

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Title pages will be prepared.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Woldingham Surrey	1 Oct	40	<p>Training to-day confined to zeroing and testing of rifles, preparatory to Unit Range Practices, which will start shortly.</p> <p>This afternoon R.C.A.F. planes gave a very impressive demonstration of dive-bombing from various heights. All the Unit gathered near the Woldingham Golf Course to watch the display of the tactics that are likely to be used against us by the enemy.</p> <p>F49692 Sgt. Adams, W. C., "A" Coy., F39701 Sgt. Varner, M. E., HQ. Coy., and F49687 L/Cpl. Irving, C. A., "B" Coy., returned to-day from Command Boxing and P.T. Course.</p> <p>Orders issued to-day, prohibited lighting of matches or cigarette lighters out of doors after dark.</p> <p>The local civilians seem to think that the German Air Force is bent upon wiping out any Canadians, and every time we get a few bombs, they blame it on us.</p> <p>At 1800 hrs. all Company Commanders joined Battalion Headquarters' Mess, to attend the dinner for Capt. Cashen, our Padre, who is leaving shortly for another unit. After dinner all the Officers of the Unit gathered in the Mess to bid farwell to the Padre.</p>	<p>A. J. W. II</p> <p>Jany</p>
	2 Oct	40	<p>Training to-day was again mostly zeroing of rifles.</p> <p>The C.O. away to-day on a T.E.W.T. for C.Os., under Div arrangements.</p> <p>F42560 Cpl. Jefferson, K. M., returned to-day from 4th Field Coy. R.C.E., where he has been instructing in Bren Gun.</p> <p>There are some rumors about that the Brigade is going to move into the front line and take over a part of the Coastal positions from the Imperial Units.</p>	<p>Jany</p>
	3 Oct	40	<p>The C.O. left for the BRIGHTON area on the South Coast to contact the 50th Battalion Queens Royal Regiment, from whom we are to take over soon, a portion of the defences facing the English Channel. The C.O. found that the area to be taken over was a section of more than 60 square miles of bare rolling downland, and included the ancient town of LEWES.</p> <p>Much discussion about the proposed move, as we thought of the new position as being a trench system on the sea front, and it is usually spoken of as our "trip into the trenches."</p> <p>F39942nPte. Wentzell, A. E., returned from Brigade Headquarters, where he has been attached to Brigade Signals.</p>	<p>Jany</p>
	4 Oct	40	<p>The A.A. Platoon, under Lieut. A. B. Cooke, proceeded to TANGMERE aerodrome for a few days training in A.A. firing.</p> <p>Training as usual during the day, somewhat hampered by heavy rains.</p>	<p>A. J. W. II</p> <p>Jany</p>

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Woldingham Surrey	4 Oct	40	Posted Strength - Officers 31 - Other Ranks - 748	<i>Jay</i>
	5 Oct	40	Lieut. D. W. McAdam, Corporals F49719 Glennie, A. L., F41602 MacLeod, W., F29770 Hopkins, K. A., and F42643 L/Corporal Wagner, E. L., proceeded to Dorking for a week's training in Tank Hunting. Lieut. E. L. Fortune, relieved Lieut. D. W. McAdam as Bde. L.O., while the latter is away on course. F39904 A/Sgt. Comeau, J. H., of the Battalion Orderly Room Staff, had the misfortune, while loading his rifle, of wounding himself in the hand, and has been evacuated to hospital. Some fairly heavy air raids to-day, during which a spent bullet bounced off the C.O.'s helmet and another struck the hood of his car and lodged half way through the metal, and is being closely watched as a souvenir.	<i>App 1</i>
	6 Oct	40	Being Sunday, Church Parades were held, with the Band in attendance, at St. Paul's Church, Woldingham. C.O. called a meeting of all W.Os., Sgts. and Cpls., and discussed ways and means of improving the appearance and cleanliness of the Units Transport.	<i>Jay</i>
