

ORIGINAL
DUPLICATE
TRIPPLICATE

(Strike out where not applicable)

SECRET

DATE RECEIVED _____
CHECKED BY _____ DATE _____
APPXS Nos. _____ TO _____
FOLDER No. _____
DRAWER No. _____

WAR DIARY

PART I ORDERS Nos.

PART II ORDERS Nos.

OF

THE PERTH REGIMENT

FROM **1 JANUARY 1944** TO **31 JANUARY 1944**

VOLUME.....

APPENDICES.....TO.....**NIL**

107/1 JAN 44 ORIGINAL PERTH REGT

WAR DIARIES, C.A.
**Instructions for Compilation and
Despatch**

1. A War Diary is **SECRET**.

2. The War Diary takes the place of the Historical Record when on active service (K.R. Can. Para. 1530). Its objects are: to supply authentic material for the history of the unit, and of the force; to furnish a historical record of operations; and to provide data upon which to base improvements in training, equipment, organization and administration.

3. Unless otherwise ordered, the original and duplicate copies are sent on the first day of the succeeding month, through the usual channels, to the A.G., 2nd Echelon, wherever that office may be. The triplicate copy may be held by the unit for three months and then forwarded, also through the usual channels, to A.G., 2nd Echelon. In Canada all copies as above are sent through the usual channels to N.D.H.Q.; in England to Canadian Military H.Q.

(i) District Officers Commanding will arrange to forward War Diaries to National Defence Headquarters addressed Director Historical Section, G.S. (War Diaries) with covering roll, in duplicate, showing unit from which received and number of copies in each case; the duplicate roll will be returned as a receipt.

(ii) Formations and Units in the Ottawa Area Command will forward War Diaries direct to National Defence Headquarters (addressed Director, Historical Section, G.S. (War Diaries)).

4. Post-war disposal will be as under:
Original—retained at Ottawa for historical purposes.
Duplicate—to British Record Office for historical purposes.
Triplicate—to unit for custody with unit records.

5. The War Diary will be entered up daily on M.F.M. 11 and rendered monthly in triplicate (Mobn. Instr. for C.M. 1937. App. "C"). Each entry will be initialled by the officer detailed to keep the War Diary, which will be signed at the end of each month by the commander (F.S.R. Vol. II, Sec. 35, para. 3, iii).

6. The following should be recorded daily as events occur:

(i) Important orders, instructions, reports, messages or despatches received and issued, and decisions taken. *Original documents* should be attached as appendices to the original copy of the War Diary; *copies* should, whenever available, be attached as appendices to the duplicate and triplicate copies of the War Diary.

(ii) Daily map location, employment, movements and dispositions of unit headquarters and of batteries, companies, etc. March tables should be attached as appendices.

(iii) Important movements of officers and matters relating to the duties of each branch of the staff. A complete set of the *routine orders and instructions, Part I Orders*, issued by the unit during the month should be attached as an appendix to the original copy.

(iv) Detailed account of operations—to include:—
Exact hour, location and circumstances of important occurrences. Movements and names of neighbouring units. Commanders of batteries, companies, etc., names of Officers and number of O.R. (i) engaged and (ii) battle casualties. Dispositions, activities and identity of enemy forces. Prisoners and trophies captured. Ammunition expended. Factors affecting operations, topographical and climatic. *Maps and sketches* showing dispositions of batteries, companies, etc., at important phases. The record of *communications, both written and verbal*, received or despatched during active operations as an appendix. A complete set of the *operation orders and instructions* issued during the month. Notes on conferences and *reports* rendered to higher formations, or received from lower formations, as appendices to the original copy.

(v) Nature and description of trenches, field works or accommodation occupied or constructed. Meteorological notes.

(vi) Changes in establishment or strength. Names and ranks of officers and number of O.R. Attachment of units and individuals. Reinforcements. *Weekly Field Returns of Officers and O.R.* should be attached as appendices to the original copy. *Copy of Part II Orders* should be attached to the triplicate copy only. Changes in organization, stores, transport, etc.

7. It is essential that all copies of both text and appendices are legible. Appendices will be numbered and referenced to the text in the last column of the form. Current issues of any regimental publication should be attached.

8. It will be found convenient at the end of each month, when the War Diary is being completed and the correspondence in unit files for the month is being reviewed and distributed (F.S.R. Vol. I, sec. 171, para. 3) if the material considered to be of historical value in the light of the above is attached as appendices to the original copy of the War Diary, the file title and reference number being entered in conformity with the filing system.

