

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
East Horsely Surrey	1 Sep 40		Being Sunday, Church parades were held as usual, but due to the lately increased air activity we hold our Services under the trees rather than out in the field. At night there was further indication of the increasing pressure that the enemy is putting into his air attacks. It is now a favourite pastime for a group of officers to stand around outside the Bn. H.Q. Office Truck, to watch the searchlights chasing the enemy planes. The truck has been walled-in with sand bags, for protection against bomb splinters--just in case one lands near. The Signal Exchange tent has been protected in the same manner.	<i>Law</i>
	2 Sep 40	0800	A Regimentally conducted School for Junior and prospective N.C.O.'s started this morning. Sixty-odd were in attendance and showed their desire to learn more about their job. Advice received Advice has been received that a Reception Camp has been established at REDHILL, SURREY, for the 1 Cdn. Div. All our reinforcements will come to us in future via this Camp, which is also intended to provide for men returning from leave after their Units may have moved to a new location. Heavy air raids again to-night. The sound of bombs was heard occasionally and the A.A. fire over London was very heavy. The shells could be seen bursting like stars all across the horizon. Together with the searchlights display we are treated to a sort of First of July fireworks display, and being so far away from it we have, as yet, failed to properly understand the grimness of it.	APPX VIII <i>Law</i>
	3 Sep 40		Lt. H.P. Jenkins today became Brigade Liaison Officer and Lt. J.O. Millard has been appointed I.O. was The Intelligence Section is to be increased immediately by two Sections of 1 N.C.O. and 7 men each. One Section under L/Cpl. F.A. Embree are to be trained as Snipers and the other under L/Cpl. Francis, J.J.P., as Scouts. During air raids to-night a great number of parachute flares were dropped by enemy planes.	<i>Law</i>
	4 Sep 40		Training proceeded as usual to-day and the N.C.O.'s Course seems to be making good progress. The Instructors are finding this class a very keen one and these men should have a real effect on the smartness of the Unit, when they return to their Companies for duty. The Unit was called upon to place a guard about a damaged enemy plane at SHERE, a few miles from this Camp. C.O. went to Bde. H.Q. for conference on an Exercise which will be held to-morrow,	<i>Law</i>

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East Horsely Surrey.	5 Sept. 40		<p>The Unit moved out of Camp in M.T., proceeding to area POUND HILL, where a tactical exercise is to be carried out, involving wood fighting, by units of the 3rd Bde. The move down was without incident. The C.O., having gone ahead earlier, met the Unit at POUND HILL and called a conference of the ORDER Group. As soon as orders to Company Commanders were completed, the Companies moved into their positions of readiness to await Zero hour. Promptly at Zero they pushed ahead, and almost immediately a message from Bde.H.Q. ordered all Units to halt until the situation was clarified. Some other Formation was operating in the area and it was learned that we would have to move out into a new position for our scheme. All the Companies except "C" received the message and were quickly pulled out and embussed and moved into their new positions. The movement which came as a complete surprise was carried out rapidly and smoothly and was a good display of the capability of the Unit to move rapidly from one position to another. However "C" Company was still pushing ahead under the old plans and thus it was necessary to throw in our Bren Carrier Platoon to hold the front which "C" Company should have been occupying, on the right flank. Here was another example of the mobility of the Unit. "C" Company finally were brought up and took over the right flank position from the Carriers, just before the Cease Fire was sounded. During this exercise this the Units were keeping in touch with Bde.H.Q. by wireless Telephones. It was at this time that the Recce. Squadron became famous for arriving just at the time that a conversation was in progress on the phone, after which they were told in no uncertain terms just how near they were to approach Bn.H.Q. in future with what the C.O. termed their "mechanized mess-tins" (Motorcycles). To-night's air-raids were almost continuous and large numbers of flares were dropped quite near the Camp. Tension seems to be growing and it is felt that the long awaited invasion is near at hand.</p> <p>Lt.E.M.Crouse returned today from Army Gas School where he has been taking a Course.</p>	<p>APPX II <i>[Signature]</i></p>
	6 Sep 40		<p>The air of tension and expectancy is more pronounced to-day and everybody went about their tasks with the feeling that something was about to happen. Seven new Tommy Guns were issued to-day, so that we now have one for each of our 18 Platoons. Heavier air-raids and even more flares to-night. The A.A. barrage, which we can now hear as well as see, about London, has increased tremendously and is kept up continually from dusk to dawn. A couple of bombs landed about 1½ miles from Camp. They could be heard clearly, screaming down, and the nightly coterie of sky-gazers around Bn.H.Q. did some hasty ducking for cover. The</p>	<p>APPX II <i>[Signature]</i></p>

