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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 6th Bn The Royal Scots Fusiliers

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt Col CR BUCHANAN

Month and Year August 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LE BENY BOCAGE	1 Aug	0800	The Bn rejoined 44(L)Bde and concentrated with the rest of the Bde in the area of the Orchard 694565 with a view to moving forward to the high ground to the East of LE BENY BOCAGE to exploit the advance of the 11 Armd Div. But this operation was postponed as although considerable success had been achieved on the front the left flank was still open to a certain extent. The Bn was therefore ordered to take up a position in the vicinity of the farm at 692538 facing South in reserve to the remainder of the Bde which was dispersed to protect the left flank of the Div. During the day it became obvious that the enemy was pulling out on this front although leaving strong rearguards.	Appendix "A"
	2 Aug		The Bn spent a quiet night with no shelling and did not move although it was at four hours notice to do so all day.	
ST PIERRE TARENTAIN	3 Aug	1130	At about 1130 hrs the Bn moved carried on tanks of 4 Gren Guards to an FAA in the vicinity of ST PIERRE TARENTAIN 7045 where it arrived at about 1230 hrs. Orders were received at 1400 hrs to attack and capture the hamlet of LA COUR 723438 supported by one sqn of 4 Gren Gds. This attack was supposed to be put in with zero at 2030 hrs but owing to the fact that the Bn could not complete the necessary previous reces etc in time it was changed to 2100 hrs. The attack was successful and the objective captured. Consolidation had to be carried out in the dark. Casualties were light, Lieut Street, 2/Lt Hollidge, 2/Lt Patrick, 2/Lt Campbell were wounded and the casualties in ORs were killed 8 wounded 17.	Appendix "B" Appendix "C"
MONTCHARIVEL	4 Aug	1900	The Bn spent a quiet night and was not counter-attacked. At 1900 hrs the Bn moved out to occupy the village of MONTCHARIVEL 7442. The adv gd on arrival found the village held by approx a coy and some armd cars. An attack was put in round the left flank by two tps of Churchills (4 Gren Gds) and two	

			pls "C" Coy in support working round the left of the village. This attack cleared the village but not till approx 2200 hrs. The Bn then entered the village and was disposed to hold it. All Recces for defences had to be carried out in the dark, but fortunately there was a bright moon. Cas killed 8, wounded 5, missing 14.	
	5 Aug		The Bn remained in MONTCHARIVEL and 227(H) Bde passed through to continue the adv. The rest of the Bde were disposed with 8 RS in LES FIEFFES 7241 and 6 KOSB in LA MOTTE 7541.	
	6 Aug	0700	Bn at 2 hrs notice to move wef 0700 hrs and move to an FAA on the main rd to VASSY just South of Condraies with 8 RS on the other side of the rd and 6 KOSB close behind. The Churchills accompanied the Bn and harboured close by.	Appendix "D"
	7 Aug		Bn moves partly carried on tanks and partly by march route to a position on the high ground in 7438. 8 RS to area LES CLOS and 6 KOSB 7440. Some shelling and mortaring but few casualties.	Appendix "E" Appendix "F"
	8 Aug		After an evening and night of "O" Gps and preparation Bn moved to an FAA at 740387 for an attack on ESTRY.	
ESTRY	9 Aug		44(L) Bde attacked ESTRY with Bn Coldstream Churchills under comd 6 RSF left with one sqn, 6 KOSB right with another, 8 RS in reserve. The object of the attack was to clear ESTRY and then retire to positions near Xrds at 756379. The leading coys "A" and "C" were to cross the start line at 1200 hrs and clear the village while "D" right and "B" left were to dig in on the main rd. The start line was the stream at 7438. The Bn was very weary but the leading coys set off and reached the Northern edge of the village which they found to be strongly held. The Churchills had difficulty in crossing the stream and were late in arriving on the objective and the A.V.R.E. was hit in the early stages. The leading coys struggled on during the afternoon but did not manage to get into ESTRY itself or reduce the strongpoint of the Church. Meanwhile "D" Coy had dug in behind the main rd without much trouble but "B" had been heavily shelled and mortared on the start line and while digging and were reduced to 38 in number but managed to establish themselves before dark.  The CO was slightly wounded in the arm about 1300 hrs but when the 2 IC went up he insisted on finishing the battle and was only evacuated later in the evening when the 2 IC took over. By this time "A" and "C" Coys had retired on to "D's" firm base and the Bn was disposed "C" Coy at the Xrds with one pl forward of the lateral rd, "A" Coy at the rd & tr junc 749380 with one	

