

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	May 1		Everyone rather tired after exercise "CAT" . Payday today. Major A.W. Wright, officer commanding "D" Coy. S.O.S. to 2 Cdn. Inf Holding Unit eff. 28th April, 41. to take command of the Black Watch reinforcements at Whitley Camp. Authority D.A.A.G. Cdn Corps message 278D-29th April, 41. Capt. S.S.T. Cantlie is taken on strength from 2nd Cdn Inf Holding Unit eff. 29th April, 41 Authority CMHQ teletype A.T.230D-29th April, 41. Capt. Cantlie will be returning to Canada to become an instructor at a Company Commanders School. He was our adjutant prior to leaving us to go to Whitley Camp as O.C. Black Watch reinforcements.	<u>S. H.</u>
	May 2		Quiet day. Training as per syllabus. The state of health of the Bn. according to the M.O. Capt. E.H. Anderson, is excellent.	<u>S. H.</u>
	May 3		The Bn looked smart marching on to the parade ground today during the C.O.'s parade. These parades do considerable good in keeping up esprit de corps and pride in the Unit. During our present type of training in modern warfare with everything on wheels, these parades are practically the only occasion when the entire Bn. is together as a Unit. No parades in the afternoon.	<u>S. H.</u>
	May 4		A pleasant sunny day. Compulsary Church parade in the morning, the Protestants to St. George's and the R.C.s to St. Michaels Church. The two hours daylight saving time is a pleasant innovation and the sports fields are now in use all evening long.	<u>S. H.</u>
	May 5		Tomorrow we start on a 60 mile route march, which is the longest distance we have yet done on foot during our training.	<u>S. H.</u>
	May 6		At 0800hrs we started out on our 60 mile trek. The weather was excellent. Having marched 23 miles tonight the Bn. earned a good rest. Bn.HQ was at Milton's Farm 136824-Aldershot Command. 1" <del>3085</del> . At noon during the three days of this march, an advance party went ahead to arrange for billets or bivouacs, taking the company cooks along.	<u>S. H.</u>
	May 7		Rested and in good spirits at 0800hrs the Bn set out for the <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> <del>second</del> <sup>3085</sup> lap of the march, covering 19 miles during the day. We reached Caesar's Camp. A.C.I. about 1700hrs and slept that night in bracken under trees and bushes. Fortunately the weather was good, if a bit chilly, and no one was the worse for wear in the morning.	<u>S. H.</u>

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**M.F.M. 11**  
A.F.C. 2118  
1 Mil-8-39 (1708)  
H.Q. 1772-45-18

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	May 8		At 0815 hrs the Bn passed the S.P. Everyone in very good shape. The barracks at Aldershot were reached at 1715hrs, after a days march of 18 miles. It may be said that Albuhera Barracks appeared very attractive and luxurious after a 60 mile march and we were all pleased to arrive back. The number of men taking part in this march was 535, of whom 138 moved by transport and 397 marched and of the latter the maximum number having to fall out on any day was 11. The men really seem to be tough and in good shape.	2911
	May 9		Training as per syllabus.	2911
	May 10		This morning all ranks paraded in Albuhera Theatre where Major I.L.Ibbotson, acting C.O. during the absence of Lt.Col. K.G.Blackader, covered the 60 mile trek in a brief talk, explaining the importance of march discipline and general fitness. No parades in the afternoon.	2911
	May 11		Church parade this A.M. Protestants to St.George's - R.Cs to St.Michael's Church.	2911
	May 12		This morning Lt.Col. K.G.Blackader gave a talk to the entire Bn. in Albuhera Theatre.His subject was the importance of cutting down wastage of materials of all kinds, Tonight Brigadier Whitehead with staff dined in the Officer's mess.	2911
	May 13		This week an extensive amount of digging and wiring is being done by the Bn. in the training area in terrain near Miles Hill. It started today.	2911
	May 14		Today Major I.L.Ibbotson inspected the work continueing on the trenches. At 0100 hrs a warning order for exercise "Joseph" came in. In this exercise only a skeleton Bn participated, the main object being an improvement of inter-communications.	2911
	May 15		Training as per syllabus. Work on the trenches in the training area nears completion. Major I.L.Ibbotson, acting C.O. is still away on exercise "Joseph".	2911
	May 16		Training as per syllabus. The participants in exercise "Joseph" returned to barracks at 1600 hrs today. A number of lessons were drawn from this exercise regarding inter-communications. A divisional scheme, it was not entirely successful as during the progress orders were not received in time to permit proper execution.	2911

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	May 17		Training as per syllabus. No parades in the afternoon. Our pipeband left for Staines today to assist in the local War Weapons Week.	<u>2.911</u>
	May 18		No Parades.	<u>2.911</u>
	May 19		Training as per syllabus. Major I.L.Ibbotson again becomes acting C.O. as Lt.Col.E.G. Blackader today proceeded on Command on a senior Officer's Course to last two months.	<u>2.911</u>
	May 20		Training as per syllabus. Digging in training area pretty well finished.	<u>2.911</u>
	May 21		The Cdn Army Soccer Team(all from the Black Watch) played a British Army Team. Cdn Team 3 British Team 0. The weather has been exceptionally fine these last 14 days.	<u>2.911</u>
	May 22		The Bn today carried out an evacuation practice, the purpose simply being to get out of the barracks as quickly as possible in the event of bombing. It went well. A wiring party wired in our evacuation area, near Mytchett where the greater part of our transport is now permanently located.	<u>2.911</u>
	May 23		A moving picture was shown this morning in Albuhera Theatre, the subject being recognition of aircraft, which looks easy in a film but is in fact most difficult and very important.	<u>2.911</u>
	May 24		Training as per syllabus. No parades in the afternoon.	<u>2.911</u>
	May 25		At 0900 hrs Church parade. Protestants to St.Andrews. R.Cs to St. Michaels Church. The Officers wore service dress on Church parade for the firsttime since we have been in England.	<u>2.911</u>
	May 26		Training as per syllabus. Muster parade this P.M.	<u>2.911</u>
	May 27		Heavy rain all day. Training as per syllabus.	<u>2.911</u>
	May 28		Training as per syllabus.	<u>2.911</u>

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	May 29		During this last week all the companies have been firing on the Ash Ranges on a competitive basis; with a small money prize for the men in the winning Platoon or Coy. Headquarters All the teams have now fired and the results are being completed.	<u>29/11</u>
	May 30		At 0805 hrs the Bn moved off on a tactical scheme. It differed from all the other exercises we have had, in that the Bn acting as advance guard to Brigade, was thrown suddenly into an attack without warning. With supporting troops the Bn on the road covered a distance of approximately 11 miles. Moving towards Staines by <del>Mr.</del> the Bn was halted at Chobham where the Brigadier issued his orders. Chobham common had been occupied by parachutists and airborne troops and the task of the Bn was to attack and destroy these troops. The attack got started at 1130 hrs and the battle was over at approximately 1300 hrs. General McNaughton the Corps Commander was present and when the attack was over, he called a meeting of the Officers of the Black Watch and supporting arms. He complimented the junior leaders on the control they had over their commands and added a few words about the general war situation, telling us not to be impatient as he felt certain that England is to be the area of the decisive battle of the war. After this talk the Bn marched past Gen. McNaughton who took the salute and from there we marched home, 15½ miles arriving in barracks at 2100 hrs.	<u>29/11</u>
	May 31		Training as per syllabus. No parades this P.M.	<u>29/11</u>

*J. L. Johnston Major*