

WAR DIARY

2nd Battalion The Royal Scots

Place	Date	Time	Message	Action Taken
Skeet Ground.	6/12/41	2335	As from receipt of this message no leave will be granted.	All companies informed.
"	7/12/41	1035	All ranks to be confined to deployment areas forthwith. All personnel on leave being recalled immediately. Full manning expected today. Companies will report every odd hour number of men in area (company).	To C. Battalion from Kowloon Infantry Brigade. Repeated to all companies.
"	"	1710	Commando sections of Forward Troops and one extra section from HQ. Coy. report to battalion HQ. forthwith fully armed and equipped less Bren L.M.G.s. After practice firing Chinese L.M.G.s, they will stand by at respective company HQ.s at immediate notice.	To all companies from C. Bn.
"	"	1800	Forward Troops, under command of Major Burn left battalion HQ. to take up forward positions. Brigadier Wallis and Lt. Col. White contacted Capt. Slater Brown, who was in command of forward Carrier section at Ping Shan Police Station.	Noted.
"	"	1830	Advanced state of readiness essential. Work on defences will be pressed on. Anti-aircraft L.M.G. may open fire on aircraft not established as friendly. Forward Troops will be held at immediate notice. One sentry will be posted in each section post. Road blocks will be manned.	Noted.
"	8/12/41	0505	Armoured cars have just passed through to Au Tau at 0130 and again at 0430 until 0700 hours.	Noted.
"	"	0545	Situation has deteriorated. We may expect to be at war with Japan very shortly. It is believed that frontier demolitions have been blown. Keep sharp look out. Do not blow further demolitions without further orders.	From C. Bn. to Forward Troops.
"	"	0725	We are at war with Japan. Frontier demolitions are being blown. Demolition parties will be on the sites of demolitions ready to blow them. Demolitions will not be	From C. Bn. to all companies.

			blown without orders unless serious attack by enemy develops.	
"	"	0745	Anti-aircraft posts will be on the alert. All surplus tentage will be struck. Remaining tentage will be fully camouflaged. Defence works will be fully accelerated.	From C. Bn. to all companies.
Skeet Ground.	8/12/41	0810	Blow 726 - Au Tau Bridge - will be blown now.	Bridge blown at 0835 hours. From Mainland HQ to Forward Troops.
"	"	0815	One plane dropped two packets of leaflets over Tsun Wun Wai. Now 2,000 feet high.	From A. Coy. to C. Bn.
"	"	0820	Seven enemy aircraft passed over Shing Mun Reservoir heading 5 degrees East of North. Three hostile bombers passed over same place heading for Kowloon. Four muffled explosions heard from Kowloon direction two minutes later.	From A. Coy.
"	"	0820	Three flights enemy aircraft were observed. Each flight consisted of nine aircraft. Passed over Shing Mun, headed towards Kowloon above Taipo. Muffled explosions were heard two minutes later. This flight returned over Taipo, one flight over C. Battalion, one flight towards Castle Peak. Pamphlets were dropped on return journey.	From police sentries.
"	"	0915	Keep observation over enemy by Carriers till dark, after which use armoured patrols. No more blows unless ordered or compelled by enemy.	From C. Bn. to Forward Troops.
"	"	1015	Commando sections moved out now, and will withdraw after dark.	From C. Bn. to Forward Troops.
"	"	1125	Three aircraft have been observed bombing a craft in vicinity of Castle Peak Bay. Craft established as gunboat. One near miss. No return fire observed from the gunboat, which moved into shore during the attack.	From A. & B. Coys.
"	"	1330	Two squadrons of aircraft headed for Hong Kong from N.W.	Noted.
"	"	1340	Enemy pushing down Taipo Road. Taipo demolitions blown. Rubber boats used to cross Sham Chun	Noted.

			River and more at Nam Tau. May try to land behind demolitions tonight.	
"	"	1355	Enemy bombed Texaco Oil plant. Attack over at 1405 hours. No hits.	
"	"	1400	Forward Carrier section at Ping Shan contacted enemy and were ordered to withdraw to Brothers Point.	Information from forward Carrier section.
"	"	1425	Complete blackout tonight at dusk.	Repeated to all companies.
Skeet Ground	8 Dec	1440	Six enemy aircraft, in relays of two, bombed gunboat off Texaco Point. No hits. When finished bombing, they machine gunned Brothers Point. Two aircraft then circled above the village between Taipo and Un Long.	Reported by D.R. and Private Gordon Intelligence Section.
"	"	1445	Report on second air raid as observed from Shing Mun. Commencement 1335 hours. Last three planes passed over 1415 hours. Aircraft estimated at twenty flying at high altitude. Targets - gunboat, Kowloon and direction Victoria. Apparently heavy bombing of Kowloon. One plane seen to fall in direction of Kowloon Pass at 1335 hours. One plane seen to dive steeply, suffering from engine trouble, in direction of Victoria at 1350 hours.	
"	"	1555	Rear Carrier of forward Carrier Section fired on by mortars and rifle fire at Ping Shan. Strength of enemy approx. 8. Method of transport one 30-cwt. civilian lorry and one civilian car. This Carrier sustained no casualties but was unable to fight it out alone as remainder of section had been withdrawn.	From Commando Forward Troops to C. Bn. Carrier section withdrawn to Brothers Point replaced with A. F. V.s
"	"	1625	Close all gaps in wire before dark. "K" Force patrols are going out tonight and will signal letter "K" with flash lamp if returning.	To all companies
"	"	1635	Permission to blow Brothers Point was given by Brigadier Wallis.	Major Burn notified.
"	"	1705	Bridge at Brothers Point successfully blown at 1630 hours. Demolitions of hillside behind only partially successful. Sappers worked to finish it off with	To Mainland HQ from Major Burn.

			dynamite. Would report results. Armoured cars covering demolition and later patrolling road between Brothers Point and Dairy Farm positions. Three Carriers astride road Dairy Farm, remaining two at tenth milestone. My HQ. at Dairy Farm. Require petrol at tenth milestone and Dairy Farm. Please repeat this to Mainland HQ. No confirm demolition successfully blown at second attempt.	Petrol sent forward with rations
"	"	1740	Enemy reconnaissance aircraft flew from direction of Ma Wan Island and disappeared behind Tai Mo Shan.	From A. Coy. to C. Bn.
"	"	1910	Two Carriers will withdraw from Forward Troops at 0300 hours. One will go to Lai Chi Kok and one to Bamboo Pier to be in position by 0500 hours. Task - to keep lookout for enemy small boats infiltrating between Stonecutters Island and Mainland.	To Forward Troops from C. Bn.
Skeet Ground	8 Dec	1915	Lone enemy aircraft, estimated height 5,000 feet, dropped leaflets along line Wo Li Hop and Tsun Wun Wai. Police informed that all leaflets falling near fixed defence localities will be collected and sent to Bn. HQ.	From A. Coy.
"	"	2220	Independent section groups of Forward Troops have now returned less left section (Cpl. Hale, Ptes. Peacock and Moore 96) which has probably contacted Carrier section at Hong Kong Brewery. Report enemy light artillery moving up Kam Tin area. Small number of vehicles held up North of Au Tau bridge demolition. Moving out so as to reach line of passes before first light 9 Dec. Will not move forward of that line.	Reported to Mainland HQ.
"	"	2305	Forward Troops reported at 1730 hours 8 Dec. 15 covered lorries full of troops closed up on demolition Au Tau bridge. Four guns, estimated as six inch, moved towards Shui Tau by tractor or lorries and subsequently manhandled into woods South of Shui Tau. Further observation not possible owing to failure of light (report by Pte. Salter).	Reported to Mainland HQ. Reported to Mainland HQ.

"	9 Dec	0142	X.D.O. has ordered Sicala to be at dawn S.E. of Brewery to support Forward Troops C. Bn.	To Major Burn Forward Troops and C. Coy.
"	"	0442	Left platoon Indian Battalion has now been traced.	To A., B. & C. Coys.
"	"	0500	Forward Troops of battalion on your right returned to Monastery Ridge and back to Inner Line. Left platoon of these Forward lost touch and may come back through Shing Mun. Warn your men to look out and avoid firing on this platoon withdrawing.	To A., B. & D. Coys.
"	"	0522	Forward Troops Commandos left D. Coy. HQ. for forward positions at 0500 hrs.	Noted.
"	"	0540	Enemy reported along catchment by C. Bn. Commandos. Enemy forward troops reported entering Tsun Wan Wai. Am sending out fighting patrols to contact and return with you. Brigadier Wallis orders blow demolition and return immediately.	To O.C. Forward Troops Major Burn. D.R. failed to contact Major Burn.
"	"	0545	Commandos section under Cpl. Burns made contact with enemy patrol on path leading to Telegraph Pass. Short engagement took place and Cpl. Burns killed the officer in charge of this patrol and the remainder scattered. L/C. Murray of this section received a slight sword wound. Cpl. Burns then returned to Bn. HQ. with his section.	Reported by Cpl. Burns to Lt.Col. White.
Skeet Ground	9 Dec	0600	Fighting patrol of one platoon from D. Coy. under Lieut. Hunter to contact Major Burn Forward Troops at the Dairy Farm. This patrol will be conveyed in one 8-cwt and two 15-cwt trucks.	Noted
"	"	0650	Reserve company of Rajput coming in on our right under command of 2/14 Punjab. Reserve company and his reconnaissance party should arrive 0930 hours. O.C. A. Company to contact and by night O.C. A. Company to send one section as fighting patrol out on his right flank.	Verbal message from Bdr. Wallis to Lt. Col. White, C. Bn. Repeated A. Coy.
"	"	0700	Major Burn and Forward Troops and Commandos returned to Bn. HQ. All demolitions were carried out. One 8-cwt truck and two motor cycles were lost. All Forward Troops returned safely.	Reported to Mainland HQ.

"	"	0805	Patrol of A. Company, which went out at 0630 hours, returned with nothing to report. Route - Pineapple Pass - Catchment to 155656 - Tsun Wan Wai.	Noted.
"	"	0830	Road blocks at Texaco road junction erected and mines laid.	Noted.
"	"	0915	Slight movement on S.E. slope of Needle Hill about 70 yards from summit (Pt. 192654).	Reported by A. Coy.
"	"	0922	Enemy aircraft dropped bomb on Needle Hill.	Reported by B. Coy.
"	"	1000	Tsun Wan Wai reports enemy patrol 800 yards in front of Mu San Po Police Sta.	Reported by B. Coy.
"	"	1015	At about 0700 hours, Cpl. Park's Commandos Section, whilst proceeding to Telegraph Pass, reached Pt. 126667, when they saw two enemy sections in position at Pt. 121669. Our section did not engage the enemy but withdrew to Pt. 128664. Two more enemy sections with mortar came up to Pt. 121669 and started digging the mortar in. A further enemy platoon was seen heading from Telegraph Pass to Cheun Lung.	From Cpl. Park to Lt.Col. White.
"	"	1015	The enemy to the left of this section moved down towards Pt. 123657. Seeing the enemy strength was too strong for us and that we were in danger of being surrounded we withdrew to Pt. 123655 and then to Muk Min Hao. As Cpl. Park's section passed Tsun Wan Wai police station they heard three shots from Cpl. Burns's section, who was on the hill above the police station where he remained the day in observation.	
"	"	1030	One company of enemy were seen in the Catchment area. This was confirmed to be Pt. 159652. This enemy company was accompanied by mortars.	No. 2 Battery opened fire on enemy at 159652 and along catchment to Wo Li Hop
Skeet Ground	9 Dec	1135	Five enemy aircraft dropped bombs at the gunboat in Castle Peak Bay but no hits were registered. Ten minutes later another two aircraft again dive bombed the gunboat and no hits were registered.	Reports from 10 & 11 Platoons.

