

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. 21
40/P & S/27 (9/43)

42-N-2
DEC-43

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

Title pages will be prepared.

West Nova Scotia Regiment

(Erase heading not required)

December 1943

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
AGNONE	1	0830	Bn embussed in area of station and brick factory, moved off at 0900 hrs arrived at AGNONE (H35) at 1130 hrs. Good billets with lights and running water for the most part were found in the town. Troops allowed on street until 2000 hrs.	APP 4 Ret
		1600	Brig Gibson and Capt Prince visited BnHQ.	
	2	1000	Lt col M P Bogert and Capt H M Eisenhauer recon road to Castiglione (H36) with a view to providing flank protection on the move to the coast. QM and LOBs arrived at the Bn today.	Ret
		1800	Show, "Gambling on the High Seas" xxx (vintage 1930) put on by Auxiliary Services K of C.	Ret
	3.		West N S R prepare to move to Casalborgino (H49) on 4 Dec 43. D Coy is to provide flank protection for the Bn Gp on this move as far as Castiglione. During the morning Lt col M P Bogert and Capt Rogers arranged the posts for this task.	Ret
	4.	1100	Bn passed SP as per movement order. Movement was slow due to diversions and slippery roads, reached Vasto (H59) on the Coast at 2200 hrs and Pollutri at 2400 hrs where billets were arranged by the recon party under Major R S E Waterman.	APP 4 Ret
	5.	0600	Bn on 2 hrs notice from this time. Shows put on by K of C in the afternoon and evening.	Ret
	6.	0845	Warning Order for move to ROCCA. Recon party under Major R S E Waterman to that Area. Bn crossed Sangro at 1555 hrs and arrived at Rosca at approx 1700 hrs. Raining Raining very hard. Take over position of RIF (78 Div) who will move out in the morning. Slight shelling of A Coy area during night 6-7 Dec.	Ret
	7.	0830	Lt Col M P Bogert and Capt H M Eisenhauer proceed to Bn HQ. 1030 hrs RIF move out. 1115 hrs slight enemy aerial activity over our area, but our own planes are very active and soon dispersed them. Some indication that Lt Blanchard who lead the Pl of B Coy on the Castle di Sangro feature is dead, and buried in that area, but as yet this has not been positively confirmed.	Ret hs

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WAR DIARY

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

42 N 3
DEC 43

M.P.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (9/43)

Title pages will be prepared West Nova Scotia Regiment

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December 1943

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
ROCCA	8		Increased air activity is a notable feature on this front. All morning our bombers were over the enemy lines and a few enemy planes made their appearance but hastily disappeared on each occasion.	
		1400	Bn "O" Gp which Lt Col M P Bogert outlined the attack 1 and 2 B's are making this afternoon, also dealt with special points on our move tomorrow. Our Pioneer Officer Lt Lynch, discovered a new type of German Mine detector, from an enemy dump.	Ret
	9	0900	Lt col M P Bogert and Capt H M Eisenhower to conference at B's HQ regarding scale of transport. 3 officer reinforcements arrived at the unit today. Bn on two hrs notice to move.	APP 2 Ret
	10	1500	Lt col M P Bogert and Capt H M Eisenhower to B's HQ. Bn to move forward at midnight. Recce party detailed to leave at 1950 hrs. Lt col M P Bogert and Capt Burns, OC B Coy attend an "O" Gp at Tac Div HQ. Bn move by tpt to area 336099 arriving at 0300 hrs 11 Dec 43. Bivouac in the field in that area, incessant rain causing this to be very wet, muddy and disagreeable.	Ret
	11		Intermittent, harassing, shell and mortar fire on this area throughout the day. Some slight casualties. On the night 10/11 B Coy moved forward with the Regt but broke off at the dispersal point and continued forward to S. Leonardo 326118 where they were joined by 1 Sqn of tanks. This was to form a battle group and a firm base from which they could patrol vigorously to try to secure a tank route across the ORSOGNA-ORTONA road. They were shelled and mortared heavily in this area throughout 11 Dec 43. In the afternoon of the 12th two patrols under Lts Jones and Romkey sent out recce a tank route up to and across the ROSOGNA-ORTONA road. Lt Romkey encountered enemy areas 315125, two enemy killed, own tps no casualties. Found this route impassable for tanks. The story of Lt Jones's patrol is best told by the extract from a recommendation for award for this officer which follows: "On 12 Dec 43 Lt Jones was took a strong recce patrol into enemy territory in order to find a route for tanks to reach the ORSOGNA/ORTONA road. A way was discovered and enemy were heard. It was too dark to observe but he obtained definite information that there were enemy in this locality by listening. He	APP 4 Ret Rus

