

WAR DIARY

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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

These pages will be prepared

WEST N.S.R.

(Erase heading not required)

APRIL 42

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Worthing	April 1	0800	Training as per syllabus. Bn. officers and Coy Commanders went to Hayling Island to be spectators at a demonstration put on by one coy of R.C.R supported by carriers. Demonstration of "Assault Landing". Lt-Col Ernst proceeded to N.E.T.D. today. Maj. J.A. Hebb has been appointed O.C.	App 4 <i>leleB</i>
		2100	Lieut C.E. Bent gave a lecture to C. Coy on identification of units of the German army.	
	2	0800	On this day a Bn. exercise, "Attack and Counter/Attack" was carried out in area North and East of Cissbury. The carrier platoon under command of Lieut. MacIntosh acted as enemy. The tps thoroughly enjoyed this exercise and much profitable experience was gained therefrom. The Brig. and Bde-Maj were, for a time, spectators at this exercise.	<i>leleB</i>
	3	0800	Training as per syllabus.	App 4 <i>leleB</i>
		1330	Maj. J.A. Hebb went to a conference at Div H.Q.	
		1830	Coy comdrs meeting at Sky Ring to discuss training, forthcoming exercise, etc. Fd. Return.	App 3 <i>leleB</i>
	4	0800	Training as per syllabus.	App 4 <i>leleB</i>
		1330	Officers discussion at Sky Ring on "Action to be taken against airborne tps."	
		1900	"A" Coy entertained by film "Blondie on a Budget" provided by Auxiliary Services.	App 4 <i>leleB</i>
	5	1000	Church parades as usual.	App 1 <i>leleB</i>
		1400	Lieut C.E. Bent, I.O. of this unit discussed with the 2 i/c of 5th Bn H.G. the various ways in which they can assist in the event of an enemy raid.	
		2000	Conference of O.C.s of the units comprising the Br. force in forthcoming exercise ROBIN L.	
	6	0900	"Robin L". Action Stations. Bn crossed S L at 0905 hrs. and due to a brainchild of Lieut. C.E. Bent were all over in twelve minutes which established a new "high" for this performance by mixed transport and marching tps. Bn reached battle posns at 1120 hrs and the balance of the day passed without event until approx. 2300 hrs when G. gp. was called to a conference at Bde. H.Q. The Brigadier had learned that the enemy H.Q. was located at ANGMERING PK. He requested that one coy be despatched forthwith to endeavour to capture this H.Q. He also outlined his appreciation and plan for the main attack by the Bde. He assumed that the enemy intended attacking by from the road Worthing- Arundel in a Southerly direction with	App 4 <i>leleB</i> <i>leleB</i>

