

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

|             |           |      | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------------|-----------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Place       | Date      | Hour |   |                                      |
| 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>Rece 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.  |      |   |                                      |

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

| Place      | Date     | Hour  | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices                          |
|------------|----------|-------|--|---|
| Castletown | 6-3-41.  |       | B & D Coy HQs & Skeleton. On HQ. on Scheme Marjex No I. Seaford & Blough Area.   |   |
| "          | 8-3-41.  | 2330. | 2 members of the Brigade Security Section attempted to enter the Castle on the pretext of wishing to see an officer. They were challenged by the provost on duty, & on refusing to disclose their identity, they were detained in the Guard Room. Eventually they disclosed their identity & purpose of visit & were allowed to return to Brigade. | Brigade ack. the visit & complimented our Security methods.   |
| "          | 20-3-41. |       | A Coy. out on Scheme Marjex No 2. Hilltown Area.   |   |
| "          | 25-3-41  |       | Bn out on Scheme Marjex No. 3. Hilltown Area.  |   |
|            |          |       | I.R.A. suspected of causing damage to Newry Line Positions in 5 <sup>th</sup> Cheshire Area. Sandbags were slit & gun platforms were damaged.  |   |
|            | 3/4-41   | 1010. | Div Comd inspected Bn on Company Training.   | C.P. Woodcock 2/10.11.0.<br>157 B.L. The War Office has Regd. |

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
(Erase heading not required).

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

| Place        | Date     | Hour  | Summary of Events and Information  |
|--------------|----------|-------|--|
| Castlewethan | 3/4/41   | 00.25 | B. boy and skeleton Bin HQ on scheme in Ferris - Dromas area. During the night between 00.25 and 02.30 hrs there was an air-raid on Belfast and gunfire was heard and flashes observed by the personnel on the scheme. A fire was also seen at this time.<br>A prowler on duty at the battery at the time reports that he heard a plane pass over Castlewethan at 0015 hrs. It was quite low but obscured by clouds. |
|              | 14-4-41. |       | R.A.F Wireless Station established on Bunkers Hill Castlewethan. Personnel consisting of 2 R.A.F w/o. one Bombardier & 5 Ptes of the R.A.s.  |
|              | 15-4-41. | 1130. | Air Raid warning received. Prowler on duty reported planes heard coming from a southerly direction & anti-aircraft gun flashes were seen in the direction of Belfast. All clear warning received at 0500hrs.<br>R.A.F w/s. reported 17 planes passed over Castlewethan & 4 of those circled round the village before continuing in the same direction as the others.   |
|              | 17/4-41  | 0830. | Bn left camp & proceeded to Area Yellow Water River West of Silent Valley for Field Firing demonstration. Special Idea. Infantry advancing under own Arty & Machine Gun fire, provided by one battery of the 81 <sup>st</sup> Field Regt & 2 Platoons Machine Gun Company.   |

**WAR DIARY**  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

(Erase heading not required).

| Place         | Date     | Hour   | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------------|----------|--------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Castletwitter | 18.4.41  | 01200. | A Coy left Camp for 3 day Route March.  |                                      |
|               | 19.4.41. |        | B & C Coy proceeded to Belfast to clear up debris after the Air Raids<br>B Coy recovering two bodies. |                                      |
|               | 25.4.41. | 1200.  | B Coy left Camp for 3 day route march.  |                                      |
|               | 28.4.41. |        | Remainder of Bn carried out practice of Scheme Apex No 2. Seaford & Blough area.                      |                                      |
|               | 29.4.41  |        | Bn carried out further practice of Apex No 2. & spent night 29/30 in bivouac area at Newcastle.       |                                      |
|               | 30.4.41. | 0500   | Bn left bivouac area for actual scheme. Scheme finished 1200hrs                                       |                                      |
|               |          |        | x Bn returned to billets by route march.  |                                      |
|               | 2.5.41.  | 1200.  | C Coy left Camp for 3 day route march.  |                                      |

C.P. Hodder. / 1.0.

