

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

The Perth Regiment, C. A. O.

for

Summary of Events and Information

The Month of January, 1945

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		Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Ravenna MR 473446 Sheet 89 1/100,000	1/1/45		<p>An O Group of Coy Comdrs was held by Lieut Col M. W. Andrew at 0830 hrs to outline the plan of the next phase. Offrs from A and B Coys went fwd to recce the F U P MR 476462. At 1400 hrs Main H Q moved fwd to MR 474444 and Tac H Q followed at 1500 hrs, establishing Tac at MR 473446. There was an O Group of the supporting arms held at 2100 hrs. T C V's transported the troops to a debussing point MR 482434 from where A and B Coys moved to the F U P at 2359 hrs.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold. Strength: 38 Offrs, 721 O R's.</p>	
Ravenna MR 473446 Sheet 89 1/100,000	2/1/45		<p>By 0300 hrs the Coys had completed the move to the F U P and were awaiting H Hour, which was 0500 hrs. A and B Coys moved fwd to the start line which was the line of the ditch MR 473466 to MR 482465 and crossed at 0500 hrs advancing to their first objectives. A Coy took the houses at MR 480469 and MR 483468 and B Coy the area MR 476469. At 0515 hrs the Col ordered the B C D tks fwd. B Coy had no difficulty getting on to their objective and were consolidated by 0545 hrs while A Coy ran into opposition and called for tk support. Maj R. Cole was wounded in the foot by shell-fire but remained in action until relieved in the afternoon by Capt W. Hider. B Coy called down an Arty DF on enemy movement and the M 10's moved fwd to their area. A Coy were still meeting stiff opposition and progress was slow. C Coy married up with a tp of tks and stood by ready to move fwd.</p> <p>At 0810 hrs B Coy had taken 9 PsW identified as III/721 Jaeger Regt. A Coy reported success at 0835 hrs and C Coy began to pass thru them to clear up the area MR 483474. B Coy reported they had taken 4 more PsW at 0848 hrs and A Coy reported having taken 2 PsW.</p> <p>Air support was very effective and lessened the opposition on A Coy front. C Coy made good progress and captured 10 PsW and wounded 3 while getting on their objective, which they reached at 1050 hrs. D Coy were ordered to move fwd and sieze the houses at MR 484477, which they reached by 1245 hrs. A Coy were subject</p>	Lt 2.

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Ravenna MR 473446 Sheet 89 1/100,000	2/1/45		<p>cont'd.....to heavy mortar fire and suffered 9 casualties wounded. All Coys were firm on their objectives by 1315 hours and A, B and C Coys received a hot meal.</p> <p>Brigadier I. S. Johnston visited Tac H Q and the plan was for the C B H, who had been in reserve, to pass through in the next phase. Spasmodic shelling and mortaring was the only action during the rest of the day. Casualties for the day's action were 19 wounded and 1 killed, while we had captured 23 of the enemy and killed an unknown number. Ten reinforcements arrived from 4 Bn and were sent forward to the Coys.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold.</p> <p>Strength: 38 Officers, 710 Other Ranks.</p>	<p>DN</p>
Ravenna MR 473446 Sheet 89 1/100,000	3/1/45		<p>At 0530 hours A Coy stood by in the role of a counter-attack force as D Coy came under heavy shell fire, and B Coy were warned to stand by to assist. Counter-mortar fire was brought down on enemy mortar positions. C Coy reported enemy in houses at MR 476475 and 473474 and arty and tanks engaged these targets. A Red Cross flag was raised, but fearing a trick, Captain D. A. Cook held his men back, whereupon the flag was lowered and the tanks opened up again. Shortly afterwards 9 enemy gave themselves up to the K R R on our left. They were part of a counter-attack force, and identified as 7 Coy, II/721 Jaeger Regt and 2 Coy, Kesselring MG Bn, with a Coy of 114 Recce Bn in reserve. The attack was broken up and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. At 0930 hours the standing patrol that D Coy had stationed at MR 482485, under Sgt. G. Grant, returned. They had spotted an enemy patrol at 2130 hours the previous night and, after reporting to the Coy Commander returned to the outpost. At 0400 hours a strong enemy patrol of 25 men approached their outpost which they attacked with bazookas and small arms. Sgt. Grant and his few men beat off the attack and the enemy withdrew, leaving 6 dead and several wounded. One PW was taken, who on interrogation revealed that he was one of the SS tps</p>	