9. A good War Diary makes possible the accurate and detailed reconstruction of circumstances, conditions and action.

NOTE: If monthly diary is more than one inch thick, use a second folder. If appendices are bulky, tie folder up with tape or string to make a firm package.

**PRESERVE IMPORTANT ORIGINAL
DOCUMENTS FOR POSTERITY: INSERT
THEM AS APPENDICES IN ORIGINAL
COPY OF WAR DIARY**

**THE EXTRACTION AND RETENTION OF APPENDICES, MAPS, ETC., FROM A WAR DIARY IS AN OFFENCE
UNDER THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT.**

REPORTS ON OPERATIONS

1. A Report on Operations is a statement made by a commander to convey a clear impression of the action of his command during a specified period. It is primarily for the immediate information of higher military command. Compiled in the field largely from the C.O.'s note book and unit office log books it is a firm statement of fact. Being a record of experience gained, it is a valuable guide for training and for future operations. It is inserted as the backbone of the war diary, and is invaluable to the historian.

2. In compiling Report on Operations, unit commanders quote from reports of their officers. Commanders of formations forward reports of unit commanders intact, amplifying them whenever necessary.

3. Officers preparing reports will follow the rules laid down in F.S.P.B., Pt. I, Pamphlet No. 4, 1943.

4. Specimen headings are as under, with modifications appropriate for the planned attack, the defensive engagement, the encounter battle, or minor actions.

(a) SITUATION—

- (i) Outline.
- (ii) Information re enemy intentions, dispositions, and strengths.
- (iii) Our intentions, unit locations, and strengths.
- (iv) Condition own troops and equipment.

(b) PLAN AND METHOD—

- (i) Objectives.
- (ii) Action required by unit.
- (iii) Boundaries and areas.
- (iv) Fire plan incl. Naval and Air co-operation.
- (v) Administration.
- (vi) Intercommunication.
- (vii) Start line and zero hour.

(c) COURSE OF THE BATTLE—

- (i) Narrative of action with locations and times.
- (ii) Weather and terrain.

- (iii) Quality, action, equipment and methods of the enemy.
- (iv) Objectives reached (incl. flank formations).
- (v) Outstanding incidents.
- (vi) Factors affecting the course and results of the action.
- (vii) Ammunition expenditure.
- (viii) Performance of vehicles.
- (ix) Consolidation and reorganization—unit locations, boundaries, areas.
- (x) Casualties, their cause and number.
- (xi) Captures, incl. identifications, weapons and equipment.

(d) COMMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED—

- (i) Tactical methods.
- (ii) Weapons and Equipment.
- (iii) Administration.
- (iv) Intercommunication.

(e) APPENDICES—Orders and instructions, air photos, maps and sketches, etc.

UNIT OFFICE FILING SYSTEM AND RECORDS

“Every office will arrange for the filing and custody of its own correspondence” (F.S.R. Vol. I, Sec. 171, para. 3.)

1. TITLES AND NUMBERING OF FILES—

A simple filing system adaptable for use in any military office at home or in the field is illustrated by the “List of File Titles” overleaf.

All documents handled by a unit fall into one or other of the nine categories, enumerated 1 to 9. The titles of the nine main divisions are based on British army operations, organization, administration and the regulations governing. Each title may be broken down into ten component parts or sub-titles, by adding a dash and subsidiary numbers 0 to 9. In turn each of these may be further broken down by adding a second dash and a third digit, and if necessary a third dash and a fourth digit. Thus 4-6-3 might be “Cooking Course at Kingston”. According to circumstances, a fighting unit would expand the 1-3 prefix to accommodate all arms and services with which it may be concerned.

2. DATE REFERENCE—

The method outlined in F.S.R. Vol. II, Appendix IV, will be used for all purposes, *e.g.* 2 Feb 40.

3. DOCUMENTS FOR PRESERVATION—

The monthly review of correspondence (F.S.R. Vol. I, sec. 171, para. 3) is facilitated and future confusion avoided by docketing the material in “Category ii” (*i.e.*, “no longer required”, etc.) to conform with the system.

4. CORRESPONDENCE IN THE FIELD—

The functioning of the office of a formation or unit during active operations may be simplified by keeping a log or register of all orders and messages, written or verbal, received or sent during the action. This may conveniently be done by extending the use of the “Field Register of Communications Received or Despatched” (Army Form 2040, F.S.R. Vol. I, Sec. 171), to include verbal as well as written orders and messages in chronological order as received or sent.

