

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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40/P & S/37 (3072)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Barton Stacey	1/10/43		<u>FRIDAY TRAINING</u> Normal training was carried out under arrangements of individual coys. <u>MAINTENANCE</u> Maintenance was carried out on all vehicles in the unit in order that they should be in shape for the move to the new area 858567 Sheet 123 on Monday 4/10/43. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair & Warm <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 868 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 797 other Ranks.	AS
Barton Stacey	2/10/43		<u>SATURDAY INSPECTION</u> Inspection of coys in the Bn was carried out under coy arrangements. <u>ADVANCE PARTY</u> The advance party under Capt F S Walker, Quartermaster left for Eastbourne in order to arrange the quarters for when the unit arrived after "Exercise Ditto". All the coys spent part of the morning packing so as to be ready for the move Monday morning. There were no afternoon parades. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair & Warm. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 864 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 797 other ranks.	AS
Barton Stacey	3/10/43		<u>SUNDAY CHURCH PARADE</u> R C Personnel paraded for Mass at 0930 hrs in the Garrison theatre. Parade was in charge of Lt Rochon. There was no Protestant parade. Most of the day was spent in clearing up all the lines in preparation for move. <u>PHOTOGRAPHS</u> All coys of the unit had their pictures taken. Following the taking of photographs a muster parade was held. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair & Warm <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 969 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 797 other ranks.	Appx 1 AS
Barton Stacey	4/10/43		<u>MONDAY MOVE TO NEW AREA</u> The morning was spent preparing personnel and vehicles for move to new area. The following morning after arriving in the new area we were going to proceed on Exercise Flopsie which was a Bn exercise conducted in conjunction with one coy of the Princess Louise Fusiliers. Convoy was formed up at 1330 hrs and left at 1400 hrs. The unit arrived in new area 858567 sheet 173 at 1445 hrs. Each coy prepared to bivouac in their respective areas and supper was served at 1800 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy & Cool <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 964 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 797 other ranks.	AS

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Area 858567 Sheet 123	5/10/43		<p><u>TUESDAY EXERCISE FLOPSIE</u> Lt Col Rutherford held his "O" Group at 0730 hrs where orders and report lines were given. Order of march was A Coy plus supporting arms, Bn HQ - Sp Coy - B Coy - C Coy - D Coy. All coys prepared to cross start point at 0900 hrs. Unit proceeded from area 858567 through Stockbridge then to crossroads 735550 sheet 122. At this point unit turned south as far as crossroads 743523. At this point A Coy reported they were being held up by a small enemy force. The enemy withdrew and we proceeded forward at 1010 hrs. At point 756464 A Coy again ran into enemy which withdrew as soon as we prepared to put in an attack. Time was now 1030 hrs. At 1100 hrs we ran into a small mine field at 762453 which was quickly cleared by the carriers which were in support of A Coy. From this point we proceeded south through crossroads 755423 - road junction 763372 and then to point 730336 where A Coy ran into enemy once again. Infm was immediately received from A Coy that enemy was a Pl in strength plus 2 A T guns. A Coy launched an attack and pushed the enemy back to 732319. At this point the enemy immediately withdrew. B Coy was now put in lead of the Bn and we proceeded south. At 1335 hrs B Coy bumped the enemy at 734295. They engaged the enemy which once again withdrew after putting up very little fight. B Coy succeeded in clearing up this area by 1430 hrs. C Coy now took the lead and we moved as far as 724267 where C Coy reported they came under enemy fire. Time was now 1530 hrs. Once again the leading coy launched an attack. The enemy was shoved back as far as 691258 then withdrew immediately. D Coy now went forward and we moved to 686246 where D Coy reported they were under coy fire. They put in an attack immediately but enemy fire was so intense that they were pinned to the ground. Since the time was now 1800 hrs Lt Col Rutherford suspended operations till 2000 hrs. At 1900 hrs the C O held his "O" gp at 662225, he pointed out where he wanted patrols to be sent out. There would be 2 patrols from each coy. One at 2100 hrs the other at 2400 hrs. The Bn was fed in area 186246 and then each coy proceeded on foot to their coy positions in the pivot area. Time now was 2015 hrs. A Coy was in area 658227, B in 650217, C in 664226, D in 664224. Patrols were sent out as ordered and reports submitted to C O. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy with scattered showers. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 7 other ranks were taken on strength 5 from 3 CIRU 1 from Q O R of Canada and one from desertion. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 4 offrs Capt T H White and Lts G F Downham, N C Root and D F Trebell were struck off strength to 1 C G R U. 6 other ranks were struck off strength 1 to 3 CIRU and 4 to 1 CGRU and 1 on course. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 755 <u>STRENGTH</u> 33 offrs 798 other ranks.</p>	<p>APPX 7</p> <p>APPX 8</p> <p>AS</p>



