

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.

42-V-1
JAN 44

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

JANUARY 1944

M.F.M. 11
40/P & B/27 (2/42)

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

Title pages will be prepared.

WEST H S R

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks, references to Appendices and initials |
|--------|------|------|--|--|
| ORTONA | 1 | | New Year Day was remarkably quiet all along the front, no arty or mortar fire, just an ORA enterprising sniper disturbing the stillness. Weather clear and cool. | Rbt |
| | 2 | | Br still in same posn with the exception of a pl of A Coy which is acting as a standing patrol on Ry tunnel mouth 311180, right flank of Carl & York R. Intermittent enemy shelling during the day and just after last light he laid down harassing mortar fire on our front but this was quickly discouraged by our mors. | Rbt |
| | 3 | | A Coy from each unit will be sent for a period of eight days intensive trg under the arrangements to an area near Lanciano. This is part of a plan to absorb the large nos of reinforcements now coming into the Div and bring the whole up to an efficient fighting standard. Word received today that Capt J P Fletcher and Lieut J C MacNeil have been awarded the M C and Cpl J A MacLeod the M M for the actions prior to Campobasso. | Rbt |
| | 4 | 0900 | The CCRA and Brig Gibson visited the arty OPs this area. Three officers of HSH arrived on exchange with this unit. | App 2 |
| | | 1530 | The 3rd Mors also eight 2nd mors of this unit took part in the all day arty and mortar fire plan on Pt 39 and targets in the vicinity. C Coy, West H S R placed under com of Carl & York R and moved fwd in a posn of readiness to assist them in their attack on Pt 39. The attack was successful and at last light West H S R received orders to change posns with Carl & York R. Move was completed at 2400 hrs, Br now hold roughly square 3018 and slightly North and East. | App 4 Rbt |
| | 5 | 0400 | Enemy lay down harassing arty and mortar fire our area commencing at this time and continued intermittently throughout the day, special attention being paid to the I and C Coy areas. Vigorous patrolling deep into enemy territory is now the order of the day. | |
| | | 1500 | A recon patrol from C Coy got pinned down by mortar and mortar fire in the area of bridge (305188). Fighting patrol sent from A Coy to assist and succeeded in extricating first patrol by last light. Combined casualties of both patrols, 2 ORs killed 4 ORs wounded. | Rbt |

Kalerman
M. Lt Col.

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42-1-2
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40/P & E/37 (9/42)

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| ORTONA | 6 | 0950 | <p>It Gen H D G Crerar CB CSO comdr 1 Can Corps accompanied by Brig Gibson visited the area this morning. Very active patrolling now being carried out by this unit, chiefly at night but some times during daylight as well. As part of this program, a patrol of 14 ORs under Lieut A M Mills of D Coy had a rather interesting brush with the enemy this morning. At approximately 0900 hrs this patrol was proceeding West across country towards R 295177 when they came under enemy mortar fire from feature to NW. Moving North in an endeavour to get cover they came upon an enemy pl posn with the occupants very much off their guard. Our patrol killed ten of the enemy at this point and secured twelve POW but when they started to return with the POW they again came under very heavy mortar fire from high ground to the NW. This was so intensive that the patrol was forced to scatter and endeavour to get back on their own. The POW were, of course, lost in the resulting confusion, not, however, before three were killed, at least one by their own fire. Own casualties, 1 OR killed 1 OR wounded.</p> | <p>App 4 & 5 Pat</p> |
| | 7 | | <p>It Col R S E Waterman this morning proceeded to Bie H Q to meet Gen Leese who has succeeded Gen Montgomery as comdr of 8th Army. From information received from patrols and from observation it is suspected that the enemy occupy the buildings immediately NW of bridge (305188) during the hrs of darkness only. To verify this a patrol of one officer, Lieut D A Campbell and ten ORs from A Coy was sent out at 1100 hrs, under cover of arty and mortar preparation on ridge immediately North and West of bridge. Patrol came under heavy mortar and mortar fire from the spur immediately West of bridge and were pinned down here until last light (1730 hrs) Casualties 4 ORs killed and 5 ORs wounded. Only local protection and contact patrols to flanking unit carried out night 7/8.</p> | Pat |
| | 8 | | <p>It Col R S E Waterman visited the Bie trg school area of Lanciano where B Coy this unit is at present undergoing intensive trg</p> | Pat |

