

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

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

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Sheet 1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials	References and
St. Leonards	MAR 1		Capt. MacIntyre takes well-deserved leave. Received communication that instructors will be required for Canada. Informed by phone Brigadier Topp was leaving command of Bde.	P	
	2		Brig. Topp addressed meeting of all offrs and n.c.o's and bid the Bn farewell. He was genuinely sorry to be going and we lose him. Received demand from 2nd Echelon for nomination of five offrs, nine sergts and eight corps, for instructional duties in Canada.	P	
			Major Wright and Capt. Beckett, attached to the unit for trg, have left to return to Canada.		
			Trg program for the period 2 - 7 Mar 42 incl attached as appx.	APPENDIX 1	
	3		Major B.J.S. Macdonald, Capt. Knox and Wansbrough, and Lieut. Mackenzie have been chosen to return to Canada. They were sad at the thought of losing their commands but happy at the thought of seeing their families again. CSM Grabb is also returning. Message came thorough that they would be leaving 5 Mar 42.	P	IX 6
	4		Lt-Col. Sherwood Lett, the new Bde Comd, visited the Bn and has impressed us with his energy and keenness. A farewell get together was held at C Coy Mess for Major Macdonald and Captain Wansbrough. Lt-Col. Jasperson returned from leave early to see the boys off.	P	
	5		Instructional personnel for Canada R.V'd at Bn HQ. Col. Jasperson bade them farewell and bon voyage and impressed on them task that they had ahead of them. Bde Staff and offrs of three Bns gave Brig. Topp a farewell reception at RHLI Bn HQ. He was presented with a fine piece of plate as a token of our esteem. We were sorry to see him go.	P	
			Instruction I for Exercise KINGSTON were issued this date. (see appx.)	APPENDIX 2	
	6		Bn left billet areas; crossed S.P. at 0630 hrs, dispersed into battle posns at HORAM. Brig. Lett inspected all coy areas and it was a good show. We were ordered to move east at 1355 hrs and move in A/P formation. We were warned of approach of panzer div and rolled up into a A/P locality. We were again inspected by Bde Comd. Valuable lessons were learned and as a result it is possible that changes will be made in Corps order of march. Bn returned to billets 2030hrs.	P	IX 4 IX 5
	7		Major Wakefield has been recalled to join instructional cadre for Canada. Returned to unit full of the Battle Drill course he has just completed. C Coy held farewell dinner for Major Macdonald who was afterwards entertained by Commanding Officer.	P	
	8		Bn Church parade to services which was conducted by H/Capt. Paton. A lovely day and a good sermon. Major Wakefield left unit for N.E.T.D. Major Green returned from B.D. School Course.	P	
	9		C Coy carried out successful night attack operation. Lieut. P.O. Lee proceeded on priv leave.	P	
			Capt. Knox returned his pistol much to the delight of the Quartermaster.	P	
	10		New slate of officers published:- Capt. MacIntyre becomes O.C. C Coy; Capt. McCorkell becomes O.C. HQ Coy; Lieut. Turnbull Adj; and Lieut. Hockin I.O. It is interesting to note that of the original coy comds none now remain in command of coys. Trg Program period 9-14 Mar attached-	APPENDIX 3	

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St. Leonards	MAR 11		Gas film shown to all coys in Bn. It was one of the best trg films shown so far. It was instructional for all ranks. C Coy carried out an encounter Battle Exercise under its new comd, Capt. MacIntyre. The battle procedure was good. Capt. MacIntyre should do well in his new comd. Lieuts. Hueston, Prince and Ehlton were taken on strength to replace recent loss of offr personnel. C.O. held meeting of offrs - he expressed his confidence in his young commanders and expected good results.	P
	12		B Coy carry out "night attack" exercise. There is much room for improvement. Arrangements completed for playing of Record from Canada, Cdn Press are supplying machine and operator, all offrs have been invited to attend. (See appx 6 for writeup on Bexhill Warships Week)	P
	13		Pictures from Canada of offrs' wives and families were shown at Bn HQ Offrs' Mess. Also recordings from wives, mothers, etc. were played. Capt. Kennedy, Bde I.O. attended. This was much appreciated by all. Trk They brought home very vividly the "things" we are fighting for.	APPENDIX 6 P
	14		Lieut. R.F. Sheppard, M.C., was called to CMHQ for an interview. We may be losing him in the near future. It will be a loss to the Bn. Commanding Offr inspected Battle posns and had an interview with the Bde Comd.	P
	15		More requests received for nominations for offrs and n.co's for Canada, to form new bns. The Bn will be seeing a great number of new faces if the present drafting of personnel continues much longer. C.O. leaves for short course at Dorking.	P
	16		Major Williams, A/O.C., attends Bde conference re A/P scheme. Also attends meeting at Div re operations and trg. Lieut. J.R. Turnbull interviewed by Bde Comd re appt of Adjutant. A/O.C. gives out orders for two day exercise FIRLE. See march table attached.	P
			Trg Program for the period 16 - 21 Mar 42 attached as appc.	APPENDIX 4 APPENDIX 5
	17		Bn leaves billet area on Exercise FIRLE. S.P. crossed at 1040 hrs - move to assy area carried out without mishap. Weather is wet and dismal but Bn is tucked away fairly comfortably. A/C.O. receives his orders and preparations are made for attack at first light on 18th. Rain, rain, and more rain.	P
	18		Bn moves from assy area to F.U.P. at 0100 hrs. All coys in F.U.P. by 0230hrs. Zero is 0600hrs. rain continues. Attack is carried out successfully. B. Regt C. are on our right and RHLI move to final objective. Breakfast is sent up by carriers and weather turns for the better. Despite filthy weather men are in good spirits. Cease fire FIRLE is sounded at 1000 hrs. Bn is embussed and ready to move back by 1100 hrs. All were glad to get in a good warm billet and dry clothes. All in all, a successful scheme.	P