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Area 6622	6/10/43		<u>WEDNESDAY</u> Bn had breakfast at 0830 hrs in area 686244. We left this area at 1000 hrs taking the same route back to our concentration area as we had used coming down. Arrived in concentration area 858567 at 1240 hrs. Bn had dinner at 1400 hrs and the afternoon was spent in cleaning up weapons and maintenance of vehicles. <u>RECREATION</u> A film was held outdoors for all ranks. The film was "Keep 'Em Flying" starring Abbot and Costello. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy with showers. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 755 <u>STRENGTH</u> 33 offrs 798 other ranks.	AS.
Concentration Area 858567	7/10/43		<u>THURSDAY</u> <u>TRAINING</u> Normal training was carried out under coy arrangements in the morning. It consisted of P.T. Battle Drill and a lecture by Major Fullerton on Japan. Major Fullerton is attached to our unit from Irish Fusiliers. <u>MAINTENANCE</u> Sp and HQ coys carried out maintenance on their vehicles. <u>SPORTS PARADE</u> In the afternoon all coys participated in sports under individual arrangements. <u>C Os MEETING</u> The C O held a meeting of all offrs at 1300 hrs at which Exercise Flopsie was discussed and further infm given on Exercise Ditto which was to start on Friday 8/10/43. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy and cool. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 752 <u>STRENGTH</u> 33 offrs 798 other ranks.	AS.
Area 858567 Sheet 123	8/10/43		<u>FRIDAY</u> <u>TRAINING</u> Normal Training was carried out by all coys. C Coy had a 10 mile route march. In the morning a short wireless scheme was held in the immediate vicinity. It was especially laid on by Lt Col Rutherford in order that the offrs become as familiar as possible with the sets before the scheme, also to be assured that the sets would be in good order for the scheme. <u>C Os MEETING</u> The C O held a meeting at 1310 hrs at which all ranks of the Bn attended. He gave all ranks as much infm as he had received regarding Exercise Ditto also what he expected of them on the exercise. Immediately after this another meeting was held for offrs and drivers where it was clearly outlined just what was expected with regard to convoy duty and how careful we would have to be on account of probable ambushes. <u>SPORTS PARADE</u> All Coys participated in sports in the afternoon. <u>"O" GROUP</u> Brigadier Sharpe held an "O" Gp at 2000 hrs at which he placed emphasis on every man in each Bn being aggressive and not too cautious. The C O held his "O" gp at 2045 hrs at which he passed on infm received at Bde, also a few A & Q matters which had been brought up. <u>ENTERTAINMENT</u> A film was held out in the open at 1900 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy and Cool. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 814 <u>STRENGTH</u> 33 offrs 798 other ranks.	AS.

