# WAR DIARY

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West N S R

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
CATTOLICA	ı	0930 1900		Fals
	2	0800	Bn reremonial parade and an inspertion by the CO, Lt col A L Saunders. Weather this date was very rainy and a TELT scheduled for 1400 hrs had to be cancelled.	FOR
	3	0800 1000 1600 1830	A TEWT was held by the -O and offrs of the Bn at 9686. Bn held last rehearsal for Bde -omds inspection and march past on the following day.	Las
	4	0830	followed by a march past in which the Bde Comd took the salute. Afterwards when the Bn formed up again on the parade ground, the Bde comd congratulated the Bn on the very fine turnout. The RCE band was in attendance.	Fal
	5		The IO, Capt R E campbell, left this morning for FANO on a three day exchange of offrs with the Desert Air Force.  An Educational picture on VD was shown to the Bn at the Bde Cinema.  48 hour leaves to RICCIONE have again commenced.  A Warning Order was issued to the effect that exercise "River Crossing" is to be carried out 6 Oct 44 by "A" and "D" Coys with the balance of the Bn attending the exercise as spectators.	Fab

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices an initials
OATTOLICA	5		Weather this date was cloudy and cool with frequent showers. Trg this date as per syllabus	Appx 4
	6		Trg as per syllabus. Bn "O" Group for exercise "River Crossing" on River CONOA, was held at 968878 and attended by all Sp and Rifle voy offrs.	Appx 4
		1400	"A" & "D" voys together with detailed party of Signallers, stretcherbearers and pioneers, move to assembly area 964879 for exercise "River Grossing", 18 paddlers being supplied by "B" voy. Balance of the Bn, under coy arrangements, march to spectators stand on east bank Conca River at 974877 where Pl Gomds gave a running commentary as exercise progressed. A meeting was held in the Officers' Mess of all offrs except those on duty at BnHQ. Weather this date cloudy and cool.	Fall
	7.	1100	Trg as per syllabus. The GOO 1 odn corps, Lt-Gen E L M Burns DSO OBE, gave a short talk to the officers WOs and NOOs of this Bn at the Bde cinema. The General expressed his thanks to the officers and men for the very fine work they did in the Breaking of the Gothic Line and driving the enemy back onto the Lombardy plains. He stated that in the fighting	Appx 4
		1330	that was to come in the very near future the men of 1 odn Div would play a very important part.  A TEWT, Exercise "ATTACK" was held (RV X-rds 976867) and attended by all offrs, WOs and Sgts.  The 7th Vistory Loan campaign started today, and was received with great enthusiasm, by all ranks.  Weather this date cloudy and cool.	Sal
	8		RC church Parade at Bde Adm building, and Protestant Church Service in the Bde cinema. A film was shown in the Bde cinema, "Man Hunt". The weather is still very unsettled after severe thunder storms during last night.	Lab
	9	1430	Trg as per syllabus. The "Bandoliers" Concert Party put on two performances for this unit in the camp theatre. This concert was the best that the boys had attended for some time.	Appx 4

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CATTOLICA	9	1530	The IO, wapt R E wampbell returned from the DAF at FANO where he had been for the past four days.  Weather this date was cloudy and cool.	Lac
	10		Trg as per syllabus. Seven days to Rome and Florence have again started, 30 vacancies being alloted to this Bn.	Appx 4
		1900	It has just been noted in Part II Orders that Lt O H Smith of the carrier Pl has qualified "Ql" after attending a course from 5 Sep to 20 Sep 44 on "Mule Management". Fifty-five reinforcements arrived at this HQ and were alloted to coys. The 2IO, Major F E Hiltz returned to the unit after spending the past week visiting hospitals.  The weather this date was rainy.	Fle
	11	1600	Trg as per syllabus. There was a meeting at Bde HQ, attended by -0, 2I- and -oy -omds. The 7th Victory Loan campaign is now in full swing with every indication that the Bn will over suscribe its objective. Weather this date cloudy and cool.	Appx 4
	12	1400	Trg as per syllabus. After receiving very short notice Bn moved to area 9687. BnHQ was established at 965873. All sub-units were reported in posn by 1630 hrs. Tps are under canvas in the new area. Weather this date was fine and warm.	Appx 4
	13		Trg as per syllabus. The weather this date fine and warm.	Appx 4
	14		Trg as per syllabus. The CO, Lt col A L Saunders was today awarded The Order of Aristian Andreas, (Greek Order of Valour) by C in C Greek Forces in Italy. It is believed this was in recognition of his co-operation as a GSO 1 at Div HQ, with 1 Greek Mtn Bde during the battle before Rimini. A former CO of the unit, Lt col M P Bogert D S O was	FAE?

