

MONTHLY WAR DIARIES WILL BE
ENCLOSED IN WAR DIARY COVER
(CAP 16 47A). INSTRUCTIONS
FOR COMPILING WAR DIARIES
ARE PRINTED INSIDE ITS COVER

WAR DIARY

SECRET

3 PPCLI

(UNIT OR FORMATION)

FOR MAY 1953

(MONTH AND YEAR)

LOCATION	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES AND OFFICER'S INITIALS
///	4 May 53		The unit spent the day cleaning up and refueling from the previous day. All first line & increment A brought up to strength. The mortars had to replace 1300 rounds. The unit used no small arms at all whereas the Sp weapons fired for two hours in support of the RCR. There were a few sightings above normal but all activities relapsed to what it had been on previous weeks. Next to nothing.	4
	5 May 53		Several times burp guns were heard being test fired behind Eden. Through the night several lights were seen and some activity in front of the RCR. There was also movement between Able & Baker Coys. Nothing came from investigation of noises in our own area. Patrol discovered where a casualty dressing station had been set up by the angry men in front of Able Coy. Very cheeky of them but they are very efficient at clearing dead and wounded back to their own lines.	4
	6 May 53		Several new enemy installations were sighted and destroyed by tank and mortar fire. Our patrols had nothing to report. No sign of the enemy in the valley.	4
	7 May 53		The R22R last night deposited wire & pickets between Able & Baker. To-night the intention is to complete seventy yards of fence. The mortars again engaged several likely targets and obtained good results. Engineer work parties on the Dash again. How they must dislike that road. Enemy propaganda broadcasts in front of the RCR were unintelligible.	4
	8 May 53		A small group of enemy reported between Able & Baker but not confirmed. The CGS paid a visit to Main about 0930 hrs. He was not able to stay long. The angry men showed an unusual number of lights in odd places. The mortars were called upon to extinguish them.	4

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///	9 May 53		This was an exceptionally quiet day. The tedium being broken by two events. First, the Bde task table directed one of the normal standing patrols to a GR which happened to be C Coy garbage dump. The patrol commander thought he must have forgotten how to read a map. The second event was the dispatch of Capt Kemsley to Corps Headquarters. Capt Kemsley returned and informed this unit that he had been to a briefing by a Colonel (U S A) on how to "guide the players through the manoeuvres" of a forthcoming "CPX".	4
	10 May 53		All activity came to a mushy standstill. All ranks took a day off from fighting Chinese and directed all efforts to staying afloat. This rain, we are told, is only a preview, wait until the rainy season. Bunkers caved in and newly constructed fire pits changed from rectangular holes to round cavities. Road conditions changed to Amber and then to Red.	4
	11 May 53		The early morning was a dark and wet one. When the rain ceased fog closed in. It was necessary to use tracer to guide some of our patrols back. The weather cleared by early afternoon and war resumed a normal course.	4

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LOCATION	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES OFFICER'S INITIALS
///	12 May 53		The roads are red limiting traffic. Standing patrols went out after first light because of the heavy mist which cut down visibility. High water in the Imjim has caused the closing of Widgeon bridge and the Pintail W.P. The evening brought many sounds of enemy movement, vehicles were heard and lights seen. Possibly they are changing over.	f
	13 May 53		The mortar and MMG platoons were relieved before first light. These are the first elements of the 3 R 22 R to take over in KOREA, advance parties are already with the other companies. All quiet through the day 2/Lt DORSEY doing a recce patrol across the Bn front starting after last light. The rest of the Bn to be relieved by 3 R22R starting after last light.	R
	14 May 53		The area turned over to R22R at 0355 hrs, with our best wishes 2/Lt DORSEY returned having seen no enemy. He did find other information. Mr DORSEY's report is attached as appendix 7 to this diary. The rest of the day was spent in settling in to our reserve area and in sleeping.	f
	15 May 53		The Bn has several commitments while in reserve. There is a daily guard at Harlequin bridge, one Coy on stand-to with two counter attack roles. One field officer per week is detailed to go to KURE to visit patients in hospital there. The largest task is the Bde garbage dump which is our responsibility.	f
	16 May 53		A two phase drivers course started on the 19 of this month. It is under the supervision of Sgt MOUNT, the transport Sgt. The T.O. has the programme mapped out and vehicles and instructors arranged. The object is to produce twenty four qualified drivers.	f

COMPLY WAR DIARIES WILL BE
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3. PPCLI
(UNIT OR

FOR MAY 1953

(CONTINUED)

