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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 2 A&SH

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Aug 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LES LOGES	1		All quiet. Contact patrols to units on our left.	
	2		As for yesterday. Warning order to move to LA MARCELLIERE.	
LA MARCELLIERE	3		Bn take up defensive posn near the village as reserve bn to the Bde. The high ground in front of the village is held by the HLI on the left and the GORDONS on the right. A counter attack role on to either of the two fwd bns area is planned. Everything quiet & bn given opportunity for minor reorganisation, issue of NAAFI goods.	
LA MARCELLIERE	4		As for yesterday.	
MONTCHARIVEL	5		<p>227(H) Bde left LA MARCELLIERE to attack in company with the SCOTS GUARDS several points to the SOUTH. 2 A&amp;SH and part of 2 GORDONS were to travel on the tanks of the SCOTS GUARDS to a dispersal point at MONTCHARIVEL (745428).</p> <p>The objectives of 2 A&amp;SH were to clear two villages - LA FORTE (37/14 SW 1/25000) MR. 758428 and LE HAUT 768428. In support 1 Sqn SCOTS GUARDS. No enemy were encountered and consolidation was effected at LE HAUT.</p> <p>Later in the afternoon word was received that 2 A&amp;SH was req'd to deny the use of br 754407 on the MONTCHAMP - LA CAVERIE RD. to the enemy, MONTCHAMP being held by one enemy company. The bn pushed on to high ground vicinity L'Eponniere (754409) and as darkness fell took up positions on the fwd slope, commanding the br and road.</p> <p>The whole 24 hrs operation was done without encountering any enemy whatsoever, except for one boshe who gave himself up to Capt W.R. Bruce (sup coy comd) while he was asleep in the Comd post area.</p> <p>Carrier containing several men and Lieut D.R. MURDOCH was blown up by a mine at x-rds in MONTCHARIVEL, after several vehs of ours and of the R.S.F. who had taken the town the night before had been over it. The driver was killed and Lt</p>	

			MURDOCH, carrier pl comd, was wounded. His life was saved only by sandbags which were on the floor of the veh.	
L'EPONNIERE	6		227(H) Bde with S.L. of LA CAVERIE x-rds (768405) moved to attack along with the SCOTS GUARDS the following objectives:- 10 H.L.I. - THIEL (7635); 2 GORDONS - ESTRAY (7437) 2 A&SH CANTELOUP (7835). The Bn F.U.P. was LA CAVERIE x-rds, where considerable armour was established in vicinity for marry-up purposes. This was attacked at long range by two MK IV TIGER TANKS and there was considerable confusion as the 3 bns passed the x-rds - one recce car being demolished in clear view of the troops. A&SH proceeded to S.L. and attack began with VASSY Rd as axis (2 coys left, 2 right). Considerable MG fire was encountered and at one point extremely heavy mortaring which diminished as the troops pressed close to the enemy. Armour was considerably held up by a dug-in TIGER and an S.P. gun. The TIGER was successfully stalked by B Coy and drew off - the S.P however knocked out one CHURCHILL before drawing off. Tanks encountered mines on road and the attack was halted short of PT 208 where the Bn dug in about 350x from German posns.	
VASSY RD.	7	1300	On high ground astride LA CAVERIE - VASSY RD north of Point 208 the Bn tried to advance posns approx 100-150 yds. The attack was made with gunner, MMG and mortar sup. The objective was not attained and over a score of casualties were suffered including Maj AM Fyfe OC B Coy killed by MG fire who lay wounded for several hours under fire (died at the R.A.P.) With the object of evacuating the wounded who could not be reached by S.Bs because the area was under MG and mortar fire, Maj L.L.E. Moreton (Law Moreton) advanced alone towards the German lines carrying a red cross flag above his head. He was fired upon once as he approached the place where the wounded lay. A German captain then appeared & shouted at his men to hold their fire. Maj L.L.E. Moreton and the boshe officer shook hands and a truce of half-an-hour was agreed upon to remove all dead and wounded, a demarcation line being drawn and the boshe removing all casualties on their side. Thus several Argylls fell into German hands - the first known to be taken prisoner in the Bn. Firing was renewed after the truce, with the Bn holding its original positions. At 0700 hrs 3 arty privates of the 9th S.S. drove into our lines, apparently in error, in a light recce car, containing hot coffee evidently for an OP position.	

