

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.

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WAR DIARY

OR

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

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| | | | <p>OF THE PERTH REGIMENT <u>FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER</u></p> | |
| Ravenna MR 690230 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 1/12/44 | | <p>The Bn moved from Urbino at 0800 hrs and reached Cervia at 1340 hrs without incident or accident, where Capt. Swartz had arranged billets in the B.C.D. area at MR 690230. All the vehicles were in the area by 1600 hrs. Lieut. F. Metcalfe had been left in Urbino in charge of "X" Ech. The majority of the troops were able to attend the C.W.A.C. Army Show No. 5 that night.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 34 Offrs. 810 O.R's.</p> | <p>SP.</p> |
| Ravenna MR 690230 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 2/12/44 | | <p>At 0900 hrs a recce party under Capt. Swartz left for San Stefano MR 522252. Later an advance party consisting of one Sgt. from each company joined the recce party. The Bn was on one hours notice to move but this was later cancelled. The leave party from Florence, Maj. A. Binnington, Capt. P.J.F. Baker and Capt. P.J. Fisher arrived bringing Capt. McKnight back from hospital with them.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 34 Offrs. 810 O.R's.</p> | <p>SP.</p> |

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| Ravenna MR 490271 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 3/12/44 | | <p>The Bn made final preparations to move and after having lunch at 1100 hrs "F" Ech moved off at 1400 hrs. At 1700 hrs all companies were in their areas and Tac H.Q. was established at MR 490271. Orders came thru at 2300 hrs putting the Bn on 2 hrs notice to move to Gede MR 463353 Sheet 89 Ravenna 1/100000.</p> <p>Weather - Unsettled Strength - 34 Offrs. 810 O.R's.</p> | SP. |
| Ravenna MR 490271 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 4/12/44 | | <p>The C.O. Lt. Col. M.W. Andrew with his I.O. went forward to brigade and received orders from Brig. I.S. Johnston for their move to Gede and for possible action. At 1130 hrs the C.O. held his "O" group and at 1230 hrs the troops moved off on foot to Gede. The plan was for the Perth Regt. to follow the Irish thru the Westmr. Regt. and to pass thru them if they were held up. The Bn concentrated at Gede and the C.O. and I.O. went forward to Westmr. Regt. Tac H.Q. where Brig. I. Johnston gave a change in the plan. The Irish Regt. were to cut west from Piangipane MR 47738 and move to Mezzano while the Perth Regt. passed thru the Westmr. Regt. and cut Highway 16 at Osteria MR 497422. The C.O. held a short "O" group and the plan was for "C" Coy. followed by "A", "B", and "D" companies to pass thru Westmr. Regt. at Piangipane and push on. If the lead Coy. bumped into opposition the remaining companies were to bypass it on the left and continue on. At 1800 hrs the companies began to move and Tac H.Q. moved forward to the Westmr. Tac H.Q. thru to the Irish Tac H.Q. and finally to MR 482387. Communication broke down and the last report was to the effect that "C" Coy. had met enemy opposition at MR 485394 and were going to deal with it.</p> <p>Weather - Unsettled Strength - 34 Offrs. 810 O.R's.</p> | ? SP. |

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| Ravenna MR 482387 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 5/12/44 | | <p>At 0315 hrs "D" Coy. reported they were consolidated on their objective and shortly afterwards "A" and "B" companies also reported their success. Wireless communication had broken down early in the night and the companies had actually obtained their objectives by 2359 hrs. "A" Coy. followed by "B" and "D" Coys. had bypassed "C" Coy. when they encountered enemy and had pushed on to Osteria with only slight opposition. "C" Coy. completed their task and moved onto the objective. Tac H.Q. moved forward to MR 489405. The Brig. visited Tac H.Q. and gave further intentions which were to mop up the area where a large group of the enemy were cut off. At 1630 hrs a patrol under Lieut. G. Levie captured 38 O.R's and 1 officer after a sharp fight. In the twenty four hours period we had been operating we had taken a total of 45 prisoners and had killed at least 2 while we had suffered only 5 wounded and 1 killed. Capt. N.C. Reet and Lieut. V. Hicks were S.O.S. to N.E.T.D. from where they would go to England for a change of employment. Lieuts. Robertson and Egner were taken on strength from 4 Bn at Fano.</p> <p>Weather - Unsettled Strength - 34 Offrs. 810 O.R's.</p> | <p>AP.</p> |

