

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

Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

M.F.M. 11.

A.F.C. 2118.
100M-11-36 (9380)
H.Q. 1772-45-18

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			<p><u>ORIGINAL</u></p> <p>WAR DIARY.</p> <p>1ST. BN. THE BLACK WATCH (R.H.R.) OF CANADA.</p> <p>C.A.S.F.</p> <p><u>FROM APRIL 1-30th.1940.</u></p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto, Ont.	1.4.40	0600 0600	<p>Those men who had not previously received their second anti-tetanus inoculation, did so to-day.</p> <p>Drill and rifle training were the principal subjects in the form of a refresher to dispell any cobwebs accumulated by the men who had returned from the 14 days furlough.</p> <p>"B" Coy. were judged first in the inspection of lines held on 30th. March 1940.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease in strength.</p>	<i>JB</i>
Toronto, Ont.	2.4.40	0600 0600	<p>The Battalion paraded, for the route march, for the first time in Toronto without greatcoats. The effect that this had on the march discipline was very noticeable, the men marching more erect and showing a considerable increase in "esprit de corps". This occasion immediately brought to everyone's mind the possibility of the Kilt being placed in discard, none relish the idea. However the axe has not yet fallen and most men feel that there is hope that they will retain it as it adds immeasurably to the morale and pride of the Regiment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease in strength.</p>	<p>Read report Appendix. 1</p> <p><i>JB</i></p>
Toronto, Ont.	3.4.40	0600 0600	<p>Coys did L.M.G. training and drill in the morning.</p> <p>In the afternoon "B", "C", & "D" Company's practised indoor panorama drawing under the instruction of the Intelligence Section.</p> <p>"Hq" "A" & "E" Coys did Bayonet fighting and practised the handling of Grenades.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease in strength.</p>	<i>JB</i>

ROAD REPORT

ROUTE	TYPE OF ROAD	RIVERS	WATER	VULNERABILITY	CAMP SITES	REMARKS
<p>The Br. paraded at 830 hrs for a route march. The weather was excellent and for the first time in Toronto the men paraded without great coats, it was a pleasure to see the dark green of the Kilts again. The route taken was as follows LAKESHORE Blvd. into FEET WYFON FLEET into SPADINA past the City Dairy where a halt was called at 920 hrs. The route was resumed along Spadina to SPADINA RD. which led into DUPONT, at the junction of Dupont and Spadina was that grotesque piece of masonry known as CASA LOMA. From Dupont the Br. turned into DAVENPORT and from Davenport into AVENUE RD into QUEENS PARK where a halt was called the time now being 1020 hrs. The march was resumed along UNIVERSITY AVE. and at its limit the Br. turned right landed in to (P.T.O)</p>	<p>A Class Road all the way capable of carrying heavy transport. It may remark that there were some bad patches of Road along SPADINA which may prove embarrassing to heavy transport after some usage.</p>	<p>There were no rivers along route. Lake ONTARIO lay on the left of Lakeshore Blvd. This lake is capable of carrying ships of a considerable size.</p>	<p>Water obtainable throughout route for residences.</p>	<p>The route was open to fire from S.M.G. and would prove to be a veritable mine for snipers. Very little good natural cover afforded throughout route - the walls of the houses may prove some protection against shell blast.</p>	<p>The best camp site would be CASA LOMA. Also this would be a good observation point. Men would be billeted out in the residential area and in the University Buildings.</p>	<p>Distance covered on route The Br. was divided into two groups the first consisting of</p>

DATE 2nd April 1940
NAME F. Brakenshaw
BN. H.Q. I.A. SEC.

Front W. At SPADINA the Bn. crossed the
bridge into FLEET. At the TORONTO
STADIUM a halt was called the time was
now 1120 hrs. At 1130 hrs the march was
resumed along Lakeshore Blvd through
Princes gate into the Exhibition Grounds. The Bn
entered the HORSE PALACE AT 1215 hrs.




