

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
Brighton Eng.	1 Feb 41	0600 0600	<p>In addition to the improvements done upon the Battalion's own positions considerable time was spent in the locating of the local Home Guard positions in order that they should be capable of working in close co-ordination with the military forces. This was a task of no little size for 'C' Company as their area comprised the greater part of the town of Brighton and consequently the positions manned by the Town Home Guard and 2nd Bn Southern Railway Home Guard were situated in residential, industrial and shopping districts. All these posts together with a list showing locations, readiness for sandbagging, availability of keys and state of preparation are given in an attached appendix.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	App'x 6. <i>DTB</i>
"	2 Feb 41	0600 0600	<p>A practise move to battle headquarters and positions commencing at 1000 hours was held by the 5 Cdn Inf Bde and the Home Guard stationed in the Bde sector. Each military Company Commander arranged an RV with his opposite number of the HG in order to inspect all posts in their area and all weapons, ammunition and stores were taken to posts. Inter-communication was installed, OPs manned and sniper personnel positioned. A number of the HG were detailed to the military as guides, a most important point as these men were all local inhabitants, were thoroughly conversant with the countryside and would prove invaluable in this capacity. The Battalion's part in this practise functioned smoothly and efficiently even though Bn Hq could only use one room of Ovingdean Hall due to 'C' Sqdn 44 Bn Royal Tank Regiment occupying the premises. Lt.Col K.C.Blackader and Major I.L.Lbbotson inspected the Black Watch sector during which they checked all Home Guard posts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	App'x 7. " 8. <i>DTB</i>
"	3 Feb 41	0600 0600	<p>Strengthening of all posts continued and a large amount of additional Dannert wiring was laid, even the batmen, much to their disgust, being impressed into this latter work. Lieut.J.D.W.Halbert,I.O. located the positions of all the MMG sites which were manned by another unit from the Battalion's home----The Royal Montreal Reg't.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	<i>DTB</i>
"	4 Feb 41	0600 0600	<p>A strong effort was made to provide recreation for the men during their off-duty hour. Capt Johnson of the Salvation Army War Services provided movies on many evenings in the gymnasium at Roedean, late passes were arranged for a few men each day and these were greatly appreciated as there were many dance halls in Brighton and the younger fair sex showed their gratitude for Canada's war effort by giving of their best hosp'tality. The/</p>	<i>DTB</i>

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Brighton, Eng	4 Feb 41	(continued)	<p>/Canadian Y.M.C.A. mobile canteen visited all posts during each day and distributed free tea and biscuits. Major J.B.Weir, O.C.'B' Coy proceeded to Port Slade Sanatorium a victim to measles, this was the fifth case of this type since the Battalion arrived on the South Coast.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	DWB
"	5 Feb 41	0600 0600	<p>Due to the many road accidents it was again deemed necessary to bring to the attention of all ranks the need of care and precautions while on or near a highway at night, in view of the black-out and the consequent difficulty of good visibility for drivers particularly when the pedestrians are wearing khaki all ranks were advised to walk on the right hand side when on a road that is to say 'against approaching traffic'. A most interesting illustrated lecture on old Egypt and King Tut-amkh-amen was given in the Roedean gymnasium by the Rev'd F.Keeling-Scott, however only a few of the men attended possibly this was due, as one private was overheard to say, to the fact that those off-duty were more interested in live rather than dead "Mummies" !!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	DWB
"	6 Feb 41	0600 0600	<p>All Companys continued to strengthen the wire defences in their areas, each platoon locality being surrounded by three tier Dannert as a preliminary task. LMGs' arcs of fire were laid down and co-ordinated with those of the MMGs manned by the Royal Montreal Regiment. In addition to the Battalion's fire power there also was artillery support in the form of the 107 Bty of 11th Fd Regt R.C.A., headquarters and 4 guns (25 pdrs) at Lewes m.r. 848286 (ref England sheet #134), and 4 guns (25 pdrs) at Racehill Farm, one mile north-west of Kemptown m.r.775230, further support was provided by two 60 pdrs of the Royal Artillery at Down House, Rottingdean. All this was in addition to the regular Coastal Defence batteries.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	DWB
"	7 Feb 41	0600 0600	<p>Ice hockey games were arranged between units of the Canadian force at the Sports Palace in West Street, Brighton, These proved very popular not only with the troops but also with the citizens. Some amusement was caused when a game between the Battalion and the Calgary Highlanders was advertised, no doubt in a zealous attempt to hide the real identities of the units from enemy agents, as being between the Cowboys and "Les Canadiens" !! The brilliant victories in the East of General Wavell's fast, hard-hitting Imperial Divisions against the Italian forces were again brought to the notice of the envious troops by the</p>	DWB