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| Ravenna MR 469401 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 6/12/44 | | <p>At 1000 hrs Brig. I.S. Johnston held an "O" group at Bde. H.Q. and gave the new plan which was to cross the River Lamone that night on a two Bn front with the Perth Regt. left and the C.B.H. right and the Irish in reserve. Capt. C. Swartz recce'd an area around Santerno MR 456404 and Maj. R. Cole and Maj. Ridge and their platoon Cmdrs recce'd an approach to the river and crossing sites. By 1400 hrs the colonel had given his orders and the Bn began the move which was completed by 1600 hrs. Tac H.Q. was established at MR 469401. Our plan was for "A" Coy. to cross on the right and "D" Coy. on the left and consolidate, then the two reserve companies would push thru them to the next lateral road. Due to reported heavy rains in the mountains the crossing was postponed for 24 hrs. Routine patrols were carried out at night and there was some shelling and mortaring in the forward positions.</p> <p>Weather - Unsettled Strength - 34 Offrs. 810 O.R's.</p> |  |

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| Ravenna MR 469401 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 7/12/44 | | <p>The Bn completed their preparations for the attack and at 1530 hrs Lt. Col. Andrew held an "O" group to tie in any loose ends. Mr. G. Curtis the R.S.M. had the boats ready at a forward point and at 1800 hrs the troops began to move to the F.U.P. and were in position ready to cross when at 1900 hrs Bde called the operation off again due to reports of floods from the mountains. Tac H.Q. had moved forward to "A" Coy. position at MR 463403 and after the operation was cancelled all coys and Tac H.Q. returned to their areas. Standing patrols were maintained and recce patrols by the scout platoon were sent forward to try and ascertain the rise of the water. During the day our snipers had killed one of the enemy on the far bank and we had suffered one casualty from mortar fire.</p> <p>Weather -- Fair Strength -- 34 Offrs. 810 O.R's.</p> | <p>SP.</p> |

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| Ravenna MR 469401 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 8/12/44 | | <p>The colonel visited the coys in the morning then went to see the Brig. at Bde. A personal note from the Brig. explaining the delay was passed to all coys. There was no sign that the attack would go in today as the weather had not improved. The snipers continued to annoy the enemy during the day and were credited with 4 kills today. Capt. Swartz recce'd an area in Ravenna where it was thought the Bn might spend Christmas. Information came thru informing us that Lieut. G. Downham had been awarded the M.C. for his action during the Coriano attack. Pte. J. Mills was awarded the M.M. for his action during the same operation. It brought our list of awards up to 7 for the Gothic line and Coriano operations.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 37 Offrs. 800 O.R's.</p> | SP. |
| Ravenna MR 469401 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 9/12/44 | | <p>There was still no indication that the attack would go in today. Cpl. Cote and his snipers increased their bag of enemy to 7 accounting for two more during the day. Three officers were taken on strength from 4 Bn., Lieut. I.E. Jones who went to "B" Coy., Lieut. J.P. Flemming who took over the scout platoon, and Lieut. W.C. Fleming who remained in "A" Ech. Lieut. R.W. Patterson returned from the Mine Warfare course at Capua and took over his old platoon in "C" Coy. Patrol activity was stronger at night and Lieut. H. Cree was in command of the patrols. The enemy had been quiet during the day but the previous night they caught with their mortar fire one of our patrols from "B" Coy. changing over killing three and wounding three.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 37 Offrs. 800 O.R's.</p> | SP. |

