

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 & S/37 (2/40)

OR

## ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Title pages will be prepared.

WEST N SBR

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APRIL 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
ORTONA AREA	1		<p>Showers first part of day clearing at noon with fresh breeze. Considerable enemy movement was observed area 271157. Div arty was ranged on this.</p> <p>1330 Coy comds conference re wiring and mining of the Bn area which must be completed by 14 Apr 44. Also a new area to be reced for Bn HQ due to the filth and flies brought on by increasingly warmer weather.</p> <p>Orders received from Bde that one fighting patrol will be carried out on the Bde front each night, the two forward Bns doing these alternately. As many recce patrols as are deemed necessary may however be carried out.</p> <p>Four recce patrols were sent out night 1/2 Apr.</p>	<p>plab</p>
	2		<p>Weather fine and warm.</p> <p>A party of enemy 40 or 50 strong were observed on the far side of the Arielli at 271157 Div arty immediately brought down on this, some observed to limp away, 12 were carried away on stretchers and some have not, as yet, been removed.</p> <p>Enemy shelling and mortaring of our area was on a light scale today.</p> <p>D Coy have scooped the Bn with mobile bath erected 450 yds from Tedeschi positions. The men consider it far superior to the mobile unit, entire Coy run through in 4 hrs. Cpl J W Williams designer and builder.</p> <p>Patrols night 2/3 consisted of two ambush, but Tedeschi apparently stayed at home.</p>	<p>plab</p>
	3	1830	<p>Weather fine and warm. Bn H Q moved from S Nicola to area 303153.</p> <p>At this time Lt-Col R S E Waterman called Capt Rhodes, O C D Coy and the following conversation took place:</p> <p>C O. "Is that you, No 1?"</p> <p>No 1. "Yes sir."</p> <p>CO. "I am sending you out D A F pilot to learn how the Inf live."</p> <p>No 1. "Very good, sir. Heaven only knows where I can put the poor fellow to sleep comfortably."</p> <p>CO. "Sleep!!!! never heard of it ! send him out to MALLARD for the night."</p> <p>No 1. "Very good, sir. Has he any blankets?"</p> <p>CO. "Yes ! I am taking them away from him. I want you to really show him how the Inf live."</p>	

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ORTONA AREA	3	1830	<b>The rest of the story can best be taken from D Coy comdrs log-book.</b>	
		1950	Sentries report Jerry patrol coming down valley behind Coy H Q. Men report foreign voice saying "Ja Ja", a heavy crash and a word sounding like "Shujti".	
		1955	Coy stands too. Men in nervous condition, feel that "Shujti" may be new form of rocket projectile or secret weapon.	
	3	2000	Supposed Jerry patrol turns out to be South African D A F pilot who makes forced landing on the floor of D Coy H	
		2030	Pilot safely tucked away to sleep in spring bed in D P.	
		2359	A Coy get out sketch of proposed wiring for the reserve Coy area. This should have been in by 1800 hrs 2 Apr 44. Considerable argument going on about siting. Reliably reported this line will be known as "Cochrans Folly"	Wep
	4	0900	Weather fine and warm.	
			I O still sleeping. Reliably reported to have been asleep since 2 Apr. Coy comdrs wondering if he will sleep right through B F I issue. Claims he is sick. No one including the M O believes this.	
		2330	Fighting patrol under Lieut D A Campbell prepared an ambush in the area enemy were active on the preceding night. No enemy appeared so they proceeded to area of Lone Ho and shot <sup>4</sup> an enemy working-party that area. Some hits were observed. Cpl C A Fleet reinforced by E F I stood on rubble pile in front of MALLARD and at the top of his hoarse voice invited Tedeschi to come out and fight.	Wep
	5		Weather fine and warm.	
			Enemy shelled and mortared our fwd positions quite heavily at intervals during day. Recce patrols on this night found the enemy to be in their usual haunts. Capt Rhodes who took part in one of these had the misfortune to ruin his one and only necktie while using it as a rope to pull a stake-mine. Lt-Col Waterman made good the loss however from his own specially imported Savile Row stock.	Wep
	6		Weather fine and warm. Increased shelling and mortaring of fwd positions during day. C Coy were unfortunate enough to have a direct hit on new latrine they had just completed. Otherwise one minor casualty.	Wep

