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WAR DIARY  
OCT. - DEC. 1943

WAR DIARY NOTES - PUBLIC SAFETY - AMG, 15 ARMY GROUP - DECEMBER, 1943.

| Date.                 | Event                                     | Particulars.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                       | Closing FOGGIA Province to all civilians. | Owing to military activities in Province of FOGGIA, inflow of civilians found undesirable. By 20.Dec a complete system of posts was established around the Province and no civilian was allowed to enter without a Special Pass. Provincial Order No.4 was published.    |
|                       | Control Line.                             | To stop movement of civilians North with the object of preventing interference with the Army a control line was set up and established, north of Rivers FORTORE - CALORE - VOITURNO. Passes to allow persons to cross this line could be issued by S.C.A.Os with Armies. |
| 2.12.43 -<br>4.12.43. | Visit to FOGGIA.                          | Major Lothian visited Hq. AMG, Foggia Province and inspected prisons.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 7.Dec.43              | Monthly Report.                           | A short monthly report on Public Safety affairs for November made to AMG, 15 Army Group.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 11.Dec.43             | Major Pollock.                            | Assumed duty as Chief Public Safety Div. Besides his duties with the Group he was required to prepare for Public Safety in the early stages of occupation of ROME. Preliminary report issued by Lt.Col.Pollock.                                                          |
| 18.Dec.43             | Lt.Col. Martin.                           | Arrived evening and took over duty as Chief Public Safety Divn. Pollock free to attend to plans for ROME.                                                                                                                                                                |
| 19.Dec.43             | Rome Planning Conference.                 | Lt.Col.Pollock left for NAPLES with General PIERRE Commander of the Carabinieri in Occupied Italy - returned to H.Q. 23.Dec.                                                                                                                                             |
| 27.Dec.43             | Vehicle Licensing.                        | A universal scheme throughout all Regions for motor vehicle permits considered necessary. The system in operation in Regions I and II considered for adoption. Delayed owing to possible action being taken to lay down a general scheme.                                |
| 26 " 1943             | Lt.Col.Lord Middleton assaulted.          | Lt.Col.Lord Middleton assaulted by Italian causing damage.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 24.Dec.43             | "                                         | C.C.RR have located the Italian who inflicted injuries to Lt.Col.Lord Middleton and are endeavouring to effect his arrest in a few days.                                                                                                                                 |

## WAR DIARY NOTES - PUBLIC SAFETY - AMG, 15 ARMY GROUP - DECEMBER, 1943.

## Particulars.

## Appendix.

Owing to military activities in Province of FOGGIA, inflow of civilians found undesirable. By 20.Dec a complete system of posts was established around the Province and no civilian was allowed to enter with a Special Pass. Provincial Order No.4 was published.

"A" - copy of letters HQ 15 Army Group 1401/10/GI(b) of 19. Nov, 1401/10/GI(b) of 27. Nov, Provincial Order No.4, Special Pass Form.

To stop movement of civilians North with the object of preventing interference with the Army a control line was set up and established, namely, line of Rivers FORTORE - CALORE - VOLTURNO. Passes to allow persons to cross this line could be issued by S.C.A.Os with Armies.

"B" - copy of Notice and General Pass Forms.

Major Lothian visited Hq. AMG, Foggia Province and inspected prisons.

"C" - Report on visit.

A short monthly report on Public Safety affairs for November made by AMG, 15 Army Group.

Appendix "D".

Assumed duty as Chief Public Safety Div. Besides his duties with 15 Army Group he was required to prepare for Public Safety in the early stages of the occupation of ROME. Preliminary report issued by Lt.Col.Pollock.

Arrived evening and took over duty as Chief Public Safety Divn. Lt.Col. Pollock free to attend to plans for ROME.

Lt.Col.Pollock left for NAPLES with General PIERRE Commander of the Carabinieri in Occupied Italy - returned to H.Q. 23.Dec.

A universal scheme throughout all Regions for motor vehicle permits, etc. considered necessary. The system in operation in Regions I and II considered for adoption. Delayed owing to possible action being taken by AFHQ to lay down a general scheme.