Time of sending and of receipt are of importance second only to time of event, and should be entered both on the office copy of every field message or other document, and in the log or register. A carbon copy for contemporary reference of the commander or others concerned is desirable.

A brief precis of written orders, reports and messages, with the sender's number, is sufficient, for they will be kept on file. But particular care is necessary in making entries of times of moves and of verbal orders, reports or conversations, by telephone or otherwise, which in the stress of action, may not otherwise be recorded on paper. In battle operations messages dealt with by one officer may number over twenty-five per hour for several hours on end.

The record should be kept convenient to the telephone. Entries may be made by a clerk, or by the officer on duty at the telephone.

Such a record is invaluable to the commander in making appreciations of the situation during the action and in compiling his report on the action afterwards. It is contemporary evidence of the highest quality, and therefore is of the highest historical value, and should be attached as an appendix to the original copy of the War Diary, together with the original documents sent and received.

(Appendix to Routine Order No. 147, C.A.S.F.
22 Nov., 39.)

For list of headings see back of jacket.

VII

LIST OF FILE TITLES

1. *Operations (G.S.) (or Technical Functioning).*

- 1-0. General.
- 1-1. Orders.
- 1-2. Instructions.
- 1-3. Co-operation and Liaison.
- 1-4. Intercommunication, sigs., etc.
- 1-5. Working Parties.
- 1-6. Scheme of Work.
- 1-7. }
- 1-8. } Available for allotment.
- 1-9. }

2. *Protection. (G.S.)*

- 2-0. General.
- 2-1. Guards and Patrols.
- 2-2. Alarm Posts.
- 2-3. Field Defences.
- 2-4. Against air attacks.
- 2-5. Against A.F.V.
- 2-6. Gas.
- 2-7. Defence Schemes.
- 2-8. }
- 2-9. } Available for allotment.

3. *Intelligence.*

- 3-0. General.
- 3-1. Secrecy. Codes.
- 3-2. Censorship.
- 3-3. Enemy forces, Prisoners of war.
- 3-4. Reports and sketches.
- 3-5. Maps.
- 3-6. War Diary.
- 3-7. Weather.
- 3-8. }
- 3-9. } Available for allotment.

VIII

4. *Training. (G.S.) (or Technical).*

- 4-0. General.
- 4-1. Drill.
- 4-2. P.T.
- 4-3. Technical: Musketry, Gun Drill, etc.
- 4-4. Route Marches.
- 4-5. Tactical Schemes.
- 4-6. Courses and Schools.
- 4-7. Lessons learned and Pamphlets.
- 4-8. }
- 4-9. } Available for allotment.

5. *Organization and Administration (A.G.).*

- 5-0. General.
- 5-1. Establishments.
- 5-2. Medical and Sanitation. Dental.
- 5-3. Inspections. Ceremonial. Visitors.
- 5-4. Discipline. Police.
- 5-5. Office.
- 5-6. Routine Orders.
- 5-7. }
- 5-8. } Available for allotment.
- 5-9. }

6. *Personnel (A.G.).*

- 6-0. General.
- 6-1. Officers.
- 6-2. Strengths, Casualties, Reinforcements.
- 6-3. Part II Orders.
- 6-4. Chaplains and Welfare.
- 6-5. Pay. Financial.
- 6-6. Burials. Effects.
- 6-7. Honours and Rewards.
- 6-8. Demobilization and discharge.
- 6-9. Available for allotment.

IX

7. *Movements and Quarters. (Q.M.G.).*

- 7-0. General.
- 7-1. Moves by road, rail, water, air.
- 7-2. Employment of transport.
- 7-3. Reliefs.
- 7-4. Barracks, Bilets, Camps.
- 7-5. Baths and Laundry.
- 7-6. Boundaries and areas.
- 7-7. Traffic.
- 7-8. }
- 7-9. } Available for allotment.

8. *Supplies and Maintenance. (Q.M.G.).*

- 8-0. General.
- 8-1. Rations, forage, water, disinfectants.
- 8-2. Petrol and lubricants.
- 8-3. Fuel and Light.
- 8-4. Engineer Stores.
- 8-5. Postal.
- 8-6. Remounts and Veterinary.
- 8-7. Canteens, Comforts, and small consignments.
- 8-8. Printing and Stationery.
- 8-9. Available for allotment.

