

WAR DIARY

Title pages will be prepared.

West N S R

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Erase heading not required)

September 1944

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
BORGIO, S. MARIA	1		<p>Early hours of the morning enemy shelled bn area, inflicting very little damage.</p> <p>1100 Lt col R S E Waterman DSO considers the Bn completely re-organized and ready to move.</p> <p>1200 Bn placed on one hours notice to move. We were informed that we would take up posns presently occupied by the CYR, area 054753.</p> <p>2100 Bn once more moves across river FOGLIO and double-banks the night with the CYR area 054753. No enemy activity up to 2400 hrs. Weather today was fine and warm.</p>	<p><i>RSE</i></p>
	2		<p>Sep 2 dawns fine and warm and continues thus throughout the day.</p> <p>0600 CYR moves off to new area.</p> <p>1000 Without any previous warning Bn ordered to move immediately to area 0372.</p> <p>1010 Bn on the move.</p> <p>1200 All sub-units reported in posn, Tac HQ established 039783. Remainder of the day was spent checking arms and amm and generally preparing for action. Indicating haste of the enemy retreat in this area, three 88mm guns were found, two of which were in good working order.</p>	<p><i>RSE</i></p>
	3.		<p>Weather today fine in the morning but several light showers in the afternoon. We are informed that there are more artillery guns against us than ever before in Italy, a fact that by this time we are well aware of. The day was spent by this Bn waiting for orders to move forward but they were not forthcoming.</p>	<p><i>RSE</i></p>
	4.		<p>0700 Bn placed on one hours notice to move.</p> <p>0800 TCVs arrive and prepare to move Bn forward.</p> <p>1200 Recce party goes forward to new area.</p> <p>1515 Bn moves off by tpt to new area 9783 as per movement order.</p> <p>1730 All sub-units reported in posn. Tac HQ established at 974830.</p> <p>1900 Bn placed on two hours notice to move. Weather this date fine and warm.</p>	<p>Appx 1</p> <p><i>RSE</i></p>
	5		<p>Despite the fact that the Bn was placed on two hours notice to move at 1900 hrs yesterday, reveille this morning finds us still in area 974830</p>	

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

Title pages will be prepared.

West N S R

(Erase heading not required)

September 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials		
RICOIONE	5	0700	Bn placed on one hours notice to move.	<p><i>Rec</i></p> <p><i>Rec</i></p> <p><i>Rec</i></p>		
		1730	Marching personnel and vehs move to area 9389.			
		2030	All sub-units reported in position, Tac HQ established 936894.			
		2100	One officer and 25 Other ranks arrived as reinforcements. Weather today was fine and warm.			
	6	No indication today as to when we will be committed to action. Light shelling Bn area but no casualties. Weather this morning was fine but frequent light showers during the afternoon.			<p><i>Rec</i></p> <p><i>Rec</i></p> <p><i>Rec</i></p>	
		7	Considerable rain during the night which left the ground rather muddy and sticky this morning.			
			1015	CO and IO go to an "O" Group at Bde HQ.		
			1500	Bn "O" Group. CO issued orders for relief of HPER who are presently in area 9190.		
			1945	Bn leaves by march route to relieve HPER.		
			2300	All sub-units report in position and relief of the HPER is complete. Tac HQ established at 912906. There was light shelling during the take-over but no casualties.		
		8	0230	Two patrols left Bn area to investigate buildings at 904912 and 902918.		<p><i>Rec</i></p> <p>Appx 1</p> <p><i>Rec</i></p> <p>Appx 5</p>
			0430	Patrol from "C" Coy returns and reports enemy occupying buildings at 904912.		
			0500	"B" Coy patrol returns, reports no enemy area 902918 but numerous unoccupied enemy posns.		
			0515	Enemy patrol approaches "A" Coy area and in an exchange of small arms fire, "A" Coy suffered two other rank casualties, one killed and one wounded.		
			0900	CO goes to "O" Gp at Bde.		
			1030	"O" Group at BnHQ, CO outlines plan for changeover with 1 Bn Greek Mtn Bde.		
			1100	Greek Reps arrive and made acquainted with enemy and our own picture by CO and IO. Considerable shelling in the Bn area today.		
			1400	An HE shell came through the wall of BnHQ house but failed to explode.		
			2000	Relief of the Bn xxxx by the Greeks as per Movement Order began.		
2300	Bn settled in old area 9389 with Tac HQ established at 936894.					
2330	Word was received that Lt C B Cochran one of the original officers of the unit and presently IO at HQ 1 Cdn Div had met with a rather serious accident while riding a motorcycle.					