			section fwd of the lateral rd and "B" Coy at 751382, the Carrier Pl lining the track leading to "A" Coy at 749380 and "D" Coy dug in just South of the stream. Lt Col CR Buchanan was wounded and evacuated in this action.	
ESTRY	10 Aug		Lt Col I Mackenzie assumed command of the Bn. After a night of very heavy shelling and mortaring "B" Coy were withdrawn into reserve near Bn HQ at 745385 and it was arranged that the Churchills stayed on the left flank with "A" Coy. The KOSB occupied similar positions on the right of the MONTCHAMPS-ESTRY rd.	
	11 Aug		Bn remained in defensive positions all day and were relieved by 8 RS at night. Higher Comd were insistent that the enemy were withdrawing but this was found not to be the case and an advance to contact plan to move to the high ground overlooking VASSY had to be abandoned.	Appendix "G" Appendix "H"
MONTCHAMPS	12 Aug		Bn at MONTCHAMPS and washed, bathed and changed clothes for first time for three weeks. Move to ST PIERRE TARENDAINE 7045 in the evening.	Appendix "J"
ST PIERRE TARENDAINE	13 Aug		Bn remained all day at ST PIERRE TARENDAINE and continued to clean up, check deficiencies and carry out maintenance tasks. The mosquitoes and wasps were extremely troublesome.	
LES IFS	14 Aug		The Bn moved by TCV to LES IFS. After a march of four miles from the debussing point the Bn were dispersed in some orchards and fields clear of the village. The area had not been completely cleared of mines. This was done by RE with the assistance of the Pioneer Pl. Apart from the mosquitoes and wasps which infested the area it was clean and afforded plenty of shade.	
	15 Aug		The Bn remained all day at LES IFS and bathed in a stretch of river, this entailed a march of some 3 miles each way. All coys held a drill parade and the Bn was addressed by the Div Comd.	
	16 Aug		A CofS Church Parade was held during the morning. The remainder of the day was allotted to coy drill parades, cleaning of weapons and rest.	
CESNY-BOIS- HALBOUT	17 Aug		The Bn moved by TCV to CESNY-BOIS-HALBOUT 9945. This move was done in order to conform with the concentration of 15(S)Div. The area was constricted owing to the presence of "B" Echelon of 7 Armd Div who had already occupied the best billets.	
	18 Aug		No move was anticipated, or took place on this day. Coys spent the day cleaning up, holding drill parades and washing clothes.	

	19 Aug		All coys carried out route marches of approx 12 miles to harden the men's feet, which had become very soft at ESTRY. The Bn was warned to stand by at 3 hrs notice to move from 0900 hrs on 20 August.	
	20 Aug		15 Div were allotted the task of securing crossings over the rivers LA VIC and LA TOUGES to the East of LES SAP 5859. The role of 44(L)Bde was to secure the high ground pt 258, 4159 - pt 261, 4160 - pt 259, 3334. The CO held his "O" Gp at 1030 hrs and ordered that the Bn was at 3 hrs notice till 1500 hrs and thereafter at 15 mins notice. Through the afternoon messages were received from Bde to the effect that the move was increasingly unlikely owing to the congestion of the rds leading fwd. At 1900 hrs the Brigadier arrived at Bn HQ and informed the CO that the move was cancelled and that no move was expected for a further 48 hrs till the situation fwd had been clarified.	Appendix "K"
	21 Aug		All Coys had prepared training programmes which included a 12 miles march, however owing to the heavy rain throughout the day these programmes were cancelled and the Bn moved into buildings which had by now been evacuated by "B" Echelon of 7 Armd Div.	
	22 Aug		The weather cleared up and showed signs of becoming fair, by 1000 hrs the sun had come out and the Bn were able to dry their clothes. All coys carried out route marches, during which they were able to hold several tactical exercises and to bathe. Dinners were eaten out of billets. The Bn harbour party was ordered to stand by at 15 mins notice to move from 1700 hrs. The Bn was informed that no move other than harbour parties was expected on 22 August. No destination was given in the warning order.	
	23 Aug		During the night 22/23 Aug it poured with rain, however as the Bn were all under cover of buildings no ill effects were felt. The Bn moved, embussed in TCVs, at 1545 hrs to the area of DAMBLAINVILLE 2038 via USSY 0841 and FALAISE, 15(S)Div having been ordered to concentrate EAST of FALAISE with a view to advancing to the river SEINE and starting on 24 or 25 August.	
DAMBLAINVILLE	24 Aug		The Bn area at DAMBLAINVILLE was in some low lying fields off the main rd. Heavy rain fell during the night but the Bn had rigged up good bivouac shelters and emerged damp rather than wet. Owing to the congested state of the rds fwd no move took place before 1600 when the Bde moved to an area SW of ORBEC 6572, the Bn being allotted the area of the village VIEL 5768. We arrived late in the evening just as it was getting dark and	