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East Horsely Surrey.	6 Sept. 40		<p>sand-bagged A.A. pit across the road from H.Q. was filled to overflowing with men piled in any old way one on top of the other. These are the lads who have been craving action. The A.A. gunners were heard to remark that they "Guessed they'd have lots of help enlarging the pit to-morrow!"</p> <p>Posted Strength of Unit 6 Sep. 40. Officers..... 27 Other Ranks.... 729</p>	APPX. I <i>Law</i>
	7 Sep. 40		<p>Training is carried out as per Schedule, but everyone's minds seem to be on the question - will the invasion come soon?</p> <p>Message from Bde. H.Q. says that enemy agents were landed at various points on the coast last night. This looks like preparation for the invasion.</p> <p>C.O. called to Bde. H.Q. for conference and everything seems to be hanging in abeyance awaiting word to move, although nothing definite has been heard or seen. It just seems to be "in the air".</p> <p>Upon returning from Bde. the C.O. called Company Commanders together to warn them that things might start moving at any time now. This increased the tension in Camp and we now feel that we may soon have an opportunity to put into practice the lessons of the many schemes that we have practised all summer.</p> <p>Again the volume of the air-raids seems to have increased. The group of watchers around Bn. H.Q. is larger to-night. No doubt the nervous tension from waiting for things to "break" makes sleeping difficult.</p>	<i>Law</i>
	8 Sep. 40		<p>Church parades were held as usual to-day. Capt. Addie, the Padre spoke briefly, but to the point as usual, seeming to have caught the tense attitude of his congregation.</p> <p>The C.O. again called to Bde. for conference. Upon his return verbal orders were issued to Company Commanders, covering tentative arrangements for a quick move, if the call comes.</p> <p>Having even these tentative orders seemed to stir the Camp and everyone everyone was about the task of preparing to break Camp quickly.</p> <p>Air-raids are still heavier and the Sentries have noticeably sharpened their challenges and all vehicles are stopped on the road leading through the Camp area.</p>	<i>Law</i>

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East Horsely	9 Sep 40		<p>The camp bore a marked air of tension this morning. The C.O. called a conference of Coy. Cpmmanders. Orders were issued to have all ammunition checked and vehicles prepared to move. Passes were cancelled for to-night and arrangements for breaking camp were proceeding apace when word was received from Brigade at 1500 hrs. to "Strike all non-essential canvas". This is the first official indication that at last we are to have our "go" at the enemy. The C. O. called a conference for 2200 hrs. to finalize plans for the move which we all expected would come during the next 24 hours. The group for the conference gathered in the Orderly Room Marquee. Planes, enemy planes, roared in a steady procession overhead, as we gathered about the table in the tent dimly lighted by a lantern. Plans were made and orders issued for final preparations for the expected move. A rear party was detailed. Maps were issued, together with sketches of the position of readiness that we would take up if we moved. During the conference quite a discussion arose as to who should have the Tommy guns allotted to Bn.Hq. Previous to this time some of the claimants had not shown much interest in this weapon, but with the prospect of action our weapons took on a new meaning. During the conference a bomb fell, close enough to be heard exploding, thus adding to the realism of this gathering, where we sat about in the dimly lighted tent, clad in Steel Helmets and with respirators at the alert. At last we felt sure that our training days were at an end. Very few retired to a fitful sleep to-night not convinced that the call would come before morning.</p>	<p>APPX. I Gow</p>
	10 Sep 40		<p>Everyone up "on the dot" this morning and checking and rechecking and completing things for the move. Training was carried out according to schedule. The R.C.E. Section who have been attached to the Unit have been recalled. This is the end of our Z Group which has dwindled since Guillemont Barrac days, until to-day the Unit has no attached Troops.</p>	<p>APPX. VIII Gow</p>
	11 Sep 40	1830	<p>Training as usual to-day. The Junior N.C.Os. School is getting along rapidly and the smartness displayed in their work indicates that these men are going to be greatly benefited by the Instruction they are now receiving, and upon their return to their Companies the influence of this course should make a real improvement in the smartness of the Unit. Every member of the Unit gathered in the Sports Field to witness a demonstration, by Lysander Aircraft, of communication with the ground by dropping messages; and flying at various heights in order to give us some idea of judging the height of aircraft. The plane was a bit late in arriving and arrived just as we heard a large flight of enemy planes above the clouds. We attempted to tell them to watch out for the enemy, but they did not seem to get</p>	<p>APPX. II Gow</p>

