

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

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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WEST N.S.R.

(Erase heading not required)

JANUARY 1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NEWHAVEN	1	0800	This being New Year's day is to be treated as a Sunday, only normal duties performed. Field Return.	App 3 <i>g</i>
	2	0800	A Bde ceremonial parade was held in the area of Bde H.Q. at Seaford. The Bn marched over arriving at 1030 hrs. Brig Chas. Foulkes inspected the Bde thoroughly which he completed at 1215 hrs. While inspecting West N.S.R. he congratulated Sgt F.E.Blakeney of A Coy who was awarded the B.E.M. for outstanding services during the blitz in the autumn of 1940 and Pte Foster O.S. of B Coy who received the same award for gallantry during the drownings in the River Adur in Jan 42.	<i>g</i>
	3		Church parades as per App 1, otherwise a quiet Sabbath.	App 3 <i>g</i>
	4		The Personnel Selection Staff arrived at the unit to classify those who had not received the test previously.	
		1500	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert and Maj J.A.Hebb proceeded to recce ground in training area 3 suitable for carrying out night training.	<i>g</i>
		1830	A conference was held at Bn officers mess chiefly to discuss the period of night training beginning 11 Jan 43.	
	5		Lt-Col M.P.Bogert is confined to bed with a cold. The Personnel Selection Staff completed the I.Q. tests. Maj M.G.Clennett returned from leave and immediately proceeded to Bde H.Q. to take up duties as a Staff learner.	<i>g</i>
		1600	Weekly training conference at Bn H.Q. to discuss training for the coming week as laid down in the training syllabus. This will be carried out entirely at night.	App 4
	6	0700	Maj J.A.Hebb and Lieut H.M.Eisenhauer to an area near Rottingdean to attend a demonstration of mine lifting and wire clearing put on by the Bde Pioneer concentration in that area. The demonstration consisted of clearing a gap eight yards in width through a mined area followed by blowing gaps in wire obstructed with Bangalore torpedoes and use of a pole charge against a pill-box. Following the demonstration Brig Foulkes stressed the importance of the role the Pioneer Pl would play as assault tps. Scrambling nets arrived for the use of the unit in training.	<i>g</i>

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M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (0/42)

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NEAHAVEN	6	1930	Information was received by phone from Bde that Maj-Gen. H.L.N.Salmon, M.C., G.O.C. 1 Cdn Div.would attend Bn Parade 7 Jan 43, reaching Recreation Ground at 1415 hrs. C Coy held a dance at the Cliff Sports Club, Peacehaven.	ly
	7	1700	Today the G.O.C. visited the weekly Bn parade. He was received by a general salute after which he carried out a brief inspection following this he took the salute in the march past. Maj/Gen H.L.N.Salmon expressed himself as being well pleased with the appearance of the unit and noted points of improvement since his last inspection. He also said that the Bn was easily up to the standard of the other units of the Div. Lt-Col M.P.Bogert and Maj J.A.Hebb attended a conference at H.Q. 3 Cdn Inf Bde.	ly
	8	1400	A skeleton exercise, Pheasant, which involves senior officers of the unit as well as elements of the Sig Pl and I Sec is being held in the area North of Hastings. This is designed to test communications and movement. The West N.S.R football team played their first representative game against Newhaven N.F.S. Our team turned out in new jerseys and stockings made up of Regt colors. Although short-handed owing to several of the regulars not being available for the game they put up a good performance and narrowly lost to the Englishmen by a score of 4 to 3. C.S.M.White proved to be the mainstay of the team with a magnificent performance in goal. Field Return.	ly App 3
	9	0800	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert inspected A Coy in their Coy area. Following this he and the Coy Comdrs reced an area suitable for night exercises. Lieut C.L.Putnam and Lieut R.G.Thexton appointed to the rank of A/Capt.	ly
	10	2000	Church parades as per Night training commences as per Coy syllabi. For the purpose of this training all normal functions will be carried out at night this week.A and C Coys are practising with the scrambling nets in the harbor.	ly App 1
	11	2000	Training as per Coy syllabi. B Coy on exercise, C,D,Sup Coys and Admin Wing are practising on the scrambling nets. Lt-Col M.P.Bogert attended a conference at Bde H.Q.	ly

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NEWHAVEN	12	1800 1930	Weekly training conference held at Bn H.Q. Two hundred all ranks proceeded by recreational transport to the Drill Hall, Seaford to witness the inter-team boxing tournament. Teams were entered by the R22eR and West N.S.R. and our team, which was two men short, lost to the R22eR by 21 points to 20.	ly
	13	2000	Brig Chas Foulkes visited the unit to view some of the night training being carried out. Lt-Col M.P. Bogert accompanied him to the chalk pit at Newhaven where they watched D Coy cliff-scaling under very difficult conditions due to wet mud and chalk. They then went out on the downs near Telescombe and accompanied C Coy in their exercise. The exercise was well carried out in spite of the high wind and driving rain. Four new officers posted to this unit, Lieut J.S. Wood to 9 Pl, Lieut J.G. MacKay to 10 Pl, Lieut G.F.D. Stewart to 13 Pl and Lieut W.A. MacKenzie to 18 Pl. This afternoon at 1430 hrs the football team of this unit took a very bad beating from the C & Y R team. The team, which was again shorthanded, never seemed able to get going. P.S.M. Henning got a bad kick on the head at the beginning and was unable to take any further interest which seemed to disorganize the whole team. Score 6 to 0.	ly
	14	2000	Training as per syllabus.	App 4 ly
	15	2000	Training as per syllabus. Capt G.L.F. MacNeil proceeded on leave. Field Return.	App 3 ly
	16		The week of night training ended at 0430 hrs this A.M. so the day was generally spent resting up. Capt C.E. Bent, Lieut R.W. Bullock and Lieut G.G. Taylor proceeded on leave.	ly
	17		Only R.C. church parades were held today. The names of twelve officers, six W.O.s and eight Sgts were submitted to Bde H.Q. to attend C.T.S. from 29 Jan to 4 Feb 43.	App 1 ly
	18	0800 1830	Training as per syllabus An officers conference was held at Peacehaven mess pertaining to discipline and trg. Following this Lt-Col M.P. Bogert gave instructions for setting a T.E.W.T.	App 4 ly