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Exercise Ditto	9/10/43		<p><u>SATURDAY EXERCISE DITTO</u> Reveille was at 0530 hrs breakfast at 0600 hrs and Bn was ready to move by 0700 hrs in accordance with operation order. The route was from 854573 - X roads 872583 - rd junc 832614. We halted at this point for 2 hours. From this point we moved at short intervals on route road junction 864633. Infm was being received spasmodically that our forward elements consisting of GGHG plus one coy each of CBH and Irish were encountering small forces of the enemy. From this point we moved to the area of 835644 where we halted for 1 1/2 hrs. The time was now 1600 hrs and Lt Col Rutherford conferred with C O of Irish Regt and they decided to set up a semi-defensive position in triangle 817606 - 837675 - 825660. At 1700 hrs on orders from Bde we started to move on our route as far as 803606. At 1841 we were ordered to move on again on red route. At 2143 hrs infm was received to proceed to corssroads sq 7583 and await further orders. We arrived at this point at 2200 hrs. At 2203 hrs we were informed that an L O would be sent and give us further instructions. At 2345 hrs the C O held an "O" gp in this area and advised the coy commanders that we were going to take up a defensive position in area sq 7486. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy with rain. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 814 <u>STRENGTH</u> 33 offrs 798 other ranks.</p>	Appx 12
Exercise Ditto	10/10/43		<p><u>SUNDAY EXERCISE DITTO</u> Each coy moved off by TCV to rd junction 762845. A coy was leading. At this point they debussed and marched to their respective areas in sq 7486. At 0142 Bde ordered us to send one coy to area Great Bedwyn 721846 in order to hold the bridgehead. C coy under Capt J H Whyte was immediately despatched and all coys were in their positions by 0300 hrs. At 0705 hrs Bde informed us that the bridge the engineers were building would be completed at 0830 hrs and at this time we should send a combined force of carriers and infantry to recce the red route as far as the line "Repulse". C coy and carrier platoon were ordered for this task. At 0908 hrs the combined force advised BHQ that their forward elements had reached "Repulse" and this was immediately reported to Bde. At 1005 hrs Bde ordered us not to cross further than line "Repulse" as an organized attack was going to be made. At 1008 all our combined force had reached line "Repulse". At 1015 hrs the C O was ordered to an "O" gp at Bde for 1045 hrs. Map reference 776856. At 1043 we advised Bde that bridge at 765904 had been blown also bridge at 720918. There was a considerable force of enemy across the river, 150 in strength equipped with armd cars, carriers and numerous A T guns. At 1125 hrs infm was received from the</p>	Appx 11



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Exercise Ditto	10/10	43	<p>SUNDAY EXERCISE DITTO carrier force that enemy about 1 coy in strength between 752910 and 763906. At 1130 hrs the C O held his "O" gp at 775885 where the coys were advised that we were to capture Chilton Foliat and that we would be reserve Bn in the attack. Another Bde "O" group was held at 1400 hrs and the C O held his "O" gp at 1530 hrs in area 769885 where exact details were laid down with regard to the attack. Zero hour was to be at 1700 hrs and we were to move after Irish and CBH had crossed the river. The attack was to be in two phases. Phase 1 crossing the river and phase 2 consolidating at Chilton Foliat. At 1734 hrs we were ordered to commence phase 2 at zero plus 50. At 1827 we informed Bde that C coy our left forward element had reached its objective. At 1927 all coys had reached their objectives and were consolidating. Casualties throughout Bn averaged 20%. At 1930 hrs the Brigadier came up to BHQ and advised that we could bring the carriers across where the river was fordable. At 1937 we were ordered to maintain patrols from our forward coys in order to keep contact with the enemy. Patrols were despatched from C and A coys. C coy captured 6 prisoners with valuable infm. All coys dug in and remained on the alert during the night. WEATHER Cold with rain. FEEDING STRENGTH 814 STRENGTH 33 offr 798 other ranks.</p>	<p>AS</p>
Exercise Ditto	11/10	43	<p>MONDAY EXERCISE DITTO At 0025 hrs Bde informed us that we should be prepared to move 2 hours after 0600 hrs. At 0830 hrs Bde informed us that the bridge on our route was now open and that vehicles could be brought across. Our carrier patrol was now out and they reported that X roads as far as Knighton 7391 was clear of enemy. At 0900 carrier patrol reported that enemy patrol of armd cars had approached our position and then retreated to 730924. At 1013 A coy with supporting arms was sent forward to White Hill wood in order to assist GGHG who had encountered an enemy position which they could not deal with. At 1100 hrs C coy reported strong enemy position in sq 7394 possibly coy in strength. B coy also reported enemy patrol was withdrawing from Whittenditch 7392. At 1402 we were ordered to have carriers investigate situation at Ramsbury and the complete unit was ordered to move to 731927 and harbour there. This was completed at 1527. At 1630 Bde ordered us to verify the infm that the enemy had cleared Aldbourne and if so take possession of this area. The Bn moved forward and accomplished this task by 1739 hrs. At 1727 we were ordered to halt at "Malaya" and wait for change of route. At 1807 Bde "O" group was held and we were ordered to take</p>	<p>Appx 12</p>