Lt.Col.Lord Middleton assaulted by Italian causing damage.

CO.RR have located the Italian who inflicted injuries to Lt.Col.Lord Middleton and will make an arrest in a few days.

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| Date        | Event                                 | Particulars                                                                                                                  | Appendix |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 31 Dec. 43. | Inspection.                           | Lt. Col. R. M. J. Martin visited Regia Province, returned 31 Dec.                                                            |          |
| 31 Dec. 43. | Numbers arrested on Security grounds. | For month of December the following numbers were arrested in 15 Army group area, on security grounds. Up to 15 Dec 43 - 192. |          |

Major,  
for Lt. Colonel,  
Public Safety Division.

12/1/44.

*W. J. Lathrop*

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WAR DIARY NOTES - PUBLIC SAFETY. HQ 15 Army Group, C.M.F. November 1943.

| Appendix. |                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |     |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Date.     | Event.                                               | Particulars.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |     |
| Oct 27-29 | Tour to AMG<br>8 Army.                               | Report on visit by Major Lothian.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | "A" |
| Nov 2 - 6 | Tour to AMG<br>5 Army.                               | Report on visit by Major Lothian.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | "B" |
|           | Political<br>Prisoners<br>or Internees               | <p>The handling of Italians considered as dangerous to the Allies are arrested and confined under suspicion. During operations in Sicily the Field Army arrested such persons in large numbers and the detention of such people became difficult and complicated. For operations in Italy HQ 15 Army Group issued instructions to fix a system which it was hoped would prevent some of the mistakes previously made. The instructions are contained in circulars 1417/1424/51 (h) dated 2 Jun, 1543/1400/2/3 (16) dated 1 Sep and 22 Oct 43 - Appendix "C". The numbers of individuals now being arrested are not so large but they add to complications in P.O.W. Camps, as they have to be segregated from pure prisoners of war (Germans etc). It is hoped to be able to get the Italian Govt. to take over these prisoners. Inquiries were made and Maj. Lothian visited A.M.M. Brindisi on 16 Nov. No satisfactory arrangement was made.</p> <p>Conference held at HQ 15 Army Group and the matter was left for "A" Branch to handle with C.P.M.G. It was pointed out and settled that these prisoners were not the concern of AMG. Up to date a total of 266 persons have been detained under custody as dangerous to Allies.</p> | "C" |
|           | Checking of<br>Civilians into<br>the Battle<br>Area. | <p>It has been apparent that some form of method to stop civilians moving north to their homes and interfering in operations would be required. This is now under discussion and a check line has been suggested to 5 and 6 Armies. The line considered by HQ 15 Army Group is roughly the Rivers Tevere and Volturno.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |     |
| 23 Nov.   | 8829                                                 | <p>In the meantime necessity has enforced us to draw up a check line along the southern boundary of ROMA Province.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |     |

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| Date.   | Event.                     | Particulars.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Appendix.                     |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 25 Nov. | Passes & Permits.          | Circular to 5 and 3 Armies and for Regions 3 and 4 for suggestions on improvement of types of passes and permits. At present there is a general pass form which could be improved and be more extensively issued for use of C.A.Os. There are several types of permits and others have been suggested. The issue of passes by C.A.Os on pieces of paper has, and is, causing concern. Steps taken to stop this. |                               |
| 17 Nov. | Policy.                    | Memorandum and Admin. Instruction No. 1 issued by C.O.A.O. has cleared the air considerably. A draft memo laying down policy for Public Safety has been prepared and will be the basis for discussion at a conference of Public Safety Senior Officers at a later date.                                                                                                                                         |                               |
|         | Offices and Accommodation. | Public Safety Staff located in our office at Camp H. One officer AUSA at present sharing as Public Safety Staff have not yet been completed. A 7th Officers Mess in operation for Public Safety and others up to a total of 12 officers.                                                                                                                                                                        |                               |
|         | Welfare.                   | Serving continues for benefit of "the fittest" at many times. Camp has been laid in a good stock of turkeys and chickens and as some will be left after Thanksgiving by the troops so that 15 Army Group should do well.                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><i>Mr. T. Kefauver</i></p> |





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SUBJECT: - War Crimes.H.Q., A.M.G.,  
15 Army Group,  
C.B.F.

|                        |                       |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| AMG Fifth Army         | Legal Division        | AMG/35/6        |
| AMG Eighth Army        | Finance Division      |                 |
| Welfare Division       | Sup. Liaison Division |                 |
| Public Safety Division | 1/4                   | 6th November 43 |

Reference this H.Q. letter AMG/35/4 dated 28th October 43.

