

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 (10/2)

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

Title pages will be prepared.

West NSR

(Erase heading not required)

April 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
BERLAER	1	1000	Church Parades were held in the Bn area. Eighteen Other Ranks proceeded on rotational leave to Canada. Today the time was advanced one hour to Double British Summer Time. Weather today was cloudy with rain.	J. A. A.
		2	Training as per syllabus	Appx 4
	2	0930	Advance party consisting of Two offrs and 12 ORs proceeded to concentration area for the coming operations, REICHSWALD FOREST 8052.	
		1600	Warning Order was received that the Bn was to be prepared to move at 0600 hrs 4 Apr 45. Weather today cloudy with rain.	J. A. A.
	3		Training as per syllabus	Appx 4
		1130	The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, proceeded to a conference at 3 CIB where he received information on the coming move.	
		1400	CO held a Bn conference at which the coming move was discussed. He also discussed discipline generally and training for time spent in the concentration area.	
		1800	Movement Order was issued containing instructions for move to the REICHSWALD FOREST area 8052. Weather today cloudy with showers.	J. A. A.
	4		Reveille at 0445 hrs. Breakfast at 0500 hrs.	
		0630	Bn underway and the move was carried out with ^o incident as per movement order, arriving at concentration area 801524 in good time.	Appx 1
		1830	A warning order has come out that Capt G G Taylor and one Sgt per coy will be on two hours notice as from 1800 hrs to proceed on an advance party to fwd area. Three days rations will be carried.	
		2130	Instructions have been received by this HQ that advance party previously mentioned can now stand down. Judging from this one would consider that some change in plans is in progress. Weather today unsettled with intermittent periods of sunshine and overcast.	J. A. A.

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~~REICHSWALD FORREST~~

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REICHSWALD FORREST	5	1000	Training as per syllabus The CO proceeded to Div HQ where he attended a lecture on Air Support. This lecture was delivered by The G2 Air First Cdn Army HQ. Weather today cloudy with rain.	Appx 4 J. B. H.
		6	1100 Training as per syllabus Advance party was put on six hours notice. 1600 The CO attended a meeting at HQ 3 Cdn Inf Bde, at which river crossing with LVsT was discussed. 1900 Twenty Other Ranks arrived at this HQ as reinforcements and were allotted to coys 2045 Warning Order received, 1 Cdn Div may move on the morning of 7 Apr, confirmation or denial later. Weather today cloudy with rain.	Appx 4 J. B. H.
	7	1000	Training as per syllabus. One offr and twenty six other ranks proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom.	J. B. H.
		1300	Five Offrs and forty Other ranks proceeded to NIJMEGEN on an afternoon leave.	
		1530	Twenty-six other ranks arrive as reinforcements and were allotted to coys. Weather cloudy with light rain.	
	8	0900	Roman Catholic Church Parade was held in Bn Area.	J. B. H.
		1000	Protestant Church Service in Bn Area.	
		1300	Five Offrs and forty other ranks proceeded on afternoon leave to NIJMEGEN. The Unit was honoured today by a visit from a former member Capt W Theakston who is now with the Public Relations Branch.	
		2000	Warning Order was issued, the unit will be prepared to move on the morning of 10 Apr 45 Weather today fine and cold.	
	9	1000	Training as per syllabus. One officer and twenty-nine other ranks proceeded on leave to UK.	J. B. H.
		0800	Recce party consisting of Capt G G Taylor and one NCO per coy left this morning for concentration area 983807.	
		0100	One offr and 31 Other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were allotted to coys.	

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April 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
REICHSWALD FORREST	9	1600 1615 1900	EFI issue - One Bottle of Champagne per Officer and one bottle of beer free per man. The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, proceeded to 3 CIB where he attended a Bde conference. The CO held a Bn conference at which details were laid on for move to concentration area tomorrow. A general outline of future operations was given to all officers. In the evening a film was shown in the Bn area, "High Sierra". Weather today fine and warm.	<i>J. D. H.</i>
HUMMELO	10	1900 2315	Move as per movement order to intermediate concentration area 9684. One officer, Lt J J MacDonalld arrived as a reinforcement and was allotted to "D" Coy. Message from Bde warned this Bn that enemy patrol was active in sq9287. No immediate stand to was called for but all guards were specially warned. Weather today fine and warm.	Appx 1 <i>J. D. H.</i>
	11	0915 1300 1500 2359	The CO, Battle Adjnt and Coy Comds proceeded to area 982011 to attend a demonstration on "Buffalos", a special vehicle (tracked) for assault crossing of rivers. They will carry a pl of infantry infantry or an A Tk gun or a Jeep and two MGS and are capable of climbing a 45 degree slope. Accommodation recce party on one hours notice from now. It is expected that 3 Bde @group will move to 1 Cdn Inf Bde area sometime in the morning of 12 Apr 45. Recce Party under command of Capt G G Taylor proceeded to area 972982 (RCR area). In the evening a message received from Bde HQ that this Bn would be on one hours notice as from 0600 hrs 12 Apr 45. Movement order issued for tomorrows move to RCR area. Weather today fine and warm.	<i>J. D. H.</i>
ZUTPHEN	12	1030 1230	Reveille at 0600 hrs, breakfast at 0615 hrs. Bn embussed and moved off as per movement order. Bn arrived without incident in area 972982. One man in "A" Coy accidentally shot himself while debussing at the end of the days move. He died instantly. The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, held an "O" Group where the forthcoming operations were discussed.	Appx 1 <i>J. D. H.</i>

