



THE ROYAL RIFLES OF CANADA

HONG KONG WAR DIARY

1ST DECEMBER TO 25TH DECEMBER 1941

Royal Rifles of Canada
War Diary
1st December to 25th 1941

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WAR DIARY
ROYAL RIFLES OF CANADA

DECEMBER 1941

NOTE No records, instructions or orders or any kind are available to assist in the compilation of this diary, these having been destroyed, removed or lost.

DETAIL

DAY & DATE

Resume of Period 16th Nov. to date.

The unit is established in Nanking Barracks, Sham Shui Po Camp, Kowloon on the mainland and has now after a period of two weeks begun to settle down to routine and is gradually becoming used to conditions and a life that is quite different to any previously experienced. In this same camp in Hankow Barracks are stationed the Winnipeg Grenadiers, the other Canadian Battalion making up "Force C". The area comprising this camp besides the two barracks Nanking and Hankow includes also a married other ranks building, known as Jubilee Building. The whole site is built on reclaimed land, and is flanked on the South and West sides by the sea, on the North by the base of some hills and on the East by Chinese houses and shops. The whole area is low-lying and not healthy and comprise, an area of about something under ½ a square mile. Nanking Barracks lies on the East Side of the main camp road and Hankow Barracks to the West. At the extreme south end of the camp and overlooking the Western end of Kowloon and Hong Kong Island is situated Jubilee Building.

This camp was completed and occupied in 1927 to accommodate a force designated as the "Sha Force" or Shanghai Force during the trouble at that place. The buildings are all (with the exception of Jubilee) built of brick of the bungalow type with cement floors, and accommodate a total of 32 ORs, this including two small rooms at the end of each building for N.C.Os. Beds are known as 'Beds Iron, Barrack with Biscuits' and were probably first introduced into the service about the turn of the century. Barrack fixtures include a wall cupboard and mosquito net for each occupant, the facilities available for washing purposes were normal, but no flush system for latrines had been installed consequently night soil is removed by Chinese Coolies, a system which appeared to be both antiquated and unsanitary, but the reason given is that the land on which the camp is situated is too low lying to permit of a flush system being utilized. In addition to these living quarters, other buildings common to a barracks such as Q.M. Stores, Coy Officers, cook-house etc., are to be found. At the south end of the barracks are situated the Officers Quarters and Mess. These again are of the bungalow type. Owing to an insufficient number of quarters being available some officers are quartered in Jubilee Building, which now also accommodate some British officers and about 55 Chinese other ranks who are undergoing training to eventually form the N.C.Os of a regiment to be raised.

All menial jobs are done by Chinese Civilian labour including Officers' servants, waiters and cooks, men's mess cooks etc., consequently the camp area is more or less overrun by Chinese. In addition several "Sew Sew" women daily are to be seen sitting at the end of a

barrack room mending clothes. During the past two weeks Chinese having been engaged replacing Canadian Batman, waiters, cooks, etc., and while each Chinese employed in the Camp is issued with a pass with photograph attached, it is difficult to identify individuals and in this connection some difficulty is now being felt as it is not known whether some of these individuals should be allowed in the camp area.

On the arrival of the Canadian Forces in Hong Kong it immediately became apparent that the messing system customarily employed by British Units stationed here differed widely from the system usually in force amongst Canadian Units. It was deemed expedient to profit by the experience of the British Units and to adhere as far as possible to their messing system. Consequently messing Officers were at once appointed in each of the Canadian Units. The officers were expected to devote their full time to messing, and were therefore excused other regimental duties during their term of office. The responsibility of the Messing Officer covered the following matters:

1. Rations - indenting for, checking, transporting, storing and dividing up of same.
2. Weekly Menu - drawing up of same for Corporals' and Men's Messes.
3. Corporals' and Men's messes and kitchens and the Butcher Shop - and general supervision of same.
4. "Manning" Exercises - delivery of rations during same.

In all these matters the Messing Officer acted in the place of the Q.M. and was directly responsible to the P.R.I. and the Men's Messing Committee acting in an advisory capacity where necessary.

1. Rations. These were indented for 48 hours in advance. Delivery was taken by the Unit at the R.A.S.C. depot in Victoria at 0700 hours each day. Rations delivered at such time were for consumption during the 24 hours commencing at 1200 hours the same day. \$1.19 (H.K.) about \$0.33 (Cdn), per diem was allotted for the feeding of each man in the unit. With this money rations were purchased from the R.A.S. C., accounts being payable monthly. Types of rations purchased from the R.A.S.C. (with war scale of issue) were:

	<u>Imperial</u>	<u>SI</u>		<u>Imperial</u>	<u>SI</u>
Bread	16 ozs	454	Flour	4/7 oz	16
P. Meat or T. Mutton	8 ozs	227	Sugar	4 ozs	113
Tinned Potatoes	4 ozs.	113	Tea	¾ oz	21
Tinned Vegetables	4 ozs	113	Salt	¼ oz	7
or M. & V. Ration (Tin)	1 tin		Pepper	1/100 oz	0.3
Tinned Sausages or	4 ozs	113	Mustard	1/100 oz	0.3
Tinned Bacon	2 ½ ozs	71	Biscuit	12 ozs	340
Tinned Herring	5 ozs	142	Frozen Beef	10 ozs	283
Tinned Cheese	½ oz	14	Fresh Potatoes	12 ozs	340
Tinned Chocolate	1 oz	28	Fresh Vegetables	8 ozs	227
Tinned Butter or Marg	2 ozs	57	Fresh Potatoes	8 ozs	227
Meat loaf or ham or tongue	2 ozs	57	Fresh Vegetables	8 ozs	227
Tinned Baked Beans	2 ozs	57	Fresh Bacon	3 ozs	85
Milk Condensed	3 ozs	85	Fresh cheese	½ oz	14
Jam or Marmalade or Golden Syrup	2 ozs	57	Fresh Butter or Marg	2 ozs	57
Rice or oatmeal	3/7 oz	12	Fresh Potatoes	4 ozs	113

The peace scale of issue, which prevailed prior to the outbreak of hostilities on 8th Dec., was somewhat lower.

Under drawing of rations was permitted to a reasonable extent, and the balance thus saved could be spent in purchasing through the NAAFI¹, such other or additional rations, as might be required. A rebate of 5% was allowed by the NAAFI on all rations purchased through them.

Forced issue of iron rations. Twice a month units were obliged to draw pressed meat, hard tack, tinned vegetables, etc., in lieu of the regular fresh ration. These rations were purchased at the same rate as the regular fresh rations, but no under drawing was permitted. Occasional forced issues of Chinese type vegetables also occurred.

Typhoon reserve. A 24-hour reserve of iron rations had to be kept on bond by each unit.

2. Weekly menu. This was drawn up by the Messing Officer assisted by the Men's Messing Committee and the Sgt. Cook and submitted to the C.O. for approval. As there were marked differences between Canadian meats, vegetables, fruits, etc., and those obtainable in Hong Kong, considerable difficulty was encountered in compiling suitable menus.

3. Kitchen and Messes. Chinese were employed as cooks and also to serve the meals and clean up the messing Halls. The Butcher Shop, however, was operated by Canadians only the corporals ate in a separate messing Hall but were served from the same kitchen as the privates. Each company paraded to meals under its C.O.S., and occupied its own section of the messing Hall.

4. Manning Exercises. During these maneuvers, the Messing Officer saw to the delivery of rations direct to Coy H.Q. or to Platoon outposts, depending on the extent of the maneuvers.

On the 8th Dec. at the outbreak of hostilities, the Q.M.s and Coy 2 i/c took over the duties of the Messing Officers who returned to regimental duties.

The camp generally is roomy with good parade and recreational ground, and each barrack, has a NAAFI at which light meals beer and soft drinks may be obtained. The weather up to date has been warm but not unpleasantly so and all ranks are in khaki drill.

Apart from Venereal Disease very little sickness has manifested itself and all rank, are gradually becoming acclimatized.

Circumstances in Hong Kong required the appointment of the following regimental Officers for special duties:

Assistant Adjutant:	Lieut. W.S. Fry
Messing Officer:	Lieut C.D. Johnston
Administration Officer:	Lieut A.B. Scott

¹ NAAFI stands for Navy, Army and Air Force Institute.

As for sports both in and out of Barracks, due to the settling in of the troops, not much had been accomplished. But the people of Hong Kong saw one softball game against the Portuguese Club, which certainly opened their eyes to the Possibilities off that game that they had not experienced.

During the past two weeks besides the settling in, the Regiment's main duty has been the reconnoitering and occupying of their battle positions on the East end off the Island of Hong Kong for a two-day period. Tours of the island by Officers and N.C.O.s, both by land, by motor cars and by sea in M.T.Bs in order to be not only familiar with their own positions but, to also acquire a good general knowledge of the general layout of the various features. Also a Weapon Training Course was commenced for 25 N.C.Os of the regiment under the direction of Capt. M. Weddon, Middlesex Regt.

Canadian Brigade H.Q. are being established on the Island of Hong Kong in Murray Barracks.

The appointment of an Administration Officer followed the practice of British Regiments stationed in Hong Kong: -

On arrival it was found that conditions differed widely from the established Canadian completely self-contained unit.

Contracts had been entered into by China Command on behalf of the Regiments with local contractors for tailoring, barbering, cobbling, etc. Chinese are employed in cook-houses and messes - a contract made with an Indian Contractor for the sale of garbage and provision made for a small shop for the sale of sports gear, etc.

All this entailed supervision of the operation of rather complicated documents - as well, identity passes had to be provided for constantly changing Chinese employees and arrangements made for their medical inspection.

Experience soon demonstrated that the many details involved and their financial importance amply justified the full time attention of one officer.

It should be noted that special allowances are granted in the Imperial Army to take care of services, which ordinarily would be performed by battalion personnel. No such allowances are provided in the Canadian Army, but in view of the special circumstances, Colonel Hennessey, Senior Administration Officer, Force "C" felt justified in making representations to NDHQ and eventually an allowance of 50 cents (Cdn) per day per officer was made to cover extra expenses and some provision to cover regimental necessities.

The following Imperial Officers were attached to the R.R.C. temporarily:

- Major Browning, 5/7 Rajput Regt., was attached to hand over shelter stores etc. located in the Battle Positions to be occupied by the R.R.C. which had been previously occupied by his unit and to explain the tactical situation in these areas.
- Captain M. Weedon, 1st Middlesex Regt., Liaison Officer, attached to Battalion

for 'settling in'.

Monday, Dec 1st

Weather fine. The following personnel of the Battalion are on courses: Sgt. E. Bernard H.Q. on W.T. Course; Lieut. J.C. Gilbert "B" Coy, L/Cpl Cameron "A" Coy, L/Cpl W.J. Smith "B" Coy, L/Cpl Jones "C" Coy and Cpl Barter "D" Coy on two weeks P.T. Course at Mount Austin Barracks on the Island.

Lieut. J.R.E. D'Avignon discharged from Bowen Road Military Hospital on 29th November.

Orders received from Brigade for one platoon per coy to man Battle positions on Island for a period of one week. As a result of this order the following platoons and details left Shamshuipo Camp about 1500 hours this date, manning was to be continuous, each platoon being on duty for a period of one week.

Battalion Headquarters Area	Tytam Gap	Major MacAulay, D.C.M., H.Q. Coy Lieut. Woodside, Sgt. Hughes, Rfn. MacLean, Intelligence Sec. of Battalion Headquarters Lieut. Smith and 6 Signalmen No. 1 Platoon, 2 Sections Anti-Aircraft No. 2 Platoon, one cook, 4 drivers and two trucks
"A" Coy area	D'Aguilar	Lieut. Lyster with his No. 7 Platoon and 2 Sergeants and 1 cook
"B" Coy area	Stonehill	Lieut. Thorn with his No. 11 Platoon, 4 signalmen and 1 cook (Cpl. Gilbert)
"C" Coy area	Lyemun Gap	Lieut. Bradley with his No. 13, 2 signalmen and 1 cook
"D" Coy area	Obelisk Hill	Lieut. Power with his No. 17 Platoon, 2 signalmen and one cook

TRAINING: Platoons of Headquarters Coy on Specialist Training interspersed with drill. Rifle Coys, T.G.E.T., Bayonet Training, Drill, Route Marches, etc.

RECONNAISSANCE OF ISLANDS: Daily now all Officers, W.O. and senior N.C.O.s are being taken over the whole island and are shown Artillery Positions H.Q.s Routes, etc.

VEHICLES: Only 5 trucks are available for all Battalion duties, these being driven by Chinese but personnel of the Battalion Transport are accompanying them in order to familiarizes themselves in the roads, etc.

ROUTE TO BATTLE POSITIONS: The route taken by platoons manning positions was Shamshuipo Camp to Cosmopolitan Docks where they embarked and traveled to pier on Ti'On

Street (Shaukiwan) and thence by foot to positions.

Tuesday, December 2nd

Some rain, the first since units arrival in Hong Kong.

First reconnaissance by officers and N.C.O.s of Hong Kong under supervision of General Staff Officer Command. One Officer in each Coy left behind in Barracks to supervise training which today consisted of Bren, Rifle, Grenade drill, Specialists training, etc.

Major C.A. Young, M.C., O.C. "A" Coy after carrying out reconnaissance proceeded to D'Aguiar to inspect new positions and wiring being carried by No. 7 Platoon.

O.C. "B" Coy Capt. E.E. Denison, spent most of the day with No. 11 Platoon at Stone Hill.

2ic "C" Coy Capt. Gavey visits No. 13 Platoon manning positions at Lyemun Gap.

Major Parker O.C. "D" Coy selected as umpire for a forthcoming exercise on the Mainland. Also Capt. Gavey and Capt. Royal.

Lecture by Brigadier J.E. Lawson to Canadian Officers regarding their role in the defence of Hong Kong.

Wednesday, Dec 3rd

Routine very similar to two previous days, i.e., training being carried on in barracks with certain officers and N.C.O.s again carrying out recs of island this date by water route.

Balance of No. 2 Anti-Aircraft Platoon to manning position at Ty Tam Gap.

Lieut. E.N. Denison "C" Coy proceeds to Lyemun and visits No. 13 Platoon from there he proceeds to Pak Sha Wan Fort to make arrangements for quartering Platoon at Mosquito Villa Barracks.

