & Italian campaigns. A very interesting & instructive lecture which was thoroughly enjoyed by all attending.	
		1900	HQ Coy & BnHQ on night route march. To start with much complaining & beefing but Cpl Cairns rallied the men and the boys sang for practically the whole march.	
			K of C showed picture for "A" Coy at Weymouth.	
Bournemouth 541120	5 Nov	0500	Reveille - weather fair but quite cool.	RRB
		0700	"B" & "C" Coys & part of HQ & BHQ leave by unit transport for rifle ranges at Romsey. This leaves only support coy in camp today.	
		1330	The adjutant, Lt R L Bickford who just returned from leave last evening goes to Bde for a week as L.O. Capt E F Adamson the Paymaster, much to his disgust remains as A/Adjt for another week.	
Bournemouth 541120	6 Nov	0600	Reveille - Rainy	RRB
		0800	Parts of "B", "C" & "Sp" Coy again leave for ranges. Some very good shooting scores have been made in this two day shoot with many men scoring over 90 out of a 100.	
		1300	Afternoon free for most men and although weather quite miserable most men go out to see the town.	
Bournemouth 541120	7 Nov	0630	Reveille - still cool with some showers.	RRB
		0800	Day free for all but duty coy.	
		1100	Pay parade for B Coy who proceed on leave tomorrow. Due to the Paymaster running out of money BHQ & HQ could not be paid.	
		1415	Pay parade for part of BHQ & HQ Coy going on leave.	
		1500	Message from 8 Cdn Inf Bde to the effect that heavy air raids of the calibre of the 1940 blitz are to be expected on this area.	



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Bournemouth 541120	8 Nov	0600	Reveille - cool with showers.	Appx 6  RAB
		0800	"B" Coy preparing to go on leave. "A" Coy still at Weymouth & "D" Coy still on leave. This leaves very few men in camp.	
		1230	"B" Coy, A/Tk Pl & 25% of BHQ & Sp go on leave.	
		1030	Operation Order - Serial 21	
		1500	Leave for "A" Coy, Pioneer Pl and part of BHQ & HQ who were to leave on the 12th cancelled. Will be granted 48 hrs on the 15th & possibly leave after Dec 4. Naturally the men concerned are very disappointed over this.	
		1515	Alert sounded.	
		1535	All clear sounded.	
		2330	Most of "D" Coy return from leave by late train.	
Bournemouth 541120	9 Nov	0500	Reveille - early in preparation for scheme.	RAB.
		0630	Rifle coys loaded on TCVs & proceed on scheme. Most of BHQ's part cancelled & help to do fatigues in camp.	
		0900	TCV's arrive at Weymouth, men loaded on LCAs and then to LSI.	
		1200	LSI set sail.	
		1320	Men loaded on LCA once more & are landed at Redcliff, "C" & "A" coys landing first	
		1430	and then "D" Coy.	
		1730	Dinner served.	
		1800	Load on TCV and proceed to camp.	
Bournemouth 541120	10 Nov	0600	Reveille - dull & cloudy but no rain.	RAB Appx 7
		0800	Coys on normal trg. All coys except "B" & A/Tk Pl now back in camp.	
		2100	Range Directions & Duty Coy Roster	
Bournemouth 541120	11 Nov	0600	Reveille - cool & fair.	RAB
		0700	Armistice day started off by selling poppies in the mess halls.	
		0800	"A" & "C" Coys leave by TCV for Southampton to do Street fighting. Some Sp Coy Offrs & NCO's go along to pick up what knowledge they can.	
		1815	BHQ & HQ Coy on route march of about six miles.	
		1930	Draft of 2 NCO's & 6 Rfn arrive from 4 CIRU. Sgt Ritchie & Cpl Tubb who left us in October of last year for duty in Canada returned with this lot.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Bournemouth 541120	12 Nov	0600	Reveille - cloudy but warmer than usual.	RHB.
		0830	"Sp" & "D" Coys load on TCVs to do street fighting in Southampton. "Sp" Coy doing straight infantry work.	
		1730	"Sp" & "D" Coy return to billets. Lt Caron one of our bi-lingual officers on Spl Increment sent to hospital with pieces of bakelite from 69 grenade in his eye.	
	13 Nov	0600	Reveille - dull with promise of rain	RHB.
		0800	'D' Coy to Philmore Ranges (Square 9029) by TCV's.	
		1330	Afternoon occupied by pay parades and CO's inspection of billets and vehicles.	
	14 Nov	0700	Reveille - cool and bright	RHB.
		0915	Coys Parade for church both R.C. and Protestant parades compulsory. R.C. Service at Corpus Christi Church, Boscombe The Protestant service held at St John's Anglican Church, Boscombe was combined with the North Shore Regt.	
		1300	Sunday afternoon being free and the weather bright though cool, was marked by a general exodus from camp.	
		1800	All weapons etc being turned in for RCOG inspection. CQMS Sutherland of B Coy, Sgt Tims and Cpl Martin of the QM branch all being called back from their leave for the inspection.	
	15 Nov	0600	Reveille - very cool but bright and sunny.	RHB. Appx 8 Appx 9
		0800	Coys on normal trng - A Coy duty coy and also getting ready to proceed on 48 hrs leave.	
		0900	Orders re concert party "The Bandoliers"	
		1300	Operation Order for scheme tomorrow with LCA and LSI	
		1930	Concert party at Shrubshall Hall by Concert group "The Bandoliers". A very good show but a poor turn out for it.	
		2000	Word has now been received that Major Dunlop who was injured in Scotland has lost the sight of both eyes. He has now been moved to St Dunstan's.	



