

Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in War Diary Cover (CAFB 1667A). Instructions for compiling War Diaries are printed inside this cover.

WAR DIARY

SECRET

..... I Bn PPCLI ..... Feb 52 .....  
(Unit or formation) (Month and year)

Location	Date	Hour	Summary of events and Information	Reference to Appendices and Officer's initials.
Map Ref CT 161028 1:25.000 Majon- NI SE Sheet 6528 II	1 Feb 52		<p>A dull day, overcast with snow falling for most of the morning. The slopes are now quite treacherous if not impossible and it is a curious sight to see white covered rear ends. The night was crystal clear and cold.</p> <p>During the day approx 24 rounds of 105 MM were received well to our left but they were received as a reminder that while we are in reserve we are still in the war.</p>	
	2 Feb		<p>The big news today is hockey. It appears that on his visit here the Minister said he would send out some hockey equipment and that he has 100 sets of it enough for four teams.</p> <p>Brig Rockingham has ordered the construction of the IMJIN GARDENS, a task to be shared by all Bde units, just west of Teal bridge in a shallow backwater of the Imjin. Two rinks are to be prepared complete with tents for dressing rooms and even a hot dog stand.</p> <p>Lt Bull our Atk Offr has been put in charge of our hockey team and he is busy rounding up players. Fortunately our last years team is here practically intact and it has had few casualties.</p> <p>Another cold miserable day. The men are still fiddling with their defences though most of the work is in touching up bunkers to make them warmer. All types of improvised stoves are being constructed.</p> <p>Coy kitchens are coming in for some attention. While the 2 IC is in the drivers seat, he is not forgetting the administrative side.</p>	
	3 Feb		<p>One of those days when nothing seems to have happened.</p> <p>Being in reserve is starting to pall a bit and everyone is getting restless. The numbers going absent is rising and minor crime is on the upswing. It is the first chance the Bn has relaxed since we were warned for overseas duty six months ago and the let down is quite considerable. More strict control of transport is being called for. A man's propensity to crime increases with his mobility and the sight of many jeeps lying about is a great temptation.</p> <p>It goes without saying we had no contact with the enemy.</p>	



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	4 Feb 52		<p>The first hockey game of the season- and perhaps the first to be played on the 38th parallel- got under way this afternoon between ourselves and 2 R22R. It was a closely contested game and the score of 5-0 in our favour did not reflect the standard of playing. The VanDoos were very good and look like a team to beat.</p> <p>Halfway through the game the CO turned up just back from his leave in Tokyo. He's not saying much but he does say he heartily approves of the institution of R&amp;R leave.</p> <p>Many of the men have been to Tokyo but it looks as though the first Officers to go will be JM Davis (Pnrs) and W Davis (Int Offr)</p> <p>We had a bit of a scare today when sounds of machine gun fire rolled over the valleys. Our new MMG Offr, Capt Gunton, was only testing some new guns. From the number of calls that flooded the CP asking "What's Up" one can see the Bn is still alert, or should we say jumpy.</p>	
	5 Feb 52		<p>The CO <sup>was</sup> marked his return by a trip around all the cogs.</p> <p>The Bde Comd visited briefly to check Bn plans for the counter - attack on Yong Dong 137105. This is held by a pl of ours but is under Op Comd of 1 R Norfolks. It is our job to counter-attack and restore this feature if it is lost. In a few days we are going to rehearse the the counter-attack operation.</p> <p>The first Bn patrol course got under way today with Lt Jans in charge and assisted by the Bn Sniper Sec. The students were a Sgt, Cpl and a Pte from each rifle Coy. This course is designed to improve the standard of patrolling by reteaching the basic principles. Each course will be a week. Numbers on each course are being kept small so that individual instruction can be given.</p> <p>MMG training is also starting. A syllabus is attached at Appx L</p>	
	6 Feb 52		<p>Today a stretcher-bearers course got under way Sgt Elliot our SB Sgt and supervised by the MO.</p> <p>The day started cold but warmed up a bit toward evening. A bit of sleet even appeared turing the roads into muddy messes and the paths on the hills into toboggan slides.</p>	