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Exercise Ditto	11/10/43		<p>MONDAY <u>EXERCISE DITTO</u> (cont'd) up a pivot area in sq 7199-7299 boundaries to be road in 7199 and road in 7299. At 2045 we had all coys in position and dug in. Patrols were briefed at 2345 hrs and the C O went to an "O" group at Brigade at 2345 and received orders for the attack on the following day. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and cool. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 813 <u>STRENGTH</u> 33 offrs 798 other ranks.</p>	AS
Exercise Ditto Square 7299 Sheet 112	12/10/43		<p>TUESDAY <u>EXERCISE DITTO</u> At 0015 fighting patrols were sent out from A &amp; D coys under Lieuts Clements and Neville respectively. The patrol under Lieut Clements recce'd the area Botley Copse, square 7200 to the line 723.04 - south 713002 then east to 726000. This patrol did not encounter any enemy positions or personnel in their area. Lieut Neville's patrol recce'd area starting at rd junction 712002 north to 712012 west to Downs Barn 696013 south in a line to 704998 then east to start point 712002. Enemy positions were seen at 706005 however no prisoners were captured. The infm from these two patrols was immediately dispatched to Bde at 0245 hrs. At 0300 hrs two recce patrols were sent out from B &amp; C coys under Lieuts Dorion and Chamberlain respectively. Each patrol consisted of one offr and 500 Rs. Lieut Dorion's patrol recce'd area which Lieut Clements had previously been sent out on and Lieut Chamberlain recce'd area that Lieut Nevills patrol had been out on. The infm from these last two patrols confirmed previous infm which had been given by the first patrols and as soon as they returned at 0600 their reports were despatched to Bde via wireless. Reveille for Bn was at 0600 hrs and Bn prepared to move to start line at 0645 hrs rd 700996 - 712002. All coys were in position at 0725 hrs but at 0726 Bde informed C O attack would be held up for 30 minutes. At 0830 orders were received to prepare to move in 15 minutes. At 0843 we were ordered to advance. At 0852 infm was received from carrier pl that they had encountered a minefield and were clearing a path through it. At 0915 hrs our forward coy had advanced 400 yds. At 0927 we informed Bde our leading coy had contacted enemy at 708003 and were dealing with them. Also at 0927 our coy on the right flank had reached our objective. At 1000 hrs order was received from Bde "Ditto Stand Fast" which meant the exercise was over but we were to remain in our present positons. We stayed in area of sq 6901 until 1448 hrs when Bde issued the order "Cease fire" and then we moved back to area sq 7299. During the attack it was very foggy and direction could only be kept by compass thus making it doubly hard for all coy commanders. The men had supper at 1800hrs and then prepared for bed. <u>WEATHER</u> Foggy &amp; cool. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 814 <u>STRENGTH</u> 33 offrs 798 other ranks.</p>	RS



