

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 1st Bn Middlesex Regt (D.C.O.)

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year JULY 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col J.P. Hall

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
SECQUEVILLE	1	1530	Bn HQ & HQ Coy move to SECQUEVILLE EN BESSIN.	
EN BESSIN 911764	2	1200 1405	Coys are now harbouring at the following locations:- "A" approx 1 mile S.W. of SECQUEVILLE at 905765 "B" BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE 921720 "C" BRONAY 881723 Coy Comds attend CO's Conference at Bn HQ. 'C' Coy shelled by enemy guns - Lt Fletcher wounded - L/Sgt Stevens slightly wounded - Pte Belton seriously wounded - all by shrapnel.	Pte Belton has since died.
	3		Lt Atkin 'B' Coy evacuated to C.C.S. Capt J.B. Redman promoted A/Major.	B.O. 135/para(1).
	4		Major Redman takes command of "B" Coy vice Major W.D. Ellis who was injured in previous operation.	
	5		6 Reinforcements sent to "B" Coy.	
	6	0900	"D" Coy move to marshalling area WATERLOOVILLE from WORTHING.	
	7	0730 1100 1800 1930 2330	"D" Coy proceed to Embarkation Port - GOSPORT. "A" Coy Comd is called to Bde and makes fwd recce with the object of taking over defence posns from 'C' Coy 8 Mx, 130 Bde, 43 div. 18 Reinforcements sent to 'B' Coy. "D" Coy embark. L/Cpl Bennett (D Coy) injures his ankle whilst driving m/c on board and is lowered over ships side into a small boat which takes him to hospital. Everyone is impressed by the R.A.F. The sky is black with bombers as they attack targets in and around CAEN. "A" Coy moves to TOURVILLE and Pls are dispersed as follows: 3 Pl 953636 - 4 Pl 925639 - 5 Pl 928637	
	8	1300 1630	"D" Coy anchor off the coast of FRANCE after a calm and uneventful crossing. "D" Coy disembark and proceed to assembly area ST CROIX SUR MER. "A" Coy are subjected to spasmodic mortar fire all through day & night.	

	9	0800 1300 1800	"D" Coy move to Div Conc Area, ST GABRIEL. "D" Coy arrive in adjacent field to Bn HQ at SECQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN. "C" Coy receive orders to move to F.A.A.																					
	10	0100 0600 0645 1500 1700 2130 2300	"C" Coy HQ move to MOUEN (935656) Pls form up in defensive posns against a presumed attack by the enemy from the South. Nos 9, 10 & 11 Pls in posns at FONTAINE ETOUPEFOUR (963641) and are under continuous fire from enemy. 1 M.G. of No 3 Pl (A Coy) hit by shell fragment. Enemy can be observed whole time they are in posn. O.C. 1 Manchesters recces A Coy's posns with a view to relief. "C" Coy HQ move to Verson 968658 Lieut Q.T. Robinson & 5 ORs join Coy as Rfts. Counter attack threatened & 'C' Coys guns are laid out for all round defence. 'C' Coy Pls lay guns by compass on Xrds S.E. of ETERVILLE but 9 Cameronians do not ask for any covering fire. 1 Carrier of 10 Pl receives direct hit - no casualties. 1 Carrier of 11 Pl hit and the driver, PTE TOVEY, is killed. Heavy mortar shelling has resulted in the following casualties:- <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">WOUNDED</td> <td style="width: 50%;">EXHAUSTION</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sgt Gillet</td> <td>Pte Payne</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L/Sgt May</td> <td>Pte Chisholme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pte Williams L.</td> <td>Pte Mansell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Fisher A.</td> <td>" Phillips D.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Little</td> <td>" Walton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Burnett</td> <td>L/Cpl Halliwell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>" Hemmings</td> <td>Pte Riches</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>" Barr</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>" Barnes</td> </tr> </table> B Coy moves to new location 921742 Lt Atkin returns from hospital and takes over comd of 6 Pl.	WOUNDED	EXHAUSTION	Sgt Gillet	Pte Payne	L/Sgt May	Pte Chisholme	Pte Williams L.	Pte Mansell	" Fisher A.	" Phillips D.	" Little	" Walton	" Burnett	L/Cpl Halliwell	" Hemmings	Pte Riches		" Barr		" Barnes	
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	11	1400 2200	10 & 11 Plns "C" Coy in posns N of Verson and in support of 2 G.H., open fire on hedgerow 200 yds S. of ETERVILLE. Pls subjected to heavy mortar & shell fire Ptes Richards & Harvey wounded. Pte Teader suffering from exhaustion - Cpl Bibby & Pte Osborne missing. 2/Lt Riley is posted to B Coy & 7 Pl. 'C' Coy relieved by Toronto Scottish, 4th Canadian Div.																					
	12 -		Bn at rest.																					
	14	1730 2000	H.Q. Coy less Bn HQ move to new location ST MAUVIEU 9286. 'D' Coy advance HQ move to assembly area TOURVILLE.																					