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West N S R

October 1944

(Erase heading not required) Remarks, references Summary of Events and Information Place Date Hour to Appendices and initials CATTOLICA also awarded this decoration. The Unit therefore becomes the first Canadian Unit 14 to have two Greek Decorations of high distinction in its records. In the evening a film was shown at the Bde Cinema, "Princess O'Rourke" Weather this date fine and warm. 文后 00 and woy womds attended a TEWT on "Attack". 0830 1000 RO and Protestant whurch Parades were held in Bde area. The 210 and 210s of woys held a TEWT on "Attack", In the evening a film was shown, "Miracle of Morgan's Oreek". Weather this date was fine and warm. 16 Trg as per syllabus. Appx 4. EFI issue and as usual one-half bottle of beer per man. 1500 In the evening a film was shown, "Who Done It". On this date the warrier and A Tk Platoons is being disbanded and personnel being alloted to "" Coy to get the Coy up to strength. Weather this date was cloudy and cool. Bn Exercise, "Bn in Attack" was, held in area 9488 - 9588 - 9487 - 9587 17 Appx 4. Two officers and twenty-eight@arrived as reinforcements and were alloted to coys. 1630 Recce party left for area SAVIGNANO 7101. Bn received notice to be ready to move early in the morning. Weather this date cloudy and cool. 18 Bn moved to area 7001. Move as per Movement Order. Appx & 0630 Coys reported in positions area 7001, Tac HQ established at 709010. 0930 go, Major vameron, IO and Battle Adjt, went fwd to rece 48th Highrs of Canada posns area 6204 as this Bn was to take over that area night 18/19 Oct 44. 1700 Marching personnel started to move forward. The CO, IO, Battle Adjt and other personnel of BnHQ started forward. Tac HQ was 1730 established at 627037. All sub-units reported in posns and change-over complete without incident. Positions of Coys being, "A" woy - 627047, "B" woy - 627037, "u" woy - 630046 and "D" Coy at 623046.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices an initials
	18		The weather this date was cloudy and cool.	
oesena	19	0700 0830 0930 1200	The -O ordered "A" & "D" -oys to move forward and secure the line of the road 617060-614050.  Tac HQ moves and established at 632051.  "A" & "D" Coys reported consolidated on objective without opposition.  The Bn was now entirely surrounded by friends, the British ha ving cut across our front and the R 20 R having come up on our right flank.  The weather this date was fine and warm.	Las
	20	1200	Bn received word that they are on one hours notice to move as from 1200 hrs. At 1600 hrs Bde informed the Bn that there would be no move before the morning. There was light shelling in Bn area but no casualties were reported. The weather this date was fine and warm.	Jal
		0630 0800 0830 1515	The CO held Bn "O" Group and it was laid on that the Bn would start moving at 0800 hrs Marching personnel started to move fwd.  Tac HQ moved fwd and at 0900 hrs established at 601075.  Lt col A L Saunders was called to Bde to attend a meeting.  Light shelling in the Bn area during night due to attack of the 2nd Bde on our right. Weather this date fine and warm.	Fal
	22	1600 1830 1900 2000	The Bn mortars were ordered into posn at 594076 to support the 12th British Bde who are going to put in an attack on the left.  Bde lordered the Bn to be ready to move at once to area 5912 where we were to come under command of 2 Gdn Inf Bde.  The GO, and IO left for HQ 2 GIB where the Bde comd Lt col M P Bogert DSO informed the CO of the nights intentions. The Bn with "D" coy PP-LI under Comd was to form a pridgehead across the SAVIO River at 588123 thus allowing the engrs to construct a bridge over which supplies and supporting arms could be sent to the remainder of the 2nd Bde who formed a bridgehead farther south.  The GO and IO returned from HQ 2 GIB to "B" Goy HQ where a Bn "O" Gp was held.	Stab

