

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

OF

(Erase heading not required)

The Perth Regiment, C. A. O.

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
MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	1/2/45		<p>Brigade were laying on a competition within the Brigade Group which dealt with small arms training, gas training, anti tank gun drill and mortar drill. The Companies were busy preparing for the battalion competition to choose a team to represent the Unit. Headquarters Company qualified four men on the Rifle Team.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold. Strength: 38 Officers, 764 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>MA</i>
MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	2/2/45		<p>The Companies continued to prepare for the competitions and T's O E T were carried out. Gas Training competitions were carried out within the Unit lines. More personnel proceeded on 7 day and 48 hour Leaves to Urbino. The Officers held a Dance in their Mess, which the local girls, well escorted, attended.</p> <p>Lieutenant Colonel B. Somerville, Commanding Officer of the Cape Breton Highlanders, and Acting Brigade Commander in the absence of Brigadier I. S. Johnston, held an "O" Group at Brigade Headquarters at 2130 hours. The plan was for 11 Brigade to relieve the 3rd Brigade in a holding role. The Perth Regiment were to relieve the West Nova Scotia Regiment.</p> <p>Weather: cloudy and cold. Strength: 38 Officers, 764 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>MA</i>
MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	3/2/45		<p>Lieutenant Colonel M. W. Andrew and the Company Commanders and the Intelligence Officer left to recce the forward area. When the party arrived at the West Nova Scotia Headquarters they found that The Royal Canadian Regiment were relieving the West Nova Scotias. Captain W. C. Hider, A Company, and Captain R. Chamberlain, B Company, had an accident while driving up but fortunately no one in the jeep was injured. Leave personnel returned from Rome leave. Major C. B. Arrell inspected the Companies in the morning. Lieutenants G. S. Davis and G. F. Levi left the Battalion for a change of employment.</p>	

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MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	4/2/45		cont'd..... Weather: unsettled. Strength: 36 Officers, 771 Other Ranks. Voluntary Church Service was held. The Coys began preliminary preparations for a move. Major R. Cole (D S O), left the Bn to return to Canada for a leave and tour of duty. Weather: unsettled. Strength: 37 Officers, 779 Other Ranks.	
MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	5/2/45		Companies carried on with training while the Unit Rifle Team practised firing. Rumours again persisted regarding a move South for training. H/Captain D. C. Smith (M C), and Lieutenant D. L. Thompson, the Intelligence Officer, visited Gradara Castle. The Castle had an interesting background and the Padre arranged for educational tours for the Companies. Captain P. F. Fisher was promoted to the Rank of Acting/Major, commanding D Company. Captain J. D. Cowie was taken on strength and went to B Company as Second in Command. Lieutenant A. Coyston, a former reinforcement Officer of the Battalion who had gone to The Special Service Force, was taken on strength and went to C Company. Weather: unsettled. Strength: 36 Officers, 736 Other Ranks.	 

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MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	6/2/45		<p>The Companies continued with their training, interrupted by a muster parade at 1530 hours. 8th Army Ordnance carried out a vehicle inspection on all the Unit vehicles today. There were no results of the inspection available.</p> <p>A Company visited Gradara Castle on an educational tour. Captain J. McKnight the Transport Officer, began drawing new vehicles. The Colonel held an "O" group at 1600 hours relating to a scheme involving a move South for special training. The plan was not convincing and there was still considerable speculation as to our ultimate fate.</p> <p>Weather: mild and clear. Strength: 38 Officers, 764 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>DN</i>
MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	7/2/45		<p>D Company made the trip to Gradara Castle while the other Companies carried on limited training. Captain Perraro, an Italian Liason Officer at Brigade, organized a typical Italian dinner for the Officer's Mess.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cool. Strength: 38 Officers, 768 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>DN</i>
MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	8/2/45		<p>The normal training was carried on by the Battalion with the exception of C Company, who took the tour to Gradara Castle.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer was a guest of the 8th Army Commander, with other Commanding Officers of the Division at a luncheon at Rimini.</p> <p>Lieutenant R. M. Storey was taken on strength and went to B Company.</p> <p>Weather: fair. Strength: 38 Officers, 775 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>DN</i>

