

WAR DIARY

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.

GBX

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

Title pages will be prepared.

West NSR

(Erase heading not required)

May 1945

Place	Date	Hour	PAGE 1 Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials	
NIJKERK MR4605 Sheet 370 1/25,000	1	0415	The night passed without incident and the morning sitrep to Bde had nothing to report.	<i>FAB</i>	
		0725	"D" Coy outpost observed two enemy working on a position 372006 and at 0950 hrs four enemy were observed at 373004 and two more at 372006. These were apparently strengthening and constructing defences. It may be noted that since the truce started the enemy have been taking advantage of this to construct new defences.		
		1315	During the morning the CO, Lt col J A Nesbitt, visited the Bn Rest Centre at NIJKERK. All Coys are asked to send in to this HQ all known enemy positions to be engaged by arty when truce is lifted.		
		1530	One officer and thirty other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were allotted to coys.		
		1630	The CO and RSM proceeded on a visit to the "Hollinger Force"		
		1900	Sixty-five other ranks left on a 24 hr leave to the Bn Rest Centre at NIJKERK.		
		2215	The pioneers have now finished sweeping the ground for mines around "D" Coy outpost. Weather today cloudy with showers.		
		2	During the early hours of the morning several explosions were heard on the Bn front, as well as several flares reported from the outpost positions and from the "Hollinger Force".		<i>FAB</i>
		1120	The Brigadier, Brig J P E Bernatchez DSO OBE, paid a visit to this HQ. During the morning the usual enemy movement was observed on the Bn front but as the truce was still on there was no firing by either side.		
		1235	The CO and RSM proceeded to the "Hollinger Force" on a tour of inspection.		
		1330	Capt D A Campbell, Bn Sports Officer, attended a Sports Conference at Bde HQ. At this conference the points discussed were the Bde eliminating contests to take place on 9th, 10th and 11th of May. Forward coys to do as much training as possible. After Unit teams are picked there will be a Bde Sports Camp from the 12th to 24th of May. The Div Sports Day will be 24th of May. The Bde Comd gave a short talk and said he wanted everyone everyone behind the sports programme. He also said he wanted a Bn Boxing Team of 11 men and Lt F A Embree was to be in charge of the Bde Boxing Group.		
		1550	We are now informed that the truce is over but all coys are warned not to take any offensive action.		
		1600	A Sports meeting was held at BnHQ.		

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M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (3072)

~~OR~~

~~WESTERN FRONT 223 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1945~~

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May 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Page 4	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
NIJKERK MR 4605 Sheet 370 1/25,000	5	0007		Bde orders this Bn to stand fast until further notice. It is expected there will be a conference between the Allies and Germans in this sector.	
		0145		Further message from Bde states that there will only be three persons allowed to pass into enemy territory, they are the Corps Comd, GOC 1 Cdn Div and GOC 49th Br Div. Any other persons must be in possession of a pass from HQ 1 Cdn Corps.	
		0515		A small enemy patrol came in on "D" Coy and after a short fire fight enemy withdrew leaving behind a Sten Gun. It was later recorded in the Press News that Pte Warnell G S was the last man in the Bn to be fired on by the enemy.	
		0950		The left fwd pl of "A" Coy report considerable MG and Schmeiser fire in the town of AMERSFORT.	
		1010		Ten fully armed Germans were observed by "A" Coy going into a house, driving out the civilians and taking away a pig. This house was quite near "A" Coy outpost.	
		1020		The CO proceeds on a visit to "A" Coy.	
		1335		The Carrier Pl is now taking over the defence of the right flank in "C" Coy area with Pl HQ at 38080285, Section posts at 37570288, Four Flamethrowers at cross roads 37970293.	
		1400		"C" Coy now in new positions as follows: Coy HQ 38810147, 13 Pl 38440146, 14 Pl 38670128, 15 Pl 38530181.	
		1420		This HQ has just been informed that this Bn will be relieved by R22R on night 6-7 May.	
		1550		Several other explosions have been heard on the Bn front and Bde informs us that this is 2 CIB engineers blowing up road blocks outside AMERSFOORT.	
		2040		Ten other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were allotted to coys. Two Officers and forty-six other ranks proceed on leave to UK. Five other ranks proceeded on leave to Paris. One officer and ten other ranks proceeded on leave to Brussels. Three other ranks proceeded on rotational leave to Canada.	
		2325		CO and RSM proceeded on a visit to "B" Coy. During the last few hours some MG fire has been heard on the Bn front, this has been reported by several of the fwd sub-units, but so far no fire has come into our posns. Weather today was fair and cool.	