WAR DIARY

~~SECRET~~

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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

Title pages will be prepared.

West I 3 R

(Erase heading not required)

September 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials	
BESANIGO	9		Weather today fine and warm.	<p><i>RE</i></p> <p><i>RE</i></p> <p><i>RE</i> 5.</p>	
		0900	Five reinforcement officers arrive, among them Major G L F MacNeil MC and Lt D G Kirk two officers who had landed in Sicily with the unit and returned to England on exchange some months ago.		
		1900	CO Lt Col R S E Waterman DSO and IO Capt R E Campbell called to Bde O Group where plan for new offensive was outlined. West MSR to relieve Irish Regt of Canada in area 8988 tomorrow.		
		10	2330		Enemy air raid in vicinity of Bn Area which caused everyone to keep their fingers crossed for a few minutes, however no damage was done in the Bn area.
	0800		CO with All Coy Comds and IO left for recon of Irish Regt positions. Enroute the party guide Cpl Charlie Fleet lost his bearings and led the entire party along a ridge in full view of the enemy, and within easy rifle shot, for three quarters of a mile. Jerry was apparently so surprised that he forgot to pull the trigger, and the entire party reached the Irish Regiment of Canada unscathed.		
	0930		Both Church of England and Roman Catholic Church services after which C of E held Holy Communion Service.		
		11	1900		Bn moved off by march route to relieve Irish Regt of Canada.
	2350		Relief completed, Tac HQ established at 895884. Weather this date fine and warm.		
		12			Today the shelling and mortaring is quite intensive, however the Bn is well dug in and the only result is that we have not freedom of movement.
	2100		Patrols from "C" and "D" Coy both 1 and 10 in strength leave to investigate buildings at 880887 and 882892.		
	2300		Stealth patrol of three scouts accompanied by an engineer officer and NCO left to investigate river river crossing at 887903. Today a message of congratulations encouragement was received from the GOC 1 Can Div. Weather today was fine and warm.		
		12	0200		Patrol from "C" Coy returned from investigating buildings at 880887 and reported buildings clear of the enemy and slit trenches in the area unoccupied.
0240	"D" Coy patrol returned from 882892 and reported buildings occupied in strength by enemy. Enemy very active and alert in this area, using numerous very lights and firing small arms.				

WAR DIARY

~~WORK~~

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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

Title pages will be prepared.

West N S R

(Erase heading not required)

