

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 (9380)  
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																					
At Sea	1.9.	0600	<p>The Morning parades and ship's muster were held. At 1430 hrs. a voluntary church service was held in the Officer's Mess by Capt. B.D.MacKay. There was a distinct change in the weather conditions, the warm sun of the past few days was superseded by damp foggy weather with considerable rain. All ranks were issued with Soldier's Service <del>and</del> and Pay Book. (M.B.M.L)</p>	<p>Appendix IV ships Standing Orders. <i>PS.</i></p>																					
	40.	0600			"	2.9.	0600	<p>As the convoy was well in the danger zone A.A. precautions were taken and instructions given on how to act, in the event of an aerial attack, 10 L.M.G. for A.A. were in readiness for day and night. Fog continued during the day.</p>	<p><i>PS.</i></p>		40.	0600	"	3.9.	0600	<p>Fog during the day caused little visibility. At 1223 hrs. six destroyers of the Royal Navy came at high speed from astern of the convoy and took up positions ahead and on either flank. All ranks were greatly impressed by the warlike and efficient appearance of these craft. At 1950 hrs and again at 2200 hrs the shock of exploding depth-charges could be felt throughout the ship. Later rumour had it that our escort had disposed of an enemy submarine surprised while recharging batteries on the surface. Innisfail Lighthouse (N.W. Ireland) sighted at 2150 hrs.</p>	<p><i>PS.</i></p>		40.	0600	"	4.9.	0600	<p>Convoy dropped anchor at 0600 hrs after which administrative details had to be settled. And at 1230 hrs the first party, consisting of 78 members of Bn.HQ. and HQ Coy under the command of Capt. S.S.T. Cantlie, went ashore in the tender "Biarritz" and entrained for Aldershot, Eng. Train moved off at 1720 hrs, balance of the Battalion under the O.C. entrained in two parties at two hour intervals. First train arrived in Aldershot at 0910 hrs 5.9.40. The rest of the Battalion arrived at approx. two hour intervals, the journey was delayed slightly by the inevitable air-raid.</p>	<p><i>PS.</i></p>
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Aldershot, Hants, Eng.	5.9.	0600	<p>Quarters allotted were Albuhera Barracks, Stanhope lines. The day was taken up, by all ranks becoming acquainted with their new quarters and barrack area. Incidentals were drawn from Q.M. Stores, Blankets <del>etc</del> etc. The Battalion experienced its first air-raid alarm at noon, which gave us the feeling that at last we were in the theatre of war.</p>	
	40.	0600		
"	6.9.	0600	<p>Rifle inspection was held and the balance of the day spent cleaning up barrack rooms, which were found to be in a filthy condition. The first casualty in England was D-81858 Sgt. D.B. Francis, who suffered a injury to his ankle which required his hospitalization.</p>	
	40.	0600		
"	7.9.	0600	<p>Parades held under company arrangements in the morning. The balance of the day free for all ranks, with a blanket pass given until 2400 hours.</p>	
	40.	0600		
"	8.9.	0600	<p>The regiment is standing to. All passes have been cancelled. M.T. is ready for a move at a moments notice, there is keen excitement in the air. After over a years training the Battalion feels that it will make a pretty good showing given the chance.</p>	
	40.	0600		
"	9.9.	0600	<p>Upon the Battalion's arrival in Aldershot the men were warned that their saluting and general behaviour which has been excellent in the past must be kept up. The standard of discipline as set by troops stationed here has been notoriously bad and it has been a source of satisfaction to notice a definite improvement since the Black Watch have been at Albuhera. All ranks are at present confined to Barracks <del>area</del> area.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	
	40.	0600		

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Aldershot, Hants, Eng.	10.9.	0600	Training continued indoors and not too strenuously while the stand-to order is maintained.  No change in strength.	<i>J.B.</i>
	40.	0600		
"	11.9.	0600	Intelligence reports received stress the likelihood of an early attempt at an invasion of this country. Equipment of every description has been issued the Battalion and as a direct result <del>the</del> the men are keen and their morale has been higher. Intensive training in both attack and defence is being carried out.  No change in strength.	Appendix V PASSIVE AIR DEFENCE. <i>J.B.</i>
	40.	0600		
"	12.9.	0600	Rain interfered to some extent with the programme of outdoor training. Coy Commanders carried out a reconnaissance of the areas allotted to them in the event of an attack. Routes to be followed have been tentatively selected and acting upon orders received from 2nd.Div.HQ. the Intelligence Officer is engaged in making detailed reconnaissances of these Routes and mapping alternative detours.  No change in strength.	<i>J.B.</i>
	40.	0600		
"	13.9.	0600	It was announced to-day that until further notice no censorship of Canadian Soldiers mail would be necessary. Training in the use of Anti-gas equipment and identifying gages commenced under the supervision of Lieut.J.G.Bourne.  No change in strength.	<i>J.B.</i>
	40.	0600		

