

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
Toronto, Ont.	1.5.40	0600 0600	<p>An extremely convivial evening was spent in the mess when Officers of the Royal Regiment were guests. This gesture it is hoped will in some small way return the compliment paid the Battalion upon its arrival in Toronto when the Royal Regiment turned out in hollow square formation at the break of dusk to welcome the Battalion.</p> <p>Lt.Col.Blackader expressed the hope that the units would soon be on the move overseas and see active service together.</p> <p>Highland Honours were paid the Royal Regiment after which Lt.Col.Basher proposed a toast to the Black Watch from whom he said his Regiment had received more assistance and cooperation than they had previously experienced from units in their own District.</p> <p>The evening concluded with a sing-song and expressions of regret at the impending separation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No strength increase nor decrease.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	2.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Rifle Firing was continued at the ranges by C & D Coys with B Coy supplying the butt party. Very few class "A" shots have been found but on the whole the marksmanship is satisfactory.</p> <p>One factor that should be given more consideration attention in recruit training has made itself evident. Not sufficient consideration has been paid to rapid fire and in the T.O.E.T. many failed to complete the practice.</p> <p>Prior to the Great War all Imperial Troops had to spend a certain time every day in rapid fire training the results of which are well known.</p> <p>It is now proposed that Coy Commanders ensure themselves that all ranks attain proficiency in this most important part of weapon training.</p> <p>Lieut.J.G.Bourne proceeded on command to the Anti-Gas School, Ottawa, Ontario.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength Increase Nil, Decrease 1.</p>	

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Toronto, Ont.	3.5.40	0600 0600	<p>A decided increase has taken place in the number of men reporting sick after a Route March and in practically all cases the trouble is sore feet. The men do not complain of tiredness and are in excellent condition. There is no lack of good socks thanks to the "Womens Auxiliary" so the responsibility must be placed on the boots. These at first were quite good, lately the quality has fallen off to the extent that the men risk serious injury to their feet by wearing the boots on an even moderate march. Over eight months have passed since War was declared yet many are still without a second pair of boots and those who have succeeded in obtaining two pairs prefer to have their original boots repaired rather than attempt to break in the new issue. The C.O. is doing his utmost to have this situation rectified.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase 28, decrease nil.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	4.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Practical demonstrations and lectures were given in defence against aircraft followed by the R.S.M's parade and line inspection by the C.O.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase nil, decrease nil.</p>	

