

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 (8360)
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 style="text-align: center;"><u>WAR DIARY.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st Batt'n The Black Watch (R.H.R.) of Canada C.A.S.F.</p> <p><u>January 1st - 31st 1940.</u></p>	




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Toronto	1.1.40	0600 -0600	hrs. The New Year is unique as it opened with the Battalion on Active Service and stationed away from its Headquarters in Montreal and to the disgust of all ranks, some three thousand miles from the theatre of operations. In spite of the festive season there were few absentees at Tattoo. The officers were invited to breakfast at the Mess of the 48th Highlanders after which they attended a reception held by the Lieut. Governor of the Province of Ontario, the Hon. Albert Matthews. Lieut.Col.K.G.Blackader M.C. E.D. acted as A.D.C.	
"	2.1.40	0600 -0600	A complete check of rifles and sidearms numbers followed by P.T. held in the Companies' lines, formed the morning's work. Lectures on saluting, compliments on the march and practice in verbal messages completed the day's training. The necessity of much practice in the latter was noticeable. A sample message is given below:- <u>Message sent</u> To: Batt'n HQ From: Medical Sect. Send 56 triangular bandages to Hollow Creek. D.Thompson, Cpl. 1430 hrs.	
"	3.1.40	0600 -0600	This is the Battalion's first experience of life in Barracks. The change has quite noticeably affected the morning sick parades which are becoming very large. Not a few of the casualties are suffering more from home-sickness than from any bodily ailment, however the plague of colds experienced in Montreal has returned. During the period of training prior to our arrival the Hospitals attended to over 1200 cases amongst the troops. A kit inspection was held by Major I.L.Ibbotson. Strength increase nil, strength decrease 1 man. A slight fire broke out in the Cook-house but was controlled in short order. The men turned out in answer to the 'alarm' in exceedingly short time.	
"	4.1.40	0600 -0600	Great hospitality has been shown the Battalion by numerous organizations throughout	(cont'd)

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Toronto	4.1.40	(cont'd)	<p>the City. The YMCA, situated in the grounds, gives a free tea and programme of entertainment to the men on Sundays while the various units have been granted the use of all facilities by the West End YMCA. Moving pictures, dancing and other forms of entertainment are given by the Active Service Canteen, 93 Yonge St. Partners are supplied to the men by the Canteen Committee.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase nil, strength decrease 3 men</p>	
"	5.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>During the morning the Battalion went on a route march. Heavy snow falls had made the streets slippery but, notwithstanding, the men made a splendid showing. The training of the Battalion is now being reviewed from the start. Officers and men are beginning to settle down in their new environment and while an occasional grouse is heard, much less difficulty than was expected has been experienced. Frequent compliments are paid the Battalion on the carriage and behaviour of the men. Lieut. J.D. Halbert (I.O.) was removed to Hospital suffering from a fractured rib.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase nil, strength decrease 1 man</p>	
"	6.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>An inspection of the Barracks, held by the Commanding Officer, revealed very little disorder. A uniform method of making-up beds and arranging equipment etc., has been demonstrated. Boxing and wrestling matches have been arranged to take place on Tuesday and Friday nights, all equipment and prizes being supplied by the Citizens Committee.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength</p>	
"	7.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>The Battalion attended Divine Service at Parkdale Presbyterian Church, where Capt. Donald MacKay the Battalion's Chaplain preached his first sermon to the officers and men. Col. P.P. Hutchison, Commanding the Regiment, came from Montreal and attended the service. When the Battalion returned to barracks the men were dismissed and were free for the balance of the day, however it was gratifying to see the great majority using their afternoon as an opportunity to put their equipment and arms in first class condition, this entailing much use of blanco and pull-throughs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength</p>	

