

WAR DIARY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks.
<u>THIRD BATTALION, PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY</u>				
December, 1951				
Camp Borden	1 DEC	0900	<p>Offices and barracks occupied by this battalion in Camp Borden have virtually been cleaned out. All stores and equipment, except those personal necessities needed by the men over the week-end, have been packed and listed for Monday's move to the battalion's new quarters at Camp Ipperwash.</p> <p>The CO held his customary Saturday morning inspection this morning paying particular attention to the clearing-out operations in readiness for the move.</p> <p>As detailed plans for the transportation of unit personnel had already been drawn up, the arrival this morning of 24 new recruits complicated these arrangements. However, they will travel with HQ Company.</p> <p>The disposition of recruits in regards this unit's move to new quarters had been anticipated. A wire was despatched to all command headquarters and personnel depots directing that recruits posted to the 3 PPCLI after 24 Nov 51 be sent HQ Western Ontario Area at London, Ont. Camp Ipperwash, the Patricia's new training site, is in Western Ontario Area.</p>	JWA
Camp Borden	2 DEC	0900	<p>This day passed quietly on Sunday routine. The weather has turned much milder and recent heavy snowfall has almost entirely disappeared from the ground.</p>	JWA
Camp Borden	3 DEC	0900 1100	<p>The entire battalion rose early today, its last day at Camp Borden. A long convoy of trucks is drawn up on the parade square ready for loading. Vehicles have been allotted to each company for transporting stores and equipment. The men will travel by bus.</p> <p>The truck convoy left at 1100 hrs. The convoy has been supplied with haversack lunches and will eat on the road.</p> <p>The rest of the battalion lunched early at 1130 hrs and the bus convoy left 1300 hrs. Although some officers travelling POMC arrived at 1600 hrs, the busses did not arrive at the new camp until 1800 hrs. The distance from Borden to Ipperwash is 170 miles.</p> <p>A hot meal was served the main party on its arrival. The rest of the evening was spent settling into quarters.</p>	JWA

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Camp Ipperwash	4 DEC	0900	<p>This day was spent moving into offices and quarters and unpacking unit stores and equipment.</p> <p>Living and training space is quite generous at Camp Ipperwash. There is sufficient space in the administration office to centralize all battalion and company offices. The large parade square and drill hall can accommodate the entire battalion and all types of terrain can be found in the area for field training. There are three ranges; the 600-yard classification range, the 30-yard miniature range and the Sten range.</p> <p>Heating and cooking facilities are somewhat unsatisfactory but these are being improved. The officers and sergeants have spacious messes and the men have a dry canteen. A men's wet canteen will be set up as soon as authority can be granted.</p> <p>There is a stage and projection facilities in the drill hall. Plans are being made for the showing of latest MGM films three times a week.</p> <p>Although the weather for the move yesterday was balmy, it rained intermittently today.</p>	<p><i>MHA</i></p>
Camp Ipperwash	5 DEC	0900	<p>Word was received today by the CO that all Special Force personnel with this battalion who had not already served in Korea would leave late this month as a draft to 25 CIBRG at Edmonton. This affects some 90 men in this unit, many of them NCOs and specialists, and one officer.</p> <p>The CO addressed the entire battalion in the drill hall today. He spoke of the responsibility of the 3 PPCLI, as the only Active Force unit in this area, to conduct themselves as good soldiers when on pass or leave in this district.</p>	<p><i>MHA</i></p>
Camp Ipperwash	6 DEC	0900	<p>A tragic accident has marred the arrival of the Patricia's at this camp. Two young soldiers of this unit, Ptes. Plumb RA and Helm CC, were killed in a motor accident on the highway near Sarnia, Ont. The pair was being given a ride back to camp in a truck when the truck collided with a car at an intersection. The driver of the truck was critically injured.</p> <p>Special Force personnel who will make up the draft for Korea were alerted today and will go on 10 days embarkation tomorrow.</p>	<p><i>MHA</i></p>