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Area Sq 7299	13/10	43	<u>WEDNESDAY TRAINING</u> All coys (fighting) carried out normal training in the morning as much as possible. Maintenance was carried out on all vehicles so that they would be in good shape for the move to new area on Thursday. <u>AFTERNOON PARADE</u> The afternoon parade consisted of sports carried out under coy arrangements. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy & cool. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 814 <u>STRENGTH</u> 33 offrs 798 other ranks.	RS.
Area Sq 7299	14/10	43	<u>THURSDAY MOVE TO NEW AREA</u> Reveille was at 0600 hrs and the unit was prepared for the move to the new area at 0800 hrs. We moved out from our area but were held up at 723983 by Bde Sp Gp. We crossed Bde Start Point at 0905 hrs according to movement table. The route was X roads 723983 Sheet 112, rd junction Sq 7095 - rd junction 763906 - rd junction 7789 - rd junction 781891 - rd junction 779886 - rd junction 786882 - Inkpen 8084 - X rds 802839 - rd junction 814837 - Facombe 8277 - Hurstborne Farrant 8273 - Andover - X rds 9063 - Winchester Bypass - Petersfield - Rogate - Medhurst. The dispersal point for the first day was rd junction 381422. We arrived at the bivouac area Sq 3441 at 1530 hrs which was Cowdray Park. Supper was served at 1730 hrs and the men were allowed leave till 2200 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Foggy & mild. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 904 <u>STRENGTH</u> 33 offrs 798 other ranks.	RS.
Cowdray Park to Eastbourne	15/10	43	<u>FRIDAY MOVE TO NEW AREA</u> Reveille was at 0630 hrs for the unit at Cowdray Park Sq 3441 sheet 133. The unit was prepared to leave at 0800 hrs and crossed the start point at 0825 as per movement table. The route was S.P. Q 368414 - Petworth - Tettleworth - X roads 444349 - Pullborough - Storrington - Washington - Steyning - rd junction - 632295 - rd junction 648242 - Shoreham by Sea - Coast rd to Brighton - Rottingdean - New Haven - rd junction 890209 - East Blatchington - East Dean - Eastbourne. Unit arrived at 1300 hrs. The afternoon was spent in arranging coys in their respective quarters. We were advised that Exercise Grizzly which we had expected to go on had been cancelled. <u>R S Ms PARTY</u> A party was held at the offrs mess, the guest of honour being RSM Soper who was leaving the unit on account of being over age. The offrs presented him with a silver ink stand as a farewell gift. <u>SGTS MESS DINNER</u> A Mess dinner was held in the Sgts Mess in honour of Mr Soper the RSM. He was presented with a silver set at this time. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair & mild. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 904 <u>STRENGTH</u> 33 offrs 798 other ranks.	RS.