		<p>2100 Advance HQ "C" Coy move to 227 Bde HQ area. 9 & 11 plns to join A&SH N. of BRETTEVILLE.</p> <p>2230 12, 13 & 15 Pls ('D' Coy) move to mortar posns at TOURVILLE in support of 44 Bde. 14 Pl are held in reserve and remain with Coy HQ.</p> <p>2345 "B" Coy follow in rear of 2 G.H. columns & proceed to WOOD 951647. Pte Dennis is suffering from a fractured leg due to mortar fire as we arrive. Rear HQ moves to 934669. Intermittent mortar & shelling during the night. An ammunition dump is ablaze a few hundred yards off.</p>	
MARCELET 934679	15	<p>0200 'A' Coy move to advance area at 936343</p> <p>0300 "C" Coy advance H.Q. moves to new location MOUNT VERNON.</p> <p>1015 Bn HQ moves to new location within Div area - MARCELET 934679. The Bn is taking up posns in readiness for Op. GREENLINE.</p> <p>1030 "C" Coy A2 move to field in which Bn HQ is est.</p> <p>1230 12 Pl ('D' Coy) range on target. First bomb is seen to cause a great cloud of smoke.</p> <p>1345 "D" Coy TAC HQ move to battle posns S. of R ODON</p> <p>1630 "B" Coy advance HQ and Pls take up the posns as follows:- 6 Pl 964638 - 7 Pl 959636 - 8 Pl 965634 in preparation for a map shoot.</p> <p>1800 Pte Ingrey of 'C' Coy evacuated suffering from exhaustion.</p> <p>1830 9 & 11 Pl "C" Coy move to F.A.A. (947633) and are heavily shelled shortly after arrival.</p> <p>2145 H-Hour OP. GREENLINE. All mortar posns subjected to heavy enemy mortar fire resulting in the following casualties:- Killed - Cpl Symonds. - Wounded - Cpl Brock, L/Cpl Ball - Ptes Sparkes - Rose C. - Sharp - Marsh - Phillips R - Petch. Pte Holt of "C" Coy evacuated suffering from exhaustion.</p> <p>2300 Capt Cummins & Col/Sgt Clarke ('B' Coy) are caught in mortar fire and both wounded. Capt Cummins insists on returning to rear HQ in order to clear up one or two things before going to hospital.</p>	
	16	<p>0045 The following casualties of "C" Coy are evacuated Wounded - Sgt Pearce - L/Cpls Edwards & Carlton - Cpl Lane - Ptes Deacon - Stephens W - Jones E - Bell G - Easton - Tanner - Bedell.</p> <p>0430 9 & 11 pls ("C" Coy) move fwd to carry out tasks as follows:- 9 Pl to follow up A&SH and to give depth to reorganisation.</p> <p>0430 11 Pl to support the attack from BAS d'ESQUAY.</p> <p>0700 "B" Coy Comd endeavours to contact C.O. of 2 GH but is unsuccessful owing to the HQ being under enemy observation.</p> <p>1100 9 & 11 Plns C Coy move to 929627 LES VILLAINS to harbour.</p>	

