

Title pages will be prepared.

APRIL

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

4004-01

M.F.M. 11.

A.F.C. TITLE
1 M.C. - 5-29 (1788)
H.Q. 1172-40-15

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
ALLERSHOT	1		Owing to the fact that the Engineers were desirous of tearing down their trenches, the demonstration of trench relief scheduled for Wednesday was put on by one Platoon from each Company in the afternoon. This required sending out the demonstration platoon in the morning to rehearse. The C.O. stole a march by taking his "O" group to FIBRIGHT trenches for a reconnaissance.	
	2		Owing to the crowding of allotted areas it was decided to move to PUTTENHAM COMMON (ALLERSHOT 1" Map 3566) for Company schemes. Companies marched out approx 5 1/2 miles and met trucks with lunches and guns, etc. After reconnaissance, troops fed and then carried on with attack schemes. The scheme was rather badly done as the position was almost impregnable and there was no way of deciding when the enemy vacated. It rained steadily all the way home making a sad ending to a long day. In the evening the corporals held a dance in their canteen, which was very well run.	
	3		The companies carried on in the morning with the lectures that they missed on Monday due to the demonstration. It rained slightly during the organized sports in the afternoon. A Corporal of the Provost Section was tried by the C.O., and reduced to the ranks. Apparently, on Monday he had been sent to London to pick up a prisoner, and having "gotten his man" he celebrated with a beer, and then another, and was finally picked up by the A.P.M. at Waterloo Station for being drunk. Sgt. Pethick then had to be sent as an escort to pick up the escort. Luckily the prisoner made no attempt to escape.	
	4		The companies again marched out to PUTTENHAM COMMON and carried on with schemes of defence. The walk home was shortened by introducing short M.T. scheme using available transport which was sufficient to give each Company at a time a short lift. Lieut. Warren lectured the officers on security, during the evening. No.3 Platoon fired smoke bombs at CHORHAM RIDGE RANGE in the morning. Sir Edward Peacock and two directors of the Y.M.C.A. dined with the officers at night.	
	5		The companies went to PUTTENHAM COMMON for a scheme of companies in the withdrawal. The schemes were all done at once, the C.O. directing an imaginary enemy with the Signal Section which worked very well. A more ambitious scheme to give all companies a lift over the HOOK BACK was worked out, but fell through, owing to all transport being kept overtime by R.C.R., to whom it had been loaned. Lieut. Warren lectured the officers in the evening on prisoners of war and escape.	LLP

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APRIL

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

4004-02

M.F.M. 11.

A. F. C. 311A.
1 M.I. - 4-20 (1708)
H. Q. 1772-45-14

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
A LDERSHOT	6	2	Certain personnel went to HANMOOR RANGE in the morning and fired A.T. rifle at moving targets. There were less applications for week-end leave than usual as it was some time since last payday. In the afternoon the Brigade Cross Country Race was held. The R.C.R. team won, but Pte. Powell headed the whole field.	
	7		Warning Order for first part of M.T. move and defence scheme on Monday was received rather late, at about 0930 hours. Recce party proceeded to HANKLEY COMMON and carried on recce. Remainder of the Battalion went to church as usual. In the afternoon the group joined recce group. In the evening, the group met with the Liaison Officer of the R.C.A.S.C. and orders for the next day were finally issued at about 2350 hrs.	
	8		The Battalion embarked at 0815 hrs and crossed the starting line at 0830 hrs, 10 mins. ahead of time. The Battalion debussed on reaching debussing point in good order with the exception of one short interval when an ice cream vendor arrived with his cart. The coys then proceeded to positions and dug in to a depth of 6". At 1500 hrs the coys withdrew from position and was returned to barracks on foot a distance of 10 miles. Hot soup was served at about 1700 hrs. halfway home, and a further hot meal was served on arrival at barracks. The Brigadier and Colonel Drysdale watched the debussing and went over the disposition and seemed well satisfied. Weather cool with occasional sun.	
	9		The coys proceeded to PUTTINHAM COMMON, on foot and carried on individual schemes of coys in the attack. Haversack lunches were eaten about 1500 hrs and then the coys marched back to barracks. In the evening the C.O. lectured the officers and W.O.'s on trench warfare and the occupation of the PIERRIGHT scheme in particular. Weather fine.	
	10		Coys carried on with lectures in accordance with syllabus in morning. In afternoon C & D company carried on with organised sports while A & B coys rested. Late in the afternoon A & B coys marched to the trenches in accordance with orders and relieved two coys of the R.S.R. The night was cool and the coys spent the most of the night sending out recce parties and later fighting patrols. The Brigadier and Colonel Drysdale watched the relief and expressed approval. B.H.Q. was set up in neutral territory and was made very comfortable by the Pioneer Platoon, who built tents out of carrier tarpaulins.	
	11		A & B coys were in PIERRIGHT trenches all day. "Stand to" was called at dawn, before which, troops received their first issue of army rum. Breakfast was served at about 0700 hrs.	JJ