FAB

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~~WAR~~~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Place	Date	Hour	<u>Page 5</u>	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials	
NIJKERK MR4605 Sheet 370 1/25,000	6	0314	"A" Coy had a man wounded this morning on the guard change-over. The man wounded failed to answer the pass word and was fired on by the guard.			
		0940	It is now quite definite that the Bn will not move tonight.			
		1430	The Brigadier paid a visit to this HQ.			
		1500	Many flags some white and some Dutch flags can be seen flying in the town of AMERSFOORT which is just across EEMS River from our FDLs.			
		1630	Major E W Cutbill DSO arrived at this HQ to take over the duties of 2 IC of the Bn. Major Cutbill was originally from the PPCLI and prior to this appointment was BM of 3 Cdn Inf Bde.		<i>FAB</i>	
		1900	A PW was brought into this HQ by a Dutch policeman but when taken to Bde we are informed that due to the fact that there is a truce on, no PWs may be taken.			
		1945	The CO and 2IC proceed to SPAKENBURG to visit the "Hollinger Force".			
		2155	Information has been received from Bde that the Germans will be clearing mines and blowing road blocks in front of our positions during the night. We are not to fire but to be on the alert. Weather today fair with a fresh breeze.			
		7	0440	The night passed without incident and the morning Sitrep to Bde saw nothing to report.		
			0840	A message from Bde, passed on from Div said that at 070141 the war in Europe was over but this will not be officially announced by the three Great Powers until 090001 hrs. A possible move is anticipated tomorrow morning.		
			1005	The CO and 2IC proceeded on a visit to all coys.		
			1200	A warning order was received from Bde and passed to all coys - The West N S R is now on one hours notice to move as from 080700. The Regt will move to the area of ROTTERDAM. A recce party will move ahead of the main body and an X-Area will be established in the DMA for supplies, weapons and ammunition (3" Mor and A Tk). The Bn Rest Centre at NIJKERK is to close after lunch today.		<i>FAB</i>
			1945	The CO, Lt col J Aird Nesbitt and Lt Hollinger proceeded to Bde to attend an "O" Gp. Points discussed were the move tomorrow and Bn duties in the new area.		
			2130	The CO returned from Bde and immediately held his own "O" Gp. Details were laid on for tomorrow's move. Weather today fine and warm.		

