

# WAR DIARY

OR

## ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

MAY 1942

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

Title pages will be prepared.

WEST N.S.P.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Worthing	1	0800	Bn drill.	App 3 <i>WLB</i>
		0930	Balance of morning spent in cleaning equipment.	
		1330	Bn drill. Field Return.	
	2	0800	Route march.	<i>WLB</i>
		1400	Maj. J.A. Hebb and Maj Gemmel and Coy commanders proceeded to 5 Cdn Inf Bde area to recce task normally covered by 5 Bde. West N.S.P. takes over their role while they are on exercise.	
	3	0815	C of W. parade to West Tarring church, Worthing. This sermon, given by the Bishop of Chichester was attended by Maj-Gen Pearkes, G.O.C. and Brigadier Ganong.	<i>WLB</i>
		1330	The Coy commanders, T.O. and O.M. meet to discuss the loading of vehicles for exercises such as "Prepare to Advance" & "Beaver 3". This discussion was written in report form and submitted to Bde.	
		2000	Maj J.A. Hebb went to Bde to get information on the proposed move of the Bn. into the Hastings area on or about 8 May 42.	
	4	0800	Training as per syllabus.	APP 4 <i>WLB</i>
		1400	Col. Vining, O.C. 12th Tank Bn. called to arrange training with rifle coys 5 Jun 42. The billets formerly used by "A" coy were today turned over to the Officer i/c Barracks.	
	5	0800	"A" & "M" coys each spent half the day training with the 12th Tank Bn., A&B coys each supplied a Plat. to act as enemy. Coys store their extra kit in preparation for "McGill" and other coming exercises.	APP 4 <i>WLB</i>
		1900	"McGill" starts. This is an exercise designed to work out the medical services.	
	6	0830	Maj Gemmel, Capt Johnson, Lieuts. Eisenhower and Rodgers again recce 5 Bde area.	<i>WLB</i>
		1330	3 O.P.s of this unit proceeded to Southampton under Div arrangements to visit some female war workers at work. It is not quite clear for whose entertainment this journey was made.	
		1900	"McGill" ends. 170 all ranks more or less seriously injured on this exercise. (In theory)	

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Worthing	7	0830	Advance party proceeded to Hastings area. Balance of the Bn "recovered" from "McGill" and prepared for the move on the morrow.	le & B
	8	0900	Bn moved off for the Hastings area. The move went off according to plan and the D.P. was reached at 1100 hrs. The balance of the day was spent in getting unit familiar with the various tasks. The C.O., Maj Hebb, accompanied by officers and N.C.O.s of the detachments concerned, reced the areas and issued tentative verbal orders re these tasks.	APP 4 le & B le & B
	9	0625	Two sneak raiders (M.E.109s) dropped bombs on railroad EAST of Bexhill, causing slight damage and in sea just off St. Leonards, then scurried homewards. Day spent in becoming thoroughly familiar with area and other units operating therein.	le & B
	10	1200	Church parades under coy arrangements. Brig Ganong called to interview officer candidates.	le & B
	11	0800	Bn went on a forced route march. At times <del>walking</del> they doubled for distances of 900 yds. The unit was quite pleased ? to receive its' first "Blitz Buggy" today. We had two visits from Brig Ganong today.	le & B
	12	0800	Bn proceeded on a route march, A unique feature of this march was that each man took his rations, consisting of meat and potatoes in a raw state and cooked his own meal during the noon halt.	
		1300	Maj J.A.Hebb had lunch with Brig Ganong who again interviewed the O.C.T.U. candidates. Following this Maj Hebb went to a special A.L.C. demonstration at Seaford.	le & B
	13	1000	Warning order from Bde to be prepared to move at 1300 hrs.	
		1130	Bn O. Gp conference re move.	
		1300	Tps start marching. Due to T.C.V.s being late in reporting we were unable to cross Bde S.P. on time which made a change of route necessary. In spite of this and delay caused by traffic congestion Bn arrived in own area at 2000 hrs.	le & B

