

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG MR 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	1 Jun 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 41 Other Ranks 988</p> <p>The weather continued as it had been for the past two weeks with heavy clouds and intermittent sunshine.</p> <p>The evacuation of German prisoners went on a-pace. C Coy under Maj. H.F. Hoskin DSO was still the busiest of companies, having to spend nearly 24 hours per day guarding the staging camp at DRACHTEN 8900. B Company commanded by Maj. I.F. Douglas was located in BEERSTERZWAAG 8897 and Support Company under Maj. F. Shawcross was in HAULERWIJK. A Company commanded by Maj. W.J. Neill remained in TINARLOO. Troops from A Coy were transported each day to the sector of the evacuation route for which they were responsible.</p> <p>An educational program was being organized by Maj. D.B. MacKenzie whose duties as Bn Sports Officer were first turned over, to Maj. H.F. Hoskin DSO and later to Maj. F. Shawcross. Representatives from each company were called in to Bn HQ to take preliminary instruction as educational guides.</p> <p>No active instructions to the troops could commence until the prisoner evacuation was complete. The sports program was also seriously hampered by the present operation. A brigade tabloid sports meet was scheduled for 9 June and every effort was being made to produce a good team.</p> <p>Current conversation centred on the schemes for repatriation, CFEF and the general trend was towards the question "When are we going to get home?"</p> <p>It was now made known that Maj. Gen. B.M. Hoffmeister was to be command of the Far East Force.</p>	

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NORG – M.R. 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	2 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 41 Other Ranks 986 It was a day of brilliant sunshine. All Coy's were occupied in guarding movements of the German prisoners.	
	3 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 41 Other Ranks 988 Church Parades were held in company areas by the Padre, H/Capt. D.R.G. Owen. At 1400 hrs Maj. Gen. Hoffmeister inspected the battalion and bade the troops goodbye as he was set to leave shortly for Canada and thence to the Far East. He spoke of the attainments of 5 Cdn Armd Div from the early days in Italy to the successful actions in Holland which were concluded a few days prior to the end of hostilities in Europe. He had nothing but praise for the men of the Westminster Regiment (M) which he said had spent more time in action than any other unit in the Div. In closing, the G.O.C. expressed the hope that he would see a good number of the Westies in the new 6th Division.	
	4th Jun 1945		Strength Officers 41 Other Ranks 988 A further day spent watching the route of the German prisoners. Elements were seen of the enemy formations which had been encountered in the Zuider Zee advance, 6 Para Div, 346 Inf Div and others. Maj. I.F. Douglas was engaged in writing up an account of the units activities from pre-war days up to the present. This was for the local New Westminster newspaper, "The British Columbian", and was to be published at the time of the return of the unit. In order to collaborate more closely with the C.O. Lt. Col. G.C. Corbould, DSO, Maj. I.F. Douglas moved to Bn HQ in NORG. It was hoped that Lt. J. Tattersall would illustrate the article with drawings along the line of his cartoons published in the "Maple Leaf".	

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NORG – M.R. 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	5 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 40 Other Ranks 981 A day of rain and clouds, with some sun in the evening. Companys carried on with normal duties.	
	6 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 41 Other Ranks 1017 A further draft notice for the Far East Force was received. Included on this list were Maj. I.F. Douglas and W.J. Neill, Capt. K.B. Harrison and Capt. W. McGougan. The draft was to report to DMA in GRONINGEN on 9 Jun.	
	7 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 41 Other Ranks 960 At an early hour part of the F.E.F. draft left on the first stage of their journey. The Companys carried on with their normal duties. An order was received that vehicles would be turned in on 14 June 45. This order was to include all carriers, halftracks and anti-tank guns. Maintenance was to be brought up to date and the anti-tank guns were to be placed in a state of light preservation.	
	8 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 41 Other Ranks 955 The weather was again doubtful. The C.O. received orders that the Westminster Regiment (M) would be responsible for guarding the last group of 2000 prisoners from “C” Coy's Camp #12 at DRACHTEN through to Camp #16 on the DUTCH-GERMAN BORDER. “A” Company was to be employed on this task. The group was due at Camp #12 on 10 June and was to be taken over by “A” Coy on 11 June. In view of the fact that carriers and halftracks were to be turned in, it was decided to use White Scout Cars and other vehicles which were not being returned. Lt. J. Tattersall returned to the unit from L.O. appointment at HQ 5 C.A.D. In the evening a going away party was held for those members of the Officer’s Mess who were leaving on the first leg of the trip to the far East. Two of these, Maj. W.J. Neill and Capt. W.L. Delaney, were rather the worse having been victims of a smash-up on the previous night. HQ Coy held a very successful dance in a local hall in NORG.	

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NORG – M.R. 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	9 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 41 Other Ranks 1014 There were no prisoner movements and the companys were able to have a free day. The F.E.F <i>draft</i> got away after some delays at 0830 hrs. Further details or vehicle turn in and German troop movement were tied in.	
	10 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 38 Other Ranks 1014 Capt. W.L. Delaney left at 0800 on a draft for the F.E.F. Church Parades were held in Coy areas by H/Capt. D.B.G. Owen. The last group or 2000 prisoners arrived in “C” Coy's Camp #12.	
	11 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 37 Other Ranks 1014 There were intermittent rainy spells during the day. While the last group of prisoners were being taken on to Germany by “A” Coy under Lieut. J.E. Oldfield, the first of the carriers and halftracks were called to be turned in. The vehicles had to be serviced in unit lines, then taken to the “Div Finito Park” at EELDE airport where they were checked by RCEME personnel. From here they went in convoy to 1 Cdn Army Vehicle Turn-in Depot at Nijmegen. The whole procedure took three days for each group of vehicles.	
	12 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 36 Other Ranks 1016 The morning was cold and dull and in the afternoon there were torrential downpours of rain. A further draft list for the C.F.E.F was received and included the names of Lieut. E. Hoult, “A” Coy and Capt. A. Coldicott, O.C. 72 L.A.D. att Westmr. R. (M).	
	13 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 36 Other Ranks 1031 Furter turn in of vehicles. There were intervals through-out the day when the sun came out but generally it was cold. Lt. R. Reynolds left with a further group of veh to be turned in.	

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NORG – M.R. 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	14 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 36 Other Ranks 1030 The doubtful weather continued. Normal administration and training continued.	
	15 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 36 Other Ranks 1027 The weather was again dull and cold. “A” Company completed the task of guarding the last group of German prisoners and returned to their quarters in TINARLOO.	
	16 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 1012 There was heavy rain during the day, though it cleared off at night. Normal training and maintenance occupied the morning.	
	17 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 1001 A day of brilliant sunshine. Church parades were held in company areas. Capt. A. Caldicott and Lt. E. Hoult left at 0800 hrs on a C.F.E.F. Draft. These people were moving to Groningen from where they were transported by Division to NIJMEGEN. From here they travelled in several stages to England and thence to Canada.	
	18 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 1001 A further day of sunshine. The last of the carriers, under Lieut, .P. Cook left for the DIV (Finito Park) at EELDE airport.	

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NORG – M.R. 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	19 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 1000 The hot, sunny weather continued. In the evening a large draft roll was received for repatriation of personnel to Canada. Included were nine officers and ninety other ranks. At the same time came a draft of personnel for the Canadian occupational force. Some of those included on this list were high point men who had not volunteered for the C.O.F., but according to current regulations they were to proceed to their new units and their present their cases to the new C.O.'s Personnel on these drafts were to leave on various days from 22 Jun to 24 Jun.	
	20 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 1000 There was hot sunshine all day. The names of person appearing on C.F.E.F. draft rolls necessitated several changes within the battalion. Capt. E.V. Ardagh left HQ Coy to take over from Maj. F. Shawcross at Sp Coy. Lt. F.R. Smith took over as acting O.C. HQ Coy. The Adjutant Capt. E.B. Robertson, was to leave 24 June for a two week period in England and to fill his position Capt. F.C.B. Cummins came from Sp Coy. Capt. F.E. Eaton replaced Maj A.W. Harding as Quarter Master. C.S.M. Hoskin became C.S.M. of "B" Coy while C.S.M. P. Abbot replaced R.S.M. J. Clifford. Documentation was started for the large number of personnel who were being struck off strength to C.F.E.F., C.O.F. and repatriation to Canada.	
	21 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 976 The exceptional period of good weather continued. The battalion carried on with normal training and duties. A ceremonial guard was once more mounted at Bn HQ.	

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NORG – M.R. 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	22 Jun 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 965</p> <p>The weather changed and the day was dull and rainy. At 1400 hrs the C.O. held a meeting of all officers and NCO's and discussed the necessity of maintaining a high standard of discipline and smartness in the battalion Maj. D.B. MacKenzie went over the Educational program then the C.O. took over again to deal with a questionnaire on weapons which had come from the war office. Answers were required to various questions about all infantry weapons. In the evening a well-attended and successful dance was held by HQ Coy in Norg. At about 2200 hrs. Maj. F. Shawcross was driving a Humber Scout Car along the HAULERWIJK – ASSEN road. At approx. M.R. 074953 he slowed down and swung slightly right unto the four foot verge in order to turn into a drive way on the left of the road where he was going to turn around. Unfortunately, a depression hidden by tall grass caused the Humber to turn-turtle into the deep canal which ran along the right side of the road. Civilians notified Sp Coy HQ but it was over 30 minutes before the submerged Scout Car was righted and the occupants removed. Artificial respiration was administered and a civilian doctor was called. He was later joined by the Regimental M.O., Capt. G.A. Waugh. Though every possible effort was made and the troops, working relays, worked until 0500 hrs, it was of no avail and Major Shawcross died. The body was removed to the RAP for burial later on the 23 Jun45.</p>	
	23 Jun 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 925</p> <p>The day was bright and warm. In the morning preparations were made for the funeral in the afternoon. The service at 1500 hrs. in 5 CAD cemetery at GRONINGEN was conducted by H/Capt. D.G.R. Owen, Under Sgt. Labere, J.M. of Sp Coy, a well turned out Guard of Honour accompanied the funeral party.</p>	

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NORG – M.R. 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	24 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 27 Other Ranks 855	
	25 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 27 Other Ranks 830	
	26 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 27 Other Ranks 849	

The day was dull with showers in the afternoon.
 A church parade from HQ and “C” Coy was held at “C” Coy area in RODEN.
 The C.O. received notice that he and Maj. H.F. Hoskin would be at BUCKINGHAM PALACE on June 29 to be invested with the D.S.O. The C.O. was to fly, leaving on 27 Jun while Maj. Hoskin was to go by rail and sea, leaving on 25 June 45.

A day of patchy sunshine and showers.
 Normal training and maintenance was carried on by the Companys.
 Maj. H.F. Hoskin, D.S.O. left for NIJMEGEN from where he was to leave by rail on his trip to England.
 A further draft roll of personnel for repatriation to Canada was received but with no departure date.