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Worthing	6	2300	<p>the intention of wiping out the "Van Doos" and any local detachments of Home Guards in this area to form a bridgehead for an invasion by sea-borne tps. To circumvent this he intended moving the C&Y Regt South across the downs via Blackpatch and Harrow Hill to attack the rear of the enemy concentrations while the West N.S.R. moved via the road Findon-Angmering to take a posn at the latter place from which an attack on the left fwd portion of the enemy could be launched. The 48th were to cooperate to the extent of forming a protective flank on the enemys' right flank.</p>	<p><i>WCB</i></p>
	7	0100	<p>En moved off to carry out these movements as noted above, and did just that. The approach of the C&Y Regt was made much easier by the attack of "B" Coy, West N.S.R. who were carrying out a "Commando" raid on the enemy H.Q. While this coy never succeeded in reaching its' objective they caused great confusion in the enemy camp and wiped out more than two coys of enemy in addition to several A/tk guns and M.G.s. This attack coming from the East drew the attention of the enemy from the approach of the C&Y R from the North. Hardly had this gallant coy, led by our dashing Maj Courtney laid down their lives, at great cost to the enemy, than the balance of the West N.S.R., who by now were well on their way to the road Worthing-Arundel, began to contact further detachments of enemy who were beginning to stir in preparation for their attack on the R22eR. Their line of advance led them through the very centre of one of the enemy Bns. In true Canadian fashion they fought their way through inflicting very heavy casualties as they went. Arriving at the road Worthing-Arundel they met, at Patching Pond, two Bns of enemy moving on to their start line. Fighting grimly and valiantly the hardy Bluenoses led by their intrepid A/C.O. Maj. Hebb, attempted to smash through to their objective. Force of numbers however eventually proved too much for them and after having scuppered the large part of an enemy Bde. the last attack was put in by the remnants of this fine fighting unit, approximately 25 strong. And so, on the blood-soaked ground at Patching Pond, the last of our brave sons of Nova Scotia breathed their last. Their fate was not in vain as the "Van Doos" had not fired a shot to date and the C&Y Regt arrived fresh upon the field of battle. With these two full units to pick up the torch dropped from the failing hands of the "Novies", the enemy force, badly mauled as it had been by our unit, was unable to garry on the fight for very long and soon gave up the ghost to retire to the nether regions to which all good Nazies (viz: dead ones) go.</p> <p>1015 "Cease Fire". End of ROBIN 1.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Worthing	7	1200	Tps marched back to billets and the balance of the day was spent in organized rest.	<i>letsB</i>
	8	0800	Training as per syllabus.	App 4 <i>letsB</i>
		1800	Meeting of officers of 3rd Bde was held at Highden Ho to discuss the lessons learned on Robin 1, also reduction of transport for an operational move such as an invasion of the Continent. "A" Coy entertained this evening by show provided by Auxiliary Services.	
	9	0715	A tip and run raider came out of low cloud and mist and dropped three bombs in our area, two hit the gas works and one in Homefield Pk. Two fatal casualties.	App 4 <i>letsB</i>
		0800	Maj Hebb went to 2nd Ech and Holding Unit for purposes of liaison.	
		2030	Maj J.A.Hebb, O.C. this unit discussed O.C. 5th Bn H.G. the role of the Home Guard as anti-raid tps.	
	10	0800	Training as per syllabus.	App 4 <i>letsB</i>
			Brigadier Ganong visited this unit this morning. The commanders of A, C and D Coys went to recce the areas of the various units of the 1st Bde whose anti-raid duties they are taking over during the exercise Robin 2.	
		1930	C Coy entertained by show, short dance and refreshments put on by Auxiliary Services.	App 4 <i>letsB</i>
	11	1630	Coy comdrs carried out mutual inspection of billets.	<i>letsB</i>
		1200	Maj. J.A.Hebb visited H.Q. 1 Cdn Inf Bde to establish liaison with the Bde-Maj with ref to our anti-raid duties in that Bde area during exercise Robin 2.	
		1800	B Coy W.N.S.R. took over anti-raid duties of the Edmonton Regt during Robin 2.	
	12		No Protestant church parades today.	<i>letsB</i>
			Two of the new reinforcement officers visited Sky Ring this A.M.	
1200		A Coy moved off to area of 48th to assume their anti-raid role during Robin 2.		
1300		D Coy moved off to area of R22eR as above.		
	1330	C Coy moved off to area of H & P E R as above.	<i>letsB</i>	
13		Very quiet today. Coys are still out covering anti-raid duties of units mentioned above.	<i>letsB</i>	
14		Coys arrived back in our own area today.	<i>letsB</i>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Worthing	14	2100	Coy commanders conference held at Sky Ring to discuss arrangements for exercise "Prepare to Advance" to be held Tomorrow.	<i>lele B</i>
	15	0900 1250 1900	<p>Hebb Maj went to downs near battle posns to discuss the siting of anti-tank mine fields.</p> <p>Tps move off on "Prepare to Advance". The G.O.C. and Brigadier were spectators at this exercise and discussed with Maj. Hebb spacing, time taken to pass a given point etc,</p> <p>All Bde officers attended a conference at Highden Ho. The Brigadier opened a discussion on "Opposed Landings". In his opening remarks he pointed out the many operational and administrative obstacles to be overcome in this type of operation. Following his remarks the B.M. put five questions to the officers for their solution. For this purpose the officers were divided into fifteen syndicates. The discussion was long and arduous. Inasmuch as no one of the officers had had any experience with this type of operation it is not thought that any great value was gained from the discussion other than to cause the officers to consider the problems and to impress upon the necessity for careful study of the subject.</p>	App 4 <i>lele B</i>
	16	1000	<p>Divisional officers conference at Odeon Cinema, Worthing. At this conference the G.O.C. outlined the program of training for the season. It now appears that we are to turn from "Anti-Invasion Exercises" to the more encouraging "Invasion" Exercises. He outlined the new establishment of Canadian Army H.Q. and stated that the formation of this H.Q. was now nearly completed and that the work of forming and organizing the new 2nd Cdn Corps would be carried out next. It is hoped, he stated, that the full Cdn Army, with its very impressive armored formations, would be in the field this year. He further stated that the Cdn Army was almost certain to be the spearhead of the Allied Invasion of the continent. With this in view more intensive and more rigorous exercises would be carried out this season.</p> <p>Due to the difficulties incumbent on a fighting force which is carrying out an opposed invasion of the continent transport for these exercises will be cut to a minimum. It is suggested that this will consist of 21 M/C s, 12 15 cwt. lorries per inf Bn., with the possible addition of one Stn wagon and 21 carriers. Tentative priority lists for other Bn vehicles have been made up. These to be brought up as the shipping conditions warrant.</p> <p>Under these conditions it will be necessary for the soldier to be self-sustaining for a matter of two, possibly three days. Therefore he will carry two days hard rations - and we DO mean HARD - plus one blanket.</p>	<i>lele B</i>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Worthing	16	1000	This will be carried out on "Beaver 3" which is to commence on 20 Apr 42 and carried out until 27 Apr 42. The effect on the men of this added load and these hard living conditions will be carefully studied for future reference.	App 4 <i>leleB</i>
	17	0900	Coy commanders went to Highden Ho to look over various coy locations.	<i>leleB</i>
		1300	Maj J.A.Hebb called at H.Q. 1 Bde under whose command we come during "Beaver 3".	
		1930	Lieut.C.E.Bent gave a lecture at Muir Ho. to the Civil Defense Services on message writing and Identifications of the German forces.	
	18	0800	Work parties went to site of the summer camp to prepare the ground for pitching tents.	<i>leleB</i>
		1400	"O Gp" summoned to Bde for conference on "Beaver 3".	
		2215	Brigadier Ganong called requesting that anti-raid precautions be more rigid tonight.	
	19	1100	O.C.'s "O" Group assembled at "Skyring" Mess. Orders given at this conference were only general in nature regarding administrative arrangements in preparation for the exercise "Beaver III". Transport, rations, blankets etc. as per the G.O.C.'s conference at Odeon on 16 Apr 42.	<i>leleB</i>
		1400	Accommodation recce party for the Bn. under the A/2 i/c, Maj.P.H.Stehelin (vice Maj.J.A.Hebb, who, as previously noted, is A/O.C. vice Lt-Col.A.A.Ernst). During this recce the concentration area to be used on "Beaver III" and routes to it, were visited.	
	20	1100	Brigadier Ganong visited the unit to discuss last minute details before the unit passed out of the 3 C.I.B., for the purposes of the exercise, into the 1 C.I.E. In order to confuse our enemy Intelligence it has been decided to mix the brigades. The West N.S.R. go to the first Brigade with the Hastings and Prince Edward Regt. and the P.P.C.L.I. The remainder of the order of battle will be found under the appendices.	<i>leleB</i>
		1400	Maj.P.H.Stehelin met the Staff Captain, 1 C.I.B., to discuss final arrangements of the concentration area and other admin. details.	
		2115	"Beaver III" gets under way as the unit moves over the start line at Offington Roundabout.	
2345		En. in position at concentration area and bedding down for the night.		
21	1200	The entire day has been, and will continue to be, spent in resting for the arduous hours which lie ahead. Once more we gird our loins for the titanic struggle. Grim-faced "veterans" of many a bloodless battle prepare with single-minded purpose to sell their lives dearly.	<i>leleB</i>	

