











# WAR DIARY

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~FOR THE USE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER ONLY~~

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

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West N S R

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January 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials			
GRANAROLA	5	0950	CO left this HQ to visit all coys.	W			
		1110	On instructions from 3 CIB one coy of this Bn will occupy la Palazzo 358336.				
		1310	A patrol from "C" Coy found railway bridge over road at 35773360 blown. They started through the blow but were fired on by schmeiser. The railway banks are approx 25ft high and there were several slit trenches on embankment not occupied. From this posn banks of river Senio appear to be about 30 ft high. They could see no enemy movement but could hear digging to their front.				
		1505	The Bde Comd paid a visit to this HQ.				
		1715	"C" Coy have occupied area la Palazzo 358336 reporting posns as follows: HQ and 1 Pl at 36083338, 35893345, & 35893364.				
		1925	The CO ordered a fighting patrol of 1 & 10 to go to bridge 362347.				
		1935	Intentions: "B" Coy are to go forward and occupy posns astride road 362333, 367341.				
		2030	A recce patrol from "C" Coy has left to recce house on left of road at 357337.				
		2220	"B" Coy are now moving forward.				
		2330	"C" Coy recce patrol to 357337 report much enemy activity around and near buildings Weather this date <del>fair</del> fair and cool. A very quiet day with little mortaring or shelling.				
		COTIGNOLA	6		0003	Enemy has blown houses across track at 357336.	W
					0035	"B" Coy have now consolidated in new posn, locations as follows: HQ & 1 Pl 36473372, 36393372, 36533380.	
0100	Recce patrol from "C" Coy of 1 NCO & 3 men reached a point 357335, heard enemy movement from direction of houses 357337.						
0845	CO left this HQ for Main BnHQ						
1250	A recce patrol from "C" Coy reached the point 357336 and found the houses blown. It is believed the houses were blown in order to provide the enemy with a better field of fire from banks of the river Senio.						
1345	The CO proceeded to HQ 3 CIB.						
1535	Bde informed this HQ that our "D" Coy will relieve "C" Coy of the CYR at 1800 hrs. A recce pa rty is to be sent to recce posns of "C" Coy CYR.						
1555	"C" Coy ordered by CO to have standing patrol occupy buildings 357336 during the hours of darkness. Strength of the patrol is to be six or seven men.						



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COTIGNOLA	7	2230	"D" Coy have now established an outpost at 361344. The CO has ordered a recce patrol to proceed to the river Senio to find out if there are any mines or wire on the river bank and also to see if there are any bridges within their view.	<i>ill</i>
		2359	Weather today cloudy with snow in the morning. A very quiet day with light mortaring and shelling in the forward area.	
	8	0105	"C" Coys patrol which was to establish an outpost at 357339 were forced to return before reaching objective due to enemy occupying immediate area. The patrol will make another attempt as ordered by the CO. They will be accompanied by a fighting patrol of 10 men which will provide covering fire while outpost is being dug in.	<i>J.P.</i>
		0210	The RCE ofr reported to this HQ that mining job at "B" Coy had been completed.	
		0615	"B" Coy patrol which recce'd to river Senio in front of their posns, report water gap 30 to 45 feet wide, slow running and no obstacle such as wire or mines could be seen.	
		0715	"C" Coy now have a standing patrol established and dug in at 358339. Enemy is dug in on opposite side of near bank.	
		0920	"D" Coy have observed six enemy dugouts on far bank 360344 which appear to be manned.	
		1325	For the past hour "D" Coy has been heavily mortared. Arty has been brought down on suspected enemy mortar posns.	
		1510	"B" Coy is under fire from enemy SP or tk from an undetermined posn.	
		1920	An enemy fighting patrol or raiding party of estimated strength 25 to 30 came in on "C" Coy outpost at 35813396 overpowering and taking prisoner six men and killing one. Following is the official report of the action as turned in to 3 CIB: Report on Action at outpost 35813396, sent to 3 CIB at 0700 hrs 9 Jan 45. "The object of this outpost was to command the railway bridge 357339 and to act as a warning post for "C" Coy. The outpost consisted of six weapon pits dug in, in the dyke. The outpost was manned by six men in the actual posns armed with 2 Bren Guns and 20 mags four TSMGs and 20 mags. Included in the six men was the section commander, a Cpl. In charge of the post was a Sgt who remained in the house 5843394 with the phone. Change-over took place every four hours at night with one sec manning it throughout the day. In this case the change-over took place at 1800 hrs. The first inkling that this HQ had that an action was taking place was at 1920 hrs when a report was received from "C" Coy that a fighting patrol had come in on their outpost, details to be sent later. All the warning that the coy received that an attack was taking place was a short conversation over the phone with the Sgt. The conversation, "Sgt: "we are being attacked	