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			<p>Among the normal types of training going on we have a very unusual though laudable school about to be started under the auspices of Brigade. It is a course on "Christianity and the Army". The course will run for one week in the interval between courses at the NCO's school at Uijonbu. Joining instrs appear a Appx 13</p>	
	7 Feb 52		<p>Today we heard the news of our sovereign's death. Its suddenness made the news all the more tragic. After 50 years we are once again "Soldiers of the Queen".</p> <p>After news of such far reaching importance the day's activities look pitifully inadequate so NTR.</p>	
	8 Feb 52		<p>Our hocky team again <sup>had</sup> was a vitory this time over the RCR. It was a good clean fast game; only one penalty this of course going to a nasty RCR. Final score 4 to 3. Despite the close score the issue was never really in doubt.</p> <p>We heard that the RCR and R22eR - in fact the whole Bde less us - would be goin home next month. It is nice to know the system is working even if it is not yet our turn.</p> <p>Needless to say there was no contact with the enemy.</p> <p>The CO visited the Pl on Yong Dong today and found them in good form.</p> <p>The movie palace in Mortar Vally<sup>2</sup> is coming along nicely and should be playing to packed crowds soon.</p> <p>A new pass form is being brought out for our Korean indigimous personnel - see Appx/W.</p>	
	9 Feb 52		<p>All was quiet within our lines with no contact with the enemy.</p> <p>Weather - Clear and hazy during the early morning, with clear and warm at night.</p> <p>In the Commonwealth Division Front a twenty-one gun salute was fired to mark the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne. All flags were raised to full mast until sunset, then lowered again to half mast to remain there until next Friday.</p>	



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			<p>The training plan is still clicking along and everyone is working quite hard. One form of training which is popular is the small shooting expeditions which are arranged in the coys. The unit bought a few shot-guns and each coy has one. Small parties roam about adding pheasant and deer to the daily diet. The largest concentrations of pheasants are of course in the middle of the minefields.</p> <p>There was a conference at Bde HQ this afternoon to discuss various small points among them being the taking of an Oath of Alligience to our new Queen. Op Snare was discussed and orders given for it. This Op will be discussed in this diary later.</p> <p>Trash dumps came in for mention. We will expect to see something on this from the 2 IC soon.</p> <p>Our CO being the senior Bn Comd administered the Oath of Alligieace to Brig Rockingham. The Bde Comd will visit all units tomorrow to administer the same Oath to all officers.</p> <p>The joining units for courses at the Bde NCO's school were issued today and appear at Appx 16.</p>	
	10 Feb 52		<p>At 1000 hrs all the Bn offr's paraded to swear their Oath of Alligience to Queen Elizabeth. Brig Rockingham administered the oath to the CO who then called fwd the officers by coy gps and took their Oath. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Padre led the parade in a prayer for our new sovereign.</p> <p>Our first patrol course ended today. All agree they have learned a great deal.</p>	
	11 Feb 52		<p>Op SNARE started today. This is an idea cooked up by some wild-eyed dreamer at Eight Army HQ to make the enemy curious then careless. There is to be no activity whatsoever for one week - the guns are silent veh movement is restricted, there must be no one seen on fwd shoppes, noise especialy at night must be eliminated. Such a plan put in on say a div front may pique the enemy's curiosity but when he sees no activity on the whole front and when no planes or artillery fire at him he will undoubtedly suspect a ruse. No one is to hopeful for this plan</p>	



