

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

M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (19/42)

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.

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APRIL 1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
EXERCISE "PAST"	1	0100	The Bn crossed the River Arun by assault boats, seized the high ground in the area of Coombe Wood and Bury Hill and consolidated. At 2200 hrs a withdrawal was commenced to the bivouac area occupied on the previous night. Tps bedded down here for the night.	CSH
	2	1000	All transport except ration lorries and the R.A.P. moved off for Newhaven. The marching tps moved to a bivouac area at Shaves Wood (6933) where they bedded down for the night.	CSH
NEWHAVEN	3	1850 1900	Lt-Col R.D.King still T/comdr 3 Cdn Inf Bde. Maj P.H.Stehelin T/comdr West N.S.R. The marching tps arrived in the billet area from exercise " WELSH ". "Past". Maj P.H.Stehelin, Maj F.B.Courtney, Capt J.R.Cameron, Lieut H.M.Eisenhauer and 13 O.R.s moved off to a concentration area on exercise "Welsh".	CSH
	4		The Bn spent the day in cleaning and resting up after exercise "Past". "WELSH". West N.S.R. put in an attack on Alfriston Range. This is just a skeleton exercise as far as the Inf are concerned, but the Div Arty, A/Tk and L.A.A. are taking part in their entirety. On this day actual arty fire was brought down on targets indicated by the Inf comdrs.	CSH
	5		Bn still busy cleaning up and in getting paid. "WELSH". 3 Cdn Inf Bde held their posn while 2 Cdn Inf Bde put in an attack on the left flank. This caused the enemy to make a full scale withdrawal and at 1759 hrs West N.S.R. crossed the Div S.P. in a theoretical lorried Inf pursuit of the enemy.	CSH
	6	0800	Training as per syllabus. Conference held at which Lt-Col R.D.King laid down the training to be carried out during the coming week. "WELSH". Pursuit of the enemy continued without incident until 0600hrs when he was brought to bay in the area of Stockbridge. Here the battle raged all day (in theory) until 2200 hrs when the enemy was again chased to an area on Larkhill Range where an attack with actual arty support will be put in at first light.	CSH

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NEWHAVEN	7	0900	The entire Bn gathered at Drove Hall to hear a lecture on "German Tactics and Words of Command" given by the Div I.O., Capt Chambers. Following the lecture a demonstration of these was given by a special Pl in German uniforms at the Recreation Grounds. This was highly instructive to the tps who were really enthusiastic about it. "Welsh". Arty shoot carried out on Larkhill Range today.	CSH
	8	0800 1010	Training as per syllabus. "Welsh". West N.S.R. push off to an assembly area approximately 4 miles East of Gloucester and bivouaced there for the night.	App 4 CSH
	9	0800 1010	Training as per syllabus. "Welsh". The group pushed off on the last leg of the journey to Wales, arriving on Sunny Bridge Range 2200/9 May.	App 4 CSH
	10	0800	Training as per syllabus. "Welsh". An arty shoot was carried out in this area today. "Cease Fire" came at 1250 hrs and at 1500 hrs the 3 Cdn Inf Bde gp less the arty, A/tk and L.A.A. moved back to a bivouac area near Monmouth and bedded down for the night.	App 4 CSH
	11		This Sabbath was spent largely in preparing for the move to a new Bn area at Possingworth Pk which will be carried out tomorrow. "Welsh". The tps covered the last leg of the journey to Newhaven (180 miles) arriving at 2000 hrs.	CSH
	12	0530	An early breakfast was served and the Bn, less the transport, marched to the new area at Possingworth Pk, a distance of 18 miles. Move was completed at 1700 hrs.	CSH
	13	1000 1330 1800	The tps spent the day in cleaning and getting settled in the new camp. Coy Comdrs conference re training. Meeting of all officers to make plans for a central officers mess. Two showings of the film "Desert Victory" were given in the Recreation Hall by the K of C.	CSH