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April 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
ZUTPHEN	12	1545	Accommodation recce party left to go forward across IJSSEL River area 9202 to recce accomodation area.	
		2040	Bn received word that we would be moving prior to 2400 hrs.	
		2120	The CO, IO and Arty Rep proceeded to Bde HQ to attend a conference. At this conference the general plan of the coming attack was discussed. A warning was passed on from Bde by the CO that he would hold a conference immediately on his return, and informed the Adjt that marching troops would be ready to move by 2230 hrs and would be at the SP 966984 by 2245 hours. First vehs will be at SP 966984 at 2400 hrs. Tac recce party to RV at BnHQ at 2250 hrs.	
		2230	The CO returned from Bde and held a Bn conference at which a general plan was discussed for the coming operations. Weather today fine and warm, with intermittent periods of rain.	J.A.A.
	13	0230	The move across the IJSSEL River was carried out without incident and at this time Tac HQ was established at 925023, with Coys dug in, in the near vicinity.	
		0530	CO, Arty Rep and IO, attended a co-ordinating conference at Bde HQ at which the plan was discussed on a Bde level and tasks of the Bns discussed in detail.	
		0600	The CO, returned from Bde and immediately held his own "O" Group. At this conference the plan was discussed in complete detail. The Bn attack would advance on a one coy front, "A" Coy leading, and would follow the axis laid on by higher formation.	
		0845	Tac HQ moved forward and now established at 911026. The expected H Hour was 0830 hrs but the attack did not begin until approximately 1100 hrs, at which time "A" Coy supported by tanks, started for their first objective. They were barely on their way when, due to an arty concentration called down by CYR, it was necessary to hold up until 1130 hrs. The axis of advance is divided into seven report lines. These have been given the prefix "LOBSTER" and are indicated by this prefix and the appropriate number. Course of Action for the day - see Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 4 & 5) Weather today fine and warm.	Appx 1 J.A.A.
	14	0350	TacHQ moved forward and established at 857010. It had been intended that the Bn would move at 2030 hrs but due to the fact that the R22R was using the route in their move	

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West N S R

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April 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
ZUTPHEN	14		<p>forward, we were forced to use a more dubious route.</p> <p>0700 The first hot meal in the past 24 hrs was breakfast which arrived this morning.</p> <p>0910 A recce fighting patrol of One Sgt and 8 men from MMG Pl went and searched buildings in area 856000, where several enemy were observed a short time before, but they returned without contacting any enemy.</p> <p>0915 A recce patrol from "B" Coy heard movement in a house at 831018. They cleared the house taking one PW afterwards entering the nearby woods but saw or heard nothing and returned to the coy area.</p> <p>1030 Information received from civilians state that upwards from 50 to 60 enemy are digging in on line of railway on left flank.</p> <p>1345 A large number of enemy were observed forming up in front of "A" Coy 831009. It is apparent that a counter-attack is in the offing. Arty fire was brought down and observation stated that the enemy broke and ran.</p> <p>1350 "D" Coy had a small recce patrol sent out to investigate some movement a short distance from coy position and they were pinned down by enemy fire. 3" Mortar, HE, and Smoke as well as arty smoke was brought down to endeavour to extract the patrol. In spite of this one NCO was killed and one other member of the patrol wounded.</p> <p>1430 A Warning Order was sent to all coys that the Bn was to go into the attack at 1530 hrs.</p> <p>1545 At this time attack was held up by enemy SP, Mortar and MG fire. Flamethrowers which were to support attacking infantry, were forced to withdraw by heavy air-bursts. Due to this the attack was postponed, until 1830 hrs. The infantry will be supported by tanks and M10s. The aim of the attack is to control the East bank of the Canal for some considerable distance south of APELDORP APELDOORN. Coy objectives are to be: "A" Coy 800023, "B" Coy 801014, "D" Coy 804004.</p> <p>1645 The Bde Comd, Brig J P E Bernatchez, DSO, OBE, paid a visit to this HQ.</p> <p>1755 Orders have now been received from Bde that all coys are to retain their original positions.</p> <p>1800 Ten other ranks arrived at this HQ as reinforcements and were allotted to coys.</p> <p>2150 Information received from Bde that their was no intentions slated for tonight for this Bn.</p> <p>2220 "D" Coy now in former positions 858016, having been relieved by a coy of the CYR. The reason for this relief is that CYR is to attack through this Bn tonight. Course of Action for the day - See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 5 & 6) Weather today fine and warm.</p>	

