

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit HQ 227 (H) INF BDE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Month and Year JUNE, 1944

Commanding Officer Brig JR Mackintosh-
Walker, MC

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
STEYNING	2	1000	Gen Eisenhower, C in C, SHAEF, visited units of the fmn and spoke to the troops	
STEYNING	6	1400	Bde Comd addressed Offrs and Men of Bde HQ and gave a background talk on the forthcoming campaign	
STEYNING	7	1700	Staff Captain, G III, Sigs Offr and LO 1, comprising Bde HQ advance party, left for WORTHING and at 2200 hrs that night left for marshalling area at CANNING TOWN, LONDON, Camp T2.	
CANNING TOWN	10	0800	Advance party moved to Victoria Dock and boarded SS EMPIRE HEYWOOD, which sailed at 1300 hrs.	
STEYNING	11	0430	Bde Comd and Unit Advance Parties left for marshalling area prior to embarkation for FRANCE	
STEYNING	13	0430	Bde HQ left for marshalling area at WANSTEAD FLATS, LONDON, prior to embarkation for FRANCE. Bde HQ had now arrived off GRAY-SUR-MER	
WANSTEAD	14 & 15		Waterproofing of vehicles completed, but loading delayed owing to non-arrival of boat. During these two days the Staff Captain recced area for Bde gp in area VAUX-sur-SEULLES (8378) and Bde HQ established in orchard 832782. Meanwhile at 0815 hrs on June 15 the transport of the main body of Bde HQ left the camp at WANSTEAD for East India Docks and loading started at 1930 hrs. Troops in the Camp at WANSTEAD had an all night attack by 'Flying Bombs'	
WANSTEAD	16		Bde HQ personnel issued with lifebelts and emergency rations for voyage at 0700 hrs. They boarded buses for Docks at 1100 hrs. Loading of tpt completed 1830 hrs and troops went aboard SS MALAYAN PRINCE, which sailed at 2345 hrs.	
THAMES ESTUARY	17		SS MALAYAN PRINCE anchored off SOUTHEND waiting for convoy to form up and eventually sailed at 1930 hrs	
AT SEA	18		'Flying Bomb' flew over the ship at 0845 hrs, but the rest of the voyage was without incident and SS MALAYAN PRINCE anchored off COURSEULLES-SUR-MER at 2200 hrs. Two vehicles were off loaded until nuisance air raids brought operations to a stop. During the	

			day, the first troops of the Bde arrived at the Bde conc area near VAUX-SUR-SEULLES. They were the marching personnel of 10 HLI	
ANCHORED OFF COURSEULLES	19 20 21		Heavy seas prevented any unloading during these three days. Apart from shelling by both our warships and enemy shore btys with nuisance air raids at night it was a quiet period.	
ANCHORED OFF COURSEULLES	22		Sea still heavy, but the Bde Maj, BRASCO and two ORs went ashore at 1220 hrs. OC Ship then refused to allow any further personnel to disembark owing to the heavy swell. Bde Comd, who crossed in a LCM, also went ashore at night. Unloading restarted at 2100 hrs and continued until darkness in spite of air attacks.	
COURSEULLES	23		Unloading restarted at 0600 hrs, and first vehicle got ashore on 'N' Beach after a three feet wade at 1435 hrs. All the Bde HQ vehicles got safely ashore, and the Bde Gp, less 153 Fd Amb and 286 A Tk Bty RA, was concentrated at VAUX-SUR-SEULLES (8378) before night fall.	
VAUX-SUR- SEULLES	24		Bde Comd held 'O' Gp at 1430 hrs and explained Bde's part in future ops.	
VAUX	25	1430	GOC 15 (S) INF DIV attend Bde Comd's Briefing Conf for next day's ops.	Confirmatory Notes on Bde Comd's 'O' Gp att as Appx 'A'
CHEUX	26 27 28 29 30 Jul 1		<p>STORY OF BDE'S PART IN BATTLE FOR BRIDGE HEAD OVER THE RIVER ODON IS ATTACHED AS APPENDIX "E"</p> <p>FOR JUNE 3,10,17 & 24 STRENGTH STATES/FOR BDE HQ, SIGS, LAD AND DEF PLATOON ARE ATTACHED AS APPX "F", "G", "H", "J"</p> <p>227 (H) INF BDE STANDING ORDERS FOR OPS ATTACHED AS APPX "K"</p>	Bde Move Order Nos.1 & 2 att as Appx 'B' & 'C' Adm Order No. 1 att as Appx 'D'

227 (H) INF BDE WAR DIARY FOR JUN 26 - 1 JUL

BATTLE FOR BRIDGEHEAD

OVER RIVER ODON

Monday, 26 June

Brigade group moved to concentration area near SECQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN (9274) and arrived there 90 minutes before H hour which was 0730 hours.

The attack opened with a barrage of 624 guns, and although the promised air support did not materialise owing to the weather, 44 Brigade gained their objective -- ST MAUVIEU (9268) -- by 1130 hours and 46 Brigade were on their objective -- CHEUX (9167) -- by midday.

10 HLI and 2 GORDONS moved up for the second phase of the battle at 1830 hours.

The attack by 10 HLI was held up for one hour owing to congestion in CHEUX, and it was finally decided to put off the attack until first light next day because they could not reach their Start Line or make contact with the supporting tanks.

Some of the Squadron of tanks that were to support the 2 GORDONS' attack were also unable to get through CHEUX, and the 2 GORDONS attacked with only a few tanks at 1900 hours. They suffered heavy casualties through sniping and mortar fire and lost touch with their two leading companies which reached COLLEVILLE.

Battalion Headquarters was held up 800 yards NORTH of COLLEVILLE (9265) and reorganised during the night.