September 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	12	0330	"A" Coy comd reports enemy tank moving about on his front.	
		0530	Stealth patrol returns from area 8790 and report getting involved in a fire fight between the enemy and the Coy. Patrol was discovered by the enemy and had to crawl a considerable distance before being able to return to the Bn Area. They were unable to reach the river crossing.	
		1800	CO Lt col R S R Waterman DSO held a conference at BnHQ where he outlined plan for 5 Cdn Div attack on our left flank tomorrow.	
		2000	Our air force put on a fine demonstration of close air support on our left flank and front, aided by flares. The attack was so close to our own FDLs that for a moment there was a bit of doubt as to what airforce was putting on the attack. Enemy shelled and mortared consistently during the day and tonight. Weather this date was fine and warm.	Red
	13	1000	CO held a discussion with officers at BnHQ.	
		1100	CO attended "O" Group at 3 Coy HQ.	
		2100	Bn "O" Group. CO gives his orders for our attack at 0330 hrs, on the town of SAN LORENZO. West NSR to attack and secure R MARANO river line and then to attack and secure enemy strong points at SAN LORENZO and 858929 after which we are to exploit north west to the River AUSA. The attack to be done in two phases. Phase 1: to fight for and secure MARANO river line and, Phase 2: using river line as a start line, attack and secure SAN LORENZO and strong point at 858929. During phase 1 A Coy to lead with one tp of tanks under comd, and B Coy to follow at 200 yards interval with another tp of tanks under comd C & D Coys to follow B Coy at 200 yarda intals. Supporting arms to be on wheels ready to move forward when required. Coys with tanks to be in FUP 898891/897888 by 0230 hrs and to cross start line (lateral road 894888/896891) by 0300 hrs. First phase to be completed by 0530 hrs and Bn to reorganize with A & B Coys forward each with a tp of tanks. C & D Coys in reserve. Second phase to start at 0630 hrs under artillery concentrations prepared on a Corps level. A & B Coys to secure intermediate objectives, then C & D Coys to pass through A & B, pick up tanks and continue to final objectives. When final objectives secure B Coy to pass through and exploit as far as River AUSA.	
		2200	"O" Group being finished, officers returned to their respective commands to brief their officers and men. During this morning tanks supporting the 5 Cdn Div attack while manouvering in our D Coy area drew considerable enemy fire and caused a number of casualties in D Coy. Weather today fine and warm.	Red

WAR DIARY

GRX

~~INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~

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

Title pages will be prepared.

West F S R

(Erase heading not required)

September 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	14	0100	Tac HQ moves to house at 894887 which afforded a good view of the battle area.	
		0300	Forward sub-units cross start line.	
		0500	Forward elements reach area 888894 and encounter heavy resistance, which included small arms fire, mortar and shelling and SP guns. Resistance proved much greater than previous intelligence had led us to believe and fighting for the MARANO river line became very fierce which resulted in the Bn plan being changed several times.	
		0700	C Coy caught under our own barrage of air bursts and its l8 set knocked out.	
		0800	Forward coys had by now fought their way to 888899 occupied by the CYR.	
		0815	CO went forward to 888899 leaving IO with communications at 894887.	
		0900	CO was rallying the Bn and preparing for a renewed assault.	
		1015	D Coy under Capt W H P David attack the village GHETTO DEL MOLINO 884901 with a tp of tanks and did a splendid job of house clearing.	
		1030	IO with remainder of Tac HQ joins CO at 888899.	
		1100	Lt Col M P Bogert DSO paid a visit to Tac HQ and was greeted by a hail of enemy bullets and shells.	
		1200	With the exception of a few isolated pockets and two SP guns enemy by this time had been cleared up up to the river MARANO.	
		1300	Advance continues with "B" Coy under Capt J H Jones MC leading. Advance at this stage became so rapid that Lt G M Hebb (later killed in action) in charge of the leading platoon in B Coy was able to dash across the bridge at 879903 and tear the wires from the demolitions thus, preventing the enemy enemy from blowing the bridge, which if blown could have held up the advance for a considerable period of time.	
		1500	D Coy under Capt W H P David reach village of SAN LORENZO but being unsupported by tanks (which by this time had been all knocked off) had to withdraw 800 yards and consolidate.	
		1800	CO decides to move forward to our FDLs.	
		1900	Fresh squadron of tanks promised earlier had not arrived so the CO decides to attack SAN LORENZO without them.	
		2000	D Coy again on the outskirts of SAN LORENZO with B Coy on its left, but without support of tanks it was found impossible to storm the height and the CO ordered all coys to retire and consolidate, in area 8690. Tac HQ established at 867909.	
		2400	Supporting arms, cookhouses and amn truck had by this time arrived and all coys fed and amn replenished. Numerous casualties in men and equipment suffered in today's action. Weather was fine and warm.	

Ret

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
W.P.S.J

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

Title pages will be prepared.