9. *Stores. (M.G.O.)*

- 9-0. General.
- 9-1. Arms and armament.
- 9-2. Ammunition.
- 9-3. Clothing and Necessaries.
- 9-4. Personal Equipment.
- 9-5. Unit equipment.
- 9-6. Vehicles.
- 9-7. Salvage.
- 9-8. }
- 9-9. } Available for allotment.

THE EXTRACTION AND RETENTION OF APPENDICES, MAPS, ETC., FROM A
 WAR DIARY IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT.

WAR DIARY JACKET

LIST OF APPENDICES
(Perth Regt)

WAR DIARY

JAN:44

	<u>Orig</u>	<u>Dup</u>	<u>Trip</u>
1. Unit Part I Orders	X	X	X ✓
2. AFWs 3008 & 3009	X	-	-
3. Staging and Rest Areas	X	X	-
4. Movement order Perth Regt	X	-	-
5. Sitreps (Jan 14-16)	X	-	-
6. Trace showing coy positions	X	-	-
7. "I" Summary	X	-	-
8. Sitreps (Jan 16-17)	X	-	-
9. Arty Programme in Sp of 11 CIB	X	-	-
10. Mortar Programme in Sp of 11 CIB	X	-	-
11. Trace of Arty and Mortar Sp	X	X	X ✓
12. Map Ortona 141.II 1/50,000	X	-	-
13. Air Photo			
14. Sitreps (Jan 23 -	X	-	-
15. 4 Ind Div Harassing Fire task table	X	-	-
16. 4 Ind Div Patrol Policy	X	-	-
17. Situation map in 4 Ind Div Sector	X	-	-
18. Mine report	X	-	-
19. Patrol Instructions	X	-	-

JAN - 44
107-N-1

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

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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

Title pages will be prepared.

The Perth Regiment C A

(Erase heading not required)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	1/1/44		107-N-2 JAN-44 <u>SATURDAY</u> Since it was New Years Day no training was carried out. Most of the men spent their time doing washing and fixing up their tents. <u>ENTERTAINMENT</u> A show for the benefit of the Perth Regt was held at 1900 hrs in Altamura. <u>WEATHER</u> Cold with rain. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 855 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 Offrs 767 other ranks.	RS
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	2/1/44		<u>SUNDAY CHURCH PARADE</u> Protest Personnel paraded at 0915 hrs to Baptist Church in Altamura. Padre D C Smith conduct the service. <u>WEATHER</u> Cold <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 855 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 767 other ranks.	RS
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	3/1/44		<u>MONDAY TRAINING</u> A coy carried out an all day route march. B coy carried out TsOET in the morning and in the afternoon took a recreational trip to Bari. C coy had TsOET in the morning and field firing in the afternoon in area 211494. D coy had an all day route march. Sp coy carried out routine trg under pl arrangements. Hq coy carried out Maintenance on wireless and vehicles. <u>STUDY WEEK</u> Lt Col Rutherford and all Coy Commanders attended the Div Study Class which was being held in Altamura. <u>WEATHER</u> Cold with rain. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 6 other ranks were taken on strength on discharge from hospital. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 9 other ranks were struck off strength on admittance to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 865 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 officers 765 other ranks (revised).	RS
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	4/1/44		<u>TUESDAY TRAINING</u> A coy carried out training in the morning under pl arrangements. In the afternoon they took a recreational trip to Bari. B, C, D and Sp coys had an all day route march. C Os <u>MEETING</u> Lt Col Rutherford held a meeting of all offrs in the Mess advising them that The Perth Regiment would shortly be moving up to the front line. <u>WEATHER</u> Cold with rain and snow. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 855 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 765 other ranks.	RS

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WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (3072)

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Title pages will be prepared.

