

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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WEST N.S.R.

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JUNE 1942

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Worthing	1	0800	Bn move off from Fishers Fm (1342) on a leisurely hop to concentration area at 9930. Covering a distance of 17 miles the marching tps arrived at 1430 hrs. Brig H.N.Ganong marched several miles with this unit during the day. The aide-de-camp of the army-commander, Lt-Gen Montgomery, passed along the line of march and conveyed to the tps the hearty congratulations of the army commander, on their splendid showing on the exercise "Tiger". M.T. left Fishers Fm area at 1600 hrs and proceeded under Bde arrangements arriving at 1830 hrs.	<i>Hmg</i>
	2	0800	Marching tps move off, covering 13 miles to area at 902303, M.T. proceeded as before under Bde arrangements. On arrival, several barrels of beer provided by officers of the unit were rolled out and issued. Also the K of C, which since Sunday have been giving an issue of a pie, chocolate bar and packet of smokes to each man each evening came thru with another issue. Casualties and elements of the Bn that had got strayed from the unit and had made their way back to Highden Ho, were, for hardening purposes, marched out to meet the unit and finish the journey in with them.	<i>Hmg</i>
	3	0730	Tps move off on first leg of final hop, halt in wood at 6531 at 1230 hrs until 1600 hrs then finished the trek to Highden Ho, arriving at 2100 hrs. Brig Ganong again marched a considerable distance with this unit. Distance covered on this day, 29 miles.	<i>App 4</i>
	4		General clean up, dental and bath parades is the order of the day. Also worthy of mention is the fact that the unit is being paid today, causing those who are not on duty to envisage an evening at the "local".	<i>Hmg</i>
		1400	Maj. J.A.Hebb attended the a meeting at which Lt-Gen Montgomery gave a summary of the lessons learned on "Tiger".	
	5		Unit carried on with routine training. A very quiet day on the whole. Several interesting reminiscences of "Tiger" have come to the diarists attention. Lieut G.W.Theakston, while seeking cover from the driving rain one night in the early phase of "Tiger", stretched his aching bones in blissful repose in a near-by small building. On awakening he was very much surprised to find he had become a foster-mother to a litter of new-born pigs. On the same night Lieut J.W.K.Smeltzer sought shelter in another small building and the following morning found his breakfast egg laid within two inches of his nose.	<i>Hmg</i>

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Worthing	5		Also on the same evening one Pte Jeremy endeavoured to share the bed of a hedge-hog but it is gathered that the hedge-hog objected rather strenuously.	
	6		West N.S.R. today starts a fortnights training of the 5 Bn Sussex (Worthing) H.G. Training consists chiefly of battle-drill but other military subjects are also dealt with. Lieut C.H.Hopwood, I.O., Lieut King and several O.R.s of 5 Bn H.G. have been attached this unit for that period.	Hone
	7		Church parades as usual. Unit carried on with training of Home Guards.	Hone
	8		Unit still carrying on with training of 5 Bn Sussex (Worthing) H.G. Lt-Col Green of that unit paid a visit to West N.S.R. today.	Hone
	9	0800	Coys demonstrated to the H.G. the use of cover and fieldcraft in our battle posns. Brig H.N.Ganong visited the area where this training was being carried out.	Hone
		1100	H/Capt A.D.Butts attended a meeting called by Bishop the Rt Rev Col C.L.Nelligan, senior R.C. Chaplain of the Cdn Army. General discussion of matters leading to the betterment of morale of the tps from a spiritual and material point of view. During lunch hour the Chaplains had lunch at the Continental Restaurant, Dean St. This was followed by further discussion. Discussions were held in a room suited to the purpose on the floor above. After the luncheon the group had photographs taken. Meeting adjourned at 1630 hrs.	Hone
	10	0800	Unit carries on with the training of the H.G..The I.O, Lieut C.E.Bent gave a resume' of the lessons learned on "Tiger" to the BN I Sec. He pointed out that this was not a tactical exercise but purely an endurance test. Following the lecture some wag summed the affair up in a few words on the board, thus: Comment on Tiger: Never in the history of human conflict have so many received such a supreme (deleted) at the hands of so few.	Hone
	11		This unit supplies a Bde Guard of two N.C.O.s and nine men for a period of one week as from today. At 1400 hrs a lecture was given by an officer escapeologist of the last war at Highden Ho. Lecture was on "Escape and Evasion of Capture" and was attended by one officer and two N.C.O.s per coy of this and other units.	Hone