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Field	21	1430	<p>"The Brains Trust" busy indeed as "C" Groups follow one another in quick succession with the C.O. attending one at Div Hq, followed by another at Bde Hq. To round off the succession of conference the Bn. "C" Group then went into a huddle. It is hoped that, as the battle progresses the true worth of these many conflabs will show itself in the utter discomfort of a crest-fallen enemy.</p>	<p><i>leleB</i></p>
	22	0415	<p>Quiet and purposeful, the men of the West N.S.R. rose from their sleep at 0330. In spite of the fact that but one blanket covered them during their intercourse with Morpheus there were few complaints of anything but a jocular nature. The twenty four hours of idleness and rest were over and a scene of ordered (?) activity presented itself as these hoary sons of Nova Scotia prepared for the coming struggle, stumbling about in pitch blackness over stumps and through bushes reminiscent of the alder thickets back in the Land of the Maple. So dark was the night that, when one man on his way to breakfast stepped off the footpath to answer a call of Nature, 200 men had queued behind him thinking that it was the end of the line-up. Our renowned question mark, Major M.G. Clennett, hearing the gurgling torrent, dashed madly about tearing his hair in rage, thinking that someone had opened the tap of his precious water tank!</p>	<p><i>leleB</i></p>
		0520	<p>The strategy of our wily G.O.C., Maj-Gen. Pearkes is to move swiftly by the by-ways to seize and secure the strategically important town of HORSHAM before the enemy can determine our intention and circumvent it. The only troops used on the main arteries are the two Recce Bns, i.e. the 4th and 7th. The latter have been, with the R.M.R. a detachment of A/Tk Arty and Sappers have been placed under command of Div and are known as SCOTT FORCE. They are operating to the WEST EAST as a protective right flank for our advance while the 4th are operating on the left flank to the WEST in a similar capacity. These forces moved off well in advance of the infantry formations which left their concentration areas at the time noted above.</p> <p>First Bde are moving via the WEST route, 3 C.I.B. (Under command of Lt-Col Bernatchy, R 22e R, in the absence of Brigadier Ganong on duties at Control) are moving by the EAST route. 2 C.I.B. are in support of 1 C.I.B.</p>	<p><i>leleB</i></p>
		1200	<p>The morning passed uneventfully. The move was very boring. As usual the good old Arty were successful in making the infantry move most unpleasant as they moved forward by bounds, which resulted in some of the most beautiful and complete traffic congestions ever devised by man.</p>	<p><i>leleB</i></p>

