

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.

Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY

OR

~~INTER-OFFICER SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

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

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			OF THE PERTH REGIMENT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST	
Caserta MR 301887 Sheet 102 1/100000	1/8/44	0420	<p>The Bn began to move to a conc area via Route 6. The order of march was Bn HQ, A, B, C, D, Hq and Sp Coy., and the head of the column crossed the start line at 0600 hrs arriving at FROSIONE MR 470384, Sheet 17 for an half hour break for exercise. The Bn arrived at a staging area South of ROME at MR F 9264, Sheet 17 1/200000 at 1330 hrs and remained overnight. There were 2 veh cas on route, 1-15 Cwt and 1 portee.</p> <p>Weather - Very Warm. Strength - 37 Offrs 782 O.R's.</p>	8
F 9263 Sheet 17 1/200000	2/8/44	0700	<p>Bn moved off from the staging area continuing on Route 6 and passed thru ROME between 0800 hrs and 0830 hrs. Leaving ROME the convoy continued via Route 2 and arrived at the next staging area on LAKE BOLSENO, MR F 3152, Sheet 15 at approx., 1330 hrs. The entire Bn enjoyed the pleasure of a swim and relaxed in the evening enjoying a sing song and a movie thru the courtesy of the Aux Services Offr., Mr Bell.</p> <p>Weather - Extremely hot and dry. Strength - 37 Offrs 782 O.R's.</p>	8
F 3152 Sheet 15 1/200000 ①	3/8/44	0600	<p>Proceeding from LAKE BOLSENO the Bn arrived at the conc area MR 549861, Sheet 122 1/100000 after passing thru SAN QUIRIO, MONTEPULCIANO and CASTIGLIONE on Route 2. Canvas was put up and vehs were camouflaged during the afternoon.</p> <p>Weather - Exceptionally warm. Strength - 37 Offrs 782 O.R's.</p>	8

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Perugia MR 549861 Sheet 122 1/100000	4/8/44	0830	<p>The Bn conc on veh maintenance and checking eqpt prior to going into action. The Sig Offr gave the Junior Offrs a polishing up on their wireless procedure which annoyed the Junior Offrs. At approx., 1600 hrs a recce party under Major Arrell left for Bde to recce an area South, in area of TREVIE. Padre Smith held a voluntary Service which was well attended. The Bn had a movie later in the evening. Lieut Fisher was S.O.S. to hospital with jaundice.</p> <p>Weather - Very warm with rain. Strength - 36 Offrs 812 O.R's.</p>	R.
Perugia MR 549861 Sheet 122 1/100000	5/8/44		<p>The Bn had the honour of a visit by Brig Johnston during the afternoon. The day was spent in preparation for the move to the new area.</p> <p>Weather - Continued to be very warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 812 O.R's.</p>	R.
Perugia MR 549861 Sheet 122 1/100000	6/8/44		<p>At 0715 hrs the Bn crossed the S.P. and proceeded to new area at MR 964731 via PERUGIA, FOLIGNO, arriving at the new area MR 964731, Sheet 122. Canvas was erected and camouflaged and later maintenance on vehs was carried out. H/Capt D C Smith and Capt Riskin, the Dental Offr, using the excuse that they were going to look for two O.R's injured in a Carrier accident, left for ROME.</p> <p>Weather - Very warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 803 O.R's.</p>	R.
Perugia MR 964731 Sheet 131 1/100000	7/8/44		<p>The Bn commenced training again and Lt-Col Lind and Capt J S Whyte recce'd an area for special NCO training.</p> <p>Weather - Continued warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 803 O.R's.</p>	R.

