SECRET

WAR DIARY (Triplicate Copy)

THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT

Ser. No. 228

1939 - 1945

VOLUME TWO

ITALY

November 1943
to
February 1945

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WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR) & 72 L.A.D. Att.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
En route	14 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Cool, rain. Second train leaves Brighton 0155 hrs. and arrives Liverpool 1500 hours. We go aboard the R.M.S. Samaria. Everyone is in high spirits. 72 L.A.D. Moving with unit on "Samaria"	
At Sea	15 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Cold and windy We sail from Liverpool at 1205 hours. It is almost 2 years since we landed there from Canada. 72 L.A.D. - Moving with unit	
	16 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Wet, rough We joined our convoy overnight, had our last look at the British Isles this morning and headed out to sea. Quite a few are seasick. Taking of mepacrine commences. 72 L.A.D. - Moving with unit	
	17 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Fine, mild and calm We are doing some P.T., and having two lectures a day for the men, but there is no room for any further training. 72 L.A.D. - Moving with unit	
	18 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Warm, calm Seasickness is finished, we hope. A band concert, P.T., lecture and boat drill occupy the day. 72 L.A.D. – Nothing to report	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR) & 72 L.A.D. Att.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
AT SEA	19 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Warm, calm, clear. Nothing to report. We are all enjoying the trip. 72 L.A.D. - Nothing to report.	
	20 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Mild, fine. A boxing tournament and a band concert are held on deck. Otherwise an unadventful day. 72 L.A.D. - Nothing to report.	
	21 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Bright, mild. Church services are held in the morning. In the afternoon there is a wrestling match and band. 72 L.A.D. - Nothing to report.	
	22 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Bright, mild. Several Courts – Martial are held aboard ship, some of our officers participating. 72 L.A.D. - Nothing to report.	
	23 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Mild, calm. Nothing to report. 72 L.A.D. - Nothing to report.	
	24 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Mild, calm. Our first sight of land is Spain on the port bow and Africa starboard, in the afternoon. At 2100 hrs we pass Gibraltar, and the lights os Spain and Tangiers thrill us after two years of blackout. 72 L.A.D. - Nothing to report.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR) & 72 L.A.D. Att.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
AT SEA	25 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Mild, calm. We are in the Mediterranean on a clear warm day. 72 L.A.D. - Nothing to report.	
	26 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 815 - 36 att. Clear, warm. Arrive Algiers 0930 hrs, which stimulates us all, as we are wearying of the ship. The sight of Arabs, and the French tongue, amuse everyone. 72 L.A.D. - Nothing to report.	
En Route Algeria	27 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 805 - 36 att. Cool, some rain. We disembark at 0600 hours leaving 11 personnel for hospital, including Capt. Wilson our Tech. Adjt. Entrain 1000 hours for Philippeville, and a very interesting trip begins. Everyone is rapidly picking up enough French to haggle for oranges with native vendors. The trip, in box-cars, reminds us of "riding the rods" at home. Morale is high. 72 L.A.D. Travelling with the unit.	
On Train Algeria	28 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 805 - 36 att. Clear, warm. We continue through the mountains and plains, enjoying it thoroughly and bartering ably with Arabs at halts. Arrive Philippeville 1900 hours, go aboard S.S. Cameronia 2030 hours tired but in good spirits. Capt. Robertson sprained his knee at Constantine and created a sensation when carried aboard by six English soldiers reeling under his 280 lbs. 72 L.A.D. - Still with us	
Aboard Ship	29 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 805 - 36 att. Fine, warm. We are all enroute to Italy, gaily. Some baggage and a party of four are left at Philippeville and we sail at 1615 hours. 72 L.A.D. - Nothing to report.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR) & 72 L.A.D. Att.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
At Sea	30 Nov 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 805 - 36 att. Fine, hot. An unadventful day filled mostly with boat drill. Cape Bon and Sicily sighted in passing. 72 L.A.D. Nothing to report. Commentary: - This has been a highly interesting month for everyone, and our going to Italy has been a great satisfaction after the rather dull waiting in England. Morale is excellent. ……..……. (R.L. Tindall) Lt-Col. Commanding The Westminster Regiment (Motor) Appendices: - 1 Part 1 Orders 2 Part 11 Orders	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR) & 72 L.A.D. Att.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
At sea, enroute to Italy.	1 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 803 - 36 att. Clear, warm. At dawn we passed SALERNO, then CAPRI, and anchored at NAPLES 1105 hours. Disembarked at 1600 hours and met our advance party. Moved by truck to tented camp near AFRICGOLA. It is a field of mud. <u>72 L.A.D.</u> Moves into camp with us.	
Camp, near Africgola	2 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 800 - 36 att. Clear, frost at night. A busy day commences, checking over all our vehicles which have been turned over to us by the 1st. Rifle Brigade, getting baggage up from Naples, and getting settled in. We receive orders that we move on the 7th to the east to come under the 8th Army. The Hon. Mr. Ralston paid us a short informal visit this afternoon, and spoke hearteningly of big things ahead. <u>72 L.A.D.</u> A lot of work is on hand. The battalion vehicles have come directly out of the line, and before that from El Alamein, and require a thorough check.	
	3 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 799 - 36 att. Cloudy, heavy rain at night. “HQ”, “A” and “B” Coys were paid this morning. Work on vehicles continues. Lt-Col Tindall and Major Grossman visited the motor battalion the 1st Rifle Brigade and obtained valuable information based or their battle experience. An advance party left for MATERA, our new location, this morning. <u>72 L.A.D.</u> Busy on vehicles.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR) & 72 L.A.D. Att.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Camp near Afrigola	4 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 795 - 36 att. Heavy rain. "C" and Support Coys are paid. Work on the vehicles continues. A great rush of Christmas mail goes out. We are in mud reminding us of last war stories, but cheerful. The Padre has taken a party of 200 this afternoon to visit Pompeii, and men are allowed 3 - mile limit passes from camp. <u>72 L.A.D.</u> Working hard preparing vehicles for the move. Short of tools and equipment.	
	5 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 796 - 36 att. Fine, warm. R.C. Mass is held in CASORIA, just south of camp, and C. of E. service and communion in the lines. Work on vehicles continues, but another party visited Pompeii, and afternoon passes were granted. <u>72 L.A.D.</u> Working hard	
	6 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 795 - 36 att. Rain in morning, clear later. Getting ready for move in early morning. The camp is too muddy to use as a start point, and vehicles are being loaded and lined up clear of the camp. <u>72 L.A.D.</u> Final preparations. We anticipate many vehicle casualties.	
On move to MATERA	7 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 795 - 36 att. Clear, mild. Left for MATERA at 0645 hours, and arrived at night halt at ORTONOVA 1715 hours. The route was along main roads through POMIGLIANO, AVELLINO, ARIANO, to ORTONOVA, 95 miles in all. The trip was much better than anticipated. Roads were good and traffic light, and only our own unit and the G.G.H.G's were travelling. About a dozen vehicles dropped out, but by 2100 hrs all but one came in. Carburettors were the main trouble, dirty after a long time standing, and there was some overheating on the steep hills. In all these cases the L.A.D. and unit mechanics got them under way again.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR) & 72 L.A.D. Att.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
On move to MATERA	7 Dec 43 (cont)		72 L.A.D. A busy day, tailing the convoy and working on casualties.	
	8 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 795 - 36 att. Dry, mild cloudy. Moved from bivouac 0730 hrs, and arrived MATERA 1600 hours by way of GERIGNOLA, CANOSA, ANDRIA, CORATTA, GRAVENA, ALTAMURA, MATERA, an 80 mile run. There were three or four minor vehicle casualties, but by 1800 hours all were in but the one carrier missing from yesterday. The roads were very good with few hills. On the whole the convoy ran very well, with only some tendency to bunch at halts. Everyone is in billets in MATERA, and settled down. Bn HQ and four companies are in the Elementary School, "C" Coy in a building next the town theatre. 72 L.A.D. Work was lighter today, and all casualties were got under way and brought in. Personnel are billeted with "HQ" Coy.	
Matera	9 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 795 - 36 att. Cool cloudy The main job on hand is to get all vehicles in the best possible shape. The Vickers platoons are getting in much needed training on the guns recently received, and companies are doing some route-marches. Apart from this, work is concentrated on vehicles.	
	10 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 794 - 36 att. Cool, damp Nothing to report.	
	11 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 794 - 36 att. Cool, damp Nothing to report.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Matera	12 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 793 - 36 att. Clear, sunny. R.C. Church parade 0845 hours. Protestant Bde church parade at sports Stadium 1430 hours. The Brigadier took the salute on a march past following the service. Auxiliary Service Supervisor Agar opened a canteen in the lines tonight, and brought in some Italian musicians. This was quite a help, for the 1800 hour curfew and lack of lights and entertainment make the men's evenings monotonous.	
	13 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 796 - 36 att. Cloudy, mild. Companies commence training by company syllabus. Facilities are poor, but marching, drill and weapon training are being started, with three nights a week night work.	
	14 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 796 - 36 att. Clear, sunny. “C” Coy moved out of billets to bivouac in area P0931 (Matera, sheet.201. 1/100,000) for a period of field work. Other company training continued in town. Three Courts-Martial were promulgated this afternoon affecting three private soldiers of the regiment. Entertainment for the men is rapidly improving. The town theatre has been obtained two nights a week, and a “Maple Leaf” Club opened, with an allotment of nights for units.	
	15 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 794 - 36 att. Clear, mild. Training by companies on weapons and marching continues. We have instructions to train approximately 30 men as scouts and snipers, to be drawn from and returned to platoons. This is as innovation in our organization, apparently dictated by experience in the Italian campaign. Many new codes, used in the 8th Army, are being adopted. All codes now come under the Signal Officer.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Matera	16 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 792 - 36 att. Clear, sunny At 0900 hours our Div. Cmd, Major General G.C. Simonds C.B.E., D.S.O., visited the unit. He met all the officers, looked over our lines, and inspected our Town Guard. We liked his look and hope he liked ours. Training continues and suitable places for firing small arms being found, range practice is being worked in. We all need it. “C” Coy is still bivouaced out. And the group for snipers and scouts training went out to bivouac this morning. “C” Coy is training in range practice, fieldcraft, map reading, and platoon tactics.	
	17 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 786 - 35 att. Clear, mild Training is as usual with “C” Coy and the sniper group still tented out in the training area. Our real problem at present is keeping the men mentally fit. Used to the many facilities for leisure occupation in England, the lack of any here, except what we arrange ourselves, makes that a necessary work. There are few and poor lights in billets, nothing to read, and nothing to do in the town except drink wine. The wine has already produced unfortunate breaches of discipline, though we seem to be having much less trouble than units around us. The padres and auxiliary services are doing a god job, and are getting news to the men, have opened a canteen in the billets, arranged the picture-show twice weekly, and collected all available reading material. We are doing some night training too, and platoon officers are taking discussion periods with the men. It has become more of a responsibility than ever now for each officer to see that his men are mentally fit and alert.	
	18 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 784 - 35 att. Clear, mild. “A” Coy moved out to the training area this morning to occupy “C” Coy's camp, and “C” Coy has moved into the billets in the school. In the afternoon 50% of the personnel were allowed out.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MATERA	19 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 783 - 35 att. Clear, sunny. Support Coy moved out this morning to the training area at P065330 (GRAVINA Sheet #188 1/100,000) Protestant and R.C. services were held this morning. In the afternoon the other 50% of the unit had the afternoon off, and played a football game against the Matera team in the Stadium.	
	20 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 791 - 35 att. Mild, sunny. "C" Coy is duty company for the week. "HQ" and "B" Coy are carrying on training in town, the latter on weapon, drill, marching and lectures, and some firing. "HQ" Coy occupied in duties, transport and signal training, but is working in range work and basic training. Support Coy is finally getting the needed firing practices with Vickers, and the 6pr platoons are working hard at the guns. "A" Coy is on fieldcraft, tactics and field firing. An unusual number of Courts-Martial in the brigade is unfortunately taking many officers away from training. This week ten officers are tied up at it. Italian wine is the basic reason.	
	21 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 790 - 35 att. Cloudy, cool. Training as described continues and the Courts-Martial are flourishing. Most of these courts are not for our own men. Preparations for Christmas Day are being made. The men will all have turkey and beer thanks to Italian turkeys still being on the market.	
	22 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 794 - 35 att. Cloudy, cool, light rain. Several tommy-guns have been damaged in rangework, through bad ammunition, and all such ammunition has to be checked. It is the platoon officers daily lament these days that he gets little training done, that he is either on a court-martial, or his men are on guard or duties. There are to many interruptions, but every effort is being made to keep training at a high pitch. This morning Capt Wilson caught up with us again - we had left him back at Algiers. He has resumed his duties as Tech. Adjt.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Matera	23 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 792 - 35 att. Cloudy, cool, light rain. Nothing of note in training occurred, but today we received 20 new "White Scout Cars" or armoured 15 cwts as the British call them. We like these vehicles – they are powerful and rugged and have some protection. We are getting priority now in distribution of vehicles, and hope soon to be up to strength, then perhaps to dispose of the 4x2 15 cwts we have now.	
	24 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 793 - 35 att. Sunny , clear. All companies are training busily. The companies in the field get the most done. Five more vehicles arrived, and reallotment is taking place.	
	25 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 800 - 35 att. Cloudy, mild. Needless to say, this is Christmas Day, and it has not been a bad one in spite of limitations. Christmas dinner was served the men at 1130 and 1330, and the cooks did a good job on turkey, mince pies and pudding. Each man got two bottles of beer, and nuts, oranges and figs, and of course Italian wine could be and was obtained. "C" Coy was unfortunate enough to have to put on the town guard, and "B" Coy left in the afternoon for the field, otherwise it had been a welcome holiday. Support and "A" Coys came in for the dinner, and "A" Coy went out again in the afternoon. We can say, I think, that a Merry Christmas was had by all.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Matera	26 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 804 - 35 att. Cold, light snow and rain. Protestant and R.C. Church services were held this morning. In the afternoon a unit football team played the Matera team at the sports stadium. The Officers' Christmas dinner was held in the evening, a very fine meal and accessories.	
	27 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 797 - 35 att. Cold, cloudy, some rain. “C” Coy moved out this morning to bivouac at P092371 (Sheet 188, 1/100,000) “B” Coy has occupied "Support Company's" camp at P065330, sheet 188. The companies out are concentrating on field firing, platoon tactics and hardening up. Support Coy is duty company for the week in town, and can get little training done.	
	28 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 797 - 35 att. Cool, cloudy, windy. Companies in the field continue field firing, tactics, and hardening. “A” and “B” Coys have sent their platoons out to individual locations for a few days. Word is received that this unit is to be inspected on Sunday by Major General Simonds, and companies will assemble in town on Friday to clean up. Word is received too that the scout and sniper personnel will remain as a battalion platoon, and more men will be trained in each company as well. "Skirmishers” is perhaps the name for their role as we see it, a complete innovation in the unit. The "Left -Out-of-Battle" personnel (L.O.B's) are to be selected this week. These are the 2 i/c, 2 i/c's of coys, one senior company commander, two N.C.O’s per platoon, and some others. They will remain in C echelon as immediate experienced replacements of casualties.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	29 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 799 - 35 att. Cold, intermittent rain. "A", "B", and "C" Coys are working at patrolling, platoon tactics and field firing. The MMG and A/Tk platoons are getting some theory training done but are occupied mainly on guards and duties. The extremely muddy conditions in the field demonstrate each day the helplessness of two-wheel-drive vehicles off the road in wet weather; unfortunately we have several.	
	30 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 801 - 35 att. Milder, light rains. "A" Coy returned from the field this afternoon. "B" and "C" remain out and are continuing training as described.	
	31 Dec 43		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 802 - 35 att. First sunshine for a week. "B" Coy came into town today to remain tor the inspection. "C" Coy is still out, and endeavouring to collect a few chickens or turkeys for a New Year's feast. No luck so far. This is the quietest New Year's Eve we have had since the war began. A moving picture, a little wine, and no excitement. Our largest mail in Italy made a timely arrival this afternoon and gladdened 800 hearts. ……..……. (R.L. Tindall) Lt-Col. Officer Commanding The Westminster Regiment (Motor)	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			LIST OF APPENDICES The Westminster Regiment (Motor) WAR DIARY: December, 1943	

	Orig	Dup	Trip
1. Unit Part 1 Orders	X	X	X
2. AFW's 3008 & 3009	X		
3. Unit Part 11 Orders (# 73 to 76)			X
4. Personal Message from the Army Commander	X		

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Matera P2033 #43 1/250,000	1 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 802 - 33 att. Heavy rain and lightning-cold. This is a holiday, though there is some personal cleaning up to do for the G.O.C's inspection tomorrow. All coys are in the school at Materia except C Coy, which is bivouaced at P092371 (Sht 188 1/100000) and is remaining out for two weeks. Their campsite is at the foot of Mount di Picciano, in sight of the ancient chapel on top and beside the River Gravina. Some men are comfortably located in the old caves along the river. There is a certain amount of individual effort at hailing the New Year, otherwise it is a quiet day. An omission was made in yesterday's diary. Capt Zinkman of the Cdn Dental Corp. and two O.R's were attached yesterday as our dental unit. As we have been without a dental officer for two months there is a lot of work to do.	
	2 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 799 - 38 att. Sunny, cool. R.C. Church service was hold at 0900 hrs in the town cathedral, and Protestant service at 0900 hrs in the theatre. In the afternoon we marched out to a field north of town and, together with the GGHG's, were inspected by Maj .Gen Simonds at 1515 hrs. He addressed us afterward; his text-"The chief duty of a soldier is to win battles." Unofficial comment from the brigade staff – "The Westminsters looked very smart, but they still aren't used to their berets". True, we are more used to tin hats.	
	3 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 800 - 38 att. Fine, mild. B Coy has moved out again to camp at P065330 (Sht 188). Support Coy moved to camp at P013422 (Sht 188), south of Gravina. A Coy is duty coy in town. C Coy is doing field firing, B Coy tactics, and Support MMG trg and zeroing of A. Tk. guns. A study group commenced today at Div HQ. which Lt.Col.Tindall, Major Grossman, Capt. Robertson and all the Coy comdrs are attending. It continues each day for a week.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Matera P2033 #43 1/250,000	4 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 800 - 38 att. Fine, mild. Training in field firing, A. Tk gunnery, and hardening training continues. In the companies in the field, and good practical training is being accomplished. Training ammunition is almost finished, though, and our allotment for the coming month is very small. Rum ration issue to the field companies is authorised. This is the first time within our memories.	
	5 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 796 - 38 att. Cold, dull. The divisional study groups are cancelled for today, and Lt.Col Tindall and the Coy comdrs are free to catch up on administrative detail. We have been ordered to turn over about 87 vehicles of all kinds to the infantry brigade, arty, and other units who are expected to go into the line soon. Transfer took place this afternoon. We are practically stripped of carriers and motorcycles. This evening a party of nurses were invited to the mess from Andria, but the trucks going to pick them up found the mountain road under heavy snow. We waited expectantly all evening and no one arrived, but we managed to enjoy the evening.	
	6 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 795 - 38 att. Cold, light snowfall. The Div study group is on again. The coys in the field are field firing while they have the chance. There is a shortage of boots and we are unable to get replacements.	
	7 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 791 - 38 att. Cool, clear. Field training continues with nothing of interest to report.	
	8 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 792 - 38 att. Fine, cool. Companies in the field are devoting the day to maintenance of guns, vehicles, equipment and personal kit. The divisional study group finished today, after a week of combined study of all arms,	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Matera P2033 #43 1/250,000	8 Jan 44		services in the division, with the aim of improving co-operation of all arms.	
	9 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 790 - 38 att. Mild, Sunny. R.C. church parade was conducted to Matera cathedral. Protestant voluntary service was held in the lines at 1000hrs. In the afternoon we received word that our unit and the Ld. Strathcona Horse are to be ready by the 16 Jan to move up to the line to relieve units there. Good news. Company commanders were called in and companies were ordered to return tomorrow.	
	10 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 789 - 38 att. Mild, Sunny. Support, B and C Coys returned from the field. A busy week commences. We have to get vehicle replacements for the 85 - odd taken from us last week, and have them checked, equipped, and ready to go; the dental officer has to check every man, if possible; all administrative details have to be checked etc. We hear that we are going under the command of the 8 Indian Division. The other armored units in the division will follow as soon as they are equipped.	
	11 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 787 - 38 att. Cloudy, mild. We have had to supply drivers to take vehicles north to the 11 Inf. Bde. Others are off after vehicles of our own, which are now arriving, and things are busy. The new vehicles have to be fitted with radio and mechanically checked. The companys are working in all the firing practice that they can get.	
	12 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 787 - 38 att. Cloudy, mild. The work of preparing vehicles, checking vehicles and getting ready to move continues. Those not employed at this are receiving training in mines and bobby-traps and are getting some small arms firing.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Matera P2033 #43 1/250,000	13 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 781 - 38 att. Warm, bright. The regimental officers spent the day with the 8 Army Fd Regt, RCA, practising directing 25 pr fire from the forward posns. The companys continued field firing, and vehicles are cheeked.	
	14 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 782 - 38 att. Warm, sunny. We receive word that the carriers are to leave tomorrow morning by train for the north. The advance party and Lt.Col.Tindall leave Sunday. This makes a busy day for the carrier personnel getting ready, as; most of them just got their vehicles yesterday.	
	15 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 780 - 38 att. Cloudy, mild. The carriers left at 0600 hrs. to board train for the north. The movement orders for this unit came in this afternoon. Advance party leaves at 0500 hrs. Sunday the 16th. A. Tk. personnel have constructed a range and are doing night-firing tonight. Small arms firing is being done by all companys. All our vehicles have arrived and are being hurriedly checked and fitted out.	
	16 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 781 - 38 att. Cold with showers. The advance party left early this morning for the north. R.C. church service was held at Matera cathedral. Voluntary Protestant church parade was conducted at the Baptist church. The day is being spent in putting the last touches to packing, checking vehicles and records. Everyone is in high spirits and looking forward to the coming events.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	17 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 789 - 36 att. Cold Windy. The morning is spent in loading and stowing vehicles, also in cleaning up our Barracks. In the afternoon the Coys move out independently to our bivouac area which is 7 miles out of Matera on the road to Gravina. "HQ" Coy, the last to leave Matera, arrives at our bivouac area at 1600 hrs.	
	18 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 789 - 36 att. Cold - Windy Reveille is at 0400 hrs., on a cold windy morning. The lead vehicle starts to roll at 0445 hrs., order of march is Bn "HQ", HQ Coy, A, B, C, and Sp Coys. The Start line is at point P0756 Sht 37 1/250,000. We proceed by the way of Corato P0387, Canosa 07394 Foggia J2919, Serracapriola H9756 (Sht 30) to Ururi H8557 where we bivouac by the side of the road for the night.	
	19 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 788 - 36 att. Cold - Windy The day starts at 0630 hrs. with a rum issue so everything looks brighter. We strike camp and are underway at 0730 hrs. From Ururi H8557, we proceed through Termoli H8378, Vasto H5990, to point H3192 (Sht 29) on the Sangro River where we meet our advance party (who have already been under enemy fire) and harbour for the night. We have come under comd of 5 Indian Bde in the 4th Ind Div. The Divisional area is Lanciano, and facing it is the 334 German Inf Div on the general line Guardiagrele - Orsogna, astride this road to Ortona. Our Battalion is to be on the left in the Guardiagrele sector, now occupied by the 1/4 Essex of 5 Bde. We are concentrating at present location awaiting orders to relieve them. Our camp is on the north bank of the Sangro River.	
H3192, Italy Sheet 29 1/250,000	20 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 788 - 35 att. This morning Lt.-col Tindall and Major Grossman went over to the 1/4 Essex area and discussed plans with the Brigadier. We are to relieve the Essex to-morrow night. Company Commanders and Platoon Officers went up to their future company positions this evening to spend to-morrow with the Essex and be ready for their companies coming in. Signals and Admin. arrangements were smoothed out to-day	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
H3192, Italy 1/250,000 Sheet 29	20 Jan 44 Thur		and the turnover should present no difficulties except transport, which may be awkward on a poor road with no lights especially if shelling starts. Things are fairly quiet. Artillery from both sides fired desultorily during the day to the north of us.	
As above	21 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 788 - 35 att. Weather; Fine and Warm, clean frosty night, bright moon. Administrative details for relieving the 1/4 Essex were completed during the day. Our Role is changed slightly, in that one company of the Essex will remain in posn and continue patrolling, and other units of Indian Div will also patrol in our area. One Company of the M.G. Bn 6 Rajputana Rifles also remains in under our command. At 1850 hrs the Bn less A and B Echelons, which remain by the Sangro, moved off to the Essex area. Troops and loads were transported in and vehicles sent out again. Relief was completed without incident by 2356 hrs.	
229977 Salarolo Sheet 147	22 Jan 44 Sat.		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 784 - 35 att. Weather; Fine and Warm, milder and clear at night Our positions in this sector are known in the sketch maps in Appendix 4. The night was quiet. At 1145 hours A Coy positions came under some Mortar fire and at 1255 hours C Coy received the same treatment, and a few shells were dropped on Bn HQ. 11 Italian refugees came in from the German lines with tall stories. It was suspected they were sent deliberately. At 1845 hours two recce patrols were sent out under Lieuts Ketcheson and Eaton. It is thought that 334 Div opposite us is withdrawing and information is needed. Our patrols are co-ordinated with two others on our front. Lieut. Ketcheson's patrol was to ascertain if enemy were occupying RD JUNC and area west along road; Lt. Eaton was to reconnoitre INTERMEDIATE RIDGE to see if it had been occupied by any enemy. There are two Ghurka patrols through our area as well. At 2000 hours Verey lights began to go up on INTERMEDIATE RIDGE and these continued spasmodically to 0030 hours. Shots and bursts were heard, with no apparent reason, all around our forward positions, till it began to look as if the Germans were deliberately putting on a show of activity.	
As above	23 Jan 44 Sun		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 782 - 35 att. Weather; clear, warm, cool at night. At 0020 hours the Bde. L.O. came in to warn us that the enemy was withdrawing on 7 Bde front and a covering counter-attack was possible on our area. Everyone	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	23 Jan 44 Sun		(continued) stood to. Lt. Ketchison's patrol arrived in safely and was sent out again to watch area RD JUNC for possible F.U.P. Lt Eaton's patrol of INTERMEDIATE RIDGE revealed no enemy there. Firing meanwhile increased around B and C Coys, and B Coy eventually was fired on, but no actual contact was made though it became evident that one or more patrols were moving among our extended localities. An intercept patrol failed to locate one it went after. At 0130 hours the Ghurka fighting patrol was ambushed and lost 3 killed and one missing, and 8 B Coy men returned with the patrol officer to look for the missing man. They too were ambushed and suffered 4 wounded and one missing. A patrol was sent out but could not contact either the enemy or the missing man. Later in the day the body was found some distance away. Lt. Ketchison's party returned at 0650 hours having located some enemy occupation of houses near RD JUNC. Activities died down before daybreak, and the rest of the day was quiet, with a little shelling. At 1900 hours Lt. Ketchison and ten men went out again to patrol RD JUNC area to check for possibility of road and to ambush enemy patrols if possible. They returned intact at 1145 hours without having contacted enemy but with information required. Enemy patrols were moving in front of C Coy and were fired on. C, Sp, and HQ were shelled intermittently from this time on.	
Same location	24 Jan 44 Mon		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 782 - 35 att. Somewhat cloudy, mild. Shelling continued during the night but activity ceased before dawn. This day was uneventful, with more scattered shelling and some mortaring of our main posns. Our OP's observed and spotted several gun posns on Orsogna ridge. At 1745 a small patrol was heard moving in the area, and at 2000 hours a fire fight began just off B Coy's right flank. This turned out to be a strong ambush of a 1/9 Ghurka patrol. At the same time an Engineer work party repairing the road at 213983 was heavily mortared and had to withdraw, but they returned and finished their job though mortared again. A post of M.G. Raj. Rif. reported 6 German soldiers went into a house within their area at 0300 hours, and they set about surrounding it.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	24 Jan 44		(Cont) but the man escaped. This annoyed us, as we had not been able to produce a dead German yet in spite of all the firing going around and by us. Our recce patrol to RD JUNC returned safely though at first it was thought two men were missing but they turned up later. There was so much activity in front of our area to-night that they were lucky not to have trouble. It seems likely that Germans are holing up in or near the village by day and coming out after dark, because they start patrolling so early.	
Same location	25 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 781 - 35 att. Fine, mild. The day was uneventful. All Coy areas were shelled in the afternoon and there was some mortaring of C Coy but we had no casualties. Advance parties of the 1/9 Ghurkas arrived in the afternoon to arrange relief tonight. To-day we disposed of another 20 Italians coming over from the Orsogna area. We get plenty of information from them, but can't judge its value. The reliefs began to arrive by 1900 hours but some of their vehicles had trouble on the road, and the take-over was not complete until 0045 hours 26 Jan. We moved down to our previous concentration area on the Sangro at 307923 (Italy Sheet 141). One man is missing from the medical section. He was guarding a doorway in A Coy's area and disappeared, and it is thought he was taken prisoner.	
H307923 Italy Sheet 141	26 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 776 - 35 att. Some rain, cold and cloudy. To-day was spent in cleaning up and resting. We have now become part of the 1st Cdn Armd Bde, comprising the Ontario Tank Regt, the 2nd Armd Regt and ourselves. The Bde is under 4 Ind Div for administration purposes. Everyone is pleased over working with the Indian Troops, because it is something to talk about later, The men like them, too, and they are good to work with in spite of some language difficulty.	
Same location	27 Jan 44		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 776 - 35 att. It rained very heavily during the night and our site is ankle deep in mud. There	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	27 Jan 44 cont'd		is a possibility that the Sangro may rise over its shallow banks here and an alternative battalion location was examined this morning in case this occurs. A road-working party of 400 men was made ready to leave for work north of Lanciano but the job was put off and the party did not get away. Firing practice of all small arms is being organized. There is a natural range in the hillside near camp and some companies commenced its use this afternoon. Morale is good. There has not been a complaint nor a crime since we came into active operations, and the man are happier on the whole than they have been for a long time.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	28 Jan 44 Fri		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 776 - 35 att. Clear freezing by night, sunny by day. Companies carried out the various tasks of maintenance and training under their own arrangements. A party of 400 men was supplied today for roadwork north of Lanciano. Because of the heavy mud the companies have moved their locations within this concentration area in search for drier ground. Exercise and firing of small arms are the chief items of training. Tonight the Auxiliary Services put on an open-air picture show.	
Same location	29 Jan 44 Sat		Strength Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 771 - 35 att. Clear cold night. Warm day The road working party was used again to-day, and the remainder of the battalion spent an uneventful day on range work and maintenance. Mail has been slow but a large number of parcels came in today. Lt.-col Tindall left this morning to look at our reinforcement situation at 2 CBRD, Avellino.	
Same location	30 Jan 44 Sun		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 771 - 35 att. Fine weather continues Both R.C. and Protestant services were held in the lines this morning. The road working party was again away this morning and the rest of the men had the day off. At 1200 hours we again came under command 5 Indian Bde and our orders are to relieve the 1/6 Raj Rif. on Bianco Ridge on the night of Feb 1st. We are pleased. Major Grossman and Capt. Robertson went up this afternoon to look over the ground and make preliminary arrangements.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	31 Jan 44 Mon		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 770 - 35 att. Warm, bright; night milder than usual, no frost. At 0200 hours we received orders to relieve the 1/9 G.R. tonight in the Salarola area we occupied last week, that we would remain under command 5 Ind Bde until tomorrow noon and then come under 5 Cdn Div once more. We are certainly skipping from one command to another these days. During the day details of the relief were arranged by Major Grossman and at 1730 hours our column left the Sangro. The relief went very smoothly and was complete by 2130 hours, without incident. Everyone is glad to be here again, and this time the Battalion is together as A Coy is not on the Bianco feature. Battalion H Q is in the same location as before but the Companies are altered to accommodate A Coy. The night was quiet. The moon is bright just now and German patrolling seems to have been suspended for the time being. (R.L. Tindall) Lt-col. Commanding Officer The Westminster Regt (Motor)	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			LIST OF APPENDICES THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (MOTOR) WAR DIARY: - January 1944	

	Orig	Dup	Trip
1. Unit Part 1 Orders	X	X	X
2. AFW's 3008 & 3009	X		
3. Unit Part 11 Orders # 77 – 4			X
4. Bn Posn – Guardiagrele Sector 21 Jan 44	X		
5. Operation Instruction No. 1 – 22 Jan 44	X		
6. Farewell Message	X	X	X

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 147-1 ITALY 1/50,000	1 Feb 44 Tues.		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 770 - 35 att. Fine, mild day and bright moonlight night. Today was very quiet. Very little sign of life was seen in the German line along the ORSOGNA - GUARDIAGRELE road and there was no firing on our positions. Our Companies spent the day checking and relocating positions of platoons, A Tk guns and M.M.G's. Our two M.G. platoons have their own guns in positions this time, but two of the A Tk platoons are again acting as infantry. The dispositions of companies are A Coy 221982, B Coy 217981, C Coy 218982, Sp Coy 229979, Bn HQ 229977. Two recce patrols were arranged for tonight, both with the idea of making contact with the enemy and finding out if he is moving around at night, as the 1/9 G.R's have reported no enemy contacted for three nights. Lt. R.E Ketcheson left at 1845 hours with one patrol to 202978 and returned 2345 hours reporting nothing seen of enemy. Lt. J.C. Biggs and Lt. W. H. Scott left at 1830 hours with their patrol to ambush any Germans who might come to their habitual patrol point of the SIGNAL BOX 214987, but they returned at 2345 hours with nothing to report. Nothing was seen or heard in forward positions up to midnight except scattered shots in the distance at various points along the front. Lt.-col Tindall returned tonight from AVELLINO and Major Grossman is preparing to leave in the morning,	
Same location	2 Feb 44 Wed		Strength Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 770 - 35 att. Sunny and mild, bright moon at night. From midnight to daybreak all was quiet in our area. M.T. movement was heard on the ORSOGNA-GUARDIAGRELE road and our own artillery engaged it. A Coy was mortared briefly at 1115 hours, and Support and H.Q. areas at 1400 hours, the only enemy action during the day. There were no casualties. At 1500 hours Maj. Gen. Burns and his G-1 visited us and it was decided after discussion to move C Coy out to the north flank at 244998 on the CHIMATO feature. Mule transport was arranged by Division and arrived at 2230. With this late start, troublesome transport (one mule died) and rough ground to delay them, C Coy was still moving equipment at daybreak next day though the platoons were already in their defence positions.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	2 Feb 44		(Cont'd) Four patrols were ordered for tonight. Three were recce patrols under Lt. W.N. Scott, Lt. W.H. McLachlan and Lt. J. Oldfield. Lt. McLachlan's patrol located an enemy patrol at 233007 but otherwise no contact was made. The fourth patrol under Lt. Ketcheson had a brush with an enemy position at 202984 and inflicted casualties with none to themselves. At 1945 hours 3 German soldiers were captured near our transport lines, where they had come to look for a prisoner themselves. They provided our first close look at the enemy, and were not very impressive. Identification was 6 Coy, 754 Inf. Regt of 334 Inf. Div.	
Same location	3 Feb 44 Thurs.		Strength; 35 Officers and 3; O.R's 773 and 35 attached. Warm, sunny day, bright moonlit night. There was more activity in the German positions today and our O.P's were busy. C Coy sent a small patrol out to investigate movement reported in 2396 but it found nothing. There was considerable M.G. and A.A. fire from ORSOGNA RIDGE, and at 1415 hours all our positions in SALAROLA came under shell fire which continued intermittently all afternoon. There was some mortar fire as well. One man from B Coy was wounded by the shelling. Our own artillery fired a lot in return. A nightly contact patrol was ordered for C Coy to make contact with the flanking force of llth Cdn Inf Bde on our right flank. In addition patrols for the night consisted of a fighting patrol under Lt. W.H. McLachlan to ambush the party heard the previous night at the north end of INTERMEDIATE RIDGE; and 3 recce patrols under Lt. W.N. Scott, Lt. P. Corfe and Lt. J. Oldfield. Lt. Corfe found a working party of some size at 207988 but the other patrols had nothing to report. It was a quiet night.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	4 Feb 44 Friday		Strength; Officers 35 and 3; O.R's 773 and 35 attached. Fine day and night to 2200 hours, followed by wind, rain and snow. C Coy contact patrol failed to make contact with FLANK FORCE, and got in at 0455 hours. Another quiet day passed. The usual shelling occurred during the afternoon without result, and our own artillery bombarded targets of opportunity all day. A party of 3 from A Coy was fired on from a group of buildings on the PIANO DELLA FANTE feature and Sgt. Simmonds was wounded. A party of C Coy subsequently raided the house but found nothing but a suspicion of possible use of holes in the haystacks. There was nothing further to report up to midnight. Patrols for the night were: (a) A recce patrol under Lt. R.E. Ketcheson to ascertain strength of enemy in area RD JUNC 204986 and westward for 700 yards. This patrol was pinned down by fire and could make no progress in the bright moonlight. (b) An ambush patrol under Lt. Moore to ambush party seen at north end INTERMEDIATE RIDGE 2 nights ago. Nothing was found. (c) C Coy's nightly contact patrol. Again the two groups could not make contact. (d) A recce patrol under Lt. P. Corfe to the same area as last night. This was very successful, working and covering parties were seen, dugouts located, and considerable information gained. Local protection patrols were put out by 3 and A Goys out they had nothing to report. This whole sector, except for artillery duels, is extremely quiet at present. B troop of the 4 A tk Regt. came under our command tonight and has its 4 guns in position In Support Coy area.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	5 Feb 44 Saturday		Strength Offrs 35 and 3; O.R.'s 772 and 35 attached. In the early morning it snowed, and the wind was high. After daybreak it cleared up and the day ended with fine visibility. Another quiet day. C Coy sent a raiding party before dawn to the house at 237996 on PIANO DELLA FANTE, but it was vacant. They heard un accountable M.G. fire close by in the valley but could see nothing. Shelling of the SALAORLA feature went on most of the day and a house was set afire but no one was hurt. Patrols ordered for the night were as follows: (a) C Coy's nightly contact patrol under Lt. E.M. MacKenzie. (b) A C Coy patrol led by Lt. J.W.C. Biggs in search of enemy heard firing in the area 235998 before daybreak, this morning. (c) The routine patrol of PIANO DELA FANTE ridge from A Coy led by Lt. W.L. Delaney. (d) A further recce patrol of INTERMEDIATE RIDGE to the north end led by Lt. W.N. Scott (e) A patrol led by Lt. P.W.N. Corfe to take prisoners in the area 207988 where working parties were heard the last two nights. There was still some snow on the ground and visibility turned out to be good so that actually it was not good patrolling weather. Patrols (c) and (d) were in before midnight with nothing to report. (a) left at 1930 hrs and (b) and (e) midnight. There was no activity in the battalion area, not even shelling.	
Same Location	6 Feb 44 Sunday		Strength Offrs 35 and 3; O.R.'s 770 and 35 attached. Changeable from clear and sunny to snow. Both C Coy patrols returned in the early morning with nothing to report except contact made with 11 Cdn Inf Bde Flank Force at 0145 hours. At 0710 Lt. Corfe's patrol got back in. The night was too bright Cont'd next sheet	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	6 Feb 44 Sunday		Cont'd from previous page. and the snow was to noisy to get into the enemy posns, but they checked two houses on the outskirts and exploded two booby traps with grenades. Our arty engaged several targets during the day where movement was spotted, and our battalion area was shelled during the afternoon. There were many duds, which are reported to be from the Italian guns the Germans were using. At approximately 1800 hrs signs of a stormy night were evident and it was anticipated that the enemy, who had been extraordinarily inactive during the last few days, might take advantage of the weather and infiltrate patrols; so all coys were instructed to be prepared for infiltration. Local Coy standing patrols only were ordered so Coys could be in strength to meet any enemy moves, with the exception of; (a) Liaison patrol from C Coy with 11 Inf Bde to the NORTH. (b) Recce patrol to investigate new enemy workings at 211996. Early in the evening a light was observed signalling from a house in SALAROLA to an answering light on BIANCO. The house was raided and two Italians were arrested on suspicion. At 2325 hrs we heard that C Coy was being mortared, and a short time later that they had opened fire on enemy working into their posns. Apparently a rading party of about 50 had approached 12 Pln, which held its fire to close range. At midnight the fight was still going on, but at the time comn with 12 Pln had failed and the situation was not very clear. Meanwhile patrols 2, 3 and 4 came in by midnight reporting that the enemy was more active and was moving outside his F.D.L.	See Appx 5