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Camp Ipperwash	7 DEC	1100	<p>Brigadier WAB Anderson, OBE, CD, Commander of Western Ontario Area, visited this unit today.</p> <p>After a tour of barracks during the latter part of the morning, the brigadier lunched at the officers' mess. In a brief luncheon address, he welcomed the officers and the unit to the camp. He said he was well pleased with the turn-out of the battalion and that he would do all in his power to obtain all equipments and other necessities needed here for training.</p> <p>After spending the afternoon watching the unit in training, Brigadier Anderson left at 1630 hrs.</p> <p>The CO attended a mess dinner at Wolsley Barracks in London, Ont., in honour of the brigadier.</p>	<p align="center">KJA</p>
Camp Ipperwash	8 DEC	0830	<p>The battalion parade this Saturday morning crowded the square. The Third Patricias are really beginning to look like a unit. One hundred and seventeen recruits watched the parade from the sidelines. The rapid intake of recruits is causing some concern as there are not enough NCOs to form new platoons.</p> <p>The strength of the battalion is now rapidly nearing the 900-mark. There are 46 officers on the strength of this unit.</p>	<p align="center">KJA</p>
Camp Ipperwash	9 DEC	0900	<p>Civilian padres are coming to the unit each Sunday to conduct services of all denominations at the camp chapel. Attendance at the services is voluntary.</p> <p>The weather has now turned bitterly cold. This camp is located on the shore of Lake Huron on flat country. The wind off the lake seldom ceases blowing and is usually quite sharp.</p> <p>Lt. GA Ross and 2/Lt. RG Graham left today to conduct the bodies of the two accident victims to their home towns. The remains of Pte. Helm CC will be buried in Belleville, Ont. Mr. Graham will attend the funeral of Pte. Plumb RA and in Dinscarth, Man.</p>	<p align="center">KJA</p>
Camp Ipperwash	10 DEC	1200	<p>Major General Chris Vokes, pGOC of Western Command, paid a surprise visit to the camp today.</p> <p>General Vokes was in Eastern Canada attending the conference of the Chief of the General Staff at Ottawa. He visited the Patricias to see his son, O/C CJF Vokes, who is serving with this unit.</p> <p>The general left at 1500 hrs.</p>	<p align="center">KJA</p>

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Camp Ipperwash	10 DEC	1430	<p>Lt.-Col. W. Mogk and his team from AHQ arrived today. They will resolve some administrative difficulties, speed up discharges and plug gaps in the establishment of the battalion.</p> <p>The rear party left behind at Camp Borden upon the move to Ipperwash arrived today. Commanded by Capt. CS Shawcross, the party totalled 35 originally but had reached a strength of nearly 90 upon their arrival here. This was due to the continued influx of troops to Borden after the Patricias' departure.</p>	<p>MA</p>
Camp Ipperwash	11 DEC	0900	<p>The team from AHQ got down to business today and disposed of many serious administrative problems. Medical discharges waiting disposal for months have been given final authorization. The team left at 1700 hrs for London where they will visit the artillery battery there.</p> <p>The mayor of Forest, a small village eight miles from camp, paid a call to the CO at 1400 hrs. He wished to see if transport could be made available to take Indian children from Kettle to Forest to enjoy the recreational facilities. The CO was forced to say that this matter was beyond the terms of reference of a military commander but advised the mayor to write to the Department of Indian Affairs to secure the necessary authority.</p> <p>The first of a series of entertainment films was shown in the drill hall tonight.</p> <p>The weather has turned bitterly cold. High winds and snow flurries have caused outdoor training to be cut to a minimum.</p>	<p>MA</p>
Camp Ipperwash	12 DEC	0900	<p>The strength of the battalion is now well over 900 in all ranks. The unit is rapidly approaching establishment strength. In reality the unit is well over the establishment for private soldiers and well under for officers and NCOs.</p> <p>With the formation of the Special Force draft to 25 CIBRG, many of the NCOs of the battalion will be lost. In order to counteract this shortage the CO has directed that a promotional survey take place among the ranks of the corporals to find some suitable to be made acting sergeants.</p> <p>The unit hockey team held its first practice today at the arena in Forest. The team has been entered in the local civilian league. Capt. KC Crook is coach of the team and 2/Lt. RH Acheson, sports officer, is manager.</p> <p>The team looked impressive and potentially strong in its first outing. Among the spectators were the CO and Adjutant.</p>	<p>MA.</p>