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WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

M.F.M. 11
40/P & B/37 (D/42)

42-N-4
DEC-43

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December 1943.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
		1100	<p>returned to the company and in conjunction with Lt Clarke of the 11 C.T.R., organized an attack for the morning of 13 Dec 43. The attack was put in at 0700 hrs 13 Dec 43 with 10 platoon, with Lt Jones in command, riding on three tanks of 11 C.T.R. They drove the into the middle of the enemy position and our tanks knocked out 3 German mark 4 specials and one anti-tank gun. Only one shot was fired by the German tanks, the surprise being so complete. Shrapnel from this shot hit Lt Jones in the shoulder. Despite this he showed great aggressiveness and courage in that he continued to lead his platoon in destroying and driving off the enemy on the ground in this area. After was finished he carried on with organizing defence in this area until the balance of his company arrived at approximately 1030 hrs, when he expressed the wish to carry on with the attack, but was ordered back for medical aid, by his company commander. As a result of this action the only entry to the ORSOGNA-ORTOMA road was made available enabling our tanks and following forces to exploit across this road".</p> <p>When 10 platoon went in to the attack, balance of the coy stood to, and as soon as reports were received, Capt F H Burns took the balance of the coy arriving forward arriving at 1030 hrs. The full coy took up a defensive position in this area.</p> <p>Orders received by B Coy to clear ridge 315116 to 316124. One pl was left in this position under comd Sjt Vingar, Capt Burns proceeded with remaining pls and tanks towards towards Berardi. Was fired on twice from top of ridge enroute, this was cleaned out by 12 Pl. Under heavy shell fire all across feature, contacted remainder of the Bn at 318126. In the meantime 10 Pl succeeded in capturing 52 PWs in the area of yesterday's scrap.</p> <p>We now take up the story again at 1800 hrs 11 Dec 43. A, C & D Coys move off on foot, intention, to attack along axis of feature 3112 northwest to TOLLO (2615). Route by road to 500 yards north west of S. Leonardo. Bn came under shell fire from start point, which continued until they had crossed the diversion at the MORO river. 3 ORs casualties and 22 set knocked out. Moved off from FUP (324127) at 2200 hrs, A Coy right, C Coy left, followed by BnHQ and D Coy. At 2220 hrs came under heavy SAA fire from line of the top of ridge 315123 to 317127. Several attempts were made to carry this position but the enemy were found to be well dug in along the lip of was this area. Enemy had numerous MGs and the Bn was pinned down and dug in area 318126.</p>	<p>APP 4</p> <p>RF</p> <p>R</p>

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WAR DIARY

42-N-6

M.F.M. 11
40/P & B/37 (8/43)

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DEC-43

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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West Nova Scotia Regiment (Erace heading not required)

