

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.

WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11
40/P & G/37 (9/42)

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Title pages will be prepared.

WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGT

(Erase heading not required)

Oct 43

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
PALAZZO 661609	1		Appointments - no change from those listed for 13 Sep 43 in last volume of Diary. West N S R remained in the PALAZZO area all 1 Oct. At an O Gp at Bn HQ at 0800 hrs Lt col Bogert outlined the general plan of adv of 1 CDN Div. Orders were received late in the day for West N S R to move to the area of LUCERA (R J1123) on 2 Oct.	<i>Hme</i> APP 1(a) Movement order
	2	0745 1645	West N S R embusses and crosses Bn SP at 0830 hrs (SP - rd and track junc 684607) having been delayed while Sask L I cleared. Apart from several diversions the adv went well, and about noon the coln passed through CANOSA and on to CERIGNOLA and FOGGIA. Before reaching FOGGIA a very heavy rain enveloped the coln for about 15 minutes. West N S R reached the area of LUCERA and bivouaced about two miles SW of the town (085203). No further move on 2 Oct, but bn warned of possibility of early move on 3 Oct.	<i>Hme</i>
LUCERA 085203	3	0600	West N S R received warning order to be on one hour's notice from 0700 hrs 3 Oct. LOBs and B Ech will remain in present area following any move by West NSR. No move occurred, however, on 3 Oct. During the last hours of the day another severe electrical storm passed over the area. Intelligence Summary.....	<i>Hme</i> APP 1 (b) Movement order APP 1 (c)
	4	0745	Lt col Bogert and IO attend an O Gp at HQ 3 CDN Inf Bde, followed by a recce to the area VOLTURARA (8721), then held by 48 Highrs, while the RCR was preparing to attack S MARCO (8425) at 1400 hrs. Brig Penhale and the recce party studied the ground to the West from the high feature 8923, returning to LUCERA at noon. At 1400 hrs Lt col Bogert discussed the existing situation with coy comds at Bn HQ. Maj G L F McNeil received congratulations on being awarded the MC, subject to the final approval by HIS MAJESTY the KING. F39750 Pte J King (stretcher-bearer) awarded the MM.	<i>Hme</i>
	5		No move for West N S R today. Carlt & York Regt acting as firm base in area 8923. On 5 Oct R22eR went fwd and attacked South of the main highway to the line of the river FORUGRE near GAMBATEA. At 1330 hrs coy comds were "kept in touch" with the situation by Lt col Bogert. Int Summary.....	<i>Hme</i> APP 1 (d)

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LUCERA	6	0500	Lt col Bogert, IO, and coy comds go fwd to HQ 3 CDM Inf Bde at 918210. West NSR at 0800 hrs began to move West in TCVs, while coy comds were allotted their respective areas for the defense of VOLTURARA, West NSR having been ordered to hold the area as a firm base. The areas selected were: Bn HQ, 887216; A Coy, 877224; B Coy, 882220; C Coy, 874227; D Coy, 880230. The bn was in posn by 1100 hrs.	Hmg
887216 VOLTURARA		1300	Lt col Bogert was called to Bde HQ, where he received warning order for a bde attack across the FORTORE on 7 Oct 43. Lt col Bogert and IO immediately proceeded to a RV at 860207, where Brig Penhale issued orders for an attack to begin at 0730 hrs on the following morning. Carlt & York Regt will attack on the rt, West N S R on the left, to secure the high ground South of GAMBATESA. Following the O Gp a recce was made from the area 800250, where Lt col Lane, 1 Cdn Fd Regt, RCA, discussed the arty plan with unit comds. Coy comds West NSR were given orders for the attack at this point at 1630 hrs. Briefly the plan was: A Coy to attack rt, B Coy left, securing the feature pt 550 (7522); C Coy to follow at 15 min interval, Bn HQ attacking with C Coy, and D Coy to follow C Coy at 15 min interval. When the first objective was reached the bn would push on to the high ground around pt 700, about 1000 yds farther West. While this recce was in progress, West NSR was moving to area 870198 in TCVs, and by 1930 hrs was concentrated on M S ANGELO (870207) Movement order,	
M S ANGELO 870207	7	0300	West NSR moves off en route to a forming up place near the FORTORE river (800250). By first light the bn was forming up free from enemy observation. One man was wounded by an enemy shell, several of which were fired at random. At 0700 hrs our arty began concs on enemy posns across the FORTORE, culminating in a "stonk" along the river bank at 0715 hrs. Zero was at 0730 hrs, at which time A and B Coys began to cross 100 yds of open river bed under heavy MG fire from enemy posns near the opposite bank. Enemy shells and 20 mm AA/A tk MG fire added to the din, while from the home bank the welcome chatter of the Sask LI MGs disturbed the enemy's small arms fire to such an extent that the leading coys, in fact the whole bn, crossed the river bed without a casualty. By 0930 hrs all coys were making good progress uphill on the west bank of the river. Wet, heavy, clinging ploughed earth made progress difficult. Scattered LMG posts continued to fire on the leading tps. At pt 550 on the rd from GAMBATESA to TUFARA one four-barrelled 20 mm gun, one single 20mm gun, one lorry, one MG, and 6 prisoners were captured, and one of the enemy was killed. Capt C L Putnam, HQ Coy Comd, answering the ringing of	APP 1 (e) Hmg

