



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 & 3/37 (B/42)

## ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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)

February 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
		1330	Bn move <sup>d</sup> by trans, first coy (A) take-over complete 1400 hrs. Last coy (Sp) in posn 1700 hrs. Enemy very quiet this sector. A & D coys mortared at approx 1600 hrs. Weather still wet and miserable.	
SQUARE 2813 (near VILLA GRANDE)	8	0900	Advance party from C B H arrive <sup>d</sup> . C B H to relieve this unit night 8/9. Light harrasing fire area left fw <sup>d</sup> coy during day. No casualties. Considerable enemy activity observe <sup>d</sup> across the AREILLI during the day. Three patrols were sent out night 8/9. Two of these contacted enemy. No casualties. Rained quite heavily during night. Relief not complete <sup>d</sup> untill 0530/9.	<i>DR</i>
ORTONA	9	0600	Bn now occupy former billets in ORTONA. Raining very hard. Tps get what rest they can before the expecte <sup>d</sup> relief of the H & P E R.	<i>DR</i>
		1400	Lt Col R S E Waterman attende <sup>d</sup> B <sup>d</sup> e "O" Gp. Bn will relieve H & P E R night 9/10. Tps move <sup>d</sup> by trans, first coy in at 1800 hrs. Relief complete <sup>d</sup> by 2100 hrs. Still raining, cleare <sup>d</sup> off however at approx 2200 hrs. Standing patrols only to-night. Enemy fairly quiet during relief.	APP 3
	10		Weather fine and warm. The day was quiet and peaceful until 1800 hrs when "Jerry" lande <sup>d</sup> approx 25 81 MM area Bn Hq. Shelling laste <sup>d</sup> some 10 minutes but cause <sup>d</sup> no casualties.	<i>DR</i>
		1400	Lt Col R S E Waterman visite <sup>d</sup> B <sup>d</sup> e Hq.	
	11	0900	Weather very col <sup>d</sup> with rain and snow squalls. Lt Col R S E Waterman visite <sup>d</sup> B <sup>d</sup> e Hq and again at 1400 hrs this time accompanie <sup>d</sup> by Lt R E Campbell, I O. Patrols Night 11/12 as follows: 3 stand <sup>ing</sup> to the right, center & left of fw <sup>d</sup> coys. A further patrol (fighting) of 1 officer & 25 O R attacke <sup>d</sup> enemy posn just right of TOLLO r <sup>d</sup> 281144. Encountere <sup>d</sup> heavy opposition here and force <sup>d</sup> to with <sup>d</sup> raw. Casualties 1 O R kille <sup>d</sup> , officer & 5 ORS wounde <sup>d</sup> . Tps are living entirely in slit-trenches which in this weather is very uncomfortable and a liberal rum-ration is issue <sup>d</sup> daily. Slight mortar fire this area.	<i>DR</i>
	12		Rain and snow with high wind. One inch of snow fell night 12/13. Stand <sup>ing</sup> and stealth patrols night 12/13. These had to be cancelle <sup>d</sup> the latter part of the day due to white ground and moon-light.	<i>DR</i>

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~~SECRET~~

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February 1944

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	13	1400	This Sabbath is to be a day of silence along the entire Div front, not because it is Sunday but as part of a plan to get the enemy curious. Weather fine & cool. Lt Col R S E Waterman visited B's Hq.	AK
	14		Weather unsettled with cold rain, commencing 1600 hrs. These circumstances make living in slit-trenches very uncomfortable. Patrols night 13/14 little to report. A two platoon raid by B Coy is all tee'd up for 0530/15.	AK
	15	0530	A two platoon raid went in on ridge 284135. This was carried out by B Coy supported by arty, mortars, 4.2" & 3", our own & those of the R 22e R, also by standing patrol at 281143. No casualties & no prisoners but patrol established some definite facts re enemy on our front. Enemy MG fire was not exceptionally heavy but patrol had a lot of Phosphorous mortar bombs & rifle grenades thrown at them. The ground was white with snow and weather unsettled during day, however it soon cleared up & the snow finally disappeared although it remained cool. Orders received that R 22e R will relieve this unit night 15/16, we to take up the original R 22e R posn in rear of VILLA GRANDE, West N S R to provide patrols night 15/16, 3 standing & 3 fighting. Standing to 283154 & 279155 got on without incident but to 281143 did not reach objective. Fighting patrols also bumped enemy. No casualties. All Adjts & Staff Cpts to meeting A & Q at Main Div. Attended by Capt Dyer, Adjt West N S R.	AK APP 3
VILLA GRANDE	16	1430	Bn completely relieved by first light. Rain & snow added to the already extreme muddy condition of the ground. Billits of a shattered nature help some. E F I supplies are issued, 2 bottles of beer per man, gin & whiskey for senior NCOs & Officers. Day spent chiefly in resting up. Lt Col R S E Waterman, Lt R E Campbell, (I O), & Coy Comdrs attended a discussion at B's Hq by Brig Gibson re lessons learned in recent period in the line. Spirits of the tps excellent in view of existing conditions.	AK
	17		Weather unsettled, rain & snow squalls. Bn still in an operational (reserve) role. Contact patrols to flanking units & our front carried out. Lt Col R S E Waterman making arrangements for tps to see a show at S. LEONARDO before we enter the line again.	AK