(Erase heading not required)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			107-N-3 JAN-44	
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	5/1/44		<p><u>WEDNESDAY TRAINING</u> Routine training by all coys was carried out as much as possible. This was greatly hindered because of the inclement weather conditions. It rained and snowed for most of the day. <u>LT COL DOUCETS' VISIT</u> Lt Col Doucet, former Commanding Officer of The Perth Regt, now G.S.O. 1, 1 Cdn Corps visited the unit and renewed acquaintances with all the officers. <u>WEATHER</u> Cold with rain. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 2 other ranks were taken on strength on discharge from hospital. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 5 other ranks were struck off strength. 4 to hospital. 1 to 11 Cdn Inf Bde. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 855 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr 762 other ranks.</p>	RS
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	6/1/44		<p><u>THURSDAY TRAINING</u> All coys had a 25 mile route march as laid down by Bde orders. <u>MOVE TO BATTLE AREA</u> The C O spoke to all ranks at 1600 hrs and advised that we would be moving north shortly, and take our position in the line under command 1 Cdn Div. We would be relieving 3 C.I.B. which had been in the line for 6 weeks. All ranks were warned regarding the necessity of secrecy and told to start preparing their kits for the move. <u>WEATHER</u> Cold with rain. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 855 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr 762 other ranks.</p>	RS
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	7/1/44		<p><u>FRIDAY TRAINING</u> Bad weather still hampered training but the coys carried out route marches, while C coy did field firing. Preparations were made for the impending move. More vehicles were received in order that the unit would be in shape to travel the 270 miles and also fill up the War Establishment. <u>WEATHER</u> Cold with rain. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 855 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr 762 other ranks.</p>	RS
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	8/1/44		<p><u>SATURDAY TRAINING</u> Routine training was carried out while preparations were being carried out for the impending move North. The Scout Platoon and "I" Sec left at 2200 hrs as advance party. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 31 other ranks were taken on strength. 29 from Reinforcement depot, 1 from Westminster Regt and 1 from hospital. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 1 other rank was struck off strength to 11 Cdn Inf Bde. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 885 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr 792 other ranks.</p>	RS

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Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY

OR

M.P.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (3072)

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(Erase heading not required)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	9/1/44		<u>107-N-4 JAN-44</u> <u>SUNDAY</u> Brig Kitching, Lt Col Rutherford and C Os of Irish and CBH departed at 0600 hrs to catch up to the advance party which was to bivouac in staging area Sq 3607 Sheet Lanciano 147.I at approximately 1600 hrs. <u>CHURCH PARADE</u> Church parade for protestant personnel was held at 0915 hrs in unit lines. Padre D C Smith conducted the ceremony. R C personnel paraded at 0930 hrs to Cathedral in Altamura. The remainder of the day was spent in preparing for the move. The unit would travel until they reached Ururi, which was the transit area. First lap of Route was CORATO - ANDRIA - CANOSA - ARIGNOLA - POGGIA - SAN SEVERO - SERRA CAPRIOLA - URURI (transit area). <u>WEATHER</u> Fair & warm. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 3 other ranks were taken on strength on discharge from hospital. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 9 other ranks were struck off strength. 1 to Westr Regt, 1 to C.B.R.D., 1 to Rear Ech Bari and 6 to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 861 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr 786 other ranks.	APPX 4 RS
In transit to New Area	10/1/44		<u>MONDAY</u> The main body travelled till 1030 hrs. The advance party remained in bivouac area sq 3607 all day while the C O and I O visited the Carlton & York Regt and obtained the necessary infm for take over as far as the Perth Regt was concerned. The Carlton & York were in a reserve position in sq 3118 ORTONO sheet 141.II and unless something unforeseen happened we would relieve them in their present position. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and Warm <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 861 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr 786 other ranks.	RS
Area Sq 3404 Sheet LANCIANO 147.I	11/1/44		<u>TUESDAY</u> The main body left URURI at 0700 hrs and proceeded along route rd junc 147595 - rd junc 8375 - TERMOLI - VASTO - CASAL BORDINO - TORINO - X ROADS C4301 - LANCIANO arriving in area sq 3404 at 1600 hrs. The C O reced the area in the morning then went up to the Carlton & York Regt to recce areas for the coys. A little difficulty was encountered in placing the vehicles because of the soggy ground. All vhs were in respective areas by 0900 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and warm. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 861 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr 786 other ranks.	APPX 3 RS