"	"	1155	Three enemy aircraft bombed Lai Chi Kok oil tanks and the wireless station. No hits were registered.	Reported by C. Coy.
"	"	1350	The enemy forces are on Pai Tau Cross and are taking L.93 - 96 and 98 and establishing an O.P. at L.92. Pill boxes 400 and 401 are firing towards L.89. On enemy being located by our O.P. the pill boxes guns opened fire on L.92.	Reported by A. Coy.
"	"		A. Company patrol left at 1230 hours and proceeded West along the catchment until North of Lo Wai where the patrol turned South, skirting the village, and returned at 1335 hours. No enemy were seen and all reported quiet.	
"	"	1420	Movement was seen up Lead Mine Pass (Pt. 177659) track junction.	A. Coy. patrol going out to investigate.
"	"	1645	Reference message 1420 hours, patrol returned and reported that no enemy had been located but, on interrogation of two Chinese, learnt that the enemy in that area had captured Taipo.	Reported by A. Coy. patrol.
"	"	1646	Gunboat has opened fire inland about Castle Peak.	Reported by L/C. Wilson B. Coy.
"	"	2207	Gunboat Sicala anchored in Gindrunkers Bay.	Reported to HQ. & C. Coys.
"	"	2240	At daybreak gunboat Sicala will proceed through Rambler and reconnoitre towards Brothers Point and then return to Gindrunkers Bay.	From Major Harland, Brigade Major.
"	"	2335	L/C. Laird reported that he was on sentry at the wire fence outside the redoubt when he saw lights in front of the redoubt. He shouted a warning to Pill Box 401. Then the enemy opened fire on the pill box who replied with bursts from L.M.G.s. The enemy then got right up to the pill boxes and started using dynamite and hand grenades, which they put through the grille of the P.B. Sgt. Robb and 13 men were able to get out of the redoubt and on top, where they took up positions. L/Cpl. Laird also warned Capt. Jones and the signal exchange but they could not get out. Lieut. Thomson and one man tried to get out by way of the grille but were driven back.	Names of men who left with Sgt. Robb :- Sgt. Robb Pte. Gullane, L/Sgt. Corbitt, L/Cpls. Gray, Ralph, Wallace, Ptes. O'Raw, Stevenson, Archibald, Scott, Still, Wood. From Capt. Jones to Lt.Col. White.

Skeet Ground	9 Dec	2335	Enemy have entered Pill Box 401 and picquetted entrance to redoubt.	From Capt. Jones to Lt.Col. White.
"	"	2340	Attack on redoubt appears to be slackening, due to fire from Sgt. Robb and his 13 men.	Noted.
"	"	2345	Approx. 200 enemy troops at Pt. 184643 forming up in Shing Mun nulla.	From Reserve Coy. 5/7 Rajput Regt.
"	"		D. Coy. moving one section from Pill Box 404 to L.115.	From Capt. Pinkerton to Lt.Col. White.
"	"	2353	The enemy mentioned at 2345 hours are being engaged by Lewis gun and 2" mortar fire from L.97 (Reserve Coy., 5/7 Rajput Regiment). R.A. commence firing at 0018 hours 10 Dec. There are 2 officers and 13 other ranks in the redoubt.	From Capt. Newton, Reserve Coy., 5/7 Rajput Regiment.
"	10 Dec	0012	Enemy are believed to be running short of hand grenades.	Report from A. Coy.
"	"	0057	Position L.115 has been occupied by reserve platoon of D. Coy., C. Bn. & one 3" mortar. A. Coy. of Canadians will take up position across mouth of North Tunnel near L.116.	Bdr. Wallis on phone to Lt.Col. White.
"	"	0102	D. Coy. to leave one section in L.115 and the other two sections to take up position South end tunnel with plenty of hand grenades.	From Lt.Col. White to Capt. Pinkerton.
"	"	0110	Kendall of "K" Force, on going up to the redoubt, found it occupied by the enemy, but contacted L/C. Bankier who was able to give him some information. Kendall, on going back, warned 2/Lieut. Fenwick, who withdrew to L.106-107.	From 2/Lieut. Fenwick.
"	"	0119	C. Coy. to close on Bn. HQ. but to leave road block out, and 13 Platoon to follow behind to Bn. HQ.	From Lt.Col. White to Capt. Pinkerton.
"	"	0156	B. Coy. made contact with 2/Lieut. Fenwick's platoon.	From Capt. Richardson, O.C. B. Coy.
"	"	0201	Sgt. Robb and what men he had left was ordered to take up a position in the trenches at the top of Golden Hill.	From Lt.Col. White to Sgt. Robb.

"	"	0228	C. Coy. have taken up position in the following pill boxes - one platoon in each of P.B.s 406, 407 and 408.	From Capt. Pinkerton.
"	"	0240	Situation of battalion now - B. Coy. in original positions; C. Coy. in P.B.s 406, 407 and 408; D. Coy. in L.115, 116, 117 and 118; A. Coy. in Golden Hill and L.106, 107.	Noted.
"	"	0302	Sgt. Robb and 13 men in position on Golden Hill.	Phone from Capt. Newton.
Skeet Ground	10 Dec	0315	Shelling of redoubt commenced and continued until 0500 hours.	Noted.
"	"	0715	2/14 Punjab are holding Pill Boxes 314, 313 and L.100, 99, 98, 97, 96. D. Coy., C. Bn., holding L.116, 117, 110, 115.	Noted.
"	"	0725	Enemy moving out of Shing Mun Redoubt and are moving S.E. and S.W.	No penetration S.W. B. & D. Coys. warned.
"	"	0730	R.A. laid barrage on Smugglers Ridge.	Heard and observed.
"	"	0733	Heavy L.M.G. fire heard from D. Coy's area.	Heard.
"	"	0700	Gunboat firing salvos on Telegraph Pass and Castle Peak road.	Reported by L/C. Wilson, B. Coy.
"	"	0713	Enemy attacked 2/14 Punjab but were probably repulsed and had to evacuate L.99, but will probably retake it. Keep sharp lookout for parachutists.	From Bdr. Wallis to Lt.Col. White.
"	"	0730	Patrol from L.106 was sent out to reconnoitre L.104 and encountered no enemy, so returned to L.106.	
"	"	0800	5/7 Rajput with 2" mortar have fired on enemy in Shing Mun and appeared to have results. The enemy seemed to have moved back to Shing Mun road.	
"	"	0945	Enemy machine gunning 17 Platoon and further East towards Smugglers Ridge.	From D. Coy.
"	"	1030	Two of our own troops are bringing in Pte. Jardine of A. Coy. who is wounded. No enemy have been seen. 5/7 Rajput were shelled out last night and are now moving into L.93, 97, 98.	Observed by Sgt. Robb.

"	"	1120	Warning order. The battalion will withdraw to line Smugglers Ridge - Lai Chi Kok peninsula during the night 10 Dec.	From Lt.Col. White.
"	"	1120	Detail reconnaissance parties of one officer per company and two N.C.O.s per platoon to report to Bn. HQ. on receipt of this message. D. Coy. reconnaissance will not report to Bn. HQ. but will carry out reconnaissance from present positions.	From Lt.Col. White to all companies.
"	"	1140	Enemy seen in catchment West of Wo Li Hop (Pt. 162653). Seemed to be establishing small artillery gun.	As observed by B. Coy.
"	"	1150	Approx. one battalion of enemy has attacked reserve company of 5/7 Rajput. D. Coy., C. Bn., will not withdraw under any circumstances, unless ordered to do so, as they will be reinforced by C. Coy. if need be.	From Lt.Col. White to Capt. Pinkerton.
Skeet Ground	10 Dec	1540	Sicala will be in Gindrunkers Bay at dark tonight and will anchor in a position from which her searchlight, if required, will cover Ramblers Channel to northwards of Pillar Island.	From Bde. to C. Bn.
"	"	1555	Three mortars have been located at Pt. 167652 in wood Tsun Tsum 1564.	From B. Coy. R.A. Mainland asked to engage.
"	"	1600	Reconnaissance parties to company back positions - A. Coy. via D. Coy. to Golden Hill; C. Coy. under 2/Lieut. Haywood; B. Coy. under Major Burn; D. Coy. under Capt. Pinkerton to cover battalion and then withdraw to Golden Hill.	Orders from Lt. Col. White.
"	"	1800	Battalion commenced thinning out and completed evacuation of first line 1830 hours. One Carrier would not start from Skeet Ground, so was blown up and put out of action.	Noted.
Filter Beds.	"	1845	Rear Bn. HQ., under Major Burn, opened at road junction Taipo - Castle Peak roads.	Noted.
"	"	1930	Advance Bn. HQ., under Lt. Col. White, opened at Filter Beds House.	Noted.
Filter Beds House.	10 Dec	1930	2/Lieut. McC. Bell, Intelligence Officer, was sent out along the Golden Hill road and contacted	Noted.

			O.P. reserve company 5/7 Rajput in L.98 and ascertained the enemy were on Smugglers Ridge and Shing Mun Valley. Intelligence Officer was instructed by Lt. Col. White to contact A. Coy. and alter their dispositions so that they do not occupy L.100 before daylight.	
"	"	1935	C.S.M. Barron reports in position in Pill Box 314; administrative arrangements are being attended to.	Noted.
"	"	1945	Lt. Col. White spoke to Bdr. Wallis over the phone and, immediately afterwards to Major Burn and Capt. Slater Brown, and they received the following orders. The Carrier at Bamboo Pier to be recalled and established at North of Cholera Hospital, Castle Peak road, and to get in touch with B. and C. Coys. and arrange alterations in B. Coy's positions as instructed by Bdr. Wallis, i.e., to occupy L.135 and not L.140.	Verbal message from Lt.Col. White.
"	"	1950	Sgt. Barker, on laying line to A. and D Coys., contacted reserve company, 5/7 Rajput on Golden Hill and was instructed to leave line terminals with Rajput for A. Coy. on arrival and to move to his left on Golden Hill and contact D. Coy. During this cable laying, Pte. McLean broke his arm.	Reported by Sgt. Barker.
Filter Beds House.	10 Dec	1955	Sgt. Jack, on laying lines to B. and C. Coys. was fired on, and returned to Bn. HQ. and reported same to Lt. Col. White, who ordered him to go forward again with escort from Anti-aircraft Platoon.	Doubtful. Report by Sgt. Jack.
"	"	1955	Capt. Millar, M.T. Officer, reported motor transport pool established in vicinity of road junction Nathan Road - Prince Edward Road. Telephone 50433.	
"	"	1955	Carrier Platoon reported B. Coy. passed through safely. D. Coy. were engaged at long range while withdrawing. One Carrier was lost owing to engine trouble but was blown up and put out of action.	Seen 1800 hours. Same Carrier reported twice. Report from Carrier Platoon.
"	"	2000	Lt. Col. White and Major Carew J.P.CROWE, R.A., arranged S.O.S. artillery fire tasks (4.5"	From Adjutant.

howitzer Smugglers Ridge designated C-1. 6" howitzer Skeet Ground designated C-2). Possible daylight tasks North and South Tunnel and Castle Peak road. Capt. Atkinson, R.A., remained at Forward Bn. HQ. and direct telephone communication was established with battery at Filter Beds.