2. Copy of memorandum issued by H.Q. 15 Army Group dated 1 November 43 is forwarded for information.

*Robert James*

R. JAMES,  
Major,  
for Colonel, R.S.O.

RJR/SCM.

Encl.

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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPIING AND DISPOSITION OF THE WAR DIARY

## GENERAL

## 1. A war diary will be kept in duplicate by:-

(i) Each branch of the staff in the headquarters of a formation, a subordinate command and area or sub-area of the E of C.

(ii) Unit Commanders.

(iii) Commanders of detachments of a headquarters or unit.

(iv) Head, artillery, and advanced depot commanders.

(v) Heads of services and their representatives.

Note: In the case of headquarters, sections of the various branches may keep separate war diaries in one combined war diary, as is found convenient.

## 2. Both original and duplicate copies will consist of:-

(a) Cover; (b) Index is printed on cover; (c) Narrative; (d) Appendices.

## 3. All details of the unit and formation (if a detachment is concerned, the name of the parent unit), period covered and folio numbers of appendices will be shown on the cover.

## METHOD OF COMPIATION

## 4. It is essential that the function of a war diary and the principles upon which that method of compilation are based should be clearly understood.

The war diary will be extended primarily as a current monthly report made by the Commander of the unit, formation or Head of the branch. It will be signed once, as a report, by the Commander, Head of a Branch, or Senior Staff Officer. It is also facts a historical record.

In order to ensure accuracy and completeness and to save work, as much important information as possible will be conveyed in appendices consisting, with one exception, of copies of documents issued and received in normal routine. The narrative is intended to supply information not given in the appendices. Consequently the narratives of units and formations engaged in active operations will consist of no more than a brief description of operations, with comments, and a diary of important events, whereas the narrative of other units and formations will be nothing more than a diary of events and circumstances.

(ix) Base, auxiliary, and advanced depot companies.

(x) Means of services and their representatives.

Note: In the case of headquarters, sections of the various branches may keep separate war diaries or one combined war diary, as is found convenient.

2. Both original and duplicate copies will consist of:-

- (a) Cover; (a) Index as printed on cover; (a) Narrative;
- (d) Appendices.

3. All details of the unit and formation (if a detachment is concerned, the name of the parent unit), period covered and folio numbers of appendices will be shown on the cover.

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In order to ensure accuracy and completeness and to save work, as much important information as possible will be conveyed in appendices containing, with one exception, of copies of documents issued and received in normal routine. The narrative is intended to supply information not given in the appendices. Consequently the narrative of units and formations engaged in active operations will consist of no more than a brief summary of operations, with comments, and a list of important events, whereas the narrative of other units and formations will be nothing more than a diary page and single.

#### NARRATIVE (A.P. 02118)

5. The narrative should be written up daily.

It should complement and connect the appendices, but need not give a précis of any of them.

It should contain:-

- (a) Account of operations with notes of topographical and climatic factors affecting them;
- (b) Notes of how orders were carried out;
- (c) Nature and description of field engineering work undertaken;

\* Formations the units belonging to the Indian Army will prepare complete War Diaries in triplicate.

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- (d) Note of any administrative difficulties encountered and action taken to overcome them.
- (e) Note of any time not accounted for above was spent. The type of training etc. should be specified.
- (f) Brief notes of the time of receipt and nature of orders and important messages and a reference to the Appendix location and radio number; and, only if necessary, a very brief note of the content.
- (g) Intermediate movements of units or formation.
- (h) Notes of any important visits paid and received by Commanders and Senior Staff officers. It is equally important to make a note of the reason for the visit and decisions taken.

