

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries; (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in F.S. Regs. 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 (9360)  
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
Aldershot Eng.	1 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>No parades. 100 (one hundred) men proceeded by motor transport, under the guidance of Hon. Capt. D.B. Mackay, to visit Windsor Castle and Old Park. Major L.L. Ibbotson E.D. assumed command of the Battalion in the absence on landing leave of Lt. Col. K.G. Blackader E.D.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	MC <i>[Signature]</i>
"	2 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>Training continued under Company arrangements with a view to having all W.T. and T.O.E. Ts completed by the end of the present year. G.O.C 2nd Cdn Div commended Lieuts D.H. Taylor and R.B. Somerville for the manner in which they carried out self-contained exercises with their respective sub-units, (5 Inf Bde. 0 -190 d/30 Nov. 40)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	Pt. I #149 para 4. <i>[Signature]</i>
"	3 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>The Battalion moved out to area defending the coastal approaches to Farnham as part of a Brigade move. Reconnaissance of the area was made. Company positions were allotted, pill-boxes manned and Signals set up inter-communication. Company meals were cooked in the area and all ranks agreed that the result was excellent, an amazingly good steak being included in each man's meal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	<i>[Signature]</i>
"	4 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>Training continued under Company arrangements with the principal items being route marches, A.A. control, D.A.G. and Map reading. All respirators anti-gas are now worn every day for at least half-an-hour in order to accustom everyone to continue their work, either clerical or otherwise, under the circumstances attendant on a gas warning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase 1, decrease NIL.</p>	<i>[Signature]</i>
"	5 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>'A' Company left on seven days privilege leave, the first company in the Battalion to be granted it. As this leave is being organized on a Brigade basis it means that Companies of the Black Watch will receive it at three week intervals, this is also a precaution against the reduction of the fighting strength of the Brigade to low numbers. Each Company continues to do at least one period of night work per week.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	<i>[Signature]</i>
"	6 Dec	0600 0600	<p>In addition to the concentration on small arms training, LMG and map reading every Company has considerable instruction in the 'Platoon in the Defence'. The weather continues to live up to the English reputation and considerable rain and mist is prevalent.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	<i>[Signature]</i>

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries; (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in F.S. Regs. 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 (9360)  
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
Aldershot, Eng.	7 Dec 40	0600 0600	The Battalion paraded in the morning for the customary C.O.'s parade which was followed by Company's parading under Company Commanders' arrangements. No increase or decrease of strength.	<i>RSB</i>
"	8 Dec 40	0600 0600	Church Parade was held and Divine Service celebrated in St Andrew's Church, men of Roman Catholic persuasion proceeding to St Michael's Church. The usual Sunday excursion for 100 men was arranged, the visit this time being to Oxford University where the men and a small additional party of W.O.s and N.C.Os were conducted over the various Colleges and grounds. No increase or decrease of strength.	APPENDIX #6. <i>RSB</i>
"	9 Dec 40	0600 0600	Another practise move was held in anticipation of the long-heralded Distinguished Visitors. It was found that not only was the area allotted to the Battalion in an extremely muddied condition but that also there was insufficient cover for all transport, this was solved by the good offices of the Regiment de Maissonneuve who allotted us a small part of their area adjoining the Battalion's left flank. A complete reconnaissance of the ground was made by Majors Ibbotson and Routledge together with the a/Adjutant Lieut W.J.Stikeman, maps were prepared by the I.Sect. Strength increase Nil, decrease 1.	<i>RSB</i>
"	10 Dec 40	0600 0600	Companys continued their training in accordance with the syllabus and although the rain made conditions unpleasant considerable practise was acquired in digging, sandbagging and wiring. No increase or decrease of strength.	<i>RSB</i>
"	11 Dec 40	0600 0600	In addition to the regular training schedule a demonstration of camouflage for trenches, gun pits, observation posts and snipers was given by Lieut. F.P.Griffin and D.82250 L/Cpl Treacy, J.J. assisted by members of the I.Sect. In the evening a sand-table scheme was held for the officers on the sand-table on which a new area had been reproduced by the I.Sect. No increase or decrease of strength.	<i>RSB</i>
"	12 Dec 40	0600 0600	'A' Coy returned from privilege leave. General training continued. The great necessity for all ranks to pay heed to security measures has been stressed as it is only natural that an area such as Aldershot where there are large numbers of troops stationed, should be a good source from which the enemy may obtain vital information, this can only be prevented by the <i>MEN ADHERING STRICTLY TO SECURITY INSTRUCTIONS.</i>	<i>RSB</i>