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Worthing	12	0800	C.O.s inspection.	
		0930	Maj Stehelin went with the Bde-Maj to lay out a cross-country course for field firing.	
		2030	Our livewire I.O., Lieut C.E. Bent has been giving lectures at Muir Ho to the I personnel of the 5th Bn Sussex (Worthing) H.G. He dealt chiefly with the duties of the I personnel in the unit. On this evening Maj-Gen G.F. Pearkes paid a visit to Muir Ho while a lecture was in progress.	Hmg
	13		Lieut King of the 5th Bn Sussex (Worthing) H.G. who has been attached to this unit has left to return to his duties. A special film, "Next of Kin" has been secured for this unit. It is being shown by the K of C at the following times, 1800 and 2000 hrs 13 Jun 42, 1000, 1400, 1800 and 2000 hrs 14 Jun 42. This film is designed to make the beholders security-minded.	Hmg
	14		C of E church parades cancelled. Elements of the Bn busy training H.G., most of the remainder proceed to Lancing on a working-party.	Hmg
	2230		I Sec get paid as they will go to range in the morning to zero rifles.	
	15	0715	Snipers proceed to Steyning range to zero the rifles of C and D Coys. Bn get paid. A Coy proceed to Cissbury range for range practise. Today the track team started training under the supervision of Capt Walker for the Bde track meet scheduled for 26 Jun 42.	App 1 Hmg
1450		Officers of the Bn attend a demonstration of tubular-scaffolding as used against tanks. C Coy 5th Bn H.G. have field firing practise under supervision of W.N.S.R.		
16	0800	B Coy go to Cissbury for range practise. Provost and current detention men take their I.Q. test today. The whole Bn will get this test within the next three or four weeks.	Hmg	
1500		Maj-Gen G.F. Pearkes attended a cloth-model T.E.W.T. at the cinema, Highden Ho.		
17	0800	Maj Stehelin went to a T.E.W.T. at Corps H.Q. Bn carried out dawn and dusk firing on K this day. Maj J.A. Hebb took out a class of four officers on a demonstration of co-operation with arty.	Hmg	

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Worthing	18	1030	Lecture given by Maj/Gen F.A.N. Browning D.S.O. at the Odeon cinema, Worthing, on the "Employment and Job of an Airborne Div". Attended by all available officers, details supplied for this diary by Lieut C.E.Bent.	App 5
		1800	C and D Coys proceeded to Steyning Range to carry out dusk and dawn firing. Training of H.G. proceeded as per syllabus.	App 4 <i>img</i>
	19		<p>Due to the issue of a new 6 pdr gun to the A/tk Regts R.C.A. the weapon that has been used by them up to date, e.g., the 2 pdr, is to be given back to the Inf within the next four weeks. A new plat will be formed in H.Q. Coys of units known as the A/tk plat. With a view to introducing Inf officers to the role in siting of this weapon, a demonstration has been carried out for the 1 Cdn Div under the supervision of Maj Courtney, W.N.S.R., Maj Campbell, 1 A/tk Regt. R.C.A., and Maj <i>img</i> 12th Tank Bn.</p> <p>This demonstration began at 1430 hrs 18 Jun 42 when the officers of the 2 Cdn Inf Bde gathered in the cinema at Highden Ho. On the 19 Jun 42 at 1000 hrs the officers of the 1 Cdn Inf Bde and at 1430 hrs the officers of the 3 Cdn Inf Bde assembled at the same place. The demonstration began with a cloth model exercise in which Maj Courtney represented the O.C. of an Inf Bn which has been detailed as rearguard of a withdrawing Inf Bde and is to take up a posn at Wigginholt Common 4935. The Bn commander is tired and irritable. He makes a map appreciation of his new area and makes his coy disposns. He then suddenly remembers that he has not given any consideration to the siting of his A/tk guns which the Bn has only recently received from the Arty. He shouts angrily for his A/tk plat commander who is, as all good supporting weapon officers should be, at his elbow. He then tells the plat commander where to site his weapons giving no consideration to the proper employment of them but simply fitting them into his previous posns. Tactfully the plat commander points out to his C.O. the weaknesses in these disposns and the errors in siting. Having convinced his C.O. he is then permitted to make a recce of the area and report back within half an hour. Having done this the XXXXXX C.O. finds that the plat commander has been able to site the weapons to the best advantage and the only change in the Inf disposns involves moving one plat a distance of 75 yds.</p> <p>There are four points brought out and emphasized: (1) this weapon should always be sited to engage A.F.V.s from the rear or flank (i.e., in their weakest points), (2) the guns should always be sited in pairs, (3) the pairs should be mutually supporting, (4) it is</p>	<i>img</i>

