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WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11 40/P & 5/37 (9/42)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
FORLI area	1	0430 0530 0745 1330 1500 1925 1950 2150	Ede informed this En that the forward marching troops must cross start line at 0630 hrs instead of 0715 hrs as per movement order; also vehicles were to cross Bailey bridge over Montone River at 0630 hrs instead of 0800 hrs as per movement order. Due to this last minute change of orders a considerable amount of confusion and loss of sleep resulted. Early breakfast in preparation for move. Marching troops left billeting area enroute to start line. Marching personnel arrived in conc area prior to relief of 4/10 Baluchs Regt. Main HQ was established at 418267, Tac HQ at 424285, Coys in area 4127. "D" was ordered to move to area 428286. "A" yoy ordered to move to area 434298, "D" way ordered to move back to former area as a Sqn of PLDG are going to move into their present area. "A" Coy ordered to move to 416273 as a Sqn of PLDG are moving into their position. "B" & "w way report change over complete, posns as follows: "B" Coy Pls at 426291, 427291, 426295; "w" way Pls at 434294, 433297, 435296. Several rounds of arty were brought downwMere a number of enemy were observed on canal bank. CO, Arty Rep and IO attended an "0" Gp at EdeHQ. On their return a Bn "0" Gp was held and everyone put in the pi sture for the attack by this Unit tomorrow morning. Weather cold and rainy in the morning becoming fine and cool in the afternoon.	APP. I Zab
	2	0900 0925 0930 0945	"O" Goy report a large explosition apparently a demolition of some kind forward of thei posns approx one mile away in direction of the Boxbex bridge. At the same time the same explosion was heard by "B" Goy. Major Jones "B" Goy Cond stressed that it seemed to be the bridge at MR 426311. Arty barrage and air attack opened according to plan. "A" and "D" Goys now standing by ready to go. "B" & "C" Goy well on the way meeting no opposition. "C" Goy being straffed by own airforce at MR 433297. "Q" goy now making good progress and have reached a point 432305 clearing houses 432298 on the way.	Fra.C

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Place Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
FORLI area 2	1100 1115 1220 1225 1400 1540 1540 1625 1812 1907 1945 2003 2030	"B" Goy having been held up at 432305 call down arty fire and are now able to start moving towards 434308. "G" coy came under very heavy MG and mortar fire from both flanks and suffered some casualties. "A" Goy ordered by GO, Lt col A L Saunders, to go to 419285. They got under way at ll35.hrs and arrived there at ll45hrs. Shortly afterwards they were ordered to push on and at 1210 hrs reported posn of forward troops as 432297. At the same time "C" coy was being engaged from four MG posns which were only 50 to 100 yda ahead of them in the canal bank. At this time "D" Goy was in posn 424284. Five PWs were brought in to BnHQ. Due to heavy enemy MG and mortar fire and infiltration between "B" coy and "C" coy "U" coy were forced to withdraw to an area forward of BnHQ. At the,same time "B" Coy reported enemy on near side of canal at 430307. To counteract the infiltration an, arty conn was brought down and a Pl of "A" Goy sent to 430307. The Bde comd Brig J P E Bernatchez DSO OBE paid a visit to this HQ. "B" Goy were ordered by GO to hold at all costs. It is intended that "A" Goy will attack through "B" Coy tonight with "D" coy following up. H hour will be 1800 hrs. "B" coy is now sitting astride the canal 30010 VIA UDPA with one pl on the far side. "P" Goy is now passing through "B" coy and "A" coy are at 431312 and 431314 pfshing on to 431315. "A" coy in finding progress slow due to enemy MG fire. "D" coy are temporarily held up. Major J H Jones MC "B" coy cond arrived at this HQ. With,him was one PW whom the Major plains followed him homs. The personnel at TacHQ all remarked on his (PW) offeminate appearance. "A" & "D" coys now in contact across the canal. The situation is somewhat obscure with enemy apparently in large numbers. There is much MG and tank fire. "O" cod orders "A" & "D" coys to withdraw to near side of canal in order to allow for	Hab

# WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11 40/P & S/87 (9/42)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
FORLI area	2	2335	clearance for arty fire which is to be brought down. Bde Comd arrives at TacHQ. "A" & "D" Coy comds who are now at this HQ report the situation to the Brig. The Brig and the cQ talked over the situation and made plans for the next attack. Weather this date was very fine and warm.	
	3	0140 0200 0215 0525 0555 0710 0800	A bailey bridge class 40 is under construction at 43203095. Engrs expect to have it finished before first light. "B" Coy rece patrols report several enemy in their area but no SPs or Tks. Zero Mour for "A" Coy to move from their present posns is 0215 hrs. v6 orders "A" coy to move on schedule and to hold gains at all costs. "A" Coy moving-forward finding progress slow due to difficulty in keeping direction. "D" Goy is following up conforming to "A" Coys advance. "B" Coy now moving forward. TacHQ is also in the process of mowing, bailey bridge having been completed. "A" & "D" Goys are now consolidated in general area 442328. Tac HQ now.established at 434316. Bde informed this HQ what banks of Lamone River are mined and all bridges prepared for demolitions. Goys at this time in posns as follows: "A" coy - 438325, "B" coy - 441328, "c" coy = 443317, D coy 442320. TacHQ moved again and is now established at 443327. CO orders "D" coy to 448353 and "B" coy to RUSSI square 4333. They will start moving	Fab
RUSSI area		0920 0930 09身0	immediately. "D" Goy at this time reported that the culvert at 442389 prepared for demolition and requested pioneers to remove it. Shortly afterwards they captured a PW and had him remove the charges. "B" Goy have reached RUSSI and finding it clear of enemy are pushing on. "D" Goy are running into heavy sniper fire and request th support. "B" way now 600 yards short of objective 435344 and are held up by MG fire. They also request tank support. "B" Goy report locations as follows: 433339\$ 432335.	

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#### M.F.M. 11 40/P & 8/37 (9/42)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
RUSSI area	3	1100 1145 1215 1230 1300 1355 1450 1630 1720 2130	"B" Coy are being heavily Machine gunned from 432342 and 434341. Their posns are also being shelled. For the past hour "D" Coy has been heavily engaged with the enemy. Their tank support is not yet available and they find arty support of little use as enemy are well dug in away from houses. "U" Goy are now moving. Their objective is rd and rly june 434340. They were held up by MG fire from 438339 but after a little delay moved on again. Brig arrived at this HQ. OO impresses on all coys that speed is essential in the attainment of their objectives "O" coy is having guite a difficult time with one sub-unit now pinned down by MG fire. They, request tanks again and are told onee more they are not available, to either get on best they can without them or withdraw to allow maxakim clearance for arty support. "D" Coys tanks have finally arrived. It is intended that "U" &"D" coy will advance from present posns towards 438352. The first to arrive in this area will immediately push on to 427365. "B" Goy will advance towards 433347. They are now at 433339. "G" Coy is at 4333371 and are being heavily mortared. "D" woy fagred rather badly in the fighting this morning, with the woy wond, the arty FOO and one pl comb being wounded by mortar fire, also they had one.OR killed and one OG attende "O" Gp at Bide and on his return immediately held Bn "O" Gp at this HQ. Yoy womds and supporting arms were made familiar with plans for the night's attack. Intention: "A" Goy on the right with final objective 434344. "B" Goy objective 443344. Tk hunting pl will take up posn behind "B" Goys present posn.433339 to fill in gap when attack goes in. "D" Coy is to be ready to move but to remain in present posn unit! ordered to ds os. "A" & "u" woys get on the move and a few minjutes report the sound of enemy vehs moving some distance to their front. Both coys find progress very slow due to deep ditches and very bad visibility. So far no opposition.	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
RUSSI area	3	2215 2330	"B" Coy now moving forward. "A" woy is still making gprogress having found area 442344 clear of enemy. "O" woy now on objective 434344 after having met slight opposition from small arms fire CG orders "D" woy to move to 439359. Weather this date fine and warm, but night was very foggy - visibility nil.	
	4	0130 0250 0300 0545 0643 1045 1115 1210 1255 1430	"B" voy now at 442344 and "A" voy still pushingon meeting no opposition. "A" woy now at 439346 reporting this area clear of enemy. OO orders fighting patrol from, "v" voy to go to two large buildings at 434341 and 432342. It is now intended that when, "A" voy is firm at 438352 they will push on to 439359. "D" voy will move to 448353 and "B".voy will stand down temporarily at 442344. "D" voy moving forward now. An enemy tank at this time was creating a disturbance in "A" Goy area. A Patrol from "v" voy returned and reported buildings 434341 and 432342 clear of enemy. Elements of GYR are now passing through "A" voys posns. "D" voy are now on their objective and have sent four PWs to HQ. Two-PWs have arrived from, "A" Goy and one from "v" voy. All coys involved in the nights action have made good progress with little opposition. Therewill involved in the nights action have made good progress with little opposition. Therewill involved in the nights action have made good progress with little opposition. Therewill involved in the nights action have made good progress with little opposition. Therewill involved in the nights action have made good progress with little opposition. Therewill involved in the nights action have made good progress with little opposition the way. A strong patrol from "D" voy supported by tanks have now reached 437367 and find that area clear of enemy. Three PWs arrive at TacHQ from "A" Coy. TacHQ moved forward and established at 442344. Word has just been received that Major J H Jones MO has been killed, Major Jones came to SIOILY with the Unit as Signal Officer, later taking momma command of a platoon and while serving in this capacity won the MC. A total of 35 FW have been taken by this En to date. Weather today fine and warm, night foggy with poor visibility.	