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries; (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in F.S. Regs. 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 (9360)  
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
Aldershot Eng.	13 Dec	0600 0600	'B' and 'E' Coys moved out for the day on tactical schemes and rendezvoused for the noon meal which was prepared in the field. Remainder of the Battalion, less Duty Coy, carried out training in LMG, digging, sandbagging and wiring. No increase or decrease of strength.	NJB
"	14 Dec 40	0600 0600	The 2nd Cdn Division under the command of Maj.Gen'l V.Odlum CB CMG DSO was host to <del>XXX</del> H.M.Secretary of State for War, the Rt Hon. Anthony Eden, and accordingly the 5th Cdn Inf Bde, of which the Battalion forms a part, was inspected by him. Instructions for inspection by Distinguished Visitors, copy of which is attached, was carried out by the Battalion. As was to be expected at this time of the year the proceedings were marred, at least in the view of the troops, by a steady rain. Lt.Col.K.G.Blackader MC ED commanded the Battalion. No increase or decrease of strength.	APPENDIX # 7. NJB
"	15 Dec 40	0600 0600	Church Parade was held and Divine Service celebrated in St George's Garrison Church. The Sunday Visit was this time to Salisbury where 100 men were conducted over the famous XIII th Century Cathedral and other points of historical interest. In addition to the time spent on the conducted part of these trips the men are allowed several hours to see places of local interest in their own time and the Battalion has made many friends in this way in all the towns visited. No increase or decrease of strength.	APPENDIX # 8. NJB
"	16 Dec 40	0600 0600	Training by Companys consisted of A.A. LMG Map Reading Practise Loading of Vehicles and 'A' Coy received a lecture on 'The Platoon in Withdrawal'. Lieut E. Motzfeldt of 'E' Coy, who returned on 14 Dec from Sniping Course NRA Wing at Bisley, took over the duties of Intelligence Officer in the place of Lieut J.D.W.Halbert still in 15th Can General Hospital at Bramshot. Excellent shows continued to be given at the Garrison Theatre where the Canadian Legion arranged free admission for Canadian troops on many occasions. Strength increase 1, decrease 1.	NJB
"	17 Dec 40	0600 0600	A Court of Enquiry was called to enquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of D.81188 Pte Elder, C.B. who shot himself with his rifle on Saturday, 14 Dec.1940 :- President Major J.C.Routledge Members Capt.E.C.Rawlings Lieut.D.H.Taylor	/continued

Title pages will be prepared.