The weather was generally good through-out the day.
 The usual administration and other duties took up the day.
 The sports program was proceeding in the face of many difficulties. Teams were constantly being disrupted by personnel going on drafts of various natures. This also applied to the Educational program. Lieut. W.L. McLachlan, “B” Coy, had been posted to HQ Coy in order to understudy the Chief Instructor, Maj. D.B. MacKenzie.
 According to the most recent instructions received from HQ 5 CAB all officers and most of the senior NCOs were frozen and could only be sent on draft with the permission of the Brigadier in the case of officers and W.O.’s and that of the C.O. in the case of NCO’s. Numerous difficulties were arising throughout the battalion due to the shortage of officers and NCO’s, and complicating the situation further was the “freezing” order on all promotions. Permission was granted to promote to acting rank without pay but this did not wholly solve the problem.

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NORG – M.R. 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	27 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 26 Other Ranks 851 A further day of sunshine and showers. The C.O. Lt. Col. G.C. Corbould, D.S.O. left for APELDOORN from where he was to fly to England. In his absence Maj. D.B. MacKenzie took over as acting C.O. The day was spent on Education, sports and training. Lieut. A.W. Dewhurst, a former NCO with the unit returned after attending OCTU in England. He was posted to HQ Coy.	
	28 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 26 Other Ranks 853 The uncertain weather continued with a further day of patchy sunshine and rain. Instructions were received to prepare the HUMBER Scout Cars for turn-in. All half-tracks and carriers had been turned in previously and the only vehicles now left were a few 15 cwt's Arm'd, G.M.C. and WHITE, with other "B" Vehicles which were not expected to go in until the unit should leave the country. The ten remaining "Honey" tanks" were also still awaiting return. Wireless equipment and the bulk of the other battalion stores was boxed and ready to go. Instructions from HQ 5 CAB that all officers and others previously listed as essential were frozen and could not be released without permission from Brigade.	
	29 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 27 Other Ranks 858 The Weather was dull with occasional rain. The battalion was occupied with normal training and duties. Successful dances were held by HQ and Sp Coy's. A small draft of 14 reinforcements arrived including Lt. W. Lambe recently of the Lake Superior (R. (M)	
	30 Jun 1945		Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 867 The day dawned bright and sunny but soon changed to cloud and rain. Maj. D.B. MacKenzie, Acting C.O. in the absence of Lt Col. Corbould, D.S.O. called a meeting of Coy Comds and Coy Educational Reps and instructors. Problems of the Educational Program were discussed.	

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NORG M.R. 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12	30 June 45			

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Commanding Officer
Westminster Regt. (Motor)

List of Appendices
For
June War Diary

	<u>O</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>T</u>
1. Part I Orders	X		
2. Part II Orders			X
3. AFW 3008	X		
4. AFW 3009	X		
5. Schedule of 5 CAB Sports Events	X	X	X
6. Operation Orders for Training Exercises	X		
7. Farewell letters from former Commander of 5 CAB	X		
8. Letters Reference Training and Reinforcement Units	X		
9. 5 CAB Intelligence Summary No. 135	X		
10. Organization of 5 CAB as at 22 Aug. 1944 and list of Vehicles tactical signs	X		
11. Establishment of Canadian Motor Battalion	X		
12. Training Program of October 1944	X		
13. Breakdown of vehicles by Echelons	X		
14. 5 CAB Operation Standing OP Instr. No. 24	X		
15. 5 CAB Move Order No. 1	X		
16. Summary of Misc. Subjects	X	X	X
17. Map Scale 1-50,000 , Sheet 12	X		

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NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	1 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 869</p> <p>Sunday DOMINION DAY. In the early morning the weather was bright and clear, but from 10.00 hrs there were constant thunder showers. At 10.30 hrs, the battalion paraded in NOG to attend a unit Dominion Day Service in the local church. The battalion was under command of Maj D.B. MacKenzie. The C.O. Lieut. Col. G.C. Corbould D.S.O. was still attending an investiture at Buckingham Palace. The Padre, H/Capt D.R.G. Owen conducted the service. In the evening a special effort was made at the Junior Officer's Club in Groningen to produce a very good party. Attendance was by ticket only.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	2 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 867</p> <p>The weather was doubtful with occasional scattered showers. Unit sports teams continued training for the Bde Sports Meet which was to be held at the "STAD PARK", GRONINGEN on the 4th July 1945.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	3 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 869</p> <p>The day was clear and sunny. At 0730 hrs Lieut N. Hume left with the 10 remaining Stuart V Tanks (Honey's) to hand them in to the DIV FINITO PARK at the nearby EELDE Airfield. From there they were to be taken on transporters to ARNHEM. At 1830 hrs the C.O. with Lt. Col. H. Angle, C.O. the B.C.D.'s returned from London, both having been officially invested with the D.S.O.</p>	

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NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	4 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 871</p> <p>The day was bright and sunny, an excellent day for the 5 C.A.B. Sports Meet which was held in the afternoon in GRONINGEN. There was a big turnout from the battalion present to support the unit teams. As had been the case in every Brigade Sports Meet since Sep '39, The Westminsterers came out on top. The tug of war team, under the able guidance of Lt. L. Beddington and L/Cpl. 'Scotty' McLeod, L., won their event with two straight pulls and the runners, notably Sgt. G. Bortolusi won many points.</p> <p>In the morning the HUMBER Scout cars were turned in by Lt. W. Lambe, a recent arrival to the unit.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	5 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 868</p> <p>The weather was again clear with sunshine all day.</p> <p>At 1015 hrs, all officers attended a lecture given at ASSEN by the acting G.O.C., Brig, I, Johnston. He made known the fact that due to shipping shortages, the bulk of 5 C.A.D. was not likely to return to Canada before Christmas or possibly Easter. Relations with civilians were discussed and suggestions made to improve them. He also stated that units were likely to remain in areas presently occupied by them.</p> <p>In the evening from 2200 hrs to 2359 hrs Sp Coy commanded by Maj. E.V. Ardagh held a dance at the Apollo Club in Groningen. There was a good attendance of local girls and the party was very successful.</p> <p>Capt. E.F. Eaton, the acting Q.M. and unit Canteen Officer left on a buying trip to Belgium.</p>	

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NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	6 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 866</p> <p>The morning was dull but there was sunshine in the afternoon. Major D.B. MacKenzie and Lieut W. McLachlan, Unit Educational Representatives were busy organizing classes which were to be held in conjunction with the GGHG's at the ASSEN Technical School. Courses in many technical subjects had been arranged to run from .15 July to 31 August. With the few men left after, Educational personnel, Sports candidates and guards were removed, the coys carried on their normal activities of training and sports. Twelve 60cwts were delivered from other units of the Brigade.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	7 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 847</p> <p>The weather in the morning was good but there was rain in the afternoon. At 0930 hrs there was a full Parade at NORG. The C.O. addressed the troops, passing on information received at the G.O.C.'s lecture and pointing out the reasons and necessity for maintaining the high standards set by the Westminsters during the war. In closing he complimented the members of the Sports Team which had won the honours in the Bde Meet.'</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	8 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 818</p> <p>After a doubtful beg ining the day remained bright and clear. A well attended Church Parade was held in RODEN, "C" Coy's area. Lt. Col D. Baldwin, A/B.G.S. at HQ First Cdn Army and a former member of the unit, came with Capt. A. Walton for a short visit.</p>	

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NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	9 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 814</p> <p>There was hot sunshine all day and visibility was good The day was quiet, the coys carrying on with normal training and education.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	10 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 816</p> <p>The bright weather continued. The last of the 15cwt Armoured Whites and G.M.C.'s were turned in via "FINITO PARK" to NIJMEGEN. In the evening a dinner and celebration was held for members of the Westminster Sports Team which had been so victorious in the Bde Sports Meet. It was attended by the C.O., 2 i/c and other officers conected with the sports. The efforts of Lieut. A.E. Hebb had been to a large extent responsible for the success of the team.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	11 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 816</p> <p>It was another day of hot sunshine. Maj H.F. Hoskin, D.S.O. returned from leave which had succeeded his investiture at BUCKINGHAM PALACE. Lieut. Oldfield received a promotion to Captain as O.C. "A" Coy. In the evening there was a dance at "C" Coy to which members of other coys were invited.</p>	

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NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	12 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 816</p> <p>The day was dull but there was no rain. Plans for the opening of the ASSEN Technical School went on under Maj D.B. MacKenzie, Lieut W. McLachlan and Lieut D. Adlem. Instructors were supplied jointly by the G.G.H.G.'s and the Westminsters. Students were to be transported daily, with each Coy taking a week in turn to supply hot meals. The school was to last one month from 15 Jul to 15 Aug and was to take about 150 students from the unit.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	13 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 28 Other Ranks 815</p> <p>The weather was again dull and uncertain, though it did not rain. In the evening the officers of HQ Coy were invited by "B" Coy to a film and a small party held later in "B" Coy Officer's Mess. Both Sp and HQ Coys held dances. Maj's D.B. MacKenzie and S.K. Cogle, the att Dental Officer, and Capt. B.V. Morgan left for Paris on seven days "University Leave".</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	14 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 29 Other Ranks 815</p> <p>The weather was bright and sunny. Maj H.F. Hoskin, D.S.O. came from "C" Coy to take over as 2 i/c as Maj D.B. MacKenzie was fully engaged on the Bn Educational program.</p>	