1st Bn, The Northamptonshire Regiment.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

| Place       | Date             | Hour  | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------------|------------------|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Castlematta | 5-5-41.          | 0025. | Air Raid warning Red received. Considerable damage was again suffered by Belfast. W.O.U. at Bunker Hill reported 36 groups of 3 or 4 planes passed over Castlavilla. 7 German planes were reported to have been brought down. |                                      |
|             | 5-5-41.          | 0510. | All Clear warning received.   |                                      |
|             | "                | 1200. | Air Raid Warning Red received   |                                      |
|             | "                | 1400  | All Clear " received.   |                                      |
|             | "                | 2230. | Air raid red received. Belfast was again the objective. W.O.U. reported 23 groups of 3 or 4 planes again passed over Castlavilla & that 2 German planes were reported to have been brought down.                              |                                      |
|             | 6-5-41.          | 0400. | All Clear received  |                                      |
|             | 5-5-41           |       | B. Coy returned from 3 day route march & D Coy left for same.   |                                      |
|             | 9-5-41.          |       | Main body of Bn left Castlavilla for new quarters at the Donard Park Newcastle, under canvas.   |                                      |
| Newcastle.  | 12-5-41.         |       | Bn scheme Dundrum & Bonyasford Area. Practising ROFT procedure.   |                                      |
| "           | 13-5-41-14-5-41. |       | Bn out on Rde scheme "Mayex". Dromara - Milltown Area.  |                                      |
| "           | 16-5-41-17-5-41. |       | Bn scheme Moyad Area. Special Idea, forming up for night attack.  |                                      |
| "           | 20-5-41-21-5-41  |       | Rde scheme "Cass" Massford Area. Idea: Attacking enemy outpost & making it a tank proof locality  |                                      |

**WAR DIARY**  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**  
(Erase heading not required).

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

| Place      | Date    | Hour      | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|---------|-----------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Newcastle. | 29.5.41 | -30.5.41. | Bn scheme. Night withdrawal. Coys took up defensive positions at HILLTOWN & withdrew by route march to DUNDRUM.               |                                      |
| "          | 4.6.41  |           | Bn scheme. Coys took up & wired defensive posn during the night. Newcastle area   |                                      |
| "          | 6.6.41. |           | Gas Exercise. Bn route marched via Boyansford, Maghera, Newcastle. Bn were sprayed with gas & encountered contaminated areas. |                                      |
| "          | 7.6.41  |           | Bn on ambussing practice.   |                                      |
| "          | 10.6.41 | -12.6.41. | Div scheme set by Corps. Special Idea. Attacking POMPEROY airdrome which was held by enemy paratroops.                        |                                      |

*Churman* s/pt.  
for Captain & Adjt.  
1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

War Office

| Place      | Date             | Hour  | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|------------------|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Newcastle. | 17.6.41-18.6.41. |       | Bn scheme set by Bde. Special Idea. Attacking at dawn Murlough House aerodrome which was occupied by enemy troops. (JUNEX).   |                                      |
|            | 23.6.41-27.6.41  |       | Corp scheme. "RUDOLPH" Special Idea. The enemy "Hessians", in occupation in Southern Ireland were landed on the West coast of Northern Ireland with intention of capturing Belfast, where a secret weapon was being manufactured by the British. 53rd Div was withdrawn from the fighting in Southern Ireland & took up a posn S.E. of Bush Meagh. 1 <sup>st</sup> Herefords took up a defensive posn at Portadown & later advanced & attacked in the area of KEHS on the upper Bann river. |                                      |
|            | 3.7.41           | 1500. | Bn paraded for farewell speech of Brig. Brummer Randall, on his relieving command of the 159 Bde.   |                                      |

Curran  
Lt. and Intelligence Officer  
1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY  
OF  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

(Erase heading not required).

| Place      | Date     | Hour  | Summary of Events and Information  | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|----------|-------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Newcastle. | 7.7.41   |       | Bn visited by the Corp Comd  |                                      |
|            | 9.7.41   |       | " " " " Div Comd.  |                                      |
|            | 11.7.41  |       | " " " " Honorary Colonel of the Unit Sir Charles Grant.  |                                      |
|            | 12.7.41  |       | Newcastle celebrated their annual "Orange Day" Large numbers of visitors came into the town for the week-end. There were no incidents reported.  |                                      |
|            | 14.7.41. | 1430. | A drifting barrage balloon was sighted floating on the sea on a compass bearing of 71° at approx 14 miles out from the shore. Bde were informed. |                                      |
|            | 14.7.41  |       | Rt Co commenced work on the foundations for the Messin huts to be erected for Winter Quarters.   |                                      |
|            | 16.7.41  |       | Bn attended Lecture given by Capt Hatal. of a N.W. Indian Frontier Regt. who gave an account of the Eritrean Campaign.                           |                                      |
|            | 16.7.41  |       | Bde Skeleton scheme. General Idea. Communications & a withdrawal from the Navy Line to a point at Kilcoo.  |                                      |

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C 2118.

