

1941

The War Diary covering the period March to December 1941 is shown below:

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

Army Form C. 7. AB.

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Castletown	6-3-41.		B & D Coy HQs & Skeleton for HQ. on Scheme Marjex No 1. Penford & Blough Area.	
"	8-3-41.	2330.	2 members of the Brigade Security Section attempted to enter the Castle on the pretext of wishing to see an officer. They were challenged by the provost on duty, & on refusing to disclose their identity, they were detained in the Guard Room. Eventually they disclosed their identity & purpose of visit & were allowed to return to Brigade.	Brigade ack the visit & complimented our Security Methods.
"	20-3-41.		A Coy. out on Scheme Marjex No 2. Hilltown Area.	
"	25-3-41.		Ba out on Scheme Marjex No 3. Hilltown Area.	
			I.R.A. suspected of causing damage to Heavy Line Positions in 5 <sup>th</sup> Cheshire Area. Sandbags were hit & gun platforms were damaged.	
	3/4-41	1010.	Div Comd inspected Ba on Company Training.	

Sp. Log # 1/11.2.  
AT 8.4.41. The War Diary has been kept.

PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1941

WAR DIARY

Army Form C 2118

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bathmillan	3/14/41	00.25	<p>B. Coy and section Bn H.Q. on scheme in Ferris - Dromas area. During the night between 00.25 and 02.30 hrs there was an air-raid on Belfast and gunfire was heard and flashes observed by the personnel on the scheme. A fire was also seen at this time.</p> <p>A powder on duty at the base at the time reports that he heard a plane pass over Bathmillan at 0015 hrs. It was quite low but obscured by clouds.</p>	
-	14/4/41	-	<p>RAF Wireless Station established on Bunkers Hill, Bathmillan. Personnel consisting of 2 RAF W/O, one Bombardier &amp; 5 Ptes of the RAs.</p>	
-	15/4/41	1130.	<p>Air Raid Warning received. Prowler on duty reported planes heard coming from a southerly direction &amp; anti-aircraft gun flashes were seen in the direction of Belfast. All clear warning received at 0500hrs.</p> <p>RAF W/S reported 17 planes passed over Bathmillan &amp; 4 of these circled round the village before continuing in the same direction as the others.</p>	
-	17/4/41	0830.	<p>Bn left camp &amp; proceeded to Area Yellow Water River West of Silent Valley for Field Firing demonstration. Special Idea. Infantry advancing under own Artillery &amp; Machine Gun fire, provided by one battery of the 81<sup>st</sup> field Coy &amp; 2 Platoons Machine Gun Company.</p>	



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

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

Army Form C 113.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ballynally	18-4-41	01200	A Coy left Camp for 3-day Route March.	
	19-4-41		B & C Coy proceeded to Belfast to clear up debris after the Air Raids B Coy recovering two bodies.	
	25-4-41	1200	B Coy left Camp for 3 day route march.	
	28-4-41		Remainder of Bn carried out practice of Scheme Apex No 2. Seaford & Blough area.	
	29-4-41		Bn carried out further practice of Apex No 2 & spent night 27/30 in bivouac area at Newcastle.	
	30-4-41	0500	Bn left bivouac area for actual scheme. Scheme finished 1200hrs & Bn returned to billets by route march.	
	2-5-41	1200	C Coy left Camp for 3 day route march.	

r.P. Underhill 1.0.

f. C. ...  
The ...

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

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

War 2/6

Summary of Events and Information			Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour	
Castlemella	5-5-41	0025	Air Raid warning Red received. Considerable damage was again suffered by Belfast. W.O.U. at Bunker Hill reported 36 groups of 3 or 4 planes passed over Castlemella. 7 German planes were reported to have been brought down.
	5-5-41	0510	All Clear warning received.
	"	1200	Air Raid Warning Red received
	"	1400	All Clear - received.
	"	2230	Air raid red received. Belfast was again the objective. W.O.U. reported 23 groups of 3 or 4 planes again passed over Castlemella & that 2 German planes were reported to have been brought down.
	6-5-41	0400	All Clear received
	5-5-41		B Coy returned from 3 day route march & 1 Coy left for same.
	9-5-41		Main body of Bn left Castlemella for new quarters at the Donard Park Newcastle, under canvas.
Newcastle	12-5-41		Bn scheme Dundrum & Bryansford Area Practising ROFT procedure.
"	15-5-41-14-5-41		Bn sub on Rd scheme Moyra, Drogheda - Milltown Area.
	16-5-41-17-5-41		Bn scheme Moyra Area Special Idea forming up for night attack.
	20-5-41-21-5-41		Bde scheme "Case" Mullford Area Idea. Attacking an enemy outpost & making it a tank proof locality.



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

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

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

*Chittam*  
for Captain & Adjt.  
1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment.

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

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

Army Form 100

War Office

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Newcastle	17-6-41	18-6-41	Bn scheme Lt Col. Special Idea. Attacking at dawn Murlough House aerodrome which was occupied by enemy troops. (JUNEX)	
	23-6-41	27-6-41	Corp scheme. RUDOLPH Special Idea. The enemy 'Hessians', in occupation in Southern Ireland were landed on the west coast of Northern Ireland with intention of capturing Belfast, where a secret weapon was being manufactured by the British. 53rd Div was withdrawn from the fighting in Southern Ireland & took up a posn S.E. of Lough Neagh. 1 <sup>st</sup> Hereford took up a defensive posn at Portadown & later advanced & attacked in the area of KILLS on the upper Banu river.	
	3-7-41	1500	Bn paraded for forward speech of Brig. Brumer Randall, on his relieving command of the 157 Bde.	