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Toronto	8.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>The morning was used for training under Company arrangements, this covering map reading L.M.G., war organization and Section Leading. A lecture on cover from fire and fire positions was given in the afternoon, followed by a practical application by all Companies except Left Half HQ Coy which paraded for Dental Inspection.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	
"	9.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>As a route march was planned for the morning, a half-hour in Bayonet fighting exercises was substituted for Physical Training, this practice to be continued for similar occasions. The route march covered a distance of nearly seven miles and was enjoyed by all ranks as the weather was sharp and crisp with considerable sunshine. The usual bathing parade followed by foot inspection occupied most of the afternoon.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chaplain and Hon. Capt. Donald Bruce MacKay taken on strength w.e.f. 15.12.39 and posted to Batt'n HQ.</p>	
"	10.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>During the morning training was under Company arrangements with practice and drill in LMG, rifle and map reading. A lecture on observation (IT. Sec 34 and ISL Sec 45) was given in the afternoon followed by practical application. 'A' Coy and 'B' Coy attended dental inspection in the morning and afternoon respectively. The Officers' Mess held the first Mess Dinner in Toronto, to which friends of the Officers' Mess were invited quite a unique event as it was the first Mess Dinner on Active Service held away from the Regiment's home town, Montreal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	
"	11.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>Continuation of training under Company arrangements with stress being put on LMG and field craft. In the afternoon training in observation (IT. Sec 44(7&8)) was given. The Medical Section practised their art under the supervision of D81047 Sjt Waterston. D81412 Pte Brokenshaw who, in the piping days of peace, is an artist of no mean repute instructed the Intelligence Section in panorama sketching and D81858 Pte Francis commenced the first of a series of lectures and instruction in map reading for the same Section. A reporter from the Toronto Star, Mr George Lawrence, completed, at noon, a stay of twenty-four hours with the Battalion during which period he attended lectures, watched (cont'd</p>	

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Toronto	11.1.40	0600 -0600	(cont'd) drill and training, partook in physical training, ate with the men and was initiated into the soulful music of the pipes assisted by a light issue of canteen beer. The result was an excellent write-up in the Toronto Star together with some interesting photographs of the Battalion at work. No increase of strength, decrease 2 men.	
"	12.1.40	0600 -0600	Inclement weather caused the cancellation of a route march, for which was substituted a cleaning-up of lines followed by an inspection by Major I.L.Ibbotson. 'D' Coy was found to have the cleanest and smartest quarters, closely followed by Batt'n HQ. The Battalion was paraded by platoons to the latrines in order to show the men the filthy condition. It was explained that, in the final analysis, cleanliness of latrines can only be accomplished if each man take the law into his own hands if he should see another fouling the place. In future cleanliness will prevail. Strength increase 1 man, decrease 8 men.	
"	13.1.40	0600 -0600	Inspection of Barracks was made and a lecture given by the Commanding Officer on behaviour and deportment, it was emphasized that although on Active Service the man having the honour to wear the King's uniform still had responsibilities to civil law and in fact, as a wearer of that uniform, should set an example in correct behaviour and common decency. A limited number of men were permitted week-end passes to visit their relatives in Montreal. No increase or decrease of strength.	
"	14.1.40	0600 -0600	A Church Parade was held for the Roman Catholic members only of the Battalion.	
"	15.1.40	0600 -0600	Major I.L.Ibbotson gave a lecture on Dannert wiring which was followed by a practical demonstration of same by a detachment from the R.C.E. All ranks evinced great interest in this and though many ventured the opinion that it was less formidable than the double apron wire that they had erected at Longueuil neverthe less none accepted the offer of (cont'd)	