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Toronto, Ont.	5.5.40	0600 0600	<p>The Battalion paraded at 1330 hrs attending Divine Service at St. Andrew's Church at 1445 hrs where the service was conducted by Rt. Rev'd Stuart C. Parker, D.D. After the service the Battalion marched past, Brigadier Alexander taking the salute. Onlookers are reported to have said that the Battalion marched with a precision and bearing not seen in Toronto since the last war.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	JF.
Toronto, Ont.	6.5.40	0600 0600	<p>A new phase of training has been entered with Coys alternating on night work carrying out their own attack & defence schemes & patrols. Although this entails a long day for the men the change has been welcomed and enjoyed giving as it does the men a chance to use their own initiative. Patrols are made most interesting when they become a competitive sport each trying to penetrate the other's protected area. HQ Coy indulged in an all day route march of some sixteen miles halting at Weston Airport for lunch supplied from the Transport Officers pride & joy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	JF.
Toronto, Ont.	7.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Coys are undergoing practical instruction in field engineering, mainly consisting of latrine digging. The Regiment has made a favourable impression at the ranges not only by its shooting but also its cleanliness. Immediately firing practice is completed, fatigue parties are formed to clear up any litter. According to the Range Warden the Black Watch is the only unit affording this assistance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No increase nor decrease in strength.</p>	JF.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto, Ont.	8.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Kit inspection revealed many pairs of socks ruined for further use by grease or oil soaking through the boots. The men have been taught to take care of the better part of their laundry themselves & their complaints that socks are impossible to thoroughly clean, appear to be justified. After contact with this grease the socks become quite hard & no amount of scrubbing will release it. This issue of boots has caused a great deal of criticism and steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	9.5.40	0600 0600	<p>C & D Coy acting in conjunction performed a defense & attack scheme at High Park. The results proved very gratifying, all movements were accomplished at the double making more difficult, control by section leaders. Over exuberance, impetuosity provided the best ^{safe} criticism for the judges.</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 and initials
Toronto, Ont.	10.5.40	0800 0600	<p>Major S.D.Cantlie prior to his proceeding On Command on a Course of instruction for Coy Commanders held in England was presented with a cake inscribed with the "Soldiers Farewell". Also proceeding overseas on course are Lieut.J.A.Kenny & Lieut.R.B.Somerville, the former on a signal course the latter field engineering. The following N.C.O's also left on courses.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">D-81373 Arm.Sgt.Waldie, A.S. D-81756 Sgt. Rogers, E.J. D-81098 L'Sgt. Leitch. A.F. D-81358 Cpl. Sherlock,J.E.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase 29, decrease nil.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	11.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Drill,R.S.M's Parade & Line Inspection.</p> <p>The Battalion is feeling the shortage of officer's, Five are at present on courses and three more have yet to be detailed. In one instance "D" Coy has Major A.W.Wright as its sole officer. It has been proposed by the O.C. that the officers composing the increment should be attached to the Battalion for training purposes until such time as it proceeded overseas. This suggestion has been forwarded by the D.O.C. to N.D.H.Q. Some of the officers are willing to work without pay for the experience afforded.</p> <p>The punishment awarded D-81867 Pte.Karcheski by the D.O.C. has been promulgated as follows,Detention one year and to be put under stoppages of pay until expenser incurred amounting to \$13.25 has been made good.</p> <p>This award remitted by one year the sentence of the court.</p> <p>In over eight months training this has been the Battalions sole Court Martial.</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, Ont.	12.5.40	0600 0600	<p>All Ranks of Protestant denomination paraded at 0930 hrs for the purpose of attending Divine Service in the Maple Leaf Stadium . The salute was taken by The Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario. Owing to a faulty microphone system very little of the service was audible and the March past failed to impress because of the difficulty in keeping step with conflicting bands, Nerves were frayed and tempers worn thin.</p>	J.P.
Toronto, Ont.	13.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Firing practice renewed at Long Branch for Bn.H.Q., H.Q.Coy & B Coy. "G" Coy & "E" Coys put into practice at night training received during the day. The number of men indulging in "French Leave" appears to be on the increase and although the Battalion has few in comparison with other units more serious punishments have been awarded in an effort to clear up the A.W.L. situation . Were the Battalion placed beyond the reach of easy transportation to and from Montreal there would be an immediate cessation of this complaint. As it stands now that the roads are clear and motor truck transport resumed, men suffering from nostalgia for home brought on by " John Barleycorn " find the drivers only too willing to accommodate them with a lift to Montreal. While this habit is indulged in by only a few "Regulars" the nuisance value is considerable causing constant repetition of training missed. The number A.W.L. at this date stands at seven.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase nil, decrease 1.</p>	J.P.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto, Ont.	14.5.40	0600 0600	<p>"B" Coy a consistent winner came first in line inspection . The Intelligence Section has undertaken the training of Coy Scouts, two per platoon. Training will consist of Map Reading, Compass Work, Field Craft, Camouflage and additional P.T. Men will be chosen for ability, education, reliability and granted that the course is a success and given time a further squad will be trained. Strength decrease 1, increase nil. D-81410 Lance Sgt. Craig, H. "H.Q." Coy transferred to No. 2 Infantry (R) Holding Unit, effective 14th. Apr. 1940.</p>	P.
Toronto, Ont.	15.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Lieut. Col. K.G. Blackader M.C.E.D. has been appointed President of a District Court Martial to assemble 17.5.40. The qualification of tradesmen is almost complete, this without the necessity for recruiting specialists. Capt. C. Petch "D" Coy is posted for duty to command "A" Coy for the duration of Major S.D. Wattle's absence on a course. No change in strength.</p>	P.
Toronto, Ont.	16.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Training continues as per syllabus. The number of applicants as recruits increases and the majority are of a desirable type. Unfortunately the Battalion is not authorized to recruit outside M.D. #4 however the attraction provided by the fame of the "Black Watch" is sufficient to make some hike to Montreal and enlist. Quite a few American's apply. No change in strength.</p>	P.

