

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in F.S. Regs. Vol. 1.

Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

M.F.M. 11
A.F.C. 2118
1 Mil.-5-40 (5212)
H.Q. 1772-39-1658

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to O. i/c 2nd Echelon for disposal.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
BUSSUM 2311 Sheet 361 Holland 1/25,000	SEP		WAR DIARY - WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGT 1 Sep 45 - 30 Sep 45.	
	1	2000	<p>Cloudy during the morning, becoming fair in the afternoon.</p> <p>An enjoyable officers' dance was held tonight at a dance hall on the main street of Bussum. A local orchestra provided excellent dancing music. This was really a "farewell" dance, the last social event for the "younger set" among our many civilian friends.</p>	
	2		<p>Protestant and RC Church parades were held this morning, the weather being fine and warm. This was the last church parade to be held by the unit as such in the field.</p> <p>During the afternoon the officers' mess was the scene of a farewell garden party, as the officers' "billetors" and other friends gathered for an informal afternoon and evening. A local gentleman among the guests, Mr Spliethoff, entertained the gathering with a display of sleight-of-hand.</p>	
	3		<p>Stationary stores of HQ 3 Cdn Inf Bde were turned in this afternoon with the West NSR.</p> <p>The "Old Eight Army Dogs" with the unit remembered that this was the second anniversary of the West NSR landing at Reggio in Italy.</p> <p>The £287-17-10 cash in the West NSR funds was today turned over to the field cashier. The receipt for the same is attached as app 4(a).</p> <p>Major H M Eisenhower motored to Nijmegen to receive instructions from 4 Bn CBRD concerning the West NSR's arrival on 5 Sep 45.</p>	
4		<p>The weather was fair and warm. Preparations were made today for the move out on the morrow</p> <p>Some of the unit stores will be dropped from the convoy at the dumps in the Arnhem area.</p> <p>After attending a party at the caravan of Lt-Col J Aird Nesbitt at HQ 3 Cdn Inf Bde, Major C F Whynacht was struck off strength of the unit to the Cdn Occupational Forces, thus ending six years of valuable and faithful service with the West NSR.</p> <p>Capt D I Rice, a former coy comd of West NSR and of late A/DAA&QMG at HQ 3 Cdn</p>		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
		2000	<p>Inf Bde, returned to the West NSR today for the return to Canada. With him came Captain Ross Lent, Camp Commandant of HQ 3 Cdn Inf Bde. Captain Clarence Spence also returned to the bn from HQ 1 Cdn Div.</p> <p>All tps were confined to the bn area until the billets were thoroughly cleaned for the move.</p> <p>A number of officers of the bn were guests at the home of Dr Westerhuis where Major W W Mair has been billeted. These small parties on the eve of our departure were no doubted duplicated in many homes throughout the town of Bussum where officers and other ranks had been so cordially received during the bn's stay in Bussum.</p>	
		5	<p>Everyone was up bright and early as this was one move none wanted to miss. A total of 48 troop-carrying vehicles reported to the bn. They were split into sections as follows: 13 were used for A and B Coys with Captain Lynch of A Coy in charge; 13 were used for C and D Coys with Captain C H Smith in charge; 10 were made ready at 1700 hrs and guided by Lt L L Clements to the Sp Coy area; 8 remained at Bn HQ for Bn HQ and HQ Coy personnel; 2 were used for baggage, and 2 were used to convey the cooks (RCASC personnel) to 13 Bn CBRD.</p> <p>Lt R W Spurr was left behind with a rear party to ensure cleanliness in the area, with instructions to move to Nijmegen later in the day.</p> <p>Each sub-convoy was timed to depart the bn area at 15 minute intervals beginning at 0730 hrs. There was a roar of many motors as each convoy set out, while many Dutch lasses homeward sobbed their weary way. Lt-Col J Aird Nesbitt, A/Comd 3Cdn Inf Bde; Major P Lambert; BM; and Captain Sharp, Bde Staff Capt, were present to witness the West NSR departure, in spite of some light rain. Major W W Mair was also present to say farewell, as he is now SOS West NSR, and is proceeding to HQ CFN as Camp Commandant, with the rank of A/Lt-Col. He will succeed Lt-Col R D King, DSO, ED, a former comd of the West NSR (1943).</p>	
		1000 1200	<p>On arrival at 4 Bn in Nijmegen the tps were dismounted at the horseshoe-shaped entrance to the camp, and were guided to their quarters. Everyone is confined to the camp until our departure, which is expected to be on Friday evening, 7 Sep 45.</p> <p>A unit clerk and a representative from 2 nd Echelon had an office set up in a tent in the West NSR lines. Captain A J W Dyer, Adjt West NSR, and the Orderly Room clerk reported to them on arrival.</p>	