" " 2200 The gunboat Tern will leave harbour about 2100 hours tonight and will patrol approximately half way between Pillar Island (in Gindrunkers Bay) and Torpedo Range pier until daylight. It is important she will not be illuminated by searchlight. Tomorrow, instead of the Sicala, an A.F.V. (one funnelled tug) will be in Gindrunkers Bay. Capt. Richardson, B. Coy., will include the road block under his command and, if it should be forced to retire, will take positions L.140, 141. The third section of this platoon will occupy L.135, thus relieving Cpl. Gordon and section tonight, and will only be approached from behind road block.

" 11 Dec 0130 Lt. Col. White spoke to Bdr. Wallis over phone and asked permission to move A. Coy. less one platoon from Golden Hill to Lai Chi Kok peninsula. G.O.C.'s permission obtained and granted 0200 hours. Lt. Col. White arranged M.T. at reservoir where two 2-ton lorries could not pass bridge. One 15-cwt was used to ferry 2/Lieut. Fenwick and A. Coy., less 9 Platoon under Sgt. Richards, to the 2-ton Lorries. A. Coy. had left reservoir area by 0530 hours. Lieut. Fenwick contacted D. Coy., 5/7 Rajput, and informed them L.100 clear of enemy as he had inadvertently occupied it.

From Lt.Col. White.

" " 0530 9 Platoon, under Sgt. Richards, reported by phone everything quiet. Remainder of company evacuated to new localities in Lai Chi Kok peninsula.

From Sgt. Richards.

Filter Beds. 11 Dec 0720 D. Coy., 5/7 Rajput, are occupying L.93, 97, 98. Report no enemy action but have contacted 9 Platoon, A. Coy., C. Bn., and have liaised with D. Coy., C. Bn.

From Adjutant, 5/7 Rajput.

"	"	0910	Enemy attacking along Castle Peak road at road block. Carriers to be sent to the road to cover it. C. Coy. attacked and company HQ. fell back, but forward positions held. C. and B. Companies withdrawing.	Noted. From Major Burn
"	"	0925	Carrier section moving up to cover withdrawal of B. Company.	Noted. As ordered by C.O.
"	"	0930	Forward company must not withdraw. Mortars being put into position, and A. Company to hold their ground.	From Lt. Col. White to Major Burn and A, D, C & H.Q Coys.
"	"	0933	C. Company has withdrawn South of A. Coy., but there is no more news of B. Company. Carrier section is now in position.	B. & C. Coys. were out of communication as Sgt. Jack had failed to lay the lines.
"	"	0935	Capt. Ford, Signalling Officer, who had been sent forward to L.140 with a phone, reported that the R.A. barrage was landing short and shelling our own troops.	Noted.
"	"	0940	R.A. received orders to cease fire.	From Lt.Col. White to R.A.
"	"	0943	Lt. Col. White phoned D. Coy. and told them they would not withdraw but would fight to the last.	Noted.
"	"	0945	R.A. have again opened fire, but at increased range.	
"	"	0951	R.A. again asked to increase their range.	Increased range.
"	"	0954	Approximately two companies of the enemy reported to be advancing down the Castle Peak road towards L. 139 136 (Pt. 1636 21)? 163681	Noted.
"	"	0957	Capt. Ford reported from L.140 that he could see no further troop movement at present.	
"	"	1002	Armoured cars of Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps now in position with Carrier Platoon.	Noted.
"	"	1005	Enemy have broken through along the Castle Peak road. Two platoons holding road at World Pencil Factory.	From Major Burn.
"	"	1030	Capt. Cuthbertson to rally personnel of Anti-aircraft Platoon and D. Coy. in Bn. HQ. and collect	From Lt.Col. White to Capt. Cuthbertson.

			ammunition & go forward to Pill Box 314.	
Filter Beds.	11 Dec	1040	Capt. Pinkerton, D. Coy., established just North of Pill Box 306. Forty per cent casualties owing to enemy machine gun and mortar fire. No enemy are advancing and is holding with L.M.G.s	Noted.
"	"	1040	Major Burn in position at Pencil Factory with one platoon on high ground above Pencil Factory.	Noted.
"	"	1050	Reserve company 2/14 Punjab coming in to stabilize line Pill Box 315 - in front Filter Beds - Battery R.A. to Filter Beds.	Noted.
"	"	1105	Major Walker reported that we are holding at Pt. 146 and setting up mortars to thicken up.	Noted.
"	"	1115	Major Burn to occupy feature in front of filter beds with what men he has left.	From Lt. Col. White. Object - to protect R.A. guns.
"	"	1125	Company of Canadians are holding line Lai Chi Kok Pass to <u>P</u> in Path at Pt. 188617. Canadians to give close support.	
"	"	1140	Company commander, reserve company 2/14 Punjab, reported one platoon in position at Pill Box 315, another platoon at dam on Golden Hill. Company HQ. at junction Golden Hill road - Taipo road.	Capt. Mathers, O.C. Company.
"	"	1200	We are still holding Pill Box 314. Capt. Cuthbertson and mixed number of men gone to Pill Box 314 to rally and support. Line held at this time appears to be Pill Box 314 - Golden Hill road - Dam and reservoir - Filter Beds.	Lt. Col. White reported to Bdr. Wallis line now stabilized.
"	"	1210	Lt. Col. White asked Rear Bn. HQ. for ammunition.	Sent forward by Capt. Warrack, R.A.M.C.
"	"	1300	One company of 2/14 Punjab to move to right of your line. Carriers are holding road. One company in line of catchment bridges 3, 4, 5. Shatin Pass company going back to Shatin, therefore they are holding line of passes and line down to Wong Uk.	From Lt.Col. Kidd to Lt.Col. White when he visited C. Bn. HQ.

"	"	1315	R.A. guns in Filter Beds are being withdrawn.	Orders from Brigade Commander.
"	"	1325	Capt. Cuthbertson in possession of Pill Box 314 with 20 men of HQ. & D. Companies, C.S.M. Milne, C.S.M. Barron, 4 L.M.G.s, 2 Thomson Sub-Machine Guns. They have taken up a position just behind Pill Box 314 and are under inaccurate mortar fire, suffering no casualties.	Reported to Brigade.
Filter Beds.	11 Dec	1325	Carrier Platoon reported enemy are now in the vicinity above Lai Chi Kok Hospital in area of L.135 - strength unknown - have been engaged by A.F.V. and Carrier with M.G. mounting at end of low road through Standard Vacuum Oil Coy. Two Carriers are in position above Lai Chi Kok - Castle Peak road junction and one below, covering road junction, What troops are there on his right?	Replied - No enemy troops between his right & Bn. HQ. We still hold P.B.314. Punjab hold P.B.312.
"	"	1420	2/Lieut. Fenwick with A. Coy., less one platoon, is believed to be in the region of Pt. 174608.	Noted.
"	"	1447	R.A. put shell fire down on Pt. 175605 and said if this was effective it could be repeated. Lt. Col. White said fire had come down on Pt. 176609. 2/Lieut. Bell, Intelligence Officer, who had just returned from a reconnaissance, reported that the fire had come down at 179619 and that the water was flowing from the dam, which had been burst.	Telephone conversation between Lt. Col. White & Brigade Major (Major Harland).
"	"	1500	Lt. Col. White liaised with Capt. Boomer, Winnipeg Grenadiers, and arranged a conference with him at Filter Beds House at 1600 hours. Present - Lt (QrMr) Bowes, who had brought forward Operation Order No. 3, Capt. Ford, 2/Lieut. Ford and Capt. Atkinson, R.A. Orders for withdrawal issued. Thinning out 1800 hours. Clear of position 1830 hours. Order of march - D. Coy., HQ. Coy. C. Bn. details under Major Pirie, Armoured Cars of Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps. Left half battalion under Major Burn to receive orders direct from Bdr. Wallis. D. Coy. to take up intermediate position astride Prince Edward road at railway bridge. Transport was available at Rear Bn. HQ. where it was found left half battalion had	Conference held by Lt. Col. White.

			already passed through, and Major Walker and Capt. Millar, with remains of Rear Bn. HQ., joined battalion and embarked without incident at Kowloon Old City Pier at 2030 hours.	Noted.
"	"	1600	Pill Box 314 ordered to withdraw. Telephone communication discontinued, D. Coy. having previously been ordered by C.O. to withdraw.	From Lt. Col. White to Capt. Cuthbertson.
"	"	1603	Am now in position Kowloon side of Lai Chi Kok on Castle Peak road junction. A.F.V. patrolling road for three miles. Two platoons A. Coy. in same area and the other 8 N.C.O.s and men of B. Coy. will hold this position until further orders. Please inform me of situation and any orders for night.	From Major Burn. Lt. Col. White sent him situation report & arranged with Bdr. Wallis to give Major Burn his orders for night move.
Filter Beds.	11 Dec	1800	C. Battalion commenced withdrawal.	Noted.
"	"	1830	C. Battalion completed evacuation of Filter Bed line and withdrew to Rear Bn. HQ.	
Murray Barracks.	"	2135	D. Coy. and Advance Bn. HQ. disembarked at Dockyard and were joined by Major Burn, who had left earlier with remainder of battalion.	Noted.
"	Night 11/12 Dec		Lt. Col. White obtained permission to re-organize the battalion and move to N.E. Sector at 0530 hours 12 Dec.	From Lt. Col. White
"	12 Dec	0400	Lt. Col. White spoke to G.O.C. & requested another copy of Operation Order No. 3, which had been destroyed when Filter Beds had been evacuated.	From Lt. Col. White
"	"	0530	Battalion move off to occupy N.E. Sector as held by Middlesex Regt. with composite pill box crews of R.S. and Middlesex. Though nearly four years in Hong Kong, the battalion had never manned this Sector.	Noted.
Taikoo Police Station.	"	0630	Reconnaissance and occupation of rear positions. Battalion to dispersal areas.	Noted.
"	"		High explosives will be brought from Green Island tonight. All pill boxes will be warned not to	From Island Command.