# WAR DIARY

OR

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

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
Aldershot, Eng.	17 Dec 40	/continued.	<p>Reveille was at 0400 hours and the Battalion moved out as part of the Brigade on a 24 hour scheme and tactical exercise. The tactical scheme consisted of an advance by the Black Watch, left sector, and the Calgary Highlanders, right sector, with the Regiment de Maissonneuve in support, to take the first objective. Upon the capture of the first objective the R.de Mais. moved through the forward Battalions to take the second objective. The enemy were reported to be holding the general area Gravel Hill 322855 - Caesars Camp 3085 (ref:- Aldershot Command 1" to 1 mile). At the end of the tactical scheme, Lieut.Col. K.G.Blackader MC ED took over the duties of Brigade Commander, 5th Can Inf Bde. All meals were cooked in the area. A route march of approximately 9 miles was held after the exercises to the Embussing Point at Yately Common, this area was reached at 2100 hours and it was noticeable that the excellent physical condition of the men resulted in not one falling during a very strenuous day. At 2300 hours the Battalion embussed in troop-carrying busses and returned to Aldershot via a circuitous route Yately Common - Odiham - Alton - Farnham - Aldershot, the route being some forty miles. Albuhera Barracks was reached at as late an hour as 0515 hours the weather being extremely foggy and consequently slowing the progress of the column.</p> <p>This period of twenty-five hours was the most exacting test of the men's physique and the condition of the Battalion that has as yet been experienced in England and all ranks stood up very well.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	
"	18 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>The Battalion, less the Duty Company, had no parades in the morning in view of the late return from the Brigade exercise. D.81188 Pte Elder C.B. was buried in Brookwood Cemetery. Considerable Christmas mail arrived for the Battalion and D.81228 L/Cpl Mercier, the Battalion postman, has been extremely busy with the sorting and distribution, the mail received for this period was the heaviest in the history of the country and military personnel have been called upon to assist at the distributing centres, this Battalion sending women to Bournemouth and two to London for this purpose.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	NSB
"	19 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>Each Company has been allotted one morning per week for a demonstration of and practise at the use of assault and reconnaissance boats and kapok assault bridge. The Commanding Officer has congratulated the Battalion on the report of blackout patrols which stated the black-out in Albuhera Barracks to be excellent (ref. Ptl Orders). The following Special Order of the Day was published by Maj.General D.G.Johnson VC CB DSO MC, GOC Aldershot Command:- "The following telegram was sent to His Majesty the King on the occasion of</p>	NSB

Title pages will be prepared.

# WAR DIARY

OR

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

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
Aldershot, Eng.	19 Dec 40	0600/0600	continued. His Majesty's birthday -----'All ranks of the Aldershot Command send their congratulations and loyal good wishes on the occasion of Your Majesty's birthday.' The following reply was received:- "Please convey to all ranks my sincere thanks for their kind birthday message. GEORGE, R.I. " No increase or decrease of strength.	Pt 1, #156 19 Dec 40. <i>NSB</i>
"	20 Dec 40	0600/0600	Practise in camouflage, use of assault boats and kapok bridges and the Platoon in Withdrawal made up the training for the day. I Sect and the Medical Sections continued with their specialist training. More mail from Canada has been lost due to enemy action ( ref DRO #556 of 20 Dec 40) but this Battalion has been very lucky as no large quantities of mail for it appear to have been lost although several of the <del>rank</del> men grouse at the non-arrival of cigarettes, this however is probably due to incorrect addressing by the senders and to the great amount of work for the Imperial Tobacco Company and Macdonalds Ltd, the cigarette manufacturers in Canada, entailed by the making, wrapping and forwarding of large quantities for the CASF overseas. Lieut.Col K.G.Blackader MC ED took over the duties of Brigade Commander and Major J.C.Routledge those of Battalion Commander with effect from this date until 28 Dec 40. Lieut A.G.Stevenson and D.81281 P.S.M. Bleasdale, F. have been commended by the Divisional Commander for the way in which they conducted their platoons' self-contained exercises. No increase or decrease of strength.	APPENDIX #9. <i>NSB</i>
"	21 Dec 40	0600/0600	Commanding Officer's Parade was held followed by Company Commanders' parades. Pay parade was held for those members of the Battalion that were proceeding on three days Christmas leave. No increase or decrease of strength.	<i>NSB</i>
"	22 Dec 40	0600/0600	Church Parade for the Protestant members of the Battalion was held and Divine Service celebrated at St. Andrews Church. Roman Catholic soldiers proceeded to St Michael's Church. No increase or decrease of strength.	<i>NSB</i>
"	23 Dec 40	0600/0600	Approximately 300 of all ranks proceeded on Christmas leave, the great majority going to London which still has its old attraction for the troops despite the frequent enemy visits and aerial visiting cards. A small number of those remaining practised the use of assault boats and bridges on the Basingstoke Canal near Elmore Bridge, however the bulk were fully occupied by additional fatigues entailed by the shortage of numbers. No increase or decrease of strength.	<i>NSB</i>

Title pages will be prepared.