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| Ravenna MR 469401 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 10/12/44 | | <p>During the day the forward area was subjected to light shelling and mortaring but there were no casualties. The colonel was informed that the attack would go in tonight according to previous plans and H hour would be 1930 hrs. The attack was to be a silent one until the element of surprise was lost then if the colonel called for "Bedlam" all art'y tasks would be brought down. At 1730 hrs the leading companies "A" and "D" moved off to the F.U.P. and Tac H.Q. moved forward to "A" Coy. H.Q. at MR 464403. An intelligence report from higher formation placed the 1st Bn 741 Jaeger Regt. of 114 Jaeger Div. on our front. At 1930 hrs "A" Coy. began to cross at MR 452414 and "D" Coy. at MR 447404. By 1940 hrs "A" Coy. had 2 platoons across and the third ready to move. Shortly after this report the area was brought under heavy mortar fire and the C.B.H. crossing on our right flank called for "Bedlam". Our leading two coys. had met light opposition in crossing and apparently had achieved almost complete surprise. What enemy there was on the opposite bank had been quickly cleared up and by 2030 hrs both coys. were all across, "A" Coy. in position and "D" Coy. moving forward towards their objective. The commanding officer then ordered "B" Coy. to cross behind "A" Coy. and mop up the area of Berge di Villanova. At 2100 hrs "C" Coy. crossed and passed thru "A" Coy. pushing on to the lateral road at MR 444419. Slight opposition was encountered around their objective which they quickly dealt with. Later "A" Coy. were ordered to pass thru "B" and "D" Coys. and take the crossroads at MR 437414. "A" Coy. came under very heavy fire from their objective and were forced to withdraw slightly.</p> <p>Weather - Cold and fair Strength - 37 Offrs. 800 O.R's.</p> | |

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| Ravenna MR 469401 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 11/12/44 | | <p>Maj. R. Cole reported at 0630 hrs that there was a tank and an SP gun in the area of the crossroads. The tank hunting platoon under Lieut. Robertson was ordered forward and Lieut. Robertson was wounded by a grenade. Shortly after 0700 hrs the colonel had a Murder Barrage fired on the area and the tank and SP gun were forced to withdraw. Maj. Binnington contacted the C.B.H. on his right and "C" Coy. were firm and reported no enemy in the area. At 0900 hrs Lt. Col. Andrew and his I.O. crossed the river and went forward to look over the situation. After a rapid appreciation the colonel changed the original plan and ordered "B" Coy. to attack the crossroads and firm up with "D" Coy. to follow "B" Coy. and firm on the left of the crossroads and "A" Coy. to support the attack from their present position. An artillery plan was laid on and at 1200 hrs three Arty Regts. concentrated on the area of the crossroads while Capt. Chamberlain moved his coy. forward. Faced by heavy small arms fire they made good progress and supported by mortar fire they cleared the objective, taking five prisoners and consolidated by 1400 hrs. Maj. Ridge had "D" Coy. in position by 1500 hrs and Maj. R. Cole had moved his coy. forward to better position. A hot meal was sent forward to the coys. at 1630 hrs. An SP gun firing on "B" Coy. was discouraged by our Arty and pulled back. Maj. A. Binnington's coy. was relieved by a coy. of the Lanark and Renfrew Scottish and moved back behind "A" Coy. suffering one fatal casualty on the way from shellfire. The colonel had moved his Tac H.Q. across the Lamone River to MR 446409 and at 2230 hrs held an "O" group and outlined his plan for seizing the crossings over the Fesse Vetro and Fessa Vechio. Lieut. Fleming and a patrol of scouts reported that the enemy were in the vicinity of the crossing at MR 432419.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 37 Offrs. 809 O.R's.</p> | |