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NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	15 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 29 Other Ranks 790</p> <p>A day of hot, brilliant sunshine. In the early evening, Brigadier J.E. Sager, formerly C.O. of the Westminsters arrived to pay a short visit to the unit. This was the first time many members of the regiment had seen him since his departure in 1943. A short time after Brig Sager's arrival, Capt. E.B. Robertson returned from a two-week period spent at C.M.H.Q. obtaining data from the unit War Diary for a book being written by the C.O. Lt. Col. G.C. Corbould, D.S.O.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	16 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 32 Other Ranks 926</p> <p>The day was bright and clear. The C.O. spent the day showing Brig Sager around the unit. In the afternoon they visited the DELFZYL area, the scene of the unit's last action. Brig Sager took a number of pictures and renewed various acquaintances. Under the M.O., Capt. G. A. Waugh, the unit Brass Band was being re-established. The instruments were obtained from England where they had been stored and practices began. Candidates for a Brigade Tennis Tournament were attached to HQ Coy while practicing.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	17 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 922</p> <p>The weather was again clear. The day was quiet with Coy's carrying on with normal training and educational programs.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	18 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 942</p> <p>The day was bright and clear. Maj H.F. Hoskin, D.S.O. while acting as Bn 2 i/c made inspection trips to each coy. A/CSM Minor, working under Maj Hoskin and R.S.M. P. Abbot, instructed each company's regimental guard. In the evening there was a boxing tournament in GRONINGEN in which boxers from 5 C.A.B. Training Camp competed against Dutch opponents from local schools. The Westminster Regt. representatives were Sgt. Bailey, A Coy, Pte. Smart, A Coy and Pte Cuzzacrea, B Coy and all made good showings in their fights. The 5 CAB group won, counting in their points four knockouts in the 12 bouts.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	19 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 936</p> <p>The good weather continued. Capt. F. Eaton, A/QM was away on a buying trip to BELGIUM and way points. The ASSEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL was progressing well. All classes were doing well under instructors supplied by the GGHG's and Westminsters who were working with some civilian teachers. Among those supplied by the Westmr R. (M) were Lieut. J. Tattersall who took the Art class, Sgt. W. Sawyer for radio, Sgt. W. Frisby, electricity and, Pte. E. Both "A" Coy who took a DIESEL class.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	20 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 937</p> <p>The weather was doubtful during most of the day with only occasional spots of sunshine. In the evening HQ Coy held a successful dance in the ELSINGA CAFE in NORG.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	21 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 937</p> <p>The weather was rainy and dark all day. Lieut. R. Okell, a newly arrived officer was posted to HQ Coy as Transport Officer combined with duties of Bn sports officer. Lieut. Elines was posted to HQ Coy as Canteen Officer.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	22 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 36 Other Ranks 955</p> <p>In the early morning there was a thunder storm and the whole day was broken by sudden heavy showers. There was a church parade held in Sp Coy's lines at HAULERWIJK taken by H/Capt. D.R.G. Owen</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	23 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 36 Other Ranks 962</p> <p>The weather was again dull. 72 LAD, att The Westminster R (M) since the unit left CANADA for Overseas was to be officially disbanded on July 29. Many of the personnel, including the O.C., Capt. A. Caldicott had left and the remainder were to be repatriated or posted to other units. Capt. E.B. Robertson was promoted to be A/Major and took over as O.C. GRONINGEN RECREATIONAL CENTRE. He was to be responsible for the various clubs and other facilities in the GRONINGEN AREA. Capt. F.C.B. Cummins was to continue as Adjutant.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	24 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 963</p> <p>The weather was cloudy and doubtful though it did not rain. Normal training and sports occupied the day</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	25 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 974</p> <p>The sun was bright all day though it was cloudy in the evening. Capt. S. Tait, R.C.E.M.E. att the GGHG spent a great deal of time around the unit as he was the supervisor of the disbanding of 72 L.A.D. Some of their equipment was to be turned over to the Westminster Regt. (M) while the remainder was to be turned in.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	26 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 977</p> <p>The weather was dull and cloudy. The troops were occupied with normal parades, sports and educational activities. Majors D.B. MacKenzie and S.K. Cougle with Capt. B.V. Morgan returned from PARIS where they had been on a University Leave.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	27 Jul 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 977</p> <p>The day was dull and wet though the evening was clear. There was another of the usual Friday night dances held by HQ Coy. At this time it was made known that the movement of 1 Div was delayed by about one month and that the likely time-of-departure for 5 Div would now be MARCH.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	28 Jul 1945		Strength Officers 35 Other Ranks 980	
			<p>The weather was uncertain during the day but rainy in the evening. A repat. draft of about forty left on their way to CANADA. Except for personnel who were “frozen” as being essential, this draft pretty well cleared up the last of the “old men”. In the evening a mixed MAPLE LEAF CONCERT party made up of both Belgian and British actors played at the theatre in “B” Coy’s town of LEEK. They provided a very good evening’s entertainment for troops from all the companys.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	29 Jul 1945		Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 947	
			<p>The day was dull and cloudy with occasional showers. Church parade was in NORG at the local church.</p>	
NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	30 Jul 1945		Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 949	
			<p>The weather was dull and uncertain. The C.O. Lt. Col. G.C. Corbould, DSO left at about 0700 hrs with Brig. I. Cumberland fir ENSCHEDE where they were to serve on a court-martial. Maj H.F. Hoskin, DSO continued his rounds of inspections of the coy’s, giving HQ Coy a good going over. Normal educational and training programs took up the day for the troops.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
<p>NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN</p>	<p>31 Jul 1945</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 946</p> <p>The weather was good in the morning, though there were showers in the evening. Lieut. E. Elines returned from leave and took over as canteen officer. During the month of July a large number of personnel had left the unit to be repatriated and on drafts to the CAPF and COF. To a large extent, the only personnel with more than 150 points who were left were “frozen” as essential personnel. In spite of difficulties created by these drafts, the educational program had made excellent progress, a large number of troops having gained knowledge valuable to them in their post-war rehabilitation. It was proposed to have a 30 day pause in the educational courses in order to give instructors and students an opportunity to take leave.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
<p>NORG – M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">Date ...4 Aug..... 1945...</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> G.C. Corbould, DSO (Lt. Col.) Commanding Officer The Westminster Regiment (Motor) </p>	

LIST OF APPENDICES FOR JULY 1945
WAR DIARY
THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (MOTOR)

<u>NO.</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>Dup</u>	<u>Trip</u>
1.	Part I Orders	X		
2.	Part II Orders			X
3.	AFW 3008 (Wkly Fd Ret – Offrs)	X		
4.	AFW 3009 (Wkly Fd Ret – Ors)	X		
5.	Progress Report	X	X	X
6.	Programme of Events (5 CAD review)	X	X	X
7.	Invitation Card (WO's & SGT's Dance)	X	X	X
8.	5 CAD Track & Fd Meet	X		
9.	Monthly Liaison letter (War Office)	X		
10.	Sports – Maple Leaf stadium – Nijmegen - HOLLAND	X		
11.				
12.	Message from the Army Commander	X		