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Toronto, Ont.	4.4.40	0600 0600	<p>Those Company's which had not done field sketching previously, did so in the morning.</p> <p>The afternoon was occupied by instruction in messages, reports and practical application of First Aid. Both field sketching and First Aid appear to interest the men a great deal and while no embryo Whistler's or Mayos have as yet been discovered, nevertheless some excellent work is appearing.</p> <p>All ranks of the C.A.S.F. have been warned against communicating in any manner with strangers in order to avoid any leakage of military information, Ref; C.A.S.F. RO #387 dated 30th. Mar. 1940.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase Nil, Decrease 1 man.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	5.4.40	0600 0600	<p>The usual route march was held in the morning, some twelve miles being covered in excellent sunny weather, the Battalion moving out at 0830 hrs in two sections at a two minute interval. Bath parade and foot inspection was held in the afternoon. It was noticed that the number of men having sore feet after the route march has lessened quite considerably due to the prevailing good weather and an increase in knowledge of care of feet by the men themselves.</p> <p>An issue of Dubbin has been made available so that all boots may be waterproofed. D-81410 Cpl. Craig, H. of "HQ" Coy was struck off strength on transfer to Aldershot, England as a P.T. instructor. A most popular N.C.O. Cpl. Craig was chaired through the lines headed by the pipe band, entertained by the Sergeant's Mess and presented with a pig-skin wallet containing \$30.00 before he left, a proud but very envious Company. Considerable misgivings were felt when it was heard that Cpl. Craig was going overseas in battle-dress leaving his Kilt in Canada _____ will this be the fate of the whole Battalion?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase 7 men, decrease 1 man.</p>	<p>Read report Appendix. 1.</p> 
Toronto, Ont.	6.4.40	0600 0600	<p>Drill under Coy arrangements followed by R.S.M's parade and Commanding inspection of lines in the morning. No other parades.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto, Ont.	7.4.40	0600 0600	Hon. Capt. D. MacKay, Battalion Chaplain, held a voluntary church parade for Protestants in the Dry Canteen, there was a good attendance. No increase or decrease of strength.	<i>J.P.</i>
Toronto, Ont.	8.4.40	0600 0600	"HQ", "A" & "E" Coys studied the second of the field sketching periods while "B" & "C" & "D" Coys did W.T. rifle, the last period of the morning was given over to Kit Inspection. Commencing this date and weather permitting changing of the Guard is to take place outside the entrance of the Horse Palace. No increase or decrease of strength.	<i>J.P.</i>
Toronto, Ont.	9.4.40	0600 0600	The Battalion moved out at 0815 hrs, an earlier hour than usual, for the customary route march and returned at 1300 hrs having covered approximately 13½ miles. The weather was fair and cool. No increase or decrease of strength.	Road report. Appendix.1 <i>J.P.</i>
Toronto, Ont.	10.4.40	0600 0600	Parades were held by Companies according to the syllabus, this covered a variety of subjects including field sketching, bayonet fighting, indication of targets and use of hand grenades. Battle-dress was issued to all ranks. No increase or decrease of strength.	<i>J.P.</i>