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MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	9/2/45		Captain P. J. F. Baker left with an advance recce party, supposedly for the new area. D Company made the trip to Gradara Castle. Personnel returned from 7 day leaves to Urbino. Weather: fair and mild. Strength: 38 Officers, 771 Other Ranks.	<i>SH</i>
MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	10/2/45		Training was almost at a standstill as Companies continued to prepare for a move. The Colonel inspected the Companies with satisfactory results. Lieutenant R. M. Storey was transferred to Training Increment from our strength. Weather: rain, cloudy. Strength: 37 Officers, 779 Other Ranks.	<i>SH</i>
MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	11/2/45		Another recce party left for an unknown destination, under Major P. F. Fisher. Protestant and R. C. Church Parades were held. All personnel carrying Thompson Sub Machine Guns turned in their weapons. Weather: unsettled. Strength: 37 Officers, 779 Other Ranks.	<i>SH</i>
MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	12/2/45		Training had ceased to be carried on, as final preparations for a move were completed. Weather: fair. Strength: 37 Officers, 781 Other Ranks.	<i>SH</i>

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MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	13/2/45		<p>The weather was more like Summer than Winter and a Softball Team from A Company beat a team from the Irish Regiment of Canada, down on the Beach.</p> <p>Preparations for the move had been completed but the time of the move had been postponed.</p> <p>Weather: fair.</p> <p>Strength: 37 Officers, 781 Other Ranks.</p>	
MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	14/2/45		<p>An Officer from the 11th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, gave a lecture to C Company personnel. Kit inspections were carried out. At 0700 hours Support Company Carriers left for Riccione, where they were loaded on trains for the trip. Major C. B. Arrell, Captain D. C. Smith (M C) and Captain J. Cowie visited San Marino.</p> <p>Weather: fair.</p> <p>Strength: 37 Officers, 785 Other Ranks.</p>	
MR 986872 Cattolica Sheet 109 Pesaro 1/100,000	15/2/45		<p>The move was scheduled for the 16th of February, 1945. Companies completed their preparations for the move and 2 Despatch Riders were sent forward to reconce the route to the first Staging Area. Captain J. McKnight tied in the Order of March with the Commanding Officer and Major Arrell was to lead the Convoy, which was to consist of our Battalion leading, followed by the 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade Company, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, and Brigade Headquarters.</p> <p>Weather: fair.</p> <p>Strength: 35 Officers, 785 Other Ranks.</p>	

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Sheets 12, 16 Italy Road Map. 1/200,000	16/2/45		<p>Reveille was at 0500 hours with Breakfast at 0530 hours. The leading vehicle crossed the Start Point in Cattolica at 0730 hours. Travelling South on Route 16, then by Highway 76, MR S4951, to Highway 3, MR R9814, to Foligno, MR W5998, which was our first Staging Area. The Battalion covered 122 miles.</p> <p>Weather: fair. Strength: 35 Officers, 773 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>SH</i>
Foligno Sheet 16 Italy Rd Map 1/200,000	17/2/45		<p>Reveille was at 0500 hours and after breakfast the convoy moved off at 0700 hours. Travelling via Highway 75 to Highway 71 at MR W3805, to Highway 69 at MR R2833, Arrezzo, then to Pontassieve, MR Q9369, where the Battalion spent the night in a camp set up in the grounds of an old factory.</p> <p>Weather: fair and warm. Strength: 35 Officers, 773 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>SH</i>
Pontassieve Sheet 13 Italy Rd Map 1/200,000	18/2/45		<p>Reveille was at 0400 hours and the column moved off at 0600 hours along Highway 67 to Florence, MR Q8070, then to MR Q0653, finally arriving at the concentration area at MR Q0561. There was some delay in getting the Battalion under canvas, as the camp was crowded. Orders were given for the removal of all distinguishing patches and flashes. Drivers spent the day cleaning and oiling their vehicles.</p> <p>Weather: unsettled in the morning but clearing towards evening. Strength: 35 Officers, 773 Other Ranks.</p>	<i>SH</i>