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			<p><del>put in</del> but we are playing. See Appx P for tpt restrictions imposed in our area. In addition to this we have also put up a certain amount of camouflage on D Coy's hill, which is about the only place where movement on a skyline is necessary.</p> <p>The CO attended the passing out parade of the NCO's school today where I PPCLI took the lions share of the honours. General Van Fleet took the salute. Major Cross <del>2</del> PPCLI is Commandant and he was a worried officer, "I feel as though I'm walking on eggs" he said before the parade. All went very well.</p> <p>It was a dull overcast day. Towards night a light fluffy snow fell but soon after it turned to a damp miserable rain which was very depressing.</p>	
	12 Feb 52		<p>The front is extremely quiet with no guns banging. It is reminiscent of the phoney truce we had last December. So far the enemy has remained singularly unimpressed though we hear the odd one has been seen wandering about on fwd slopes in front of the leading Bdes.</p> <p>An overcast rather dreary day.</p> <p>The patrol school started again with a new flock of students. The CO looked in on the SB School where some bloody cases were being bandaged and splinted. The SB School has cut into the reserves of tomato catsup but Sgt Elliot is a great one for realism.</p> <p>The hocky team trounced the Tpt Coy today winning handily.</p>	
	13 Feb 52		<p>A nice clear bright sparkling crisp day. Every one moved about happily today. Actually the winter so far has been most plessant and not at all as advertized. We all feel that there can't be much sting left in it and everyone is looking farward to the spring.</p> <p>The winter clothing we had is probably superb for what it is designed for ie. Artic weather, but for this damp cold we have here it is not good.</p> <p>We really require something more waterproof; our nylon looks good but soon gets very wet and soggy. More over judging from the rents and tears in the trousers it doesn't look too serviceable. It is warm however</p>	

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			<p>and that is what it is designed for.</p> <p>All during these past days the coys have been going out digging on the positions we will hold if the division is ordered to withdraw. We will fall back on to the bridge at TEAL where we will take up defensive positions to protect the bridge. Our role will be to hold the bridge to let 29 Brit Inf Bde fall back to line KANSAS. We will then fall back ourselves to reserve positions behind KANSAS.</p> <p>A trace showing our positions on TEAL appears at Appx 2.11.</p> <p>Each coy normally sends a platoon a day out to dig on the TEAL positions. As the ground is frozen it is extremely slow work. Petrol is burned on the ground first, then some earth dug out, then more petrol and more digging until the frost line is reached. Two hrs work in normal ground is now a full days work here.</p>	
	14 Feb 52		<p>The CO today visited the NCO's school and saw the Church Membership Course. He sat in on one lecture and at the end said a few words to the whole course.</p> <p>After lunch he and Capt Filshie, the Padre who is also teaching on the course, left for a visit to the Div Rest Camp at Inchon. This was a courtesy visit to have a quick look around and see what amenities were offered. Actually it is a very good show - good beds, good food, books, games and movies. The only problem is the opportunities for extra curricular activities which abound in the nearby native houses. Engaging in these activities invariably results in repeated visits to the RAP. No restraints are put on the men and they can leave the camp to walk out during the day but every effort is made to keep them entertained and within the area. Two WVS girls contribute a great deal to the pleasant atmosphere.</p> <p>Training and digging on TEAL continues.</p>	
	15 Feb 52		<p>Op SNARE is producing very little. There have been no curious patrols against us and the enemy seems to be taking full advantage of his unexpected respite from shelling. He is quite boldly digging by day on the forward slopes and creeping his positions closer to our lines.</p>	



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	16 Feb 52		<p>We hear a couple of US soldiers were taken PW and the fear is that they have told the enemy about SNARE. In any case on our front, seems quite confident we won't hurt him. Our tank crews are practically dying of frustration.</p> <p>Capt Harris our OC Sigs Pl left on R&amp;R and his 2IC Lt Hockin is now in charge. Not having seen Joe for awhile we asked what he had been doing. It sounded so interesting we asked him to prepare an account for the war diary.</p> <p>It appears at Appx R.</p> <p>The weather has turned colder but it is clear and crisp and really very pleasant.</p> <p>This afternoon Brig Rockingham visited the patrol school and saw them rehearsing an ambush patrol which they will be putting out tonight. The Bde Comd was so impressed with the rehearsal that he ordered us to dress it up a bit and put it on as a demonstration for the brigade. The demonstration is planned for the 25 Feb.</p> <p>The king was buried today. We will still wear our black bands but the flag now goes to full mast.</p> <p>Op SNARE ground to an ignominious <i>HALT</i> today and the guns blasted with the air of a man in a terrible temper who could restrain himself no longer. The Chinamen who had been caving on their fwd slopes dived for cover and stayed there. We have been losers on this exercise all we have done is to give the enemy an opportunity to dig himself in 500 yds closer to us. The idiot who proposed this op has much to answer for.</p>	
	17 Feb 52		<p>A quiet day with little to report.</p> <p>The CO had a short Op on Op POLECAT an anti-infiltration sweep through our rear areas. 25 Cdn Inf Bde Op Instr 24 ordered sweep.</p> <p>The CO announced that on the 20 Feb all the Offrs would gather for a battle field tour of the Battle of the Imjin in which the Glosters were <i>CO OFF</i>. He also said this would involve a climb up KAMAK SAN, the largest mountain a few miles in rear of us. Long faces at this point.</p>	