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| Ravenna MR 446409 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 12/12/44 | | <p>Maj. A. Binnington led his coy. forward at 0200 hrs to seize the bridge at MR 432419. At 0330 hrs "C" Coy. reported the bridge was blown and there was no enemy in area. Capt. Chamberlain sent one platoon from "B" Coy. forward to recce the crossing over the Fosso Vecchio at MR 486424 which was also blown. Later in the day "B" Coy. firmed up around the crossing. During the day the Coys. cleared the area in their immediate vicinity, "C" Coy. getting 2 prisoners from the 721 Jaeger Regt. In "B" Coy. movement was almost impossible as the area was dominated by the high dykes of the Naviglio. Patrols were sent out to recce the Naviglio and find if possible a suitable crossing. During daylight this proved to be impossible and one man was wounded. Word was received that the 12 Bde. were going to pass thru and attempt to force a crossing of the Naviglio at night. We were to supply flank protection for the attack and a strong force under Lieut. T. Cooper was to undertake this task on the right of the centreline, Via Cecchi, and another force under Lieut. Levie on the left.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 37 Offrs. 809 O.R's.</p> | |

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| Ravenna MR 446409 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 13/12/44 | | <p>Lieut. Cooper was called back as the P.L.D.G's. were crossing in his area. Lieut. Levie ran into trouble from the house at MR 421415 but later the enemy withdrew. The Lanarks and Renfrew Scottish passed thru to the Naviglio but were forced back with very heavy losses. During the day the coys. remained in their positions and were subject to heavy shelling and mortaring.</p> <p>Weather - Unsettled Strength - 36 Offrs. 789 O.R's.</p> |  |
| Ravenna MR 446409 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 14/12/44 | | <p>Maj. Snelgrove and Mr. Curtis the R.S.M. reced billets in Berge di Villanova for "B" and "C" Coys. who moved back later in the day. "A" and "D" Coys. remained in their positions. The Bn was now in a reserve role and getting a well deserved rest. A beer issue and mail and parcels were brought up. The rear area was still subjected to shellfire but no casualties were reported.</p> <p>Weather - Unsettled Strength - 36 Offrs. 789 O.R's.</p> |  |

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| Ravenna MR 446409 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 15/12/44 | | <p>Orders from Bde put the Bn on two hours notice to move and after a discussion with Brig. I.S. Johnston the colonel held his "O" group. The plan was for "D" Coy. to move forward on carriers in support of the tanks and seize a bridge at MR 409399 with the remainder of the Bn following. This plan was later cancelled. Word was received that Maj. C.B. Arrell had gone to hospital after finishing his course at Benevento.</p> <p>Weather - Unsettled Strength - 35 Offrs. 786 O.R's.</p> |  |
| Ravenna MR 446409 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 16/12/44 | | <p>The Bn remained in the same position during the day. There was still some shelling which caused damage to the vehicles. The men were having an opportunity to go to Ravenna for 24 hrs rest but this proved unsatisfactory. Facilities were very poor for seeing a show or getting a hot shower.</p> <p>Weather - Unsettled Strength - 35 Offrs. 787 O.R's.</p> |  |

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| Ravenna MR 446409 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 17/12/44 | | <p>Once again the Bn was placed on a half hours notice to move at 0700 hrs but at 0815 hrs the order to stand down was given for all except "C" and "D" Coys. At 1330 hrs the colonel held an "O" group outlining plans for the forthcoming operation. "C" and "D" Coys. were to relieve two coys. of the Westminster Regt. who had crossed the Naviglio very successfully.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 35 Offrs. 787 O.R's.</p> | <i>SL</i> |
| Ravenna MR 446409 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 18/12/44 | | <p>The pending operation was again cancelled for 24 hrs as the situation had not taken the expected trend. Reinforcements arrived from 4 Bn which brought the Coys. almost up to strength.</p> <p>Weather - Unsettled Strength - 35 Offrs. 812 O.R's.</p> | <i>SL</i> |