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Aldershot, Hants, Eng.	14.9.	0600	<p>Further reconnaissances were made by the Intelligence Section of routes chosen for the anticipated move to an area west of Tunbridge Wells. These routes, North, centre &amp; South must be studied by day and night and alternative routes chosen and checked. According to present information more than 900 vehicles will participate acting as one column.</p> <p>Arrangements were made by Major Hamer, the Quartermaster to have the Coys instructed in the use of their petrol cookers and mess tin cookery. This provoked great deal of interest and was particularly informative.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	<p>Appendix VI Field RETURNS. <i>J.B.</i></p>
	40.	0600		
"	15.9.	0600	<p>All ranks of Protestant denomination paraded at 0830 hours for the purpose of attending divine service at St. Andrew's Church, Queens Avenue. Major I.L. Ibbotson and Capt. Molson had the good fortune to be on the scene when an enemy airman descended from his burning plane by parachute. The first captive of the Black Watch! Major Ibbotson kept hostile villagers at bay and made the airman, who was severely wounded, as comfortable as possible until the Civil Authorities took charge. A souvenir in the form of an easily inflated safety jacket was presented by Capt. S. Molson to Flying Officer Eric Beardmore R.C.A.F. an old friend of the regiment from Montreal, now serving here.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	<p><i>J.B.</i></p>
	40.	0600		
"	16.9.	0600	<p>A short movement by mechanical transport was carried out by the Battalion. Quite naturally delays and faults were expected, this being the first time such a movement has been made by the Black Watch but thanks to detailed planning prior to the attempt each Coy left their lines exactly on time. Traffic Control under the charge of Lieut. J.W. Knox with personnel drawn from "D" Coy was well handled. It became apparent that the drivers did not receive the instructions given to their commanders as there were far too many instances of bunching and at no time was the distance between vehicles, as laid down in the movement order, adhered to. Insufficient personnel for <del>the</del> traffic direction resulted in one cross-roads unguarded. At this point the Carrier Platoon which was in the lead</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Cont'd.)</p>	<p>Appendix VII Standing FIRE ORDERS. <i>J.B.</i> Appendix VIII MOVEMENT ORDER <i>R.L.</i></p>
	40.	0600		



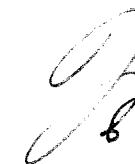
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Aldershot, Hants, Eng.	<u>16.9.</u> 40.		(Cont'd.) left the route and faded away to rejoin the column somewhat sheepishly later in the day. As each detail had been shown the route and supplied with a tracing it came as a surprise to find that in one or two instances maps had been left behind and complete reliance placed on the vehicle ahead maintaining its position in the column. These errors were fully discussed in the afternoon and steps taken to prevent a reoccurrence. Capt.C.Petch, "A"Coy. Lieut.I.R.McDougall, "A"Coy and 60 other ranks are S.O.S.Battalion on transfer to 5th.Inf.Bde.Recce.Sqd. Lieut.R.E.Miller and 24 other ranks are S.O.S.Bn.on transfer to 5th.Inf.Bde.Anti-tank Coy.	
"	<u>17.9.</u> 40.	0600 0600	Acting upon advise received in Intelligence Reports from 2nd.Division HQ, a complete review of Anti-gas training is being made under the supervision of Lieut.J.G.Bourne assisted by personnel from the Battalion who have taken gas courses since their arrival in England. Much equipment issued is unfamiliar and is too apt at this point to be treated as a nuisance. With correct instruction in its use, plus a thorough knowledge of its value, casualties from any known gas can be limited to the neglectful few. Troops have been advised to return to the barrack area immediately upon an Air-raid warning being sounded.  No change in strength.  No Change in strength.	
"	<u>18.9.</u> 40.	0600 0600	Coy's practised the loading and unloading of their vehicles. This will be a great aid to speed up movement when the time comes. During the evening all Officers and N.C.O's were given instruction by the I.O.in the use of the Liquid & Dry Prismatic Compass following which they were given the necessary bearings and distance to complete a route planned by day.  No change in strength.	

