M.F.M. 11 40/P & 8/37 (3072)

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WAR DIARY

OR

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials				
			lst Bn The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada					
			War Diary for Month of August, 1945					
APELDOORN area. MR 694993 Ref Sheet 2 1/100,000 HOLLAND	lst Aug Wed		Weather - Overcast and cool. A sailing party of 15 men went to HILVERSUM where they were taken out in privately owned yachts in the morning and afternoon. The normal swim parade took place as usual and 4 men went to PARIS on leave. In the afternoon the second softball game between THE BLACK WATCH and the REGT DE MAIS—SONEUVE was played on the diamond at our locn. The score was 10-2 in favor of the REGT DE MAISSONEUVE. No bus service ran in the afternoon but recreational tpt left for APELDOORN in the evening. It was HQ Coy's day for the dry canteen parade, and a movie was put on at night in the K of C hall.	MW				
	2nd Aug Thu		Weather - Overcast and cool. 2 men left on the Can Repat Draft in the morning. The rest of the day was spent as usual - everyone's time divided between duties and recreation. In the evening an Ensa show made up of an all-Dutch cast was put on in the K of C hall. All agreed that it was a welcome change from the usual army shows and the cast got a well-earned ovation from the men.	THE.				
	3rd Aug Fri		Weather - Fair and warmer. In the morning 88 all ranks went to THE HAGUE on a sight-seeing tour, and I man left on the Can Repat Draft. I offr and 36 OR's started on a tour of the Ruhr Valley. Four countries will be visited on this tour-BELGIUM, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, and GERMANY - and also many famous battle fields. The Padre, Hon Capt A. REOCH, and 35 all ranks went to LAREN to visit and improve THE BLACK WATCH cemetery. The offrs' softball team practiced in the afternoon in preparation for the game with 5 Cdn Inf Bde HQ. Maj C.S. MACLAREN. A/2 i/c, made a preliminary recee of our next area. During the evening some of the men were invited to a CWAC dance in RPELDOORN, and the AMSTERDAM leave party returned.	App. 8 App.9.				
	4th Aug Sat		Weather - Fair and very warm. 12 men left on the Can Reput Draft in the morning. 1 offr and 15 OR's went to the Army Track and Field meet at NIJMEGEN for the day. The remainder of the day was spent quietly with recreational					

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AREA IR 694993 Ref Sheet 2	4th Aug Sat (con)		tpt gbing into APELDOORN in the afternoon.	MW
1/100,000 HOLLAND	5th Aug Sun		Weather - Fair and hot. The Padre, Hon Capt A. REOCH, held a voluntary Protestant church parade in the morning at 09 30 hrs and 1000 hrs. A voluntary R.C. church parade was also held at 1100 hrs. The day passed as usual with the personnel of HQ and Sup Coys getting ready for their dance in APELDOORN. The dance, starting at 1900 hrs and lasting until 2400 hrs, was a success with a good attendance of civilian girls and CWAC's. A civilian band supplied the music and beer and refreshments were served later in the evening.	Mu.
	6th Aug Mon		Weather - Fair and warm. 88 all ranks went to THE HAGUE on a sight-seeing tour in the morning. 2 offrs and 3 OR's left on the Can Repat draft also. D-83217 CQMS THURMAN, R.S. was promoted to A/RQMS today. The daily pattern was unbroken by any unusual events and recreational tpt left for APELDOORN in the evening to give the men their ever-welcome contact with "civilization".	TAW.
	7th Aug Tue		Weather - Fair and warm. 30 OR's went to BRUSSELS on short leave, and 2 offrs and 38 OR's went to AMSTERDAM on leave in the morning. The "Meet the Navy" show in AMSTERDAM was attended by 1 offr and 40 OR's. The first round of the 5 Cdn Inf Bde tennis championship play-off took place during the day. The C.O., Lt-Col V.E. TRAVERSY, Maj J.F. BAILLIE, and D-82892 Sgt MOLSON, W.M. won their games.	mu.
	8th Aug Wed		Weather - Overcast with showers. 2 offrs and 33 OR's went on UK leave in the morning. Maj C.S. MACLAREN, A/2 i/c, made another recce faxt of the new area. Maj J.F BAILLIE and Lt E.N. DOYLE with 60 OR's formed the work party which left for AMERS-FOORT today to prepare for the coming Mardi Gras. Maj V.E. TRAVERSY was promoted to the rank of A/Lt-Col and Lts J.B. MULHEARN and D.SMITH are to be A/Capts.	