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WAR DIARY

OR

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~~TOP SECRET~~

(Erase heading not required)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Area Sq 3118 Sheet ORTONA 141.II	15/1/44		<p>107-N-6 JAN-44</p> <p><u>SATURDAY</u> Stand-to was at 0600 hrs. Lt Col Rutherford had a conference with Brig Kitching in the morning and at 1100 hrs took his coy commanders to Irish O P, 303178. He pointed out areas on the ground and the part each coy would take in the attack. In the afternoon a patrol from A coy under Lieut A Clements was briefed at the same O P. The patrol was to recon the area to the river in order to find a good position for forming up. The Coy Commanders also brought their pl commanders to the O P in order that they should see as much of the ground as possible that they would be fighting on. Brig Kitching held his "O" Gp at 1500 hrs. A brief outline of the plan was as follows. C Coy would take rd junction 292178. A Coy would take bridge 294184. Both actions taking place simultaneously. Phase 2 have D Coy taking area 29176 and B Coy consolidating area in between A and C Coys. If both actions were successful CHH would exploit further. The patrol sent out from A Coy reported that they only got as far as 301182 and were then fired upon by enemy outposts. They returned at 2230 hrs and this infm was passed on to Bde. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy and cool. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 1 offr, Major H A Snelgrove was struck off strength to hospital. 8 other ranks were struck off strength, 7 on admittance to hospital, 1 to 11 Cdn Inf Bde. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 851 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offr 777 other ranks.</p>	<p>291176 ✓</p> <p>RS</p>
Area Sq 3118 Sheet ORTONA 141.II	16/1/44		<p><u>SUNDAY</u> Lt Col Rutherford held his "O" Gp at 0900 hrs. Immediately after the "O" Gp he showed how the plan of attack would work on a plot of ground which represented the feature we were going to attack. After running over the attack with the offr each Coy was brought up in turn and the C O explained to the men the plan of the attack. In the afternoon each coy comd held their "O" Gps and last minute details were attended. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and cool. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 851 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offr 777 other ranks.</p>	<p>APPX 7</p> <p>RS</p>

WAR DIARY

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Area Sq 3118 Sheet ORTONA 141:II	17/1/44		<p>107-N-7 JAN-44</p> <p>MONDAY ATTACK (see Map & Airphoto). All coys had breakfast at 0330 hrs. Approach March started at 0430 hrs on road sq 3117. Order of March was C, A, B, D coys. C and A coys left assembly area at 0530 hrs, zero hour, with B and D coys following. C coy's objective was rd junc "C" Map Ref 292178. Lieut R S Chamberlain, who was leading the forward platoon, crossed the S.L., the ford 298178 on the road at 0540 hrs. He moved forward from this point and, after encountering a M.G. nest at which three of the enemy were accounted for, he reached the platoon objective by 0730 hrs. Upon arrival he found that he had got too far ahead of the coy on the way up and only had one section consisting of 9 all ranks with him. In the meantime the remainder of the coy under Major MacDougall ran into enemy M.G. and rifle fire as soon as they crossed the ford 298178. Major MacDougall recced their position and decided to storm the house from which the fire was coming. Together with Lieut Rochon and six other ranks he rushed the position. Major MacDougall, Lieut Rochon and 2 other ranks were wounded (believed killed) in the engagement. CSM Kidd of 15 pl and Sgt Thorn took over remainder of the coy.</p> <p>A coy under Capt F B Kennedy whose objective was a blown out bridge "A" 297185 crossed S.L., the gully, and immediately came under heavy M.G. and Mortar fire. He tried to manoeuvre his coy forward sending No 7 pl under Lieut Clements to the left flank. In this engagement Lieut Clements was wounded (believed killed) along with several other ranks of his pl. The PIAT was brought into action against the house 301184 from which the fire was coming and as a result two prisoners were taken. However others immediately took their place and the balance of A coy jumped into "German Dug" slit trenches. Capt Kennedy who was in communication with Lt Col Rutherford informed the C O of his position. The C O immediately got the support of tanks of the Three Rivers Regt, who were in support, and had them fire on the house. This however, failed to dislodge the enemy so the C O ordered B coy to move up and reinforce A coy but after numerous attempts B coy was unable to make contact in sufficient strength to be of any assistance.</p> <p>B coy's objective had been the high ground "B" between A and C coy's objectives. They were to secure this ground after A and C had completed phase 1. However as soon as B coy moved into the gully they were dispersed by heavy M.G. and Mortar fire and had to re-organize. One section of B coy under Lieut Cook managed to get to their objective but in insufficient strength to hold the ground.</p>	<p>APPX 12, 13</p> <p>APPX 8</p> <p><i>Rd</i></p>