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Toronto, Ont.	11.4.40	0600 0600	<p>After a morning spent in L.M.G. training followed by a lecture on defence the Battalion moved out to High Park area for occupation of a Defensive Position. "C" & "D" Companies were the forward defence with "A" & "B" in reserve, "HQ" supplied intercommunication with advance mobile protection being provided by the Bren Gun Carrier Platoon. The forward Company's placed out-posts in position while the Intelligence Section occupied their own O.P's.</p> <p>This was the first occasion on which the Battalion had worn Battle-dress and while it at first gave the men much cause for merriment it was later admitted to be extremely useful as the exercises were carried out in a steady down-pour of rain and while they would have complained, as all soldier's will, if their tunic's and Kilts had been soaked none cared in the slightest if the "battle-bloomers" were drenched _____ in fact, there were several hopeful ones who wished for shrinkage to occur!</p> <p>Several amusing incidents helped to dispell any moans anent the rain, for example, communications were somewhat delayed as the Signal Sergeant had lost his Platoon while the O.C. "HQ" had lost both, when last seen the gallant N.C.O., wet but undaunted, was trudging towards enemy positions.</p> <p>A certain Bren Gun Carrier N.C.O., apparently baffled by the rain and mist was heard to ask a member of the Intelligence Section "How the _____ can one get out of this _____ park" His temper was not improved when in lieu of the required information, it was suggested that he do a little map reading practice.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	12.4.40	0600 0600	<p>The part of the Battalion which had been on furlough returned in the morning and their first sight of military life in Toronto was the remainder of the Battalion, in battle-dress, marching out on the morning's route march.</p> <p>There had been a slight fall of snow during the night and the morning thaw made the roads very wet. Due to this the order for march included the wearing of rubbers which caused much discomfort and many blisters. The men off furlough received their new rifles, the remainder of the unit having been issued with them on the 11th.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase 28 men, decrease Nil.</p>	

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Toronto, 13.4.40 Ont.		0600 0600	<p>Saturday activities were as usual relegated to the morning only and consisted of drill and O.C's inspection of lines.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase 1 man, decrease Nil.</p>	
Toronto, 14.4.40 Ont.		0600 0600	<p>A church parade was held in the Music Hall for the Protestant members of the Battalion, Capt.D.B.MacKay officiated and the C.O. Lt.Col.K.G.Blackader,M.C.E.D. read the lesson.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No strength increase or decrease.</p>	
Toronto, 15.4.40 Ont.		0600 0600	<p>Monday saw the commencement of a week of rifle and Lewis Gun practice on the ranges at Long Branch situated some ten miles from Barracks. During the day, the Intelligence Section conducted a test of judging distances for all N.C.O's and men awaiting their turn to fire. Pay parade was held upon return to the Horse Palace.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	
Toronto, 16.4.40 Ont.		0600 0600	<p>Firing was continued at Long Branch Ranges all day, men being served hot meals at mid-day. These meals were transported to the ranges by the Transport Platoon truck, the only one as yet issued to the Battalion, the pride and joy of Lieut.W.A.Wood, T.O. but vulgarly known to the rest of the Battalion as "The Puddle Jumper" or "Lucrece" the later name probably due to its worn appearance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	

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Toronto, Ont.	17.4.40	0600 0600	<p>Judging distance and firing practise was continued at the ranges by "HQ", "D" and some of "B", while the remainder of the Battalion held tactical exercises in High Park.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	18.4.40	0600 0600	<p>"D" Coy paraded to High Park where a tactical scheme planned by Major Wright was carried out successfully.</p> <p>New recruits shortly after their arrival from Montreal are becoming casualties from "Horse Palace Throat" the ailment which the Ex caused the Battalion so much grief in January.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength,</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	19.4.40	0600 0600	<p>Route March without greatecoats. "A" Coy fired L.M.G.</p> <p>Lieut. W.J.C. Stikeman has been taken on strength from the 2nd. Battalion and is posted to "E" Coy for duty.</p> <p>A fresh draft of recruits arrived from the Depot.</p> <p>Lieut. B.R. Ritchie was promoted Captain effective Mar. 13, 1940.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase 1 Officer 4 Other ranks.</p>	

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Toronto, Ont.	20.4.40	0600 0600	<p>Training of the new personel under Capt, Rawlings supervision is progressing very favourably. The average recruit is of a good standard and so far have caused little occasion for C.S.M. MacFarlane's vituperation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No strength increase or decrease.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	21.4.40	0600 0600	<p style="text-align: center;">No Parades.</p>	
Toronto Ont.	22.4.40	0600 0600	<p>To-day is the commencement of the Classification at Long Branch ranges of all ranks in L.M.G. (Lewis) practise and it is expected, in view of the shooting during the past few days, that the battalion will show a good return. Those Companys not proceeding to the Open Ranges are either using the Miniature Range in the Fort York Armoury to become accustomed to tank targets or practising field sketching and specialist work.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase Nil, decrease 1 man.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	23.4.40	0600 0600	<p>Bn. HQ, HQ. And C Companys went to Long Branch Ranges for classification in L.M.G. (Lewis) practise, while A & E Companys had a route march. B Coy being duty Company provided markers for the butts at Long Branch.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase Nil, decrease 1 man.</p>	