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. 145975, Sheet 12 ASSEN 1/50,000	1 Aug 1945		Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 943	
“	2 Aug 1945		<p>In the keeping with it's previous habits, the weather was doubtful The C.O., Lieut. Col G.C. Corbould D.S.O. had not returned from serving on the Court-Martial at HENGELO where he had been for several days. The battalion was occupied with normal administration and educational and sports programs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 940</p> <p>The weather improved with the sun coming out during most or the day. In the afternoon the Westminster soccer team played the B.C.D. team and won “A” Coy, commanded by Capt. J.E. Oldfield was inspected by Maj. H.F. Hoskin, D.S.O. The recently reconstituted regimental band under the M.O. Capt. G. Waugh, played for the inspection. Capt. M.G. Klinkhamer returned to the unit from 3 C.B.R.G. where he had been previously employed. He was posted to HQ Coy to assist the educational staff. In the evening, the usual Thursday night Mess Dinner was held at Bn HQ Mess in Norg. Included in the attendance was Maj. E. Wilder, former M.O. with the unit and now at HQ 5 C.A.D. After the Mess Dinner, those present went to “B” Coy’s town of LEEK where an ENSA show was being presented.</p>	
“	3 Aug 1945		Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 940	
			<p>There heavy showers during the morning, but in the afternoon the weather improved. At about 1700 hrs the C.O., accompanied by Brig. I. Cumberland D.S.O., returned from HENGELO. In the evening the W.O.’s and Sgt's of the battalion held a dance in the APOLLO CLUB at GRONINGEN to which Coy. Comd’s and members of Bn HQ Staff were invited. Also present were W.O.’s and Sgt's from other units of the Division. At the same time a dance was held by HQ Coy in NORG.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. 145975, Sheet 12 ASSEN 1/50,000	4 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 943</p> <p>The weather was cloudy but no rain. A ceremonial parade of “B” and “C” Coy’s under Maj. H.F. Hoskin was inspected by the C.O. accompanied by Maj. D.B. MacKenzie the 2i/c. In the march past the C.O. took the salute. The band, 16 strong, played for the parade.</p>	
“	5 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 952</p> <p>The day was bright but windy. A battalion church parade was held on the sports field at NORG. The service was taken by H/Capt. D.R.G. Owen, the padre and music was provided by the band. At the conclusion the C.O. took the salute at a march past. In the afternoon the C.O. held a meeting of Coy Comd’s to discuss an establishment which had been laid down by HQ 5 C.A.D. This establishment instituted several reductions in the number of N.C.O.’s and officers on the unit strength. A “frozen” list of personnel was prepared. Personnel could be allowed to proceed on Repat. Drafts only with permission from HQ 5 C.A.B. Similarly, promotions could be made only after they had been passed by Brigade, Div and Army. Further, if an officer or NCO was allowed to return to Canada, no promotion could be made to fill the vacancy.</p>	
“	6 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 948</p> <p>The day was bright and sunny. At 0930 hrs all officers and NCO's were addressed by Lt. Gen Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO on the repatriation situation. He had little to say which was not previously general knowledge, though he did suggest that a sudden end of the Far Eastern War might speed up the repatriation scheme. Lieut. J.S. Moore and E. Dewhurst left on a repat draft. Major Simons (C.D.C.) arrived to replace Major S.K. Cogle, the dental officer who had been with the unit since the early day in Italy and who had recently left on a repat draft.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. 145975, Sheet 12 ASSEN 1/50,000	6 Aug (cont.)		Sp Coy, comd by Maj. E.V. Ardagh, were now established in SWILDE, M.R.1 86. As they were near ASSEN, the southern terminus of the COLONIAL COACHES, they were able to take advantage of this service for liberty and showers parade trips into GRONINGEN.	
“	7 Aug 1945		Strength Officers 32 Other Ranks 946 The weather was again bright and sunny. A soccer game between the G.G.H.G.'s and Westminsters was won by the former with score of 2 - 0. “A” Coy held a company dance in the evening. A ceremonial parade of Sp. Coy. With the band in attendance was inspected by the C.O. The parade was held in Sp Coy's lines in SWILDE.	
“	8 Aug 1945		Strength Officers 32 Other Ranks 944 The weather changed suddenly with heavy rain all day. Due to the bad weather all sports were cancelled. Lt. Elines was away for the rest of the day purchasing the battalions weekly EFI issue.	
“	9 Aug 1945		Strength Officers 32 Other Ranks 952 The bad weather continued with a heavy downpour of rain lasting all through the day. Normal training and administration occupied the day. Sp. Coy. Held a dance in the evening and though there was only a small turn-out of the local girls, a good time was had by all.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. 145975, Sheet 12 ASSEN 1/50,000	10 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 32 Other Ranks 947</p> <p>The weather was bad with further downpours of heavy rain. A small group of fifteen reinforcement arrived and were posted out to Coys. HQ Coy held it's weekly dance at the ELZINGA CAFE in NORG.</p>	
“	11 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 32 Other Ranks 944</p> <p>The weather improved slightly but it remained unsettled. Preparations were completed for the Officers Dance which was to take place in the evening. Members of the Div and Bde staffs and C.O.'s of other units of the Division were invited. A total of about 150 were present and a good time was had by all.</p>	
“	12 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 32 Other Ranks 977</p> <p>The day was cloudy but there was no rain. Voluntary church parades were held in Coy area's. Major E.G. Roulstone, a newly arrived reinforcement, was posted to Sp. Coy.</p>	
“	13 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 32 Other Ranks 981</p> <p>The day was rainy throughout. The day was occupied by normal educational and training programmes. In “A” Coy's town of OOSTERWOLDE, the local High School principle gave the troops an interesting talk on the DUTCH system of election and representation.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. 145975, Sheet 12 ASSEN 1/50,000 “ “ “	14 Aug 1945		Strength Officers 43 Other Ranks 984 The weather was cloudy and unsettled. In a soccer game with the G.G.H.G.'s the Westminsters were defeated by a score of three to one.	
	15 Aug 1945		Strength Officers 43 Other Ranks 984 The weather remained unsettled. As this was the day declared VJ day Bn Parade was cancelled. A sports programme was arranged by Lt. R. Okell, Bn sports Officer, to occupy the two VJ Day holidays.	
	16 Aug 1945		Strength Officers 43 Other Ranks 981 The persistent bad weather continued with rain during most of the day. Mr. McAdam, agent-General for B.C., who resided in London, arrived to spend a short with the Regiment. A parade had been arranged for Fri 17 Aug when he was to inspect the unit. In the evening a Mess Dinner was held at the Bn Off'rs Mess in Norg at which Mr. McAdam was present. “A” Coy held a dance at OOSTERWOLDE from 2000 to 2359 hrs. Music was provided by a band from GRONINGEN.	
	17 Aug 1945		Strength Officers 43 Other Ranks 953 The day was rainy. At 1000 hrs there was a full battalion ceremonial parade on the Bn parade ground at NORG. Mr. McAdam carried out an inspection, stopped to talk to many of the men. At the march-past which followed, the agent-General took the salute. In the evening HQ Coy held their weekly dance.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. 145975, Sheet 12 ASSEN 1/50,000	18 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 954</p> <p>The weather was unsettled. Mr. McAdam, the agent-General, departed from the unit and went to the B.C.D.'s where he was to spend a like period of time. A dance was held in the evening by “C” Coy.</p>	
“	19 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 950</p> <p>The weather was dull and rainy. Sunday, 19 Aug 45 was declared a National Day of Prayer in thanksgiving for the end of hostilities in World War II. A brigade service was held in ASSEN to commemorate this day. The service was taken by the Padre of the G.G.H.G.'s.</p>	
“	20 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 928</p> <p>The bad weather continued with a further day of incessant rain. The regimental soccer team played the 5 Rehabilitation Centre in MEPPEL and won by a score of 7 to 1.</p>	
“	21 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 950</p> <p>The weather improved slightly with the barometer up a little, but the day remained unsettled. The day was spent on normal administration and training.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. 145975, Sheet 12 ASSEN 1/50,000	22 Aug 1945		Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 945	
“	23 Aug 1945		<p>The weather continued uncertain.</p> <p>The 5 Bde summer football championship game was played at Bequick Stadium near HQ 5 C.A.B. The game was played between the G.G.H.G.'s and Westminster Regt. teams and was won by the former with a score of 5 to 1.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 944</p> <p>The doubtful weather continued with a further day of clouds.</p> <p>The educational Section was deeply involved in the arrangements for the opening of further Rehabilitation Schools. 5 C.A.B. was to operate a school in MEPPEL, site of the former 5 C.A.D. school. Maj E.G. Roulstone, a recent arrival to the W.R. was attached there as the O.C. There was to be a school opened at EMMEN and another at HOOGVEEN where personnel of the Westmr R. (M) were to attend.</p> <p>At 1000 hrs Maj H.F. Hoskin D.S.O. inspected “A” Coy.</p> <p>In the evening a variety show was put on in the theatre at LEEK by a party of DUTCH artists. It was well attended by personnel from each of the Coys. The concert party was later entertained at Bn HQ offr's Mess.</p>	
“	24 Aug 1945		Strength Officers Other Ranks 944	
			<p>The day was dull and rainy.</p> <p>At 1330 hrs a Mess Meeting was held at Bn HQ Mess. A Mess President Maj H.F. Hoskin and a Sec-Treasurer, Lt, R. Okell were elected and after some further business the meeting was adjourned.</p> <p>At 1500 hrs the Burgomasters of NORG, SMILDE, OOSTERWOLDE, LEEK and RODEN, assembled with the C.O. and Coy Comdrs to discuss any problems which existed. Instructions had been received from higher formation to establish “Soldier-Citizen Committees” which were to iron out mutual difficulties and mis-understandings, but the C.O. decided that it would be better to have each Coy commander liase with the local Burgomaster if any such problems should arise. The Burgomasters expressed the unanimous opinion that the troops were well behaved and were the source of no trouble.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. 145975, Sheet 12 ASSEN 1/50,000	24 Aug (Cont.)		Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 944	
“	25 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">In the evening HQ Coy held a dance at the ELZINGA CAFÉ in NORG.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 34 Other Ranks 944</p> <p>The weather was dull and uncertain, brightening up somewhat towards late afternoon. At 1130 hrs a Brigade championship cross—country run took place in the NORG area, a Westmr R. officer, Lt. W. Monden, made all arrangements for the meet. The only teams participating were those from B.C.D.'s and Westminsters and the <i>run</i> was taken by the B.C.D.'s. Later instructions were to keep the teams fit in anticipation of a Div meet at some later date.</p> <p>At 1400 hrs a program for the local school children started at the school in NORG when some 250 fell in behind the Westmr R (M) band and were marched through the town and out to the Sports Field. By the time the party reached the Sports Field it had grown to about 400, but never-the-less there was candy, cake and ice cream for all. Games, races and contests were held under the joint supervision of local citizens and HQ Coy troops and prizes awarded to the winners. Music was provided by the unit band and the K of C public address system. Most of the arrangements had been made by a local committee under Cpl F. Bishop working with the local school teachers. Valuable assistance was given by Supervisor, W. Hussey, the att. K of C Rep.</p>	
“	26 Aug 1945		Strength Officers 33 Other Ranks 943	
			<p>The day was bright and sunny.</p> <p>A voluntary church parade was held in RODEN. The service was taken in one of the churches there by the Padre, H/Capt. D.G.H. Owen.</p> <p>A visit was paid to the unit by A/Maj E.B. Robertson, former Adj. of the unit and now O.C. Groningen Recreational Centre.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. 145975, Sheet 12 ASSEN 1/50,000	27 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 33 Other Ranks 943</p> <p>The day was warm and clear. At 0930 hrs Maj H.F. Hoskin D.S.O. inspected HQ Coy at NORG. Lt. R. Okell, the transport officer assisted by Sgt. Armstrong began the task of testing all the Bn's drivers and M/C riders. The old system of Driving Permits was being revived and this necessitated a test for every driver. Lt. Okell was relieved of the job of Bn Sports Officer and Lt. W. McLachlan was temporarily elected to look after these duties.</p>	
“	28 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 33 Other Ranks 926</p> <p>The good weather continued with a day of bright sunshine. “A” Coy in the town of OOSTERWOLDE moved their troops out of the local schools into private billets, thus enabling the schools to re-open. The men who had run in the cross-country run on 25 Aug attended a banquet held by the B.C.D.'s at VEENDAM.</p>	
“	29 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 33 Other Ranks 923</p> <p>The weather was cloudy and uncertain. Maj H.F. Hoskin D.S.O. was engaged in making preparations for Exercise "CANHAR", which was the code name for the moving of a large number of Canadian Army vehicles from ARNHEM in the NETHERLANDS to PILSEN in CZECHO-SLOVAKIA. The unit had been called upon to supply 4 Officers and 125 drivers plus. several motor-cyclists to report to the Army marshalling area at DEELEN near ARNHEM on Sunday 2 September. Transportation for the party was to be supplied by other units of the Div. Lt. H.A. Kipp, 2i/c “C” Coy, was promoted to Capt. He had a long record of service with the Westminster R (M), having been with the unit in England, through-out the Italian campaign and the actions in HOLLAND. For some time prior to VE day he was O.C. “C” Coy's Scout platoon and in recent weeks was acting 2 i/c “C” Coy.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG – M.R. 145975, Sheet 12 ASSEN 1/50,000	30 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 33 Other Ranks 923</p> <p>The day was cloudy and doubtful. In the evening the normal Mess Dinner was held at the Bn Officers Mess in NORG. It was attended by Brigadier I. <i>Cumberland</i> D.S.O., Comd 5 C.A.B. and Maj. P. Sare, the D.A.A./QMG. HQ Coy held a dance in the ELSINGA CAFE at NORG. H/Capt. Owen, Padre of the unit since the departure from England, left the Westminster Regiment (M) to take up duties on the instructional staff of the Khaki College in England. He had been most popular with the troops and during action was always a valuable addition to the R.A.P. staff, so all ranks were sorry to see him leave.</p>	
“	31 Aug 1945		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 33 Other Ranks 923</p> <p>The weather was again dull and cloudy. The troops were occupied with the normal routine of administration, training and sports. The 31 Aug was Queen Wilhelmina's birthday and a day of great celebration by all DUTCH people. There were parades and displays in every town and village and almost without exception there were some compliments paid to the Canadian Liberators of Holland. “A” Coy staged an exhibition softball game while “C” Coy was ‘inspected’ by one of the local little girls who presented each man with a wooden paper knife as a souvenir of RODEN.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <hr style="width: 30%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> G.C. Corbould DSO Lieut Col. Commanding Officer The Westminster Regiment (Motor) </p>	

WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF AUGUST

LIST OF APPENDICES

NO	SUBJECT	ORIGINAL	DUPLICATE	TRIPLICATE
1.	Part I Orders	X		
2.	Part II Orders			X
3.	AFV 3008 (Wkly Fd Ret Offrs)	X		
4-	AFW 3009 (Wkly Fd Ret ORs)	X		
5.	Progress Report August	X	X	X
6.	Personal Message from C-in-C	X		
7.	5 CAD Sports Meet (Racing)	X		
8.	“CANHAR” Operation Order	X		
9.	Regt. Colours – letter	X		
10.	5 CAD Ser of Prayer & Thanksgiving	X		X