MARCELET		<p>1200</p> <p>1200</p> <p>1900</p> <p>2300</p> <p>2320</p> <p>2330</p>	<p>13 & 15 Plns D Coy move to new posns and fire from plain N.W of GAVRUS from 1200-1300.</p> <p>13 Pln do a "Crash Action" shoot and fire 260 bombs.</p> <p>5 Pl ('A' Coy) moves out from TOURVILLE to area S of LES VILLAINS and carries out a Map Shoot on EVENAY.</p> <p>The action lasts an hour & Pl D.R. is killed, Pte NEWTON S.</p> <p>Capt Cummins is taken to Bn HQ where he imparts information to the Adjt before proceeding to 23 C.C.S.</p> <p>Orders received by "C" Coy that both pls will support attack by 158 Bde.</p> <p><u>TASKS:</u></p> <p>9 Pl to bring down fire on Xrds at EVRECY and orchard immediately south - followed by fire on to AVENAY area.</p> <p>11 Pl supporting fire on to Orchard S. of BAS D'ESQUAY and AVENAY area.</p> <p>Approx 15 JU's 188 attack area in which "B" Coy are situated - bombs and leaflets are dropped. These leaflets inform all who read that "ALL YOUR BASES ARE DESTROYED". This causes much amusement, as the men have just received a pint of beer each which was brought up from one of the so-called "Destroyed Bases".</p> <p>C.S.M. MARSHAL claims to shoot down an enemy bomber with L.M.G. fire. His claim is supported by 3 witnesses, one a Captain from the R.A.</p> <p>9 & 11 Pls carry out the prearranged tasks from posn at LES VILLAINS.</p> <p>"D" Coy HQ and all Pl areas are again subjected to heavy mortar fire. Cpl Rosser slightly wounded above right eye but remains with Pl.</p> <p>Snipers are also in evidence, but although some equipment is damaged there are no casualties.</p> <p>14 Pl support attack by 158 Bde and give covering fire on mortar and Arty gun emplacements from a posn on R. ODON. The shoot was carried out to time in spite of bombing attack by enemy planes.</p>	
	17	<p>0200</p> <p>0900</p> <p>0930</p>	<p>3 casualties caused to No 11 Pl by shelling</p> <p>Wounded - Sgt Shrubb - Ptes Chesterman & Watts.</p> <p>Lt R.R.T. Whitehead who has been appointed 2IC 'B' Coy vice Capt RWB Cummins (wounded in action) visits Coy.</p> <p>Cpl Klein (D Coy) is wounded by shrapnel and evacuated to local R.A.P.</p> <p>14 Pl support 2nd attack by 158 Bde - this time from a valley between LES VILLAINS and GAVRUS.</p>	