Capt. Warwick, R.A.M.C. lectures "D" Coy on V.D. in Hong Kong.

Thursday, Dec 4th

Fine day with little rain in evening. Routine training. 3" Mortar bombs drawn. "A" Coy on route march into New Territories as far as the Inner Line Positions. Further visits by Officers to Coy Areas on Island. Lecture at the China Fleet Club to 11 Officers of the Garrison by Intelligence Officer from War Office.

Lieut. Bradley O.C., No. 13 Platoon manning at Lyemun reports having received orders to support police in clearing Sai Wan Bay of Junks.

“D” Coy route march via Castle Peak Road.

Friday, Dec 5th

Weather fine. Training and routine similar to previous days.

Major Wood, A.E.C. talked to Canadian on Military and Educational Courses available for service men in Hong Kong. “C” Coy take over P.B. 38A and are manning it with their personnel. “D” Coy carried out route march to Kowloon Y.M.C.A. for swim. Q.M. completed issue of Technical Stores and weapons to unit. Certain additional stores sent to Battalion Headquarters Area Tai Tam Gap, these included bicycles, bivouacs, mess boxes, etc.

Saturday, Dec 6th

Weather fine. Training and routine similar to previous days.

Major Lyndon, Brigade Major assembled all Coy Commanders in order to obtain from them exact disposition of their respective Battle Positions.

First warning of impending war issued by Command Headquarters and that all Officers would keep in touch with their respective Battalion Headquarters. Field Cookers issued to all Coy.

Major Bishop visits platoon manning in this Lyemun Area and issues orders to stop all civilians passing through the lines unless with official passes or armbands. At about 1530 hours a Chinese discovered in a restricted area (about Lyemun) and refusing to stop is shot in the leg, he is then searched and later sent to Command Headquarters.

Capt. E.E. Denison selected to be attached to China Command as a staff learner and then to proceed to Staff College in India. WEP about 1 Jan 42.

Battalion parade under R.S.M. Blackout at night. Traffic seriously dislocated.

The general consensus of opinions here in Hong Kong by those who should know is that war will be averted.

Sunday, Dec 7th

Weather fine. Church parade held on Battalion Parade ground. At 1100 hours orders were

received from Island Brigade Headquarters to STAND TO and to proceed to manning positions. These orders were passed on to all sub units in the Battalion and in accordance with written orders previously issued, Coys paraded and started to pass the Starting Point (Main entrance to Camp) at about 1400 hours. Battalion, embarked on ferry at Cosmos dock about ½ mile from Camp Entrance and proceeded easterly direction in harbour, disembarking at pier at Tia On Street in Aldrich Bay. When disembarked, Coys proceeded by march route to their various respective positions. “C” Coy left on second flight and proceeded independently to Lyemun Wharf.

Three men per Rifle Platoon were left behind at Nanking Barracks with the Q.M. Capt. Hurd, the R.Q.M.S. Henderson, Capt. Thomson, R.C.A.P.C. and staff, Capt Barnett, Corps of Army Chaplains, Capt. O’Neill Auxiliary Services and Officers Lieut. Johnston, Lieut Fry and Sgt. Clarkson of Battalion Headquarters.

Coy ammunition trucks and Stores Trucks were re-routed to the vehicular ferry. L.M.G.s with Ammunition were carried by marching personnel in preparation for any action. The four reinforcement platoons proceeded to Lyemun area for the time being coming under the command of O.C. Coy. Major Bishop. The move to Battle Positions were carried out smoothly and all coys reported before 1700 hours that their positions were manned and the O.C. reported by wire to Brigade Headquarters this information.

With the manning of the battalion area now completed the Battalion was widely distributed. Encompassed within its area starting from the north Lyemun Gap Barracks eastwards to P.B. 8A thence generally southwards embracing Tia Tam Gap, Sheko, D’Aigular northwards to Obelisk Hill, and thence southwards to Stanley, the outside perimeter of the area being about 15 miles.

With the area No. 1 Coy of Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps (Capt Penn) Coy H.Q. with small mobile unit – two Chevrolet vans and Light Machine Guns at Tai Tam Reservoir. No. 1 Platoon (2/Lieut. Carter) Vickers Machine Gun (2 sections of 4 guns each) at Sanitorium Gap (Quarry Gap) (between Mount Parker and Mount Butler) under command of Royal Scots and the Indian Regiment. No. 2 Platoon (Lieut. Redman) Vickers Machine Gun at Repulse Bay View and under command of Winnipeg Grenadiers² (HKVDC) No. 3 Platoon (Lieut. Edwards) Carrier (3 Bren Carriers) at Sheko and Windy Gap under command of “D” Canadian Battalion.

No. 2 Coy (Major Forsythe). No. 5 Platoon (Lieut. Stoker) Vickers Machine Gun at Sheko. No. 6 Platoon (Lieut. Prophet) Light Machine Gun at Collinson, No. 7 Platoon (Lieut. Bryden) Vickers Machine Gun at Pottinger.

All defenses faced the sea for attack from that direction with completion of the manning, Sub units of the Battalion, were distributed as follows:

Tai Tam area including Boa Vista. Battalion HQ, Staff HQ, Coy HQ and personnel as

² No Winnipeg Grenadiers units were in the area. Lieutenant Edwards was with the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps. He commanded 3 Platoon. Reference: “Second To None, The Story of the Hong Kong Volunteers, Phillip Bruce, Oxford University Press, 1991, ISBN: 0-19-585518-3.

follows: No.1 Platoon HQ and 17 Ors, No.2 Anti-Aircraft Platoon (HQ and 4 sections), No. 3 Mortar Platoon HQ and 1 Section, No. 4 Platoon Carrier HQ and 2 Carrier Sections, No. 5 Platoon and No. 6 Platoon HQ.

Windy Gap area. "A" Coy HQ, 4 OR Signal Platoon, No. 8 and 9 Platoons HQ, No. 7 at D'Aguilar Point.

Stone Hill area. "B" Coy HQ, 6 OR Signal Platoon, No. 10 Platoon HQ Stanley View, No. 11 Platoon between Mary Knoll Convent and Stanley Bay, No. 12 Platoon Y in road leading to Stanley Village. Two detachments of Mortar Platoon under Lieut. Languedoc one each in No. 11 and 12 Platoon areas.

Lye Mun area. "C" Coy HQ, 4 OR Signals Platoon, No. 13, 14, 15 Platoons and the fourth Reinforcement Platoon.

Obelisk Hill area. "D" Coy HQ, 4 OR Signal Platoon and one detachment Mortar Platoon, 16 and 17 Platoons. No. 18 Platoon Tai Tum Tuk.

Sheko Area. HQ of No. 2 Coy HKVDC, 2 Carriers and Motorcycles sections attached No. 2 Coy under Lieut. MacDougal.

Each Coy also had two cooks and one sanitary man attached.

Monday, Dec 8th

Weather clear and fine.

At 0730 hrs official word was received from Battalion Headquarters that Japan had declared war. Captain F.T. Atkinson who was the officer on duty at Battalion Headquarters at that time got all companies on the telephone including No. 2 Company HKVDC, and passed this information on to them, so that by 0750 hrs all companies had received this information.

At about 0800 hrs Shamshuipo Barracks and Jubilee Building were bombed by 10 Japanese planes. Personnel of the R.R.C. left behind at Shamshuipo had not suffered any casualties, but No. P7541 Sgt. Routledge of the R.C.C.S. was wounded and believed to be the first Canadian casualty. At that time also Stanley Peninsular on the Island and Kai Tak aerodrome were bombed.

Administration personnel of the Battalion who were left behind at Shamshuipo Q.M. P.M. etc., were ordered to move all Battalion Stores, Orderly Room, Pay Documents, over to Lyemun Fort. In order to carry this out and as there was a great shortage of transport. The Transport Officer commandeered additional transport in Kowloon City. Companies sent their trucks back to Shamshuipo Barracks by the Vehicular Ferry picking up men's kit-bags, company stores and extra equipment. Lieut. J.C. Gilbert and other ranks who were on courses returned to their various companies.

Companies in battle positions and priority of work laid down and routine of duties laid down and routine of duties established.

“Stand-to” at dusk that night. At Battalion Headquarters a patrol was sent out to a post of the HKVDC No. 2 Company at Mount Collinson and general reconnaissance of the area carried out. Drawing of S.A.A. from Lyemun Fort. Rations and supplies arrived promptly. Mortar ammunition and land mines were received at each Company Headquarters during the day and were later placed in Company dumps.

The reserve platoons from various companies were ordered to report and some under the command of the O.C. “C” Company and were billeted at Lyemun Fort. These were: 9R “A” Coy under Lieut. McGreevy, 12R “B” Company under Lieut. Gilbert, 15R “C” Coy under Lieut. Scott and 18R under Lieut. MacMillan. It is to be noted that the roll of “C” Company with these reinforcement platoons is Reserve Coy and Security Force.

During the day word was received that the Japanese had crossed the border in the New Territories, approximately 30 miles to the north on the mainland and were advancing in the general direction of Hong Kong.

The troops on the Island came under the command of Brigadier Lawson and was designated as the Island Brigade. The R.R.C. were designated the “D” Battalion and had at that time its boundaries roughly a line running from Causeway Bay on the North through Chung Hom Kok on the South. On the left of “D” Battalion were The Winnipeg Grenadiers designated as “E” Battalion. The defenses on the Island were primarily constructed in anticipation of an attack taking place on Hong Kong from the direction of the sea, while paradoxically all tactical exercises, maneuvers, etc., were always carried out in anticipation of a Japanese attack across the border of the New Territories and moving southwards to Kowloon and Hong Kong. The whole outer perimeter of the Island of Hong Kong had concrete Pill Boxes constructed and so placed to cover any attempted landing by sea or from the mainland, wherever it was considered necessary. Sketch map No. 1 attached shows the area held by the R.R.C. Coys and other troops in the general area.

In each Coy area were the additional troops. Under “B” Coy was Lieut. Longuedoc with one section (two detachments) of the Mortar Platoon. This section got in some live Mortar practice prior to the 18th, this being the first time that the detachment had fired 3” mortar excepting those had been on mortar course in Canada. Also “B” Coy 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment (Machine Gun) was located in the Stanley area with its Headquarters at Stone Hill, thus “B” Coy R.R.C. and “B” Coy Middlesex utilized the same Headquarters. The Middlesex Regiment manned the Pill Boxes No. 21 to No. 30 inclusive, with Vickers machine guns located on Chung-Hom-Kok and Stanley Peninsular. In “D” Coy area was one section of Mortar under Sergeant MacAulay, and in addition the O.C. “D” Coy Middlesex Regiment with 29 all ranks were manning the pill boxes 29 to 37 inclusive.

Tuesday, Dec 9th

Weather dull.

(1) At Shamshuipo personnel continued moving to Lye Mun Fort. Considerable difficulty and delay due to congestion of traffic at Ferry.

(2) At Battalion Headquarters routine as for the 8th, C.65065 Rifleman E.J. Henderson wounded bomb splinter while driving truck to Lyemun was the first R.R.C. casualty and was later killed at St. Stephen Hospital, Stanley. The Signals installed a concentrator at "A" Coy area H.Q. and were busy running lines to new posts and repairing lines too.

(3) In the tour Company areas routine was being carried out "Stand To" being in effect from 0530 hours to 0630 hours and from 1530 hrs to 1930 hrs daily. Generally the work was being carried out to improve and organize the positions.

(4) During the night of the 8th – 9th, Captains Thompson, Barnett, Hurd and Supervisor F.G. O'Neill plus the Q.M. Staff etc., arrived at Lye Mun Barracks. Several air raids and alarms during the day and the Stanley Prison Area and the Lye Mun Barracks being given particular attention. Several bombs dropped near the Barracks at Lye Mun but no casualties resulted.

(5) No.2 Platoon under Lieut. MacDougal took up positions at Sheko along with H.Q No. 2 Company HKVDC under Major Forsyth.

Wednesday, Dec 10th

Weather fine. Information was now coming through to the effect that the mainland troops were falling back towards Hong Kong, apparently unable to withstand the attacks of the Japanese.

Captain M. Banfill, RCAMC and Battalion Medical Officer was originally posted as an assistant to Captain Lynch at the aid post at Tai Tam Gap. On this date at the request of the AIMS, Hong Kong Command, Colonel Simpson and Lieutenant Colonel Ride, O.C. HKVDC Field Ambulance, Captain Banfill was sent to Lye Mun to establish a R.A.P. there for that Area. He was accompanied by L/Cpl. Henderson and Rfn Oakley.

Quartermaster and Transport Officer completed moving all stores on this date from Shamshuipo to Lye Mun Fort. The Quartermaster issued anti-gas equipment to companies.

Troops withdrawing from mainland, tired, hungry and disorganised and during the night of the 10th – 11th tea was served to them as they passed through Tai Tam Gap.

Captain Leboutillier, "A" Coy, was admitted to hospital at Bowen Head suffering from pleurisy and Lieut C.D. Johnston arrived at "A" Coy H.Q. taking over command of his old Platoon No. 8 from Sergeant Richards. Lieut. JHC McGreevy arrived from Lye Mun with No. 9R Platoon and from there was sent on to D'Aguilar to take up positions there.

Warning issued to all companies from Brigade Headquarters to take necessary steps against anticipated Para troops landing on the island. Bombing at 0800 hours on Lye Mun and there were some casualties. Shelling of Lye Mun and Pac Sha Wan area from mainland (6"

naval). No. 14 Platoon "C" Company warned to standby ready to be despatched to the mainland. Party returning to Lye Mun Barracks fired upon by Indian sentry at Sai Wan Fort, one Chinese wounded. Lye Mun pier heavily shelled during disembarkation of troops from the mainland. Sergeant Badger with section from No. 12R Platoon operated ferry evacuating from the mainland. No. 13 Platoon sent to report to Major Hedgecoe at Battalion Headquarters Sau Ki Wan. After occupying positions along main street for a short time they were given the task of wiring the water front. Total casualties for the day - killed one Chinese Cook, wounded one Rifleman Henderson and two Chinese, injured C.S.M. Bilodeau.

