

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~~

(Erase heading not required)

The Perth Regiment C A

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

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Area Sqs 2710, 2810, 2709, 2809. Sheet Ari 1/25,000	1/3/44		<u>WEDNESDAY</u> The day was spent in moving from ROALTI to new area. Move was completed by 1930 hrs. Bakers of Bn HQ and Coys were as follows: Bn HQ 290094, Sp 285092, A 277103, B 277099, C 276097 and D 283105. Sqn of R.C.D. under command 282098. Combined patrols of Westr and Perth were laid on for night 1/2 Mar. Patrol No 8 reported at 2330 hrs they had recce'd Arielli from 276115 to 271108. No contact was made with the enemy and a good knowledge of the ground was obtained. Patrol No 10 reported at 2230 hrs recce had been made of the ground and wadi in front of C Coy. Enemy interference hindered making a complete recce. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 730 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 679 other ranks.	Appx 4  RS.
Areas Sqs 2709, 2710 2809, 2810 Sheet Ari 1/25,000	2/3/44		<u>THURSDAY</u> Patrol No 10 reported at 0300 hrs they had recce'd to within a 100 yds of the road leading to CRECCHIO. At this point they had to withdraw after being fired at by enemy IMG. NTR from coys during the day. At 2130 hrs mortars engaged straw stack at 268113 and set it on fire. 2 Recce Patrols were laid on for night 2/3 Mar. Major M W Andrew, acting OC Perth Regt spent the day tying the supporting arms into the general fire plan. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy and cool. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 11 other ranks were taken on strength from 4 Bn CBRD. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 741 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 690 other ranks.	  RS.
Area Sqs 2709, 2710 2809, 2810 Sheet Ari 1/25,000	3/3/44		<u>FRIDAY</u> Recce Patrol No 9 reported at 0200 hrs they had reached point 268098 and then had to withdraw because of enemy fire. Patrol No 10 reported they reached river junc 271108. Because of bright moonlight they had to return. Slight mortaring in Bn area during the day. Major M W Andrew attended a meeting at 1000 hrs at Bde. <u>WEATHER</u> Rain <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 6 other ranks were taken on strength, 5 from X4 list and 1 from 11 Cdn Inf Bde. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 7 other ranks were struck off strength, 1 to 5 Bn C B R D and 6 other ranks to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 740 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 689 other ranks.	  RS.
Area Sqs 2709, 2710 2809, 2810 Sheet Ari 1/25,000	4/3/44		<u>SATURDAY</u> Brig E Snow and Major Andrew inspected forward posns. Patrols 7 and 8 did not reach their intended objectives because of enemy M.G. and Mortar fire. Two recce patrols were laid on for night 4/5 Mar. There was intermittent shelling and mortaring during the day. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 740 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 689 other ranks.	  RS.

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Area Sqs 2710, 2810, 2709, 2809 Sheet Ari 1/25,000	5/5/44		<u>SUNDAY</u> Nine all ranks left for Ortona on a street fighting course. Patrol No 5 on recce to CRECCHIO encountered no mines, heard digging at 269103. There was mortaring in Bn area around noon, other-wise NTR. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy with showers. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 740 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 689 other ranks.	RS.
Area Sqs 2710, 2810, 2709, 2809. Sheet Ari 1/25,000	6/5/44		<u>MONDAY</u> Very quite day with no activity on either side. Patrols were briefed in the afternoon to recce areas immediately north and south of CRECCHIO. No 7 patrol to CRECCHIO found the area free of mines. No 8 patrol found the house 269101 to be unoccupied. Booby traps and mines were laid by our patrol in this vicinity. <u>WEATHER</u> Cold with snow and rain. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 7 other ranks were struck off strength. 5 to hospital and 2 to 4 Bn I C B R D. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 740 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 682 other ranks.	RS.
Area Sqs 2710, 2810, 2709, 2710. Sheet Ari 1/25,000	7/3/44		<u>TUESDAY</u> Brig D Smith, acting GOC, 5 Cdn Armd Div paid a visit and inspected our forward posns. Lt-Col J S H Lind, formerly C.O. of the Perth Regt was attached to the Perth Regt. Patrols night 6/7 Mar found enemy in houses 268100 and 269107. They did not reach their objectives because of snow making visibility too good. Two patrols were laid on for night 7/8 Mar 44. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy with rain. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 740 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 682 other ranks.	RS.
Area sqs 2710, 2810, 2709, 2710. Sheet Ari 1/25,000	8/3/44		<u>WEDNESDAY</u> Very quite day. Lt-Col Rutherford returned from leave. Two patrols were sent out night 7/8 Mar 44. No 3 patrol left O.P. at 2000 hrs and proceeded across river to posn 265107. Heard enemy digging in Tucci. Report of the ground in this area found to be steep but passible with good cover. No 4 patrol reached point between two houses 269101. Coming into view of house 268100, mortar fire was brought to bear on them. The patrol returned to the Bn area at 2300 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy with showers. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 1 other rank was taken on strength from hospital. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 5 other ranks were struck off strength, 4 to hospital and 1 to detention. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 740 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 678 other ranks.	RS.