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Toronto	15.1.40	(cont'd)	<p>the officer i/c R.C.E. party to attempt to break through the Dannert wiring. Pay parade was held in the afternoon.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	<i>[Signature]</i>
"	16.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>The Battalion paraded at 0845 hrs and proceeded to High Park, by route march, where field craft was carried out under Company arrangements. Returned to Barracks at 1145 hrs. In the afternoon Companies carried out LMG instruction when not at the showers for bathing parade and foot inspection.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	<i>[Signature]</i>
"	17.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>Companies paraded independently in the morning and studied LMG, map reading and WT (rifle). Intelligence Section studied road reports and made a report on the exercises undertaken yesterday in High Park. The afternoon was used for training in drill under Company arrangements. Medical Section practised first aid and bandaging under the supervision of Capt. & Chap. D. MacKay while the Intelligence Section studied Map Reading (Scales and Bearings).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase nil, decrease 1 man</p>	<p>Copy of Int. Sect's report on exercises att'd.</p> <i>[Signature]</i>
"	18.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>The District Officer Commanding M.D.#2, Brigadier R.O. Alexander D.S.O. arrived at 1000 hrs and, accompanied by Lieut. Col Blackader MC ED OC 1st Black Watch of Canada, made a most thorough inspection using the new long inspection report. He closely checked the QM stores to aid in the supply of required equipment, visited the Fort York Armoury where the Signalling Platoon was at work and HQ Coy studying map reading, watched mortar drill under SMI MacLean R.C.R. and LMG drill, perused the Orderly Room records including qualifications of officers, NCO's, tradesmen and specialists, checked finances of Regt'l Fund, Canteen Fund and Officers' and NCO'S Mess Funds. Meanwhile Lieut. Col. J.K. Lawson R.C.R. GSO.1. inspected the specialists, including the Intelligence and Medical Sections, at work. The D.O.C. finally spent some time in the cook-house where he arranged for prompt alterations to fix the stoves and some minor equipment, after which he visited the mess hall and spoke to some of the men who were lunching there, at which time they expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied with the food and conditions in general. At 1330 hrs Brigadier Alexander was entertained at luncheon in the Officers' Mess, leaving at (cont'd)</p>	<i>[Signature]</i>

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Toronto	16.1.	1.40	<p>Report by Intelligence Section, 1st B.W.C. on</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>EXERCISES in HIGH PARK? TORONTO, Ontario.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parade was called for 0845 hrs and the Battalion, commanded by Lt.Col.K.G.Blackader MC, proceeded by route march to High Park. On arrival at 0945 hrs the Battalion entered from Parkside Drive at reference point 662033 and halted at grid point 635092, the designated rendezvous, 467 yards from Park entrance. The Battalion rested for ten minutes and on the 'fall in', the Companies were ordered to carry out training in field craft under Company Commanders. 2. Intelligence and Medical Sections, under D.81047 Sjt Waterston, continued on road to point 622187 where they left the road and carried out exercises in area enclosed by grid points 5819 - 6219 and 5926 - 6227. For the exercise the men were formed in three sections, the first under D.81300 Cpl.Clements took up a defensive position which was attacked by the other two sections under D.81309 Cpl.Walker and D.81337 Cpl.Wilkins. Cpl.Wilkins' section was spotted during its advance and was stopped, if not entirely annihilated by LMG fire, however Cpl Walkers' section, using good cover, almost managed to turn the defense's left flank and take it from the rear. They were seen in sufficient time to be held up by rifle and LMG fire but their proximity to the L of C of the defense caused the latter to retire to their second position. Both defenders and attackers suffered considerably from the severe cold, while one member of the Medical Section was seen to retire rapidly, although somewhat unexpectedly, down a sharp incline in a sitting position, his only visible means of protection being a dark undergarment of a type generally associated with the fair sex. 3. The Battalion reformed at the rendezvous 635092 at 1100 hrs and returned to Barracks at 1147 hrs. 4. <u>AREA</u> High Park dimensions5600' x 3400' Total Yardage of Park Roads7667 yards Park characterized by low hills and ravines. It is well wooded with coniferous and deciduous trees. Southern area of Park featured by marshes and ponds. Park is well suited for training in field craft as considerable cover from view and air is provided. Some difficulty can be expected in cold weather from ice which makes movement difficult. 	<p>Ref: Map of 'High Park, Toronto' drawn by Toronto Parks Commission 1924.</p>
			<p>Report compiled from observations of:-</p> <p>D81518 Pte White D81775 Pte Elston D81858 Pte Francis D81882 Pte McNeil.</p>	