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	1 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 33 Other ranks 920</p> <p>The day was bright and sunny though cool. At 1000 hrs the CO, Lt. Col. G.C. Corbould, DSO held a meeting at NORG of all Coy Commanders. Several points of discipline and admin were discussed and the Coy Canteens were gone into in some detail. These canteens had been originally started on a temporary basis but it was found now that a more comprehensive book keeping system had to be adopted. Lt W. Hudson was detailed to establish and maintain this method. Lt F.H. Smith was promoted to Captain as O.C. HQ Coy. Maj H.F. Hoskin, DSO was completing preparations for exercise "CANHAR", the turn-over of Canadian military vehicles to UNRRA in CZECHO-SLOVAKIA. A party of 125 drivers and 5 officers were to leave at 0830 hrs 2 Sept for DEELEN AIRPORT (near ARNHEM) where 100 vehicles and trailers were to be picked up and driven to PILSEN, CZECHO-SLOVAKIA. The Officers included the C.O., Maj Hoskin, Capt. J.E. Oldfield MC, Lieut. A. Hebb and Lieut. R.E. Mannering.</p>	
	2 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 919</p> <p>The weather was again bright and clear. The CANHAR pulled out at 0900 hrs on the first lap of the 400 mile journey. As H/Capt. D.R.G. Owen had left the unit and had not been replaced there was no church Parade.</p>	
	3 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Offices: 32 Other ranks 919</p> <p>The day was sunny but quite cool, indicating that Fall was close. Capt. B.V. Morgan, O.C. "C" Coy left for UTRECHT where he was to serve on a Court of Inquiry. Canteen representatives met at the Off'rs Mess in NORG to discuss month-end reports.</p>	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	4 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 922</p> <p>The weather was cloudy and uncertain all day. Though large numbers of personnel being away on Exercise "CANHAR" and educational programs, the coys were reduced to a minimum and activity was limited to routine admin. In the afternoon all available personnel went to the ASSEN theatre to hear a lecture on conditions in CANADA. The speaker was a representative of the C.B.C.</p>	
	5 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 921</p> <p>The weather was again doubtful. Supervisor W.J. Hussey, K/C Aux Services, had established a mobile library and this in conjunction with the mobile tea van was of very great service to all the troops.</p>	
	6 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 922</p> <p>The weather was cloudy and uncertain. Capt. B.V. Morgan returned from the Court of Inquiry on which he had been serving. Final preparations for the opening of the EMMEN Schools were being made by Maj DB MacKenzie, Lieut. W. McLachlan and Lieut. D. Adlem. Students were to leave on Fri 7 Sept in order to be settled down and ready for work by 10 Sept. Maj D.B. MacKenzie attended a C.O.'s meeting at HQ 5/CAB.</p>	
	7 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 922</p> <p>The weather was once more clear and sunny though cool. Maj DB MacKenzie, acting CO in Lt Col Gorboulds absence, held a meeting of Coy Comdrs in order to pass on information given out at a Brigade meeting held at HQ 5 CAB on the previous day. Points of discipline were covered, as well as details of a further repatriation program which would repat personnel with over 110 points. These personnel were to move at various times during the next two months. In the evening a dance was held by HQ Coy in the ELSINGA CAFE in NORG.</p>	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
<p>NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN</p>	8 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Officers: 32 Other ranks 919</p> <p>The weather was alternately cloudy and sunny. A draft notice was received for 60 personnel with between 130 and 150 points to proceed to CANADA on 16 Sept. Two H.U.W.s (Heavy Utility, Wireless) were taken on unit strength from 5 C.A.B. In the evening "A" Coy held a dance at OOSTERWOLDE.</p>	
	9 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 914</p> <p>The weather was good with the sun shining all day. An R.C. Church Parade was held in NORGE but there was no PROTESTANT service as a replacement for H/Capt D.R.G. Owen has still not arrived. In the afternoon several officers from Bn HQ visited SP Coy. Lieut. L. Nanden left the unit on an attachment as Transport Officer to HQs 5 CAD Under Lieut. J. Dorchester the APELDORN guard left at 0800 hrs.</p>	
	10 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 916</p> <p>The weather continued bright and sunny. Orders were received from HQ 5 CAB that the Westminster R. would be called on to supply a second party of 4 Offrs and 125 ORs to drive another convoy of vehicles to CZECHO-SLOVAKIA as part of Exercise "CANHAR". This party was to move 18 Sept. It was made known that 10,000 high point troops in UK were to be released for repat and replaced by 10,000 low point men from N.W. EUROPE. Units were instructed to submit nominal rolls of all personnel with less than 90 points, the people who were to be affected. This list included some 640 of the unit's strength of 900 all ranks. It was anticipated that if this group was posted away, the unit would of necessity be reduced in strength by one or more companys. At a meeting of Coy Comdrs the A/C.O., Maj DB MacKenzie and Capt. F.C.B. Cummins, the Adj, classified the lists of personnel as to points and availability.</p>	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	11 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Offices: 32 Other ranks 914</p> <p>The day was clear and sunny.</p> <p>It was made known that there had been a decided speed-up in the repatriation process and it was felt that 5 CAD was most likely to be out of HOLLAND by late Oct or early Nov. Many groundless rumours were going the rounds but it seemed reasonable to believe that the unit would be home by christmas.</p> <p>The party which had been away on the first Exercise "CNAHAR" trip returned reporting the journey to have been interesting, but uneventful.</p> <p>H/Capt. Fargey arrived to take over his duties as padre. He had previously been with a 1 Div unit and on it's departure he was posted to 5 CAD.</p>	
	12 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Offices: 32 Other ranks 912</p> <p>The weather was cloudy and uncertain.</p> <p>The day was taken up by routine admin.</p> <p>There were many rumours to the effect that the Div would start moving in early Oct but so far nothing was definite.</p>	
	13 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Offices: 32 Other ranks 911</p> <p>The doubtful weather continued.</p> <p>Lt R.E. Mannering moved from "B" Coy to Bn HQ where he was to take over duties as assistant Adjutant.</p> <p>Two 15 Cwts and six 60 Cwts were added to the unit strength of vehicles, as the distance between Coys was so great and as there were many outside commitments for vehicles, the depleted regimental transport was badly strained and it was found necessary to ask for some additional trucks. These came with promises of more to follow.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	14 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 909</p> <p>Rain was the order of the day until evening when it cleared up. Companys were busy rounding up sufficient drivers for the forthcoming Exercise "CANHAR" trip. In the evening the weekly HQ Coy dance was held in NORG.</p>	
	15 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 903</p> <p>The day was dull and cloudy through-out. At 0900 hrs a repat draft of 60 men left for GRONINGEN TRANSIT CAMP on the first stage of their return journey to CANADA. This draft included Sgt. R. Armstrong, a "high point man" who had been with the unit since the early days in Canada. At 1430 hrs Maj DB MacKenzie and Maj EV Ardagh held a meeting of all officers and senior NCO's who were to act as pl comds on the CZECHO-SLOVAKIA trip. The party included the A/M officers, Capt. B.V. Morgan, Capt. H.E. Smith, Lieut W.L. McLachlan, C.S.M. J. Hoskin and H/Capt. Fargee, the Padre. Maj Ardagh gave out the instructions for the trip which was to start from Bn HQ at 0930 hrs, 18 Sept 45.</p>	
	16 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 857</p> <p>The day was dull and cold with rain in the afternoon. A voluntary C of E church parade was held in NORG, the service being taken by H/Capt. Fargee. During the afternoon Maj E.B. Robertson visited the unit. The Adjt, Capt. F.C.B. Cummins left on leave to England.</p>	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	17 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 857</p> <p>The weather was bright and clear. Maj E.V. Ardagh was busy tying in details of Exercise CANHAR "PARTY LL". By 1600 hrs everything was tee-ed up and in preparation for the move next morning. In the evening there was a small gathering at Bn HQ Off'rs Mess. Three 6 Cwts were supplied to a Groningen fruit wholesaler to haul vegetables South to MAASTRICHT and bring fruit back, a portion of which came to the unit.</p>	
	18 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 853</p> <p>The weather was very bad with sudden showers all day. The exercise CANHAR party left on schedule at 0930 hrs. Lt R. Okell was detailed to gather information from the Coys for a survey being made as to the amount of use field units had made of the night vision training given to some reinforcements. The results seemed to be that both time and reinforcements had always been in such short supply that to pick and choose men for night work was not practical. The C.O. Left on a short trip to Brussels and Gent. The unit was called upon by Div for ten drivers to move vehicles from STEENWIJCK to EELDE AIRPORT.</p>	
	19 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 855</p> <p>The weather was uncertain. Coys were so depleted in strength that there was little activity beyond routine admin.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	20 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 855</p> <p>Throughout the day the weather was doubtful but the evening was bright and clear. In the evening a concert party of civilians known as the 'Halifax Heralds' performed at the theatre in "B" Coy 's town of LEEK. The concert was of excellent quality and was well received by the troops. The last act in the show involved the presentation of a Ronson lighter to a member of the audience who was selected by chance. Pte. W. Yaremko of "A" Coy was the lucky man.</p> <p>The party later had lunch at the Bn Officer's Mess in NORG.</p>	
	21 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 903</p> <p>There were sudden heavy showers all day but the evening was bright and clear. In the afternoon the C.O. returned from his trip to Brussels.</p>	
	22 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 852</p> <p>The day was dull, cold and rainy.</p> <p>In the morning Capt. J.E. Oldfield and Lt. R. Okell marked out the route of the mile Div Championship Cross Country Run which was to take place during the afternoon.</p> <p>The Westminster team was under Capt. J.E. Oldfield who was also responsible for numerous arrangements for the race. At 1400 hrs the teams assembled, Perth Regt, B.C. Dragoons and Westminsters. The run was started at 1430 hrs by Brig I. Cumberland. The winner, a Perth man came in 30 minutes later. The Westminster team, previously defeated in the Brigade championship race by the B.C.D.s won with a score of 196. They were closely followed by the BCDs with 202 while the Perths were edged out by quite a wide margin.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	23 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 32 Other ranks 852</p> <p>The weather was dull and cold though there was no rain. An R.C. Church service was taken in NORG by the Div R.C. Padre. Maj E.B. Robertson paid the unit a visit during the afternoon.</p>	
	24 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 31 Other ranks 852</p> <p>The weather was cloudy and cold in the morning, but better in the afternoon. Routine admin occupied the day.</p>	
	25 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 31 Other ranks 852</p> <p>The weather was doubtful with scattered showers. The Agent-General for B.C., Mr. W. McAdam, sent the unit a large parcel of playing cards for the troops and a large size Canadian Red Ensign flag. The flag was put to use almost immediately as part of the decoration which was being put up in the Officers Mess in preparation for the forth-coming dance to be held on Sep 29.</p>	
	26 Sep 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 31 Other ranks 850</p> <p>A further day of doubtful and rainy weather. In the absence of Brig I Cumberland the C.O. was acting comd of 5 C.A.B. Lt R.E. Mannering, the A/Adt attended an Adjutants Meeting at HQ 5 CAB. Some preliminary instructions were given in preparation for the move from Holland to U.K., though no date had yet been set.</p>	
	27 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 31 Other ranks 848</p> <p>A day of cloud and scattered showers. Lt A Hebb and Hudson were busy decorating the officers Mess in preparation for the dance of the 29 Sept Maj P. Sare, DAAQMG 5 CAB came to the unit with documents for the C.O.s signature.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	28 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 31 Other ranks 849</p> <p>The day was dull and rainy. In the afternoon the personnel who had been away on exercise "CANHAR" returned. The trip had been successful though the weather had not been favourable. In the evening a dance was held by HQ Coy in NORG.</p>	
	29 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 31 Other ranks 847</p> <p>The weather was doubtful in the morning but clear in the afternoon and evening. Lieut. A. Hebb of Sp Coy with the help of a few "conscripted" officers from Bn Hq completed the decorating of the Bn Offr's Mess and the near-by ELSINGA CAFÉ in preparation for the dance.</p>	
	30 Sept 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers: 31 Other ranks 847</p> <p>The weather was dull and cold. The C.O., the 2 i/c and Lt. Col. Baldwin visited Sp Coy during the afternoon. From here Lt. Col. Baldwin returned to HQ C.F.N.</p>	
			<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> G. C. Courbould Lt. Col. Commanding Officer The Westminster Regiment (Motor)	

THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (MOTOR)

