Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY

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

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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			The Perth Regiment C A	Remarks, references
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	to Appendices and initials
Area 181478 Sheet ALTANUR 189.III	1/12/ A	43	WEDNESDAY TRAINING A Coy carried out field firing at Map Ref 230421. B Coy had an 18 mile route march. C Coy carried out T E W Ts for Pl and Sec Commanders while remainder of coy route marched from 203335 to 258905. D Coy had weapon training in the morning and a trip to Bari in the afternoon. Each coy was to have the opportunit of visiting Bari according to the schedule laid down in Bn Orders. Sp Coy carrier pl fired 2" Mortar and zeroed rifles. A/Tk and Mortar Pl carried out respective drills. HQ Coy worked at Maintenance of vehicles and wireless equipment. Lt Col Rutherford left for 1 Cdn Div where he was goint to stay for four days. <u>SCOUT PLATOO</u> The Scout Platoon was formed. This platoon consisted of 25 men drawn from the coys and were to be composed of 8 groups which would be used as recce patrols and be highly trained in this type of work. <u>COL RALSTONS VISIT</u> The Bn was formed up at 1000 hrs in anticipation of the visit of Col Ralston, Cdn Minister of National Defenc However due to some unknown reason he failed to arrive and Bde advised us at 1015 hrs to cancel the parade. <u>WEATHER</u> Fair during day. Cold at night. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 859 <u>STRENGTH</u> 36 offrs 794 other ranks.	N •
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMUR 189.III	2/12/ A	43	THURSDAY TRAINING A Coy carried out field firing the entire day in area 230421. B coy had field firing in the morning, in the afternoon exercise "The Fire Pl in Coy Attack" in sq 1058. The remainder of coys worked on the previous day syllabus since it had not been possible because of the expected visit of Col Ralston to complete the full days training. WEATHER Fair during day. Cold at night. STRENGTH DECREASE 3 other ranks were struck off strength to 24 Fd Amb. FEEDING STRENGTH 856 Strength 36 offrs 891 other ranks.	RS.
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMUR 189.III	3/12/ A	43	FRIDAY TRAINING A Coy had a mountain climb in the morning in area 072547 Sheet 189. IV. In the afternoon a recreational trip to Bari. B Coy had a bath parade in the morning and Ts O E T on TMC and 2" Mortar in the afternoon. C Coy fired the PTAT grenades and explosives in the morning, in the afternoon they had organized sports. D Coy had field firing by sections and platoons in areas 215425 and 265395. HQ Coy zeroed and fired rifles & TMC in the morning while signalers received inst in the op- eration of "21 set". Sp Coy had night patrols out in sq 2142, a143, 2242, 2243. WEATHER Fair & cool. STRENGTH INCREASE One offr and 2 other ranks were taken on strength. Lieut Menard from 54 Gen Hosp and 2 other ranks from 24 Fd Anb. FEEDING STRENGTH 859 Strength 37 offrs 791 other ranks.	p.S.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	4/12/	43 of	SATURDAY TRAINING A Coy carried out part of the morning trg in coy lines, for the remorning did field firing in area 230431. In the afternoon organized sports and interior economy. B Coy carried out house clearing in Sq 1058 which was photographed by the Div P R O Lieut R O Campbell. In the afternoon they took a trip to TARANTO. C Coy carried out interior economy and A B C A lectures in the morning, in the afternoon they had Mountain climbing in area 072547 Sheet 189.IV. D Coy had a route march in the morning along with platoon tactics. Interior economy in the afternoon. Sp Coy had a route march while HQ Coy fired the ramainder of their coy which had not fired the previous day. WEATHER Cloudy & cool. FEEDING STRENGTH 859 STRENGTH 37 offrs 791 other ranks.	
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	5/12/		SUNDAY CHURCH PARADE 60 personnel of the unit attended Protestant Church Parade at the Baptist Church in ALTAMURA. The church parade was conducted H/Capt D C Smith. R C Personnel paraded at 1000 hrs to the Cathedral in ALTAMURA. Parade was in charge of Sgt W V Furzer. The balance of the day was spent in the men washing clothing and writing letters. WEATHER Fair and warm. FEEDING STRENGTH 863 STRENGTH 37 offrs 791 other ranks.	RB.