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| Ravenna MR 446409 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 19/12/44 | | <p>After attending Brig. I.S. Johnston's "O" group at Bde, Lt. Col. M.W. Andrew held his "O" group at 1100 hrs and gave orders for the crossing of the Fossa Munio that night. The plan was divided into two phases. The first phase entailed Capt. Chamberlain leading "B" Coy. to cross the Munio and seize the T junction and buildings in the area MR 406431, than "A" Coy. led by Maj. Cole would push thru and form up at the T junction MR 399435 followed by "D" Coy. led by Maj. Ridge to continue up the Via Chiara seizing the T junction at MR 395443 after which Maj. Binnington would firm up "C" Coy. on the Via Rosetta in the area MR 399444. Phase two consisted of "C" Coy. pushing over to the T junction at MR 404447 releiving the Irish Regt. while "B" Coy. moved thru "D" Coy. and swung left to seize the T junction in front of Fusignano at MR 385437, then if neccessary "A" Coy. would firm up on the Via Rosetta also. For this operation there was u/c A Sqn of the L.S.H. and one troop of S.P.'s. and one troop of towed A/Tk guns from the 4 A/Tk Regt. and one section of Engineers in support. There was no prearranged artillery barrage but potential targets had been chosen and registered. These were on call at any time during the action. The Irish Regt. were on our right and on our left 2nd Bde of 1st Cdn Div were conforming in the push to the Senio River. At 1900 hrs Capt. R.S. Chamberlain and Maj. R. Cole reported their coys. were in position at the F.U.P. MR 415421 and at 2000 hrs the leading platoon of "B" Coy. passed thru the very shallow bridgehead of the Westmr's. "B" Coy. were met with very heavy M.G. fire and shortly after crossing the start point, MR 413424, communications were out. Maj. R. Cole led his coy. up to the start line but the situation with "B" Coy. was confused and two platoons had withdrawn. It was impossible to call down artillery fire as the position of the leading platoon was unknown. Finally what was left of the leading platoon and the other two platoons was withdrawn thru "A" Coy. at 2340 hrs. "B" Coy. had suffered very heavy casualties.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 35 Offrs. 812 O.R's.</p> | |

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| Ravenna MR 446409 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 20/12/44 | | <p>Two regt's of artillery, the P.L.F. M.M.G's. and our own 3" mortars brought down fire on enemy positions and at 0050 hrs Maj. R. Cole was ready to lead "A" Coy. forward to seize the objective of "B" Coy. Maj. Cole had selected a route thru the fields to the right of the road and progress was slow but steady. At 0140 hrs Maj. Binnington was ordered to move "C" Coy. around following the Fossa Munio and seize the crossing at MR 403425 and the house at MR 405425. "A" Coy. had stopped at an intermediate objective but pushed on and at 0300 hrs they had overcome the enemy resistance and seized their objective capturing 2 P.O.W's. and killing or wounding nearly 30 of the enemy. Their own casualties were fairly light. At 0430 hrs the engineers started work preparing a crossing for tanks at MR 413424. Maj. Binnington had lost contact with his two leading platoons and did not think they had obtained their objective. Information received later told that Lieut. R.W. Patterson had reached his objective but due to heavy mortar and M.G. fire was unable to hold it. Lieut. Patterson was later killed trying to take out an M.G. post. The Irish Regt. on our right had been unable to get ahead and the situation on our left was obscure. "A" Coy. had beaten off a heavy counterattack inflicting several casualties on the enemy. Their position was not a happy one, but they were holding firm. At 0615 hrs the engineers reported the arc bridge was ready and our tanks and A/Tk guns moved forward to cross. The Medical carrier trying to reach "A" Coy. were unable to cross the bridge and it was found that the bridge had been placed in at an angle to the road, making it useless. The engineers began to prepare another crossing.</p> | |