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GAMBATESA	10	1000	Brig M H S Penhale visited HQ West NSR and at 1045 hrs he and Brig Vokes, acting GOC 1 Cdn Div, visited the OP in B Coy area. R22eR had meanwhile secured the area of the rd junc near RICCIA(633234) At 1230 hrs Brig Penhale ordered West NSR to move fwd to an assembly area near this rd junc preparatory to an attack on the town of JELSI.	Hme
		1300	At an O Gp at Bn HQ Lt col Bogert issued orders for the adv. Capt F H Burns attended as comd B Coy, Capt Cameron having been wounded on 7 Oct. At 1330 hrs Lt col Bogert, IO, and coy comds proceed to HQ R22eR(709231), arriving 1645 hrs, the remainder of the bn meanwhile moving fwd on foot. At 1900 hrs the recce party was taken to the area of the rd junc by vehicles of the lt arty regt from 1 Airborne Div, the lt regt being in support of West NSR for the coming attack. Lt col Bogert decided to remain in the area of the rd junc 633234, rather than move the bn fwd to a posn which was overlooked by the enemy. West N S R arrived in the area about midnight and bivouaced about 637235.	
RICCIA RD 633234	11	0630	Lt col Bogert issued orders for an attack ^{ADVANCE} on the high ground West of JELSI. 0800 hrs Bn forms up immediately south of the rd junc, and at 0830 hrs proceeded toward the river running South from JELSI. The enemy immediately began to shell the open ground over which West NSR was advancing but little damage was done until the leading coy(C) came under LMG fire near the river bed at 660230. This area was then heavily shelled. The 22-set was put out of action, and later the 22-set of the lt arty regt comd was also damaged, severing all wireless comm with Bde HQ. Nearly all mules of the 3 inch mortar detachments were killed, in spite of which the detachments carried on in the heavy enemy shellfire. Lt Williams, D Coy, was killed. The MO, Capt Fletcher, was wounded in the leg, but carried on; Lt Rice, B Coy, was also wounded. While C and D Coys were engaged on the left, B Coy crossed the river on the right, and pushed on to the high ground beyond, followed by A Coy and Bn HQ, after which C and D Coys crossed easily. It was now well afternoon, heavy mist covered the area, and the bn was nearing the heights of Mt GILDONE instead of the high ground immediately West of JELSI (pt 705). Due to lack of observation and approaching darkness the bn re-organised and dug in on the high ground near 641220. The night was wet and comfortless; occasional bursts of German LMG fire were heard. R22eR moved through West NSR during the night to secure the area of Mt GILDONE.	Hme
MT GILDONE 641220	12	0700	Morale came up with the sun. Lt col Bogert gave orders to coy comds to move at 0800 hrs to the original objectives nearer JELSI. This was done without any opposition from	Hme