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Toronto	18.1.40	(cont'd)	1455 hrs. The D.O.C. made several helpful suggestions as to some minor changes in the Orderly Room and expressed himself as being satisfied with all he had seen, this may be considered as high praise as Brigadier Alexander is a soldier who will not tolerate any irregularities or slackness.	
"	19.1.40	0600 -0600	Due to inclement weather the route march planned for the morning was cancelled, however Batt'n HQ, undaunted, paraded under Major I.L.Ibbotson and, 'shades of Hector MacDonald', garbed in long underwear, fatigue pants and puttees, sallied forth. The weather was bitterly cold with a biting wind blowing from Lake Ontario with the result that several ears were frostbitten before their owners had left the boundaries of the Exhibition Grounds. The remainder of the morning and the afternoon was used for the Commanding Officer's inspection of lines, specialist training, bathing parades, Rifle and LMG training under Company arrangements. In the evening many of the men were guests at a Trans-Canadian broadcast given by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation from the Exhibition Musée Hall. <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	
"	20.1.40	0600 -0600	The morning was occupied with LMG and specialist training, followed by the usual Saturday morning inspection of lines. <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	
"	21.1.40	0600 -0600	No parades other than the Church Parade for those of the Roman Catholic persuasion.	
"	22.1.40	0600 -0600	Companies paraded under their own arrangements in the morning for WT(rifle) and theory of small arms fire. Batt'n HQ and HQ Coy received Anti-Tetanus inoculation in the morning ----- some of the men became perturbed when the rumour was spread that the M.O., officiating in lieu of Capt Robertson, sick in hospital, was seen hurriedly reading instructions on how to inoculate prior to the commencement, however everything proved very painless. <p style="text-align: right;">(cont'd)</p>	





