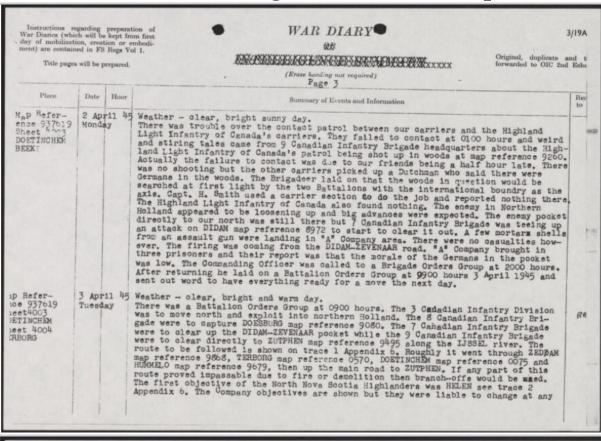
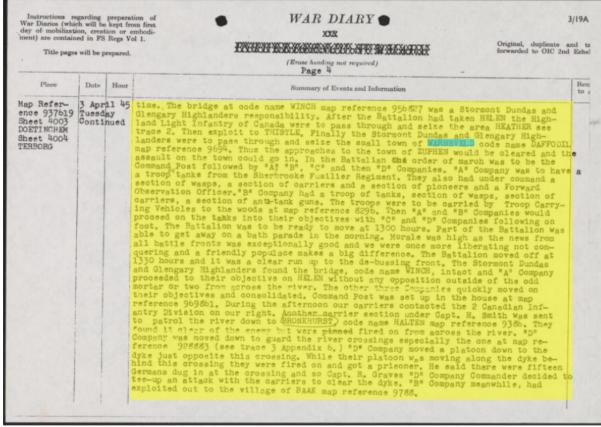
## War Diary to Zutphen North Nova Scotia Highlanders 2 – 7 april 1945





Map Refer-ence 969863 Sheet 3903 BAAKSCHEMARK Date Hour

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Page 5

Summary of Events and Information

Date How

Summary of Events and Information

4 April 45 Weather - Slear, bright, sunny day.

"D" Company using a section of carriers for covering fire, attacked the dyke. They drew heavy mortar fire from across the river and suffered oasualties. There was sniping and machine gun fire. In the dark one platoon was disorganized and reports actual fighting during the night, only intermittent morarifing which made it rather a small operation, with two willed and eight wounded. The Brigadier came to see the Commanding Officer at 1150 hours and gave to the North Nova Scotia Highlanders as their next objective, the town of MARHBYRID, code name DAFFODI. Map reference 9694 The route used by the Battalion is shown on trace 1 Appendix 7. Troops were to be carried in vehicles to de-bussing point at woods, code name BROOM, map reference 909928. The Battalion would attack along a two company axis, using A" Company and "B" Company forward with "C" Company and "D" Companies used the right. "A" Company and "B" Companies used the right. "A" Company was to have under command a section of wasps and section of pioneers, while in support were a troop of Anti-tank guns, a troop of tanks, a section of 1.2 inch 1345 hours with "A" and "B" Companies in transport and "C" and "D" Companies marching. There were four report lines established along the two axis called HAY, STRAW, WHAAT and OATS, see trace 2 Appendix 7. One platoon of "A" Company on carriers was sent shead to take over the bridge at map reference 003929. There was a delay because of a large crater in the road at map reference 990399. The Sappers were working on it so as to allow the wasps through. By 1530 hours there were still no tanks and the Commanding Officer called Brigade and was promised one troop immediately. The crater was registed and "A" Company was ordered forward at 1730 hours with "B" Company also pushing of immediately, "A" Company attent to the road at map reference Officer as the Br Company also pushing of immediately, "A" Company attent at 1730 hours with "B"