			open fire or expose Lyon lights or searchlights on this vessel. Vessel small single-funneled steamer towing two white life boats. Trip as follows - depart Star Ferry 1900 hours; arrive Green Island 2000 hours; depart Green Island 2359 hours; return Star Ferry arrive 0100 hours.	Pill boxes warned.
"	"	1220	All cross-harbour traffic has ceased. Enemy in vicinity of Peninsula Hotel and no movement will take place round pill boxes or anywhere else until after dark, as positions will be spotted. Remain dispersed until after dark.	To all companies from C. Battalion.
"	"	1630	Commencing tonight until further orders, one motor torpedo boat is to patrol close in on West side of Junk Bay in support of Rajput, and will sink any craft trying to cross the bay. Silent engine cruising is essential. She is to arrive nightly at Junk Bay, just after dark, and leave for Aberdeen at dawn via Shing Shi Mun. V.2 to give further detailed orders.	From Island HQ. to C. Battalion.
Taikoo Police Station.	12 Dec	1700	Stand to tonight 1745 hours to 1845 hours. A. and D. Companies will commence occupation of forward positions 1830 hours. Report when positions are occupied.	From C. Bn. to A., D. & HQ. Coys.
"	"	1734	A string of mule lighters will leave R.A.S.C. Camber and proceed East. Leading lighter will have two red lights at bow. They will move close into shore and then cross to Devil's Point, returning later to Shaukiwan.	From Island Comd. To A., D. & HQ. Coys. from C. Bn.
"	"	1750	Robinson Road blocked to all traffic at 18075349. Main and cable damaged.	Repairs in hand by P.W.D.
"	"	1805	Undoubtedly enemy will try to locate all pill boxes and localities. There must be no movement around these during daylight. Pill box crews and locality personnel must lie doggo until after dark.	From C. Bn. to A., D. & HQ. Coys.
"	"	1830	Occupation of forward positions, which had been previously reconnoitred.	
"	"	1832	Light policy tonight - Occasional. Recognition signal for motor torpedo boat - "O" for orange.	From C. Bn. to A., D. & HQ. Coys.

"	"	1835	There will be two motor torpedo boats off Patoi and two off Hameiwan, leaving at 1830 hours, and one going northwards will leave at 1845 hours.	" " "
"	"	1855	Until further orders, routine stand to will be 0615 hours to 0715 hours and 1800 hours to 1900 hours.	From C. Bn. to A., D. & HQ. Coys & all pill boxes.
"	"	2015	Road blocks. Right company astride road Quarry Point 225543; left coy. astride road North Point 225548-226546. Have yet to draw Dannert wire. Carriers' dispositions - Day, re-entrant 245543 to Ritz woodstack 244544; by night, road 246543 to re-entrant 245543.	From C.O. to East Bde. HQ.
"	"	2045	L/C. Phillips reported at 1300 hours 11 Dec. he was surrounded by the enemy at Smugglers Ridge when he was contacted by Capt. Newman, who brought them via Lion's Rock to Shatin, where he told them that they would have to face our own guns but that he knew where they were. On taking them up Shatin Pass they ran into an ambush, on which they all scattered. Later, when they got free of the ambush, they got together a party of 7 and came down Customs Pass road, skirting Kai Tak, where they got a rowing boat and rowed towards the Island, but were picked up by a patrol boat who brought them to the Island. They then reported to 2nd Echelon at 0930 hours 12 Dec.	As reported by L/C. Phillips. Party consisted of L/C. Phillips, HQ., Cpl. Penman, A., Cpl. Brown, A. L/C. McVie, A., Pte. Robertson, A., Pte. Ritchie, A., Bds. Cooper, HQ. These were from No. 9 Platoon, A. Coy., under Sgt. Richards.
Taikoo Police Station.	12 Dec	2225	Right and left companies C. Bn. in position.	To Island Command from C. Bn.
"	"	2315	Red Verrey light seen away to the left of our pill boxes and is not in our area.	Lt. Col. White informed Brigade.
"	13 Dec	0130	Between 0130-0230 information came through that British troops were withdrawing from Devils Peak and they would be landing from small craft towing sampans between Lyemun - Shaukiwan - Taikoo Dock.	All troops in these areas have been warned.
"	"	0245	West Brigade reported to Fortress - message No. 719 - that during night 11/12 Dec. B. and C. Battalions joined the Island on withdrawal from the Mainland and took over N.W. and N.E. Sectors and Pill Boxes 53, 54 and 57.	Noted

"	"	0355	Warn Pill Boxes 40, 41, 42, 43 and 45 Thracian coming into Lyemun in the next one and a half hours. Possible movement area - Magazine Pier and Junk Bay.	From G.S.O. II. A. & D. Companies notified.
"	"	0905	Launch leaving Holt's Wharf, Kowloon, coming to Queen's Pier with white flag flying. Don't fire.	From Island Command to C. Bn.
"	"	1250	Operation Order No. 4 is acknowledged.	From C. Bn. to Island Command.
"	"	1345	A large seaplane was brought down at Waterfall Bay.	Phone call to Adjutant.
"	"	1700	Ensure that all infantry units supported by artillery fire are fully aware of the artillery defensive fire tasks. All ranks to be warned against wild shooting. All ranks must maintain their positions at all costs to ensure final ejection of the enemy.	All companies made fully aware of their tasks, etc. and given copy of order.
"	"	1752	Light policy - Observation, and letter signal - "T" for Tommy. Gunboat at West Bay.	From Island Command
"	"	1755	Special Command Order is forwarded for information of all ranks.	To all companies from C. Bn.
"	"	1830	R.E. officer will report to you at 0730 hours 14 Dec. and will burn the river steamer opposite your pill box.	This was Major Burridge.
"	"	"	There is a considerable amount of shooting at road blocks. Use discretion - flash lights to stop transport.	By concentrator to Lt.Col. White.
Taikoo Police Station.	14 Dec	0155	Anti-personnel and anti-tank minefields have been laid on all beaches and likely enemy landing places. The minefields are wired in but all personnel should be warned. Specific information regarding the location of minefields can be obtained from "G" (Operations) or Chief Engineer.	From Fortress HQ. to C. Bn.
"	"	0315	The situation regarding transport is critical. Many vehicles have been lost or damaged beyond repair, resulting in few vehicles being now available for emergency moves. All vehicles not required at unit war stations will be	Returns to race-course :- One 3-ton lorry. Two small cars if replaced by motor cycles. Balance held:-

		returned to Race-course by 1000 hours.	Two 2-ton lorries, one 30-cwt truck, six 15-cwt trucks, 3 8-cwt trucks, 2 small cars, 2 motor cycles. From Fortress HQ.
"	"	0615 Strength return - Battle casualties Nil; Sick evacuated beyond R.A.P. Nil; Other causes Nil; Reinforcements since last return rendered Nil; Strength in the field 2 officers and 66 other ranks.	From D. Coy. to
"	"	1010 Medical aid may be obtained from the following posts - Tytum Gap 265511; Quarry Bay; Dairy Farm; shop opposite Taikoo Sugar Refinery 247543; Army Medical Stores 265533; Windy Gap 278475; D'Aguilar 285459; Stanley View 237478 and in the following fixed defences Pak Sha Wan, Sai Wan, Collinson, Stanley and Chung Am Kok.	Repeated to all companies.
"	"	1325 Message No. OB 23 - One officer per company will report to Major Dewar at West Brigade HQ. at 1530 hours today. B. and C. will proceed independently. HQ., A. and D. will rendezvous at Battalion HQ. 1445 hours. M.T. Officer will arrange transport.	To companies. Reconnaissance parties for move of battalion to Wanchai Gap after handing over N.E. Sector to 5/7 Rajput.
"	"	1335 Message No. OB 24 - There is still too much movement by day. Troops must rest as much as possible during the daytime and must at all times KEEP UNDER COVER. It is essential that positions should not be given away to enemy observers by unnecessary movement. There is also still too much indiscriminate rifle fire during the night. Sections should be concealed so as not to afford a target to a sniper. Return of sniping fire gives away the sentry's position with little chance of actually hitting the sniper. Should sniping take place, a patrol will be sent out to round up the sniper. Sentries will <u>not</u> return fire at unseen snipers. Supply lorries will not be turned back because driver lacks a pass.	From C. Bn. to all companies.

Taikoo
Police
Station

Lorries may be stopped for identification and, if there is adequate reason, the driver and lorry may be searched for arms. Many drivers, however, do not have passes. This alone will not be sufficient reason for preventing it from proceeding on its way. All ranks are too careless about references to locations and names of units on the telephone. It should be assumed that no telephone is totally secure and, therefore, clear reference to places and units must NOT be made. Such references will be by agreed code, by map reference or in some manner which will mean little or nothing to any outsider overhearing the conversation. All pill boxes and sections MUST have alternative positions prepared for use at short notice. Unit commanders will ensure that the above instructions are passed at once to all troops under their command, including Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps.

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| " | " | 1515 | A number of Chinese holders of dockyard passes have absconded. It is essential that all Chinese presenting passes for entry into prohibited areas should be searched for arms on entry as far as possible and the reason for entry verified. All European holders are to sign their own blue naval, red military or blue R.A.F. passes forthwith on the front page. | From East Brigade to C. Battalion. |
| " | " | 1825 | G.O.C. stresses the following points. (a) Alternative positions Mobile Artillery to be prepared at once under camouflage cover. (b) Alternative M.G. positions, firing from ground level, to be constructed tonight for all M.G.s on North shore in houses along water front. Any suitable building about 70 yards away may be used. Strengthening of each position to be carried out subsequently with R.E. advice from Major Berridge who will visit, but primary object is a firing position from dawn tomorrow. (c) All officers must take full control of all men at night and stop indiscriminate firing and alarmist reports. (d) Sentries must be doubled. (e) Dependent on visibility from Mainland and adjoining islands, | From Fortress HQ. |

			men should be encouraged to rest by day and work by night.		
	"	"	1900	Police on their patrols have been instructed to halt promptly on a sentry's challenge and, similarly, your men should be instructed to halt on a police challenge. Police patrols tonight and subsequent nights will be frequent - duties, anti-sabotage.	From C. Bn. to A., D. & HQ. Coys.
Taikoo Police Station	14 Dec		1954	Light policy for tonight - Observation. Letter sign - "M" for monkey. Gunboat station off Belcher's Point inside East boom.	From East Brigade to C. Battalion.
"	"	"	2017	Operational Instruction No. 5 acknowledged. Time 2015 hours.	From D. Company.
"	"	"	2033	Many cases have occurred where persons transmitting messages by phone to this Brigade HQ. asked for an officer to receive the message, whereas this could well have been done by a duty clerk. Will you please ensure that officers are not called upon to take such messages.	From East Brigade to C. Battalion.
"	"	"	2057	Corpses will not be sent to hospital for burial. It is the responsibility of the units to make burial arrangements in cemeteries or unit areas & to notify the chaplain concerned. Attention directed Fortress Administrative Instructions, Section 13.	
"	"	"	2200	Fortress Operation Order No. 5, Copy No. 4, acknowledged.	From C. Battalion to Fortress HQ.
"	15 Dec		0530	In order to prevent clashes between police and military patrols at night units will inform Brigade HQ. when & where their patrols will be operating. Police patrols are normally confined to urban area, between level of May Road and the water front.	To all companies from C. Battalion.
"	"	"	0800	HQ. Company acknowledged receipt of Battalion Operation Order and Instruction No. 3, Copy No. 5.	
"	"	"	0820	Repeated from East Infantry Brigade O.37 of 15 Dec. This Brigade is now largely in the foremost defended localities defending the sea and harbour and anti-tank obstacles. Mainland has taught us that the enemy watch our	From C. Bn. to B., C., HQ. Coys. C. Bn. and Z. Coy, Middx.

dispositions from concealed O.P.s. When ready, they open heavy artillery and mortar fire prior to attack. It follows, therefore, that all posts and localities must remain carefully concealed except during bad visibility. Care must be taken not to give away either actual or alternative positions by daylight movement. For example, where M.G. posts have their telephone in pill boxes, they must pass any message to their gun teams while in alternative positions by a defiladed route or crawling.