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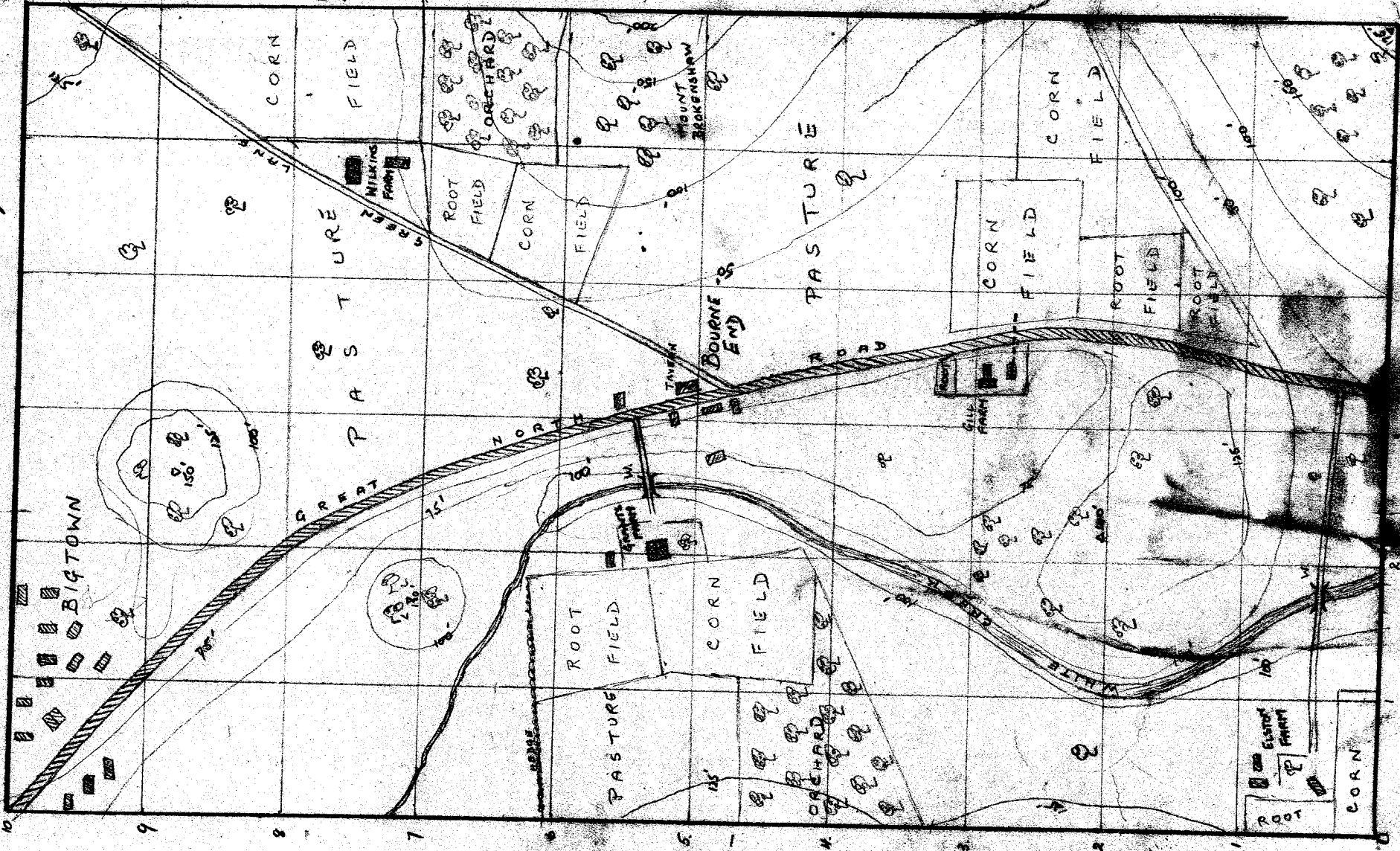
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Toronto	22.1.40		(cont'd) The balance of the Battalion studied LMG and lectures on discipline. Officers and certain of the NCO's continued their course in Bren LMG. SMI MacLean R.C.R. left the Battalion on transfer to Infantry Instruction School at Halifax N.S. No increase or decrease in strength.	
"	23.1.40	0600 -0600	A route march was held in the morning and LMG instruction in the afternoon. D.81518 Pte C.White and D.81858 Pte D.Francis of the Intelligence Sect. constructed a sand-table at Fort York Armoury to be used by Major Ibbotson for tactical instruction. Lieut.J.D.W.Halbert I.O. returned from hospital. 2/Lieut J.A.Kenny was promoted to Lieutenant w.e.f. 4.12.39. No increase or decrease of strength.	Att'd is map of sand-table 
"	24.1.40	0600 -0600	LMG and WT(rifle) training occupied the morning, the Signal Platoon under Lieut.B.Ritchie continuing their Signal Course at Fort York Armoury. The Battalion rested after lunch until 1545 hrs at which time it paraded for a most unpleasant and thankless task which it executed very creditably, this was the guarding and policing of the entrainment of units for overseas. The work entailed the prevention of civilian onlookers and relatives of the troops from approaching the trains too closely or of the troops detraining. While the Black Watch, as usual, behaved well and made the departure an orderly one, the Highlanders were often the recipients of most uncomplimentary remarks from some of the civilians who misunderstood the reason for this duty and thought it merely the outward and visible sign of military Prussianism. However, several of the wearers of the Dark Tartan, in particular one piper, were seen to console themselves by clasping weeping female relatives of the departing soldiers to their breasts and assuring their husbands and friends that they would be in good hands. No increase or decrease of strength.	
"	25.1.40	0600 -0600	WT(rifle) was the principal subject for training in the morning while 'C' Coy studied Map Reading. In the afternoon the Anti-Tetanus inoculations were completed and HQ, A & A Coys drilled on the main floor of the Fort York Armoury. This Armoury is also	