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1 Mil.-5-40 (5242)

H.Q. 1772-39-1658

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
		1500	<p>The cooks did not go to 13 CBRD pool as planned but were dropped off at the catering pool at Arnhem on later instructions.</p> <p>A muster parade of West NSR (which has now become a serial CU 388) was held on a road adjoining the camp.</p> <p>Cinema shows were provided for evening entertainment, although they were very overcrowded due to the large number of tps in camp. The officers were quartered in the Officers' Mess Bldg.</p> <p>H/Captain Gordon Darrach, who had been our Protestant padre since 13 Jul 45 was SOS the bn on the departure from Bussum. He left (he later wrote) with two strong impressions of the unit: 1. The friendliness and strong support of the officers in the Mess, and 2. the high moral of the men and the good reports he received of them from the people of Bussum.</p>	
NIJMEGEN	6	1000	<p>The weather was fair and cloudy.</p> <p>Major H M Eisenhower, OC Serial CU 388, attended a conference at the tent of Lt-Col Flynn, OC 4 Bn CBRD. The CO of the PLDG party which is expected to accompany the West NSR to England, was also present. Lt-Col Flynn informed these officers that on arrival in England the PLDG would go the Whitley Camp, while the West NSR would go to No 8 Cdn Repat Depot at Crookham X-rds. The move will be from Nijmegen to Ostend, and then across the Channel to Dover.</p> <p>Lt-Col Flynn stressed discipline in camp, and the need for following parade schedules closely.</p> <p>Lt-Col J Aird Nesbitt was on paper today struck off strength HQ 3 Cdn Inf Bde and posted to West NSR. After a leave on the Continent he is expected to rejoin the bn in England.</p> <p>Captain Gordon Lynch, the senior captain with the draft, was named as A/2IC of serial CU 388 by Major H M Eisenhower.</p>	
		2000	<p>Major H M Eisenhower, Captains A J W Dyer and C H Smith, and Lt R W Spurr were guests at a small informal party given by Lt-Col A L Saunders, a former comd of the West NSR in Italy, and now commanding a near-by base unit.</p>	
	7	0830	<p>The West NSR personnel were paraded and all living quarters checked for cleanliness. Personnel were allowed to each order 900 cigarettes, and a parade of this purpose was</p>	

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1 Mil.—3-40 (5242)
H.Q. 1772-30-1658

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
			<p>held at 1000 hrs.</p> <p>Due to the congestion caused by incoming tps at 4 Bn CBRD, West NSR was embussed in the early evening and conveyed to a nearby camp, where officers and men were quartered for the night.</p>	
	8	1400	<p>The day was spent quietly in the new area, with nearby military cinemas affording some recreation. Officers and Men joined in several softball games during the afternoon. Major H M Eisenhower attended an O Gp at HQ 4 Bn CBRD, where orders were issued for the move to Ostend. A special train will be provided for West NSR and PLDG (HQ Sqdn). Major Eisenhower will be OC train. Tpt to take the units to the ry siding will report at 1830 hrs, and all West NSR should be at the siding by 1845 hrs. This siding is about 1 mile from 4 Bn CBRD. The special train is to depart at 2000-2010 hrs. Haversack lunches for personnel are to be picked up at 2 Wing Orderly Room about 1700 hrs. Tea dixies are to be placed in each coach, and a control officer and medical orderly will accompany the train.</p>	
		1830	<p>The move to the train was carried out according to the above instructions. There was some confusion at the sidings in directing the tpt to the proper debussal places. However, everyone was entrained long before the scheduled time of departure. The train, like most tp trains, was quite crowded, and when the train pilled out shortly after 2010 hrs, everyone settled down to get as much sleep as circumstances permitted.</p>	
OSTEND	9	0300	<p>After a long ride through the quite dark night, the train carrying the West NSR draft finally halted at Ostend, where the tps were debussed and ordered off on the march, following guides supplied by the reception camp to which we were conducted, a few hundred yds from the station. Officers and Men were shown to their quarters, and one officer was posted on Orderly Offr duty.</p>	
	10	1000	<p>Muster parade of all West NSR was held and each man was given his CFA 154, his "passport" to Blighty.</p>	
		1300	<p>West NSR personnel marched to the docks nearby, where a passenger boat was waiting to convey the bn to England. The embarking was without incident, and the small passenger ship left port almost at once. Major Eisenhower was called to the ship's Orderly Room, where instructions were given for discipline and feeding during the crossing. The Channel</p>	