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Field	22	1200 1635 1900 2005 2040	<p>In spite of these difficulties, made more than usually difficult by the new, closed-up, manner of moving, progress was quite rapid.</p> <p>Bn. halted and took up defensive position in order to rest troops and give them supper in preparation for a probable attack on HORSHAM tonight. Here it is well to note that the hard rations, consisting of "bully beef" and a hard biscuit very much like a thin dog-biscuit, have proved to be a rather pleasant surprise. The biscuit, though extremely hard, are quite palatable and very sustaining. "Tinned" bacon, served for breakfast is of doubtful quality to say the least. Hot tea with breakfast and the supper "meal" make life much more pleasant. All in all we found that the hard rations were far easier to "take" than was anticipated. Apprehension about the hard rations was largely caused by the recounting, by the veterans of the unit, of tales of the old type hard ration issued on Salisbury Plain in 1940. Without a doubt they were an invention of the devil himself. Carbon steel could not be harder. They were boiled for hours in an attempt to soften them, to no avail. Some humanitarian has since devised a more malleable type of "iron" for our consumption. We suggest that this worthy individual should be awarded the "Order of the Dog Biscuit" in recognition of a noble assistance to the war effort, said WILLIAM Order to carry with it a pension of 2½d per diem, this to be paid by the R.C.A.S.C.</p> <p>This point was sixteen miles from the concentration area. Our feeble brain computes the rate of travel at 1.52 miles per hour. Not good when one considers that infantry can maintain a rate of 2½ miles per hour with ease. However we can loftily disclaim any responsibility for this as we were the reserve Bn. of the Bde, and could merely follow whence others led.</p> <p>Bn. "O" Group to discuss plans for the assault on HORSHAM. H & P.E. are to attack on the right "Pats" on the left. West N.S.R. in reserve. Yes, dear readers, reserve again.</p> <p>Bn. crosses start line 556475. Four and one half miles to go.</p> <p>"D" Coy makes first contact with the enemy. Resistance overcome with these usual ease and elan showed by our gallant troops. We suffer no casualties. Lovely exercise this, hardly any one gets hurt! Oh! Oh! Who said that? We are attacked by enemy A/C and "A" Coy suffers one casualty, "B" Coy 6.</p>	
	23	0100	Just as the last of the Pats column passed over it the small bridge gave away, cutting off Bde HQ and West N.S.R. from the balance of the Bde. After hasty repairs the bridge is now fit for the passage of troops. Transport must be left behind. H.Q. Coy tpt. was left at the point where we had supper. One Coy, "B", is to be left behind to protect tpt. while the remainder of the unit	