All positions in Battalion Area were worked on and steadily improved. Local Press confirms report on the sinking of HMS Repulse and Prince of Wales, near Singapore. The press also reports the Chiang Kai-Shek forces will harass the Japanese in the rear. The big guns at Stanley did some firing during the night in the general direction of the mainland presumably to harass the Japanese lines of communication. "A" Coy truck enroute to Shamshuipo Barracks shelled and the Chinese driver left. Rifleman. Riley and Rifleman Wellman were found missing from their posts. The C.O. R.R.C. started visiting the company areas. The C.O. also visited Brigade. Headquarters at Wong Nei Chong Gap and had a conference with Brigadier Lawson regarding the situation.

Thursday, Dec 11th

Weather fine.

Lieut. A.R.S. Woodside, Battalion Intelligence Officer transferred this date to Brigade Headquarters to take over duties of Brigade Intelligence Officer. Sergeant Hughes, Intelligence Sergeant took over his duties temporarily. Captain Banfill sent with ambulance to Lye Mun Pier to help evacuate Punjab Unit from the Mainland, waited from 1700 hrs to 2300 hrs for troops to arrive and pier constantly shelled but no casualties occurred. The officers of the mainland Brigade staff collected at Battalion Headquarters at Tai Tam Gap with Colonel Newham, M.C., General Staff Officer in command and orders were issued that a new organization of the Island defense would be made and that the R.R.C. would come under command of the Mainland Brigade commanded by Brigadier Wallis. The organization would now be the Eastern and the Western Brigades. The Eastern Brigade consisting of the R.R.C. and attached, the Middlesex Regiment and the 7th Rajputs. The inter-Brigade boundary between the Eastern and Western brigades being roughly the line Causeway Bay on the north Face and Violet Hill exclusive to Chung Hom Kok inclusive. As the area of the Tai Tam Gap was already overcrowded and the placing of Brigade Headquarters in the same area as Battalion Headquarters was not to prove satisfactory. The officers of the new Brigade staff were in a highly nervous state and apparently very tired.

In each company area and at Battalion Headquarters were a number of surface shelters. These had been constructed prior to the outbreak of the war. They were below the ground surface level and had concrete walls, iron doors and reinforced concrete and dirt roves and were ventilated by jacks from the roof. Shelter accommodation generally was inadequate, consequently in each area, camouflaged bivouacs were used. General routine as usual this date,

i.e. reconnaissance patrol, S.A.A. parties, etc.

The Governor of the colony, Sir Mark Young, visited the Battalion area this day accompanied by the General Staff Officer Major Neeve. Major-General Maltby, General Officer Commanding also visited "A" Company area this date and after being accompanied by Major Young around the area stated that he was satisfied with the defence of the area. In the Lye Mun company area several bombs fell in the barrack compound and shelling in this area increased. Many fires started along the water front and several ships burning and sinking in the harbor. No. 13 Platoon, which had been wiring on the waterfront returned back to the company with no casualties. One section of No. 14 Platoon under Corporal Little established an Observation Point on Mount Parker. Some shelling this date also of Victoria City. Corporal Carron "A" Coy whilst assembling a Tommy Gun accidentally shot in the right foot but was able to return to duty in a few hours time. See bombing of Stanley Village.

In order to carry out the orders re: the possible Para Troops landing, anti-para troop posts were established in the various company areas.

Friday, Dec 12th

Weather Fine.

Routine in Battalion area as usual. Road near Battalion Headquarters shelled. Enemy planes machine-gunned anti-aircraft posts around Battalion Headquarters during which time Sergeant Bernard showed good example to men by remaining cool under heavy fire. This was the first time this area had been machine gunned and men were rather jittery on coming under fire for the first time. Sergeant Stickles sent to "C" Coy to take charge of P.B. 38 on account of his Vickers Machine Gun training. On the shelling of Lyemun Barracks today, Capt Banfill's Chinese driver killed.

Major J.N. Crawford, R.C.A.M.C., A/2 i/c of the H.K.V.D.C. Field Ambulance advises Captain Banfill to remove R.A.P. from Lye Mun to Army Medical Stores on main highway across from Lyemun. This building was the MISSION and was also occupied by Civilian Aid Post. Captain Banfill was accompanied by Lance Corporal A.C. Harrison and Rifleman Oakley both of the R.R.C. and Driver Kelly, RCASC.

Rum issued for first and only time during the battle.

Padre Deloughery, Canadian Chaplain Services visited "A" Company area.

The Brigade Commander visited "A" Coy area and dissatisfied with the location of certain posts but later agreed that these are satisfactory.

Enemy cruisers seen off D'AGUILAR POINT and only came within range of heavy guns for a short period. When these opened up enemy cruisers withdrew.

Captain F.H.J. ROYAL "B" Coy made trip to Queen's Road Ordnance for a load of barbed wire.

Lye Mun area was again object of bombing and increasing heavy shelling and mortaring. Daylight movement restricted around Lye Mun Barracks and Gap.

Saturday, Dec 13th

Weather Fine.

It is now unofficially known that all Mainland Troops have been evacuated to Hong Kong. Air raids continue especially on Lyemun area. Because of this "C" Company Headquarters moves to a shelter in the Gap.

Lieut. Gilbert evacuated to hospital.

Lieut. Scott with Section from 15R Platoon sent to reinforce No. 15 Platoon on water front.

Quartermaster ordered to remove stores from Lyemun Barracks to a house called PALM VILLA on the Stanley Road. Shortage of vehicles but six of these were removed without permission from the RCASC depot. Battalion received 2 portable W/T sets from Ordnance minus their crystals so that these were of no use.

Captain Banfill treated and evacuated wounded from the Battery at PAC SHA WAN (4th Volunteers) and from R.R.C., "C" Coy. Water, light and phone connections were destroyed by constant shelling of the area. "A" Coy has some trouble with numerous junks infesting the small bays on that front; however after a few rounds had been fired in the general direction of these, they withdrew to open water. "A" Coy has attached to it two Bren carriers, two vans and one motorcycle, comprising in all about thirty all ranks from No. 2 Company H.K.V.D.C under Lieut. Edwards.

Sunday, Dec 14th

Weather Fine.

Major MacAuley, D.C.M., O.C. H.Q. Coy sent 8 drivers to R.A.S.C., two of these Riflemen Chambers and Pollock were killed. Sergeant M. D'Avignon, Battalion Provost Sergeant, sent to Mission to act under orders of Captain Banfill. He remained until the 18th when was recalled to Battalion Headquarters. Enemy planes dropped leaflets. Heavy shelling and bombing of North face of Island.

Lieut. E.N. Denison evacuated to hospital with malaria, Captain Gavey taking over detail at Pac Sha Wan Fort, Lyemun Pier. As a result of breakdown of the Chinese Volunteers in Pac

Sha Wan Fort, No. X Platoon was sent to act as Internal Security for the night. Three riflemen No. 16 Platoon "D" Coy evacuated to hospital with malaria.

Monday, Dec 15th

Weather Fine.

Comparatively quiet this date with intermittent shelling of company areas with exception of the Lye Mun area, which is paid more attention even than previously. Battalion Headquarters area quite heavily shelled. Quartermaster completed move of stores to Palm Villa. Major MacAulay, DCM, O.C. H.Q. Coy went to Hong Kong this date with Sergeants Roberts, the Officer's Mess Sergeant to obtain supplies. Sergeant McCarron drove and their truck was shelled virtually all the way from the Hong Kong Hotel to Sau Ki Wan but arrived eventually without harm.

In "A" Coy Area at Windy Gap Lieut Edwards and his carrier patrolled road during night. Guns on the Island more active this date shelling all junks approaching shore. Royal Engineers installed land mines at road junction at Windy Gap.

Heavy air raid on Victoria. Rumour of an attempt enemy landing on the Northwest end of Island proved to be false.

Battalion Headquarters issued warning to "C" Coy that enemy were known to be concentrating at foot of Devil's Peak on the mainland. About 1930 hrs enemy staged an attack on Pac Sha Wan Fort and continued doing so until 2200 hrs. Personnel manning Fort retired to Lye Mun Gap. In order to restore the situation Major Bishop at 2359 hrs lead a party, which proceeded to reoccupy the Fort, in doing so no enemy resistance was encountered. Apparently the attackers had been driven off by the concentrated fire brought to bear on them. At 2100 hrs a platoon of the Rajputs arrived to take over line Pac Sha Wan to Lye Mun. Owing to the state of tension existing, also the fact that no officer is with this platoon, "C" Coy personnel were ordered to remain in position another 24 hours. At 0130 hrs No. 13 Platoon is brought in to man the Fort Leaving at Lyemun Gap two sections, No. 14 Platoon under Lieut. K.R. Strang, holding a two platoon front. Section under Corporal Little relieved by the Royal Artillery from the Observation Point on Mount Parker. Lieut W. Fry. Platoon No. 12R moved from the Lye Mun area after darkness to a position selected about halfway between Pottinger Gap and Mount Collinson. Lieutenant Colonel Home accompanied by Lieut. J.E.D Smith accommodated a telephone line completed from position back to Battalion Headquarters. Sergeant Doull evacuated to hospital – malaria.

Tuesday, Dec 16th

Weather Fine.

Heavy air raids this date over Island. Men showing signs of strain, very little rest or sleep

for anyone. About 2300 hrs Mount Collinson guns opened up fire at which appeared to be a large number of junks leaving Junk Bay. A number of these were destroyed. This looked like another attempt to land on the Island.

On the Lye Mun ("C" Coy) front No. 13 Platoon relieved from Pac Sha Wan Fort before dawn by the Royal Artillery and this platoon moves back to Lye Mum Gap and move into bivouac on the East Side of Sai Wan to try to get some rest during day. At 0815 hrs the place is dive-bombed resulting in 5 casualties who were evacuated to hospital. Brigadier Wallis and Major Price, M.C., visit "A" Coy area. Orders issued for "C" Coy to be relieved by "D" Coy on the night off the 18th. No. 15 Platoon is relieved by Rajput and return to Lye Mun Gap. No Canadians now on North face of Island.

Wednesday, Dec 17th

Weather Fine.

About usual routine. Battalion Headquarters area heavily shelled. Signalers very busy maintaining communications. Major MacAulay proceeded to Magazine Gap for SAA via Wong Nei Chong as above road closed. Brought back and distributed 320,000 rounds. Enemy guns increased range and shelled Sheko and Stanley. Stanley Fort bombed and leaflets dropped.

Heavy shelling of Lyemun area. Position of enemy mortars located and a request for counter-fire is asked for but cannot get any action. Sniping which has been sporadic behind the line increases. No. Platoon under Lieut. Fry proceeds to Tai Tam Gap to occupy new position. Night Patrol under Lieut. K.R. Strang is sent in search of snipers. Telephone lines tapped.

Thursday, Dec 18th

Weather Fine.

(As each company had various situations to contend with, which in themselves are quite separate, therefore the full report for this date of each company as submitted by the Company Commander is given.)

1. "A" Company Routine work continued, some wring and fixing up of positions. From Windy Gap Headquarters could be seen great columns of smoke and fire coming up from the direction of Aberdeen, North Point and Victoria. Nothing particular happened in this area until a telephone message arrived at "A" Coy Headquarters at 2100 hrs for one officer, 2 N.C.Os and 20 men (Lieut. Blaver, Corporals Harrison and McRae) to move to Boa Vista via Battalion Headquarters.

At this time also Lieut. Edwards HKVDC and his mobile detachment of two carriers, one truck and motorcycle received orders to report to Battalion Headquarters. Moving orders came through at 2300 hrs for these parties under Lieut Blaver and Lieut Edwards to report to Battalion Headquarters and by 2359 hrs they were at Battalion Headquarters and stood by for further

orders.

The remainder of No. 9 Platoon and No. 8 Platoon remained in their original positions at Windy Gap with Nos. 7 and 9R Platoons at D'Aguiar Point, all standing to at 2359 hrs.

2. "B" Company "Stand-To" 0830 hrs. Battle Positions. No. 10 Platoon under Lieut. D'Avignon at Stanley View. On the right. No. 11 Platoon under Lieut. Thorn at Mary's Knowl, Stanley Buy-Centre; and left No. 12 Platoon under Lieut. J.F. Ross at "Y" in Road Repulse Bay — Stanley Village. Company Headquarters Stone Hill. Heavy shelling of Victoria City and Lye Mun throughout the day. Thorough checking of all persons passing through Coy Area. Reported that the Governor was again asked by the Japanese to surrender but he refused.

At 2330 hrs orders received from Lieutenant Colonel Home, M.C., Officer Commanding Battalion for company to Stand To and to send one platoon to Tai Tam Gap. No. 12 Platoon under command of Lieut. J.F. Ross was immediately ordered to report to Battalion Headquarters. (Believe that it was reported that Japanese had affected a landing near Lye Mun).

3. "C" Company Heavy shelling of Coy positions during day. Also increased evening artillery fire on P.B.S. along waterfront. During the day enemy artillery blew down camouflage nets along the Island Road. Impossible to use coy kitchen, it being shelled when any movement was attempted. Several hits registered on Sai Wan Anti-Aircraft Battery by enemy artillery. About midday Captain A. Barker 6th Anti-Aircraft arrived at Lye Mun Gap by car. He left it by the side of the road going by short cut on foot to Sai Wan Fort. During his visit a direct hit was scored on his car and it was a total loss. Notable increase in movement of local Chinese during day. At 1945 hrs sentry at junction Lye Mun and Island Road reported that in addition to the nightly truckload of Chinese coolies passing through to Lye Mun Gap a second party has gone through and headed up towards Sia Wan Fort. O.C. Company orders No. 15 Platoon under Lieut. Scott to proceed to Pac Sha Wan to reinforce Artillery and strengthen the frontline generally. They leave at 2000 hrs. At 2030 hrs Lieut Scott reports back and states that he has met an armed party at Lye Mun Gate. After an exchange of shots and some bayonet work, he ordered his platoon back to the Island Road, and came to report at Coy Headquarters. It was quite dark but he was certain that the party were coolies.

Major Bishop ordered No. 15 Platoon back to Tyemun Barracks, and taking Rifleman Gray with him started for Sai Wan Fort by the nearest route up the hillside. Part way he met a party of Royal Artillery lead by a Corporal. The conversation is here quoted; the Corporal: "The fort is occupied by the Japanese." Major Bishop: "What are you doing here?" The Corporal: "They chased us out." Major Bishop "Why did you not stay and chase them out?" The Corporal: "What with, we have no rifles?" Major Bishop, "Are you trying to tell me that you are manning a fort without arms and a war going on?" The Corporal: "We have Lewis guns but the attack was so unexpected that we had no chance to use them."