WAR DIARY 1 SEPT 45 – 30 SEPT 45

LIST OF APPENDICES

<u>NO</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ORIGINAL</u>	<u>DUPLICATE</u>	<u>TRIPLICATE</u>
1.	Part I Orders	X		
2.	Part II Orders	X		
3.	AFV 3008 (Wkly Fd Ret Offrs)	X		
4-	AFW 3009 (Wkly Fd Ret ORs)	X		
5.	Progress Report	X	X	X
6.	Operation Order (Exercise CANHAR)	X		
7.	Operation Order PW	X		
8.	Newspaper article (Maj J Mahony VC)	X		
9.	Message of thanks for (Capt FR Smith)	X		
10.	Letter (Entertainment Committee Groningen)	X	X	X
11.	Dance Invitation (The Westmr Regt. (M))	X	X	X
12.	Regimental History	X		
12A.	Miscellaneous	X		

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	1 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 847</p> <p>The weather was doubtful and cold.</p> <p>The initial stages of the money exchange which was taking place throughout HOLLAND (old type currency for new issue notes) began with the calling-in by Capt. E.H.B. Lennie, the Paymaster, of all old type guilders. This exchange was being made in order to counter the inflation which was rampant in the country. The new currency was to be used by the troops of C.F.N. on and after 4 Oct 45.</p> <p>Major N. Simon, attached from C.D.C., left the unit to return to Canada on a Repat Draft. Though he had only been with the unit a few weeks, he had become very popular.</p> <p>A meeting of company canteen representatives was held and presided over by Major D.B. McKenzie, the Bn 2 i/c. The meeting was concerned only with matters of administration and accounting.</p>	
	2 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 843</p> <p>The day was dull and cold.</p> <p>At 0900 hrs the C.O., Lieut-Col. G.C. Corbould DSO, left with several other officers of Bn HQ and HQ Coy for HQ CFN at APELDOORN where they were to attend the contest for the Army Cross-Country Run championship. A few days previously, the Westminster team had won the 5 Cdn Armd Div championship and was now taking part in the Army event.</p> <p>Upon their return, the party reported that the unit had come second, the race being, taken by the 3 Cdn Inf Div H.L.I. team, Considering that the Westminsters had had only small opportunity to harden up, this was a very good showing. Each contestant was presented with a silver medal in commemoration of the event.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	3 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 31 Other Ranks 839</p> <p>The weather was doubtful with occasional showers, Two H.U.W's (Heavy Utility Wireless) to be used as personnel vehicles were delivered to the unit by the R.C.D's.</p> <p>The regimental hockey team left for a two day stay in AMSTERDAM where they were to have the use of an arena for their initial practice. The team had been named after the famous New Westminster "SALMONBELLIES" by the Adjutant, Capt. F.C.B. Cummins, a strong backer of the home-town team.</p> <p>A war correspondent of the Canadian Press, Bill Boss, spent several hours at Bn HQ gathering material for a story soon to be published in Canadian newspapers.</p>	
	4 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength Officers 32 Other Ranks 839</p> <p>As a change from the previous dull weather, the day was bright and clear though cold.</p> <p>At 0900 hrs all available Officers and N.C.O's were seated in the Ensa Garrison theatre, GRONINGEN to hear a lecture by Lt-Gen. Guy Simmonds, Comd. CFN. on the rehabilitation and repatriation situation. He discussed the situation from the early stages to the present, covering such subjects as the point-score question and the shipping problem, the latter being the chief delay in the return of overseas troops to Canada. From his words, it seemed highly improbable that 5 C.A.D. would be home for Christmas.</p> <p>A draft notice was received for 26 O.R's with 110-130 points to proceed on Canada repat Drafts on 19 & 22 Oct.</p> <p>In the evening a dance was held at "A" Coy with music supplied by the 11 piece "Plus Four" dance band of the GRONINGEN Beaver Club.</p> <p>An Ensa Concert Party played at the theatre in "B" Coy's town of LEEK. They later had lunch at the Bn. Officer's Mess in NORG.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	5 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 32 Other Ranks 839</p> <p>The day was clear and cold, though there was rain in the evening. The day was spent in normal administration and training. The Paymaster, Capt. E.H.B. Lennie, returned to Bn HQ after a hectic day spent paying "Sp" and "A" Coys. Pay parades now consisted of paying and taking orders for cigarettes as well as taking flower orders to be cabled to U.K. and Canada.</p>	
	6 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 32 Other Ranks 842</p> <p>The day was bright and clear. The Div Chaplain paid the unit a visit during the afternoon.</p>	
	7 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 841</p> <p>The weather continued bright and clear. A well attended service was taken by H/Capt. Fargey in the civilian church at RODEN.</p>	
	8 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 842</p> <p>The day was cold and cloudy though there was no rain. A RCEME Vehicle Inspection Team arrived from 5 C.A.B. Workshops to start work on the unit vehicles. The Intention was to determine the condition of all vehicles in the DIV. The unit hockey team, the "Salmonbellies", left with Lt. H. Moran for The Hague where they were to have the ice for a practice. It was hoped to have more practices shortly but at present each team had only two practices each week, once at Amsterdam and once at The Hague.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	9 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 840</p> <p>The day was bright and clear but cold. The C.O. and Major D.B. McKenzie spent most of the day visiting the EMMEN SCHOOL which was being run by Lieut D. Adlem. It was decided that the school would be discontinued on 8 Nov 45 which would conclude nearly three months of successful operation.</p>	
	10 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 837</p> <p>The weather continued bright and cold. The unit hockey team under Lt. H. Moran returned from their practice at The Hague. It was planned that on their next trip the team would stay at AMSTERDAM as the distance was too great to warrant travelling back and forth for only two practices per week.</p>	
	11 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 836</p> <p>The weather was doubtful and cold. Word was received that the Padre H/Capt. Fargey, would proceed to Canada on a repat Draft scheduled to leave on 18 Oct 45. Throughout the week, as usual, the K of C Aux. Services staff under Supvr. W Hussey was busy almost every afternoon and evening showing films at all the Coys and the EMMEN school. Two or three different pictures were shown each week at each location and this schedule, together with the mobile library was sufficient to keep all hands on the go.</p>	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	12 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 839</p> <p>The weather was again dull and uncertain. The RCEME Vehicle Inspection Team from 5 C.A.B. Workshops completed their inspection and reported the unit vehicles to be the best they had encountered since the start of their tour. Lt-Col. D. Baldwin, HQ CFN, paid the unit a short visit prior to his return to England. In the evening HQ Coy held a dance in the ELSINGA CAFE. The C.O., Majors D.B. McKenzie, H.F. Hoskin DSO, E.V. Ardagh and Capt. F.C.B. Cummins were invited to attend a farewell cocktail party at HQ 5 C.A.B. This HQ was being disbanded, except for a small office which would be located at HQ 5 C.A.D. In future, units of 5 C.A.B. would be under the direct command of 5 C.A.D.</p>	
	13 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 840</p> <p>The day was dull and cold. The day was made noisy and the safety of life and limb was made doubtful by the advent of a large number of Dutch motor cyclists who had come from all parts of HOLLAND to participate in a cross-country race which was being held at NORG. Large crowds of spectators came from near and far to watch the events which took place during the afternoon. In the evening the Bn Officer's Mess was turned over to them for a dance. Spirits were raised and doubts about being home for Christmas were somewhat dispelled by the news that the "QUEEN ELIZABETH" was to be pressed into service carrying Canadian troops back to Canada.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	14 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 840</p> <p>The weather was cloudy and cold with occasional showers. A C. of E. service was held at SMILDE for "A" and "Sp" Coys. Major H.J. Hoskin DSO left at 1230 hrs with 25 drivers for DEELEN AIRPORT near ARNHEM where he was to pick up a number of vehicles which were to be taken to ENGLAND for eventual return to CANADA. Very few details were available though it was known that the party was to leave DEELEN on 16 Oct. They were expected to be away for about 10 days.</p>	
	15 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 839</p> <p>The weather was dull and cloudy in the morning, but brighter in the afternoon. The Bn Parade originally scheduled was cancelled owing to the uncertainty of the weather.</p>	
	16 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 837</p> <p>The weather was cloudy but mild. There was a small turnout for the Bn parade, but despite the small number, the ceremonial was carried out very well. The O.C. HQ Coy, Capt. F.R. Smith, left on leave to England. Major E.G. Roulstone was SOS to the 5 Bde school at MEPPLE where he had been on attachment for some time. Sales of bonds for the 9th Canadian Victory Loan began. Major D.B. McKenzie was in charge of sales, with representatives in each company carrying out the sales program. The C.O. attended a conference of Commanding Officers which was held in the lines of the 8 N.B.H. The unit was informed that the A/G.O.C., Brig. I. Johnson, would visit the regiment on the 17th.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	17 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 31 Other Ranks 840</p> <p>The day was bright and clear. Brig. Johnson spent most of the day with the unit, visiting "HQ", "A" and "Sp" Coys in the morning and "B" and "C" Coys in the afternoon. He made it clear that the troops could expect to be in England for Christmas. In a practice game with the 8 N.B.H., the Westminster hockey team, the "Salmonbellies" was defeated by a score of 6-5.</p>	
	18 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 830</p> <p>The weather was very fine, being bright and clear all day. The Westminster "Salmonbellies" defeated 5 Div A.D.O.S. team by a score of 4-1. Lieut. P. Skrimshire, formerly with the unit and now with the C. Scot. R. CAOF visited the unit with his wife-to-be, Lieut. N/S Patterson of 7 C.G.N. Plans were made for their wedding to take place in the church at NORG on 15 Nov with a reception to be held later in the Bn Officer's Mess. Lieut. R.E. Mannering was to be the "best man".</p>	
	19 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 831</p> <p>The day was cloudy and mild. The C.O. and Lieut. W. Hudson of "Sp" Coy attended a meeting at the FRIGGE HOTEL in NORG at which they received the details concerning the winding-up of accounts on the departure of the unit from HOLLAND. Orders were received to supply 150 drivers for the task of clearing DEELEN Airport of vehicles. For some time this area had been used as a vehicle turn-in depot and it was estimated that it would take one month to clear it of all the vehicles. "Sp" Coy, plus drivers from other Coys, under Major E.V. Ardagh was chosen for the job. They were to move on 22 Oct.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	20 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 810</p> <p>The weather was again fair and mild. The unit was called upon to supply an officer to accompany the Div HQ hockey team on it's travels. Lieut. McBratney of "C" Coy was detailed. The duty was to travel with the team on it's trips to AMSTERDAM and neighboring towns.</p>	
	21 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 807</p> <p>The day was dull with intermittent showers. The move of "Sp" Coy to DEELEN was postponed owing to lack of accommodation in the DEELEN area. The Senior Chaplain from HQ 5 C.A.D., Major Armstrong, took a Protestant Church service in NORG.</p>	
	22 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 810</p> <p>The weather was again dull and wet. Orders were received for "Sp" Coy to move to DEELEN on Wed 24 Oct. They were to occupy billets presently in use by a British Pioneer Coy. Work on the task of clearing the airstrip was to commence on 25 Oct.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	23 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 800</p> <p>The wet weather continued. Several unit officers returned from a short leave to PARIS. Lieut. W. Cameron left on a recce of the area of DELEEN to which "Sp" Coy was to move. Bond sales were over \$30,000 with the 9th Victory Loan Drive not yet half over. Major E. Roulstone, recently SOS to 7 Rehab Training Centre, was returned to Canada on Industrial Repat.</p>	
	24 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 795</p> <p>The weather was again cloudy and showery. At 0400 hrs Cfn. C. Lorenz, a RCEME fitter attached to the unit, was killed in a vehicle accident which occurred a few miles from NORG on the NORG-DONDEREN road. The 15 cwt in which Lorenz was riding collided with a DUTCH civilian truck during a heavy rain storm and a piece of board forming part of a rack over the cab of the civilian truck came through the windshield of the Army vehicle, killing Lorenz. The C.O. ordered a Court of Inquiry which was composed of Major D.B. McKenzie, Capt. J.E. Oldfield and Lieut. R.E. Mannering.</p>	
	25 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 793</p> <p>It was another day of rain. Cfn. Lorenz was buried with military honours at the MILITARY CEMETERY in GONINGEN. There was a Guard of Honour under C.S.M. M.G. McNalley of HQ Coy and Last Post was blown. <i>BY A MEMBER OF THE UNIT BAND</i></p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	26 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 787</p> <p>The weather was very stormy with rain, wind, thunder and lightning. Leave to U.K. was cancelled for a total of five days due to the storms which were raging in the English Channel.</p> <p>A letter was received from the 2nd Royal Warwickshire's stating that due to the fact that their unit had been flown to the MIDDLE EAST, the projected plans for inter-unit visits would be impossible. The Royal Warwick's, the regiment of Field-Marshal Montgomery, is the British Regiment to which the Westminster Reg't (M) is affiliated.</p>	
	27 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 788</p> <p>The day was again wet and cold. The unit was called upon to supply a H.U.P. to a 5 C.A.B. representative for a trip to ASTERDAM.</p>	
	28 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 786</p> <p>The day was clear and cold. As no Protestant padre was available, there was no church service.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	29 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 783</p> <p>The weather was cloudy and cool. One Pte. C. Emery, a member of the unit hockey team) was the subject of numerous telephone calls when an officer from HQ 5 C.A.D. attempted to have him posted to C.M.H.Q. to play on a U.K. hockey team. Pte. Emery's wishes were definitely to stay with the Westminster's, so stay he did. To date, nothing further has been heard.</p>	
	30 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 784</p> <p>The day was again cloudy and cool. Capt. F.C.B. Cummins attended a meeting of unit adjutants hold at HQ 5 C.A.D. ref. the cross-posting of personnel from M.D's other than M.D. 11. In cases where there were appropriate units in 5 C.A.D., such personnel would be posted in the near future. In cases where there was no unit from their M.D. personnel would remain with this unit until shortly before the Div moved to U.K., when they would proceed on Canada drafts. Major H.F. Hoskin who had taken the CANHAR group of vehicles to BORDEN, ENGLAND returned to the unit by air after having been delayed for several days by bad weather. The remainder of the group were to return later.</p>	
	31 Oct 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 783</p> <p>There was a thick fog, in the morning but it cleared off in the afternoon. The day was spent in normal administration.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
<p>NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN</p>	<p>Oct; 31</p>		<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> <p>E.D.</p>	<p>G.C. Courbould Lt.Col. D.S.O. Comd Westminster Reg't (M)</p>

THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (M)
HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

15 Nov. 45

WAR DIARY 1 OCT 45 – 31 OCT 45

LIST OF APPENDICES

<u>NO</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ORIGINAL</u>	<u>DUPLICATE</u>	<u>TRIPLICATE</u>
1.	Part I Orders	X		
2.	Part II Orders			X
3.	AFV 3008 (Wkly Fd Ret Offrs)	X		
4-	AFW 3009 (Wkly Fd Ret ORs)	X		
5.	Progress Report	X	X	X
6.	Application for change of name Addition of prefix "Royal"	X		
7.	Clipping from Maple Leaf Ref. Unit Hockey Team	X		
8.	Correspondence ref. first U.K. <i>Leave</i> on unit arriving in N.W.E.	X		

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. – 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	1 Nov45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 763</p> <p>The weather was dull and very cold The C.O., Lt-Col. G.C. Corbould, (DSO) E.D. spent most of the day visiting the Perth Regiment at SNEEK near LEEUWARDEN. To replae H/Capt. Fargey as Padre, H/Capt. A.G. Mowatt arrived, having been posted from the Queens Own Rifles of 3 C.I.D. who were just leaving for the U.K. on their way home</p>	
	2 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 780</p> <p>The day was dull and cold with some rain. The Adj., Capt. F.C.B. Cummins left on a short trip to 2 Ech in GERMANY. In his absence, Lieut. R.E. Mannering, 2 i/c "B" Company, took over as adjutant.</p>	
	3 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 780</p> <p>The day was again dull and rainy. Maj. E.V. Ardagh, O.C Sp. Coy., with Lieut. W. Hudson, came up from DEELEN AIRPORT (near ARNHEM) for the weekend. Sp. Coy. plus men from the other Coy's. totalling 200, were at DEELEN for about a month in order to move sufficient vehicles from the Airstrip to make it useable for aircraft. Lieut. Hudson was to replace Lt. D. Elines as Canteen Officer while the latter was away on a short leave.</p>	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	4 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 782</p> <p>The weather was again dull and wet. A Protestant Church Service was held at the local church in NORG. It was taken by H/Capt. A. Mowatt.</p>	
	5 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 781</p> <p>The day was dull but there was no rain. The Paymaster, Capt. E.H.B. Lennie, and the M.o., Capt. G.A. Waugh left on a two-day duty trip to Sp. Coy. The C.O. was awarded the Canadian Efficiency Decoration, for gallant and distinguished service in Italy.</p>	
	6 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 781</p> <p>The weather was dull and rainy. In the afternoon the C.o. attended a meeting of Commanding Officers which was held at H.Q. 5 C.A.D. Information was received that 5 C.A.B. would NOT take part in the Memorial Day Service which was to be held in GRONINGEN on Sun 11 Nov. 45. Instead services would be held in Unit lines. On Mon. 12 Nov 45., Lt. Gen. G. Simmonds, G.O.C. in C., C.F.N. was to visit the Regiment to make a farewell address and inspection. Arrangements for these parades were made accordingly. A 30 man guard of Honour was drawn from HQ, A., B., & C Coys. and was to start training on Thur. 8 Nov 45. The guard was to be commanded by Lieut. R.E. Mannering. A League Hockey Game with the 8 N.B.H. resulted in a win for the latter by a score of 3 - 2.</p>	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	7 Nov45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 782</p> <p>The dull weather was again dull and wet. Two Officers and several N.C.O. promotions were passed by Div. Capt. F.C.B. Cummins was to be Major while Lieut. R.E. Mannering was promoted to Captain. A/Major Cummins was to become O.C. "B" Coy. while Capt. H.E. Smith was to take over as Adj. A/Capt. Mannering was to remain as 2 i/c "B" Coy. A Canadian Football game between 5 Div. Mustangs and Army Trps. Red and Blue Bombers was played at the STADPARK in GRONINGENE, the Mustangs winning 5 to 3. The game was well attended by football fans from the unit and Capt. F.E. Eaton, the Q.M., announced the game. Capt. E.H.B. Lennie was Head Linesman.</p>	
	8 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 786</p> <p>The day was cold with scattered showers. The C.O. with Maj's. D.B. MacKenzie, H.F. Hoskin, F.C.B. Cummins and E.B. Robertson attended a farewell luncheon at H.Q. 5 C.A.D. given in honour of Brig. I. Cumberland, D.S.O., E.D. who was leaving the Brigade to return to Canada. The unit school at EMMEN closed and all students returned to their respective Coy's. A small rear party remained to dispose of stores and equipment.</p>	
	9 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: officers 30 Other Ranks 783</p> <p>The weather continued wet and cold. A Canteen meeting ws held with Maj. D.B. MacKenzie presiding. Routine business was discussed.</p>	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	10 Nov45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 782</p> <p>The day was again rainy and cold. A draft notice was received posting 88 men with under 50 points to the C.A.O.F. The draft was to move on 14 Nov 45. Preparations were made for a Memorial Day service to be held at the church in Norg with the whole unit in attendance. Word was received that Lt. Gen G. Simmonds would pay a farewell visit to the troops on Mon. 12 Nov 45.</p>	
	11 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 779</p> <p>The cold, wet weather continued. The battalion paraded in NORG for a Memorial Service conducted by the padre, H/Capt. A. Mowatt. After the service, the C.O. took the salute at a March past which was played for by the unit band.</p>	
	12 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 779</p> <p>The weather was extremely raw and cold, but there was no rain. The Bn. was on parade under Maj. D.B. MacKenzie at 1000hrs in readiness for the visit by the G.O.C.-in-C. The Guard of Honour under A/Capt. (Lieut.-for-the-day) R.E. Mannering was well turned out and drilled. The General arrived and after inspecting the Guard spoke for a few minutes to the troops, saying that the Div. would start moving near 3) Nov 45. and that after spending Christmas in England, we could expect to leave for Canada on the "Queen ELIZABETH on about the 22 Jan 46. The Offrs and Senior N.C.O's were later gathered in the Offr's Mess where he spoke to each in turn. After having tea, the General left for the G.G.H.G's.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	13 Nov45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 779</p> <p>The day was cold with some rain. Normal admin. and duties occupied the day.</p>	
	14 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 777</p> <p>The cold, wet weather continued. It appeared that the DUTCH winter was upon us. At 0830hrs the C.A.O.F. draft of 88 O.R's. pulled out on the first stage of their journey to OLDENBERG, GERMANY where they were to join the 4th Bn. Can. Scot. R.</p>	
	15 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 715</p> <p>There was a white frost in the morning and the day renamed clear and cold. At about 1000hrs Maj. E.V. Ardagh arrived from DEELEN to spend the day and to attend Lieut. P. Skrimshire's wedding. Through the efforts of two Nursing Sisters from 3 C.G.H. and Lieut. A. Hebb with some conscripted volunteers, the Offr's Mess decorations were completed prior to the wedding ceremony which took place at 1430hrs in the NORG Church. The wedding was well attended by Photographers, Nursing Sisters and Lieut. Skrimshire's brother officers from 4 Bn. Can. Scot. R. and the Westm'r. Regt (M). After the reception which was held in the Offr's Mess, the Wedding Party got away amid a flurry of rice and a clatter of cans on their way to AMSTERDAM. At this stage, the confusion subsided somewhat and people commenced to make their way home.</p>	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	16 Nov45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 710</p> <p>The day was again frosty and clear and anti-freeze was the order of the day. Instructions were received to turn in some 4) vehicles, thus cutting our vehicle holdings down to 50. This was to be done as soon as possible.</p>	
	17 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 673</p> <p>The weather was cold and frosty in the morning but became milder in the afternoon. Word was received that the Div. was likely to move very shortly, though there was no definite date.</p> <p>In the evening a 5 Div Farewell Party was held at the Senior Offr's Club "SENIO" in GRONINGEN, to which all Senior Officers in the Div were invited.</p>	
	18 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 669</p> <p>The day was dull and cold.</p> <p>A C. Of E. Service conducted by H/Capt. A. Mowatt was held in "A" Coy. lines at OOSTERWOLDE.</p> <p>Notice was received that the Westm'r. Regt. (M) would move to 4 C.B.R.Bn. on the 29 Nov. 45 on the first stage of the journey to U.K.</p> <p>With the return of Lieut. H. Moran and the unit Hockey Team the SALMONBELLIES" from AMSTERDAM it was found that the WESTMINSTERS had finished third in the Div. Hockey Championship. Leading Teams were the Ld.S.H. and the R.C.D's.</p>	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	19 Nov45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 664</p> <p>The day was foggy and cold. Several draft notices were received, affecting over 200 personnel from M.D's. other than M.D. #11 who were to proceed on Cdn. Draft a few days in advance of the Unit. It was expected that on the day of departure, the unit strength would be approximately 450. The a/m drafts were to move on various dates, from 23 to 25 Nov. 45, inclusive. Admin. has increased considerably with the posting of personnel, handing-in of stores, preparation for the turn-in of vehicles, etc. and every one found that he had a full-time job.</p>	
	20 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 662</p> <p>It was another day of fog and raw weather. Maj. H.F. Hoskin, D.S.O. left on a short trip to BRUSSELS and GHENT. At 1100hrs a rush notice was received that the C.O., 2 i/c and 2 W.O.'s. were invited to attend a luncheon at the Ld.S.H. in honour of Brig. T. Rutherford, Comd. of the old 1 Armoured Bde., who was paying a visit to 5 C.A.D. The C.O. Maj D.B. MacKenzie, R.S.M. P. Abbot and C.S.M. J Hoskin, "B" Coy. attended. He had infmn. as to the routine of the Repat. Depots in England and general infmn as to the admin arrangements of the trip from Holland to U.K. At 1500hrs Sgt. Lyle, a member of the Regiment from the very early days in DUNDURN, SASK, was married to Miss. E. Savenije of GRONINGEN. Sgt. Lyle was one of the few long-service members of the unit still remaining Overseas, and had seen all actions in which the unit had participated. After the wedding ceremony in the GRONINGEN CITY HALL, a reception was held in the CAFE RICHE to which various members of the unit were invited.</p>	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	21 Nov45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 651</p> <p>The cold, foggy weather continued. At 0900hrs Lieut. W. Lambe, "B" Coy left for 5 Div. FINITO PARK with 32 vehicles, the first group to leave the unit under the current turn-in program. At 1030hrs. Capt. H.E. Smith, the Adj., and Capt. F.E. Eaton, the Q.M. attended an A & Q Meeting at HQ 5 C.A.D. at which admin instructions ref. the winding-up of units was given out. Maj. A. Walton, a former member of the unit, paid a short visit to the unit.</p>	
	22 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 648</p> <p>The day was clear and cold. A number of personnel on repat. drafts left the unit at 0830hrs. Another day of turning in equipment and stores.</p>	
	23 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 647</p> <p>The weather was cold and frosty. A large number of troops left on Canada Repat. drafts, thus reducing the strength of the unit to an all-time low. The Off'rs Mess entertainment committee under Capt. E.H.B. Lennie was busy completing preparations for the farewell dance which was to be held on Saturday evening.</p>	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	24 Nov45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 513</p> <p>The day was cold and frosty. Lieut. C. Mc. Bratney, "C" Coy. left at 0900hrs with a group of vehicles for turn-in through "FINTO PARK". In the evening a highly successful dance was held at the Bn. Off'rs Mess, Norg. It was attended by the G.O.C., Brig. I. Johnston, and Lt.-Col. J. McAvitie, C.O. the LD.S.H.</p>	
	25 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 499</p> <p>The day was clear and cold. There was no church parade, as the Padre, H/Capt. A. Mowatt was leaving on a posting to U.K.</p>	
	26 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 499</p> <p>There was sleet in the early morning, but this later turned to rain which continued during the day. All departments and Coy's were busy making final preparations for the Unit's departure on the 29th Nov 45. About 175 toys were received through Sup. W. Hussey, K of C Aux. Services, for distribution to the local children. These were turned over to the Burgomaster, Mr. Pilnik. The townspeople of NORG had laid on a Farewell party for the troops of H.Q. Coy. which was held in the evening. The programme included a short technicolour film about HOLLAND, performances by local young people's groups, and dancing.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORG M.R. - 145975 1/50,000 Sheet 12 ASSEN	27 Nov45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 428</p> <p>The weather was dull and cold. The day was occupied in completing the admin. arrangements of the forth-coming move.</p>	
	28 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 423</p> <p>The day was dull and cold. The final group of vehicles under Lieut. R. Okell left at 0900hrs for "FINITO PARK". This party was to turn the vehicles in at DEELEN, then report to the Unit at Nijmegen Transit Camp. Capt. F.E. Eaton, the Q.M. was to turn-in the last or the G.1098 stores and then report with the Bn. Rear Party to the unit at Nijmegen.</p>	
	29 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 416</p> <p>Coy's moved off at 0400hrs to Groningen Station. The train left at 0630hrs and on arriving at NIJMEGEN TRANSIT CAMP the troops commenced the Repat procedure.</p>	
	30 Nov 45		<p style="text-align: center;">Strength: Officers 30 Other Ranks 416</p> <p>Part of the day spent in NIJMEGEN TRANSIT CAMP. The unit left NIJMEGEN Transit Camp on the next stage of the trip to ENGLAND.</p>	