		2115 2300	<p>1 mortar is out of action on first shoot but 3 remaining mortars shoot 200 bombs on target. At the end of the shoot the tanks in the attack rally on M.P. and there is considerable confusion.</p> <p>On a new attack being mounted, 9 & 11 Pls fire on the AVENAY area and an average of 50 belts per gun expended.</p> <p>5 Pl 'A' Coy remains in harbour at TOURVILLE but at night carries out map shoot on EVENAY, 104 belts of amn being fired in 1¼ hours.</p> <p>"B" Coy rear HQ subjected to air raid. Anti-personnel bombs are dropped. 1 3 ton lorry is damaged.</p>	
MARCELET	18	0001 0200 2300	<p>"A" Coy relieved by 9 Manchester Regt & moves to area 905692.</p> <p>"B" Coy relieved and proceed to 907688.</p> <p>Enemy air activity - Bn HQ location is bombed. One drops by "C" Coy rear location (other side of field) damaging water carrier. Another drops at entrance to field injuring the guard, Pte Piper, who is found to be suffering with a compound fracture of the femur. The Signal office is in absolute ruins and the signal clerk is slightly injured. 3 m/cs are out of action, two completely destroyed and one damaged, and the M.O. is hard at work on Piper's leg. There is a queue outside the tent, all slightly injured personnel waiting for attention.</p> <p>It was very fortunate that we were all well dug in.</p> <p>The only secret docs in Signal office at the time were Code Signs. These were eventually salvaged.</p>	
ST MAUVIEU 9268 MARCELET 934679 NORREY-EN- BESSIN	19	0830 1230	<p>HQ Coy less Bn HQ and 1 Pl move to area S. of NORREY-EN-BESSIN and occupy area with B & D Coys.</p> <p>Bn HQ move to new location NORREY EN BESSIN and establish themselves in a field above HQ, B & D Coys.</p> <p>The Bn is situated in this location and having a well deserved rest.</p>	
	20	1000	<p>Divisional Comd visits Bn and expresses his appreciation of the good work the Bn has done in the last OP. He says that he is "Proud to have the Bn under his Comd".</p> <p>Lt Q.T. Robinson (B Coy) is reappointed T/Capt and takes over 2I.C. from Lt R.R.T. Whitehead, who is transferred to A Coy.</p>	
	23	1620 1800	<p>Bn move to St Lo area in convoy and join 30 Corps taking over from 5 US Army Div.</p> <p>On reaching dispersal point Coys proceed to following locations:-</p> <p>Bn HQ, HQ & C Coys - LIGNEROLLES - 7269.</p> <p>A - SALLEN 683618 - B - LA QUEUEMIERIE - 704635</p> <p>D - TAC HQ is est N of CAUMONT - 12 & 15 Pls in support of 227 Bde - 13 & 14 Pls in support of 44 Bde.</p> <p>All Pls are allotted D.F. & Counter Mortar tasks.</p>	

			Bn HQ, HQ & C Coys are in proximity of U.S. aerodrome which is frequently shelled. Some land fairly close to location.	
	24		A & B Coy Comds assume the role of assistant Counter-Mortar Officers in Div plan. The intention is that as soon as a bomb or shell lands in a Bde area, the A/C.M.O. orders immediate retaliation on selected targets by 3 Pl's M.M.G.'s, two or more Pls' 4.2" mortars and all available 3" mortars. Deliberate retaliation is carried out with the aid of artillery on a Divisional scale by Div C.M.O. The Bn has taken a defensive role and periodical counter-mortar fire proves to be very successful. Lt Livemore (D Coy) has an excellent O.P. in CAUMONT from which many shoots are carried out.	
	29		A, B & D Coys move to new locations in preparation for OP BLUECOAT and are est as follows:- A - SEPT VENTS - 693573 - 4 & 5 Pls in Sp of 7 Seaforths on Hill 309 - 6951 - 3 Pl at 692514. 12 & 15 Pls (D Coy) are in Sp of 227 Bde - 13 & 14 Pls are under comd of C.R.A.	
FOULOGNES 703636	30	0655 1730 2355	B - 8 Pl in sp of 10 HLI 689548 - 6 Pl at 709539 & 7 Pl 706540 both in sp of 2 A&SH. All 4 Pls (D Coy) are in action in front of first objective - LUTAIN WOOD - 693573. 2nd objective is captured by 227 Bde and all 4 pls are placed in support of 46 Bde. Bn HQ & HQ Coy move to new location approx 1 mile S. of village of FOULOGNES 703636 Pte H David (D Coy) captures German sniper found lurking in the adjoining field to Adv Coy HQ.	
	31	1700	Pte Baker (B Coy) is wounded by a smoke shell canister. Advance HQ move up to location of 227 Bde at 704554. 13 Pl 2I.C's carrier strikes a mine on verge of road. The driver, Pte Amelan is wounded in the eye. All 4 Pls of D Coy are in action in posns just behind Glasgow Highlanders and engage targets from O.Ps. They are also allotted, and engaged D.F. tasks. 14 Pl comes under fire from enemy armoured car. Sgt Barwood returns fire by means of a PIAT. This throws the crew into confusion and overturns the armoured car.	