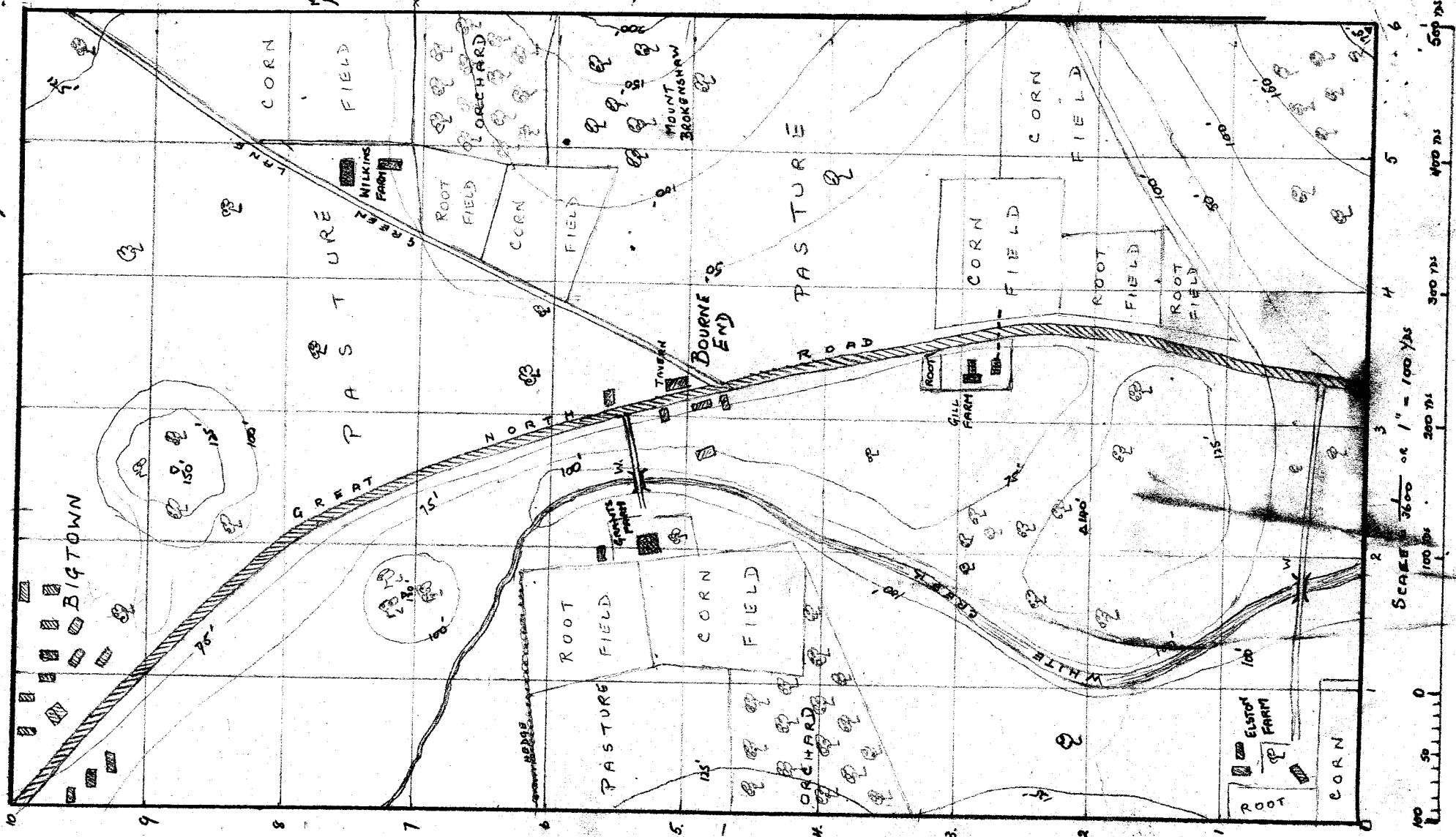
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BIQTOWN (SOUTHERN APPROACH)



D. P. 188 D. J. F. Francis
INT. SECT. (P. 10)
P. B. 188 Francis (P. 10) of Canada
28th January 1940.

Bigtown (Southern Approach)