# WAR DIARY

OR

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

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																														
Aldershot Eng.	24 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>With the exception of the men on guard duty almost the entire remnant of the Battalion including specialists were engaged on fatigues. In the evening quite a large number of men went out to private invitations to celebrate <del>Christmas</del> Eve. This was the first Christmas Eve the Battalion had spent away from Montreal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	<i>MSB</i>																														
"	25 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>Lieut Col K.G.Blackader MC ED and officers attended the noonday Christmas meal for the men and wished them all a very Merry Christmas at the same time thanking them for the good work they had done since mobilization. Lieut. Col Blackader also announced that the Canadian Corps had been formed and that the Battalion, as part of the 2nd Division, was a member of this formation which perpetuates the famous Canadian Corps of the last Great War. The Commanding Officer, whose entrance to the Mess Hall was preceded by the Pipe Band under L/Cpl Donald Sutherland, was roundly cheered by all ranks. The Christmas Dinner provided was avowed by all to be the best meal they had received since joining the army, consisting of turkey, ham, roast pork, vegetables and plum pudding, not to mention the beer also supplied.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	APPENDIX #11 <i>MSB</i>																														
"	26 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>131 men of the Battalion left for 7 days privilege leave, these were the first half of HQ Coy and Bn Hq details, with a number from E Coy. D.82051 Pte Gorringer D.V. of HQ Coy died at 1500 hours in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, as a result of myloid-leukaemia. A party of thirteen officers arrived from Canada, as reinforcements to the Battalion, as follows:-</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">'B'</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Lieut. D.Cowans Jr</td> <td style="width: 15%;">'C'</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Lieut. J.R.Popham</td> <td style="width: 15%;">'E'</td> <td style="width: 20%;">Lieut. G.C.Jarvis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>'D'</td> <td>" M.H.Cassils</td> <td>'B'</td> <td>" G.M.G.Johnstone</td> <td>'E'</td> <td>" C.R.H.Porteous</td> </tr> <tr> <td>'A'</td> <td>" J.W.Buchanan</td> <td>'E'</td> <td>" I.H.Louson</td> <td>'E'</td> <td>" T.D.Anyon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>'D'</td> <td>" G.C.Fraser</td> <td>'E'</td> <td>" C.L.Stuart</td> <td>'E'</td> <td>" J.A.Rolland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>'HQ'</td> <td>" A.L.MacLaurin</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>and were posted to Companies for duty as above w.e.f 26 Dec 1940.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	'B'	Lieut. D.Cowans Jr	'C'	Lieut. J.R.Popham	'E'	Lieut. G.C.Jarvis	'D'	" M.H.Cassils	'B'	" G.M.G.Johnstone	'E'	" C.R.H.Porteous	'A'	" J.W.Buchanan	'E'	" I.H.Louson	'E'	" T.D.Anyon	'D'	" G.C.Fraser	'E'	" C.L.Stuart	'E'	" J.A.Rolland	'HQ'	" A.L.MacLaurin					<i>MSB</i>
'B'	Lieut. D.Cowans Jr	'C'	Lieut. J.R.Popham	'E'	Lieut. G.C.Jarvis																													
'D'	" M.H.Cassils	'B'	" G.M.G.Johnstone	'E'	" C.R.H.Porteous																													
'A'	" J.W.Buchanan	'E'	" I.H.Louson	'E'	" T.D.Anyon																													
'D'	" G.C.Fraser	'E'	" C.L.Stuart	'E'	" J.A.Rolland																													
'HQ'	" A.L.MacLaurin																																	
"	27 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>A Battalion route march was held in the morning which gave all ranks the opportunity to shake down to soldiering again after the Christmas festivities. The afternoon was used for Weapon Training by all Companies with the exception of HQ and BN HQ who continued with their specialist training and duties.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Increase of strength NIL, decrease 1.</p>	<i>MSB</i>																														