R. Waterman
Lt Col.

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72-V-3
JAN 7

WAR DIARY

OR

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60/P & B/37 (B/65)

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| ORTONA | 8 | 1900 | <p>Promotions within the Bn as per App 2. This was a comparatively quiet day on our front, less than 100 shells landed in the Bn area up to last light. Weather very fine and warm.</p> <p>Bn OP.</p> | RBT |
| | 9 | | <p>Increase in enemy arty activity this area today. West N S R carried out vigorous patrolling night 9/10. One of these was originally intended to go by water for which purpose two small boats had been brought fwd by lorry and launched in the Carl & York area but this plan had to be abandoned due to the fact that the moon was high all night with no cloud cover. That patrol (Lieut Shurkey and 20 ORs) did however penetrate the enemy posn to an approximate depth of one half mile by travelling on or near the beach and secured much valuable information.</p> | RBT |
| | 10 | | <p>Our posns were shelled fairly by throughout the day. Vigorous patrolling carried by own tps during the hrs of daylight and darkness. At 1800 hrs D & A Coys change posns. This is part of a schedule that gives the right fwd Coy relief every 48 hrs. Right fwd Coy posn is the hot spot of the Bn area. A Coy now right fwd, D left fwd.</p> | RBT |
| | 11 | | <p>Vigorous patrolling again carried out day and night. A small advance party of the Cape Breton Highlanders arrived this morning. West N S R will be relieved by that unit night 12/13. Enemy concentration on our Bn OP with AP shells at 1500 hrs necessitating some slight change in location.</p> | RBT |
| | 12 | 1000 | <p>Further advance party of CMH arrive. Their entire Bn arrived at 2000 hrs and the take over was complete at 2230 hrs. West N S R however provided two patrols of one officer and fifteen ORs each to carry out the patrolling tasks this area night 12/13 these to rejoin the unit morning 13 Jan.</p> | RBT |
| | 13 | | <p>Bn moved by trans provided by 11 Bn to area near LeBlanc arriving at 0200 hrs. Reveille at 1100 hrs Hot meal served at 1200 hrs. Afternoon spent in cleaning up and getting established in the new area. Maj A M Russel of the Winnipeg Rifles and C S M Dalton of N N S H arrived on exchange. Maj Russel posted to comd C Coy and C S M Dalton appointed A/RSM.</p> | RBT Kalerians R. H. Col. |

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| LANCIANO | 14 | RFI supplies were brought up and distributed. Recreational trans provided for parties to see film in Lanciano. Sp & C Coy go today. Bn still busy clearing and getting established. The practise in this unit is that all parcels for necessary personnel are distributed among their comrades and Coy comms thank the Honors XXXXXXXXXXXX by letter. | Vet |
| | 15 | Courses and intensive trg now to be carried out as per This is part of a plan to bring all branches of admin and operational tps to a higher peak of efficiency. Also parties to films daily on the basis that all work and no play..... Lt Col R S E Waterman proceeded to Bde and Rear Div HQ re-administrative matters. Maj G W Woods and Capt A M MacMillan have been awarded and are now wearing Africa Stars. Party of 12 officers this unit attend a dinner at the officers club in S Vito. | App 4 |
| | 16 | Maj F E Hiltz, 216 West N S R takes over com of the Bde trg school. Orders received for this unit to move to Ortona area, Capt Burns and Lieut Dyer take a recee party to that area. Church parades as per Following church parades kit inspections will be carried out under Coy arrangements to determine shortages. | Vet App 1 |
| | 17 0800 | Lt Col R S E Waterman preside at general court-martial at R22eR HQ. Advance party of one officer, Capt R G Thxton and ten ORs to Ortona. Carrier Pl also move to that area this morning. Today was B Coys' turn to see the film at Lanciano but on arriving there the projector refused to function so, no show. | Vet |
| | 18 1100 2000 | Lt Col M P Bogert DSO visited the unit. At 1300 hrs Bn move by trans to the Ortona area. 3 Bde now has an operational role in support of 1 and 2 Bdes. Trg and courses to be carried on as arranged in the new area. Unit now has a paymaster, Capt R V Ima. Meeting of all officers of the Bn in Bn officers mess at which the MOs and Pa's views on the behaviour of men in battle were discussed. | App 4 Vet |