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Camp Ipperwash	13 DEC	0900	<p>The CO has ordered the formation of the "Bad Boys" Platoon, under the direction of 2/Lt. RA Acheson. All personnel whose presence injures the morale or discipline of their fellow soldiers will be segregated in this platoon. This new platoon is No. 12 Platoon and will form part of Dog Company which is to be organized shortly.</p> <p>Lt. DM Marvin arrived today. He is to act as 2 i/c of the newly-formed Able Company.</p> <p>The temperature went down below zero during the night. There were many complaints about the cold in the sleeping quarters.</p>	<p>Y/A</p>
Camp Ipperwash	14 DEC	1000	<p>Lt.-Col. King Mason, RCEME officer of Central Command, arrived today for a conference with the commanding officer. The subject of the conference was the shortage of RCEME craftsman at this unit. Lt.-Col. Mason promised to fill all such vacancies in the battalion. He left at 1500 hrs.</p> <p>The severe cold snap continued today coupled with a heavy blizzard. The camp engineers were frantically busy trying to heat cold huts and repair burst pipes. All work in the kitchen has ceased until the emergency is over.</p>	<p>Y/A</p>
Camp Ipperwash	15 DEC	1300	<p>Major TM MacDonald, Brigade Major of 25 CIBRG, visited the 3 PPCLI today. After a conference with the CO, the major left at 1530 hrs.</p> <p>Major DOR Kearns, OC of Support Company, has been named acting 2 i/c of the battalion in the absence of Major CEC McNeill, who has gone on leave.</p>	<p>Y/A</p>
Camp Ipperwash	16 DEC	0900	<p>This day passed without event on Sunday routine.</p> <p>The weather continues to remain bitter cold, with the temperature again dropping well below zero.</p>	<p>Y/A</p>
Camp Ipperwash	17 DEC	0830	<p>The Special Force personnel proceeding shortly on draft to Korea returned from embarkation leave today. Of the 90 men on the draft, there were 27 AWLs reported.</p> <p>Plans have been drawn up for the observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Half of the battalion, with preference given to married men, will go on leave at Christmas while the other half will receive leave at New Year's.</p> <p>A committee of officers, under Capt. Sm CS Shawcross, has been drawn up to plan holiday observance in the officers' mess. A similar committee, under Capt. ED McPhail, formed of two men from each company, will make similar plans for the men's mess.</p>	<p>Y/A</p>

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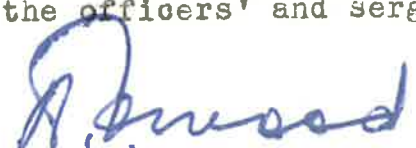
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks.
Camp Ipperwash	18 DEC	0900	<p>The London Free Press in an editorial today started a most gratifying campaign urging householders in Western Ontario to take servicemen into their homes for dinner on Christmas Day. This was particularly applied to PPCLI personnel and the Canadian artillerymen of 216 Field Battery, RCA, stationed at Wolsley Barracks in London.</p> <p>This plan was circulated throughout the battalion and the early response from the troops was heavy. Already home-owners in large and small towns in this area have telephoned the Adjutant offering to accommodate a soldier at Christmas.</p> <p>Many of the men reported AWL from the Special Force draft returned to camp overnight. However, 15 are still absent.</p>	<p>7/2/A</p>
Camp Ipperwash	19 DEC	0900	<p>The kitchen for the men's mess is terribly overcrowded and working beyond its capacity. One wing of another kitchen will be put into operation as an emergency measure until a centrally-heated kitchen is ready for use. This is one of the projects which is presently keeping the camp engineers busy.</p> <p>The draft to Korea has sapped the clerical strength of the battalion. To help counteract this, the BOR sergeant is now conducting a typing class on Monday and Wednesday nights to build up a complement of trained typists for work in company and battalion offices.</p>	<p>7/2/A</p>
Camp Ipperwash	20 DEC	0900	<p>The CO has asked HQ Western Ontario Area for the authority to re-open a field firing range within the confines of the camp. He feels that this range must be obtained for live firing in the field to establish the proper battle indoctrination of the troops. The camp is also being reced to find a suitable location for a grenade range.</p> <p>A training grant of \$250 has been made available to this unit by HQ Western Ontario Area. This will cover the purchase of any training requirements not on RCOC issue. No single item can exceed \$25 in cost.</p>	<p>7/2/A</p>
Camp Ipperwash	21 DEC	2000	<p>The unit hockey team played its first game tonight against Blackwell of the district civilian league. In a hard-fought game, The Patricias lost by the score of 7 to 5. The team showed strong potentiality and the loss was attributed partially to the fact that the only available playing surface is at Forest, a village eight miles distant, making it difficult to arrange proper practices for the team.</p>	<p>7/2/A</p>

