

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.

*Original.*

# 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
Toronto, Ont.	1.2.40	0600	<p>A great deal of time has been spent on the training of the Battalion in Dannert, wiring &amp; bombing. Lt.Col.K.G.Blackader &amp; other officers attended a lecture in the evening, given by Col.Weeks,MC.M.M. on Inter-communication. D-81001. C.S.M.Dynes, transferred to Reg.Depot, Owing to a heart condition, A great send off was given to this excellent Warrant officer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength decrease, 1</p>	<i>JA</i>
		hrs. 0600 hrs.		
	2.2.40	0600	<p>The usual Friday Route March was held, Owing to the bitterly cold wind the kilt was discarded &amp; men were paraded in fatigue pants &amp; puttees. Permission was granted Officers &amp; men to wear Balaclava's. Lt.Col.Blackader being the only officer not to take advantage of this rare comfort.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength</p>	<i>JA</i>
		hrs 0600 hrs		
3.2.40	0600	<p>Following a period of P.T.the lines were inspected by the O.C.Keen competition between companies for first place is demonstrated.Bn.H.Q's at last were granted their place in the sun by scoring top honours. Officers of the 2nd.division &amp; their wives were entertained at a reception given in their honour by the Lieut.Governor of the Province.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength</p>	<i>JA</i>	
	0600			
4.2.40	0600	<p>Voluntary church parades do not appear to have much drawing power, and definitely need a stimulant. Total parade consisted of the O.C., three officers, three C.S.Ms., one sergeant, two privates. Our Padre, Capt MacKay, refuses to be discouraged by the poor showings. It is to be hoped that better attendances will be registered as time passes, and the men become more familiar with Capt MacKay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength</p>	<i>JA</i>	
	0600			

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Toronto, Ont.	5.2.40	0600 0600	<p>Sick Parades are more reasonable. The epidemic of throat trouble seems to have cleared.</p> <p>Blankets were shaken, after which drill was performed by Companies. Members of the Intelligence Section have constructed a sand-table in the Fort York Armoury but owing to mice burrowing, the landscape presents a change of scene each morning. The Signal Platoon have been granted the use of a Company room in the Fort York Armoury and are now devoting the majority of their time to their specialist training.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No strength increase or decrease</p>	
	6.2.40	0600 0600	<p>A Route March to High Park where the Bn. practised the attack by Companies was thoroughly enjoyed. The epidemic of sore throats is almost over, sick parades having been reduced to normal.</p> <p>During the afternoon the Black Watch received a challenge from the R.C.A.F. unit stationed here to a Tug of War. This was accepted with alacrity and the result proved very satisfactory. According to the letter of the challenge, the R.C.A.F. were going to drag the Bn. team out of their hall to the Horse Palace where the Highlanders would be comfortably tucked in. Unfortunately, the Bn. team weighed over 2000 lbs. of very solid muscle and without much strain reversed the boast.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase, 2</p>	
	7.2.40	0600 0600	<p>Bn H Q's, acting as the enemy, were posted under cover within the training area. The Bn then sent out Reconnaissance Patrols and the sending of verbal and written messages, observation, and fieldcraft were practised. Some results were very encouraging to the judges on the grandstand, but many mistakes of an obvious nature are still made. An amusing finale occurred when, after three hours in the snow, the enemy decided to surrender and greeted the last patrol, hands above their heads, yelling, "Kamerad!"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase, 2</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto	7.2.40	Continued	<p>Amongst the guests at the Mess Dinner were the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Sir Montagu Allan, Lt. Col. Basher, <del>M.C.</del> E.D., O.C. of the Royal Regiment, Brigadier R.O. Alexander, D.S.O., members of his staff. In a short address Lt. Col. Blackader, M.C. E.D. mentioned briefly Sir Montagu Allan's long association with the Regiment and warmly thanked him for his presence. Opportunity was taken at this time to express to the Brigadier the Bn's appreciation of his efforts on its behalf. The honour paid the Black Watch on the Bn's arrival when Lt Col Basher M.C. E.D. formed his Regiment as a hollow square at the station received due tribute.</p>	
	8.2.40		<p>Posting and sentry duties were carried out at the Fort York Armoury. No strength increase or decrease</p>	
	9.2.40		<p>Streets covered with ice made marching very difficult. This was the first Route March taken by the Bn in full kit. A very cold wind blew throughout the route but evidently the men are <del>hardening</del> fast as there were no comments made. The Bn appears to be quite settled down to Barrack life. Health of the men has improved a great deal causing a very favorable impression. Strength increase, 2</p>	