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APELDOORN area. MR 694993 Ref Sheet 2 1/100,000 HOLLAND	9th Aug Thu		Weather - Overcast with heavy rain. Maj A. ROSS, D.S.O., formerly an offr in THE BLACK WATCH while the unit was stationed in ENGLAND, and now C.O. of the HASTINGS and PRINCE EDWARD REGT, visited the offrs mess for lunch. Maj C.S. MACLAREN, A/2 i/c, attended a meeting at 5 Cdn Inf Bde on the move to the new area. Nothing definite has yet been decided.	M.
	10th Aug Fri		Weather - Heavy rain most of the day. The M.O., Capt B.A. SEYMOUR, lectured on VD to C,D, and HQ Coys during the morning. B, Sup, and A Coys were given the talk the previous day. Rumors that the Japanese had offered to surrender on the POTSDAM terms floated around camp during the day. Everyone is hoping that this is true since it might mean a faster return to CANADA. The tennis matches which were scheduled for the afternoon were postponed on account of rain. Repat drafts of individuals started again and the aim is to clear out all men of over 150 points before moving units. Those of under 50 points are being posted to COF. The boxing competition between 2 Cdn Inf Div and 3 Cdn Inf Div - CDA began in UTRECHT at 1900 hrs	
X.	llth Aug Sat		Weather - Fair and warm. A canteen parade was held for HQ Coy at 1300 hrs. A pay parade took place at 1300 hrs and recreational tpt was held until 1400 hrs for thos who attended this parade. The tennis matches continued with Lt-Col V.E. TRAVERSY and Maj J.F. BAILLIE winning their doubles and singles games.	PAW .
	12th Aug Sun		Weather - Clear and warm. A voluntary R.C. church parade was held at 1100 hrs. There was no Protestant service but the Padre, Hon Capt A. REOCH, visited coy line in the morning. The 2 i/c, Maj C.S. MACLAREN and Maj R.F. DAVEY, O.C. D Coy, left for SOUTH BEVELAND and the Walcheren Causeway to visit and take photos of the battleround there.	M.J.
	13th Aug Mon		Weather - Fair and warm. The swim parade and recreational tpt carried on as usual but a very quiet day was spent by all. A few of the men went to APELDOORN to see the CWAC pipe band which staged a parade in the town. In the evening the CWAC's held a dance to which some of our men were invited.	MW.