LIST OF APPENDICES

	<u>ORIGINAL</u>	<u>DUPLICATE</u>	<u>TRIPLICATE</u>
1. Part I Orders	X		
2. Part II Orders			X
3. AFW 3008 (WKLY FD. RET OFFRS)	X		
4- AFW 3009 (Wkly Fd Ret ORs)	X		
5. Progress Report	X	X	X
6. Final Report 9 th Victory Loan	X		
7. Unit Serial Number	X		
8. The Westminster Regiment (M) Regimental History	X		
9. Dutch Newspaper	X		
10. Message Of Thanks re; Band	X		
11. Formation Signs	X		
12. Program for the Farewell meeting offered by the population of Norg	X		
13. Circular Letters & Misc. Correspondence	X		
14. Educational Correspondence	X		
15. File of Personnel Repatriated to Canada	X		
16. Organisations	X		
17. Recommendation for Foreign Decorations and mention in Despatches	X		
18. Message of thanks from Burgomaster of Leek	X		
19. Message of thanks from Brig. I.S. Johnston, Brig. Comd. 5 Cdn Armd Div.	X		

Editor's Notes

General

The layout of the electronic version has been made as close to possible to the original albeit on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper rather than 7 3/4 x 13 inch.

Handwritten notes are shown in *Italic font style*, except for a few minor corrections.

In order to match the original, spelling mistakes have not been corrected but errors, for example with place names have been identified below.

Place names were checked against the maps of the day. Any changes to names since 1944/45 have been identified below as well.

Punctuation, formatting and spelling have been kept to as close as possible to the original, however there will be some variation in the layout of the strength numbers at the start of each day. As an example, the number of Officers attached are shown with the Officer numbers and not separately as done occasionally in the War Diary.

Comments on specific entries

30 Oct 45 - The M.D. referred to is Militia District. M.D. 11 was Militia District 11 i.e. British Columbia.

Errata

01 Jun 45 – Drachten is at MR 9002

18 Jun 45 – Lieut. J.P. Cook

18 Sep 45 – Steenwijck should be Steenwijk

16 Oct 45 – Mepple should be Meppel

24 Nov 45 – Lieut C McBratney

A/A	Anti-aircraft	CBH	Cape Breton Highlanders
Ack-ack	Anti-aircraft fire	CIB	Canadian Infantry Brigade
Adjt	Adjutant	C-in-C	Commander in Chief
AFW 3008	Army Form War - Field Return of Officers	Cdn	Canadian
AFW 3009	Army Form War – Field Return of Other Ranks	CFEF	Canadian Far East Force
Appen	Appendix	CFN	Canadian Forces Netherlands
Appx	Appendix	CO	Commanding Officer
Apr	April	COF	Canadian Occupational Force
Armd	Armoured	Comd(s)	Command - Commanders
Arty	artillery	Comn (s)	communication (s)
A/T or A/Tk	Anti-tank	coy	company
Att	attached	cm	centimetre
Aux	Auxiliary	Cpl	Corporal
B	Bravo and also European time (London being A (alpha) time)	CSM	Company Sergeant Major
B vehicle	Non fighting vehicle	cwt	a hundred weight
BCD	British Columbia Dragoons	DAA & QMG	Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General
Bde	Brigade	DF	Defensive Fire
Belg	Belgian	Div	Division
BM	Brigade Major	DSO	Distinguished Service Order
Bn	Battalion	EME	Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Brig	Brigadier	est	established
Bty	Battery	Fd	Field
CAB	Canadian Armoured Brigade	Flak	Anti-aircraft fire
CAD	Canadian Armoured Division	FOO	Forward Observation Officer
Capt	Captain	Fus	Fusiliers
cas	casualties	Gen	General

GGHG	Governor General's Horse Guards	Para	Parachute
GOC	General Officer Commanding	Pdr	Pounder
Gp	Group	PG	Panzer Grenadier
GS	General Service	Pl	platoon
H/Capt	Honorary Captain	Posn(s)	position(s)
HE	High Explosive	Pr	pounder
Hrs	hours	PW (POW)	Prisoner of War
Inf	infantry	QM	Quarter Master
in.	inch	RCE	Royal Canadian Engineers
infm	information	RCEME	Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
IO	Intelligence Officer	Recce	reconnoitre
IS9	Intelligence Section 9 (British)	Regt	Regiment
Jerry	Common term for the German enemy	RHQ	Regimental Headquarters
Jul	July	RN	Royal Navy
Jun	June	RSM	Regimental Sergeant Major
Junc	Junction	Ser	Service
K of C	Knights of Columbus	Sgt	Sergeant
KOYLI	Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry	Sht	Sheet
LCA	Landing Craft Assault	SIW	self-inflicted wound
LdSH	Lord Strathcona's Horse	Sig	Signals
Lieut	Lieutenant	SP	self propelled
LO	Liaison Officer	Sp	support
Lt	Lieutenant	SP	self propelled
M	Motor	Sq	square (reference map)
Maj	Major	SS	Schutzstaffel – German unit
Mar	March	SS PG	Schutzstaffel Panzer Grenadier – German unit
MC	Military Cross	Stonk	a bombardment with Artillery fire
MG	Machine Gun	Straths	Strathconas (LdSH)
Mk	Mark	SW	Southwest
Mins	minutes	Tac	Tactical
MMG	Medium Machine Gun	Tech	Technical
MO	medical officer	u/c	Under command
MR	map reference	UK	United Kingdom
NBH	New Brunswick Hussars (Princess Louise)	US	United States
O	orders	Veh	vehicle
OBE	Order of the British Empire	V.G.	For Volksgrenadier
OC	Officer Commanding	V1	Germany Rocket
OCTU	Officer Cadet Training Unit	WR	West Riding
Offr(s)	Officer(s)	2 i/c	Second in command
Op	Operation		
OR (ORs)	Other Ranks (other than Officers)		