D. 1968 D. BULL FRANCIS,
 INT. SECT. (PRE)
 1st Block Water (R.H.E.) of Canada.
 28th January 1970.

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Toronto	25.1.40	(cont'd)	<p>used for lectures to the officers which are held at 1700 hrs twice a week. In this connection it is very gratifying to see the way in which the specialists such as the Intelligence and Signallers undertake voluntary extra training hours in the evenings and the results of this enthusiasm are already becoming apparent. Lieut.A.P.Boswell was admitted to hospital, entrance to hospital has reached the proportions of an epidemic as over 120 all ranks are confined and nearly every case is due to throat trouble. This large percentage of the Battalion in hospital is naturally a serious obstacle to efficient training and to the morale of the men.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase 2 men, decrease nil.</p>	P.
"	26.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>The morning route march was the first held in the direction of the business and market centre of the city and the Battalion, although reduced in numbers due to sickness and specialist training, created an excellent impression on many spectators. In the afternoon the usual parade to the showers, followed by foot inspection, was held. A second course for instructors on the Bren LMG was started under the supervision of Capt.C.Petch. An Inter-Company Hockey League has been started and is managed by Lieut J.A.Kenny, it gives promise of much enthusiasm and keen competition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	P.
"	27.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>The customary RSM's parade, followed by the C.O'S inspection of the lines was held. In the afternoon a special voluntary parade was held to undertake the guarding of a departing trainload of troops for overseas, the required number of volunteers was easily obtained and the duty was executed with the customary efficiency, however it was noticed that duties of this description have a depressing effect on the morale of the men. The reason being, that the great majority enlisted in the Black Watch under the impression that it would be one of the first, if not the first, to proceed overseas in its rightful position as a unit of the First Division CASF particularly in view of its unparralleled record in the War of 1914-1918, now rumours caused by these last train guarding episodes have given rise to catch phrases such as 'The Home Guard' or 'When Britain calls for men the Black Watch will see them off! It is hoped that events in the near future will dispell this feeling.</p>	P.

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Toronto	28.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>Church Parades were held at 0830 hrs and 1015 hrs for Roman Catholics and Protestants respectively. No other parades were held. The Ceremonial Retreat at 1700 hrs by the Pipe Band under D.81776 Pipe-Major Williamson has become quite an event on alternate Sundays, many members of other units visiting the Horse Palace to watch.</p>	J.
"	29.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>The morning parades were under Company arrangements and consisted of lectures on WT(rifle) and Dannert Wiring and Bombing practice. The afternoon was occupied with patrol formations, scouts and patrols. Some 200 men returned in the morning from leave in Montreal, in this connection it is noted that when a man receives his week-end pass, one a month, to Montreal it costs him \$10.00 to travel there and while there has been very little grumbling in this matter nevertheless it would seem only fair to men who are on Active Service and, in many cases, have wives and families to support on a diminished income, if this fare could be reduced to a more reasonable rate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	J.
"	30.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>A route march was held in the morning from 0900 hrs to 1200hrs, during which the Battalion penetrated well into the heart of the city. All Companies paraded independently to the showers in the afternoon and also did specialist or Company training. Lieut.J.D.W.Halbert has organized evening study in special work for the Intelligence Section in such subjects as night marching, reconnaissance and observation, the practical part to be undertaken in various suitable localities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	J.
"	31.1.40	0600 -0600	<p>'D' Coy practised in Dannert wiring and bombing while the other Companies trained with rifle (WT) and in patrol work. The Medical Section studied elementary map-reading under instruction from members of the Intelligence Section and showed great interest in a subject which is new to them. During the course of the day Companies paraded to be fitted for gas-masks, a parade which greatly cheered all ranks as it made them feel that possibly a move from the Queen City was not too far in the future. Pay parade was held at 1530 hrs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase or decrease of strength.</p>	J. Blackburn J.C.P.