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### WAR DIARY

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### INTHEHICHNOUS SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			lst. Bn. The BLACK WATCH (R.H.R.) of Canada.  War Diary for the month of September 1945.	
SOESTDIJK. MR 323023. Ref. Sh. 2. 1:100,000 Holland.	lst. Sep. Sat.		Weather - rain in morning, clearing later. No parades have been called since we moved in and the men are still engaged in settling in and getting the corners rounded off. Field Marshall Sir Bernard Montgomery landed at nearby Soesterberg airport this morning and drove to Soestdijk Palace for an audience with Queen Wilhelmina. This palace is about 300 yards from the B.H.Q Celebrations are still going on, and this evening a fete was held in town where open air dancing continued until the early hours. The film "The Princess and the Pirate" was shown by the K. of C. in their building during the evening.	PAW)
	2nd. Sept. Sun.		Weather - fair and warm. Voluntary Protestant Church Services were held in the Company areas during the morning. After our seven weeks stay in the "desert" arou APELDOORN the men are taking full advantage of the fact that we are now stationed in a town, and very few of them remain in the company lines during walking out hour	
	3rd. Sep. Mon.		Weather - fair and very warm. Eight cross-postings into the Bn. took place today. Today, at Soesterberg Airport, was held the Fiestviering, preparations for which had been under way for some time. There was all the customary fun of the fair with a number of added attractions. The BLACK WATCH attended en mass, and from all accounts everyone had a most enjoyable time. Stage shows were held in the afternoon, and in the evening three open air dance-halls were functioning. Seven horse races were run off, in one of which Pte. LECLAIR, of C Coy. rode, failing however, to repeat the success which attended his efforts at BAD ZWISCHENAHN, at the field day there. The return trip from the Mardi Gras was made at 2200 hrs	1
	4th. Sep. Tues.		Weather - fair and warm. The Coys. today started using the Bn. Parade ground for Coy. drill parades, three coys. daily. This will continue for the balance of this week. 30% Coy. strength may now be issued with afternoon passes and up to 2/3 of Coy. strength may walk out after 1700 hrs Late passes until 2359 hrs. may be issued to 10% of each Coy All privilege leaves have now been cancelled.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
SOESTDIJK. MR 323023. Ref. Sh.2. 1:100,000. Holland.	5th. Sep. Wed.		Weather - fair and very warm. The news was received today that the 2nd. Cdn. Inc. Div. will commence the move to England on the 12th. of this month. Capt. S.E. GRIFFIN, the Adjutant, attended a meeting at Bde. H.Q. at 1400 hrs. to hear preliminary details of the move, and was at that time advised of the detail work which will be necessary within the Bn There were four incoming cross-postings today. The cors. will take turns in attending the mobile baths, this afternoon and tomorrow Maj. R.F.DAVEY, O.C. of B Coy., made a trip to AMSTERDAM this afternoon to get details of a parade which will take place there on Saturday of this week. He will be O.C. the 5 Bde. Group on that occasion. The K. of C. no longer show their films in their own building but now use the local civilian theatre. Horse racing at Soesterberg Airport in the afternoon was attended by a large number of the troops in the area, for whom passes were made available. On this occasion Pte. LECLAIR rode three winners.	
	6th. Thur.	_	Weather - fair and very warm. At an early hour this morning the C.O., Lt-Col. V.E. TRAVERSY and Maj. J.F.BAILLIE, D Coy. Cmdr., left on a trip to Normandy. It is their intention to follow, as far as is possible, the route taken by the BLACK WATCH in coming through, and to take in the places at which the Bn. was actively engaged. All known details of the move were given out at a Coy. Cmdrs. meeting at 1130 hrs	
	7th. Sep. Fri. 8th. Sep. Sat.		Weather - fair and warm. Today the work party returned from the Mardi Gras at Soesterberg Airport. The Q.M., Capt. H.B. VUILE, attended a "Q" meeting at Bde. H. Q. in the morning, and the Adjutant, Capt. S.E.GRIFFIN, an "A" meeting at the same place in the afternoon, in connection with arrangements for the forthcoming move. Our M.O., Capt. W.B.SEYMOUR, left today, going to 6th. Field Artillery. His place was taken by Capt. G.I.THEAL who came to us from the QUEEN'S CWN CAMERON HIGHLANDER: being delivered in style, to the music of that regiment's pipe band. The K. of C. held their final canteen parade today. From now on they will be open from 1230-1400 hrs. and from 1900-2100 hrs  Weather - fair and warm. A meeting of all officers and n.c.os., down to and incl. sergeants, in the Div., was held at 1030 hrs. this morning in the Grande Hotel at HILVERSUM. Gen. G.C.SIMMONS, Comd. Cdn. Forces in the Netherlands, spoke to the	404