# WAR DIARY

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West N S R

December 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Place	5	0940 1105 1215 1700 1800 2000 2130	"B" Coy has a reare patrol on the way to 444372 and 446371. "B" Goy reare patrol report no enemy at 444372 or 446371. "B" Goy report solad on 445371 and occupying houses 444372 and 446371. CaptoW H P David arrived at this HQ and has been given comd of "B" Coy. CO and IO attend conference at Bde, and on their return bring news that our Padre H/capt L F Wilmot has been awarded the MO. We are all very fond of our Padre and proud of this decoration which he so rickly deserves. It was the second he had been time he had been recommended for this high honor. Due to suspicions reported by "A" Coy arrangements were made with Fd Security to send one of their staff out tomorrow to check on an Italian family in their (A Coy) area. cO, Arty Rep and IO attend "O" Gp at Bde. Weather this date was fair and cool with light showers in the early morning.	Las
	6	0015 0125 0830 1115 1800	The CO held a conference at which the preliminary stages for the next operation were arranged. "B" Coy left for new area 445346, arriving at 0230 hrs. Five Officers and ten Other ranks arrived at this HQ as rfts and were allotted to Coys CO and IO attended "O" Gp at Bde and on return Bn "O" Gp took place. Information from Bde that next operation, crossing of Lamone, is postponed for 26 hrs. Weather today fine and warm.	• Fac
	7	1250 1915	Brig J P E Bernatchez DSO OBE paid a visit to this HQ. At this time Tac HQ was organized and functioning in its new posn in preparation for the crossing of the Lamone when the fateful news arrived that the operation was postponed for 24 hrs. TacHQ now found itself in the unique position of being 2000 yds forward of the foremost coy with the enemy just 100 yards away on the other side of the river. It can be definitely stated that an uneasy night was enjoyed by all. Weather fine and clear but cool.	
	8		TacHQ moved back and set up in old posn at 443344. Recce patrols returning from river area give information that water gap is approx 20 feet wide and banks are very mushy at the edge. The past day or two Bren Guns and	Seal

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West N S R

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
RUSSI	8		2" mortars have been firing on our outpost at the Castle 418353, from across the river. They are no doubt weapons captured from the 1st Bde in its withdrawal from across the river. Weather today fine and clear.	
	9		CO held a conference attended by Coy conds at this HQ. Tonight "A" & "C" coys, are designated as forward coysin the crossing of the Lamone, will again patrol the river bank to determine the state of the river and the most favourable crossing places. The past half nearry has seen very heavy shelling in the En area. Weather today fine and cool.	Hab
	10	1235	Patrols of "A" & "C" Coys returned in the early hours of the morning, both reporting that the river is four to five feet higher with little difference in width. CO, Arty Rep and IO attend "O" Gp at Ede and immediately on return En "O" Gp is held at which last instructions are issued for crossing of the river tonight. TacHQ once again set up at 418353. Both "A" & "O" coys were on the move from their FUPs at 2100 hrs. Our crossing area is from Rly bridge 418353 extending 500 yds down stream. "O" coy on the right and "A" coy on the left. While in the FUPs these two coys were subjected to intense mortaring, "G" coy suffering severe casualties. "A" Coy got along very well until it came to launching Olafson bridge which capsized in mid-stream. They then sent one pl	Fal
		2300	to the off-loading point to carry baats, the alternative means of crossing. At this time things were somewhat in a state of confusion with all lines out from mortar and shell fire and no word from "G" way since the action started. "C" way reports they are forced to pull back from the river due to heavy mortar fire and many casualties. D'At this time information was received from Ede that both 48th Highrs and CYR had made the crossing meeting little opposition. GYR are on our right and 48th Highrs are on our left. A patrol from "D" way tried to make a crossing on the rubble of the rly br but was unsuccessful. They found the bridge was under heavy enemy MG fire and they suffered two casualties in the attempt. Weather this date was fine and cool.	AUD