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Worthing	14	0930	C.O.s conference.	lelB
		1330	Maj Hebb and Maj Stehelin made a recce of the immediate area, object being to find a field firing range suitable for battle drill.	
	15	Brig Ganong paid a visit to this unit today. Other than that nothing worthy of note.	lelB	
	16	0800	Bn parade and route. Elements of the Bn practise T.S.M.G.	lelB
		1330	Officers of the Bn meet to discuss training and general discipline. Early preparations for exercise "Tiger" carried out.	
17	0830	Maj Hebb, Capt Moore, Capt Smith, Capt Johnson, Lieuts. Bent, MacNeil and Dyer made a recce of Wych Cross, Ashdown Forest also Kent and Sussex borders from Old Surrey Hall 8558 to Lamberhurst Downs 1053. Total recce covered 140 miles. Returned at 1600 hrs.	APP 4 lelB	
		1630		Conference of all I.O.s of Cdn Corps in which the G.2 (I) gave his general appreciation of the situation re exercise "Tiger". Also discussed enemy order of battle which will introduce for first time the new organization of an Inf Div which is composed of one A.T. Bde and two Inf Bdes. Much importance is placed on exercise "Tiger" due to the peculiar question of striking power vs. holding power.
		Attempting to beat the gun, coys have done some experimenting with the loading of vehicles in preparation for exercise. The vehicles have been loaded as seems most expedient.		
	1700	Bde O.O. No 1 throws our forethought completely awry as loading of vehicles is changed.		
	2000	Maj Hebb and Lieut. Bent attend a conference at Div H.Q. in general preparation for exercise "Tiger". Maj-Gen G.F. Pearkes, G.O.C., gave the general story of the exercise. Kent and Sussex the two counties garrisoned by the S.E. Army under command of Lt-Gen Montgomery are two small countries between whom trade and political problems have become acute and who are daily drawing nearer war. Both Governments are striving to maintain peaceful relations but the aims of both sides are so far apart that open declaration of war by one or the other has become so near "aux fait accompli" that mobilization has been ordered in both countries. Said mobilization to be completed by 1200 hrs 19 May 42. Orders have been given to frontier guards of Sussex that unless advice is received to the contrary from the minister of war frontiers will close at 2359 hrs on that date. Concentration of the Sussex army will begin after nightfall of the same day. Sussex army (1Cdn Corps with certain unnamed British tps attached) will move to concentration area North of Southdowns and Lewes. This concentration		

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M.F.M. 11  
& 8/37

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Worthing	17	2000	<p>will be made in the following stages: Staging area "A", Arundel Pk, area "B", just North of Washington and Storrington, area "C" adjoining general concentration area and lying just North of Brighton. Night of 19 May these areas will be occupied by 1, 3 and 2 Bdes respectively. Night of 20 May 2 Inf Bde will move to N.E. corner of Div concentration area, 3 Inf Bde to area "C", 1 Inf Bde to staging area "B". The following night 3 Inf Bde will move to S.E. corner Div concentration area, while 1 Bde will move to "C" area, the latter bde completing its concentration in the Western section of the Div area the following night. All moves will be governed by the following rules: no preparations will be begun previous to 2100 hrs, and all movement must cease, Tps and vehicles concealed prior to first light. Vehicle lights during moves must be kept to a minimum.</p> <p>The Kentish army have vast superiority in A.F.V.s but Sussex army have superiority in the air and arty. Anti-panzer tactics will be employed as practised on exercise "Robin 1". Due to the enemy's <del>superiority</del> armored superiority strategy of the Sussex army must be to entice Kentish forces into battle on ground of our own choosing, i.e., formations will move by bounds, each bound being a tank-proof locality. Nature of the country Sussex and Kent along the line of the sea from Littlehampton to Eastbourne lie the steep rolling Southdowns which form what might be called the southern line of hills. From Guildford in Surrey running generally S.W. varying in width from five to twelve miles narrowing in Southeastern Sussex and running into the sea at St Leonards-Cliff End lie the central range. In Kent itself beginning at Sutton-<del>Wpsom</del> thence S.W. and disappearing into the sea in the famous white cliffs of Dover is the Northern range. As much as possible the Sussex Army will endeavour to close with the enemy on either the Central or Northern ranges, thus placing at a discount the Kentish armoured forces. 3 Inf. Bde.Gp. will include 3 Fd. Regt., B Coy S.L.I.(M.G.), one battery 57 A/Tk Regt., A Coy 5 Fd.Amb. and one Sec 4 Fd.Coy R.C.E. 1 Lt.A.A. Regt will provide protection in each staging area and as these are finally vacated will move by separate route to the Div. concentration area. Concentration of 1 Cdn.Div. must be completed by the night of 23/24 May. A2 and B echelons tpt will be Brigaded beyond the concentration area and will move forward only on orders of Div. Wireless silence will be maintained until contact has been made. This will be another invasion exercise and the same conditions as on BEAVER III will prevail. Weight carried on the man will be kept to a minimum and to assist in this the blanket carried on the previous exercise will now be carried on unit tpt. A/Tk rifles and 2" mortars will also be carried in tpt. Due to the necessity of carrying A/Tk grenades it will be necessary for the grenadiers to leave their rifles in</p>	APP 4 <i>lele</i>

