

# WAR DIARY

OR

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

MARCH 1943

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

Title pages will be prepared.

WEST N.S.R.

(Erase heading not required)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NEWHAVEN	Mar 4	1 0800	Training as per syllabus P reparations for the move to Inveraray are being made. Sixteen lorries and ten M/Cs were loaded and made ready for their journey by road.	App 4 H
		2 0700	Transport move off for C.T.C. Inveraray moving in a Bde group as per Five days are being allowed for the complete trip, night halts to be made at Stevenage (89 miles), Doncaster (132 miles), Carlisle (142 miles), Glasgow (95 miles), the group to arrive at Shira Camp, Inveraray on the fifth day. Training as per syllabus	App 4 H
		3 0800 1930	Training as per A T.E.W.T. was held at Bde HQ on Combined Operations. Lt-Col R.D.King, D.S.O., Capt J.R. Cameron, and all Coy Commanders attended.	App 4 H
		4	The Bn in two sections moved out of billets proceeding to C.T.C. Inveraray. Two Coys of the H.andP.E. Regiment took over the operational role of West N.S.R. Details of movement as per Remaining at Newhaven is a rear party of 48 under command of Capt D.H.Nelson. Party proceeding to Inveraray when joined up with advance troops already there will total 32 unit Officers and 663 other ranks. Capt D.McG.Archibald has been detailed as Bde M.L.O. for the period of Combined training and is proceeding with Bde HQ.	App 4 H
		5 1630	Six Bren-gun Carriers were loaded for transportation by rail to Inveraray. Main body of troops arrive at Shira Camp, Inveraray. The transfer from train to boat at Ardrossan, Ayrshire came as a welcome change to all ranks and the really fine weather and pleasant scenery did much to revive spirits and lighten the burden of the last mile which was made on foot. Field Return	App 3 H
		6 0800 1230	Work commenced immediately and training is being carried out as per syllabus Transport which left Newhaven on 2 Mar arrived at camp. All drivers report that weather was exceptionally good during the whole trip and that the journey was much enjoyed in spite of the distance covered.	App 4 H

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SHIRA CAMP INVERARAY	7	0800 1730	The Bn proceed by L.C.T. to field firing ranges to carry out a field firing practice as per Troops arrive back at camp having used 75 rounds of ammunition per man during the exercise. Weather quite favourable and training so far is being enjoyed although the extremely rugged nature of the country provides plenty of hard work on all exercises.	App 4 [Handwritten initials]
	8	0820 1030	All officers of the Bn and enough W.Os., Sgts., and Cpls. to make a total of 80 attended a lecture on Bde Group Landings at the lecture halls, Town Camp. The entire Bn attended films and lectures re Combined Operations at the main Cinema, Dukes Camp. All troops stayed at the Cinema until mid-afternoon but sandwiches and tea were served at noon under unit arrangements. The weather broke with a vengeance today. Heavy rain and sleet through the day.	[Handwritten initials]
	9	0745 2000	Part of the Bn embarked from Salmon Beach and proceeded by L.C.T. to the L.S.I., S.S. Duke of Argyll where boat drill was practised under realistic conditions. Weather Quite good today. Training as per Syllabus The Officers of Shira Camp sponsored a dance at Inveraray. Brig Chas. Foulkes and several of the Brigade staff were present. Maj MacAdam formerly of the West N.S.R. and now G2, 1 Cdn Div called on this unit today.	App 4 [Handwritten initials]
	10	0800	Training as per Syllabus Morning started with heavy rain and high wind which continued through the day.	App 4 [Handwritten initials]
	11	0300 2000	A and B Coys carried out Pl and Coy landing practice in darkness as per Syllabus Wind and squalls made the weather unfavourable for this practice. C, Sup, HQ, and Bn HQ carried out same practice as above. Weather conditions much better.	App 4 [Handwritten initials]
	12		Weather fine. Training as per Syllabus Final landing table was draughted from Bde landing table for Exercise "Eagle". This is a Bde Exercise in which Bns are to be practised singly. Object of the exercise is to practise assault landings by day on a two Coy front, and the capture and consolidation of a beach-head.	App 4 [Handwritten initials]
	13	1230	Weather good. Training as per Syllabus Troops move off for Exercise "Eagle". The Bn including a portion of its M.T. embarked at Field Return	App 3 App 4 [Handwritten initials]