December 1943.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
S. Leonard			with the two pls of B Coy and tanks contacted and joined the remainder of the Bn.	
	14		Bn still holding the same posn in the face of heavy arty, mortar and SAA fire. A, C and D Coys now have a combined strenght of 76 all ranks and are acting as a single coy under comd of Capt Rogers. The two pls of B Coy and a Pl of LOBs, just brought up, form another coy under Capt Burns. BnHQ, att P ⁿ Amb, etc, give the Bn a total strength of 217 all ranks.	Ret
	15		B still holding this posn in the face of heavy art arty, mortar and SAA Fire. Enemy snipers very active on the flanks. 13 PsW taken today. xxxx	Ret
	16		Still sitting tight same posn. The R 22e R on our left and front are getting some of the enemy's attention, so shelling and mortaring are comparatively light although still continuing. The Bn is being re-organized, a small draft of reinforcements has come up.	APP 2
		2300	Two man patrol from B Coy report enemy activity (digging) in area 319132.	Ret
	17	0100	Fighting patrol is sent out to investigate this and shot up the general area.	
		0230	Further fighting patrols proceeded to this area and had a brisk encounter with the enemy, suffered three casualties, and were forced to withdraw. Bn Still under arty mortar and SAA fire throughout the day.	Ret
	18		Intermittent, arty, mortar and SAA fire.	
		1400	Lt col R S E Waterman outlined plan of attack to be carried out at 1600 hrs.	
		1600	A, B & C Coys totalling 160 all ranks with 3 tanks in support attacked the enemy strong point area 317128 and north. This was a sharp brisk encounter which had as its objective, flushing the enemy from area of bridge to enable the R 22e R who had a clear field of fire on this to 'mow them down' so to speak. Some enemy were flushed and accounted for by the R 22e R, but this was found to be a strongly defended posn (approx 1 Bn) and the Bn after suffering approx 20 % casualties withdrew to its former posn. Four officers wounded, one officer missing, presumed killed. Brig Gibson watched this action from the BnHQ area. When Lt col R S E Waterman returned from this action, he ga ve Brig Gibson a complete account of the action along with	Ret

Rw

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WAR DIARY

OR

42-N-7

DEC-43

M.F.M. 11
40/P & B/57 '0/42)

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West Nova Scotia Regiment (Brass heading not required)

December 1943.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
S. Leonardo			what was later found to be a very accurate estimate of the enemy strength in that area.	
	19		This Sabbath was spent collecting and burying our dead. Re-organization of the Bn is still being carried out. The Hun still wont let us forget his proximity.	Ret
	20		For the first time one can move freely in this area without fear of snipers although a fair amount of shells and mortar bombs are still being lobed in. Further collection and burying of dead being carried out. Maj col R S E Waterman today proceeded to Rear Div HQ re re-organization.	Ret
	21	1800	A slight adjustment of the Bn posn was made today, extending our front a few hundred yards on either flank to forma firm base for attacking units. Troops were also paid today and KFI supplies brought forward, highlight of this was the free issue of one bottle of beer per man. Major G L F McNeil MC, Lt G D DeBlois and 26 ORs reinforcements, arrived, all of which went to C Coy. Orders were received for the Bn to withdraw on the morrow to area 3311 to rest and re-organize.	APP 2 Ret
	22		Bn moved to area 3413, move was completed by 1200 hrs. Mobile bath and disinfecting centre set up.	Ret
	23		Capt J W K Smeltzer, SOS on exchange of officers to the UK. Capt C E Bent is on loan from 3 Bde HQ and acting OC A Coy until re-organization is complete. Reinforcements of 8 officers, Capt E M Grouse, Capt H M McMillan, Lts W L Barnwell, S B Beaton, D A Campbell, A J W Dyer, J T J Sweeney, A D Taylor and 155 ORs arrived. Four rifle coys now have a combined strenght of 16 officers and 403 ORs.	Ret
	24	1200	Elements of the Bn attended a PIAT demonstration area 331123. Of 12 shots fired from various angles and ranges, four penetrations were achieved in a German Mk 4 tank. All officers of the Bn were addressed by Major-Gen Vokes at Bde HQ in which he stressed the importance of discipline.	Ret ht

