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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 44 (L) Inf Bde

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year SEP 1944

Commanding Officer Brigadier JC COCKBURN, MBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
VATTEVILLE nr R SEINE	1	1008 1820	Warning Order for Bde to move on 2 Sep to area SW of AMIENS. This warning order was cancelled.	
	2	1645	No move today. There was difficulty in getting TCVs. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 10 issued.	Appx 1.
	3	0900 2100	Bde HQ with Bde Gp moved 25 miles NORTH to LA FEUILLIE where the night was spent. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 11 issued.	Appx 2.
LA FEUILLIE	4	0930 2205	Bde HQ with Bde Gp moved another 30 miles to area SW of AMIENS - Bde HQ at CRIQUERIE. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 12 issued.	Appx 3.
CRIQUERIE	5	1020	Bde HQ with Bde Gp moved across the SOMME by the following route GOURCHELLES - HORNOY - AUMONT - AIRAINES - LONGPRE - LONG - AILLY - AUXI - LIGNY - FILLIEVRES - ST POL, where the night was spent. Many abandoned German guns and smashed vehs etc were seen on the rd and round ST POL were seen many flying bomb sites.	
ST POL	6	0330 0930 2200 2330	44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 13 issued. Bde HQ with Bde Gp in Contact Battle fmn adv to BELGIUM. Route:- DIVION - CAMBLIGNEUL - HERSIN - VERMELLES - WINGLES - AMMEULLIN - LILLE - HALLUIN. The whole adv today was a triumphal procession through cheering crowds, and enthusiastic scenes took place when the Belgian border was crossed. Contact with the enemy was made at MENIN and LAUWE. 6 KOSB were sent into a brhead across the canal at LAUWE and remainder of Bde took up def posns - Bde HQ in a chateau near HALLUIN. Bde Comd with Bde IO went to 'O' Gp at Div HQ near TOURCOING. 'O' Gp at Bde HQ.	Appx 4.
HALLUIN	7	1915	Bde hold the line of the canal on both sides of COURTRAI and a lot of shelling was directed at enemy attempting to withdraw Northwards and NE. 6 RSF crossed the canal EAST of COURTRAI and captured DEERLYCK, cutting the enemy's escape route. 75 prisoners were taken.	

	8	0810	Bde HQ moved to outskirts of COURTRAI. 8 RS moved NORTH across canal to HARLEBEKE and 6 KOSB pushed through up the rd to DEYNZE. Bde all est in new areas by evening.	
COURTRAI	9	1000 2300	Bde HQ moved to banks of canal EAST of COURTRAI and later to a farm NE of HARLEBEKE. No other moves today. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 14 issued.	Appx 5.
nr HARLEBEKE	10	0800	Bde HQ and Bde Gp moved today to area MALINES via KERKHOVE - RENAIX - NEDERBRAKEL - NINOVE - ASSCHE - BRUSSEGHEM - WOLVERTREM.	
nr MALINES	11	2245	A quiet day. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 15 issued.	Appx 6.
	12	0800	Bde HQ and Bde Gp moved to area WESTERLOO on the ALBERT CANAL via PUTTE - HEYSTOP-DEN-BERG - BOISSCHOT - WESTMEERBEEK and took over from 151 Bde of 50 Div in brhead between ALBERT CANAL and MEUSE - ESCAUT CANAL in area of GHEEL. Bde HQ moved into area SOUTH of ALBERT CANAL.	
nr ALBERT CANAL	13	0440 0800 1700 2200	8 RS patrol reported no enemy now in GHEEL. 8 RS moved two coys into GHEEL. During the day it was gradually established that the enemy were withdrawing NORTH of the MEUSE - ESCAULT canal blowing the brs. Bde HQ moved to a field SOUTH of GHEEL and NORTH of the ALBERT CANAL. 6 KOSB tried to cross the canal NORTH of GHEEL and managed to get a sec over. They failed to get any more tps over and were pinned down by fire.	
NORTH of ALBERT CANAL	14	0600 1130 2300	8 RS crossed the MEUSE - ESCAULT canal NORTH of GHEEL in area of AART. The crossing was done in rubber boats and by 0800 hrs all four rifle coys were over. 6 KOSB had to withdraw from their posns SOUTH of the canal owing to flooding. The situation on 8 RS front gradually deteriorated throughout the day and very hy fire on the crossing prevented RES completing a br. Rafts, however, were got working and some carriers and A Tk guns got across in the evening. 8 RS reported they were being counter-attacked and that two tks had broken in. Situation was confused.	
NORTH of ALBERT CANAL	15	0240 0745 1000 1230 1625	8 RS reported two fwd coys depleted and driven back into bn area. 8 RS reported situation critical and being counter-attacked from all directions. 181 Fd Regt reported that 8 RS were still in the village of AART and that the enemy had drawn off and were shelling the village. 6 RSF started to cross canal to assist 8 RS. By 1430 6 RSF were all over and situation was easier. Eight Typhoons strafed enemy bty which was giving trouble.	