	7 Oct	40	Lieut. John R. Cameron, proceeded to 7th Corps Headquarters, where he is to be instructor at Corps Training School. The Unit, except "A" Coy., started in what it is intended shall be a series of route marches to get the men into condition for the tour of duty on the Costal area. "A" Coy., proceeded to the ranges at WESCOTT, near DORKING to carry out practices with the Bren gun. The party had a surprise when a large German bomber appeared out of the fog, flying right over them at about 100 feet. The party had guns mounted for A.A. protection, but everyone was so surprised that the plane was out of sight before anyone thought of firing at it. A meeting of the Officers' Mess was held to-night at which a new slate of Officers were elected: President - Major W. C. Gemmell, Secretary - Lieut. C. B. Higgins, - Members - Major H. M. Bryson, Captain E. M. Crouse.	<i>App 1</i>
	8 Oct	40	HQ. Coy. proceeded to ranges at WESCOTT to-day, to complete the firing of Bren-guns. Lieut. A. B. Cooke returned to-day, with the A.A. Platoon, from TANGMERE aerodrome. Capt. H.O. Harding, Dental Officer, was recalled to-day by his Unit for a short period of service.	<i>Jay</i>
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Woldingham Surrey	8 Oct	40	A very interesting demonstration of D.M. nose gas was carried out to-day near Caterham. The Unit marched down and had to walk into a cloud of real nose gas with respirators on. When they were halfway through the cloud, respirators were removed, and they went through the remainder. A good many became ill, but lorries had been provided to drive them home, as it was expected that they would not be able to walk. It is our first experience with real gas and not a very pleasant one.	<p><i>Appx II</i></p> <p><i>Jay</i></p>	
	9 Oct	40	"A" and "B" Coys. proceeded by M.T. to Ash Ranges, BISLEY, to carry out rifle practices. The shoot was delayed until it was necessary to rush it through, and without coaches. The only result was a great waste of valuable ammunition.	<p><i>Appx. I</i></p> <p><i>Jay</i></p>	
	10 Oct	40	"C" and "D" Coys. proceeded to Ash Ranges and carried out the same program that "A" and "B" did yesterday - with the same results. The Intelligence Section, which seems to be the Unit's odd job Section, were detailed to pick apples for some of the local residents. They were given about ten bags for their own use, which will be a welcome addition to their rations. Fairly heavy air raid to-night, and the planes could be followed right across the sky by the white streaks, created by freezing exhaust fumes.	<p><i>Appx. II</i></p> <p><i>Jay</i></p>	
	11 Oct	40	H.Q. Coy. and Bn. H.Q., proceeded to Ash Ranges and carried out rifle practices. F49660 Pte. Searle, J. A., attached to-day, to Bde. Sigs. for duty. Due to the increasingly cold weather, all the men were issued with a 4th blanket to-day.	<p><i>Appx. II</i></p> <p><i>Jay</i></p>	
				Posted Strength - Officers 31 - Other Ranks 750	<p><i>Jay</i></p>
	12 Oct	40	The C.O. started to-day what is hoped will be regular full dress inspections of Companies. This is quite a change from the practice during the past few months, when little attention has been paid to smartness, while tactical training was in progress. Another innovation, not seen for some time was instituted to-day. All employed personnel are to receive one hour's training on drill and weapons, daily.	<p><i>Jay</i></p>	
13 Oct	40	Church Parade as usual to-day. At 1100 hrs. the Officers were entertained at a cocktail Party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Haesler, of Woldingham.	<p><i>Jay</i></p>		

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M.F.M 11.