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Place	Date	Hour	Page 6 Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NIJKERK MR4605 Sheet 370 1/25,000	8	0100	Movement Order was received and issued to all coys.	
		0520	The 2IC and Battle Adjnt, one offr rep from each coy, proceeded on accommodation recce to area of The Hague, One Officer and 10 ORs left this morning on a 72 hr leave to BRUSSELS.	
		0600	Bn convoy moved off as per movement order. The journey this morning was one which will be long remembered by the members of our Regiment. At many places along the route, German Camps were passed and groups of German Troops still armed. The convoy got a rousing welcome as it passed through the towns and villages and when it was necessary to come to a halt civilians swarmed over and through the vehicles and it was impossible to keep any vestige of control. At one time it was necessary to solicit the aid of the Dutch Underground Forces to allow the convoy to continue.	APPX 1 <i>Fab</i>
DEN HOORN MR66748327 Sheet 381 1/25,000		1330	TachQ had at this time reached its destination and was established at DEN HOORN MR 66748327, and at 1445 hrs coys were disposed in the following positions: "A" Coy 651809, "B" Coy 651806, "C" 652808, "D" Coy 605807, "Sp" Coy 607808.	
		1700	A Warning Order was received from Bde that the Bn was to be prepared to move as from 090600 hrs. The same recce party as for this morning will be ready to proceed on a recce of the area tonight. There will be an "O" Gp at Bde at 1800 hrs any time after 1800 hrs, time to be notified later.	
		1830	CO attended Bde "O" Gp.	
		1945	The CO and Adjnt proceeded to the German HQ at 5580. It was expected that this Bn would have to move into that area and help to contain the German forces there.	
		2010	The move from for 9 May 45 has been cancelled. Coy Comds will attend a conference at BnHQ at 091400 hrs. A curfew has been put into effect by the CO for all troops at 2200 hrs. Also troops to be confined to their own immediate areas. Weather today fine and warm.	
	9	0900	The 2IC, Major E W Cutbill DSO and RSM W R Callaghan made a recce for accommodation for the coys closer to BnHQ than than there present positions.	
		1400	The CO held a conference at BnHQ. Points discussed were, poor communication, wireless in some cases, due to the very large Bn area; trg of NCOs for peace time establishment; Offrs' Mess, Sgts Mess and other administrative matters.	<i>Fab</i>

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Place	Date	Hour	Page 1	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials	
DEN HOORN MR66748327 Sheet 381 1/25,000	9			One other point discussed was the sending of one platoon from this Bn as a protective force for the German HQ at RIDDERKIRK 8468, where Lt Gen DIESTEL has complained that his troops are being hindered by the civilians in carrying out their duties. His DRs are also to be accompanied by our DRs.		
		1415		The 2IC and Capt Hollinger attended a conference with German Commander, Lt Gen DIESTEL at his HQ at RIDDERKIRK 8468.		
		1930		The CO held a short conference at BnHQ at which he gave the Coy Comds a brief outline on the duties of the Bn after the move tomorrow (disarmament of German Forces). This Bn will handle German Naval and Marine personnel only.		
		1935		A composite platoon under command of Lt P A H Archibald and Lt E M S Fisher left this HQ to take up duties as a guard at the German HQ of Lt Gen DIESTEL. With this Pl are two two DRs who will accompany the German DRs on their runs to the field units. These German DRs have recently been stopped by civilians and important messages concerning the disarming of German Forces have been delayed.	<i>Feb</i>	
		1955		The CO accompanied by all Coy Comds and one officer from each coy, the Adjt, MO, TO Sig O and RSM, proceeded to recce area 6395 which will be occupied by this Bn tomorrow.		
		2230		Four Officers and two Sgts arrived at this HQ at this time as rfts. Weather today fine and very warm.		
		10	0600			One Pl from each of "A" "B" & "C" Coys, each Pl with one Sec of Carriers, proceeded and occupied a strategic road entrances into the German concentration area.
			0830			The 2 IC, Adjt, OC Sp Coy, proceeded on a recce to The Hague to recce Coy areas.
			1000			Major W E Garber, OC "D" Coy, proceeded on a recce of Coy positions for move this afternoon, and also at the same time the CO and Capt Hollinger proceeded to The Hague.
	1030			A message was received from Bde that the Bn would be complete in the new area as soon as possible.		
	1200			The CO held a conference at BnHQ when the afternoon's move was discussed.		
	1315			"A" Coy started to move, the Coy carriers were used as tpt in a shuttle service.		
	1430			Capt J R Reid the RSM and four other ranks proceeded to 699917 to set up a skeleton HQ.	<i>Feb</i>	
	1630		Remainder of BnHQ proceed to 699917 arriving there at 1735 hrs.			
	1630		Coys now in positions as follows: "A" Coy 636938, "B" Coy 646946, "C" Coy 647957.			