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Place Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
22	2200	"D" Coy PP-LI was to cross river at 590123 and form a shallow bridgehead. "D" Coy WNSI under Major J K Rhodes to use same crossing then go to area 585125. "A" Coy under Major R G Thexton to cross next and swing left to a rea 587122. "C" coy under Major D W McAdam to follow "A" Coy and exploit to area 577121: "B" coy under Capt J H Jones Mo to remain at river crossing and provide local protection for the engrs. Tps started fwd by march route and Tac HQ established at 596121.	
23	0200 0300 0345 0400 0415 0500 0535 0600 0650	"D" Goy had one platoon across river and were pushing forward toward their objective meeting heavy opposition, which included at least one tank.  "D" Goy was across river and fighting their way to objective at 585125, taking prisoners and meeting rather stiff opposition.  "A" Goy start across river and meet opposition on the far bank but continue advancing. Information about "D" Goy PP-LI at this time is just about nil because there was no communications with fwd platoons. River Grossing was being heavily engaged by enemy mortars.  The Engrs returned and report that a bridge at this point is impossible due to rising water and the condition of the banks of the river.	

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Place Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices an initials
OESENA 23	0830	fighting patrol from "B" Goy to recce a route fwd to the river with the object of enabling the M10s to reach the river and engage enemy AFVs on the opposite bank. An emeny SP gun was observed bogged down on further side of the river. An M10 later K0'd this SP which was mounted on a Mk 4 chasis and also shot up some buildings where enemy mere seen to enter. Later two enemy half track red cross vehicles arrived and each apparently apparently obtained a load.  "D" Goy was ordered to withdraw under cover of smoke. Up until this time they were counter attacked many times but were able to hold their powns and inflict losses on the enemy.  The GO went to Bde to tie in the nights activity.  "D" Goy now back across the river and it was found that two ORs were missing. So far PWs in exwess of fifty and it is estimated that fifty enemy were killed, and a hit was obtained on a Mk 4 tank by a PIAT.  One officer and ten ORs and one casualty badly wounded of the PPCLI reported back to this HQ. They had spent the day on the further side of the river in enemy territory.  "G" coy supplied one platoon for a working party to go to and assist the PPCLI in their crossing of the SAVIO.  A fighting patrol of one and ten, Lt C H Smith, crossed the river at 590123 by means of assault boats and proceeded to cross-roads 576121, searching buildings and enemy posns, but did not contact enemy. This indicated that the enemy had	
24	1030 1115 1430	Lt col A L Saunders on the show the Bn put on night 22/23 Oct 44.  2nd Bde HQ informs the Bn that we are now under command 3 Odn Inf Bde.	LOA
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CESENA	24	<del>1900</del> 1900		
	25	0900 1130 1300 1315 1330 1530 1930 2115 2300	Bn received work that we were now on one hours notice as from 1200 hrs to move to area 5510.  Bn ordered to move to area 5510.  Troops moved off by march route.  Tan HQ moved fwd.  Coys reported in posns, "A" oy - 557101, "B" oy - 551105, " o " oy - 554108, "D" oy - 564108. Tan HQ established at 548104.  Bde orders to Bn to get ready and move immediately to area 5311.  Tan HQ established at 533118.	FAR
	26	0900 1340	tomorrow.	EOB B
	27		A recre party, one representative from each coy under Major J R Cameron left for CATTOLICA to recre billets which the Bn was to move back to.  The weather this date was again rainy and very disagreeable.	FAR.
	28	0100 1100 1400	The 06 visits all voys.	GOE

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
OESENA	28	2100	The IO, capt R E campbell was today appointed commander of HQ coy. Movement order was received for move to CATTOLICA 9887. Weather today was very rainy and cold.	
	29	0700 0930 1230	The CO, Lt col A L Saunders and Battle Adjt Capt C F Spence proceeded to TORRE del MORO 5707 to meet TOVs.  Bn embussed and moved to new area as per Movement Order.  Bn arrives in new area 9887 and BnHQ established at 985870. The remainder of the day was spent settling down in the new billets.  Weather this date fine and warm.	Appx 1
PATTOLI A	30	1130 0800 1600	The Bde vomd, Brig J P E Bernatchez DSO OBE, paid a rasual visit to this HQ. Pay parades at BnHQ, each noy being paid in turn. EFI issue, one bottle of beer per man. Weather this date was cloudy and cool.	SOB
	31	1100	Trg as per syllabus. En Muster Parade was held. The CO, Lt ool A L Saunders, gave a short talk to the WOs & Sgts in the Sgts Mess. He spoke about the good work they did in the last action and also on the trg to come in the present area. Since moving into this area the K of C have opened a men's canteen and recreation and reading room. Weather this date was fine and warm.	Appx 4.
		¥	Af Shund Letter	lus