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COTIGNOLA	10	1820	This HQ has been informed by 3 CIB that relief of this unit by 48th Highrs of Canada would begin tomorrow evening at 1730 hrs.	
		1830	32 reinforcements arrived at this HQ and have been allotted to coys.	
		1830	After arty, mortar and MG preparation a strong fighting patrol from "A" Coy reached a point 358339. They started up the dyke at this point and came under heavy mortar and small arms fire. They suffered two casualties and were forced to withdraw. The enemy was dug in all along the top of the dyke.	
		2225	Contact patrol from 2/6 Queens contacted "A" Coy, NTR.	
		2310	Contact patrol from CYR contacted our "D" Coy, NTR. Weather this date was fair and cold.	
	11	0210	Contact patrols from friends on left and right have nothing to report.	
		0530	Due to enemy mortar fire it was necessary to suspend the wiring programme at "B" Coy for a short while. Two of the bombs were phosphorous.	
		1030	"B" Coy observed five men on reverse slope on near bank of river at 358339. It is suspected to be an enemy mortar posn and our own 3" mortars are engaging it.	
		1600	"D" Coy have been under fire from a heavy mortar from an unknown <sup>pos</sup> across the river.	
		1830 2300	Relief of this Unit by 48th Highrs is now under way. Relief of this Unit by 48th Highrs of Canada is now completed. The TCVs that brought up the 48th Highrs conveyed our troops back to the new area. Weather today was fine and quite cool.	
RUSSI	12	0200	Bn is now settled down in new area, locations as follows: BnHQ 431348, "A" Coy 419353, "B" Coy 419353, "C" Coy 423351, "D" Coy 425349, Sp Coy 427349.	
		0830	Pay parades were held at BnHQ, coys being paid in the following order, B, C, D, A, Sp, HQ & BnHQ.	
		1400	A picture show, "It Happened Tomorrow" was shown at GODO at 1400 hrs, 1730 hrs & 1930 hrs. 75 vacancies were allotted to this Bn. Also tonight a picture, "Calling Dr. Gilispie" was shown at RUSSI at 1400 hrs, 1730 hrs & 1930 hrs. 66 vacancies were allotted to this Bn. There was an EFI issue this afternoon.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
RUSSI	12	1745	40 Other ranks arrived at this HQ as rfts and were allotted to coys.	EAB
		2100	Notification was received from Bde that this Bn would move to a new area tomorrow 13 Jan 45. Weather fine but very cold.	
	13	0830	Bn got under way to carry out <del>new</del> move to new area.	EAB
		1100	Move is now complete, Bn <del>is</del> deployed in following posns: BnHQ 403316, "A" Coy 404311, "B" Coy 395327, "C" Coy 402326, "D" Coy 397316, Sp Coy 404316. The remainder of the day was spent getting settled in the new area. Weather this date was cloudy with rain.	
	14	0930	RC Church Parade was held in the church at BnHQ 403316.	EAB
		1400	The Battle Adjnt, Capt D I Rice proceeded on a recce of the concentration area at MEZZANO for Phase 3 of the Counter-Attack role as laid down by 3 CIB for this Bn. 1500 A "Director of Trg" Offr arrived at this HQ from Army HQ. 1800 CO held a complete "O" Gp which was attended by all supporting arms. The three phases of the counter -attack role were explained to all concerned. Weather this date was rainy and very disagreeable.	
15	0900	Trg as per syllabus Coy Comds carried out recce of counter-attack posns Phase I & II. They were accompanied by Unit MG, A Tk & Mor Pl comds. This evening a film is being shown at both GODO and RUSSI for personnel of this Bn. Weather this date cloudy and cool.	Appx 4 EAB	
16	0800	Trg as per syllabus The CO, & Battle Adjnt proceeded to area of MEZZANO to recce posns for (NORTH SWITCH LINE) a phase in the counter-attack role.	Appx 4 EAB	
	1000	All coy comds proceeded to area MEZZANO where they joined the CO & Battle Adjnt to recce their respective coy posns in the counter-attack phase "North Switch Line" They were accompanied by the tk rep, arty rep, arty A/Tk rep, SLI MG rep and own supporting arms reps.		
	1400	The CO met the acting Bde Comd Lt col H P Bell-Irving DSO at MEZZANO where they discussed plans concerning the counter-attack role.		