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M.F.M. 11 40/P & S/37 (9/42)

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December 1944

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices an initials
RUSSI	11	0130 0230 0620 0630 0940 1310 1415 1640	Evig Bernatchez arrived at this HQ and max goes over the situation with the CO. "B" & "D" coys are now on the move with orders to attain their objectives through the CYR and 48th Highrs brheads respectively. "A" Coy is to follow "B" coy through GYR. "B" coy are now across the river and clearing their way along the bank. "A" Coy has caught up with them and between them they cleared the road and river bank to rd junc 418357 taking 15 PWs and knocking out two SPs. "A" Coy are now firm on objective 415359. At 406360 they knocked out an SP gun of the type.known as a "Hornet". It is one of the Germans newest weapons of war, carrying an 88 MM Gun. "B" Coy now consolidated on objective 418362. "D" Goy having moved through "A" coy, arrived at their objective 414362. Anti.Tank guns have reached forward coys and everyone feels much happier. Tac HQ moves forward and now established at 422362. Our intentions for the night are: for "A" Coy to take 403362, "D" coy to pass through them to 398355 and them "B" coy to go to 388347. "A" voy on way to 403362 Which they reached without opposition at 2205 hrs. As seen as this worn reached TacHQ "D" Coy started for 398355 passing through "A" coy on the way. Weather today eloudy with light showers.	Lab
	12	1005 1215	"D" Coy report on objective 398355 and firming up. They met some opposition on the way taking 7 PWs. There is no opposition now. "B" Goys move to 388347 has been cancelled. TacHQ has once more moved and is now at 407359. "C" oy has taken up a new posn at 411364. Our wehs have now arrived at TacHQ having been left behind yesterday when HQ crossed the river. Today the Bn area was mortared and shelled very heavily, sometimes unceasingly for and hour or more. Weather today overcast with some rain.	Fab

### WAR DIARY

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December 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
RUSSI	13	0155 0700 1130 1621	"B" Coy mere on the move with the intention of passing through "A" woy and on to a posn at 397368. At 0645 hrs "A" woy informed this HQ that "B" woy were passing through them then. TacHQ received work from "B" Coy that water obstacle Canal VEGOHIO is about 20 feet wide and very deep. This came as somewhat of a surprise as no bridging arrangements had been made due to the fact that information received stated that it would not prove a serious obstacle. Brig Bernatchez visits this HQ. Capt G F Johnston the Pnr Officer was severely wounded this morning by a Schu mine at rly br 417352. "B" Coy attempted to reach objective by attacking across rubble of blown rly br at 399370. They met heavy opposition, Capt David way wounded and the way wee forced to withdraw. Brig Bernatchez again visited this HQ. Intentions for margin tonight: "C" way to cross canal at approx 400371 then turn left and clear houses at 397368. "A" Coy will then eross canal and take over "O" way posns. "W" woy on move as planned, crossing canal at 2150 hrs. At first little opposition was met but moving over the railroad they came under MG and mortar fire. Weather today cloudy with occasional showers.	
	14	0740 0850 1100	"C" woy now running into meavy opposition, leading pl-forced to withdraw. The GO decides to have the Goy consolidate, two pls across canal and one this side, to act as a brhead in view of a future crossing. "B" Goy now under wond of Major D W MeAdam, move into "C" woys old post 408357. This hour in the morning found all elements of "w" woy back this side of the canal sharing "A" Goys houses with them. The wo proceeded to Bde HQ. Arrangements were all completed this morning for the many change-over with 48th Highrs of Canada but it was cancelled at the last moment. We have now been informed that we will change over tonight, two coys minimized with the	Sab