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same place	7 Feb 44 Monday		Strength Offrs 35 and 3; O.R.'s 770 and 35 attached. A wintry day, many snow flurries. C Coys handshake patrol returned at 0130 hrs having made contact with 11 Cdn Inf Bde at 0015 hrs. Meantime the fire-fight at C Coy still went on. The raiding party was pinned down between 12 Pln and 9 Pln; but had managed to get L.M.Gs into firing posns. At 0200 hrs the C.O. moved a sec of M.M.Gs from 13 Pln to supporting posn, and at 0435 they were able to give support, further pinning the enemy down. They had 13 dead, 5 wounded and 2 unwounded left. The two unwounded surrendered under the white flag. Our casualties were one sergeant and one corporal killed and 7 wounded. The two dead were buried at the site of the engagement, also the enemy dead. The labourious work of transporting the wounded out to the road over two miles of mountainous trail began. The prisoners were taken out, and gave useful information. The captured equipment included 3 LMGs 1 flamethrower and many machine carbines. We had received word that we were to be relieved by the Royal West Kents the night of the 7th and their advance party arrived in the afternoon. At 1900 hrs reliefs began to arrive and all but C Coy were relieved by midnight. Theirs was a difficult task, with mule transport, slippery slopes and Indian muleteers, who did not speak English. While A Coy was being relieved, a light was seen signalling on PIANO DELLA FANTE. A section found the man in the act and shot him. He was in civilian clothes. At 2330 Lt Oldfield was shot accidently in the foot and was evacuated.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
289015 Sheet 147-1 Italy 1/50,000	8 Feb 44 Tuesday		Strength Offrs 35 and 3; O.R.'s 762 and 35 attached. Clear and mild, heavy rain after dark. By 0100 hrs C Coy relief was complete and the main body of the battalion was moved SOUTH to B Echelon area on the RIVER SANGRO. At the SANGRO camp we had a hasty cleanup and prepared to move to the 8 Indian Div area to relieve the 1/5 Maharattas. Guides got away at 0900 hrs and the Battalion move at 1330 hrs in RCASC lorries and a few load vehicles of our own. Relief was complete by 1330 hrs. During Support Coy takeover, four men were wounded by enemy mortar fire, and on the move up two men were injured in a truck collision. HQ's were established as follows: Bn HQ 289905, A Coy 275097, B Coy 285091, C Coy 281098, Sp Coy 281101. A echelon is to be at CALDARI 303101 and B Echelon near LANCIANO at 329045. The night proved without incident.	
289095 Sheet 147-1	9 Feb 44 Wednesday		Strength Offrs 33 and 3; O.R.'s 759 and 35 attached. Heavy rain and sleet. In the morning posns were checked and re-arranged. Four A/tk guns were brought and two put in posn, but it is not good tank country and in this weather roads would be the only means of crossing the deep gullies. ‘L’ Tp, 4 A/Tk Regt. comes under Comd and moved in their four guns in the afternoon, but their present posns are not of much use except in the event of a breakthrough. Nothing of note occurred all day and practically no movement was seen in the enemy outpost line from CRECCHIO along the ridge to the S.W. No patrols were sent out to-night	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same place	10 Feb 44 Thursday		Strength Offrs 33 and 3; O.R.'s 754 and 35 attached. A fine mild day. 11 Cdn Inf Bde moved in on our right flank overnight, and at 0930 hrs Lt.-col Tindall liaised with our neighbours the Perth Regt. concerning patrols and supporting fire. A little movement was seen in CRECCHIO which is believed to be a Pln posn and an O.P. was noted in the dome church. Sp and C Coys re-arranged some pln areas for better co-ordination. It was a quiet day with some arty duelling. At present our role on this front is purely a holding one with active night patrols and the enemy is doing the same. At last light C Coy mounted a standing patrol of one section in the gully at 282103 between our right flank and Perth Regt's C Coy. At 1820 hrs Lt. E.M. MacKenzie led a recce patrol of seven out to reconnoitre the approach to CRECCHIO from the NORTH. At 1930 hrs Lt. R.E. Ketcheson a similar patrol of nine strong to reconnoitre the SOUTH approach. He returned at 2330 hrs. after running into our own mortar fire from C Coy on his way back and having three minor casualties.	
Same location	11 Feb 44 Friday		Strength Offrs 33 and 3; O.R.'s 751 and 35 attached. Snow and sleet. At 0100 hrs Lt. MacKenzie's patrol returned having circled CRECCHIO to the WEST side. Conclusions from these patrols strengthen the supposition that the town is an outpost of one platoon, with a post at each end. The rest of the night was uneventful and all day there was little activity. There seems to be no enemy arty at work at all. B Coy moved to-day to take over from C Coy of the Perths thus extending our right flank. The B Coy posn was taken over by D Sqn of the 3 Armd Recce Regt. (GGHGs. Takeover was in each case by 1730 hrs. cont'd next sheet	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	11 Feb 44 Friday		Cont'd from previous page. Two patrols which included 3 men from the 3 Recce Regt were ordered for the night, a recce patrol to test the southern approach into CRECCHIO and a recce patrol to test the southern approach from 280105 to 277113. The former led by Lt. Ketcheson ran into a deep gully on the ARIELLI RIVER SOUTH of CRECCHIO and found the route not feasible. The recce patrol of Lt Eaton's found a usable ford on the stream. Both patrols were in before midnight. While returning, the CRECCHIO patrol heard noises in a house forward of A Coy posn and went out again to raid lt. Nothing was found but one man was hurt by a grenade.	
Same location	12 Feb 44 Saturday		Strength Offrs 33 and 3; O.R.'s 750 and 35 attached. Cold cloudy turning to snow in the evening. All day there was very little activity, occasional arty duels occurred during the morning, and afternoon. C Coy was mortared about 1530, Bn HQ was shelled from 1600 to 1630 hrs. No casualties. Patrols for the night were: (a) Lt P. Corfe and 11 men to approach CRECCHIO from the NORTH and locate enemy outposts and strong points. (b) Lt. G.B. Eaton and 4 men to ascertain if house at 275109 was occupied. Lt. Corfe's patrol, who had no chance of seeing the ground that they were to cover during daylight, lost their way and ran into one of A Coys booby traps. Lt. Corfe was wounded in the legs and three men were injured. The patrol return without accomplishing their object. Lt. Eatons patrol returned at 2200 hrs without sighting any enemy. On their way back they found Lt. Corfe's patrol and helped the wounded in.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	13 Feb 44 Sunday		Strength Offrs 33 and 3; O.R.'s 752 and 35 attached. Cold and rainy, turning to snow in afternoon. Very little happened during the day except sporadic shelling of the Bn Area. Patrols for the night were: (a) Lt. Eaton and 8 men on an ambush patrol. (b) Lt. Ketcheson and 12 men on a recce patrol around NORTH end of CRECCHIO to locate enemy strong points. Lt. Eaton did not find any enemy and returned at 2310 hrs.	
Same location	14 Feb 44 Monday		Strength Offrs 32 and 3; O.R.'s 749 and 35 attached. Cold with snow. Lt. Ketcheson's patrol returned at 0010 hrs without encountering any enemy. Forward posns of C Coy were mortared in late morning, no casualties. A certain amount of enemy activity was observed around CRECCHIO during the day. Intermittent enemy shelling occurred during the afternoon and evening. Patrols for the night were. (a) Lt. MacKenzie and 15 men to raid house at 268107 in order to obtain P.W. if possible. (b) Lt. Ketcheson and 11 men forming an ambush party. Lt. MacKenzie patrol covered the route without meeting any enemy while Lt. Ketcheson's patrol heard movement and voices in the distance but met no one. To-day Lt.-col. G.C. Corbould succeeded Lt.-col. R.L. Tindall as Officer Commanding, the Westminster Regt. (M). The Regt. is certainly pleased to see the return of an old Westminster Offr.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	15 Feb 44 Tuesday		Strength Offrs 32 and 3; O.R.'s 745 and 35 attached. Snow in morning, rest of day cold and hazy, visibility poor at night. There was occasional shelling and mortaring of battalion area during the day. Very little enemy movement was observed. At night there were two recce parties: (a) Lt. W.L. Delaney ambush 272100 until 2200 hrs. No enemy seen or heard, recced forward to bridge 270101 reported road impassible to tanks and bridge demolished. Returned at 2220 hrs. (b) Lt. MacKenzie recced house at NORTH end of CRECCHIO. No sound of nor movement by enemy. Houses unoccupied, returned 0015 hrs.	
Same location	16 Feb 44 Wednesday		Strength Offrs 31 and 2; O.R.'s 744 and 35 attached. Raining, cold and windy turning to snow in evening. Light mortaring and shelling of Bn area during the day. In evening the enemy mortared “A” Coy and Sp Coy quite heavily. No casualties. There were two-patrols out, enemy encountered but no fighting occurred.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	17 Feb 44 Thursday		Strength Offrs 31 and 2; O.R.'s 751 and 35 attached. Weather – Rain and snow, roads very slippery. Visibility at night nil. Intermittent shelling and mortaring went on all day with no damage done. A day light recce patrol went out to study the ground in front of our positions. It saw no sign of enemy movement. Patrol: Lt. R.E. Ketcheson and 10 men went out to raid woods SOUTH of CRECCHIO. They waited until 2130 hrs and felt the time was ripe and were about to call for their artillery support when a message came through cancelling the patrol. The arty being not properly registered and not ready to shoot. The patrol came back	
Same location	18 Feb 44 Friday		Strength Offrs 31 and 2; O.R.'s 749 and 35 attached. Weather - same as usual cold and snowy. A very quiet day with little shelling or mortaring. Quite a few verey lights mostly to the NORTH EAST. 2 patrols: Lt. R.E. Ketcheson and 10 men went out to raid the woods just SOUTH of CRECCHIO. They ran into what was thought to be a small enemy patrol and manoeuvred quite awhile trying to bring the enemy to battle but to no avail. Arty fire was brought down on the woods and several Germans were thought to have been hit and a considerable amount of activity took place. Lt. Ketcheon's patrol was unable to follow the barrage in as numerous shells, presumed to be German D.F. were falling in their path. Lt. E.M. MacKenzie and 2 men left on a recce patrol to the Village of TUCCI. The patrol reached their objective and lay in the vicinity for about an hour observing. They left for home at approx 2330 hrs. and had gone no further than 20 yds when a blinding flash was seen and all three were thrown to the ground. Pte. Jakel was not seriously injured and crawled over to the other two. Pte. Bayne was slightly delirious and unable to move his legs, Lt. MacKenzie did not stir. Pte. Jakel was forced to leave, a German party was approaching cont'd next sheet.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	18 Feb 44 Friday		Cont'd from previous sheet. Pte. Jakel made his way back to the unit lines, arriving on the verge of collapse He had some valuable information to impart.	
Same location	19 Feb 44 Saturday		Strength Offrs 31 and 2; O.R.'s 749 and 35 attached. Weather - snow or sleet off and on all day. Our Baker company outpost was the subject of some attention from a German patrol, who fired on our outpost with an MG 42. We replied with 3" mortar, the patrol withdrew some distance and the process was repeated, this was repeated a third time and the patrol then withdrew completely. There was no mortaring shelling all day. Daytime patrols discovered traces of German occupancy in caves and silt-trenches in front of our right hand positions. Patrols: Lt. Delaney and 2 men went on a recce patrol to locate an M.G. position suspected SOUTH of CRECCHIO. The area was thoroughly recced and found to be booby trapped but no signs of enemy posts or of M.G. emplacement.	
Same location	20 Feb 44 Sunday		Strength Offrs 31 and 2; O.R.'s 749 and 35 attached. Weather - occasional snow, the footing is very bad and roads in poor shape. Three minor injuries sustained in Charlie Coy from mortaring at noon which demolished one of their buildings. Rest of the day quiet. 2 patrols: Lt. G.B. Eaton and 15 men went out to ambush the enemy at 272099. They saw one man but were unable to pin him. No signs of any enemy patrolling other than the one man was seen. Lt.R. E. Ketcheson and 10 men went out to ambush the enemy at 272099. No enemy seen. This position is only 300 yds from A Coy and has been made into a section post manned all night by A Coy.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	21 Feb 44 Monday		Strength Offrs 31 and 2; O.R.'s 743 and 35 attached. Weather - cold and overcast. D Sqn of GGHG moved up to take over fwd positions of B Coy who moved to reserve. The first batch of 1 Offr and 15 OR's left for the 8th Army Rest Camp at San Spirito, NORTH of BARI. Very quiet day. Mortaring resulted in one slight casualty in A Coy. The enemy sent up large numbers of flares during the night. Two patrols: Lt. Welsford and 15 O.R.'s on an ambush patrol were unable to make contact with the enemy. Lt. Delaney and 2 O.R's on a lay over patrol. They will hole up over the 22nd February, coming in at last light or shortly after. They were to operate in area 265102. Strength Offrs 31 and 2; O.R.'s 743 and 35 attached. Weather - cold with alternate sun and overcast. Another quiet day. A little mortaring to which our artillery replied. The Vickers MMG's are firing at daybreak and sunset into the German lines. Lt. Delaney and his patrol arrived in safely at 1600 hrs. They were spotted at 1500 hrs and fired on, but got back with no casualties. During their lay over in the German lines they spotted many German positons and O.P's. German soldiers were seen moving around and all dispositions well placed. The patrol was forced to withdraw for a few hours about midnight of the 21st. The 1/5 Ghurkas on our left having artillery support for a fighting patrol and many of the shells were falling close to our patrol. One patrol: Lt. Foucher of the GGHG's and 2 men on a recce patrol were caught between 2 parts of an enemy patrol when they were about 500 ft out from our F.D.L. They got out from between the Germans and came back in. The area was then shelled and mortared. Results not known.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	23 Feb 44 Wednesday		Strength - Offrs. 30 O.R.s. 733 Weather rain and occasional snow. A quiet day and night. No activity on the enemies part. Two recce patrols led by Cpl L. Bailey and L/Cpl E. Hammersley were out but both were stopped by enemy activity in “no mans land” and we will probably move forward and occupy this territory.	
Same location	24 Feb 44 Thursday		Strength - Offrs. 32 O.R.s. 737 Weather RAIN To stop any enemy infiltration into our F.D.L's Baker Coy was pulled out of reserve and put into new positions well forward onto the ridge overlooking the ARIELLI River. The move forward was completed without disturbance from the enemy. A Sqn RCD's has been put under our command and took over B Coys old position. Lt. Foucher of the GGHG's took a recce patrol out but were unable to reach their objective because of enemy activity. The day was quiet with little shelling or mortaring.	
Same location	25 Feb 44 Friday		Strength - Offrs. 32 O.R.s. 755 Weather continues to be bad with some snow and rain and every where mud. The enemy seem to have the range of our F.D.L's during the day, both A Coy and C Coy were shelled and mortared. An ambush patrol went out in front of B Coys forward out post's but the enemy did not venture near.	
Same location	26 Feb 44 Saturday		Strength - Offrs. 35 O.R.s. 758 Some shelling of our forward positions during the day. Two casualties being suffered by Charlie Coy. Lt. Scott took out a fighting patrol of 15 O.R's on the ridge WEST of CRECCHIO but found no enemy to tangle with and returned safely. During the day Brigadier J.D.B. Smith O.B.E. paid his first visit to the unit since assuming command of 5 Cdn Armd Bde and toured the F.D.L's.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	27 Feb 44 Sunday		Strength - Offrs. 36 O.R.s. 742 It has stopped raining at last but still continues very cloudy and cold. The day and night were both quiet. The principal thing of note being the large number of flares the enemy sent up during the night. Lt. Douglas got his patrol established in a house at 268098 during the night. A patrol led by Cpl French tried to get into CRECCHIO and lay over there but the enemy were too active and they could not make it. At 1800 hrs a German soldier was picked up in front of B Coy lines. He seemed to be lost. He was a member of 11/578 a native of upper Silesla and not unhappy to find himself a prisoner. This is the first prisoner who has been taken on our or the 11 CIB front since we moved into this portion of the line.	
Same location	28 Feb 44 Monday		Strength - Offrs. 36 O.R.s. 759 The weather continues to be cloudy and quite cold. Little activity was seen on the enemy side and his artillery and mortars were unusually silent. Lt. E.G. Roberts went out with a fighting patrol and scoured a large area but were unable to find any trace of the enemy. Lt. R.R. Douglas and his party which had lain over in a house on the ridge WEST of CRECCHIO came in at 1905 hrs. They took with them a 38 set and during the day sent back information over it regarding the enemy movements and dispositions. They also directed a shoot on an enemy mortar by our mortars and scored one direct hit. This patrol brought back more information than any other recce patrol we have had out.	
Same location	29 Feb 44 Tuesday		Strength - Offrs. 36 O.R.s. 730 The weather is breaking and the nights are getting much lighter. A little mortaring and shelling went on during the day and one shell hit Tac HQ at noon but did no damage. Three protective patrols led by Lt. Davis, Lt. Miller and an officer from the GGHG's were sent out but made no contact with the enemy.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials

LIST OF APPENDICES

THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (MOTOR) C.M.F

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	Orig	Dup	Trip
1. Unit Part 1 Orders	X	X	X
2. AFW's 3008 & 3009	X		
3. Unit Part 11 Orders			X
4. Patrol reports	X		
5. Detailed Report of encounter with German Patrol by "C" Coy 4	X		X
6. Farewell Message	X		
7. Newspaper report on Appx 5	X		

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
268098 CRECCHIO	1 Mar 44 Wednesday		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 739 - 35 att. A fine day, the first since we have been in the line. Sgt. Winding and his rading party left early in the morning and reached their objective under cover of darkness when it became light they shot up three known German positions and began their withdrawal. On reaching the house at 268098 one of the party set off a booby trapped Teller mine and was seriously injured. He was patched up and a stretcher made of rifles, and the patrol set of again. It had gone about 25 yards when another booby trapped Teller mine went ff right-beside the stretcher carrying party. The injured man Pte. Clark was killed immediately, 3 other men were seriously wounded, 5 slightly wounded. Rescue work was carried an in full view of the enemy in CRECCHIO and no enemy fire or mortar was brought down. The injured men all displayed *great fortitude during* the difficult job of evacuation. One man, Pte. Hayes died on the way to the RAP and one later in the M.D.S. During the day the battalion was relieved by the Perth Regt. and went back to rest camp at ROATTI.	
319098 ROATTI	2 Mar 44 Thursday		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 739 - 35 att. We are settled down in the village of ROATTI for a rest. It is well bombed out town and the sanitation has not been very well looked after but is quite comfortable. The weather has broken and it looks as though we will have fine weather during our rest.	
Same place	3 Mar 44 Friday		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 739 - 35 att. The weather continues fine. Companies have started on a training programme and the results are already apparent. 2 men being slightly injured by shrapnel ricocheting back from a PIAT bomb. We received word today that B68035 Pte. WARDMAN J. and K47740 J Pte. MCCRAE J. died in hospital as a result of injuries sustained when the Teller mine exploded on the night of 29 Feb - 1 Mar 44.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same place	4 Mar 44 Saturday		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 739 - 35 att. Entertainment for the boys is now in full swing. A partially bombed church is being used for an auditorium and movies are being shown. The Tin Hats an all Canadian Stage Show arrives tomorrow arid will give 2 shows a day. We are now under command of 11 Cdn Inf Bde.	
Same place	5 Mar 44 Sunday		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 739 - 35 att. A 60 cwt truck loaded with blankets ran over a Teller mine near Lanciano early this evening and four men were injured. The driver and second driver were lucky not to have sustained more serious injuries than they did and the men in the back of the truck were saved by the pile of blankets. The unit is to take over from the Irish Regiment of Canada on Wednesday, 8 Mar 44.	
Same place	6 Mar 44 Monday		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 733 - 35 att. The weather has reversed itself and there has been a driving snow storm all day. The roads and ground which had become quite dry have been transformed into a sea of mud again. One officer and one man were slightly injured in the morning when the tail piece of a PIAT bomb flew back and hit them. The Colonel went out to the Irish Regt of Canada positions and recced the area. The position is not the best we have been in.	
Same place	7 Mar 44 Tuesday		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 729 - 35 att. The weather is still miserable the snow having turned in a cold drizzly rain. Company recce parties went over their areas in the early afternoon. Plans have been changed however, and we are not to occupy the position. Instead we are to recce and make ready for occupancy a position for a reserve battalion. The 3 battalions in the line are going to be reduced to 2 with one coming back into the reserve position. 5 Cdn Armd Div is going to move SOUTH for training and its positions in the line will be taken over by 1 Cdn Inf Div.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	8 Mar 44 Wednesday		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 3 att. O.R.s. 726 - 35 att. The day was quite mild with sunshine but at dusk it started to rain and continued to do so all night. Company recce groups went out and looked over the positions allotted to them by the C.O. and work was started on improving them. Support Coy got in a very satisfactory training shoot with their 6 pdr's.	
Same location	9 Mar 44 Thursday		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 3 att. O.R.s. 726 - 35 att. Rain continued to fall and the roads are very bad. The fields a quagmire. Work continued on the reserve battalion positions. Mostly sandbagging, it being useless to dig slit trenches in this weather. Baker Coy moved a platoon forward to their area.	
Same location	10 Mar 44 Friday		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 3 att. O.R.s. 720 - 35 att. It rained harder than ever all day and ground conditions are getting very bad. Brig. Murphy of 1 C.A.T.B. and Lt.-col. Bingham of 12 C.T.R. (Three Rivers Tank) visited the unit in the morning and conferred with the C.O. The C.O. recced alternative positions for the reserve Bn of 2 Cdn Inf Bde. Line was laid out to Baker Coys platoon to ensure ample warning if we are required in an operational roll.	
Same location	11 Mar 44 Saturday		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 3 att. O.R.s. 723 - 35 att. It continues to rain. Baker Coy moved the balance of their company forward to the T Junction on the main ORTONA-ORSOGNA road, NORTH of CALDARI. Support Coy moved forward to CALDARI. Routes were laid on for Able and Charlie to follow if they were required to move forward.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	12 Mar 44 Sunday		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 3 att. O.R.s. 721 - 35 att. Cloudy all day with rain falling from about 1800 hrs on. Companies spent the day at rest and preparing to move south.	
Same location	13 Mar 44 Monday		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 3 att. O.R.s. 720 - 35 att. A fine clear day, with spring in the air. White armoured 15 cwts come up from B Echelon to transport the regiment back to the Div Concentration area. All companies spent the day cleaning up billets and preparing to move out. At 1430 hrs B Coy position was shelled and 2 Arty trucks in their area were hit, one being set on fire and one badly damaged.	
Same location Tuesday	14 Mar 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 3 att. O.R.s. 720 - 35 att. It was raining early in the morning and it looked like a wet convoy but the weather broke about 0900 hrs. The regiment was relieved by the Loyal Edmonton Regt. of 2 Cdn Inf Bde. When the convoy started out at 1000 hrs it was quite clear. The convoy itself ran exceptionally well, traffic on the roads was light and as a result good time was made. The head of the column reached the Battalion area just outside CASELVECCHIO at 1810 hrs. Most of the convoy arrived before darkness set in which made harbouring quite easy.	
938332 Sheet 163	15 Mar 44 Wednesday		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 721 - 35 att. Avery nice day. The sun shining warmly all day. Towards evening a wind sprang up and it started to rain about 2230 hrs. Companies spent the day settling down in their new positions. There are no buildings in the battalion area and the ground is mostly ploughed and very soft. BN HQ and Hq Coy are at 938332; A Coy at 921335; B Coy at 956340; C Coy at 932328; Sp Coy at 960345. The Salvation Army have requisitioned a building in Casalvecchio and have set up a canteen. A meeting of company commanders to discuss training was held in the afternoon.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same place	16 Feb 44 Thurs		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 721 - 35 att. A fine clear day. The day spent in maintenance and cleaning up of equipment.	
Same place	17 Mar 44 Friday		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 721 - 35 att. A bright sunshiny day becoming quite cold at night. Companies continued cleaning up and doing maintenance. Sgt. Fagan left by plane for Algiers to attend an "I" Course.	
Same place	18 Mar 44 Saturday		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 720 - 35 att. Bright sunshine again to-day. Coy inspections of personnel and kit occupied most of the day.	
Same place	19 Mar 44 Sunday		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 779 - 35 att. Another very nice day. Voluntary Church Parade held in CASALVECCHIO was exceptionally well attended.	
Same place	20 Mar 44 Monday		Strenth - Offrs. 36 - 3 att. O.R.s. 779 - 35 att. Bright sunshine again today with a strong wind springing up at night fall. C.O. and Coy Comd's attended a TEWT staged by Div. Training commenced on syllabus as attached. Highlight of the day was the M.O's lecture on Malaria Hygiene.	See Appx 4.
Same place	21 Mar 44 Tuesday		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 778 - 35 att. Slight showers during the morning, clearing up with sunshine in the afternoon. Training continues, highlighted by Capt Hughes lecture on House Clearing and Street Fighting.	
Same place	22 Mar 44 Wednesday		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 776 - 35 att. Cloudy with a cold wind in forenoon with intermittent showers in afternoon. Highlight of training was Lt. Douglas's lecture on German Identification.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same place	23 Mar 44 Thursday		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 773 - 35 att. A cold and miserable day with 3” of snow falling before 1430 hrs when it stopped snowing and turned very cold. The highlight of training was the field sketching done by Charlie Coy under very trying conditions.	
Same place	24 Mar 44 Friday		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 774 - 35 att. Cloudy all day with a cold wind. Training continues with an arty correction exercise by Charlie Coy the highlight.	
Same place	25 Mar 44 Saturday		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 780 - 35 att. Intermittent snow or rain with strong wind in the evening. Assault course work occupied most peoples attention.	
Same place	26 Mar 44 Sunday		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 779 - 35 att. A cold, cloudy day with light winds. A day of rest and clean up for the battalion, voluntary church parade services in the field were well attended.	
Same place	27 Mar 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 3 att. O.R.s. 778 - 35 att. Cloudy and mild in forenoon, strong cold wind springing up in afternoon. Companies continued training. In the afternoon Company Comd. went on a TEWT, “PIVOT NOW" laid on by the C.O.	
Same location	28 Mar 44 Tuesday		Strength - Offrs. 33 - 3 att. O.R.s. 774 - 35 att. A very cold wind blowing all day, making every one keep moving for warmth. Companies continued training. The unit was visited by Brig. D. Smith Bde Major during the afternoon.	
Same location	29 Mar 44 Wednesday		Strength - Offrs. 33 - 3 att. O.R.s. 797 - 35 att. Bright sunshiny day with a slight breeze. Training continues. The unit is to move up to GUGLIONSI, just outside TERMOLI to take a five day river-crossing course.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same place	30 Mar 44 Thursday		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 3 att. O.R.s. 799 - 35 att. Mild, bright sunshine all day. “A” and “B” Companies moved up to GUGLIONESI to-day using their own transport for the move. GUGLIONESI is perched high atop a hill, not an uncommon place for Italian towns. The populace is friendly and the town moderately clean. There seems to be no sanitary arrangements whatsoever and the town has no water supply.	
M.R. 7668 Sheet #30 ref. SAN SEVERO	31 Mar 44 Friday		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 3 att. O.R.s. 798 - 35 att. Another very fine day. The remainder of the Battalion consisting of C, Sp and HQ Coys less A & B Echelons moved up to GUGLIONESI in TCV's. All companies started on the river crossing course, the first day being devoted to boat drill and learning to launch and paddle the boats. If the weather holds it promises to be a very enjoyable course. The C.O. held a company commanders meeting in the evening at which suggestions for future training were outlined. …….. Lt-Col. G.C. Corbould Commanding Officer The Westminster Regt. (Motor)	

LIST OF APPENDICES

THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (MOTOR)
C.M.F

WAR DIARY (April) 1944

	Orig	Dup	Trip
1. Unit Part 1 Orders	X	X	X
2. AFW's 3008 & 3009	X		
3. Unit Part 11 Orders (Nos. 15 to 20)			X
4. Training Syllabus	X		
5. Training Syllabus – 5 CAD River Crossing School	X		
6. "The Maple Leaf"	X		
7. Wireless Scheme	X	X	X
8. Cartoons of Unit Offrs and OR's	X		
9. Patrol Report	X		
10. Map. Italy 1:100,000 Sheet 163	X		
11. Report on "C" Coy Action – CHIAMATO – 6 February 1944 *This is app 5 of FEB DIARY*	X	X	X

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 938332 Sheet 163	1 April 44 Saturday		Strength - Officers. 34 and 4 att. O.R.s. 798 and 37 attached. A warm spring day with a moderate breeze coming in from the sea. All companies continued with their river crossing course. The C.O. attended a conference on training at Div. HQ.	
Same location	2 April 44 Sunday		Strength - Officers. 34 and 4 attached. Other ranks 798 and 37 attached. Possibly the nicest day we have had in Italy. Not a cloud in the sky and just a whisper of a breeze. River crossing work continued. A and B Coys doing night crossings. The unit changed over to Daylight Saving Time at midnight.	
Same location	3 April 44 Monday		Strength - Officers. 33 and 4 att. O.R.s. 798 and 37 attached. Rain fell throughout the morning but the sun came out again in the afternoon. River crossing school again with C and Sp doing night crossings.	
Same location	4 April 44 Tuesday		Strength - Officers. 33 and 4 att. O.R.s. 798 and 37 attached. A pleasant mild sunny day. The final day of the river crossing and in the morning the battalion did a full dress river crossing and bridgehead scheme. The exercise was very successful. The two leading companies being across the river in 1 ½ mins on to their objectives in half an hour and inside of an hour and a half all the A/Tk guns, MMG's and 2 Jeeps and 12 carriers had been ferried across the river. A and B companies returned to the battalion area outside CASALNUOVA.	
Same location	5 April 44 Wednesday		Strength - Officers. 33 and 4 att. O.R.s. 796 and 37 attached. Cloudy but still mild. C, Sp and Hqs companies returned from GUIGLIONESI to the battalion area near CASALNUOVA. The day was spent in cleaning up and setting up camp.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	6 April 44 Thursday		Strength - Officers. 33 and 4 att. O.R.s. 794 and 37 attached. A fine sunny day, very warm, almost hot. The C.O. attended a divisional conference on an exercise Thruster, an inf cum tank scheme to be held on the weekend. On returning from it he inspected each company in turn and gave them some inkling as to what the future might have in store for them. The Coys spent the rest of the day working on their vehicles.	
Same location	7 April 44 Friday		Strength - Officers. 35 and 4 att. O.R.s. 811 and 37 attached. Another sunny day. Very warm, everyone going around in shirt sleeves, for the first time this year. The unit left at 0400 hrs 8 Apr 44 for the assembly area near LUCERA to participate in the scheme “Thruster”. The route was laid out 11 miles across country and at about 0700 hrs the unit ran into an unbridged creek. The carriers were able to get across but it was too deep for the wheeled vehicles. A temporary bridge was made utilising portee sand-tracks and two comapnies vehicles got across on these. Brigade ordered the remainder of the battalion rerouted which it did finally reaching harbour about noon. A sudden shift in plans has entailed the unit going back into the line and a recce party went off early in the morning. The C.O. was suddenly given instructions to go on a recce of the new area and left in the middle of the afternoon. What with recce parties, courses, leave and umpires the unit's practically denuded of officers at the moment.	
Same location	8 April 44 Saturday		Strength - Officers. 34 and 4 att. O.R.s. 810 and 37 attached. A sunny warm day. The inf cum tank attack scheme took place to-day, but we were held in reserve and did not move from harbour until the exercise was over and we returned to the area outside CASALNUOVA. The C.O. arrived at the portion of the line we are to take over and made a preliminary recce. We went under Command 11 Cdn Inf Bde at noon to-day.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	9 April 44 Sunday		Strength - Officers. 34 and 4 att. O.R.s. 809 and 37 attached. The day dawned fine but became progressively cloudy and it started to rain at dusk and rained hard all night. The unit left CASALNUOVA for the line arriving at a staging area about 15 miles WEST of CAMPOBASSO about 1500 hrs in the afternoon. The convoy was slow but few vehicles fell out. The C.O. completed his recce and arrangements for taking over in the line and rejoined the unit in the staging area. In the evening Brig. Snow of the 11 Cdn Inf Bde held a commanding officers conference to discuss plans for moving into the lines.	
Same location	10 April 44 Monday		Strength - Officers. 34 and 4 att. O.R.s. 808 and 37 attached. Cloudy all day but quite mild. The unit spent the day cleaning up and preparing to move into the line. Company Commanders and department heads went up on a recce, an “O” Gp and discussion of problems being held on their return.	
Same location	11 April 44 Tuesday		Strength - Officers. 35 and 4 att. O.R.s. 806 and 37 attached. A fine warm sunny day until mid afternoon when it clouded over and began to rain. It cleared up about 2300 hrs and the moon came out. The C.O. spoke briefly to the troops in the morning about the move into the line and Divine Service was held. Advance parties set out with all the heavy equipment just after noon arriving at the line at dusk and conducted to the FDL's by guides from the Preston Force who we are relieving.	
New location Ref 1/25000 Italy Sheet 160-1-SE N929279	12 April 44 Wednesday		Strength - Officers. 35 and 4 att. O.R.s. 807 and 37 attached. A day very similar to yesterday with sunshine in the morning and rain starting in the late afternoon. The battalion moved into the line under unfavourable weather conditions but the change over was completed at 0500 hrs without incident. We are still under Comd, of 11 Cdn Inf Bde which is under Comd of 4th British Division, 13 Corps. We have under our command an Italian bn. – The Bafile Bn Commanded by Major Eugenio Manca. It is composed mostly of sailors from the Italian fleet who volunteered for land duty after surrendering their ship at MALTA.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	13 April 44 Thursday		Strength - Officers. 35 and 4 att. O.R.s. 807 and 37 attached. A fine clear day. Very quiet on the front all day. Intermittent shelling of A Coy area started about dusk and at 2000 hrs two direct hits on a house caused the death of K42705 Pte. Brisbin G.G. and K73990 Pte. Hansen F.J. and injuring three others. At 2100 hrs M60770 Pte. Uselman died of his wounds and at 0030 hrs Pte. Eliason W. J. also died of from wounds. Some shelling and mortaring went on all night. Local patrols were sent out. The unit with under command the Bafiles is now known as the CORBOULD FORCE.	
Same location	14 April 44 Friday		Strength - Officers. 35 and 4 att. O.R.s. 807 and 37 attached. Another fine clear day. If the weather holds out and the front remains quiet it should be a very enjoyable stay in the line. Very little shelling or mortaring went on today. Local patrols only were sent out. Brig Snow visited Tac HQ in the evening and discussed the position with the O.C. The British 4th Division was today replaced by the 2nd NZ Div and we are part of the latter force now.	
Same location	15 April 44 Saturday		Strength - Officers. 34 and 4 att. O.R.s. 807 and 37 attached. A fine clear day. Very quiet again on the front. Some shelling of A Coys positions again in the early evening. Lt. H.E. Smith took a patrol out to determine enemy positions but was unable to make contact.	
Same location	16 April 44 Sunday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 802 and 37 attached. The weather continues to be warm and sunny. Shelling just after dusk in the cemetery at VALVORI resulted in the death of L105481 Pte. Ogloff G.W. and one man being injured. A shell landed on the Bafile Bn RAP and sent three men to the hospital. Lt. Ketcheson took a patrol out to reconnoitre possible routes of enemy infiltration. The Bafile Bn sent a patrol out but just after it left an enemy patrol was spotted by one of the Italian FDL's and the patrol stayed to help out in event of trouble. Small arms fire was exchanged between Italian and German but no damage done as far as can be found out. The Polish Bde of the 4th Kresow Div on our right is being relieved by the 6th NZ Inf Bde.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	17 April 44 Monday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 806 and 37 attached. Once more a clear warm day. Shelling of the town of VALLEROTONDA on the afternoon lost a man from the 24 Lt Fd Amb and injured another. Charlie Coy sent out a patrol to lay over in a house in "no mans land". They will probably not notice much as the enemy is nearly four miles away here but are in a good spot to stop any enemy infiltration. Bafile Bn recce patrols made no contact with the enemy.	
Same location	18 April 44 Tuesday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 806 and 37 attached. Sunny in the morning, cloudy in the afternoon with rain falling at night. The Germans landed over 50 shells between Tac HQ and C Coy but no damage was done. The enemy also put in his daily few on VALLEROTONDA. Otherwise the front was very quiet. Lt. Ketchesons recce patrol contacted the enemy and were fired on from close range but withdrew without having any casualties.	
Same location	19 April 44 Wednesday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 805 and 37 attached. Very warm and sunny all day. Also very quiet all over the front. Able company were mortared nearly all afternoon but the damage was nil. Recce patrols made no contact with the enemy. #1 Coy of the Bafiles thought they saw a German patrol near their position but the enemy slipped away.	
Same location	20 April 44 Thursday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 803 and 37 attached. Another warm and sunny day. The German splattered mortar and shells liberally all over our area but no damage was done. Patrolling activity was limited to local standing patrols. The International Post was approached and fired on by a party of three unidentified men. The affair was somewhat puzzling as everyone in the I.P was sure that they were fired at by Tommy Guns. The 2nd Indep Para Bde is taking over the sector immediately to our right relieving the 6th NZ Inf Bde.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	21 April 44		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 800 and 37 attached. Sunny and warm again with a breeze springing up at night. Shelling during day was confined to A Coys sector and a few around VALLEROTONDA. Local Standing patrols were again the order. Brig. Snow visited the unit in the evening and went down to A Coy area. The first POW brought in by the Brigade Group was secured by Lt. Tattersall's platoon manning the International Post which had a scuffle with an enemy patrol about 2130 hrs. Besides the prisoner the German patrol which numbered about seven carried off another wounded man. After the incident heavy fire fell just back of the International Post.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same place	22 April 44 Saturday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 799 and 37 attached. Sunny to-day with the wind still blowing. A quiet day. Just after midnight a patrol of the Bafile Bn returned to their lines on CICORU came under mortar fire and two rounds dropped right among the patrol killing six and wounding six. "A" Coys mortars took on the enemy mortar and silenced it. A Coy mortars also engaged and silenced an enemy MG which opened up about this time.	
Same place	23 April 44 Sunday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 800 and 37 attached. Fine again to-day. The wind which is getting to be a fixture was not quite so boisterous to-day. It was very quiet along the front. A little shelling was done of CICORU and the RAPIDO river valley in front of "C" Coy in the forenoon but no shelling at all took place at night.	
Same place	24 April 44 Monday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 796 and 37 attached. Weather the same sunny and windy. The usual slight shelling was about all that took place today. Digging was seen forward of "A" Coy and the area engaged with mortars, the area was well covered. The effect not observed.	
Same place	25 April 44 Tuesday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 796 and 37 attached. Sunny and the everlasting wind again to-day. Shelling of "B" Coy area resulted in 2 men being slightly wounded. Lt. Ketcheson and six of his snipers plus 10 men from "B" Coy set off to establish a base at PT 869 across the RAPIDO river from which base recce patrolling will be done forward to the MARTINO feature to locate the enemy and also to recce routes forward in case of an advance. Their line got broken and they were out of touch with the battalion all night and some concern was felt for their safety but morning found them safe, sound and fogbound.	
Same place	26 April 44 Wednesday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 794 and 37 attached. Rain fell intermittently all day and the sun has gone taking with it the wind. A quiet day, a few shells over but Jerry has certainly toned down his efforts in that line. The patrol at PT 869 is being hampered by the rain and the fog which is lying in the RAPIDO valley. It has been decided that they will probably stay out indefinitely. The Italian Coy with Charlie Coy created Cont'd next page	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same place	26 Apr 44 Wednesday		Strength – Offrs cont'd from previous page the nights excitement by having a war with some shadows. It is not known who won but no Italians were hurt and no punctured shadows were found so it was probably a draw.	
Same place	27 April 44 Thursday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 796 and 37 attached. Poor weather again today, cloudy and occasional showers. Two Baker Coy men were slightly injured by shell fire in the forenoon. The German really put down a Stonk around midnight blasting VALLEROTONDA VALVORI and the NORTH Rd for well over an hour but no damage was done. Lt. Ketcheson continues with his recce work forward from PT 869.	
Same place	28 April 44 Friday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 814 and 37 attached. Warm but cloudy with a slight breeze blowing. Mortaring of VALVORI in the afternoon resulted in B32131 Sgmn Wismer L.B. being killed and one OR slightly wounded. Two Italians on CICORU were injured at the same time. The rest of the day was quiet. At about 2000 hrs the mortaring started up again in the VALVORI - CICORU sector and it was the most intense bombardment we have come under, over 400 bombs having been counted landing on "A" Coy area before the counter lost track. The reason for the mortaring became apparent when the Bafile Coy occupying CICORU reported a small scale raid by about a dozen Germans on one of their outposts. The Bafile casualties were one killed and two missing. Movement was heard in front of "A" Coy about the same time and it is thought a raid was planned on one of their positions and that it was scared off by Able Coys standing patrol.	
Same place	29 April 44 Saturday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 813 and 36 attached. Cool and cloudy with an occasional spot of sun. A very quiet day and just a few scattered shells and mortar bombs flying around. Tac HQ was visited around midnight by two unidentified strangers. They were fired at by a sentry who unfortunately missed them and had a jam in his tommy gun. The' strangers disappeared and no further trace of them could be found.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	30 April 44 Sunday		Strength - Officers. 36 and 4 att. O.R.s. 812 and 36 attached. Mild with the sun coming out in the late afternoon. Very quiet all along the front. The only thing of note happening being the showering of leaflets on CICORU printed in Italian and calling on them to surrender. The first decorations for the unit come through to-day, A Military Cross for Lt. J.W.C. Biggs and a Military Medal for Sgt. E Winding. We are going to be relieved along with the rest of the 11 Cdn Inf Bde Group on about the 4th of May by the 12 South African (MOT) Bde Group. It is thought 5 CAD is going to concentrate near CASERTA. …….. (G.C. Corbould) Lt.-col. Commanding Officer The Westminster Regt. (Motor)	

LIST OF APPENDICES

THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (MOTOR)

WAR DIARY (May 1944)

	Orig	Dup	Trip
1. Unit Part 1 Orders	X	X	X
2. AFW's 3008 & 3009	X		
3. Unit Part 11 Orders (21 to 26 incl)			X
4. Traces; Exercise THRUSTER	X		
5. Report on capture of PW	X		
6. Air Photographs	X		
7. Patrol Reports	X		
8. Map. Italy, Sheet 160 – 1 – SE Scale 1/25,000	X		
9. Map. Italy, Sheet 160 – 1 and Part 161 - 4 Scale 1/50,000	X		