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	18 Feb 52		<p>We beat the Strathconas today 4-0.</p> <p>A nice clear day for Op POLECAT which got off to a good start. The Bn formed out into a "skirmish line" and advanced over hill, through creeks and paddy fields SOUTH of the IMJIN. On our LEFT we tied in with the R22eR and on our RIGHT with the RCR. Very little was flushed. There were many rifle shots but it was pheasant and deer and not Chinese agents which was the target. A part from an unauthorized civilian and a couple of AWLs from the KSC the Op was uneventful.</p> <p>Everywhere else in the Bn all was quiet.</p> <p>Again a win for the hockey team 6-2 against 57<sup>th</sup> Cdn Fd Sqn.</p>	
	19 Feb 52		<p>The Padre produced an account of the Church Membership Course and this he is sending to the churches in Canada of the men who attended the course. This account gives a good description of what happened at this course and is att at Appx S.</p> <p>The CO in preparation for an exercise, which is rumoured for the month, has got Fred Harris the Signal Ofrr running about in a flat spin. Fred has had the Bn Tac HQ out rehearsing movement and setting up. The CO is writing a complete brief on HQ which will go into Bn Standing Orders.</p> <p>More digging on the TEAL positions. The CO and Brig Rockingham made an inspection trip and announced they were fairly happy at the progress made.</p> <p>It was a beautiful day clear and not too cold. It looks as though we can now forget about winter.</p> <p>It has been decided to run a Bn drivers course soon- see Appx T.</p> <p>Work started today on a fireplace in the mess. Two dignified old Koreans appeared with a very young helper and commenced the foundation. Already all the amateur fireplace builders are declaring it unsound. The contract for the fireplaces runs to the staggering sum of \$13.00.</p> <p>Against 2 RCHA we had our first tie 2-2. We are still well on top of the league however.</p>	



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	20 Feb 52		<p>This morning all the officers met in the mess at 0900 hrs some - what disrupting the fireplace builders.</p> <p>The CO issued marked maps - prepared by our I Sec - and then gave a one hr talk on the Battle of the Imjin. This battle was part of the Fifth Offensive which started on 22 Apr 51 with the Chinese crossing the river at TEAL bridge and attacking the Glosters in the area of Castle Hill 1703. The fact that the attack jumped off from the very area we were sitting in made the discussion very interesting. From official accounts, regt histories, and from personal accounts the CO had pieced together the story of the defence by 29 Inf Bde of the ground in front of KAMAK SAN.</p> <p>The discussion in the Mess was mostly by way of introduction. At 1000 hrs we embussed in many many jeeps and proceeded to the small village of NULMONG-NI 2301. There we divested ourselves of parkas, etc, and followed the CO up the mountain.</p> <p>KAMAK SAN is a high rugged hill over 2000 ft high and is the most dominant feature in this part of Western KOREA. It's steep slopes are heavily wooded - heavily for this part of the world that is, actually the largest trees are only 6" in diameter - and long rocky fingers run out from the main hill mass. To the Koreans it has some sort of sacred attachment.</p> <p>KAMAK SAN is the key feature in our line KANSAS defences and the seizure of it by the Chinese enabled the encirclement of the Glosters and almost of the Ulsters. The CO brought us to this hill to illustrate the vital importance of defending the heights and showing the folly of having ground in your rear which provides observation of your position.</p> <p>The climb was actually quite pleasant. The air was crisp and the snow was crystalline and not hard going. The path selected by the CO took us the long way up but made far easier climbing.</p> <p>The B Ech officers, especially Lts Bell and Hockin, found the going toughest. After an hr and fifteen min climb we reached the top after looking at the site of an old Chinese HQ just short of the summit.</p> <p>We spent about an hour identifying land marks and having pictures taken in front of a monument which is on top. The CO again reviewed</p>	