Appx 1
J. A. H.

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April 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials	
APELDOORN	15	0915	The night passed without incident and the morning Sitrep to Bde has NTR. The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, proceeded to an "O" Group at R22R HQ at 855013. "C" & "A" Coys were warned to stand by. Intention being that this unit is to clear a portion of the woods in front of R22R positions and these are to be the leading coys.	<i>J.A.H.</i>	
		0935	The CO, returned from "O" Group and held a discussion with "A" & "C" Coy Comds. Here he outlined the plan for their advance. H Hour was to be 1130 hrs.		
	1130	"C" Coy moved off and their first objective was to be crossroads 824026. Course of Action for the day - See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 6 & 7). Weather today, rain early in the morning, turning fine and warm later in the day.			
	16	0900	The CO held a conference at Tac HQ which was attended by all Coy Comds.		
		1050	The CO and IO attended an "O" Group at Bde.		
		1610	Received notification from Bde that the Bn is on two hours notice to move as from this time.		
		1655	The CO, Arty Rep and the IO proceeded to Bde HQ to attend an "O" Group.		
	2315	Warning Order received from Bde that the Unit would move at 0100 hrs. The CO proceeded to Bde to get details and Capt J R Reid and Capt G G Taylor left for area 8394 to recce for Tac HQ and "F" and "A" Echelons. Course of Action for today - See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 7 & 8) Weather today fine and warm.	Appx 1 <i>J.A.H.</i>		
	17	0005	The CO returned from 3 Cdn Inf Bde HQ and immediately proceeded to HQ 2 Cdn Inf Bde 864970 accompanied by the IO, Lt F A Embree. Due to some misunderstanding, supporting tanks were late at the SP and the Bn was not ready to move until 0230 hrs.		Appx 1 <i>J.A.H.</i>
		0345	Tac HQ now established across the Canal 827963. Course of Action for today - See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 8, 9 & 10) Weather today fine and warm.		
BARNEVELD	18	0600	Bn arrived at BARNEVELD after the long and tiresome journey from APELDOORN. During the journey 24 PW were taken. Course of Battle for today - See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 10 & 11) Weather today fine and warm.	Appx 1 <i>J.A.H.</i>	

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PUTTEN	19	0430	The night passed without incident and the morning Sitrep to Bde had nothing to report.	Appx 1 J. H. H.
		0620	Message received from 3 CIB that this unit is now under comd of 5 Cdn Armd Bde.	
		1115	The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, paid a short visit to HQ of The Westminster Regt. Course of Action today - See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 11, 12 & 13) Weather today fine and clear and very warm.	
		20	1050 The Bde Comd, Brig J P E Bernatchez, DSO, OBE, arrived at this HQ and goes over the plan for the bridgehead of the Canal, with the CO. 1300 The Battle Adj, Capt J R Reid, went forward to recce area for a new Tac HQ. 1600 Tac HQ moved forward and established at 470067. Course of Action for today - See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 13, 14, & 15). Total PW taken today - 22. Total to date since start of present action - 176. Weather today fine and warm.	
NIJKERK	21	1115	Bde informs us that enemy are moving back into area south of us where there are no troops. A mobile column has been organized and is now ready to move forward on a recce.	Appx 1 J. H. H.
		1830	Message Message received from Bde that intentions for tomorrow is mobile patrolling.	
	1900	The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, attended a Dinner at 3 CIB HQ. Course of Action for today - See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 15) Weather today cloudy with occasional showers.		
	22	0900	The CO attended a conference at Bde, and while there he calls and orders "A" Coy to go to area SPAKENBURG 3908 and BUNSCHOTEN 3807. They are to take with them Arty Rep, one Sec of Pioneers, two A Tk Guns, one Det of 3-In Mortars, Two MMG Carriers xxxx (SLI), and 48 hrs rations. The Coy will be tpted on carriers.	
		1100	RC Church Parade was held at BnHQ.	
		1135	"A" Coy is now on move to new area, and at 1315 hrs report in position and consolidating. Coy HQ 389089, Pls at 387093, 389089 and 384067.	
1330		CO attended an "O" Group at Bde.		
	1600	A Demonstration of Tanks against road blocks took place at 449038.		
	1630	Thirteen other rank reinforcements arrived at this HQ and were allotted to coys.		
	2000	The Officers held a social evening at BnHQ at which the CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, announced		