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	6/12/	43	MONDAY TRAINING The training for all coys consisted of P T first period and a route march for the remainder of the day. The reason for this was that most of the officers and NCOs attended a demonstration of the Coy in the Attack from 1000 hrs to 1400 hrs. The demonstration was conducted by Bde NCOs school. It was quite good and Brigadier Kitching made a running explanation throughout the proceedings. Lt Col Rutherford returned from 1st Division which he had been visiting. WEATHER Cloudy and cool. FEEDING STRENGTH 859 STRENGTH 37 offrs 791 other ranks.	
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	7/12/	43	TUESDAY TRAINING A Coy had a field firing exercise all day in area 230431 sheet 189.III. B Coy fired the PIAT in the morning and did Mountain climbing in the afternoon Sq 0555 Sheet 189.IV. C Coy fired small arms all day in area 204494. D Coy practiced "The Platoon in the Attack", in areas 215425 and 265395. Sp Coy took the mountain climb in the morning and individual pls carried on training in the afternoon. HQ Coy worked on Maintenance. WEATHER Cloudy FEEDING STRENGTH 861 STRENGTH 37 offrs 791 other ranks.	FR.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARX

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
rea 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 89.III	8/12,	43	WEDNESDAY TRAINING A Cov carried out individual training on a Pl basis. B Coy had Pl trg in the morning and a compass march in the afternoon. C Coy had a "Set piece attack" from 0300 hrs until 0930 hrs and sports in the afternoon. D Coy had an all day route march. Sp Coy had a route march and fired on the ranges also individual pl training. WEATHER Fair STRENGTH INCREASE One other rank was taken on strength from 13 Fd Dressing Station. STRENGTH DECREASE 5 other ranks were struck off strength to 24 Fd Amb. FEEDING STRENGTH 860 STRENGTH 37 offrs 808 other ranks (revised).	RS.
area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	9/12,		THURSDAY TRAINING A Coy had a bath parade in the morning and field firing in the afternoon in area 230421. B Coy carried out Training under Pl arrangements. C Coy had a field firing exercise in the morning in area 209490. In the afternoon the troops were taken into ALTANURA for a bath and a visit to the YMCA Canteen. D Coy carried out Pl training in the morning and organized sports in the afternoon. Sp Coy carried out individual pl training. HQ Coy had a bath parade in the morning and for the ramainder of the day the troops were taken on a recreational trip to TARANTO. WEATHER Fair and Wamm. FEEDING STRENGTH 864 STRENGTH 37 offrs 808 other ranks.	RS.
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	10/1:	2/43	FRIDAY TRAINING A Coy carried out field firing all day in area 230421. B Coy had an all day route march from CASSANO Sq 3357 back to camp. C Coy in the morning carried out an exercise "The Coy in the Attack" in Sq 2149. In the afternoon they had a period each on Map Reading, ABCA and enemy weapons. D Coy carried out exercise "The Coy in the Attack" all day. Sp Coy went to Taranto for the day. The Scout Pl and "I" Sec arried out an exercise on patroling which started at 0730 hrs 10 Dec 43 and finished at 0800 hrs 11 Dec 43. WEATHER Rain FREDING STRENGTH 859 STRENGTH 37 offrs 808 other ranks.	RS.
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMUR 189.III	11/12 A	2/43	SATURDAY G.O.CS MEETING At 0930 hrs all available offrs and NCOs attended a meeting at the theatre in ALTAMURA. Maj Gen Simonds spoke, advising, exactly what standards he demanded of all leaders. While the offrs and NCOs were at the meeting the remain er of all coys carried out organized sports. WEATHER Cloudy & cool FEEDING STRENG 859 STRENGTH 37 offrs 808 other ranks.	- RS.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	12/12	/43	SUNDAY CHURCH PARADE A voluntary Protestant Church Parade was held at 0915 hrs between C & D Coy lines. Capt D C Snith officiated. R C Personnel attended a service at 1000 hrs in the Altamura Cathedral. Lieut D B A Menard was in charge. EXERCISE SCOUT PLATOON The Scout Pl and "I" Sec left at 0800 hrs on a scheme which had been laid on by Ede. They would be away for 3 days and the object of the scheme was to practice recce patrols. WEATHER Fair & cool STRENGTH DECREASE 2 other rank were struck off strength to Detention. FEEDING STRENGTH 860 STRENGTH 37 offrs 806 other ranks.	KS.
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	13/12	/43	MONDAY BN EXERCISE The Bn spent the entire day on an exercise. The Bn moved off from Bivouack Area at 0700 hrs and coossed the S P at GRAVINA at 0800 hrs. Moving on from GRAVINA pockets of resistance were met and quick deployment of one or more Coys practiced. A defensive position was occupied and a talk was given to Coy Comds by Brig G Kitching. The Bn then returned to area arriving at 1630 hrs. WEATHER Fine and cold. FEEDING STRENGTH 859 STRENGTH 37 offrs 806 other ranks.	AS.