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Worthing	19	0800	unit tpt. At least 25% of all 25 pdrs. will AT ALL TIMES be sited in A/Tk role, they will have orders to engage only A.F.V. targets and these at short ranges. Arty will have at least a portion of all guns in position at all times, which will entail leapfrogging. Security must be practiced by all ranks. DON'T TALK. An extensive Corps plan of demolitions has been laid on details of which will be forthcoming later. In closing Maj-Gen Pearkes emphasised the great need for a high standard of Alertness, Concealment, and general Discipline. Div instructions for the loading of tpt were given out, these changed those laid down by Bde!	APP <i>Ylt</i> <i>lel B</i>
		1330	Coys rehearsed and practiced A/Tk tactics. Practice ambushes were carried out and recent lessons in tank hunting and stalking run over. One of the ambushes laid for unsuspecting tanks was successful to the extent of ensnaring one unsuspecting Brigadier, namely and to wit, our own "Hardy" Ganong. Need one comment on the irate appearance of the august personage - or on the lengthy and voluble apologies called forth <del>by Xant</del> from our perspiring O.C. Maj. "John" ? Hardly an auspicious "kick-off" for the unit on this, the longest of all exercises!	APP <i>Ylt</i>
		2100	The carrier platoon carried out much-needed practice in night moves. Maj. "Poke" Clennett was m.c. assisted by our mighty atom Lieut. I.H. "Rommel" MacIntosh. Outcome of this practice was kept a deep dark secret until evidence was revealed as harrassed officers tried to entice our "striking force" to strike only the enemy. Seriously, however, the moves were quite well carried out. The difficulty of manouvering an unwieldy vehicle like a carrier between tight rows of marching troops over narrow, winding English lanes without lights can hardly be over stressed. Drivers were inevitably as exhausted as the marching tps. by the time these moves were completed.	<i>lel B.</i>
		20 1400	Maj. Hebb called a conference of all officers, W.O.'s and Sgts. The object of this was to "put everyone in the picture right through the piece" (shaes of "A.A.").	
		2100	At last, after days of painstaking preparation the silent, resolute warriors from the Land Where the Herring Are Choked toed the line, tense and eager. The great moment had at last arrived - Yes. At long last the greatest of all great shows, TIGER, was about to begin. At	<i>lel B.</i>