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100M-11-38 (9380)  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto	10.2.40	0600 0600	<p>Blanket shaking has in the past been carried out in a rather haphazard manner. No regard was taken for the possible spread of infection from dust off soiled blankets. In the future, smaller groups of men will perform this task allowing the wind to blow away from them.</p> <p>During the line inspection the fire alarm was played. In a little under four minutes all Coys were lined up and fire stations attended.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	
	11.2.40		<p>A larger attendance was noted at the voluntary church parade. Returning to the Barracks in the wee sma' oors, from a rather successful evening, D81777, Piper Mackay, felt the call of nature. As the R.M.O.C. Bldg. was the most convenient, the worthy Piper endeavored to use its shelter; but the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley and the gallant collapsed into the arms of Morpheus halfway to his mark. Missing Mackay, his crony went in search and to his astonishment found him with a rather alarmed bear cub on his chest, cuffing heartily. Mackay, his tunic already ripped and badly peeved at his rude awakening, seized the bears leg and bit hard. The bear, an R.A.O.C. pet, yelled and scuttled off to his den while the piper, his pride restored, returned to the Barracks and five days C.B.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	
	12.2.40	0600 0600	<p>Tests of elementary training have been given added impetus for which Major Ibbotson is largely responsible. In order to let the individual check his progress with that of others, each Coy. has made out a T.O.E.T. chart. The chart is squared off into sections with each section representing a test. As soon as the men pass a test, gold stars are placed on the chart opposite their names. Although slightly reminiscent of Sunday School, this system has created a great deal of enthusiasm.</p> <p>Mourning bands in honor of the late Baron Tweedsmuir were issued to officers. Sand table work retarded by the nocturnal prowling of mice is now well under way.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	




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Toronto	13.2.40		<p>Officers carried packs containing Balaclavas, sweatshirts, and blankets during the Route March, much to the men's delight. Lt. Somerville discovered, luckily before the march commenced, eight grenades in his pack. Having a fairly shrewd idea as to the perpetrator's identity, a quick change was made. Throughout the morning many solicitous inquiries were made regarding the weight of his pack to each of which a reassuring answer was given. At the last halt, the criminal, obviously fagged, was told to examine his burden. Lt. Somerville is now regarded as a poor target for practical jokes to be aimed at.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	
	14.2.40	0600 0600	<p>Major Ibbotson, accompanied by Coy. Detail Commanders, carried out a reconnaissance of the area in the rear of Fort York Armoury containing the trench system laid out by the Royal Regiment. During the afternoon Coys. practiced the occupation of <b>trenches</b>. Snowballs played the part of hand grenades as "E" Coy's. "Dead End Kids" attempted to add a bit of realism to their task.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength</p>	
	15.2.40	0600 0600	<p>Lectures were given by Coy. Officers on Security of Information. These were embellished by warnings respecting the circulation of false information. A great source of embarrassment is the spreading of rumors affecting the Bn. The majority of <b>these rumors are brought from Montreal</b> by the men after weekend leave. Quite evidently there exists grave misconceptions of conditions existing here. Contrary to rumors the men are happy, well fed, and well <b>disciplined</b>. Their general deportment at all times has caused most favorable comment, adding greatly to the already well established reputation of the Regiment. That malicious gossip should exist at all is a great disappointment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto	16.2.40	0600	<p>The Bn. Route Marches are gradually changing from a pleasant morning walk into a serious effort, and while they are still enjoyed, packs are released with every evidence of pleasure at the halts.</p> <p>An effective method of squelching a rumor before it made any headway was exercised by two members of the Intelligence Section, D81858, Pte Francis, and D81518, Pte White.</p> <p>Hearing a disturbance coming from the National Hotel, a resort frequented by some of the Bn., they investigated and found a minor riot in progress. Ascertaining from the proprietor that no members of the Black Watch were involved, they asked for a written statement absolving the Bn. from any blame. This the proprietor was pleased to do, adding that at no time had this unit caused the slightest trouble.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength decrease, 1 increase, nil</p>	
		0600		
	17.2.40	0600	<p>P.T. and Drill, followed by the C.O.'s. inspection of the lines, completed the day. "C" and "D" Coys. tied for first place.</p>	
18.2.40	0600	<p>Divine Service was held in the Coliseum, the Bn. parading at 0900 hrs.</p>		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto	19.2.40	0600 0600	<p>Training proceeded without any untoward incident. Apparently even the Rumour Mongers have stilled their clamour, as no fresh news re the Bn's expected departure arrived from Montreal.</p> <p>Owing to the heavy snowfall with its accompaniment of slush, L.M.G. firing practice was not held at Long Branch Ranges.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Strength increase, 3 decrease, nil</p>	
	20.2.40		<p>D Coy left at 0800hrs. for the Long Branch Ranges. Transportation was arranged going out, the nine miles back to Barracks replacing the Route March taken by the rest of the Bn.</p> <p>Another challenge from a neighboring unit to a Tug of War was received with joy. Unfortunately the Challengers did not show up, the "Watch" contenting themselves with at least a moral victory. Eleven N.C.Os. were appointed W.O.III's, this inaugurating the title into the Bn.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">No change in strength.</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto	21.2.40	0600 0600	<p>Gratifying results have been obtained from the Lewis Gun training periods. These were shown by the accuracy of the fire at the Long Branch Ranges and the speed with which the all too frequent stoppages were remedied. Weapon training periods have been made extremely interesting under the guidance of Capt. Petch, who has seen that a high standard of efficiency is necessary to obtain Pass qualifications. Capt. Petch has also spared no pains in refreshing the memories of the officers in the weapons at their disposal. The training of the Bn. has been extremely handicapped by the lack of Bren Guns. Two were borrowed, for the purpose of instruction, from the R.C.D's., but have since been returned. "A" Coy. and HQ Coy carried out the occupation of trenches and grenade throwing practice.</p> <p>Strength decrease, 3 increase, nil.</p>	
	22.2.40	0600 0600	<p>"C" Coy proceeded to the Long Branch Ranges by bus. The march back was performed at a rather faster step than usual, resulting in a number of cases of sore feet.</p> <p>Strength decrease, 2 increase, nil.</p>	



