

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Title pages will be prepared.

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1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
POST	1		Bn settled in area 5227 and resting beneath a hot summer sun. The days are quiet and peaceful and rarely do we hear the sounds of guns. A Mobile Bath Unit is established by the Sacca River. Also a Salvation Army Service Canteen which provides free tea and refreshments. A barber and watch repairer are also in full swing. This is a great change from the usual run of things and the men take full advantage of it. Sports trg well under way.	
	2	1000 1400	Weather fine and warm but freshened by a soft breeze. Lt Col R S E Waterman attended an C Gp at Bde Hq. A Bn C Gp was held and the discussion centered on trg to be carried on in present area. Also arrangements made for Bde Sports Meet soon to be held. Methods to be used in future moves were also thoroughly discussed.	
		1900	Mr Doug Howe Canadian War Correspondent visited this Hq to obtain choice morsels of news concerning the part played by the West N S R in the smashing of the Adolf Hitler Line.	
	3	1000 1030	Wag Lambert C Gp Rep lectured to Officers and N S Gs of B Coy on the functioning of a Field Regt and the manner in which they work in conjunction with an Infantry Unit. Mr Foster Sigs officer lectured to Officers of D Coy on Signal Procedure. Fine & warm.	
	4	0900 1100 1930	Weather fine and warm but a threat of rain in the evening did not materialize. R C and C of E Church Parades were held after which Protestants observed Communion Service which was well attended. Bn C Gp was held. B Ech was brought fwd. A party of 22 proceeded to Salerno on 8 days leave.	
	5	1930	Weather fine and warm. Trg as per syllabus. West N S R Softball Team handed the second licking to 3 C I B Team. Also trimmed R 22e R and Carlt & York Teams in fast games during the past few days. Capt D I Rice I O proceeded on a few days leave. Also the Adjt Capt A Dyer. Capt Inman, Unit Paymaster is functioning with great gusto in their stead and the Bn Nerve Centre hums as never before. In the evening a film "You've got me covered" was shown in the Bn area by the Unit Auxiliary Service. E F F I supplies were issued. The usual half bottle of beer per man soon disappeared in the approved manner. Brig J P E Bernatches D S O, O B E visited this Hq.	

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GIOIA 3700 Sheet 172-I	6	0930	Weather continues to be fine and warm in spite of one or two showers which soon passed away. Lt Col R S E Waterman to Bde O Gp. Bn on one hours as of 1200h hrs to-day. Everybody packing in preparation for pending move to the South.	[Handwritten initials]
		1815	Bn crossed starting point. Moved by transport to area 3700. All 60ys in posn by 0200 hrs 7 June. Tac Hq established at 372001.	
	7	0930	Weather fine and warm. Bn O Gp. The day was spent in checking storages of weapons and equipment. The Bn blossomed forth in all the finery of brand new Berets. As usual 700 men will discover 700 different ways of wearing them and this was no exception and incidently rather hard on the RSM's Blood pressure.	[Handwritten initials]
		1400	A kit inspection was held. In the evening a film "Stormy Weather" was shown.	
	8	0900	A little cloudy but warm. Bn O Gp.	[Handwritten initials]
		1500	Coy Comdrs recce area which will be occupied by the Bn on 9 June. Brig J P E Bernatches D S O, O B E visited this H q. In the evening evening a film "By Hook or By Crook" was shown by the Unit Auxiliary Services.	
	9	0830	Weather fine and warm. A Coy moved to new area followed by B, C, D, and S Sup Coys. Tac Hq established 378986. Coy posns as per trace. The ancient ruins of a small chapel in Bn Hq area was taken over by Hon Capt L Wilmot Unit Padre and converted into a quiet room for the troops.	[Handwritten initials] PP-4
	10	0845	Weather fine and warm. Bn Sports Meet today held in the Bn area. All contestants made a fine showing and should go far in future meets.	[Handwritten initials]
		1130	The Bn was paraded and addressed by Lt Gen C Vokes D S O. Brig Bernatches D S O, O B E. accompanied him. In the evening a film "The First Of The Few" was shown.	
	11	1000	C of E Church Parade was held this morning in H q Coy area. The weather was cool and a slight breeze blowing. A pleasant day and a pleasant hour. Holy Communion was observed at the close of the service, about 20 men being present.	[Handwritten initials] RS