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Brighton, Eng.	7 Feb 41		<p>(continued) publication in Pt 1 Orders of the following Corps message to General Wavell :- "On behalf of all ranks of Canadian Corps I send you our sincerest congratulations on your outstanding success. We express our deepest admiration of the great feats of arms carried out by British, Australian, New Zealand and Indian formations and Allied troops. Best Wishes" General Wavell's reply:- "Following for General McNaughton from General Wavell. All ranks of the forces in the Middle East thank you and the Canadian Corps for your message of congratulations and good wishes." Capt. L.E.L. Harvey R.C.A.P.C. was posted for duty as Paymaster to the Battalion with effect from 9 Nov. 1940. Strength increase 1, decrease 2.</p>	<p>Pt 1.#17 6 Feb 41</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>OSB</i></p>
"	8 Feb 41	0600	<p>A German bomber which had been destroyed in the vicinity of Lewes was reported as having been stripped of its guns and other equipment and enquiries were instituted to find if members of this Battalion had been responsible. However the culprits were found to have been from another Canadian unit, this matter was cited to all ranks as an example of how important it was that all enemy aircraft and equipment should be left under close guard until such time as the proper authorities can take care of it as it may be vital that the experts know exactly what the enemy are using in the way of new devices and inventions-----mens lives might depend upon this. No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	<p>App'x 5.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>OSB</i></p>
"	9 Feb 41	0600	<p>Information was received that the Battalion was to be relieved in the near future and 5 Officers and 36 ORs of the 2nd Bn London Scottish (Gordon Highlanders) were attached as the advance party of the incoming unit. This Battalion of the London Scottish are part of the 141 Inf Bde who were relieving the 5 Cdn Inf Bde. No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	<p>Pt 11.#8 14 Feb 41</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>OSB</i></p>
"	10 Feb	0600	<p>Officers and ORs of the London Scottish were taken over the Battalion area so that they might become acquainted with it and also make their necessary billeting arrangements and appreciate the present position and location of the defences. No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>OSB</i></p>

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Brighton, Eng	11 Feb 41	0600 0600	<p>Despite the great amount of work and long hours put in by all ranks there was general regret at the thought of leaving the Brighton area as not only had many friends been made but it was felt that the Battalion had done a real and most useful job of work. Also the prospect of returning to a garrison and training area, Aldershot, was not appreciated. The Arm'd Car which had been used every night for coastal road patrols broke down and a 15 cwt truck was substituted, this had the effect of improving the observation zone for the crew but exposed them to bad weather. There was considerable aerial activity in the area by the RAF during the day and at night many enemy aircraft passed over en route to visit hospitals and other 'military objectives'.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	DBB
"	12 Feb 41	0600 0600	<p>A beautiful Red Setter wandered on to the beach near Palace Pier in 'C' Company sector and as it was a standing order that all dogs over 50lbs had to be destroyed if they went on the beach, it had unfortunately to be shot. This order was due to the risk of heavy dogs setting off land mines with the consequent danger to persons in that vicinity. The I Sect commenced the construction of an alternative OP on Redhill near the western boundary of the Brighton Golf Club, this was to be large enough to contain two bunks and consequently quite a large foundation had to be dug out ----- the Golf Course caretaker was an interested spectator and commented that it would make a most useful bar for the nineteenth hole when the war was over ! An ice hockey match was played in the evening against the Royal Montreal Regiment and the Battalion found that in one of the new Officers they had received a most useful addition to the team-----Lieut.G.Jarvis.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	DBB
"	13 Feb 41	0600 0600	<p>Preparations for handing over to the incoming Battalion continued. D.81444 Cpl Simms, S. reported that he had met a member of the fair sex whose great curiosity in the military forces lead him to believe that she might be a fifth columnist. This was reported to the Brighton Police (particulars of this case are given in an attached appendix).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	App'x 9. DBB
"	14 Feb 41	0600 0600	<p>The 2nd Bn London Scottish (Gordon Highlanders) arrived at 1400 hours and as both they and the Black Watch were spending the night in the same billets accomodation was rather cramped. The relieving unit mounted guard as all duties were doubled up so as to make it easier for the Scottish to take over and carry on without a break. The Canadians were</p>	App'x 10 DBB