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MR 964731 Sheet 131 1/100000	9/8/44		<p>The Bn continued its training program. Major Tipler gave "A" Coy NCO's a lecture on their responsibilities and duties. The CQMS lectured on interior economy and reporting of battle casualties, etc. "B" Coy conc on IMG work and a compass march and filled in some spare time with an intelligence lecture. The NCO's School under Capt J S Whyte moved to their new area. The YMCA came thru that evening with a movie. Scout Pln under Lieut D L Thompson moved to the Bde Scout School under Capt Low of C B Highrs at MR 975785, Sheet 131.</p> <p>Weather - Warm and threatening showers. Strength - 36 Offrs 799 O.R's.</p>	B.
MR 946731 Sheet 131 1/100000	10/8/44		<p>A normal day of trng was carried out by the Coys. "A" Coy had a parade to the Mobile Bath while the remaining Coys carried on weapon trng and Pl Battle drill.</p> <p>Weather - Extremely warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 799 O.R's.</p>	B.
MR 946731 Sheet 131 1/100000	11/8/44		<p>Coys carried on normal trng and preparations were made for "Exercise Canyon."</p> <p>Weather - Warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 799 O.R's.</p>	B.
MR 946731 Sheet 131 1/100000	12/8/44		<p>At 1400 hrs, Major M Andrew held his "O" Gp for "Exercise Canyon" and at 1700 hrs the Bn moved on foot to conc area MR 916745 with F Ech vehs moving at 1900 hrs. The Bn was conc'd by 2030 hrs.</p> <p>Weather - Warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 788 O.R's.</p>	B.

3

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Foligno MR 916745 Sheet 131 1/100000	13/8/44	0600	<p>"Exercise Canyon" - Major Andrew and Coy Comdr's recce'd area of scheme. The I.O. Lieut J Henderson, with personnel from Coys made a cross country recce to river at 0730 hrs. At 0900 hrs orders were given for the Bn to move. "A" Coy leading, followed by B, C and D in order. At the meeting of the unit Offrs, Lt-Col Lind gave a farewell speech before leaving to make comd of the newly formed 12 Cdn Inf Bde with the rank of Brigadier.</p> <p>Weather - Warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 788 O.R's.</p>	SD
Foligno MR 916745 Sheet 131 1/100000	14/8/44	0100	<p>"Exercise Canyon" Cont'd. "A" Coy moved fwd to FUP MR 908730 followed in turn by B, C and D Coys. The leading Coy crossed the river by 0130 hrs and consolidated on PT 282 at MR 799735. "B" Coy followed and took up posn on left of "A" Coy, then "C" and "D" Coys crossed and consolidated behind "A" and "B" Coys. The Bn was firm by 0330 hrs. Supported by the tks the Bn moved on at 0800 hrs and crossed the highway to consolidate on Pts 358 and 379 at MR 8771. The Coy CQMS's brought dinner fwd at 1330 hrs after which the Bn ret'd to area MR 964731.</p> <p>Weather - Very warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 788 O.R's.</p>	SD
Foligno MR 964731 Sheet 131 1/100000	15/8/44		<p>Major Arrell left with the Bde recce party to recce new area. The Coys carried on their normal trng. Our new C.O., Lt-Col W W Reid, took comd of the unit to-day. He was formerly 2 i/c of The Irish Regiment of Canada. Capt J S Whyte an original Perth from the time they mobilized left the Bn to join the 89/109 Bn as Coy Comdr and A/Major. Lt-Col Reid and 120 O.R's from the Bn took part in a parade to hear Lt-Gen Sir Oliver Leese's message to the troops.</p> <p>Weather - Very warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 768 O.R's.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4 TOS 24 SOS.</p>	SD

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Foligno MR 964731 Sheet 131 1/100000	16/8/44		<p>Normal trng was carried on during the day. In the evening Lt-Col W W Reid gave an informal party for the Offrs of the unit. Guests included, Brig Johnston and the B.M. Major Gowan and Major P Kennedy O.C. of the Bde Sp Gp. At 1830 hrs our unit carriers under comd of Lieut F Metcalfe plus carriers from 8 Fd Regt and C B Highrs set out for new conc area. Our genial Med Offr, Capt Page Statten travelled with the carrier convoy, driving his own carrier. In the Bu area the tps were treated to a movie.</p> <p>Weather - Very warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 768 O.R's.</p>	<p>8</p>
Foligno MR 964731 Sheet 131 1/100000	17/8/44		<p>Normal trng was carried on and in the evening Supvr Bell had with little difficulty, gathered together all our local talent and presented for the tps amusement and amazement an "All Perth Amateur Night" - it was a great success.</p> <p>Weather - Continued to be very warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 795 O.R's. 32 TOS. 5 SOS.</p>	<p>8</p>
Foligno MR 964731 Sheet 131 1/100000	18/8/44		<p>Nothing occurred to break the monotony of the daily routine of army life.</p> <p>Weather - Very warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 795 O.R's.</p>	<p>8</p>