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JELSI 654235	12	(Contd)	the enemy and by 0930 hrs the bn was in posn: Bn HQ, 654235; A Coy, 680245; B Coy, 652245; C Coy, 641231; D Coy, 649230. Jeeps and ration vehs crossed the diversion near JELSI before noon. During the afternoon orders were received to move coys to a posn nearer GILDONE. A, C, and D Coys moved fwd and by 2000 hrs were in new areas: A Coy, 680245; B Coy, 615245; D Coy, 630235. About 1730 hrs Capt C B Higgins and Capt C L Putnam were both badly wounded while burying the dead from the previous day near the river bed (660235a). Course "12 Oct-1 off, 5 ORs killed, 3 off 38 ORs wounded	Hmg
JELSI	13		Lt J C McNeil, A Coy, assumes the duties of adjt. 1300 hrs - Lt col Bogert proceeds to Bde HQ. At 1400 hrs LOBs and B Ech arrive in A Ech area near rd junc 637234, and Maj R S E Waterman, 2 ic, reports to Lt col Bogert. Due to congestion on the highway to the West, HQ West NSR did not move fwd on 13 Oct.	Hmg
GILDONE 636238	14	0900	Bn HQ moved fwd to new area one mile East of GILDONE, and at 1000 hrs B Coy was ordered to move fwd to pt 640 (636242). 1300 hrs - Lt col Bogert and IO visit HQ 3 Cdn Inf Bde. The bde will probably remain in the present area until 25 Oct 43, with some patrol commitments. At 1800 hrs Lt col Bogert attended a dinner at Bde HQ,	Hmg
	15	1130 1330	At a meeting of all offr Lt col Bogert stressed the necessity of checking arms, eqpt, and clothing during the period of rest. At 1230 hrs Brig Penhale and Brig T V Gibson visited HQ West NSR. Brig Gibson is now comd 3 Cdn Inf Bde. The tactical situation permitted concentration and West NSR was moved to a new area nearer JELSI: Bn HQ, 644235; A Coy, 644240; B Coy, 640240; C Coy, 633237; D Coy, 630235; Sp Coy and tpt, area 638229a	Hmg
JELSI 644235	16	0900	Lt col Bogert visits HQ 3 Cdn Inf Bde. At 1200 hrs, Lt Guy Withers, South African Air Force, arrived at HQ West NSR for a three-day attachment. During the day Supervisor James Losie opened a canteen in the Bn area for the sale of K of C and EPI comforts.	Hmg
	17	1100	RC church parade in Bn HQ area. At 1115 hrs all offr met at bn HQ to discuss changes in lt scale tpt to meet winter conditions. Lt col Bogert is a member of a senior offr's committee to investigate possible changes, and attended a meeting of this committee at	Hmg

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JELSI 644235	17	(Contd)	HQ 1 Cdn Div during the afternoon.	
	18	0930	West NSR sports day opened in B Coy area. These sports were all of a military pr semi-	APP 4 a Hone
		1830	military nature, providing a day of interest and amusement for all ranks. A picture show (Broadway Melody) was shown to all ranks at the K of C canteen.	
	19		Good use was made of the mobile bath during the day. 1100 hrs. Bn O Gp to discuss general and administrative points. From the Int Summary it would appear that the enemy is preparing to meet any further adv with much heavier opposition than in the past.	Hone
		1215	Ninety men from each coy RV in B Coy area and proceed by tpt to CAMPOBASSO for an afternoon of recreation, attending the Savoy cinema to see "Lady Hamilton"	
	20		At 0900 hrs and 1400 hrs Lt col Bogert inspected B and D Coys respectively. Battle-dress was worn for these inspections, and has now come into wear. Sp Coy, using its own tpt, was the first coy to spend the afternoon in CAMPOBASSO, a privilege won by scoring highest in the sports meet on 18 Oct.	Hone
	21	1330	30 men fro, each coy RV in B Coy area to proceed to CAMPOBASSO with recreational tpt. This is the first time that any town in SICILY or ITALY has been put in bounds to tps. The "Aldershot" Club has been opened for offrs and the "Beaver" Club for ORs. Two cinemas, the "Savoy" and the "Capital" are also in operation. No tps are allowed in town from 1730 hrs to 0700 hrs.....	App 4 (g) Hone
	22	1200	Orders received for move to new area 2 miles NE of CAMPOBASSO. At 1300 hrs Lt col Bogert, Lt J H Jones and coy comds proceeded on a recce of the new area. At 1630 hrs B Coy moved by tpt to the new area, followed at 1840 hrs by the remainder of the bn less A Coy, which came in a second flight, the entire bn being in posn about 2200 hrs..... Lens: Bn HQ, 561313; A Coy, 555314; B Coy, 560320; C Coy, 548318; D Coy, 562315; Sp Coy, 560308. West NSR in this area is in range of enemy shellfire. R22eR have gone fwd to carry out intensive patrol activity in contact with the enemy near the BIFERNO RIVER in the area of S STEFANO (5034). To the North 5 Div has its left boundary near rd junc 5835. 3 Cdn Inf Bde is forming a firm base for a later attack.	App 1 (f) Hone