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Bournemouth 541120	16Nov	0330	Reveille - cold	RAB  Appx 10  RAB  RAB
		0515	A,B,C and Sp Coys parade to load on TCVs for move to Weymouth. Sp Coy to act for the day as a rifle coy.	
		0520	Alert sounded and some gunfire, apparently the intruder being directly overhead.	
		0558	All clear sounds.	
		0600	Due to a mixup of some description, no TCVs showed up to move the Bn to Weymouth. However B and D coys and BHQ load on unit transport and proceed getting under way about twenty minutes late. C and Sp Coys return to billets.	
		0900	Coys load on LSIs and BHQ on LCH.	
		1015	Various craft and ships set sail and proceed about ten miles out to sea.	
		1300	Coys load into LCA and on the run in to shore most of the men get pretty wet. A few lads were even sick.	
		1500	Coys land on shore, D first followed by BHQ and B Coy. Then a short march to the transport and so back to camp once more. The scheme itself did not appear to be much of a success as one of the main purposes was to test the communications and unfortunately they didn't work at all.	
		1800	All coys back in camp. Screed on Pl Trg on Area 7	
	17Nov	0600	Reveille - cold but bright.	
		0830	First pl of C Coy cross SP on way to their three day scheme on area 7. The remaining plns of C and D Coy proceed to Area 7 during the morning.	
		0900	Drivers begin to waterproof vehicles in preparation for scheme "Vidi".	
		0930	HQ and BHQ have bath and swim parade.	
		1400	Sp Coy bath and swim parade.	
		2359	A Coy return from their 48 hrs pass. In spite of their Priv. Leave being cancelled, only one man was AWL from the coy.	
	18Nov	0600	Reveille - cold but clear	
		0830	Mortar Pl proceed to Rhinefield range. There is plenty of 3" Mortar ammunition so they should have a good day.	



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Bournemouth 541120	18Nov	1430	A lecture at Bde HQ to all 'I' Section by Capt Chambers, IO of 1st Cdn Div who talked on the Sicilian campaign. A very interesting talk. However if possible it would be better to have a talk by a Bn IO as he would understand a Bn I Sec problems more.	RLB  Appx 11 Appx 12
		1800	A strong rumour amongst the men that the 5th Armd Div has left the country.	
		1815	BHQ and HQ out on another night route march. Range Allotment and Duty Roster Platoon Schemes "A" and "B" Coys at Area 7	
	19Nov	0600	Reveille - still cold and clear - C and D Coys still on area 7 in Pl Trg.	RLB  Appx 13
		1100	Lt-Col J G Spragge is awarded the Cdn Efficiency Medal - published in CRO.	
		1800	Lecture by GOC 3 Cdn Div on Scheme "Vidi"	
		2205	Alert sounds but no incident.	
		2222	All clear sounds.	
	20Nov	0600	Reveille - clear and cold.	Appx 14  RLB
		0800	A and B Coys leave for Area 7 - start out at half hour intervals by platoons.	
		0900	Orders for recce of Studland Bay in preparation for scheme Vidi.	
		1200	C and D Coys return from Area 7. From all reports both boys had quite a good time on their three days, although naturally it was pretty cool.	
		1300	A fine afternoon and most of the men who are free head for town for the afternoon and evening.	
	21Nov	0700	Reveille.	RLB
		0930	All available offrs and some senior NCOs leave for recce of Studland Bay in preparation for scheme VIDI. The ground is gone over and the coys split up to study their own respective area.	
		1400	All but C and D Coys offrs and NCOs return to billets. C and D Coys proceed to Canford Heath range to recce for their company schemes tomorrow.	