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~~TOP SECRET~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Page 8 Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials	
VOORBURG MR699917 Sheet 372 1/25,000	10		Sp Coy 668903. The following dumps are being established for Small Arms, Ammunition German War Supplies, etc.. Dump No 1 637942, Dump No 2 645946, Dump No 3 648957. The following are the perimeters to be guarded by the three fwd coys: "A" Coy 625955 excl canal to 637951; "B" Coy 637952 incl canal to 647958 and excl road; "C" Coy incl road 646958 to 634964.	<i>Fab</i>	
		2000	"D" Coy now concentrated in a rea 656929 being the last coy to move. "B" Coy has changed positions as follows: Coy HQ 648945, Pls at 646946, 651942 and 658950. The CO holds a conference at BnHQ with German Adjtl, attended also by the 2IC and Battle Adjtl. Points discussed were the disarming of Germans and putting arms and equipment in the proper dumps.		
		2010	The CO and Battle Adjtl proceeded to HQ of the 48 Highrs of Canada to attend a conference with the Brigadier.		
		2120	The 2I and and the Adjtl proceeded to HQ of the 48th Highrs of Canada to join the Brigadier and the CO in conference.		
		2240	The CO, 2IC, Adjtl and Battle Adjtl returned from conference with the Brigadier at which it was learned there was a slight change of plan for this Bn. German concentration area is much smaller and it is probable that BnHQ and several of the coys will be moving tomorrow. The new perimeter will be as follows: #222Coy 625957 - 631949 - 623949 - 620946 - 618949; "B" Coy being responsible from the Coast 625957 - 631949 and "C" Coy the remainder. Weather this date fine and very warm.		
		11	0900		The CO, Adjtl, RSM, proceeded on a visit to all coys.
			1400		The CO, MO and RSM proceeded on a recce in area 6393 for a new BnHQ on the proposed move tomorrow. During the after noon the CO made a further recce of the German concentration areas.
			2030		Approximately 400 German Naval personnel were escorted from the R22R area to the concentration area of this Bn. These were all disarmed before arrival.
			2100		The Burgomaster of VOORBURG paid a visit to the CO. Weather today fine and warm.

Fab

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Place	Date	Hour	Page 10	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials			
THE HAGUE MR 639938 Sheet 372 1/25,000	13	1600	"A" Coy positions - Coy HQ 633958, Pls at 638963, 634959 and 632957.		FAB			
		2000	"D" Coy now in new area, Coy HQ 637937, Pls at 637942, 645947 and 648957. Weather today, fine and warm in the morning with high winds and lower temperature later in the day.					
	14	0410	A leave party of 15 Other ranks left this morning for the UK.			FAB		
		0900	The CO held a conference for all Coy Comds at BnHQ. Points discussed were, Control Point to be set up and manned by "A" Coy at 630956, A Tk Pl to be under Comd of "B" Coy, Carrier Pl under command of "A" Coy.					
		1030	The Commanding Officer of the Dutch Bn reported to the CO at this HQ. His Bn is now under Command of this Bn.					
		1100	"B" Echelon and HQ Coy moved to area 648945.					
		1230	The CO and Battle Adjt proceeded on a recce to area 6494 to find accommodation for approximately 450 Dutch Underground personnel who are now under command of this Bn. These people have no weapons, no equipment, no cooking gear and only one blanket per man.					
		1555	The Dutch Bn is now concentrated in area 648945.					
		1700	The RAP moved to a new area 630954 which is more centrally located for all coys. The Dutch Bn under Command this Bn has three coys and approximately 450 all ranks. No 1 Coy is going to R22R tonight and No 2 Coy is going to CYR tomorrow. No 3 Coy will stay here for the present. No 2 & 3 Coys will be armed with German weapons.					
		1900	One Pl of "A" Coy moved from 638963 to 630956. Carrier Pl now under comd of "A" Coy took over Pl posn at 638963.					
		2000	"B" Coy moved to new positions as follows: Coy HQ 629952, Pls at 627955, 629956 and 630952. The A Tk Pl now under comd of "B" Coy is at 624951. "C" Coy moved and now concentrated in area 648957.					
		2100	No 1 Coy of the Dutch Bn is now under comd of the R22R. Weather today fine and warm but very windy.					
		15	0930	The CO and MO proceeded on recce for a New BnHQ in area 6494.				FAB
			1330	No 2 Coy of the Dutch Bn is now under Command of the CYR, and they have moved to area 6091.				