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 160-1-SE Square 9227	1 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 809 - 35 att. Bright and sunny and very quiet. The unit was visited in the morning by the Canadian Corps Commander, Major General Burns, O.B.E. and Brigadier T. E. Snow. Very little shelling took place. A daylight recce led by Sgt. L. Bailey penetrated deep into No-Man's Land. Ambush patrols made no contact.	
″	2 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 807 - 35 att. Another very sunny and warm day. It was very quiet in all sectors. Lt. MacLachean took a patrol out which searched the lower slopes of the feature MARTINO, but no enemy were encountered. No German patrols were in evidence.	
″	3 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 806 - 35 att. Sunny and warm. The front is so quiet it is unnatural. The Bafiles sent out a fighting patrol but they encountered no enemy. The O Gps from the Imperial Light Horse (Kimberley Regt) who are relieving us arrived and the switch over of heavy weapons was completed without incident.	
″	4 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 806 - 35 att. A fine clear day and even more important a clear night. The day was very quiet. The switch over went very smoothly and without incident. All the troops marched over the mountains to AQUAFONDATA, a grueling march, especially for "A" Coy.	
	5 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 806 - 35 att. The unit rolled from Aquafondata to "B" Echelon area in T.C.V's; transferred over to its own vehicles and kept on rolling on down to the new area, arriving about 0930 hrs. The men were pretty tired by this time and rested most of the day.	Ref. Appx 8 Square 1486.
Sheet 172 CASERTA Square 1486	6 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 806 - 35 att. We are getting a taste of what summer is going to be like. Summer clothing has been issued and everyone is getting themselves accustomed to anti-malaria precautions.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 172 CASERTA Square 1486	7 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 806 - 35 att. Summer again today, bright and hot. The Divisional Commander, Maj-Gen Hoffmeister, D.S.O. and Bar, visited the unit in the morning and inspected the lines paying particular at attention to concealment and camouflage. Advice came through today that an immediate award of the M.M had been made to K54071 Pte. Jakel, N.I. The Canadian Infantry Corps Band entertained the troops in the afternoon with two band concerts.	
"	8 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 808 - 35 att. Very warm all day. Training is getting into swing. Smartening up drill, weapon trg and all the little things one is apt to forget when in the line. The Army Commander, General Sir Oliver Leese paid a flying visit this morning, stopping for about 10 minutes.	
"	9 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 816 - 35 att. The sky is still cloudless. Sport is rearing its head, softball is being played on 4 or 5 diamonds, old inter-platoon feuds are being revived. The Officers are earnestly playing volley-ball. One of the main problems as always in the back areas is keeping the Italians away from the camps.	
"	10 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 815 - 35 att. A suspicion, of a cloud appeared in the morning but it soon disappeared and "Clear and Hot" as usual. Training continues. We have started on a road repair project, having been assigned approximately ½ mile of road by Division to grade and keep in shape.	
"	11 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Another clear and warm day. Training continues as per schedule. A small arms range has been recced and approved by Brigade and firing will commence tomorrow. The "Big Push" started at 2300 hrs with a great Artillery barrage from CASSINO to MINTURNO, followed at 0100 hrs by an attack all along the line. The days of static warfare are over and in a short time we should be operating in our normal role of a motor Battalion.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	12 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 811 - 35 att. Clear and warm once more. Chief interest at the moment is in the fighting going on "up front" and much speculating is going on as to when wo will get into it. A recap of our casualties to date shows the following. OFFR's / O.R.'s. KILLED 0 / 14 MISSING 1 / 2 WOUNDED 3 / 48 4 / 64	
"	13 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 811 - 35 att. Once again a clear sky and very warm. We are being constantly entertained by large numbers of American Kittyhawks flying to the front. Training continues on a variety of subjects.	
"	14 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 811 - 35 att. Clear and warm. A Memorial Service, for those of the Regiment who have fallen in battle, was held. It was voluntary and over 600 attended, a splendid turnout. Brigadier Smith was present and the C.O. read out the names of those killed in action.	
"	15 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Clear and warm again today. Everything is getting very dry and dusty. A Battalion Parade was held in the morning. Brigadier Smith spoke to the regiment, telling them how proud the rest of the Brigade was of our achievements in action and how they would look to us for leadership when we started functioning as an Armoured Brigade.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same location	16 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 806 - 35 att. Another fine warm day. Training continues as usual. The war seems a long way off with only the aircraft flying over and a few distant rumbles to remind us it is still going on.	
″	17 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 815 - 35 att. Fine and warm. A warning order came out at noon that we were to be ready to move up to the front. The rest of the day was spent in reading ourselves for the move. At 2000 hours we advised there would be no move before the morning. At 2245 hrs we were advised to move at 0230 hrs, so preparations were feverishly started again.	
LOCATION Sheet 160 G 917149	18 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. Fine and warn.We were all lined up at 0230 hrs ready to move. The road was jammed with tank transporters and we sat on the side of the road until just before daylight, then moved at a snails pace to the assembly area at G 917149, arriving about noon. The rest of the day was spent in digging silt trenches and camouflaging. At midnight orders came over from Brigade to move as soon as possible, just where we didn't know.	Ref. Appx 9
LOCATION G 850148	19 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 816 - 35 att. Fine and warm again. We moved off into the night at 0130 hrs with a route for about 10 miles to SWINDON BRIDGE where guides were supposed to meet us. No guides appeared so the column went ahead in the general direction of the front. Just before dawn we found a Provost who knew where the Westminsters were supposed to go and everyone breathed a sigh of relief. The advance party met us at the harbour about 0800 hrs having themselves arrived only a half hour before. This concentration area is about 5 miles behind the front line. We were luckier than the tanks who started at the same time and did not arrive here until noon. We spent the rest of the day in camouflaging and getting ready for the next move forward. There are numerous dead Germans lying around and considerable equipment all of which has been here since the 3/15 Punjabs took the area on the 14 May 44. One D.R. was sent to hospital on the approach march, his M.C. was run over by a scout car which did not see him in the dust. It was a grueling drive for the drivers with no lights, a dark night and great billows of dust.	Ref. Appx 9

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
LOCATION G 79751575	20 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 813 - 35 att. It rained early in the morning and changed the dust to that special sticky variety of Italian mud. By 0900 hrs it had stopped raining, at 1100 hrs the sun came out. At 1600 hrs we moved forward again to yet another assembly area. This one must be the last as we are now only 2 miles back of the front line. The move was short and quite fast. We travelled through a devastated land, the artillery barrage must have been extremely heavy. Reached the new area about 1800 hrs and dug slit trenches and camouflaged. One man was injured on the move, being crushed by a scout car , but not seriously.	Ref. Appx 9
″	21 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Fine and warm today. The Divisional area was shelled intermittently all day, some casualties both vehicle and personnel. Fortunately we had none. The unit spent the day in tidying up and readying for any eventuality. The C.O. attended a discussion meeting at Brigade at which a skeleton plan for an armoured thrust was outlined.	
″	22 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 808 - 35 att. Fine and warm all day becoming overcast in the evening with rain beginning to fall about 2200 hrs. K47865. Pte. Koscielny, J.F. was accidently killed about noon today when a Bren gun he was taking from a truck fired , the bullet striking him in the chest. The C.O. attended the Brigadiers O. Gp in the morning. The Brigade is to follow up an attack by the First C.I.D. and itself push forward the attack to the MELFA RIVER and possibly on to CEPRANO. In the afternoon the C.O. held his own O. Group. “A” Coy plus the (Scout Platoons) 1 A/Tk Pl, 1 (of “B” & “C” Coy) M.M.G. Pl left to marry up with the LdSH under whose command they are to come. The regiment is in high spirts, anxious to get going and confident of success. The general plan is as follows (See Appendices 10 & 11). After the 1st C.I.D. have cracked the Hitler Line some 2,000 yds South of ACQUINO the B.C.D's and Irish Regiment with supporting arms will pass through them and move behind an Artillery barrage to Mancini, Sq G 7123 where they will form a firm base. The LdSH with “A” Coy and supporting arms will pass through the firm base and move behind the arty barrage to the River MELFA, the tanks getting “A” Coy across to form a bridgehead in Sq 6824. The remainder of the Westminster Regiment supported by the 8NBH will move up to the bridgehead and expand it to the road running N.E. from	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
LOCATION G 79751575	22 May 44		(continued) G 675244 to G 689254. On completion of this the 8NBH will exploit another 1,000 yds and possibly further in the direction of CEPRANO.	
	23 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 814 - 35 att. Warm and sunny. Every one seems to have arisen feeling as though they could lick their weight in wildcats. We expected to move up about noon but the 1st Div had quite a bit of trouble getting through the Hitler Line so we spent the day sitting and waiting and listening on the wireless for reports from the front. In the early evening we heard that 3rd Bde had broken through and we can expect to move tomorrow.	
	24 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 829 - 35 att. The battalion awoke again today feeling fighting fit. We were put on 15 minutes notice and soon heard that the BCD's and the Irish were on the start line and the 5 C.A.D. is on its way into action. The battalion left its harbour and moved to an assembly area, just South of PONTECORVO. Progress of the BCD' s and Irish was slow during the morning, no enemy opposition, *difficult ground* being the main trouble. At 1320 hrs they had reached their final objective. At 1420 hrs we were ordered to proceed with all speed to BENEDICTINE just East of the MELFA. Our convoy was very seriously handicapped by the traffic milling around in all directions, for the first half hour the C.O. was out in front of the convoy on foot pushing people out of our way. Soon we ran into a strip of road that was being very heavily shelled and everyone crouched low in their vehicles. A carrier was burning in the middle of the road and ammunition was going off in it and flying in all directions. Word came down at 1500 hrs that forward troops heavily engaged and we are needed urgently, but it is not until 1600 hrs that we got completely past the milling traffic and can really get moving. At 1645 hrs we reach BENEDICTINE Crossroads. The situation is rather obscure. Tank fighting is still going on and tanks are being knocked out all around us. “A” Coy, we know are across the river, but whether they are being pressed or not, is not known. In the meantime “A” Coy under command of the LdSH, moved off from the assembly area at 1000 hrs. The carriers were spilt up, some acting as first aid vehicles and	Ref. Appx 10 & 11

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	24 May 44		(continued) some going ahead of the tanks as recce. The going up for “A” Coy, the first wheeled vehicles past the Hitler Line was extremely difficult. The companies drivers did a wonderful job in keeping the column rolling close behind the tanks. These vehicles were lost from shelling on the way up. Before reaching the river one of “A” Coy's carriers spotted an S.P. German gun. They hit the ground and engaged it with a 2" Mortar, the third shot being a direct hit, knocking the gun out and killing the crew. Lt-Col Griffin was very pleased with the work of our carriers both in their co-operation with the tanks and in their first aid duties. At l500 hrs the MELFA was reached and the LdSH were heavily engaged by enemy tanks, A/Tk and S.P. guns. The LdSH tanks stuck right on the job and the crews displayed great courage and devotion to duty, sacrificing themselves in carrying out their orders to get a company across the river. Three “Honey” tanks and a carrier were across the river at 1505 hrs and “A” Coy were debussing preparatory to crossing. The crossing covered by M.G's on the flanks was unopposed, although German mortar fire was coming down constantly on the river bottom. On reaching the West bank “A” Coy platoons fanned out and at once began to run into small packets of enemy. Quick work was made of these, the Germans showing no real desire to fight after some of their number had been killed. An SP gun was encountered and engaged with a PIAT (see Appx 12) the forward sprocket being hit and the track jammed. The crew streamed out and were soon disposed of. On the right flank a section without a PIAT came across a Mk IV tank, and having no other means at their disposal, knocked it out by throwing 30 Number 36 Grenades down the open hatch, killing the crew. By 1615 hrs the whole company was across and the bridgehead was getting firmly established. 25 prisoners were already on their way back and a similar number had been killed. One of “A” Coys platoons positions was over run by a troop of tanks and one section wiped out. The platoon was drawn back and the bridgehead was made more solid. The cross-roads and North-South road at Benedictine were under constant shell-fire at the time the battalion arrived, both from artillery and S.P. guns , but the parking and debussing of the vehicles and troops took place speedily *with* no confusion. One of our scout cars carrying Lieut. R.E. Ketcheson and 9 scouts and snipers received 4 direct hits from an S.P. gun about 100 yds from the crossroads, killing 6, including Lieut. Ketcheson and injuring 4 others. At 1800 hrs the C.O. and	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	24 May 44		(continued) Lt-Col. Griffin had met and the situation was discussed. “C” Coy have already moved off to the left. “B” Coy are getting sorted out. “C” Coy sent back a message shortly after stating that there were S.P. guns in their path, they had suffered casualties and could not proceed. At the same time messages were coming from “A” Coy across the river reporting tanks roaming their F.D.L's and stating they feared a counter attack. The C.O. decided to reroute “C” Coy and did so, sending them down “A” Coys centre line, across the river to reinforce “A” Coy. “B” Coy in the mean time were pushing their way across the river, their original route proved too difficult so they swung around further to their right, made a crossing at another spot and fought their up past machine gun outposts to their objective arriving at about 2100 hrs. The C.O. crossed the river just as darkness fell and looked over “A” and “C” Coy positions and was met by a runner from “B” Coy reporting they were on their objective. There were still no tanks or a/Tk guns across the river which factor made the C.O. decide “B” Coy was too far out on a limb so the runner took back a message for them to pull back into “A” and “C” Coys bridgehead. The message was slightly garbled on its way back and “B” Coy pulled back to the East bank of the river arriving back at 0200 hrs. The C.O. was by this time making plans for a further advance the following day and decided to hold “B” Coy where they were, allowing them to get some rest for the following day. So ended the regiments first day in action as a motor battalion. It is difficult to assess the value of the days fighting as yet, but we do know that a great gap of nearly ten miles in depth has been torn in the German defences and divisions on our right and left can make similar advances. The regiment lived up to every expectation, it was ably led, men fought magnificently and completely outmanouvered and outthought the Germans. It is now safe to say that the regiments reputation is second to none in the Canadian Army.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 160-IV-S.E. G 687244	*25 May 44*		Strength - Offrs. 27 - 4 att. O.R.s. 759 - 35 att. During the night the Irish Regiment of Canada moved up and dug in on the East side of the river. The C.O. spent the best part of the night and the early hours of the morning in teeing up a joint advance of the Irish and ourselves to extend the bridgehead. It was held up pending the arrival of a Squadron of B.C.D's who were to participate. The attack went in at 1130 hrs with "B" and "C" Coys advancing on the right and 3 Companies of the Irish on the left. Very little opposition was encountered and the objective quickly reached. The Germans who had been subjecting us to heavy artillery fire all day, really brought down all he could muster when the companies reached their objectives. "C" Coy particularly suffered, having difficult ground to dig in and suffered considerable casualties. The BCD tanks supporting the attack moved too fast and lost quite a number of tanks in the show. The rest of the day was spent in consolidating and tying up loose ends. The M.M.G's during the two days had little work to do and were sited for anti-penetration work. Our anti-tank gunners were disappointed in that it was very difficult to get their guns across. They had to resort to dragging them across by hand a long and gruelling progress. They were considerably bucked up when one of their Sergeants spotted an 88 mm gun and layed and directed one of the 4th A/tk M10 SP's on it, destroying it with the third round. Special mention should be made of the increasing and untiring efforts of the stretcher bearers and medical crew. Everyone marveled at their fortitude and endurance in getting the casualties away in a fast and efficient manner. During the 2 days between 50 and 100 enemy were killed and over 100 taken P.W. Our own casualties were approximately 100 of which 23 are fatalities.	
LOCATION G 687244	26 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 27 - 4 att. O.R.s. 734 - 35 att. A fine day. The battle has past on, the 11 G.I.B. going through us and keeping up the chase. Traffic is now streaming across the crossing we made only yesterday. Our own vehicles and Main Headquarters were moved across the river. The day was spent in searching the battlefield for bodies and kit, burial of the dead and a general shake down and licking of wounds. Reinforcements arrived. We are up to strength again.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Same Location	27 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 31 - 4 att. O.R.s. 760 - 35 att. Another fine warm day. The only signs of battle are the casualties coming back and the transport going up. The day was spent in rest and clean up. Many took advantage of the Melfa River and had a bath and swim. The water was very clear, fast running and bracing. Many also amused themselves looking over the wrecked and abandoned German equipment.	
LOCATION Sheet 160-IV-S.W. G 597264	28 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 31 - 4 att. O.R.s. 760 - 35 att. The 11 C.I.B. have taken CEPRANO and we are on the move again. We moved up to an assembly area just East of CEPRANO, arriving about noon. Enroute 2 men were injured by shell fire. The bridge built by the Engineers unfortunately collapsed and at 1600 hrs we were re-routed back and around by San Giovanni - with the same intention to push on and to capture POFI. (see Appx 14) Followed a night march convoy through billows of dust stirred up by the tanks, we finally got across the LIRI River and at 2130 hrs began to roll into the new assembly area at G 597264 than a mile from where we started. It was much too late to go on with the original plan so the unit between 2130 hrs and 2400 hrs when the last vehicle rolled in, bedded down.	Ref. Appx 13
Sheet 159-1-S.E. G 498307	29 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 31 - 4 att. O.R.s. 758 - 35 att. Bright and early at 0500 hrs we set off to capture POFI and possibly CECCANO with 2 Coys under command of the BCD's and 1 in reserve. The Brigade Group moved on 2 routes. The people on the left route had fairly easy going and at 0900 hrs leading elements were in front of POFI. The people on the right after plowing through and around streams were stopped by the River MARINGO. At 1100 hrs it was decided to put in a tank crossing and all afternoon was spent in reccing and putting in a crossing. The infantry were sent out on foot reccing and nosing around the North of POFI. At 1600 hours the bridge was in and tanks moving across. At 2000 hrs the C.O. seeing his men were getting nowhere under command of the tanks, asked and received permission to have them revert. They were told to make straight for their original objective North and West of POFI and did so, consolidating there and having the tanks move up behind them to support us. Bits and pieces of the regiment were all over the country side, numerous vehicles being suspended over cliffs or jammed in sunken roads	Ref. Appx 14

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	29 May 44		(continued) and it will take considerable time to sort them out. “B” Coy wiped out a small rear guard of approximately 15 in POFI and “A” Coy captured an Officer and 3 O.R's, an arty O.P near the objective. Our own casualties, personnel, were one killed, 2 wounded when a carrier blew up on a mine. Numerous vehicles are out for one reason or another. Two scouts have not reported in as yet but little anxiety is felt for their safety. The day certainly brought out the point, the Higher Command cannot expect the motor battalion to cover the same ground as the tanks equipped as we now are without sustaining heavy vehicle casualties.	
Sheet 159-1-S.E. G 495291	30 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 31 - 4 att. O.R.s. 755 - 35 att. Fine and warm as usual. The 11 CIB and part of the 2 CIB passed through us this morning on their way to FROSINONE. The day was spent in rescuing and sorting out vehicles and making a new vehicle park. Battalion Headquarters was moved down with the vehicles to the park at G 495291.	Ref Appx 14
″	31 May 44		Strength - Offrs. 31 - 4 att. O.R.s. 755 - 35 att. Another fine, warm, lazy day.The unit spent the day cleaning up, resting and getting clothes washed. As usual when we stop for a breather, idle minds have bred quite a stack of rumours which are busy circulating. The Italians are very friendly and are glad to be rid of the “Tedescies”, they do quite a few chores for the boys. ……..……. Lt-Col. G.C. Corbould Commanding Officer The Westminster Regiment (Motor)	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information				Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			LIST OF APPENDICES				
			THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (MOTOR)				
			WAR DIARY May 1944				
				Orig	Dup	Trip	
			1. Unit Part 1 Orders	X	X	X	
			2. AFW's 3008 & 3009	X			
			3. Unit Part 11 Orders			X	
			4. 11 Cdn Inf Bde Ops Instruction No.2	X			
			5. Appreciation of the Situation	X			
			6. Plan for the Advance – Corbould Force	X			
			7. Map. Sheet 160 – 1 and part 161-IV Scale 1:50,000	X			
			8. Map. Sheet 172 – CASERTA - Scale 1:100,000	X			
			9. Map. Sheet 160 – CASSINO - Scale 1:100,000	X			
			10. Sheet 160 – III – N.E. – Scale 1:25,000	X			
			11. Sheet 160 – IV – S.E. – Scale 1:25,000	X			
			12. Picture of SP gun knocked out	X			
			13. Sheet 160 - IV S.W. Scale 1:25,000	X			
			14. Sheet 159 – I – S.E. Scale 1:25,000	X			
			15. Personal Message from the Army Commander	X			
			16. Letter from the Commander–in–Chief, Allied Armies in Italy	X		X	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Map 159 – I - S.E. G495291	1 Jun 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 805 - 35 att. Once more a hot cloudless day. The units vehicles were all concentrated at the new vehicle park. Cleaning up continued all day. Other units nearby had motion pictures at night and quite a number of the lads slipped away to see them.	
G550271	2 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 801 - 35 att. Fine and hot. The whole Brigade moved to a new location further back of the lines. We are in a fern and scrub covered area, somewhat dusty, but then every place you go is dusty. Our Map Ref. is G 550271. What little of the day was left after we arrived was spent in camouflaging and setting up sanitary arrangements.	
G550271	3 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 801 - 45 att. Cloudless and hot. The C.O. inspected the lines of the various companies, speaking to each company in turn, after finishing his inspection. One man was killed and 4 injured when No. 36 Grenade pin broke. The unit spent the day working on its vehicles, weapons and personal equipment. A mobile bath has opened up on the River Sacco and showers, a change of clothes and a haircut can be obtained as well as a swim in the river. The companies are going down in turn. Battle casualties for the month of May were. Officers / O.R.'s Killed 1 / 21 Wounded 8 / 87 Missing 0 / 4 9 / 112	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
G550271	4 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 39 - 4 att. O.R.s. 857 - 35 att. The temperature went up to 92 degrees in the shade and the result was a short thunder storm about dusk. It lasted only a few minutes and soon it was a fine night again. A Brigade Church Parade was held in the morning in memory of those who had fallen in battle. Taps and reveille were sounded and it was an impressive service. The rest of the day was spent in taking refuge from the sun.	
G550271	5 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 38 - 4 att. O.R.s. 859 - 35 att. Fine and hot. Another storm of short duration in the afternoon, a downpour of about half an hour, soaking everything. The sun came out again and soon everything was normal. Brigadier Murphy of the 1 C.A.B. was around in the afternoon to see the C.O. The C.O. was up at Brigade to meet the new Brigadier, Brigadier Cumberland the ex C.O. of the G.G.H.G. A Divisional wireless and information scheme "Stop Press" occupied all day. It was a very elaborate and realistic affair.	
G550271	6 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 38 - 4 att. O.R.s. 859 - 35 att. Weather continuing fine, in fact the boys are asking for siestas in the afternoon. Glancing around one sees they are being taken in any case! Sweeping changes in the Regt. Capt. Hoskin puts up crowns to take over Support Company (New latrines springing up in great abundance there). Capt. Shawcross now has HQ Coy and our Lieut J.C. Biggs, M.C. is appointed Bde I.O. In the afternoon a concert for the Bde, courtesy of the four Auxiliary Services. A huge success, largely due to the efforts of four very charming CWAC' s. Remarks of the audience unprintable. A great boost for our morale, nevertheless, further assisted by opening of Second Front.	
G550271	7 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. A beautiful day for discussing the Second Front. Otherwise little activity. Our recent batch of reinforcements are training hard and will, no doubt, be battleworthy for our next assignment. Right now they are wilting in the heat! Film shows at various regiments around us, see no lack of entertainment.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
G550271	8 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 838 - 35 att. Big doings! General Hoffmeister visited us to congratulate the Regt on the last show. Very clear and forceful speech, without frills. Considered our contribution at the Melfa to be of vital importance, affecting progress of wole div. Special laurels for “A” Coy. We are to move to a nw area for intensive training, meanwhile we are held in reserve. Hearty cheers!	
G550271	9 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 37 - 4 att. O.R.s. 838 - 35 att. Today the C.O. has taken Company Commanders to visit our wounded men in hospital. (Some very pretty nurses down there!) The advance party left bright and early for our new area, and we have the cheering newsthat we are to live amongst marshes and mosquitoes (the Mepacrine kind) we hope it won't be for long, as the World News is stirring the mens' pulses. C.O. returned with good news that all our hospital cases are progressing favourably.	
G550271	10 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 37 - 4 att. O.R.s. 837 - 35 att. Our previous I.O. is now Capt J.C. Biggs, M.C., I.O. to Bde. Good luck to him. A little excitement today when thecanvas over our kitchen caught fire? Nobody hurt but lunch slightly delayed. Another lovely day.	
G550271	11 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 816 - 35 att. Awoke to quite a heavy shower this morning. Really quite welcome as the dust is as deep as the mud was last winter. The day cleared up later and was warm, though slightly overcast. This afternoon the C.O. attended a Bde conference to discuss future training programs. A very comprehensive plan laid out, which should achive much and prepare us to enter our next engagement the wiser from the mistakes of the last one. Our work will aim at correcting just these errors and will give us an opportunity to try out new ideas.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
G550271	12 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 815 - 35 att. Sunny Italy is certainly living up to its name. Word has been received to be ready to roll at 1700 hrs. We are moving South to an area where training can be carried out. The convoy to the new area is uneven tful though everyone suffers from the enveloping dust. Our route takes us through the town of CASSINO and around the foot of MONASTRY HILL. It is light enough to see the place where CASSINO once stood. All that remains are piles of rubble and shell and bomb craters. We arrived at our new area at 2230 hrs. Although it is dark we can see that our advance party has done an excellent job in preparing the area for the Bn.	
Sheet 172 – 1 Square 2199	13 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 815 - 35 att. And the sun still shines. The day is spent in sorting ourselves out - looking over our new area, cleaning up and camouflage - slit trenches are unnecessary here. In the centre of the area is a field that would make an excellent Battalion parade ground. Everyone wonders!	
″	14 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Warm and sunny - not a cloud to be seen. Reveille at 0500 hrs - breakfast 0530 hrs - Parades 0630 - 1200 hrs. Afternoon free. This is the schedule that we shall work on for a while. Already the men have found a swimming place, the VOLTURNO River. Some of the Officers seem to be attracted to CASERTA where the 14 & 15 th Canadian General Hospitals are situated.	
″	15 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 818 - 35 att. Quite warm and sunny. A good deal of energy is expended in chasing shady spots. R.S.M. Clifford is conducting a school for all the N.C.O's of the Bn. Drill, ceremonial etc. Malaria is catching the occasional victim, anti-malaria precautions are tightened up.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 172 – 1 Square 2199	16 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 818 - 35 att. Hot and sunny. It seems incredible that this is the same country that we were in last winter when we couldn't move because of the complete area of mud. Then we had mud in our hair, food and clothes, now we have dust. Company training in the morning is being conducted as usual. In the afternoon everyone deserts for the river. Our Aux Service sponsored a movie tonight.	
"	17 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. Warm and sunny in morning, cloudy in afternoon with heavy showers at night. Normal company training in morning. N.C.O. School continues.	
"	18 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. Cloudy with intermittent showers. Voluntary Church Parade at 1000 hrs., brought forth a good attendance.	
"	19 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. Sporadic showers all day. The battalion area shows signs of becoming a morass if the rain continues. Normal training is being carried out by each company. Tonight "B" Coy did some night firing with T.S.M.C's on their improvised range.	
"	20 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 816 - 35 att. Weather improving to some extent. Training today consisted mainly in "drying out" exercises and this was somewhat complicated in the afternoon by further showers. Quite heavy rain again at night.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Square 2199	21 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 815 - 35 att. Today we try again with more success to dry ourselves out. Our first coy (Sp Coy) to visit the Div rest area at the beach near MONDRAGONE returned in high spirits. In spite of all the weather they had a good time and put in in lot of swimming and sleeping. The men are in great spirits now and looking forward to a promise of a trip to ROME. Weather much better today, although we almost had a return of the knee deep mud of last winter.	
"	22 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 811 - 35 att. A fine day in keeping with the occasion, for today we have the Divisional Sports meet, (see Appx 5) We as usual are well represented with our Tug of War Team (whose reputation is something out of this world) and of course they conquered all comers. Much of their success must be attributed to the superlative coaching of R.S.M. Clifford who has an uncanny sense of timing which seems to break the morale of the opposing team almost as they take the strain. Cpl Hurley some bad in the broad jump when two of his best jumps were ruled out. He came in 3rd in the 220 yd and 4th in the 100 yds. Pte Metsala, a very promising miler, caught 4th place in the mile. Our Volley Ball Team met its Waterloo at the hands of the Medical Corps Team, who apparently refused to come over to our side of the court and fight it out like men.	
"	23 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 820 - 35 att. Back to normal again. The 5 o'clock reveille seems to be just as easy (or hard) to accomplish as the six-thirty ascension used to be. Really the best way to work, because the afternoons are overpowering, Leaves are still continuing.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	24 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 820 - 35 att. This morning General Burns, O.BE., M.C., was in the Brigade area, but the weather is not in favour of a tour of the units. It rained spasmodically all day. Later developed into a deluge during the night. Life seems to be in a cycle of soaking clothes and sunbathing.	
	25 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 818 - 35 att. This morning the Padre had his service under very pleasant circumstances. The sun shone brightly after the previous night rain and Capt. Lennie was in great voice. Later in the day the new Increment Company of a 100 personnel arrived for a two weeks tour of duty. They are all anxious to get some work in with the Regiment and delighted to get away from the horrors of the holding unit. However they got a splendid initiation during the night in the form of a downpour of unparalleled magnificence.	
	26 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. Trg Incre Coy 4 Offrs. 96 O.R's. Weather is somewhat cloudy, after heavy rain during the night. A Battalion Ceremonial Parade scheduled for today was cancelled much to the delight of numerous personnel. The C.O. accompanied the Brigadier on attending a demonstration by 1 Cdn Corps, consisting of a Tank Demonstration supported by Infantry.	
	27 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 816 - 35 att. Incre Trg Coy 4 Offrs. 96 O.R's. Weather clear and hot once more. The C.O. attended the Canadian Forces Sports Meet (see Appx 6) The tug of War Team won the semi-finals but suffered by losing the finals.	
	28 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. Incre Trg Coy 4 Offrs. 96 O.R's. A scorching day with only a slight breeze which helps a little. The Battalion left after dinner for their promised trip to the famous city of ROME. The Increment Company are still hard at it, training as per schedule.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	29 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 813 - 35 att. Incre Trg Coy 4 Offrs. 96 O.R's. Another still hot day with no exceptional incidents. The whole Bn area is very quiet - everybody away visiting ROME.	
	30 June 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Incre Trg Coy 4 Offrs. 96 O.R's. The personnel visiting ROME returned this morning just before reveille. Lurid, unprintable tales of the "female sex" in Rome were well discussed. The boys were very pleased with their visit and the marvellous places of interest it presented. The day was spent in resting and preparing for a Battalion Parade tomorrow. ……. G.C. Corbould, Lt-Col. Commanding Officer The Westminster Regiment (Motor)	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials

LIST OF APPENDICES

THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (MOTOR)

WAR DIARY JUNE 1944

	Orig	Dup	Trip
1. Unit Part 1 Orders	X	X	X
2. AFW's 3008 & 3009	X		
3. Unit Part 11 Orders			X
4. 5 Cdn Armd Bde Memorial Service	X		
5. Track and Field Meet	X	X	X
6. Canadian Forces Sports Day	X	X	X
7. Military Pin-Up – re Sgt Ernest Winding	X		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 172-1 G219912	1 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Offrs. 4 O.R's. 96 Dominion Day! A Battalion Parade was held, and after, the C.O. announced that the General had ordered all training to cease, which was received with welcome as the mighty sun was warming up to his task with great enthusiasm.	
"	2 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Offrs. 4 O.R's. 92 Hot and sunny. A voluntary Church Parade was held at 1000 hrs. The battalion was informed that the following immediate awards have been approved by the C. in C., C.M.F. K47655 Sgt. White, S.B. M.M M47749 L/Sgt. Bailey, L. M.M M12448 Pte. Culling, J.W. M.M	
"	3 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 813 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Offrs. 4 O.R's. 92 Another hot day. "C" Coy worked on the battle range this morning.	
"	4 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Coy Offrs. 4 O.R's. 91 Hot, sunny weather continues, causing the beaches and swimming holes plenty of business. Normal company training carried on with no changes.	
"	5 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Coy Offrs. 4 O.R's. 91 Hot weather continues. Normal training carries on. We are honoured by the re-showing of the C.W.A.C. performance given on 6 June 44 and followed by a movie "Constant Nymph" A large attendance, obviously for one reason.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
G291192	6 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 813 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Coy Offrs. 4 O.R's. 92 Another hot and cloudless day. Normal company training carries on in the morning. A" Coy and part of H.Q. Coy went to the Brigade Rest Camp for a few days.	
"	7 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 820 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Coy Offrs. 4 O.R's. 91 Hot and sunny. Training carries on as normal. The Brigadier paid us a very short visit.	
"	8 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 820 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Coy Offrs. 4 O.R's. 91 A scorching day. Normal company training in the morning. Battalion area very quiet in the afternoon - everybody away swimming. Auxiliary Services sponsored a show tonight "Lets Face It" which went off without too much trouble.	
"	9 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 814 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Coy Offrs. 4 O.R's. 90 Intermittent showers. Voluntary Church Parade 0930 hrs. The C.O. held a Training Conference –this morning. All "F" Echelon vehicles, drivers and co-drivers left at 1640 hrs on exercise "Time Out". (See Appx 4)	
"	10 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 808 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Coy Offrs. 4 O.R's. 90 All evidence of rain has vanished and the sun is doing its best to make up for it but is being hampered by a slight breeze. The Battalion area is quite deserted today, most of the battalion are away on the scheme "Time Out".	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
G219912	11 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 806 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Offrs. 4 O.R's. 90 Bright sunshine, with intermittent clouds accompanied with a strong breeze. The troops participating in "Time Out" returned this morning at 0630 hrs. The rest of the day spent in normal activities.	
″	12 July		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 799 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Coy Offrs. 4 O.R's. 90 Cloudy, with all indication of rain. A Battalion Parade was held this morning. Later in the morning the C.O., 2 i/c and all Coy Cmdrs went to Brigade to meet the Chief of General Staff. The afternoon was accounted for with everyone looking for cover from the downpour. By evening the weather had cleared and the sky was once more. The G.O.C., Major General Hoffmeister, presented Major J.K. Mahony "A" Coy Commander with the Victoria Cross this evening and was followed by an Officers Party. Bde Wksp held a show "Always in My Heart" and was run with no incident.	
″	13 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 800 - 35 att. Trg Incre. Coy Offrs. 4 O.R's. 91 Clear and hot with a steady breeze coming up in the afternoon. Our training syllabus has been changed again slightly. Reveille 0530 hrs Breakfast 0615 hrs Parades 0700 - 1200 hrs Dinner 1230 hrs Parades 1600 - 1800 hrs Supper 1820 hrs. Maps are being set up this evening for a wireless scheme tomorrow.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
G219912	14 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 37 - 4 att. O.R.s. 815 - 35 att. Hot and cloudless again today. Brigade Wireless Scheme is in full swing. The former "HQ" Coy Commander has gone as 2 i/c of Support Coy, and "HQ" Coy is again taken over by Capt. H.F. Hoskin. The C.O. called a Battalion Parade this afternoon and announced that we are now in 12 Canadian Infantry Brigade.	See Appx 5
"	15 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 37- 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. Another hot day, shadowed by clouds in the evening. Everybody is busy packing for the move. A formal Mess Dinner in honour of Maj. J.K. Mahony, V.C was hold tonight. Cocktails were served at 1815 hrs. Dinner at 2000 hrs. Among the many guests present were the G.O.C., Maj-Gen. Hoffmeister D.S.O.; with two Bars, E.D., The B.G.S., 1 Cdn Corps, Brig. Smith, O.B.E.; The G.S.O., 5 C.A.D., Lt-Col. Angle. Brigadier Cumberland, 5 C.A.B.; Brigadier Spry, 12 C.I.B.; Brigade Major, 5 C.A.B., Major J.W. Eaton. Lt-Col. Griffin, D.S.O.- 2 Armd Regt. Lt-Col. Robinson - 5 Armd Regt; Lt-Col. Vokes - 9 Armd Regt. Major B.F. Neary, 1st Cdn Div, D.A.A.G. and former Adj. The Westminster Regt. Major P.A.F. Grossman former 2 i/c. Capt. Gislason, 13 F.D.S. who was for a long time The Westminster Regt (M) Medical Officer. Lt/Col. R.L. Tindall, former O.C. Westminster Regt. A Toast to the King was proposed by Lt. T.G. Foreman. The G.O.C. then proposed a toast to Major J.K. Mahony, V.C. In reply Major Mahony spoke very highly of his Officers and "A" Coy men. The C.O. proposed a toast to 5 C.A.B. and Brigadier Cumberland replied. Brigadier Smith, O.B.E., said it was a great privilege to pay tribute "to one of our officers whose gallant deeds and courage brought honour to his Regt, Bde and Corps". Brigadier Spry, 12 C.I.B., gave a very appropriate but short talk on our future "Baby Brigade". Capt. E.B. (Tiny) Robertson broke his long silence and whispered in a loud voice "lets get stiff". To his proposal the C.O. agreed. For the rest of the evening and far, far into the night, one could hear the music and song, slightly discorded	*See Appx 6*