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		2230	<p>the m/n hour Major John A. Hebb, T/O.C. (Bridgewater and Windsor papers please note) strode forth at the head of his faithful followers. Soon, to those of us left behind to the less romantic job of shepherding the unit tpt. at a later hour, the steady tramp of marching feet came only as an echo bouncing back from the steep sides of frowning Washington Gap. Now the tpt. Highden House and its grounds are still and give a slightly haunted appearance as the only sign of life is of a few men, too old and feeble for further wars, left behind as a rear party - sad fate! Left with not even women and children to protect while their comrades move off to conquer new fields. Even the "increment" have gone. Down to the sea to guard our shoreline while the units are away. Gone to swell the ranks of the "Increment Battalion" formed from the reinforcement units with Lt-Col Lawson, (nee C &amp; Y R) in command ably abetted and seconded by our own Maj "Bill" Gemmell. This tpt move was not one of the best efforts of the unit "Movers" Burns and Bent (advt chgs will be collected on the 1st and 15th of each month); rather not. No less than ten (count 'em) lorries strayed from the fold right at the end of a ghastly move in which nothing seemed to be done right - not entirely OUR fault say Burns &amp; Bent, but we have ideas on the subject! Suffice to say that, arriving at the destination minus one seventh part of the convoy "Uge" (Lieut. F.H. Burns, alleged T.O.) rolled into the sheets (?) and left the smaller half of the combine, "Ted" (Lieut. C.E. Bent, occasionally I.O.) to comb the hinterland in search of the stray ones. Successfully, of course!</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">APP 4</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>leeb</i></p>
	21	2250	<p>A day of idleness and rest. Preparations to move again tonight.</p> <p>The marching tps again take to the highways this time to move to the Div concentration area near BARCOMBE. Tpt to follow later.</p>	
		2400	<p>Tpt takes off. This time Burns &amp; Bent get the "bugs" out and "the finest night convoy I have ever seen" (Brig. H.N. Ganong) is the result. That is more the kind of thing we like to hear about. Maj. "Poke" assists by riding in front in the C.O.'s station wagon with the blue light.</p>	<p style="margin: 0;"><i>leeb</i></p>
	22	0230	<p>All tps and tpt nicely tucked away in Div area. Rain. Rain. In case we forget to mention it again may we state here that it rained almost constantly in the concentration area and at least once in every 24 hrs until Monday 1 Jun 42! Made things so much more comfy, you know.</p> <p>Remainder of the day spent in resting. Minimum guards. Stand to observed etc. Camouflage resorted to. Sham tracks leading past the entrance to the wood etc.</p>	<p style="margin: 0;"><i>leeb</i></p>

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4712 & E/37

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials	
Field	22	1300	Very quiet today. Rain. The boys try to sleep in as much comfort as possible under the circumstances. Some of the shelters rigged are very ingenious. Later the rain becomes very heavy and even the shelters are running water. Only communication from Bde. is one outlining the signals for identification which will be used by our aircraft. (During the entire exercise we saw no planes that acted in any but a hostile manner - though we are told that we have air supremacy - and our identification signals are therefore not used.	<i>lelB</i>	
		23	1630	During the spell between showers one of our neighbouring units overlooks the instructions given by Maj-Gen. Pearkes with reference to conduct and concealment of tpt and tps while in concentration areas and indulges in a game (very noisy) of softball. This calls for a tark rejoinder from Bde.	
		1640	Information is recieved that the Div. Claims Officer is located at Div H.Q. Due to the policy laid down by Lt-Gen Montgomery there will be a great deal of damage done on this exercise and this officer will be a busy one.		
		1850	Bde. advises that "CUMBERLAND arriving 0001 hrs. 25 May 42" This is the key word for the new type of map reference code. A ten letter word having no two letters alike is necessary as a key word. Each letter in its normal sequence, as it occurs in the word, then becomes a number from 1 to 0.		
		2000	We are given to understand that "war" will be declared by midnight of the 24/25. It is a very wet night. Our new area was reced by the C.O., I.O. and Coy Cmdrs.	<i>lelB</i>	
		24	0830	Sunday. A VERY wet Sunday. Bde. change the location of our new position and <del>KKE</del> Maj. Hebb accompanied by "The Brains" (I.O.) Lieut. C.E. Bent make another sortie to recce the changed positions.	
			1445	After gaining some knowlege of the new area Maj. Hebb sends Coy Cmdrs to make their resse in detail.	
			1900	Bn. "O" Gp <sup>a</sup> assemble for orders re move. Maj. Hebb prepares and has posted in prominent positions a stirring "Order of the Day" to our tps. Much merriment is caused by this at once witty and yet pointed order. A copy of this will be found under the appendices.	APP 4 <i>lelB</i> <i>lelB</i>
		25	0001	Sussex makes a formal declaration of war against Kent.	
			0018	Bn. push off on the first of many night moves. The great difficulty of the moves we have spoken of previously. From the aspect of the marching tps. they are found to be most tir-	<i>lelB</i>