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### WAR DIARY ØB

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
SOESTDIJK MR 323023 Ref.Sh. 2 1:100,000 Holland	Sth. Sep, Sat. (con)		assembly on matters pertaining to the move to Britain, and what we must expect ther His prognostication is that we should be in Britain within three days of leaving NIJMEGEN, and that our stay there would be between three and five weeks. In the afternoon one Coy. from the unit and one Coy. from the Regiment de Maisonneuve represented the Bde. in a parade in AMSTERDAM. The occasion of the parade was the Chinese celebration to mark their country's öiberation from the Japanese. Maj. R.F.DAVEY was O.C. of the Bde. Group, the platoons from the BLACK WATCH being commanded by Lieuts. H.H.MACKAY, S.L.MARTIN, and H.A.D.SIMMONS. The route was about five miles long, past the saluting base in Dam Dquare. In addition to the marching troops there were innumerable Chinese dragons, and floats. The No.1 C.I.C. Band played for our contingent, and Dutch bends were elsewhere in the parade. The Parade Marshall was RSM HANG, of the Cdn. Artillery. The troops participating had supper at the Colonial Institute in AMSTERDAM, and remained in that city until the transport picked them up at 2200 hrs	
•	9th. Sep. Sun.		Weather - overcast, clearing later. At 0900 hrs. this morning there was a Protest Church parade for all ranks not on duty. This was followed by a R.C. parade at 1000 hrs With their time in this country getting short the men are getting in their last lot of sight-seeing and many go to the towns of HILVERSUM and UTRECHT or the week ends.	
	10th Sep Mon		Weather - fair and warm. The wheels are beginning to turn in connection with the move scheduled for one week today. There was a C.O's. conference held at the Grande Hotel, in HILVERSUM, this afternoon, the meeting being addressed by the commander of a repatriation unit, and the subject - what to expect in the way of documentation parades, etc., while we are in England.	7h,10
	llth Sep. Tues		Weather - fair and warm. At an early hour this morning the C.O., Lt.Col.V.E. TRAVERSY, and Maj. J.F.BAILLIE returned from their trip to NORMANDY. At 1600 hrs. this afternoon the Coy. Cmdrs. attended a meeting at B.H.Q. when the information received at the C.O's. meeting yesterday was passed on to them. At 2000 hrs. word was received that our move had been postponed. No reason was given at this time for the postponement.	1/44

## WAR DIARY

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SOESTDIJK. MR 323023. Ref. Sh.2. 1:100,000.	12th. Sep. Wed.		Weather - fair and warm. Pay Parades were held today for all Coys., and Bath Parades to the Mobile Bath for all rifle coys We have been given to understand that the postponement of the move is in some way concerned with the shipping problem and we are eagerly awaiting clarification of the question.	· 419W
Holland.	13th. Sep. Thur.		Weather - fine in morning, clouding over in afternoon. A Bn. Parade was held this morning on the Bn. Parade Ground. At this parade the C.O., Lt-Col. V.E.TRAVERSY, talked to the men, giving them all the information he had been able to gain on the postponement, and telling them of the proceedure we will follow from the time we leave here until our arrival in England. He also spoke of the tentative arrangement which had been made regarding our arrival in Montreal. A final Canteen parade was held for A and B Coys. when the men were given a quite considerable free issue. In the afternoon we received a visit from Brig. W.J.MEGILL, D.S.O., who commended this Brigade through the action in Europe, and presently C.O. of the 9th. Bde., C.A O.F., and Lt-Col. R.L. ELLIS, D.S.O., Comd. 5 C.I.B Together with Lt-Vol. V.E. TRAVERSY, O.C. the BLACK WATCH, they visited around the companies when Brig. W.J. MEGILL said his farewells to some of the old members of the regiment whom he knew. A Coy. held a party in the evening in the K. of C. Hall. The men each brought a lady and the evening started off with a dinner following which there was dancing. By popular vote it was the best party yet.	•
	14th. Sep. Fri.		Weather - overcast and raining. Final free M. of C. parades were held today for the remaining companies. The C.O., Lt-Col. V.E.TRAVERSY attended a farewell dinner at Bde. H.Q., for Brig. MEGILL.	naw
	15th. Sep. Sat.		Weather - overcast with showers. A Bn. parade was held at 0900 hrs. this morning at which Lt-Col. R.L.ELLIS, D.S.O, Comd. 5 C.I.B., was present. A message was received during the course of the day, and immediately circulated to the companies, that the move of the 2nd. Div. resumes on the 18th. of this month, and that the BLACK WATCH will move on the 22nd. Instead of the 1500 men per diem which it had been the intention to clear, at the start only from seven to eight hundred will move daily, which number it is hoped will be increased. The Div. will be clear of the continent by the 25th., according to the schedule, and clear of England by the end of October.	Mul