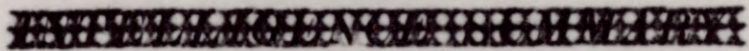
WAR DIARY

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Area Sq 3118 Sheet ORTONA 141:II	17/1	/44	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>107-N-8 JAN-44</u></p> <p><u>ATTACK</u> (cont'd) In the meantime D coy whose objective was road fork "D" 291176 found it very hard to get forward from their start line because of heavy Mortar fire. Capt Ridge D coy Comd kept his coy intact and had been ordered to get over the river in the draw sq 2917. At 1100 hrs the C O ordered Capt Ridge to work his coy to the left in an effort to relieve the pressure on C coy. They tried to do this but were met by heavy Mortar and shell fire and were forced to withdraw to the fwd slope of feature held by "C" coy of the Irish Regt. An Arty smoke screen was laid on S.L. of 'C' barrage and overlapped 200 yds at 1330 hrs for 30 minutes in an effort to sweep rd and ford and move up tanks. An additional 20 minutes was added and fair progress was made but no more smoke was available and tanks move one Tp to left flank of our posn. Capt Ridge informed the C O of the situation and the C O laid on heavy arty sp for a new attack by D coy onto C coys objective. Zero hour for the new attack was 1615 hrs and, with his left flank protected by an arty concentration and his right by an excellent smoke screen laid by the Mortar platoon, Capt Ridge moved his coy to within about 200 yds of the objective and on the left of Tollo rd. The part of C coy commanded by CSM Kidd, had remained in the same position and, when contacted by Cpl Pickens of D coy, re-organized and dug in with D coy. During this time A coy had made no progress while suffering considerable casualties from snipers and M.Gs. Every effort had been made by the C O to give them all possible supporting fire but the enemy could not be dislodged. At 0730 hrs A coy were forced to withdraw from their position under cover of darkness. At this time the C O told Capt Ridge to consolidate and that reinforcements would be sent to him. Capt Binnington and 2 sections of his carrier personnel were ordered to go to support D coy. Capt Binnington and his men had previously acted as protection for the engineers who attempted to clear the road of mines but were unable to cross the ford which was covered by heavy enemy M.G. and Mortar fire. Before Capt Binnington could move up, orders were received from Bde to withdraw the Bn. This order was assed to D and C coys. Bde also advised that at 0300 hrs the Bn would move to Sq 3316 and from there back to area sq 3404 sheet Lanciano 141.II which we had previously occupied.</p>	
			<p>Hazy and cool. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 851 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 777 other tanks. <u>WEATHER</u></p>	<p>RS</p>

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Area Sq 3118 Sheet ORTONA 141:II	18/1/44		<p><u>107-N-9 JAN-44</u></p> <p><u>TUESDAY</u> Many members of the unit returned from 0030 hrs to 0300 hrs. Among them was Lieut Chamberlain and his section who were thought to be casualties since no word had been received from them all day. The Bn moved at 0300 hrs to area sq 3316 arriving at 0500 hrs, moved again at 1100 hrs to sq 3404 sheet LANCIANO 147.I arriving at 1500 hrs. All ranks were fed and immediately bedded down because they had had very little sleep the previous night. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and cool <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 851 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 777 other ranks.</p>	RS
Area Sq 3404 Sheet LANCIANO 147.I	19/1/44		<p><u>WEDNESDAY G.O.Cs INSPECTION</u> At 0915 hrs the Bn was formed up and Maj Gen Vokes spoke to the men. He said they had done an excellent job against the cream of the German Army and because we had been withdrawn was no indication that we had not inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. At 1030 hrs he spoke to all the officers of the Bde on leadership. Capt McCabe the paymaster then made a check of all coys in order to ascertain the casualties. Casualties were as follows. Major R A MacDougall, Lieut L J W Rochon and 24 other ranks were missing believed killed. Lieuts A J Clements, R A Hamilton and 43 other ranks were missing. 72 other ranks were wounded, 3 of which later died. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and cool. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 751 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 777 other ranks.</p>	RS
Area Sq 3404 Sheet LANCIANO 147.I	20/1/44		<p><u>THURSDAY</u> Lt Col Rutherford and I.O. left for HQ 7 Indian Bde to recce the area we were going to take over. Upon arriving in area 283030 Lt Col Rutherford was informed that only 2 coys would be forward the remainder of the Bn in a counter attack position behind C.B.H. and Irish in area sq 2504. The 2 coys, D and B were to take up positions in areas 255018 and 258017 as an independent force with a MG platoon in support plus several anti-tank guns. Lt Col Rutherford immediately sent for the offrs of the 2 coys and then left to recce the area. He arrived back at 7 Indian Bde HQ and advised the offrs of the situation. Their position was on a spur with deep gulleys on both sides. Capt Ridge was to be C.O. of the group. The officers then left to look over the area and stay till their coys arrived the following day. The C.O. arrived back at Bn HQ at 1630 hrs and had a meeting of all available coy comds at 1930 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and cool. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 4 offrs, Capt T H White, A/Capt M C Root, Lieuts D F Trebell and D W Ashbury were taken on strength from X 4 list C.B.R.D. 65 other ranks were taken on strength. 52 from X 4 list C.B.R.D. and 13 from Westr Regt. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 67 other ranks were struck off strength</p>	RS