Area 181478 Sheet AITANRA 189.III	14/12	/43	TUESDAY TRAINING A Coy had a field firing exercise in area 230421. B Coy carried out flanking attack in the morning, in the afternoon, Padres' hour, Pl Comds discuss- ion on previous days exercise and hygiene in the field. C Coy had lectures on mine detectors and reports and messages in the morning, the afternoon was taken up with "Section in the Attack. D Coy fired the PIAT in the morning and carried out Pl flanking attacks in the afternoon. Sp Coy carried out maintenance on Guns and Vehs. WEATHER Cloudy FEEDING SCRENGTH 864 STRENGTH 37 offrs 806 Other ranks.	RS.
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAGURA 189.III	15/12	43	WEDNESDAY TRAINING A Coy had a pay parade in the morning and left for Taranto afterwards. B Coy carried out sec trg in the morning and sports in the afternoon. C Coy practiced coy in the attack in the morning. Pay parade and Pl Comd period's were held in the afternoon. D Coy carried out coy in the attack from 0700 hrs to 1400 hrs. This was followed by weapon inspection. Sp Coy had a route march while Signal at carried ut R/T exercise at which all 0 C and 2 i/c of coys participated. The scout pl returned from the Bde exercise. WEATHER Fair STRENGTH DECREASE One other rank was struck off strength to 11 Cdn Inf Bde. FREDING STRENGTH 854 STRENGTH 37 offrs 805 other ranks.	As.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Area 131473 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	16/12	2/43	THURSDAY TRAINING All Offrs attended a Bde T EW T which was held in the area that the Bde scheme was going to take place. Brigadier Kitching D S O took the offrs to numerous vantage spots, pointed out the positions we would be attacking and advised how each phase would be carried out. All the coys went on a route march while the offrs were away. WEATHER Cool FEEDING STRENGTH 853 STRENGTH 37 offrs 805 other ranks.	Ra.
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAIURA 189.III	17/12	2/43	FRIDAY TRAINING Normal training was carried out by all coys in the morning while in the afternoon they prepared for Bde scheme which was too take place from 18/12/43 to 23/12/43. The scheme was to be carried out in the area from IRSINA to TOLVE sheet 188. (RAVINA and would be similar to the actual operation which was carried out by 1 Cdn Div. MEATHER Cloudy FIEDING STRENGTH 854 STRENGTH 37 offrs 805 other ranks.	R.
Area 181478 Sheet ALTALURA 189.III	18/12	2/43	SATURDAY EXERCISE Lt Col Rutherford and Lieut McKnight left at 0645 hrs with a section of carriers and the Scout Pl to act as protection in the concentration area before the remainder of the Bn arrived. The Main body crossed the Altamura start line at 0930 hrs. Order of March was Sp, A, B, C, D Coys. They travelled to 911408 sheet 18° Gravina. From this point & Echelon vehicles passed on. All the troops in TOVs were debussed. They marched cross country to Sq 8439 which was Perth concentration area. At 2000 hrs a fighting petrol was sent out under command of Capt Binningto They patrolled to 800356 which was our first objective. 3 recce groups were despatch at 2359 hrs to the same area. Two to report back at 0600 hrs the other at 1900 hrs the following night. MEATHER Cloudy with slight rain. FEEDING STRENGTH 854 STRENGTH 37 offrs 805 other ranks.	n.
Area Sg 8439 Sheet GRAVINA 188	19/1:	2/43	SUNDAY EXERCISE The fighting patrol returned at Q130 hrs bringing 2 deserters back. One recce patrol returned at 0530 hrs and reported they had not seen any enemy. However the next recce patrol which returned at 0830 hrs confirmed that the enemy wer in area 800356 also brought back two weapons. At 0930 hrs Lt Col Rutherford called the Bn together and explained how the exercise was going to be carried out. Lt Col Rutherford held his "0" Gp at 1500 hrs. For the operation A Coy would establish a firm base in area 803363 while B & C Coys took up their positions on either flank of hill 363, Map Ref 800358 in preparation for the assault. D Coy was to take up	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
rea Sq 0439 hoet GRAVINA 88	19/12	/43	SUNDAY EXERCISE (cont'd) a position in area 800351 and give covering fire for the two assaulting coys. Three recce patrols were sent out at 1800 hrs, one in area 817367 and two to the bridge at 814375. The patrol which was sent to area 817367 re at 2300 hrs and confirmed that there were enemy on hill 363. One of the patrols which was sent to the bridge returned at 2315 hrs and advised that the bridge was not demolished and there was no enemy in the vicinity. At 2330 hrs fighting recce was sent out to confirm infm received from previous patrol and obtain additional infm regarding what was in front of our objective. WEATHIR Fair and warm during day. Cold at night. FEEDING STRENGTH 854 STRENGTH 37 offrs 305 other ranks.	