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
G219912	15 July 44		Cont'd near the end, and no doubt everyone "got stiff". The Auxiliary Services held a Concert and a movie "For the Boys".	
"	16 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 37 - 4 att. O.R.s. 814 - 35 att. Still another cloudless and hot day. The usual large attendance on Church Parade. Some of the officers were away for the afternoon, sunning themselves at 5 C.A.D. Beach.	
"	17 Jul 44		Strength - Offrs. 37 - 4 att. O.R.s. 813 - 35 att. Clear and hot. Moved to new area 307848. Everybody busy setting up tents. The C.O. had a meeting of Company Commanders at 1400 hrs to discuss sports.	
Sheet 172-II G307848	18 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 37 - 4 att. O.R.s. 813 - 35 att. Once more we are settled down. The companies are doing normal training. Some of the officers are away to Rome for three days leave. The Brigadier spoke to the Battalion this afternoon. Outlined the History of 5 C.A.D., future training and operations. The LdSH held a Mess Dinner in honour of The Westminster Regt(M). Among those to attend were the C.O., Maj. G.D. Johnson, Maj. E. Douglas, Maj. J.K. Mahony, V.C., Maj. D.B. MacKenzie, Capt. H.F. Hoskin, Capt. F.R. Cummings and Capt. E.B. Robertson. Col. P.J. Griffin, D.S.O., presented a portrait to the C.O.	
"	19 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Weather continues hot and clear. Normal Company training during the day. A Training Film followed by a movie, "Yours to Hold" which didn't run.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 172-II G307848	20 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Hot and clear with a slight breeze. Support Coy. received some new vehicles to-day. H.Q. Coy. Inspection by Capt. Hoskini. A smart turn out.	
"	21 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 804 - 35 att. A scorching day with no breeze. The C.O. held a training conference at 1330 hrs. All company commanders attended	
"	22 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 815 - 35 att. Hot and clear with a slight breeze. Normal training this morning. The Auxiliary Service had a movie tonight "Holy Matrimony", the boys are now learning lip reading. These partly silent movies.	
"	23 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 815 - 35 att. Cloudy with all indications of rain during the morning. This afternoon the sun struggled through the cloud and by 1600 hrs. it was hot and clear once again. The Padre was busy to-day with three church parades, at 1000 hr. A.B.C. Coys church parades, at 1130 hrs. Bde Church Parade, and 1930 hrs. H.Q. and C. coys church parade. Capt. J.W. Hughes (jake) went to lst L.A.A. our sister Bn. In 12 C.I. B. as Maj. J.W. Hughes. Best of luck Jake.	
"	24 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. Hot and clear with a slight breeze. Starting to-day all coys. are being turned over to Mr. Clifford R.S.M. for 2 hrs. smartening up drill. Among the men to accompany The Padre to Rome for Confirmation were Sgt. Hicks, L/cpl. Vogler Pte. Bishop P.E. Pte. Skuba J.F., Pte Mathews, and Pte. Clark. Sgt. Sinclair J.C. (provost Sgt.) Sgt. Billy H.J. L/cpl. Mahoney J.K. L/cpl. Majury, L/cpl. McRoberts, Pte. Nestie? Pte McFarlane, and Pte. Phillips were S.O.S. to-day as P.O.W. escort. "A" Coy. had a very successful day on the three inch mortar range. "B" Coy. M.C. and drivers school. "C" Coy, tried out *their* new two inch mortar range (to everyone else, the Bn. soft ball diamond)	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
G307848	24 July 44		Cont'd Support Coy. are carrying out normal training. "C" Coy are now competing with the "Sally Ann" Their Canteen opened to-day with a high sale of Ice Cream and Vino. A soft ball schedule started to-day (see appx. 7?) with a "B" Coy. win over the P.L.D.G. to the tune of 13 - 6.	
Sheet 172-II G307848	25 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 809 - 35 att. The day beginning bright and sunny with the Scouts and Snipers putting on a demonstration at the N.C.O's School. All Coys. resumed their 2 hrs. smartening up drill under Mr. Clifford R.S.M. "A" Coy continued their M.C. and Drivers School, while "B" Coy had a good day on the Rifle Range. The Soft Ball they were scheduled for was not played. "C" Coy had a very successful carrier scheme lasting the biggest part of the day. On the completion of the day, they had been defeated in a soft ball game by a score 10 - 4. To-day being Pay Day Capt. Lennie (Pay Master) informed all Coys. of his leaving to become Bde.Pay Master. This will certainly take a lot of weight out of the Bn.	
Sheet 172-II G307848	26 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 806 - 35 att. With no let up of the intense heat, all coys. carried out normal trg. To-night the C.O. has left to attend a Mess Dinner in honour of Lt. Col. Griffin D.S.O. Commander Ld.S.H. who is returning to Canada to be Director of armoured trg. In Camp Borden Canada.	
Sheet 172-II G307848	27 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 815 - 35 att. Another hot and cloudless day with a very welcome breeze springing up toward evening. This morning all coys. in rotation were given an hours lecture on Mines and Booby Traps, by a Cpl. of the R.C.E. Throughout the rest of the day normal trg. was carried on. After dark Support Coy. practised night firing with 6 Pdrs. and MMG's.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 172-II G307848	28 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. Hot and clear with slight breeze. All coys. carried out normal trg. The Bn. have been informed that the following awards were approved of by the C. in C. C.M.F. H17589 Cpl. Laing J. M.M. Ml01774 L/Cp1. Enarson C.E. M.M.	
″	29 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 808 - 35 att. Hot sunny weather continues. Brig. Spry paid us a visit to-day. All Coys. are cleaning up for Exercise Trigger (see Appx 9) The Aroma of blanco is in the air. Another movie to-night "Lost Angels".	
″	30 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 815 - 35 att. Hot and clear with a slight breeze. The Bn. this morning attending Bde. Church Parade, and are being addressed by Major Johnson, Bde. Gp. Padre. At 1130 the largest part of the Bn. left for Exercise Trigger.	
″	31 July 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 811 - 35 att. Cloudy this morning with all indications of rain. The Regiment was inspected by His Majesty the King. Major Mahony was presented with the Victoria Cross by His Majesty. After the inspection the C.O. and Coy. Commanders attended a luncheon at Corps. H.Q. The C.O. attended a luncheon at 12 C.I.B. H.Q. at 1900 hrs. ……. Lt-col. G.C. Corbould Officer Commanding The Westminster Regt (M)	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 131-IV A884754	1 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 803 - 35 att. Hot and clear with slight breeze. Coys resumed normal Trg. Maj. Gen. Hoffmeister D.S.O. & bar was a visitor to the Bn. this morning. The C.O. Lt. Col. Corbould and the 2 i/c attended a policy discussion at 12 C.I.B. Due to generator trouble the movie was not shown to-night	
"	2 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 801 - 35 att. Hot and clear with slight breeze. The 2 i/c started the morning with a lecture on security. The Bn. to-day was informed that in future 12 C.I.B. would be known as XII Cdn. Light Bde. All coys attended a demonstration on German weapons given by Sgt. Hurley R.R. and L/Sgt. Bailey L. M.M. Another movie tonight "Life Boat".	
"	3 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. Hot weather continues. A.B.C. coys. are firing two inch *mortars* this morning. SP. Coy are zeroing sights on the new A/tk. guns, under instruction of Lt. Tattersall. The Advance Party for "Exercise Grampian" left at 0700 hrs. under command of Capt. H.F. Hoskin. Brig Spry D.S.O. paid another visit to the Bn. this morning. The carriers left for ""Exercise Grampian" at 1600 hrs. under command of Capt. Shawcross. The Sally Ann sponsered a movie tonight "Girl Crazy".	
"	4 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 813 - 35 att. Weather continues hot with a slight breeze. "C" Coy were on the 2 in. Mortor Range this morning. Lt. Col. Corbould held an Orders Gp. at 1600 hrs. to day for "Exercise Grampian".	(see appx. 4)
"	5 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Hot and clear with slight breeze. To-day the Bn. is breaking camp, loading vehicles and making general preparations to leave on "Exercise Grampian" tomorrow morning.	
"	6 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 806 - 35 att. The Bn. left 0600 hrs on "Exercise Grampian". The weather was hot and clear with a slight shower at 1100 hrs. (cont.)	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 131-IV A884754	6 Aug. 44		(cont.) We arrived at stageing area 914634 Sheet 150 (ROMA) (see appx. 5) There the men stocked up on Watermelon and Cantelope.	
″	7 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 802 - 35 att. The Bn. left the stageing area at 0400 hrs. The convoy was clear of Rome by 0630 hrs. Weather was very hot and no breeze. The Bn. arrived at Conc. Area 884754 Sheet 131-1V Bevagna (See appx. 6) at 1410 hrs. and then the rains came.	
″	8 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 803 - 35 att. The rain stopped during the night. The hot sun with a slight breeze soon dried everything out. Brig Spry D.S.O. paid a short visit this morning. Trg. hrs in this area will be 0800-1200 hrs. 1400-1600 hrs. To-day the Coys were busy setting up tents and camoflauge. The Carriers arrived at 2300 hrs.	
″	9 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 803 - 35 att. Hot and clear this morning, while at 1900 hrs there were a few drops of rain. All coys carried out normal trg, with the exception of “C” Coy who spent a good day on the rifle range. The Sally Ann are having another show to-night namely “Mr. Lucky”. Cpl. Godreau (Frenchy) (Sanitary N.C.O.) who is probably the hardest working man in the Bn. has erected a latrine for the Officers. There they spend most of their time eating Grapes (see appx. 7). Maj. *I.F.* Douglas (C. Coy Comdr.) attended a dinner at Bde H.Q. He reports Bde doesn't eat any better than the humble coy. The dinner was given by Brig. Spry D.S.O. A *coy Comdr* from each unit in the Bde. was present. After the dinner there was a movie much appreciated by all present.	
″	10 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 800 - 35 att. Cloudy to-day with spasmodic showers. (cont.)	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 131-IV A884754	10 Aug. 44		Con't All coys carried out normal trg. The Bn. Pioneers, whose grade of work ranks with any in the Cdn. Army, are at present employed at XII C.I.B. remodelling a command vehicle. Sgt. Jack Mills (Pioneer Sgt.) has a great deal of his time taken up by painting signs which read “THIS TOWN IS OUT OF BOUNDS TO CANADIAN TROOPS”. (see appx. 8)	
″	11 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 795 - 35 att. Dull and cloudy with all indications of rain. Normal trg. is again being carried out. All coys alternately attended a Muster Parade to be given new pay bocks by Capt. Lennie (Pay Master) Maj. McHugh, Capt White, Capt. McLeod and ten O.R's from 11 Fd. R.C.A, were attached to the Westminster Regt. (Motor) to-day; for 3 days for purpose of observation. Maj. McHugh gave the Offrs. a lecture on Arty. co-operation this afternoon. 1 Offr. and 7 O.R’s will conduct a flamethrower school in our lines; the party is attached to “C” Coy. The Bn. was informed that Lt. E.M. MacKenzie, K47385 Pte. Bayne, were killed in action 19 Feb. 44 (see appx. 9) The C.O. LT. Col. Corbould, H.Q. Coy Comdr. Capt. H.F. Hoskin, Adj. Capt.(Tiny) Robertson and I.O. Lt. Delaney took part on “Exercise Gander” (see appx. 10) The Auxiliary Services held a show to-night “Escape to Glory”	
″	12 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 790 - 35 att. A scorching hot day with very little breeze. Brig. Spry. D.S.O., XII.C.L.B. was promoted to *Maj*. General and will leave for Normandy shortly to take up his new command of the 3rd Cdn. Inf. Div. Lt. Col. Lynd, former Perth Regt. C.O. takes over XII. C.L.B.	
″	13 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 786 - 35 att. Clear and hot with a slight breeze. The Padre, Hon. Capt. Owen was busy to-day, conducting three church services.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 131-IV A884754	14 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 806 - 35 att. Still another hot day. A, B, C, Coys are doing normal Trg. while “C” Coy had a very successful day on the Rifle Range. The Flame Thrower school i/c Major Harrington started this morning, the whole affair is very hush, hush, and not many were allowed to visit. Capt. Owen (Padre) Capt. S.K. Koogle, Capt. Wilder and 31 O.R's were sight seers of the historic town of Assisi.	
″	15 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 807 - 35 att. Once again hot and clear. Coys are carring out normal trg. The Flame Thrower school operated again today. The Bn. Provost ,still doing a very good job, today picked up a German soldier and an Italian Facisti who were roaming around at large. The Bn. is leaving tonight on “Exercise Canyon” (see appx. 11) An Advance Party under command Capt H.F. Hoskin has left today to set up an new area for the Bn. to move into. The Citation for the V.C. award to Major J.K. Mahony is today entered in appx 12	
″	16 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 811 - 35 att. No change from the extreme heat. The largest part of the Bn. are still out on “Exercise Canyon”, while the rest of the Regt. carry on normal trg. Lt. Col. Corbould gave the personnel of “Exercise Canyon” the intentions of the Bn. for the three weeks. This was a great relief to the men who for the last month, have been wondering as to our future operations. Wishful rumors have now ceased.	
″	17 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 802 - 35 att. Today, being no exception to the extremely hot weather, Coys still carry out normal trg. At 0600 hrs. all personal turned in blankets to be washed at the 5 C.A.D. Bath Unit. At 0900 hrs. remainder of the Bn. returned from “Exercise Canyon”. The Auxiliary Services are tonight sponsering amovie,"Revellie with Beverly"	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 131-IV A884 754	18 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 811 - 35 att. Hot and clear with a slight breeze. Brig. Lynd---12 C.I.B., was with the Bn. this morning long enough to see all the Offrs. Once more the Bn. is busy preparing for a move. “Exercise Olive" (appx.13) should take us within a few miles of the front. The carriers moved off at 1800 hrs for "Exercise Olive" i/c J.O. Hall The problem of how many vehicles to leave at “X” Ech. (appx. 14) was discussed at a coy. Commanders meeting today. Lt. Col. Corbould won the debate by six vehicles. Lt. Col. Corbould and Maj. T.W. Hall were guests at a dinner given by Lt. Col. Dick of the 89/109 Bn.	
″	19 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 799 - 35 att. The very hot weather continues. Capt. A. Caldicott, our L.A.D. Offr., took time off today to celebrate his 36th Birthday. The work done by the Bn. today is the general cleaning up of all areas. 1st Cdn. Corps informed the Bn. today that Roman Numerals XII C.L.B. would be known as 12 C.I.B. Its all so “confussin but amusing”.	
″	20 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 809 - 35 att. Hot and clear with slight breeze. The Bn. today is breaking camp and preparing for the move to new camp to-morrow. “As usual as Bn. moves, Italian scavengers resume their characteristic trait of relieving the Regt. of all debris.” Capt. Owen held his usual R.C. and C. of E. church parades today.	
Sheet 117-1 S 405408	21 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Weather today is very hot. The Bn. moved off at 0830 hrs on “Exercise Olive”, and arrived at new area Jesi Map Ref. 405408 (appx. 15) The trip was completed but an accident occurred. One of Sp. Coys Gun-Tower went over a bank, one man being injured. From the Bn. Present location the big guns can be heard in the distance. “D” Day is not far off.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 117-1 S 405408	22 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 815 - 35 att. A scorching day with very little breeze. Today the coys are busy with Camouflage. Lt. Col Corbould held a Coy Commanders meeting at 1300 hrs. Future operations were discussed. Today the C.O. LT. Col. Corbould G.C. was informed that he has been awarded the D.S.O. The Offrs. gathered at BN. H.Q. and celebrated in the usual Westminster manner. Appx.16 was received today, "The Westies really get around.	
"	23 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. Hot and clear with a slight breeze and very dusty. Lt. Col Corbould D.S.O., Maj. T. W. Hall and Coy. commanders, Maj. G.G. Johnson, Maj. E. Douglas, Maj. D.B. MacKenzie, Capt. H.F. Hoskin, Capt E.V. Ardagh attended a conference at 12 C.I.B. today. Hardening trg. has been the high light in the coy. trg. the past few days. Cpl. G.W. Ellis was busy today with his up to date situation map going from Coy to Coy. giving lectures. Lt. Col. Corbould D.S.O. today received a letter (appx 17) from Maj. D.J. Baldwin, former Westminster Officer, now somewhere in France with the Planning Staff.	
"	24 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 816 - 35 att. Hot weather continues. All coys are preparing for future activities of "Exercise Olive". Lt. Col. Corbould D.S.O. today gave a lecture to all coys. on the job we have to do very shortly. Lt. Col. Corbould D.S.O., Capt. (Tiny) Robertson, Capt. Welsford. Lt. Delaney, and Coy Commanders, attended a conference at 5 C.A.B. Brig. Cumberland D.S.O. outlined future operations.	
"	25 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. Still very hot. Today the Bn., busy preparing for the big push, is living in great anticipation. The 2 i/c Maj. T.W. Hall has left with the Advance Party for our jumping off area. Lt. Col. Corbould D.S.O. had his Orders Gp. at 1400 hrs. The warning order to move at 2100 hrs was cancelled at 1900 hrs. Capt. H.F. Hoskin busied himself with linning up vehicles. Complete blackout is being enforced.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 117-1 S405408	26 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 805 - 33 att. 0900 hrs. warning order to move, 1710 hrs. Move was completed at 0200 hrs. Two vehicle casualties, not serious. Bn area 3 miles behind the line at S152504 - Sheet 116 GUBBIO (APPX 18)	
Sheet 116 S152504	27 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 2 att. O.R.s. 801 - 33 att. Weather continues hot with a slight breeze. The Adv. Party is on 1 hrs. notice to move to a further concentration area. Two casualties SIW. Geese, chicken and eggs were the main course in all Ech to-day.	
"	28 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 1 att. O.R.s. 800 - 31 att. Another hot and breezeless day. The Bn. is idle while waiting for further move orders. The men have nothing to do but rest up, seem to be quite content.	
"	29 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 2 att. O.R.s. 808 - 33 att. Clear sky and very hot. The Bn. resumed its normal traite again tp-day of lounging around awaiting orders to move. Section cooking has been enforced and the scroungers keep up their relentless chase.	
"	30 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 35 - 2 att. O.R.s. 804 - 33 att. Bright, sunny and very hot. The morning was spent resting up waiting for H hour to move. Orders ware coming through quite frequently, such as no move before some hours. Finally the order came through to move at 1100 hrs. The Bn crossed the SP at 1310 hrs and arrived somewhere South of the Gothic line at 1745 hrs. 1800 hrs Westmrs went U/C 5 Cdn Armd Bde with a prepare to move, move now order. The CO, IO, reported to 5 CAB, there the CO was informed he was to move up to 11 C I B at St. Angelo. After a very dusty ride the CO & IO & Coy Comdrs arrived at 11 C I B to be told it was all a mistake and were not to move. By this time it was to late, the Bn was on the move. A quick Recce by the Bn Harbour Master (Capt. H.F. Hoskin) and by 0230 hrs the unit was once more safely in Harbour. One more S I W to-day.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109-I	31 Aug. 44		Strength - Offrs. 34 - 1 att. O.R.s. 797 - 33 att. Intense heat continues. Started out this morning with the C O's O Group. 0600 hrs. Coy Comdrs were given their orders. Baker Coy leading the Bn. We arrived at Foglia River 1300 hrs. Baker Coy Scout platoon went across the river shortly after 1300 hrs. A Coy & Support Coys were heavily shelled at 1600 hrs. Result 7 casualties. CO & IO were at 5 C A B 1630 hrs. CO received orders to move Bn across river. C Coy and TAC Hq remained across the Foglia River. A, B, Sp & Main Hq remained at the River Bed.	

LIST OF APPENDICES

THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (MOTOR)

WAR DIARY: (AUGUST 1944)

		Orig	Dup	Trip
1.	Unit Part 1 Orders	x	x	x
2.	AFW's 3008 & 3009	x		
3.	Unit Part 11 Orders (Nos 61 – 69)			x
4.	Exercise "Grampian"	x		
5.	do do	x		
6.	do do	x		
7.	Cartoon – "THE THINKER"	x		
8.	Cartoon -	x		
9.	Verification of death K/A:			
	Lt. L.G. MacKenzie			
	K47385 Pte. Bayne	x		
10.	Exercise "GANDER" O.O.	x		
11.	Exercise "CANYON II"	x		
12.	Citation – Major J.K. Mahony, V.C.	x		
	Caricature	x		
	News Clippings	x		
13.	Exercise "OLIVE"	x		
14.	12 CIB Memorandum No. 28	x		
15.	Map Sheet 24	x		
16.	AF B252	x		
17.	Letter from Major Baldwin D.J.	x		
18.	Map – Sheet 116	x		
19.	Map – Sheet 109 -1 (Gothic Line)	x		
20.	Personal Message from Army Comd	x		
21.	Order of Bde Church Parade 12 CIB	x		
22.	Message from HM. King	x		
23.	Message re Security	x		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109	1 Sep 44		Strength Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 790 - 35 att. The weather was rather cool in the early hours of the morning, the sun gradually gaining strength, by mid-day it was scorching hot. By 1100 hrs the Bn was once more together on point 242 on the Gothic line. At 1200 hrs "B" Coy was heavily shelled and had several casualties. The C.O., Lt,-col G.C. Corbould DSO, was called to an Orders Group at 5 C.A.B. The plan was outlined tor the attack on the night of the 1/2 of Sept. (See appx 4). At 1730 hrs the Bn reverted to under command 12 C.I.B. The C.O. got his orders from Brig. Lind at 1830 hrs. Plan "A" was to be an advance march to Curry Duff with the G.G.H.G.'s leading; the Westminster Regiment to go forward after Curry Duff and force a crossing over the Conca River Plan "B"; the Westminster Regiment would move on foot on the night of 1/2 Sep. to Curry Duff , G.G. H.G's in support. (See appx 4). At 2245 hrs the C.O. received orders, "Move now, plan "B"". By midnight the "Westies" were well on their way.	
Sheet 109	2 Sep 44		Strength Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 774 - 35 att. After midnight the sky was cloudless with a full moon shining in all its glory. Visibility was very good. Capt. H.F Hoskin moved off with a small Recce Party, and recced an area, about three quarter miles south of Tomba De Pesaro. From there the coys debussed and moved off on foot. Major G.D. Johnson was in the lead with "B" followed by "B" Coy Scout Pl., one Pl of' 6 Pr A/tk., "C" Coy led by Major I.F. Douglas, Tac. HQ, Main HQ., and "A" Coy. "B" Coy encountered the enemy at 0200 hrs; results one dead German and two prisoners. At 0500 hrs two prisoners were brought in to Tac. H.Q. One a very arrogant Officer minus his pants. By 0700 hrs "B" Coy and "C" Coy with "A" Coy in reserve were on high ground Curry Duff, and the Westminsters had taken their first objective. Here the coys were heavily shelled resulting -in several casualties. Capt. H.F Hoskin quickly found a vehicle park, and our vehicles were brought up. Heavy shelling followed. The C.O. then went forward to "C" Coy were he met Major Douglas. From an O.P. selected by Major Douglas the CO. directed an Arty shoot at some "Moaning Minnies". The first salvo was at least 2000 yds out, but he finally managed to bring the fire close enough to force the Minnies out of action. At 1100 hrs Capt. E.B. (Tiny) Robertson, Adjutant was wounded. Lieut. J.O. Hall was immediately made Adjutant. The C.O. was wounded in the left arm but remained on duty.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109	2 Sep 44 (cont'd)		The G.G.H.S.'s (with tanks) finally came into the picture, and by 1200 hrs were on Curry Duff. The C.O. then went forward again and made his plan for the attack on Skeena (see marked map). The attack went in at 1600 hrs, two coys up ("C" Coy right "B" Coy left, "A" Coy reserve). In support 11th Regt RCA, 8 Fd RCE, one Sqdn G.G.H.G's and one Sqdn of M-10s. The Arty did a grand job shooting up every building in the path of "B" and "C" Coys. Major G.D. Johnson and Major I. F. Douglas again distinguished themselves and led their coys to their objectives with very few casualties. The men got very little rest, with own protection to look after, and had a lot of sleep to catch up on. "B" coy sent out a patrol of 15 men to recce an M.T. crossing over the Conca. "A" Coy led by Capt. E.V. Ardagh were sent out in support of a Sqdn of GGHG's to raid the coast road. The expedition did not get very far, no enemy being encountered.	
Sheet 109	3 Sep 44		Strength Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 774 - 35 att. The Bn. has had very little sleep since the 30th of Sep. The troops were getting tired. The patrols were in at 0200 hrs with the necessary information. The Adjt. Lieut. J.O. Hall was tearing his hair out trying to get casualty returns in. At 0400 hrs The Westminster Regiment again reverted to under command 5 Cdn Armd Bde. The C.O. went to an Orders Group at 0500 hrs and got his Orders from Brig. Cumberland. The plan:- The Ld.S.H. and The Westminsters to cross the River Conca and seize the village of Misano and high ground north east of the town, "C" Coy to follow up and clear the village. "A" Coy came into harbour at MR 937866 where they were heavily shelled. It was at this spot Lieut. P.W.N. Corfe was killed. Shortly after "B" and "C" Coys were on their way, the C.O. was ordered by higher formation to send one coy in support of BCDs, who were to seize high ground west of Misano. "B" and "C" Coys fought their way to their respective objectives, killing, wounding and taking prisoners. After "B" Coy and "C" Coy had taken their objectives the C.O. save orders over the air to "B" and "C" Coys. The plan being; "C" Coy to remain as firm base while "B" Coy doubled back and cleared village of Misano. This operation "B" Coy carried out without casualty. At 1400 hrs 2 Mk IV tanks infiltrated to our position, Sgt. Clark's 17 Pl made quick work of knocking them out. By 1700 hrs Lieut. Ralph Fountain had managed to get his MG's on the high ground north east of Misano and was doing some good shooting, with a great deal of effect on the Jerries. At 1700 hrs a direct hit (Cont'd)	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

lace	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109	3 Sep 44 (cont'd)		on Lieut Fountain's position resulting in several casualties, Lieut. Ralph Fountain being killed and five more wounded. Main HQ was established on the north bank of the River Conca where they were constantly shelled. The Bn.MO Capt. E.M Wilder and his medical section were on hand and in their usual good form, handling our casualties very efficiently. At 1800 hrs the C.O. was informed that the P.L.D.G.'s were to relieve the Westminsters, the Bn then pushing on to Seymore. The 8th N.B.H attacking the village of Misano which our "B" Coy already held made the situation rather confusing. A message to higher formation soon brought the situation back to normal. Two counter attacks were repulsed by very accurate Arty fire directed by Major I.F. Douglas. The C.O. was called to 5 C.A.B at 2100 hrs. The C.O. Lt.-col G.C. Corbould DSO and the I.O. met Brig. Cumberland, Lt.-col (Bobby) Clark (Irish Regt of Canada), Lt.-col Robinson (8 N.B.H) and Lt.-col Angle (B.C.D.). The C.O. gave his appreciation of the situation to Brig. Cumberland. The C.O. and the I.O. then visited the Irish Regiment of Canada HQ and were guests of Lt.-col Bobby Clark in a very appetising meal of ham and eggs. A bottle of Teachers Highland Cream wiskey completed the meal. At 2300 hrs Brig. Cumberland held his "O" Group at 5 C.A.B. HQ. The C.O. was back at Tac HQ by 0115 hrs. The Bn had been relieved by the P.L.D.G.'s then the men were bedded having a much needed rest. The Westminster Regiment had scored another success.	
Sheet 109	4 Sep 44		Strength Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 769 - 35 att. The C.O. held his "O" Group at 0130 hrs. The intention:- The Westminster Regiment (M) in support of the 8th. N.B.H to seize and hold bridgehead across the River MARANO. Route as per marked map (Appx IV). The order of march:- "C" Coy led the Bn, followed by Tac HQ, Arty FOO, Engrs, "A" Coy, "B" Coy. One pl of 6 prs attached to each Company. A sec of M.G's with "A" and "C" Coys. 0600 hrs. After a fairly good nights rest the Bn following a very successful day, was once more on the move. The 8th. N.B.H were in the lead with the Westies in support. The enemy encountered at 0900 hrs. The tanks shot their way through to high ground leaving small pockets of resistance here and there. (cont'd)	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109	4 Sep 44 (cont'd)		Snipers were plentiful. At 1030 hrs the armour was stopped at MR 895870 (See marked map). The Westminsters were called in the area mentioned. Major I.F. Douglas after a short recce decided to send the "task force", consisting of one pl carried in three carriers commanded by Lieut. (Tommy) Forman. Plans were changed and the C.O. ordered Major I.F. Douglas to attack the posn with the task force plus the remainder of the company. The task force was to go the road "hell bent for election", seize a house at MR 896870 (see marked map) then the remainder of the coy were to do a right flanking movement and secure high ground at MR 893874. The task force got away to a flying start, when 100 yards down the road, the leading carrier was hit by a shell. Results there were no casualties. Lieut. Forman carried on with the other two carriers. Major Douglas reached his objective but the enemy strength had been underestimated and they were pinned to the ground by shell fire. The C.O. ordered "A" and "B" Coys up with the intention to move on to the objective "SEYMORE" by movement and fire. "B" Coy formed up behind the crest of the hill MR 918895 (see marked map). "A" Coy formed up on the road at MR 912861 (see marked map). Then the shells came like all hell turned loose. For what seemed like an eternity, Jerry pounded shell after shell upon the forming up place. Casualties were light but nearly all fatal. "A" Coy reached its first bound at 1400 hrs. "B" Coy reached its objective at 1435 hrs. At 1800 hrs the Bn reverted to 12 C.I.B. Shortly after a recce party from the I.R.C., came to make arrangements for our relief. Orders from 12 C.I.B to take up a defensive posn but when the map references had been decoded the posns were in the I.R. of C. area. After a certain amount of discussion, as to where and why the Bn was to spend the night, permission was finally received from 12 C.I.B.to harbour at MR previously reccied. - 914858. Change over was complete at 2330 hrs.	
Sheet 109	5 Sep 44		Strength Offrs. 32 - 4 att. O.R.s. 722 - 35 att. The troops had a good nights sleep. Brig. Lind was at Tac HQ early in the morning and informed the C.O. that the Bn was out for a 48 hour rest. The Bn was still in range of enemy mortar fire, and the occasional shell sent everyone running for cover. The companies were reorganizing and re-equipping. Causalities after a thorough check were 10 dead and 60 wounded. An epidemic of Yellow Jaundice was prevalent in the unit and had accounted for 30 personnel including officers. The L.O.B's were brought up by the 2i/c.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109	6 Sep 44		Strength Offrs. 31 - 4 att. O.R.s. 720 - 35 att. The C.O. was awakened this morning with a warning order that the Bn was on 15 min notice to move as of 1100 hrs and that he was to attend the "O" group at PT 140 at 1000 hrs. The intention of the Brigade was to attack CORIANO on a two Bn front 89/109 Bn right, The Westminster Regiment left. One sqdn Ld.S.H. to be in support of each Bn. In support also would be 11 Fd. Regt RCA, and the whole of AGRA. The C.O. called his Coy Comds to Pt 127 MR 905857. The C.O.'s orders group consisted of Coy Comds, Major E.S. Catherwood, Major I.F. Douglas, Major G.D. Johnson, Major D.B. MacKenzie, Capt H.F. Hoskin, Sgt. C. Beltz and Sgt. G. Moore. Intention: to seize and hold Pt 102 north east of Coriano. Method: "A" Coy left "B" Coy right "C" reserve, with a section of MG's in support of each of the forward companies. One sqdn of Ld.S.H. in support of both Coys. The C.O. then returned to Tac HQ and awaited orders to move. At 1400 hrs. the C.O. was informed that the Bn was on one hour notice to move on the a/m plan and was to cross the start line (see marked map) two hours after leaving present position. At 1400 hrs the CO was informed by the MO., Capt E.M. Wilder that the 2 i/c Major T.W. Hall contacted Yellow Jaundice and was evacuated. The C.O. made Major I.F. Douglas 2 i/c of the Bn. Capt. H.F. Hoskin, HQ Coy Comdr was to be Coy Comdr of "C" Coy with the rank of A/Major. Capt. F. Shawcross to be the OC of HQ Coy, Lieut. B.V. Morgan was recalled from C.R.U. to be 2 i/c of Sp Coy; Lieut. W.L. Delaney to be 2 i/c of "C" Coy, Lieut. G.D. Laidlaw to be recalled from C.R.U. to be unit I.O. The C.O. was anxiously awaiting the word "move now". At 2100 hrs the Bn was informed that operations had been called off by higher command. "B" Ech moved up to Tac HQ in order to straighten up a few details concerning our last casualties.	
Sheet 109	7 Sep 44		Strength Offrs. 28 - 4 att. O.R.s. 696 - 35 att. The rain came during the night, and throughout the day, intermittent showers followed. The Bn problem now was "how to get the vehicles back on the road if the rain continued". Brig. Lind paid a short visit to the Bn in the morning.It appeared that the Bn would be in this area for a few days. The C.O., Major I. F. Douglas and Major D.B. MacKenzie spent the greater part of the day writing citations. 55 rfts arrived. Capt. Harding was busy rounding up equipment and where he wouldn't tell but the Bn hardly went short while A1 was on the job. (cont'd)	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109	7 Sep 44 (cont'd)		Capt. K.B. Harrison was also on the job and vehicle reinforcements were on the way up. Lieut. (Dinty) Moore i/c of "A" Ech although very busy keeping the Bn supplied with rations, petrol and ammo, still found time to work on his numerous inventions, his latest being a bomb which besides killing Jerries would also take prisoners. Major I.F. Douglas returned to "B" Ech to-day as L.O.B.	
Sheet 109	8 Sep 44		Strength Offrs. 28 - 4 att. O.R.s. 738 - 35 att. The Bn spent a quiet night. "A" Coy had a standing patrol in charge of Lieut. Frisby. Nothing to report. The sun was hot with a cool sea breeze throughout the day. All coys held shower parades in the morning. Major I.F. Douglas was evacuated with yellow Jaundice. Major D.B. MacKenzie was made 2 i/c Bn. Capt. F. Shawcross to be A/Major, O.C, Support Company, Capt. W.J. Neill to be O.C. Hq Company.	
Sheet 109	9 Sep 44		Strength Offrs. 30 - 4 att. O.R.s. 764 - 35 att. The Bn was still in rest area. The C.O. was on tour visiting the 4th Hussars of the L Br. Armd Div, then to 12 C.I.B. and from there to Westminster "A" echelon. 4 Offrs. and 40 OR reinforcements arrived. We still had the odd shell drop in the area but so far no casualties Two prisoners were taken by "C" Coy	
Sheet 109	10 Sep 44		During the night Jerry planes were over the Bn area dropping anti-personnel bombs. One casualty resulted, Sigmn. Lymburner, R.C.C.S. Jerry was still dropping the odd shell, one falling in "A" Coy area in the morning. The C.O. paid a visit to our friends the 4th. Hussars and also went to 12 C.I.B. and 11 C.I.B.	
Sheet 109	11 Sep 44		Strength Offrs. 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 763 - 35 att. Weather continues hot with a slight breeze. The C.O. went around to the coys and warned the Coy Comds to be ready to move on 1/2 hours notice. Cpl. G. Ellis and Sgt. (Denny) Hicks were busy going from Bde to Div gathering maps. "C" Coy area was shelled at night causing one casualty. Pte. Cushing. An A.A. Regt of the Br Arty moved into our area in preparation for the push, night 12/13 Sep. Brig Lind DSO informed the C.O. that the Westminster Regiment would be going under command of 11 C.I.B for the coming attack on Coriano. A letter was received ref the neutrality of the Republic of S. Marino (See appx 5)	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109	12 Sep 44		Strength Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 770 - 35 att. Tac HQ was cluttered with Limey vehicles. Jerry had increased his shell fire. No casualties. The Bn went under command 11 C.I.B. at 1200 hrs. The C.O. attended a co-ordinating conference at 11 C.I.B at 1200 hrs. The operational order which was supposedly sent out did not arrive at this HQ but the C.O. managed to beg borrow or steal one for the Orders Group. After two hours of argument between Brig. Johnson, 11 C.I.B. and the Bn Comds of the same Bde, the C.O. was finally told the part this Bn would play in the attack on Coriano. The Operation Order (see appx 6) finally reached Bn HQ at 1700 hrs. The C.O. held his Orders Group at 1600 hrs. Capt. Neill with a recce party consisting of one man from each pl left at 2130 hrs. to recce assembly area. The C.O. left Tac HQ at 2300 hrs and reported to 11 C.I.B. HQ so as to be able to get his orders from the Brig. in case the Bn was committed.	
Sheet 109	13 Sep 44		Strength Offrs. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 790 - 35 att. The remainder of Tac HQ plus “A”, “B”, “C” and Sp Coys moved to assembly area at 0500 hrs. At 0800 hrs the GOC Maj-Gen Hoffmeister DSO with two bars arrived at 11 C.I.B. After a short conference it was decided that the Westminster Regiment would clear the ridge north of the C.B.H. objective (see marked map appx 4). The C.O. then returned to his local HQ (see marked map) and held his Orders Group. The C.O. outlined the intentions:- The Westmr. Regt. with under command one Sqdn Ld.S.H. and in support 11 Fd. Regt. RCA. Method: “A” Coy and one Sqdn Ld.S.H. would clear ridge and consolidate at map ref. 883890, “B” Coy to follow and mop up, consolidating at MR 881886, “C” Coy move to assembly area 897876. “A” Coy led by Major Catherwood made contact with the right flank of the C.B.H. and moved off to their objective. 11 Fd. Regt. RCA laid down a very effective smoke screen, using up some 900 shells. The advance along the ridge was slow, pockets of resistance and snipers were quickly dealt with. Major Catherwood was wounded short of the objective. Lieut. Oldfield took command of the company and led them on to the objective. “B” Coy reached its objective after wiping out a few pockets of resistance. The C.O. then called Capt. H.F. Hoskin to Tac HQ. His orders were “C” Coy would move to ridge, making contact with “B” Coys right flank and filling the gap between “A” and “B” Coys. Our casualties were very light. 45 prisoners were taken. Tac HQ moved to MR 897874 at 2230 hrs. A hot meal was taken to the forward troops.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109	14 Sep 44		Strength Officers. 32 - 4 att. O.R.s. 757 - 35 att. Intermittent mortar and shelling through the night. The C.O. moved forward to the Coys position at 0900 hrs and returned to Tac HQ by 1330 hrs. “A”, “B” and “C” Coys positions were heavily mortared during the morning. By 1200 hrs units of the 4th British Division had passed through our forward positions and were pushing on. At 1600 hrs orders from 11 C I.B. to withdraw the battalion to former area 915857. At 1815 hrs. The Westminsters were once again under command 12 C.I.B. with orders to move to a rest area. The Bn moved off at 2000 hrs and by 2130 hrs had arrived at rest area MR 955887 (Sheet 109). The Bn casualties for the short battle were two killed and 17 wounded.	
Sheet 109	15 Sep 44		Strength Officers. 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 749 - 35 att. After a good nights rest the Bn was awakened with the news that we were in 1st. Div. area and would likely have to move. This caused a certain amount of disappointment and troops were rushing to the beach making sure of a swim before having to move back into the dusty areas. The CO payed Brig. Lind a short visit this morning. During the afternoon the troops enjoyed the warm salty waters of the Adriatic. At 1430 hrs the Bn was informed from higher command that we would have to move. Capt. E.V. Ardagh left at 1500 hrs with a recce party and recced an area in square 9784. The Bn moved off at 1900 hrs and by 2000 hrs were once more settled at MR 977845. 3 Offrs and 50 OR rfts arrived at “A” Ech to-day. The Bn was informed in the morning of the death of Major E.S. Catherwood (See appx 7). Capt. W.L. Delaney took over as 2 i/c of “A” Coy while his vacated position of Unit I.O. was filled by Lieut. F.R. Smith.	
Sheet 109	16 Sep 44		Strength Officers. 33 - 4 att. O.R.s. 751 - 35 att. The sun was bright and warm as usual though tempered by a light breeze. The Bn was visited by Brig. Lind of 12 C.I.B. who spoke to the troops congratulating them on their fine effort in the recent ops. The troops, went in high spirits to the nearby coast town of Cattolica where for the first time in weeks they were able to see film. But apart front the films and swimming there were none of a soldiers kind of entertainment, so many of the lads came home early.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109	17 Sep 44		Strength Officers. 37 - 4 att. O.R.s. 807 - 35 att. It was a dull cloudy day and looked very such like rain. H/Capt. D.R.G. Owen (Padre) held a memorial service dedicated to the officers and men of the Westminster Regiment who had fallen since 1 Sep. A fine service at which Lt.-col Corbould DSO read out the names of those killed in action (see appx 8). The remainder of the day was quiet except for many conflicting rumours as to when our next move would be.	
Sheet 109	18 Sep 44		Strength Officers. 37 - 4 att. O.R.s. 805 - 35 att. A bright and sunny day again just to prove that the weather man had not forsaken us in favour of Jerry. Major G.D. Johnson of "B" Coy was being kept very busy preparing a demonstration of the flame throwers with which we have now been equipped. At the same time 12 C.I.B was worrying him with requests for NCOs school syllabi. The troops were making the most of the rest period which we were still enjoying. There were a number of theatres available, notably the "Strand" in nearby San Giovanni, and these "picture places" were always crowded.	
Sheet 109	19 Sep 44		Strength Officers. 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 801 - 35 att. In the morning the CO, Lt.-col Corbould DSO was called to a meeting at 12 C.I.B. HQ. Brig. Lind had called the unit comds together to put them in the picture as to our future operations. It was a pleasure to hear that once again we were to work with Ld.S.H. From this meeting the CO proceeded to the flame-throwers demonstration arranged by Major G.D. Johnson, ably assisted by Lieut. W.L. Tyler and Lieut. W.H. MacLachlan. Major G.D. Johnson put on a very good show. Maj-Gen Hoffmeister and Brig. Lind commented very favourably on the demonstration.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109	20 Sep 44		Strength Officers. 33 - 4 att. O.R.s. 799 - 35 att. A bright and sunny day with a light breeze. In the morning the unit was warned that it was on twelve hours notice to move as from 0900 hrs, then at 1230 hrs it was changed to one hour as from 1300 hrs. Finally at 1500 hrs we were told it was changed to one hour as from 1600 hrs. It was clouding up and looked as if a rainy night was in the offing. L/Cpl. K.S. McLeod of Sp Coy made the "Rhyme and Reason" column of the Maple Leaf with his version of "Lili Marlere". (See Appx 9). At approx 2100 hrs the rains came! It started as a down pour and continued throughout the night.	
Sheet 109	21 Sep 44		Strength Officers. 38 - 4 att. O.R.s. 806 - 35 att. After a full night of rain everyone got up out of wet blankets and clothes and started wondering if they would ever dry. Th. Bn was then on six hours notice to move, but no immediate change of location seemed imminent as the roads were nearly all impassable. The Bn received a tentative location of our next area which was at MR 835925. The recce party under Capt. E.V. Ardagh started out in the afternoon but returned about midnight wet and bedraggled after walking several miles from the point where their vehicle had slid off the road.	
Sheet 109	22 Sep 44		Strength Officers. 38 - 4 att. O.R.s. 802 - 35 att. From rain the weather changed to brilliant sunshine and started to dry the roads. The CO attended a meeting at 12 Bde HQ at 0800 hrs and went forward with the Brig. to the Fortuato feature to look at the ground for the next operation. The CO returned at 1300 hrs and at 1615 hrs the Bn pushed off on "Boat" route. We arrived at MR 811957 at 1815 hrs. L/Cpl. Ray Cooper produced a fine feast of steak and onions. There was some shelling in the area and quite a lot of air bursts. "No casualties". "C" Coy who were held up at Misano arrived as 2345 hrs while the Echelons did not get in until 0230 hrs.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 101-3	23 Sep 44		Strength Officers 38 - 4 att. O.R.s. 800 - 35 att. Orders groups at Bde HQ at 0800 hrs. After two hours waiting, Brig. Lind showed up and we were put in the picture. The CO received orders to move to San Giustina at 784988 then push through the PLDGs who by then would be across the River Uso. The Bn moved off at 1115 hrs, Tac HQ, Main HQ, "A", "B", and "C" Coys arrived at 791974 about a quarter of a mile across the Marecchia River. Here one of "B" Coy vehs was hit resulting in several casualties. At PLDG Bn HQ the CO received orders from the Brig. to move, around right of PLDGs who were pinned down in San Giustina. Objective was road junction west of San Vito 765005 and if possible to cross River Uso. "A" Coy moved at 1230 hrs followed by "B" and "C: Coys. At 2000 hrs, "B" and "C" Coys were on their objective "30 plus".	
Sheet 101-3	24 Sep 44		Strength Officers 38 - 4 att. O.R.s. 792 - 35 att. At 0130 hrs Tac HQ moved off to a farm house at 789006. All was quiet on the way. By 0600 hrs "A" and "C" Coys had forced their way against heavy MG and shell fire to within 1000 yards of San Vito. Here they dug in. By 0900 hrs 14 prisoners had come through Tac HQ from the coys - 9 from "A" Coy. Brig. Lind arrived at 0630 hrs and from there he watched the progress of 89/109's who were moving around to our right. At 1130 hrs Lieut. J.A. Cambridge was brought in by Sgt. Moyes of Sp. Coy. He was badly cut up brick and stone received when a shell hit the house from which he was trying to locate the posn of an "88" SP. The CO received a personal message from Gen. Leese GOC 8th Army for the fine showing which the unit made at Coriano Ridge. At 1730 hrs the CO received orders to "prepare to move" and to meet the Brig. At Tac HQ of 89/109. Orders were to infiltrate to west side of River Uso and form a bridgehead. The Coys received a hot meal delivered under extremely adverse conditions by members of "A" echelon. At 2140 hrs the CO made a hazardous trip to "B" Coy HQ where he gave Coy Comds their instructions. It was here that he first heard of Lieut. Tommy Forman's unorthodox visit to the HQ of the opposing German commander. Accompanied by a CSM of 11 Fd. Regt. and one member of his Pl. Lieut. Forman was taken to the HQ of one Baron von Malapert (see appx 10). Each party was under the impression that the other wished to surrender his unit. Our diplomatic party returned without being hurt, but also without the Jerry Bn.	*See Appx*

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 101-3	25 Sep 44		Strength Officers 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 739 - 35 att. At 0025 hrs the coy moved off, “A” and “C” Coys leading. At 0200 hrs they were well advanced but being fired on from three sides. At 0400 hrs no advance had been made on the flanks so “C” Coy who were forward were ordered to withdraw to original posn. The morning was quiet. It was cloudy with a threat of rain. At 1430 hrs the Bn received orders that one Coy would protect the crossing of the River Uso, to be made by a Sqdn of GGHGs at MR 764034. “B” Coy was “it”, and moved off at 1600 .hrs to a point 1000 yds from the river. The crossing was too strongly held, so “B” Coy dug in and under heavy MMG and Mortar fire stayed the night. A hot meal and rum rations was taken to all Coys.	
Sheet 101-3	26 Sep 44		Strength Officers 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 708 - 35 att. Sunny and bright after a rainy night. The enemy was reported to have cleared out of the River Uso area. At 1030 hrs the CO took “C” and “A” Comds forward to “B” Coys posn and gave orders for the crossing. In the early hours “B” Coy had crossed the river *at 762018 but the tanks were not following preferring to try their original objective.* The plan then was for “C” Coy to cross the river and to be joined by “B” Coy to form the bridgehead. “A” Coy to be in reserve. At 1130 hrs the IO moved Tac HQ forward to 769029. Coy Comds received their orders for forming the bridgehead over the river Uso. A1400 hrs “C” Coy moved off with “A” Sqdn GGHGs to 764032 to cross the river. The leading tank hit a mine at the river bank and blocked a passage for the other tanks. “C” Coy pushed on to 757036 and was later joined by “A” Coy. Meanwhile “B” Coy moved up from their posn two thousand yards to the south. At 1500 hrs the situation was:- “B” and “C” Coys up with “A” Coy in reserve. At 1515 hrs the Bn received orders to advance and seize a bridgehead across the River Salto about 1,000 yards from the present posn. At the same time word came that we were to be relieved by 11 C.I.B. that night. The Coys advanced 500 yards to the area cross-roads 573035 where they formed up. At 1700 hrs leading elements of the C.B.H. arrived. At 2100 hrs 3 prisoners arrived from “C” Coy. The rest area was to be at MR 782992 near Variano.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 103-1	27 Sep 44		Strength Officers 38 - 4 att. O.R.s. 758 - 35 att. At 0400 hrs the C.B.N. had finally finished taking over - eleven hours for a two hour job. We moved back to Variano. A few shells came down as we were on the way. By 0700 hrs everyone was in bed having the first real sleep they had in days. In the move down the R.A.P. were forgotten but later were retrieved and brought down to our posn. At 1400 hrs several reporters and photographers visited the Bn, chiefly interested in Lieut Forman's visit to the Baron von Malapert. An uneventful day was spent in cleaning up, Resting and checking equipment. At 2100 hrs word came that one coy was to be under immediate notice to move to a concentration area with the BCDs, both to be under command of 11 C.I.B. "C" Coy was chosen. the CO and 2 i/c went to a meeting at Bde HQ. No move had been made by "C" Coy at midnight. Rfts arrived including Lieut. E.D. Jones and Lieut. D.A. Leedham, both recently out from England.	
Sheet 103-1	28 Sep 44		Strength Officers 37- 4 att. O.R.s. 753 - 35 att. A dull rainy morning. No news of future moves. "C" Coy moved about 1430 hrs to the BCD concentration area. Capt. E.B. (Tiny) Robertson arrived back to-day in rather poor physical condition due either to his stay in hospital, or his stay in Rome. "C" Coy reported to have arrived but no definite plan.	
Sheet 103-1	29 Sep 44		Strength Officers 36- 4 att. O.R.s. 804 - 35 att. Another quiet day, still raining. The roads were almost impassable. Vehs being bogged down everywhere. It was reported that Lieut G.D. Laidlaw had died of wounds received during the attack on Coriano ridge.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 103-1	30 Sep 44		Strength Officers 37 - 4 att. O.R.s. 804 - 35 att. The weather improved with the sun coming out and beginning to dry the roads and the men's clothes. The CO returned from 48 hrs well-earned leave to Riccione. Capt. Tiny Robertson took over once more as Adjutant much to the joy of all concerned. Capt. J.O. Hall relinquished the appointment of Adjutant and was appointed 2 i/c of "B" Coy. "C" Coy returned from the BCD concentration area and took up residence in the near-by town of Variano. The 30th September brings to a close another months of successes for the Westminster Regiment (Motor). Comds of all levels have been loud in their praise of the unit, and facts show that the unit's achievements have been more than just average. (G.C. Corbould DSO) Lt.col., Comd., The Westminster Regiment (M)	

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. *PT 1 Orders*
2. *AFW 3008-9*
3. *PT 2 Orders*
4. Marked Maps
5. Neutrality of the Republic of San Marino
6. Operation orders of Coriano ridge
7. Death of Major E.S. Catherwood
8. Nominal roll of personnel killed in action during the month of September
9. L/Cpl. McLeod's version of "Lili Marlene"
10. Exploits of Lieut. T.G. Forman
11. Message of congratulation from Gen. Leese
12. Warning order to move
13. "A" Exchelon diary up to 12 Sep 44.