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		0600	<p>ing. Picture two files of marching men, one on either side of the road, in close-staggered formation with a line of 21 carriers and ten wheeled vehicles plus about 14 M/C's moving between. The fumes from these vehicles hang heavy on the night air. The danger of being run down is ever present in the darkness. The sound of the motors, especially of the noisy M/C's, is most aggravating. There is no question but that these moves are quite the most difficult we have ever attempted. With all of the difficulties outlined it is felt that the moves were carried out very well throughout. One accident occurred. One man was unfortunate enough to be struck by a 30 cwt. lorry. Fortunately his injuries were not very serious.</p> <p>The Bn. moves into position on the first objective "MONTREAL" (see trace). Our area is roughly HORAM-HORAM FLATS. We are supported by Arty, A/Tk, S.L.I. (M.G.) a detachment of R.M.R. (M.G.) and elements of the 4 and 8 Recce Bns. An O.P. under the command of Cpl. Rafuse of the I sec is established well forward at 997344. This party were provided with a carrier from the mortar platoon and a D.R. from the same platoon. The carrier simply to permit rapid withdrawal should it become necessary. All roads are blocked and all-round defence, especially against A.F.V.'s is taken up. Advance "Recce" Bn elements are in contact with the enemy but are containing them after being forced to retire behind our "River Line" of defence. Aggressive foot and carrier patrols are sent well forward to cover the area in rear of that held by our Recce Bns. Bridge demolitions have been carried out on the R. OUSE from HORSEBRIDGE to EXEAT and on the R. CUCKMERE from UCKFIELD to NEW HAVEN inclusive. Reports of rather strenuous fighting on the LEFT flank of the Bde., held by the R 22 R, make 100% stand-to necessary during the day. However by night this threat weakens and, finally, ceases. We are able to cut stand-to down to 33 1/3%. However it is expected that we will receive a heavy blow at daylight 26 May 42.</p>	
		1800	<p>Sitrep from Bde show the immediate area clear of enemy. No indication from 8 Recce, with whom we are in frequent contact, that there are any enemy for miles. Surprising situation. It is possible that he is lying doggo for a surprise dawn attack.</p>	APP 4 <i>clb</i>
		1810	<p>Bde informs us that "BUCKINGHAM arrives 0001 hrs 26 May 42. Rations and petrol will be drawn at 2100 hrs. Here we would like to state that the administration throughout the Div in general is greatly improved and throughout this Bde in particular is excellent throughout the entire exercise. Bodes well for the actual days when we invade the continent.</p>	
		2359	<p>All Quiet on the EASTERN Front.</p>	<i>clb</i>
	26	0910	<p>The threatened attack has not developed. Only very isolated incidents are reported well forward. We are still patrolling aggressively well forward, as are the Recce Bns.</p>	<i>clb</i>