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St. St. Leonards Le		MAR 19		<p>C.O. returns from Small Arms School, full of enthusiasm for course. Lieut. Ambery has been detailed to proceed to London with Regimental Pipe Band who will play in London all next week. Work parties are very heavy at the moment and this takes a large number of men away from trg.</p> <p>Exodus of instructors to Canada still continues. L/Sgt. Perry and 5 O.R's left for N.A.T.D. There are now great opportunities for the young men in the Bn to show how good they are. Conference at Bde attended by C.O. for Exercise FIRCLE.</p> <p>Visit to Bn by Major G.A. Turnbull, B.M. 1 Armd Bde - entertained Bn HQ Mess.</p> <p>Major Williams left on a two day cooking course at Aldershot. Church parade held for protestants 1000 hrs - Capt. Paton delivered a fine sermon. CSM Humphries returned to Canada.</p> <p>Warning order Adm Instrn and March table issued for Exercise HILL. (see Appx.) Lt-Col. Jasperson issued orders for scheme at 1900hrs. Class for trg bf jr n.c.o's started under direction of adjutant and RSM. Lieuts Washer, Palms and Chilton t.o.s.</p> <p>Trg program for the period 23-28 Mar 42 attached.</p> <p>Capt. K.W. MacIntyre left for N.A.T.D today - he is proceeding to Canada. Lieut. R.F. Sheppard, MC, leaves today to take up new duties at CMHQ.</p> <p>Exercise HILL Bn passed SP at 0850hrs. Moved up in good order and hit Bde DP on time. All coys reported in Battle posns by 1115hrs. D Coy ordered to take up a defensive posn around Bridge south of our posns. A & D Coys plus att arms, attacked and captured posns - B Coy provided night patrols. We were inspected by Brig. Roberts, Div Comd., and Brig. Lett, Bde Comd.</p> <p>Bn stood to at dawn for one hour. Enemy paratps landed in Horam station. A & D Coys rounded them up and destroyed them. ½ coy enemy paratps reported in woods to south of A Coy posn - B and D Coys attacked with attached arms - a prolonged fight - enemy dispersed. C Coy ordered to provide night patrol between our posn and RHLI. A Coy ordered to attack enemy tank harbor which was done successfully.</p> <p>After stand down Bn proceeded by march route to billet area. Passed S.P. at 0800 hrs and arrived in billet area 1430 hrs. Tps were in fine fettle throughout whole of scheme and for once the weather was extremely good.</p> <p>Capt. Willis and 3 other ofrs left to umpire a 5 Bde exercise. Work parties resumed. Lieut. J.R. Turnbull visited Cdn Corps HQ.</p> <p>C.O. attended conference at Bde on Exercise HILL.</p> <p>Bn softball team defeated S. Sask R. by score of 20 to 3.</p> <p>Bn Church parade to St. Johns Church 1000 hrs., well attended.</p> <p>Cpts. Clarke and Macdonald and Lieut. Ladore visited unit.</p>	<p>APPENDIX 7</p> <p>APPENDIX 8</p>

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M.F.M. 11.
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Sheet 4

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
St. Leonards	MAR. 30		C.O. left for a well deserved leave. Trg program for period 30 Mar - 4 Apr 42 attached. Coys busily engaged on finishing up battle posns and camp site. Major Williams is acting O.C. and Major D.F. Spankie acting 2 i/c. Coy conferences on exercise HILL. Unit visited by Brig. Lett and B.M. Capt. Deziel gave lecture on army tanks to all ofrs.	APPENDIX 9 R
	31		A typical English day - fog and rain. Brig. Lett held a conference at our HQ of "Q" Staff - very instructional and persons attending were much impressed. Lieut. Prince taking party of 50 O.R's to Brighton to attend finals of 1st and 2nd Div. boxing finals.	9
			REGTL. PART I ORDERS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 42.....	APPENDIX 10
			PART II ORDERS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 42	APPENDIX 11
			WEEKLY FIELD RETURNS AND OFFENCE REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 42	APPENDIX 12
<div style="text-align: center;">  (F.K. Jasperson) Lt.-Col., Commanding ESSEX SCOTTISH. </div>				

Nov 11