

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Y.	1.1.40		Capt. R.J. Hereford 1/K.S.L.I. posted to 1 Hereford R.	
	2.1.40	1200	Guard at Llanion Pile taken over by 3rd Bn. Mon Regt.	
	4.1.40		Milford Haven 17th (H.D.) Bn. Welch Regt.	
	7.1.40.	0945	Guard mounted at R.O.F. Pembrey - 2/Lt. Edwards and 30 O.R.'s "B" Coy.	
	8.1.40.	1600	Garrison Church Parade at Parish Church	
	9.1.40	1600	4th. Leave period - B & C Coys. 2/Lts. Goddard-Fenwick, Lloyd and Murray posted to this Bn. w.e.f. 6.1.40.	
	11.1.40	1200	" " " Remainder.	
	13.1.40	1400	2/Lt. Sprague & 30 O.R's A Coy relieved Guard at Pembrey.	
	14.1.40	0945	Major Thompson and I.O. inspected Guard at Pembrey.	
	18.1.40		Garrison Church Parade at Parish Church	
	21.1.40	0945	Guard at Pembrey relieved by Lieut. Sir J.H. Croft Bt. & 30 O.R.'S "D" Coy.	
	25.1.40		Garrison Church Parade at Parish Church.	
	28.1.40		Guard at Pembrey relieved by 2/Lieut. J.F. Croome and 30 O.R's of "C" Coy.	
	1.2.40.		Garrison Church Parade - Parish Church,	
	4.2.40	0945	Guard at Pembrey relieved by 2/Lt. C.J. Murray and 30 O.R.'s of "B" Company.	
	6.2.40.		1st Young Officers Course commenced at Penally. Lieuts J.Mc.A. Plunkett and Sgt J.H. Croft Bt.	
	8.2.40.		G.W. Hunt, 2/Lieuts T.A.G. Sprague and A.J.W. Phillips attending.	
	11.2.40.	0945	Garrison Church Parade at Parish Church.	
	13.2.40.	1000	Lieut. J.G. Munro R.A.M.C. attached to Bn. vice Major R. Wood-Power R.A.M.C.	
	15.2.40.		Guard at Pembrey relieved by 2/Lt. Watkins and 30 O.R's of "A" Coy.	
	18.2.40.	0945	Garrison Church Parade at Parish Church.	
	23.2.40.		Lecture of Discipline by G.O.C. 53rd. Div. at Playhouse Theatre.	
	25.2.40.	0945	Guard at Pembrey relieved by 2/Lt. Goddard-Fenwick and 30 O.R's of "D" Company.	
	28.2.40	0930	Garrison Church Parade at Parish Church.	
	1. 3.40.	1600	Guard at Pembrey relieved by 2/Lt. Lewis and 30 O.R's of C Coy.	
	2.3.40.		Garrison Church Parade at Parish Church.	
	3.3.40.		T.E.W.T. for Subaltern Officers.	
	6.3.40.	0930	Priviledge leave period commenced.	
	7.3.40.		1st Young Officers Course ends.	
	10.3.40.	0945	2nd. " " " commences Lieuts. R.P. Barneby, W.A.P. Crofts and 2/Lt.D.A.Lee attending.	
			Garrison Church Parade - Parish Church.	
			Bn. Inspected by G.O.C. in C. Home Forces.	
			Lieut. Colonel L.F. Sloane Stanley relinquishes command. Major A.D. Bryant assumed command.	
			Garrison Church Parade at Parish Church.	

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Tenby.	10.3.40.			
	11.3.40.		2/Lieut. A.J.W. Phillips took over duties of Bn. Intelligence Officer vice Lieut. J.Mc.A. Plunkett.	
	13.3.40.	1300.	Guard at Pembrey received handed over to 17th (H.D.) Bn. The Welch Regt.	
	16.3.40.		Order issued by Brigade re photograph taken by civilians. Permit Necessary.	
	18.3.40.		No voluntary resignations of commissions by Officers from this date.	
	21.3.40.	0945	Garrison Church Parade - Parish Church.	
