

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.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 7/9th Royal Scots

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Johnston, O.B.E.

Month and Year June 1940

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
NEWBURY	8		Party went to ranges at THE BUSTARD for Battle Shooting Orders received from Bde. to send Advance Party of 1 Car, 1 Officer and 2 O.R./s via SOUTHAMPTON	
	9	0500	Advance party left for SOUTHAMPTON Four Officers of H.L.I. reported to this Unit having missed their own unit which had sailed to France. They had instructions to join their own Unit in France.	
	10	0500	Transport party of 54 trucks, 10 Carriers, 14 Motor Cycles, 3 Officers and 82 O.R.'s left for SOUTHAMPTON. 2/Lt. J.O. Ewart left this unit to report to War Office for duty with D.M.I.	
	11	1100	Advance party of 5 Officers and about 20 O.R.'s of Northamptonshire Regiment arrived to take over Battalion Billets, etc.	
SOUTHAMPTON NEWBURY SOUTHAMPTON	12	0230 0500 0800 0900 1100 1100 1500 1600 2015	First party of main body left BURLEY HOUSE, WOOLTON HILL and marched to NEWBURY Station. 9 Officers and 385 O.R.'s First train left NEWBURY for SOUTHAMPTON Second party of main body - approximately 18 Officers and 400 O.R.'s left BURLEY HOUSE and marched to NEWBURY Station. First train arrived Second train left for SOUTHAMPTON First party embarked on S.S. MANXMAN Second train arrived and party embarked on S.S. MANXMAN S.S. MANXMAN left SOUTHAMPTON Docks and sailed down to the boom S.S. MANXMAN sailed from SOUTHAMPTON WATER in calm but cloudy weather	
ST. MALO	13	0830 1100	Weather bright and sunny. Arrived ST MALO Bay after uneventful crossing Put into ST. MALO Harbour. Bn. disembarked and marched to rest camp about 5 miles from LIMMONNIER and about 8 miles from ST. MALO	

LIMMONNIER		1630	Left rest camp and marched to LIMMONNIER Station.	
		2000	Bn. entrained on arrival at LIMMONNIER Station Train consisting of this Bn. and part of 4th Bn. K.O.S.Borderers left for destination unknown	
SILLE LA GUILLAUME	14	0500	Arrived at SILLE LA GUILLAUME Station where met by Staff Captain Brigade and Captain Normand of Advance Party. On arrival, Pte. Hadden of H.Q. Coy. reported missing having left the train en route.	
CONLIE			Bn. marched off to bivouacing area near CONLIE with Bn. H.Q. at LA GOUPILLERE Farm. On arrival at LA GOUPILLERE all transport less Carriers was found there, having arrived the NIGHT before, with the exception of 2M/C's. These were accounted for as follows:- Sgt. Robertson (Provost Sergeant) reported missing and L/Sgt. Smith who had an accident on the road journey inland in France. L/Sgt. Smith was believed to have been taken to hospital.	
		1300	Carriers arrived at SILLE LA GUILLAUME, were de-trained and formed up ready to move off with the vehicles taking baggage from Station to H.Q.	
		1700	Carriers and vehicles and personnel involved in loading arrived at Bn. H.Q.	
			On arrival at LA GOUPILLERE Intelligence Officer found Agent de Liaison Weiss who had reported for Liaison duties with this unit. Maps issued to Companies, etc.	
		2300	Orders received from Bde. that the Bn. would move through the night by M.T.	
			C.O. and Adjutant go to Bde. to receive Movement Order.	
	15	0030	C.O. and Adjutant return, not having found Bde. H.Q. which had apparently moved without intimation.	
			A D.R. had by this time been despatched from Bde. to guide them. They left.	
		0230	C.O. and Adjutant return from Bde.	
			C.O. issues Movement Order	
		0330	C.O.'s Orders concluded	
CONLIE		0330	Bn. prepares to move. All stores, etc. which could not be taken in Transport at disposal of the Bn. were thrown into the river	
		-	which runs through the precincts of LA GOUPILLERE. These stores included a supply of M.T. spares destined for 156 Bde. which were brought from SOUTHAMPTON by this Bn. One Carrier had to be abandoned and was rendered totally unserviceable by smashing distributor and carburettor. All usable parts and spares were removed.	
		0500		
		0600	Troops and Transport began to arrive at embussing point and	Appendix A

