

# War Diary to Zutphen

## North Nova Scotia Highlanders 2 - 7 april 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Ref to
Map Reference 937619 Sheet 4003 DOETINCHEM BEEK?	2 April 45	Monday	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WAR DIARY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Erase heading not required)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p> <p>Weather - clear, bright sunny day. There was trouble over the contact patrol between our carriers and the Highland Light Infantry of Canada's carriers. They failed to contact at 0100 hours and weird and stirring tales came from 9 Canadian Infantry Brigade headquarters about the Highland Light Infantry of Canada's patrol being shot up in woods at map reference 9280. Actually the failure to contact was due to our friends being a half hour late. There was no shooting but the other carriers picked up a Dutchman who said there were Germans in the woods. The Brigadier laid on that the woods in question would be searched at first light by the two Battalions with the international boundary as the axle. Capt. H. Smith used a carrier section to do the job and reported nothing there. The Highland Light Infantry of Canada also found nothing. The enemy in Northern Holland appeared to be loosening up and big advances were expected. The enemy pocket directly to our north was still there but 7 Canadian Infantry Brigade was teeing up an attack on DIDAM map reference 8972 to start to clear it out. A few mortar shells from an assault gun were landing in "A" Company area. There were no casualties however. The firing was coming from the DIDAM-ZEVENAAR road. "A" Company brought in three prisoners and their report was that the morale of the Germans in the pocket was low. The Commanding Officer was called to a Brigade Orders Group at 2000 hours. After returning he laid on a Battalion Orders Group at 0900 hours 3 April 1945 and sent out word to have everything ready for a move the next day.</p>	
Map Reference 937619 Sheet 4003 DOETINCHEM Sheet 4004 TERBERG	3 April 45	Tuesday	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WAR DIARY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Erase heading not required)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p> <p>Weather - clear, bright and warm day. There was a Battalion Orders Group at 0900 hours. The 3 Canadian Infantry Division was to move north and exploit into northern Holland. The 8 Canadian Infantry Brigade were to capture DOESBURG map reference 9080. The 7 Canadian Infantry Brigade were to clear up the DIDAM-ZEVENAAR pocket while the 9 Canadian Infantry Brigade were to clear directly to ZUTPHEN map reference 9495 along the IJSSSEL river. The route to be followed is shown on trace 1 Appendix 6. Roughly it went through ZEDDAM map reference 9868, TERBERG map reference 0570, DOETINCHEM map reference 0075 and HUMMELO map reference 9679, then up the main road to ZUTPHEN. If any part of this route proved impassable due to fire or demolition then branch-offs would be used. The first objective of the North Nova Scotia Highlanders was HELEN see trace 2 Appendix 6. The Company objectives are shown but they were liable to change at any</p>	

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Map Reference 937619 Sheet 4003 DOETINCHEM Sheet 4004 TERBERG	3 April 45	Tuesday Continued	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WAR DIARY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Erase heading not required)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p> <p>time. The bridge at code name WINCH map reference 95827 was a Stormont Dundas and Glengary Highlanders responsibility. After the Battalion had taken HELEN the Highland Light Infantry of Canada were to pass through and seize the area HEATHER see trace 2. Then exploit to THISTLE. Finally the Stormont Dundas and Glengary Highlanders were to pass through and seize the small town of WARNSVELD code name DAFFODIL map reference 9694. Thus the approaches to the town of ZUTPHEN would be cleared and the assault on the town could go in. In the Battalion the order of march was to be the Command Post followed by "A", "B", "C" and then "D" Companies. "A" Company was to have a troop tanks from the Sherbrooke Fusillier Regiment. They also had under command a section of wasps, a section of carriers and a section of pioneers and a Forward Observation Officer. "B" Company had a troop of tanks, section of wasps, section of carriers, a section of anti-tank guns. The troops were to be carried by Troop Carrying Vehicles to the woods at map reference 8296. Then "A" and "B" Companies would proceed on the tanks into their objectives with "C" and "D" Companies following on foot. The Battalion was to be ready to move at 1300 hours. Part of the Battalion was able to get away on a bath parade in the morning. Morale was high as the news from all battle fronts was exceptionally good and we were once more liberating not conquering and a friendly populace makes a big difference. The Battalion moved off at 1330 hours and it was a clear run up to the de-bussing front. The Stormont Dundas and Glengary Highlanders found the bridge, code name WINCH, intact and "A" Company proceeded to their objective on HELEN without any opposition outside of the odd mortar or two from across the river. The other three Companies quickly moved on their objectives and consolidated. Command Post was set up in the house at map reference 96961. During the afternoon our carriers contacted the 2 Canadian Infantry Division on our right. Another carrier section under Capt. H. Smith was sent to patrol the river down to BRONKHURST code name HALTEN map reference 9386. They found it clear of the enemy but were pinned fired on from across the river. "D" Company was moved down to guard the river crossings especially the one at map reference 92883 (see trace 3 Appendix 6.) "D" Company moved a platoon down to the dyke just opposite this crossing. While their platoon was moving along the dyke behind this crossing they were fired on and got a prisoner. He said there were fifteen Germans dug in at the crossing and so Capt. R. Graves "D" Company Commander decided to tee-up an attack with the carriers to clear the dyke. "B" Company meanwhile, had exploited out to the village of BAAK map reference 9788.</p>	