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Brighton, Eng.	14 Feb 41		(continued) greatly impressed by the Scottish who included a very large percentage of officer material in the ranks, this being in keeping with the tradition of the older London regiments that Commissions must be earned by service in the ranks rather than by direct appointment. It was also interesting to note that all ranks wore the kilt when walking out and the men of the Black Watch greatly envied this privilege. Strength increase NIL, decrease 2.	DBB
"	15 Feb 41	0600	The Battalion embussed at 1100 hours and proceeded to Aldershot, which they reached at 1615 hours after an uneventful journey on th road Brighton -- Hassocks 735346 -- road jct 721452 -- Horsham --Bucks Green -- Puttenham -- X rds 288695 -- Albuhera Barracks. A few members were left behind at Port Slade Sanatorium to recover from measies. No increase or decrease of strength.	App'x 11 DBB
Aldershot, Eng.	16 Feb 41	0600	Sunday. No parades. No increase or decrease of strength.	DBB
"	17 Feb 41	0600	The day was spent in cleaning barrack quarters, scrubbing floors, kit inspection, check and cleansing of equipment with one period given over to one of the following: PT, drill or bayonet fighting. No increase or decrease of strength.	DBB
"	18 Feb 41	0600	All Companys, with the exception of 'D', proceeded under Company arrangements on route marches of approximately 8 - 9 miles. 'D' Company practised 'the Company in attack'. Orders were issued that stress must be laid on training in protection against gas and that the wearing of respirators from 0900 - 1000 hours would continue. No increase or decrease of strength.	DBB
"	19 Feb 41	0600	The Battalion proceeded to the area Minley Manor (m.r.2577 Ald'shot Com'd) as part of a Brigade move to practise for the expected visit of a Distinguished Visitor. Each Company had to demonstrate some different phase of military work but activities were greatly reduced by the limited area of ground available. Brigadier Leclerc, accompanied by Lt.Col K.G.Blackader MC ED, inspected the men at their demonstration. No increase or decrease of strength.	DBB

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Aldershot, EXETER, Eng.	20 Feb 41	0600 0600	The Distinguished Visitors inspection heralded for this date was cancelled and Companys carried out training under Company arrangements. Under a new order Aldershot Command became Aldershot Area and was included in the district under the General Officer C in C South-Eastern Command. Companys were instructed to apply for the men they required to bring their strength up to war establishment, these to be supplied from 'E' Coy which was shortly to leave for the 2nd Cdn Inf Holding Unit now being established in recently constructed buildings at Witley. The 2nd Cdn Inf H.U. is under the command of another Black Watch officer, Col. Mathewson. The Black Watch Regiment is certainly holding its own in the present war as England's best known commander, General Sir Archibald Wavell, though an Englishman, commenced his soldiering in the Imperial Black Watch. No increase or decrease of strength.	D.B.K.
"	21 Feb 41	0600 0600	The 5 Cdn Inf Bde moved out to undertake a practise attack southwards from a line Caesar's Camp -- Gravel Hill -- Golf Course with the final objective a line north of and paralleling the London road Bagshot Heath (Jolly Farmer's Inn) -- Camberley. The Battalion was the right forward unit with 'K' Troop 2nd A/Tk reg't in support, with 'C' Coy and 'D' Coy right and left forward companys respectively. Increase in strength NIL, decrease 1.	D.B.K.
"	22 Feb 41	0600 0600	Commanding Officer's parade was held in the morning followed by Company training in Weapon Training, PT and bayonet fighting while HQ Coy and Bn Hq continued with their specialist duties or training. No increase or decrease of strength.	D.B.K.
"	23 Feb 41	0600 0600	Church Parade was held to the Garrison Church for Protestants while Roman Catholics paraded to St Michaels Church. No increase or decrease of strength.	D.B.K.
"	24 Feb 41	0600 0600	Muster parades were held and inoculation (tetanus-toxoid) of the Battalion was commenced, The time for Lights Out was changed from 2215 hours to 2245 hours while a new Bde Order (#91 of 3 Feb 41) laid down that all ranks with the exception of Warrant Officers must be in billets by 2230 hours. Lt.Col K.G. Blackader MC ED resumed command of the Battalion having taken the place of Brig. P.E. Leclerc MM ED in command 5 Cdn Inf Bde during the latter's absence on leave from 21 Feb to 23 Feb incl. Announcement was made of the commencement of a Canadian Army Amateur Boxing Championships competition with the final bouts to be	D.B.K.