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Field	23	0100	<p>push on to secure a position on the outskirts of the town. When this is done they will have the remainder, "B" Coy and two lots of tpt, move in to rejoin them.</p> <p>0300 Rear elements move into HORSHAM. Unit is complete again by 0430 hrs.</p> <p>0500 Stand-to followed by breakfast. All round defence positions have been taken up and active patrolling is being carried out. Brushes with the enemy are frequent but not serious.</p> <p>1000 Combined force of two coys West N.S.R. and one coy Pats sally forth to clear the main part of the town of enemy. This operation, after desperate street fighting is carried to a successful conclusion by 1145.</p> <p>1200 Bde sends word "Beaver Standfast Beaver". All coys are called in and fed. It is thought that control are not pleased with the way the 1st Div have slid through the defenders and seized the town. In the position that they now occupy there is little hope that the enemy can oust them before the exercise ends. Drive and initiative have completely "foxed" them. We have undoubtedly thrown the plans of Control out of gear.</p> <p>1800 Having withdrawn under an armistice to a concentration area at almost the exact position where we had supper last night we now receive a warning order to prepare to move on what is thought to be a withdrawal action. It is as we assumed. Without the enemy having come to blows with us on a scale at all likely to seriously hold up our advance Control have decided that we have failed to get the necessary supplies and support from the bridgehead and must, perforce withdraw. Here we beg to note that our communications with bridgehead are so "disrupted" that we easily got TWO lorries, unprotected, through from the unit to B'head and return during the day, These brought up supplies of petrol and ammunition.</p>	
	24	2325 0700	<p>Bn. moves past start point on withdrawal movement.</p> <p>Bn. arrives in position on NEW DOWN from which we started out yesterday morning. Note that, moving under cover of darkness we made the return trip in 7 hours and 35 minutes. Slightly better than two miles per hour. It is believed that this was largely due to moving the tpt on a detour around a particularly bad piece of road. Positions are taken up here. Tanks attack the Pats at about 0800. Reported that they have completely disrupted the Pats and that the position of Bridgehead troops is too precarious to permit them to hold out any longer.</p> <p>1005 We are still holding our positions and, except for a few tanks in the distance all is peaceful. We now receive "Beaver Standfast Beaver".</p> <p>1238 "Beaver Concluded Beaver"</p> <p>N.B.- Ref the hopelessness of our position "a certain high ranking officer" of one of the</p>	<p><i>leleB</i></p> <p><i>leleB</i></p>

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Field and Worthing	23	24	tank Bns. attacking the Downs stated that the 1st Div could have successfully held off any attack by tanks, at great cost to the tanks, due to excellent dispositions of the Arty in A/Tk role. It is certain that any attack by infantry alone would have been successful only with stupendous losses. However Control rules that 2nd Div have won the battle "Hands Down". Since it means the early conclusion of the exercise we, frankly, don't give a damn who won. We are quite satisfied that we did a good job and did it well. What more can one ask? So, without regret, but with a few more helpful lessons under our belt we turn our backs on the exercise "Beaver III" and go home to rest and search for "new fields to conquer".	leleB
	24	0800 25	Preparations were begun for the move to our summer camping site, but the day was spent chiefly on cleaning of weapons and equipment.	leleB
	26		On this Sabbath R.C. church parades only were held. Tps spend day in organized rest.	leleB
	27	0800	An advance party of one officer, one N.C.O. and 10 O.R.s proceeded to per Coy proceeded to new area.	
		1000	The G.O.C. gave a talk at the ^{Plaza} Edison Cinema attended by all officers and 10 N.C.O.s per unit. He pointed out the lessons learned on "Beaver 3" and offered suggestions for future schemes.	leleB
	28	0800 1100 1300	Rifle Coys getting paid, also preparing for move to new area in afternoon. Brigadier Ganong visited new camping site. A; B; C and D Coys move off to new camping site. (Highden Ho.)	leleB
	29	0800 1100	Bn. completed move to Highden Ho and spent balance of day in getting settled. Brigadier Ganong again visited our area.	leleB
	30	1330	Lieut J.W. Turner Lashmar gave a lecture on "Characteristics of Paratps. and Action to be taken against them", at Town Hall, Worthing. This was attended by all officers and W.O.s.	
		1400	The Bde-Maj. visited this unit.	
		1700	All officers of the Bn met to discuss the lessons learned on "Beaver 3", also to discuss general training and discipline.	leleB