The exact hour of occurrences should be noted.

#### APPENDICES.

##### 6. GROUPS.

Assignment of copies to the war diary. When an operation order, appreciation, letter laying down policy or other important document is prepared, two copies should be made at the time specifically for the war diary. This will be made a routine procedure, and the copies will be placed in a separate folder and not treated as spare copies.

It is essential that copies of all important documents should be placed in the war diary, including commanders "personnel" and semi-official messages which contain instructions of operational importance.

Examining of the Appendices. The appendices will be assembled in the GROUPS shown on the cover, NOT in simple chronological order. This is intended to make assembly and reference easy.

The index is designed to provide for the needs of as wide a variety of units, headquarters and branches as possible and to serve as a reminder of the types of documents required. It will generally be found, therefore, that there are no documents to be included in several of the appendices. In such cases the word "NIL" should be entered in the appropriate space in the index and the appendix left blank.

In the case of formation headquarters, where branches, sections of branches and services keep separate war diaries, and in the case of administrative units and installations, it will be found that, whereas many of the appendices listed on the cover are not applicable, certain of the papers to be included fall conveniently into distinct categories. In such cases the papers not provided for should be inserted by groups and lettered accordingly beginning with "K".

The exact hour of occurrence should be noted.

#### APPENDICES.

##### GENERAL

Assignment of copies to the war diary. When an operation order, appointment, letter laying down policy or other important document is prepared, two copies should be made at the time specifically for the war diary. This will be made a routine procedure, and the copies will be placed in a separate folder and not treated as spare copies.

It is essential that copies of all important documents should be placed in the war diary, including commanders' "personal" and semi-official messages which contain instructions of operational importance.

Grouping of the Appendices. The appendices will be assembled in the INDEX shown on the cover, NOT in simple chronological order. This is intended to make assembly and reference easy.

The index is designed to provide for the needs of as wide a variety of units, headquarters and branches as possible and to serve as a reminder of the types of documents required. It will generally be found, therefore, that there are no documents to be included in several of the appendices. In such cases the word "NIL" should be entered in the appropriate space in the index and the appendix left blank.

In the case of formation headquarters, where branches, sections or branches and services keep separate war diaries, and in the case of administrative units and installations, it will be found that, whereas many of the appendices listed on the cover are not applicable, certain of the papers to be included fall conveniently into distinct categories. In such cases the papers not provided for should be inserted by groups and lettered accordingly beginning with "X".

##### NOTES

Appendix "A". The forms which constitute this appendix are intended for use by operational units and headquarters of divisions and below. The form will be completed whether the unit or formation is engaged in active operations or not.

The forms are obtainable: Form for units and detachments; Form for formation headquarters. When printed forms are not available, preforms will be used; the correct headings are shown on page 4 of this cover.

The form are designed to elicit essential information which is readily available in the normal course of events, yet which is frequently omitted from war diaries. A reply to each question is required daily. Headquarters of higher formations, however, which regularly publish orders of battle, location statements, Army and other returns, and intelligence summaries and include them among the appendices, need not fill up the columns "Changes in Command", "Strength" and "Intelligence Notes", provided that full and regular information is given in the appropriate appendices.

The same form may be used for several consecutive days, a clear division being shown; but a fresh one should be taken into use at the beginning of each month.

Appendices "B" and "C". The signal log and messages kept by the unit or formation headquarters or by the signal unit or detachment attached will be placed in these appendices.

Appendices "E" and "F". Originators of documents are responsible for preserving copies for assignment to War Diaries. Nevertheless it is convenient to include in the War Diary copies of important orders and instructions received. If duplicates of these are not available for inclusion, a note of the fact should be made on the margin of originals and duplicates. It is emphasized that, whether copies of orders and instructions are included in the War Diary or not, a note of the receipt of such orders giving sufficient details to enable them to be identified, should be made in the narrative.

Appendix "I". Any statistical or other returns, i.e., location statements, Strength Status, lists, of Tpt., Arm. Returns, etc., should be included.

