

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

OR

## ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

DECEMBER 1942 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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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NEWHAVEN	1	0800	Working parties the same as yesterday.	Hmc
		1630	Regular weekly training conference held at Bn H.Q.	
		1830	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert attended a lecture at Bde H.Q.	
	2	0800	The usual work party of three officers and one hundred and fifty O.R.s proceeded to local farms to pull sugar-beet. As a result of these work-parties training within the unit has been almost completely disrupted during the period we have been supplying them.	Hmc
		1400	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert and Maj J.A.Hebb visited the Bde Carrier and Mortar school.	
		1900	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert attended a T.E.W.T. at Div H.Q.	
	3	0700	Maj J.A.Hebb proceeded on course to Barnards Castle, Co. Durham.	Hmc
		0800	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert paid a visit to the N.C.O. school.	
		1000	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert attended a conference at H.Q. 1 Cdn Div.	
		1900	A cloth-model exercise, "Bn in the Defence" was held at Bn H.Q.	
	4	0800	Training as per syllabus.	App 4 Hmc
		1530	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert proceeded to Bde H.Q. to attend a training conference, following this a T.E.W.T. was carried out at 1600 hrs. Field Return.	
	5	0800	Training as per syllabus. Lieut D.McG.Archibald and Lieut A.W.Rogers appointed to rank of Capts.	App 3 Hmc APP 4
	6		Church parades as per Otherwise a very quiet Sunday.	APP 1 Hmc
	7		Maj W.C.Gemmel S.O.S. to N.E.T.D. Maj P.H.Stehelin assumed command of Sup Coy.	Hmc
		1600	All officers attend a conference at Bn H.Q. This is in addition to the regular weekly conference due to the large number of questions re administration as well as training.	
	8	0800	The A.A.Platt and Bren gunners of two coys carry out A.A. firing at balloons. The Carrier, Mortar and A/tk Plats have returned from the school where intensive training was carried out under Bde arrangements. This period of training is said to have proved highly beneficial.	Hmc
		1600	Regular weekly training conference held at Bn H.Q.	

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NEWHAVEN			Lieut C.L.Putnam proceeded to No 3 C.T.S. Jordan to act on the instructional staff.	
		1930	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert attended a T.E.W.T. conducted by 1 Cdn Inf Bde. The T.E.W.T. was in the nature of combined operations.	
	9	0800	Training as per syllabus. The unit was allotted two station-wagons said to be in a decrepit condition and a water trailer(ditto) today.	APP 4
		1900	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert attended a T.E.W.T. at H.Q. 1 Cdn Div.	
	10	0100	Maj J.A.Hebb returned from course.	
		0700	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert, Maj P.H.Stehelin and Lieut H.M.Eisenhauer along with several O.R.s proceeded on skeleton sig exercise "Lunter". On this exercise Lt-Col Bogert acted as chief umpire of 3 Cdn Inf Bde and Maj Stehelin acted as O.C. West N.S.R.	
	11	0800	Maj J.A.Hebb went with a Bde recce party to Tunbridge Wells to look over a range on which this unit will carry out firing practise during next week. They also investigated the matter of billets which we will occupy during that period.	
		1000	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert and Lieut H.M.Eisenhauer attended a T.E.W.T. in the Snap Hill Barn area. This was in the nature of "Inf in the attack in co-operation with tanks".	
		1400	Maj P.H.Stehelin proceeded on a one day course on camouflage at Tunbridge Wells. The first trial game of the Bn soccer team was played on the Recreation Grounds, Newhaven. The team, which is under the direction of Lieut J.K.Rhodes and P.S.M.Henning, is said to have shown great promise. Field Return.	APP 3
	12	0800	Training as per syllabus.	APP 4
		1630	C gp conference held at Bn H.Q. to make final arrangements for the move to Frant Range.	
	13	<del>XXXX</del> 1715	Church parades as per Ten officers and two hundred and ninety-nine O.R.s proceeded by train to Tunbridge Wells. The Bn will carry out this range practise in two groups. This first group was comprised of A and C Coys and half of Sup Coy and Bn H.Q. who will be firing on 14 and 15 Dec 42.	APP 1
	14	0800	The remaining half of the Bn carried out training as per syllabus.	