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Toronto, Ont.	17.5.40	0600 0600	<p>A & D Coys, Long Branch Ranges. The remainder of the Battalion indulged in the customary Friday's Route March.</p> <p>D-81042 C.S.M. Armstrong, R. "H.Q." Coy. is struck off strength of the Battalion on transfer to Regimental Depot, Montreal. This change is strictly in accordance with the policy adopted by the O.C. upon mobilization, C.S.M. Armstrong an extremely pleasant person was well liked by all and lacked only the organizing ability so vitally necessary to H.Q. Coy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength decrease 1, increase nil.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	18.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Line Inspection.</p> <p>News of the Battalion's transfer to M.D.5 for the summer training at Valcartier was pleasurable received as being on more step on the road overseas.</p> <p>Speculation as to the duration of the stay in camp is rife, the consensus being one month.</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, 19.5.40 Ont.	19.5.40	0600 0600	No Parades.	J.B.
Toronto, 20.5.40 Ont.	20.5.40	0600 0600	<p>The hardening process of all day Route Marches coupled with night work continues and an improvement in the physique of the men has become quite apparent.</p> <p>Major A.W.Wright has been named President of a Court of Inquiry.</p> <p>The list of absentees has increased to sixteen. This can only be expected as the men are inclined to celebrate prior to any move.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase 1, decrease 1.</p>	<p>See Part 2 Orders.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J.B.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto, Ont.	21.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Training continued as per syllabus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength decrease 1, increase nil.</p>	J.B.
Toronto, Ont.	22.5.40	0600 0600	<p>As the date of the Battalion's departure comes closer the A.W.L. list shrinks. Most of the men have no excuse to offer for their absence other than a desire for a change of scenery. After making thorough inquiries of other units it appears that the Battalion has little to complain about as at the peak the A.W.L. list was no more than 3% of total strength.</p> <p>Bn.HQ's who were first in line for cleanliness upon arrival in Toronto also reached top honours for the last inspection.</p> <p>All ranks were warned by the M.O. to take precautions against sunburn as in the event of their reporting sick due to excessive sunburn, by neglect, they would not be excused duties.</p> <p>Major H.Hamer, M.M.V.D, Capt. B.R. Ritchie and 50 other ranks proceeded as an advance party to Valcartier.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength decrease 5, increase nil.</p>	J.B.
Toronto, Ont.	23.5.40	0600 0600	<p>A, C & D Coys were exercised in marching past in column of route, and column of platoons in anticipation of the D.O.C's inspection to be held to-morrow. All arrangements were completed for the move.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength decrease 1, increase nil.</p>	J.B.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Toronto, Ont.	24.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Addressing the Battalion, Brigadier Alexander, D.S.O. complimented the men on their excellent behaviour while under his command saying. "I realize that it has been hard for you, being away from your homes & families, I am very proud of the way you have conducted yourselves" For 34 years, Brigadier Alexander revealed, he has been directly or indirectly associated with the Black Watch; with the 13th, 42nd & 73rd battalions overseas, with the militia units in peace time. On behalf of the Regiment Col. Blackader thanked Brigadier Alexander and told him every man in the Battalion appreciated the D.O.C. for the sympathetic way in which he made special allowances for long week-end leaves to Montreal periodically. He regretted that the regiment was not going to Camp Borden and that it would not be able to complete its training and serve in the field under him.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength decrease 5, increase nil.</p> <p>The Wet Canteen served free beer for the men and their guests. Eight casks were liquidated in under two hours.</p>	
Toronto, Ont.	25.5.40	0600 0600	<p>All ranks were confined to the Exhibition Area for the day, which was spent in removing nails from the stalls and generally cleaning up the buildings occupied by the Battalion.</p> <p>Having acted in the capacity of escorts to several units leaving the area for overseas it was gratifying to realize that the District did not consider such a step necessary for the Black Watch. The first half of the Battalion entrained at 1830 hrs the second at 1900 hrs the moves from the Horse Palace to the station siding being carried out with parade ground precision. There was neither confusion nor delay and the men responded splendidly in that there were no absentees nor inebriates. Many senior officers present declared the move to be the most orderly they had ever seen.</p> <p>At the train were hundreds of friends to see off the men of the Red Hackle many of these fellow soldiers who wished the Battalion good luck and further glory.</p>	