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1 Mil.-5-40 (3242)
H.Q. 1772-30-1678

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
CROOKHAM CROSSROADS	11	1800	<p>was a bit rough and the visibility limited, but everyone was in high spirits, and the voyage of a few hours passed quickly.</p> <p>It was nearing dusk as the ship docked at Dover and the tps were at once disembarked. The men's eqpt was left on the dock while they were guided by the provost to a bldg near at hand where a meal was supplied. After this supper of rather diluted but still quite edible stew, the West NSR was entrained, and was soon speeding towards the Aldershot Area. One halt was made en route at about midnight and hot tea was provided with cake in the usual efficient manner by what was probably a civilian volunteer org.</p>	
		0230	<p>The West NSR train pulled into a small siding near Crook ham X-rds. It was quite dark and a light rain was falling. The CO of the No 8 Cdn Repat Depot, Lt-Col Bjorn, was himself on hand w'ith officers of his staff to make us welcome, and the tps were conveyed at once to the 8 Repat Depot, where they were debussed on the parade square and directed to their quarters by means of a loud-speaker mounted on a veh. Breakfast was served and all ranks settled down for a few hours sleep. The men were quartered in brick huts near the parade square. A similar hut was provided for the officers near the main offr's mess, while Major Eisenhower and Captain Lynch were invited to use the mess itself as living quarters.</p>	
		0830	<p>A muster parade of all ranks of the West NSR was held on the parade square. The weather was clear though quite damp. As each man was checked, small groups were directed to a nearby lecture room, where the mechanics of repatriation were explained and numerous forms filled in. A former coy comd of the West NSR in Italy, Capt (now A/Maj) John W K Smeltzer, visited the bn at this time. He is at present 2 IC of a Cdn Repat Depot.</p>	
		1100	<p>An orderly room for the West NSR draft was set up in a bldg near the men's linkes. Here Captain A J W Dyer and his staff worked in conjunction with staff offr's of the depot. The main task was to keep the nominal roll up to date and correct. A few absentees were crestfallen to find themselves struck from the roll after being away on a "frolic". Former West NSR NCOs and men pleaded in vain to join the bn. The roll must stand! About this time it was learned that West NSR is not to sail for Canada until 25 Sep 45. Preparations were at once made to send everyone on leave.</p>	
	12		<p>Practically everyone prepared to go on leave, and turning out leave warrants was the biggest admin job. Leave parties will be tpted to the station at Aldershot.</p>	

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1 Mil.—5-40 (5242)

