

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries (which will be kept from first date of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in F.S. Regs. Vol. 1.

WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (D/42)

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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

Title pages will be prepared. WEST N S R

(Erase heading not required)

MAY 1944

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks, references to Appendices and initials |
|--------------------|------|------|--|--|
| CAMPOBASSO AREA | 1 | | <p>Weather fine. The Coy flags are here and are flying proudly over each area. Unfortunately owing to a bit of free thinking by Miss Smith of Hobsons, the Coy letters are not on them. However this will be rectified shortly.</p> <p>Capt Bill Thexton while on leave ran into his brother, a nautical gentleman, whom he had not seen for over five years. Rumour has it that when "Cyclone" Taylor and Bill left the boat that Bills' brother was in irons. "Cyclone" is to be known in future as "Shag".</p> <p>Trg as per syllabus.</p> | <p>App 3</p> |
| | 2 | | <p>Weather fine. Trg as per syllabus.</p> <p>Bn O Gps at 0830 and 1400 hrs. Lt-Col R S E Waterman issued orders for the move to a concentration area near Lucera. He outlined the exercises to be held in that area, and, during the day, addressed each Coy in turn in their Coy area.</p> <p>A mess dinner under the able direction of Maj F E Hiltz was held tonight at the Bank of Naples, Campobasso. Lt-Col M P Bogert, D S O, being the guest of honour. The C O presided in his usual suave manner and music was provided by an Italian orchestra. An extremely greasy individual made loud noises and gesticulated freely as he repeated Lilli Marlene over and over again. Wine and punch flowed freely, too freely in some cases. A recce party under the guidance of Wally Raeburn of the Montreal Standard set out in search of 15 Cdn Nursing Sisters who were supposed to be in town on leave, but met with no success. Towards the end of the evening certain officers seemed to find it rather difficult to distinguish between the Bank of Naples and the Royal York. A very successful evening ended up with a sing-song and certain diehards had the town-major cooking steaks for them in the early hours of the morning.</p> | <p>App 3</p> |
| | 3 | | <p>Weather fine. Trg as per syllabus.</p> <p>Five officers of the unit accepted an invitation to attend a Polish festival in Campobasso.</p> <p>Lt-Col R S E Waterman left for the Lucera area to observe 1 Cdn Inf Bde carry out exercises in that area.</p> <p>Today the Bn appeared for the first time in all the horror of denim uniforms looking like a cross between the free Transylvanian army and the Yorkshire Yokelry. In the true tradition of the Cdn army all normal sizes were noticeable by their absence and poor</p> | <p>App 3</p> |

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| CAMPOBASSO AREA | 3 | | unfortunates of 130 lbs were swathed in ill-fitting sacklike monstrosities which would have looked baggy on Man Mountain Dean. Unhappy is the life of the man who has to walk out in this ghastly travesty of a uniform. | <i>AS</i> |
| | 4 | 1600 1830 | <p>Weather fine. Bn cross S L at 0925 hrs on the move to Lucera. Gambatesa was passed through en route and to many of the Bn this recalled memories of the day in Oct 43 when the unit struggled up the very muddy slope and pushed the Boche out of this formidable strong point. Arrive at concentration area 1400 hrs.</p> <p>Lt-Col R S E Waterman and Capt D I Rice attend Bde O Gp.</p> <p>Bn trg conference.</p> <p>Back in Lucera the old familiar stamping ground of the L O B s in the advance. Famous as the place where the C O demolished a hardware store in his search for a kerosene lamp and got 140 dozen eggs for 2000 L.</p> <p>Trg continues with fairly long marches to approximate points and places in the vicinity of-----. Maj Allan has been heard muttering dire threats of what he will do if he gets any more directions in this way.</p> | App 3 <i>AS</i> |
| LUCERA | 5 | | <p>Weather fine. All Coys to the trg area to carry out Inf cum Tk exercises.</p> <p>Today the Q M distinguished himself with another magnificent directive on how and when to get flashes and patches for the men. On returning to camp after dark Capt J K Rhodes put in a request for an immediate interview with the Div Psychiatrist. Eighteen large closely typed sheets of bump meeting him with orders for everything from washing his mens' feet with soap and hot water to requests for nominal rolls of men wishing to change their false teeth. A directive to pack up and leave for Inf cum tk trg at 0530 hrs the next morning and the very famous one from the Q M for a list of shortages and of flashes and patches to be in to him by 0800 hrs and sewn on by 1200 hrs. Some people still wonder why Coy comdrs wear a continually harrassed look and why grey hairs sprout over night.</p> | App 3 <i>AS</i> |
| | 6 | | <p>Weather fine. Coys carry out exercises as per directive.</p> <p>Recce party under Maj F E Hiltz left for the Montesarchio area.</p> <p>The Adjt having been almost continually insulted for being away from the B O O every time there is a show was observed this evening reclining in an arm chair placidly</p> | App 3 <i>J.H.</i> |

