

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 & S/37 (307)

OR X

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

Title pages will be prepared.

West N S R

(Erase heading not required)

March 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NORTO S.GIORGIO	1	0830	Conference held by the CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, at BnHQ and attended by 2IC, Coy Comds, Padre & IO. The CO outlined the training programme for the stay in this area. It is to be quite intensive and to consist mainly of pl exercises. Trg as per syllabus. There was an EFT issue this afternoon, spirits for Offrs, WOs & Sgts and two bottles of beer for all ranks. Weather this date - fine in the morning turning foggy and cold in the afternoon.	Appx 4 <i>Fab</i>
	2		Trg as per syllabus Major J K Rhodes DSO former Coy Comd of D Coy arrived at this HQ today and is to be a guest of the Bn for a short period. Picture at the Bluenose Theatre tonight was "Hail The Conquering Hero" Weather this date fine and warm.	Appx 4 <i>Fab</i>
	3		Trg as per syllabus. Capt J F McNichol RCAMC arrived today to take over the duties of Regimental Medical Officer; Capt J R Feindel RCAMC former Medical Officer having been transferred to 9 Cdn Lt Fd Amb. The picture at the Bluenose Theatre tonight was, Donald O'Connor and Peggy Ryan in "This Is The Life". Weather today fine and warm.	Appx 4 <i>Fab</i>
	4	1000 1100	The CO held a conference at this HQ which was attended by all Coy Comds. Main point discussed was the NCO shortage which was caused by leave parties proceeding to Canada. Protestant Church Parade was held at Bluenose Theatre, coys being paraded independently. Weather fine but a high wind.	<i>Fab</i>
	5	0700 1800	Trg as per syllabus Ten other ranks left this morning on thirty days rotational leave to Canada. A Mess Dinner was held at the Officers' Mess. The guest of honour was Major Rutherford 1st Fd Regt RCHA, Arty Rep for this Bn. The Major gave an after-dinner talk on arty in sp of inf. It was a very good talk and as one offr put it "its nice to listen to a man talk on an apparently complicated subject when you know damn well he knows what he is talking about".	Appx 4 <i>Fab</i>

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WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (30/7.)

OR

~~INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL~~

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West N S R

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March 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
PORTO S.GIORGIO	10		Confessions were held for all RCs at the K of C building from 1745 hrs to 1845 hrs. Picture tonight at the Bluenose Theatre was, "Hail The Conquering Hero". Weather today fine and warm.	<i>Flb</i>
	11	0900	An advance party under Comd Capt D I Rice, left for the first staging area, FOLIGNO, for Exercise "GOLDFLAKE"	
		1000	Protestant Church Service held at the Bluenose Theatre. RC Church Parade was held in the church directly opposite the Bluenose Theatre. A picture, "This Is the Life" was shown at the Town Square near BnHQ. Wather today fine and warm.	<i>Flb</i>
	12		Move as per Movement Order. Bn convoy proceeded from PORTO S. GIORGIO to destination FOLIGNO without incident.	Appx 1
FOLIGNO		1300	The same advance party under comd Capt DI Rice left for next staging area, PONTASSIEVE.	
		1430	The Bn paraded under the comd of Capt G G Taylor to a NAAFI controlled cinema in the down town section of FOLIGNO where a picture, "Double Indemnity" was shown. Officers marched down under the control of Major J R Cameron the 2 IC. To avoid breaches of security very close check had to be kept on all ranks.	
		1830	The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, Wave Comd of "C" Wave held a conference at which reps of each sub-unit of the Wave were present. Details of the following day's move were discussed.	<i>Flb</i>
		1900	An outdoor picture, "The Trail of the Vigilantes" was begun. After a very short period sound arrangements went astray and the picture became a silent one. Late in the evening Supplement No 1 to Movement Order No 1 was issued. It contained the instructions for the following days move. Weather today fine and warm.	Appx 1.
	13	0655	Bn embussed and moved off as per movement order. The cook-houses left at 0630 hrs in separate convoy to an area north of AREZZO MR 2735 to prepare dinner for the noon-day halt which is in this area.	Appx 1.
		1230	Bn halted for dinner in above stated area and moved off again at 1345 hrs.	
		1700	Bn arrived in second staging area, PONTASSIEVE. The move proceeded without incident.	<i>Flb</i>

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WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (180/7)