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Eastbourne	16/10/43		<p><u>SATURDAY CO's PARADE</u> The C O held a Bn parade at 0900 hrs which was inspected by the RSM T Soper who was leaving the unit. After the parade the Bn was marched up to the Mess Hall where Lt Col Rutherford spoke to all ranks. He said that the unit was to participate in a exercise called "Timberwolf" and our destination would be Northern Ireland. He warned all ranks on the necessity of security and that offenders would be severely dealt with. He then made a short speech about RSM Soper and the contribution he had made to the unit. The RSM then made a short farewell speech to all the men. <u>CO's MEETING</u> A meeting of all offr's was held at 1315 hrs at the offr's mess where Lt Col Rutherford gave us as much info as possible about "Timberwolf". Matters dealt with were mostly A &amp; Q. We were advised that all our equipment be left here and when we got to Ireland we would receive American equipment. Also a thorough kit inspection was to be made that afternoon in order that the kit of all ranks would be complete. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair &amp; Mild. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 2 offr's and 34 other ranks were taken on strength. Lt Mitchell taken on strength from Special Increment and Capt MacDougall taken on strength from 3 C I R U. 10 other ranks were taken on strength from 3 C I R U. 23 other ranks taken on strength from 3 C I R U. 1 other rank from #1 C O R U. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 3 offr's and 6 other ranks were struck off strength Lieut F G Switzer to special increment. Capt J G Bell to HQ, C R U. Capt J S Whyte to 3 C I R U. 3 to #1 Canadian Neuro hospital, 3 to #2 Canadian General Hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 845 <u>STRENGTH</u> 32 offr's 826 other ranks.</p>	RS
Eastbourne	17/10/43		<p><u>SUNDAY CHURCH PARADE</u> There was no church parade in the unit because of the fact that a great deal of work had to be done in connection with the impending move. All the coys worked most of the day on A &amp; Q matters. All offr's had their pictures taken at Bde Headquarters by a photographic unit. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair &amp; mild. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 829 <u>STRENGTH</u> 32 offr's 826 other ranks.</p>	RS
Eastbourne	18/10/43		<p><u>MONDAY MAINTENANCE</u> Maintenance was carried out on all vehicles in the unit in preparation for turning them over when we leave on Exercise "Timberwolf". <u>PAY PARADE</u> All ranks received pay up to 31 Oct 43. <u>INNOCULATIONS</u> All ranks received two inoculations one against Typhus and the other for lock jaw. Preparation was made for exchange of all clothing in order that all ranks equipment be in A1 condition. Lieuts Ridge &amp; Kennedy were promoted to the rank of A-Capts. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy &amp; cool.</p>	



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Eastbourne	18/10/43		<u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 5 Officers and 3 other ranks were taken on strength. Capt L H Wettlaufer, Lieut R E Crouch, Lieut F G Switzer were taken on strength from Special Increment. Lieuts D A Cook and W C Hider were taken on strength from 3 C I R U. One other rank was taken on strength from course and 2 from No 1 C A S C R U. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 5 Other Ranks were struck off strength. 4 to 3 C I R U and 1 to hospital. <u>Feeding Strength</u> 880. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs, 824 other ranks.	RS
Eastbourne	19/10/43		<u>TUESDAY. PREPARATION FOR MOVE</u> Lists were presented to the respective quartermasters of each coy regarded the deficiencies in kit. Since it was impossible to have all the deficiencies available at one time it was necessary to have several parades during the day in order that every man have a complete kit. Each man definitely had to have two new battle dresses and two good pairs of boots. The office of the Regimental Quartermaster was especially busy at this time since all clothing and equipment had to be drawn from the Ordnance Depot at Heathfield. All non-battle worthy personnel were being struck off strength from unit according to orders received from 5th Armd Div. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 25 other ranks were struck off strength. 7 to 3 C I R U and 18 to N E T D. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 838. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs, 799 other ranks.	RS
Eastbourne	20/10/43		<u>WEDNESDAY. ISSUE OF CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT</u> This day was spent in the issuing and exchanging of clothing and equipment. The men now have the privilege of exchanging or drawing any equipment considered necessary without any charge. On account of the necessity of getting all the men's kit in order there is practically no training with the exception of P T in the morning. <u>Maintenance</u> The carrying out of maintenance was continued on all vehicles in the unit with the exception of those which were necessary for drawing stores. All Sten guns in the unit were replaced by the Thompson Sub Machine Gun. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy with rain. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 1 offr Lieut D B A Menard and one other rank were taken on strength from 3 C I R U. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 1 offr Major W I Kemp and 2 other ranks were struck off strength to 3 C I R U. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 838. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs, 799 other ranks	RS