CONLIE		0630 1030	<p>troops were ready to embus and transport ready to move off after approximately ½ hour.</p> <p>No sign of R.A.S.C. Transport.</p> <p>First batch of R.A.S.C. transport arrived at embussing point but the requisite number of vehicles did not arrive with the result that there was no accommodation for approximately two platoons of C. Coy. More vehicles were promised to be on their way, but nothing more had appeared by 1100 hrs. C.O. went to H.Q. R.A.S.C. and succeeded in acquiring sufficient 30 Cwt. lorries to accommodate the remainder. During the period of assembly the weather was very bright with clear sky. Both friendly and hostile aircraft flew overhead at frequent intervals. The convoy travelled all day and most of the following night. There was one casualty Pte. Ritchie of H.Q. Coy who was involved in an accident with a civilian motor car and broke his leg. As daylight was fast approaching and there was little chance of making the appointed venue at POLVAST the C.O. decided that it was safer to get under cover as soon as possible. A thickly wooded avenue on both sides of the main CHERBOURG road at LA CHIENNIE near BRIQUEBEC presented itself as most admirable cover so the Bn. moved in there.</p>	
BRIQUEBEC	16	0530 0800 0930 1430	<p>Bn. takes up bivouac position in wood</p> <p>First few hours after arrival in wood spent in interior economy.</p> <p>Messages 03 and 05 received from Bde.</p> <p>C.O.'s Recce. Group goes out.</p> <p>C.O. meets Coy. Commanders, etc. and explains the situation - 5th K.O.S.B. being left to cover this withdrawal and this Bn. awaiting orders to move to CHERBOURG. Carriers and First Line Reinforcements would move to CHERBOURG at 1830 hrs.</p>	Appendices B and C.
CHERBOURG	17	0230 0330 0430 0830	<p>Order received from Bde. that Bn. would embark at CHERBOURG at 0900 hrs.</p> <p>C.O. meets Coy. Commanders, etc. and gives orders for move - First Coy. move out at 0430 hrs. with 50 yds. between Plns. and 100 yds. between Coys. Transport would go by separate route, keeping to subsidiary roads as much as possible and would be embarked on a separate ship. Rations would be issued after embarkation.</p> <p>First Coy. marches out.</p> <p>Bn. arrived at CHERBOURG where First Line Reinforcements were found. Provost Sergeant Robertson reported himself. Carriers also had arrived.</p> <p>Weather: light drizzle and mist, visibility 300 yds.</p>	

SOUTHAMPTON		1000 1130 1830	Bn. started to embark on S.S. MALLINES S.S. Mallines sailed out of CHERBOURG Harbour. S.S. MALLINES docked at SOUTHAMPTON after an uneventful crossing except for one occasion when the ship turned about apparently suspecting enemy submarine action. Bn. disembarked and entrained in two trains at about ¼ hour intervals for destination believed to be MARCH.	
MARCH St. Neots	18	0530 0600 0700 0730	Trains arrived at MARCH and buses were found to take Bn. to their ultimate destination. Bn. arrived at ST. NEOTS and Companies dispersed to their areas. Bn. H.Q. established at RIVERSFIELD HOUSE. After investigation it was discovered that about 20 O.R.'s were missing and 27 of the First Line Re-inforcements.	
MARCH	19	0930 1000	One Officer acting under instructions from Bde. went to MARCH to act as guide for M.T. which was reputed to be arriving there at 0930. Transport personnel arrived by train with no vehicles owing to circumstances detailed. All baggage, except that carried by personnel and all Bn. records were lost with the M.T.	
ST. NEOTS	20		27 O.R.'s of First Line Reinforcements arrived from CAMBRIDGE. Carriers arrived after spending the night at ST. IVES. The four H.L.I. Officers return to their Unit.	
	21		First Line Reinforcements moved to BUCKDEN by column of march. Orders received from Bde. that this Unit would send one Company to guard ALCONBURY HILL Aerodrome. D Coy. selected for this role.	
	22		C.O. and O.C. D Coy. recce. ALCONBURY HILL and UPWOOD Aerodromes.	
	23	0930	D. Coy move by M.T. to ALCONBURY	
MARCH	24	1100 1400 1500 1700 1500	Brigadier visits Bn. and informs C.O. that Bn. would move to WISBECH area in the afternoon for the defence of the ISLE OF ELY. Second in Command left for recce. of new area. Movement Order given out. C.O. and 1 Officer from C and B Coys. leave for recce. of new area. During evening the Companies arrive at MARCH and disperse to their various areas as follows:- Bn. H.Q. and H.Q. Coy. at EASTWOOD HOUSE, MARCH, One Platoon of A Coy. GUYHIRN, A COY. WISBECH, ST. MARY, B Coy OUTWELL, C & E Coys WISBECH. 2/LT C.M.G. HERRIOT returned from Bde. H.Q. and takes up duties as Bn I.O.	Appendices F. & G
	25	0045 0415	Air-raid warning sounded on sirens. Bn "stands to": Air-raid "all clear" sounded.	