*Waterman
Vet*

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|--------|------|----------------------|--|--|
| ORTONA | 19 | | En now settled in new posn. Intensive trg a/c courses being carried out. 150 men per day of this unit granted passed to film put on by Aux Services of 2 Bde. Weather has been very fine, there has been no hy rain or snow this area since New Years Eve. | WEC |
| | 20 | | Lt Col R S E Waterman to discussion at Div HQ. Adjt a/c Or Rm staff to Bde on one day course. This is part of the general brushing up being given to all branches of Bde under Bde arrangements with a view to improving admin and general efficiency. | WEC |
| | 21 | 0800 | Trg as per syllabus. Parties to film "The Iron Road" shown by the Auxiliary Services. | App 4 WEC 1 |
| | 22 | 1000 2000 | Lt Col R S E Waterman and Lieut R E Campbell, IC, attended a discussion "Air Support" at Div HQ. Enemy dropped a few shells in the Ortona area today, no casualties this unit. Lecture in the Bde officers mess to all officers given by ADJA, this was followed by dinner and a social evening. | WEC |
| | 23 | | Church parades as per Maj Bailey of the Bde R was guest speaker at the Protestant service. Light intermittent enemy shelling of Ortona area during day. | App 1 WEC |
| | 24 | 1100 1400 1900 | Maj Wood's RCAMC left for 9 days 5 of which he will spend attending a course balance on leave. 4 reinforcement officers joined the unit. Brig Gibson visited the unit. Lecture to all officers of the Bde on "Street Fighting" given by Maj Stone, 21 c Bde B. Lecture to all officers on wireless procedure given by SO Lieut G M Chaplin RCCS. | App 2 WEC |
| | 25 | 0830 | Bde HQ, Hq Coy and Sp Coy carry out a rehearsal of Bde comms inspection, this to take place 27 Jan. 1 reinforcement officer arrived with the unit today. | WEC App 2 |
| | 26 | 0730 | Lt Col R S E Waterman leaves for Bde trg school, to visit our Coy undergoing trg there. Voluntary War Service medals and clasps issued to those eligible. C Coy hold a Plat mor shoot. Rained night 26/27. | WEC WEC |

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| ORTOMA | 27 | 0900 | Brig Gibson inspected Bn HQ, HQ and Sp Coys on a field in the tra's area. Brig Gibson expressed himself as being greatly pleased at the turnout and steadiness of these troops. Balance of the unit carry out normal trg. During the past two days slightly over 200 bags of mail for West H S R arrive. | Vot |
| | 28 | 0900 | Lt Col R S E Waterman to Bn HQ. Bn trg as per In the afternoon C Coy proceeded by trans to S Vito to attend BNSA show there. Other shows as per | App 4 Vot App 1 |
| | 29 | | Bn normal trg. Party of 50 each fly to BNSA concert at S Vito. This evening Lt Col R S E Waterman attend a dinner sponsored by Div H at the Sword and Drum, S Vito. | Vot |
| | 30 | 0800 | Lt Col R S E Waterman proceeded to the Bn trg school to attend the marching out exercise of D Coy who finish their period of trg there today. Church parades as per | App 1 |
| | | 1900 | Lecture to all subalterns of the Bn on patrolling given by Lieut R E Campbell, TO. Lt Col R S E Waterman along with several other officers of the Bn attended a dinner at Bn HQ, also some Cdn nursing sisters in attendance. | Vot |
| | 31 | | Lt Col R S E Waterman to Bn HQ. Bn carry out normal trg. A dinner was arranged in the Bn officers mess for this evening, by Capt Allen and Lieut G H Chaplin. This was largely attended by officers of the unit, Brig Gibson being the guest of the evening. | Vot |

Waterman
Vot