Place	Date	Time	Summary - Events and Information
S. Leonardo	25	0830	Accumulated WPI profits were used to give each man an issued of one bottle of beer 40 max cigarettes, 3 bars, nuts, etc.
		0900	Brig Gibson addressed all WOs of the bn.
		1100	An excellent dinner of Pork, turkey, NAAFI cake, etc, was thoroughly enjoyed by the troops.
		1400	Bn moved by march route to general of area of 331140. The Boche is very active in the area just ahead, 'dropping' moaning bombs' and heavy shells.
	26	1000	Two South Africans, escaped PsW came into our lines and were immediately sent to Bde.
			Lt col R S E Waterman proceeds to Bde HQ. Very little change in the general situation on our front. Activity is confined to patrolling.
	27	0400	Lt DeBlois, while out on a patrol with three ORs stepped on an S mine. Mr DeBlois was fatally wounded, two ORs stretcher cases, the other one suffering shock.
		1620	Slight enemy air activity, no damage within unit area. The air was considerably improved in this area today by planting some more or less decomposed Boches.
		2200	One man of C Coy, shot and killed, when he failed to answer the challenge in of the neighboring pl post. The weather has changed to clear and cool. A very cool breeze from the hills sweeps the plains.
	28	1400	Bn still in same posn weather clear and cool.
			Lt col R S E Waterman and Lt R E Campbell to O Group at Bde HQ.
	29	0900	Bn O Group. Lt Col R S E Waterman issued orders for our part of the Bde advance to be carried out tomorrow.
Bn moved off by march route. Bde will attack along axis 315250 - 305180. Carly & York R on right R 22e R on left, West N S R reserve, but will push through and exploit if the first are successful.			
Bn halted area 3115 awaiting orders to push through. Remained here all of day.			
Lt col R S E Waterman to Bde HQ.			

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WAR DIARY

MPM 11
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42-N-9
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December 1943.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
ORTONA	29		The ground over which we are now passing is torn and marred by the great struggle. Hardly a building remains standing on this, once rich, coastal plain. Knocked out tanks and vehicles dot the landscape, some our own, but enemy Mark 4s and SP guns predominate. The Town of Ortona is literally flattened and the stench of bodies under the debris caused one to hurry through.	Rft
	30		Carl & York R and R 22e R did not get on their objectives so a change of plan was made. West N S R is to move over on the right flank to relieve FPCLI. This move was completed at 1000 hrs. Bn now in area 3118. Some enemy sniping in the afternoon otherwise quiet. A reinforcement draft of 3 officers and 26 ORs arrived. Usual contact patrols carried out night 30/31 Dec.	Rft
	31	1200	Quite heavy shelling in our general area today. D Coy having two ORs killed, five ORs wounded. The Corps Commander 5 Corps Major-General Vokes, Brig Gibson, visited the Bn OP and discussed the general situation with Lt col R S E Waterman. New Year's Eve turned out to be a vile night, with high winds, heavy rain and very dark. Patrols had a very difficult task on this night.	Rft

Waterman
Lt Col.

LIST of APPENDICES

- 13 pp - Orig App 1 Rifle Coy reports on battle of Catenannova and subsequent actions, 11 Inf Bde admin orders 30 & 31 Jul 43 and 78 Div I summary No 51.
- Trt App 2 Part 2 Orders ~~Nos 29 to 35~~ **34 + 35** -
- 13 oversize pages equals → Orig App 3 Field Returns 9 Jul 43 to 21 Aug 43.
26 regular size copies (see example)
- 15 oversize maps → Orig App 4 Book of maps illustrating West N.S.R.s part in the Sicilian campaign.
[photostat size - \$5.20 each]
- 26 pp. Orig App 5 Five copies of Red Patch, special victory service 15 Aug 43, special order by Maj Gen Simonds, Corps Routine Orders 2 Aug 43, Standing Orders of West N S R, personal message from the Army Commander.

13 pp - Diary - 16 July 1943 - 25 Aug 1943 (including list of appendices)

LIST OF APPENDICES:

WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGT

WAR DIARY : 13-30 SEP 43

	ORIGINAL	DUPLICATE	TRIPLICATE
1. Appla.Int Summary 13 Sep	X ✓	-	-
b. Movement Order 14-15 Sep	X ✓	X	X
c. " " 17 Sep	X ✓	X	X (less
d. X " 29 Sep	X ✓	X	X order of
e & f. Int Summaries 13 & 3	X ✓	-	- march)
2. Part II Orders 38-42 incl	-	-	X
3. 3008s & 3009s, 18-25 Sep 43	X ✓	-	-
4. Miscellaneous			
(a). Congratulatory messages, etc on Sicilian campaign	X ✓	-	-
(b) Declaration fr people of TITO to Lieut R W Bullock....	X ✓	X	X

NOTE No Part I orders were printed by West NSR during the period 13-30 Sep 43.

A book of maps covering operations in ITALY will be fwded with a later diary.

1/1/43

13 pp

5 pp

5 pp

6 pp - Diary - 13 Sept 43 - 30 Sept 43