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MR Q0561 Sheet 13 Italy Rd Map 1/200,000	19/2/45		<p>Through the high standard of security that had been maintained throughout the entire move, our destination was still unknown to the majority of the men. The accomadations were increased and the Battalion concentrated in one area of the Camp. The dress for the next move was stressed and the Quartermaster Stores were almost cleaned out. There was an outdoor show every night for entertainment.</p> <p>Weather: fair. Strength: 37 Officers, 773 Other Ranks.</p>	27
MR Q0561 Sheet 13 Italy Rd Map 1/200,000	20/2/45		<p>Camp routine consisted of; reveille at 0700 hours, breakfast at 0800 hours, then a Company Parade followed by reshuffling of accomadations. The Colonel gave a short lecture to all troops, informing them that we were on our way to join the 2nd Canadian Corps in the 1st Canadian Army. He stressed the need for discipline and security.</p> <p>Weather: fair and warm. Strength: 37 Officers, 773 Other Ranks.</p>	27
MR Q0561 Sheet 13 Italy Rd Map 1/200,000	21/2/45		<p>Company Parades and the daily reshuffling of canvas accomadations continued. At 1330 hours another large party representing every company embarked at Leghorn on board L. C. T's.</p> <p>Weather: fair and warm. Strength: 37 Officers, 773 Other Ranks.</p>	27

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MR Q0561 Italy Rd Map Sheet 13 1/200,000	22/2/45		<p>Tac Headquarters and the remainder of the Companies prepared for their move during the morning and moved off at 1230 hours. Travelling by T. C. V.s they embarked at Leghorn on a L. C. T. Accomadations on board ship were far better than expected. The Officers shared the ship's Officer's Quarters and the rations were excellent.</p> <p>Weather: fair and warm. Strength: 37 Officers, 773 Other Ranks.</p>	
Aboard Ship	23/2/45		<p>At 0630 hours, the Convoy, consisting of 6 L. C. T.s, left Leghorn and proceeded towards Marseilles. The first day of the trip was completed without incident.</p> <p>Weather: fair and warm. Strength: 37 Officers, 773 Other Ranks.</p>	
MR T4233 Europe Rd Map Marseilles Menton Sheet 84 1/200,000	24/2/45		<p>Convoy arrived at Marseilles at 1100 hours, and after a short wait while the vehicles were unloaded, the troops disembarked. After embussing in T. C. V.s they travelled to a huge camp 18 miles North of Marseilles at MR T4233, where they joined that part of the Battalion which had preceeded them on the trip. Italian currency was exchanged for French notes. There were several open air movies every night.</p> <p>Weather: fair and cold. Strength: 37 Officers, 773 Other Ranks.</p>	

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MR 4233 Europe Rd Map Marseille- Menton Sheet 84 1/200,000	25/2/45		<p>The Medical Officer, Captain Page Stanton, held a medical inspection of the Unit at 0900 hours. There were Voluntary Church Parades at 1000 hours. Sports equipment was drawn from the Auxillary Services and the troops enjoyed themselves while we awaited the remainder of the Unit.</p> <p>Weather: fair and warm. Strength: 37 Officers, 773 Other Ranks.</p>	FM
MR T4233 Europe Rd Map Marseille- Menton Sheet 84 1/200,000	26/2/45		<p>The organization of the Unit was by the parties they had travelled in, not by Companies. Weapon inspections were carried out by the different parties, followed by organized sports for the rest of the day.</p> <p>Weather: fair and warm. Strength: 37 Officers, 773 Other Ranks.</p>	SH
MR T4233 Europe Rd Map Marseille- Menton Sheet 84 1/200,000	27/2/45		<p>The remainder of the Unit arrived today, plus all our vehicles. The troops played volley-ball and baseball. Late in the afternoon the Battalion was put on notice to move the next morning.</p> <p>Weather: fair in the morning but cloudy in the late afternoon. Strength: 37 Officers, 773 Other Ranks.</p>	SH
MR T4233 Europe Rd Map Marseille- Menton Sheet 84 1/200,000	28/2/45		<p>Reveille was at 0400 hours and after a light breakfast at 0430 Hours a roll call was held at 0515 hours. The Battalion formed up in Companies and moved off at 0615 hours. At 1700 hours the convoy, under Major C. B. Arrell, reached MR H9732, Sheet 77, Valence-Grenoble, where we concentrated for the first night after travelling 168 miles.</p> <p>Weather: fair. Strength: 37 Officers, 770 Other Ranks.</p>	SH
<p style="text-align: right;">Lieutenant Colonel M. W. Andrew. Commanding Officer.</p>				