M.F.M. 11 40/P & S/37 (9/42)

WAR DIARY

#### M.F.M. 11 40/P & S/37 (9/42)

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### INTERNET CHINE REPORT

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices an initials
RUSSI			R 22e R and two roys with the RCR. Weather today foggy with light rain.	
		0620 0915 1150 1245	FacHQ now moved to new location, former HQ RCR, 409389. hange-over now complete with coys in posns as follows: "A" Coy 406381, "B" voy 402378 "v" voy 404387, "D" voy 404384 398388. This Unit has now, to within the hour, been in contact with the enemy for two weeks. Brig Bernatchez paid a visit to this HQ. A report from 5th Div states that the enemy has withdrawn to a line behind the Senio River in the ir area. Due to this report it is expected that he will withdraw from this area very shortly. It is impressed on all coy conds that they must not lose cont- act with the enemy. It is intended that "B" Coy will do a small attack this afternoon, H hour being 1430 hm Objective is houses 396383. Attack opened up according to plan but met heavy opposition and had little success. No change in coy posn. It is now whispered that we may changeover with 2nd Bde tomorrow night. Activities at the time are limited to very active patrols both fighting and reces. Weather today clear and cold.	All .
BAGNAC AVALLO		0105 1230 1510 2350	Record parties and guides have been arranged. 00 held an "0" Gp at which he discussed details of change-over. Until change-over is complete, elements of this Regt in 2 CIB area will be under comd 2 CIB.	Geal
	17	0320	Change-over now complete with coys in posn at: "A" Coy 394399, "B" coy 401401, "C" coy 394403, "D" coy 398401.	

# WAR DIARY

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December 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
BAGNACAVALLO	17	1750 2045	Up until this time the day has been very uneventful with the exception of rease patrol from "A" & "C" coys which determine the presence of enemy in near visinity of coy area. Contact patrols from "B" Coy will contact "A" Coy of the CYR at 2200 hrs, 0200 hrs & 0600 hrs. "C" coy patrol which left at 1930 hrs has now returned. They were fired on by enemy MG from 394407 and 395407. An ambush patrol from "A" Coy had no success. On returning from a conference at Ede, CO held an "O" Gp. Weather this date was fine and warm with fair visibility.	s Lab
	18	1600	A fighting patrol from "O" Goy has now returned. Their objective was houses at rd junc 386408. They reached a point 386406 before returning and were fired on several timesfrom houses (objective). Our activities now seem to be limited to patrolling. "A" & "C" Coys are each sending two recce patrols throughout the day one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Brig Bernatchez visited this HQ. All recce patrols are now back and confirm that enemy is still holding his posns on our section of the front. Patrol intentions for tonight: "C" coy strong fighting patrol to go to cross rds 394406 and clear enemy from that posn, if no enemy is contacted they are to proceed to 395408. "A" Goy will send a strong fighting patrol to houses 390408. "B" coy will supply contact patrols to CYR at 1800 hrs, 2200 hrs, 0200 hrs and 0600 hrs. "o" coy patrol returned with information that they were fired on when only 50 feet from enemy posns at cross rds 394406. Enemy withdrew and patrol returned to coy. Another patrol one and fifteen in strength was immediately sent out to establish an outpost at this point. This patrol returned at 2250 hrs having been fired on from three different posns,suffering three casualties - two missing, one missing, believed killed. Weather today was cloudy with poor visibility.	
	19	0040	"A" Goy patrol returned at this time reporting objective very heavily held, suffering one man killed.	