VASSY RD.	8		Held positions as yesterday without incident. Occasional mortaring (MR. T772392 Flers 7F/5 1/50,000) Three deserters of Polish and Jugo Slav nationality were admitted to lines. They were recent reinforcements to the 21 Pz. They said there were many others wishing to come in. This subsequently proved correct. During night Aug 8/9 bn withdraws to posns vacated by Royal SCOTS on LA CAVERIE - ESTRAY RD MR T 765395.	
LA CAVERIE x-rds	9		Positions maintained as before. Patrols sent out to contact neighbouring units. 10 H.L.I. on right and 7 SEAFORTHS on left who were close to LA CAVERIE x-rds. Occasional casualties from mortaring. Much Bosche small arms fire at night mainly on fixed line. Two deserters admitted to lines.	
LA CAVERIE x-rds	10		One deserter. Contact patrolling. Heavy 25 pndr gunner support.	
	11		Twelve deserters - patrolling. Arty as before.	
	12		Patrolling. No deserters. Evidence of Bosche withdrawal: as a lack of SA fire at night. 1 casualty from mortar bomb.	
LA CAVERIE x-rds	13		Quiet day. No mortaring at all. During night 13/14 Bn withdrew on foot to area of LA MARTELLIERE (Ondefontaine 1/50,000 37/14 SW T 505465). This withdrawal was without incident as some 11th Armd Div troops were now occupying frm ahead of Bn front. Bn was received by 1st Herefordshire Regt. of 11 Armd Div.	
LA MARTELLIERE	14		In new position, bn occupied itself in resting and washing until 1400 hrs when it embussed for a return to the CAEN sector, which it had left some weeks ago. During the morning the Bn received news of the loss of its CO - Lt Col J.W. Tweedie who left to assume command of the 91st Bn (anti-tank). The Bn moved without a hitch under the temporary C.O. Maj J. Kenneth and arrived in its new area near MALTOT. These posns were well back from the fwd areas and the Bn rightly looked forward to a well deserved rest.	
MALTOT AREA	15		Bn rested, visited M.B.U. and watched an E.N.S.A. Show.	
nr. Maltot	16	1800	Bn rested today. Maj S.C.D. Fergusson arrived & was posted as O.C. Sup Coy. Pipes and drums played retreat & wore the kilt for the first time since we came to France. The pipes are a great morale booster and the Bn was pleased to see the kilt again.	

nr. Maltot	17	1800	Bn rested again all day and there was swimming and bathing in the Orne River. Everybody now felt fit and ready once again. Pipes and drums played retreat with Pipe Major Angus Graham playing his new compositions for the first time, "Crossing the River Odon" and "Fifteenth Scottish Division". Lieut W.J.D. Sword became I.O. vice Lieut A.H. Pierce who went to B Coy as Pl Comd. Warning for move tomorrow not before 1100 hrs to 029475 in Barbery Area (40/14 S.W)	
Barbery	18	1650	Bn arrived in new location after a move of no incident.	
Barbery	19	1830 1900	Bn rested and trained. Coys did route marches and P.T. Warning order for a move in T.C.Vs for contact battle. Bn at 6 hrs notice to move from 0600 hrs tomorrow. Cinema show in Bn area.	
Barbery	20	2355	Move cancelled. No move for 48 hours. Bn area dive bombed by about 6 enemy bombers for 20 mins. The centre of the attack was the mortar pl area and the R.A.P. Seven men of the mortar pl were killed outright. Three offrs were wounded & seven men. The offrs wounded were Major J. Kenneth, the Commanding Officer; Capt Wm Sloan, mortar officer and Rev G.T. Jameson - Chaplain. The bombs dropped were A.P. except for the bomb which dropped in the mortar area. This was of heavier calibre. All the casualties were out of their slit trenches at the time of the bombing.	
Barbery	21		It rained all day and the Bn rested and kept as dry as possible in farm buildings. Maj S.C.D. Fergusson assumed command of the Battalion vice Maj Kenneth.	
Barbery	22	2100	Bn rested and dried out after yesterday's rain. Warning order for early move tomorrow.	
Barbery	23	0640 2000 2000	Bn moved this morning to a concentration area at FRESNE LA MERE 196359 (7F/6) Reinforcements arrived 1 Offr (2/Lieut A.S. Mull) and 17 ORs. Warning order for move towards the SEINE tomorrow morning. We heard that Capt Wm Sloan had died of his wounds. Lieut J.C. McColl took over command of C Coy vice Maj B. Pearson who again became 2i/c.	
Fresne La Mere	24		"H" hour for the move was postponed continually until by the afternoon it was considered that there would be no move that day at all. This was caused by confusion on the roads. Bridge had been blown and there was much battered German transport across the route.	