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| Ravenna MR 446409 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 20/12/44 | | <p>Maj. Binnington reported "C" Coy. had been unable to hold their objective and had pulled back. By this time "A" Coy. had beaten off another counter-attack and had increased their P.O.W's. to 20. They were calling for ammunition as the situation became more desperate. At 0900 hrs the R.S.M. Mr. Curtis set out with a carrying party to take ammunition to "A" Coy. He was taken prisoner after crossing the Fossa Munio by enemy who had infiltrated between "A" Coy. and the Munio. Later in the day he escaped while his captors were being heavily shelled by our own guns. By 0930 hrs the crossing was ready for the tanks but already one tank had been knocked out by an S.P. gun firing from the house at MR 405426. Arty concentrations were called down on the house and 4.2 mortars fired. Maj. Ridge contacted the officer in charge of the troop of tanks and completed plans for their advance and Maj. Binnington was ordered to return to MR 416423 and await further orders. "C" Coy. had sent 10 P.O.W's. back and 2 wounded P.O.W's. had been evacuated. At 1130 hrs "D" Coy. were ordered to move forward with a troop of tanks to relieve "A" Coy. while one platoon of "B" Coy. under Lieut; W.C. Fleming was to clear out the enemy who were harassing "A" Coy. from the rear. The tanks were unable to cross the obstacle due to the accurate firing of the S.P. gun at MR 405426 and it was decided to smoke the gun position off while the tanks made a dash for "A" Coy. position. The Desert Air Force made a sweep over "A" Coy. positions at 1345 hrs and strafed the enemy who were forming up for another counterattack. At 1400 hrs the tanks made an effort to cross the obstacle and two were successful but the tank armed with the 17 pounder turned over while crossing. However the two tanks contacted "A" Coy. and relieved the tension of the situation. Due to extremely heavy mortar fire Maj. Ridge had been unable to get forward with "D" Coy. Finally at 1830 hrs Maj. Ridge</p> | |

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WAR DIARY


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

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| Ravenna MR 446409 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 20/12/44 | | <p>led his coy. across the Munio and proceeded to "A" Coy. area where they firmed up at 2000 hrs without incident. The R.S.M. Mr. Curtis turned up suddenly at Tac H.Q. having made his escape and brought back information that along with other indications led the Brig. to reason that the enemy were withdrawing across the Senio. Acting on this information a recce patrol was sent from "A" Coy. by Lieut. Cooper to the T junction at MR 399435 and "C" and "D" Coys. were standing to ready to push on. Maj. R. Cole returned to Tac H.Q. from "A" Coy. position at 2230 hrs having been slightly wounded by a grenade in one of the counterattacks. The recce patrol from "A" Coy. returned and reported that there were still a few enemy in the vicinity of the T junction so at 2325 hrs Maj. Binnington with one troop of the tanks under command moved forward to secure the T junction. Lieut. I.E. Jones and Lieut. Irving had both been wounded. Irving having just returned from Bde H.Q. where he had been acting as L.O.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 34 Offrs. 740 O.R's.</p> |  |