Appendix "M". Documents concerned with future planning for operations which will or may take place after the original copy of the normal War Diary is for despatch will form a supplementary War Diary. Documents normally handled by units and formations, even when graded "Secret" - "Officer only" will never fall into this category. Commanders' "personal" messages may be included in Appendix "J".

Appendix "N" will be prepared and disposed of as shown in paras 10-12 below.

#### DISPOSAL OF WAR DIARIES

8. War Diaries will be disposed of as follows:-

(a) Army Group, Army, and Corps Headquarters.

Originals ... To G.H.Q. and Colonel, B.N.A.F.

Duplicates ... To C(Records), HQ 15 Army Group.

The same information need not be repeated on several consecutive days, a clear distinction being shown; but a fresh one should be taken into use at the beginning of each month.

Appendices "g" and "h". The signal log and messages kept by the unit or formation headquarters or by the signal unit or detachment attached will be placed in these appendices.

Appendices "g" and "h". Outliners of documents are responsible for preserving copies for assignment to War Diaries. Nevertheless it is convenient to include in the War Diary, copies of important orders and instructions received. If duplicates of these are not available for inclusion, a note of the fact should be made in the covers of originals and duplicates. It is emphasised that, whether copies of orders and instructions are included in the War Diary or not, a note of the receipt of such orders giving sufficient details to enable them to be identified, should be made in the narrative.

Appendix "i". Any statistical or other returns, i.e. Location Statements, Strength Status, Lists of Troops, Ammunition, etc., should be included.

Appendix "j". Documents concerned with future planning for operations which will or may take place after the original copy of the normal War Diary is due for despatch will form a supplementary War Diary. Documents normally handled by units and formations, even when graded "Secret", "Officer Only" will never fall into this category. Communications: "Personnel" messages may be included in Appendix "j".

Appendix "k" will be prepared and disposed of as shown in pages 10-12 below.

#### DISTOCH OF WAR DIARIES

8. War Diaries will be disposed of as follows:-

(a) Army Group, Army, and Corps Headquarters.

Originals ... To GHQ 1st Echelon, R.N.A.F.

Duplicates... To G(Records), HQ 15 Army Group.

(b) Headquarters of other formations, and units.

(i) British

... To GHQ 2nd Echelon, R.N.A.F.

(ii) German

... To General Staff Section, GHQ, 2nd Echelon (W.A.), Philadelphia.

(iii) Other Dominions ... To respective 2nd Echelons.

(iv) Indian

... To GHQ 2nd Echelon, (Indian Section) MAF.

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The original copy will be forwarded to Second Echelon as soon as possible after the end of the month to which it refers. It will be accompanied by the duplicate copy (complete with all appendices) for the previous month.

Units and formations of the Indian Army will forward a duplicate copy of the war diary as the same time as the original and forward the triplicate a month later.

The duplicate, and in the case of Indian units and formations, triplicate, copies of the war diary will be carefully checked before despatch to ensure that they are identical in every respect with the original.

#### WEST SECRET SUPPLEMENTARY WAR DIARIES.

9. The documents referred to in the note on Appendix "J", together with a list of them made out on A.F. 1010 will be placed in a separate war diary cover. All details of unit and formation, date etc. will be filled in and the cover will be clearly marked in capitals: Appendix "J" - OFFICER ONLY.

If several distinct subjects fall into this category, it may be found convenient to sub-divide the papers by subject, lettering them in similar fashion to appendices of normal war diaries. In such cases the standard grouping of appendices should be adhered to as far as possible.

10. Supplementary war diaries will be retained by the headquarters concerned until the need for extreme secrecy has passed. They will then be disposed of in accordance with the instructions given in paragraph 7, except that the duplicate may be destroyed as soon as receipt of the original has been acknowledged.

In certain circumstances it may be considered inadvisable for these war diaries to be retained at formation headquarters. In such cases originals and duplicates may be forwarded by separate posts to E.F.S. under sealed cover, marked to (Secret), HQ 15 Army Group for retention. The instructions will be plainly marked "War Diary Appendix Z" and the name of the unit or formation and the date and year will be shown.