		1530	Order to move at 1740 hrs as far at least that night as TRUN 3129 / 3A&8 1/250,000). Order of march of the Bde 10 H.L.I., 2 Gordons, 2 A&SH.	
		2000	Bn concentrated in area BOURDON 4156 (7F/6) after a successful move without incident. The route was littered as we had been told with German transport. Although we had been warned of mines and booby traps none were encountered	
BOURDON	25	0900	Bn moved with the object of taking up a defensive position in the EMANVILLE area 0374 (map sheet 7 250,000).	
		1700	Bn took up position at PETITE LONDE 0072 (8F/4) No enemy were encountered on route and the Bn was feted all the way by the French. The route took the Bn through a road 7 mls long where the most appalling destruction had been caused on enemy transport by the R.A.F. Dead Germans, dead horses and mangled transport were heaped up on the verges of the road. Again no mines or booby traps were encountered.	
PETITE LONDE	26	0005	Orders received for a move at 0430 hrs to a concentration area at LOUVIER 2289 (1/100,000 9F) preparatory to a crossing of the SEINE the following night.	
		0430	Moved out as arranged to forming up area but was stopped there.	
		0830	Order for a move to a concentration area at LE NEUBOURG (R 0283 [1/250,000 sheet 7]) were issued.	
		0930	Bn concentrated in new location.	
		1700	Bn moved to LOUVIERS. On arrival orders were given for capture of high ground area R 2589.	
		2200	This piece of high ground occupied by the Bn without incident. Members of the maquis guided the Bn to its objective. It was learned that General Von Kluge the night before had used a room in the farm in which our H.Q. was established.	
LOUVIER	27		The Bn rested in the area and made up for lost sleep as much as possible. Liaison was made with maquis about enemy in area. Bn moved at about 1800 hrs to an F.U.P. at R 2787 [1/250,000 sheet 7] for the crossing of the SEINE. The Bn was in reserve and 60 men were used for carrying boats for the initial crossing by 2 GORDONS and 10 H.L.I. The original plan was that 2 A&SH should cross after 2 GORDONS on the right but after the GORDONS had had trouble the Bn was switched to the left to follow on after H.L.I. The move took place about 2200 hrs. The	

Across the SEINE		<p>crossing for us was without incident and went almost like an exercise.</p> <p>One man was killed outright and CAPT TUNIS (Can-loan) was wounded. The enemy were withdrawing from the house area across open ground and several casualties were inflicted on them. 17 Bosche were killed mostly by the only mortar which had by that time crossed the river and by the sniper corporal. 3 Bosche were taken prisoner. The Bn mopped up the area and a further 3 prisoners were taken. The whole advance was done without close support as even the A/TK guns had not yet got over the river. Although there had been no time for even Coy Comds to see the ground, and the speed and change of plan made adequate orders impossible. A defensive position was taken up without interference on the other side.</p>	
Across the SEINE	28	<p>This morning at about 0900 hrs a warning order was received for an advance through thick woods to the high ground at Chateau Buspins. No opposition was met in the woods, though signs of hurried enemy withdrawal were evident. No opposition was met on the objective either. Only when the Bn began to exploit over the crest did we meet the bosche. D Coy exploiting through the House were fired on by a Spandau.</p>	
CHATEAU BUSPIN	29	<p>This morning about 0200 hrs the remainder of the Bn transport arrived. During the day the Bn rested and reorganised.</p>	
	30	<p>The day was spent in resting, refitting and in reorganisation.</p>	
	31	<p>A &amp; D Coys today cleared a wooded area over the SEINE between LERY 2696 and PORTE PINCHE 2993 (Sheet No 155 N.E). This area was reported to us by the maquis as being held in small numbers by the bosche. The maquis chief at LERY gave us the exact layout of the area and his men assisted in the sweep. No enemy were found but later 12 bosche gave themselves up to a carrier standing patrol which acted as a stop and which was left at PORTE PINCHE after the Coys withdrew again for the night.</p>	