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Place	Date	Hour	Page 11	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials		
The HAGUE MR 639938 Sheet 372 1/25,000	15	1525	"D" Coy now have all the coy concentrated in area 637939. The Coy had been doing guard duty on German arms & equipment dumps but No 2 & 3 dumps have now been moved and everything put in No 1 dump at 637943.		FAB		
		1850	Word has been received from Bde that all German Officers will be disarmed. Up until now German Officers were allowed to keep pistols. Major O J Price MC liaised with the German Commander at VOORBURG and the arms will be turned in at "A" Coy Control Post or Barrier, 630956, and then taken to No 1 Dump.				
		2220	Total enemy disarmed to date and in concentration area is 4439. Weather today fine and warm.				
	16	0400	Thirty other ranks left this morning for leave to UK.				
		0800	One DR left for Bde HQ to do escort duty for the G3 and two DRs went to Col EGGARS' HQ (German Commander). They will be gone three days escorting barges from The Hague to Rotterdam.				
		1555	The CO and Pioneer Officer proceeded to LEIDEN 7700 for an inspection of the dumps in that area that concern this Bn.			FAB	
		1830	Forty-one reinforcements arrived at this HQ and were allotted to coys.				
	17	0900	1930	The CO and all officers except one duty officer at Bn Orderly Room attended a Social Evening at Rear BnHQ 699917 where there was wining, dining and dancing. Total Germans disarmed to date 5274. Weather today fine and warm.			
			The CO held a conference at BnHQ which was attended by all Coy Comds, Adjt, Battle Adjt, MO, Sig O, IO, TO and QM, at which the following points were discussed: the present role of the Bn; the present demobilization scheme. The CO instructed all officers to study the scheme and give all details to their men. The CO notified Major W E Garber that he would take command of and form a Ceremonial Coy which would represent the Bn on all Ceremonial Parades. This Coy is to be composed of preferably men who have had long service, with the Bn and a long battle record.			FAB	
		1500	The CO, accompanied by the 2IC Major E W Cutbill DSO, Major W W Mair OC "B" Coy, Capt D I Rice, Capt A J W Dyer, Capt C H Smith, Capt J R Reid, Lt P A H Archibald and the Padre H/Capt L F Wilmot, went to the Town Hall VOORBURG where a Civic reception was held. Here they met the Burgomaster, the Town Council and the leaders of the Resistance Forces.				

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~~INTERNATIONAL SECURITY~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Page 12 Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
THE HAGUE MR 639938 Sheet 372 1/25,000	17	1700	Two Officers and 120 Other Ranks arrived as reinforcements and were allotted to Coy. These rfts put the Bn much overstrength but recently a message from Bde stated that all units would be over-posted to 20 % above normal. Total Germans disarmed to date 6296. Weather today fine and warm.	FAB
		18	0400 One officer and 46 ORs left this morning for leave to UK. 0800 Thirteen ORs left for 72 hrs leave in Brussels. 1400 CO proceeded on a visit to all coys. 2000 Another Dutch Coy, known as No 4 Coy, is now under comd this Bn and concentrated at 653944. No 3 Coy is also in this same area. Total Germans disarmed to date and in concentration area 6458. A Dance was held this evening at the RaP. Weather this date fine and warm.	
	19		It is intended that this afternoon No 3 Dutch Coy will relieve "A" Coy with the exception of the Control Post at 630956. This post is under Comd of Capt R E Campbell who has three Lieutenants, a Pl of Inf and a Sec of Regimental Provost.	FAB
		1600	No 3 Dutch Coy relieved "A" Coy with positions as follows: Coy HQ 633958, Pls at 638963, 635961, 634959 and 632957.	
		1650	The CO, Lt col J A Nesbitt, accompanied by the IO, Lt F A Embree, proceeded on a tour of inspection of the perimeter area.	
		1655	"A" Coy is now concentrated in area 638957. The Carrier Pl which was under Comd of "A" Coy is now back at Sp Coy area 632949. Total Germans disarmed to date 6489. Cdn Army Show put on two performances at the Capitol Theatre, The Hague, at 1800 hrs and 2000 hrs. Unit was allotted 150 seats. Weather today fine and warm.	
	20	1000	Two officers and 30 ORs left this morning to act as escort for German personnel going to DEN HELDER 0089.	FAB
		1100	Protestant Church Service was held at the Church near "B" Coy area.	