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	21 Feb 52		<p>the Imjin Battle.</p> <p>We descended and had lunch at the jeeps at about 1330 hrs. Everything was quiet on the front. The hockey team trounced the Van Doos a resounding 6-2.</p> <p>Today was overcast with a wet damp miserable snow falling. Not at all a pleasant day.</p> <p>The weather cleared a bit in the afternoon and the hockey team beat Bde HQ 4-3. It was a very close and exciting game. The GOC was present and enjoyed it very much. The CO similarly enjoyed it having won a \$5.00 bet from Brig Rockingham.</p> <p>The Bde Comd came over to see a rehearsal of the ambush patrol demonstration this afternoon after the hockey game. The rehearsal went very well.</p> <p>Later in the mess over a drink the hockey game was discussed and out of it came a challenge for the unit officers to play the Bde HQ officers. They have three officers on the regular team and we have none who play so the outcome is very much in doubt.</p> <p>Still digging on TEAL. The ground is still tough.</p> <p>I Commonwealth Div has issued an instr on trash dumps - See Appx 21</p>	
	22 Feb 52		<p>A very uneventful day.</p> <p>The officers team had a practice today at noon and we have found some hidden talent. Lt Bull is doing very well in goal while Lt Richards shows he knows more than a little about the game. Someone suggested battlefeld commissions to some of our hockey team.</p> <p>The CO completed his notes on the Org and Mov of Bn HQ, a copy of which is att at Appx 21. This is a first draft which eventually will be made into Bn Standing Orders. The Org of Tac HQ will be tried on a Bde exercise we expect to be staged toward the end of the month.</p> <p>We tried the new officers mess fireplace. It burned beautifully but smoked so badly that everyone was driven to the floor very quickly. We obviously need a new chimney. The present one is made from the containers that 20 pr shells are shipped in.</p>	



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	23 Feb 52		<p>We received word that Major Allan will be leaving the Bn to become Brigade Major of the Brigade and that Major Dymond will take his place. This move is to take place shortly.</p> <p>B Coy officers and NCOs repeated the exploits of the officers in climbing KAMAK SAN and reviewing the Imjin Battle. Everyone was very interested. Other coys are expected to follow suit.</p> <p>Major Williams has been very busy today getting ready for the party tomorrow while the 2IC has been supervising the rebuilding of the chimney. We are now using 45 gal drums as a chimney and they now rise up from beside the mess tent reminding one of a wood-burning paddle steamer.</p> <p>The new theatre is running full tilt and appears to be much appreciated by everyone.</p>	
	24 Feb 52		<p>A very big day for the officers at least.</p> <p>The day started with the big hocky game between I PPCLI officers and the officers of Bde HQ. Everyone played two minutes. Despite everyone being in good shape from hill climbing, skating seemed to call for different muscles and lines fairly staggered off the ice.</p> <p>The game provided many laughs for the numerous bystanders and quite a few for the players. Brig Rockingham led the odd charge into our end of the rink forcing his way down by sheer mass more than skating skill. All in all it was good fun and no one minded the first loss the Patricias suffered on the ice. The final score 3 to 2 against us despite our frantic efforts at the last when we even pulled Lt Bull our goalie out and put in six forwards.</p> <p>At 1200 hrs our guests started arriving at a small reception we had. (Copy of our invitation is at Appx B) The GOC, all Brigs and all COs attended. We served a buffet lunch and "Moose Milk" a warming potion which was extremely well received. Many requests were made for the recipe which is even too secret to appear in the War Diary.</p> <p>The fireplace worked beautifully.</p> <p>In the afternoon the Brig witnessed a dress rehearsal of the patrol demonstration and pronounced it OK. Later he stayed to tea and dinner all the while bringing the conversation around to the smashing win by</p>	