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		1100	Bn C Gp. Maj F E Hiltz took over comd of the Bn during the absence of Lt Col R S E Waterman who has proceeded on several days well deserved rest. In the evening a film "They Died With Their Boots On" was shown. Trg as per syllabus.	APP 3
	12		Weather fine and warm. Trg as per syllabus. Bath parades were arranged and are available to each coy in turn. The M O and staff are working overtime to ensure that all personnel are vaccinated and innoculated where necessary.	APP 3
		1400	Brig J F E Bernatches D S O, O B E paid a visit to this Hq. Sports trg vigourously carried out in preparation for Bde Sports Meet soon to be held.	
	13	0800	Bn parade this morning all ranks wearing full battle order. The hot sun made this very uncomfortable and all were relieved when at last parade was dismissed to carry on with trg as per syllabus. All transport was grounded today to prepare for pending vehicle inspection. A film "High Diddle Diddle" was shown in the evening.	APP 3
	14		Weather fine and warm. Trg as per syllabus.	APP 3
	15	1400	The Bde Sports Meet was held today in the R 22e R area. Under a hot summer sun the West N S R Sports Team got away to a sprinting start and led the entire Bde, taking first, second or third place in almost every contest; final score being 51 points as against 18 for the Carlit & York Regt and the R 22e R 10. Refreshments were provided by under the direction of Capt C Whynacht R Q M. In spite of a sharp downpour which threatened to cancel the remaining entries the programme was successfully carried through to a victorious finish. A special treat was served in the shape of a polo game between officers of 3 C I B and the 9 Fd Amb. The contestants appeared on the green precariously mounted on various wheeled examples examples of mule flesh and brandishing crudely made clubs originally intended for use in playing polo but today valiently wheilded in a hopeless attempt to produce some semblance of motion in their sleepy mounts. Considerable difficulty was experienced in steering the animals but Brig Bernatches apparently discovered the knack of control and consequently scored three of the winning goals.	APP 3

RS

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	16	0500	Recreational tours have now been arranged and the first party left this morning by transport for Naples and Pompei. In the morning the party spent two hours among the ancient ruins of Pompei which was really enjoyable in spite of the heat. The rest of the day was spent in Naples and a good time was had by all. Trg as per syllabus.	APP 3
	17	0800	Fine and warm. Bn parade at which Maj F E Hiltz acting C O thanked the Bn for their fine showing in the Bde Sports Meet and compared their winning spirit and determination to that which carried them through the Hitler Line.	
		1030	Maj Gen Burns First Cdn Corps Comdr visited all Coys of this Unit.	
		1400	and 1500 hrs. A G demonstration was held in H Coy area. 50% of each sub-unit attend each demonstration.	
	18		Heavy rains and a high wind soon turn the camp into a morass of mud. 7m men were selected to return to Canada as P Ws escort. xxxx A draft of 104 reinforcements arrived and were attached to the Bn for a period of trg and discipline. They are known as E Coy. Church parade was cancelled owing to heavy rain and a voluntary service which was to have been held at 2000 hrs was also cancelled due to the bad weather.	
	19		Weather cool with frequent showers. The first leave party to Rome left by xxxx transport today and will return on 21 June. Trg as per syllabus.	APP 3
		1730	Party proceeded to 8th Army Rest Camp Salerno on 7 days leave	
	20	1630	Weather warm but somewhat cloudy. Bde O Gp in preparation for Exercise "Darby" soon to take place.	
		1830	Guests arrived at Bn Hq Officers mess and dinner was served at 1900 hrs. Among those present were Brig J P E Bernatches D S O, O B E, Lt Col M P Bogart, D S O, Maj W G M Robinson, Bde Maj and Maj Woods, our former Medical Officer.	
	21		Weather fine. Trg as per syllabus.	APP 3
		1400	One representative from each coy proceeded with Capt W H F David on xxx a vece to area 1208.	
		1630	Capt D I Rice to discussion at Bde Hq.	
		1715	Bn moved as per movement order.	APP 4 RS

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

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	26		Fine and warm. Trg as per syllabus. A party left by transport for a day in Naples and Pompei. These trips are proving to be really educational and worth while. Everyone up to the present has shown keen enjoyment and appreciation. Keep it up Canada!	APP 3 DR
	27	1400	Fine and warm. Trg as per syllabus. Corps Sports were held today in which the Div made 300 a good showing. Div Arty took top place however.	APP 3 DR
	28	0830	Capt D I Rice I O on recce to area 48 R T R. A party attended an all Canadian Stage Show at PIEDEMONTE intituled "Rapid Fire" and featureing seven C W A C S, the remainder of the cast being male members.	DR
GRECI	29	1330 1400	Fine and warm. Trg as per syllabus. Bn moved as per movement order. A Scouts and Snipers contest was held at the Carlt & York Range. Each unit supplied an officer to act as judge, Maj F E Hiltz representing West N S R. West N S S R team was made up by Pte Val Young, Pte "Snake-eye" Gaetes and Pte Rafuse and they carried all honours by taking first, second and third with respective scores of 63, 58 and 56.	APP 3 APP 1 DR
	30		Very hot. Today the Bn made the acquaintance of men of 48th R T R and spent an interesting and profitable morning learning something of the Churchills and Shermans eagerly shown us by the English tank men. Considerable amusement amusement was caused by the somewhat akward handling of the tanks by the P B I so unfamiliar with them. A break was enjoyed at 1000 hrs for the inevitable cup of English tea and a chocolate bar. The afternoon was spent bathings in the near-by river, especially welcome on so hot a day. Officers of the 48th R T R and the West N S R proceeded to Naples and in the course of the evening enjoyed a real old-fashioned Pow-Wow. A film was shown in the Carlt & York Regt area which was attended by men of the West N S R and the 48th R T R.	DR Katerman N. Col.