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#### WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Map Refer- ence 969865 Sneet 5905 BAAKSCHEMAR			One platoon had been sent to clear the area between them and "A" Company and while doing so they came under Machine Gun fire and Lt. P.A. Higgins was killed. The troops "A" Company were meeting were it years old, who were fighting ranatically and supprisingly well with very little support outside of machine guns and bazookas. Finally at 2500 hours "A" Company reported STRAW. They sent back it prisoners of war all young fanatics. "C" Company was ordered to firm up on HAY benind "A" Company and "D" Company to firm up on STRAW benind "B" Company. "B" Company had penetrated as far as WHEAT. Now "A" Company was ordered to proceed to STRAW while "B" Company pushed on to QATS.
Map Reference 003929 Sheet 2803	5 Apr	day	Weather - a clear sunny day At this point of the attack "A" Company became involved in a fierce fight for a hosp- ital in the woods in area map reference 902945. The Germans were well dug in and held a fairly strong position. The Command Post moved at 0145 hours to house at map reference 906941, just behind "A" Company. By 0,000 hours "A" Company reported the hospital and woods cleared and were told to consolidage there and wait for "C" Com- pany to pass through them. "O" Company then passed through "A" Company and proceeded on towards WHEAT. Major Winhold, "O" Company Commander came to see the Commanding officer for details and then took his Company throught. Meanwhile "B" Company were coming under neavy machine gun fire and the fighting appeared to have shifted from

coming under neavy machine gun fire and the fighting appeared to have shifted from the left axis to the right axis. By 0400 hours "C" Company reported WHEAT and swung over to the edge of the woods along WhEAT midway between the two asex. Most of the fire seemed coming, on the "b" Company axis, from two 20 mm guns at road junction map reference 974972. After suffering several casualties Major Wright relt the position was held in sufficient strength to werrant an attack properly formed up with supporting arms, so asked permission to pull back the forward platoon sufficiently far to organize this. In the meantime two troops of Crocodiles had reported at first light and one troop was despatched along each axis. The troop on the "B" Company axis soon reported having difficulty with the wood, so "b" Company was ordered to move across to the other axis in order to co-ordinate their attack with the troop of crocodiles on the left. As soon as they started to do so they came under fire from the edge of the wood between the two axes and it. Murray was killed and Major Wright wounded. Things slowed down while Captain J.L. Fairweather moved up to take over and

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#### ENTERDIMENTAL SUMMARY

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Place	Date Hou	Summary of Events and Information	Ren to .
Map Reference 003929 Sneet 3803	5 Apr 45 Thursday Continued	then the troop of crocodidies on the original "B" Company axis got out of the mood and caught up with them. The Company then went ine on the wood with the crocodidies and cleaned it without difficulty. They then proceeded back toward their original axis and went in on the road junction at map reference 974992 with both troops of crocodidies. This was cleared without difficulty and it was felt that the enemy nad withurawn, so permission was obtained to proceed straight into Watheram. "B" Company went to the first cross roads and "D" Company then proceeded along the main Fees street to the end of the town. Leanwhile "C" Company cleared up the south side of the town. The rew machine gunners left then were discouraged by the troop of tanks working with each Company. "C" Company sent out a high patrol at 2050 nours which brushed up against some Germans. They had a corporal killed and a lance corporal wounded. They were trying to contact the Stormont Dundas and Glengary Highlanders. During the past 24 hours of fighting all three Battalions of the y Canadian infantry Brigade had run into the same type of Germans - young, about sixteen and seventeen years of age on the average - fenctic, when interviewed they still thought Germany would wint, and their belief in Hitler and Nazism was still unshaken. However, there were cases among the prisoners of just badly scared boys. The unit which we see righting was a paratroop Division of which we had periodically seen so much. Most of them had only oeen in battle a week and the average had only been in the army three months. They had no supporting arms outside of a few mortars out were supplied with bazookas and machine guns of which they had many. Rear Battalion Head and linght. This was particularly true of "A" Company and "B" Company. Lt. Frouce, A.G. of "D" Company was hit in the leg by a shiper builet and evacuated. This made four officers, two killed, two wounded and twenty nine other ranks, four killed and twenty five wounded. Four new reinforcement officers arrived - Lt	

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Map Reference by Apr 45
Sheet 3803
Sheet 3803
ZUTPHEN