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries; (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in F.S. Regs. 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 (9360)  
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
Aldershot Eng.	28 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>Commanding Officer's parade was held in the morning, followed by specialist training for Bn Hq and HQ Coy while the rifle companies trained under Company Commanders' arrangements. No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	S.M.
"	29 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>A voluntary church parade was held, for Protestants, to St. Andrews Church and Roman Catholic members of the Battalion attended service at St Michael's Church. During the evening a strong rose coloured glow was observed <del>by</del> in the sky in the direction of London and later it was confirmed to be the reflection of the huge fires started by the enemy during their infamous and wanton bombing of the City of London with incendiaries. Increase of strength 13 officers, decrease 1 man .....</p>	S.M. Names of new officers given under date 26.12.40
"	30 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>A practise parade was held on the Battalion parade ground in the morning for the visit of a Distinguished Visitor, this consisted of a demonstration of Company marching and drill by D Company, under the command of Major W. Wright, during which the Pipe Band played, rapid loading of transport by men of 'A' Company under the direction of Major S. Cantlie, each Company demonstrated a particular part of the regular training undergone. The Medical Section gave an exhibition of stretcher drill while the guards at the entrance and exit were provided by the I. Section. Pay parade was held after the practise had been completed. At 1500 hours the Hon. Col. Ralston, the Minister of National Defence for Canada, accompanied by Maj. General V. Odium CB G.O.C. 2nd Canadian Division, arrived to inspect the Battalion during his tour of the C.A.S.F. in England. The Minister spoke warmly to all ranks and thanked the Battalion for the work it had done so far during the present war. Col Ralston expressed his belief that the traditions and record created by the Black Watch in the Great War of 1914-1918 would be worthily upheld by the present Battalion. The Battalion gave three hearty cheers. Lt. Col. K.G. Blackader then thanked the Minister for coming and, as Col. Ralston had just left hospital from a recent illness and had not fully recovered, expressed his hope that Col. Ralston would soon regain his strength. Before the Minister left, the officers were introduced to him as was the Pipe-Major, D. 81078 L/Cpl Donald Sutherland, who has many years of military service in the Imperial Army and was previously Pipe-Major of the Highland Light Infantry. D. 82051, Pte Gorringer, D.V. who died on 26 Dec 40, was buried in Brookwood Cemetery. The following message was published for all ranks to read and came from His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, the Earl of Athlone :- Will you please convey my best wishes for Christmas and New Year to all ranks of the Canadian Army. I am glad to have had an opportunity of seeing something of their work and training, and I have gained</p>	S.M. MC ED

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

Title pages will be prepared.

# WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

**M.F.M. 11.**  
A.F.C. 2118.  
1 Mil.—8-39 (1708)  
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
Aldershot Eng.	30 Dec 40		<p>continued:- the impression that both at home and abroad they are possessed of those fine soldierly qualities of which a long period of waiting is a supreme test. I am certain that when the time comes for them to meet the enemy on the field of battle they will acquit themselves in a way that is worthy of the great tradition of Canadian soldiers throughout the world.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ATHLONE." No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>J.M.</i></p>
"	31 Dec 40	0600 0600	<p>The leave party for three days New Year leave left at 0900 hours, the great majority as for Christmas leave, proceeding to London. Transport was provided by road as far as Putney from which district the men carried on under their own arrangements. The remainder of the Battalion received specialist training and TOET's. Lt.Col.K.G.Blackader MC ED left on privilege leave and Major I.L.Ibbotson ED took over command of the Battalion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	<p>APPENDIX # 10 <i>J.M.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>K.G. Blackader</i> <i>A.L.P.</i></p>