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| LUCERA | 6 | | smokeing his pipe while Betty Grable tied herself into knots on the screen for his amusement. Beside him on a table rested the oderly room telephone, an extension having been provided by the SO. | <i>AS</i> |
| | 7 | | Weather fine. Tps carry out exercises as per directive. Inf cum tk scheme done by A and B Coys while C and D Coys observe. Wireless failed badly on first scheme done by A Coy but proved excellent on second done by B Coy. Lt-Col E L M Burns attended the second scheme which was carried through very creditably by the Coy. The whole Bn was wisked back to Lucera by M T much to the relief of everyones' feet for the next days move. | APP 3 <i>AS</i> |
| BUCCIANO | 8 | | Weather fine. Reveille 0430 hrs, breakfast 0500 hrs. Bn cross S L as per movement order. Arrived in new area and not a bad place. Bn. have seized the best house in the vicinity and the coarser element amongst the subalterns have been observed walking around licking their lips as rumours of a cocktail party float abroad. There is also a Baroness who goes with the house. | APP 3 <i>AS</i> |
| | 9 | | The weather is fine and warm and the two hours daily seista is really welcome. trg as per syllabi. In the evening a film was shown. | <i>AS</i> |
| | 10 | | trg as per syllabi. Weather fine as usual. | <i>AS</i> |
| | 10 | | trg as per sullabi. Lt Col R S E Waterman attended a lecture on Anti_malarial measures at Corps. H.Q. Weather fine and warm. In the afternoon a bath parade was arranged for C & D Coys. Officers of H Q & Bn visited Naples in the evening. The Carrier Platoon was attached to S L I for trg in M M G. | <i>AS</i> |
| | 11 | | Fine weather to-day. Trg as per syllabi. In the morning Lt Col R S E Waterman addressed each Coy in turn in which he outlined the general picture of the coming | <i>AS</i> |

JEA.

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| BUCCIANO | | 1100 1300 | <p>operation.</p> <p>Maj Gen C V Vokes D S O addressed the bn briefly.</p> <p>Lt Col R S E Waterman and Coy Comdrs attended a study gp at base hq. All other officers to a I E W I with Maj R E Hilltz.</p> <p>The C O's address was a real masterpiece and he held the men spellbound by his eloquence and looked very picturesque in his old rose trousers and Patricia cane.</p> <p>In the afternoon Lt Col R S E Waterman & Coy Comdrs attended a I E W I at base hq. A very brilliant appreciation of the situation for breaking through the Gustav Line on an Army level was given by the C O.</p> | |
| | 13 | | Fine weather. trg as per syllabi. | |
| | 14 | 0945 | <p>A C of E Church Parade was held under a hot summer sun. The lesson was read by the C O and everyone was interested to learn that Goliath was killed by a stone slung by David that struck into the giants head. This was considered a masterpiece.</p> <p>Coy Comdrs attended a I E W I that ended up in Benevento with a lunch at the Officers Club. Capt Don Rice contributed the noble sum of 70 Lire to the enormous bill of several hundred Lire.</p> | |
| PIGNATARO | 15 | 1000 | <p>Weather fine and warm. bn moved by transport to area PIGNATARO. All coys in posn by 2100 hrs.</p> <p>For Diary from 16 May to 26 May incl see APPENDIX 5.</p> | |
| PONTECORVO | 27 | | <p>bn resting and reorganizing. Picture shows arranged to be shown in bn hq area. Summer is fast approaching and the heat really distressing at times.</p> | |

FCH.

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| | 20 | 1000 | <p>ERTF Supplies, chiefly beer & chocolates was brought up and issued.</p> <p>INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY Church Parade was held in Coy area attended by brig bandmates 150 OpE. Sports trg commenced to-day under the direction of bn sports officer Capt G Taylor. 3 Officers & 91 O reinforcements arrived this evening and were duly allotted to Coys.</p> | <i>AK</i> |
| | 29 | 1400 | <p>Weather continues to be fine and warm. very dusty. these days spent in re-organizing and re-equipping in preparation for future operations. sports trg is being vigorously carried on.</p> <p>Lt Col AK S E Waterman attended a discussing gp at Bde Hq, accompanied by two Coy Comdrs, two subalterns & two senior NCOs. subject was a discussion on the different phases of the battle for the Hitler line.</p> | <i>AK</i> |
| | 30 | 1400 | <p>West N S N XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX soc. ball team got away to a good start by beating the n 22e n team with a score of 31 to 9.</p> | |
| | | 1430 | <p>A Stage Show consisting of 4 C W A C S and several men entertained a large number of men of this bde. It took place on the slope of a grassy hill and in spite of the hot sun the show was appreciated by all. the show was sponsored by the four Services.</p> | <i>AK</i> |
| | | 2000 | <p>bn O gp. In the evening a film "Lets Face It" was shown.</p> | |
| FOFI | 31 | 0645 1415 | <p>Warm and fine. Advance party left for new area into which we are soon to move. bn moved by transport to area 5227. bn hq established 523210. Coys in posn by 2000 hrs.</p> | <i>AK</i> |

AK ity 11/01