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Aldershot, Eng.	24 Feb 41		(continued) held 26 March 1941. Entries were to be individual rather than teams. It was hoped that in view of the interest and many successes of the Battalion while in Toronto, that members of the unit would give a good account of themselves. No increase or decrease in strength.	<i>RTAB</i>
"	25 Feb 41	0600 0600	Innoculations proceeded under the direction of Lieut E. Anderson RCAMC, M.O. with the bulk of the Battalion being completed. Muster Parades were held by those Companys who had not had them on 24 Feb. 'C' Coy held a practise 'Company in withdrawal'. A three day Divisional practise move and tactical exercise was to be held on the three following days. Lieut E.Motzfeldt succeeded Lieut J.D.W.Halbert as Intelligence Officer. No increase or decrease of strength.	<i>RTAB</i>
"	26 26 Feb 41	0600 0600	Ref. Map. England sheets 124 & 133, 1" to 1 mile. The Battalion left on Divisional exercise "DOG" at 1630 hours. The move was by transport the assembly area was reached by dusk, this was north of Petworth. Bn Hq was established at Allfields Farm where the Company cooks at once got busy to provide supper. The men had a rest, some being billeted in barns and granaries and a few in farm-houses. During the night orders came out for a move in the morning and at 0515 hours 27 Feb, in pouring rain, the Battalion moved to a position South of the RIVER ROTHER, near Graffham, which was reached at 0630 hours. During this later move an accident unfortunately happened en route	App'x 12
"	27 Feb 41	0600 0600	One of the RCASC 30 cwt trucks, which was being used as a troop carrier for the Intelligence Section, overturned from the main route into a sunken road at nr 369397. Five men, D82250 L/Cpl Treacy J. DD81482 Pte Dubuc M. D81591 Pte Page, R.M. D81693 Pte Perry J.G. D82294 Pte Smith, H. were casualties and were taken to the military wing of Summerlea Military Hospital, Chichester. The remainder who had suffered shock, cuts and bruises were sent back to barracks. It may be noticed that the member of the Medical Section, D81504 Pte Wale, E.G. attached to the I Sect, although suffering from shock and bruises himself attended most efficiently to the injured men while awaiting for the arrival of the M.O. and ambulance. Bn Hq was situated at driveway adjoining main route nr 364375 and a hot breakfast was served. During the morning orders came in from Brigade ordering a flank attack against an imaginary German force making a westward drive towards Portsmouth. The Battalion was brought to its forming up area and Bn Hq was located at cross-roads at 374315 at 1500 hours only to find that the attack was called off, this was really welcome news as the heavy downpour of rain had not ceased all day and all ranks were saturated. The Company cooks arrived at 1700 hours and a meal was served to a very hungry unit.	<i>1/24</i>

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Aldershot, Eng.	27 Feb 41	(continued)	At 1830 hours the Battalion marched back to the embussing point Graffham area, a distance of some 10 miles, via Up Waltham 378332, rd jct 394359, fork roads 366374. Here all ranks embussed for the return journey to Aldershot which was reached at 0400 hours, 28 Feb. This exercised showed that the Battalion is in excellent form, for in spite of it having been a physically tiring couple of days with extremely inclement weather prevailing, the men did not seem at all exhausted and could, had the scheme been the real thing, have put up a good show.	
	28 Feb 41	0600 0600	No increase or decrease of atrength.	