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ORTONA AREA	6		Bn was paid during the day. Capt Inman, paymaster West N S R, determined not to be out done by recent patrols, bypasses the R A P in an effort to get to CORNFLOWER 1. Sjt Bonnezan and Pte Walsh persuade pay just to carry on and pay the different coys. Pay very much annoyed at not getting the chance to win M C returns to own lines.	APP 4 Walc
		2030	Two officers and 35 O R s of the RCASC arrived and were posted to C Coy for a period of one week to gain Inf experience. Raiding party of one officer and 26 ORs sent in on BOURLON.	APP 3
	7	Weather fine and hot. Advance party of 116 all ranks of 5 Mahrattas, 10 Ind Div, arrived. The 3" Mortars of 4 PLDG on this night relieved our Mor Pl who will go back for 48 hrs well earned rest. Patrols on this night were recce only.	APP 3 Walc	
	8	Weather fine and dry. Pte H F Gates, commonly known as "Snake-eye", of the Scout-Snipers got one confirmed kill in the vicinity of Lone Ho.		
	1145	Two enemy carrying parties came fwd to pick up some of their casualties as a direct result of our mors working on that area. At last light a Pl of B Coy put in a raid on the BOURLON feature. Found this occupied in strength and were forced to withdraw under withering fire. At 2230 hrs a Pl of C Coy was sent in but met with no better success. The standing patrol in front of that feature harrassed the enemy the balance of the night with all Pl weapons. Enemy were observed during the night getting out their casualties suffered from the earlier raids.	APP 3 Walc	
9	Easter Sunday started fair but rained heavily from 1500 hrs on. Two eggs and two hot cross buns per man this A M. The padre conducted voluntary church service in each Coy area or as close to each Coy area as enemy observation permitted. Recce patrols only carried out night 9/10.	Walc		
10	Still raining this A M.			

RW

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ORTONA AREA	10		This was a very quiet day on the Bn front. All personnel busy getting the projected wiring done which must be completed by 14 APR 44.	<i>Walf</i>
	11		Fine and hot. Orders received to the effect that we will be relieved night 13/14 by R22eR, we to <del>take</del> occupy the reserve Bn posn. E F I supplies issued today, NO beer or spirits.	<i>Walf</i>
	12	1000	Weather fine and hot. Brig Bernatchez <del>021-230</del> has taken over command of 3 Div Inf Bde and visited this unit at this time. <del>DSC OBE</del>	
		2100	Increased enemy shelling of our area today. Div believe they have the secret of the enemy flare sig system. Two parties of scouts sent out to try these for effect. This was partially successful, enemy arty opened on our gun areas. K of C Supervisor Gorman left us today looking for new fields to conquer and rumour has it also for pat-a-cakes.	<i>Walf</i>
	13		Weather fine. Lt-Gen Reid of 10 Ind Div and Brig Bernatchez visited the Bn area this morning. Enemy mortating and shelling was on a reduced scale today. Relief of this unit was completed by 2230 hrs. Incoming unit made some noise which drew down some enemy fire.	<i>Walf</i>
14.		Weather fine. As usual when going into the reserve Bn area morning was spent cleaning and checking weapons. A & C Coys have still some work to do to complete the wiring of their Coy areas. Demonstration of constructing a slit trench using "beehives" and 75 grenades put on in each Coy area in turn by the Pnr Pl. Capt W C Allan appointed A/Maj. Film "Thank Your Lucky Stars" shown in the evening by Aux Services. Following the show the C O held an informal Coy comdrs meeting to which were invited O C Manchester and the Subidar and Jemidar Majors of the Ghurkas. The meeting turned out to be a huge	<del>SUCCESS</del> <i>Walf</i>	

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ORTONA area	14		success ending with a spelling bee, Capt Rhodes team just nosing out the C O s squad by one point. The judges, Maj Cameron and Supervisor Losie, were strongly suspected of favouring the C O s' side as he spelled words which no one else had ever heard of, at the same time eyeing the judges with such a steely look that they invariably adjudged his spelling correct. However the C O s side were finally stumped by Anne Boleyn and the victors retired 3000 lira to the good.	dot
	15		Weather fine. Brig Bernatchez addressed briefly each Coy in their Coy area. Coys carry out a 6 mile route march under Coy arrangements today. The 6th Victory Loan is now under way. Needless to say this unit will endeavor to lead the Div in this as in all else. All Coys have different slogans. Lieut Donny Campbell has a large notice out at A Coy: WAR BONDS or WIRING.	dot
	16	1000 1400 2000	This Sabbath fine and clear. Church parades held in Bn HQ area. Meeting of all officers at Bn H Q. Meeting of all NCOs down to and including Cpls. While addressing this group Lt-Col R S E Waterman hinted at the difficulty of the task ahead of the Div and stressed the importance of all ranks co-operating to make the most of the brief period of trg which will be carried out prior to this. Film "Road to Morocco" shown in the Bn H Q area. Party of 150 all ranks this unit detailed to complete the wiring in the right fwi Bn area night 16/17 Apr.	dot
	17	1000 1700	Weather fine. A syllabus of trg has been drawn up for the balance of our stay in this area. This is designed to prepare the tps for the hard task ahead. Lt-Col R S E Waterman to Bde C Gp. Enemy laid down what was, for him, an unusually heavy arty concentration on D Coy area. Cas 1 OR killed, 3 ORs wounded. Party of reinforcements, 3 officers and 90 ORs joined the unit.	dot dot