LOCATION	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND OPERATIONS	REMARKS OR APPENDICES (OTHER'S INITIALS)
4/1	17 May/53		Nominations have been received from the various sub-units for fourteen people who are to go on the next R&R. The Dental Officer got his wagon on the road and moved to Main. It is much easier for him to go to the troops than for the troops to come all the way back to "A" Ech to see him.	f
	18 May/53		Major J L HART assumed command of "D" Coy to-day. Capt K C CROOK remains as 2 i/c of "D" Coy. Major A C BRETT has already taken over "C" Coy with Capt C A KEMSLEY remaining as 2 i/c.	f
	19 May/53		The Medical Officer has taken the offensive in the battle of immunization. Our happy warriors who have so far escaped the threats of the enemy are now suffering from needle wounds. In this theatre of police action everyone seems to realize the value of their periodic "shots". There are no attempted escapes from the Medical Officer's minions.	f
	20 May/53		Swim parades have been organized at HARLEQUIN bridge in the SAMI-CHON river. This is the same site used during the winter for hockey practice. With the thermometer steadily ascending swimming affords marvelous relief. The only obstacle encountered to date was a barb wire and which is underwater. Five people were gashed on it before it's hidden presence was discovered.	f
	21 May/53		Our illusions of being in a safe area in this reserve position were shattered at 0530 hrs. Five planes flew low over the area and knocked a span out of TEAL bridge with a well placed bomb. For the rest of the day everyone with a shovel and some spare time engaged in deepening the slit trenches which had previously been constructed in the various areas.	f

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3 Bn PPCLI

(UNIT OR REGIMENT)

FOR MAY 1953

(COMPANY OR SECTION)

LOCATION	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES AND OFFICER'S INITIALS
44/	22 May/53		Storm warning signals were issued predicting a three inch rainfall. Drainage ditches were deepened and tents snugged down. The rain came. Road conditions moved to condition Red. Fortunately wind did not accompany the rain.	4
	23 May/53		Calls have gone out to all companies asking for candidates for first, a patrol course at Bde, second, a Browning MG course at NCO School and last, candidates for Jr NCO School. The band has gone to the NCO School to practice for to-morrow's graduation. Recces have proceeded and work commences again on "Wyoming". The first Drivers i/c course finished to-day at "A" Echelon.	4
	24 May/53		Both the Jr NCO School and the Browning MG course No:1 finished to-day several officers, warrant officers and senior NCOs attended the graduation ceremonies. Candidates for the next Jr NCO course have gone to "B" Echelon to take a one week refresher course before they move to the real thing. 2/Lt KITSON who had previously been wounded has returned and will conduct the refresher course.	4

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LOCATION	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES AND OFFICER'S INITIALS
///	25 May		A report came in from higher echelons to the effect that the chinese have their eyes on some of our real estate. The resultant product of this information was a move by Able & Baker companies to Wyoming positions, there they will be in a position of readiness if the chinese should start a general attack.	4
	26 May		The first Bn driver i/c course ran final driving tests. Eight out of twelve candidates were successful..The Bn driver operator course is continuing quite well. There is a motion picture every night in one of the company areas or at Main. Swimming has the element of risk removed by the removal of barb wire at the Harlequin bridge area.	4
	27 May		The weather has remained clear and the skies cloudless. The I Officer is engaged in a sweep for Koreans who have sneaked into the area of Main. They have already been cleaned out of the Coys.	4
	28 May		The Bn is in part operating as an active operational unit rather than as a reserve Bn. During the first part of the night the "Hook" was attacked. A few of the bombardment rounds slipped over on Able and Dog Companies, no one was hurt. A single SP round came in on SP Coy. Six of the bearded ones were slightly wounded. A cook became carried away in the excitement and shot himself in the foot.	4

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LOCATION	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION	REFERENCE TO APPENDICES AND OFFICER'S INITIALS
///	May 29		The Bn is still standing by to move if the chinese show signs of making a successful attack. Able Coy has moved complete to Wyoming while Dog has moved troops only and is operating a rear echelon all of its own. A day of rain just enough to turn the roads "Red" for a brief period.	4
	May 30		The Rain has ceased but the skies are still soggy. The possibilities of further chinese efforts are fading. The Western Command (PPCLI) band arrived in time to take part in a Bn sports meet at the new Bde sports field constructed next door to our B echelon. In the meet Sp Coy proved to be the most athletic by one point.	4
	May 31		On the sixteenth of the month Lt Col M F MacLachlan MC CD took command of the Bn. Other officer changes were Major Brett and Major Hart arriving and Major Isenor being SOS to X 8. Capt Basham will be temporarily commanding HQ Coy pending the return of Maj Wilson from NCO School.	4

M F MacLachlan
(M F MacLACHLAN) LT COL
COMMANDING 3 PPCLI

APPENDICES TO WAR DIRTY

1. Part 2 Orders 48 To 52 d/31 MAY 53
2. Part 1 Orders 280 To 341 d/30 MAY 53

3. Patrol task tables

3A - Signals operations Procedures

4. Bn Int summary

4A - COY OPERATIONS LOG

5. Operational commitments 3 PPCLI

6. Training instructions 3 PPCLI

7. 3 PPCLI Operations order # 5

8. 3 PPCLI Operations order # 6

9. Bde Int. Summary

10. BPS SEC of DVR OPS COURSE TIME TABLE

11. STRENGTH & RATINGS RETURNS