Tuesday, 27 June

10 HLI's attack was due to start at 0630 hours, but they had more difficulty in contacting their tanks.

10 HLI reached the Start Line only to find it covered with fire from MGs and Mortars. They suffered casualties and were unable to get forward; they were attacked by four Mk VI tanks in orchard SW of CHEUX (9065). At 0900 hours the Adjutant reported that the right hand company was encircled by tanks and cut off, and that a Mk VI had penetrated to within 150 yards of Battalion Headquarters. Later reported that this tank was knocked out, as well as the other four.

10 HLI attempted to push on and reach a point 300 yards from their Start Line, but they suffered casualties and were forced to withdraw to the Start Line, where they remained pinned down for the rest of the day. A tank battle was proceeding on the right in area LE HAUT DU BOSQUE (9066).

2 A & SH passed through the 2 GORDONS with TOURVILLE (9364) as their objective. After skirmishing in TOURVILLE 2 A & SH got astride the main road with two companies and formed a firm base.

2 A & SH ordered by Brigade Commander to push on and capture bridge 935635. This was captured intact at 1630 hours.

2 A & SH then dug in while elements of 11 Armoured Division crossed the bridge and 2 GORDONS made a firm base at TOURVILLE.

Wednesday, 28 June

During the day, 2 GLAS H, who had taken over at COLLEVILLE, were attacked from the EAST. To clear up this situation 10 HLI put in an attack on MOUEN (9365) at 1945 hours supported by a squadron of tanks.

On the left flank their leading elements reached their objective -- the road-railway bridge EAST of MOUEN 940657. The right leading company, however, was held up by two dug in tanks. Snipers in the orchards and MG fire from the tanks caused casualties.

The tanks were engaged by our armour and one was destroyed. Later 10 HLI accounted for the second tank. 10 HLI could advance no further and dug in for the night in a position a few hundred yards from their start line.

Bde Tac Headquarters moved to TOURVILLE in the 2 GORDONS area.

Tuesday, 29 June

At first light 10 HLI were withdrawn to COLLEVILLE to enable 43 DIV to carry out a successful attack in a Southerly direction.

2 A & SH pushed out patrols fwd to secure the bridge on OBAN route (915623). This bridge was captured intact.

The Bn followed up and took up an all round defensive position to North and South of river on the outskirts of GAVRUS (9161).

Enemy counter attacks were reported with tanks and infantry against 7 SEAFORTH at LE VALTRU (9163) and 9 CAMERONIANS at GRAINVILLE-SUR-ODON (9064).

An armoured battle took place all afternoon South of River ODON. The bridge over the ODON was now held by 159 Inf Bde and 2 A & SH, who repulsed several counter attacks during the course of the afternoon and evening.

2 GORDONS also repelled several small counter attacks during the day. During one of these and when enemy tanks were reported in the rear, the Bde Comd, who had been a favourite target for snipers and mortars throughout the operation, looked at his watch and remarked "It's time for tea". Tea was then taken.

In the evening, the Brigade Commander received orders from the GOC to place 10 HLI and 2 GORDONS under command 46 Brigade. Tactical Headquarters moved to COLLEVILLE beside 46 Brigade Tactical Headquarters.

Friday, 30 June

At 0200 hours a long Slidex message was received ordering 227 (H) Infantry Brigade to move to area GAVRUS - MISSY (8962) and to be clear of road bridge over ODON by 0230 hours. Brigade Commander decided to move at 0700 hours. Led by a section of carriers from 2 GORDONS, Tactical Headquarters headed column to bridge 935635.

It was reported that a few enemy tanks were active on the Southern bank of the ODON overlooking the road and at 0930 hours the Brigade Commander was recalled to meet the GOC at COLLEVILLE.

At 0930 hours 2 GORDONS were heavily mortared in an orchard off the road TOURVILLE - TOURMAUVILLE (9362). They suffered heavy casualties, among whom was the Brigade Major, Major J.A. LOCHORE, who was killed by a mortar bomb when on foot seeking to deploy the GORDONS from the road in order to avoid casualties.

At 0300 hrs 29 Armoured Brigade had been withdrawn across the ODON and the GOC decided to concentrate 2 GORDONS and 10 HLI at TOURVILLE and in wood SOUTH of MONDRAINVILLE respectively.

Brigade Tactical Headquarters then returned to COLLEVILLE and Battalions took up their positions as ordered. It was then decided to withdraw 2 A & SH into reserve at COLLEVILLE, but 2 A & SH were out of communication with Brigade, their wireless vehicle having been hit and for 12 hours they were cut off.

During this time the 2 A & SH were frequently attacked by enemy infantry who did not press home the attack and were held. Two troops of tanks were sent by the Brigade Commander to the Bridge SOUTH of LE VALTRU to extricate them. By first light next morning the majority of the Battalion had been withdrawn safely to COLLEVILLE. During the night the Brigade Tactical Headquarters, 2 GORDONS and 10 HLI were heavily mortared.

Saturday, 1 July

Mortaring and shelling continued throughout this day, during which arrangements were made for the relief of the Brigade by 158 Infantry Brigade. The relief was completed by 0400 hours, 2 July, and the Brigade were concentrated in reserve area NORREY-EN-BESSIN (9270) and BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE (9272)

Total casualties for the whole action were 38 Officers and 661 Other Ranks, made up as follows:-

Brigade Headquarters - One Officer killed, one officer wounded and one other rank wounded.

10 HLI - Three Officers killed, eight Officers wounded and one Officer missing : 48 other ranks killed, 168

other ranks wounded, 17 missing.

2 GORDONS

- Three Officers killed, seven wounded two missing,
46 other ranks killed, 175 wounded, 31 missing.

2 A & SH

- One Officer killed, eleven wounded: 21 other
ranks killed, 130 wounded and 24 missing.