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ORTONA AREA	18		Weather fine. Tps carry out trg as per syllabus. Coys have softball teams playing during sports period. A Coy have the leading team to date. Auxiliary Services show film "Road to Morocco" in the evening Bn Hq area.	APP 3 JAG
	19	0900 1430 2000	Weather fine. Trg as per syllabus. Lt-Col R S E Waterman to Bn comdrs conference at Bde Hq. Enemy shelled road C Coy area, one minor casualty. Film "The Thin Man" shown Bn Hq area. C O held informal meeting for Coy comdrs before and after show, boiled eggs served 2300 hrs.	APP 3 JAG
	20	0900	Weather fine. All officers attend O Gp at Bn Hq. Brig J P M Bernatchez DSO OBE visited the Bn. Trg has been suspended and all tps devote their time to cleaning the area, gathering salvage etc. A strange mixture of Hindustani, Italian and Canadian is now heard around the Bn area, but somehow our tps and the Ghurkas seem to understand each other. Final scores in the Victory Bond drive: Sp Coy just nose out D Coy by \$7000 to \$6750. Sp Coy being practically composed of NCOs and officers D Coy feel it a poor show.	JAG
	21		Weather fine. No incidents prior to the take over. There were 2 casualties D Coy area during the takeover, 1 Englishman and 1 Ghurka. A direct hit on D Coy Hq slightly disturbed a farewell dinner being given by the Ghurka officers to officers of D Coy. During the takeover our sigs, having no knowledge of Hindustani, experienced some difficulty as the Ghurkas kept taking over the Coy phones. Takeover completed by 2315 hrs. Bn moved by tpt to Rear Bn area where they bivouacked for the night.	JAG
	22	1400	Dawn broke with heavy rain. Tps had no shelter whatever and life at this moment was anything but comfortable. Rain continued until 1500 hrs. Bn move by tpt to a concentration area immediately North of Lanciano. Area very muddy from recent rain with little or no hard standing for vehs. Hot supper served here.	JAG RW

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LANCIANO	23	1015	After a hot breakfast Bn move off at this time. Many vehs were stuck in the mud but Capt David and his merry men got everything pulled out to cross the S F on time. Only casualty was Capt Dyer who was left at the post.	
		1600	Bn arrive at bivouac area approximately 5 miles East of Larino. Hot meal served. Eggs and chicken appear as if by magic and everyone enjoyed an extra meal. Capt Dyer was observed leading a turkey down the road on a string.	<i>Wab</i>
	24		Weather fine. Bn move off at 1015 hrs and cover the last leg of the journey to Campobasso without incident. All ranks having removed their flashes and patches the previous night and the markings having been removed from all vehs so that no one would suspect that we were Cdns, it was interesting to note that the arrows pointing out the route were all marked with a large Maple Leaf. Provost Hq was also decorated with Cdn markings proving that a real security drive is under way.	
		1630	Arrived at the Bn area about 2 miles North of Riccia, general area 6824. Oddly enough this is the exact spot that the Bn bivouacked on the eve of the Jelsi battle, 11 Oct 43. Tps settle into positions allotted by advance party. A brand new flag of Nova Scotia was found to be waving in the breeze at Bn Hq.	<i>Wab</i>
25		Weather fine. First two days to be spent on purely administrative matters, Sports field being layed out and great hopes of getting soccer and softball going. Rumours that EFI is on the way has brought a new gleam to the eyes of certain jaded Coy comdrs who have spent sleepless nights trying to figure out the Bn trg syllabus. C O appears in all his glory of Savile Row made K D and delicately tinted glasses. Brig Bernatchez appeared a little too early in the morning to be fitting but found all Coys slaving hard at interior economy and several of Mussolinis' projected world conquerors engaged in cutting decadent democraeys' hair. Film shown in the evening.	<i>Wab</i>	
26		Dawn of this day brought high wind and driving rain. Trg carried out as per syllabus which included shooting on the S A range. EFI supplies issued, spirits for officers and senior NCOs and beer for all. Capt H I Mendelson arrived to replace Maj Johnston as M O.	<i>Wab RW</i>	

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CAMPOBASSO AREA	27		Still raining and blowing very hard. Trg as per syllabus. This consists of eight hrs very strenuous trg each day especially designed to harden the tps.	<i>WSE</i> App 3
	28		Fine but cool. Ground practically dried up by nightfall. Trg as per syllabus.	<i>WSE</i> App 3
	29		Weather fine but cool. Trg carried out as per syllabus.	App 3
		1000 1800	Lt-Col R S E Waterman adressed all officers of the Bn for a two hr period. All officers proceed to Pietracatella by tpt and walk back across country. this to lay out the course and the problems to be encountered which will be used for the Coy exercises during this trg period.	<i>WSE</i>
	30	0001 1400	A Coy push off to put in a dawn attack on Pietracatella (exercise). Balance of the Bn trg as per syllabus. Church services held. A special choir was recruited for the Protestant service. Maj A W Rogers and Capt J H Jones M C were welcomed back to the unit.	<i>WSE</i>
			<i>Waterman</i> <i>lt col.</i>	