Major Bishop returned to the phone at LYE MUN Gap and reported the incident to Battalion Headquarters stating that it would appear that 5th columnists had seized the fort as he was certain that no enemy had passed the front lines. It was impossible to get any report from Rajput Headquarters at Sau Ki Wan Police Station but Pill Box 39 reported that nothing had

happened in that vicinity and No. 14 Platoon were keeping in touch with the Platoon of Rajputs in front of them in Sau Ki Wan village.

The matter was reported to Brigadier Wallis and the following conversation ensued: The Brigadier "There is no such thing as the enemy being in Fort Sai Wan. There are Canadians in the Fort." Major B. "I am in command of the Canadians in this area, and there have never been any Canadians inside the Fort. I have not even been permitted to look in the place myself." Brigadier: "I have definite information that there are friendly troops in the Fort." Major B. "They don't act friendly. We are being raked by automatic fire from there this moment. I am organizing an attack to take the Fort at once."

Major Bishop then detailed No. 13 Platoon under Lieut. Bradley to attack on the Fort from the Northeast side. This was getting under way when a Captain Bumpas arrived, stating that he had been sent by Brigade Headquarters to take charge of the attack of the Fort, mentioning that he had secret plans that were to be employed. No. 13 Platoon was recalled and after reviewing the situation, 15R under Capt Gavey were also sent into the attack. Two platoons being used and the attack launched from the cemetery road on the East side of the hill, in accordance with the Bumpas plan. The attack was started 2236 hrs. Captain Bumpas remained on the roadway, brandishing a revolver and shouting that he would shoot any man who attempted to retire. Major Bishop advised him to stop his noise and lead the attack as he seemed quite bloodthirsty. Capt. Bumpas then went part way up the hill and ordered Capt Gavey not to take the Fort and to come back as soon as the enemy was driven within. (Some enemy light machine guns were operating on the hillside, their position being indicated to each other by small flashlights.) "That we would take the Fort at dawn, according to plan. At this point Major Bishop phoned Battalion Headquarters asking for the searchlight on Mount Collinson to be directed on the Fort. The Adjutant asked Brigade and was informed that said light came under another command. However, just as the attacking force was withdrawing from the hillside the light came on which made it difficult to get down without offering the enemy good targets.

While all this was going on, No. 15 Platoon that had been sent to clear out Lye Mun Barrack area had got into difficulty and had been driven back to the Island Road-Lye Mun Junction. Major Bishop went to investigate and ran into a patrol coming from the direction of Sai Wan Fort as they were throwing hand grenades.

At one of the Platoon positions he opened into them with Tommy Gun. Accompanied by Lieut Scott he went to investigate the result and found seven dead bodies, three of which were in regular Japanese uniform and four in coolie dress, two were wearing armbands with crowns.

At this point No. 14 Platoon was attacked, heavily from the left flank and was obliged to extend their line to the catchment on the hillside, making a "V" shape front to protect their rear. No. 15 Platoon was drawn back to position in front of Coy Headquarters with one section in a new position facing Mount Parker.

Between 2100 and 2200 hrs there was a continuous road race of Indian troops running past without arms in the direction of Tai Tam. No information could be obtained from them. They would only say "Japs! Thousands of Japs." "C" Coy relief previously mentioned was

ordered to go into effect at 2100 hrs. This was interrupted and could not be carried out. Officer Commanding "C" Coy asked Battalion Headquarters for reinforcements to make a counterattack possible. Artillery support was asked for and a very accurate barrage was laid down on South West side of Sai Wan. Everything seemed favorable for a strong counter move. Call for reinforcements when referred to Brigade was refused.

One platoon "D" Coy sent to food Store half way between Tai Tam and Lye Mun to act as a stop in case front line was driven in. The attack on Sai Wan was successful in that it cleared the hillside of the enemy but it was impossible to enter the fort from that side (20 feet perpendicular walls). Attacking party withdrew to Cemetery Road at midnight. They were prevented from rejoining Coy Headquarters by the cross fire on the road.

4. "D" Company Major Parker. At one hour before sunrise 100% manning off positions took place as customary. Breakfast over 40% manning and such work as was necessary, only was performed. Same applied after lunch, after supper 100% manning at sundown took place followed by 60% manning by personnel as laid down.

I had been previously warned that my company might take over "C" Company's area in order to give them a needed change and rest from aircraft bombings and enemy artillery shelling, to which they had been subjected for a number of days. Orders were duly received to send Captain C.E. Price and Platoon sergeants who would make a reconnaissance of that area before I took over. At 2120 hrs Captain Price reported to Lieutenant Colonel Home at Tai Tam Battalion Headquarters but due to a change in enemy activities, which were becoming more 'pressing' in nature, this party was soon afterward returned to my headquarters. I then received orders from Battalion Headquarters to dispatch one platoon in battle order to the A.D.S. (map 265505). The Platoon Commander was to report to him at Battalion Headquarters at 2230 hrs. Lieut Power in command of No. 17 Platoon embussed in a motor lorry left my headquarters in compliance to this order (No. 17 Platoon Story).

No. 17 Platoon left "D" Coy area at approximately 2230 hrs and arrived at the ADS a few minutes later, we debussed and I was ordered to Battalion Headquarters to report and get further orders.

I arrived at Headquarters at approximately 2250 hrs and entered, Lieutenant Colonel Home, Major Price and Major MacAulay being present. As the situation was yet extremely uncertain, I was told to sit down while Major Price got into communication with Major Bishop and with Brigade Headquarters. At about 2345 hrs in accordance with orders received I was detailed to take up a position in the vicinity of the Ration Store about ½ mile from Tai Tam Headquarters and in the direction of Lye Mun. Major MacAulay was sent with me to guide me to my position. I proceeded back on foot to the ADS where I ordered my men into the truck and then moved down to Battalion Headquarters where we were joined by Major MacAulay in another truck and immediately set off to our destination. Arrived there we quickly got into positions as suggested by Major MacAulay covering the road. Major MacAulay proceeded on down the road to "C" Coy Headquarters and I sent my truck back to "D" Coy for further supplies of ammunition and grenades. We were completely settled in by 2359 hrs with sentries posted on the flanks and in front. The two sentries in front were posted along the road about 60 yards in

front of our position. Everything seemed fairly quiet but the occasional, searchlight or line light, which could be seen below playing on the water and surrounding country.

“D” Coy Headquarters defence position having been deprived of the strength of one platoon, the Platoon commander No. 16 Platoon, Lieut Breakey received orders from me to dispatch one of his sections to occupy the position which had been vacated. This was executed in quick order.

Throughout all this period many reports from Middlesex pillboxes located in my area, ‘A’ Coy area and some of ‘C’ Coy’s were coming in to my phone. Such information of important interest to the Battalion Commander was relayed by myself or Captain West, Officer Commanding Middlesex. As the information from the pillboxes especially in ‘C’ Coy area was, in my opinion, needlessly prolonged or delayed, to the extent of making such information confusing or worthless to ‘C’ Coy Commanding Officer by this method, I traveled to Battalion Headquarters at Tai Tam where I discussed the matter with Major J.H. Price to get it changed. Enemy pressure increased however and the relay practice continued. I returned to my headquarters at 0030 hrs on the morning of the 19th.

5. Headquarters Company Major MacAulay. Routine as usual except for stand to all day. Heavy shelling around rear Battalion Headquarters. Sergeant McCarron wounded. No. 5 Platoon plus 2 sections of No. 3 Platoon under Lieut Williams ordered to move from Boa Vista to Mount Parker to reinforce a Platoon of No. 1 Coy HKVDC in position there. Due to some error this platoon understood they were being relieved and insisted on leaving as soon as No. 5 Platoon arrived, which they finally did with the exception of 1 N.C.O. and 2 men.

At dusk I took a truck to Lye Mun Fort with Staff Sergeant Thompson and Sergeant Reed for Orderly Room and Pay documents. With Sergeant Major Royer, a driver and 6 men for escort. Heavily shelled while there and had trouble with civilian refugees or 5th columnists at Road junction leading to fort. Stopped at ‘C’ Coy Headquarters and took reconnaissance party and went back to road junction Lye Mun Fort. Crowd seemed to be civilians fleeing from fires in Sau Ki Wan. Went to dressing station at French College. Told Captain Banfill he should move to Battalion Headquarters but this he refused to do as ADMS had ordered him not to move unless orders came direct to him!

Left there intending to go to Battalion Headquarters and have Captain Banfill and his staff ordered back to Tai Tam if possible as it was obvious that they were in a very exposed position. If landing materialized from mainland as expected. When I got to Battalion Headquarters at about 2200 hrs it was then too late as ‘C’ Coy were reporting that enemy had landed and were in Lye Mun which practically cut off Captain Banfill and his staff from our unit. At 2230 hrs he took a small party and tried to get back to the Medical Officer going between road and foot of Mount Parker. However, ran into enemy patrol near small reservoir north of dressing station. In the ensuing commotion we seemed to come under fire from all directions so decided to give up the attempt and returned to Battalion Headquarters about 2545 hrs.

6. Battalion Headquarters The situation at midnight on the 18th was rough as follows: The enemy had landed and had occupied Lye Mun Barracks and Sai Wan Fort and were infiltrating

and making some progress southwards on the Lye Mun/Tai Tam Road. The situation was confused in that Chinese refugees were also coming up the same road and it was very difficult to tell friendly Chinese from 5th Columnists and Japanese. All the activity on the Battalion front so far that had taken place was confined to the "C" Coy area, but it is now known that on the North and West sectors of the Battalion that the unit holding the North front had apparently been overrun and any organized resistance on this front had been overcome. Just West of the Battalion sector the enemy had apparently penetrated up the slopes of Mount Parker and in some strength further west had made great progress up Happy Valley towards Wong Nei Chong Gap.

The main landing appears to have taken place on the north face of the Island in the North Point area. When the Brigade Commander received information that the enemy landing had taken place and that the enemy troops were advancing on the west of the Battalion area and up towards the slopes of Mount Parker, he immediately gave orders to Lieutenant Colonel Home that the platoon on top of Boa Vista under command of Lieut Williams to proceed with all haste to the Top of Mount Parker with the object of reaching and holding the high ground at that place. And in doing so, preventing the Japanese from doing likewise. (Mount Parker is the outstanding feature on the east side of the Island of Hong Kong and rises to about 1700 feet, thus the side in possession of this feature has a very needed advantage.) The Brigadier further ordered that a second platoon should be sent up to Boa Vista to replace the platoon under Lieut Williams. Sergeant Hughes, Battalion Lance Sergeant volunteered to guide Lieut Williams party from Boa Vista to Mount Parker and left immediately. Both he and No. 5 Platoon received their orders. In consequence of this order, another detachment from "A" Coy under command of Lieut Blaver proceeded to Boa Vista.

By midnight No. 5 Platoon was on the way to Mount Parker and No. 9 Platoon was on its way to Boa Vista.

"C" Coy had been forced to fall back, but were still in the general area of Lye Mun Gap. The Platoon from "D" Company under Lieut Power, which had been sent up by midnight occupying the position in the area of the Ration Stores covering the Lye Mun - Tai Tam Road on the slopes of Mount Parker. One platoon No. 12 under Lieut J.P. Ross had been sent out in the general direction of Pottinger Gap.

In the other areas, companies were not disbursed, but were on the alert for any future developments or orders.

Friday, 19 Dec 41

"A" Coy stood to from 0001 hrs till daybreak at Windy Gap and D'Aguilar. The detachment under Lieut. Blaver moved up to Boa Vista and took up positions vacated by No. 5 Platoon. Sergeant D'Avignon guided detachment up to positions and left to go back to Battalion Headquarters. Orders then received by phone from Battalion Headquarters at 2430 hrs to proceed to Mount Parker in support of No. 5 Platoon already there. Corporal. Delaine was taken as a guide to show the route to Mount Parker, but in the darkness missed turning and the detachment did not reach top until 0730 hrs. Japanese were in possession of the top of the hill and No. 5 Platoon had engaged them from their positions. Enemy strength estimated at 120 - 150 men and detachment under Lieut Blaver deployed for the attack. Just at this moment machine gun fire was

opened on the detachment from the direction of Tai Tam and the men scattered to cover from this unexpected fire. The Japanese on the hilltop discovered intended attack and began lobbing grenades over and down onto attackers, effectively completing the route. At least 10 casualties resulted in this engagement. Corporals Harrison and McRae were killed at their posts. Men began drifting back to Boa Vista and Lieut Blaver with 3 Riflemen brought up the rear and arrived at “” at 1000 hrs. The detachment had made no connection with No. 5 Platoon and all firing from No. 5’s positions had ceased at 0830 hrs so had supposed they had been killed or captured. At 1530 hrs Lieut Blaver with 12 ORs rejoined “A” Coy at Stone Hill after participating in withdrawal action under Captain Clark, Headquarters Company, at Boa Vista.

At about 0830 hrs an order was received by phone from Battalion Headquarters to evacuate positions at Windy Gap and D’Aguilar Point and move up to Battalion Headquarters at Tai Tam as soon as possible, leaving all but battle equipment behind. The Coy was ready to move off at 0750 hrs with all ammunition and foodstuffs on the one available truck at the disposal of the Coy. The coy had proceeded along the road toward Tai Tam about ½ mile when the orders were to hold everything and remain in original Windy Gap positions. This was changed roughly at 0830 hrs and orders were to move to Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible delay might mean that the Coy would be cut off.

En route to Tai Tum Gap the road was covered with troops and lorries evacuating all units from Sheko and D’Aguilar while enemy planes flew low overhead observing this movement. Coy arrived at Gap 1050 hrs and orders were received to proceed to Stanley Mound and take up positions there. During this move to Stanley Mount No. 8 Platoon under Lieut Johnston was ordered by Colonel Rawleson to the road junction at southeast end of the reservoir to cover the withdrawal of the Rajputs. The remainder of the Coy was proceeding up Stanley Mound when Brigadier Wallis ordered Major Young to hold everything and move his company back to Brigade Headquarters at Stone Hill. All plans had been changed and that our force was going to “Counterattack the enemy and drive him back into the sea,” “A” Coy was required for this operation. Coy arrived at Stone Hill at 1250 hrs where it was rejoined by Lieut Blaver at 1530 hrs. Major Young reported to Officer Commanding RRC and received instructions to stand by for a conference with Brigadier. Then Brigadier Wallis issued instruction at 1600 hrs for “A” Coy to take up positions on and around Stone Hill. This carried out by 1800 hrs with No. 7 Platoon under Lieut Lyster on the top of Stone Hill facing the Twins and No. 9R Platoon on the right of Stone Hill facing Red Hill No. 9 Platoon holding positions half way up the hill facing Stanley Mound, with patrols out on both sides of Stone Hill. Remainder of No. 9 Platoon was in reserve holding shelters and pillboxes at the “X” in road to Stanley Village. Phone communications between Coy HQ and platoons on top of Stone Hill were established. All was quiet on the “A” Coy front and sector during the remainder of the day.