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NEWHAVEN	19	0800	Training as per syllabus. Other than this a quiet day.	App 4 <i>ly</i>
	20	1000	Brig Chas Foulkes and his staff inspected the unit. While the Brig. was inspecting personnel on the Recreation Ground, the Staff-Capt and his assistants inspected the offices and billets.	<i>ly</i>
		1330	Lt-Col M.P. Bogert called together all the officers of the Bn and announced that he had been transferred to H.Q. 2 Cdn Corps. He is to be succeeded by Lt-Col R.D. King, D.S.O., formerly of the P.L.F.	
	21	0800	Training as per syllabus.	App 4
		1400	Weekly Bn parade held at Recreation Grounds, Newhaven.	
		1600	Lt-Col R.D. King arrived accompanied by Brig Chas. Foulkes.	
		2230	Lt-Col R.D. King and Lt-Col M.P. Bogert attended a conference at Bde H.Q. Lieut A.B. Taylor arrived at the unit and was posted to 16 Pl.	
	22	1400	Lt-Col R.D. King, D.S.O., takes over his duties as C.O. this unit.	<i>ly</i>
			Lt-Col R.D. King accompanied by Capt C.R. Day reced a suitable place for a river crossing exercise on the River Ouse in the vicinity of Piddinghoe. Field Return.	
	23	0800	Exercise "Blackboy" gets under way. This is a skeleton exercise designed to test communications in the anti-raid role of the Bn. Exercise finished at 1200 hrs.	<i>ly</i>
		1330	Lt-Col M.P. Bogert bade farewell to Coy Comdrs.	
	24		Church parades as per App 1, otherwise a quiet Sabbath.	App 1 <i>ly</i>
25	0800	A Coy carry out river crossing practise in the area of Piddinghoe. Lt-Col R.D. King, D.S.O., visited the posts which are manned by fwd anti-raid Coy at night.	<i>ly</i>	
	1830	A meeting of all officers was held in the Peacehaven officers mess. Lt-Col R.D. King expressed his pleasure in taking over command of this unit. Following this he gave a lecture on Combined Operations. In this he was assisted by Capt C.R. Day.		

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NEWHAVEN	26	0800	Training as per syllabus.	App 4 L
		2330	C Coy carried out a river crossing exercise by Pls in the area slightly North of Southease. This took the nature of crossing the river, forming a bridgehead, then recrossing the river and carrying out the same operation on the side from which they had originally started. Arrived back in billets 0400 hrs 27 Jan 43.	
	27	0800	Training as per syllabus. Capt R.Phillips proceeded on leave.	App 4 L
		1930	W.O.s and Sgts of the Bn put on a dance at Drove Hall which was largely attended.	
		2000	Capt J.R.Cameron attended a lecture at H.Q. 7 Cdn Inf Bde given by Lt-Col Dunn. This dealt chiefly with 2nd Ech problems. Lecture finished at 2250 hrs.	
	28	1400	Bn parade and inspection by Lt-Col R.D.King, D.S.O., on Recreation @ground, Newhaven.	L
1500		The party of officers, W.O.s and Sgts of this unit selected for special training at C.T.C Sub-cadre for Combined Operations entrained to proceed to their destination. Lt-Col R.D.King was the guest of Maj-Gen H.L.N.Salmon at dinner at H.Q. 1 Cdn Div.		
29	1200	Lt-Col Dunn called to inquire briefly of 2nd Ech problems.	App 3 L	
	1930	Lt-Col R.D.King, D.S.O., proceeded to Bde H.Q. to attend a conference. Field Return.		
30		A copy of the new war establishment was received. Capt N.L.Walker proceeded on leave.	L	
	1050	Brig Chas Foulkes addressed all officers of the Bde at Drove Hall. Chief subject of the lecture was the responsibilities of junior officers.		
	1300	Lt-Col R.D.King, D.S.O., addressed all N.C.O.s of the Bn in A Coy mess briefly on their responsibilities during the coming week while the junior officers are undergoing a period of training.		
	1550	A naval mine which had been sighted early in the afternoon was driven ashore by the heavy wind directly below the Peacehaven officers mess. The mine exploded on the beach and caused some damage to houses in the vicinity. Other mines in the same area were unsuccessfully engaged by rifle and L.M.G. fire but none of them came within three hundred yards of the shore.		

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NEWHAVEN	31		<p>Church services were taken today by H/Maj J.Gordon Jones, The senior Protestant Chaplin of 1 Cdn Div.</p> <p>Lieut A.B.Taylor proceeded on course on the three inch mortar.</p> <p>The period from 1 to 6 Feb inclusive is to be subalterns and N.C.O.s week, i.e., all subalterns will undergo an intensive refresher course and for this purpose will be relieved of other duties. These duties will be taken over by the W.O.s and N.C.O.s of the Bn. This will give the N.C.O.s an opportunity to learn at first hand the duties of and the daily problems which confront the officers of the Bn. Owing to the shortage of officers available for general duty, all officers leaves were cancelled for this period.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ly</i></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;"><i>R.S. [Signature]</i></p>