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M.F.M. 11  
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Area Sqs 2810, 2710, 2809, 2709. Sheet Ari 1/25,000	9/3/44		<u>THURSDAY</u> A fighting patrol of 12 ORs was sent to raid house 268100 and try to capture PSW. Patrol formation was a covering section in front and a Piat assault section to the left about 40 feet from the house. Piat section engaged house successfully and assault went in. One burst of Thompson Carbine silenced enemy M.G. which was firing from position in rear. Grenades were thrown and one enemy looking out of upper window was shot by a Thompson M.G. Enemy M.G. opened up from 267099 and 272108. Patrol withdrew under covering fire with one man slightly wounded. The remainder of the day was very quiet. There were no patrols for night 9/10 Mar 44. <u>WEATHER</u> Rain <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 3 other ranks were struck off strength on admittance to hosp. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 737 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 675 other ranks.	RS.
Area Sqs 2709, 2710, 2809, 2810 Sheet Ari 1/25,000	10/3/44		<u>FRIDAY</u> Lt Col W S Rutherford held a meeting of Coy Comds at 1350 hrs discussing new positions in our present areas. Recce patrol started out 1930 hrs crossed ford to area 267108 recce'd ground with view to sending fighting patrol to buildings. No enemy seen or heard. Patrol returned at 2230 hrs. Bridge at 278098 was washed out making traffic impassable to fwd coys. <u>WEATHER</u> Rain <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 3 other ranks were taken on strength from No 4 Bn. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 741 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 678 other ranks.	RS.
Area Sqs 2709, 2710, 2809, 2810. Sheet Ari 1/25,000	11/3/44		<u>SATURDAY</u> Slight mortaring and shelling in Bn area during day.. B Coy relieved A Sqn RCDs. Bakers of our coys are A Coy - 277099, B Coy - 282098, C Coy - 276097, D Coy - 283105. No 4 patrol left Bn area at 2200 hrs and crossed river to point 269108. Patrol heard dogs and voices in houses then returned. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 2 other ranks were struck off strength on admission to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 741 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 676 other ranks.	RS.
Area Sqs 2709, 2710, 2809, 2810. Sheet Ari 1/25,000	12/3/44		<u>SUNDAY</u> At 2100 hrs fighting patrol under command of Lieut R E Crouch had two casualties due to mines. One killed and one wounded. Position of mines was Map Ref 269108. C.O. of P.P.C.L.I., Lieut-Col Ware visited unit in order to make preparations for take over of area on night 14/15 Mar 44. Ambush patrol to 277103 heard enemy in immediate vicinity and fired a burst of tommy gun in direction of sound. Patrol returned to A Coy at 2100 hrs and went out at 2145 hrs to original destination. Patrol returned at 0100 hrs without making contact with enemy. <u>WEATHER</u> Rain <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 741 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 676 other ranks.	RS.



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Area Sqs 2709, 2710 2809, 2810 Sheet Ari 1/25000	13/3/44		<p><u>MONDAY</u> Numerous officers from P.P.C.L.I. visited their opposite numbers in the Perth Regt in order to make arrangements for takeover night 14/15 Mar 44. 4 Combined Perth and P.P.C.L.I. recce patrols were laid on for night 13/14 Mar 44. Perth personnel were to act as guides and show members from P.P.C.L.I. recce routes which we had used for our patrols. N.T.R. from coys during the day. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair &amp; Cool. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 130 other ranks were taken on strength from X 4 list. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 1 offr Lieut F. G. Twist was struck off strength to X 4 list. 5 other ranks were struck off strength to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 840 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 801 other ranks.</p>	Appx 3  RS.
Area Sqs 2709, 2710 2809, 2810 Sheet Ari 1/25000	14/3/44		<p><u>TUESDAY</u> Patrols reported in by 0300 hrs without incident. All missions completed. Preparations were made for impending move. Heavy shelling was received between C &amp; B Coy areas from 1100 to 1130. A Coy received a direct hit on a house in one of their pl positions. Two men were slightly wounded. P.P.C.L.I. started taking over from Perth Regt at 1900 hrs. Takeover was completed by 2300 hrs. Perth personnel embussed on T.C.V's. <u>MOVE TO NEW AREA</u> Move started at 2330 hrs. Route was Lanciano 323030 Casalbordino 482943 -- Vasto 587903 -- Termoli 826785 -- Serracapriola 965564 -- Torre Maggiore 678438 -- Casalvecchio 928330 -- Casalnuovo 920360 (all references 1/100000). <u>WEATHER</u> Fair. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 840 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 801 other ranks.</p>	RS.
Enroute to New Area	15/3/44		<p><u>WEDNESDAY</u> Convoy travelled all night arriving in New Area at 1030 hrs. Baker of Perth Regt 879385 -- A Coy 892313 -- B Coy 892313 -- C Coy 882389 -- D Coy 874381 Sp Coy 888381. Dinner was served at 1130 hrs and the remainder of the day was spent cleaning up. C. O. held a meeting of coy commanders at 1930 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 840 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 801 other ranks.</p>	RS.
Area 879385 Sheet S. Bartolommeo 103 - 1/100000	16/3/44		<p><u>THURSDAY</u> Lt-Col Rutherford left for Termoli at 1000 hrs. He was to take over command of 11 C. I. B. River Crossing School. Maj. B. Arrell was temporary in command of Perth Regt. All ranks spent the day cleaning their areas and general interior economy. <u>WEATHER</u> Rain. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 4 other ranks were struck off strength, 2 to hospital, 1 to 1 A/TK Regt, 1 as missing. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 836 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 801 other ranks.</p>	RS.