“B” Company 0630 hrs. Orders received from Officer Commanding Battalion to report with remainder of Coy at Battalion Headquarters as soon as possible. Instructions were received at the same time that trucks would arrive in the Coy area within a very short time to transport the coy personnel and their equipment. Orders immediately relayed to platoons to be prepared to move to new battle positions at once. 0815 hrs the trucks arrived Coy Headquarters 0830 hrs. Coy arrived Tai Tam Gap and Company Commander reports at Battalion Headquarters for orders. Nos. 12 and 12R Platoons were already occupying positions at Mount Collinson with 12R still under

command of "C" Company Commander. Stores under Rifleman Clapperton and Company Cooks, Corporal Gilbert and one other remained at Stone Hill.

On arrival at Battalion Headquarters orders were received to despatch 1 platoon to Boa Vista under order of Captain Clark there; and to post remainder of coy in defensive position astride the road immediately south of Tai Tam Gap. No. 10 Platoon under Lieut. D'Avignon sent to Boa Vista. Remainder of Coy, No. 11 Platoon under Lieut Thorn, Mortar detachment under Lieut Languedoc and Coy Headquarters personnel under Officer Commanding were placed in positions astride road. This was to cover withdrawal of "A" and "D" Coy from D'Aguilar Peninsula; and "C" Headquarters and Battalion Headquarters from Tai Tam Gap. All passed through safely before noon.

1200 hrs written field message received from Battalion Adjutant, Captain Atkinson containing order for company to withdraw from Tai Tam at 1300 hrs and to proceed to top of Sugar Loaf Mountain where it was to take up a definitive position for the night. Coy left road at Palm Villa and round scaling this mountain from northwest side proved to be very difficult task as no path was found and the troops had to force their way through the underbrush up the steep side of mountain in battle order. No. 11 Platoon arrived on the top about 1630 hrs and No. 10 Platoon at 1900 hrs. It was about 2100 hrs when 12 Platoon reported. The Mortar detachment attached to Headquarters Company at this time and another section of troops from Headquarters Company replaced them under command of Sergeant W.R. Pope. Captain F. Royal, 2 IC Company was sent down Stone Hill with party for food and water while Officer Commanding Coy organized the defence of the position for the night.

"C" Company At 0001 hrs on the 19th the Japanese were attacking repeatedly on all positions but the fires in Sau Ki Wan threw them in relief whenever they got up to rush the front. The Defence had considerable fire power and every attempt was very costly to the enemy (in addition to regular equipment there was 1 Vickers, 2 Lewis, 1 extra Bren and each officer had a Tommy Gun. The attack on Sai Wan cost us 9 men killed. When the 2 platoons were assembled at the starting point shortly after midnight, Captain Gavey sent Lieut W. Bradley to report Officer Commanding "C" Coy and obtain further orders. Major Bishop ordered the entire party forward but upon Lieut Bradley's return he found the party had attempted to cross to the Island Road to the rear of Company Headquarters and had run into a cross fire and Captain Gavey had been seriously wounded. He had ordered the party to retire to Pillbox 38A.

At approximately 0120 hrs Captain Bumpas contacted Major Bishop and told him that he had orders for his company to retire to another position on about ½ mile along the Island Road. It was obvious that the position was being isolated and the enemy were circling to the rear. At 0245 hrs each platoon had reported clear, and were sent to a new position. Word was sent to Lieut Power, commanding the platoon in support at the food stores that the coy was falling back, and to dispose his force to work with them in that position. This retirement presented difficulties. The outer sections were moved first along the catchment a short distance, then took up position covering the road to permit the wounded to be evacuated. This procedure had to be followed by several steps until all positions had been cleared. It was carried out with comparative few casualties considering the conditions of the men, none of whom had had a hot meal for five days owing to the destruction of the cooking arrangements. They had been doing continuous manning

for over a week with no chance to sleep but in weapon pits. Some would fall down in the roadway and go to sleep and it took several shakings to get them going again. At this point word was received that two wounded men had been left in Lye Mun shelters. Sergeant Clayton and a signaler, Major Bishop and Lieut Scott went back and after a sharp encounter with the Japanese cleared them from the vicinity and got the men away.

The question of ammunition for the new position came up and Major Bishop ordered Lieut Strang with 14 Platoon to hold the road and catchments for one hour to allow CQMS Standish to remove 250 boxes from his stores back to new position. Coy was met the morning after at new position by the food stores by Captain Atkinson. He had arranged for tea, biscuits and bully to be sent up. Captain Atkinson when questioned replied that there did not appear to be any plan as far as Brigade Headquarters was concerned re: counterattack, and doubted if there ever had been one.

The company took up a position a short distance back of the original line taken up by the platoon in support. A line across the Island Road by the Indian Battery with the left flank drawn back towards Boa Vista. Flares fired by the enemy denoting success were seen before daybreak, sent up from left rear. (At 1015 hrs runner arrived from Battalion Headquarters stating he had verbal orders Major MacAulay to Major Bishop ““C” Coy to remain in position”. Most of the company were already on the move and the enemy had already occupied some of the vacated positions. Major Bishop reported that the order had been received too late to be complied with.) This position was held with only occasional skirmish among outposts until 1020 hrs when the Coy was ordered to withdraw to Tai Tam. They were put into position on the high ground about Tai Tam Gap until 1300 hrs when Major Bishop received verbal orders from Lieutenant Colonel Home to move to Stanley and take up a defensive position there. This the Coy did and took up positions in a line from Stanley Prison to the football field. Major reported to Colonel Shaw Officer Commanding Stanley Defences, and he came out to assist in the disposition of the forces. He stated that he had received no orders about any troops withdrawing to Stanley.

At 1600 hrs “C” Coy is ordered to proceed to Stanley View, and take up a position there. This move completed by nightfall. No one in coy had been this area before which made the taking up of positions difficult. The Pillboxes 38 and 38A cleared their crews and guns when the enemy were trying to surround them getting everyone away.

“C” Coy with attached personnel went into action at 2200 hrs yesterday with 172 ORs and 5 officers, and at 1600 hrs 19th, 64 men answered their names and 4 officers were present.

“D” Company. At 0030 hrs another platoon was ordered in Battle order to report at Tai Tam Headquarters. Lieut. Breakey, No. 16 Platoon was detailed. Lieut. Simmons, No. 18 Platoon at Tai Tam Tuk was ordered to send a section to man vacated areas of 16 and 17 Platoons. At 0200 hrs No. 16 Platoon embossed and left OBELISK HILL and passed through Battalion Headquarters at 0330 hrs arriving at Boa Vista at 0500 hrs and there took up positions under Captain Clark as explained in Headquarters Report. Rejoined Coy at Stanley Mound after withdrawal. No. 17 Platoon retired under orders of Officer Commanding “C” Coy and arrived at Stanley at 1230 hrs.

At one hour before sunrise positions were manned for the last time at OBELISK HILL. Troops were feed. At 0930 hrs received order to send 18 Platoon to Mount Parker. Lieut Simmons, No. 10 Platoon, was in process of carrying out this order when he was advised of change in orders received from Captain Atkinson at 1000 hrs, and replacing orders with to EVACUATE TO STANLEY IMMEDIATELY.

At 1015 hrs coy evacuated to Stanley Peninsular and at 1500 hrs Major Parker went to Stone Hill Headquarters for a conference. There he was ordered to take up position on STANLEY MOUND. It was dark before Coy was in position on MOUND. PHONE CONNECTED to Observation Point on top of Mound. No. 18 Platoon was unnecessarily detained by Colonel Wilcox on account of darkness and did not rejoin coy until daybreak.

Headquarters Company. Weather cloudy, some mist in morning, cold, dull, little or no sun all day. About 0100 hrs I was ordered by Lieutenant Colonel HOME to take No. 17 Platoon and place it in a defensive position near food store in rear of "C" Coy position. After completing this reported to "C" Coy Headquarters. Made another attempt to get through to Captain Banfill. Failed. Returned to Battalion Headquarters at about 0250 hrs with truckload of wounded including Captain Gavey. Headquarters Company personnel to stand to all night and during day until 1100 hrs. Lieut. Ross fired about 50 rounds 3" mortar against northeast slope of Mount Parker between daylight and 1230 hrs where movement of enemy was observed. At about 1000 hrs received order from Battalion Headquarters to evacuate Coy to Stanley. At 1030 hrs ordered by Battalion Headquarters to where we were till the last. At 1100 hrs again ordered by Battalion Headquarters to move to Stanley. All above orders verbal and consisted of "RETIRE TO STANLEY" and report to Stone Hill for orders on arrival. No administrative instructions issued. Retired in the following order. No. 1 Platoon at 1130 hrs, No. 2 Platoon and 2 sections 4 Platoon at 1200 hrs, No. 3 Platoon at 1230 and No. 6 Platoon at 1300 hrs. Took some coy stores, but had to leave much behind due to lack of transport. Most signal equipment left, but took 1 load SAA Coy Cookers, 2" mortars and 70 rounds for same, all light machine guns and transport stores.

At 1315 hrs reported Coy all clear to Battalion Headquarters. Was then given slip of paper with names of units still to pass Tai Tam and was ordered by Captain Atkinson to remain there until all had passed and then to retire, the Platoon of "B" Coy under Lieut J. Ross was to remain until the last to cover retirement. During P.M. was able to send several more truck loads of SAA and some company stores with trucks of various units which returned several times to pick up personnel marching. When no personnel were waiting I loaded the trucks with SAA etc., and sent them back as the return trip took only about 30 to 40 minutes. The last organized unit to pass was Lieut Fry's 12R Platoon from Collinson Road, at about 1600 hrs. They had taken a very roundabout route and were tired out. However had trucks waiting so loaded them in and sent them on to Stanley with orders for trucks to return for Lieut J. Ross and Platoon. This was done and moved out at 1645 hrs. No enemy had tried to approach Tai Tam along the road but we were being sniped at from Boa Vista and at about 1500 hrs approximately 150 to 200 enemy left road near food store in rear of "C" Coy original position and came along catchment and across the ravine and by 1600 hrs were exchanging fire with Lieut Ross Platoon from vicinity to Cemetery below Tai Tam and seemed to making determined effort to surround original Battalion Headquarters positions.

Arrived at Battalion Headquarters Stone Hill about 1715 hrs. Ordered by Lieutenant Colonel Home to assemble Headquarters Company at PALM VILLA and cover position from direction of Tai Tam. This completed and men fed by 1830 hrs. Personnel very tired and sleepy. Personnel of Headquarters all gathered together at PALM VILLA. Supervised cooking equipment as some cooks had been captured and only "A" and "D" were left with Headquarters. Received orders from Battalion Headquarters at about 2000 hrs to send part of the company to connect up with "B" Coy on Sugar Loaf Hill. Captain F. Royal was to act as guide, but he was unable to find way in dark and at 2350 hrs I gave orders for some of them to stay where they were and the remainder I put in water catchment between PALM VILLA and SUGAR LOAF. The defence of this flank for the night consisted of posts on Notting Hill, in water catchments and along road as far as Tai Tam Reservoir Bridge, and original position held by 18 Platoon before the move.

Report of Captain Clark. At about 0300 hrs I was called to Battalion Headquarters and gave the following information of orders.

- (1) No. 5 Platoon has been moved from Boa Vista at 2100 hrs to Mount Parker.
- (2) 2 sections No. 2 Platoon under command of Sergeant Hughes has been ordered to reinforce No. 5 Platoon on Mount Parker.
- (3) Lieut Blaver and detachment has been ordered to Mount Parker to contact No. 5 Platoon at about 0200 hrs
- (4) No word received from above units.
- (5) Lieut Breakey and 16 Platoon standing by at TAI TAM GAP ordered to take this Platoon to PARKER RIDGE contact aforementioned units, take command and coordinate defence of PARKER RIDGE. From 0400 to 0500 hrs spent reaching BOA VISTA. Signalmen on duty there had no news from MOUNT PARKER. Decided to reconnaissance west side MOUNT PARKER leaving Lieut BREAKEY and remainder of Platoon at BOA VISTA.
- (6) 0615 hrs while on path above and behind sanatorium WEST side MOUNT PARKER heard firing above and ahead of me. Found 2 Bren mag carriers loaded, marks. Corporal Vincent No. 2 Platoon feared ambush but no sign of fighting. Proceeded up face of MOUNT PARKER.
- (7) 0700 hours daylight reached top of ridge with PARKER PEAK approximately 600 yds north and 500 feet above me. Force of enemy approximately 150 strong on top PARKER manning light field piece. They were being engaged by Lieut Blaver's Platoon from the east face of PARKER below. This platoon in hopeless position and broke of engagement and retired by catchment to BOA VISTA.
- (8) Returned to BOA VISTA and 0850 hrs Corporal DELAINE arrived and reported that he had been with Lieut Blaver 9 Platoon to about 100 feet from top of MOUNT PARKER where they had met the enemy and had been mauled. He did not know WHAT THE REMAINDER OF THE PLATOON WERE DOING.
- (9) Brigadier Wallis phoned asking if it would be possible to retake PARKER were I reinforced with another platoon and replied "do not think so but will try." Lieut. D'AVIGNON was on way to reinforce me and I was asked to hold BOA VISTA, until 1200 hrs.
- (10) Lieut D'AVIGNON and 10 Platoon arrived and we held BOA VISTA until 1300 hrs whence we retired under orders received from Battalion Headquarters in the following order, Lieut. Breakey and 16 Platoon, Lieut. Blaver 9 Platoon and odds and sods. Captain Clark and 2 sections of 10 Platoon, then Lieut D'Avignon and remainder of 10 Platoon.
- (11) 1400 hrs reached crossroads Reservoir Dam platoons of "B" and "D" Coy ordered to

return to respective coys. I proceeded to PALM VILLA, rejoined Headquarters Company.