Taikoo Police Station	15 Dec	0733	Movement of the civil population to dispersal areas under arrangements made by Director of Medical Services will start forthwith. This movement will be confined, as far as possible, to the hours of daylight. Units will not interfere with the above movements to stop civilians from proceeding to their dispersal areas. Normal security measures may, of course, be taken, such as to searching of those passing through road blocks in localities for arms.	To all companies from C. Bn.
"	"	0820	Units will report any shell fire as accurately as possible. Map reference of shell bursts and, if possible, direction fire is coming from.	From C. Battalion to all companies.
"	"	1000	Where important messages involving movement of troops are received over the telephone, recipients will be most careful to check back the name and unit of the sender.	" " "
"	"	1115	Patrol returned from Mount Parker. Unable to trace enemy paratroops.	To C. Bn. from No. 1 Platoon, 1 Coy., H.K.V.D.C.
"	"	1130	Lt. Col. White attended brigade conference at West Brigade HQ.	From Lt.Col. White.
"	"	1458	Fortress informed that enemy sandbag position near observatory. Possible O.P. opposite Shaukiwan at Ma Lau Tong 267058. A cluster of small sampans & a ferry boat with a tug boat in tow	C.R.A. told all O.P.s to look out for suitable targets and engage on sight.
"	"	1458	Fortress informed that enemy sandbag position near observatory - possibly O.P. Opposite Shaukiwan	C.R.A. told all O.P.s to look out for

			at bay Ma Lau Tong 267058 a cluster of small sampans and a ferry boat with a tug boat in tow - look like landing craft. On Devil's Peak 280555, at track junction, one platoon of enemy with mules going North.	suitable targets and engage on sight.
"	"	1532	(1) Message, Operation Order No. 5, during night 15/16 Dec A. Bn. will relieve C. Bn. in the N.E. Sector. (2) Two pill boxes - 53 and 55 - will be retained by Z. Company, M.G. Bn. Pill Boxes 56 and 57 will be taken over by C. Bn. (3) These reliefs will commence at dusk and be carried out as quietly and unobtrusively as possible. (4) On completion, C. Bn. will move to Wanchai Gap by following route the main road Tai Hang village to road on track junction 224518, thence by truck to Wanchai Gap. C. Bn. will come under command of West Brigade. (5) O.C. C. Bn. will ensure that adequate dispersion is maintained throughout. (6) O.C. A. Bn. will report when change-over is complete.	From East Infantry Brigade to C. Bn. C. Bn. had then been twice in West Bde. and twice in East Bde. in 8 days.
Taikoo Police Station.	15 Dec	1620	Two pill boxes have been accurately ranged on. Units to hasten completion alternative positions. Alternative positions will be occupied by day and any pill boxes accurately ranged on will not be occupied at night - Alternative positions to be used.	From West Infantry Brigade to C. Bn.
Wanchai Gap.	"	2210	West Brigade reported to Fortress HQ. C. Battalion in position. Can be communicated with through E. Bn.	North & South across Island.
"	16 Dec	0330	B. Bn. phoned C. Bn. saying they were in communication with A. Company, C. Bn.	Noted.
"	"	0600	D. Company in position and in direct telephone communication with C. Bn.	Noted.
"	"	0630	A number of enemy attempted landing at Pak Sha Wan.	Dealt with by A. Bn.
"	"	0630	Two junks attempted landing at pill box 51, North Point.	Driven off.
"	"	0635	A. Bn. reported they fired on a junk and missed. Junk along Sandy Bay.	Noted.

"	"	0920	Strength return - Casualties in past 24 hours, Nil; strength, 20 officers 534 other ranks.	To D.A.G. 2nd Ech. from C. Bn.
"	"	1055	One motor launch flying a red flag will be proceeding from Taikoo Docks at 1300 hours today along the water front to, approximately, pill box 51, then N.W., to rescue crew from Russian ship 600 yards S.W. of Hong Kong Whampoa Dock Coy. No fire to be opened on either journey.	From West Brigade to C. Battalion.
"	"	1150	A composite platoon is being formed under command 2/Lt. Fairbairn. Platoon sergeant - Sgt. Fraser. Personnel - chiefly HQ. Company. This platoon will be transferred to D. Company today. Complete details are being arranged with O.C. B. Company and 2/Lieut. Fairbairn.	From C. Bn. to HQ., B. & D. Coys.
"	"	1323	There is still far too much movement by day. All those not on duty by day will lie doggo in their dispersal areas during the hours of daylight. Men will be in position and on the alert throughout the night. Movement of personnel and stores will be restricted to the hours of darkness.	To HQ., B. & C. Coys. from C. Bn.
"	"	1435	There have been a few cases in the last few days of what is called "wind up" or "jitters." This is a form of nervous excitement caused by unexpected noises or sights. It results in a temporary lack of self control which may deteriorate into panic and infect whole units. In war, panic causes more casualties than bullets, bombs or shells. This infection of morale is largely due to inexperience, rumour-mongering and lack of leadership. It can be and must be eradicated by confident leadership, by scotching every rumour at birth and by the determination of all ranks to meet the situation, however frightening, cool, calm and unafraid. I know you will not let the Regiment down.	
Wanchai Gap				
"	"	1545	White wooden poles with red tops have been found planted near a road bridge. Such poles are not used by the Royal Signals. If any such are found, they should be taken down and destroyed, unless	To all companies from C. Bn.

they carry telephone lines. In the latter case, Signals should be called and the lines tapped.

"	"	1700	Light policy for tonight is observation. One letter signal - "O" for orange. No gunboat position.	
"	"		Return of weapons held at 1800 hours today. Mortars 3" - six. Mortars 2" - four. Thomson sub-machine guns - 42. Vickers M.G.s - eleven in pill boxes. Light automatics - 58. Anti-tank Rifles - 3. Bombs, 3" mortar - Nil. Stocks issued to A. Bn. 15 Dec., bombs 2" mortar - 360. Bulk handed over to A. Bn. 15 Dec., Grenade D.36 - 79. 8/12.	From C. Bn. to General Staff, HQ. China Command & West Brigade HQ.
"	"	1830	C. Company moved to night position and B. Company moved North to C. Company's dispersal area. Reverse moves took place between 0700 and 0745 hours on 17 Dec.	
"	17 Dec	1050	Pill box 56 hit by enemy artillery fire. Pill box not occupied. Damage not yet estimated.	Noted.
"	"	1130	Enemy launches moving West bearing white flag. Not to be fired on.	Pill boxes warned.
"	"	1135	Fortress HQ. reports four N.C.O.s from Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps commissioned 2nd Lieut. in The Royal Scots.	2/Lt. A. Mackenzie " G.E. Swetenham " V. Gordon " T. Swan.
"	"	1147	C.S.M. Milne, D. Coy., reported Braemar platoon area had been heavily shelled and, while passing Mil. Electric, his car was hit by M.M.G. from Kowloon.	Noted.
"	"	1220	There will be no hostile action on the part of the enemy for the next three hours. This does not mean there will be no action by us.	Positions strengthened in so far as could be done without outside movement. Repeated to D. Coy.
"	"	1255	Repeating G.10 of 9 Dec. Units will ensure that aircraft will not be engaged by anti-aircraft L.M.G. at heights greater than 1800 feet. Engaging at heights greater than this is waste of ammunition. Ensure observation.	From West Brigade to C. Bn.

Wanchai Gap.	17 Dec	1300	A. Company has been heavily shelled throughout the morning. Casualties not yet determined.	From Adjutant, B. Bn.
"	"	1315	Vehicle state. 3-ton lorries - one; 30-cwt truck - one; 15-cwt trucks - seven; 8-cwt trucks - two; Petrol trucks - one; cars - six; motor cycles - two; Bren Carriers - five.	Message to Fortress HQ. 0720 hours today.
"	"	1820	E. Bn. is to release 3" mortar bombs, 250 of them to C. Bn.	From Island Command.
"	"	1832	Light policy tonight - Observation. Letter signal for tonight - "M" for monks. Gunboat location West Bay.	From West Brigade to C. Battalion.
"	"	1900	Fortress order follows. Begins. Make clear to all units that north shore M.G. pill boxes need not themselves be occupied but the locality will be defended as a fixed defence locality, with freedom to fight it out in most suitable place. Order ends. This places upon officers in command of locality responsibility of deciding exact position from which his weapons will be fought in cases where pill boxes have been definitely ranged. Acknowledge.	From West Brigade to C. Battalion.
"	"	1910	11 Platoon reports locality being shelled by enemy. Have temporarily withdrawn from pill boxes. Present position in nearby side street.	11 Platoon told to re- occupy after shelling if habitable.
"	"	1935	One section mortars will move into position at 207525. Signals will lay cable to 207525 forward along Black's Link. This mortar section will camouflage position and be prepared to support D. Company.	This section, under Sgt. Huntley, move off by M.T. to position at 0530 hours.
"	"	1945	Two European police, armed with Tommy guns, are being sent out to investigate a light above Filter Beds and above Bowen Road Hospital. Warn all ranks, and if firing is heard it will be these police.	From West Brigade to C. Battalion.
"	18 Dec	0547	Lt.Col. White spoke to C. Company and ordered withdrawal as arranged to commence 0610 hours thinning out, line clear at 0640 hours. Lt.Col. White explained to C. Company commander, Lieut. Stancer, that he should stand by in dispersal area as he might have to	Noted.

			re-occupy position to counter attack.	
"	"	0705	Vehicle state. Lorries - one; 30-cwt - one; 15-cwt - seven; 8-cwt - two; petrol trucks - one; motor cycles - two; cars - five; Bren Carriers - five.	From C. Bn. to Fortress HQ. and West Brigade.
Wanchai Gap.	18 Dec	0925	12 enemy aircraft bombed North side of Island.	Noted.
"	"	1451	Fire Brigade may find it necessary to move fire floats up and down water front, North side, at any time. Description of vessels - one large, grey, with black funnel; one small, white, with yellow funnel. Vessels at Ping Shan wharf, West of vehicular ferry.	From Island Command to C. Battalion.
"	"	1700	Light policy tonight - Observation. Letter signal for tonight - "T" for Tommy. Gunboat off Belcher's.	To all companies from C. Battalion.
"	"	1815	Regretted that T. Swan not available for a commission in your regiment. Efforts will be made to find another officer.	From Fortress HQ. 2/Lieut. G.C. Hamilton joined instead.
"	"	2125	C. Company reported they saw red Verrey light from direction North Point.	Repeated Fortress and West Brigade.
"	"	2145	D. Company reported having heard M.G. and rifle fire and seen shells bursting around West end of Chemical fire. Suggested it was being shelled all round, and any attempt at landing appeared to be at North Point.	" " "
"	"	2300	Some enemy have landed at Taikoo, probably working towards city.	Noted.
"	19 Dec	0030	Enemy now pushing along North shore and have reached Pill Box 51. Carriers to be ready to make bold attack if necessary.	
"	"	0050	Four white Verrey lights seen coming from the direction of Caroline Hill.	
"	"	0050	C.O. ordered D. Company to take over two 2" mortars from Carrier Platoon.	
"	"	0010	Brigade Commander to C.O. saying Command required assurance C. Battalion was in solid line to prevent penetration from East.	C.O. gave this assurance.