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| Place | Date | Hour | |
| Ravenna MR 446409 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 21/12/44 | | <p>Moving forward without opposition or incident "C" Coy. were on their objective by 0030 hrs and in mopping up the area captured an enemy Coy. H.Q. a battery of 28cm Nebelwerfers and 18 P.O.W's. "D" Coy. now proceeded forward and occupied the area MR 396435 with "C" Coy. at MR 401435. There was no further activity that night except the Irish Regt. passing thru and pushing up onto the Via Rosetta. An officer from the Italian Army was sent to Tac H.Q. to observe. From here he went forward to "D" Coy. and later another officer was sent to "C" Coy. Tac H.Q. moved forward to MR 417418 at 1215 hrs. The pioneers collected the dead from the action and assisted the Padre Capt. D.C. Smith in their burial. There was very little shelling or mortaring in the area during the day and that night.</p> <p>Weather - Fair and cold Strength - 34 Offrs. 745 O.R's.</p> |
| Ravenna MR 417418 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 22/12/44 | | <p>An enemy S.P. gun sited across the Senio fired on our forward positions at 0410 hrs but no damage was caused. Later in the morning the roof of Tac H.Q. caught fire providing a certain amount of humour to the situation. At 1130 hrs the Colonel having contacted the Brig. held an "O" group and gave orders for the mopping up of the area and the relief of the Irish Regt. Late in the afternoon Tac moved forward to MR 402436. "C" Coy. commanded by Capt. L. Wettlaufer who had relieved Maj. Binnington and "D" Coy. commanded by Capt. P.J. Fisher who had relieved Maj. Ridge moved forward and relieved the Irish Regt. who were moving over to our right. "A" Coy. now led by Capt. Hider and "B" Coy. moved forward to the old position of "C" and "D" Coys. respectively. The Coy. positions were now "A" Coy. MR 396435 "B" Coy. MR 401435, "C" Coy. MR 396439 and "D" Coy. MR 396443.</p> |

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| Ravenna MR 417418 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 22/12/44 | | <p>The Irish Regt. had informed us that the dyke on our side of the Senio was still held by the enemy in considerable strength so one platoon of "A" Coy. were sent out to patrol our area.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 35 Offrs. 739 O.R's.</p> | <i>A</i> |
| Ravenna MR 402436 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 23/12/44 | | <p>The remainder of the scout platoon reported to Tac H.Q. and were sent forward to act as snipers and observe the enemy. The scout platoon had suffered heavily during the night of the 19th and 20th. The platoon of "A" Coy. that had been acting as standing patrol was replaced by a platoon from "B" Coy. Mopping up operations continued during the day and active patrolling during the night as the enemy still held positions on our side of the dyke.</p> <p>Weather - Fair and cold Strength - 35 Offrs. 727 O.R's.</p> | <i>A</i> |

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| Ravenna MR 402436 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 24/12/44 | | <p>During the early morning the forward area was subjected to shell and mortar fire but there were no casualties. The enemy were still on our side of the dyke and the colonel decided to improve our positions, by occupying the houses at MR 392440. Supported by one troop of tanks Lieut. T.J. Cooper led his platoon forward and seized the houses. There was much enemy M.G. fire and mortar but no casualties were suffered. One section worked onto the dyke and reported it to be mined with anti-personnel mines. Our patrols were active again during the night and reported the dyke in front of "D" Coy. and "C" Coy. positions to be free of enemy.</p> <p>Weather - Cold with snow Strength - 35 Offrs. 723 O.R's.</p> | |
| Ravenna MR 402436 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 25/12/44 | | <p>Maj. Gen. Hoffmeister 5 Cdn Div. G.O.C. and Brig. I.S. Johnston visited Tac H.Q. and after discussing the action with Lt. Col. Andrew they went forward to visit the coys. The coy. quartermasters did an excellent job of preparing the hot Christmas dinner for the men. Roast pork, potatoes, salad, mince pie, pudding, christmas cake and coffee made up an excellent dinner. The M.O. Capt. Statten had a typical Christmas dinner, his entire staff sat down to a chicken dinner with all the trimmings prepared by the Italians. During the afternoon Lieut. W.C. Fleming of "B" Coy. attempted to occupy a house at MR 388439 but was unsuccessful coming under M.G. fire from the dyke and heavy mortar fire.</p> | |