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WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

M.F.M. 11.

A.F.C. 3118.
1 MIL-3-39 (1938)
H.Q. 177-45-11

4004-03

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to O. 1/c 2nd Echelon for disposal.

APRIL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
ALIBERSHOT	11	cont-	<p>There was a slight shortage for BEM owing to confusion with B coy, with whom they they were feeding. At 0800 hrs an amistice was called until 1200 hrs. Brigadier Smith called for a demonstration gas attack at 1230 hours. Owing to the position of the trenches and the direction of the wind this was difficult. B coy tried it first, and then A coy with the only result that on both occasions BEM was smoked out while trying to eat lunch. Sporadic firing took place in the afternoon while troops worked on trenches or slept in the warm sun. Tea was called for at 1700 hrs, after which at about dusk, both sides staged some raids that ended up with nearly every man in no man's land and a few black eyes. At 1800 hrs the advance party from the Scots' Guards were met at R.V. and the main body at 2200 hrs. The reliefs were completed at 2230 hrs. The Scots' Guards remarking that they were the fastest and quietest reliefs yet. Personnel returned to barracks and debussed in accordance with orders, and hot soup was issued at about 2400 hrs. During the day G&B coys marched to PUTTENHAM COMMON where C coy attacked a position held in defence by D coy. They returned to barracks on foot.</p>	
	12		<p>Owing to late return of A & B and H.C. coy from the trenches, reveille was forwarded to 0700 hrs, breakfast 0800 hrs, and first parade at 0900 hrs. Owing to bad weather and condition of troops after tour in trenches, long walk to PUTTENHAM COMMON for company scheme was cancelled. Coys paraded for pay in afternoon, and 1 shilling was deducted from everyone's pay to cover damages to barrack rooms, being mostly china broken. D coy and Sgts held dances during the evening in Wellington Gym and Sgts' Mess respectively.</p>	
	13		<p>The period of Coy drill scheduled for the morning was utilized for Batta Drill. It was noted that due to special training and other courses the coys were all very small and that since battn drill before, differences of pace, etc, could be noted between coys. A large number proceeded on leave for week-end, it being mar pay day. Lieut.-General Sir Geo. Cory lunched with the officers in the Mess.</p>	
	14		<p>The battalion proceeded to church as usual in the morning. Major King and Major Hendrie spent the day drawing up a scheme for Monday which they expounded to a select few at night.</p>	
	15		<p>At 0800 hrs, the Battn left barracks to march to PUTTENHAM COMMON to carry out a Batta. scheme, which was prepared in advance by Major Hendrie and King. The C.O. was chief umpire, with coy Commanders umpiring on grounds allotted to their coys. A & B coys returned to barracks by M.T. for lunch at 1330 hrs. and went to bathing parade in the</p>	<p>2/2</p>

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WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

M.F.M. 11.