	24.3.40.	1800	Steel drum recovered from sea by N.C.O of D Coy. Reported to Coastguard. Marked "Acetone made in U.S.A. T.P.Co., Liverpool, D. 671"	
	25.3.40.		Coy. Comds. Course at Div. begins.	
	28.3.40.		I.O. and Sgt. attend short course at Bde.	
	2.4.40.		Advance Party leaves for unknown destination.	
	4.4.40.		Court Of Enquiry held in "D" Coy. Office.	
	5.4.40.		2/Lts. Stride, Bather, Mitchell, Warneford attached to Bn.	
	6.4.40.		No. Bn. Orders issued.	
	10.4.40.		Main body leaves Tenby for unknown destination.	
Portrush	11.4.40.		Main body arrives in Portrush. Following Guards and Picquets mounted :- 1. M.T. Guard. II Northern Area Picquet III Southern Area Picquet.	
	14.4.40.		Man attempts to enter "C" Coy. billets at Orange Hall, says he is M.O. from Belfast. Is turned away. Reported to R.U.C.	
	15.4.40.		2/Lt. Croome assumes duties of Transport Officer, vice 2/Lt. Lansdell. 2/Lt. Phillips " " " Salvage Officer vice Capt. Jackson.	
	16.4.40.		I.O attended 2 day I and Security course at Div. HQ.	
	17.4.40.		Capt. Hereford granted rank of Acting Major.	
		2300	Northern Picquet reported entrance to Lansdowne Hotel left open.	
	19.4.40.	1500	German submarine reported off Malin Head, 0950 hours. I. Sec. makes 4 hour coastal recce. 1 mile E and W of Portrush. Nothing Seen.	
			Rear party arrives in Portrush.	
	20.4.40.	1100	Woman reported loitering near Carrier Pl. Billets, upon investigation proved to be harmless mental case.	
	21.4.40.	0905	Bn. Church Parade at Parish Church.	
	24.4.40.		Man names W. Logan reported as having been discharged from Northern Counties Hotel last autumn for having I.R.A. sympathies in course of investigation.	
	25.4.40.	1310	Lt. Sir James Croft, 2/Lt. Sprague and O.R.'s leave Portrush to join Independent Coy.	
		1630.	A young man, about 25 years of age, names Leonard, in a car F.Z. 6763 appeared at M.T. park at 1630 hours and asked how many vehicles and men the Bn. had, if the men got on well with the girls. Asked M.T. driver to have a drink, refused. Leonard said he would return at 1700 hours, but did not appear. No information was disclosed. Police report Leonard a loyalist.	

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Portrush	28.4.40	0905	En. Church Parade at Parish Church.	
"	2.5.40		Rumour re W. Logan proved unfounded.	
"	4.5.40		Person or persons unknown entered M.R.C. Nothing idsturbed or missing.	
"	5.5.40		Officer followed home. Small boy paid to report where he lived.	
"	7.5.40	1200	Information received re lost Ministry of Food pass.	
"	10.5.40	1500	Two pedlars asked questions re numbers, billets etc. at R.T.C.	
"		1530	One of the above turned away from "B" Company billets.	
"	10/13/5.		Two girls from Dublin staying in Northern Counties Htel, mad enquiries as to numbers, etc. of troops.	
"	12.5.40.	1500	Conversation in German heard by an Officer in N.C. Hotel. Unidentified.	
"	14.5.40		Submarine sighted off Ballycastle by the D.I. H.M. Coastguards report that they have been notified of the suspected presence of enemy submarines in these waters. Local fisherman have been warned not to fish in these waters between sunset and sunrise. Fishing during daylight hours should not be carried out more than 2 miles from the shore.	
"	15.5.40	0834	H.M. Coastguard report that a British plane dropped bombs in the sea 10 miles off shore on a bearing of 315 degrees from Ramore Head, Portrush. There was no previous warning of bombing practise.	
"	16.5.40	1145	Two men observed to be taking an unusual interest in rifle drill, and the return of rifles to the Armoury at Dunluce Hall, Portrush. The police were informed, and verified that they are reputable persons.	