(Erase heading not required).

| Place      | Date              | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|-------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Newcastle. | 21.7.41           |      | Bn granted a weeks break from training. Programme to include organised troops.  |                                      |
|            | 23.7.41           |      | Bn attended a demonstration by parachutists at Lisburn.   |                                      |
|            | 23.7.41           |      | Fire broke out in the Ronald Lodge at approx 1540 hrs. Damage was caused to HQ Coy Office & Stores & the Signal Stores. The fire was eventually put out with the aid of the local AFS at 1700 hrs. It is thought that heat from the NAAF Stores may have been the cause of the fire. Results of the Court of Enquiry not yet known. |                                      |
|            | 24.7.41           | 0200 | Air Raid Warning sounded in Newcastle. no planes heard.   |                                      |
|            | 24.7.41           | 0300 | All Clear sounded.  |                                      |
|            | 29.7.41 - 30.7.41 |      | Bde Scheme. 'Jules'. General Idea. 1 <sup>st</sup> Phase Bde Cp concentration after an embussed move. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase. Night March. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Phase. Attacking & finding the enemys weak points. Dromore Area.  |                                      |
|            | 29.7.41           |      | Major General Milson C.B. D.S.O. relinquishes comd of the 53 <sup>rd</sup> Div & is succeeded by Major General G. E. Bucknall M.C. on 29.7.41   |                                      |
|            | 29.7.41           |      | Brig Hudson - V.C. relinquishes comd of the 159 Bde & is succeeded by A/Brig Callander M.C. P. Hudson 2/IT + A/1.0.   |                                      |

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Remarks and references to Appendices

| Place     | Date            | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|-----------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Newcastle | 4.8.41 - 8.8.41 |      | B.T.H.I. Scheme "Summit". General Idea ①. To test the machinery of Command & adm of 3 Corps operating as a whole ②. To practice the concentration of the Corps followed by the destruction of enemy sea-borne & aircraft forces whilst at the same time ensuring the security of a vital area. ③ To practice the issue of code names. |                                      |
|           | 14.8.41         |      | Bn visited by Brig Gallander.   |                                      |
|           | 7.8.41          |      | Reinforcements from Depot Shoelburn, arrived numbering 60 approx. All trained men of 3 or more months service.  |                                      |
|           | 19.7.41         |      | Bn attended Lecture given by the Div Security Officer.  |                                      |

Anderson 2/6 and Intelligence Officer.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
(Erase heading not required).

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

| Place   | Date            | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|-----------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| castle. | 4.9.41-6.9.41   |      | <p>3 Corp Exercise "GREENLAND". Object - To practice the handling of a div in the attack on an enemy in a hastily organized defensive position &amp; in particular:</p> <p>(a) The preparation &amp; planning of the attack.</p> <p>(b) The employment of reserves</p> <p>(c) Administration in the attack.</p> |                                      |
|         | 9.9.41          |      | <p>4 Day route march to Bangor Castle for rifle Coys. Coys moving out by platoons 1 pl of each Coy per day. B Coy remaining in Camp as Duty Coy.</p>  |                                      |
|         | 12.9.41         | 1815 | <p>Practice General Alarm sounded.</p>  |                                      |
|         | 16.9.41-17.9.41 |      | <p>Bde scheme "SEPEX". Bn took up defensive posn Rathfriland area in Bde reserve remaining in reserve throughout the exercise. Later followed a night March &amp; Dawn attack by the K.S.L.1 &amp; Mens - area Dundrum <sup>respectively</sup> - <del>Wateresh Hill</del> &amp; Murlough Ho.</p>                |                                      |
|         | 18.9.41         |      | <p>Bn inter-company Sports Day. H.Q. adm pl being the <del>winning</del> winning Coy.</p>   |                                      |
|         | 23/9.41-27.9.41 |      | <p>53 Div scheme "DAVID" - Object - To study &amp; perfect co-operation between Arms &amp; Services within 53 Div.</p>  |                                      |