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Field	26	1530	Information of a sad incident arrives from Bde. It would appear that one of our less enterprising Staff officers has been captured with the entire operation plans, code lists etc. in his possession. When this happened is unknown but we assume that it was during yesterday fighting. We are not informed who the officer was or to what staff he was attached. We caution all officers re destroying documents, marked maps etc.	
		1900	Still no contact reported with the enemy.	
		1945	Patrols come in and report area clear of enemy. Where have they vanished to? Bde "O" Gp summoned.	
		2100	Bn "O" Gp assembled. Here the C.O. gives orders for a dawn attack for the morning of the 27 May 42. Information has been received by Div that the enemy has withdrawn from the immediate front.	<i>leleB</i>
	27	0500	Bn pushes off in support of the Bde Gp in this attack. However the hours pass. We march on "Left, Right, Left Right". Nothing happens except for a short delay for the marching tps at a bridge which has been demolished and a longer <del>COAC</del> delay for the tpt. At 1232 we arrive in ROBERTSBRIDGE. Here we hold up as the enemy are reported to be holding. SALEHURST in some strength. We take up posns. astride the river and prepare to hold for the night.	
2359		Still no very authentic reports as to the enemy strength or dispositions. We rather doubt that he is still in the vicinity as our patrols have searched fruitlessly over miles of country. During the morning march we did see evidence that rather strong forces had passed through as witness two CHURCHILL tanks out of action. We captured the crews and guns of two secs A/Tk Arty attached to 11 Arm Div. These were returned to the P.W. cage.	APP 4 <i>leleB</i>	
	28	0430	Sudden orders to move throw things into temporary confusion. Most of us are forced to move forward without any breakfast. Nothing untoward happens until we arrive outside ROLVENDEN. Here again we learn that we are running into heavy enemy forces. Have they gone to ground at last? After spending most of the afternoon and part of the morning in hastily selected positions we again push off on what is to be the hardest 48 hours we have ever experienced. We push off into TENTERDEN, arriving there about 1755 hrs. Some delay here as Maj-Gen Pearkes has changed his plan and comes forward personally to put his Bn.C.O.'s "in the picture". We are to push on to SMEETH STN and take up posns there preparatory to an attack, whether this is to be delivered by us or the enemy is on the lap of the Gods. The "dope" now seems to be that the enemy have withdrawn to the line ASHFORD - CANTERBURY. We are to seek them out and engage.	APP 4 <i>leleB</i>

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		2359	<p>This move up to this time was carried out uneventfully. At this time a D.R. comes tearing back from our carrier platoon, which is doing advance guard about one mile in advance of the Bn., and tells the leading company commander to stop advancing as the carriers have contacted the enemy at 471552. After a delay of some fifteen minutes Capt. S.D. Smith and Lieut C.E. Bent went forward to see what was happening. Steaming around a bend Capt Smith charged head on into a D.R. coming back from the carriers. There was a terrific crash but no harm done to either the riders or the motor bikes. Hazards of riding without lights! Arriving at the scene where the carriers had been held up all was at peace. The carriers were empty except for one or two men left to guard them. The personnel had gone into dismounted action. Within a few minutes they arrived back having found nothing. We later found that they had apparently caught up to rear elements of 8 Recce Bn who, on hearing their approach rapidly got into their vehicles and made off. In the dim light the Sgt. in the leading carrier apparently mistook their action and thought that they were enemy about to man positions so he dashed back to warn his pln. commander, who immediately instituted a pincher movement to eliminate the "opposition", only to find that they had "flown the coop". An amusing incident happened at this point. Reporting to Maj. Hebb the position at which he had located the "enemy" Lieut. I.H. Mac Intosh, 2 i/c Carriers and acting pln. cmdr., sent the following map reference "in code" :1234096348. The best brains in the Bn. were completely at a loss to decipher it. Later when an explanation was asked it turned out that he had taken the key numbers only, disregarding the letters. The key was sent out to coys thus: 1234567890 CAMPERDOWN</p> <p>It was thought that no further explanation was necessary and that officers sending map references would simply substitute the appropriate letter for the number. However we reckoned without "Rommel" MacIntosh. He took the string of numbers (1 to 0) and subtracted the map reference from it!</p>	
	29	0230	<p>Howevr we must get back to the wars. After this delay we were able to proceed unhampered to our position at SMEETH STN.</p>	
		0415	<p>Stand-to. We are warned by Bde. to guard against a dawn attack due to some activity during the hours of darkness. However stand-to passes into history quite uneventfully.</p>	
		0900	<p>On the move again. We are now skirting ASHFORD and heading for the road ASHFORD CANTERBURY where we are given to understand the enemy are massed.</p>	
		1000	<p>The leading elements of the Bn. reach 518600, due EAST of ASHFORD and one mile NORTH of BRABOURNE LEES when they come under a heavy strafing by M.G.'s on the top of the NORTH</p>	<p><i>Lebb</i></p>