"			A civilian entered the Recruits Training Centre and placed a New Testament on the bed of each Recruit.	
"	17.5.40		Reference report dated 9.5.40. The car mentioned was identified but the owner was not the man who followed the Officer home.	
"	18.5.40		The Bibles mentioned were distributed by the Scottish Bible Society.	
"	19.5.40	0300	A man in "A" Company billets was disturbed by the black-out falling down, and saw a man outside who asked him what the telephone was for. At the sound of approaching footsteps, the intruder ran away.	
"	21.5.40	2240	A man asked questions about the Staff Parade at the Q.M. Store.	
"	22.5.40		A man named Mackle was reported as having asked questions about men in billets. He is a tobacconist in Main Street, ans a suspected sympathiser with the I.R.A.	
"	23.5.40.		Instructions of a possible outrage over the weekend received. All necessary precautions taken. No trouble ocured.	
"	25.5.40		A tobacconist named Rodich was reported as being a possible sympathiser with the I.I.R.A. His brother, who lives with him, married a woman named Grady, who was a Sinn Feiner in the last "trouble".	
"	26.5.40		Three men were observed taking an interest in the N.C. Hotel, where the officers are quartered. Regimental Police watched them, and it is believed that their interest was centred in maidservants at a window.	
"	28.5.40		Instructions received on 24.5.40. cancelled.	
"	30.5.40.		Re report of 22.5., this man was seen watching the unloading of ammunition from the Mobile Column.	

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31.5.40		The man Mackle was again observed watching, and apparently counting, men going into a cookhouse.	
		A man named Forte, who is of Italian extraction, and who works in a cafe in Main Street, was reported by the R.U.C. as being a suspected R.A. agent. He is being kept under constant supervision.	
1.6.40.		A hairdresser Named Elizabeth Edwards asked questions about the disposition of troops. Reported to R.U.C.	
2.6.40.		A man named Hoffman, who came from Cork 8 years ago, was reported as asking questions. Reported to R.U.C. A commercial traveller named Roberts, of the Ensign Pencil Company, Manchester, was asking questions. Reported to R.U.C.	
		The CoOs. batman reported that he found a chambermaid, named Ruby Halfpenny, looking through the C.Os. possessions. Reported to R.U.C.	
3.6.40.		The news that the Battalion is leaving Portrush is rife in the town. Careful investigation has been made, and the leakage seems to be through the Railway Company.	
5.6.40.		The I. Section, less 1 N.C.O. and two privates, proceeded to Larne to set up Bn. Adv. H.Q.	
		A man asked him if the billet orderly at the Dunluce Hall was armed only with a pick helve. He was ignored.	
		A man was reported as having given cigarettes to Recruits, although he seemed too poor to do so. Later he said he was trying to find a recruit with whose mother he had worked in Birmingham. The woman, he said, had since living died. When questioned, he said he had forgotten her name. Unfortunately, he was not detained.	
7.6.40.		Main body of the Bn. moved to Larne, and took over Kilwaughter Camp. Duty Company, with part of H.Q. Company billeted in Mc. Niells Hotel.	
8.6.40		I.O. made contact with R.U.C.	
9.6.40		The Officer in charge of the Harbour Guard reported that the Guard ship H.M.T. PAY ^N TER was absent from her usual position at the mouth of the Lough. At 2000 hours she returned to the harbour, bringing 52 survivors of the S.S. EDROS, which had been torpedoed 60 miles (approx) off the land. The EDROS was carrying aircraft and bacon.	
11.6.40		The I.O. made a reconnaissance of the coast from Larne to Cushendall, and made contact with H.M. Coast guards at GLEMARM and GARRON POINT.	
12.6.40.		A boy named James Faulkner, aged 17, of DUNRORK (?) in EIRE, went to a private at McNeills Hotel, and said that he wanted to join up. The private kept the boy in conversation, and sent for the I.O., who took the boy to the Police Station. The police did not know the boy, and after questioning he was released. His description is as follows :- Height about 5'4" slightly built, fair hair, blue eyes, fresh complexion, very thick loose lips, wearing an open necked shirt, brown suit with narrow white stripes, black shoes, quiet husky voice. He said that he had run away from the farm where he worked in order to try to get to his grandmother who lived at HAMILTON, SCOTLAND. He did not know her address.	