These appendices will be retained only when it is considered that the need for special security has passed. In order to allow this decision to be taken, a separate letter marked "Officer Only" will be addressed to G(Roberts), HQ 15 Army Group, giving an indication of the contents.

SECRETARY GENERAL

11. A War Diary is a record. The extraction and retention of appendices, maps, etc., from a War Diary is an offence under the Official Secrets Acts.

2. The documents referred to in the note on Appendix "B", together with a list of them made out on A.F. 02118 will be placed in a separate War Diary cover. All details of unit and formation, date etc. will be filled in and the cover will be clearly marked in capitals: Appendix "B" - OFFICER ONLY.

If several distinct subjects fall into this category, it may be found convenient to sub-divide the papers by subject, indicating them in similar fashion to specifications of normal war diaries. In such cases the standard grouping of appendices should be adhered to as far as possible.

Supplementary War Diaries will be retained by the headquarters concerned until the need for extreme secrecy has passed. They will then be disposed of in accordance with the instructions given in paragraph 7, except that the duplicates may be destroyed as soon as receipt of the original has been acknowledged.

In certain circumstances it may be considered inadvisable for these War Diaries to be retained at formation headquarters. In such cases originals and duplicates may be retained by separate posts of E.I.C. under serial cover codes to G(Rocmas), Hq 15 Army Group for ex-archival. The instructions will be plainly marked on the Diary Appendix 2, and the War Diaries will be retained in the date and year will be shown.

These appendices will be retained only when it is considered that the need for special security has passed. In order to allow this decision to be taken, a separate letter marked "Officer Only" will be addressed to G(Records), Hq 15 Army Group, giving an indication of the contents.

#### GENERAL NOTES

11. A War Diary is a unit. The extraction and retention of appendices, maps, etc., from a War Diary is an offence under the Official Secrets Act.

12. The object of a War Diary is to furnish a historical record of operations and to provide data upon which to base future requirements in any planning, equipment, organization and administration.

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## HQ. AME, 15 ARMY GROUP - WAR DIARY - PUBLIC SAFETY.

Serial No. 1.  
21. Oct. 42.  
AMG/H.15/2

| Date.          | Event.                                                     | Particulars.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16.Oct         | Move of Personnel AMOT<br>SICELM to AMG, 15 Army<br>Group. | Personnel 3 Officers and 33 O.Rs. left PATERNO for<br>the new H.Q. formation of AMOT, 15 Army Group,<br>included Major M.P. LOTHIAN, M.C., Staff for Public<br>Safety. The convoy arrived MARI evening 20.Oct.                                                                                                             |
| 17.Oct         | Forming Public Safety<br>Staff at AMG, 15 A.G.             | Major Lothian, the only officer for Public Safety.<br>Establishment asked for: At H.Q. 1 Lt.Col and 1<br>Major (British), 1 Captain (American); at 8 Army,<br>1 Major (British) and 2 Captains (American); at<br>5 Army, 1 Lt.Col (American) and 1 Major (British).                                                        |
| 18-20.<br>Oct. | Accommodation.                                             | Office and house accommodation set up in Villa<br>SESTE - TARANTO Road.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 24.Oct         | H.Q. 15 Army Group.                                        | Contact made with C.A.I.(b), 15 Army Group - Lt.<br>Colonel Gibson.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 22-25.<br>Oct. | At H.Q.                                                    | Nothing of Note.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 26.Oct         | Visits, No.2 Region.                                       | Major Lothian paid unofficial visit to H.Q. No.2<br>Region at MATINA, contacted Major POLLOCK, S.C.A.P.O.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 27.Oct         | Visits, HQ 8 Army.                                         | Visited H.Q. 8 Army and remained there till 29.Oct.<br>Discussions with Cpt. BENSON, Lt.Col. Lloyd<br>Carson and also with Lt.Col. Briggs arrived from<br>N.Africa for duty with No.4 Region, together with<br>other officers. There was only one Police<br>Officer at 8 Army - Cpt. Hewlings, now being used<br>as C.A.O. |
| 29.Oct         | Visits, HQ 8 Army.                                         | Returned from H.Q. 8 Army to BARI.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 30.Oct         | Visits, Capitanieri.                                       | Major Lothian called on Commandant, C.O.P.R. at<br>BARI.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 31.Oct         |                                                            | Nothing to report. Usual office work mainly<br>concerning arrests of civilians and evacuation<br>of refugees.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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17.Oct Forming Public Safety Staff at AMG, 15 A.C.