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Worthing	19		<p>sometimes necessary to site them well fwd or to flanks of main Inf posns. In these cases it will be necessary to detach Inf for their protection.</p> <p>The second was the siting on the ground of the six guns which will come to us. In this demonstration West N.S.R. carriers were employed as tanks under the command of Capt. S D. Smith, West N.S.R. The tank tactics used were laid down by an officer of the 12 Tank Bn. The demonstration was very interesting, the concealment of the weapons was excellent as was their siting, and a valuable lesson was learned by all present.</p> <p>Prior to 1 Jul 42 an officer and two from this unit will be detailed for this new plat and go on a course. By the 15 Jul 42 the plat must be a trained actuality.</p>	Hme
	20	0800 1000	<p>Bn Hq proceed to Cissbury for range practise.</p> <p>A lecture was given in the cinema at Highden Ho by Maj Stewart, G.S.O.2, C.A.S.C, on the subject of air co-operation. The lecture which lasted for 2 hrs was broken down roughly under four headings, viz, (1) a general discussion of air-force co-operation as organized in the German army and British, (2) limitations and special features of air force policy as a whole covering air force and fighter commands as well as Army Co-op Sqns, (3) details of internal organization and administration of C.A.S.C., (4) direct application of air support as it concerned the Inf command.</p> <p>Maj Stewart stressed the fact that the lack of immediate aerial support to fwd tps did not mean lack of air co-operation as it was to a great extent the policy of the higher command to use the air arm for the destruction and disorganization of enemy concentration and communications well behind the fwd area. In discussing the methods used by the German Army he emphasized the fact that for a considerable time past army co-op units of the Luftwaffe had been an integral part of the army itself and that the use of dive bombers in fwd areas had under certain circumstances replaced or augmented artillery concentrations as a definite part of the fire plan.</p> <p>The policy at present in force covering the activities of bomber and fighter forces was outlined and the present intentions with regard to the development of direct co-op units was discussed.</p> <p>A chart was shown on which the relative posns of Bde H.Q., Div H.Q., C.A.S.C., C.C.M.A. and aerodromes were outlined and the disposns of W/T (13) sets explained. The method by which commanders of fwd tps would make application for air support was shown and the approximate time required for the fulfillment of such requests were given.</p>	Hme