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NEWHAVEN	14		Capt Kennedy of the Carlt & York R called to complete arrangements for the taking over of the anti-raid role in this Bn area by that unit during the night of 15/16 Dec 42.	
	15	0900	Pay parades as per Conference at Bn H.Q. to complete arrangements for the move of the second half of the Bn to Tunbridge Wells.	App 1
		1800	Lieut A.J.W.Dyer S.O.S. on being appointed staff learner at H.Q. 5 C.I.B. B and D Coys, remaining elements of Sup Coy and Bn H.Q. plus the Scout and Sniper Secs proceeded by train to Tunbridge Wells. Arrived at 2130 hrs.	
		2100	First group returned by train to Newhaven.	
	16		Second group carry out firing practise. Weather very wet and hazy. Visibility poor.	
	17		Second party finish practise. Still raining quite hard causing very poor shooting conditions.	
		2030	Second party, less Scouts and Snipers, return by train to Newhaven. The Scouts and Snipers remain until tomorrow, when a Bde Scout and Snipers shoot will be carried out.	
	18		Maj J.A.Hebb, Lieut R.W.Bullock and Lieut S.F.Williams attend a conference at Bde H.Q. in connection with a Bde concentration of Carrier and Mortar Plats for the purpose of intensive training, to be held at Rottingdean commencing 20 Dec 42. Instead of the usual Bn parade Lt-Col M.P.Bogert inspected each Coy in their own area in the order worn on the range in order to eliminate certain minor differences in turnout. The Scout and Sniper Secs of this unit firing in the Bde meet won the shoot by a healthy margin, the score being, (average per man) West N.S.R. 74, R22eR 65 and Carlt & York 61. But in spite of this it is felt that the team, on the whole, suffered from lack of practise.	
	19	0800	Training as per syllabus, otherwise very quiet.	APP 2
	20		The Carrier and Mortar Plats moved to the Bde concentration area at Rottingdean. The remainder of the unit less certain elements left for normal duties, moved to an area near Seaford to carry out Inf training in co-operation with tanks.	



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SEAFORD	21		The four rifle Coys marched out to the Snaphill training area where the officer i/c of a Sqn of the 12 Cdn A.T.Bn gave a lecture on the general characteristics of tanks, including performance and armament. This was followed by a complete crew of a Churchill tank, each of whom recited in exact detail the nature of his duties in the tank. Following this all members of this unit were given the opportunity to explore the tanks under the guidance of the officers and N.C.O.s in charge of them. Also all officers liaised with their opposite numbers in the A.T.Sqn and prepared their Plat exercise for the following day. Weather very disagreeable, raining throughout the day.	
		0900	Each Plat was put through a Plat exercise supported by one troop of tanks. After each exercise constructive criticism was offered. The weather was even more disagreeable than yesterday, rained constantly and the mud was very deep.	
		1100	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert, Capt J.R.Cameron and Capt S.D.Smith attended a demonstration put on by elements of 2 Cdn Inf Bde. This demonstration illustrated the fire-power of an Inf Coy.	
NEWHAVEN	23	0900	Each Coy was put through an exercise involving one Sqn of tanks in support. Constructive criticism was again offered after each exercise. The day turned out to be clear and cold, all the tps entered heartily into the spirit of the exercises and much profitable experience was derived therefrom.	
		1600	The Bn arrived back at their billets in the Bn area.	
	24	0800	Training as per syllabus.	
		1600	Weekly training conference held at Bn Hq. Today the unit was granted an advance in pay in order that they may properly get into a festive mood and celebrate the Xmas holiday.	App 4
	25		This being Xmas day, is to be treated as a Sunday, normal duties only to be performed. Contrasting with the merrymaking at the Xmas Eve dance at Drove Hall, Xmas day was appropriately ushered in by midnight Mass at C Coy mess hall. Thereafter, "not a creature was stirring" until 0830 hrs on Xmas morning, when Holy Communion services began at Christ Church, Newhaven, followed by similar services at C, D, and Sup Coy areas. Solomnities dutifully fulfilled, at 1100 hrs the officers of the Bn gathered in the mess at Peacehaven, where the clinking of glasses, handshakes and cries of "Merry Xmas"	