rea 800358 Sheet 188 RAVINA	20/12	/43	MONDAY EXERCISE All fighting coys started their approach march at 2315 hrs. Route was along the Bradano & Tolve rivers bed as far as bridge 814375 and then to their respective areas as laid down at the "O" Gp. All coys were in position in preparati for the attack by 0600 hrs. A Coy established a firm base and B & D Coys carried out the operation according to plan with the support of D Coy. All positions were consolidated at 0830 hrs. 62 prisoners with their equipment plus 5 vehicles were captured. After consolidation was effected the arty put on the shoot that would have taken place if it were actual operations. This was laid down a sufficient distance from the troops in order to have a good view and avoid casualties. Immediately after the shoot D Coy destatched a patrol as far as CHIRICO Sq 7632 to find out if there were enemy in the vicinity. They returned at 1600 hrs with information that the enemy had evacuated. No patrols were sent out that night. WEATHER Cool STRENGTH DECREASE 28 other ranks were struck off strength an admittence to hospital. FRENGTH 854 STRENGTH 37 offrs 777 other ranks	on
rea 800358 heet GRAVINA 88	21/12	/43	TUESDAY EXERCISE During the night the Cape Breton Highlanders put in a successful attack and captured ridge in front of our position. At 1100 hrs the C O accompanied by the Coy Commanders receed Sq 7940 and chose a concentration area from where the unit would move to capture "Mount Horror" sq 7236. Unit moved from area 800358 at 1600 hrs and all coys were settled in new areas by 1920 hrs. Maj C B Arrell Sp Coy Comd and his driver had a slight mishap when his jeep ran into a culvert, no one was hurt. Our baker was now 799401. EATHER Fair & warm. FEEDING STRENGTH 856 STRENGTH 37 offrs 777 other ranks.	

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Place Area 799401	Date 22/12,	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 188 GRAVINA		+2	WEDNESDAY EXERCISE No patrols were sent out at night because we were in a reserve position and the Irish Regt were ahead of us. Lt Col Rutherford recce'd the route from our present position to area Sq 7236 "Mount Horror" which was our next objective In the afternoon he took the Coy Commanders over the same route and issued his operation order for taking "Mount Horror". Supper was served at 1600 hrs then all troops went to bed. Breakfast was served at 2330 hrs. WEATHER Fair FEEDING STRENGTH 856 STRENGTH 37 offrs 777 other ranks.	Appx 4 B.
Area 799401 Sheet 188 GRAVIMA	23/12		THURSDAY EXERCISE The approach march was started by the fighting coys at 0100 hrs. B & C arrived at the F U P 733385 at 0300 hrs. A & D Coys arrived at 0400 hrs. All ranks at F U P received a cup of tea and a shot of run. The coys moved off to the start line, river bed Sqs 7237, 7337 at 0515. Zero hour was 0530 hrs. A & B coy attacked up the mountain, C Coy took up their position in area 720373 and gave covering fire to the two forward coys while D Coy took up their position in area 723373 in order to act as a cut off company. A & B reached their objective at 0620 hrs and their positions were consolidated by 0645 hrs. After the attack the coys can down to cross roads 743371 and waited for TOVs to take them back to camp. The unit arrived back in area 181478 sheet ALTANURA at 1400 hrs. For the remainder of the day the men were allowed to clean up. WEATHER Cloudy, slight rain. FEEDING STRENGTH 854 STRENGTH 37 offrs 777 other ranks.	
Area 181478 Sheet AUTAMURA 189.III	24/12	2/43	FRIDAY CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS All members of the unit were busily preparing for the dinner and festivities on Christmas Day. Three Marquees, tables, forms and dishes were secured from the British for the occassion. MAINTEMANCE Maintenance of vehicles and equipment was carried out by all coys. PAY PARADE Each man received an advance of £1. CHURCH PARADE R C Personnel under Lieut Menard attended Midnight Mass at the Cathedral in ALTAMURA. MEATHER Cloudy' STRENGTH INCREASE 5 other ranks were taken on strength on discharge from hospital. STRENGTH DECREASE 6 other ranks were struck off strength on admittance to hospital. FEEDING STRENGTH 856 STRENGTH 37 offrs 776 other ranks.	B.

