

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in F.S. Regs. Vol. 1.

WAR DIARY

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/87 (3072)

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

Title pages will be prepared.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
In the Field	1/5/44		Loading of LCTs for combined ops ex "FABIUS III" commenced early this morning. The HARDS at SOUTHAMPTON & GOSPOH were used. The strictest censorship was observed. The men were warned that talking to civilians was a Court Martial offence. LCTs & LCHs sailed in the late afternoon and anchored off GOWES ISLE OF WIGHT.	ALD
"	2/5/44		Regt lay at anchor throughout the day. The shipping for this ex was the largest concentration we had seen up till now. In the afternoon a wind rose and further loading was cancelled. As the gale increased D DAY was postponed for May 4.	ALD
"	3/5/44		The wind subsided and loading was continued again. At 2130 hrs the fleet carrying the 3 Cdn Div sailed for BRACKLEHAM BAY. The weather was good and the trip uneventful.	ALD
	4/5/44		H hour was at 0700 hrs and D Day was again 4 May. 1st & 2nd Tides landed according to plan. No vehs were drowned in this Regt. Communications were on the whole satisfactory. Trace of the Div plan of the attack is incl in the Diary. (See Appx "A") There were no live rds fired on the ex and the country in this vicinity was extremely flat; it was a very good beach. In the afternoon, rain fell and the wind blew hard. Further landing of serials was cancelled. Many ships returned to SOUTHAMPTON to unload. Air support during this ex was continuous and very impressive.	Appx "A" ALD
	5/5/44		The CRA & Staff left for HMS VECTIS on the ISLE OF WIGHT and Lt-Col RH Webb took over as A/CRA and co-ordinated the fire plan for the Div Arty. Ex "FABIUS III" was scheduled to end at 0900 hrs 6 May 44. FOOs were called in at 2100 hrs 5 May and all line picked up.	ALD
	6/5/44		The 3 Cdn Div Arty moved back to static locns commencing at 0500 hrs. The Royal Marines Armd Support Gp moved with the 12 & 19 Pz Regts and are now located at Camp C.18 just west of PARK GATE where the 3 A Tk. are also located. The R.A.M.S. have 2 Btys of 13 Centor Tanks each & are now part of the 3 Div Arty in the 21st Army Gp.	ALD
	7/5/44		Normal trg carried out. 24 hr passes are allowed to 10% of the Regt.	ALD
	8/5/44		All Non-Op Vehs were moved to BORDON today and waterproofed vehs are being brought back to the Unit.	ALD

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
In the Field	9/5/44		Regt spent the day getting rid of excess stores. All Ranks turned in 1 B.D. & F.S. Cap and will receive in return on the 11 May - 1 B.D. (A.V.) and 1 Beret.	GL2
	10/5/44		The 11 Bty put on a loading demonstration of SPS at SOUTHAMPTON HARBOUR; Porpoises being used to carry extra amm and are dragged behind the SPS when they come on the beach. They are later left for the Service Corps to pick up and distribute the amm.	GL2
	11/5/44		Regt spent the day working on their new eqpt. New M7s & Shermans requiring brackets and modifications which kept the crews and LAD very busy for the next 10 days.	GL2
	12/5/44		Regt worked all day on modifications until 2100 hrs at night. Warning Order for Ex "OVERLORD" came in, which showed that the 2nd Tide would move to an Assembly Area on the 15 May 44.	GL2
	13/5/44		The CO attended a conference for "OVERLORD" at HQ 7 Cdn Inf Bde.	GL2
	14/5/44		Anglican Church Parade was held at the RAAFI at 1000 hrs, followed by a Holy Communion Service. These were conducted by the Padre Capt Erandt. R.C. Church Parade was conducted by Father McCarney in the Men's Mess at 1000 hrs. Regt worked the main balance of the day packing stores and modifying eqpt.	GL2
	15/5/44		2nd Tide left for TILBURY at 0845 hrs consisting of 102 men under Capt F.W. Krause.	GL2
	16/5/44		The 12 Fd Arty Gp Comd held a Signal Ex at 2100 hrs. 12 & 13 Fd Regts and Royal Marines taking part.	GL2
	17/5/44		Regt worked on waterproofing all day. The Arty Gp Comd Col Webb and The A/CO Maj Pickering attended a conference at HQ 5 Cdn Inf Div all day.	GL2
	18/5/44		Regt worked on waterproofing all day.	GL2
	19/5/44		12 Fd Arty Gp Comd held another Signal Ex at 2100 hrs that communications were excellent.	GL2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
In the Field	20/5/44		LAD left today under Lt Hastings to join the 2nd Tide.	ALL
	21/5/44		Regt finished waterproofing at 2100 hrs this date.	
	22/5/44		GO, 21/c, Bty Comds, Adjts, & I.O. attended a briefing conference at HQ 7 Cdn Inf Bde which lasted all day. This was conducted by Brig Foster and concerned the operational role of the Bde on the forthcoming ex "OVERLORD".	ALL
	23/5/44		Bty Comds, Adjts, and I.O. attended a briefing conference at HQ RCA which lasted all day. This was conducted by CRA Brig Todd.	ALL
	24/5/44		Bty Comds, Tp Comds, & I.O. attended a briefing conference held by the Royal Wpg Rifles.	ALL
	25/5/44		Regt spent the day moving salvage and general cleaning up. Tp Comds attended their Coy briefing conferences for ex "OVERLORD".	ALL
	26/5/44		Regt was confined behind the wire at 0200 hrs today. Only the dvrs of vehs being left outside where they ate and slept beside their own veh. Strictest censorship was observed. Regt continued packing excess stores and drawing remainder of kit such as anti-louse clothing & face-pieces, microphone attachment, anti-gas.	ALL
	27/5/44		5-Mile Route Marches and Baseball Games & other forms of recreation and training were carried out by the Regt.	ALL
	28/5/44		Regtl briefing conference for ex "OVERLORD" took place at the briefing hut 7 CIB at 0005 hrs. It lasted until 0415 hrs and was attended by all offrs of the Regt and for Tp Comds of the Royal Marines. Church services were held in the morning and Pay Parades were held also. Everyone being paid in France. Co held a conference at 1330 hrs and the CRA Brig Todd dropped in informally to wish everybody good luck and good shooting.	ALL
	29/5/44		Everyone is packed and ready to move at a few minute's notice. Baseball & other games are taking place.	ALL

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In the field	30-5-44		"C", "D", "E", "F" Tps together with certain personnel from RHQ left for marshalling area at 1100 hrs. Weather continues extremely warm.	A.L.D.
	31-5-44		Gp Comds party and A/C.O.'s. party left for marshalling ar as to-day.	A.L.D.
<p>.....Lt.-col. (R.H. JESS) C.O. 12th Cdn Field Regiment.</p>				