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Worthing	20	1000	The personnel of C.A.S.C. staff were listed with an explanation of their various duties and a large pro forma of the form (message) to be used in application was shown and explained. It was first explained that the reason for the proximity of C.A.S.C. to C.C.M.A. was that a request for support emanating from Forward pps was primarily a matter for the arty and that only after C.C. M.A. had stated they were unable to provide this air support would the matter be taken up by the air support arm. The chief point of interest to the Inf commander being obviously the question of time elapsed between a request for support and the arrival of that support. This matter was dealt with in some detail. It was stated that under normal working conditions the time lapse between the handing in of a request at Bde H.Q. and planes becoming airborne would be from 15 to 20 minutes and that this plus an allowance for the time required for the planes to arrive over the target would give the Inf commander an approximate idea of the total lapse. In no case would the lapse exceed one hour. Another branch of C.A.S.C. duty, recce reports, was dealt with in detail.	<i>ifmz</i>
		1300	A picked team of one N.C.O. and five Ptes. from each of the five coys had a shooting match at Cissbury Range. C.Coy ran away with the meet.	App 5 <i>ifmz</i>
	21	0800	Training as per syllabus.	App 3 <i>ifmz</i>
		1100	Maj J.A. Hebb accompanied the Bde-Maj. on a recce of Thunderbarrow Hill for the purpose looking over the area to be used for fd. firing 29 Jun 42.	
	22	0800	Training as per syllabus. A general re shuffling of officers took place today. Also Lieut G.F. MacNeil and Lieut C.B. Higgins received notification of their appointment as Capts.	App 3 <i>ifmz</i>
		23	0800	Tps proceeded on a 20 mile route march as per syllabus. The C.O., 2i/c, Adjt and I.O. proceeded on sig T.E.W.T. "Kitten". Maj Gemmel and Lieut MaCarthy went to C.M.H.Q. for an interview.
	1500		Brig. H.N. Ganong called on the unit. Three members of the St. John Fusiliers, Lieut J.F.H. Robinson, Sgt E.F. Merrit and Cpl C. E. Hanlon arrived at this unit to become attached for an indefinite period.	<i>ifmz</i>

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Worthing	23 24	0800 1600	Training as per syllabus. The C.O. and those who accompanied him returned from "Kitten". This exercise was designed to test communications during a withdrawal. Beginning at the Western extremity of Ashford the withdrawal was carried out on a general line westward to Biddendon and Mayfield. For the purpose of the scheme the 23 and 24 of Jun represented the 29 and 30 of May 42 which were the last two days of "Tiger". Much useful practise was gained by personnel of the higher formations.	App 3 <i>Hmg</i>
	25	0800 1900	Training as per syllabus. Brig H.N.Ganong, Maj Jerome and Capt C.B. Higgins dined with the officers of this unit at Highden Ho.	App 3 <i>Hmg</i>
	26		Bde sports meet held at Rotary Recreation Grounds, Worthing, today, West N.S.R. team practically ran away with the meet as usual. Following is a summary of how entrants from this Regt placed: 100 dash, Pte MacInnes 1st, L/Cpl Butler 3rd: 16 lb shot putt, L/Cpl Tommy Falls 1st: 880 yds won by Pte LeTourneau: standing broad jump, L/Cpl Butler 1st: three mile run, Pte Smith 2nd? Pte Oickle 3rd: 440 won by Pte LeTourneau: 440 Relay won by W.N.S.R.: both classes tug-of-war won by W.N.S.R. in eight straight pulls.	App 5 <i>Hmg</i>
	27	0800 1330	The Bn carried out a rehearsal of fd firing, the object being to exercise Plat and Sec commanders in control and fire orders. A party of fourteen officers proceeded to fd firing area at Thunderbarrow Hill to watch the R.C.R. go through their practise. WEST N.S.R. carriers were used to provide a safety patrol for fd firing area on this date.	<i>Hmg</i>
	28	1000	C of E parade was attended by Maj/Gen G.F.Pearkes and Brig H.N.Ganong. At this service Maj Addie preached his farewell sermon to this unit.	<i>Hmg</i>
	29	0730 1900	Bn proceeded to Thunderbarrow Hill to carry out fd firing practise. Tps marched to area 6329 where they had lunch at approximately 1100 hrs, then continued the journey to the range. A rehearsal was carried out first, actual firing commenced at 1500 hrs. In spite of the heat and dust, this practise was enjoyed by the tps. Our light and heavy tug-of-war teams pulled R.C.E. teams of the same weight in two straight pulls each at Highden Ho.	<i>Hmg</i>

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Worthing	30	1900	<p>This day spent chiefly on improvement of coy posns and strengthening of the Bn H.Q. posn. A meeting was held of all the officers of the Bde to discuss the fd firing exercise. Brig H.N.Ganong expressed himself as being very much pleased with the showing of the Bde on the whole and particularly with the manner in which the Plat and Sec commanders of this Regt handled their men.</p>	<p><i>gattell, Major i/c. West N.S.R.</i></p>