			Reserve company could be used for this purpose.	
"	"	0115	No. 2 Police Station phoned C.O. asking for situation. C.O. gave situation and asked if anything was happening neat police station. Answer - all quiet. Police to phone C.O. in one hour's time.	
"	"	0120	C.O. informed West Brigade Commander of situation around Gloucester Road Police Station and cooperation between police and O.C. forward platoon. Lateral penetration appeared to be localizing.	
Wanchai Gap.	19 Dec	0135	C.O. spoke to D. Company commander who said that, about half an hour previously, he had reported to a duty officer Hennessy to say that there was heavy firing coming from Caroline Hill area and from spur East of Caroline Hill. Capt. Pinkerton had got the two 2" mortars from Carriers and had plenty of bombs of his own. Was ordered to collect all bombs from Carriers, as they would not now require them.	
"	"	0155	C.O. E. Bn. to C.O. C. Bn. saying he sent out one platoon to patrol pump road junction, one platoon to West Brigade and one platoon to man the Gap. O.C. C. Bn. agreed to take over Gap platoon from his reserve company.	Lt. Glasgow ordered to take one platoon from his company & relieve E. Bn. platoon at Gap, & to call in at C. Bn. HQ. on his way to take over & receive detailed situation. (0200 hours).
"	"	0215	Lt. Glasgow called in at Bn. HQ. and was given situation by C.O. Remainder of B. Company to dispersal areas.	
"	"	0230	C.O. spoke to D. Company. Situation was quiet in front, but a little desultory firing from Caroline Hill direction after nearly one hour's quiet. C.O. explained move of E. Bn. platoons, and told D. Coy. C. Bn. had taken over Gap behind C. Company. Asked for number of bombs handed over by Carriers.	

"	"	0245	D. Company reports having seen two red Verey lights from Jardine's Lookout.	
"	"	0255	West Brigade commander spoke to B. and C. Battalions saying enemy, in some considerable strength, have landed North Point and have been ferrying over more during the night. Enemy appeared to have made good the ridge to Jardine's Lookout, which they attacked and captured. West Brigade sending out a platoon to investigate. D. Company's report - five Volunteer survivors have reported to them from Lookout.	
"	"	0300	G.O.C. spoke to Col. White & ordered two Carriers to top of Leighton Hill (F. Bn. HQ.).	Order repeated to O.C. Carrier Platoon Capt. Slater Brown through O.C. D. Coy.
"	"	0310	Informed O.C. F. Bn. and located his headquarters.	
"	"	0310	B. Company report platoon in Gap position and company in C. Company dispersal area.	
"	"	0313	D. Company ordered two Carriers to F. Bn. HQ.	
Wanchai Gap.	19 Dec	0325	C.O. to D. Company. Situation quiet. One lance corporal and four privates, Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps No. 3 Company, are with them. Told to hold and cool off. Use them for carrying mortar bombs and rations. Given situation.	
"	"	0330	Commander West Brigade to C.O. for dispositions of reserve company.	
"	"	0335	Signal sergeant looked in at C. Company old dispersal area and is laying a line back for B. Company.	
"	"	0410	Spoke to C.O. F. Bn. (Col. Stewart) at 213534.	
"	"	0415	Brigade Commander told C.O. the platoon he had sent out to Jardine's Lookout had contacted enemy and appeared to have halted enemy. He said they might work West down Happy Valley.	

"	"	0425	Spoke to D. Company about above and asked for news of two Carriers.
"	"	0440	O.C. F. Battalion phoned to say Carriers had arrived, under Sgt. Ritchie. Gave him situation Jardine's Lookout and told him to find out from Ritchie our "lay-out", as unsafe to discuss on phone.
"	"	0441	C.O. told Brigade Commander Carriers had arrived.
"	"	0500	C.O. spoke to E. Bn. and found Hennessy was duty officer and took Capt. Pinkerton's message re Caroline Hill at 0105 hours.
"	"	0515	C.O. spoke to O.C. E. Battalion who was out of touch with situation. Told him about above and asked if he had any transport available, and might it stand by in case any of C. Battalion troops were required quickly along Stubbs Road. O.C. E. Battalion agreed and said at same time he was sending out a patrol along Stubbs Road.
"	"	0525	B. Company given situation by C.O. and told to pass it on to all ranks.
"	"	0532	C.O. spoke to C. Company, giving enemy dispositions. O.C. C. Company, when asked, did not wish to alter any of his night dispositions at dawn as he considered them suitable for day & night.
"	"	0535	C.O. E. Battalion spoke to C. Battalion about his dispositions. As a result, C.O. decided to detail one platoon B. Company to South end of Middle Gap Road to block any entry along top catchment into position.
Wanchai Gap.	19 Dec	0545	O.C. B. Company ordered to send platoon to block catchment entrance.
"	"	0555	C.O. spoke to D. Company and gave information enemy towards Filter Beds. D. Company reported a brisk engagement going on in Happy Valley. Rifle and M.G. fire towards North end of valley.
"	"	0600	C.O. to O.C. E. Battalion reported above and was told enemy had

driven Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps off Mount Parker.

- " " 0607 Brigade Commander informed, and told C.O. he was sending reserve company to attack and clear S.E. of Happy Valley contour on high ground 225528. This company was "A" from B. Battalion reserve, and it would move by march route Garden Road to Wanchai Gap.
- " " 0615 C.O. spoke to Col. Kidd, O.C. B. Bn., about route for A. Company, C. Bn., May Road - Magazine Gap - Coombe Road. C.O. would arrange a guide to be at Magazine Gap. O.C. B. Battalion said A. Company had still one platoon to come in. Guides to meet.
- " " 0620 Col. Kidd reported A. Company had left. At 0630 hours, Adjutant B. Bn. reported "A" left 0615 hours.
- " " 0630 Despatch rider sent out to contact A. Coy. and guide over Magazine Gap to Coombe Road.
- " " 0635 O.C. E. Battalion told of move by A. Coy. down Coombe Road and asked to let through his position. C. Coy. told about A. Coy. 0642.
- " " 0640 O.C. Mortar Platoon ordered to send one section to positions at South end of Middle Gap Road, covered by platoon of B. Company, who were watching catchment.
- " " 0644 D. Company reported 5/7 Rajput remnants arrived at pill box 57 and he was collecting them at his HQ. They had no arms or equipment. D. Company was moving one section on to track to his South rear. Told of A. Company move.
- " " 0640 C.O. phoned B. Company. Said A. Coy. was coming back towards Magazine Gap. Told to keep one platoon tucked away and leave room for A. Company in his dispersal area if necessary. Keep lookout for them. A's role is counter-attack.
- " " 0645 C.O. phoned Brigadier. Enquired whether A. Company had had any orders. Brigadier replied they were to report to us and C.O. was to disperse them. Said we should keep company fixed so that it could move round Middle Gap Road.

Wanchai Gap.	19 Dec	0630	Situation Report. C. Company reported small arms fire on their right over hill. Could not estimate distance. Told to keep eyes open and report.	
"	"	0635	Reported from Pill Box 57 through D. Company. HQ. 5 Rajput remnants of their company have reported to Pill Box 57. Is keeping them there. Say estimated strength of enemy is two battalions. Does not know how credible this information is.	Repeated to West Brigade.
"	"	0645	Col. Sutcliffe phoned. Said he had trucks available when we wanted to use them. C.O. declined to bring "A" over open road in trucks and said he could get them around under cover.	
"	"	0650	C.O. told O.C. B. Company to send someone to Gap, where his platoon is to bring A. Company along this (Bn. HQ.) road. Ordered to report to us when he had.	
"	"	0655	C.O. told B. Coy. that we had contacted A. Coy. and said he wanted General to put them in dispersal area where <u>he</u> was (Rookery Nook) and keep them separate. Capt. Campbell ordered to report to Bn. HQ.	
"	"	0700	Brigadier to C.O. Reserve troops to be sent up as quickly as possible. Enemy are round to Brigade HQ., via Middle Gap Road to Wong Nei Chong.	
"	"	0701	C.O. to O.C. E. Battalion. Reported that Brigade was being attacked and asked him to put A. Company (passing through his position) on trucks and send up to area Brigade HQ. to deal with situation.	
"	"	0703	C.O. met Capt. Campbell. Gave him his position on map. Campbell reported where his company was. Told him that Japanese were round Brigade HQ. Told him to get his company (Brigade reserve company) via Wanchai Gap, embus troops on Canadian lorries and go forward.	
Wanchai Gap.	"	0708	C.O. phoned Brigade HQ. Could not get them on phone.	
"	"	0710	B. Company phoned. Told O.C. B. Coy. that O.C. A. Coy. had been	

given his orders. Confirmed that B. Coy. was all there. Told not to let it scatter. Company would be ferried out on trucks and role will be to counter-attack in support of A. Company if required.

" " 0713 C.O. told Brigadier that A. Company (reserve company) were on their way to get him out of his HQ. shelters.

" " 0715 G.O.C. phoned C.O. Told him that reserve company were on their way out to Brigade. C.O. said we should go all out - "hammers of hell."

" " 0717 C.O. phoned G.1 (Col. Newman). Said A. Coy. was on its way out and asked him to set reserve company on its way unbundled as quickly as possible. E.6 reported red flares seen from direction Mt. Nicholson.

" " 0720 Sgt. Russell, beach defence gun Taikoo, reported he was over-run. Did not fire a round. Took breech-block out of gun. Is back at Island Bay. Two hundred Japanese tried to capture him. Reported to Fortress HQ.

" " 0730 C.O. multiple call to D. and C. Coys. Said enemy appear to be around West Bde. HQ. I am sending out a reserve company to counter-attack. Therefore the enemy attack was to East and S.E. of us. Ordered that C. and D. Coys. were to cover way West to Command HQ. and stop any penetration in that direction.