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Larne	13.6.40.		A farmers daughter, named Duffern, told an officer that a farm labourer named McGill, who works for her father at LILWAUGHETER FARM, is a sympathiser with the I.R.A.. KILWAUGHETER FARM is in the middle of the Bn. Camp. This report has only just been received, and an immediate investigation will be made.
			<u>GENERAL</u> There are many pigeons in the town, and a survey of all lofts will be made as soon as possible. Slogans such as "Let not envy mar your Unity", are painted on several walls in the poorer part of the town.
Castlewellan.	19.6.40.		The main body of the Battalion moved to CASTLEWELLAN, and encamped at ANNESLEY ESTATE. Two men on entering a shop in the village were told to "Get out", we don't want you here". Men were refused service in a public house.
"	"	"	A man asked how many men were in the camp. He was told "You'd better ask the C.O.". He then said "It doesn't matter, we'll have you out of here in a week".
"	"	"	A crowd of hooligans at the Main Gate shouted abuse at the Guard. This was subsequently reported to the police who have taken steps to stop it.
"	20.6.40.		A motor transport driver reported that he had been told the destination of the Battalion on 18.6.1940 by a private at Victoria Barracks.
"	"	"	The attached letter was received by a private in the Recruits Training Centre. He reports that he has never heard of the Firm before.
"	"	"	It is thought that this is an attempt to find location of Units.
"	22.6.40.		The Hon. Gerald Annesley who owns the Castle and estate wherein the Battalion is encamped reported that he had received a deputation of Six Townspeople who declared that the soldiers were interfering with them. On being questioned he became very vague and stated that he could not remember the names of the deputation nor who they were.
"	"	"	Enquiries from the R.U.C. elicited no further information.
"	23.6.40.		Mr Annesley is an officer in the Local Defence Corps. An unidentified aircraft was seen to circle once over CASTLEWELLAN and fly away in a E.S.E. direction at between five and ten thousand feet. This incident was reported immediately by telephone to Brigade H.Q. and to ALDERGROVE Aerodrome.
"	23.6.40.		A man named Kelly who is employed on CASTLEWELLAN ESTATE and who is a B.Special reported that he saw a man on BUNKERS HILL to the S.E. of the Camp area apparently making a sketch of the Camp. Kelly went up to him in order to question him but the man turned and hurried to a waiting car. There was a woman at the wheel of the car which drove rapidly away. The number of the car is reported to be DDD770. This incident has been reported to the R.U.C.

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Castlewellan	24.6.	40.	Two Italian girls named Malacco who keep a confectioners shop at PORTRUSH presented themselves at the Main Gate of the Estate with a request to see certain soldiers. They were turned away but unfortunately the names of the soldiers are unavailable. Further enquiries will be made,	
"	25.6.	40.	It was reported that a Roman Catholic soldier in the recruits Training Centre had openly expressed to his Company Commander that his views were not necessarily pro-British. The man is named Bayle and is an Irishman. A soldier named PALFREY is constantly in his company. Careful supervision will be kept on these men.	
"	18.9.	00.	Several copies of "War News" have been reported in Castlewellan. Some of these have been handed to the R.U.C. No literature of this kind has been openly in circulation up to last week, when a report, together with a copy of the paper was forwarded to Bde. Further investigation is being made.	
"	26.9.	40.	At 1637 hours on 24.9.40 a large twin engined aircraft flew over Castlewellan on a North Easterly course at a height of about 3000 feet. The machine could not be identified through field glasses and R.A.F. Aldergrove was immediately informed.	