A Strength States

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 101-111 MR 782990	1 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 796 - 35 att. It was a quiet Sunday morning, dull but not raining. Church parade at 1100 hrs, taken by the P.L.D.G Padre was well attended. At 1330 hrs word came that the Bn was on one hours notice to move. Some consternation ensued at the abrupt notice, but at 1600 hrs the unit moved off up BOAT ROUTE across the USO river to the area 7501. There was no ward of an immediate move, so things were quickly straightened away for, a good nights rest.	
Sheet 100-11 Area 7501	2 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 788 - 35 att. It rained during most of the night and continued to do so all day. Everywhere the mud was ankle deep causing the roads to be well-nigh impassable. Luckily there was very little shelling, as every slit-trench was half full of water. The only information 12 Bde H.Q. could give was that we were a reserve battalion, and that, as such, we were not likely to make any immediate move. The day was spent by all hands in trying to make or find same kind of shelter from the cold, driving rain. During the night there was some fairly heavy shelling which caused one casualty in Support Company.	
″	3 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 777 - 35 att. It was still cloudy in the morning but by noon the sun was out and everyone was taking advantage of the opportunity to dry out wet equipment. It was another quiet day spent by Tac H.Q. and Main H.Q. in straightening out admin details. Jerry reminded us that he was still in the area by throwing over a few rounds at various times throughout the day, but there were no further casualties. It was made known that General Sir Oliver Leese was leaving Italy to take over an Army group in Burma. Taking his place as commander of the 8th Army was Lt-Gen. Sir Richard McCreery.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 100-11 Area 7501	4 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 794 - 35 att. The weatherman was good natured so we had a beautiful clear warm day. In the afternoon the C.O. was called to Bde where he learned some of the details of the force he was to command in the next action. It was to consist of the Westmr. Regt. with the LDSH under command and with the R.C.D.'s in support. The 11th Fd. Regt. R.C.A. were in their usual role of close support. It was planned that, pushing on from the bridgehead formed by 11 C.I.B. across the SCOLO RIGOSSA, the Corbould Force was to cross the F. PISCIATELIO AND TAKE THE TOWN of MA CERONE. This would represent a gain of about four thousand yards of very difficult country as well as command of an important lateral road. It was a quiet night with only intermittent shelling.	
	5 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 785 - 35 att. Contrary to B.B.C. reports of fine weather in Italy, it was another day of drenching rain. In the afternoon, the C.O. visited 12 Bde. H.Q. The arty. fire plan was laid on with Lt.Col. Greenley of 11th Fd. Regt. and it was decided to have a meeting of all commanders on Oct 6 at 1000 hrs. On returning to the Bn Area the C.O. called the coy commanders to-gether and discussed the general situation. At this time the plot was laid for a mess dinner to be held on the following evening. The nights stillness was broken by the odd round of Jerry shellfire.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 100-11 Area 7501	6 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 32 - 5 att. O.R.s. 779 - 35 att. It was dull and a drizzling rain was falling in the morning. At 0930 hrs the C.O. and I.O. left for the meeting which had been arranged on the previous day. Here were gathered the C.O.'s of the 11th Fd. Regt., the R.C.D.'s and the G.G.H.G's, Maj-Gen. Hoffmeister came later. Three Plans were decided upon. Plan "A": if the G.G.H.G's were successful in reaching their objective which was a crossing of the F. PISCIATELLO WEST OF MACERONE, the Westminsters would follow up as a close as possible in vehicles, de-bus and proceed on foot to the objective. Plan "B": If the G.G.'s bogged down or were held up, we were to proceed on foot followed by the Strath's who were to be deployed across the Center Line. Plan "C" was similar to Plan "A" except that the LD.S.H. would take the lead if the G.G.H.G's failed. The R.C.D.'s. were in all cases to cover the left flank and picket cross-roads and likely enemy strong-points. It was thought by some that Plan "B" was the one most likely to succeed. With the distribution of Arty. fire-plan traces, the "O" Group was concluded. After a brief conversation with the G.O.C., the C.O. returned to Tac. H.Q. At 1500 hrs. an "O" was called and the Coy. Commanders were briefed. At 1700 hrs. various Coy commanders commenced to assemble and partake of the punch concocted by Maj. W.J. Neill. Present once again, was Maj. J.K. Mahony V.C., who had just returned from 1 C.B.R.D. He was to go the next day to H.Q. 5 CAD where his job would be Flanking Formation L.O. A rousing evening was spent by all present. After a first-class meal, prepared by H.Q. Coy cooks, the C.O. and Maj. Neill entertained with a number of accordion solo's, as well as accompanying the "singing". At about 2030 hrs. Lt. Col. W. Greenley of the 11th Fd. and Maj. Mather the Bde. Major, were called from 12 Bde. H.Q. to join in the proceedings. The party broke up sometime after mid-night and everyone went to bed. A good time had been had by all.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 100-11 Area 7501	7 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 32 - 5 att. O.R.s. 776 - 39 att. It was a dull morning but by way of a change it was not raining. At about 0900 hrs. an I.O. arrived from Bde. with word that “attack as planned was cancelled.” No further information was given. Brig. Lind visited the C.O. at 1100 hrs. and said that, though the larger plan was changed, the task of the Corbould Force was to be much the same. However, our objective was changed to the area of the cross-roads, Map Ref. 648082, which was about 2000 yds. WEST of the original crossing point. By mid-afternoon the roads were quite dry and it looked as if pending operations had every chance of success. In the evening, the nightly bridge foursome assembled, Maj. F. Shawcross, Capt. E.V. Ardagh, Lieut. R.F. Marshall, and Lieut. J.A. Fowlie. Otherwise it was a quiet night.	
	8 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 31 - 5 att. O.R.s. 774 - 39 att. Another rainy day marking the conclusion of a week spent in the same area, Map Ref. 7501. At 1030 hrs. the C.O. and I.O attended an Orders Group at 12 Bde. H.Q. where the C.O. received further orders for the previously planned attack. The Arty. Plan was tied in once more and everything was set. A Bn. Orders Group was held at 1500 hrs. and the C.O, had just completed his orders when a telephone *call* from Bde. informed him that the attack was post-poned again, this time for 48 hrs. In view of the extremely bad weather everyone was slightly relieved, though there was a general desire to get on with it and finish the job.	
	9 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 31 - 5 att. O.R.s. 766 - 39 att. At 0600 hrs. we had a noisy reveille in the form of several salvos of shellfire from Jerry’s “heavies", which fell very, very close to Bn. H.Q. It was a cloudy morning but the sun broke through in the afternoon. At various times throughout the day Jerry threw “heavies” at us, or if not at us, certainly at someone in the Bn. Area. It seemed evident that Jerry knew, that the houses in which the R.A.P and Bn. H.Q. were situated, were definitely occupied. In the afternoon the C.O. paid a visit to Bde. and found that 12 Bde. Were to be relieved and that we were to move to a temporary location on the beach SOUTH OF RICCIONE. An early breakfast was laid on for us the next day and preparations were made for an early move.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 100-11 Area 7501	10 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 31 - 5 att. O.R.s. 761 - 39 att. At about 0430 hrs. everyone was awakened with the news that the unit was to start moving at 0530 hrs. and were to cross the start line (Junction ofBOTTLE AND STAR) at 0600 hrs. Some of the vehicles were bogged down but the timely arrival of Capt. K.B. Harrison with the L.A.D.'s "Scammel" soon remedied the situation. By 0600 hrs the Bn. was clear. The route was Highwa y 9 to RIMINI then down Highway 16 to a temporary staging area at Map Ref. 9588, which was the same area that the unit was in after the CORIANO RIDGE action. It seemed that the stop was to be for only a few hours, after which we were to move into billets for two or three days, the billets now being occupied by the Seaforts of the 1 Div. After a further stop of "two or three days" we would move into the MARINE BARRACKS. Rather than go to the trouble of the first move, it was decided to stay on the beach until the MARINE BARRACKS were evacuated. At about 1000hrs. the rains came again in a deluge which lasted for several hrs, but by mid-day the sun was shining and the troops were in for a swim in the warm Adriatic.	
Sheet 109 IV NE	11 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 33 - 5 att. O.R.s. 778 - 39 att. It was dull .and cloudy in the early morning but by noon the sun was "blazing" and troops were again in the water, which was not too warm. It was still rather indefinite as to what billets we were to move in to and when we were to move, so the companys were preparing for a stay of several days in the present area. In the evening the "Sally Anne" came through with a picture, which was shown on the beach near Bn. H.Q., the troops enjoying it very much.	
	12 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 33 - 5 att. O.R.s. 788 - 39 att. It was another day of sunshine and was spent on a general clean-up program. In the morning Majors H.F. Hoskin and G.D. Johnson recce'd a training and firing area. Capt. E. V. Ardagh left at 1330 hrs. to recce the MARINE BARRACKS which were to be our new billets. Word had come from Bde. that 3 C.I.B. were moving out and that we could move in that evening. At 1530 hrs. the coy commanders returned and were loud in their protests that the MARINE BARRACKS were highly unsuitable, so it was decided to stay put in the present area. The I.O. went to 12 Bde. with a message to Brig. Lind regarding the situation, The Brigadier was not happy about the new billets either, so he gave orders for the Westminsters to stay in their present area.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109 IV NE Area 9588	13 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 33 - 5 att. O.R.s. 785 - 39 att. It was cloudy in the morning but once more the sun came through, and we had a nice day. The company's were all busy or training. Lieut. J.A. Fowlie and his signalers had a big job of cable-laying to do as the company's were all spread out. "A" company were on a night-training scheme in the evening.	
	14 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 33 - 5 att. O.R.s. 783 - 39 att. It was cloudy in the morning but later the sun came through and it was another nice day. Brig. Lind paid Lt. Co1. Corbould D.S.O., a visit during the latter part of the morning. Sgt. D. Hicks spent the morning searching the country-side for maps, pencils etc but it seemed that china-graphs were not to be found. At about 2130 hrs. it was reported from 12 Bde H.Q. that a German patrol had landed on the coast somewhere NORTH OF RIMINI, planting mines in vehicles and providing other items of interest. Accordingly a beach patrol was laid on to patrol our section of the beach.	
	15 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 33 - 5 att. O.R.s. 782 - 39 att. Our fine weather was continued with another day of sunshine. It was a quiet day. At 1430 hrs. a church parade was held in "A" Company's lines, the Bde. Padre officiating. In the evening the "Sally Ann" provided another picture which was well attended, as usual.	
	16 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 33 - 5 att. O.R.s. 782 - 39 att. Sunshine prevailed once more and the Bn carried on with their training, which consisted mostly *of* range firing. The coys were all busy with field training and the firing of all weapons. The Regimental Signalers were busy with a driver-operator's school. In the afternoon all officers and N.C.O.'s assembled at 12 Bde. H.Q. for a talk by Lt-Gen. Burns, 1 Cdn Corps Commander. He congratulated all 12 Bde units on their fine showing in the past and also spoke of future plans.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 109-IV-NE Area 9588	17 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 33 - 4 att. O.R.s. 781 - 35 att. It was dull and cloudy during the day and in the afternoon our spell of good weather was broken by a torrential downpour of rain. In the morning, the C.O. and 2 i/c formed the Bn plan for Exercise “SUDS” a wireless exercise to improve wireless communications. This was a divisional scheme (see Appx *10*). At 2359 hrs a draft of reinforcements arrived - 3 Officers and 20 O.R's. Pte. Perry Bishop of the “I” Section was promoted to fill the vacancy left by Cpl. G.W. Ellis who had returned to Canada.	
″	18 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 33 - 4 att. O.R.s. 794 - 35 att. In the morning the Bn received word that billets in RICCIONE, M.R. 919917, had been vacated by the S.L.I. & G.G.H.G. and that we could take them over. Accordingly the 2 i/c, Major D.B. MacKenzie, recce'd the area and returned to say, that the billets seemed quite suitable. At 1400 hrs, the 2 i/c, accompanied *by* company commanders and small holding parties returned to RICCIONE and took over the buildings. Meanwhi1e some confusion had been caused by two Artillery Regiments moving into the same area and taking over some of our houses. One or two slight discussions took place, but the 2 i/c held his ground and consequently the regiment did the same. After some indecision it was finally decided to move the next day, “C” Coy remaining in their present area until further billets were found. In the evening final plans for exercise “SUDS” were made.	
″	19 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 800 - 35 att. It was a clear sunny day when HQ Coy recce party set out, but by 1200 hrs it was raining once more. Exercise “SUDS” began at 0700 hrs and continued until 1130 hrs, when it was decided by the Directing Staff that all objectives had been reached. At 1330 hrs H.Q. Coy & Bn. H.Q. began to move to the new area and by 1700 hrs all departments were settled in quite comfortable quarters.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 101 – 111 SE Map Ref. 919917	20 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 795 - 35 att. The day was spent in settling into the new quarters. The remaining portions of the Echelons moved up, so that, with the exception of "C" Coy and BN. Q.M. Stores, the battalion *was* together once more. Through-out the day several differences of opinion occurred when members of the 4 A/Tank Regt contended that we were occupying some of their buildings. However "A" & "B" Coys stood fast and the situation remained in hand. The Officers Mess was set up in a former hotel, the "Pensione Maria" and Capt W. (Bill) Delaneyset off for an unknown destination in search of supplies. The Mess was inaugurated at dinner.	
M.R. 919917	21 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 793 - 35 att. The sun was once more bright and warm. It was rumoured that 11 C.I.B were to move up to the front once more, and it was felt that the Westminsters would not be far behind. The C.O. visited 12 Bde H.Q. in the morning but they had no definite information of future intentions. The Salvation Army representative, Supervisor Clark, secured a very nice house in the battalion area and set up canteen and reading room facilities for the troops. In the afternoon the C.O. took all Coy Comdrs and recced a bn area for field firing exercises. This turned out to be the ground north of Tomba di Pesaro which was the scene of the Westminster Regiment's advance on the night 2/3 Sept 44. Area's were decided upon and preliminary plans for training exercises made.	
M.R. 919917	22 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 790 - 35 att. After a rainy night the sun was out in strength making it a lovely morning. At 0900 hrs there was a voluntary Church Parade held at the Odeon Theatre in Riccione. At 0930 hrs the C.O. received orders that the bn was on one hours notice to move, as from 1400 hrs. This caused some consternation as there had been no indication of an immediate move. But all vehicles were soon loaded and ready to roll. At 1130 hrs the bn was "stood down" with the exception of "A" Coy who was to remain on 4 hours notice. Along with this news came torrents of rain, so it was with some relief that vehicles were partially unpacked. Capt. B. Morgan left on a trip to visit all members of the unit who were in hospitals in Italy. "C" Coy moved into Bn Area *in the* afternoon.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
M.R. 919917	23 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 789 - 35 att. Dull and wet in the morning with still no word of a move by “A” Coy. Training carried on as usual. The Sigs Offr Lt. J.A. Fowlie was having a busy morning conducting a wireless scheme which was part of the training syllabus of his driver-operator's school. Capt. A.L. Harding returned from an extended trip spent “picking up” a few things for the unit. Along with other more concrete items he brought back various rumours about moving to France, etc. R.S.M. Clifford started brush up training of junior N.C.O’s.	
″	24 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 801 - 35 att. A change from the previous days weather in that we enjoyed a summer day. Training was going on apace. Maj. F. Shawcross, O.C. Spt Coy was having his recently formed Pioneer Pln trained by clearing some German mine-fields left on the beach. The motor companies were busy, some firing range practices of all weapons on the near-by beach, while others were on route marches and tactical training. “A” Coy was still on 4 hours notice to move, though there was no indication of any immediate change. In the afternoon the 2i/c, Adjt & I.O. visited 5 Div H.Q. at BAGNAROLA.	
″	25 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 796 - 35 att. Another clear day of sunshine, though it was cloudy in the early morning. “A” Coy was still “standing to”. Capt. E.M. Wilder, the Regt'l M.O. was busy with the job of inoculating all members of the Bn. In the afternoon the A/Tk Pln’s of Spt Coy carried out firing on the beach. Some first class shooting was done. Last day of Victory Loan Drive ends tomorrow.	
″	26 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 795 - 35 att. It rained heavily during most of the night and continued all through the day. It was a quiet morning. Rapid advances at the front were reported and it was fe1t that after many previous alarms the enemy was at last withdrawing to the line of the PO RIVER. The Divisional Historical Officer visited the Bn to secure the detail of the actions in which the Westminster Regt had participated from the breakthrough at the Gothic Line until Oct 10,44 when the Germans were holding the line of the RUBICONE FIUMICINO. The 7th Victory Loan Drive ended with a total of 509 applicants and a total of $38,500 as the contribution made by this unit.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
M.R. 919917	27 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 793 - 35 att. The rain persisted through the night and all day. The streets were under inches of water and several bridges were reported to have been either washed out or made impassable by flood waters. At 0900 hrs the Bn received orders that advance parties were to be placed on one hours notice to move. It was later found that our new location was to be CERVIA Square 6820, sheet 100. a small seaport about 15 miles North of RIMINI on the Adriatic Coast. This move, it seemed was necessitated by the fact that 1 Div were to move into our RICCIONE billets. Lieut. H.A. Miller returned to the unit after a period of several weeks in the hospita1.	
"	28 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 787 - 35 att. It was cloudy and cold in the morning but was not raining. The location of the Bn's new area was changed from CERVIA to BELLARIA Square 7708. The Bn was on one hours notice to move when a move order came informing us that the Bn was to cross the start line at 0900 hrs. Route was "SUN" Route - Highway 16. The advance party under Major D.B. McKenzie left at 0700 hrs and after spending some time in BELLARIA found that the move had been stopped by Corps. Meanwhile the unit, "A" Coy leading, had started and were on *their*way. The orders were now to stand down for 24 hours. During the morning the Loyal Edmonton Regiment advance parties arrived to take over the billets. During the afternoon it rained heavily. In the evening a visit was paid to the unit by our former M.O. Maj. Gislason.	
"	29 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 796 - 35 att. After a brilliant moon-lit night, the bn awoke to find it cloudy and cold. A Bde L.O. visited the unit with the information that the area to which the bn was to move had once more been changed, this time to LORETO, a town about 20 miles South of ANCONA. Advance parties were put on one hours notice though a definite start time was not known. A voluntary Church Parade was held and in the absence of our own Padre *it* was taken by the Padre of a neighboring unit. In the evening word came that we were to move on the 31 Oct 44. Unit advance parties were to be prepared to move on the 30 Oct 44. A picture was shown by the Knights of Columbus Auxiliary Services and had a good attendance.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
M. R. 919917	30 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 796 - 35 att. It was raining in the morning. The advance parties had not left and it was made known that the new area was to be URBINO, a small town about 15 miles West of PESARO. All coy's carried on with training, Spt Coy being busy on the beach firing 6 prs and P.I.A.T. practices, while “A”, “B” & “C” Coys were on route marches and all other types of training. An inspection of the C.O.’s remodeled caravan made evident the fact that Sgt. Jack Mills of the Pioneers was right on the job with a lot of ingenuity.	
″	31 Oct 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 795 - 35 att. It was cold in the morning, though the ski was clear and the sun was out. There was still no word of a move. In the afternoon the C.O. &. Adjt paid a visit to 5 Div H.Q. On their return we found that no move was imminent for several days. After an absence of several weeks, Major T.W. Hall returned to the unit. It was reported that during the afternoon the C.O. spent some time on a duck hunting expedition, though there was no concrete evidence of such a trip. Halloween night, usually cause for much celebration, was spent quietly by all ranks. It marked the end of another month of activity by The Westminster Regt in the Eight Army's Adriatic campaign, a month of rain and mud and hardships. …….. Lt-Col. G.C. Corbould, DSO Command Officer The Westminster Regiment (Motor)	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials

LIST OF APPENDICES

THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (MOTOR)

WAR DIARY OCTOBER 1944

		Orig	Dup	Trip
1.	Unit Part 1 Orders	X	X	X
2.	AFW's 3008 & 3009			X
3.	Unit Part 11 Orders	X		
4.	Personal Messages from Army Commander	X	X	X
5.	Seventh Canadian Victory Loan Campaign	X		
6.	Message of Thanks from The Westminster Regt on leaving 5 Cdn Armd Bde.	X		
7	11 Cdn .Inf Bde O.O. No.8	X		
8.	Wehrmacht Gave them the Works	X		
9.	Conpany Training Syllabs for Week ending 21Oct44.	X		
10.	Operation Order No. 95 – Exercise "SUDS"	X		
11.	Report on Air Operations 24 Aug to 22 Sep	X		
12.	"C" Coys encounter with Haupt Malapert, O.C. 111/15 P.G. (Mot)	X		
13.	Maps. Italy. Sheets 100 - 11 & 101 - 111 Scale 1:50,000.	X		
14.	Maps. Italy.- Sheets 109-1V-NE & 101 - 111 –SE Scale 1:25,000.	X		

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
RICCIONE Sheet 100	1 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 792 - 35 att. Heavy rain fell last night and the advance party to the new area, left at 1800 hrs. The weather was still very unsettled and several bridges in the vicinity were unusable. The coys are carrying on training, consisting mostly of range practices and route marches.	
	2 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 805 - 35 att. Weather bright and sunny in the forenoon but cloudy in the afternoon, finally raining at night.	
	3 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 805 - 35 att. One day of sunshine at last. Reports concerning the new area not very pleasing. Battalion HQ and HQ Company are to be in the village of S CLEMENTE itself and the remainder of the companies are will scattered.	
	4 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 804 - 35 att. Another day of sunshine and the ground is starting to dry up again somewhat. The bridges are again in working order, thus cutting out the use of long detours. Coys are carrying on with the usual training.	
	5 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 803 - 35 att. Weather was clear and warm but dark clouds were piling up on the horizon with the intention of rain. A voluntary church parade was held in RICCINONE at 1000 hrs and was well attended. The rest of the *day* was spent as a regular sunday, with quite a number out visiting their Italian friends.	
	6 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 796 - 35 att. A dull cloudy day. Everybody well occupied in packing and loading in preparation of the move tomorrow. The quarters are well crowed by now with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment moving right in with us. Everyone seems to be in everyone else's way. Capt. Owen, our Padre also returned to-day after spending some time in hospital.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 898848 Sheet 100	7 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 793 - 35 att. The weather was fine and and clear and at 1200 hrs the first vehicles of the battalion started to roll into S CLEMENTE. This was "C" Coy led by Major H. F. Hoskin. The CO and Adjutant arrived at 1430 hrs and the battalion was soon in operation. At 1500 hrs word was received that the Westmrs were to move up to relieve the RCDs in area MR 5226 and 5326. This sudden news caused some flurry as there had been no previous word of a move. Recce parties were warned and the CO and 2 i/c went to 12 CIB hq in search of further information. A representative was required to report to Porterforce HQ by 0800 hrs 8 Nov 44 and Major D.B. MacKenzie was chosen. We were to come under command "PORTERFORCE", a group of units commanded by Lieut.-col Porter, CO of 27 Lancers. This force consisted of 27 Lancers, RCDs, 1/4 Essex, KDG, 1 Sqn 145 RAC Regt and had the task of holding the front from MR 500260 to the coast. The CO decided that rather than send normal recce parties he would go himself with Coy Comds of A, B, and C Coys. This party was to be prepared to leave S CLEMENTE at 0900 hrs 8 Nov 44. In the evening the local church school was crowed when Supvr. Hussey, K of C put on a motion picture.	
	8 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 790 - 35 att. Major D. B. MacKenzie got away to an early start at 0600 hrs though in a hurry his rations were forgotten. The CO visited Bde HQ and found the route and location of Porterforce HQ and also that his party was to be there by 1500 hrs. Route was highway 16 to RIMINI, No. 9 highway to FORLIMPOPLI then north to MR 545238 – S PIETRO. At 1200 hrs a DR from Major Mackenzie arrived with a message concerning gen details of the takeover. COs recce party left at 1340 hrs and arrived at Porterforce HQ at 1725 hrs where they were met by the 2 i/c. After having been put in the picture by the 2 i/c, the CO reported to Lt.-col Porter, CO of Porterforce. At that time, one sqn RCDs was to be relieved by one coy Westmrs on the night 9/10 Nov 44: then on night 12/13 Nov the.1/4 Essex were to be relieved by the remainder of the Westmrs, while on the night 13/14 Nov, the Westmr coy was to be relieved by the Kings Dragoon Guards. The CO stayed at Porterforce HQ while the remainder of the party proceeded to a house at MR 547248 where we ate and spent the night. We learned from Major MacKenzie that the Partisans were doing good work in the area and that civilians were very co-operative while on our right flank.	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 898848 Sheet 100	8 Nov 44 cont'd		was operating a force known as the PPA or Popski's Private Army. This force consists of about 60 men who travel largely in jeeps armed with 50 and 30 calibre Brownings, Bazzokas and misc other weapons. Their job consisted of patrolling and keeping in contact with the enemy. At about 1900 hrs Major H.F. Hoskin arrived after having been delayed with a ditched vehicle. Instructions had been sent during the day to the unit to move at 0800 hrs 9 Nov and proceed to this area. During the night there was intermittent shelling by both our own and enemy guns but otherwise quiet.	
	9 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 800 - 35 att. It was cold and very foggy during the morning and visibility did not improve until about 1130 hrs. At 0730 hrs the 2 i/c took Capt. W.J. Neill of "A" Coy to the area of "A" Sqn RCDs who he was to relieve. At 0800 hrs the remainder of the party proceeded to Porterforce HQ and contacted the CO. It was then found that "D" Sqn RCDs was also to be relieved on the night 9/10 Nov and for this job "B" Coy was chosen. The CO decided that "C" Coy would be in reserve and temporarily would be located with SP Coy in the nearby town of S PIETRO IN VINCOLI 5225. "A" and "B" Coys were to be relieved by KDGs on the night 13/14 Nov when the Westmrs were to relieve the 1/4 Essex who were further to the left in sqs 5227, 5327, 5127. Major G. D. Johnson then set out to recce "D" Sqns area, while Major D.B. MacKenzie and Major H. F. Hoskin left to recce "C: and Sp Coys area and a location for the echelons MR 583219. The CO proceeded to RHQ of the RCDs and finding that they did not expect to move out immediately, he decided to locate Bn HQ temporarily at house 547248. At 1230 hrs the first of "A" Coy vehicles arrived followed shortly after by Bn HQ. Bn HQ columns was short one vehicle, the COs caravan but Lieut. J. S. (Dinty) More was contacted and this situation was soon remedied. At about 1500 hrs the CO went to the two forward coys positions where he found that "A" Coy has completed their relief while "B" Coy had to wait until last light as much of their area was under observation. The ground was flat for miles in every	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			direction and consequently observation was very good. In some places it was flooded though our own area was not. At 1800 hrs the relief was completed, the RCD troops had vacated and the area was under command of Westminsters. The Bn HQ was once again in action after a rest of about three weeks. "A"C Coys location was in area S STEFANO 5526 while "B" Coy were at 574268. During the afternoon Major B.F. Neary paid the CO a visit. It was a night of wild wind and rain and the men in slit trenches spent a bad night. There was some shelling through the night and MG fire was heard from right flank of "B" Coy but no casualties were caused.	
Sheet 12 MR 573266	10 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 799 - 35 att. By morning the rain had stopped and day broke on a clear cold morning, Snow could be seen on the mountains and hills to the west. In the morning the CO visited "A" and "B" Coy areas and inspected all the positions. "A" Coy FDLs were in area 551285 and 561285 while "B" Coy were along the east-west road from 568286 to 580293. The complete morning was spent with the coys and visits to Porterforce HQ and RCD RHQ. A very good snack of hot cakes was provided by the cooks of "B" Coy. In the afternoon the CO laid on patrols for both "A" and "B" Coys (see appendices). "B" Coys patrol was led by Lieut, T.O. Johnson. When they were approximately half way to their objective near house LA PARSOTA 576295 they were fired on by MG from haystack in the yard of the house. Lieut. T.O. (Tommy) Johnson was killed (details in appendices). "A" Coys patrol reached objective and encountered no enemy. This patrol was led by Lieut. J.E. Oldfield, back at the job again after a stay in hospital with jaundice. There was more shelling during the night but no further casualties.	
	11 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 794 - 35 att. More intermittent shelling during night but no casualties. It was bright and clear in the morning and quite cold. At 0830 hrs the CO left for the coys. He went first to "A" coy where he discussed with Capt. W.J. Neill the patrols for the previous night and the patrol intentions for that night. From there he went	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 12 MR 573266	11 Nov 44 cont'd		to "B" Coy and after speaking to Major G.D. Johnson about Lieut. T.O. Johnson's unfortunate patrol other things were discussed. Everyone present attended Lieut Johnson funeral service which was taken by H/Capt D.R.G. Owen. At 1100 hrs the guns observed the customary armistice day two minutes silence. In the afternoon details of patrol intentions for the night were tied in. "A" Coy was sending a heavy fighting patrol under Lieut. E. A. Stephens of Sp Coy to the canal crossing at 548297. Also a small patrol under Lieut. W.E. Tyler to houses along canal bank 5629 and 5630. "B" Coy was sending a strong standing patrol to the scene of Lieut. T.O. Johnson's battle of the previous night. They were to go out at 0400 hrs 12 Nov and remain for 24 hours. At 1000 hrs Bn HQ moved to S STEFANO 5528. An operations room was set up and soon we were very busy. The evening was spent with reports coming in on the progress of two "A" Coy patrols which were out. At 2050 hrs it was reported that Pte Koblin of Sp Coy had been killed and Sgt Hodge, also had been wounded. (details appendices) Lieut. W. E. Tyler's patrol returned, having encountered no opposition. "A" Coy 3" Mortar kept Jerry's heads down for some time with a Harassing Fire Task delivered on the area of crossing of GHIAIA canal MR 548296. There was some enemy shelling in coy forward area during the night but no further casualties. An Italian Partisan L.O. Lieut Raponi, was attached to the unit. His duties were to make available Partisans to the CO and to interrogate any Italians who came in from the enemy lines.	
MR 5528 Sheet 12	12 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 793 - 35 att. At 0400 hrs "B" Coys 21 men standing patrol commanded by Sgt J. Laing MM took up their position in LA PARSOTA MR 575295. There was more shelling by heavy guns during the night and early hours of the morning but no casualties resulted. It once more clear and cold and there was frost in the air. Capt D.R.G. Owen took services at Bn HQ and later in Sp Coy area at S PIETRO IN VINCOLI MR 5225. It was a quiet day with only light shelling in the area of the forward coys. During the afternoon "A" Coy had two snipers working on their front along the south bank of the FOSSO GHIAIA. They were unable to do any shooting but did some good observation while they were there. The CO visited Lt-col Porter at Porterforce	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 5528 Sheet 12 S STEFANO	12 Nov 44 cont'd		HQ where he received more details of the relief which was to take place the night of 13/14 Nov. The KDGs were to relieve "A" and "B" Coys while "C" Coy was to relieve "C" Coy 1/4 Essex at GAMBELLARA MR 5128 and be under command the Essex until 14 Nov when the remainder of the Westmrs would move in and take over command of that sector. This sector was to be known as LOBSTER and covered a front of approximately 5000 yards, a very large front for one unit. Recce parties from the KDGs arrived and were accompanied by the CO on the round of the coy positions. In the late afternoon Pte Koblin of Sp Coy was buried beside Lieut. T. O. Johnson in "B" Coy area MR 574265. At 1740 hrs Lieut. E.S. Hoult took an ambush fighting patrol out from "A" Coy to the crossing at 547296. Assisted by Lieut. J.E. Oldfield who was positioned in a carrier about 500 yards south, he carried out a very good job. They shot up all known enemy positions in the area as well as a few unknown ones. Our people suffered no casualties but it was almost certain that Jerry took a beating. (see appendices) It was reported that on the night 11/12 after firing several bursts of MG and pinning Lieut. H.A. (Bert) Stephens patrol, the Jerries had jeered at our men from their positions. This chatter continued until the three PIATs opened fire and the jeering ceased forthwith! There was heavy shelling in both "A" and "B: Coys forward area. 105's and 15 cm were pretty busy all night but they weren't very accurate and again we suffered no casualties.	
	13 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 793 - 35 att. The I.O. went to "B" Coy HQ to talk to Sgt J Laing, leader of "B" Coy's standing patrol which came in at 0325 hrs. The patrol had very little to report having met no opposition. (see appendices) There was a thick white layer of frost over everything at daybreak and it was very cold. This was all to the advantage of the unit's operations though and everyone was glad that the rain was holding off. Lieut. W.H. MacLachlan supplied a first class breakfast which included an egg – quite a treat! Cpl P. Ostafew and one man spent several miserable hours in a ditch full of cold water while they were checking for mines on the road in squares 5728 and 5729. After doing a thorough job they returned to report no mines. The afternoon was a busy time for coy comds who made reccies of the positions	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 5528 Sheet 12 S STEFANO	13 Nov 44 cont'd		they were to take over from the 1/4 Essex. "A" Coy was to be on the left, "C" Coy centre in GAMBELLARA, "B" Coy on the right and on the extreme right in square 5427 one A Tk Pl as Infantry supported by a sect of Vickers MMG. This force was to be commanded by Lieut. H.A. Stephens of Sp Coy. During this recce the party came under the fire of an 8.1 cm mortar which dropped about a dozen rounds in the area. Sgt R.A. Denomy "C" Coy signaler Sgt was wounded and evacuated to Capt Waugh's RAP. Later in the day, "C" Coy took up their positions in the forward edge of the town and came under command the 1/3 Essex. Meanwhile "A" and "B" Coys were being relieved by two Sqns of the KDGs. By 1700 hrs the relief was completed and both coys were concentrated north and south of Bn HQ in area or S STEFANO 5528. Since arriving in the area Supvr Hussey of K of C had been running two shows per day in the theatre in S PIETRO IN VINCOLI. These pictures were shown for Porterforce and entertained 400 men twice each day. The theatre was only 1000 yards from the FDLs but no one was very worried and the house was always full. It was a quiet evening around the ops room at Bn HQ, disturbed only by a bridge game in which the participants were Major Shawcross, Capt. E.V. Ardagh, Lieut. JA. Fowlie and Capt. W. Graham, the Cos representative from the 3rd Fd Regt RCA, which was in support of the Westmrs. The unit was out of action for a few hours so there was no need for the usual officer watch which had to be maintained at Bn HQ at all times when we were engaged. The general intention was to go to bed early and get a good nights rest.	
MR 525256 VILLA OLGA Sheet 12	14 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 788 - 35 att. Cloudy and cold in the morning with some rain throughout the day. At 0830 hrs the CO left on a further recce of the new coy positions and got to Bn HQ of the 1/4 Essex, the Bn we were relieving. "C" Coy spent a comparatively quiet night, though there was some mortaring and some fixed line MG fire which was a hindrance to any movement. At various times during the day these and other targets were very effectively engaged by "C" Coys 3" Mortar group. The CO spent some time with the CO 1/4 Essex and then visited the coy positions. By 1500 hrs the relief was completed well ahead of schedule. The location of Bn HQ	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 525256 VILLA OLGA Sheet 12	14 Nov 44 cont'd		was the VILLA OLGA 525256, a very pretentious estate owned by a prominent Italian oculist and race horse proprietor. At 1500 hrs the coys were in positions as follows; "A" Coy 513267, "B" Coy 523268, "C" Coy in GAMBELLARA square 5128. Under command of Lieut. H.A. Stephens was one A Tk Pl of Sp Coy as infantry and one section of Vickers MMGs. This group was known as 57 detachment and were holding a large area on our right flank. At 1530 hrs "A" Coys No. 3 Pl. commanded by Lieut. W.E. Tyler spotted two Jerries unconcerningly laying mines on the road at MR 506276. In the words of the coy comd. Major W.J. Neill, "the coys doughty mortar crew engaged the enemy and the target was effectively neutralized. Net result - two good Jerries. The echelons moved into S PIETRO IN VINCOLI 5225 and soon were set up and open for business. Sp Coy HQ plus one A Tk Pl was also still in S PIETRO. While at Porterforce HQ during the afternoon the CO and Major F. Shawcross found that the Bn was to have 21 Partisans attached on the following day. They were to be used for patrolling and reconnaissance work. Generally, the Partisans in the area were very good, some 300 of them being in the Porterforce sector. One group of about 60 were known as Popski's Private Army or "PPA" and did some first rate work. Travelling in jeeps each mounted with a 50 and 30 calibre Browning MG they patrolled well into the enemy positions and generally with much success. Lieut. Raponi, the attached Partisan liaison officer was still with the unit doing the occasional integration job on some unfortunate who wandered in from the Jerry lines. It rained slightly several times during the day and about 2100 hrs a down pour started. This continued throughout most of the night. There was some shelling and mortaring in the coys forward positions, but no enemy patrols appeared. At 1400 hrs the 12 Bde LO had arrived and he had word that a trip in an air OP better known as "fearless fosdick", had been arranged, and that the aircraft would be at CESEANA airport on the following day. This was to enable the CO to have a look at the line from the air. Bn sigs had a busy day working on lines and "maintaining communications". In the first place many of the lines taken over from the 1/4 Essex were either broken or inadequate and secondly shellfire knocked out the repaired lines with great frequency. During the night there was some shelling in the coy areas but otherwise there was nothing to report.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 525256 Sheet 100-IV VILLA OLGA	15 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 784 - 35 att. It was windy and a rainy morning. The sentries and outposts had put in a miserable night, though after midnight there was very little shelling. The CO left at 0815 hrs for CESENA, for the projected tour of the battle front. It was a doubtful flying day, but at about 1000 hrs at Auster (?) air OP took a couple of low flips over Bn HQ and the VILLA OLGA so it is evident that the trip had materialized. During the morning reports kept coming in of enemy activity on the fronts of various companies, evidence that all concerned were on the job. At 1030 hrs 21 Partisans arrived and until they could be sorted out and sent, seven to each coy, they created quite a hub-bub. They weren't with the coys very long before they were put to work patrolling to FEUMA RONCO in the case of "A" and "C" Coys while Major G. D. Johnson put his seven out to search the houses on "B" Coys front. "Bryan of the light brigade" or Capt J Bryan of 12 CIB, came on the LO run and brought with him details of the plan to send men home for Christmas leave. Only those men with five years service overseas were eligible, each month in England counting as one month, while each month in Italy scored two. So at last a few lucky people were to get home on other than compassionate grounds. The CO arrived back at about 1130 hrs having had a rather rough ride with a scary pilot. In the afternoon he went on a round of the coys to discuss the situation with the coy comds. After arranging some patrols at "B" Coy, the CO AND IO carried on to "C" Coy, here Pte F Shadlock of the "I" section and Pte Aurello told of a refugee woman they had during a checkup of the local inhabitants. It seemed that she had a note given to her by a Russian captain who had been taken prisoner by the germans. With it he gave his instructions to hand it to the first allied officer she should meet. As Major H. F. Hoskin was out, the CO decided to investigate the matter. The woman had the note sewn in the hem of her skirt and when she cut it out and gave it over to our care, it was found to be written in Ukrainian dialect. The party of refugees was promised that they would be evacuated the next day and that note was sent Porterforce for examination. While at "C" Coy, a phone call from Bn HQ that the 12 Lancer, of 5 Br Corps whose right flank Porterforce was protecting, had advanced to a line running almost due west from GAMBELLARA square 5128, the position in which "C" Coy then was. This necessitated	