H.Q. 1772-39-1058

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
	13 to 22		<p>The history of the West NSR during this period is that of each officer and man scattered to all corners of the United Kingdom, some making the last rounds of the pubs in London; some waiting for lady friends under the "horse" on Prince St. in Edinborough; others, your recorder included, taking the opportunity of visiting the rugged country of Wales. Trains, as always, were crowded and meals were poor, but this was the country we had learned to love in our three years of coast-watching during its greatest peril. And as for the weather for this period, a <u>must</u> in most War Diaries, as the French might say, "Qu'importe?".</p>	
	21		<p>Lt-Col J Aird Nesbitt, OC West NSR, arrived at 8 Cdn Repat Depot during the leave period. He will not return to Canada with the West NSR, however, although he will remain here until the bn's departure.</p> <p>Lt L R Kingston obtained the West NSR band instruments, sports eqpt, etc, which had been left behind in England, and his QM Staff prepared them for shipment to Canada. One radio, a large box of books and games, and 12 music stands were turned over from the West NSR to the Auxilliary Services' Supervisor (Mr Hartley) 8 Cdn Repat Depot. Appx 4 (b).</p>	
	22		<p>As this was the day on which all tps were to report back from leave, scores of men returned to billets. There was little other activity.</p>	
	23		<p>Today was spent in checking personnel and nominal rolls.</p>	
	24		<p>Lt-Col J Aird Nesbitt, Major H M Eisenhauer, and Captain Gordon Lynch motored to the repat depto north of Portsmouth from which the Carl & York were departing for Canada under Major E D Horsey, and wished the bn a "bon voyage!"</p>	
	25		<p>The weather was fine. The morning was spent in the cleaning of billets and last minute preparations for the West NSR departure.</p>	
		1300	<p>The entire West NSR draft was assembled on the parade square for a last minute muster parade and a complete check of the nominal roll. The parade was arranged</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
		1530	<p>alphabetically to facilitate embarking at Southampton.</p> <p>The tpt was driven on to the parade square and instructions were given by loud-speaker for embussing and for debussing at the ry siding. Each man had been issued with a box ration for the train journey. The draft was divided into two parties for the train journey, with about 100 men left at the depot to leave for Southampton about midnight 25/26 Sep. This portion of the draft was under comd Lt R W Spurr. Lt Neil Fox remained with him.</p>	
		1600	<p>The draft was embussed and conveyed to the ry siding about a mile away, where everyone was debussed and immediately entrained. Lt-Col Bjorn and Lt-Col Nesbitt were among the officers present to see the bn off. The train left for Southampton immediately, and with everyone in top spirits the 2 hour trip to Southampton passed quickly.</p>	
		1800	<p>On arrival at Southampton the train ran onto the docks so that the tps were debussed only about 200 ft from the liner Ile de France, which was to take them to Canada. An efficient system of embarking the tps had been set up by the embarkation staff, and in perhaps $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after detraining everyone was embarked. The officers' quarters were dispersed on A Deck for the most part, while the rank and file were in the hammock decks below.</p>	
AT SEA SOUTHAMPTON DOCK	26	0230	<p>The remaining West NSR personnel under Lt R W Spurr arrived at Southampton and were embarked on the Ile de France. A few hours later the Ile de France left Southampton for Canada.</p> <p>Auxiliary Services' entertainment was provided on the ship, chiefly for the other ranks who were in the more crowded quarters below. Films were shown in the mess rooms in the evenings. Because of the large number of tps on board only two meals a day were served, and each meal required four sittings. As the morning meal was very substantial, the noon-hour fast produced no hardship, especially as the more resourceful often conveyed stores of edibles to their quarters.</p> <p>The officers had similar eating arrangements and amused themselves in the officers' lounge, which was always crowded. Bridge was by far the most popular game. All ranks spent a good deal of the time on the decks during the voyage.</p>	
AT SEA	27	1700	<p>A meeting of all the officers commanding tps on board was held on the</p>	

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1 Mil.—5-40 (524)

H.Q. 1772-20-1658

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
			<p>mezzanine in the officers' lounge. The orders given included the information that Col Gwynne was OC ship; Capt Rutledge assistant Comd; Capt Cameron, Provost Marshal, etc. The ship was divided into 6 areas, 5 of which were under comd of Cdn Lt-Cols. Fresh water was limited. An officer in charge was to be named for each officers' cabin. Boat drill will be held every day and senior officers will be deck comds, while junior officers will be section comds and bring the men up from their compartments. Boat drill will be held at 1130 hrs daily. Major H M Eisenhower will be in charge of the Fwd Prom Deck (Port) for boat drill purposes.</p>	
	28		<p>Although the weather would not be described by an experienced seaman as "rough" there was a considerable sea during most of the voyage, and quite a number of seasick cases resulted. The most trying time of day was during boat drill when many unsteady stomachs tried to brave the $\frac{1}{2}$ hour on deck. Many others managed to reach the dining room and force down a meal, and then were forced to rush back to their quarters to assume the horizontal.</p>	
	29		<p>The Ile de France is now about $\frac{1}{2}$ way across the Atlantic and expects to reach Halifax in the evening of 1 Oct 45. Even the oldest veterans are beginning to realize that it isn't just a dream.</p>	
	30	1600	<p>A meeting of all officers comd drafts was held in the cabin of the OC ship. West NSR is to disembark immediately on arrival in Halifax tomorrow evening, it was learned.</p> <p>The weather was more calm today.</p> <p>APPX 4 (A) Attached A PPX 4 (B) Attached</p>	