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EASTBOURNE	21/10/43		<u>THURSDAY. ISSUE OF NEW CLOTHING</u> All coys were continued to be issued a complete new kit. <u>MAINTENANCE</u> Remaining maintenance was carried out on vehicles so that they are in good order to be turned over to the rear party when we leave. <u>TRAINING</u> Some training such as squad drill and route marches were carried out in order that the troops be kept busy in between drawing clothing and equipment and cleaning billets. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy and cool. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 838. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs, 799 other ranks.	RS
Eastbourne	22/10/43		<u>FRIDAY. PREPARATION FOR MOVE</u> Additional supplies of clothing were issued to the men in order that their equipment all be completely new. Since clothing and equipment was not arriving at any definite time it was very hard to carry out training of any kind although some of the coys did have a short route march. <u>WEATHER</u> Rain. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 1 Other rank was struck off strength to 3 C I R U on admittance to No 2 General Hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 837. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs, 798 other ranks.	RS
Eastbourne	23/10/43		<u>SATURDAY</u> The morning was spent in drawing the few articles of clothing and equipment which as yet had not been issued. There were no afternoon parades. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 837. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs, 798 other ranks.	RS
Eastbourne	24/10/43		<u>SUNDAY. CHURCH PARADE</u> All Protestant personnel paraded at 0900 hrs to St Andrews Church. Service was conducted by Padre D C Smith. All R C Personnel paraded under Lieut Rochon for Mass at 0915 hrs. C B All personnel of the Bn were confined to barracks from 1700 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and warm. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 837. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs, 798 other ranks.	
Eastbourne	25/10/43		<u>MONDAY. PREPARATION FOR MOVE</u> All personnel of the unit cleaned their quarters and finished drawing all their necessary equipment. Each weapon and large pack in the unit was labelled with a tag as per adm order. The unit was to be prepared to move at 2300 hrs. We were to proceed to an unknown destination in two trains. First train contained Bn H Q, H Q, Sp and A Coys with Lt Col Rutherford in charge and Capt Baker adjutant. Second train carried B, C and D Coys with Major Andrew as O C and Lieut Mitchell as adjutant. Personnel for the first train embussed at 2300 hrs and were entrained ready to move at 0030 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and warm. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 14 other ranks were taken on strength from 3 C I R U. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 2 other ranks were struck off strength to 3 C I R U. 1 on admission to field punishment and one to No 13 Gen Hospital.	RS



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WAR DIARY

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

M.F.M. 11  
40/P & S/37 (3072)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Eastbourne	25/10/43		<u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 849. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr, 810 other ranks.	
Entrain to Liverpool	26/10/43		<u>TUESDAY</u> . B, C and D Coys entrained at 0030 hrs. The first train moved off at 0310 hrs and the second train moved off at 0335 hrs. No 2 train arrived right at the docks and this group were already on the boat at 1630 hrs when the personnel from No 1 train arrived. No 1 train arrived at Liverpool Station at 1500 hrs and from here trans picked them up and drove them down to the docks. The boat the unit took was called the John Ericsson and carried about 5400 troops. The quarters were quite cramped but not too bad. It was an American boat which formerly had been on the Swedish American line. It seemed that every available inch of space was being used. However this difficulty was offset by the wonderful food which was served. All ranks remarked that they hadn't tasted food as was being served since they had been in the army. Everyone turned in shortly after supper with the exception of those who were detailed for duty. Capt Walker who was in charge of the advance party was adjutant of the ship. The C O of the 17 Field Regiment R C A was O C Troops. <u>WEATHER</u> Fog and cool. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 849. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr, 810 other ranks.	AS
Enroute To?	27/10/43		<u>WEDNESDAY</u> . Reveille was at 0600 hrs and breakfast at 0630 hrs. We moved out of harbour at 0700 hrs and began picking up the convoy as we moved out. There was only two meals on the boat. Breakfast and supper with a cup of coffe at noon hour.. Boat drill was practiced at 1000 hrs as is customary on all boats in order that each man know his exact position in case of enemy action. It was announced over the public address system that each man would be allowed to buy 200 cigarettes and 6 chocolate bars for 4 shillings. Orders for the unit were handled by the Y M C A supervisor Mr MacKenzie who was travelling with us. A great many of the troops were beginning to feel the effects of voyage although the number was not serious. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and cool. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 849. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr, 810 other ranks.	AS
Enroute to North Africa	28/10/43		<u>THURSDAY</u> Lt Col Rutherford held a meeting of all ranks at 1000 hrs. He explained that whereas we had been advised we were going to North Ireland we were going to North Africa which was not too surprising to a lot of the personnel. Each man was to be give a booklet on North Africa. They were also issued with the same type of emergency ration as used on Exercise Harlequin. He emphasized how careful we would have to be with regard to Malaria and that from now on each man was to be issued with four pills each week which would have an effect of staving off the disease.	Appx 18