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	25 Feb 52		<p>Bde HQ.</p> <p>Towards the afternoon a light snow started to fall and the day ended in a very heavy snow storm.</p> <p>The CO and IO attended a conference to discuss the move of the Bn to relieve the I WELCH on the Div's LEFT sector in early March. This was a warning order and we were told to visit the WELCH and get generally acquainted with the area. It is a brand new area for us.</p> <p>A warning for Ex LIMBER was also given and the outlines of the Ex discussed. The exercise will be staged on 29 Feb and will see the Bde concentrate SOUTH of the Imjin behind the three bridges and then do a water crossing and the siezing of a bridge head. On the RIGHT 2 R22eR will cross by aslt boats near PINTAIL 2309 we will be in the centre crossing via TEAL br and the ford - due to the shallowness of the river at this point the boats are of not much use; we could wade across but the Bde Comd doesn't want men soaked to their shoulders on an exercise when as he says "I know they could do it if they had to". On the LEFT, 2RCR will cross by aslt boats at WIDGEON 1503.</p> <p>In the afternoon the GOC, many Bn Comd from Brit, Australian and CdnBns, plus many of their officers and NCOs, attended our demonstration which took place at 156083 just across the valley from our HQ locality. After an introduction by Brig Rockingham and the CO, Lt Jans took over and ran a very convincing demonstration which was very well received.</p> <p>After the demonstration there was a discussion when many ideas were exchanged on the best methods to adopt to secure PW.</p> <p>The spectators were then taken up the hill and facing SW they were shown the ground over which our patrol school operates. The CO explained the purpose of the school and ran over the syllabus. A short precis was issued a copy of which appears at Appx 21.</p> <p>Later the spectators were given tea in the Offr's and Sgt's Messes which was much appreciated as a cold wind had brought a fine stinging snow.</p>	



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	26 Feb 52		<p>A very quiet day with little happening.</p> <p>Bn Tac HQ did a rehearsal and was established in quick time.</p> <p>The day was clear and balmy and yesterday's snow started to turn soft.</p> <p>The CO looked in on the SB School which seems to be going along very well. All twenty of the candidates seem very interested.</p>	
	27 Feb 52		<p>One of those days when nothing seems to have happened. All was quiet a little shelling was heard to our left rear on the US medium bt'y in the bend of the river at 1506 but that is about all.</p> <p>The weather again nice and balmy.</p>	
	28 Feb 52		<p>The CO and IO attended an O Gp for Ex LIMBER and received the Bde Comd's verbal orders.</p> <p>The CO then left immediatly and from the view point 178048 completed his recce and made his plan. The Coy Comds came to the RV and at 1100 hrs the CO gave his verbal orders. These orders appear as an annexure to Appx Y.</p> <p>The rest of the day was spent in preparations for the exercise.</p> <p>The Bn will get under way tomorrow at 0600 hrs.</p>	
	29 Feb 52		<p>The entire day was spent on Ex LIMBER a complete account of which appears at Appx Y.</p> <p>The day was clear, cold, and windy.</p> <p>It was observed that being leap Year our tour out here will be a day longer.</p>	

Approved

*W. Wilson-Smith*  
(NG Wilson-Smith) Lt Col  
CO I PPCLI



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

Title pages will be prepared.

I PPCLI

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M.F.M 1  
A.F. 218  
600m-7-44 (5421)  
H.Q. 172-39-1658

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
<u>LIST OF APPENDICIES</u>				
				<u>ORIG</u> <u>DUP</u>
1			Unit Pt I Orders 64-77 d/21 24/52	
2			Unit Pt II Orders 15-19 d/21 9 24	
3			SIGSMOCHAPIO for Feb	
4			I COMWEL Div	
5			I COMWEL Div Periodic Ops Reports	
6			Enemy sightings	
7			Light Data for Feb	
8			I COMWEL Div Interrogation Reports	
9			Weekly Str Returns	
10			Reconnaissance 1:25,000 Maps	
11			I COMWEL Div CB Summary	
12			WMC Trng syllabus	
13			Joining Instrs Course "Christianity and the Army"	
14			New Pass Form for Indigenuous Labour	
15			Joining Instrs NCO's Course	
16			Tpt Restrictions Op SNARE	
17			Trace Showing Positions on TEAL Br	
18			Duties of 2IC Sig PL in the Fd	
19			Padre's Account of Church Membership Course	
20			Notification of Bn Driver's Course	
21			I COMWEL Div Instrs on Trash Dumps	
22			Mov and Est of Bn HQ	
23			Invitation to Offr's Party	
24			Precis on Bn Patrol School	
25			Account of Ex LIMBER	