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THE HAGUE MR639938 Sheet 372 1/25,000	22	1100	The force at the perimeter is now known as "Campbell's Circus" so named by the CO in all respects to Capt R.E.Campbell in charge of the post. This post consists of one platoon of Infantry, one section of Regimental provost and three junior Offrs, supplimented by two Coys of Dutch Underground Personnel. These are the forces who now hold under their thumb 6to7000 German Naval Personnel.	<i>Tab</i>
		1300	Lieut L.R.Kingston Bn, polling booth officer for Ontario Election proceeded to HENGLO where Col Medlin gave the necessary instructions how the unit voting was to be conducted. At this conference one officer rep from every unit in the Canadian Army was present.	
		1730	The CO held a conference at the Officers Mess attended by all Coy Comds.	
		1800	"D" Coy moved and now concentrated in area 642952. Major W.W.Mair is now 2IC of this Bn. Capt G.F.Whynacht is now Major and Coy Comd of HQ Coy. During the past four days the following articles were issued to all Other Ranks in this Bn under Officer supervision - 1 bottle wine, 1 bottle tomatoe juice, 1 comb, 1 mirror, 1 bottle Eau De Cologne, 1 bottle brilliantine, 10 boxes matches, 1 jar face cream, 1 tin shoe polish, 1 box face powder, 1 box foot powder, 1 tube toothpaste. These articles were acquired from German dumps and were distributed under the classification of booty. Weather today, fine and warm.	
	23	0400	Two Officers and 36 ORs left this morning on leave to the UK.	<i>Tab</i>
		0900	The CO attended a Bn Comds conference at 3 Bde HQ. Main points discussed were the movement of German Personnel out of the different concentration areas back to GERMANY, also discussed was the discipline and training of our own troops.	
		1330	During the afternoon the pipe band of the Cape Breton Highlrs played at Bn HQ and then we made a round of all the Coys including the Command Post.	
		1900	Bn HQ moved to new area and established at 648947. Weather today, fine and warm.	
	24	0600	An escort party from "A" Coy consisting of one NCO and 3 men left to escort German Field Butchery to DEN HELDER (0088), Sheet 2A, 1/100,000 HOLLAND.	<i>Tab</i>

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Place	Date	Hour	<p>X Page 18 Summary of Events and Information</p>	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
<p>THE HAGUE MR648947 Sheet 372 1/25,000</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>0830 0900 1330 1700</p>	<p>Training as per syllabus 10 ORs left for 72 hour leave to BRUSSELS. 26 ORs left for return to CANADA on repatriation. The CO and IO paid a visit to "B" Coy. The CO held a conference at the Officers Mess and it was attended by 2IC, Coy Comds, MO, IO and Padre. Weather today, cloudy with scattered showers.</p> <p><u>NOTE</u> For complete details of the concentration and evacuation of German Naval Personnel also location of different dumps in Bn area see Appx 1.</p>	<p>Appx 4 <i>Ell</i></p> <p><i>Ell</i></p>

*W. Winston Main Major
T/O. West N.S.R.*