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M.F.M. 11 40/P & 8/37 (9/43)

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Piace	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
BAGNAUAVALLO	19	0930	Patrol intentions: Two rece patrols from "C" coy one this morning and one this afternoon. First one to rece area 390406 and the second one cross rds 394406. "A" Coy to send two rece patrols, one to area 390400 and the other to 392402. All patrols on their return confirm that enemy still occupying area to our immediate front. Weather today cloudy and cool, poor visibility.	Fal
	20	1300	To date in the present operation this Unit has taken 70 PW. It is intended that "D" Coy will establish one pl in houses at 389400. H hour is set for 1215 hrw. "D" oy patrol, strength one pl, was forced to withdraw from their attack on houses 389400. As they were right in on this posn one Mark VI Tiger emerged from a haystack and fired on them with MG and 88 mm. It was only due to the prompt action of tanks working with "A" Coy who laid down a very effective smoke screen the patrol was able to withdraw without suffering severe casualties. Casualties suffered were - one killed and two wounded. On the strength of this information 7.2 arty fire was brought down in area of houses. Shortly after this tanks were heard to move off. Patrol comd estimated enemy killed was four to five. The entire Bn bar area has been under mortar and shell fire since early morning. Weather this date fine and reasonably warm.	Jab
	21	0400 0835 1110	Two PW were brought in to this HQ from "O" coy. "C" coy sent out a fighting patrol to 384401. They did not contact the enemy. Remainder of coy was then moved to this area and were consolidated by 0535 hrs. "C" coy sent a resce patrol to 378404 and reported no enemy at this point. "O" coy posns at this time: Pls at - 38484011, 38494020 & 38584015. One PW sent to this HQ from "c" coy, who came into their posns and gave himself up. Bde Comd informed this HQ that our rear coys can now stand down and take things a little easisr. Rear Coys are "B" & "D". Own mortars are now set up at 394403, MMGs in the same area. Twenty rfts arrived at this HQ and were allotted to coys. Weather today overcast but no rain. Situation very quiet. It now appears that enemy has withdrawn to far side of Senio river. Total PWs taken to date - 73.	Stab

# WAR DIARY

### WR

M.F.M. 11 40/P & S/37 (9/42)

#### 1222

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December

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
BAGNACAVALLO	22	0750 1200 1300 1330	Bde informed this HQ that it is expected enemy may attempt a sea-borne landing in the area RIMINI - PESARO. Pagmaster arrived at TacHQ and began to pay coys at 0830 hrs. He was closely followed by Auxiliary Services with EFI supplies. Mail has just arrived at this HQ that has been held since the Unit was committed to action. Recce party proceeded to 4334 to recce billets. Two officers and thirteen other ranks proceeded to ROME on leave. One Officer and seven other ranks proceeded to FLORENCE on leave. It was necessary to send another recce party to an area laid on by Ede HQ as former &334 was not suitable. This HQ was informed that as from 0800 hrs 23 Dec 44 En would be on one hours notice to move. Weather today fine and warm, poor visibility towards night. All in all it was a big day for the troops. All coys were paid, there was a rum and EFI issue and all Emristmas parcels were delivered.	Fab
	23	0930	Bn moved to new area by TCVs, movement complete by 1100 hrs. Bn HQ established at 492366 with coys at - "A" Coy 494372, "B" oy 499371, "o" coy 494368 and "D" coy at 484378. Weather cool and cloudy with snow flurries.	Hab
	24	1.1	Lt col A L Saunders proceeded to ROME on leave. Major F E Hiltz assumed command of the Unit. Four other ranks arrived as rfts and were allotted to coys. Weather fine and warm.	Gab
	25	1230 1300	A very generous EFI issue was distributed to the troops. C of E church services were held at 0900, 1000 and 1100 hrs. A very fine Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all ranks of the unit. Nineteen other ranks arrived as rfts and were allotted to coys. All Coycomds are on one hours notice as from first light to proceed on tactival recre party. Remainder of Bn on three hours notice to move as from 0900 hrs 26 Dec 44. Weather this date fine and cool.	Hab

### WAR DIARY

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M.F.M. 11 40/P & B/37 (9/42)