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QZK

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April 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NIJKERK	22		that the next day he was going on leave and would no longer be in Command of this Regiment. Weather today cloudy with frequent showers.	J. A. H.
	23	0430	The night passed without incident and the morning Sitrep to Bde had nothing to report.	
		1115	Three PWS arrived at this HQ from "A" Coy, they were found wandering around the area, apparently trying to give themselves up.	
		1345	The CO, Lt Col F E Hiltz, left the Regt to proceed on leave and to new duties in another command.	
		1400	The Bde Comd arrived at this HQ accompanied by Lt col J A Nesbitt. Lt col Nesbitt is to be the Commanding Officer of this Regiment.	
		1600	Fifteen other rank reinforcements arrived at this HQ and were allotted to coys.	
		1655	The CO, Lt col J A Nesbitt, accompanied by the Battle Adjt, proceeded on an inspection of "A" Coy's positions.	
		1700	Message received from Bde that a Coy of Dutch personnel will come under Command of this Bn some time tomorrow. The Bn will be responsible for any necessary transport and supporting arms that they may require.	
		1720	Several enemy shells landed in "A" Coy area BUNSCHOTEN 3807, killing one and wounding one other rank.	
		2015	The CO held a formal meeting with his Coy Comds. During the day the Padre, H/Capt L F Wilmot MC, held two church services in the Bn area. Weather today was cloudy with scattered showers in the morning.	J. A. H.
	24	1000	The Scout & Sniper Officer, Lt W T Hollinger, accompanied by a Dutch recce party, proceeded to "A" Coy area to recce the Coy position in view of a Coy of Dutch personnel relieving "A" Coy today. Lt Hollinger will be staying with the Dutch Coy as LO.	
		1230	The CO accompanied by the IO, proceeded on a visit to all coys.	
		1330	A recce party from "A" Coy, arrived at this HQ to recce former coy area 482062 which they will be moving to today when they are relieved by the Dutch Coy.	
		1900	A Mess Dinner was held at the Officers' Mess at BnHQ.	

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GA

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NIJKERK	28	1635	<p>MG fire, he died on the way to the RAP.</p> <p>"D" Coy has been heavily mortared and machine gunned and they are expecting a counter-attack. After everything had been laid on, it quieted down and the counter-attack did not come.</p> <p>1830 The Bde Comd called the CO and expressed his sorrow on the loss of life and wounded suffered today. At 1800 hrs the truce was called off but since then word has been received that it would stay on until further notice.</p> <p>2125 The CO orders Lt W T Hollinger to send a patrol to 384099. He also tells him that if the enemy comes in on them showing fight, he may retaliate in full measure.</p> <p>2130 The CO and IO proceeded to "D" Coy.</p> <p>2145 Bde informs this HQ that if we are attacked, we may call on Arty DFs after referring to the Brigadier. Div suggests that in view of the fact that the truce Truce has not got around to all German troops, our own troops must keep under cover as much as possible during the hours of daylight tomorrow.</p> <p>2155 The "HOLLINGER FORCE" report a very large fire burning a long distance away. At 2220 hrs another large fire was observed in the same direction. The bearings they gave would put these fires somewhere in the vicinity of AMSTERDAM.</p> <p>2320 "A" & "D" Coys both report considerable enemy wagon and truck movement across the river.</p> <p>2400 The recce patrol that went out from the "HOLLINGER FORCE" to 384099 have now returned having nothing to report.</p> <p>Weather this date cold and rainy, with snow later in the evening.</p>	<p>J.A.H.</p>
	29	0138	<p>18 Pl of "D" Coy observed eight men going across their front. Later two explosions were heard in the direction of their outpost. The outpost also reported the explosions and they said shouting came from in front of their positions approximately 400 yds away. Further investigation found two different people shouting. They were not sure that the people seen by 18 Pl were the same as those heard by the outpost. At 0230 hrs there was still shouting going on out front and "D" Coy is ordered to go on a 100% stand to. By 0245 hrs everything had quieted down and "D" Coy were told to go back to 50% stand to. Approx position of the shouting was 370008.</p> <p>0735 A Message was passed to all coys that the "cease fire" order was still in effect.</p> <p>1110 Enemy movement was observed in area 372006, two or three enemy appeared to be clearing</p>	