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Area 879385 Sheet S. Bartolommeo 163 - 1/100000	17/3/44		<p><u>FRIDAY</u> Lt-Col Lind arrived and took over command of Perth Regt during absence of Lt-Col Rutherford. <u>RECREATION</u> An outdoor show was held at 1900 hrs. Film was "Second Chorus." <u>WEATHER</u> Fair &amp; Warm. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 2 other ranks were struck off strength to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 834 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 795 other ranks.</p>	RS.
Area 879385 Sheet S. Bartolommeo 163 1/100000	18/3/44		<p><u>SATURDAY</u> Normal training was carried out in all coys. <u>MAINTENANCE</u> While in this area maintenance on all vehicles was to be especially stressed. Lt-Col Lind held a meeting of all coy commanders at which he dealt with training and A &amp; Q matters. He advised we would be in this area for about 1 month. During this period several schemes would be carried out dealing with infantry and Tank co-operation. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair &amp; Warm. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 1 offr Lieut C. D. Hood and 22 other ranks were taken on strength from A &amp; Q list. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 4 other ranks were struck off strength, 2 to hospital, 2 to Irish Regt of Canada. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 830 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 813 other ranks.</p>	RS.
Area 879385 Sheet S. Bartolommeo 163 1/100000	19/3/44		<p><u>SUNDAY</u> <u>CHURCH PARADE</u> Protestant Church parade was held in BHQ lines at 1000 hrs Padre D. C. Smith conducted the service. R. C. personnel paraded at 1000 hrs for Mass in Casalnuovo. The area in which we are at present stationed is very nice and all ranks are taking the opportunity while here to get their kits in first class condition. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 830 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 813 other ranks.</p>	Appx 1 RS.
Area 879385 Sheet S. Bartolommeo 163 1/100000	20/3/44		<p><u>MONDAY</u> Lt-Col Lind and all the coy commanders attended a T.E.W.T. Exercise "Sluggem" in area Sq. 9635. Training was carried out under coy arrangements. <u>ENTERTAINMENT</u> A film "Manpower" was shown in HQ coy lines at 1900 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 5 other ranks were struck off strength on admittance to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 825 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 808 other ranks.</p>	RS.
Area 879385	21/3/44		<p><u>TUESDAY</u> 16 offrs from Bn attended T.E.W.T. Exercise "Sluggem II." T.E.W.T. dealt with infantry tank co-operation. <u>MAINTENANCE</u> Maintenance on coy and Bn vehicles was carried out. <u>TRAINING</u> Individual trg was carried out by coys which included field firing, P.T. and route marches. Lt-Col Tindall former 2i/c Perth Regt paid a visit to Bn. <u>WEATHER</u> Cloudy &amp; Cool <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 825 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 808 other ranks.</p>	RS.