5

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Foligno MR 946731 Sheet 131 1/100000	19/8/44		<p>The day was devoted to preparing for the move to a new conc area. In the afternoon Lt-Col Reid led an Offrs soft-ball team against the 24th Fd Amb. The results were not favourable to our team, however since the rain cut the game short it took a certain amount of the sting out of the defeat. Brig Lind was a guest at the Regt in the afternoon and participated in a duck dinner at the Bn HQ Mess - later in the evening the gathering developed into quite a party. Lieut Fraser Metcalfe returned from the new conc area to take charge of "X" Ech.</p> <p>Weather - Warm and showers. Strength - 36 Offrs 795 O.R's.</p>	B
Foligno MR 946731 Sheet 131 1/100000	20/8/44		<p>The H/Capt D C Smith held a Bn church parade and officiated at Holy Communion. Our TCV's arrived and preparations for the move were completed.</p> <p>Weather - Warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 795 O.R's.</p>	B
Jesi MR 333393 Sheet 131 1/100000	21/8/44		<p>At 0130 hrs the Bn began to move to our new area at MR 333393, Sheet 117. Moving along Route 3 to FOLIGNO, then by Route 76 to FABRIANO. We arrived at our new area by 1130 hrs and the old routine of pitching canvas and camouflaging began.</p> <p>Weather - Very warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 795 O.R's.</p>	B

6

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Jesi MR 333393 Sheet 117 1/100000	22/8/44		<p>Lt-Col W W Reid was called to a conference at HQ, 1 Cdn Corps. The C.O's of all the units in the Bde attended. Our security measures were increased to-day. All civilians in the area were issued with passes which enabled them to carry on their work.</p> <p>Weather - Very warm. Strength - 36 Offrs 795 O.R's.</p>	<p>B</p>
Jesi MR 333393 Sheet 117 1/100000	23/8/44		<p>The C.O. attended a conference at HQ, 11 Cdn Inf Bde pertaining to our future operations. Later all Offrs who were available attended a lecture on "J" Service at Bde HQ. Capt A Binnington returned from a course at BENEVENTO and reported the course was quite good but the travelling to and from was rather poor. He expressed it in slightly stronger language. From 4 Bn we rec'd 5 Offrs and 33 O.R's. Lt G Downham, Lt T Cooper, Lt F Culliton, Lt W Hider and Lt F Egner. Lieuts Downham and Hider were old sweats but the others were going in for the first time. Among the O.R's rfts there were several instances where the man had enlisted in June, rec'd only two weeks trng in Canada passed quickly thru England. Obviously they have had very little trng. Two Offrs Lieut's Cree and Stewart were evacuated to Hosp with jaundice, and Lieuts Crouch and Davis left the Bn, Lt Crouch for another arm of the service and Lieut Davis had finished his special increment tour.</p> <p>Weather - Very Warm. Strength - 37 Offrs 809 O.R's.</p>	<p>B</p>

7

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Jesi MR 333393 Sheet 117 1/100000	24/8/44		<p>A/Capt, J Cowie the Adjt and Lt J Henderson the I.O. attended meetings at Bde HQ in connection with our forthcoming move. Major F Walker, the "Whitehaired Father" and Quartermaster sold each Offr two bottles of champagne (at a tremendous profit we presume). There ensued a small gathering of junior Offrs and the RSM, Mr G Curtis in the Bn Orderly Room tent where they proceeded to empty approx., 30 bottles of champagne. Some of those present in addition to Capt Cowie, were the I.O., Lieut McKnight, the old campaigner, Lieut G Gallagher from "A" Coy., Lieut D Cook, "B" Coy., Lieut D L Thompson, Scout Offr.</p> <p>Weather - Very warm. Strength - 37 Offrs 809 O.R's.</p>	D.
Jesi MR 333393 Sheet 117 1/100000	25/8/44		<p>Under Capt P J F Baker a recce party consisting of 1 Offr from each Coy plus a sec of the Pioneer Pl left at 0600 hrs to recce new conc area. Another conference was held at Bde HQ which Col W W Reid attended after which he held a "O" Gp of Coy Comdr's to outline the general plan. Our TCV's arrived in the area and preparations for the move were completed. Lieut's G A Gallagher and V Hicks left for coursea at BIENEVENTO. (Just in time).</p> <p>Weather - Very warm. Strength - 37 Offrs 795 O.R's.</p>	B.
Eisi MR 157539 Sheet 117 1/100000	26/8/44		<p>At 0830 hrs the Bn began to move to the new conc area passing thru CASTELLEONE. The convoy was halted to allow 3 Cdn Inf Bde to pass thru arriving by 1415 hrs at the new conc area MR 157539.</p> <p>Weather - Very warm. Strength - 37 Offrs 795 O.R's.</p>	B.