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rea 181478 heet ALTUURA 39.III	25/12	/43	SATURDAY CHURCH PARADE Capt D C Smith conducted Christmas Service at 0945 hrs in area between C & D coy lines. CHRISTMAS DINNER Christmas dinner was served accord- ing to schedule laid down in Part I Orders. Concert party conducted by Lieut J Dent was held from 1530 - 1630 hrs. The dinner and concert were both very successful and an enjoyable time was had by all member of the unit. Maj Gen Simonds and Brig Nitching spoke a few words to all ranks. A movie for the benefit of Perth Regt was shown at 2000 hrs in the Theatre in Altanura. WEATHER Fair FEEDING STRENGTH 856 STRENGTH 37 offrs 776 other ranks.	Appz 1
cea 181478 Neet ALTA URA 89.III	26/12	/43	SUNDAY There was no church parade and all ranks had a free day after the activities of Christmas Day. WEATHER Rain FEEDING STRENGTH 856 STRENGTH 37 offrs 776 other ranks.	RS.
cea 181478 Neet ALTAIURA 9.III	27/12	/43	MONDAY TRAINING It was very hard to carry out training according to syllabus becaus of the incessant rain and high wind. A lot of pup tents blew down during the day because of the heavy wind. However a certain amount of training such as Map Reading, A B C A, and kit inspections was carried out. <u>WEATHER</u> Cold with heavy rain. FEEDING STRENGTH 856 STRENGTH 37 offrs 776 other ranks.	20
rea 181478 Neet ALTANORA 89.III	28/12	/43	TUESDAY TRAINING A Coy carried out training on a Pl basis. This consisted of Sec leading, fire orders, P T and section as a patrol. B Coy had a route march in the morning with sports in the afternoon. C Coy had lectures and demonstrations of the A/Tk-gun and 3" Mortar. The former in the morning the latter in the afternoon. D Co carried out "The Coy in the Attack" all day in area 098622; Sp Coy had a route march in the afternoon, individual training being carried out by respective pls in the morning. WEATHER Very cold with rain. FEEDING STRENGTH 854 STRENGTH 37 offrs 776 other ranks.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
trea 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	29/12	/ 43	WEDNESDAY TRAINING A Coy carried out training under Pl arrangements in the morning with a coy route march in the afternoon. B Coy exercised in field firing in sq 2342. C Coy had field firing in the morning and a hill clinbing competition in the after- noon in sq 0555 Sheet 189.IV. D Coy carried out Pl training in the morning and sports in the afternoon. Sp Coy had pl training in the morning and sports in the afternoon. It Col Rutherford and all Coy Commanders spent most of the day practicin for the T E W T which they would have to put on for all officers of the Bde the following week. WEATHER Cold with rain. STREMETH INCREASE One officer Cart P	
			following week. <u>MEATHER</u> Cold with rain. <u>STRENGT4 INCREASE</u> One Officer, Capt P Statten was taken on strength from 7 Lt Fd Amb. 2 other ranks were taken on strength from Hospital. <u>STRENGTH DECREASE</u> One officer, Capt T W L Broodfoot was struck off strength to 7 Lt Fd Amb. 11 other ranks were struck off strength to hospital. <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 856 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 767 other ranks.	RQ.
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	30/12	/43 .	THURSDAY TRAINING A Coy carried out routine training under Pl arrangements. B Coy had weapon training in the morning and sports in the afternoon. C Coy carried out Pl training in the morning and a mountain climb in the afternoon in sq 0555. D Coy had pl and section attacks all day in areas 263394, 224438, 282463. HQ Coy fired at the ranges in the morning and carried out maintenance in the afternoon. WEATHER Cold with rain. FEEDING STRENGTH 854 STRENGTH 37 offrs 767 other ranks.	Ra.
Area 181478 Sheet ALTAMURA 189.III	31/12	/43	FRIDAY TRAINING A Coy carried out routine training on a pl basis. B Coy practiced house clearing in the morning in sq 2347, had bath and pay parade in the afternoon. C Coy had bath and pay parades in the morning and a trip to Bari in the afternoon. D Coy had infividual pl training. <u>MEATHER</u> Clear & cool <u>FEEDING STRENGTH</u> 856 <u>STRENGTH</u> 37 offrs 767 other ranks.	RB
			Miller ford LT. COLONIL COMD. PENTH A.	