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APELDOORN area. IR 694993 Ref Sheet 2 /100,000 ROLLAND	14th Aug Tue		Weather - Intermittent showers. 8 men went on the Can Repat Draft and 1 man to CAPF during the morning. 2 offrs and 40 OR's left for AMSTERDAM on short leave while 1 offr and 24 OR's attended the "Meet the Navy" show in that city. In the tennis semi-finals at NUNSPEET, the C.O., Lt-Col V.E. TRAVERSY and Maj J.F. BAILLIE won their doubles, but the C.O. lost his singles match.	naw)
	15th Aug Wed		Weather - Overcast with showers. 7 men left for the COF in the morning. The Adjt Capt S.E. GRIFFIN, sent around the message that the Allied Nations had accepted the surrender of JAPAN on the POTSDAM terms. Today and tomorrow were proclaimed V-J Days and will be spent as Sundays. Though the news came as no surprise, everyone cheered its arrival and individuals made their own plans for celebration in APELDOORN. After a little time for contemplation the reaction of most is that it is hard to believe that no state of war exists in the world. The tennis matches were postponed on account of rain.	
. •	16th. Aug. Thur.		Weather - overcast with rain. Maj. E. S. DUFFIELD, M.C., and a party of three left at 0530 hrs. for DIEPPE, to represent the BLACK WATCH at a ceremony arranged by C.M.H.Q They will arrive there on the 18th. August, and the ceremony and parades will be held on the following day. At 1000 hrs. a work party from A and Sp. Goys. replaced the B and C Coys. work party preparing for the coming Mardi Grasbeing held at the SOESTERBERG airport. The party from B and C Coys. returned after lunch. D 82922, CSM TURNBULL, A.F., returned from leave to find himself promoted to RSM A movie was run in the Officers' Mess in the evening.	App. 4.
	17th Aug. Fri.	•	Weather - heavy showers all day. 2 Officers and 33 ORs left in the morning on U.R leave, and seven men returned from COF during the day. The first 5 Cdn. Inf. Bde. swim team work out took place in the morning. In the afternoon the Army Individual boxing competition was held in UTRECHT. At 1930 hrs. ENSA staged a play entitled "Canaries Sometimes Sing" in the K of C hall. A service for Jewish personnel was conducted in APELDOORN in the evening.	1
	18th Aug. Sat.		Weather - cloudy. 1 OR went on Canada Repat Draft, and 12 all ranks went to the "Meet the Navy" show in the morning. The PARIS leave party returned in the late afternoon. Capt. WIL.BARNES returned to the unit after a month spent in hospital The day was spent quietly with a goodly number of the mengoing to APELDOORN at 13	30 hrs. 900

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APELDOORN area. MR 694993 Ref Sh. 2. 1:100,000. HOLLAND.	19th Aug. Sun.		Weather - fair and warm. Special thanksgiving services were held during the morning. At 0830 hrs. the Padre, Hon. Capt. A. Reoch, conducted a service for the work party at SOESTERBERG, then at 1100 hrs. Protestant and R.C. services were held in camp. Jewish personnel had their service in UTRECHT at 1000 hrs Lt. P. MATISZ, The Signals Officer, went to 5 Cdn. Inf. Div. today.	MW
	20th Aug. Mon.		Weather - heavy rain all day. Capt. R. E. BERNIER, the S.P.O., left after completing the interviews of the Bn. personnel. The boxing matches scheduled for the afternoon were postponed on account of rain. A party of 15 all ranks went to AMSTERDAM to attend the "Meet the Navy" show, in the evening. An officers mess supper in celebration of the victory over Japan was held in the evening.	FAW.
	21st Aug. Tues.		Weather - showery. The AMSTERDAM leave party was reduced to 20 all ranks. Maj. C.S.MACLAREN, the 2 i/c., today went on another recce of the area into which we shall be moving, when it is vacated by the ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT, in the town be SOESTDIJK. The Bn. received a visit today from some officers of the TRANSVAAL SCOTTISH, the South African Black Watch. These officers were Lt.Col. W.C.R. HEDDING, the C.O., Maj. C.J.RODDA, the 2 i/c., and Lieuts. P.D.ALLAN, N.A.HONNET, and W.R.J.DOWDING. They spent the evening as guests in the officer's mess.	
	22nd Aug. Wed.		Weather - overcast with showers. One man went on Canada Repat draft in the morning and eight men left for employment in the U-K In the afternoon the G.O.C., 2 Cdn. Inf. Div., Maj.Gen. A. BRUCE MATHEWS, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., paid an informatish to the Bn The 2 i/c., Maj. C.S.MACLAREN attended a meeting at Bde. H.Q. in relation to the move to the new area in SOESTDIJK.	1
	23rd Aug. Thur.	•	Weather - fair and warm. With the sun making an appearance today the men spent most of their time basking in it. The customary recreational transport was functioning in the afternoon and evening.	MW
	24th. Aug. Fri		Weather - fair and warm. All controlled stores, attractive stores and weapons were turned in by the Q.M. today. There was a change over in the work party for the Mardi Gras this morning, D, C and Sp. Coys. supplying the men to continue the work there. 35 all ranks left on U!K. leave this morning.	re MW