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**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, Hants, Eng.	19.9.	0600	<p>Several Officers and N.C.O's were taken to watch a demonstration, given by Imperial Army Instructors, in the use of the A.W. Bomb or "Molotoff Cocktail". Camouflage equipment was explained and several demonstrations given. During the night the Germans were believed to have dropped a number of time bombs in this area. Several have now been discovered and detonated.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	<p><i>Appendix IX</i> <i>OPERATION</i> <i>INSTRUCTION</i> <i>No. I</i></p> <p><i>J.B.</i></p>
	40.	0600		
"	20.9	0600	<p>Anti-gas lectures on the use of equipment provided are being given daily as reports received stress the probability of the enemy's using gas at an early date. Lieut. D.H. Taylor and 7 other ranks proceeded on courses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	<p><i>J.B.</i></p>
	40.	0600		
"	21.9.	0600	<p>A great deal of difficulty has been experienced by the First Division when called upon to make a move by M.T. In order to obviate many errors the Second Division are to have frequent moves on short notice beginning by Bn's then Brigades and increasing the distance covered as efficiency progresses. The Fifth Infantry Brigade received their orders at 0115 hours to-day and at 0730 hrs the Battalion was ready to move to its position, on Hankley Common Ref. 335605 Aldershot Command Map 1"- 1 mile. Battalion and Unit Commanders joined Brigadier P. Leclair, M.M. at 0830 hrs for reconnaissance purposes. The Black Watch were to hold the right flank with Le Regiment de Maissoneuve on their left and the Calgary Highlanders in support. Positions were to be taken and weapon pits prepared and communication between units established by 1500 hrs which was done with very little confusion except as regards inter-communication. Traffic Control was handled by details from each Battalion's Intelligence Sections. This was poor in many cases as it was quite apparent that some men had received little or no instruction in their duties. At least there were no fatalities and the route covered over 28 miles, quite an ambitious jaunt for a first attempt. Lieut. R.B. Somerville. "D" Coy rejoined the Battalion from "On Command."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	<p><i>Appendix X</i> <i>Field Returns.</i></p> <p><i>J.B.</i></p>
	40.	0600		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Aldershot, Hants, Eng.	<u>22.9.</u>	0600	<p>All ranks of Protestant Denomination paraded at 0830 hrs for the purpose of attending Divine Service at St. George's Church. This parade coming as it did after a strenuous whole days work on Saturday provoked a good deal of grumbling. As a rule the men take their church parades as a necessary evil and generally enjoy them. <del>They</del> They do however feel that compulsory parades every Sunday interferes too much with their leisure hours.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	
	40.	0600		
"	<u>23.9.</u>	0600	<p>Training proceeded according to the syllabus. A meeting of all officers engaged on Saturdays Brigade scheme was held in the Albuhera Theatre for the purpose of discussing the merits and demerits of the operation from Bn. Commanders and Unit Commanders point of view. Lack of inter-communication came in for the severest criticism. In one instance HQ of a unit was changed without Bde. or support being notified. The Engineers also experienced difficulty in locating the various HQ's as map references were often at fault. The Bn. Signallers under Lieut. J.A. Kenny accomplished splendid work.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	
	40.	0600		
"	<u>24.9.</u>	0600	<p>General Brook the C.in C. visited the training area of the 5th. Infantry Brigade and expressed his pleasure at the fitness of the men. During an informal talk with Lt. Col. K.G. Blackader the General commented on the value of the 2" &amp; 3" trench mortars which he declared were splendid weapons. The Anti-tank rifle which has been maligned by all and sundry also came in for praise. As the Battalion has trained extensively with this weapon it came as a great relief to hear, from one experienced in their use, an eulogy upon their effectiveness.</p> <p><del>Officers were entertained in the mess by Capt. Johnston of the Canadian Legion War Services who provided a movie show. One, a wild west melodrama caused great excitement and a suggestion was mooted that for the benefit of the more nervous officers</del></p> <p>Officers were entertained in the mess by Capt. Johnston of the Canadian Legion War Services who provided a movie show. One, a wild west melodrama caused great excitement and a suggestion was mooted that for the benefit of the more nervous officers</p>	
	40.	0600		

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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.