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East Horsely	11 Sep 40		the message, which we tried to give them by means of ground strips. As they were about to start the demonstration a flight of Hurricanes popped down out of the clouds and flew very low over the field. After three messages had been dropped a heavy mist and rain made it impossible to carry on and the demonstration was called off.	Appx II Jew
	12 Sep 40		Route marches to-day under Company arrangements. The remainder of the day taken up by parades to the Mobile Bath Unit for hot showers.	Jew
	13 Sep 40		Major Ernst and small party left to make final arrangements for billeting in the winter quarters which we are to occupy shortly. We hear that the new location is near the London barrage and that it is a "hot spot" for air raids and air battles. Posted Strength of Unit 13 Sep 40:- Officers..... 28; Other Ranks..... 746.	Jew
	14 Sep 40		The day taken up with pay-parades. Heavy rain washed out training for the day.	Jew
	15 Sep 40		Church parades to-day as usual. Remainder of day spent in sports program under Company arrangements.	Jew
	16 Sep 40	0900	Conference of Company Commanders with C.O. C.O. read communication from Bde. advising that a Spitfire Fund was to be started in the 1 Cdn, Div., Company Commanders approved the idea of the Unit contributing on the basis of one days pay for each member of the Unit. Coy. Commanders told that move into winter billets would take place within the next few days. I.O. proceeded to reconnoitre route to Woldingham, which is to be our winter location.	Appx II Jew
	17 Sep 40	0830	Conference with C.O. and Company Commanders present, to finalize plans for move into winter billets, the order having been received for us to move to-morrow. Training program gave way to arrangements for moving out of Camp.	Appx I Jew
	18 Sep 40		Every one busy cleaning up around the lines, taking down tents, filling in trenches and preparing for the move out, which is to take place at 1400 hrs. to-day.	Appx I Jew

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East Horsely	18 Sep 40	1400	<p>The Unit moved off in M.T., as they have so many times since settling down nearly three months ago in this location. We said good-bye to all the friends that we had made in this area; Guildford, Dorking and Horsely, and there was numerous sincere expressions of regret, from the citizens, at our departure and the hope that we might return someday. One man wrote a letter of appreciation to the C.O. the Company Camped near his home, stating that he was really sorry to see the boys leaving and thanking them for their consideration and gentlemanly conduct during their stay there. What he appreciated most was the fact none of his numerous chickens and ducks had disappeared. One of the boys was heard to remark when the letter was read, "Yes, it's too bad those chickens weren't fatter, we looked them over once." It was this farmer who contributed the Ferret to "C" Company. This Ferret, "Peggy" by name, added a good many rabbits to the stew pots of "C" Company, and caused a lot of harsh words and hard digging when she used to get down into a deep warren and go to sleep instead of chasing out the rabbits.</p> <p>The move to Woldingham, Surrey was accomplished without incident and we arrived to find that we were being billeted in a lot of lovely homes, from which the inhabitants had moved mainly because it was too close to London for comfort during air-raids. The Unit billets were spread all over the village and covered an area several miles long. Woldingham being a somewhat exclusive residential district the boys were somewhat disgusted to find that there was not a single Pub in the place, the nearest being in Warlingham, three miles away.</p>	<p>APP I</p> <p>APP. II</p> <p>Jaw</p>
	19 Sep 40		<p>Everyone busy to-day getting settled down, fixing blackouts for the windows, digging slit-trenches and dugouts for air-raid shelters (by the time these were finished we had become so accustomed to air-raids that the shelters and trenches were never used). It was a nice change from tents to houses with gas fireplaces and electric lights.</p>	<p>Jaw</p>
		1400	<p>The Woldingham Village Green was the scene of our first formal Guard Mounting in the new area. A smart Guard turned out and with the band in attendance and a large number of the village people as spectators the ceremony was performed with much credit to the Unit.</p>	<p>Jaw</p>
	20 Sep 40		<p>Due to the large area over which the Unit is scattered, training and administration will be almost entirely on a Company basis. There are more fatigues to be performed in billets and more Guards to be posted so that training is going to be more on a Platoon basis than before.</p>	<p>Jaw</p>
			<p>C.O. and Major Bryson proceeded to new Bde. H.Q. for a conference on social activities</p>	

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries; (which will be kept from first of mobilization, creation or embodiment), contained in F.S. Regs. Vol. 1.