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PELDOORN area IR 694993 Ref.Sh. 2. 1:100,000. HOLLAND.	25th. Aug. Sat,	·	Weather - fair and warm with a high wind. The usual warly transport into APELDOORI was operating today, and in the evening an ENSA concert party staged a show in the camp area. The party which was participating in the parade at DIEPPE has returned, having spent two nights in the staging camp at OSTEND on the way down and one night and one in BRUSSELS on the way back. The ceremonies were marred somewhat by the heavy rain which was falling, but were none the less impressive. Maj. E.S.DUFFIELD	in PARIS
		-	M.C., i/c. the party, was able to spend some time in Normandy visiting the scenes of the actions in which the unit had taken part. Many of the slits have been filled in but very little work has been done on the reconstruction of the towns and villages. Mines still abound in the fields around St. ANDRE and MAY-sur-ORNE, and the ditches are littered with web equipment. Three of our carriers are still on HILL 67, and Lt.Col. CANTLIE'S carrier still lies on the roadway leading toBEAUVOIR Farm, the start line for the break out down the CAEN-FALAIS highway. In the ditche from St. ANDRE to MAY-sur-ORNE may be found many bren mags and web which the Bn. left there. At BRETTEVILLE-sur-LAIS a Canadian cemetery is in the course of construction and is at this time almost completed. In this ground are buried most of the men who died from the River Orne crossing up to almost the River Seine. Maj. E.S.DUFFIELD, M.C., returned to the Bn. bearing one of our "60" signs which he had picked up back there.	s
	26th. Aug. Sun.	1	Weather - fair with high wind. This morning a Protestant Communion service was held at 1100 hrs. and at the same time Father Kenny celebrated Mass in the K. of C. hall.	PAW.
Ì	27th. Aug. Mon.)	Weather - fair and warm. Lt.Col. V.E.TRAVERSY called a meeting of the Coy. Cmdrs. at 0900 hrs. to discuss plans for the move to the new area. In the afternoon, Maj. C.S.MACLAREN and the Coy. Cmdrs. made a recce of the area into which we shall move.	
	28th. Aug. ues.		Weather - fair and warm. Today is the last day on which recreational transport will be operating in this area. Q.M. stores are in the process of being packed and arrangements for the move are being made in each of the companies. The marque in which the men have been eating have been struck.	es AMO.

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APELDOORN area MR 694993. Ref.Sh. 2. 1:100,000. HOLLAND.	29th Aug. Wed.		Weather - warm, but overcast. The advance party left this afternoon to take over the new area which will be vacated early tomorrow morning by the ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT. The area we have been occupying received a general clean up during the day. The Q.M., Capt. H.B.YUILE, had two loads of stores moved to SOESTDIJK today. Preparations are now completed for the move and everything which it is possible to do ahead of time has been done. The Bn. today received 15 eross-postings of men from other units in the Div. who will be returning to Canada with the BLACK WATCH.	Mul.
SOESTDIJK. MR. 323023. Ref.Sh. 2. 1:100,000. HOLLAND.	30th.		Weather - heavy rain. The move commenced at o845 hrs. when the cookers pulled out to enable them to be set up in the new area, and operating at the earliest. The main party started off at 1100 hrs., in blocks, with twenty minute intervals between each block. This spacing was necessary in view of the celebrations which are taking place in the country this week end. In conjunction with the birthday of Queen Wilhelmina the Dutch people are celebrating the end of the war. As the Queen will be driving through the part of the country which we travelled today, the villagers and townspeople have been at great pains to decorate their streets and buildings. Miles of evergreen bunting was strung from one lamp post to the next, touched up with marigolds, gladioli and other orange blossoms. Festive arches of cedar spriggmake a basis for floral decorations and span the roadway at many points. The first block of the main party reached its destination shortly before 1300 hrs., and the move was completed without incident. The balance of the day was spent by the men in settling in to their new quarters. Six men from the unit left today for Trades School in the U.K	App. 7.
	31st ≜ug. Fri.	•	Weather - overcast and showery. This morning 31 all ranks left on U.K. leave and five on PARIS leave. This will be the last party proceeding on such leaves for the present. Alterations and innovations were the order of the day as the men set about organizing their new billets. Officer Commanding, lst. Bn. The Black Watch, (R.H.R of Canada.	MW.