Meather - clear and sunny.
There were early reports of active sniping from the comestary at map reference 958951
Several civilians were hit by these snipers but no soldiers until a fifteen hundred weight end then a jeep drove past the barricade down the main road. Et were wounded in the fifteen hundred weight wile an officer was killed in the jeep. They were not our Battalion vehicles or personnel. The Commanding Officer was called to a Brigade conference at 1145 hours. There was a Battalion Orders Group at 1230 hours. "C"
Company was to exploit to map reference 96951, "A" Company was to move up and take over from the Recoe. "B" Company was to move out to houses at map reference 969534

to relieve a Company of the Stormont Pundas and Glengary Highlanders and come was their command - see trace 5 for Company objectives. "B" Company moved over to relieve the Company of Stormont Pundas and Glengary Highlanders immediately. "A" Company was moved into position without any trouble "Q" Company teed-up their attack but were not fired on and reported on their objective at 1500 hours. The 5 Ganadian Infantry Brigade were entring Z THEN from the north and taking the pressure off our front Major F.A. Sparks rejoined the Battalion taking over as Second in Command. There was one man wounded by snipers during the day. Otherwise it was a rather quiet day with the Battalion getting rested up and checking its equipment. An Intelligence Section Observation Post was set up in the church at map reference 963949; The Commanding Officer went to Brigade Headquarters at 1000 hours. "A" Company sent out a night petrol at 2030 houre which brushed up against some Genemas. They had a Corporal killed and a Lance Corporal wounded. They were trying to contact the Stormont Dundas and Glengary Highlanders. The Brigadier once to see the Commanding Officer at 1930 hours ZUTPHEN itself was to be an 8 Canadien Infantry Brigade do. There was a moving plo-Place Date Hour Summary of Events and Information R Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodi-ment) are contained in FS Regs Vol 1.

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	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Ren to .
Rap Reference 772593 Blacet 3803 ZUMPHEN	7 Ag	W	Wegther - clear and fine  "A" Company and the listing posts reported the front very quiet (traces appendix 8).  The Cemetry and the front edge of ZUTPHEN showed no activity whatsoever. The Commanding Officer called in Captain Gormley, A.F. and teed-up an attack on the cemetry. It was first that the enemy had withdrawn and so the attack took more the form of one platoon patroling to the cemetry and the other two moving in if it was clear. The Company followed this from and in ZUTPHEN itself there was only the odd sniper or two. The Stormont Dundas and Glengary Highlanders also sent a Company into the southern part of the town and we contacted them along the main street. Orders came throught from Brigade at 1500 hours fo a move to a concentration area near 9799. A Recce party lead by Major F.A. Sparks left immediately to acok over the new area. The order of march was to be "D" Company, "C" Company and "B" Company, "A" Company would not move u.til a Company of the Stormont Dundas and Glengary Highlanders had relieved them; this would be some time later in the afternoon. The Battalion moved quickly and Command Post was set up in a house at map reference 96797. For the Company disposition see trace 1 Appendix B. This was strictly a concentration move so as to get the Battalion clear of ZUTPHEN and in a position where it could move quickly north.  The area was quiet except for the sound of gunfire in the distance which was support-	
	8 Apr Sunda	11 45	Weather - clear, bright, sunny day.  A very quiet morning until 1100 hours when orders came through from Erigade to move at 1200 hours. The Commanding Officer went to Brigade Orders Group at 1230 hours. The general plan was to seize a bridgehead over the SCHIPBELK CANAL in the area of map reference 008064 and panetrate into the village of BATHEM map reference 0006. The bridgehead would have to be seized and consolidated quickly to allow the sappers to set up a bailley bridge and open the road to further penatrations of Northern Holkand but the bridge had been bloom by the retreating enemy. The route to be followed is shown on trace 1 Appendix 9. All available Battalion and supporting arms transport was to be used up to the area of the houses at map reference 002042. The attack was to take the form of a two Company frontal, with "C" Company on the left and "D" Company on the right. The inter company axis was to be the main road. "D" Company on	Ri

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