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Toronto, Ont.	25.5.40		<p>(Cont'd.)</p> <p>One young buck in kilt was clasped in the arms of a weeping female who reiterated "Write soon Dearest!" When last heard the young lad was asking for her name & address!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	<p><i>JR.</i></p> <p><i>Movement Orders App I</i></p>
Valcartier Que.	26.5.40	0600 0600	<p>After a very uneventful night the Battalion detrained at 0830 hrs and were met by the necessary transport. Contrary to all expectations the camp was found to be in perfect order. Tents had been pitched according to a plan drawn up by Capt. Ritchie and one hour after arrival Coy Offices were functioning and cooks already busy preparing the mid-day meal. Sun helmets were issued immediately and many men were seen sporting spare hackles on the sides. The men seem very pleased with the site and fishing excursions are being mooted.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	<p><i>JR.</i></p>
Valcartier Que.	27.5.40	0600 0600	<p>The Day was spent in improving lines, Digging drainage trenches and generally cleaning up the area. Coy Commanders impressed upon the men the necessity of precautions against contamination by the Local Belles. The M.O. has had an "S.A." tent erected for the use of the Battalion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	<p><i>JR.</i></p>
Valcartier Que.	28.5.40	0600 0600	<p>D-81000 R.S.M. Notman, P. was appointed Camp sergeant Major with D-81154</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Cont'd.)</p>	<p><i>JR.</i></p>

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Valcartier, Que.	28.5.40	0600 0600	<p>(Cont'd.) C.S.M.Foam, carrying out the duties of R.S.M. until his return. A Muster Parade was held after which reviews of Battle and Section formations and field Signals were performed by Coys. All ranks have been warned re swimming in the Jacques Cartier River. This is absolutely forbidden. One man from the F.M.R. has been drowned.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	
Valcartier, Que.	29.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Coys performed their individual schemes throughout the day. Lunch was delivered by the regimental transport at reference points in and beyond the training area enabling the drivers to indulge in practical Map Reading. A course in Map Reading is to be given all N.C.O's & W.O.III's by the Intelligence Section. More in the nature of a review it will benefit all as a good knowledge of this subject is essential to further training.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strength increase 4, decrease nil.</p>	

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Valcartier, Que.	30.5.40	0600 0600	<p>Specialists training and an all day Battalion Route March. Marching in this area is very much easier on the men's feet as most routes are planned cross country. The concrete and metalled roads of Toronto were causing quite a lot of trouble as the warmth of the weather increased. The following units are camped in the area;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Can. Infantry Rifle Training Centre, Consisting of; Royal 22nd. Regiment. Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Can. Infantry (Machine Gun) Training Centre. Consisting of; Royal Montreal Regiment. Toronto Scottish.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">5th. Canadian Brigade. Consisting of; 1st. Bn. The Black Watch (RHR) of Can. Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal. Le Regiment de Maisonneuve. Le Regiment de la Chaudiere. (Mit.)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Details from;- Royal Can. Engineers, Royal Can. Army Service Corp. Royal Can. Army Medical Corp. Royal Can. Ordnance Corp.</p>	

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Valcartier, Ont.	31.5.	40 0600 0600	<p>Pay day was accepted with little of the customary exhilaration. Quebec City holds much less appeal for the men than Toronto the ungodly. Training by day is more strenuous in camp and the added benefit of fresh air in quantities enhances the charms of bed. So far the troops are extremely enthusiastic regarding the change of scenery, probably some time will elapse before the dives of Jarvis and Elizabeth Sts. regain their appeal. Brigadier Leclerc was the guest of the mess at a very informal dinner. The camp area affords great opportunity for the use of compass marching at night. Several Coy Scouts report nightly with fresh routes they have taken bearings on and so far, praise be, have been unable to stump the Intelligence Section, their mentors.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Total Strength;- 982 All ranks.</p>	