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MR 525256 Sheet 100-IV VILLA OLGA	15 Nov 44 cont'd		a change in plan, so the CO decided that "A" coy would put on one pl in 509286, "C" Coy a platoon at 519295 in the houses at 523293. The Coys were contacted and the plan was soon taking form. At 0700 hrs "C" Coy was to send a patrol through the houses at 523297 to ascertain if it was still held by enemy, then return to "B" Coy lines at MR 523294. At the same time, Lieut. R.A. Stephens to patrol to house C BELETTINI at 544290. By 1900 hrs all were completed and communications were established to positions as above. It was fairly quiet during the evening with only a few odd mortar rounds falling in the forward positions. The night passed uneventful with no patrolling by either Jerry or ourselves.	
	16 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 783 - 35 att. It was a clear sunny morning and the day started out with a bang with word at 0730 hrs that the 22 Lancers on our left had made very good progress and now were in the neighborhood of GHIBULLO MR 519304, just opposite "C" Coys positions. "C" Coy was to have a contact patrol at canal junction 531314 to liaise with the 12 Lancers at 0900 hrs. Word came later that the lancers did not expect to make it by 0900 hrs so that intention was cancelled. At 0850 hrs an Italian came in to "B" Coys lines. He had just came from BOLOGNA. He was sent to Bn HQ and was interrogated by our Italian Partisan LO but his information was rather disappointing. He was sent on to Partisan HQ for further questioning. During the morning "C" Coy was on the job with information about mined roads and details of the bridging site at GHIBULLO. At 1000 hrs the CO started "B" Coy on the move to take the house at MR 524293. The coy was soon in position there but it took some time and a lot work by Sgt. Labere's Sp Coy platoon to get a bridge across the "BLOW" at MR 522287. This was done however, and the vehicles were able to move up to "B" Coys position. Meanwhile, developments on the left flank decided the CO to move "B" Coy to the line of the road MR 533307 to 547307. As the road was very heavily mined this once more called for the able assistance of the Sp Coy assault platoon. This time it was Sgts. Smith and Jones who cleared the way. By 1600 hrs "B" Coy was in position and the road was swept up to the junction at MR 547307. In the morning it was decided to move Bn HQ to VILLA SERENA MR 517283. This however was found to be unsuitable so we moved to the VILLA LOVELLELI MR 515288 where	

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MR 515288 Sheet 100-IV VILLA LOVALLELI	16 Nov 44		we were ready for business at 1700 hrs. Once more the sigs were working overtime getting lines into to the coys and what was more difficult, keeping them there. When “C” Coy moved from their position in GAMBELLARA to “Y” Roads MR 518296. “A” Coy moved up into GAMBELLARA, their vacated location being taken over by the KDG. At 1700 hrs a 17 cm shell landing on “C” Coy HQ wounded two men and very nearly got several others, among them being Major H.F. Hoskin and the FOO from the 3rd Fd Regt this offender was quickly silenced by some effective counter-battery work. There was no patrolling during the and apart from the usual shelling there was little to report.	
MR 515288 Sheet 100-IV VILLA LOVALLELI	17 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 804 - 35 att. It was cold and clear again, though in the early morning there was a light fog over the flat country in the R RONCO area. In the previous evening the CO received word that a meeting of all commanders of units in the Porterforce would meet at P.F. HQ at 1000 hrs 17 Nov 44. Capt. W.J. Neill was called in and an attack on MOLINACCIO MR 553317 was tied up. The CO left for Porterforce and later called back with orders for “A” Coy to proceed on the a/m attack. A patrol from the KDG on our right flank was in MOLINACCIO and had met opposition and our coy was called on to support them. “A” Coy moved off at 1130 hrs and by 1230 hrs were in position in MOLINACCIO just short of the MOLINO canal. Two platoons were later sent across the MOLINO. On the way up, the assault platoon of Sp Coy did a first rate job of clearing mines from the roads over which our vehicles had to travel. There were a terrific number of mines in the area, cross roads, verges and ditches being very heavily mined as well as indiscriminate mining of fields with Anti personnel mines and prepared charges. On advice from Partisans a patrol from “B” Coy went out to a house at MR 553332 and after a short treatment of PIAT and small arms fire brought out eight prisoners. “Mysliecki’s Private Army” or “Free Italian Army”, composed of Pte Mysliecki of “A” Coy in command of the seven partisans attached to that coy, together with miscellaneous snipers and such, were in position about 200 yards in front of “A” Coy. Mysliecki was doing a fine job, staying on even though he was very sick. At 1700 hrs a patrol from “C” Coy led by Sgt J Keet crossed the F RONCO and penetrated a thousand yards of enemy territory before coming to an impassable water obstacle, the SCOLO LAMA. They came under some MG fire but returned with no casualties. There was shelling in the coys areas by	

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MR 515288 Sheet 100-IV VILLA LOVALLELI	18 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 794 - 35 att. The good weather still held with another day of sunshine, though, as was usual in this flat country there was a light ground fog. It was a quiet morning. The CO visited the coys in the morning and “A” Coys positions were improved. An indication of how thoroughly the area had been mined was a case of one “glass mine" (TMI 4531) being lifted, a carrier hitting a shoe mine laid beneath it, and the engineers hitting another shoe mine while lifting a second glass mine laid with the others. So the RCEs and the Assault Platoon of Sp Coy had their hands full trying to clear an initial path for the advancing vehicles, and afterwards the even more difficult task of clearing the verges and the ditches. At 1130 hrs, “C” Coy sent out a patrol of 20 men led by Lieut. H.A. Miller. Their task was to cross the 2500 yards of ground between the F RONCO and F MONTONE and feel out the enemy in the vicinity of the crossing at MR 516326. They made good progress up to the canal junction at MR 516316 when they first contacted the enemy. The enemy were in strength in houses in the area, so after accounting for two germans the patrol withdrew to a house MR 529314 from where they controlled by wireless set a very effective and accurate arty shoot from the guns of the 3rd Fd Regt RCA. By this time it was about 1400 hrs. The patrol now pushed on the SCOLO LAMA and were crossing some open ground immediately in front of the canal at MR 525316 when they came under heavy fire from 5 MG positions sited on the opposite bank of the stream. The banks of the canal were about 15 feet high and the patrol rushed to this bank for cover. No casualties resulted from the initial fire, but the germans then started firing rifle grenades and a light mortar. Among the first to be hit was Lieut. H.A. Miller who suffered serious head and leg injuries. Cpl L. Field took charge and carried on the battle in order to cover the evacuation of the casualties which by this time were heavy. Small arms and LMG fire were of little value as the enemy was well dug in, and distance was too great for accurate throwing of .36 grenades. On the other hand, the Germans used, with good effect, their small rifle grenades. One man, Pte Morin, though he was mortally wounded carried on firing his bren until he died. Their badly depleted	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 515288 Sheet 100-IV VILLA LOVALLELI	18 Nov 44 cont'd		ammunition supply was somewhat replenished by an officer of the 12 Lancers (british) who also helped with the evacuation of the wounded. When all the dead had been evacuated, Cpl Field fought an orderly withdrawal and brought his party back to GHIBULLO and the crossing of the RONCO where they were met by Major H.F. Hoskin. Ambulances and carriers were waiting and the wounded were quickly taken out. Total casualties were 4 killed, 8 wounded, among the wounded being one Partisan, Sgt G. Bartoletti. The patrol had returned by 1630 hrs though it suffered severe casualties, the patrol had certainly not been in vain as much valuable information was obtained, regarding enemy defences. When the area was clear of our people it was stonked by everything we had. The night was quiet apart from the nightly ritual of shelling, from which no casualties resulted. A few suspicious Italians were brought into Bn HQ, questioned by Lieut. Raponi, the Partisan LO and either sent back to their houses or the POW cage.	
	19 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 783 - 35 att. Another sunny November day with the usual ground fog in the morning. During the night an enemy patrol came into "A" Coys lines and after a short fire fight Lieut. Tylers platoon leaving one wounded man behind. He was brought into Bn HQ to be repaired at the RAP, and on being interrogated proved to quiet an intelligent member of the Wermacht. He was typical of the Hitler Youth, a boy of eighteen years and only one month out from Germany. Conditions in Germany according to his story, were bad. The terrific bombing had awful hardships and he seemed to be quiet happy with the fact that he was now a POW. On being passed back for interrogation he proved quiet willing to tell all he knew. It was quiet through the morning but in the early afternoon Jerry started going over the area of the Bailey bridge at MOLINACCHIO with every thing from medium mortar to 210 mm long range guns. Two "A" Coy casualties occurred, 1 killed, 1 wounded. "C" Coy HQ which was at MR 519296 also caught their share of the heavy stuff which was meant for the bridge site at GHIBULLO. At 1030 hrs Major General Hoffmeister DSO CBE, and Brig. J.S.H. Lind DSO paid the CO, Lt-col G.C. Corbould DSO a visit and after discussing the situation, looked over the Bn positions. After lunch the party returned to their respective HQ. Lt-col Porter also called during the morning and spoke about the intentions of Porterforce for the following day. The Westmrs were to stay in their present positions	

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MR 515288 Sheet 100-IV VILLA LOVALLELI	19 Nov 44 cont'd		while the people on the right were to make local advances. The 3rd Fd Regt RCA was relieved by the 1 RCHA though the 2nd Med Regt RCA, stayed on in support of Porterforce. It was around 2200 hrs when the brigade Major of Porterforce phoned stating that one coy of the regiment was to be on two hours notice to go in support of the KDGs in an attack on the area of the wood MR 567340. There was very little detail forthcoming but the CO arranged a fire plan with Capt MacKay of 1 RCHA and put Major H.F. Hoskin of "C" Coy in the picture, as "C" Coy was chosen for the job. A belated Operations Order arrived when most of the tentative plans had been made. It was quiet through the night with only intermittent shelling. "A" Sqn 145 RAC passes from u/c Westmr Regt (M) to u/c KDG. Major T. W. Hall left for an appointment at 1 Cdn Corps HQ.	
	20 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 34 - 4 att. O.R.s. 781 - 35 att. The CO left at 0800 hrs and after picking up Major H.F. Hoskin proceeded to an "O" Group at the KDGs. It developed that "C" Coy would not be called on immediately but the KDGs and "A" Sqn 145 RAC were to do the job and call on us only if we were needed. During the night 19/20 Nov German propaganda leaflets were dropped or placed on the bank of the R RONCO in the vicinity of "C" coys position. They seemed to have been dropped by shells. In "A" Coys area was found a strange type of mortar bomb which seemed to have been used for leaflets. It was unknown to several Arty officers who inspected it. So a description was taken and sent to Porterforce in order that it might be identified. Civilian suspects were continuously being rounded up, chiefly by the Partisans, and brought to Bn HQ for questioning. Some were released but some were retained and despatched to the F.S. Section for further investigation. During the afternoon we found that Bn HQ was to move. This time to MOLINACCHIO, the village where "A" Coy then was. Plans were made for "C" Coy to move the following morning to MADONNA DEL ALBERO MR 566339. The arty fire plan was similar to that laid on for the previously planned attack. The coy was to leave its vehicles at a harbour slightly forward of "A" Coys positions, and go forward the remainder of the way on foot. They were to move early in order to make the best use of the morning mist to effect surprise. Capt Sutherland of the Prince Louise Fusiliers arrived as an advance party for a platoon of 4.2 inch mortars which were coming under command the Westminster Regiment from 12 Cdn Inf Bde Support group. With the use of "A" and "B" coys 3" Mortars and Sp Coys	

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MR 515288 Sheet 100-IV VILLA LOVALLELI	20 Nov 44 cont'd		Vickers, Capt W.J. Neill was able to set up a very effective counter-mortar and counter machine gun offensive. When the mortars scared the Jerry from one place the machine guns chased them back and vice versa. Any targets which were too close for effective from from "A" Coys mortars were dealt with by Sgt J Magill, Mortar Sgt of "B" Coy, who's barrels were set up off to one flank. With the event of the 4.2's this organization promised to develop into a very effective weapon.	
MR 550306 MOLINACCHIO Sheet 89/III	21 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 777 - 35 att. "C" Coy moved off before first light then after harbouring their vehicles near A Coy at MOLINACCHIO continued on foot to their objective which was the wooded area at MR 567340. The CO listed to their progress on the 109 reception set in the ops room until approximately 0800 hrs when he went forward to "A" Coys HQ. Everything went according to plan with very little opposition being met. Some MG posts were dealt with before they caused us any casualties. Shelling and mortaring was heavy and the enemy had good observation of the roads and the whole area. However, by 0900 hrs the coy was in position having suffered no casualties. A bad "blow" in the road caused Major H.F. Hoskin to call for the Sp coy Assault Platoon to repair it and clear mines to enable essential vehicles to move forward. This was soon done, though one man lost a foot on a shoe mine. Meanwhile Bn HQ was in the throes of a move. By 1100 hrs all were settled in MOLINACCHIO at MR 350315. The 4.2 mortar platoon reported in and several shoots were laid on for them during the afternoon and evening. Buildings reported by Partisans to be occupied by enemy were harassed. The enemy did very little shelling except when our mortars or machine guns fired on him, when he returned the compliment in kind. Shortly after arriving at MOLINACCHIO Bn HQ was soundly shaken by one such salvo. During the afternoon Capt. K.B.Harrison, "A1" Echelon moved to the VILLA LOVATELLI MR 515288 but this was actually part of the front so the CO decreed that they should move elsewhere. The remainder of the echelons still in S PIETRO IN VINCOLI MR 5225. At 1600 hrs, a Partisan reported an enemy HQ in a house MR 559354 and a camouflaged tank harbour at MR 564356. At 2015 hrs the tank harbour was suitably	

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MR 550306 MOLINACCHIO Sheet 89-III	21 Nov 44 cont'd		stonked by arty and it seemed to have been effective as tanks were heard moving hastily along the UNITI canal to the east while one was seen to be burning. At 2215 hrs Lt.-col Porter informed the CO by telephone that Porterforce would soon be dissolved and that there was a job for the Westmrs on the N.W. side of the F RONCO. There was to be a conference at Porterforce HQ. the next day when more details of the intentions would be made known. The usual intermittent shelling during the night caused no casualties.	
	22 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 779 - 35 att. Another day in the stretch of good weather which was prevailing. A few rounds fell in the Bn area during the early morning hours, but they were not close enough. The CO had a conference.at Porterforce at 1300 hrs. This was to outline the plans for the takeover of another sector by the Westmrs. At about 1100 hrs Capt. M.G. Klinkhamer arrived as LO from 12 Bde HQ. Soon after that Capt. J.W.C. Biggs, MC paid a visit from 5 Bde HQ. The general plan for the unit was a move across the F RONCO to gain control of the ground between the F RONCO and F MONTONE. The CO also found that "C" Coy was to be relieved on the morning of 24 Nov. One Sqn of the 27 Lancers was to take over from them. Lt-col A Porter and Lt.-col Lindsay, CO of the KDGs were invited for dinner which was a very successful event. At 2230 hrs an enemy patrol came into "C" Coy position but after a short fire-fight withdrew. The area was later harassed by 4.2 mortars. There was very little shelling during the night, though in the early morning "C" Coy had a heavy stonk. Jerry had very good observation of "C" Coys area and consequently any shelling he did was quite accurate. A sniper, from "C" Coys OP took advantage of a good shot and killed one German. Jerry immediately knocked the house down, but no one was hurt. However this added one more to our score which was by this time 30 of his for 23 of ours.	
	23 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 808 - 35 att. Again the weather man was good, for after the usual morning mist had lifted, it was one more bright and clear. The night had passed uneventfully with only the odd shell coming over. At 1000 hrs the Sqn leader of "B" Sqn 27 Lancers arrived.	

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MR 550306 MOLINACCHIO Sheet 89-III	23 Nov 44 cont'd		His Sqn was to relieve "C" Coy by the morning of 25 Nov. "C" Coy was to come out into reserve for a while until the crossing of the RONCO was completed. In the afternoon, the CO and the Adjt, Capt. E.B. Robertson went across the RONCO to the Bn HQ of the 2/6 GURKAS who were in command of the sector between the RONCO and the MONTONE. They were to be relieved by the Westminsters on 26 Nov when we were to take over that sector and form up on the MONTONE. On arriving at the HQ the CO found that the 2/6 Gurkas knew nothing of this projected relief and that their intention was similar to ours. After arranging for our indirect fire weapons to provide some harassing fire to assist the Gurkas, the CO returned to MOLINACCHIO. At 1420 hrs an excited telephone call came from 5 CAB. A DR from that HQ had been sent to the Westmr Regt and had started out via highway 16. This was the main north-south coast road and ran from our lines into the enemy's. The DR was last seen riding unconcernedly up the road and nothing further was heard from him. It was found later that he was carrying invitations to the dance held by 5 CAB in CERVIA. Due to the possibility of air attack the dance was postponed for one night. In the evening Porterforce held a dinner for the commanders who had taken part in the activities of this force. The CO and Adjt attended and during their absence an outline at operations order (appendix 12) arrived. The details concerning the Westmrs were as follows. We were to cross the RONCO and firm up on the MONTONE in area 523333. We were later to be relieved by the GGHGs and were in turn to relieve the 2/6 GURKAS. The intention was for us to provide a clear way for the initial stages of the attack by 1 Cdn Corps which was thought to be lined up for 1 Dec 44. In order to complete the task, the GGHGs were to provide the Westmrs right flank protection. This was vaguely reminiscent of various times during the Hitler and Gothic Line battles when the GGHGs had the same role. The CO returned from the dinner at 2300 hrs and formed his outline plan. "B" Coy was to cross the RONCO via the foot bridge 545325 while "A" Coy and "C" Coy were to relieve the Gurkas. On being relieved by the GGHGs, "B" Coy was to come in on the sector taken over by the remainder of the Bn. When this was completed everyone except Major F. Shawcross who was on the first watch as duty officer went to bed.	

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MR 550306 MOLINACCHIO Sheet 89-III	24 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 807 - 35 att. Majors C.D. Johnson and W.J. Neill were called in to Bn HQ to discuss with the CO plans for the projected push to the MONTONE. This group was later joined by Major H.F. Hoskin who was being relieved by the 27 Lancers. The outline plan was for “B” Coy to advance across the RONCO to the MONTONE while “A” and “C” Coys were to go around across the RONCO by way of COCCOLIA MR 493249 in order to relieve the 2/6 Gurkas who were then pushing up to the MONTONE along the line of the 31 Easting from the 48 to 51 Northing. This plan was to have gone into effect with “B” Coy moving off by 1200 hrs when the CO received word of a conference at Porterforce at 1300 hrs. The move was postponed until the CO obtained more information. By 1700 hrs “C” Coys relief by “B” Sqn 27 Lancers was complete and that company was in billets S PIETRO in VINCOLI. Here our troops were having a difficult time hanging on to their quarters as representatives from Corps. HQ, 1 Div HQ were continually trying to push them out. However no ground was given and the coy stayed put. The CO returned from Porterforce HQ and the a/m plan was definitely cancelled. Instead, the Westmrs were to move to the west side of the RONCO and relieve the entire 2/6 Gurka Regiment as well as the frontage of two coys of the 2/10 Gurkas. There was little to report in the “last light Sitreps” except some light shelling in the Bn area. A party of rfts arrived consisting largely of familiar faces, men who had gone out as casualties in the Gothic line actions and who were coming back for another go at Jerry. Amongst the party were Lieuts. J.A. Cambridge and R.E. Mannering, victims of jaundice. It was quite late when the CO received word of a meeting with the G.1 Eighth Army to be held at Porterforce HQ at 0930 hrs the following morning. On two occasions during the night, salvos of enemy mortar fire fell close to Bn HQ. Some concern also caused by an unidentified plane which flew low and circled over MOLINACCHIO during the evening.	

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MR 550306 MOLINACCHIO Sheet 89-III	25 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 808 - 35 att. A dull, cloudy day with a little light rain during the morning. The CO left at 0900 hrs for a conference at Porterforce HQ where commanders were gathered to discuss future plans and intentions. The previously planned attack across the RONCO to the MONTONE had been cancelled in favour of the relief by the Westminsters of the 2/6 Gurkas who were pressing up to the MONTONE. We were also to relieve two coys of the 2/10 Gurkas who were on the left of 2/6 Gurkas as well as 1 Sqn of the 1st Indian Horse (known as Skinner's Horse) who were on the right of 2/6 Gurkas. This represented a front of 7000 yards, a very large area for one Bn so one Sqn of the GGHG was put under command. This sqn was to relieve the Skinner's Horse. At 1115 hrs the CO phoned orders for coy comds to be prepared to move off at 1315 hrs to recce their new locations. The only bridge over the RONCO was at COCCOLIA MR 494248 which entailed a long round about trip, so it was about 1500 hrs when the recce party arrived at the Gurka HQ. After tying in details of the takeover the CO returned to Bn HQ at MOLINACCHIO via HQ 43 Ind Bde and Porterforce. The night was very quiet as command of the sector had been passed over to 27 lancers.	
	26 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 807 - 35 att. It was a grey rainy day, and quite cold. The coy comds left early in the morning in order to be at the HQ of 2/6 Gurkas by 0800 hrs from where they were to proceed to recce their new coy areas. Under command was to be 1 Sqn of the GGHGs. This was "C" Sqn commanded by Major Burton DSO. Meanwhile the preparations were made for the Bn to move and coys started moving at 1300 hrs. Some of the Gurka posns were relieved in daylight while others being under observation, had to be left until last light. During the relief "C" Coy had three casualties, two from shrapnel and one from small arms. The relief was completed by 1900 hrs and the Gurkas were all away by 2000 hrs, quite happy over what their CO said was the quickest takeover they had experienced. On the way in, one tp of the CGHGs were delayed somewhat by the high water in the SCOLA LAMA. The Bn was now covering a front of 7000 yards stretching from MR 460304 which was "C" Coys left position on the MONTONE to MR 528313, the GGHGs right troop at LONGANA on the RONCO.	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 495297 Sheet 89-III	26 Nov 44 cont'd		Many of the platoon positions were on the north side of the SCOLA LAMA, a deep canal running WEST TO EAST through the battalion area. This obstacle was bridged on the road leading to "A" and "B" coy positions but "C" Coy, Sp Coy and the GGHGs had some difficult positions to maintain. At 1800 hrs, a ration truck which was travelling NE on the north side of the RONCO went past the FDL and struck a mine. The vehicle was wrecked and one man, Pte Ford, J.R. was evacuated. The intention now was to press up to the MONTONE and to cross it if at all possible. The enemy was on both sides of the river in excellent dug in positions and a determined effort was necessary if he was to be pushed back. During the evening there were various reports of enemy activity, shelling, mortar and machine fire, being heavy in all areas. At 0130 hrs the GGHGs scored with two prisoners who were sent on to Porterforce.	
	27 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 805 - 35 att. It rained continuously during the night and was still pouring down at 0700 hrs. Two more prisoners were taken, this time by "A" Coy. There were two very talkative specimens from 114 Light Divisions, the formation which had formed the opposition during much of the Porterforce campaign. They had deserted and told of many more who would come but for their officer. At 0600 hrs a patrol from the GGHGs ran into a minefield and had two casualties. The Sgt-Major in charge of the party then sent two others to their forward positions to warn them of the mines. This party became lost and some later ran into two Germans, one of them having been blown up on a mine. On their way into their HQ they picked up another. These two were sent into Porterforce and they proved to be more candidates from 114 Div, one of them a Luftwaffe reinforcement who had been sidetracked into the Infantry. The enemy MG fire during the night had been heavy, though no casualties were inflicted on our people. Some difficulty was being encountered in supplying the troops who were forward of the SCOLO LAMA so a rush call for assault boats was sent to Porterforce. Canal and streams in all sectors were rapidly coming up providing more problems as they rose. Traffic and forward roads in "A" and Sp Areas caused immediate and	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 495297 Sheet 89-111	27 Nov 44 cont'd		accurate shelling, so movement was kept to a minimum. The echelons were now located at VILLA MONALDINA MR 505292 and line communication was established to Bn HQ MR 495297. Major D.B. MacKenzie was busy with the many admin details of "B" Coy Ech. In the morning the CO visited "C" Coy and later went to "A", "B" and Sp Coys. Sp Coy HQ MR 512304 was situated between two canals. The bridges on the road over these canals had been blown only partially filled. With the rising water these two fills started to go out so that by 1700 hrs Sp Coy plus one pl was completely cut off. Eventually the assault boats and rope arrived and temporary ferries were established for "C", "Sp" Coys and the GGHGs. Prior to their arrival Lieut. H.E. Smith had improvised a couple of foot bridges to supply 16 platoon which was cut off by two canals. During the afternoon Lt.-col Porter accompanied by Lt-col Lord Tweedsmuir visited the CO to obtain information about roads, bridges etc with reference to the coming operations by 1 Cdn Corps. The area at present occupied by the Westmrs was to be the forming up place of 12 CIB who were to be the leading element of the attack. This was rapidly becoming waterlogged or completely so it was evident that a change of plan was inevitable. "A" and "C" Coys were shelled during the night by SPs which were moving up and down the roads north of the MONTONE and shelling spasmodically. These were engaged by British Arty and several times during the night by 4.2 mortars. During the afternoon patrols were sent out from "A" and "B" Coys to the bank of the MONTONE. The enemy was reported to be in strength along the south river bank. This was evident by "B" Coy patrols who, after firing on a house, saw one enemy being carried out. These men they fired on but the results were unobserved. The house occupied by Lieut. R.F. Marshall's Sp Coy platoon was the centre for a lot of Jerry's attention and by 1700 hrs it had been reduced to two rooms. But they stayed right on notwithstanding the water which was rapidly rising around them. Lt-col K. Jordan visited the CO during the afternoon and decided to sent up his recce tp as reinforcement to "C" Sqn.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 495297 Sheet 89-III	28 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 798 - 35 att. The rain of the previous 24 hours had stopped although it was still cloudy with a threat of further rain. The water in the forward area was quite high, though with the downpour finished the flood was rapidly going down. The SCOLO LAMA was once more within its bank, but boats were still necessary to supply the forward troops. A patrol from “C” Coy checked the river and banks in order to gain information for bridging intentions. At this point the MONTONE was a serious obstacle, the water was high and swift and the banks were steep and slippery and suspected to be mined. Various reports of movement, of both enemy troops and SPs were dealt with by the PLF 4.2 mortars with good effect. The Padre, Capt. D.R.G. Owen while on a visit to “A” Coy came under fire from an SP situation on the north bank of the MONT0NE. After spending some time in a ditch he emerged unscathed and carried on to “A” Coy. At 1300 hrs a patrol consisting of “Myslieckі's Private Army” (Pte Myslieckі plus seven Partisans) started for a bridge site at MR 744314. They hadn't gone very far when they saw on the opposite bank two enemy in a horse drawn wagon. They shot one who fell out of the wagon, while the other whipped up his horse and disappeared. The patrol carried on to the river, obtained the necessary information and returned. They were just nicely into their house when it received eight direct hits from mortars. Though they were buried in rubble no casualties were inflicted except for the pants of one partisan. These were not recovered. At about 1600 hrs a hurried phone call from Sp Coy stated that shells from our own guns were dropping in their area. This was at first thought to be unlikely as the arty were not firing but after a check up, it turned out to have been the BCDs who were shooting a little short. No casualties or damage was caused. At 2150 hrs an enemy patrol was reported to be in the area of “A” and “B” Coys. They were fired on several times and last ended up in a garage but came in “B” Coy HQ area. Four of the patrol ran out of the garage and were fired on by several automatic weapons, One, an Unter-Officier was killed and a second was found dead the next morning. The fifth member of the patrol remained in the garage but came out on receiving a 36 grenade. He was wounded and one man went up to him and others gathered around. He then tore away threw a grenade and started to run off. He was brought down by tommy guns and sent to the RAP where he was found to be wounded in six places. He was patched up by the MO, Capt Waugh and after being questioned was evacuated. After this incident the night was quiet apart from an occasional burst of MG fire, fired by a nervous Jerry.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 495297 Sheet 89-III	29 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 797 - 35 att. There was no rain but it was still cloudy and cold. There had been the intermittent shelling and mortaring during the night and Capt Sutherland and his 4.2 mortar platoon were kept busy most of the night on counter-mortar tasks. In the early hours of the morning a small enemy patrol infiltrated into one of the GGs forward positions. They were fired upon but got away with no known casualties. At 0725 hrs “B” Coy reported having found the body of the second German who had been killed during the encounter of the previous evening. From several sources they were informed that two others of the patrol had been killed. Thus accounting for all of the five man patrol. At 0945 hours “C” Sqn GGHG reported that one of their number had gone “off into the blue” on an attack of his own. Unfortunately he was not heard of again. At 1000 hrs, Brig. Lind arrived and gave Lt-col G. C. Corbould the plan for the coming attack by 1 Cdn Corps. The broad picture was that the, attack was to be on a Corps front which the 1st Div would be on the left and 5 Div on the right. 5 Div was to swing on a wide flanking move north of RAVENNA. The 5th Div was to tee off at 1600 hrs 1 Dec from a start line provided by the Indian Div who were on our left. The PLDG were to push to GODO MR 4635. The Lan & Ren Scot (89/109 Inf Bn) were to clear S. PANCRAZIO MR 4731. During the night the Westmrs were to cross the MONTONE by boat, push through GODO at dawn 2 Dec and firm up on OSTERIA MR 4942 by last light 2 Dec. All movement was to be on foot and it was not expected that vehicles would be up for 48 hrs. The COs “O” Group was called for 1300 hrs. The orders were given - “A” Coy was to lead followed by “B” and “C” Coys in that order. High priority vehicles were to follow as soon as a light bridge could be built. It was decided that “B” Coy was to send one platoon through the houses on the south bank of the MONTONE at MR 483317. Major G.D. Johnson decided to have the pl work from right to left through the houses at MR 485318. Lieut. Vic Wilson's No. 6 Platoon was to do the job which was to start at 0530 hrs 30 Nov 44. At 2000 hrs Major W.J. Neill reported another enemy recce patrol in the forward area. They were fired on at several places but no known casualties were inflicted. Lt.-col A. Porter called at 2100 hrs to pass on orders from the Corps Commander, Lt-Gen Foulkes, for us to simulate an attack across the river by smoke and shelling. This was to start at 0830 hrs 30 Nov and was meant to be a diversion to assist the attack by 10 Ind Div. “C” Sqn GGHGs whose patrol during the night reccied houses, reported some houses occupied. Shelling and mortaring carried on intermittently through the night.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 495297 Sheet 89-III	30 Nov 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 795 - 35 att. It was a cold drizzly morning when six pl of "B" Coy commanded by Lt J.V.H. Wilson set out from MR 492315 to take the houses on the south bank of the MONTONE MR 4831. Their start time was 0530 hrs and their route along the line of track from MR 488312 to right group of houses which was to be a firm base for the move through the remainder of the houses. The pl made good headway, cleared the first two groups and were pressing on to the 3rd when the enemy opened fire with MGs from the houses in front of them, and from the river bank on their right flank. The pl pulled back to the two groups of houses already held and carried on the fight from those posns. Mortaring and shelling was heavy all day and one counter-attack came in during the afternoon, complete with Faustpaterone, etc. This attack was beaten off leaving their dead and taking several wounded with them. At 0600 hrs a recce patrol from Sp Coy No 16 Pl reported a number of Jerries digging in on the south bank of the MONTONE. This effort was engaged by a successful shoot by 11 Fd Regt RCA who were once more in Sp of the Westmrs. At 1000 hrs Lt-Gen Foulkes GOV 1 Cdn Corps, surprised everyone by walking into Bn HQ. He came up to see the CO and stayed for half an hour during which he discussed the plan for the coming attack. He expressed an opinion that the war would be over by Christmas which was accepted rather skeptically. Various reports of "B" Coys fight were coming in during the day. "A: Coy got some attention from Jerry in the form of a number of heavy mortar "stonks", but no casualties were inflicted on us. At 1115 hrs the Brig. J.S.H. Lind arrived to pass on further details of the 12 Bde plan. The attack had been postponed for 24 hrs, thus causing our start time to be approx. 1800 hrs 2 Dec. At 1900 hrs the position on the MONTONE was attacked again. The attack was driven off but one of our men, Pte Watson, R.T. and two others were wounded. Ammunition and rations were taken out to the positions and they were later reinforced by Lieut. G.B Eatons pl. Meanwhile, the remainder of t "B" Coys posns and Sp Coy's posn were taken over by GGHGs. The 30th Nov was the last day of operations under command of Porterforce and marked the end of three weeks with this now well known group. By coincidence it was exactly three years from 9 Nov 41 when the Westmrs entrained at Sussex N.B. for Hlfx and overseas until 9 Nov 44 when the unit came under command of Lt-col A Porter, CO of 27 Lancers, who had been placed in command of this force of crack units from both the British and Cdn Armies.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 495297 Sheet 89-III	30 Nov 44 cont'd		Substantial gains of ground had been made and heavy casualties had been inflicted on the enemy, while our own casualties had been comparatively light. The way had been paved for the attack of 1 Cdn Corps which was to effect the capture of RAVENNA and help to relieve the pressure on the Fifth Army who were at present held up in front of BOLOGNA. The orders had been given for the part of the Westminster Regiment (Motor) in the coming action which would undoubtedly prove to be another success for the unit. (G.C. Corbould DSO) Lt.-col., Comd., The Westminster Regiment (Motor)	

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	LIST OF APPENDICES	ORIGINAL	DUPLICATE	TRIPLICATE
1.	Unit Part 1 Orders	X	X	X
2.	Unit Part II Orders			X
3.	30008's and. 3009's	X		
4.	Patrol Reports	X	X	X
5.	Porterforce Operation Instruction No. 3	X		
6.	Porterforce Operation Instruction No. 4	X		
7.	KDG Operation Order No. 10	X		
8.	History of unit condensed from 30 Aug to 10 Oct 44	X		
9.	Enemy Propagande Dist Weapon	X	X	X
10.	Order of Battle - Porterforce	X		
11.	Subject - Operations	X		
12.	Notes on forthcoming operations	X		
13.	Security Lecture	X		
14.	Immediate Awards	X		
15.	Corps Commanders Message	X		
16.	Message from Minister of National Defence	X		
17.	Message from Lieut.-Gen Leese	X		
18.	Seasons Greetings	X		
19.	Letter of Congratulation	X		

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NOVEMBER 1944

	LIST OF APPENDICES (CONTINUED)	ORIGINAL	DUPLICATE	TRIPLICATE
20.	Map Number 12	X		
21.	Sheet 100-IV	X		
22.	Sheet 89-III	X		