~~INTERNATIONAL SECURITY~~

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West N S R

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March 194 5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
PONTASSIEVE	13	1830	The 2IC, Major J R Cameron held a conference attended by Coy Comds, Adjt, Capt Taylor and the TO. Major Cameron is convoy comd of the unit convoy and Capt Taylor is advance reporting officer. Points discussed were breaches in convoy discipline during the day and the details of tomorrow's move. Later in the evening Supplement No 2 to Movement Order No 1, was issued to cover the remainder of the journey.	Appx 1
		2000	A picture "The Flame of The Barbary Coast" was shown. Once again the sound arrangements failed, not quite completely, and the picture was practically a silent one. Note - The main body of the advance party proceeded on to No 3 staging area, HARRODS CAMP, earlier in the day. Three members of the advance party were left behind to guide coys to respective areas when they arrived. As soon as this was done they journeyed on to the third staging area. Weather today fine and warm.	<i>Fab</i>
LIVORNO	14	0900	The Wave this morning is to proceed to No 3 Staging Area in blocks of 25 vehs. Blocks being spaced 20 minutes apart. Details of blocks as per Supplement No 2 to Movement Order No 1.	Appx 1.
		1400	The first block of the Wave under comd of the Adjt, Capt A J W Dyer, arrived at HARRODS CAMP (No 3 Staging Area). Succeeding blocks followed at short intervals and the Bn was settled down and meals being served by 1600 hrs. From 1630 hrs onwards to 1900 hrs Coys received EFI from K of C (dry EFI). In the evening a film was shown, "Lady in the Dark".	<i>Fab</i>
		1800	The CO, Adjt and the TO Lt G N Budreski, attended a conference held by Major Fulton DAAG 1 Cdn Inf Div, Div Movement Rep. Here rules of the camp at this were discussed and the general picture of the continuence of the move. It is now common knowledge that 1 Cdn Corps is proceeding to take part in the fighting on the Western Front. Weather today was fine and warm.	<i>Fab</i>
		0830	The CO held a Bn conference at which a general picture was given of future events.	
		1000	Fifteen other ranks under the direction of the Padre H/Capt F L Wilmot MC proceeded on an educational tour of PISA which is a few miles distant from our present location.	<i>Fab</i>
	1330	Another party of 15 ORs under the direction of the Pioneer Officer Lt L R Kingston proceeded to PISA.		
	1430	The CO attended a conference at Movements to get loading lists for tomorrow.		

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LIVORNO	15		<p>During the afternoon EFI was issued to the troops, on the scale of one bottle of spirits for offrs, $\frac{1}{2}$ bottle for WOs & Sgts and beer to all ranks. In the evening a film was shown, "UP In Mabel's Room". At various times throughout the day the CO addressed all coys putting all ranks in the picture as to the present move. A & B - 1030 hrs, C & D - 1100 hrs, Sp Coy 1130 hrs, BnHQ & HQ Coy 1400 hrs. Weather today fine and warm.</p>	<p><i>Tab</i></p>
	16	0730	All vehicles and drivers proceeded to port LIVORNO where they embarked for MARSEILLES. A Sports programme was laid on under coy control for the entire day.	
		1030	Twenty-four Officers proceeded to PISA on an educational tour.	
		1430	The CO & Adjt proceeded to a conference at Movements to get details of following days move, loading lists, etc..	<i>Tab</i>
		1500	The CO accompanied by officers who missed the trip to PISA this morning proceeded to that city this afternoon. A picture was shown in the evening, "The Falcon Goes West". Weather today fine and warm.	
	17		A Sports programme was laid on for the day. Competitive soft-ball games were arranged between coys.	
		1430	The CO and Adjt proceeded to Movements and procured loading lists for the following day. During the day the Padre conducted Padre's Hour for the different coys. The topic for discussion was the development of religion. Weather this date fine and cool.	<i>Tab</i>
	18	1030	Protestant Church Service was held in the camp area. It was learned this morning that the move scheduled for today has been cancelled for 24 hours. It is expected that this Bn will move tomorrow afternoon and go on board ship at the port of LIVORNO. During the day a sports programme was carried out. Soft-ball and volley ball being played in respective coy areas. Weather this date fine and warm.	<i>Tab</i>