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M.F.M 11.  
40/P & S/37

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SHIRA CAMP INVERARAY			<p>Auchnatra Beach. From the time of embarkation until Zero (1500) the L.Cs. cruised up and down Loch Fyne off the beach on which the Bn was to land. At 1445 hrs the two assault Coys, A (right) and B (left and equipped with L.C.P.(R) went in on Ardna Slaite and Ardna Beaches respectively under cover of smoke screen from L.C.S. The initial landing was successful and the reserve (C) Coy followed by Bn HQ and Bn Transport. When the beach-head was well secured the Bn reorganized on Ardna Beach and with the exception of the wheeled transport returned to Salmon Beach by L.C.T.</p> <p>Brig Chas. Foulkes at the conclusion of the Exercise expressed satisfaction at the manner in which the assaulting troops had conducted themselves. The landing and consolidation was a complete success and the unit transport came ashore at the appointed time and place in good order and without the slightest confusion.</p>	
		1730	Outline plan for Exercise "Dalmally" was, at Bde Commanders conference. discussed	
	14	0800	R.C. Church Parade (voluntary) at Dukes Camp	
		0830	A list of priorities which had been prepared the previous night was submitted to Bde HQ. Protestant Church Parade held at Dubh Loch, Shira Camp, Capt R.Phillips, our Padre, officiating. The C.O. complimented the troops on their smart turnout and conduct on this parade and caused a notation to that effect to be put in Daily Orders for the day.	
		1230	Following Church Parades training was conducted as per Syllabus. Lt-Col R.D.King, Maj. J.A.Hebb, and Capt J.R.Cameron prepared preliminary landing tables for exercise "Dalmally". Above tables were submitted at Bde Comdrs conference, and battalion commanders were briefed for the coming exercise.	
		1630	Battalion training conference held to discuss trg for the following day. It was announced here that the G.O.C. 1 Cdn Div, Maj-Gen. H.L.N.Salmon would be in the Bde area and inspecting the training of this unit at various times from 1400 hrs 15 Mar to 1400 hrs 16 Mar.	
	15	0900	Bde landing table for exercise "Dalmally" received.	
		1900	A and B Coys carry out L.S.I. training as per Syllabus	
		1700	Bn Comds brief all Coy Commanders for exercise "Dalmally" on a model at Bde HQ. Ariel photographs were also used.	
	16	0800	Training as per Syllabus	
		1800	Bn HQ and A Coy practise L.S.I. training.	



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SHIRA CAMP INVERARAY	17	1800	Training as per Syllabus Troops embarked on the various landing craft from 1800 hrs to 2130 hrs and stayed on these craft until 0130 hrs (Zero).	App 4
Exercise "DALMALLY"	18	0115	A flare signal from H.M.S. St Hellier signified that the exercise would take place.	App 4
		0130	A and B Coys touch down on Able Green (Salmon Beach) and Able White (Admirals Beach) respectively. The success signal was sent up from A Coy very shortly afterward, but no signal was received from B Coy. Lt-Col R.D.King immediately ordered C Coy to land on A Coys beach, and A Coy to take Able White Beach in reverse. This was promptly carried out.	
		0215	Bn HQ landed on Able White Beach and pushed rapidly on to the assembly area (Malt Lands). The Bn moved off from the assembly area C Coy leading, followed by a skeleton Bn HQ, B Coy, Bn HQ proper, and R.C.E. The advance to Taynafead Aerodrome was harassed by a few enemy patrols but continued so swiftly that the airport was seized well before first light. Following capture of the airport the C&Y R. pushed through and launched an attack on the high ground beyond. As this attack came to a conclusion (about 0920 hrs) the "Cease Fire" was <del>soundly</del> given and the Regiment marched back to Shira Camp, arriving there at 1145 hrs. Balance of day spent in organized rest.	
		19	1000 1430	
		1630	The semi-finals and finals of an Inter-Brigade Cutter race were held in Loch Shira, the course running from Salmon Beach to the stern of H.M.S.St.Hellier lying off Inveraray Pier. In the first heat the West N.S.R. team scored an easy victory, as did also the C & Y R. in the second heat. The race between these two Regiments was strongly contested, the C & Y R. winning by a few feet. Following the races the Brig. C.T.C. presented to both teams prizes donated by the officers of 3 Cdn Inf Bde. Field Return	App 3
	20	0715	A, B, and C Coys with elements of Bn HQ including Lt-Col R.D.King, D.S.O., marched to Inveraray pier from which they embarked and proceeded to Ardrossan by ferry. At this point the train was boarded for Newhaven.	App 3
		1310	The remainder of the Bn less transport with Maj. P.H.Stehelin in command were transported	