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Eisi MR 157539 Sheet 117 1/100000	27/8/44		<p>H/Capt D C Smith held a voluntary Holy Communion Service which was very well attended. Arrangements were completed for the next move towards the front which would be on foot.</p> <p>Weather - Very warm. Strength - 37 Offrs 795 O.R's.</p>	B
Pesaro MR 0963 Sheet 109 1/100000	28/8/44		<p>Capt Baker and the 2 i/c's of the Coys left at 0800 hrs to another conc area. The Bn left at 1000 hrs and marched in on one of the warmest days we had. The Col led the way and only one man failed to make the march which seemed to be all up hill. Higher command changed our area on the way and neglected to notify the marching tps who marched about a mile past the area. Col Reid and his Coy Comdr's went forward to contact the Seaforth Regt whom we were to relieve. The Bn was to be ready to move again at 2200 hrs. "A" Coy received a break when they were ordered fwd on every available veh while the remainder of the Bn moved on foot at 0100 hrs on the 29/8/44. A - 104920 Pte Mohlman, R.E. was killed by shellfire while riding in the back of the signal truck. He was our first casualty.</p>	B
Pesaro MR 0963 Sheet 109 1/100000	29/8/44		<p>Led by Capt P J F Baker the remainder of the Bn reached the MOMBAROCCIO area MR 0470, Sheet 109 about 0430 hrs and at 0900 hrs they again moved fwd to relieve the Seaforth Regt at GINESTRETO, MR 049719. The change over was completed by 1100 hrs. The Bn then gave the town a thorough search before settling down to rest.</p> <p>Weather - Very warm. Strength - 37 Offrs 795 O.R's.</p>	B

9

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Pesaro MR 0963 Sheet 109 1/100000	30/8/44		<p>At 2200 hrs on the 29th a recce patrol of Lieut D L Thompson and two O.R's from the Scout Pl set out to recce the North side of the FOGLIA and river crossing. If the patrol met no opposition or saw no signs of the enemy, one Coy of the Bn., "B" Coy was to cross and seize hill feature lll, MR 009756. They returned at 0400 hrs having recce'd to the A/Tk ditch, up by the lateral rd without meeting enemy. There were many mines, mostly box and shoe mines. The plans were changed and "B" Coy did not move fwd. At 0930 hrs Col Reid and Lt Henderson and Lt D L Thompson made a recce of the crossing at MR 025744. They crossed the river and checked the crossing and route. At this time four Kitty Hawks of the Desert Air Force dive bombed the area which was quickly evacuated. At 1730 hrs, Major H Snelgrove led his Coy down to the crossing at MR 025744 guided by Lieut D L Thompson. Lieut R Robertson led his pl across the river and advanced to the T fn at MR 012753 before coming under fire. Heavy MG and Mortar fire prevented Major Snelgrove from deploying his coy to assist Lieut Robertson who after suffering several cas was forced to pull back to the river. Capt Ridge led his Coy., "D" Coy., supported by "A" Sqn of 8 N.B.H. at 2030 hrs fwd and after assaulting feature lll, consolidated on the posn. Lieut Hider distinguished himself in this action. After the success of "D" Coy., "A" Coy commanded by Major Tipler took hill feature l47, MR 014759 at 2300 hrs without much trouble. Then Major White moved "C" Coy fwd and consolidated between "D" and "A" Coys at MR 013757 followed by "B" Coy taking up a posn behind "D" Coy., MR 009754. The Bn then remained firm in spite of the threatened flanks due to the failure of our friends on the right and left.</p> <p>Weather - Continued to be warm. Strength - Uncertain.</p>	

(10)