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Woldingham Surrey	13 Oct	41	F42564 Cpl. Jefferson, K. M., proceeded to Junior Leaders' School to-day. Lieut. E. L. Fortune returned from Bde. H.Q. where he has been acting as Liaison Officer, in the absence of Lieut. D. W. McAdam.	Jew
	14 Oct	41	The C.O. and I.O. proceeded to Roedean School, near BRIGHTON, to recce. the area to which the Unit will shortly be moving. F39908 A/Cpl. Cook, K. L., proceeded to ALDERSHOT, to the Army School of Cookery, for a course. A few bombs were dropped to-night around WOLDINGHAM and the A.A. fire was heavier than for some time.	Jew
	15 Oct	41	Training carried out as usual to-day. A meeting of all Officers at Bn. H.Q. heard a very interesting talk by Lieut. D. W. McAdam, who has just returned from the new school of Tank Hunting. This new type of warfare appeals to everyone, although it is highly unorthodox, and rough and tumble. Major A.A. Ernst told the meeting that during a recent visit to EAST HORSLEY, he had heard excellent comments of the conduct of the men during the summer. These bits of information coming in from time to time are a source of pride to us and it is continually preached to the men that they must act in such a manner as to be a credit to our native land. The meeting was also informed that the Unit had made the highest contribution of any Unit, to the Div. Spitfire Fund. The C.O. gave a short talk on the coming move to a position on the Coast.	Jew
	16 Oct	41	Training as usual. One large daylight air raid, which produced a good scrap, which was watched overhead. During raids to-night a house in "D" Coy. area, occupied by civilians, was wrecked by a bomb and several people injured. This was one of the heaviest night raids yet and a good many bombs landed in the Unit area but no billets were struck or damaged.	Jew
	17 Oct	41	Training carried out as usual, including a route march of 14 miles. Lieut. G. W. Theakston and 36 Other Ranks joined the Unit to-day. They will enable the Unit to move to the Coast at full strength after leaving the same number in this area as a Rear Party.	Jew

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Woldingham Surrey	17 Oct	41	A night M. T. move exercise was carried out tonight to give drivers training in the packet system, i.e. lorries travelling in packets of 5 to 7 with headlights on the leading <u>lorry</u> only. This is not a new thing but requires practice.	<i>Jaw</i> <i>Off p. 11</i>
	18 Oct	41	During the early hours of the evening it seemed that our area was about to be "blitzed" and for two hours the buildings shook and rattled from bombs and A.A. gun-fire. The only damage was caused on Station Road, where a bomb blew trees and part of a cutting into the road. "A" Coy. turned out and cleared the road in short order. Posted Strength - Officers 32, Other Ranks 751.	<i>Jaw</i> <i>Off p. 11</i>
	19 Oct	41	All Officers and N.C.Os. proceeded to the scene of our Tank exercise of several months ago, to inspect a system of Field Works constructed by the R.C.E. at Lodge Farm. More daylight air raids today, and tonight, was nearly as bad as last night. One bomb landed in the road by St. Paul's Church and cut the gas and water mains, a very heavy one gave "C" Coy. a good shaking up, but did no damage. A stick of eleven were dropped right across the water-tower, about half a mile from Battalion H.Q., but as usual did no damage. This tower is receiving a great deal of attention and over sixty bombs have been dropped within a radius of 300 yards from it.	<i>Jaw</i> <i>Off p. 11</i>
	20 Oct.	31	The C.O., 2 i/c, and I.O., and representatives of Coys. proceeded to Brighton area to make further recce. of the area. This area was blitzed again tonight. A great many bombs landed around the centre of the village. Two houses were wrecked by two of the biggest bombs we have seen so far. Both of them left craters 50 feet across and 30 feet deep. One oil bomb landed on the lawn in front of Battalion H.Q., blowing a small crater and messing up the white front of the building with oil, breaking only one window and giving the sentries a bad scare.	<i>Jaw</i> <i>Off p. 11</i>
	21 Oct	41	F41690 L/Sgt. Byrne, J. M., proceeded to Army Gas School for Course. The Transport Officer started a refresher course today for Cpl. Mechanics and drivers.	<i>Jaw</i> <i>Off p. 11</i>
	22 Oct	41	The C.O. and 2 i/c returned from Brighton, leaving remainder of party to complete recce. F43550 C.S.M. Garber, W. E., much to our regret, was ordered to leave to-day for Canada, where he is to be an instructor. F41575 Sgt. Mervin, R. E., and F40584 Sgt. Zinck, M. L., proceeded to P.T. School at Aldershot, for a course in Boxing. Air raids very light tonight and the All Clear sounded before midnight, which is most unusual.	<i>Jaw</i>