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Area Sq 3404 Sheet LANCIANO 147:I	20/1/44		107-N-10 JAN-44 <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> (cont'd) 64 being wounded, 2 died of wounds and 1 to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 749 <u>STRENGTH</u> 40 offr 775 other ranks.	
Area sq 3404 Sheet LANCIANO 147:I	21/1/44		FRIDAY B and D coys moved at 1430 hrs to take up positions in sq 2501. Move was completed by 1800 hrs. 11 Cdn Inf Bde now came under command of 4 Ind Div. The remainder of the Bn was to move on Sunday and take up a counter attack position in rear of the Irish and C.B.H. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 4 offr, Major R A MacDougall and Lieuts L J W Roehen, A J Clements, R A Hamilton were struck off strength as missing. 80 other ranks were struck off strength, 67 missing, 7 wounded and 6 admitted to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 749 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offr 695 other ranks.	Appx 15 <i>RS</i>
Area Sq 3404 Sheet LANCIANO 147:I	22/1/44		SATURDAY D and B Coys reported intermittent shelling from the enemy but no casualties. A, C and Sp Coys made preparations to move the following day to area 266038. D Coy put out standing patrols in the gully left of their area on night 22/23. No contact made with enemy. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and Warm <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> One offr, Lieut G F Downham was taken on strength. 5 other ranks were taken on strength, 4 from C.B.R.D. and 1 from hospital. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 2 other ranks were struck off strength, 1 to C.B.R.D. and 1 to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 753 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr 697 other ranks.	Appx 16 Appx 15 <i>RS</i>
Area 266038 Sheet LANCIANO 147:I	23/1/44		SUNDAY A, C and Sp Coys moved at 0900 hrs to vicinity of area 266028 arriving at 1300 hrs. Nothing to report from D and B coys. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and Warm. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 753 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr 697 other ranks.	<i>RS</i>
Area 266038 Sheet LANCIANO 147:I	24/1/44		MONDAY C coy were warned at 1000 hrs to prepare to move to area 253038 in order to thicken up the Irish posn. They moved up at 1830 hrs and were in position by 2000 hrs. B and D coys reported posns very quiet during day. Recce patrols were being sent out during night to 238016 by D coy. Standing patrols were maintained. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair during day. Cold at night. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 753 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offr 697 other ranks.	<i>RS</i>

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Area 266038 Sheet LANCIANO 147:I	29/1/44		<u>107-N-12 JAN-44</u> <u>SATURDAY</u> Nothing to report during the day from all coys. B 46537 L/Sgt Sampson R S of Mortar Platoon was accidentally shot below the knee, at 1600 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and Warm. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 2 other ranks were taken on strength, 1 from hospital and 1 from 5 Cdn Armd Div. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 8 other ranks were struck off strength, 7 to hospital and 1 to II Cdn Inf Bde. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 766. <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 710 other ranks.	AS
Area 266038 Sheet LANCIANO 147:I	30/1/44		<u>SUNDAY</u> A fighting patrol consisting of 8 other ranks left B coy lines at 0001 hrs. The intention was to make a silent raid on enemy occupied buildings at 245020. They found the houses unoccupied. On the return to their lines they came under arty fire but all returned safely. <u>CHURCH PARADE</u> At 0900 hrs A coy had a church parade. Bn HQ and Sp coy had their service at 1000 hrs. Both services were conducted by Padre D C Smith. K 49953 Pte Gold of C coy wounded himself accidentally in the left forearm at 0300 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and Warm <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 766 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 710 other ranks.	AS
Area 266038 Sheet LANCIANO 147:I	31/1/44		<u>MONDAY</u> A raiding patrol with personnel of the pioneers left at 0001 hrs to destroy house in area 245020 which was being used as an enemy O.P. The house was successfully demolished and patrol returned by 0230 hrs. Brig Kitching held an "O" Gp at 0730 hrs. The Perth Regiment were to take over positions occupied by 4/16 Punjab. B and D (Flank Force) to be relieved by Irish. A recce was made of Punjab positions during the day. The move to their area was completed by 2130 hrs. D coy to move into area on night of 1 Feb 44. A coy area 255046. B coy baker 249046 C coy baker 246043. Standing contact patrols were maintained by A, B, and C coys during night. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair and Warm. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 3 other ranks were struck off strength to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 763 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 707 other ranks.	AS

W. J. Quinlan for S. H. B.



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