Casualties: Lieut. Williams with No. 5 Platoon, all killed, wounded or captures. (21) 2 sections of No. 2 Platoon, all killed, wounded or captured (8) 1 Sergeant Cook, 1 Signalmen attached to "C" Coy some 6 to 8 wounded in No. 6 Platoon, no casualties in No. 3 or No. 4 Platoons.

Saturday, Dec 20

"A" Company Orders were received for "A" Coy to form the advance guard for the Brigade to move up and join the West Battalion on the Island. The head of the column passed Brigade Headquarters at STONE HILL at 0800 hrs. When the head of the coy had arrived at STANLEY MOUNT a warning was given that the enemy was holding the REPULSE BAY HOTEL GARAGE, and if weak opposition was met to brush it aside, and continue on to WONG NEI CHONG. It was found that the enemy was platoon strength and supported by machine guns and above the HOTEL on the hillside roughly two companies of the enemy were sighted.

By 1100 hrs the enemy was cleared from the garage but were still giving considerable amount of trouble from the side of the hill. The Coy then proceeded up the ISLAND ROAD toward DEEP WATER BAY and came under heavy inflat fire and were forced to deploy and take up positions on both sides of the road, some occupying the CASTLE EUCLIFFE. Several men were killed and some wounded.

It was then found that the enemy was in too strong a position for the company to proceed and Coy took up a defensive position in and around the REPULSE BAY HOTEL and EUCLIFFE.

As the HOTEL was occupied by many civilians including women and children, orders were received from the GENERAL by telephone to hold the HOTEL at all costs until some other scheme was provided for the removal of the civilians, all was quiet during the hours of darkness.

"B" Company. Cool hours. Coy less 12R Platoon occupying defensive position on SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN. No. 12R Platoon under Lieut Fry, which up till this time during the battle of Hong Kong had been attached to "C" Coy was occupying a position on extreme west of STONE HILL. This Platoon had been sent from "C" Coy stationed at Stanley View, to join "B" Coy night 19-20 route via Battalion Headquarters at STONE HILL.

No enemy activity on Coy front during the night. At 0745 hrs message received to report at Battalion Headquarters STONE HILL with Coy at 0800 hrs. At STONE HILL Battalion Commander issued orders for an advance on REPULSE BAY. "A" COY in the lead.. Coy remains in defensive position in reserve astride road about half way between STANLEY VIEW & REPULSE BAY.

At 1000 hrs 2IC ordered No. 10 Platoon up on the west slope of STANLEY MOUND. 1500 hrs Orders received from Officer Commanding Battalion to send a platoon to top of

STANLEY MOUND. No. 12 Platoon under Lieut J.F. Ross sent.

1600 hrs approximately Company Commander and his platoon commanders less 12 platoon which was ordered to remain in STANLEY MOUND, were called by Battalion Commander to a house in the outskirts of REPULSE BAY and there issued orders for the company to advance through "A" Coy position which was then in and around REPULSE BAY HOTEL AND EUCLIFFE CASTLE. Objective: Curve in road below MIDDLE SPUR immediately west of EUCLIFFE CASTLE. 1630 hrs Coy had commenced to move towards REPULSE BAY when Commander relayed order to Coy that Brigade had changed their orders and that "B" Coy instead going to REPULSE BAY was to proceed to SUGAR LOAF and take up positions there.

1730 hours Coy had almost reached STONE HILL, when Coy was ordered to turn about and to continue its advance on REPULSE BAY, which it commenced to do. 1000 hrs Orders countermanded again and Coy turned about again and proceeded towards SUGAR LOAF via STONE HILL. Heavy continuous rain commenced about that time and made the sloping paths slippery to climb and in the darkness difficult to find. No. 10 Platoon failed to reach the company position that night.

"C" Company Night passed without incident. "A" Coy pass through this morning on the way to attack REPULSE BAY. "C2" Coy ordered to PALM VILLA to protect gear. Positions taken up on NOTTTNG HILL & SUGAR LOAF HILL

Patrol under Major Bishop with Lieut EDWARDS on motorcycle and two carriers engage enemy at TAI TAM Reservoir, resulting in two casualties. Tracks show that a horse drawn battery had gone along road towards WONG NEI CHONG. This is reported to Brigadier and Brigadier. WALLIS orders a platoon to "Take after it and destroy it". However the only platoon within reach at the time is guarding the main road to STANLEY and Brigade have no reinforcements to offer, so the plan is abandoned.

Coy is relieved in the evening and return to STANLEY VIEW.

"D" Company. In compliance with orders we descended from STANLEY MOUND at daybreak. The Company rested at STANLEY VIEW and ate the unconsumed portion of the biscuits and bully beef of the night before.

At 0800 hrs I was ordered to bring my officers forward to meet Lieutenant Colonel Home. We went to the bend in the road near REPULSE BAY HOTEL. RRC Battalion Headquarters were strung out along the road near this bend. Brigadier WALLIS, Colonel Home and I went forward to make a reconnaissance with the object in mind of putting "D" Coy through with "A" to WONG NEI CHONG GAP. A message went back to for the Coy to move up to the bend above referred to. Whilst making our reconnaissance enemy troops holding REPULSE BAY HOTEL GARAGE and vicinity opened with machine gun, etc. fire, making reconnaissance impossible. A decision was reached to have my coy try to contact WEST INFANTRY BRIGADE (At Wong Nei Chong) by going there via VIOLET HILL.

This country was entirely unknown to any of us. Brigadier Wallis information about enemy strength and positions was negligible. A map route was decided upon and the coy at 1100 hrs moved forward. A section of mortars under Lieut Ross and Lieut Languedoc were attached to my command.

We climbed a very steep cliff up to a water catchment and processed along this for about 1800 yards in a northeast direction, we then crossed 2 to 300 yards of open ground to another catchment, leading parallel to the one we had left. Here we noticed shelters in which conditions indicated that troops had vacated them hurriedly at some time or another.

The Coy proceeded along the catchment (still northeast direction) until the leading platoon. No. 18 had gone another 1500 yards when it completely surprised a Japanese pack train (Artillery) moving up via the road in direction of WONG NEI CHONG. Lieut. Simmons (No. 18 Platoon) immediately engaged them inflicting heavy casualties. He retired on to the main body with this information. Lieut Power's No. 17 Platoon was despatched by way of a path higher up to get by, if possible, in that way. His platoon observed enemy at Gauge Basin and engaged them by Bren Gun fire causing more casualties and much confusion to this enemy party but who after recovering from surprise, returned fire on No. 17 Platoon with approximately 0.75 mm weapon fire. He also noted that the way to Wong Nei Chong in the present direction was unsuitable due to open ground. He rejoined the main body, who unfortunately was coming under fire from the enemy on VIOLET HILL above them. The mortar Section was routed by enemy and jettisoned MORTAR and all bombs (24 H.E.) and returned to PALM VILLA. The coy appeared to be in a precarious position but we were able to withdraw from it back into the catchment where I reached the conclusion that to obtain my objective was impossible and ordered a withdrawal to STANLEY VIEW. Fortunately up to this point only minor superficial wounds had been inflicted upon us.

The withdrawal was conducted along the same route by which we had come. The enemy failed to press their advantage and things proceeded uneventfully until we had to cross back over the open ground from one catchment to another referred to beforehand. No. 18 Platoon lead across and set up Bren guns on the other side to cover our crossing. We were able to cross under this cover but one man, Rifleman Darrah, was seriously wounded by a leg fracture (gunshot wound) and his removal was difficult and slowed us down also.

It was nearing darkness and we were about 2000 yards from STANLEY VIEW when it began to rain very heavy. We eventually arrived STANLEY VIEW about 2300 hrs and spent the night in FOOD STORES SHELTERS AT CHUNG HOM KOK. Tinned beans, bully beef and peaches were eaten.

Headquarters Company Weather fine all day. warm sunshine, heavy rain in evening. 0001 hrs normal routine, visiting outposts, some difficulty keeping men awake. Kept officers on hourly rounds in turn. Captain Atkinson arrived PALM VILLA Company Headquarters with orders that we were to move towards REPULSE BAY following order: A, B, HQ and D Coy. Head of column to pass STONE HILL at 0800 hrs. "C" Coy was to take over PALM VILLA area from Headquarters Company at 0800 hrs.

At 0800 hrs assembled and fed all personnel not on duty, after which relieved men on duty and fed them. The Coy practically complete except for cooks, signalers on duty at Battalion Headquarters administrative of No. 6 Platoon and 1 section of No. 3 Platoon.

0800 hrs relieved by "C" Coy and moved off at 0830 hrs.

0900 hrs arrived at starting point and found that "A" Coy had gone past at appointed time, but no sign of "B" Coy yet, so ordered Headquarters Company to follow "A" in line. Left word for Captain Denison to take position in rear Headquarters Company. I notified Lieutenant Colonel Home of change. Lieut. Languedoc and 1 section of No. 3 Platoon joined their Platoon at the starting point so No. 3 Platoon now complete.

0930 hrs head of Coy (Lieut. Smith and No. 1 Platoon) came under fire at Road junction leading to CHUNG HOM KOK from light artillery. Lieut Smith wounded and two men killed in getting about half the coy past this exposed spot. I told Sergeant Pope to take over command of No. 1 Platoon.

1030 hrs Coy ordered to halt with head of Coy at outskirts of REPULSE BAY. Small arms fire swept along road spasmodically. Took men into cover on both sides of road. Was ordered by Major Price to detail 1 Mortar Section to "D" Coy. I detailed Lieut. Ross with section. Lieut. Languedoc also accompanied this section.

1100 hrs NOTHING happened all day except occasional shell and small arms fire on road from hill beyond REPULSE BAY. Several close calls but no casualties. 1700 hrs ordered by Lieutenant Colonel Home to return with coy to PALM VILLA and take over from "C" Coy for the night. 1800 hrs relieved "C" Coy and took up position as on night of 19-20. Hot meal for men and got as many personnel as possible under cover as cold rain falling in torrents. 1930 hrs nothing happened except routine duties of men and officers on defensive outposts. Everyone very tired and cold rain added to our discomfort in no small manner. Lieut Smith wounded and evacuated to St. Stephens Hospital STANLEY.

At 1200 hrs Lieut Ross and Lieut Languedoc reached "D" Coy on VIOLET HILL. Some Artillery fire directed at them but no casualties. Due to circumstances no opportunities of using the one mortar with them. After lugging this Mortar all day decided to dismantle it and did so, scattering it down a steep embankment. Sight destroyed and weapon made completely useless. Followed along with "D" coy in retiring to Battalion at Stone Hill and found remainder of Headquarters Coy had gone on to PALM VILLA, we reached there 1800 hrs.

Sunday, 21 Dec

1. Disposition of troops as at 0001 hrs, Battalion Headquarters at Stone Hill Shelters, Headquarters Company at Palm Villa area, "A" Company at Repulse Bay, "B" Company at Stanley Mound and Stone Hill area, "C" Company at Stanley View and "D" Company at Chung Hom Kok.
2. 0001 hrs to 0600 hrs - All quiet during the hours of darkness on all fronts.
3. 0630 hrs. All Company Commanders R.R.C. plus Company Commanders No. 1 and No.2 Companies HKVDC called to a meeting at Battalion Headquarters in Stone Hill

Shelters and were told that an attempt to reach Wong Nei Chong Gap via Gauge Basin was to be attempted. The following orders were issued. No. 2. Company HKVDC - Advance Guard, "B" Company R.R.C. less 2 platoons Vanguard - "D" Company Main Guard - "C" Company Main Body. The Advance Guard to be under command of Major MacAulay R.R.C. Head of main body to pass starting point Palm Villa at 0930 hrs.

4. 0700 hrs to 0300 hrs. This period spent in feeding troops, passing on orders etc., in preparation for the movement. The Officer Commanding Advance Guard and Officer Commanding No.1 Company HKVDC were worried over the left flank of the advance and after a discussion with the Brigadier, it was decided to send a small force on to Notting and Bridge Hills to cover this left flank. One platoon of Headquarters and one section of No.1 Company HKVDC under command of Captain Clark were ordered to occupy these points and the slopes above Island Road.

5. 0900 hrs "A" Company received orders direct from Battle Headquarters to send force along Repulse Bay Road to clear enemy from House along road. Order later cancelled.

6. 0915 hrs. Advance guard moved off from Palm Villa late in starting due to one Platoon of "B" Company and "D" Company failing to assemble on time. No. 3 HKVDC moved off leading first bound to Tai Tam Cross roads leading to Gauge Basin followed by 10 Platoon "B" Company R.R.C. and then remainder of No. 1 Company HKVDC. Major MaoAulay ordered No.2 Platoon of Headquarters Company where to move along water catchment above road as far as the cross roads to see that this was not occupied by the enemy.

7. 0930 hrs. No. 3 Platoon HKVDC met strong opposition at cross roads Tai Tam and Gauge Basin Road. Flight Lieutenant Thompson wounded and one man killed. (This was later found to be a camouflaged machine gun, which was covering Island Road leading to the Tai Tam crossroads and had to retire). The rest of the Advance Guard also came under the rifle and machine gun fire from slopes of Notting Hill on the left flank and from Red Hill on right flank. Major MacAulay passed orders via Captain Dennison to Captain W. Royal who was commanding the remainder of Headquarters Company at Palm Villa to take the No.1 Platoon and clear the enemy from the slopes of Notting Hill on left flank and to try and give covering fire to troops who were going to attack Red Hill.

8. Major MacAulay at 0945 hrs ordered 2 sections of 10 Platoon RRC supported by Captain Penn and 2 Machine Gun Section to investigate the situation on Red Hill before proceeding along road to Tai Tam Cross Roads. This finally led to all the Advance Guard becoming involved and they came under heavy fire from both front and rear i.e. Notting Hill. They were driving back to the road, Captain Penn and 2/Lieut Redmond wounded and several men killed and wounded. Major MacAulay then took over command of No.1 Company HKVDC personnel and after rallying 10 Platoon R.R.C. organized an attack on Red Hill with the above, less No. 3 Platoon and 1 Machine Gun Section of No.1 Company HKVDC.