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A.F.C. 2118.  
1 Mil.-8-39 (1768)  
H.Q. 1772-45-18

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NEWHAVEN	21	0930	by lorry from Shira Camp to Dalmally where they entrained for Newhaven.			
			1100	Bn arrived at Newhaven station and dispersed to Coy areas.		
			1100	Remainder of day spent in distributing kit and arranging billets, and taking over our normal operational role from the H & P.E. Regt. C Coy acting as duty Coy.	Ang	
			1100	Transport loaded on trains at Arrochan and proceeding by train to Newhaven.		
				At the end of C.T.C. training it has been found that the two weeks of training were very instructive and most beneficial to all ranks. All troops have displayed the most keen and intelligent interest in the work at all times.	Ang APP 4	
			22	0800	Training as per syllabus.	
			1100	Meeting of Coy Comdrs at which the C.O. outlined the training for the coming week.		
			2000	Lt-Col R.D.King, D.S.O., proceeded to H.Q. 1 Cdn Div to attend Bn Comdrs T.E.W.T.	Ang APP 4	
			23	0800	Training as per syllabus.	
			1600	Lt-Col M.P.Bogert visited the unit.	Ang APP 4	
			24	0800	Training as per syllabus, otherwise a very quiet day.	Ang APP 4
			25	0800	Training as per syllabus.	
			1400	Bn parade held on Recreation Grounds, Newhaven.	Ang APP 4	
26	0800	Training as per syllabus.				
		First instructions re Exercise "Past" were received.	Ang APP 3			
		Field Returns.	Ang APP 4			
27	0800	Training as per syllabus.	Ang APP 1			
28		Church parades as per	Ang			
29		This day was spent in preparation for exercise "Past".				
	1600	Conference at Bde H.Q. re exercise "Past".				
	1800	Bn O Gp conference re "Past".	Ang			

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EXERCISE "PAST"	30	0920	Bn move over Bde S.P., rd junc at Rottingdean, en route to concentration area near Burgess Hill. Marching tps arrived this area at 1655 hrs. A and F Ech moved off at 1250 hrs along the same route and arrived at 1345 hrs. B Ech proceeded to a Divisional Administrative area at Halland.	Hng
		2100 2245	Lt-Col R.D.King and Capt J.R.Cameron proceeded to Bde O Gp. Bn O Gp.	
	31	0630	Bn cross Bde S.P. (Ditchling) and marched to concentration area in Barham Pk by way of Hassocks, Steyning, Washington and Storrington. During this march the coln was attacked several times by enemy A/C, also the advance was delayed at Wiston X rds while the R22eR mopped up enemy posns near Washington.	Hng
		2030	Lt-Col R.D.King is now acting as Brig Comdr and Maj P.H.Stehelin assumes command this unit. Bn O Gp held at this time. Before the ration lorries came up the Bn had to push on to Amberly and cross the River Arun by assault boat.	

*J.H. Stehelin mjr.*  
*1/o.c. West n.s.r.*