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CAMPOBASSO 561313	23	0800	<p>Brig Gibson, Comd 3 Cdn Inf Bde visits Lt col Bogert at HQ West NSR. The day was spent in deepening and improving defences. At 1115 hrs Lt col Bogert emphasized principles in defense to coy comds, incl correct siting of weapon pits, field of fire, sentry routine, etc. Maj R S E Waterman outlined a forthcoming period of offr trg to be later organized on a bde level.</p> <p>It is now known that Lt Ross Guy, who was wounded at POTENZA, has been awarded the Military Cross. Gen Montgomery issued a personal message to all ranks Eighth Army on the anniversary of EL ALAMEIN.....</p>	<p>App 4(e)</p>
	24	0815	<p>The majority of the Roman Catholics of West NSR, with Maj G L F McNeil in charge, attended a divisional RC church parade in CAMPOBASSO. At 0845 hrs Brig Gibson inspected the coy defences in company with Lt col Bogert. At 0900 hrs H Capt Brundage held Communion Service near Bn HQ. In the afternoon (1300 hrs) recreational tpt to CAMPOBASSO was resumed.</p>	
	25	0800 1400	<p>Maj R S E Waterman addressed all Pl Comds at the opening of their period of trg, after which the morning program, incl German organisation and codes, was under the IO.</p> <p>Pl Comds class spend the afternoon learning signal organisation and RT procedure under Lt J H Jones.</p>	
	26	0800	<p>Pl Comds class discussed "Patrols and Reports" with the IO, followed at 0945 hrs by a two hour period of instruction on the three inch mortar, under the supervision of Lt R W Bullock.</p> <p>CANADA's Sixth Victory Loan opened today. 1 Cdn Div has \$1,000,000 as its objective, each inf bn being asked for \$40,000.</p>	
	27	0800	<p>Capt G G Taylor demonstrates the efficiency of the 6 pdr A tk gun to the Junior Offrs class, followed at 1015 hrs by a lecture on "Supporting Arms" by Lt col M P Bogert. The day was wet and the ground became very muddy. As nearly all personnel are sleeping under bivouac tents, the change in weather was not received with enthusiasm.</p>	

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CAMPOBASSO 561313	28	0745	It col Bogert stressed to all pl comds that only their keen interest would make the Victory Loan a success. At 0800 hrs he also asked coy comds to give the Victory Loan Campaign careful consideration. The wet weather continued, and orders were received from Bde HQ to move all coy offices, cookhouses, and as many men as possible under cover, with a recreation room in each coy area. The bn Orderly Room, which had been operating from the "computer" was moved to the large red house at 562311.	Hmg
	29	1400	West NSR Victory Loan reaches 21,000 dollars. During the day pl comds received instruction in the driving and maintenance of vehs under the supervision of the TO, Capt C E Bent. At 1800 hrs the rain and mud had made the highway so slippery that all MCs were grounded and orders issued to use other vehs as little as possible. Several thousand miles of red tape caught up with the TO today when he received a "Demand and Issue Voucher" from England with a request that he sign for (2) TWO gals of petrol drawn by this unit in England during mobilisation in June. If in doubt see the duplicate copy in	Hmg App 4(c)
	30		Victory Loan reaches 24,000 dollars. The pl comds received instruction in message writing, abbreviations, etc from Maj R S E Waterman. At 1700 hrs West NSR was advised that 48 hr periods of recreational leave to CAMPOBASSO would begin on 31 Oct 43. The "Royal York" Hotel is open for offrs; ORs receive accn at the "Beaver Club".	Hmg
	31	0845	Protestant Church parade near Bn HQ. Maj Waterman was OC parade while Lt col Bogert was at Bde HQ. At 1130 hrs a party of six ORs and Lt R W Bullock comprised the first leave party to CAMPOBASSO. A plan to have West NSR display flares at rd junc 559319 for our planes on a bombing raid to to the West was cancelled. The weather continued dull and rainy.	Hmg

M. P. Bogert Lt Col
Comd West NSR