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Area 879385 S. Bartolommeo Sheet 163	22/3/44		<p><u>WEDNESDAY</u> Signal training and route marches were done by the Coys during the day. <u>MAINTENANCE</u> Bn. Vehicles were painted and repairs and maintenance done. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair &amp; Cloudy. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 1 other rank was taken on strength from hospital. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 1 offr Lieut. R. S. Chamberlain was struck off strength list. 4 other ranks were struck off strength, 3 to hospital, 1 to X 9 list. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 825 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 805 other ranks.</p>	to X 5 RS.
Area 879385 S. Bartolommeo Sheet 163	23/3/44		<p><u>THURSDAY</u> Lt-Col Lind C. O. of Perth Regt with Maj Shelgrove O. C. of B Coy made a recon of area 9737, 9837 Sheet 163 for exercises "Sluggem." Because of bad weather this operation was cancelled. Lectures and weapon training were carried out under Coy arrangements. <u>WEATHER</u> Cold with snow and rain. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 825 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 805 other ranks.</p>	RS.
Area 879385 S. Bartolommeo Sheet 163	24/3/44		<p><u>FRIDAY</u> Advance party under comd of Capt. Cole left the Bn area at 1330 hrs. for river crossing school at Guglionesci 7567 sheet 154. Coys carried on with training and preparations were made for the Perth Regt to move to the School area. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 824 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 805 other ranks.</p>	RS.
Area 879385 S. Bartolommeo Sheet 163	25/3/44		<p><u>SATURDAY</u> A &amp; D coy of the Perth Regt left in convoy for Guglionesci Sheet 154 at 1130 hrs. The remainder of the Regt prepared for the move. <u>WEATHER</u> Cold with snow. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 1 other rank was taken on strength from HQ 11 C. I. B. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 1 other rank was struck off strength on admittance to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 823 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 805 other ranks.</p>	RS.
Guglionesci 7567 Sheet Area Sq. Larino 154	26/3/44		<p><u>SUNDAY</u> The Perth Regt less A and D Coys left the area 879385 sheet 163 at 0600 hrs. At 1000 hrs the Perth Regt took over the area and billets in Guglionesci sheet 155 from the C. B. H. A and Sp Coy went to area 8269 sheet 154 for barge training and boatmanship. The training and exercises are under command of Lt-Col Rutherford. <u>WEATHER</u> Cool &amp; Fair. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 823 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 805 other ranks.</p>	RS.

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~~INTER-OFFICER COMMUNICATION~~

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Guglionesci Sq 7567 Sheet Larino 154	27/3/44		<u>MONDAY</u> The Coys went to the training area 8269 sheet 155 to practice watermanship and training under Coy Comds. Col. Lind, C. O., Perth Regt gave a lecture to all offrs in HQ offrs mess on river crossing tactics. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair & Cool. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 8 other ranks were taken on strength from X 4 list. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 2 other ranks were struck off strength on admittance to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 831 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 811 other ranks.	RS.
Guglionesci Sq 7567 Sheet Larino 154	28/3/44		<u>TUESDAY</u> The Coys trained for night crossings and practiced making rafts for vehicles. Maj. General Hoffmeister and Lt-Col Rutherford inspected the training in area 8269 sheet 155. At 1900 hrs, A D and Sp Coys did the exercise of night crossing. Exercise was completed by 2200 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair & Cool. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 831 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs and 811 other ranks.	RS.
Guglionesci Sq 7567 Sheet Larino 154	29/3/44		<u>WEDNESDAY</u> During the day Coys again trained in boatmanship and transporting vehicles and A/Tk guns across river. Lt-Col Lind and Coy Comds reced the area for a Bn crossing. C and B Coys made a night crossing at 1930 hrs to complete that part of the training. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 1 offr Lieut A. W. B. Robertson was taken on strength from Spec, Inc. X 4 list. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 1 other rank was struck off strength to 8 Cdn Aux Services. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 830 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 810 other ranks.	RS.
Guglionesci Sq 7567 Sheet Larino 154	30/3/44		<u>THURSDAY</u> The Perth Regt did a Bn river crossing exercise at 0900 hrs which was completed by 1030 hrs. A & D Coys left for our former area 879385 Sheet 163 at 1200 hrs. The remainder of the Bn spent the rest of the day in preparing to move to old area. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 830 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 810 other ranks.	RS.



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Guglionesci Sq 7567 Sheet Larino 154	31/3/44		<p><u>FRIDAY</u> <u>MOVE TO NEW AREA</u> Bn started to move at 0650 hrs arriving in area 879385 at 1030 hrs. Route was Guglionesci -- Serracapriola -- S. Paolo -- Torre Maggiore -- Casalvecchio -- Area 879385. Afternoon was spent in general clean-up of coy areas and arranging personal kits. <u>C.O's. MEETING</u> Lt.-Col. J. S. H. Lind held a meeting of all coy commanders at 1900 hrs. <u>ENTERTAINMENT</u> A film "My Favourite Wife" was shown in HQ Coy lines at 1900 hrs. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair &amp; Warm. <u>STRENGTH INCREASE</u> 1 other rank taken on strength on discharge from hospital. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> 4 other ranks were struck off strength, 2 to hospital, 1 to 24th. Fd. Amb., 1 to #55 Detention Barracks. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 827 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 806 other ranks.</p>	<p>928</p> <p>J. Lind Lt Col.</p>

J. Lindholm