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
SOESTDIJK. MR 323023. Ref.Sh. 2. 1:100,000. Holland.	15th Sep. Sat. (con)		Sixty men from this Bn. under the command of Capt. J.B.MULHEARN, and the Pipe Band of the CALGARY HIGHLANDERS represented the Bde. this afternoon in a parade in ROTTERDAM in connection with the celebration there of the Chinese liberation. Our representation lead the parade which consisted of floral cars, Chinese dragons, etc. The parade started at 1400 hrs. and the men had completed their participation by approximately 1515 hrs. when trucks picked them up and brought them back to UTRECHT where supper had been laid on for them. In the evening they attended a dance in that town. H.Q. and Sp. Coys. officers held a party this evening in one of the Hotels in SOESTDIJK, and Maj. E.S.DUFFIELD, M.C., and Maj. R.F.DAVEY represented the BLACK WATCH at a regimental officers party given by the REGIMENT de MAISONNEUVE	
	16th Sep Sun		Weather - overcast. At 0300 hrs. this morning the clock was set back one hour and we returned to %A" time. No Bn. Protestant church service was held this morning but the padre, Hon. Capt. A.REOCH, visited all the companies. A church service was held at 1100 hrs. for the R.C. personnel in one of the local churches.	MW
	17th Sep Mon		Weather - overcast. A quiet day. Arrangements are going on apace for the final move to NIJMEGEN, next Saturday.	NAW
	18th Sep Mon		Weather - clear and warm. Another quiet, day. The men are packing the last of thei souvenirs and getting them off in the mail before the Post Office closes tomorrow. A Sergeants' dinner was held in the evening in the Q.M.Stores.	•
	19th, Sep. Tues.		Weather - Overcast in morning, heavy showers later. The final Bn. parade in this area was held at 0900 hrs. this morning, with 295 all ranks on parade. A Garden Party was held by the Officers at B. H. Q. this afternoon. The lawn, however, was rather damp, and the major part of the festivities was held indoors, dampening the spirit of the affair not at all. The Bde. Commander, Lt-Col.R.L.ELLIS, D.S.O., was among the guests present.	Fire W
	20th Sep Wed		Weather - clear, sunny and warm. The Adjutant, Capt. S.E.GRIFFIN, visited the 4th. Bn., at NIJMEGEN, this afternoon to obtain information pertaining to our arrival ther Maj.ANDERSON, 2 i/c the HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY OF CANADA, C.O.F., the unit which	••

### WAR DIARY

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COESTDIJK. R 323023. ef.Sh. 2. /100,000. Holland.	20th. Sep. Wed. contd	_	took over from us in VAREL, Germany, visited the Bn. tofay. The M.O., Capt. G.I. THEAL, carried out a medical inspection of the men of the Bn. today. In the evening the QM staff held a mixed party in the Q.M. Stores.	MW
	21st. Sep. Thur		Weather - raining. The C.O., It-Col. V.E.TRAVERSY, held a meeting of the Coy. Cmdrs at 1100 hrs, this morning, to pass on details of tomorrow's move, timings, etc In the afternoon Capt. S.E.GRIFFIN, the Adjutant, went around all the companies, holding Muster Parades. At this time campaign ribbons were distributed to those eligible to wear them.	
Draft No. CU - 497 (RHC MD - 4. NIJMEGEN, Holland.	22nd. Sep. Sat.		Weather - overcast, clearing later. At 0900 hrs. the convoy moved off. The men were carried in TCVs of the R.C.A.S.C., and all our vehicles were driven to ARNHEM and handed over there. At this time all cooks attached to us from the R.C.A.S.C, also returned to their unit at ARNHEM. Blankets and remaining stores were turned in by the Q.M., Capt. H.B.YUILE. The convoy reached 4 Bn. at NIJMEGEN at 1100 hrs At a parade in the afternoon we were advised of the rules of the camp, etc., and what we could and could not do. Preparations were made for the men's pay parade. In the evening most of the men attended a stage show in camp - "Eager Beavers" - sponsor by the Sun Life Assce. Co., from Montreal. It was voted one of the best shows we have seen.	
	23rd. Sep. Sun.		Weather - overcast. Compulsory Protestant and R.C. Chirch Parades were held this morning at 1000 hrs We were advised that there will be a delay in our transportation on more parades were held during the day. Some of the men were permitted to visit the commetery on the edge of NIJMEGEN, where many Canadians had been buried. However, at this time, none remain, having been re-interred at BEDBURG, and only German graves are now in this ground. Movies were shown in the afternoon and evening	100 1
	24th. Sep. Mon.		Weather - overcast, clearing later. Breakfast this morning was at 0655 hrs. and the first parade at 0845 hrs During the course of the morning we completed pay and medical parades, and those wishing to do so were enabled to order 600 cigarettes to be delivered to them at the Repat. camp in England, when we arrive there. A	