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| Ravenna MR 402436 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 25/12/44 | | <p>Lieut. Cooper's platoon of "A" Coy. supplying flank protection suffered several casualties from the mortar fire. Later on "A" Coy. sent a platoon under Lieut. Hood and took positions left of Lieut. Cooper's platoon at the Senio facing Fusignane. This secured our side of the river. The night proved to be very quiet with no shelling or mortaring. Capt. D.A. Cook and Lieut. G.A. Gallagher had returned from leave and Lieuts. Cooper and Thompson with Capt. McKnight left for Rome. Capt. Cook went up to "C" Coy. and Lieut. Gallagher relieved Lieut. Cooper's platoon.</p> <p>Weather - Cold and fair Strength - 35 Offrs. 723 O.R's.</p> | <i>D.</i> |
| Ravenna MR 402436 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 26/12/44 | | <p>With the exception of light spasmodic shelling the morning proved to be uneventful. Lt. Col. Andrew paid a visit to Main H.Q. at Borgo di Villanova. In the afternoon the forward area was subjected to heavy shell and mortar fire but fortunately we suffered no casualties.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 35 Offrs. 730 O.R's.</p> | <i>D.</i> |

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
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| Ravenna MR 402436 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 27/12/44 | | <p>The morning again proved to be uneventful and in the afternoon reps. from the 4 P.L.D.G's. arrived to recce our positions preparatory to relieving the Bn. The coys. spent the afternoon preparing to move and at 1730 hrs the leading troops left for the embussing positions where the T.C.V's. took them to Ravenna. The change over was completed without incident and Tac H.Q. moved off at 2330 hrs. Lt. Col. Andrew remained till all our troops had moved back. Maj. Ridge left for 3 Bn. to take over command of our reinforcement coy. and to relieve Maj. H. White.</p> <p>Weather - Fair and cold Strength - 35 Offrs. 724 O.R's.</p> |  |
| Ravenna MR 5637 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 28/12/44 | | <p>The day was spent in cleaning up and resting. Capt. McCabe paid the troops and there was an issue of beer which helped to raise the men's morale. Entertainment had been laid on for the troops. Maj. R. Cole returned to the unit after a short time in the hospital.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 36 Offrs. 719 O.R's.</p> |  |

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| Ravenna MR 5637 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 29/12/44 | | <p>The Bn. continued to wash away the mud and stains of battle. Clothing parades were held and the men began to take on the smart clean appearance that is characteristic of a soldier who is proud of his regiment and himself. At 1045 hrs the officers attended a talk given by Brig. I.S. Johnston relating to the apparent let down of the troops due to the failure of events to conform with previous statements made by the G.O.C. Circumstances had altered the larger plan and so the soldier had been let down and that feeling must be wiped out as there was hard fighting ahead. Lieut. Robertson returned from hospital while Lieut. F. Prangley was S.O.S. to hospital. Our padre Hon. Capt. D.C. Smith was awarded an M.C. for the grand work he had been doing.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 36 Offrs. 716 O.R's.</p> |  |
| Ravenna MR 5637 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 30/12/44 | | <p>The Bn. was treated to a belated Christmas dinner of turkey, chicken, vegetables, mince pies etc. But in spite of the excellent food the spirit of Christmas was lacking. Lt. Col. Andrew attended an "O" group at Bde. where Brig. Johnston gave orders for the forthcoming operation. Lieuts. J. Child and D. Doooley were T.O.S. from 4 Bn. The officers held a dinner that evening which was attended by Maj. Morton a previous M.O. of the Bn. and Maj. E. Tate of the 17th Field Regt.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 38 Offrs. 712 O.R's.</p> |  |

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| Ravenna MR 5637 Sheet 89 1/100000 | 31/12/44 | | <p>A church parade was held in the morning by Capt. D.C. Smith. The colonel held an "O" group and gave orders for the operation after which Capt. Wettlaufer went forward to recce the area where the Bn. would concentrate before the action. Maj. C.B. Arrell the 2i/c of the Bn. returned to the unit after a spell in hospital.</p> <p>Weather - Fair Strength - 38 Offrs; 710 O.R's.</p> <p><i>M.W. Andrew</i> (M.W. Andrew) Lt. Col. <i>ATCol</i> Officer Commanding The Perth Regiment</p> | <i>AT</i> |

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