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Ravenna Sheet 89 1/100,000 MR 473466	3/1/45		<p>cont'd....digging posns on the Vetro. The enemy held another house at MR 481483 and prevented the standing patrol from withdrawing to their coy lines by keeping them under constant fire, until at 0930 the patrol made a run for it. Later the tks moved fwd with infantry and cleared the enemy held house. Four men from each coy left for A Ech, proceeding on 7 day leaves. Orders to move again were received and Maj Snelgrove, with recce parties from the coys, went fwd to contact the C B H, who were moving ahead up the centre line. Coys from the King's Royal Rifles and The Westminster Regt relieved us. At 1405 hrs A Coy were ordered to move fwd and Tac H Q moved to MR 494488. Capt Chamberlain led B Coy fwd, following A Coy into area MR 497492, where they captured an enemy offr. C Coy followed by D Coy moved into their areas at MR 504505 and MR 499502 respectively. Active patrolling was carried out by all coys to prevent any enemy who had been cut-off from getting back to their own lines. Except for occasional mortar fire the night was quiet.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold. Strength: 37 Offrs and 713 O R's.</p>	
Ravenna Sheet 89 1/100,000 MR 473466	4/1/45		<p>A deserter walked into A Coy lines at 0110 hrs but no infm was gained from him except that he was identified as a specialist in the G A F reinforcing the 114 Recce Bn. There was shelling and mortaring in the bn area which became very heavy from 0430 hrs to 0630 hrs, at which time a strong counter-attack was launched by the enemy against tps on our left. By 0700 hrs the shelling and mortaring had stopped and the coys reported everything quiet. A platoon from A Coy was sent to guard the br at MR 505485. A Coy captured one PW at MR 499501, identified as 9 Coy, 114 Recce Bn. Lieut. N. Drummond, the signal offr, was killed by heavy shelling on Tac H Q. C Coy under Capt Cook and D Coy under Capt Fisher were placed under command of the B C D's with the object of racing ahead and</p>	<i>EN</i>

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Ravenna Sheet 89 1/100,000 MR 494488	4/1/45		<p>cont'd.....siezing a bridge intact over the canal. The bridge at MR 513513 was already blown when C Coy, riding on tanks, reached it. They immediately pushed on and siezed the bridge at MR 545505, which was prepared for demolition. After removing the charges the tanks crossed, followed by C Coy, who reported they were firm at MR 546509 with 9 PsW at 1340 hours. Tac H Q moved forward to MR 494487. B Coy moved to MR 498500 as one Coy of the I R C moved into their old position. The two Coys remained in these positions while C and D Coys were still u/c of the B C D's. The enemy was very quiet except for light mortaring.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold. Strength: 36 Officers, 707 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>SD</i>
Ravenna Sheet 89 1/100,000 MR 494487	5/1/45		<p>An enemy fighting patrol was reported in A Coy area but the Armour forced their withdrawal at 0100 hours. There was very little shelling and mortaring in the area during the rest of the night. The B C D's had occupied San Alberto MR 5352 and the C B H were moving up to where they would relieve them. At 0845 hours A Coy was ordered to move forward to MR 513513. Maj. Gen. Hoffmeister, G. O. C. 5 Cdn Armd Div, paid a visit to Tac H Q at 1045 hours and congratulated the Colonel on the fine work of the Bn. At 1300 hours the Colonel moved his H Q forward to MR 502502. C and A Coys were still u/c of the B C D's and were mopping up towards the Coast.</p> <p>The intentions for the night were to mop up the area to the Fosso Vetro and active patrolling with tanks in support. The patrols reported everything quiet on our sector of the front, although the I R C reported enemy on their front, which was on our left.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold. Strength: 36 Officers, 704 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>KA</i>