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WAR DIARY

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March 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
LIVORNO	19		Once again sport was the order of the day.	
		1430	The CO and Adjt attended conference at Movements to get loading lists etc.	
		1700	It had been planned that the Bn would embus for the port of LIVORNO at this time but it has now been changed to an indefinite time.	
		1900	At this time it was learned that BnHQ and HQ Coy only would go on board ship tonight. The remainder of the Bn to spend the night in the present staging area under the comd of Major W W Mair OC "B" Coy.	<i>gab</i>
		2015	BnHQ and HQ Coy proceeded by TCV to LIVORNO where they went on board an LST at 2100 hrs.	
	20	0900	Remainder of Bn proceeded to LIVORNO and embarked in LCIs.	
		0945	Convoy left port of LIVORNO at this time. Bn was disposed in the following order: BnHQ and HQ Coy on an LST and the remainder of the Bn on five LCIs, one per coy. The voyage today proceeded very smoothly with a very calm sea. Weather today fine and warm.	<i>gab</i>
	21		The weather continued very favorably with a calm sea and the voyage proceeded without incident.	<i>gab</i>
	22		Convoy docked at the port of MARSEILLES. Shortly after docking the Bn disembarked and proceeded by TCVs to a staging area several miles from the port.	
		1245	On arriving at the staging area the Bn found a hot meal already prepared. Throughout the afternoon medical inspection of all ranks was held and the Paymaster exchanged French currency for Italian.	
			At 1830 & 2000 hrs Major J R Cameron 2 IC attended conferences at staging area HQ (Movements). Here he received details for move which is to begin early tomorrow morning.	<i>gab</i>
		2030	On his return from the second conference Major Cameron held Bn conference. Maps and Route Cards were issued and general details laid on. Weather today fine and warm.	Appx 1
	23		Reveille this morning was at 0430 hrs and breakfast was served at 0600 hrs.	<i>gab</i>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	25		In the evening a film, "Conflict" was shown. Weather today was fine and warm in the morning with occasional showers in the afternoon and evening.	<i>Fab</i>
	26		Reveille this morning was at 0400 hrs and breakfast at 0430 hrs. Cook-houses and advance party left at 0530 and the main body moved off at 0630 hrs. Convoy proceeded under the usual arrangements.	
		1500	Bn arrived at the staging area, the day's move having been carried out without incident.	<i>Fab</i>
		1530	Major Cameron held a conference at which today's convoy was discussed and details of tomorrow's convoy issued. In the evening a film, "Hail The Conquering Hero" was shown. Weather this date was cool with occasional showers.	
	27		Reveille this morning at 0400 hrs and breakfast at 0430 hrs. Cook-houses and same advance party left at 0530 hrs and the Main Body of the Bn moved off at 0630 hrs. The move continued under the same arrangements without incident, and the Bn arrived at the staging area at 1730 hrs.	
		1800	Major Cameron held a conference at which tomorrow's move was discussed generally and at 2030 hrs after attending a conference himself at Movements Office in the staging area, he held another meeting at which full details were given. Weather today overcast and cool.	<i>Fab</i>
	28		Reveille this morning at 0430 hrs and breakfast at 0500 hrs. Cook-houses and same advance party left at 0600 hrs and the main column passed the start point at 0700 hrs. The move was carried out in accordance with previous arrangements without incident. Bn reached billeting area BERLAER, BELGIUM, MR 8484, at 1515 hrs.	
BERLAER		1930	The K of C put on a show for the troops, "The Mask of Demitros"	
		2030	The CO held a conference which was attended by the 2IC, Coy Comds, Adjts, QM, MO. Main topic discussed was training in this area. The CO pointed out that the men had been idle for a period of about two weeks and steps must be taken to ensure they were kept in good physical condition. Such being the case a certain amount of hardening training would have to be carried out. Nominations were also made for	<i>Fab</i>

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BERLAER	28		leave to England and Canada. Weather today, light showers and generally overcast.	<i>Fab</i>
	29	1200	Trg as per syllabus. The IO, Lt F A Embree, attended a conference at HQ 1 Cdn Inf Bde. Three Staff Officers from from Army HQ delivered lectures on, 1. German Order of Battle, 2. Counter Intelligence in the North West Europe, 3. Enemy Equipment.	Appx 4.
		1615	Three officers and seventy-seven other ranks left on 8 day leave to the United Kingdom. Preference was given to men married in England and long service in the Italian Theatre. Weather today rainy and overcast.	<i>Fab</i>
	30	0510	Trg as per syllabus. One Officer, Capt G G Taylor, and three ORs proceeded on a recce of fwd assembly areas, REICHWALDE FORREST 8550. Throughout the day the Paymaster Capt D I Greensides RCAPC carried out exchange of Belgian currency for French.	Appx 4
1500		The Protestant Padre held Good Friday service in the K of C Hut. EFI was issued this afternoon on the scale of One bottle of spirits, one of champagne and one liquer to officers to WOs & Sgts and two bottles bottles of beer free issue to all ranks. Show tonight at K of C Hut "The Mask of Dimitros" Weather today fine and warm.	<i>Fab</i>	
31	0900	Trg as per syllabus. Two private soldiers from this unit proceeded to Kingscross and then to Arras ARRAS where they will undergo a period of nine days training in preparation for a Guard of Honour being put on by the Canadian Army at VIMY on the 9th of April the Anniversary of the the capture of Vimy Ridge by the Canadian Army in the last War. These two were so chosen because their fathers fought at Vimy during the Great War. Through ^{out} the day Muster Parades and Pay Parades were held. (See Part I Orders). Show at K of C building, "Tawny Petit" Weather today fair and cool.	Appx 4. <i>Fab</i> Appx 1.	

F. C. Hilby Lt Col.