" " 0738 A. Company left at 0728. Reported by Adjutant, who saw them off. C.O. informed.

" " 0741 2/Lts. Swetenham and Hamilton reported here. Sent to report to O.C. HQ. Coy.

" " 0750 C.O.s B. and E. Battalions enquired how things were doing. Said reserve coy. had left at 0728 hours. C.O. E. Battalion said company of sappers going round Middle Gap North and Black's Link and joining up at Middle Gap. Navy coming up from Aberdeen.

" " 0815 C.O. E. Battalion phoned and said that Brigadier reports reserve company not yet arrived. C.O. reported that they had left at

0728 and might be fighting their way through.

" " 0835 Reported to Major Walker, enemy somewhere on Mt. Cameron, from E.6.

" " 0837 B. Coy. ordered to move one platoon to deal with situation. Lt. Glasgow reported our troops went up there already.

Wanchai Gap. 19 Dec 0843 2/Lt. Swetenham volunteered to go with two men to contact A. Coy (of whom there was little news) to find out what was happening to them and where they had gone to.

" " 0845 C.O. told 2/Lt. Swetenham that, having made contact, quickest way of getting information back was in E. Bn., Wanchai Gap.

" " 0850 Capt. Pinkerton received reliable information from a civilian that Japanese have built a barricade on King's Road, East of Power Station, which is being shelled occasionally. They have anti-tank rifles on barricade, which has already put one of our armoured cars out of action. Major Paterson in Hong Kong Electric thinks he cannot hold out much longer.

" " 0855 E. Bn. reported that his previously reported in Mt. Cameron might be friendly and to go carefully.

" " 0857 Command phoned battalion. C.O. said Bn. HQ. was staying here and, if necessary, fighting it out. C.O. said troops on Mt. Cameron almost certainly our own.

" " 0900 2/Lt. Swetenham left with two volunteers to contact A. Coy. (Ptes. Lee & Gunderson). Left in small car, L/C Gibson driving.

" " 0901 C. Coy. reported that motor torpedo boats (not known if ours or not) are moving across the Bay to Devil's Peak.

" " 0905 Troops on Mt. Cameron are our own (Canadians plus one platoon B. Coy.). Repeated to B. Coy.

" " 0915 D. Coy. reported that troops of Middx. have seen some enemy on Squatter's Hill at back of Pill Box 53.

"	"	0918	C.O. phoned E.6. Said we were watching Canadians going up Mt. Cameron and told him again that A. Coy. had been sent out at 0728 and volunteers had followed to try and contact them. Told him that mortars were one section at Middle Gap Road. Offered him use of two mortars spare at Bn. HQ., which C.O. E. Bn. accepted.
"	"	0935	B. Bn. Adjutant phoned and said that one of their companies was just below Jardine's Lookout in contact with F. Bn. Duty Officer repeated from here.
Wanchai Gap.	19 Dec	0940	C.O. phoned Fortress HQ. (G. Operations). Gave number of spare men at Bn. HQ. as 35 (including 10 signallers, stretcher bearers and battalion staff). Cooks and Q.M. staff at other end. General spoke and C.O. informed him that our pill boxes were still intact (b) one company behind protecting Canadians (c) one platoon holding Wanchai Gap (d) our M.T. and drivers were helping E. Bn.
"	"	0945	C.O. phoned D. Coy. D. Coy. reported everything O.K.
"	"	0950	C.O. phoned Fortress HQ. and reported that 2/Lt. Swetenham had returned and could not trace A. Company in area of Brigade HQ. Assured that they had got through but trucks near Brigade HQ. were on fire.
"	"	0951	C.O. reported to Brigade that A. Coy. in his opinion had got through.
"	"	0950	C.O. phoned E.6 (Col. Sutcliffe). Reported that volunteer officer had got within 100 yards of Brigade HQ. and no enemy between Brigade and us. Decided to hold line Mt. Cameron - Bennett's Hill.
"	"	1003	C.O. phoned B. Coy. Told them we were holding line Mt. Cameron - Bennett's Hill. B. Coy. have one platoon and Canadians have one platoon on Mt. Cameron. C.O. sent men and officer to try and contact these platoons.
"	"	1012	C.O. phoned B. Coy. for company commander. B. Coy. reported Lt. Glasgow was on his way to see C.O.

"	"	1017	Phoned information of enemy coming from Causeway Bay to Fortress HQ. (G. Operations).	
"	"	1021	Major of E. Bn. called on C.O. Told him we were to hold Mt. Cameron - Bennett's Hill. Canadian reported one section of anti-aircraft were on Mt. Cameron but did not know that Canadians had a platoon there. Canadian officer was Major Hodgkinson.	
"	"	1025	Major Hodgkinson left with O.C. HQ. Coy. (Capt. Ford) and two new officers to organize a force to hold line Mt. Cameron - Bennett's Hill.	
"	"	1115	D. Coy. reported that they had been in touch with Hong Kong Electric who said six Middx., 8 Volunteers and 1 Free French still intact. Six wounded Middx. in the building; are being sniped and machine gunned from pretty well all round them.	
"	"	1120	C.O. phoned E. Bn. Told him we had made top of Mt. Cameron.	
Wanchai Gap.	19 Dec	1135	C.O. inquired if he wanted any M.T. or Drivers. Said no.	
"	"	1137	Major Pirie, Lt. Bowes and Capt. Millar (sick) were told to report to E. Bn.	
"	"	1138	M.T. drivers told to immobilize trucks and report to Brigade HQ.	
"	"	1140	10 Platoon, B. Company, phoned information that there was no enemy on forward slope of Mt. Cameron. Miles phoned Lt. Glasgow to hold left flank and Capt. Ford to hold right flank.	Pte. Myles was on phone at Middle Gap Garage & no line had yet been laid further forward.
"	"	1215	C.O. phoned C. Company. Situation quiet. C.O. said Bn. HQ. intend to hold on. C. Company were told to stay there and hold on (pockets of resistance).	
"	"	1220	C.O. phoned C.Q.M.S. Taylor (C. Coy.) and asked what he had done about getting forward M. & V.	
"	"	1225	A. Company reported by runner that only 15 effective men were left; 2/Lt. Fenwick killed; 2/Lt. Hart wounded. Asked for instruction.	C.O. phoned information to Col. Sutcliffe. A.

		Are at Wong Nei Chong Gap (Brigade HQ.)	Coy. 200 yards below Bde. HQ. Bde. HQ. not yet directly attacked.
"	"	1230 C.O.'s reply via runner to A. Coy. was "Well done." Suggested to O.C. E. Bn. that he might organize another relief of Brigade.	
"	"	1250 C.O. phoned Fortress HQ. (280) Neave with news of A. Company. Told Neave we had arrived 200 yards West of Brigade. Being shelled. 15 effectives left. Company were held up. Reported that runner had been sent to E. Bn. to give information to C.O.	
"	"	1330 C.O. received Operation Order No. 6 ordering C. Battalion to advance and capture Jardine's Lookout at 1500 hours. C.O. registers his protest with G.1 (Col. Newnham) who, while agreeing task difficult, confirmed O.O. 6. This operation entailed the battalion, which was in position North and South across Island from Pill Boxes 56, 57A, and 57, to South of Mt. Cameron - approximate distance two miles - concentrating and attacking an objective over two miles to the East flank. It was assumed that A. Coy. had captured Wong Nei Chong Gap. The battalion plan, therefore, was that four Carriers, followed by D. Coy. with seven machine guns from pill boxes, would rendezvous at the Petrol Pump on Stubbs Road at 1530 hours, proceed via Wong Nei Chong Gap, and attack Jardine's Lookout from Stanley Mound direction, C. Company in close support of D. Company. The battalion rendezvoused as arranged but Carriers and D. Coy. came under accurate mortar and machine gun fire opposite old brigade shelters and, having suffered casualties, were withdrawn by C.O. till dusk.	
Wanchai Gap.	"	1830 C.O. and Capt. Pinkerton reported to Fortress HQ. and explained situation to G.O.C. C.O. said battalion would again attack Jardine's Lookout during night 19/20 Dec., to join up with B. Coy. and composite HQ. Coy. under Capt. Ford. G.O.C. concurred, and said Petrol Pump cross roads must be held at all costs.	

Petrol Pump.	20 Dec	0135	Sgt. Walker, Armoured Cars, Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, reported holding Wong Nei Chong Gap. Was informed of our attack by D., HQ. and B. Companies.	
"	"	0100	C. Company moved forward on Sir Cecil's Ride but were held up on line of catchment. D. Company again moved forward to attack and reached Wong Nei Chong Gap unopposed. A party of R.A. from Stanley, under Major Hunt, reported that the knoll East of and above police station was strongly held by enemy. These R.A., with some Canadians and Indians, then withdrew. Two attacks were made on the knoll but were driven off each time by enemy grenades. In the second attack, Capt. Pinkerton, O.C. D. Company, was wounded with others. Capt. Ford with HQ. Composite Company, and Capt. Glasgow with B. Company, unable to make much progress down Black's Link during daylight because of accurate machine gun and mortar fire, made contact with D. Company in Wong Nei Chong Gap (at about 0300 hours). 0300 Liaised with Capt. Pinkerton, who had been wounded, and planned an attack on the knoll with B. Coy. and a party of D. Coy. under 2/Lt. Ford. This attack was also beaten back, B. Coy. encountering the same difficulties as D. Coy. had already done, and 2/Lt. Ford was unable to find a way round the rear due to the steep ascent and wire obstacles. A defensive position was then taken up, West of Wong Nei Chong Gap, extending across Sir Cecil's Ride to Tai Hang Road, where B. Coy. 2/14 Punjab under Capt. Kamta Prasad, continued the line.	N.B. Delay in this attack was due to one company Winnipeg Grenadiers who attacked this knoll after D. Coy.
"	"	0325	Situation report to Fortress HQ. One company attacking Wong Nei Chong Gap and should have made contact with R.A. from Stanley. Will make contact with companies coming round via Black's Link. Also one company in Sir Cecil's Ride area.	
"	"	0415	C. Coy., having patrolled forward to Jardine's Lookout, reported enemy estimated 500 strong holding high ground with mortars and something that looked like a howitzer.	