Commander of Lt. and Intelligence Officer  
1st Bn. The Mercantile Regiment.



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

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form 257A

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Newcastle.	7-7-41		Bn visited by the Corp Comd	
	9-7-41		" " " " Div Comd.	
	11-7-41		" " " " Honorary Colonel of the Unit Sir Charles Grant.	
	12-7-41		Newcastle celebrated their annual "Orange Day" Large numbers of visitors came into the town for the week-end. There were no incidents reported.	
	14-7-41	1430.	A drifting barrage balloon was sighted floating on the sea on a compass bearing of 71° at approx 4 miles out from the shore. Bde were informed.	
	14-7-41		R Co commenced work on the foundations for the Nissen huts to be erected for Winter Quarters.	
	16-7-41		Bn attended Lecture given by Capt Hatal of a N.W. India Frontier Regt. who gave an account of the British Campaign.	
	18-7-41		Bde Skeleton scheme. General Idea. Communications & a withdrawal from the Havyng Line to a pen at Kilcoo.	

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

WAR DIARY  
OF  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form 1

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



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

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Newcastle	4.8.41	8.8.41	<p>B.T.N.I Scheme "Summit". General Idea ①. To test the machinery of Command &amp; admin of 3 Corps operating as a whole ②. To practice the concentration of the Corps followed by the destruction of enemy submarines &amp; aircraft forces whilst at the same time ensuring the security of a vital area. ③ To practice the issue of code names.</p>	
	10.8.41		<p>Was visited by Brig Gallander.</p>	
	7.8.41		<p>Reinforcements from Depot Shrewsbury arrived numbering 60 approx. All trained men of 3 or more months service.</p>	
	19.7.41		<p>Was attended Lecture given by the Div Security Officer.</p>	

Cameron 2/6 and Intelligence Officer

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

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

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	
Harcourt	4-9-41	6-9-41	3 Corp Exercise "GREENLAND". Object - To practice the handling of a div in the attack on an enemy in a hastily organized defensive position & in particular: (a) The preparation & planning of the attack. (b) The employment of reserves (c) Administration in the attack.
	7-9-41		4 Day route march to Bangor Castle for rifle Coys. Coys moving out by platoons 1 pl of each coy per day. B Coy remaining in Camp as Duty Coy.
	12-9-41	11.15	Practice General Alarm sounded
	16-9-41	17-9-41	Bde scheme "SEPEX" - Bn took up defensive posn Rathfriland area in Bde reserve remaining in reserve throughout the exercise. Later followed a night march to Dawn attack by the K.S.L.I & Mon - area Dundrum <sup>region</sup> - Objectives Wateresh Hill & Marlough Ho.
	18-9-41		Bn inter-company Sports Day. HQ adm pl being the commanding winning Coy.
	23/7-41	27-9-41	53 Div scheme "DAVID" - Object - To study & perfect co-operation between Arms & Services within 53 Div.

Commander of the  
Intelligence Office, 53rd Div.



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

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

Army Form C 2118

W O

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

*Amerson* etc  
Intelligence Officer.  
1st Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment.

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

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

W/O

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Newcastle	9-11-41	0200.	Second adv party left Camp for new station consisting 3 Officers & 131 O.Rs.
	5-11-41	2100	Adv party of 2/20th South Staffordshire Regt arrived Newcastle Co. Down. Party consisting of 8 Officers & 136 O.Rs
	16-11-41	0330	Main Body left Camp. 23 Offs. 450 O.Rs
Greve.	16/11/41	2000.	Second adv party arrived Greve Hall, with transport taken over from South Staffords at Newcastle-on-Tyne.
	17-11-41	0100.	Main Body arrived Greve Hall.
	18-11-41	0230	Baggage Party left Newcastle Co. Down.
	18-11-41	1030	Rear party left Newcastle Co. Down with transport taken over from adv party of South Staffords.
	19-11-41		Major Tarrant 2/10. assumed command of Bn vice Lt Col Bryant on course of instruction w.e.f 19-11-41.
	21-11-41	2000.	1200
	18-11-41	2-11-41	0300.
	25-11-41		
	27-11-41		
			Baggage party arrived Greve Hall. 1 Off. 130 O.Rs
			Rear party " " " 1 Off. 17 O.Rs
			Lt Col Bryant assumes Comd of Bn vice Major Tarrant w.e.f 25-11-41
			Div General visited the Bn at Greve Hall.

128

P. S. Andrews 7/11/41 + 20.  
1st Bn. Levee Staff Regt.



and the 2nd manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

W.S.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Exeter.	2-12-41.		Joint alliance of the K.S.L.I & 1 <sup>st</sup> Newfoundland's Regt with Regiment de Maisonneuve of the Canadian Army.	
	2-12-41	1900.	Serious accident occurred outside the main gates of Brome Hall. A civilian car knocked down a platoon of the Rn, whose injuries have since proved fatal.	
	3-12-41.		Civil police report the escape of two German prisoners from Knutsford dressed in Hospital Blue.	
	4-12-41.		Major Tarrant assumed command of the Rn during the absence of Lt. Col. Proyant on duty w/e 4-12-41.	
	6-12-41.		Lt. Col. Proyant assumed command of the Rn vice Major Tarrant w/e 6-12-41.	
	11-12-41	20 <sup>30</sup>	Air Raid Warning Red received	
	11-12-41.	2200.	All Clear received.	
	22-12-41		Evac party consisting of 6 Officers and 150 O.R.'s proceeded to Aldham for transportation of German POW's to Liverpool.	
	26-12-41		Rn route march 9 miles. Object: Practice of R.D.F.T. procedure	

C. N. Radford  
2/41.

I.O. 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1941