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 476308	1 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 806 - 35 att. It was clear and cold in the morning after a cloudy night. At about 0900 hrs Brig. J.S.H. Lind arrived from Bde HQ and went over the plan for 12 Bde's part in the forthcoming attack. The attack was now to start the afternoon of 2 Dec 44 which meant that the Westminsters would start moving sometime during the night of 2/3 December. Maj-Gen Hoffmeister came in at 1000 hrs and stayed for about one hour. The COs "O" Group was called for 1330 hrs when all the coy comds were present. With the unit in action, Major F. Shawcross was second-in-command, Lieut. H.E. Smith as OC Sp Coy. He had been busy during the time that the unit was with Porterforce as Sp Coy was actively engaged during the whole time. The plan was for "C" Coy to cross the MONTONE first, followed by "A" and "B" Coys in that order. A light class nine bridge was to be built by the RCE to enable priority vehicles to cross immediately the bridgehead had been formed. Final details were just being tied in when word came that "H-Hour" had been put ahead 24 hours. This came as slight shock but preparations were made for an early move and by 1700 hrs. the unit was ready to move. At 1710 hrs the move was cancelled and the order was given to stand down for twelve hours. The situation now was that, the PLDGs and Lan & Ren Scot were to cross the MONTONE through 1 Div's bridgehead further south, push up to S PANCRAZIO after which the Westminsters were to move across the river. Brigade start time was now 0900 hrs 2 Dec 44. "B" Coy was relieved by "B" Sqn GGHG and were in billets near Bn Hq by 2100 hrs. Both "B" and "C" Sqns GGHGs were now under command the Westmrs. During the night several rounds of 17 cm fell near Bn HQ but no hits scored.	
	2 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 800 - 35 att. There was heavy fog on the flats near the MONTONE which persisted all morning. The CO visited Brigade early in the morning and returned with the news that 12 Bde's attack was not proceeding to well. If the Westmrs could cross the river at S PANCRAZIA it would relieve the pressure from the other two units of the brigade who were driving up from the south, so the CO decided to have one company infiltrate to the opposite bank and form a bridgehead through *which* the remainder of the unit would be passed. The first to cross was an	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 476308	2 Dec 44 cont'd		assault section of 17 pl under Sgt. J.D. Jones who did a fast and efficient job of clearing wire and mines from both banks. The first people over, crossed in. single assault boats manned by drives and batmen of the company. Later, a number of boats were fastened together to form a bridge which considerably speeded up the operation. Shortly after "C" Coy had firmed up on the west bank of the MONTONE, "A" Coy started to pass through and push towards S PANCRAZIO. Enemy snipers were active during the early stages of the crossing and mortaring continued all day. Some casualties were inflicted on "C" and "A" Coys, chiefly by mortar and shellfire. A number of enemy were killed and 21 prisoners were taken. The NCO who was responsible for the defence of the sector said that our attack had been quite unexpected and before they could muster their defences they were beaten. "B" Coy started to cross the river at 2000 hrs and by 2230 hrs all three coys were firmed up in S PANCRAZIO. Major H.F. Hoskin had remained with his HQ on the east bank of the river in order to guarantee communications and to control the passage of troops across the river. Poor communications with the forward companies had nearly necessitated a move forward by TAC HQ, but by 1900 hrs lines to "C" Coys forward HQ were restored and as the wireless net was improved TAC was not moved that night, though preparations were made for an early move on 3 Dec 44. The MO, Capt Waugh received a location for the RAP near the east bank of the MONTONE, but shelling and mortaring were too heavy to allow freedom of movement, so the RAP did not move until the following day. The signals line crew had a busy time during the night, keeping lines in *as* they were being constantly knocked out by shells.	
	3 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 796 - 35 att. Another morning of fog but still no rain. The fog cleared off for a while at about 0730 hrs thus enabling the aircraft to give some valuable support to the ground troops. During the night the PLDGs and L&Rs had moved up to S PANCRAZIO, so that all of 12 Bde were now in the town. The RCE had erected the CLASS 9 bridge during the night and Bn HQ was warned to move up to it at 0930 hrs. Several of the vehicles were across when one slipped off the bridge. This held things up for about an hour, but finally the way was cleared and the remainder of the HQ vehicles moved on to the new HQ MR 471316. To the amazement of everyone this place was steam heated; an odd	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 476308	3 Dec 44 cont'd		circumstances to be found in a battle area. Lieut. M. Rapone, the Partisan LO who was still with the unit had a busy time checking up on suspicious Partisans, Fascists, etc. Once more the people were quite friendly seemingly glad to see the last of Tedescho. Jerry had obviously left in a hurry, for prepared cratering charges were found undetonated in the road. The PLDGs and L&Rs pushed off at 1100 hrs to carry on to GODO. Brig. Lind called and with the CO went over the plan. The Westmrs were to push through the other two units at GODO and advance to highway 16 at MR 496423. The Brig. left at about 1130 hrs and phoned later so say there would be no move before 1500 hrs, when we were to proceed with the plan. The move was to be totally on foot over a distance of about seven miles and as it was not likely that transport would be able to follow up immediately, supplies had to be carried to provide for this possibility. TAC HQ, in particular was heavily loaded, as there were three No. 22 wireless sets to be carried as well as a number of No 18 sets. An immediate reserve and local defence was provided by two platoons of Sp Coy, 15 platoon being under Sergeant Bradstreet and No 16 platoon under Sgt Clark. At 1600 hrs the Bn moved off, "A" Coy, "B" Coy, TAC HQ followed by the two Sp Coy Plns and "B" Coy. Major W.J. Neill, was in the lead and did a wonderful job of map reading, covering the whole distance without error. This was a considerable feat as there was a thick fog and the whole advance was cross country with few land marks. One section of the assault platoon under Sgt. G. Smith were also in the vanguard, marking the route and checking likely areas for mines. All went well up to the VIA GUPA CANAL which proved too wide and deep to cross, necessitating a detour of about 2000 yards to a more suitable crossing. Shortly after arriving back on the original axis, sounds of a man in pain were heard from a house well to our right. It was fortunate that no attention was paid to this old trick for only a short while later, heavy MG fire broke out from the same place. No casualties were inflicted however and the advance continued. At MR 484336 a short halt was called in order to check position and to report same to main HQ. This was at about 2130 hrs and was the last contact we had for several hours. The unit pushed on and at about 2330 hrs, after crossing some 3000 more yards of flat, muddy ground, arrived at MR 484363, a house on the GODO – RAVENNA highway about five miles from RAVENNA.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 471316	3 Dec 44 cont'd		"A" and "C" Coys were north of the road, pushing on towards PIANGI PANE MR 4738. Here it was decided to set up TAC HQ. Local defence was put out and the signallers got busy netting sets and attempting to contact brigade and main HQ. At 2345 hours Sgt. Paddy Clark came in and reported tanks moving south-west from RAVENNA. All lights were extinguished and everyone looked "to his arms". Major F. Shawcross was at the window counting them and reported 15 vehicles of all types accompanied by infantry on foot. The column passed by, but some movement near the door drew attention of three officers who were bringing up the rear. One of these came toward the house calling in German. The CO who was in the doorway to meet him, eased the bolt of his .30 carbine forward and pulled the trigger, but the weapon failed to fire. The officer grappled with the CO, but several shots from other weapons quickly stopped him and he fell dead onto the floor. When this firing broke out the column of vehicles made off down the road towards GODO. The house was evacuated by TAC HQ who took up a position in the CANAL ETTA GODO which ran north and south immediately behind the house. It was now about 2400 hrs. At about 0010 the vehicles came back in our direction, stopped a short distance down the road and shot the area up with 7.5 cm guns and MGs, causing several casualties. When they started to come past the house, the first, a half-track got by, but the following five were all knocked out. Two of the vehicles (SEMOVENTE 7.5 cm Assault Guns - Italian) continued to fire their machine guns, but no further casualties were caused. Otherwise the vehicles had been very effectively knocked out by the PIAT men of "B" and Sp Coys. Lieuts. G.B. Eaton and J.V.H. Wilson then commenced "mopping up" operations, the final score being 10 killed, four wounded and 23 prisoners taken. Two tanks were knocked out and three half-tracked recce vehicle were taken. Three of our men had been killed and four wounded. At about 0200 hrs, Lieut. G.B. Eaton cleared a house at MR 483360 and TAC HQ was set up there. Once more the signallers attempted to establish contact with Bde or main HQ. At 0500 hrs Sgt W Lyle first picked up a call from Pte Bullard at TAC HQ and many worried people at Main and Bde were relieved. On hearing the confusion behind them "A" and "C" Coys took up firm position in houses at MR 481368. Their orders now were to stay put until morning when they were to push on to PIAGI PANE. All hands were quite wet and thoroughly cold, so a spot of rum from a bottle carried by Capt Sutherland of PLFs was very useful. The 23 prisoners had been herded into a barn for the night and at first light they were joined by three more. Then they started for the rear carrying their own wounded, all in the charge of one man.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 483363	4 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 778 - 35 att. At about 0800 hrs Main HQ moved up to MR 481361 having spent several hours on the road waiting for "blows" to be repaired. At 0800 hrs the CO gave "A" and "C" Coys orders to press on to PIANGE PANE 4738. Progress was slow as there were many houses to be cleared and, shelling was heavy. At 1300 hrs, the advance was held up by SPs firing from the southern approaches to the town. A Troop of tanks from the BCDs was sent up in Sp. One tank was "brewed-up" by the first SP which was in turn knocked out by a PIAT man of "A" Coy. A second SP was captured intact. Both of these weapons were comparatively new. (8.8 cm SP Gun on PZ KW Mk IV Chassis "rhinocherous"). Brig. Lind arrived at Bn HQ at 1400 hrs full of praise for the good job which the men of the Westmr Regt., had done, first in crossing the MONTONE so successfully and secondly for doing a six hour march and inflicting a decisive blow on a strong enemy force. A considerable amount of valuable maps, papers etc was collected from the vehicles and forwarded to Div HQ for intelligence purposes. The advance continued slowly during the afternoon when it was rumoured that 11 CIB were to push through us and continue on to highway 16. The town of PIANGI PANE had now been secured in the face of heavy opposition by mortaring, shelling and SP guns. Pte Myslicki, "A" Coy sniper and Partisan commander, was wounded when his house received several direct hits. At 1900 hrs the Perth Regt pushed through "A" Coy and the troops then settled down for a little well deserved rest. This marked the end of a 72 hour period with no rest and very little food. A patrol of one platoon led by Sgt P Clark was sent to cover the bridge at MR 467386 which was intact. This party went out at last light and were to be relieved at first light 5 Dec 44.	
Sheet 89-III MR 477376	5 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 773 - 35 att. A light rain was falling in the morning and the usual blanket of fog covered everything. Capt. E.V. Ardagh left to recce a new location for Bn HQ. He returned having been unsuccessful so it was decided to move to the place, at present occupied by Main. This move took place at 1330 hrs and a short while later was followed by a second move, this time to a large ex-German hospital at PIANGI PANE.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 477376	5 Dec 44 cont'd		At 1000 hrs the CO received orders that one company with a Sqn of GGHGs in support, would take over some frontage along the LAMONE river 4439. After going to "B" Coy HQ where Major G.D. Johnson received orders for the above move, the CO stopped at "C" Sqn GGHG where he put the OC, Major Burton in the picture. After a visit to 11 Bde to tie in details regarding the right flank (11 CIB) the CO returned to the new HQ 477376. Sgt Clark's patrol had returned with the information that the bridge was intact, but the roads in that vicinity were mined. He also reported having heard a heavy tank moving away from the area about one hour before first light. This position was later reinforced by the remainder of the two anti-tank platoons. The vickers platoons were flushing all the houses in the Bn area for any stray Germans who were left behind when their main body withdrew. "C" Coy were billeted in PIANGI PANE and were on notice as an immediate reserve for "B"Coy. "A" Coy were still in the same billets that they were occupying when relieved by the Perths. There was same mortaring and shelling during the night, but no casualties were inflicted.	
Sheet 89-III MR 477376	6 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 790 - 35 att. After a cold but quiet night, Bn arose to a clear morning free from fog. Very little activity had been reported during the night. In the morning Brig. Lind came around with details of 11 Bde's plan to attack across the LAMONE. It the attack was successful, 2 coys of the Westmrs would be called upon to provide right flank protection. We were to be on one hours notice to move from 0800 hrs 7 Dec and were to go under command 11 Bde from that time. "A" and "C" Coys were to be the two coys used in this task and the CO visited all coy during the day to pass on this information. At 1400 hrs the attack was cancelled for 24 hours. Lieut. H.E. Smith had been placed in charge of all Bn transport not included in the light scale brought across the MONTONE on 3 Dec 44. He had a very difficult time getting all the vehicles over to the coys. Patrols from "B" Coy were active during the night in the area east of LAMONE. No contact was made though they attracted some attention in the form of light mortaring. No casualties resulted.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 477376	7 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 779 - 35 att. The weather was again cold and foggy in the morning, but by noon the sky was clear and there was some sunshine. The 24 LFA was moving into the building occupied by Bn HQ and as the present location wasn't suitable the CO decided to move to "B" and "C" Coys area. Major H.F. Hoskin was going forward to recce an area for "C" Coy and he was accompanied by Capt. E.V. Ardagh. However, no quarters were available so Bn HQ stayed in the same area. "B" and "C" Coys now covered a small front on the LAMONE river. On their flanks were the two MMG Platoons of Sp Coy. There was little activity along the river. Intermittent harassing by mortars and heavy guns continued through the daytime, and at night Jerry put up many flares and signals. In the morning a warning from Bde stated that the 11 Bde attack on once again, the time still being 1930 hrs. The plan was unchanged. At 1500 hrs it was postponed for another 24 hours. The CO accompanied by Major F. Shawcross spent the afternoon at the coys, arriving back in time to meet the Brig. Major I.F. Douglas and Lieut. Frisby reported in after having been away for some time in hospital. The patrol from "A" Coy went out through "B" Coy but returned with nothing to report. Major Bud Gerou, OC 29 Battery, 11 Fd Regt (RCA) asked the CO for permission to have the regimental cap badge of the Westminsters painted on the gun shields of his battery. This permission was given and action was taken to get the job started. The night was quiet with the usual light shelling by heavy guns.	
	8 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 38 - 4 att. O.R.s. 779 - 35 att. It rained during the night and in the morning the same low fog was in evidence. The LAD were working on the captured enemy half-track, painting and signing it as well as doing some mechanical work on it. In what spare time was available, the coys were having equipment checked and shortages filled up. Small lots of reinforcements were coming, but the unit was still under strength. The CO, with Major F. Shawcross, left for Bde at 1000 hrs and carried on to the coys on his return, getting back to the unit at about 1500 hrs. The 11 Bde attack was an again only to be postponed, this time indefinitely. A "B" Coy patrol claimed one German, shot in front of their area. There was little activity again. Our patrols were out but had nothing to report. Majors I.F. Douglas and D.B. Mackenzie paid a	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 477376	8 Dec 44 cont'd		visit in the evening. "B" echelon was now only a short distance from Bn HQ while "A1" Echelon were in PIANGI PANE. Capt E.B. Robertson went into RAVENNA during, the morning to recce a possible billeting area, but met with small success. The "Q" Echelon was established there in very comfortable quarters, but decent accommodation for the whole battalion was a different matter. Standing patrols from "B" and "C" Coys were out during the night, but again there was nothing to report. During the night there was some rain.	
	9 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 38 - 4 att. O.R.s. 779 - 35 att. One continuous month of action from the day the Westminsters first went into the line with Porterforce was marked by 9 Dec. But the troops were in good spirits and ready for whatever was to come. In the afternoon the CO visited the coys. At "B" Coy a standing patrol was arranged. Lieut Vic Wilson was to take his platoon to a house near the river. Patrol laterally along the river and attempt to acquire some prisoners. He was to go out at last light, stay all night and return at first light in the morning. Leaving "B" Coy, the CO visited Lt-col Andrews, CO of the Perth Regt which was the unit on our right flank. The plans for the pending attack were discussed and after stopping at "A" Coy long enough to arrange a spagetti dinner for the following evening, the CO. returned to Bn HQ. There was no further word on "cigarette", the code name by which the attack was known. The evening was quiet until 2130 hrs when a few rounds of 17 cm fell between Bn HQ and "B" echelon. This performance was repeated several times during the night but no damage was caused.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 477376	10 Dec 44		Strength Officers 38 - 4 att. O.R.s. 796 - 35 att. There was a clear sky in the early morning but by 0830 hrs it was cloudy and cold. At 0900 hrs a short Church service was taken by H/Capt. D.R.G. Owen at Bn HQ. Brig. J.S.H. Lind DSO visited the CO at 1000 hours. The attack by 11 Bde across the Lamone was now definitely set for 1930 hrs 10 Dec 44. The Westmrs were put on one hours notice to move as from 0600 hrs 11 Dec and an LO was to be sent to HQ 11 CIB. Lieut. H.E. Smith reported there at 1700 hrs. At 1930 hrs the attack went in successfully. At that time the unit came under command 11 Bde, and orders from Brig. Johnson were for the unit to be prepared to move at 0600 hrs 11 Dec. The first two coys to move were to be "A" and "C" Coys with "C" Coy leading. There was heavy shelling and mortaring in "C" Coys area during the night, but no casualties were caused.	
	11 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 794 - 35 att. There was a heavy frost in the morning and it was clear and sunny. This continued through the day, making conditions easier for the Air Force which carried out man bombing and strafing sorties in close support of the forward troops. According to plan, "A" and "C" Coys moved off on foot at 0600 hrs across the Lamone. The take over from the CBH. was completed by 0900 hrs and the coys were in position – "C" Coy forward 447423 and "A" Coy 456421. Major F. Shawcross left Bn HQ at 0600 hrs to recce a new Tac HQ. This he found at MR 456411 and Tac moved up at 0745 hours. "B" Coy also moved to this area in order to be at hand when required. At 1000 hrs "C" Coy first reported signs of a count er attack. Tanks were moving up and infantry were observed moving in the area. This attack lasted until 1100 hrs. Two tanks were disabled by PIATs and later bombed by aircraft. "A" Coy was counter attacked at 1015 hrs. The enemy tanks infiltrated the platoon positions though the infantry were driven back. Again two tanks were disabled by PIATs. It was later found from prisoners that the force used against our troops had been brought from the Faenza front as a counter attack element against the Lamone bridgehead. However, th*eir* first effort was driven off with only light casualties to us as against heavy casualties in men and equipment to Jerry. At 0930 hrs, the CO was called to 11 Bde HQ where he	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 456411	11 Dec 44 cont'd		discussed the situation with Brig. Johnson, returning shortly to Tac HQ. Shelling and mortaring were very heavy in the forward areas, much of the shelling being done by SPs. At 1500 hrs a second counter-attack was observed forming up but was broken up by the medium and field arty. Jerry snipers who were in the area killed CSM Salsbury of "C" Coy and wounded others during the day. Brig. Lind stopped at Tac. HQ at 1530 hrs. A light scale bridge was being built across the Lamone to accommodate priority vehicles of the units which were on the other side. This was to be finished by midnight but was not completed until 0700 hrs. Capt. E.V. Ardagh spent most of the night rounding up vehicles and collecting together the "light scale" group of vehicles. At 2000 hrs, German tanks and infantry once more attacked and were pushed back. In spite of very heavy shelling however, they were able to recover the four tanks which had been knocked out during the day. Lieut. W.E. Tyler of "A" Coy was badly wounded and his platoon Sergeant, Sgt. E. Thrasher killed while out on a tank hunting patrol with a PIAT. An SP scored a direct hit on the building near which the two were moving. More enemy tanks reported to be moving south towards the Westminster area were kicked around by the medium arty and soon withdrew. At 2400 hrs, the CO gave orders to "A" and "C" coys. Both were to move NW, "C" Coy to the road junction 447423 and "A" Coy to the east edge of VILLA NOVA. MR 475420. When "A" Coy reached its objective "B" Coy was to pass through and push on towards MEZZANO to MR 471436. Tac HQ was to move across the Lamone to VILLA NOVA on the following morning.	
Sheet 89-III MR 449414	12 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 807 - 35 att. "A" and "C" Coys started moving at first light and made good progress. Both were firmed up on their objectives by 0800 hrs. "B" Coy passed through "A" Coy and reached their objective at 0915 hrs. The fighting on the NW side of the Lamone was very difficult as it was all in a built-up area and entailed house clearing all the way. Tac HQ moved off at 0900 hrs. Traffic across the Lamone was very slow and it was 1030 hrs before a temporary HQ was set up in VILLA NOVA at 449414. The CO left immediately to go to "A" Coy thence to	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 464443	12 Dec 44 cont'd		"B" Coy where a better location for Tac HQ was discovered. (C. TASSONI 464443) Orders now were for the troops to get all possible rest. No move was imminent for at least 12 hours. This order was very quickly carried out as no one had slept for 24 hours, and everyone had done a lot of hard work. At 1530 hrs, the Brig. came to Tac and gave the CO the outline plan for the attack by 12 CIB which was planned for the night 12-13 Dec. The attack was on the CANALE NAVIGLIO was to be made by the PLDGs and L&R Scot. while the Westmrs were to exploit the bridgehead. No move was anticipated before 130100A when the Bn would move to coy assembly areas near VILLA NOVA in square 4341. The move time was later set back to 0300 hrs and again to 0500. At 2100 hrs a sqn of BCD tanks moved into the yard at Tac HQ and shook everything for several hours while they carried out a shoot. At 2340 hrs, the Bde Major phoned orders for the Bn to move as soon as possible. It was only necessary for "B" Coy to move as "C" Coy had moved into VILLA NOVA earlier in the day. The Bn vehicles had been brought up so it was not long before "B" Coy were on the road. Tac HQ moved to Main HQ and were set up there by 0400 hrs. The 12 Bde attack did not reach its objective, though they crossed one bad obstacle and gained about 1000 yards. The PLDG, were heavily counter-attacked and had very high casualties.	
	13 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 804 - 35 att. At 0600 hrs "B" Coy moved off to relieve the PLDGs who had been so badly cut up in the crossing of the previous night. "A" and "C" Coys moved up to the previous arranged assembly area in square 4341. "B" Coy was to be relieved later by CUMBERLAND FORCE. Brig. J. Lind called and gave the CO his orders. The Westminsters were to cross the NAVIGLIO through 1 Div bridgehead and work north up the west bank. For this job one sqn of BCDs were put under command. This was later changed to "A" Sqn LdSH commanded by Major R, Graham. At 1400 hrs "B" Coy was relieved by Cumberland Force and very shortly were in billets near "C" Coy. Sgt. P. Clark pln Sgt of No. 16 A Tk Pl took over as CSM of "C" Coy to fill the vacancy created by the death of CSM S.L. Salsbury. At 1600 hrs the Brig. called with	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 464443	13 Dec 44 cont'd		instructions to stand down for the night. Intention tor the next day was to relieve 11 CIB. No further details were received. Capt. J.O. Hall came to Bn HQ at 2200 hrs with the news that he was to leave the next day with an advance party to recce billets near PESCARA.	
MR 430408	14 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 803 - 35 att. It was cloudy and though it had rained during the night there was now only the usual low hanging fog. At 0830 hrs, orders were received that the plan made the previous day would go into effect. The unit was to cross Freeman, the 1 Div bridge over the NAVIGLIO, at 1000 hrs. This was impossible but at his "O" Group the CO gave orders for "B" Coy followed up by "A" and "C" Coys to move as soon as possible. "B" Coy moved off and met the tanks of "A" Sqn LdSH at Freeman and proceeded against heavy opposition up the west side of the NAVIGLIO. By 1245 hrs they had advanced about 600 yards. At 1100 hrs Tac HQ moved off to a new HQ previously reccied by Major F. Shawcross at MR 430408. Some difficulty arose for the LdSH when one of their tanks was knocked out, thus blocking the road for the remainder. But it was soon moved and the tanks carried on across the river, giving valuable support during the house clearing operations. At 1500 hrs "C" Sqn LdSH came under command. At 1700 hrs "B" Coy reached report line No. 2 and was firmed up at MR 413413. "A" Coy passed through "B" Coy and pushed on to MR 418419. At 1630 hrs one sqn of M-10's came under command and when they arrived they were sent to the forward coys. While moving up to the NAVIGLIO, No 16 pl lost one of their 6 prs and towers and a second gun bogged at the crossing. Tiger tanks and enemy infantry reported forming up in the area were heavily engaged by arty and aircraft and suffered heavy casualties for their efforts. When "A" Coy- was firmed up at MR 414419, "C" Coy pushed on to the FOSSO MUNIO at MR 414424. The ground was very open providing almost no cover, but the troops were on their objective by 1900 hrs. Shelling and mortaring was heavy during the day, Nebelwerfers, or "Moaning Minnies", being very active, but most of our casualties were due to enemy small arms fire. Our own casualties had been light as against almost 100 prisoners and many dead and wounded for the enemy. The total number of prisoners was later found to be 106. Sgt. J. Keet, "C" Coy was killed while attempting to silence an MG post.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 430408	15 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 825 - 35 att. The sun was shining in the morning after a damp foggy night. At this time our casualties amounted to 8 killed and 23 wounded. Brig. J.S.H. Lind phoned to commend the Westminsters for the good job done on the previous day. The advance had relieved the pressure on the L&Rs who were on the East bank of the NAVIGLIO. Maj-Gen B.M. Hoffmeister told the CO that the whole army plan had been aided by this success. At 1130 hrs, the CO and IO accompanied by L/Cpl W. Armour started out for "A" Coy. At Tac HQ of the PLDGs it was decided to stop for a few minutes until the shelling on the road ahead had subsided. On returning to the jeep, the calm was broken by a sudden bombardment of SPs and everyone hastened to the nearest ditch which contained several inches of water. The only casualty was the jeep which sustained a broken battery and a few shrapnel holes. During the day Lieut. H.A. Stephens, MG platoon moved forward into position in "A" Coy area, and the carriers of "A" Coy moved up. Jerry constantly shelled the coy areas with SP, mortars and guns. Some of "C" Coy who received more than their share, were buried under rubble from smashed roofs and walls but casualties were light. At 1500 hrs Brig. J. Lind came to Tac HQ and discussed the plans for further operations.	
	16 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. GOC and Brig. came at 0900 hrs and after further commendations on the units first class job gave orders for the next attack. In order to prepare a running start for 11 Bde's attack it was necessary that we command both banks of the canal in front of us, the FOSSOMUNIO. Therefore, in spite of the tired state of the troops this unit was called on to do yet another attack. That the enemy firmly held the MUNIO was established by a "C" Coy patrol which had two killed by MG fire while recceing the area. At 1100 hrs the CO went in a carrier to "C" Coy to give orders for the attack. A troop of tanks was to give support, 4 Wasp Flame Throwers on carriers were to move down the road towards the objective and two platoons of "A" Coy under Lieut. E.S. Hoult were to move under cover of flame on to the objective. From "A" Coy the CO went to "B" Coy HQ where.it was found that 15 pl of Sp Coy had cleared an enemy held house, taken 15 prisoners and inflicted a number of casualties. On returning to Tac HQ an arty fire plan	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 430408	16 Dec 44 cont'd		was laid on to cover the attack. The WASPs moved off a few minutes early followed by the Infantry. The early move caused some rapid action at TAC HQ as an Arty shoot by four regiments had been called down on the objective. A hurried call from the Arty Rep. lifted the fire and the attack went in with scarcely a shot being fired. The enemy were so surprised by the Flame-Throwers that they either threw down their arms and ran or surrendered as prisoners. Lieut. Hoult took the objective and cleared about 300 yards up the east bank of the MUNIO. The whole attack took only fifteen minutes and by 1620 hours the troops were digging in at MR 412424. Jerry directed very heavy fire from all weapons on this area and made it a most difficult position for the troops to hold. At 2340 hrs a counter-attack came in lasting until 0015 hrs when they withdrew with casualties. Our own casualties were one killed, four wounded. During the evening there was some shelling in Tac HQ area.	
	17 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 816 - 35 att. It was cloudy in the morning broken occasionally by some sun. An RCE recce party checked the bridge site at "A" Coys forward position. Brig. J.S. Lind DSO called in the morning with the news that the 11 Bde attack to the SENIO had, as usual been postponed for 24 hours. The Perths were to relieve the Westmrs during the day or evening of the 17th, but this was later cancelled. Enemy patrols were active during the day, some coming into "B" Coys position, but accurate fire by mortars and arty very effectively discouraged them. After last-light "A" Coy forward position on the MUNIO was relieved by *Lt* J.E. Oldfield. During the relief Sgt. Ballam was wounded by mortar fragments. Again the position was counter-attacked this time by a smaller force which was soon driven off.	
	18 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 802 - 35 att. There was some more rain during the night and morning, but it cleared by 1200 hrs and there was some sun during the afternoon. The plan of the attack by 2 CIB and 11 CIB was given to the CO by Brig. J Lind and later Lt-col Stone of the LER and Lieut./*Col* Clark of the PPCLI came to arrange for headquarters accommodations - etc. Some casualties were caused by shelling from enemy SPs which continued for some time. The medium arty accounted for one of the offenders and "A" Coys 3" mortars silenced a second. A recce patrol from "B" Coy found no enemy in a small house in "B" Coys area	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 430408	18 Dec 44 cont'd		area which was suspected by neighbouring unit commanders to be occupied by the enemy. A platoon from "C" Coy relieved the position on the MUNIO which by now was the chief attraction for most of the guns and mortars which Jerry had in that area. Enemy patrols were again active in "B" Coys area but MMG and mortar DFs caused them to make hasty withdrawals. A foot bridge to facilitate crossing the MUNIO was taken up to "C" Coy area by Sgt. G. Smith of the Assault Platoon. This was to be put into position shortly before the attack which had once more been postponed 24 hours. Two dejected prisoners were brought into Tac HQ at 0100 hrs.	
	19 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 802 - 35 att. The attack was now definitely set for 1900 hrs 19 Dec and plans were made for the Westmrs to move to RAVENNA for the promised 48 hrs rest. Major D B. MacKenzie was fully engaged in obtaining billets and making arrangements for Christmas. At 1400 hrs a heavy enemy barrage came down on the forward coys and enemy troops were observed. An arty DF soon broke up the concentration. The attack went in according to plan but met with little success. Difficulties arose in the wireless communications of both Bdes so the Westmrs helped out by passing necessary messages. Shelling and mortaring was heavy in all areas during the night.	
	20 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 800 - 35 att. Brig. Lind came at 0900 hrs but had no definite word *of* when the unit would be relieved. For the relief of the troops on the MUNIO, a platoon was formed up containing reinforcements and drivers from the echelons. However the CBH took over the position and the composite platoon was thence returned to Main HQ. 2 and 11 Bdes attacked again and met little opposition, some elements pushing almost to the SENIO. Some harassing fire was the only sign that Jerry was still around.	
	21 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 801 - 35 att. At 0700 hrs, Brig. Lind phoned to say that the Westmrs could at last stand down and move out as soon as possible. This concluded six weeks spent constantly in the line - from the 9th Nov when the unit went under command Porterforce.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 567383	21 Dec 44 cont'd		At 0930 hrs the coys started marching out to their vehicle parks in Villa nova and were soon rolling down highway 16 to RAVENNA. The afternoon was spent starting a general clean up of men weapons and vehicles. Baths had been laid on and all ranks were anxious to get to them.	
	22 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 821 - 35 att. It was a clear sunny day, quite cold, and a welcome change from the preceding days of rain and clouds. The whole day was devoted to further cleaning and reorganizing. In the evening a dinner was held at the "Big Five Club" in RAVENNA for all officers in the regiment. It was a successful evening livened somewhat by songs from Majors Douglas and Neill.	
	23 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. A cold day but bright and sunny. The coys were carrying on with cleaning up and re-organizing. Preparations for Christmas took up the time of several members of each company with Major D.B. MacKenzie as chief organizer. A large hall was taken over and the plan was to seat the whole of the battalion. A goodly supply of Christmas cheer had been laid on, an indication that a good Christmas was in the offing.	
	24 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 820 - 35 att. It was cold and grey in the morning with a few flakes of snow. Early afternoon saw the start of celebrations with the noise of Christmas revelry being loud throughout the whole town of RAVENNA. In the evening Brig. J.S.H. Lind DSO paid a visit. The Bn church parade was taken by H/Capt D.R.G. Owen in a local theatre.	
	25 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 823 - 35 att. Christmas day dawned bright and clear after a cloudless moonlit night. At 1030 hrs the CO Lt-Col G.C. Corbould DSO, accompanied by Major I.F. Douglas visited HQ 12 CIB where were gathered all unit commanders of the brigade. At 1300 hrs the troops dinner started and went off very successfully. There was lots of everything and everyone had a good time. The officers and NCOs did the work while the men did all else which was required. Dinner for all the officers in the Bn was held at 1900 hrs and lasted for some time.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 567383 RAVENNA	26 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 823 - 35 att. At 1000 hrs word came that Maj.Gen B.M. Hoffmeister DSO would arrive at 1100 hrs. Accordingly, the unit was turned out to hear the GOC who spoke on past and future operations, commending the troops on the first class job done by them. At 1400 hrs an “O” Group was called at HQ 12 Bde. Intention was to relieve 11 CIB on the night 27-28 Dec. Westminsters were to relieve the IRC and after the “O” Group the CO went to the HQ of that unit. Their positions were on the SENIO river, west of ALFONSINE. On returning to RAVENNA, the CO called his “O” Group for 1800 hrs when all coy comds gathered at Bn HQ officers mess, Major G.D. Johnson was going to Senior Officers school in BENEVENTO and in his absence Capt B.V. Morgan was put in command of “B” Coy. Recce parties were to go forward at 0800 hrs 27 Dec, the coys to follow later in the day. A co-ordinating conference was held at 12 Bde at 1800 hrs. Troop movement was the main subject. Westmrs were to move first, leaving RAVENNA at 1300 hrs. On returning to Bn HQ the CO decided to move Tac HQ to the new area on the following morning at 1000 hrs.	
	27 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. It was clear in the morning and quite frosty after a clear moonlit night. Recce parties moved off' at 0800 hrs and Tac HQ followed at 1030 hrs, setting up on the NAVIGLIO canal at MR 430442. The coys moved in vehicles to VILLA NOVA and carried on from there on foot. “B” Coy was in posn at 438458 by 1400 hrs and “A” Coy had completed their relief by 1600 hrs, being in posn at 435460. The CO visited Lt-col JORDON, CO GGHGs and later went to the RAP where Major H.F. Hoskin was temporarily set up there waiting until last light to move into his posn at 412453. The GGs were to remain in posn until they were relieved by 1 Sqn LdSH on 28 Dec. Lines were laid to the coys, but were difficult to keep in. The Signals officer, Lt. J.A. Fowlie and a line crew spent a while in a wet ditch while a Jerry MG kept them pinned down. “C” Coy were in posn at 412453 on the SENIO by 2200 hrs. As it was very crowded, one platoon was sent back into reserve. There was a good deal of shelling and mortaring during the night and the enemy MGs were busy. The area around the SENIO was thickly sown with anti-personnel mines and a “C” Coy man was wounded while moving in. By 2300 hrs	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 430442	27 Dec 44 cont'd		The Irish Regiment was clear and command of the sector passed to the Westminster Regiment.	
	28 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 815 - 35 att. Tac HQ moved at 1000 hrs to the location which was being vacated by GGHGs. There was very little shelling or mortaring during the day until late afternoon when "B" Coy had a severe shelling. Reports had come in from civilian sources that a house near "A" Coy was occupied by SS Troops and to verity this it was necessary to obtain a prisoner. The plan was to occupy the place with two platoons of "A" Coy commanded by Lieut. J.H. Frisby and J.E. Oldfield. GGs tanks were to shoot the place up before the attack went in. The troops got in close when they were caught in cross fire from a number of enemy MG posts as well as shelling and mortaring. The enemy were well dug in in the area around the house and our troops were not able to get on. In this attack Lieut. J.H. Frisby and Cpl Regota were killed and seven others were wounded. In the morning orders from Brig. J. Lind were to take over the right posn of the PLDGs on the night 28/29 Dec. This was to be done by Lieut. E.D. Jones, "C" Coy whose Platoon was in reserve. By 1900 hrs this was completed and the platoon was established near the SENIO. During the night track movement heard on the enemy side of the river was effectively quietened by the arty.	
	29 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 811 - 35 att. At 0915 hrs the CO left Tac HQ for "B" COY to give orders for the relief which was to take place on the night 29/30. The 1 Welsh Regt was to take over our sector while the Westmrs were to go into Bde reserve and act as a counter-attack force. From "B" Coy the CO proceeded on foot to "A" Coy who, at the time were being shelled by SP. One round, a dud, hit the roof of a nearby house and glanced narrowly missing the COs head and landed in the midst of the party. After passing his orders to Major W.J. Neill the CO returned to Tac HQ in time to meet the Brig. who had come to discuss plans which would go into effect in case of a counter-attack. Billets were located in the VILLA NOVA area and were made ready for the troops who would arrive during the night. At 1600 hrs recce parties	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 430442	29 Dec 44 cont'd		from 1. Welsh Regiment arrived and by 1800 hrs "B" Coy had been completely relieved and "A" Coy were started out. By 2330 hrs the relief of the Bn was complete and Tac HQ moved back to VILLA NOVA. During the relief two "A" Coy men were injured by a mine and one "C" Coy man was accidentally killed by a sentry of the relieving unit. By 2400 hrs the whole unit was settled down in billets near VILLA NOVA.	
MR 454418 VILLA NOVA	30 Dec 44		Strength Offrs 36 - 4 att. O.R.s. 805 - 35 att. Brig. J. Lind picked up the CO at 0930 hrs and went to the area west of the NAVIGLIO canal to recce and make a plan for the defence of the area in the event of an enemy counter-attack. At 1400 hrs an "O" Group of all the officers received orders from the CO. The plan was to protect a bridgehead over the NAVIGLIO and to do this, two coys were to be forward on the MUNIO canal and one coy in reserve on the NAVIGLIO. The MMG platoons were to be employed in a flank protection role. One coy was placed on one hours notice, one coy on two hours notice and one coy on three hours notice, to be rotated daily. Some enemy aircraft were over during the night but no damage was caused in our area. Otherwise the night was very quiet.	
	31Dec 44		Strength Offrs 35 - 4 att. O.R.s. 796 - 35 att. The cold weather continued with a bright clear morning. The CO left at 1300 hrs to attend a Corps Commanders meeting in RAVENNA. The meeting was in the nature of a discussion concerning previous operations. Customary celebrations of New Years Eve took place and numerous visitors stopped at Tac HQ which was still in VILLA NOVA. No sign of a move by the unit in its present role of counter-attack force had come until 2220 hrs when the PLDGs were attacked. The Westmrs were put on notice to move immediately and from the time of being warned were ready to move in fifteen minutes. By 2400 hrs, however, the small scale attack had been driven off and the stand-down was given.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-III MR 454418 VILLA NOVA	31 Dec 44 cont'd		A great deal of firing and noise at 2400 hrs denoted the fact that it was 1945. The remainder of the night was quiet. (G. C. Corbould DSO) Lt.-col., Comd., The Westminster Regiment (Motor)	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

DECEMBER 1944

LIST OF APPENDICES	ORIGINAL	DUPLICATE	TRIPLICATE
1. Unit Part 1 Orders	X	X	X
2. Unit Part II Orders			X
3. 3008's and 3009's	X		
4. Photographs (Major J.K. Mahony VC receiving award from HM King)	X		
5. Christmas Message from Field Marshall. The Hon Sir Harold R.L.G. Alexander GCB, CSI., DS0., MC., ADC. Supreme Allied Commander Mediterranean Theatre	X		
6. Map Scale 1:50,000 Sheet 89-111	X		
7. Condensation of Westmr Regt History from 30 Aug to 10 Oct	X		
8. Personal message from Army Commander	X	X	X
9. Seasons Greetings to the Westmr Regt from different people	X		
10. Personal message from Army Commander to Gen Hoffmeister	X		
11. Dinner Menu for Westminster Officers Christmas 1944	X		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Villanova Sheet 89-111 MR 452417	1 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 791 - 35 att. The good weather continued until afternoon when it clouded over and some rain fell. In the afternoon an L.O. from 12 Bde HQ brought the details of the attack which 11 C.I.B. was putting in at 1500 hrs 2 *Jan*. Apart from supplying one six pounder to the C.B.H., the Westminster Regiment was to have no part in the show. New Year's Day was considered a holiday for the battalion. Some visitors came to the unit, among them Maj. T.W. Hall who was at HQ. 1 Cdn Corps An attack by American pilots made in error on near by MEZZANO caused some alarm and confusion . Two soldiers and a number of civilians were casualties.	
"	2 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 788 - 35 att. The sun was shining in the morning but cloudy and cold in the afternoon. The day was spent by the companies in finishing equipment checks and cleaning up. The unit still had one company on one hour notice to move in event of a counter attack. Positions were being prepared with wire and sandbags for such an eventuality. The Brigadier told the C.O. in the afternoon that it was likely the Westminsters would relieve the P.L.D.G.'s on the 3rd or 4th Jan.	
	3 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 807 - 35 att. It was clear and cold in the morning, getting slightly cloudy in the afternoon. Word was received from Brigadier J. Lind D.S.O., that the plan of 2 Jan to relieve the PLDGs was cancelled for 24 hours. At 1300 hrs the Brigadier phoned to inform the C.O., Lt.Col.G.C. Corbould, D.S.O., that the Westminster Regiment was under command of 11Cdn Inf Bde and that the C.O. was to go to HQ 11 Cdn Inf Bde for orders.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Villanova Sheet 89-111 MR 452417	3 Jan 45		Cont'd Orders from Brigadier R. Johnson, Commander of 11 Cdn Inf Bde, were to relieve the Perth Regt as soon as possible. 11 Bde's task was to drive NORTH from Highway 16 to VALLI di COMACCHIO thus cutting off a large area and straightening out the line to NAVIGLIO canal. The Westminsters were to take over the Perth positions to allow that unit to move on. It was a rapid move from VILLANOVA, but by 1730 hrs the battalion had taken over and were in position. Tac HQ - 477454, A Coy - 483477, B Coy - 482473, C Coy - 485468. At 1900 hrs C Coy moved up to relieve a Perth coy at 490483 and Support Coy under Capt. F.C.B. Cummins took up positions at 485467. A Coy was commanded by Capt. W.L. DeLaney. At 2200 hrs Tac HQ moved forward to a position previously recced by Maj. F. Shawcross at 490478 near CONVENTELL0.	
Sheet 89-IV MR 460478	4 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 808 - 35 att. All moves were completed with no casualties except for some shelling. The night was quiet until 0400 hrs when a heavy enemy barrage came down followed by MG fire on the front of the KRRC on our left. At 0430 hrs strong enemy forces started to move in on 14 Pl of Sp Coy which was at 482468? The forward position. One Vickers MG had been set up and when the enemy were in close it opened fire. All other weapons opened up and several artillery D.F's were fired which caused Jerry to move further to the right where he "bumped" B Coy. Soon after the attack started an IRC Coy moved round from the left in a counter-attack role. The fighting lasted until 0730 hrs and prisoners kept coming in all during the day. Total number of prisoners taken was 44, killed 24, wounded 60. Our own casualties were 7 wounded. It was later found that the offensive had been made by four enemy battalions and the brunt of it taken by the Westminsters. Orders received during the previous evening for two coys to move further NORTH to relieve part of the Perth Regt were now cancelled in order that	*This attack was made by 16 S.S. Div. Total cas to enemy were estimated to be approx. 400 incl pw, killed and wounded.* *F.R.S.*

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-IV MR 490478	4 Jan 45		continued. the defences here might be kept firm. At 1330 hrs order from 11 Cdn Inf Bde were that C Coy was to be relieved by Irish Regiment of Canada. This took place and C Coy moved to positions on the East side of the LAMONE, where it remained for the night in a counter- attack role. Shelling in the forward areas was reported during the night, but no casualties occurred. A Sqn, LdSH came under command at 1300 hrs.	
″	5 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 805 - 35 att. The weather continued to be clear and cold with heavy frost at night. ‘C’ Coy was to relieve ‘A’ Coy, so at 0800 hrs a recce party under Major H.F. Hoskin went forward to look at the new positions. In order to improve the positions it was decided to move forward to codename GRILL - 481483. No opposition was encountered and by 1100 hrs the platoons were firm. During the morning, most of Jerry’s attention was centered on ‘B’ Coy, and especially Coy HQ, which was shelled continuously. When an LdSH tank started burning in the yard, Capt. J.O. Hall decided to move his HQ., and the party started back down the road into CONVENTELLO. On the way the leader of the troop supporting ‘B’ Coy was killed. At 1800 hrs, a patrol from ‘A’ Coy, led by: Lieut. D. Leedham went out on a recce to the VETRO CANAL where it was found that the enemy had established his positions. ‘B’ Coy HQ returned to the location that it had vacated in the morning. During the night the cold spell ended in a heavy rain storm.	
″	6 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 798 - 35 att. It was still raining in the morning and continued to do so all the day. At 0930 hrs the C.O. went forward to ‘C’ Coy HQ, where he went over plans for the defence of the sector. Lieut. R.E. Mannering’s platoon were amazed to see a large flock of sheep driven by civilians, coming across from the German lines. A couple of the herders were brought in for questioning and their story was that they had come right	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-IV MR 490478	6 Jan 45		cont. through the German lines with no difficulty at all. In the afternoon the 11 Cdn Inf Bde Brigade-Major come around with information for the C.O. A platoon from 'A' Coy was sent to guard the recently constructed bridge on the "UP" route. In the early evening a small enemy patrol was heard near Support Company. There was the usual spasmodic shelling during the night causing no damage except to the telephone lines which kept the Signals line crew on the go.	
"	7 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 795 - 35 att. Rain continued heavily all morning but let up in the afternoon. All was quiet until 1215 hrs when a sudden bombard of medium artillery hit the Tac HQ's area. The house was hit and one civilian girl killed and one wounded as well as two of the troops, Pte Maddock, R.C. and Pte Currie, W. G. being wounded. A 'B' Coy jeep which was on the road was hit and Pte Moore, R.J. seriously wounded. The shelling broke out each time a vehicle crossed the high bank of the LAMONE and went on all through the day but no further casualties were caused. Brigadier Johnson saw the C.O. in the afternoon and spent some time discussing details of the defence plan of the sector. Sandbags, mines and wire were ordered to start the job. A patrol under Sgt. B. Bailey M.M. went out to the VETRO to get details of enemy positions. Unfortunately it turned frosty and the frozen ground and grass made such a noise that the patrol was not able to get close in to the enemy positions. Occasional bursts of MG fire, mortaring and some shelling continued through the night.	
	8 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 787 - 35 att. The sun was out in strength at 0900 hrs but by 1400 hrs it had clouded over and was snowing heavily. At 2200 hrs it had cleared off and once again it was clear and frosty. The shelling of the road at Bn HQ was kept up though at a much slower pace. At 1400 a small patrol from 'C' Coy checked a house about 500 yds.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-IV MR 490478	8 Jan 45		Cont. off to the left and reported it to be clear. At 1800 hrs a mine-laying patrol from the assault platoon led by Sgt Jones went out to mine the road and verges at 484480. This was considered to be a possible enemy tank approach so it was therefore necessary to seal off the road where it crossed the VETRO. The patrol returned at 2400 hrs having concluded the first stage of the job successfully. Some enemy MG fire was heard during the night as well as sounds of digging and hammering from the VETRO.	
	9 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 785 - 35 att. Cold and frosty once more after a quiet night. Brigadier Johnson, 11 C.I.B., came at 1000 hrs, followed very shortly by Brig. J.S. Lind. In the defences which were being constructed in front of the LAMONE, this unit was to provide two company positions or "Nodal Points", 'C' Coys positions forming No. 6 of the brigade plan and 'B' Coys, No.7. These localities were to be prepared for a relieving battalion by the 12/13 Jan. At 1530 hrs the C.O., Lt-Col. G.C. Corbould, D.S.O. went to 'C' Coy to look over the platoon positions and from there proceed to 'B' Coy who had a very open position on the battalion's left flank. There was little shelling during the day. During the day air recce found enemy preparations for a crossing of the River RENO to the NORTH and units warned accordingly, but the night passed uneventfully with no signs of a counter-attack by the WEHRMACHT. The assault platoon under Sgt. Jones went out to continue their task of minelaying, but due to faulty mines were forced to quit early. They returned and checked their stores with a view to finishing the job the next night. Representatives from a battalion of the Italian "CREMONA" Division arrived to stay the night at Tac HQ before going out to 'C' Coy the next day. They were to relieve the Westminster Regiment on the night of 12/13 Jan. The mine patrol went out again.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-IV MR 490478	10 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 783 - 35 att. After a very cold night it was good to see the sun shining bright and clear. The day was quiet with none of the shelling which had marked the previous three days and for the first time since coming into the area, the signals line crew spent 24 hrs with no breaks to repair. Quantities of wire, sandbags and other engineer stores were hauled up to Tac and forwarded to 'B' and 'C' Coys to complete their defensive positions. Tanks were to be driven into positions to be dug in as pill boxes and camouflaged. 'B' Coy had two in their area which had been knocked out by shell fire and these were used for this purpose. Capt K.B. Harrison arrived at Tac at 1600 hrs and later went out to 'B' Coy to inspect some of the unit vehicles which had been knocked out. The Assault platoon completed the job of minelaying at the VETRO crossing and were in by 2200 hrs. The night was quiet.	
	11 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 787 - 35 att. Representative from the Italian relieving unit continued to show up all day. For the relief, the Brigadier was to place 'B' and 'D' coys, Irish Regiment of Canada, under command Lt-Col. G.C. Corbould, DSO. These two companies were being relieved by the unit which was to take over from us. On being relieved the unit was to move to a staging area until 14 Jan when it would move South. It was made known that several members of the unit had been awarded "Mention in Despatches" listed as follows; Lt-Col. R.L. Tindall (former CO) — Lt. R.E. Ketcheson (killed in action) Capt. (QM) A.W. Harding — K47427 Sgt. J. Duhig Lieut. P.W.N. Corfe (killed in action) — K47068 Sgt. G.B. Gibson Lt. W.L. Delaney — K73951 Pte D. Thompson At about 1800 hrs Jerry suddenly remembered that it was nearly two days	