18-20. Accommodation.  
Oct.

21.Oct H.Q. 15 Army Group.  
Oct.

22-25. At H.Q.  
Oct.

26.Oct Visits, No.2 Region.

27.Oct Visits, HQ 8 Army.

29.Oct Visits, HQ 8 Army.

30.Oct Visits, Carabinieri.

31.Oct

Major Lothian, the only establishment set up in Villa Major (British), 1 Captain (American); at 8 Army, 1 Major (British) and 2 Captains (American); at 5 Army, 1 Lt.Col (American) and 1 Major (British).

Office and house accommodation set up in Villa SMITH - TARNITO Road.

Contact made with C.S.I(b), 15 Army Group - Lt. Colonel Gibson.

Nothing of Note.

Major Lothian paid unofficial visit to H.Q. No.2 Region at MATIERA, contacted Major POLLOCK, S.C.A.P.O.

Visited H.Q. 3 Army and remained there till 29.Oct. Discussions with Gp. Capt. HENDERSON, Lt. Col. Lloyd Carson and also with Lt. Col. BRIDGES arrived from N. Africa for duty with No.4 Region, together with other officers. There was only one Police Officer at 8 Army - Capt. Rawlings, not being used as C.A.O.

Returned from H.Q. 8 Army to BARI.

Major Lothian called on Commandant, C.C.R.R. at BARI.

Nothing to report. Usual office work mainly concerning arrests of civilians and evacuation of refugees.

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MPL/JC.

*[Signature]*  
Major,  
Public Safety Division.

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Subject: War Diaries.

Finance Division.  
Welfare Division.  
Legal Division.  
Supplies Division.  
Public Safety Division.  
A/Q.

AMG/35/4.

29.October.43.

1. Copy of H.Q. 15 Army Group instruction is enclosed.
2. Will Divisions please prepare war diaries for submission to Staff Captain "A" whose duty it will be to collate the information on the appropriate forms and for despatch to G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon, B.N.A.F.
3. The first period of the diary will be from 24.Oct to 31.Oct (both inclusive).
4. AMG, 5th and 8th Armies are submitting their own war diaries to this H.Q. and such will be despatched separately.

AMG,  
15 Army Group,  
C. H. F.  
FWJ/JG.

R.J.P. THORNE THORNE,  
Colonel,  
Senior Staff Officer.

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RESTRICTED.15AG/10703/1/G(Records).

26 Oct 43.

H.Q. 15 ARMY GROUP INSTRUCTION.PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF WAR DIARIES.

- (i) In order to ensure uniformity and a higher general standard in the preparation of war diaries, the method of compilation prescribed in ME Form 160 (Amended) will be taken into use by all British, Indian and Colonial forces under command W.C.F. 1 November 1943. War diaries for October, 1943 will be prepared in accordance with existing instructions and those for November and subsequent months in accordance with the new method.
- (ii) The attention of Commanding Officers and those responsible for preparing war diaries is called to the explanatory notes on the method prescribed, which form an Annexure to this instruction.
- (iii) The use of Army F 2119 will cease W.C.F. 1 November, 1943. M.E Form 160 will continue to be used until existing stocks are exhausted.
- When indenting for supplies of ME Form 160 (Amended) operational and mobile units should also indent for supplies of ME Form 161; headquarters of brigades and General Staff branches of corps and divisional headquarters for supplies of ME Form 162. Normal requirements are in the proportion: three copies of Form 161 or 162 to one of Form 160.
- Army Form C 2118 will continue to be used.
- (iv) Units and formations which have already been following the method prescribed in ME Form 160 should note that there are no changes in the method of compilation. Changes have, however, been made in the instructions for disposal of both normal and supplementary war diaries, and particular attention is called to the instructions given in paragraph 6 of the amended form.
- (v) The list of those responsible for producing war diaries is given in F.S.R. V.1.1, Section 174 and in paragraph 1 of ME Form 160 (Amended).