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Woldingham Surrey	23 Oct	41	<p>One Platoon of "D" Coy., with the Coy. Commander, Major F. B. Courtney, left for Brighton to take over part of the new area from the 15th Queen's.</p> <p>The A.A. Platoon and a party from each Coy. were shown an instructional film at Caterham, on A. A. Training.</p> <p>Much hustling about and preparing to move out to the new area on the coast.</p> <p>Lieut. G.L.F. McNeil, took part in a B.B.C. program for broadcast to Canada.</p>	<p><i>Appendix I</i></p> <p><i>Appendix II</i></p> <p><i>Flow</i></p>
	24 Oct	41	<p>The remainder of the Unit moves tomorrow to new positions, so everyone is busy packing up and cleaning up. Major K. P. Harris is detailed to be i/c of rear parties in present area for 3rd Bde. Lieut. R. W. McCarthy will be i/c of Unit Rear Party.</p> <p>The 2 i/c and all Coy. Commanders and 2 i/c's Coys. proceeded to Brighton area today.</p> <p>By 1900 hrs. all trucks were packed and ready for an early start to-morrow for the move to the Coast.</p> <p>The C.O. was taken ill tonight and ordered to bed. So not an officer above the rank of Lieut. will be with the M.T. convey to-morrow.</p>	<p><i>Flow</i></p>
Roedean Sussex	25 Oct	41	<p>Everyone up and about early this morning. The remainder of the unit moved off without a hitch on the long trip South, and arrived safely in the new areas, where guides from the advance parties met each Coy. and guided it to it's area. An amusing incident occurred at Godstone on the way South, when a Bomb Disposal Squad lorry, with a large bomb on board, pulled into the convoy and moved with it for several miles.</p> <p>Upon arriving at new areas we were surprised to find that some Companies were 12 miles from Bn. H.Q. - "A" and "B" Coys. in Lewes, "C" Coy. in Rottingdean and Telscombe, - H.Q. Coy. in Ovingdean and partly with Bn.HQ. at Roedean School, about a mile from Brighton. The new Bn.H.Q. was located in Roedean School which is a huge place capable of housing the whole Battalion. The huge grey stone stone school is situated near the white chalk cliffs overlooking the sea. Great Green lawns stretched down to the Marine Drive which passes along the cliff's edge.</p> <p>At 1600 hrs. a very impressive ceremony was performed when the guard from the West Nova Scotia changed with the 15th Queen's guard. All the officers of both Units paraded to watch the ceremony, which was performed in front of the School with the West Nova Scotia Band taking part. The cold grey buildings and towers frowned down upon this transgression of what had been a peaceful happy home, inhabited only by girls before the war. On the word of the Guard Commander, a Corporal, "Sentries Pass", there passed to the West Nova Scotia Regiment</p>	<p><i>Appendix II & III</i></p> <p><i>Flow</i></p>

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Roedean Sussex	25 Oct	41	<p>the responsibility for a huge area of the front line of England. As the "Sentry Pass" was given the C. O. raised the flag of Nova Scotia on the flag pole in front of the School. Quite appropriately, the Regiment and the flag had returned to the sea.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Posted strength - 32 Officers - 747 Other Ranks.</p>	<p><i>Low</i></p>
	26 Oct	41	<p>Much hustle and bustle to-day getting settled into the new routine. Patrols were established to operate along the water front and contact^d the Units on the flanks. More patrols covered the 60 odd square miles of bare rolling downs and connected numerous posts manned at points on the hills and on the cliffs. The Carrier Platoon, under command of "B" Company, established patrols on the downs about eight to ten miles from the Coast. This part of the country seems very quiet, with no air raids.</p>	<p><i>App I</i> <i>App II</i> <i>Low</i></p>
	27 Oct	41	<p>Church service held to-day in the beautiful School Chap^{el}ls. In order to carry out guards, it was necessary to draft every available man. Batmen and clerks shouldered their rifles for the first time in many weeks.</p>	<p><i>Low</i></p>
	28 Oct	41	<p>The Unit is so dispersed^d and has so many guards and patrols that training is not possible. The Band is broken up and the stretcher-bearers attached to the Companies.</p>	<p><i>Low</i></p>
	29 Oct.	41	<p>Routine patrols and guards were about the only activity to-day. Night Patrols received rum rations to-night for the first time and they need it after wandering around those bare windswept downs all night.</p>	<p><i>Low</i></p>
	30 Oct	41	<p>The activity other than guards to-day was the practice carried out by the Artillery in the rear of the area, shooting over ten miles at targets in front of the cliffs. Our first experience of hearing shells whistling overhead. The peaceful atmosphere was broken to-night by a single bomb, which landed near Headquarters Company, at Ovingdean, completely wrecking an unoccupied house.</p>	<p><i>App. I</i> <i>Low</i></p>
	31 Oct	41	<p>Routine patrols and guards were the only activity to-day.</p>	<p><i>Low</i></p>