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Sheet 89-IV MR 490478			since he'd shelled the road near Westminster Tac Hq, so he proceeded to harass the area with several rounds each ten minutes. His only success was to break some lines, thus giving the signals a task. Wiring and sandbagging kept 'B', 'C' and Sp Coys going all the night as there was a considerable amount to be done. By first light the most essential parts had been finished.	
	12 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 802 - 35 att. It was cold and grey in the morning and by 1000 hrs it was snowing heavily, continuing for several hours. Brig. J.S. Lind with Maj. J. Clarke the Brigade Major, came at 1030 hours to Lt-Col. G.C. Corbould, DSO. Our destination on being relieved now was changed to a small place near FOLIGNO rather than LORETA on the Adriatic coast as had been previously planned. At 1500 hrs, elements of 1 and 2 Bns of the CREMONA DIVISION started to arrive. After several small difficulties they were in position with our troops who were to start moving out at 0600 hrs 14 Jan. For the purpose of the change over, 'D' and 'B' coys, Irish regt of Canada came under command of the Westminster Regiment as together with 'C' Coy Westmr Regt, these positions were to be taken over by 2 Battalion. 'B' Coy went under command the 27 Lancers into whose area 1 Battalion was moving. Several sharp mortar stonks during the day informed us that Jerry knew that we were still in the area. The night was very quiet with the Italians getting into the swing of things.	
	13 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 805 - 35 att. As a sudden change from the severe cold of the previous day it was raining in torrents when the battalion began moving out of the line. By 0800 hrs, 'C' and 'B' coys were clear and were on their way to billets in VILLANOVA – MR 452417. As 'B' and 'D' Coys IRC were under command, Tac had to remain until they were also clear which was 0915 hrs. Some of Tac HQ vehicles had left early while the remainder moved off at 0930 hrs. At Main HQ it was found that the unit was to leave for	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	13 Jan 45		Continued. PIORACO at 2200 hrs 14 Jan. PIORACO was a small town about 150 miles to the SOUTH. A recce party with Lieut. H.E. Smith as O.C. had been away for some time at various towns and the final decision was PIORACO. Shortly are the unit arrived in VILLANOVA a heavy artillery shoot came down - the first in some time - and a few casualties were caused in Support Coy. The nearby Mobile Bath Unit was kept going full blast by the troops. At 1400 hrs an L.O. from Brigade brought word that the move at 2200 hrs was cancelled in favour of 1200 hrs 14 Jan. Successive telephone calls changed it further to 1100 hrs and then to 1000 hrs at which *the* time across the start line remained firm.	
Sheet 89-III Villanova MR 452417	14 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 799 - 35 att. The heavy rain continued and was still pouring down at 0900 hrs when the battalion moved off. Maj. D.B. MacKenzie left with a small advance party at 0700 hrs, followed by Capt. E.V. Ardagh with a party of cooks. Major MacKenzie was to go to PIORACO while Capt. Ardagh was to stop at FANO, a half way point, and prepare a meal for the unit when it arrived. After an uneventful trip, marred only by the persistent rain, the unit pulled into FANO, a town on the ADRIATIC about 30 miles North of ANCONA. It had been arranged that the unit would stage at 4 C.B.R. Bn which was located there. A great deal of effort had been expended by the staff of 4 Bn to provide all possible comforts for the Westminsters, of whom they seemed to think very well. The plan was for the unit to leave FANO at 0400 hrs in the order that the PLDG's could move in at 0500 hrs. At 0100 hrs the C.O. received a telephone call to the effect that the route had been changed. Instead of proceeding via Highway 76, we were to go further South and take Highway 77 to our destination.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
FANO	15 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 799 - 35 att. By 0400 hrs the weather had cleared and the unit left FANO under a brilliant starlit sky. During the trip, the G-3 from 12 CIB was encountered and he informed the C.O. that the area for the Westminsters had been changed once more and was now San SEVERINO. On arriving there at 1100 hrs it was found that Maj. D.B. McKenzie and Lieut H.E. Smith had the billet situation in hand and all was prepared for the arrival of the unit. The battalion was all in the town in good quarters. Electricity, water and baths were a few of the amenities which the troops were to enjoy for the first time in months. There was a good deal snow about and some of the townspeople offered the use of their skis to those who wanted them.	
San Severino Sheet 124-IV MR 3300045	16 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 798 - 35 att. Rain was the order of the day and it continued through the day and evening. There was lots of work to be done throughout the whole battalion, vehicles to be cleaned out and maintained, kit and equipment to clean and check as well as many other things which had not been done while in action. A large guard had to be laid on, vehicle guards, town picquets and battalion guards totaling nearly 150 all ranks, all of which was inspected by the Orderly Officer daily at 1500 hrs. A terrific training syllabus was detailed by Brigade and was to start as soon as possible. Evening discussions for officers were scheduled for four evenings a week. Some rearranging and further billeting of troops took up much of the day for Maj. D.B. McKenzie. The Knights of Columbus Auxiliary Services Supervisor arrived after a delay due to radiator trouble (shrapnel) and arranged for films to be shown in the local opera as well as providing a canteen and reading room. Brigadier J.S. Lind visited Lt-Col. G.C. Corbould, DSO in the morning to discuss training. For a short while until the troops of the CREMONA division were able to take firm command of the NORTH sector of the LAMONE River, the brigades of	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
San Severino	16 Jan 45		continued. 5 CAD were to be on varying degrees of move notice. On receipt of codeword “HEATHER”, 12 CIB would be 24 hours notice to move.	
	17 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 798 - 35 att. A drizzling rain fell during the morning but stopped by 1200 hrs. Training consisted of further cleaning and checking of weapons and equipment. Small arms and battle training ranges were located by company representatives and training syllabi prepared. In order to relieve the shortage of civilian vehicles, regimental transport was used to *haul* wood and other items for the town.	
	18 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 798 - 35 att. By morning the rain had ceased and a brilliant sun was shining though it was very frosty. More billeting problems were ironed out with the assistance of one “Mr. Polack” the local interpreter. A further recce was made of small arms, ant-tank gun and battle ranges by the C.O. and the 2 i/c and the locations were submitted for approval. Lieut’s A. Hebb and W. Been arrived on increment from 4 C.B.R. Bn.	
	19 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 795 - 35 att. The sun was out in the morning helping to temper the sharp frost. The Battalion pioneers were busy rounding up material to construct range targets. Training in the companys carried on according to syllabus.	
	20 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 800 - 35 att. After a day of drizzling rain, a light fall of snow fell in the evening. In the vicinity of San Severino it thawed quickly, but on higher ground near by it remained for some time. Parades ceased at 1200 hrs, Saturday afternoon being a holiday.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
San Severino Sheet 124-4 MR 3300046	21 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 799 - 35 att. Another nice sunny day. Church parades were held under Company arrangements. The remainder of the day spent as a normal Sunday. Support Coy. held a dance in the evening at 2030 hrs – the obliging ladies being from the Students Club. The C.O., accompanied by Majors H.F. Hoskin and W.J. Niel, left in the morning for a leave and hospital visit in Rome.	
	22 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 798 - 35 att. During the night a slight skift of snow fell followed by a heavy frost. The day was cold but bright sunshine continued. Work was continuing on the construction of ranges which were expected to be completed shortly. The companys' were training according to syllabi. The I.O., Lt. F.R. Smith, left in the afternoon for a short course at Riccione. The Bn was visited and inspected by the Divisional Commander, Maj. General Hoffmeister DSO. A section of HQ broke out with scarlet fever and were put under quarantine for ten days.	
	23 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 799 - 35 att. A very clear, cold day but promising sunshine. Work on the range still continued. R.S.M. Clifford had a short N.C.O.'s parade and gave the new N.C.O.'s weapon and parade ground drill. Our Regimental M.O., Capt. H. Waugh, left us for a couple of days to go to the hospital as a result of a slight illness, after which he would proceed on course.	
	24 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 811 - 35 att. A cloudy and very unsettled day with heavy rain in the morning and light rain in the evening. C.S.M. Wilson, HQ Coy. received word that he would be leaving the following day on rotation to England. The companys were carrying on their training as usual. An adequate canteen with reading and writing rooms was now in full swing and two pictures were shown every evening. Capt. J.O. Hall also received word that he would be leaving for England on rotation.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
San Severino Sheet 124-4 MR 3300046	25 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 817 - 36 att. A cloudy and unsettled day with rain in the morning. C.S.M. Wilson left this morning and was replaced by A/C.S.M. Hoskin, late of Support Company. Training as per syllabus carried on. HQ. Company held a dance in the evening but it was no great success as the attending Italian girls seemed to prefer their own friends. Capt. J.O. Hall also left this morning and was replaced by A/Capt. J.V. Wilson.	
	26 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 817 - 36 att. Unsettled weather again, with slight showers in the afternoon. Thirteen new 60 cwts. and eight Scout cars arrived late in the previous night but unfortunately one of the scout cars was missing, having become lost on the way. Parades for diphtheria inoculation were carried out.	
	27 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 817 - 36 att. A beautiful day with the sun shining brightly, making a change from the last week. Capt. J.W. Bryon visited the unit on routine administration.	
	28 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 821 - 36 att. Everyone awoke to find everything blanketed under five or six inches of snow, the snow continuing to fall until about noon. Lt. Col. Corbould returned from leave. Lieut. F.R. Smith I.O. also returned from a Divisional Intelligence course that was held at Main Div., Riccione. “C” company held a dance in the local theatre which, after a rather doubtful start, developed into a good time for everyone.	
	29 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 821 - 36 att. Sun very dull and clouded with the sun trying hard to get through. Everything was pretty well frozen in the morning but proceeded to warm up slightly in the afternoon. The CO visited HQ 12 CIB with Major G.D. Johnson who was being promoted to the rank of Lt. Col. and becoming OC 5 Div. Officers School.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
San Severino Sheet 124-4 MR 3300046	30 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 814 - 36 att. The break of day cold, clear and frost. Lt. J.A. Cambridge, with the I.O., spent the day locating a six pounder range. Permission to use it was obtained from IO Br. Corps and 57 anti-tank Regiment. The activities were limited due to snow but some form of training continued.	
	31 Jan 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 817 - 36 att. The morning was dull and warm with a brilliant sun coming through later in the day causing a rapid thaw. Brig. J. Lind DSO, arrived at 0645 hrs. to decorate Lt. J.V. Wilson, with the MC, and Sgt. W.E. Barnum, Cpl. C. J. Johnson, Pte J. Baresh and V.D. Jensen with the MM. Small arms range practices were being held out on the Unit ranges. On Major G.B. Johnson's vacating the command of “B” Coy., Capt. E.V. Ardagh took over. Captain K.B. Harrison became O.C. HQ Coy. and Lt. H. E. Smith, the Technical Adjutant. Lieut. J.V. Wilson became 2 i/c “B” Coy. on Capt. J.O. Hall being posted on rotation to a training establishment in England. The month end was marked by many reports of Russian successes, hastening the feeling that the war might soon end. Signed:_____ Commanding Officer Westminster Regt.	

LIST OF APPENDICES

	ORIGINAL	DUPLICATE	TRIPLICATE
1. Part One Orders	+	+	+
2. Part Two Orders		+	
3. AFVs 3008 and 3009			+
4. Training Syllabi	+		
5. Enemy Air Force	+		
6. Digest of News by BBC commentator	+		
7. Congratulatory Messages from Gen. Clark, Gen. McCreery and Lt. Gen Foulkes	+		
8. "Defence of Lamone ABBANDATO"	+		
9. Message of Thanks – Lt. Col. R.P. Clark	+		
10. 11 Cdn Inf Bde OP Instr. No. 2	+		
11. 12 Cdn Inf Bde Move Instr No. 1	+		
12. Honors and Awards (Lt J.A. Cambridge)	+		
13. Maps – 89-3, 89-4, 124-4 – Scale 1:50,000	+		

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
San Severino MR 3300046 Sheet 124	1 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 34 - 5 att. O.R.s. 816 - 35 att. The month began with the snow starting to thaw. Range practices were carried out on the short ranges and it was arranged that instruction would be given on 3” mortar fire control. The instructor was to arrive from Bde the following day.	
	2 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 819 - 35 att. The remaining snow was rapidly melting from the effects of a full day of sun. In the morning, instruction was begun by Capt. J.B. Francis 11 Fd Regt; on the RAIKES RANGE, a portable small scale range used in teaching 3” Mortar fire control and correction.	
	3 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 820 - 35 att. After a warm night and a rainy morning the last traces of snow disappeared. Company training went on according to syllabii and instruction in 3” mortar fire control was continued by the party from 11 Fd Regt. The afternoon was the normal half-holiday followed by a “B” Coy dance held in the local theatre.	
	4 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 820 - 35 att. A dull cloudy day with a threat of snow in the air. A very quiet day with the Westminsters in San Severino. Capt. J.B. Francis, 11 Fd Regt. R.C.A. left the unit after his short attachment.	
	5 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 826 - 35 att. The weather continued to be doubtful but there was still no rain or snow. The R.C.A. Band arrived for a. two day attachment during which they were to play for concerts and guard mountings. It was also arranged that on the 6th February there	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
San Severino	5 Feb 45		Continued - would be a battalion parade to be inspected by Brigadier J.S. Lind, DSO. The guard mounting in the afternoon was greatly improved by the band and later, a very good concert was enjoyed by the troops. Capt. R.J. Grinsted returned to the unit from a 6 month tour at HQ. 5 CAB.	
	6 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 824 - 35 att. The day for the battalion inspection by Brigadier J.S. Lind, DSO, broke clear and cold. The parade was formed up at 0900 hrs in the square of S. Severino and the inspection and march past were completed by 1000 hrs. At this parade Sgt. G.B. Gibson, HQ Coy, signal sergeant, was decorated by the Brigadier (M.I.D.) During the day, Brigadier Lind inspected training, his chief interest being in the platoon field–firing exercises. A highly successful dance was held that evening in the Officers Mess with music provided by the dance orchestra of the R.C.A. band. Prior to the dance, the band played a second concert for the troops in the local cinema.	
	7 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 826 - 35 att. A day of bright, warm sunshine. In the morning the CO., Lt-Col. G.C. Corbould, DSO, accompanied by the 2 i/c, Major D.B. McKenzie, inspected the companies at their training. An Orders Group was held at HQ's 12 C.I.B. at 1330 hrs at which Brigadier Lind gave out details of the forthcoming move. On his return at 1600 hrs, the C.O. held his “O” Group. In the evening, the last of the series of company dances was held, this time by “A” Company. The unit was put on 48 hrs notice to move with advance parties on 4 hours notice. The advance party was under the 2 i/c Major D.B. McKenzie.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
San Severino	8 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 824 - 35 att. The weather was a repetition of the previous day with the sunshine continuing. The C.O. left at 0915 hrs for RICCIONE where a commanders meeting was being held at 5 C.A.D. Further field-firing schemes were carried out by the companies at platoon level. In company with Lt-Col. Buchanan, C.O. L & R.S.R., the C.O. returned from RICCIONE at 1800 hrs.	
	9 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 822 - 35 att. A change in the weather from the previous sunny days brought a windy, cloudy day. A meeting of all Officers and senior N.C.O's was held by Lt-Col, G.C. Corbould, C.O., at 1315 hrs, when he discussed plans for the move. Training went on as usual. A LIFEBOUY FLAMETHROWER demonstration and lecture was given in the afternoon by Lieut. J.A. Cambridge. MC. At 2330 hrs an order was received for the advance party to stand by to move any time after midnight. An officer was to report to Bde HQ; for further instructions which stated that two advance parties were to be prepared, one to leave at 0330 hrs 10 Feb and the other to move at 1330 hrs 10 Feb. For the first, Lieut C. Hoult and E.D. Jones were sent, leaving San Severino at 0245 hrs. It -was expected that further changes would be made during the night but all remained quiet.	
	10 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 821 - 35 att. The dull weather continued with some rain in the afternoon. At 1430 hrs the second advance party of seven officers left under Lieut G.B. Eaton. A dance held by the local citizens was attended by a good representation of N.C.O's and officers.	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
San Severino	11 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 819 - 35 att. Sunday was a quiet day in San Severino. A little sunshine came through the clouds for a while in the afternoon. Lt-Col. G.C. Corbould, DSO, received a visit from C.O. and 2 i/c of the P.L.D.G.'s, Lt-Col Petch and Major I.F. Douglas.	
	12 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 820 - 35 att. There was a strong wind in the morning which later subsided in favour of a warm summery day. - The C.O. visited the companies at their training, spending more time with the platoons which were running through a field firing scheme in the area. A dance was held the local Communist Association and invitations were extended to some members of the unit.	
	13 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 813 - 35 att. The sun was once more out in strength and by mid-afternoon had people thinking that spring had come. Training continued and was centred chiefly on field firing and range work. The adjutant's office was a busy whirl of courts-of-inquiry, etc which were being redone to the pleasure of higher formations	
	14 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 810 - 35 att. The day was bright and sunny until late afternoon when it clouded over. At 0945 hrs the C.O. with Brigadier J.S. Lind, DSO and Capt. W.L. Delaney left on a sort short skiing expedition. Major F. Shawcross and Lieut. H.E. Smith returned from leave.	
	15 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 824 - 35 att. The cloud continued, though for a brief spell in the afternoon the sun came through. At 1700 hrs the C.O. returned from his skiing trip. Training in the companies carried	

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
San Severino	15 Feb 45		continued. though preparations for the impending move took a good deal of training time.	
	16 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 823 - 35 att. Another cloudy day but still no sign of rain or snow. Instructions were received in the morning for the movement of the track convoy. It was to leave on the 17th Feb and was to be under Lieut. J.O. Oldfield. The area which had been used as a range was being checked for "blinds" mortar bombs by the Assault Platoon.	
	17 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 822 - 35 att. The carriers left at 0500 hrs. Only skeleton crews were taken while the remainder were left to be carried by some other means. The carriers were to be moved by rail. At first it was arranged that extra personnel would also move by train but this was later changed and they were transported instead in unit vehicles. Training went on in the morning while the afternoon was the usual half holiday.	
	18 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 821 - 35 att. The cloudy weather continued with another grey day. R.C. Mass was held in a local church. As a security measure all incoming and outgoing mail service was stopped.	
	19 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 821 - 35 att. The long session of dull weather was finally broken by rain and snow. After one 24 hr postponement, the unit was scheduled to move at 0300 hrs 21Feb, and accordingly orders were given for the loading of vehicles to be concluded by the 20 Feb. All maps of 8th Army front were either to be returned or destroyed and all possible packing completed.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
S. Severino	20 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 820 - 35 att. After a frosty night, the first in some time, the day broke clear. The unit continued preparations for the move, though the destination had not yet been made known. Capt. K.B. Harrison was to take a small advance party, consisting of cooks, two hours in advance of the unit in order to prepare meals at the staging area's.	
	21 Feb 45		It was extremely cold in the early in the morning when movement first began in the battalion area. Final loading was completed and the unit started to roll at 0340 hrs. Capt. K.B. Harrison had left earlier with a small advance party of cooks. It was with regret that the Westminster's left San SEVERINO, as it had proved itself to be the best town in which the unit had stayed. After the cold of the early morning, it warmed up and at 1215 hrs, when a halt was called at the junction of Highway 71 and 75, it was quite warm and summery. At 1600 hrs the unit arrived at PONTASSIEIVE, the first staging area. A hot meal was ready and there was ample tentage for all ranks. There was to be no move before 1150 hrs on the following day. The whole operation was to be known as 'EXERCISE GOLDFLAKE' (See Appx.)	
	22 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 817 - 35 att. Another day of brilliant sunshine. The unit was to move in blocks of 25 vehicles and it was 1130 hrs when the first block left PONTASSIEIVE. The route led through FLORENCE and thence to a staging area near LEGHORN and PISA. It was on this stage of the trip that a 'C' Coy vehicle was sideswiped and knocked off the road by an American truck. The vehicle was rolled over and two men were seriously injured while the remainder of the section were badly shaken up. At the staging area it was found that Support Coy would be accommodated in No. 2 Camp while the remainder of the battalion was to be put up in No. 4 Camp.	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	22 Feb 45		continued The camps comprised a staging area from which drafts of various sizes were taken to the ships at LEGHORN, only a few miles away to the South. The carriers had arrived at LEGHORN several days earlier and were living near the docks. The troops were put up in tents for the stay in this area which was expected to be about three or four days.	
Staging Area LEGHORN	23 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. 814 - 35 att. The morning was spent in settling down. The vehicles were to be cleaned once more and lists of dimensions posted on each one. At 1100 hrs the C.O. spoke to the men and "put them in the picture". The 1st Canadian Corps was moving from Italy to join 1 Canadian Army in France. The cover plan was to deceive the enemy into thinking that the Canadians were moving to the 5th Army front. In the afternoon, the 2 i/c, Major D.B. MacKenzie, the Q.M., Capt. A.W. Harding and the I.O. visited the carrier crews on the docks at LEGHORN. In the evening Capt. A.W. Harding celebrated his promotion to the rank of Major.	
	24 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 36 - 5 att. O.R.s. The fine weather continued while the troops prepared vehicles and kit for the next stage of the journey.	
	25 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 805 - 35 att. Another day of bright warm sunshine. The carriers loaded on Liberty ships and were expected to leave at an early date. At 1830 hrs notice was received that	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			25 Feb 4 continued. 500 troops would leave on 26 Feb and the companies were warned accordingly.	
	26 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 805 - 35 att. The morning was spent in documentation and at 1430 hrs the troops left the staging area for the docks at LEGHORN. Two L.S.T's (Landing Ship Tank) were to carry the troops and O.C. troops on these were Majors W.J. Neill and H.F. Hoskin. The only sleeping accommodation available was in on the open top deck, but the men had the best of it with no grumbling.	
	27 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 805 - 35 att. The convoy consisting of 5 ships, sailed at 0715 hrs. Though it was cloudy during the morning, it cleared up in the afternoon and we were fortunate in enjoying a smooth trip,	
MARSEILLES	28 Feb 45		Strength Offrs 35 - 5 att. O.R.s. 805 - 35 att. The ships docked at 1100 hrs, in MARSEILLES, and after a noon meal the troops were disembarked and taken in M.T. to a Staging Camp just outside the city. Here we met Major D.B. McKenzie who had come two days ahead of the main body. There was little to be done until the unit transport arrived. The carriers arrived at about 2200 hrs and stopped near the remainder of the troops. They were to move by train and were expected to leave very shortly. Lt. G. C. Corbould DSO) Commanding Officer The Westminster Regiment (M)	

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			THE WESTMINSTER REGIMENT (MOTOR) WAR DIARY FEBRUARY 1945	

List of Appendices

		Orig	Dup	Trip
1.	Part 1 Orders	X	X	X
2.	Part 11 Orders			X
3.	AFW's 3008 & 3009	X		
4.	Map Sheet 124 Italy Scale 1:100,000	X		
5.	Training Syllabii 1 – 10 Feb incl	X		
6.	Report on Operations Period 7 Nov to 30 Nov	X	X	X
7	Report on Operations Period 1 Dec to 13 Jan 45	X	X	X

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Editor's Notes

General

This version has been modified from the original to cover the Italian campaign.

The layout of the electronic version has been made as a close to possible to the original albeit on 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper rather than 7 ¾ x 13 inch.
Handwritten notes are shown in Italic font style, except for a few minor corrections.
In order to match the original, spelling mistakes have not been corrected but errors, for example with place names have been identified below.
Place names were checked against the maps of the day. Any changes to names since 1943 - 1945 have been identified below as well.
Punctuation, formatting and spelling have been kept to as close as possible to the original, however there will be some variation in the layout of the strength numbers at the start of each day. As an example, the number of Officers attached are shown with the Officer numbers and not separately as done occasionally in the War Diary.

Comments on specific entries

07 Dec 43 - From the details provided, the route taken would be from Afragola to Pomigliano, then along Highway 7 to Avellino, then along Highway 7 to junction with Highway 90 to Ariano (Irpino), then splitting off the highway to Orta Nova for the night.
08 Dec 43 - From Orta Nova the route taken would have been via Highway 16 to Cerignola, then along the road to Canosa, then on Highway 98 to Andria, then to Corata, then south to Gravina in Puglia, then east on Highway 97 to Altamura and then south on Highway 99 to Matera.
22 Apr 44 - The feature "Cicoru" is referred to as "Circura"
19 May 44 - Swindon Bridge was the nickname for the Bailey bridge (80 ft double single, Class 40) built across the Gari River at approx. MR 884121by 12 Field Company RCE on 14 May.
24 May 44 - "Benedictine" was report line i.e., identified on the map
04 Jun 44 - The reference to "Taps" is to an USA bugle call, the Canadian Army would play the Last Post and then Reveille.
06 Jun 44 - Reference to "crowns" meant that Captain Hoskin was promoted to Major.
24 Jul 44 - Pte Nestie's name is spelt correctly
01 Sep 44 - The code name in the operation was Carryduff based on a name of a town in Northern Ireland
02 Sep 44 - Skeena was a code name for location marked on the operational map
02 Sep 44 – M-10 refers to an American made tank.
15 Oct 44 - "Sally Ann" refers to Salvation Army.
24 Oct 44 - Bagnarola was at MR 6609 Sheet 100
26 Oct 44 - The Fiumicino (little river) was the upper part of the Fiume Rubicone (Rubicon river)
07 Nov 44 - Map Reference 898848 does not appear on Sheet 100 – if still at Riccione then it should be Map Sheet 109
07 Nov 44 - S Clemente MR 9083 Sheet 109
08 Nov 44 - For the map references the Map Sheet is 100
09 Nov 44 - MR for Bn HQ should have been changed to MR 547248, sheet 100
10 Nov 44 - Sheet 12 is a map sheet number not relating to the other map sheets in the War Diary. To see the map, refer to War Diary for Nov 44 from Library Archives Canada.
10 Nov 44 - MR 573266 can be seen on Map Sheet 100
12 Nov 44 - Fosso Ghiaia is the Ghiaia ditch
12 Nov 44 - Gambellara can be seen on Map Sheet 100 - IV
14 Nov 44 - Location of Bn Hq can be seen on Pao Sheet 100 - IV
15 Nov 44 - C Belettini refers to Casa (house) Belettini
15 Nov 44 – Fearless Fosdick, a cartoon character, was a parody of the cartoon character Dick Tracy
17 Nov 44 - MR 553317 is not on Sheet 100 – IV but is on Sheet 89 - III
17 Nov 44 - Scolo means drain
18 Nov 44 – TMI 4531 refers to Topfmine (pot mine) which was metal free
14 Dec 44 – "Freeman" bridge was located at MR 409399. It was an Ark type of bridge put in place by 1 Cdn Field Company RCE and open for Class 5 vehs at 1700 hrs on 14 December 1944.
03 Jan 45 – The Valli di Comacchio is a lagoon formed from the valleys of the Comacchio
04 Jan 45 – In the 11th Cdn Infantry Bde log of 04 Jan 45, based on radio message at 1115 from Westmr, 14 Platoon MG were located at MR 482468 which matches the War Diary entry
22 Feb 45 – Leghorn was the anglicised name for Livorno

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THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Errata

Contents – 2-12-43 - Africgola should be Afragola
Contents – 4-5-44 - Aquafontana should be Aquafondata
Contents – 29-12-44 - Villa Nova should be Villanova
Contents – 15-1-45 - Sam Severino should be San Severino
01 Dec 43 – Africgola should be Afragola
02 Dec 43 - Africgola should be Afragola
04 Dec 43 - Africgola should be Afragola
07 Dec 43 – Ariano should be Ariano Irpino
07 Dec 43 – Ortonova should be Orta Nova
08 Dec 43 – Gerignola should be Cerignola
08 Dec 43 – Coratta should be Corata
08 Dec 43 – Gravena should be Gravina in Puglia
01 Jan 44 – C Coy location MR 092371 is on Sheet 189 (1:100,000)
22 Jan 44 – Salarolo should be Salarola
23 Jan 44 – Lieut R E Ketcheson
25 Jan 44 – Grid reference 307923 is on map sheet 147
26 Jan 44 – Map sheet should be 147
04 Feb 44 - Piano Della Fante should be Piano delle Fonti
05 Feb 44 – Piano Della Fante should be Piano delle Fonti
05 Feb 44 – Salaorla should be Salarola
07 Feb 44 - Piano Della Fante should be Piano delle Fonti
21 Feb 44 – San Spirito should be Santo Spirito (see note below)
01 Mar 44 – Clark should be Clarke
01 Mar 44 – Roatti should be Rogatti
02 Mar 44 – Roatti should be Rogatti
03 Mar 44 – MCCRAE should be McRae
14 Mar 44 – Caselvecchio should be Casalvecchio (see note below)
16 Mar 44 – is incorrectly labelled as 16 Feb 44
29 Mar 44 – Guglionsi should be Guglionesi
04 Apr 44 – Casalnuova should be Casalnuovo
05 Apr 44 – Casalnuova should be Casalnuovo
08 Apr 44 – Casalnuova should be Casalnuovo
09 Apr 44 – Casalnuova should be Casalnuovo
20 Apr 44 – The IP (“International Post”) from a trace, was located at approx. MR 932306; NNE of Tac Hq
22 Apr 44 – Cicoru should be Colle Cirrorro (a hill 1 kilometre north of Valvori)
23 Apr 44 - Cicoru should be Colle Cirrorro
28 Apr 44 – Cicoru should be Colle Cirrorro
30 Apr 44 – Cicoru should be Colle Cirrorro
30 Apr 44 – List of Appendices following 30 Apr 44 relate to April and not May
22 May 44 – The name is Pte S F Koscielny
22 May 44 – Acquino should be Aquino
25 May 44 – reference to the day is missing
29 May 44 – Maringo should be Moringo
14 Aug 44 – The name is Capt S.K. Cougle
01 Sep 44 – Curry Duff should be Carryduff
02 Sep 44 – Tomba de Pesaro should be Tomba di Pesaro (see note below)
02 Sep 44 – Curry Duff should be Carryduff (see comment above)

Errata (continued)
02 Sep 44 – GGHS should be GGHG
03 Sep 44 – wiskey should be whiskey
20 Sep 44 – Lili Marlere should be spelled Lili Marlen in accordance Appx 9 which is a variation of the spelling of Lili Marleen
22 Sep 44 – Fortuato should be San Fortunato
26 Sep 44 – MR 573035 (crossroads) should be 753035
10 Oct 44 – Seaforts should be Seaforths
07 Nov 44 – Map Sheet number 100 should be 109
08 Nov 44 – Forlimpopli should be Forlimpopoli
09 Nov 44 – The name is Lt. J.S. Moore
11 Nov 44 – The name is Pte A. Koblun
12 Nov 44 – The name is Pte A. Koblun
15 Nov 44 – Feuma should be Fiume (river)
15 Nov 44 – The name is Pte J.F. Shadlock
17 Nov 44 – The name is Pte S.W. Myslicki
20 Nov 44 – Madonna del Albero should Madonna dell'Albero
21 Nov 44 – MR 350315 should be 550315
26 Nov 44 – Scolla should be Scollo
28 Nov 44 – MR 744314 is not correct (in the Adriatic) is more likely to be 474314 ie at the Montone
02 Dec 44 – S Pancrazia should be S Pancrazio
03 Dec 44 – The waterway was called the Scolo Via Gupa
03 Dec 44 – It should be Piangipane
03 Dec 44 – It should be Canaletta Godo
04 Dec 44 – It should be Piangipane
05 Dec 44 – It should be Piangipane
08 Dec 44 – It should be Piangipane
11 Dec 44 – It should be Villanova
12 Dec 44 - It should be Villanova
16 Dec 44 – It should be Fosso Munio
05 Jan 45 – It should be Fosso Vetro
21 Feb 45 – It should be Pontassieve
22 Feb 45 – It should be Pontassieve

Place and River Names – further details
01 Dec 43 – Afragola is now part of Naples
18 Feb 44 – Village of Tucci - known as Villa Tucci
21 Feb 44 – Santo Sprito is now called Santo Spirito-Cantino-San Pio (northwest of Bari)
11 Mar 44 – Caldari - known as Villa Caldari
15 Mar 44 – Casalvecchio known as Casalvecchio di Puglia
04 Apr 44 – Casalnuovo - known as Casalnuovo Monterotaro
25 Apr 44 – The Rapido is a river which flows into the Gari
25 Apr 44 – The Martino feature is the Colle San Martino
02 Sep 44 – Tomba di Pesaro is now called Tavullia
04 Sep 44 – The Marano river is called Torrente Marano

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Maps

The condition of the maps in the Museum is varied. A number of maps have been sourced online and are in held in digital form;
The use of letters in advance of the grid (or map) reference are related to the designation of quadrants on the map, eg – H, J or P etc

Maps of Italy

The following are the maps that were used by the Westminster Regiment in Italy.
Sheet 12 – (Appendix 20 to November 1944)
Sheet 24 – Macerata, 1:250,000
Sheet 29 – Chieti, 1:250,000
Sheet 30 – San Severo, 1:250,000
Sheet 37 – Foggia, 1:250,000
Sheet 43 – Taranto, 1:250,000
Sheet 89-III, Ravenna W. – 1:50,000
Sheet 89-IV – Alfonsine, 1:50,000
Sheet 100 – Forli, 1:100,000
Sheet 101-1, Cesenatico, 1:50,000
Sheet 100-IV Forli, 1:50,000
Sheet 101-II Cesena, 1:50,000
Sheet 101- III – Rimini, 1:50,000
Sheet 101-III-SE – Riccione Marina, 1:25,000
Sheet 109 – Pesaro, 1:100,000
Sheet 109-IV-NE - Coriano, 1:25,000
Sheet 116 – Gubbio, 1:100,000
Sheet 117-1 – Jesi, 1:50,000
Sheet 124 – Macerata, 1:100,000
Sheet 124-IV S. Severino Marche, 1:50,000 (Appendix 13 to January 1944)
Sheet 131-IV
Sheet 141 – Chieti, 1:100,000
Sheet 147 – Lanciano, 1:100,000
Sheet 147–1 1:50,000
Sheet 159-I-SE – Ceccano, 1:25,000
Sheet 160 – Cassino, 1:100,000
Sheet 160 – 1 – Atina, 1:50,000
Sheet 160-1-SE – S. Elia Fiumerapido, 1:25,000 (Appendix 8 to April 1944)
Sheet 160 – III-NE – Pontecorvo, 1:25,000
Sheet 160 – IV-SE – Roccasecca, 1:25,000 (Appendix 11 to May 1944)
Sheet 160 – IV-SW – Ceprano, 1:25,000 (Appendix 13 to May 1944)
Sheet 161–IV 1:50,000 (Appendix 9 to April 1944)
Sheet 163 – S, Bartolommeo in Galdo, 1:100,000
Sheet 172 – Caserta, 1:100,000
Sheet 172 -1 Cajazzo, 1:50,000
Sheet 172 -II Caserta, 1:50,000
Sheet 188 – Gravina, 1:100,000
Sheet 201 – Matera, 1:100,000

Digitals versions

The maps that can be found online are shown in Italics in the list above. For those not online but are appendices to the war diary are specifically identified by the appendix number for the relevant month.

WAR DIARY

THE WESTMINSTER REGT (MOTOR)

Legend

A/A	Anti-aircraft
Ack-ack	Anti-aircraft fire
Adjt	Adjutant
AFW 3008	Army Form War - Field Return of Officers
AFW 3009	Army Form War – Field Return of Other Ranks
Appen	Appendix
Appx	Appendix
Apr	April
Armd	Armoured
Arty	artillery
A/T or A/Tk	Anti-tank
Att	attached
Aux	Auxiliary
B	Bravo and also European time (London being A (alpha) time)
B vehicle	Nonfighting vehicle
BCD	British Columbia Dragoons
Bde	Brigade
Belg	Belgian
BM	Brigade Major
Bn	Battalion
Brig	Brigadier
Bty	Battery
CAB	Canadian Armoured Brigade
CAD	Canadian Armoured Division
Capt	Captain
cas	casualties
CBH	Cape Breton Highlanders
CIB	Canadian Infantry Brigade
C-in-C	Commander in Chief
Cdn	Canadian
CFEF	Canadian Far East Force
CFN	Canadian Forces Netherlands
CO	Commanding Officer
COF	Canadian Occupational Force
Comd(s)	Command - Commanders
Comn (s)	communication (s)
coy	company
cm	centimetre
CMF	Central Mediterranean Force
Cpl	Corporal
CSM	Company Sergeant Major
CWAC	Canadian Women's Army Corps
cwt	a hundred weight
DAA &QMG	Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General
DF	Defensive Fire
Div	Division
DSO	Distinguished Service Order
EME	Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
est	established
F	Fiume (River)
Fd	Field
Flak	Anti-aircraft fire
FOO	Forward Observation Officer
Fus	Fusiliers
Gen	General
GGHG	Governor General's Horse Guards
GOC	General Officer Commanding
Gp	Group
GS	General Service
H/Capt	Honorary Captain
HE	High Explosive
Hrs	hours
Inf	infantry
in.	inch
infm	information
IO	Intelligence Officer
IS9	Intelligence Section 9 (British)
Jerry	Common term for the German enemy
Jul	July
Jun	June
Junc	Junction
K of C	Knights of Columbus
KOYLI	Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
LCA	Landing Craft Assault
LdSH	Lord Strathcona's Horse
Lieut	Lieutenant
LO	Liaison Officer
Lt	Lieutenant
M	Motor
Maj	Major
Mar	March
MC	Military Cross
MG	Machine Gun
Mk	Mark
Mins	minutes
MMG	Medium Machine Gun
MO	medical officer
MR	map reference
MT	Motor Transport
NBH	New Brunswick Hussars (Princess Louise)
O	orders
OBE	Order of the British Empire
OC	Officer Commanding
OCTU	Officer Cadet Training Unit

Legend (continued)

Offr(s)	Officer(s)
Op	Operation
OR (ORs)	Other Ranks (other than Officers)
Para	Parachute
Pdr	Pounder
PG	Panzer Grenadier
Pl	platoon
Posn(s)	position(s)
Pr	pounder
PW (POW)	Prisoner of War
QM	Quarter Master
R	river
RCE	Royal Canadian Engineers
RCEME	Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Recce	reconnoitre
Regt	Regiment
RHQ	Regimental Headquarters
RN	Royal Navy
RSM	Regimental Sergeant Major
Ser	Service
Sgt	Sergeant
Sht	Sheet
SIW	self-inflicted wound
Sig	Signals
SP	self propelled
Sp	support
SP	self propelled
Sq	square (reference map)
SS	Schutzstaffel – German unit
SS PG	Schutzstaffel Panzer Grenadier – German unit
Stonk	a bombardment with Artillery fire
Straths	Strathconas (LdSH)
SW	Southwest
Tac	Tactical
Tech	Technical
TEWT	Tactical Exercise without Troops
TSMC	Thompson Submachine Carbine
u/c	Under command
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
Veh	vehicle
VG	For Volksgrenadier
V1	Germany Rocket
WR	West Riding
2 i/c	Second in command