A.P.C. 2114.
1 M.D. - 3-39 (1788)
E.Q. 1172-45-15

4004-04

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

APRIL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
ALDERSHOT	15	Cont.	afternoon at Command Swimming Baths. C & D coys remained on area for lunch and marched in to barracks. At 1400 hrs. the Sgt.-Cook reported that 250 men from Canada and an unknown number of officers were at Gov't siding and the pipe-band went down to meet them. As usual they failed to arrive. At 1700 hrs. received warning order of J.C. plan.	<i>Acc. II</i>
	16		The battn again marched to PUTTENHAM COMMON where it carried out second part of scheme started on day before the withdrawal. C & D coys returned to barracks by R.T. for swimming parade.	
	17		The Officers of the Battn attended a lecture in the Garrison Theatre given by the C.I.G.S. The day was otherwise uneventful.	
	18		At 1545 hours the Battn marched to HANLEY COMMON where it took up positions in the withdrawal it had left on 8 Apr 40. It then withdrew to embussing area and was fed. At 2100 hrs. embussing started and went very well. At 2130 hrs. shap the head of the column started for TWESLEDOWN. South of PARKHAM JUNCTION area, one of the R.C.A.S.C. vehicles overturned in the ditch, no one was hurt, but the whole column was halted for about 20 minutes before it could proceed. At TWESLEDOWN, the coys took up their positions in the trenches and were dismissed as soon as possible on account of bad weather. It rained periodically all day and night. The only fault found with the scheme was that on arrival at dispersal point one sub-section of the R.A.S.C. vehicles failed to follow the Coy Commanders bar, but took direction from an R.A.S.C. control point and went to the wrong place.	
	19		Four Coys went to TWESLEDOWN area for a look at the trenches they had occupied the night before and a general look at the whole system of trenches. In the afternoon coys were left at the disposal of the Coy Commander.	
	20		Battn paraded at 0900 hrs when nearly all the Battn was on parade. At 1030 hrs. a P.A.D. scheme was commenced with a yellow warning. This scheme was ordered by H.Q. Aldershot Command. Practices were arranged for various stretcher and walking wounded cases, two fires were reported, to which the R.C.R. responded by sending their fire pump. One building was reported wrecked. The Gas Officer, contrary to Aldershot Command Orders let off several gas bombs, which caught several people off their guard and disclosed several faults in the scheme. The scheme was not completed until 1200 hrs. Many men went on leave for the week-end, which caused comment as it is some time since last payday. It is reported they were hitch-hiking to London.	<i>LLP</i>

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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4004-05

M.F.W. 11.

A.F.C. 2118.
I.M.L.-4-29 (1788)
H.Q. 1177-43-14

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to O. 1/c 2nd Echelon for disposal.

APRIL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
ALDESHOT	21		The Batta paraded to church in the usual manner in the morning. It being a fine day, the barracks were almost deserted during the day. Several men were reported to be swimming in God's issue clothing in the Basingstoke Canal in not too distant view of the Farnborough Road.	
	22		The Batta left barracks at 0800 hrs and proceeded by combined march and M.T. movement to THURSLEY COMMON for a Batta scheme in accordance with orders. Due to a mistake by M.T. drivers, they went to HANLEY COMMON, and eventually C Coy were not picked up in accordance with the plan, and marched most of the way. This meant that the Zero Hour was postponed until 1300 hrs. The H & P.S. changed their training area from HANLEY COMMON to THURSLEY COMMON without notice causing some confusion. Brigadier Smith and Brigade Major visited the scheme and seemed satisfied.	
	23-30		-The daily notes for this period were lost with unit transport in France as appears in June diary. During this period C and D coys did a tour of duty in Firbright Trenches, similar to that of A and B coys on 10th and 11th April. There were no other events of note during this period.	

C. W. Laundy

J.S.P.