C. J. Mason s/pt.  
Intelligence Office, 1st Bn. Hampshire Regt

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

W O

| Place         | Date       | Hour  | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------------|------------|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Yverdonville. | 6-9-10-41. |       | 3 Corp Scheme - HARVEST. Object - Occupation of a <sup>Div</sup> defensive position with a view to counter attack. Tanks co-operating in the latter movement. |                                      |
|               | 21-10-41   | 0300. | Advance party left camp consisting of 7 Officers & 85 P.O.s.  |                                      |
|               | 26-10-41   |       | Major Laurant taken on strength of Sq. Posted at 2nd I/C. - Transferred from War Office.  |                                      |
|               | 30-10-41   |       | Div General inspected R.E. work in Camp area.   |                                      |

*Amurson* sds.  
 Intelligence Officer.  
 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

W.O.

| Place                               | Date     | Hour  | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Newcastle                           | 8-11-41  | 0200. | Second adv party left Camp for new station consisting 3 Officers & 134 O.Rs                                       |                                      |
|                                     | 8-11-41  | 2100. | Adv party of 2/6th South Staffordshire Regt arrived Newcastle Co. Down. Party consisting of 8 Officers & 136 O.Rs |                                      |
|                                     | 16-11-41 | 0330  | Main Body left Camp. 23 Offs. 450 O.Rs  |                                      |
| Crews. <sup>14/11/41</sup> 15-11-41 |          | 2000. | Second adv party arrived Crews Hall, with transport taken over from South Staffords at Newcastle-on-Tyne.         |                                      |
|                                     | 17-11-41 | 0100. | Main Body arrived Crews Hall.   |                                      |
|                                     | 18-11-41 | 0230  | Baggage Party left Newcastle Co. Down.  |                                      |
|                                     | 18-11-41 | 1030  | Rear party left Newcastle Co. Down with transport taken over from adv part of South Staffords.                    |                                      |
|                                     | 19-11-41 |       | Major Tarrant 2/r.c. assumes command of the unit Lt Col Royant on course of instruction w.e.f 19-11-41.           |                                      |
| 21-11-41                            | 24-11-41 | 1200  | Baggage party arrived Crews Hall. 1 Off. 130 O.Rs   |                                      |
| 19-11-41                            | 24-11-41 | 0300. | Rear party " " " 1 Off. 17 O.Rs   |                                      |
|                                     | 25-11-41 |       | Lt. Col. Royant assumes Comd of the unit Major Tarrant w.e.f 25-11-41   |                                      |
|                                     | 27-11-41 |       | Div General visited the Bn at Crews Hall.   |                                      |

128

Pls Under 5/11/41 v 10.  
1st Bn. The Staffordshire Regt.

and the Staff manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

| Place  | Date      | Hour  | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------|-----------|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Cruse. | 2-12-41.  |       | Joint alliance of the K.S.L.I & 1 <sup>st</sup> Newfoundland Reg't with Regiment de Maisonneuve of the Canadian Army.                                     |                                      |
|        | 2-12-41   | 0900. | Serious accident occurred outside the main gates of Cruse Hall. A civilian car knocked down a platoon of this Bn, whose injuries have since proved fatal. |                                      |
|        | 3-12-41.  |       | Civil police report the escape of two German prisoners from Knutsford dressed in Hospital Blue.   |                                      |
|        | 4-12-41.  |       | Major Tarrant assumed command of the Bn during the absence of Lt. Col. Royant on duty w/e 4-12-41.  |                                      |
|        | 6-12-41.  |       | Lt. Col. Royant assumed command of the Bn vice Major Tarrant w/e 6-12-41  |                                      |
|        | 11-12-41  | 2030  | Air Raid Warning Red received   |                                      |
|        | 11-12-41. | 2200. | All Clear received.   |                                      |
|        | 22-12-41  |       | Escort party consisting of 6 Officers and 150 O.R.'s proceeded to Aldham for transportation of German P.O.W. to Liverpool.                                |                                      |
|        | 24-12-41  |       | Bn route moved 9 miles. Object: Practice of R.O.F.T. procedure  |                                      |

C. N. Radford  
2/et.  
I.O. 14<sup>th</sup> Newfoundland Reg't