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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
Aldershot Hants, Eng.	24.9. 40	0600 0600	(cont'd) Films of a less rugged and more tenderly emotional type would be acceptable.  No change in strength.  No Air-raid warning disturbed training. Disembarkation leave has now commenced.	<i>Ph.</i>
"	25.9. 40	0600 0600	Details from units of the Second Division were inspected at work in their training area by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester KG. Lieut-Col. K.G. Blackader MC later expressed his astonishment at the Duke of Gloucester's capacity for remembering names of Canadian soldiers who had passed from Active Service years ago. Reports of lights being shone during Air-raids are frequent. In order to prevent the reoccurrence, members of the Intelligence Sections have been instructed to co-operate with the guards in patrolling the area whilst the warning is in effect. Lieut. Hugh S. Peck has been S.O.S. the Battalion on transfer to the 5th Canadian Infantry Brigade Recce Squadron. The Calgary Highlanders stole a march on the Black Watch by having their Pipe Band on parade for the Duke of Gloucester. Eighty nine other ranks proceeded on disembarkation leave.	<i>Ph.</i>



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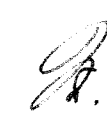
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Aldershot, Hants, Eng.	26.9.	0600	<p>Training continued as per syllabus.</p> <p>"B" Coy spent all day at the ranges. There were no air-raid warnings.</p> <p>A record audience attended the show held at the Garrison Theatre under the auspices of E.N.S.A. Donations to the Canadian Legion War Services enable the Canadian troops to enjoy the programme free of charge. These programmes range from slap-stick vaudeville to selected scenes from Grand Opera and often the cast contains names well known to theatre goers.</p> <p>As yet any form of organized sport is frowned upon but it is hoped that games of a competitive nature will be allowed in the near future. The Battalion possesses an excellent soccer team and an interesting fixture could be arranged on short notice with the other regiments in the vicinity.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	
	40.	0600		
"	27.9.	0600	<p>Every soldier has been repeatedly warned against careless talk. Reports of fifth column activities have made this constant repetition essential.</p> <p>Senior Officers of the Battalion were the dinner guests of Le Regiment de Maissonneuve. Lieut. H.S. Peck reported for duty with the 5th. Inf. Bde. Recce. Squadron. Two of the Bn's most efficient W.O. lll's S.M. Cartledge and Murphy have also been S.O.S. Bn. to the Anti-Tank Company and Recce Squadron respectively.</p>	
	40.	0600		

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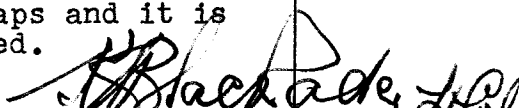
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Aldershot, Hants, Eng.	28.9.	0600	<p>Firing at the ranges continued with HQ Coy &amp; Bn.HQ. participating. The results have been rather discouraging as even the standard obtained at Toronto has fallen off. This however can well be explained by the very little practice afforded the Bn. While in Montreal Coys had little opportunity of using the Mount Bruno Ranges and whereas Toronto training included a fair proportion of work at the ranges hardly sufficient time has been allotted to justify more pretentious results. Only one day per Coy has been spent firing since the Bn's arrival in England. Although more than two months have elapsed since the men have used their rifles, scores obtained would suggest, not a complete return to the most elementary weapon training, as has been done, but further work at the ranges. In each Coy there are sufficient good shots to allow a coach for every three men. Practical work rather than theory is definitely called for after over a years training and certainly would serve as a fillip to a slipping morale by lessening the obvious monotony of excessive repetition in this particular subject.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	
	40.	0600		
"	29.9.	0600	<p>No church parades was held. As a thorough knowledge of the topography of the country is required by the Intelligence Section it has been and will continue to be the practice, to indulge in driving from town to town throughout the South East Coast gaining thereby an abundance of fresh air, historical details plus an easy familiarity with the various routes to and from important points.</p>	
	40.	0600		
"	30.9.	0600	<p>The giving of verbal orders seems to completely nonplus the junior N.C.O. and a review of this subject as well as the section stalk is taking place. Owing to the formation of the reconnaissance squadron and other Bde &amp; Divisional requirements, Coys have suffered a severe drainage in trained personnel with the subsequent resulting lessening in <del>efficiency</del> efficiency. This latter is not so apparent as might be expected and in a short time will be erased. In the meantime however every effort is being made to exact full cooperation from all in the training of raw men withdrawn from "E" Coy to fill the gaps and it is encouraging to note the number of voluntary night classes so well attended.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No change in strength.</p>	 
	40.	0600		