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Draft No. CU - 497. MD - 4. 4 Bn. NIJMEGEN. Holland.	24th Sep Mon (cont	•	Muster Parade was held at 1500 hrs The Pipe Bands of the BLACK WATCH and the CALGARY HIGHLANDERS played Retreat at 1800 hrs. in the camp. The original schedule had called for us to move this evening to another Transit Camp in the immediate area, but alternative arrangements permitted our remaining in our present billets, and the move from here, when it is made, will be direct to the train for OSTEND. An all male show, Stag Party, had the stage this evening, a movie having been shown in the afternoon.	now
	25th Sep Tues		Weather - clear and cool. All documentation, etc., now having been completed, no parades were laid on for today. It was considered probable that we would move from this camp in the evening, but bad weather in the Channel made it necessary to postporthe move a further 24 hours. By now we are all impatient to be on our way, and it is sincerely hoped that no further delay will be entailed. The same movie and stage shows were repeated today.	
	26th. Sep. Wed.		Weather - clear, clouding later. No parades were called during the morning, but the news circulated that we would not be spending another night here. At 1400 hrs. all blankets were turned in, and we paraded early to supper at 1800 hrs Muster was called at 1800 hrs., and twenty minutes later, lead by the pipe band we left 4 Bn. in full marching order and carrying our kit bags. The road to the station siding where the train awaited us was short and we were there by 1840hrs To while away the time before the train pulled out the pipe band played a number of selections. At 1930 hr the train pulled out of the siding, to NIJMEGEN station, and we left there at 2000 hr Our move out of Holland was free from rain! One container of tea for each coach was carried, and the men so disposed were able to get a mugful when we stopped at one of the stations en route.	ne 
OSTEND. BELGIUM.	27th Sep Thur		Weather - overcast. At 6415 hrs. we arrived at OSTEND and, lead by the pipe band, marched to the Transit Camp there. After a hot meal we turned in and endeavoured to catch up on out sleep. Breakfast, at 0730 hrs. was optional, and most of the men preferred their beds. At 1330 hrs. we paraded, ready to move off, and at 1400 hrs. we started for the boat. Embarkation on the "PRINSES ASTRID" was completed by 1430 and at 1520 hrs. we pulled out of OSTEND harbour. The crossing was comparatively calm, and no one was indisposed. We reached our port of desembarkation, DOVER, at	1

## WAR DIARY

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DO VER, ENGLAND,	27th. Sep. (con.		2020 hrs. disembarking at 2100 hrs After a hot meal we boarded the train which would take us to the Repat. Depot, and left DOVER at 2250 hrs	the
#9 Cdn.Repat. Depot. PETWORTH. ESSEX. England.	28th. Sep. Fri.		Weather - showery. At 0300 hrs. we arrived at HAZELMERE where trucks picked us up and conveyed us to the camp at PETWORTH. After being allotted huts we ate, and bedded down about 0500 hrs. At 1000 hrs. we paraded to commence documentation, etc. This operation was completed with exemplary despatch; in no time at all particulars of our Canada leave, pay, hospitality in London for those who had no accommodation, marital problems, a cigarette issue and a medical inspection were completed. In the early afternoon a kit inspection was held and followed by a Q.M. parade for exchanges and shortages. After that we had an opportunity to use the showers before supper. Mail, which we have not received since before leaving SOESTDIJK, came in and was distributed to the men. In the evening a movie was shown in the NAAFI hut.	mul
,	29th Sep. Sat.		Weather - bright sunshine, warm. The men paraded at 0915 hrs. when they drew pay to the extent they had indicated on yesterday's parade. At 1100 hrs. each Coy. Cmdr. conducted a question period to clear up any problems the men might have. After lunch the Salvation Army distributed 100 cigarettes to each man. At 1330 hrs a VD film was shown. The men completed packing of their kits, and that part which they are not taking on leave was turned into storage in the late afternoon. A Maple Leaf concert was held in camp in the evening.	ndu
	30th Sep. Sun.		Weather - clear and sunny. The men were all up early this morning preparing to go on 10 days leave. We are due to report back here at 2359 hrs. on the 9th. of Oct By 0800 hrs. the huts had been cleaned and swept. The Bn. was split into two group and at 0830 and 0850 hrs. were transported by the camp trucks to WIMBLEDON. At this point the men dispersed to make their own way to their destinations. Those going to leave centres in LONDON were met at Paddington Station by the Salvation Army representation of the Salvation Army	1134