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			<p>RANGE. Due to the almost bare plain on which we are moving it is necessary to withdraw at least until an appreciation is made. We move back about half a mile but are apparently still under observation, even though in dead ground, as the M.G.'s become ineffective but very heavy Arty concentrations, lessening to harrasing fire, take their place. We are now forced to withdraw further as the task of attacking the crest is hopeless for a Bn. It will take a full dress Div or Corps attack to dislodge the defenders. Intelligence reports indicate that each Inf. Bn. on the ridge has one Arty Regt. in support. M.G.'s are as "thick as fleas".</p>	
		1245	We disperse the Bn. in the area of SMEETH, along the road ASHFORD-FOLKESTONE. Cooks prepare what may (in fact does) prove to be our last meal for many hours.	
		1430	Bn. is now messing. Orders come from Bde to concentrate in the area 5358 and prepare to attack at dawn.	
		1530	We again prepare to move off.	
		1545	Moving up towards the new area we intercept messages passing between Bde and R 22 R. They are in contact with the enemy and have already been badly mauled. The enemy are now moving down from their heights in an attack with infantry and tanks. A column of tanks is moving directly towards us and Col. Bernatchey has asked for an Arty concentration on the X rds. immediately in front of us. This causes us to halt the Bn. and change our route to get around this point without running into our own Arty. C and D Coys are able to get into the area laid down by Bde, and have very good anti-panzer localities. Before A and B coys can do likewise the enemy are upon us. In the close fighting in the village our boys take a grand toll of tanks. However there is a long drawn out argument between the umpires. The tanks (10 in all) are held here pending the outcome. Meanwhile our lead coys have turned their attention to the following infantry. They are able to stop them dead. Maj. Hebb is with these two coys.	
		1648	R 22R, having only two coys left have withdrawn from our immediate left flank. As this leaves the enemy a good approach to our forward positions screened by the village the I.O. asks Capt. W.R. Moore to cover this flank. This is done quickly and A Coy gets into the fight with a will.	
		1715	The umpires with the enemy give up the argument and decide that the tanks are going through. However the 2 Bde have rushed into position in support of 3 Bde and are covering the next X-rds. B Coy switch into position covering the road and the rear of the other three companies. After exacting a heavy toll they are ruled "all dead" by the umpires.	
		1830	The situation is now ridiculous. The enemy tanks and Infantry pour down the road, <del>many</del>	<i>Let's</i>

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

& S/37

OR

## --INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY--

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

Title pages will be prepared.

WEST N.S.R.

(Erase heading not required)

MAY 1942

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Area of ASHFORD	29	1830	paying not the slightest heed to the heavy fire poured into them by some 150 effectives still left of this unit. One cannot but feel that the use of live ammo is a much better method of gaining a decision than by use of umpires.	
		2000	"O" Gp called to Bde. It would appear that the Govt. of Surrey is becoming alarmed at the grievous blow the forces of Sussex have administered to those of Kent, and fearing the balance of power will be shifted if it is allowed to continue, have delivered an ultimatum to Sussex demanding that our tps be withdrawn from Kent by 1700 hrs of the 30 May 42. Our Govt. has agreed to comply with this, and so, at 2300 hrs a "bunion derby" commences.	
	30	2300	Bn move off on withdrawal from Kent. The first leg of the hop was a distance of 22 miles	
	0800	Bn arrive at concentration area at 2854 and proceed to have a mug-up and short sleep.		
	1200	Bn push off on second leg of journey out of Kent. A very hot afternoon.		
	1800	Bn arrive at concentration area at Fishers Fm. 1342. Second leg was upwards of 17 miles. The withdrawal from Kent, a distance of approximately 40 miles, was remarkable in that it was accomplished on top of several fatiguing days marching, short rations, little or no sleep etc. Supper was served at the concentration area and the tps settle down to a night of slumber undisturbed by "Stand-to" or fear of sudden moves.	APP 4 <i>lele</i>	
31	0815	A late breakfast. Tps spend the day in organized rest, but most of them are eager to be on the way home as pay-day and an evening at the "local" beckons. A message was received from Lieut-Gen. H.D.G. Crerar, Comd 1 Cdn Corps, congratulating on the really splendid showing they made on "Tiger".	<i>lele</i>	