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APRIL 1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials	
POSSINGWORTH PARK	14	0900	A T.E.W.T for all the officers of the Bn was carried out in the West end of the Bn area.	CSA	
		1530	Rehearsal of the inspection and march-past to take place tomorrow was carried out in the field just West of the camp area.		
	15	0720	The tps form up and rehearse the movements to be carried out during the inspection.		
		0900	Brig Penhale along with his staff arrived and thoroughly inspected the unit. Following the march past various Pls were selected for T.O.E.T.s, inspection of the contents of the pack etc, while the officers were examined in R/T procedure.		
	1	1700	Meeting of all officers at which the C.O. commented on various points raised by Brig Penhale during his inspection.		APP 4 CSA
		16	0900		A T.E.W.T. was held for all N.C.O.s of the Bn down to and including Cpls, subject being, "Pl in the Defence".
	1045		All N.C.O.s of the Bn attend a lecture given by Lt-Col R.D.King, D.S.O.. In the course of his address the C.O. stressed the importance of the chain of command functioning properly. This afternoon the Pi Pl gave a demonstration of mine lifting, booby traps etc. This is to be carried out three days each week and attended by Coys in turn in order to make sure the Bn is thoroughly familiar with this type of warfare. Field Return.		APP 3 CSA
	17	0900	A T.E.W.T. for all N.C.O.s of the unit, Coy in the Defence. Sgts Colbran and Law and 8 O.R.S of the Identification Bureau arrived to prepare identification cards for the unit.		CSA
	18		A range party made up of those who had failed to qualify as second class marksmen proceeded to Hawkenbury Range to carry out firing practise today and tomorrow. Church parades as per APP 1.		CSA APP 1
	19	0900 2200	Maj P.H.Stehelin attended a T.E.W.T. at Bde H.Q., "Opposed River Crossing". The range party finished their practise and marched back arriving at this time.		CSA

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POSSINGWORTH PARK	20	0900	A Pl of A Coy was used to demonstrate, "Defence of a Pl Locality". A news-letter, prepared by Maj P.H.Stehelin, was broadcast to Canada over the B.B.C. by selected members of the unit who proceeded to London for that purpose.	APP 5 CSM
	21	0900	O gp at Bn H.Q. to check final arrangements for river crossing exercise to be carried out today.	
		1200	Bn march to Plashett Pk and at 1600 hrs carry out a daylight rehearsal of the opposed river crossing. Hot supper at 1830. At 2230 the leading flight crossed by assault boats followed by the trans which was ferried over on a pontoon raft prepared by the sappers.	CSM
	22	0140	The tps marched back to billets arriving at 0400 hrs. Balance of the morning was spent in rest and cleaning up. All Coys must devote one hr each week to what is known as the Padres' hr. This takes the form of a discussion of fundamental topics under supervision of the Padre.	CSM
	23		This being Good Friday was spent as a Sunday. Voluntary church parades. Maj A.D.Butts and Capt Cadigan of the Bde Staff visited the unit. Field Return.	CSM APP 3
	24	0800	Training as per syllabus.	APP 4
		1400	Coy Comdrs conference re training also to discuss various administrative problems.	
		1800	Four 30 cwt lorries took a party to Lewes. (Recreational Transport) All T.S.M.G.s were withdrawn and 161 Sten guns were issued throughout the unit.	CSM
	25		Due to the inclement weather the open air Easter Services originally planned had to be held indoors. Protestant service held in the Recreational hut 0945 hrs with the R.C.A.S.C. band in attendance. R.C. parade held immediately following this.	CSM
	26	0830	Conference at Bn H.Q. The C.O. revealed that the unit is to go elsewhere for a period of special training, and that the Bn would be prepared to move any time after 0600 hrs 27 Apr. Surplus kit is to be segregated and stored in a central dump. The Bn is again organized on a 4 rifle Coy basis. Capt C.L.Putnam appointed to command the newly formed D Coy. A/Maj Johnston and Lieut H.MacLean returned to the unit. Capt A.W.Rogers recalled from course and Lieut S.F.Williams from 7 C.I. Pl.	CSM

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POSSINGWORTH PARK	7		The Bn spend the day preparing to move to the unknown destination. All 1098 scale of equipment and kit is brought up to date. The 161 Sten guns issued two days ago were withdrawn today.	CSA
	28		Unit still standing by awaiting movement order. In spite of the fact that the tps have been repeatedly warned that this move is for training purposes only, one notices that they feel that there is something in the wind and morale has soared accordingly. Rumour has it we are to go to Wales.	
		1900	All transport loaded in readiness to push off at an early hour in the morning.	CSA
	29	0700	The Bn transport move off, leading the Bde gp en route to Scotland. Journey will be made in four stages and the party is scheduled to arrive at Crieff Sunday night. The balance of the Bn are still carrying out normal training while waiting orders to move.	APP 4 CSA
	30		The Bn commence the journey to Scotland, travelling by train.	CSA

W. Stanger