Petrol Pump.	20 Dec	0835	Armoured cars from Wong Nei Chong Gap ordered back to petrol pump. Two coys. at 224523 area and two coys. at ring contour 223518 area. In touch with B. Coy 2/14 Punjab.	
"	"	0900	Orders issued to hold petrol pump cross roads.	
"	"	1200	Capt. Cuthbertson (Adjutant) with field telephone sent out to Mt. Nicholson to contact HQ. Composite Company.	
"	"	1253	Two other ranks (Sgt. Richards and Pte. Crowley) turned up here after three days wandering, having seen no large concentration of Japanese, but companies everywhere. On 15 Dec. they took sampan to Waglan. On 18th sampan to Sui Kong, then to Putoi, inhabited only Chinese fishermen. On 19th to Lamma - no Japanese there, life quite normal. (Sgt. Richards having been cut off in withdrawal from Mainland on 11 Dec.)	From R.A., Aberdeen.
"	"	1500	Capt. Cuthbertson made contact with HQ. Composite Coy. and orders them back to petrol pump area.	
"	"	1730	Enemy attack on D. Coy. who, having inflicted casualties, were forced back on to petrol pump line. D. Coy. still held off further attacks and were aided by rain in their short withdrawal.	
"	"	1930	D. Coy. ordered into battalion reserve. Line here from right to left by B - A - C Coys - B. Coy. 2/14 Punjab. Bn. HQ. on road side by No. 41 Stubbs Road.	
Stubbs Road.	21 Dec	0830	Capt. Cuthbertson sent to command C. Coy., as Lts. Stancer and Baird were wounded.	
"	"	1035	Two 3" mortars and 90 bombs sent up from 2/14 Punjab as ours were running short of ammunition but had done some excellent shooting. Capt. Kamta Prasad liaised throughout the day.	
"	"	1810	C.O. reported Fortress HQ. he had been round line and all posts holding solid.	
"	"	2140	A Japanese patrol scored a lucky mortar hit on HQ. of C. Coy., one of our forward companies, and hit	

			Capt. Cuthbertson. Company still in position, 2/Lieut. Haywood in command.
"	22 Dec	0405	C.O. reported to Fortress HQ., everything quiet on battalion front.
Stubbs Road.	"	0745	White house on Sir Cecil's Ride at 224518 lively with Japanese activity. Small parties have trickled down to it but show no signs of coming on against our line. Artillery asked to shoot up and out 3" mortars engaged successfully.
"	"	1132	Very heavy mortar fire from 225522 at 800 yards range. R.A. assistance asked for.
"	"	1300	Battalion ordered by Fortress HQ. to withdraw West of Mt. Nicholson Camp.
"	"	1325	Fortress HQ. reported Japanese digging in on lower slopes of Mt. Nicholson 50 yards from R. Scots positions. Patrols sent out to investigate and found it was only our own troops digging alternative positions.
"	"	1600	Our positions now completely overlooked by enemy from Mt. Nicholson and Jardine's Lookout. Company 5/7 Rajput broke on left of B. Coy., 2/14 Punjab, so presumed their only British officer had been killed. This company afterwards again moved forward but not to original positions. Capt. Kamta Prasad reported only 14 men left in his company. Bn. HQ. mortared for several hours; 1 killed and 9 wounded.
"	"	1600	Orders for withdrawal at 1900 hours issued to companies after reconnaissance by C.O. and Capt. Ford (now acting as Adjutant).
"	"	1900	Withdrawal commenced, C. and A. Coys., followed 1930 by B. Coy. and D. Coy. At 2000 hours B. Coy. 2/14 Punjab conformed. New layout as per sketch.
"	"	2100	Battalion in new position. C.O. asked West Brigade for assurance that Mt. Cameron would be held. This was given.

	23 Dec	0200	Despatch rider from Brigade saying Mt. Cameron lost. Troops coming back in disorder. Wanchai Gap being held by R.E. and details 2 R.S. A thoroughly unsavoury situation for 2 R.S., otherwise a quiet night.
	"	"	0730 C.O. ordered withdrawal to Wanchai Gap, to be occupied after dark.
	"	"	0905 A. Coy. HQ. in area West of Albert Convent.
	"	"	0915 Details of B. Coy. under Capt. Glasgow, Bn. HQ. C. Coy. two sections under Cpl. Garrie and D. Coy. held across Stubbs Road from Mt. Nicholson Camp to Happy Valley - Wong Nei Chong Road, but withdrawn by C.O. at 1600 hours.
Stubbs Road	23 Dec	1415	C.O. contacted G.III near Wanchai Gap. Battalion had been out of communication with everyone throughout night 22/23 Dec and day 23 Dec. Received orders to occupy Wanchai Gap and Mt. Cameron and was given a composite company under Sgt. Richards and some details of A. Coy. under Sgt. Robb which had been sent up from the rear. Mt. Cameron clear of enemy. C.O. put these troops in position and rejoined battalion at Stubbs Road. D. Coy. in close contact with enemy off Mt. Nicholson had to fight it out till dark and then slip back via Bowen Road and Happy Valley to Wanchai Gap.
Wanchai Gap.	"	1630	Bn. HQ. occupied battalion shelters at Wanchai Gap with road block at No. 49 Stubbs Road and Black's Link North end taken over from Royal Marines, who were on Bowen Road under Major Farrington, R.M. Two companies on to Mt. Cameron from Middle Gap Garage to Black's Link. Coombe Road by C. Coy. Police Station Hill by B. Coy. and two machine gun teams (composite). One remaining Carrier protection of left flank.
	"	"	1730 Communication opened and situation reported to G.O.C.
	"	"	1930 Canadians returned and took over positions from Middle Gap Garage to Bennett's Hill. Active patrolling during night; odd enemy met and scuppered. Situation well under control. Black's Link post

engaged a few inquisitive enemy,
who retired. A quiet night.

"	24 Dec	0032	Situation report to Fortress HQ.	
"	"	0330	Considerable numbers of enemy reported by road block collecting at No. 49 Stubbs Road. Artillery asked to shoot at dawn, which was successful.	
"	"	0715	Reported Mt. Cameron held on North and Centre by 2 R.S. Enemy appear on South side.	
"	"	1735	Royal Marines patrol visited Wanchai Gap. A quiet day. A. Coy. 14 strong and D. Coy. 4 strong sent back to Peak Club to re-organize under 2/Lt. Brownlow and Major Pirie.	
"	"	1800	(Approx) Impossible orders for night patrols received. C.O. remonstrated with Brigade and told to modify and arrange with Col. Sutcliffe, O.C. Canadians. But patrol to Mt. Nicholson and small standing patrol to remain in observation 25 Dec in wood stacks, Mt. Nicholson Camp, must be carried out.	
"	"	2230 2355	2/Lt. Fairbairn sent out with a fighting patrol along Black's Link and returned when he reported approximately 50 enemy in 48 and 49 Stubbs Road. Also East of Mt. Cameron enemy heard digging and a mortar observed firing South.	
Wanchai Gap	24 Dec	2300	Major Condon, Sgt. Woolwright and 14 other ranks left on patrol for Mt. Nicholson Camp patrol. Cpl. Etherington and 4 men to remain behind in observation of enemy.	
"	25 Dec	0120	Condon returned and reported houses 48 and 49 definitely held. Patrol could have got through but return would have been impossible. Brigade informed, and ordered no further attempt to be made.	
"	"	0020	Fortress HQ. informed all quiet on battalion front.	
"	"	0022	E. Bn. report penetration about 202513.	Reported to G. Ops
"	"	0107	Pte. Wilson (2/Lt. Haywood's runner) reported return of patrol.	

" " 0115 2/Lt. Haywood has nothing of interest to report.

" " 0120 Pte. Cheyne wounded in shoulder. Sent to Advanced Dressing Station, Peak Mansions. E. Bn. reported fair amount of activity Aberdeen area and slight break through at 198510.

" " 0230 Enemy reported advancing up Aberdeen track.

" " 0240 R.E. platoon reported C. Bn. for duty and was attached to C. Coy. - approximate strength 1 officer 35 other ranks.

" " 0243 R.E. platoon going into position on Aberdeen Road to cover road and track - position approximately 50 yards down from signal Exchange. R.E. platoon commander - 2/Lt. Wakefield.

" " 0245 West Infantry Brigade informed of latest developments.

" " 0300 Enemy reported turning attack from Bennett's Hill South. G. Ops. informed to tell Comdr. Miller, Naval Dockyard.

" " 0315 West Infantry Brigade informed of recent developments - "Turning of attack."

" " 0330 Major Bailey, B. Bn., passed message "Send help urgently. Being overpowered. Two casualties." (Aberdeen Reservoir). Asked by O.C. C. Bn. for a situation report.

" " 0400 Message from West Infantry Brigade ordering a patrol of 1 officer and 20 to Aberdeen North Reservoir, thence along N.E. shore to contact R.N. on Bennett's Hill. Return via track 220513 and report whether own troops in position. E. Bn. sent for troops from Magazine Gap. Patrol reported ready to leave hours.

" " 0412 Bailey at Aberdeen informed of above.

" " 0420 R.A. asked to fire on house 48 Stubbs Road four rounds and repeat hourly.

Wanchai Gap	25 Dec	0437	Unable to comply. Moving guns. Will ring when in new position. Will be before dawn.
"	"	0505	Bailey at Aberdeen Reservoir reported situation reverting to normal but troops a bit mixed up - 4 casualties.
"	"	0515	Major Pirie was given command of D. Coy. and was to be in charge of re-organization of A. and D. Companies at 118 The Peak during the morning of 25 Dec.
"	"	0530	West Infantry Brigade informed of situation to date.
"	"	0600 0800	The battalion withdrew from its to night positions into day positions, A. & D. Coys. going into reserve to re-organize and re-equip.
"	"	0900	Message from G. Operations stated no offensive action to be taken unless attacked up to 1100 hours, maybe 1130 hours, whilst negotiations are going on under a flag of truce in Happy Valley.
"	"	1115	C. Battalion out of communication, Chief Signal Officer, Col. Levett, having visited Wanchai Gap at 1425 reported shelling too heavy at present and useless to attempt to repair communications.
"	"	1125	Message from West Brigade. Present positions to be maintained at all costs. Forward patrolling will take place with the object of denying the enemy observation from the high ground Mt. Cameron and Bennett's Hill. Nos. 4 and 7 Coys., Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, will occupy the general support line Sanatorium (inclusive) to 191513.
			During the period of truce, the enemy moved forward, bombed, shelled and mortared all known present positions and other positions. Artillery fire was called on for a mortar position being dug between Wanchai Gap and Black's Link. Guns were laid on and ready to fire but C.R.A. forbade fire till further orders.
"	"	1245	Armistice ceased. By this time they had made considerable forward dispositions.

"	"	1330	Bombing, shelling and mortaring continuing, and now enemy are machine gunning all positions. Enemy playing merry hell. As result of above, C. Company were forced out of their positions.
"	"	1400	Bn. HQ. vacated shelters and went up Police Station Hill, visited positions. B. Coy. & two machine guns holding firm. Remnants of Bn. HQ. thickened up line. Col. Sutcliffe asked by C.O. to cover Rear Bn., and agreed to cover us up to Magazine Gap.
Wanchai Gap	25 Dec	1500	Cols. White and Sutcliffe ordered to report to West Brigade HQ.
"	"	1530	Arrived at West Brigade HQ., 515 The Peak. On route to Brigade HQ. a retrograde movement by Canadians was noticed down Garden Road. Col Field asked battalion commanders their intentions and Col. White stated R.S. would fight it out in present positions. Immediately afterwards, Fortress HQ. spoke to Col. Field and told him that G.O.C. had ordered that the garrison must surrender. Cols. White and Sutcliffe ordered to return to units and put up white flag.
"	"	1640	Col. White returned to unit and explained to Capt. Ford, Capt. Glasgow and R.S.M. what had happened.
"	"	1643	White flag put out.