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S. NICOLA	18		Weather still unsettled with snow & rain. Whole area now a morass of mud. Lt Col R S E Waterman completed arrangements to have unit see show "Tin Hats" in groups of 75. Times are 1400 & 1800 hrs Sat., 1400, 1800 & 2100 hrs Sun. Maj Rogers one of the old originals had to be evacuated sick, Capt Rhodes replacing him as Comd D coy. I O & Pl Comdrs recce C & Y R area in preparation for relief of that unit in near future.	AR
	19		Orders received for this unit to relieve C & Y R night 20/21. Two groups of 75 to see film at S. LEONARDO in afternoon. Weather continues unsettled with snow & rain.	APP 3
	20		Weather dull & cool. Capt E M Rhodes came up from L O B to take over comd of D coy. Capt Theakston took over comd of A coy in the absence of Maj D Archibald. First coy moved by march route to relieve C & Y R. Bn change-over complete by 2200 hrs. Pitch darkness made this an extremely difficult move.	AR
	21		Weather cloudy & cool. Fairly quiet most of the day but occasional mortar bombs falling area left fwd coy. Capt Allen arrived to take comd of B coy from Capt H Burns who went out for a short rest. Usual patrol activities night 21/22.	AR
	22		Weather fine & warm. Some shelling left fwd coy also right rear coy. Own arty active our front most of the afternoon. Contact patrols to units as usual also standing and fighting patrols during night 22/23.	AR
	23		Weather mild but cloudy. Normal trg carried on. The usual contact & fighting patrols were carried out. Lt Moore, pr officer took a fighting patrol to 288168 and captured 2 prisoners, also a M G. Later 4 of the enemy gave themselves up to a standing patrol just fwd of B coy posn. Information from the Psw & the 4 deserters proved of great value and established beyond a doubt the identity of the enemy facing us.	AR
	24	1000	Weather fine. Two BBC representatives visited this Hq, and spent some time talking to Lt Moore & his patrol and taking the names of the men concerned. Lt Col R S E Waterman & Lt Moore & his patrol 48 hrs leave	AR gave
		1400	Lt Col R S E Waterman visited B's Hq.	AR

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	25	0900	Weather cloudy with some rain. Lt Col R S E Waterman left to attend a two day conference at LANCIANO. Maj F Hiltz, 2 I C now in comd of the Bn.	RK
		1245	Heavy shelling area C coy & Bn Hq. Lasted 15 minutes. 1 OR slightly wounded.	
	26		Weather cloudy & mild with a little rain. Occasional shelling during day.	RK
		1400	A daylight patrol at 1400 hrs returned with valuable information & a anti-personnel mine believed at first to be a new type but later proved to be an old type used for the first time on this front.	
		1600	Lt Col R S E Waterman returned from conference at LANCIANO. Two DAF officers arrived and were attached to coys to acquaint themselves with infantry operation.	
	27		Weather warm & fine. Lt Col R S E Waterman spent most of the day visiting Rear Bn Hq & Bde Hq. Slight shelling fwd areas. Fighting patrol to 288168 night 26/27 bumped enemy. Patrol Comdr Capt E M Crouse missing believed to be killed or badly wounded & a prisoner.	RK
	28		Weather fine & warm. Lt R E Campbell (I O) went to S.VITO to watch an arty & mortar demonstration which proved to be a pretty good show. Some shelling fwd coys by 88 MM. No casualties.	RK
	29		Weather very fine & pleasant. Recce party to R 22e R area VILLA GRANDE in preparation for move to that area. Lt Col Allard R 22e R CO visited this Hq. Lt Col R S E Waterman visited C & Y R, Rear Bn Hq & Bde Hq. Slight shelling during day. Standing & contact patrols as usual. Arty softened up area 288168 during afternoon & early evening. A recce patrol in same area returned with valuable information. Ground much drier now and living conditions a little more pleasant. Capt B Cochrane took over comd of H Q Coy. Capt H Burns & Lt Kirk left for England on instructional duties.	RK

*R. Waterman*  
Lt Col.