ANNEXURE.

to 15AG/10703/1/G(Records) of 26 Oct 43.

NOTES ON THE PREPARATION OF WAR DIARIES.

1. The general standard of war diaries kept by units and formations is not considered sufficiently high. Although a number are informative, accurate and well kept, a larger number, not prepared in accordance with any standard, are of little value. Some have not been

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Colonial Forces under Command W.C.F. 1 November 1943. The use of Army F 2119 will cease W.C.F. 1 November, 1943. M.E Form 160 will continue to be used until existing stocks are exhausted.

(ii) The attention of Commanding Officers and those responsible for preparing war diaries is called to the explanatory notes on the method prescribed, which form an Annexure to this instruction.

(iii) The use of Army F 2119 will cease W.C.F. 1 November, 1943. M.E Form 160 will continue to be used until existing stocks are exhausted.

When indenting for supplies of ME Form 160 (Amended) operational and mobile units should also indent for supplies of ME Form 161; headquarters of brigades and General Staff branches of corps and divisional headquarters for supplies of ME Form 162. Normal requirements are in the proportion: three copies of Form 161 or 162 to one of Form 160.

Army Form C 2418 will continue to be used.

(iv) Units and formations which have already been following the method prescribed in ME Form 160 should note that there are no changes in the method of compilation. Changes have, however, been made in the instructions for disposal of both normal and supplementary war diaries, and particular attention is called to the instructions given in paragraph 6 of the amended form.

(v) The list of those responsible for producing war diaries is given in F.S.R. V l.1, Section 174 and in paragraph 1 of ME Form 160 (Amended).

ANNEXURE:  
to 15AG/10703/1/G(Records) of 26 Oct 43.

#### NOTES ON THE PREPARATION OF WAR DIARIES.

1. The general standard of war diaries kept by units and formations is not considered sufficiently high. Although a number are informative, accurate and well kept, a larger number, not prepared in accordance with any particular system, contain little information of value. Some have not been kept at all.

2. It is important to realise that war diaries are not only the principal record of operation and administration, but the only regular source of factual information. Reports, when produced, supplement, but cannot supplant them. The inevitable result of inadequate war diaries will be biased and incomplete histories of the war; far worse, much valuable experience gained will be irretrievably lost.

War diaries are intended to provide a full record of the activities of all units and headquarters engaged in the prosecution of the war. Their preparation should be regarded not as an unnecessary and burdensome task, but as a normal part of these activities.

The Standard...../

The Standard of Compilation

3. The standard method of compilation is based on the developed in the field by certain units and formations. It has been in general use in M.E.F. and among units and formations ex M.E.F. for some months. Its object is to ensure that those charged with the task of compiling war diaries understood what documents and what information they should contain; and at the same time, by making the collection of documents and the recording of information a routine, to keep the amount of labour involved to a minimum.
4. The efficiency of the method in reducing labour and ensuring completeness and accuracy largely depends upon an invariable routine being closely observed. The arrangements for this can be introduced into normal office routine without upsetting it; in order to improve the general standard, these arrangements must be made and strictly adhered to.
5. It is not considered practicable to attempt to systematise the production of the narrative. Yet, among operational units and formations, orders are very frequently given verbally and documentary evidence of what has been accomplished is seldom, if ever, complete; so that the appendices tell only half the story. The narrative is of great importance. With much information ready to hand in the appendices to serve as a reminder, its preparation should be easier than it has been hitherto.
6. In the past the job of preparing the war diary has often been delegated to a particular officer simply in virtue of the appointment he holds, and who has little relish for the work. This is not necessary; and the job should, if possible, be delegated to someone who has a flair for writing and is likely to find the work easier and more congenial.

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