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Toronto, Ont.	24.4.	40 0600 0600	<p>To-day being the last day at Long Branch ranges for L.M.G. classification. A good number of casuals turned out in addition to the Companys scheduled for the day.</p> <p>Lt.Col.Blackader and the Company Commanders proceeded to the vicinity of Hagerman's Corner & Unionville, some twenty odd miles north of the Exhibition grounds, on a Battalion Reconnaissance Party in preparation for Tactical Exercises without Troops.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase Nil, decrease 2 men.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	25.4.	40. 0600 0600	<p>Considerable activity with Compasses was noticed amongst Platoon Leaders together with an anxious and, in some cases, perturbed manner probably due to the fact that the syllabus for the to-day includes night work.</p> <p>The Battalion moved out by Companys at 3 minute intervals, commencing at 1910 hrs, and immediately on arrival at High Park proceeded to the area allotted for training. A good deal of very useful and most interesting knowledge was picked up by the men during this night work and it was realized by all that constant practise is necessary to instil a feeling of self-convidence during patrol-work at night. The Battalion returned to the Horse Palace at 2330 hrs and were served with hot soup and biscuits.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	26.4.	40 0600 0600	<p>The Battalion paraded to the area outside the Prince's Gate where the morning was spent in ceremonial drill. It is no exaggeration to say that the men drilled faultlessly and that all spectators were greatly impressed by the spectacle. The Intelligence Section proceeded to the area, Hagerman's Corner and Unionville in order to reconnoitre and map the territory designated for T.E.W.T.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">cont'd</p>	

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Toronto, Ont.	26.4.40		(Cont'd) Strength increase 30 men, decrease Nil.	
Toronto, Ont.	27.4.40	0600 0600	The morning consisted of the customary R.S.M's parade followed by the Commanding Officer's inspection of lines. No increase or decrease of strength.	
Toronto, Ont.	28.4.40	0600 0600	No Church parades were held. The men are making good use of the sports equipment which has been supplied the Battalion. Delightful spring weather has quickly dried up the training area supplying the necessary recreational spaces. Cricket, soccer and soft-ball have been attempted and teams are being organized within the Coy's Track sports under the supervision of Capt. Petch will soon be in progress. Two afternoons per week have been allotted to each Coy for games and the men are anticipating lively competitions as there exists a great deal of friendly rivalry between Coys. No increase or decrease in strength.	


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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto, Ont.	29.4.40	0600 0600	<p>Hagerman's Corners was again used for Reconnaissance purposes this time by Coy Commanders under the direction of Lt.Col.Blackader. This is an ideal training area but a trifle too distant for use by the troops. An adequate space for Battalion manoeuvres has been very difficult to locate and for this reason alone the imminent move to Val Cartier is welcomed. Indoor training palls frightfully and the few tactical schemes carried out have through lack of space been performed under Coy arrangements. These have proved very successful and are greatly enjoyed by the men.</p> <p>No increase or decrease in strength.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	30.4.40	0600 0600	<p>The Battalion Route March was carried out in marvellous weather, traffic was avoided to a great extent by following a Rural Route. Contrary to the general belief, that the men prefer a tour of the city where they have an opportunity to show themselves off, the march in the country was much more popular. Major B.S.Molson was attached to the Battalion as Paymaster with rank of Lieutenant effective Mar.6th.1940, Authority C.A.S.F. RO.#449.</p> <p>Strength decrease 1 Man, Total Strength 933.</p>	