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1ST BN THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Bournemouth 541120	22 Nov	0600 0800  1700	Reveille - warmer but a slight drizzle. C and D Coys proceed to Canford Heath.  In spite of valiant efforts by the Adjt and QM the meal parades at Linden Hall Hydro seem to still be in quite a muddle. We now have an offr, CQMS and COS at each meal for each coy plus the QM and still it apparently isn't good	R.R.B.
Bournemouth 541120	23 Nov	0600 0830 0900  1030  1430  1900	Reveille - clear and somewhat warmer RCOC inspection of arms finally gets under way. Exercise "VIDI" Administration Order #1 " " Landing Table - Appx "A" Lecture at Odeon Theatre, Christchurch Rd., Bournemouth by Major-General RFL Keller, G.O.C. 3 Cdn Inf Div to all offr and NCOs of 8 Cdn Inf Bde on scheme "Vidi". An interesting talk which put the men in the picture. Operation order #1 - scheme "Vidi" Trace V.A. - scheme "Vidi" Sgts Mess meeting - CSM Hess elected president, CSM Bray - vice president, talk over plans for Christmas	R.R.B. Appx 15 Appx 16  Appx 17 Appx 18
Bournemouth 541120	24 Nov	0600 0800  0900 1430 2359	Reveille - clear Some LCT serials prepare to leave for transit area. These serials have to be ready to load at 0400 tomorrow so will probably leave camp about midnight. All coys preparing for scheme "Vidi" "D" Coy have bath parade. Some boat serials including mortars, A/Tk guns etc leave for transit area for scheme "Vidi".	R.R.B.
Bournemouth 541120	25 Nov	0600 0900 1115 1430 1930	Reveille - cool and clear All coys still in preparation for "Vidi" Protestant church parade held at St John's Church, Christchurch Rd. R.C. church parade. Party of transport at Gosport load on LCT	R.R.B.



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Bournemouth 541120	26 Nov	0700	Reveille late as no one moves off unit	RAB
		1045	Weather bright.	
		0800	TCVs arrive to move troops to transit areas.	
		1045	TCVs with coys move off for transit area. This only leaves the rear party plus the C.O. boat load in camp.	
		1400	C.O. boatload move off to Poole to load on LC(M) and set sail	
		1415	A & B Coys arrive at Portland and are issued tea and biscuits by K of C.	
		1445	A & B Coys load into LCA and thence to LSIs.	
		1500	C & D Coys arrive Portland and are given tea and biscuits and load on LSIs via LCAs	
		1800	LSI with four rifle coys aboard set sail.	RAB
Studland Bay 485045 On board LCH	27 Nov	0730	Reveille - weather good and sea quite calm.	
		0800	News arrives that scheme "Vidi" postponed twenty-four hours due to enemy action in channel. It is feared enemy destroyers have laid mines in path of LSI and they consequently have put back to port. Balance of day spent on board various craft.	RAB.
Gosport 0520	27 Nov	0400	LCTs set sail in convoy and proceed toward Studland Bay anchoring offshore during the night.	
Studland Bay 6404	28 Nov	0800	Weather quite rough - convoy marshalled and proceeding westward - due to change of tide H hour now to be at 1110 hrs.	RAB
		1030	Weather getting worse with very strong wind blowing - army sets go on listening watch but cannot get communication. Word is received that "D" Coy will not be in an assault as due to a breakdown their LSI cannot lower LCAs into water.	
		1130	LC(R) open up and are quite a spectacle for those who have not seen them before. Assault coys load into LCAs and are lowered away. This has been left as long as possible due to the roughness of the water.	
		1138	AVRE touch down with A & B Coys landing twenty minutes later. Due to a miscalculation the coys do not land where the hedgerows have blown gaps but they push on to their objectives anyway	



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	28 Nov	1210	C Coy lands & BHQ load on LCA and proceed to shore. Word sent out for B Coy to take D Coy objectives which they do. Radio communication very poor and BHQ is out of touch with all but B Coy for some time.	RKB.
		1315	BHQ move from beach area to prearranged HQ 460048. Coys consolidated and proceed to dig in. Due to rough water further landings cancelled leaving 31 of our LCT still afloat.	
		1600	R de Chaud capture Bde objective and bn advances about two miles and consolidate in area 453043 and prepare to await landing of 9 Cdn Inf Bde.	
Studland Bay Range 453045	29 Nov	0800	Weather very cold with rain - due to not having much time to prepare bivouacs the bn spent a very uncomfortable night. The situation was not helped by having a good percentage of the mens packs still afloat. However compo packs are issued and coys prepare to spend day in present area. All sorts of shelters are constructed for the coming night for it appears as though we are to be here for at least another twenty four hours.	RKB.
		1100	Visit by Major-General RFL Keller	
		1800	As no fires can be had due to blackout most men go to bed - a much more comfortable night was spent even though it rained quite heavily.	
Studland Bay Range	30 Nov	0800	Weather clear and cool.	RKB
		1100	Although the 9 Cdn Inf Bde still cannot land the 8 Cdn Inf Bde makes preparations to proceed homeward.	
		1430	Coy load on TCVs and proceed to Bournemouth arriving at 1640 with all ranks making a dive for the nearest bathtub.	
		1800	A Coy and those men of Sp Coy, HQ Coy and BHQ whose leaves were cancelled, considerably cheered by hearing that half will proceed on leave to-morrow and half the following Wednesday.	

*R. R. Bickford Wright*

*J. G. Spragge Lt Col*  
(J. G. SPRAGGE) Lt-col  
Comd 1st Bn The Q O R of C