"	30.10.	40	It was brought to my notice today by two ex-signallers, Ptes. Jones, G.R. and Roberts A.J.W., that signalling had been observed on previous nights at approx. 2100 hours from a farmhouse at point 363369. I investigated this myself on Wednesday night at approx. 2100 hours and did observe intermittent flashings lasting approx. 1 minute from the direction previously indicated by the two men. By means of a daylight reconce I definitely located the building from which the lights were coming and also found a suitable approach from which it can be observed at approx. 100 yards distance. I again made observations between 2100 and 2200 hours. No lights were visible from the particular farm but between approx. 2115 and 2145 hours I noticed approx. 10 different lights intermittently for short periods of about 3 minutes. The directions were S.E. N.E. and North of Castlewellan. The two most persistent were in the East slopes of CORLETS MWFS. 340385 and were to be clearly seen from a distance of 2 miles. Before 2115 and after 2145 hours no lights could be seen in any direction.	
"	2.10.	40.	While it is still not possible to feel certain that anything concerted is taking place, the circumstances do justify a degree of suspicion. Further observations between 2100 and 2200 hours from road 343338 again xxx revealed a number of lights to the North and East but these might well have been from undimmed lanterns, open doors, etc. I shall report the above facts to the Police suggesting that they pay particular attention to careless black-out, at the same time bearing in mind the deliberate action of disaffected elements.	
"	10.9.	40.	Mr. Maxwell, manager of the Linen Works, reported that about two weeks ago two suspicious characters were seen on the road in front of the New Mill, Castlewellan. It was thought that they might attempt to cause damage to the buildings after their completion for billeting purposes. A similar incident took place about last March. Mr. Maxwell rang up this morning and asked if he could have guards placed around the buildings as a precautionary measure. This precaution has been taken and there has been no incident to date.	

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Castlewella	20.11.40.		<p>(1) Castlewella is a town of 1,000 inhabitants of whom approx. 70% are Catholic. It is essentially a market centre, though there is a mill employing 250 people. The surrounding district is sparsely populated and consists of numerous small, rather poor, farms. The whole is and has long been intensely Republican and regularly returned a Republican M.P. Mr. De Valera until 1938, when all Republicans in the district adapted the policy of abstention as an indication of their non-recognition of the Ulster Government.</p> <p>(2) When the Battalion arrived in Castlewella in June, the population was unmistakably but passively hostile. The local girls with whom the men of the Battalion came in contact at dances etc. were quite aggressive in their Republicanism though pleasant enough to individual men made no secret of their anti-British feelings.</p> <p>(3) Now this situation has definitely modified. There is an atmosphere of friendliness amongst many of the shopkeepers and many of the men have friends in the neighbourhood. There still remains however, an air of passive hostility, particularly noticeable on market days owing to the influx of men from the surrounding area.</p> <p>(4) Local opinion has been exacerbated by the recent requisitioning of the Markey Hall - the one hall where Catholics and Protestants are free to mix, the centre of the social life of the town and also probably of a symbolic importance. This indicates that any improvement in sentiment is superficial, the population as a whole still dislikes British troops in the district.</p> <p>(5) The I.R.A. have active members in the district and "War News" is distributed at irregular intervals. They undoubtedly have considerable passive support. No hostile action of any kind has been organised by them. The Police claim to have the situation well in hand.</p> <p>(6) No reports have been received of individuals attempting to elicit information of military importance from men of the Battalion.</p> <p>(7) Numerous reports have been received of signalling have been investigated both by the Police and myself. Nothing tangible has resulted in either case. The answer may well be a deliberate carelessness with regard to black-out.</p> <p>(8) Particular alertness is required in this district. The various under-currents of hostility might, if developed and canalised by I.R.A. elements, lead to incidents of a serious nature. The general politeness and good discipline of the Battalion, however, have been and still are a potent check to any form of active hostility.</p> <p>Recece carried out of Newry Canal zone to site field works in Battalion sector of Northern Lock, Jerratts Pass and Gough Bridge.</p> <p>Construction of Defence Works in Newry Canal zone commenced.</p> <p>Defence Works in Newry Canal zone completed.</p> <p>The local population are becoming more <u>friendly</u> kindly disposed towards the Battalion and no hostility has been detected for the past three months. There have been no incidents of any sort and no activity of any sort upon the part of the I.R.A.</p>	
"	26.11.40.			
"	19.12.40			
"	4.2.41.			
"	28.2.41.			