West F S R

(Erase heading not required)

September 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
SAN LORENZO	15	0100	Our own 3-in mortars on base plates in Bn Area and busily engaged in harassing fire on SAN LORENZO.	
		0200	Still no tanks, but CO held "O" Group and on instruction from higher authority issued orders for a further attack on the hill feature SAN LORENZO. B & C Coys to attack forward and A & D Coys in reserve.	
		0230	B & C Coys cross start line.	
		0345	In the at darkness D Coy got in front of C Coy and found itself with B Coy once again on the outskirts of SAN LORENZO and again found it impossible to take the feature without support of tanks and withdrew to old area to re-organize.	
		0800	Another squadron of tanks arrive, CO has an immediate "O" group and issues orders for yet another attack on SAN LORENZO. B Coy with two tps of tanks under command and C Coy with one tp of tanks under comd to lead and A & D Coys to follow. Time across start line 0830 hrs. Due to the fighting in recent actions the fighting strength of the Bn was greatly reduced and the men are extremely tired and battle weary.	
		0830	B & C Coys cross start line.	
		0930	C Coy gets caught under very heavy mortar concentration and becomes disorganized. All its officers including the CO Major W G Stothard become casualties.	
		1000	A Coy under Major R G Thexton takes over from C Coy and continues a very slow advance with B Coy	
		1030	Advance held up by SP guns and machine gun posts in and around houses on ridge near side SAN LORENZO. Tanks asked our A Tk guns to engage houses.	
		1045	A Tk guns engage houses with good results.	
		1100	Enemy 150 mm troop engage BnHQ house with deadly accuracy until 1200 hrs, causing numerous casualties among BnHQ personnel. Also knocking out all our communications with the exception of the Bn 18 set. During the early afternoon the coys reported slow progress against stubborn and fierce resistance.	
		1700	B Coy reports on objective. A Coy close behind.	
		1800	CO Lt col R S E Waterman DSO orders all support weapons forward to help coys consolidate on the objective.	
		1830	Bde Comd congratulates Bn on its success.	
		1900	Tac HQ moves forward to SAN LORENZO and established at 865917	

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.
1918 & 19

XORX

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

Title pages will be prepared.

West N S R

(Erase heading not required)

September 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
SAN LORENZO	15	2400	Bn now firmly established on the objective with all support weapons in position. Capt J H Jones M. O. B Coy and Lt S K Nickerson also B Coy deserve special mention in this phase of the action. Shelling now has become quite intense. Weather this date fine and warm.	RJL
		16	0200 Patrol of Scouts and snipers attempt to reach river AUSA but are driven driven back by enemy snipers. 0900 Bde Comd Lt Col M P Bogert DSO paid a visit to BnHQ and discussed previous days action and future intention with the CO Lt Col R S E Waterman DSO. All last night and today Bn was subjected to severe shelling and mortaring. Bn is busy today re-organizing having suffered rather severe casualties in men and equipment the past couple of days. Padre H/Capt L F Wilmot was collecting and burying the dead. Weather today fine but a bit cool.	RJL
	17	0920	Intense shelling remainder of night. CO Lt Col RSE Waterman DSO called to Bde HQ and this subsequently proved to be his farewell to active command of the regiment.	
		1000	Major F E Hiltz 2 IC of the Bn arrives and assumes command.	
		1130	"O" Group at BnHQ. CO issued orders for B Coy to attack and secure GANOFANIO at 854916.	
		1200	B Coy crosses start line.	
		1245	B Coy now consolidated on objective having met no opposition.	
		1300	Section of Machine guns moved down and take up a defensive posn with B Coy. Considerable shelling today at up to 2400 hrs. Weather fine and warm.	RJL
	18		In the early hours of this morning enemy shelling intensified and continued thus throughout the day.	
		0700	One of our Spifires strafed the Bn area and dropped one bomb on the church burying some engineers and one platoon of A Coy causing some casualties.	
		1150	CO Major F E Hiltz ordered to Bde. Major Hiltz was told that intention was for West MSR to pass through CYR with tanks immediately and capture high ground 831944. However engineers reported that it would not be possible for them to prepare crossing for tanks across the river AUSA until after last light so the plan had to be delayed.	
		1800	Major F E Hiltz again called to Bde "O" Group.	

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

XOR

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

Title pages will be prepared.