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December 1944

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Remarks, references Summary of Events and Information to Appendices and Place Date Hour initials Sindicakzaż S.MICHELE 26 Major J K Rhodes, wounded earlier in this operation, returned to the Bn today and has taken over wond of "A" Goy. wapt D I Rice former commander of "A" Coy is now acting as Battle Adjutant. 1600 It is now considered most unlikely that we will move tonight. ane 2000 Movement Order received from 3 CIB HQ. We are to be prepared to move as from 1030 hrs 27 Dec 44. At 2200 hrs a contradictory order was received - the move will be postmand x2 poned for 24 hours. Weather this date fine and cold. 0930 Garand xEdge 00. Major F E Hiltz and the IO attended "O" Gp at 3 JB HQ. It is now 27 known that this Unit will be relieving 48 Highrs of Canada and will be under comd of 1 CIB until Bde change-over is complete. tal 1430 Recce party arrived from 48th Highrs to recce billets now occupied by this Unit which they will be taking over when we leave. 1700 Troops embussed to TOVs for move to new area. At 1730 TacHQ was established at 378320. 2030 Relief of 48th Highrs of Canada now complete. Cov dispositions as follows: "A" voy = 372322, "B" voy = 379321, "u" voy = 379316, "D" voy 376321. vhange-Ougr was gompleted without incident. Word has been received from 1 CIB that "D" voy West NSR will relieve 1 voy of R.R. Reoce party to leave at first light 28 Dec 44. 2220 Contact patrol to Royal Fusiliers on left have nothing to report. Weather this date very cool and cloudy. 1 0145 "D" Goy sent a rece patrol to 386334 - nothing to report. 28 1330 DC. Major F E Hiltz, left for 3 JB HQ. Enroute he met the Bde wond who was on his way to this HQ and returned here with him. 1530 Dwn aircraft straffing "D" Coys posns. 1905 A Fighting patrol from "D" yoy returned. Time out was 1800 hrs. They reached a point approx 150 yds from ganal in front of coy post when they came under MG fire. Fab They suffered no casualties but one 38 set was knocked out.

2143 Fighting patrol from "A" Coy to 336324 returned. They went out through "A" coys FDLs and reached a point 36733328. Here they came under MG and mortar fire. They returned

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M.F.M. 11 40/P & S/37 (9/42)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
FRANAROLA			by way of the same route, suffering no casualties. Weather this date fine and quite cool. The night is very clear.	
	29	10.00	Olafson bridging has arrived at this HQ, the object of the bridging is to get A Tk gur arross the canal FOSSO CANTRIGHELLA. "B" ooy fighting patrol returns from 36203170. They went out through fwd pl posn of 6 cheshire Regt (friends on our left) and reached point stated, when they came under heavy MG fire from along bank of canal. They returned the fire and shortly after heavy mortar fire came down on them. Patrol Comd and one OR was wounded. Pl comd ordering the patrol to return. casualties were evacuated with the aid of the 6th Cheshire Regt.	5 FAB
			Major Hiltz paid a wisit to 3 GIB HQ. One of our supporting tanks, mounting a kt 95 mm gun, firing from 37463130 engaged factory at 35733215. Also from 37003160 engaged a church 355319. They scored 20 hits on the factory and 5 hits on church tower. Lack of amn prevented them from knocking down the church tower.	
		1800	Pl Comds were briefed by Major Hiltz for tonights patrols. Bde comd Brig J P E Bernatchez DSO OBE paid a visit to this HQ. "A" Goy fighting patrol returns. They reached a point approx 75 yds from canal 36903242 where they were fired on by automatic weapons and rifle grenades. <del>Patrol</del> returned along some reute. Casualties - one wounded.	
		2250	Fighting patrol from "D" Coy went to point 369330 where they were challenged by the enemy who opened up on them with MMGs, wounding the patrol NOO. The patrol went to ground and in the fire fight the patrol suffered three more casualties. Enemy mortars opened up and patrol comd ordered patrol back. Three of the wounded were brought back, it being found impossible to bring back the fourth. Weather today cold and clear.	
	30	0015	Fighting patrol from "O" ony reported back. They reached a point 36193167 where they came under MG fire from vicinity of buildings 36083179 and 362318. They were also fired on hy small mortar or rifle grenades. Patrol comd called down arty and MG DFs and patrol withdrew back along the same reaction through fwd platoon posns. No casualties.	Fab