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East Horsely	20		and entertainments for the Troops.	
	Sep		The C. O. attended a luncheon at Div.H.Q. at which the Duke of Gloucester and the C.O.'s of the Units of the 1 Cdn. Div. were present. The Duke of Gloucester in conversation with Colonel Gregg evinced quite an interest in the West N.S.R. The guard on this occasion was provided by the Seaforth Highlanders of the 1st Cdn. Div., 1st Cdn Inf. Bde.	<i>Low</i>
	40		<i>POSTED STRENGTH 20 SEPT 40. OFFICERS 30 OTHER RANKS 747</i>	
	21		Conference with the C.O. and Company Commanders present to iron out problems arising in getting settled into our new quarters.	
	Sep		We were treated to our first air-battle and saw a number of enemy planes shot down. These alarms and scraps were soon to become very commonplace and became just a part of the daily routine. We developed a complete trust in the ability of the R. A. F. to deal with the enemy air-force, and in a few days accepted as ordinary, things which a year ago or even a few months ago would have upset us considerably. The A.A. barrage at night is very heavy and some of the closer batteries shake our billets when they are firing; but we have already learned to sleep through this sort of thing.	<i>Low</i>
40				
	22		Church parades to-day were held in St. Paul's Church, Woldingham. This is the first time for many months that the Unit has been able to hold a service in-doors, and to have a real parade with the Unit marching to the Church with the band in the lead.	<i>Low</i>
	Sep		Received information to-day of a new enemy weapon, the parachute mine.	
	40			
	23		The Unit to-day marched to a field near Caterham Caterham where a demonstration was given by the R.C.A.F. of gas spray from planes. Due to weather conditions the demonstration was not of a success.	<i>App. If goes</i>
	Sep		1430 The Unit Softball Team today played the first in series of Divisional Play-off games and won from the 3rd Field Regiment.	<i>Low</i>
	40			
	24		Everyone busy today getting busy to carry out training which will now be more of an individual nature as the weather has made the ground too soft for the type of training that has been carried out during the summer, when we were doing tactical exercises exercises with Tanks.	<i>Low</i>
	Sep		Another Softball game played today in which the Unit lost out to the team from the 12th T.C.C.	
	40		Bombing in this area very heavy to-night and the sound of A.A. guns was continuous throughout the night	

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Woldingham Surrey	28 Sep. 40		<p>Due to the scattered positions on the Companies it was decided today to have Company Orderly Officers detailed and a Field Officer for the Unit. Several of the ladies of Woldingham have volunteered to furnish a large room in the Bn.H.Q. house, Southdean, for the Officer's mess and have done a very creditable job, so that we now have some place to spend an hour or two.</p>	<p><i>Law</i></p>
	29 Sep. 40	1500	<p>Sunday. Church parades were held, with the Band leading the march to St. Paul's Church, Woldingham. A meeting was held in the newly furnished Officer's Mess at which the Brigade Commander was present, together with a number of the ladies and gentlemen of Woldingham. The latter have voluntarily offered to form a Woldingham Committee to provide entertainment for our men. The gathering was addressed by the C.O. who outlined the suggestions that had been advanced by the local people and called upon Mrs. Ball to further discuss the matter. Mr. Harry Letts was chosen as Chairman of the Committee, which was to consist of two other members, Mrs. Ball, and Major Bryson representing the Unit. The Brigadier addressed the gathering and thanked the people of Woldingham for their great kindness in offering freely so much of their time and work to help make our stay here more pleasant.</p>	<p><i>Law</i></p>
	30 Sep. 40		<p>This being pay-day most of the day was taken up in pay-parades. The balance of the time being spent in parades to the mess showers providing hot showers for the men. This equipment which is set up and operated by the Unit has proven to be a sound investment as it is difficult to obtain bathing facilities for the whole Unit. The Junior Officers spent the afternoon writing tests on the refresher course that has just been completed. Passes to Caterham were cancelled when it was learned that the boys were arranging a meeting with the Guards, whose Depot is at Caterham. This seems to be a recurrence of the Camberley affair, after which it was thought that "the hatchet had been buried". It is hoped that with Provost Serjeant Lupton on the look-out another battle with the Guards may be averted.</p> <p>POSTED STRENGTH 30 SEP. 40 OFFICERS 31 OTHER RANKS 748</p>	<p><i>Law</i></p>