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MR 502502 Ravenna Sheet 89 1/100,000	6/1/45		<p>Tac H Q came under fire from an S P gun at 0100 hours and the shelling continued at intervals until 0400 hours. C and D Coys pushed off at 0630 hours still u/c of the B C D's, and advanced to MR 615558 with little opposition. At 1100 hours C Coy was relieved by the 7 H and Captain Cook brought the Coy back and took up a position behind A Coy at MR 506505. Vehicle movement along the Canal Abbandanato brought down mortar and shell fire on our positions but no casualties were suffered.</p> <p>At 1400 hours D Coy were also relieved by the 7 H and returned to the Bn area taking up positions at MR 505504 and 504503. Poor visibility made recce patrols impossible and only standing patrols were sent out at night. There was only enemy M G fire across the forward positions during the night, otherwise everything was quiet. Lieutenant A. M. Arner was T O S replacing Lieutenant N. Drummond.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold.</p> <p>Strength: 37 Officers, 705 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>SA</i>
MR 502502 Ravenna Sheet 89 1/100,000	7/1/45		<p>Occasional M G fire and light shelling which stopped about 0330 hours was the only enemy activity during the early morning. The Coys began to prepare defensive positions and all civilians were evacuated from the forward area through the Field Security Section.</p> <p>The Colonel called an O Group at 1350 hours for Coy Commanders to outline the defense system they were to establish. Brigadier I. S. Johnston visited Tac H Q and conferred with the Colonel. There was some light shelling and mortaring during the day but no casualties were suffered. The Scout Officer, Lieutenant J. R. Fleming, and 20 Other Ranks from the Scout Platoon Recce'd the bridge at MR 493518 on the Scola Pignatto at night and returned with the information that the bridge was blown and the enemy were in position on the other side. Standing and contact patrols were also carried out without incident.</p> <p>Weather: rain.</p> <p>Strength: 37 Officers, 703 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>SA</i>

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MR 502502 Ravenna Sheet 89 1/100,000	8/1/45		<p>Early in the morning A Coy's standing patrol captured a Sergeant Major who was trying to work his way back to his own lines. There was very little shelling or mortaring during the day. At 1800 hours C Coy relieved A Coy and D Coy relieved B Coy. The change-over was completed with only one casualty suffered by A Coy.</p> <p>Standing and contact patrols were carried out but the weather was too bad for recce patrols.</p> <p>Weather: rain.</p> <p>Strength: 37 Officers, 709 Other Ranks.</p>	SH
MR 502502 Ravenna Sheet 89 1/100,000	9/1/45		<p>The day passed very quietly with only light shelling. At 1400 hours the advance recce party of the 22nd Bn, Cremona Battle Group, arrived at Tac H Q. The Coys continued to reinforce their defensive positions and a mine-laying party of the R C E was to work at night. C Coy reported an enemy patrol in the area but the report was not confirmed and the night passed quietly.</p> <p>Weather: unsettled.</p> <p>Strength: 37 Officers, 707 Other Ranks.</p>	SH
MR 502502 Ravenna Sheet 89 1/100,000	10/1/45		<p>The morning and afternoon passed very quietly with no enemy activity. At 1500 hours the Italian General of the Cremona Battle Group visited Tac H Q to confer with Colonel Andrew on the relief of our Bn by the 22nd Bn of the Cremona Group.</p> <p>The Sappers working on the forward area accounted for one of the enemy on the dyke at MR 490575. The R C E mine-laying party laid mines in the area MR 503517 at night while our patrol activity was limited to standing and contact.</p> <p>Weather: unsettled.</p> <p>Strength: 38 Officers, 714 Other Ranks.</p>	SH