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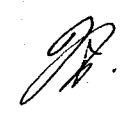

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto	23.2.40	0600 0600	<p>After the Bn. Route March, a number of Officers witnessed a demonstration given by the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders of Hamilton. The demonstration included fire effect of the Bren Gun, Lewis Gun, and the Vickers Machine Gun. Anti aircraft fire by a Lewis Gun team failed to provide reassurance, not one bullet finding its mark. Targets were supplied by hydrogen balloons which owing to strong winds, ascended at too great velocity at rather erratic tangents. Four Vickers Machine Guns firing across open water gave the observers an excellent idea of the beaten zones laid down by this weapon. During the demonstration of overhead fire, the officers were standing behind the protective embankment, although frequently assured that the bullets were passing 66 feet above them, seemed relieved when this phase of the programme was ended.</p> <p>News of two weeks leave impending for all ranks with service of six months has caused high excitement. Even the information that there would be little chance of Railway Warrants or subsistence provided received an ovation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	
	24.2.40	0600 0600	<p>Men with families in Montreal are bitterly complaining of the existing high fares on the railway. If over a hundred men from the Bn. go on weekend leave, the fare is reduced from \$10.00 to \$8.35. This sum from a privates pay leaves very little to carry him over. A further reduction would benefit the morale of the troops considerably, and also the Railway Coys., as more men would be able to travel. "C" and "D" Coys. tied for first place in the line inspection.</p> <p>Immediately prior to the inspection the fire call sounded. All men were at their stations within two minutes only to learn that the call came from up stairs and was a false alarm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase, 1 decrease, nil.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto	25	2.40	<p>0600 0600</p> <p>No church parade held. Entertainments of an infinite variety are still being held for the men, not a day passing without some amateur show, often of high calibre, being presented. The Salvation Army Hall within the Barracks area is a popular rendezvous. As it has a very limited seating capacity, many men are disappointed frequently. The practice of soldiers bringing civilian friends should be stopped.</p>	
	26	2.40	<p>0600 0600</p> <p>In addition to the usual training periods, Coys. in succession were privileged watch a demonstration with a Kapok Bridge under the auspices of the Engineers. After having been shown the drill done slowly and at the double, the Black Watch replaced the Engineers doing the work creditably. Strength decrease, 3 increase, nil.</p>	
	27	2.40	<p>0600 0600</p> <p>Firing practice at Long Branch for all men of the Bn. who had not previously tried their skill with the Lewis Gun took place in the morning. These men included the Medical and Intelligence Sections, Pipers and Orderly Room staff who, owing to other duties, could not receive as many periods of training as the rifle Coys. Nevertheless, a keen interest in firing and a thorough familiarity with the weapon was exhibited. The customary Bn. Route March was performed by the balance of the unit. No change in strength.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto	28	2.40	0600 0600	
			<p>Each Coy. in turn received further instruction in judging distances. A suitable area with a clear field of vision for 800 yds. was found near the lakeshore. Men were stationed at varying intervals throughout the course and field telephones were installed at each post. Sections were then given the opportunity of familiarizing themselves with the appearance of men standing, kneeling, and lying down at the various distances. Telephone communication between posts speeded up the procedure and also gave the signalers some practice. Range cards made from different observation points were then given to the Platoon Commanders who tested the mens ability. This in some cases proved very good, but when questioned, many had had hunting experience and two were, at one time, deer stalkers in Scotland. A spirit of competition has been infused between sections, many requests for Range Cards having been received from N.C.O's. with a desire to coach along their men in this important subject.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase, 2 decrease, 1</p>	R
	29	2.40	0600 0600	
			<p>Officers attended a lecture on "War Diaries" at Fort York Armoury. Present at the Mess Dinner last night was Major Ian Sinclair D.S.O., M.C., 2I.C. of the infantry training centre here. Major was the last Officer Commanding of the old 13th Active Service Bn. In replying to Lt. Col. Blackader's welcome, Major Sinclair caused some concern owing to his frequent use of a handkerchief. The officers were all too soon reassured by the speaker that, a cut whilst shaving, not emotion at the re-union, necessitated its application.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength decrease, 1 Total strength, 828..</p>	M  Blackader L.H.