9. 1000 hrs. The forces on Bridge and Notting Hills having found the enemy too strong to cope with asked for reinforcement and "D" Company R.R.C. were ordered to this flank. This information was not passed on to the Advance Guard Commander.

10. 1030 hrs. At this time Major MacAulay identified 12 Platoon "B" Company under Lieut Fry making frontal attack on Red Hill and realized that the troops which he had expected to be following along in his rear were being dispatched on other duties though the information was not being passed onto him. He sent D.R. back at this time to ask Officer Commanding Main Guard to push on quickly as reinforcements were needed to try and take the Cross Roads and Tai Tam Tuk Bridge.

11. 1100 hrs D.R. returns with message that Main Guard "D" Company not available as they had been sent to Notting and Bridge Hills. No.2 Platoon Headquarters Company had lively brush with enemy in water catchment above Island Road on left flank of road and succeeded in clearing same as far as Tai Tam Cross Roads.

12. 1200 hrs. "A" Coy received orders to move 2 platoons from Repulse Bay to the Ridge about ¼ mile from Wong Nei Chong Gap. They were to clear the road of enemy as they went along and to stay there until further orders. At about this time an attack organized and headed by Lieut Power finally cleared the enemy from the crest of Bridge Hill. This officer's ability and initiative was outstanding during this operation. Notting Hill was occupied by Captain Clarke and his force about the same time so that the situation on this flank was fairly settled for the time being. Captain W. Royal with No.1 Platoon had similarly cleared the slope of Notting Hill of enemy.

13. 1300 hrs. No word from force attacking Red Hill but the infilade fire on the road from both flanks had ceased so Officer Commanding Advance Guard ordered advance to continue towards Tai Tam Cross Roads but leading troops (No.3 Platoon HKVDC) soon came under fire from machine gun position there. Halt ordered and message sent back for 3" mortar to be sent up on truck.

14. 1400 hrs. Lieut. D. Ross arrived with 3" mortar and succeeded in dropping several shells near Machine Gun Post and the Bren. Carriers and all available personnel (about 30 all told RRC and HKVDC and two Bren carriers and crews rushed the position under a rain of hand grenades (many of which failed to explode) and succeeded in capturing the position and wiping out the enemy in this position.

15. 1430 hrs. At this time no enemy could be found in the area Tai Tam Cross Roads - Bungalow - Tai Tam Tuk Bridge, though considerable shouting could be heard from direction of Pumping Station.

16. 1500 hrs. Two platoons "A" Company reach positions on Ridge as ordered. Major Templar arrived Repulse Bay Hotel with two lorries, 2 machine gun Detachments and 2 platoons with orders that "A" Company R.R.C. to come under his command and proceed to JARDINE'S LOOKOUT. "A" Company (less 2 platoons) moved off to carry out this order.

17. 1530 hrs. Officer Commanding Advance Guard wounded and command turned over to 2/Lieut. Edwards.

18. 1700 hrs. Enemy light tanks approach along road from Tai Tam towards Stanley and were taken on by Advance Guard on road and machine gun from Bridge and Notting Hills. They retired after a brisk exchange of fire. We had some casualties. "A" Company took part in an attack on the Police Station Wong Nei Chong Gap at this time. Attack failed and they withdrew to Spanish Villa 250 yards in rear and prepared positions for defence.

19. 1800 hrs. "D" Company less one platoon retired from Bridge and Notting Hills and returned to Chung Hom Kok for the night. "C" Company took up defensive position in Palm Villa area. They were reinforced by one platoon "D" Company and 52 men of Headquarters Company under Captain Royal (C.S.M. Kerrigan). "B" Company to Stanley View for the night less 2 platoons and Lieut Languedoc and detachment of Headquarters Company which were in position on Stanley Mound area. Headquarters Company were all attached to other companies except 4 Platoon under Captain Clarke who were in reserve at Stanley View. Captain W. Royal and C.S.M. Kerrigan with Headquarters Company, No. 1, 2 and part of 6 Platoons attached to "C" Company, 30 men at Repulse Bay under Major Templar, Lieut Languedoc and part of 6 Platoon on Stanley Mound attached to "B" Company.

20. 1930 hrs. "A" Company received orders to send Lieut Johnston and Lieut Blaver Platoons to cut the catchment above the Ridge to stop the enemy from using it as a supply route. They moved off to this duty shortly before midnight.

21. 2000 hrs. Major Bishop and C.S.M. Kerrigan and party have lively skirmish with enemy on the main Island road in advance of Palm Villa.

22. All quiet during this period of 2000 to 2359 hrs.

Monday, Dec 22

The disposition of the Battalion at midnight 21-22 December was as follows:

Battalion Headquarters	at Stone Hill shelters
Headquarters Company	Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Platoons attached "C" Company No. 4 Platoon attached to "A" Company (one section only) No. 5 Platoon all casualties No. 6 Platoon Palm Villa (at 1200 hrs attached to "B" Company with 2, 3, 4, 5 sections)
"A" Company	No. 7 (less one section), 8 and 9 Platoons on Ridge and at Spanish Villa with a "C" Company platoon attached Headquarters and Reserve Platoon and 1 Section 7 Platoon at Repulse Bay Hotel and Eucliffe Castle.
"B" Company	Headquarters and two platoons Stanley View One platoon Stanley Mound One Platoon Stanley Hill West Slope
"C" Company	Headquarters and one platoon (Headquarters Company attached) Notting Hill One platoon Stone Hill One platoon Sugar Loaf One section Palm Villa
"D" Company	In the area Food Store, Chung Hom Kok.

At 0100 hrs the Commanding Officer held a conference at Battalion Headquarters. A message was received from Brigade Headquarters (which was located in a house just below the fork in the road running south to Stanley) that considerable movement of a large number of junks had been observed and that a JAPANESE Landing would probably be attempted either in Tai Tam Bay or Deepwater Bay. A General "Stand To" was ordered immediately. A few hours later information came through that they were Chinese only on the junks and the order to Stand Down was given.

Generally, all ranks of the Battalion were thoroughly tired out after the continuous movements of the proceeding day. Lack of sleep, climbing hills through difficult trails, preparing defensive positions, irregular and in some cases very meagre meals, all contributed to this condition.

Communication with "A" Company was cut off, but the "B", "C" and "D" Companies were in communication either by telephone, runner or dispatch rider with Battalion

Headquarters.

During the night the front – Notting Hill, Stone Hill, Stanley Mound was comparatively quiet. Snipers were active in certain areas but no casualties were reported. These snipers would crawl up under cover of darkness to positions within distance of one or two hundred yards would shoot several shots at silhouettes or other suitable targets and then disappear. The fieldcraft displayed was excellent. The 9.2 inch guns of Stanley Fort were firing intermittently all night, directly overhead, at mainland Japanese positions. Spasmodic artillery and mortar fire could be heard in the distance. Machine gun and small arms fire could be heard on the left flank – probably from the Ridge.

Details of the movements and engagements of each company during the day were as follows:

“A” Company. As previously noted this company was isolated from the rest of the Battalion. Orders were being received by the Officer Commanding from both Major Templar Royal Artillery (detailed by Brigadier Wallis to command this detachment) and also direct from Island Headquarters (Battle Box), which still had telephonic communication with Repulse Bay Hotel and houses in this area. 0010 hours on orders from Island Headquarters Lieut. C.D. Johnston with No.6 & 9 Platoons left the Ridge to occupy positions in the vicinity of the fork in the Island Bay / Repulse Bay Roads. They were ordered to cut the “Catchment” in the hill above this position as it was thought that the Japanese were using this as a means of moving troops and supplies.

0200 hrs. These platoons were ambushed and heavily attacked by the enemy. Lieut Johnston with No. 8 Platoon took up a position in Overbays House. No. 9 Platoon under Lieut Blaver were broken up and returned, some to Repulse Bay Hotel, the remainder to Spanish Villa..

0400 hours. Major C.A. Young received orders to occupy the Ridge and proceeded there with No. 7 Platoon less 1 section and 1 platoon of “C” Company (with Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company included) under command of Lieut. Scott “A” Company Reserve Platoon and one section No. 7 platoon remained at Repulse Bay Hotel.

0700 hrs. These two platoons occupied the Ridge under desultory fire from the Japanese.

1430 hrs. Lieut Johnston with No. 8 Platoon was ordered by telephone from General Headquarters to retire to Repulse Bay Hotel. As they were under fire it was necessary to wait for cover of dusk when they proceed to return to the Hotel at 2000 hrs.

It was necessary for them to fight their way back and they suffered 8 killed during this move.

1600 hrs. A heavy Japanese attack was launched against the position on the Ridge supported by Mortar and Machine Gun fire. This attack was repulsed finally after 3 hours heavy fire from both sides.

2300 hrs. Major Young realizing that his position was rapidly coming untenable and that

no useful purpose was being served by this occupation withdrew to the Repulse Bay Hotel.

“B” Company.

All was quiet on this Company’s front until midday.

1200 hrs. Shelling and mortaring by Japanese commenced. The mortar fire being both heavy and accurate. This continued all afternoon with intermittent machine gun and all small arm fire and it was thought that the Jap were making preparation for an attack. In view of this Battalion Headquarters ordered one platoon from Headquarters Company and two platoons from “D” Company to reinforce “D” Company. The two platoons from “D” Company taking up position on Stanley Mound. During the afternoon, Lieut D.B. Languedoc, Headquarters Company was seriously wounded.

1800 hrs. Shelling and mortaring of positions ceased and the two platoons “D” Company were withdrawn to strengthen the centre of the Battalion frontage in the Stone Hill area.

1900 hrs. Tools and ammunition were delivered and all positions were strengthened.

2100 hrs. A Japanese attack was launched with heavy covering fire by machine gun and Mortars. The Jap advanced and attacked our positions with hand grenades and bayonets. Two or three separate attempts were repulsed. Lieut J.P. Ross commanding No. 12 Platoon was killed and Sergeant Bernard in command of the attached platoon from Headquarters Company severely wounded after directing his platoon in a conspicuously fearless and efficient manner all afternoon and night under heavy fire. Small arms ammunition had run short and only one Bren Gun remained in action. Finally the company was forced to evacuate their positions on the top of the mound and retired to new positions on the southern slope of the Mound.

“C” Company.

No engagement with the enemy with the exception of a small amount of small arm fire and sniping until midday.

1200 hrs. Heavy Jap attacks launched against Notting Hill and Sugar Loaf. Two Vickers machine guns of 1st Middlesex on Sugar Loaf captured by Japanese and 1 Vickers Machine Gun at Palm Villa had its gun crew wiped out. Captain W.A.B. Royal went forward under fire and took over the Palm Villa gun and put it back into action. The two guns on Sugar Loaf were recaptured by Sergeant Goodenough, Sergeant Roberts and Corporal Sannes. Corporal Sannes was killed and Corporal Goodenough although twice wounded kept the gun in action, driving the enemy to cover and making it possible to retake the lost ground by virtue of the covering fire. Sergeant Roberts seeing Major Bishop was wounded, showed conspicuous gallantry in going through a withering mortar barrage to go to his assistance. Major Bishop called for volunteers to storm Sugar Loaf and retake the position. Lieut K.L. Strang, C.S.M. Kerrigan, Sergeant W.R. Pope and a number of men volunteered. Three parties were formed and the positions were retaken by nightfall. Casualties during the afternoon, killed Sergeants Wonnacott and James, Corporals Sannes and Latimer – wounded: seven O.R.

“D” Company.

1030 hrs. Battalion Headquarters ordered one platoon to reinforce “C” Company and No. 16 Platoon was detailed and reported to Officer Commanding “C” Company.

1200 hrs. Battalion Headquarters ordered two platoons to reinforce “B” Company. Nos. 17, 18, 18R Platoons were detailed and took up their position on STANLEY MOUND. While occupying this position the following casualties were incurred. Killed – Corporal Fitzpatrick; wounded – Lieut McMillan, Riflemen D. Lawrence, S. Skelton and A. Lauriault.

1700 hrs. Under orders from Battalion Headquarters Nos. 17, 18, and 18R platoons withdrew from “B” Company and moved to Battalion Headquarters area Stone Hill. The Company then went into position in the Stone Hill area. The occupation of these positions took place during the night and early morning. Spasmodic enemy rifle fire took place in this area during the night but the company made no actual contact with the enemy.

General Remarks.

An incident occurred at Battalion Headquarters during the afternoon, which bears recording. At 1530 hrs, a sniper who had crawled down the ravine between “D” and “B” Companies fired at point blank range and hit Rifleman Labeouf who was unloading a truck on the road in front of Battalion Headquarters wounding him seriously. Sergeant D’Avignon seized a Tommy gun and after him firing several bursts but no trace of him was found.

Tuesday, Dec 23

Disposition of Battalion as at midnight 22-23 December:

Battalion Headquarters	at Stone Hill shelters
Headquarters Company	Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Platoons under command “C” Company No. 4 Platoon less one section and 6 Platoon less administrative staff under “B” Company
“A” Company	Plus one platoon “C” Company attached at Repulse Bay Hotel
“B” Company	Remnants of two platoons south and west slopes Stanley Mound One platoon west and Stone Hill, 1 platoon Stanley View.
“C” Company	Palm Villa
“D” Company	Stone Hill

During the night desultory machine gun fire and sniping continued with considerable enemy activity on the Repulse Bay front.

Artillery fire was arranged to commence at dawn on Stanley Mound followed by medium machine gun barrage in an attempt to dislodge the enemy who held the top of the hill, this was carried out and grass slopes set a fire.

Battalion Headquarters were in communication with “B”, “C” & “D” Companies but “A” Company was completely cut off. About 0800 hrs remnants of “A” Company began to trickle into Stone Hill area and reported they had received orders to retire independently to Stanley Village as the position at Repulse Bay Hotel had become untenable.

About the middle of the morning a conference was held between the Brigadier and the Commanding Officer and it was decided for tactical reasons to retire to new positions on the Stanley peninsular with one coy at Chung Hom Kok to protect the left flank. 2 IC Battalion reconnoitered positions during afternoon as follows:

Battalion Headquarters	Bungalow immediately in rear of St. Stephens College
Headquarters Company	Centre of Peninsular between Battalion Headquarters and College
“A” Company	Remnants on left of Headquarters Company
“B” Company	Chung Hom Kok
“C” Company	Narrowest part of peninsula and across the peninsula supported by detachments of No. 2 Company HKVDC and 1 st Middlesex
“D” Company	On right of Headquarters with flank on Tai Tam Bay

Orders were issued to companies for guides and to start thinning out at 1700 hrs and to be completed by 1800 hrs. The rear of the Battalion to be covered by “C” Company.