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MR 502502 Ravenna Sheet 89 1/100,000	11/1/45		<p>The mine-laying party of the previous night completed their task without incident and the patrols had nothing to report. During the morning the enemy mortared the fwd posns at intervals but no casualties were inflicted. Brig I. S. Johnson visited Tac H Q and conferred with the C O on our defenses and the relief of the bn. The 3" mortars harrassed the enemy whom the scouts had observed on the Scola Pignatta. Standing patrols were sent out again by the fwd coys and other patrols were to be active with the hope of obtaining a PW. Mine-laying was also carried on in the area MR 495511.</p> <p>Weather: cold and unsettled. Strength: 38 Offrs and 713 O R's.</p>	AD
MR 502502 Ravenna Sheet 89 1/100,000.	12/1/45		<p>The mine-laying operations and patrols were carried out without incident. At 1000 hrs the C O held an O Group to complete plans for the change-over with the Cremona Battle Group. Part of the bn would be relieved during the day while the remainder would have to wait until early the following morning. The tps were to march to La Terri MR 492462 where the T C V's would pick them up and then proceed to our X Ech area in Ravenna where a hot meal awaited them. They would then move in independent groups to Cattolica MR 986872.</p> <p>Main H Q and Sp Coy came under heavy mortar and shell fire at 1440 hrs resulting in one casualty and the communications being cut. The fwd coys were to patrol the area the same as the night before. A strong enemy patrol over-ran one of D Coy's standing patrols wounding the Cpl and taking two men prisoner. A fighting patrol was sent out but could find no trace of them. The change-over was slow and confused and the last coy of Italians did not reach the area until 2315 hrs.</p> <p>Weather: unsettled. Strength: 38 Offrs and 716 O R's.</p>	AD.

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MR 502502 Ravenna Sheet 89 1/100,000	13/1/45		<p>There was no enemy action during the remainder of the night and at 0700 hrs Tac H Q and the rest of the Bn moved off. After breakfasting in Ravenna they continued on to Cattolica. The entire bn was concentrated there by 1630 hrs and the troops spent the rest of the day getting settled in their billets. Maj R. Cole returned to the unit from hospital.</p> <p>Weather: unsettled with rain.</p> <p>Strength: 39 OFFRs and 747 O R's.</p>	
MR 986 872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	14/1/45		<p>Voluntary Church Services were held and the Padre of the I R C officiated at the Protestant Service as H/Capt D. C. Smith (M. C.) was visiting our wounded soldiers in the Hospitals and Convalescent Depots.</p> <p>Weather: unsettled.</p> <p>Strength: 39 Offrs and 745 O R's.</p>	
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	15/1/45		<p>The coys began a check of weapons and equipment and a general clean-up. The Auxiliary Services took over the theatre and there were two shows a night for entertainment. The morale of the troops was very high at this time.</p> <p>Weather: rain, generally unsettled.</p> <p>Strength: 39 Offrs and 742 O R's.</p>	
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	16/1/45		<p>The coys continued their cleaning up routine and normal coy parades were carried out. The C O attended the Brigadier's conference where training was discussed and the general policy for the troops while in the area. Maj C. B. Arrell recce'd a range for firing.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold.</p> <p>Strength: 39 Offrs and 743 O R's.</p>	

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MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	17/1/45		<p>Larger allotments of leave to Rome and Florence were given to the Bn and personnel proceeded on leave at 0830 hours.</p> <p>Lieutenant Colonel M. W. Andrew attended a training film at Bde H Q. Bath parades and inoculation parades took up most of the day's training time. Captain P. Statten continued the TYPHUS inoculations which he began at Urbino in November. There were many court martials to be cleaned up and the majority of the Officers were busy preparing summaries of evidence. Today was the anniversary of the Unit's first action and the Officers held a Mess Dinner. The men were suffering from colds and flu, probably due to the billets. Steps were taken to procure straw and the troops were busy building derv oil burners to heat their rooms.</p> <p>Weather: cold and cloudy.</p> <p>Strength: 39 Officers, 746 Other Ranks.</p>	
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	18/1/45		<p>The Bde Training Program began today but it was not very intense. Captain Chamberlain sent some of his Coy to visit friends at 3rd Cdn Gen Hosp. Sp Coy concentrated on vehicle maintenance while the Rifle Coys carried on with normal weapon training.</p> <p>Captain J. Dent paid a visit to the Bn from 5th Cdn Div P F Camp, where he is commanding.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold.</p> <p>Strength: 39 Officers, 738 Other Ranks.</p>	
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	19/1/45		<p>The Coys were settling down to normal training. Major Arrell recce'd a possible location for a rifle range.</p> <p>Our Auxiliary Service Officer, Mr. Stephens, was giving two shows a night for the troops.</p> <p>Weather: unsettled, strong wind and rain.</p> <p>Strength: 39 Officers, 744 Other Ranks.</p>	