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### WAR DIARY

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Remarks, references to Appendices and Summary of Events and Information Place Date Hour initials GRANAROLA 0320 "B" Coy contacted 6 Cheshires - nothing to report. 30 1050 A race patrol from "A" Coy proceed to area 369323 where they came under fire from rifle grenades and were forced to return. "D" Coy recce patrol went to a point 372330 from where they observed five or six enemy in area 369330. They also observed several slit trenches that were unoccupied. 1215 One of the Churchill tanks under Comd of this Bn engaged the shurch at 354320 and the factory at 357322. The shoot was not very successful due to some in-accuracy in the gun. 1220 Our own 3" mortar engaged area occupied by enemy reported by "D" Coy rece patrol. This fire was observed to fall in the exact area and should have been quite effective 1430 Recore patrol from "B" Coy went out through the 6th cheshire Regt to a point 357313. Here they came under heavy MG fire and had to return. Also at Q430 hrs a recre patrol from "B" Goy proceeded to 361218 but could observe no enemy movement. 1515 "A" Coy has been under continuous shell fire all afternoon. Several direct hits being made on the houses they occupy. Arby engaged suspected enemy mortar and gun posns, how effectively is uncertain because the fall of shot could not be observed. 1725 Nine rfts arrived at this HQ and were allotted to coys. Hab 1800 A recee patrol from "D" Goy proceed out through their left forward post to a point 371329, at this point they were engaged by rifle fire but could not pinpoint any posns. They did not return the fire and suffered no casualties. 1945 "B" & "D" Coys have now changed over. 2040 "O" & "A" yoys have now changed over. This change-over is to give "A" & "D" Coys a much needed rest. 2100 A recre patrol from "D" Coy went out marzer's through left pl posn to a point 37243300 from here they could distinguish enemy voices to their front. Patrol remained in this area for twenty minutes and was not fired on. They returned by same route. 2200 "A" Coy rece pa trol went out through right pl posn across country to a point 36853250 Here they had two hand grenades thrown at them from an unknown posn. Except for this incident no movement was seen or heard and the pa trol returned by same route. 2215 Another recce patrol from "D" Coy went out through their left forward pl posn to a point 372433. It was definitely that enemy was still occupying the area 3733. They came back by the same route and were not fired on. 2320 A recce patrol went out from "A" Goy through their right pl posn 372323 and reached a point 36853251. They were engaged with hand grenades but could see no movement.

M.F.M. 11 40/P & S/37 (9/42)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
GRANAROLA	30		They returned by the same route. Today Major F E Hiltz was officially appointed to Command the West NSR with the rank of Lt col, Lt col A L Saunders having ceased to Command with effect 29 Dec 44. Weather today clear and cold.	
	31	0405 1430 1700 1815 2120	A rece patrol from "B" Goy went out through the left forward pl of 6 Sheshires to a point 362314 where they were engaged by enemy MG fire. They ascertained that the enemy was still holding 362318. They also found that the enemy were harassing area from 364315 to bridge 362318 by MG fire. At this time this morning "C" woy missed a golden opportunity of procuring prisoners without going after them. An enemy patrol, four men strong, came to within 20 yards of their sentries posn. The sumtry pressed the trigger of his Eren and nothing happened - the Gun had jammed! The enemy patrol fired on the posn and beat a hasty retreat, making a clean getaway. Lt J C Jordan and Lt A 9 MacKenzie are attendingashort course on counter battery work at Eds. Lt col F E Hiltz left this afternoon for RAVENNA to attend a Corps wonds meeting. All together today there were six rece patrols sallied forth into no mans land to cherk on the enemy. It was determined that the enemy was still wery much on the beligement of these patrols. "D" Coy are now in a new position, locations as follows : Coy HQ 38153253, Pls at - 38153253, 38003242 and 38203275. A rece pa trol from "B" Coy went out through pl posn 37703313 to a point on the canal at 37153320. They could hear a great deal of activity across the canal at 37103331 musin, singing, wehrular movement, etc. It sounded as though New Year's relebeations were in full swing. Patrol returned by the same route. Due to this report the area 371333 was engaged by arty, 4.2 & 3" Mortars and MMG. A recee pa trol from "D" Coy proceeded out through forward pl of 6 Oheshires 365315 to a point 364316. They could hear energy artivity at houses 362316 also from across canal from a point 367325. It was a bright moonlight night and they observed a strong enemy patrol 15 to 20 in strength coming in their direction. Our patrol withdrew back to the 6 Cheshire posn and notified the Pl word of that Bn which directed mortar and arty on the enemy patrol and disperse itOur own patrol then returned.	

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December 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
GRANAROLA	30	2400	Weather today was very fine and night very clear. On the exact point night of midnight a heavy salvo of arty fire reverserated across the countryside. The arty rep at Bde stated it was his New Year's present to the Infantry. Infantry.	Fab
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