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NEWHAVEN	25	1900	<p>announced the opening of Xmas day festivities. Brig Chas. Foulkes called to wish the officers a Merry Xmas. At 1200 hrs the officers dispersed to their various Coys to be present at the mens' dinner. And what a dinner! Turkey and roast pork in abundance, which, with numerous supplementary dishes, heaped the deep, wide-rimmed plates to full capacity. At Drove Hall, B Coy and Bn H.Q. were seated along three rows of tables, brightly decorated with red and green with a row of candles in the centre, and a gift from the Knights of Columbus at each place. Here the N.C.O.s served the men, while the officers assisted in tapping a bountiful supply of beer. Shortly before dinner began, Brig. Foulkes entered the hall, commented on the pleasant decorations, then departed. Lt-Col Bogert, who had been visiting the Coy messes in company with Brig Foulkes, wished the men a Merry Xmas, and expressed the hope, which was enthusiastically received that next year we would be having our Xmas dinner with our families at home.</p> <p>While this happy party was in progress, similar scenes might be seen throughout the Bn where, to use the words of Capt J.W.K.Smeltzer, O.C. A Coy, "all ranks basked in the happy atmosphere of goodwill".</p> <p>With the comfortable laziness which followed such a hearty repast, the afternoon was spent quietly. Everyone who had access to a radio, listened to His Majestys' broadcast to the Empire at 1500 hrs, and the Cdn Forces programme, including Gen MacNaughtons' message at 1730 hrs.</p> <p>The officers at Peacehaven mess sat down to a dinner that would have "stumped" Goering and made Goebbels blush with shame. In the cheerful light of flickering candles the table, with its' appetizing burden of turkey, pork and Xmas cakes, brought back memories of the "Old Order of Good Cheer", and to those of us who were present to drink a toast to the King and to our absent friends, it was indeed "good cheer" and a fitting ending to a merry Xmas.</p> <p>Field Return.</p>	<p>App 3</p> <p>App 4</p>
	26		<p>Training as per syllabus.</p> <p>Lt-Col M.P.Bogert spent a large part of the morning with the A/tk Plat.</p> <p>Lieut J.W.K.Smeltzer today appointed to the rank of Capt.</p>	
	27		<p>Church parades as per App 1, otherwise a very quiet Sabbath.</p>	

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NEWHAVEN	28	0800	Training as per syllabus.	App 4
		1400	This is the last day of the N.C.O. class, Lt-Col M.P. Bogert gave a closing address. The standard of this class is very high.	
		1430	Brig Chas Foulkes called, and he and Lt-Col Bogert went to an area near Glynde to look at some ground suitable for putting on a demonstration of flat trajectory weapons in the attack. Later it was found that this ground could not be requisitioned.	
		1830	All officers of the Bn met at officers mess, Peacehaven, to discuss, chiefly, training for combined operations.	
	29	1100	Lieut H.M. Eisenhauer proceeded to A range, Burling Gap, to attend a demonstration of a quadruple Bren mounting. This mounting was tested in comparison with four Brens singly mounted, and although the mounting appeared quite effective, it was the opinion of a large number of the officers present that the very rapid expenditure of ammunition would detract considerably from its value.	
		1600	Weekly training conference at Bn H.Q. C Coy officers visited the Carrier & Mortar concentration area of Rottingdean to plan a demonstration of a Coy in the attack teamed with Carriers and Mortars.	
			This morning a message was received cancelling the special training scheduled to take place during Feb. This evening the B.M. informed Lt-Col M.P. Bogert by phone that the decision to cancel the special training had been reversed. Capt C.R. Day returned from secret mission and immediately proceeded on leave.	
	30		Training as per syllabus except C Coy which carried out a rehearsal of the demonstration which they will put on tomorrow.	
	31	0800	All available officers and N.C.O.s attended a demonstration in the area of Rottingdean. In this an Inf Coy (C Coy, West N.S.R.) was organized as combat teams in conjunction with Carriers and Mortars. (from Bde Concentration) i.e. each of the two fwd Plats having under command two Secs of Carriers and two detachments of Mortars. The combat teams demonstrated attacks on outer posns of the enemy encountered during the approach march. It was quite impressive. In summing up Brig Chas Foulkes pointed out that smoke should only be used to screen movement of tps and not during the final assault which should be covered by fire as long as possible. He also suggested that mortar fire should be used as a heavy concentration before the assault and not frittered away uselessly.	

*M.P. Bogert*