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MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	20/1/45		<p>Lieutenant Colonel Andrew inspected the Coys in the morning and Major Arrell, assisted by Mr. Curtis, the R. S. M., carried out a rigid weapon inspection. The results were very favourable and the C. O. was very pleased with the turn-out.</p> <p>H/Captain D. C. Smith (M C), our Padre, returned from one of his frequent trips to the Hospitals and Convalescent Depots.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold with snow.</p> <p>Strength: 39 Officers, 740 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>SN</i>
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	21/1/45		<p>Voluntary Church Parades were held in the morning. In the afternoon and evening the boys were entertained by shows.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold.</p> <p>Strength: 39 Officers, 734 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>SN</i>
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	22/1/45		<p>The routine of normal training was carried out by the Coys according to the syllabus. Major F. S. Walker left on one of his trips to make purchases for the Mess.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold.</p> <p>Strength: 39 Officers, 733 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>SN</i>
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	23/1/45		<p>Lieutenant T. Cooper prepared to go to 5th Cdn Div Offrs Trng School as an instructor. The school was a Refresher for reinforcement Officers. Lieutenants Childs and Dooley were to go as instructors for the Division's N. C. O. School. Several of our most recent Officers, Lieutenants W. C. Fleming, Crase and Stirling, were to attend as students. Normal training was carried out in Coy areas.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold.</p> <p>Strength: 39 Officers, 746 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>SN</i>

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MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	24/1/45		<p>While the coys carried on training Maj Gen Hoffmeister, G O C 5 Cdn Armd Div, accompanied by Brig I. S. Johnston, inspected the billets which were found to be very satisfactory. The G O C also spoke to the Coy Comdrs.</p> <p>Weather: cold and fair.</p> <p>Strength: 39 Offrs and 758 O R's.</p>	<i>SH</i>
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	25/1/45		<p>Coys carried on training as per syllabus. Maj. Gen. Hoffmeister was a guest at the Offr's Mess for lunch, after which he talked with some of the men. The Gen expected to talk for half an hour but finally left just before dinner, having gathered a great deal of infm from the men.</p> <p>Capt L. Wettlaufer left for U K to train new reinforcements.</p> <p>Weather: cold and cloudy.</p> <p>Strength: 38 Offrs and 767 O R's.</p>	<i>SH</i>
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	26/1/45		<p>More personnel left for Rome and Florence on 7 day leaves. Capt D. A. Cook and the M O, Capt Page Statten, left for a 48 hr leave at Grey Stone Inn, San Marino. Established as a Corps Ski School, the Inn was used as a leave centre for Offrs.</p> <p>Weather: cold and cloudy.</p> <p>Strength: 38 Offrs and 764 O R's.</p>	<i>SH</i>
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	27/1/45		<p>Lieut. Col. M. W. Andrew carried out his weekly inspection assisted by Maj. C. B. Arrell and the R. S. M., Mr. Curtis. The results were satisfactory.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold.</p> <p>Strength: 38 Offrs and 776 O R's.</p>	<i>SH</i>

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MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	28/1/45		A Church Service was held in the Cinema at which H/Captain Smith (M C) officiated, after returning from a Service in the Irish Regiment's lines. Weather: cold with snow. Strength: 38 Officers, 774 Other Ranks.	DN
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	29/1/45		Major C. B. Arrell was President of a Court Martial in the C B H lines. Training continued in our own lines according to syllabus, although weather hampered phases of it. Weather: cold with snow. Strength: 38 Officers, 770 Other Ranks.	DN
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	30/1/45		Rumours began to spread through the lines regarding our fate and next action. Personnel were being sent to Urbino on 7 day leaves. 11 Bde had established a leave center there and the troops were well received. Training was being carried out but without enthusiasm. The Colonel and his Coy Commanders attended conferences once a week at Bde H Q, where they discussed tactical problems. Later the results of the conferences were discussed with the Junior Officers, usually on Sunday mornings. Weather: fair and cold. Strength: 38 Officers, 768 Other Ranks.	DN
MR 986872 Pesaro Sheet 109 1/100,000	31/1/45		The feeling that something was about to happen was still in the air. The Officers and Men were becoming restless and it was beginning to show. Normal training was still being carried out. Weather: unsettled. Strength: 38 Officers; 768 Other Ranks.	DN


Lieut. Col. M. W. Andrew.
Commanding Officer.