Order of retirement to new positions as follows:

1700 – 1800 hrs.

“A” Company remnants to Stanley Village

“B” Company to Chung Hom Kok

Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company to Stanley Village

“D” Company to Stanley Village

“C” Company to Stanley Village

Guides were waiting at Police Station in Stanley Village and the movement was carried out without interference by the enemy and with a minimum of confusion - Platoon of “B” Coy on Stone Hill retired through Stanley Village but did not reach Chung Hom Kok and platoon from Stanley View lost its way and finally ended up in Stanley Village - movement completed about 2000 hrs. Detailed movements and engagements of each company during the day were as follows:

“A” Company.

0100 to 0500 hrs, Lieut Johnston, No. 8 Platoon and Lieut McGreevy, No. 9R Platoon with about two platoons was ordered to retire from REPULSE BAY HOTEL to Stone Hill and thence to Stanley Village. This was accomplished by splitting up into small groups and infiltrating through enemy dominated territory.

Major Young with Lieuts Lister (No. 7 Platoon), Blaver (No. 9 Platoon) and Scott (No. 15R Platoon) and the balance of “A” Company and attached troops (About 100 O.R’s) proceeded to Eucliffe Castle and at 0500 hrs encountered strong Jap opposition. By 0600 hrs this party was ordered to split up into small groups and retire to Battalion area at Stone Hill. Major Young and 34 O.Rs. made their way by motor boat to H.M.S. Thracian aground in Repulse Bay arriving there under cover of darkness.

The reminder by various routes and with some loss made their way back to Stone Hill.

Lieuts Lyster and Scott were killed in the vicinity of Stanley Mound and Lieut Blaver swam across Repulse Bay to safety. Lieut McGreevy's platoon was attached to "B" Company, the remainder taking up positions in Stanley Village.

"B" Company.

0400 hrs orders received from Battalion Headquarters for counter attack on Stanley Mound following artillery and machine gun barrage. Lieut Thorn killed in early morning.

0630 hrs Artillery fire concentrated on Stanley Mound followed by machine gun fire, which finished about 0900 hrs. Attack was held up by enemy fire at Stanley View and no progress made in recapturing Stanley Mound.

1700 hrs retirement ordered to Chung Hom Kok about 65 all ranks under Captain Royal reached the Anti-aircraft Fort. 2 platoons missed way and finally landed at police station in Stanley village.

"C" Company

Exchange of fire during the day with enemy – Lieut. Ross Mortar Platoon did extremely good work in preventing any advance.

1800 hrs orders received from Battalion Headquarters to retire to Stanley Peninsula and to start thinning out at 1700 hrs.

The rear to be covered until "D" Company cleared Stone Hill. Rear Guard action successfully fought and Company took up new positions across narrowest part of Stanley Peninsula about 2000 hrs. Rest of night without incident.

"D" Company.

In same positions all day under fire, the Company withdrew at 1800 hrs under enemy machine gun fire and sniping to Stone Hill Shelters and thence to positions in Stanley Village. The movement being completed by 2030 hrs. Nothing further happened during the night.

Wednesday, Dec 24

Weather fine.

0001 hrs the Battalion less elements of "A" Company which were on the RIDGE west of MIDDLE SPUR and elements of "B" Company which were on the CHUNG HOM KOK Peninsular, had now withdrawn to the STANLEY PENINSULAR, the positions occupied by the Battalion Headquarters and the companies were as mentioned in the War Diary for the previous night. There was some considerable shelling and machine gun in Pillboxes manned by the Middlesex kept up a lively exchange of fire with the enemy in the hills who were on STONE HILL and STANLEY MOUND, etc.

"A" Company.

About midnight Major Young with 54 other ranks Canadians and British got in a motor boat and arrived at Round Island and got aboard the Thracian and remained there until the morning of the 24th. About 2100 hrs Corporal Mulrooney and Lance Corporal Weldon of the RRC volunteered to go to STANLEY FORT in a little boat which they were able to paddle and convey a message that the personnel on board the Thracian would arrive the following night.

“B” Company (As attached)

(Lieut. MacDougall) At 0300 hrs on the 24th I found Captain Denison in Stanley View where he was suffering from extreme exhaustion and directed him back to Battalion Headquarters with Sergeant D’Avignon and then mustered all “B” Company that could be found under Sergeant Dissing. From 0600 to 2000 hrs under constant fire. Regiment moved back to STANLEY FORT for 48 hours rest, and some time later the Japanese started to attack STANLEY VILLAGE. Approximately 0300 hrs I returned to Battalion Headquarters and reported to the Officer on duty Major J.H. Price, and that as Officer Commanding “B” Company and Platoons commanded by Lieut. D’Avignon and Sergeant Russell were not in position at CHUNG HOM KOK (As detailed to Brigade Commander) we were to consider the positions very lightly held. With Captain F. Royal in command, with a few members of “B” Company and Lieut McGreevy with approximately 20 of “C” Company and Battalion Headquarters - were on CHUNG HOM KOK. Major Price notified Lieutenant Colonel Home of this. On the Commanding Officer’s instructions Major Price advised Brigade Headquarters.

About 1000 hrs Lieutenant Colonel Home accompanied by Major Price went to Brigade Headquarters, which was established in the Officers’ Mess at STANLEY PRISON. Here a discussion took place regarding the situation and Lieutenant Colonel Home insisted that the Battalion should be relieved otherwise he would not be responsible for what would happen. Telephone communication with Command Headquarters was in operation and Lieutenant Colonel Home had a telephone conversation with General Maltby at which it was decided that the unit would be relieved that night and would go back into STANLEY FORT to rest up.

The unit was relieved that night by elements of the Middlesex and of the HKVDC. The last remnants of R.R.C. arriving back in STANLEY FORT about 2300 hrs. After the above conference, Major Price was detailed to proceed to STANLEY FORT to arrange details for the arrival of the Battalion. After receiving orders regarding the withdrawal to STANLEY FORT a conference was held of Company Commanders at Battalion Headquarters about 1500 hrs when orders were issued for the withdrawal.

0001 Hours. Captain Royal, in command of remnants of 12 and 12R Platoons with Lieut McGreevy and a composite Platoon from “A” Company (about 86 all ranks), occupying a defensive position in Anti-aircraft Fort situated between STANLEY VIEW and CHUNG HOM KOK PENINSULAR.

0200 Hours (Approximately)

Officer Commanding Company reports to Battalion Headquarters at Bungalow, St. Stephens College that 10 and 11 Platoons have failed to report at the appointed company rendezvous on CHUNG HOM KOK PENINSULAR. Battalion Commander informs Company Commander that 10 and 11 Platoons are present in STANLEY VILLAGE.

Battalion Commander then informs Brigade Commander of the disposition of “B” Company and Brigade Commander arranges for a guiding party (C.S.M. Ovary and party, 1st Middlesex Regiment) to lead Nos. 10 and 11 Platoons from Stanley Village to CHUNG HOM KOK PENINSULAR S.P. Police Station, Time 0400 hrs?)

These two platoons reported at the S.P. at 0530 hrs and set out for their objective at 0600 hrs - the plan being to reach CHUNG HOM KOK under cover of darkness. In about 30 minutes C.S.M. Ovary returned to STANLEY VILLAGE accompanied by the two platoons with the report that due to the advent of daylight it was impossible to lead the party to C.H.KOK as it necessitated crossing an open area, which was being swept by enemy machine gun fire. C.S.M. Ovary made this report to Brigade Headquarters. Officer Commanding Battalion then ordered 10 and 11 Platoons to remain in STANLEY VILLAGE where they took up a defensive position immediately East of the Police Station – Company Headquarters in the Police Station.

0445 Hours. Enemy patrol driven from ANTI-AIRCRAFT FORT. At dawn Captain Royal transfers his command to a defensive position a short distance from the ANTI-AIRCRAFT FORT. Very little activity in this vicinity during the day.

1600 Hours (?). Company Commander called to a Company Commanders Meeting at Battalion Headquarters by Battalion Commander (Brigadier Wallis, INDIAN ARMY, COMMANDING OFFICER EAST BRIGADE was at the Conference). Orders were issued for the Battalion to be relieved of their present positions by H.K.V.D.C. troops and other Imperial troops. The R.R.C. troops in the STANLEY VILLAGE AREA to withdraw to STANLEY FORT to reorganize and obtain some rest (no R.R.C. personnel had had any rest night or day for a period of 5 consecutive days). The relief took place at dusk and was successful except for Captain Royal's command on CHUNG HOM KOK where the relieving H.K.V.D.C. troops were ambushed by the enemy with the result that "B" Company personnel were not able to retire from CHUNG HOM KOK to STANLEY FORT.

Thursday, Dec 25

Weather fine. After being relieved the remnants of the unit proceeded to Stanley Fort to obtain a night's rest and respite from the incessant fighting that had been going on insofar as the regiment was concerned without any let up from the early evening of the 18th. Men and officers were falling asleep anytime they weren't in motion and whenever a subunit halted for a minute or so individuals had to be kicked awake again. By about 2300 hrs the 24th the last strugglers had come into the FORT and the men had been allotted sleeping space in the empty barrack rooms and garage, the officers occupying evacuated officers married quarters.

About 0230 hrs Lieutenant Colonel Home was called t. the phone by the BRIGADIER who ordered him to occupy the high ground immediately north of the FORT and overlooking STANLEY PRISON, STANLEY VILLAGE and the approaches to the FORT from the NORTH. Although the troops had not had over 3 to 4 hours rest the BRIGADIER stated this course was necessary as the enemy were attacking in STANLEY VILLAGE and there was grave danger of a break through.

The Officer Commanding "C" Company MAJOR BISHOP was ordered to comply with above order and about 0400 hrs had established his Headquarters at the OFFICERS CLUB with platoons in position overlooking the high ground to the NORTHEAST NORTH and NORTHWEST of his headquarters.

The remainder of the Battalion obtained their night's rest and a scratch meal was served at 0800 hrs.

No attack developed during the day against the FORT. During the morning "C" COMPANY was visited by LIEUTENANT COLONEL HOME accompanied by RIFLEMAN F. MCCOLM and apart from intermittent shelling and rifle fire these hours passed very quietly.

Advantage was taken of the lull to re-organize the unit and a new "A" Company was built up under CAPTAIN C.E. PRICE and HEADQUARTERS COMPANY under CAPTAIN CLARK. The latter company being organized as a rifle unit, but Signals and Mortar Platoons remained intact. The "A" Company was organized with LIEUT JOHNSTON in command of No. 7 Platoon, LIEUT BLAVER No. 8 Platoon and LIEUT MACMILLAN with No. 9 Platoon. The Headquarters Company consisted of

This reorganization was necessary as by this time the OFFICER COMMANDING HEADQUARTERS COMPANY had been wounded and evacuated. "A" Company proper or what was left of it were the day on board the THRACIAN or later on at LAMMA ISLAND and "B" Company remnants were at CHUNG HOM KOK? Actually "C" and "D" Companies were the only Companies still intact although reduced by losses.

About 3000 hrs the BRIGADIER issued orders that one company was to attack the bungalows on the RIDGE in STANLEY VILLAGE. These being the ones that the unit had been occupying up to 2100 hrs the previous night and which had been taken over by the Middlesex Regiment when they relieved the unit but which had since been lost by them.

The BRIGADIER stated that this attack would be supported by Artillery fire but as similar promises had been made on previous occasions by him but had not been kept. Lieutenant Colonel HOME protested against such attack in day light as most likely being unproductive of any results but additional Canadian casualties. The Brigadier was however adamant and in consequences such an order "D" Company under the command of MAJOR PARKER was given the task.

As the unit was not familiar with the terrain a guide was supplied by Brigade to lead "D" Company to the STANLEY PRISON from which point the attack was to be launched. About 1330 hrs "D" Company commenced the attack supported by any Artillery or additional fire support. In about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour the attack had come to a halt the Company suffering as foreseen terrible casualties amounting to 26 killed and 75 wounded and without having dislodged the enemy from their positions in the bungalows. About 1700 hrs after having collected their wounded "D" Company returned to STANLEY FORT.

The remnants of "A" Company under MAJOR C.A. YOUNG with 9 additional personnel from various English units totaling 34 O.R. spent all of this day abroad the Thracian, which was aground at Beaufort Island.

During the afternoon of the 25th the premises of the OFFICERS CLUB "C" Company's

Headquarters was heavily shelled. When "C" Company occupied this building there were protests from the Officer Commanding STANLEY FORT defenses that this was an OFFICERS CLUB and should not be occupied. However, this was disregarded.

About 1600 hrs heavy shelling of the FORT COMMENCED and lasted well over an hour. About 1630 hrs the Brigadier ordered that another Company was to move down the main STANLEY VILLAGE ROAD on the West side of the peninsular or the opposite side to the one "D" Company had taken with the purpose of holding the line in front or on the north edge of the FORT.

As this road was in full view of the ENEMY from STANLEY MOUND about years away to attempt to move in daylight along this road meant addition casualties without any hope of attaining any results.

The newly reorganized "A" Company was given this task and moved off about 1800 hrs. As elements of the leading platoon were passing the entrance to the FORT where the road was in full view the JAPANESE commenced shelling and immediately inflicted casualties amounting to 6 killed and 12 wounded. About this time all enemy firing ceased as a motorcar flying white flags came up the slope in the road towards the entrance to the Fort. In this car was LIEUTENANT COLONEL LAMB and LIEUT PRIOR who informed the Brigadier that an armistice had been in effect since about 1500 hrs that day when the cease fire went. Up to this time word had not been received of any armistice the reason for this not being known it is assumed that the telephone communication had broken down.

Meanwhile the remnants of "B" Company along with some details of No. 2 Company HKVDC were being all this day pressed by the enemy at CHUNG HOM KOK.

Brigadier Wallis after conferring with Lieutenant Colonel Lamb circulated word that effective immediately all firing would cease and that the unit would not fire unless attacked.

Re. "A" and "D" Companies withdrawal into the Fort at 2200 hours, the casualties suffered by these two companies for the day amounted to 32 killed and 87 wounded.