		1030	Brigadier GRAINGER STEWART arrives at Bn H.Q. and sets off on reconnaissance of Bn area with LT. COL. F.L. JOHNSTON. Road blocks and company section posts were visited. COLONEL CLAYTON, chief of the L.D.Vs in WISBECH was contacted, and the defence of WISBECH and ISLE OF ELY were discussed.	(See App H)
		1600	2/LT D. MACINTYRE returned from course in sniping at BISLEY. He returned via Depot, Royal Scots, Glencorse, where he had been sent as Bn location was unknown. He brought with him a party of 7 M.T. drivers who had been sent there from a transit camp at SOUTHAMPTON.	
		1730	LT. COL. JOHNSTON orders company Commanders' conference when he issues Operation Order No.1 for defence of WISBECH and ISLE OF ELY.	
		2345	Air-raid "Yellow" received by telephone.	
MARCH	26	0040	Air-raid "RED" received by telephone. In accordance with instructions, the Bn group stands to and disperses to slit trenches.	
		0400	Air-raid "ALL CLEAR" received by telephone	
		1000	LT. COL. JOHNSTON and MAJOR SALVESEN visit all Company H.Q.s and carry out a further reconnaissance of road blocks and section posts. All companies occupied day in improving existing weapon pits and digging new ones where necessary. On the way round the posts 2/Lt. HEATH of 241 Fd Coy was met at OUTWELL, and the question of demolition of bridges and building of more pill-boxes was discussed.	
	27	0010	Air-raid "YELLOW" received by telephone.	
		0314	Air-raid "ALL CLEAR" received by telephone.	
		1130	MR ROBINSON, Chief Engineer i/c Engineering Dept. arrived from CAMBRIDGE, to discuss demolition and guarding of bridges in MARCH and district area. Major DUNN and 2/Lt. HEATH both of 241 Fd Coy R.E. were also present at meeting and plan for defence, and demolition if necessary, of GUYHIRN Bridge was discussed.	
		1500	The 2i/c Major SALVESEN went to BEECHAMWELL for reconnaissance of new area.	
		2343	Air-raid YELLOW" received by telephone.	
MARCH	28	0229	Air-raid "ALL CLEAR" received by telephone. During the day, companies continue with digging positions, etc., and were visited by Lt. Col. F.L. JOHNSTON.	
		1730	Brigadier's conference at CHATTERIS. Commanding Officer and Adjutant attend and Divisional scheme for move to and defence of NORFOLK was discussed.	
	29	1100	Lt. Col. JOHNSTON calls company commanders' conference and gives	

		1730	orders for move to BEECHAMWELL. 24 civilian buses arrive and are distributed to Coys. These were all painted bright red and some difficulty was experienced in hiding them.	
	30	0900	Advance party consisting of Major SALVESEN and 2/Lt. LESLIE go to new area of BEECHAMWELL on reconnaissance.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			DIARY OF EVENTS IN MOVES OF CARRIER PLATOON IN MOVES TO AND FROM FRANCE.	
NEWBURY	10		Left in company with M.T.	
SOUTHAMPTON			Billeted for night in transit camp.	
	11		Embarked on S.S. PRINCE ALBERT.	
CHERBOURG			Arrived after an uneventful crossing.	
	12	0030	Enemy aircraft raided the harbour. Engaged by A.A. Guns, L.M.G.'s etc. from ships and shore. The raid went on intermittently until about 0530 hrs. Two Enemy aircraft shot down. One Enemy aircraft dropped a magnetic mine and sank a small steamer in the harbour.	
BRIQUEBEC CHERBOURG	16		Left wood and proceeded to CHERBOURG. Spent night at LA GLACERIE M.T. Car Park.	
	17		Embarked on S.S. CLAN ROSS.	
SOUTHAMPTON		2330	Arrived and spent the night in Dock.	
	18		Unloaded during the day.	

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			<u>Diary of events in Return of M.T. from FRANCE.</u>	
BRIQUEBEC	17	0430 0700 0915 1015 1030 1400	<p>M.T.O. received orders to recce route to LA GLACERIE vehicle concentration point.</p> <p>First vehicle Convoy left for LA GLACERIE. Movement made in three convoys of approximately twenty vehicles each.</p> <p>Transport move completed. One vehicle casualty left at starting point after being stripped of useful parts and rendered totally unserviceable.</p> <p>First thirty vehicles should have left but the unexpected arrival of another division's transport made no move possible.</p> <p>Remainder of vehicles should have left but did not do so for reason given.</p> <p>During the afternoon both hostile and allied aircraft flew overhead and were treated alike.</p> <p>Weather cleared and became nice and bright.</p> <p>In the evening assurances were still being received that all transport would probably be loaded on board ship.</p> <p>Salvage of other units' equipment.</p> <p>Re-organisation of loading of trucks in case some had to be abandoned.</p>	
LA GLACERIE	18	0330	Orders received to move into D Transit camp CHERBOURG.	
CHERBOURG	19th	0400	S.S. MANXMAN left quayside. Unsuccessful attempt at bombing by one enemy aircraft which dropped four salvoes of three bombs each falling wide of the ship doing no damage to harbour or works. The only known casualty on board ship occurred when Pte. Goldie of H.Q. Coy. was shot through the hand by a man of another unit who accidentally fired an A/T Rifle.	