		1742	6 RSF reported they were being counter-attacked. Two counter attacks came in and were repulsed but 6 RSF had to withdraw slightly.	
		1930	6 KOSB crossed canal and fanned out to LEFT of brhead. A further counter attack came in before dark.	
		2100	Bde HQ moved through GHEEL to a small field a mile from the canal and on the outskirts of GHEEL. Restriction on amn expenditure by ARTY and Mors hindered the Bde in this op.	
NORTH of GHEEL	16	0315	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 2 issued.</u>	Appx 7.
		0730	An enemy counter-attack which came in on the brhead delayed the op described in the above OO.	
		0930	6 KOSB and 6 RSF reported they were unable to form up and after Bde Comd had visited them the attack was called off. Hy shelling by the enemy continued all day.	
		2000	A hy counter attack began to form up EAST of the brhead - estimated str - one bn of inf. The attack was smashed by hy arty and mor fire and enemy drew off after suffering hy cas.	
	17		8 RS were withdrawn overnight and by 0900 were all out of the brhead.	
		1230	For 2 hrs a grandstand view was obtained of the aircraft passing over to HOLLAND. This was the landings of the British, American and Polish airborne forces in areas ARNHEM - EINDHOVEN etc. This wonderful sight had a considerable tonic effect on the tps in the brhead. 2 American airmen baled out near Bde HQ and were rescued.	
	18	0245	2 A&SH of 227 Bde were all over canal and took over from 6 RSF, who began to cross the canal at 0730 hrs. Relief was complete by 1100 hrs without cas. 6 RSF remained in area GHEEL and 8 RS moved to MOLL to take over a further stretch of the canal.	Appx 8.
		0245	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 5 issued.</u>	
		1800	6 KOSB and 2 A&SH still in brhead, were counter attacked but the attack was broken up by arty. It was made by one inf bn supported by 2 tks.	
		2200	2 GORDONS of 227 Bde began to cross canal to relieve 6 KOSB.	
NORTH of GHEEL	19	0040	2 GORDONS completely across without cas.	Appx 9.
		0340	6 KOSB recrossed canal and comd of brhead passed from 44 Bde to 227 Bde.	
		1000	Bde HQ moved to School in MOLL along with 6 RSF and took over comd of sector of canal NORTH of MOLL. This was comparatively quiet.	
		2345	<u>Warning Order for possible Ops 20 Sep issued.</u> This op did not take place.	

MOLL	20	1326	Warning Order from Div that 7 Armd Div will take over from 44 Bde on 21 Sep. BM went to HQ 131 Bde to arrange relief.	
	21	0845 0900 1600	44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 6 issued. 131 Bde took over responsibility for 44 Bde's sector. 44 Bde Gp started to move to EINDHOVEN in HOLLAND. It was very slow owing to congestion on the rds and a temporary halt was made overnight near WESTERHOVEN.	Appx 10.
nr WESTERHOVEN HOLLAND	22	1400  2015	After delay all morning due to traffic congestion, Div issued orders at 1316 to 44 Bde to move. Bde Gp moved into harbour areas in EINDHOVEN. 6 KOSB were placed under comd 46 Bde and pushed over the WILHELMINA Canal into area BEST. 44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 7 issued.	Appx 11.
EINDHOVEN	23		The attempt to adv in contact fmn towards BOXTEL was unsuccessful and Recce were held up NORTH of BEST. 6 RSF went through and captured DEVLEUT but 46 Bde made very slow progress in their attack on BEST.	
	24	0730	8 RS crossed br and pushed up main rd NORTH of BEST but were held up. Little progress was made today.	
	25		Little activity except patrols today.	
	26	0630 1030 1030	6 RSF made a small attack on an enemy posn NORTH of DE VLEUT which was successful. 72 prisoners were taken. Bde HQ moved to DE VLEUT, about one mile from the enemy. 227 Bde started attack on RIGHT of 6 RSF to clear woods NORTH of DE VLEUT. This attack was successful.	
DE VLEUT	27	0730  2130	6 KOSB moved to the RIGHT of 6 RSF and attacked SOUTH of R DOMMEL. This was initially successful, but later one coy was held up and suffered cas. 6 RSF went through 6 KOSB and captured the objective which had held up 6 KOSB.	
	28	0630  1630	8 RS went through 6 RSF and captured FRATERSHOEF to the NORTH. Over 40 prisoners were taken. A counter attack on 8 RS was broken up completely by arty and Mor fire.	
	29	1000	Bde HQ moved to castle at ST OEDENRODE. There was a slight adjustment of posns by bns, but no major move and little activity all day.	
ST OEDENRODE Castle	30		A quiet day until 1800 when hy shelling developed on bn areas and there was a report of a counter-attack between 8 RS and 6 RSF. Very hy arty concs were fired by the Div arty. No counter attack	

		<p>developed, and it was not established if in fact one had been intended.</p> <p>Lt IA MUNRO, RSF, relinquished his appointment as LO at Bde HQ after a year to return to 6 RSF as Int Offr. His place at Bde HQ was taken by Lt B PRESTON, 6 RSF.</p> <p>Cas returns att.</p>	
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