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Enroute to North Africa	28/10/43		He also advised that from 0930 hrs to 1030 hrs The Perth Regiment could use A Deck starboard for P T, games or lectures. At 1030 hrs a Major from the Medical Corps gave a short lecture on Malaria emphasizing the necessity of constant vigilance especially to the food we would be eating in North Africa. The men had pork chops for supper although quite a few did not enjoy the meal as much as they would have liked to. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy and windy. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 849. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs, 810 other ranks.	AS
Enroute to North Africa	29/10/43		<u>FRIDAY.</u> There was no boat drill in the morning although inspection was carried out by O C Ship who is an Americal Colonel. Immediately after the inspection a message was broadcast to all ranks that the quarters were satisfactory and that they should keep the good work up. The men were sold cigarettes and chocolate bars on scale as laid down by ships quartermaster. There were no afternoon parades. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 849. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs, 810 other ranks.	AS
Enroute to North Africa	30/10/43		<u>SATURDAY. ROUTINE</u> Normal routine was carried out in the morning. In the afternoon the men were free as much as possible on board. <u>ENTERTAINMENT</u> An orchestra was organized by some of the troops on board and modern music was played during the day. <u>NEWS</u> Current news was broadcast daily by H/Major J K MacIsaac Senior R C Chaplain. <u>DUTIES</u> Group IV comprising Perth Regiment was duty group for 30th Oct which took practically all the unit on account of the number of duties which were necessary on the boat. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 849. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs, 810 other ranks.	Appx 1 AS
Enroute to North Africa	31/10/43		<u>SUNDAY</u> Being Sunday routine was carried out as much as possible as Sunday in Camp. <u>CHURCH PARADE</u> The Church Parade for Protestant personnel of Group IV which comprises The Perth Regiment was held at 1400 hrs in the Officers Lounge which for the voyage is being used by all ranks. The Perth Padre H/Capt D C Smith officiated. R C personnel paraded at 1400 hrs in Mens Mess "D" Deck. <u>ENTERTAINMENT</u> The remainder of the afternoon was spent by all ranks either listening to the music supplied by the orchestra or on decks and bingo game was held at 1900 hrs in officers lounge. <u>MORAL</u> Themoral of the troops at the present time is very high. This can be attributed to the fact that <del>after</del> now we may be able to do our share in this manner help	



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Enroute To North Africa	31/10/43		<p>shorten the war. At the present time there are a great many personnel who have joined the unit within the past 24 months. At first there was a certain amount of resentment expressed towards these newcomers by personnel who had been members of the unit for 3 or 4 years. However this slight tension has now been erased completely and it may be said that we are ready for action. With regard to the junior officers where nearly a complete change over has taken place in the last 6 months great enthusiasm is evident, and although it would have been desirable to have had courses in England for some of them before going to the theatre of op; the practical experience they will gain in the next few months will more than offset any lack of courses. Their initiative and dash and common sense will help carry the Regiment well on its way.</p> <p><u>WEATHER</u> Fair. <u>Feeding Strength</u> 849. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs, 810 other ranks.</p> <p><i>W. S. Rutterford</i></p> <p>..... LT. COLONEL ..... COMD. PERTH R.</p>	<i>RS</i>