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SAGNACAVALLO	21		observed evacuating the buildings when the fire first started. A number of direct hits were made on other buildings in the area as well.		
		1945	A sniper working with "A" Coy today got two probable kills.		
		2100	"A" Coys right pl posn <sup>ave under</sup> MG fire and rifle grenades from river bank 365417.	Fdb	
		2205	Own sentries on bank at 369421 engaged enemy on reverse side with hand grenades. From sound made by enemy at least one casualty was inflicted.		
			Weather this date was fine and warm.		
		22	0115	"C" Coy observed an enemy patrol of 4 to 5 men approaching their posn. Sentries let them get to within 50 yds and then opened fire. Enemy went to ground and crawled away. No casualties were inflicted.	
			0215	Contact patrols to the left <del>and</del> tonight have nothing to report.	
			0430	A fighting patrol from "A" Coy of 1 & 10 reached a point 36704186. Here they heard movement and coughing which was coming from 100 yds to their right. Patrol spread out and approached this posn, an unoccupied weapon pit, occupants having apparently withdrawn on approach of patrol. Patrol returned to coy without suffering any casualties.	
			0705	"C" Coy now have an outpost established "7 men strong" at CASA CATELINI 36114087.	
			0800	Capt W E Garber, "D" Coy Comd, left this morning for 1 Cdn Corps HQ to attend a demonstration on the latest type of eqpt for winter and mountain warfare.	
			1150	"B" Coy observed an enemy working party at 367421. Area was engaged with 3" mortar fire.	
			1755	"A", "B" & "C" Coys all report sounds of enemy activity (constructional noises) at 358409 and 364417. These targets were engaged by our own 3" Mortars.	Fdb
			1950	Due to enemy bazooka and MG fire, "C" Coy find it necessary to abandon their outpost 36114087.	
			2143	During the past half hour the enemy has used a great number of flares, some multi coloured ones.	
	Contact patrol to friends on left has returned - NTR. One of our snipers working from 363408 obtained one positive kill and two possibles throughout the day. Another sniper at 366412 also scored a certain kill. <del>Weather</del> Weather this date fine and cool.				

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BAGNACAVALLIO	23	0300	"C" Coy contact patrol to friends on the left has returned - NTR.	
		0410	"C" Coy attempted to re-establish outpost posn 36114087 with no success. They reached the outpost and were in the process of digging in when they were attacked by the enemy in strength and had to withdraw. 3" & 4.2" Mortar and MMG fire was brought down on the area after the patrol withdrew.	
		0640	"C" Coy again sent out a patrol to establish the outpost 36114087. This time they were successful and shortly afterwards were in contact with "C" Coy HQ by line.	
		0650	"B" Coy fighting patrol of 1 & 10 reached a point 369422. Here it was fired on by two MGs from 367420 and 372424. They withdrew back to their coy suffering no casualties.	
		1120	"B" Coy recce patrol of two men reached ruined buildings 36854215 and found them unoccupied, also dugouts at 36954222 were unoccupied and showed no signs of recent occupation. Enemy movement could be heard on other side of the bank,	FAB
		1345	CO proceeded to 3 CIB HQ.	
		1355	"A" Coy observed 12 enemy going over the dyke towards opposite side of river directly in front of their posns. They had greatcoats on and were carrying packs. <del>12</del>	
		1800	"B" Coy have one sec established at 36824214. This posn will be manned as an outpost They have with them a phone and a 38 set for communication to Coy HQ.	
		1925	"B" Coy outpost at 36824214 was heavily engaged by handgrenades thrown from other side of dyke. They withdrew to the coy area.	
		2030	Bde Comd arrives at this HQ.	
		2220	"C" Coy contact patrol to friends on the left has returned - NTR.	
		2300	Our own snipers today working with the fwd coys scored three kills and three probables. Weather this date fine and cold.	
	24	0005	"A" Coy heard enemy movement near <del>the</del> the wire in front of their posns. They fired a few bursts of Bren. This fire was immediately returned by a Schmeiser and after an exchange of fire the enemy withdrew.	
		0230	"C" Coy contact patrol to friends on the left returned - NTR.	
		0405	"B" Coy have now re-established the outpost at 36824214. They have comn back to Coy HQ by line.	
		0430	A fighting patrol from "A" Coy reached area near CASA GUERRA 36384150. Here they came under heavy MG fire from five different posns and were forced to withdraw. Same patrol will go out later in the morning.	FAB