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Camp Ipperwash	22 DEC	0830	<p>Training has necessarily come to a near-stop as half the battalion is now on Christmas leave. In most cases this leave extends to 27 Dec. The total strength of the battalion now stands at 45 officers and 920 other ranks, all of whom have been taken on strength. The number of new recruits who are pending being taken on strength until the arrival of their documents brings the actual total close to the 1000 mark.</p> <p>Seven young officer cadets stood treat today in the officers' mess. Notification was received today that they would become fully-commissioned second lieutenants effective 30 Dec. Members of the first class to graduate from the Officer Candidate School formed last summer, they are O/Cs RR Geddes, WJ Kitson, GC Pilcher, CB Snider, NFJ Villiers, WL Watt and GH White.</p> <p>They will return to the Royal Canadian School of Infantry in the early part of January for phase 4 of their officer training. Phase 3 of the course was the three month term spent at this unit. They were all employed in training or administrative positions with the Patricia's to round out their experience.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">79/A</p>
Camp Ipperwash	23 DEC	0900	<p>This day passed quietly on Sunday routine. The weather has turned somewhat milder after the bitter cold spell of early last week.</p> <p>Calls are still pouring into the battalion orderly room from kindly Western Ontario residents wishing to take a soldier into their homes for Christmas dinner.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">79/A</p>
Camp Ipperwash	24 DEC	0900	<p>As today is Christmas Eve, Saturday routine has been adopted. Training ceased and all offices closed at noon. Holiday schedule as laid down will be Sunday routine on Christmas Day and Boxing Day with regular training resuming on 27 Dec.</p> <p>A proper seasonal layer of snow covers the ground, supplying the traditional Christmas aspect, but the temperature is hovering about freezing, a welcome change from the severe cold of recent days.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">79/A</p>
Camp Ipperwash	25 DEC	1100	<p>Today is Christmas.</p> <p>The senior NCOs of the battalion held "open house" for the officers in the sergeants' mess at 1100 hrs.</p> <p>At 1300 hrs the officers and senior NCOs in the traditional manner waited on tables in the men's mess for the equally traditional turkey dinner. Free beer was supplied through the profits from the men's canteen. The RSM, WO 1 McDonnell DCM, and Major DOR Kearns, acting commander of Camp Ipperwash, during the CO's absence on leave, led a sing-song.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">79/A</p>

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Camp Ipperwash	26 DEC	0900	<p>Boxing Day was spent quietly in the camp on Sunday routine. The men's wet canteen has now been opened and operates nightly until 2200 hrs. With many of the men on Christmasleave and many more spending the holiday in private homes, there are only 350 men who stayed in camp over Christmas. A special program of films was shown in the drill hall for the entertainment of the troops.</p>	<p><i>YMA</i></p>
Camp Ipperwash	27 DEC	0900	<p>Training was resumed today as the men poured back into camp from leave. AWLs were at a minimum. The officers held their first formal function in their new mess tonight in the form of a holiday dance.</p>	<p><i>YMA</i></p>
Camp Ipperwash	28 DEC	1400	<p>The draft of Special Force personnel left the battalion today for 25 CIBRG, Edmonton, as reinforcements for the Korean theatre of operations. In the draft were Lt. JD Hamilton and 75 other ranks. The second half of the battalion left on New Year's leave today.</p>	<p><i>YMA</i></p>
Camp Ipperwash	29 DEC	0900	<p>With the departure of the draft, the total strength of the 3 PPCLI now stands at 44 officers and 848 other ranks. Surprisingly enough, recruits consistently arrived at this unit over the holiday season and the vacancies left by the draft will soon be filled numerically.</p>	<p><i>YMA</i></p>
Camp Ipperwash	30 DEC	1200	<p>The Commanding Officer held "open house" for the officers today at his home in Grand Bend, some 15 miles from Camp Ipperwash. In the camp proper, the day passed quietly on Sunday routine with the usual church services conducted in the chapel by civilian padres.</p>	<p><i>YMA</i></p>
Camp Ipperwash	31 DEC	0900	<p>Routine similar to that adopted at Christmas has been laid down. As New Year's Eve this day will be on Saturday routine with all work ceasing at noon. New Year's Day and 2 Jan 52 will be Sunday routine. The New Year was ushered quietly in the officers' and sergeants' messes with informal parties.</p>	<p><i>YMA</i></p>


 (HF Wood) Lt-Col
 Commanding 3 PPCLI

THIRD BATTALION, PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

LIST OF APPENDICES FOR WAR DIARY MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1951

Appendix No. 1	Part I Orders 26170 26374/8 Dec 51, 17017/12 Dec 51 (261, 262, 264, 264/10 Dec 51)	original and duplicate
"	No. 2 Part II Orders 8270964/51 Dec 51	duplicate only
"	No. 3 Training Syllabi	original, some duplicate
"	No. 4 Monthly Newsletter	original and duplicate
"	No. 5 Minutes of CO's Conference (10 Dec 51)	original and duplicate
"	No. 6 Minutes of CO's Conference (18 Dec 51)	" and "
"	No. 7 Syllabus, Jr NCOs School	original only No. Dup.
"	No. 8 Official Visit, Brig Anderson	original and duplicate
"	No. 9 Regulations, Sgts Mess	original and duplicate
"	No. 10 Letter from CO RCAC School	original only Missing Dup.
"	No. 11 Letter from Sarnia Garrison Officers' Mess	original only
"	No. 12 Letter to Sarnia Garrison Officers' Mess	original only
"	No. 13 Walnwright Warrior	original only
"	No. 14 Christmas Cards (6)	originals only
"	No. 15 London Free Press (Dec 18 and 20)	originals only