West N S R

(Erase heading not required)

September 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	18	1900	Major Hiltz returned and held immediate "O" Group and gave his orders for the final attack on the Div objective. Intention: West NSR will attack and secure high ground area 831944, with R 22e R on left and HPTB on right. A & B Coys forward with C & D coys in reserve. FUP in B Coys area, start line 843931/847937. A & B Coys each to have a tp of tks under comd another tp to be with C & D Coys. Infantry to marry up with tks at start line. Major F E Hiltz was to take 1 tank with a 19 set and a 18 set and his carrier with another 18 set and follow leading coys. IO with wireless and telephone communication to Bde HQ, 19 Set on tank link and 22 Set set and 18 set link to CO, to remain at SAN LORENZO until called forward. At approx 2400 hrs leading coys left FUP and proceeded for ^{to} start line.	<i>RL</i>
	19	0300 0345 0500	All sub-units plus tanks in posn ready for attack at 0400 hrs. Engineers report having completed the river crossing for our tanks. Forward sub-units cross line and almost immediately came under heavy machine gun fire. CO called for more smoke on feature but enemy fire was so intense that troops were forced to ground. Despite numerous attempts to push forward towards evening the Bn was forced to consolidate 300 yards yards in front of this mornings start line. Shelling, mortaring and small arms fire was intense all day. Weather was fine.	<i>RL</i>
POMPOSA GRANDE	20	0700 1100 1200	Intense shelling and mortaring during the night. CO ordered C & D Coys to outflank objective on the left while A & B attack from the front. A Coy on objective with very little opposition. Remaining coys following closely. Objective firmly in our hands. During the morning Lt col A L Saunders arrives and assumes command of the regiment. After 1200 hrs the men tried to get what rest they could under a hail of mortar and shell fire. Meanwhile Coy comds and officers under the direction of the new CO were busy re-organizing. Weather fine and warm this date.	<i>RL</i>
	21		Weather today fine in the morning, heavy showers in the afternoon and evening. Heavy shelling all day but few casualties. Padre with carrying party collecting and burying our dead. All remaining officers and NCO busy re-organizing the unit.	<i>RL</i>
	22		Weather today cool with showers. Day spent in clearing up the battle field and	

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
6 P.A.S. 2

Title pages will be prepared.

West P S R

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

September 1944

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
CATTOLICA	26	1930	Lt col A L Saunders had several discussions with the coy comds re training and adjustment of the officer and NCO slates in the Bn. Film "Five Graves to Cairo" was shown.	<i>RAE</i>
	27	0930 1000 1500 1930	Weather cloudy and cool with showers late in the morning. Training as per syllabus Capt C F Spence leaves on a three day attachment with the Desert Air Force. CO with several other officers attends demonstration of flame thrower on Churchill Tank. Band Concert in Bde Area. Film "Beautiful Cheat" was shown.	Appx 4 <i>RAE</i>
	28	1230 1930	Weather cool with frequent showers. Training as per syllabus Party incharge of Padre H/Capt L F Wilmot left on a sightseeing tour of the castle GRADARA. Film in the unit recreation centre "Hold that Ghost". During the last few days leaves for both officers and men have been arranged.	Appx 4 <i>RAE</i>
	29	0830 1250 1500 1930	Trg as per syllabus Weather very disagreeable today, heavy rain with high winds. Bn Parade. Lt col A L Saunders inspects the Bn and congratulates all ranks on the fine turnout despite the fact that the weather tried to make it otherwise. Col the Hon J L Ralston Minister of National Defense, accompanied by several high ranking officers of the Canadian Army visited the Battalion and in a short but appropriate talk congratulated the Battalion on its many successes in Italy and assured the men that the people back in Canada had not forgotten about them and were following their every move very closely. Film in unit recreation centre.	Appx 4 <i>RAE</i>
	30	0800	Weather cloudy and cool. Training as per syllabus Lt Reese ROE gave a lecture to the Officers and NCOs on assault river crossing. Afterwards the officers and NCOs went to river 974877 where Lt Ferguson ROE gave a further lecture and engineers gave a demonstration in assault boats.	Appx 4