			found a congestion of Canadians clearing out of the area. Bn HQ and most of the coys found accommodation in houses, however the night was fine. The CO was warned to attend Bde "O" Gp at 0700 hrs on 25 August and the Bn was warned to expect to move at 0900 hrs.	
	25 Aug		<p>A very trying day involving a move of approx 35 miles, embussed in TCVs which took from 0900 hrs till 2400 hrs 25/26 August. The Bde moved via BERNAY 8078 and BEAUMONT-LE-ROGER 9376 to the general area of LE NEUBOURG 0263. The rds were crammed with traffic and very dusty.</p> <p>The bridges over the river LA ISLE at BEAUMONT-LE-ROGER had not been repaired by the time we got there and such as remained would not carry TCVs, in consequence the Bn debussed and marched the last 10 miles to a reverse slope position immediately SW of IVILLE 0486. Very little information was available about the enemy, however a general air of optimism prevailed and COs were warned to be prepared to recce fwd for crossings over the river SEINE. This project was abandoned later. The Bn was widely dispersed and could do little more than cover the rds and obvious approaches, however it was generally understood though not confirmed, that an American Armd Div was deployed NE of our positions.</p>	
IVILLE	26 Aug		The Bn was informed that a move was most unlikely and that 227 Bde would pass through during the day and occupy LOUVIERS 2288. The situation fwd remained obscure and such reports as were received indicated that the battle was fluid.	
ST LUBIN	27 Aug	1000	<p>The Bn moved to ST LUBIN 1989 at 1000 hrs and harboured in some thick woods. 227 Bde were ordered to secure a crossing over the SEINE at ANDE 2890 at 1800 on 27 Aug. Various alternative plans were in store for us but at 1815 an LO arrived and gave orders that we were to be at immediate notice to move and secure a further crossing over the river. No further details were available at the moment. At 2000 hrs the Bn moved by march route, under the RSM, to a FAA in the area of some farm buildings 277935 NE of PORTEJOIE 2892. Meanwhile the CO gave out his orders and conducted officers on a brief recce before dark. Briefly the plan was as follows:-</p> <p>The Bn were to cross the SEINE at PORTEJOIE and establish a bridgehead at HERQUEVILLE. The crossing was to be made in assault boats with two coys ("C" and "D") up; transport was divided into priority routes, the first group being 15 vehs which were to include the rear link and 4 6 pr guns while other</p>	<p>Appendix "L"</p> <p>Appendix "M"</p>

			gps were organised by the MTO on the priority by which they were required within the bridgehead.	
	28 Aug		Zero hr was ordered at 0030 hrs. The crossing was made almost without opposition, "A" Coy were unfortunate and had two boats shot up by an isolated automatic weapon and lost 1 officer and 8 ORs, fwd coys did not consolidate their final objectives till after dawn on 28 Aug as the thick scrub and high cliffs proved almost impenetrable in the dark.	
		0800	However, by 0800 hrs on 28 Aug the Bn had firmly established the bridgehead and had started to ferry tpt across. During the morning the remainder of the marching tps of the Bde were ferried across.	
		1500	At 1500 hrs the KOSB took over the Bn positions and the Bn was ordered to stand by for a night advance and attack on SENNEVILLE 3197 - the reason why the RSF were again to be used for this action was that no other Bn in the Bde had yet got its "F" and "A" Echelon tpt across the river.	
		0830	At 0830 the Bn moved to a FAA at 306945 slightly South of the fwd tps of 227 Bde who had by now cleared the wood 3194. The CO took Coy Comds on a recce during the move of the Bn but did not manage to see much of the ground.	
SENNEVILLE	29 Aug	0030	At 0030 hrs 29 Aug the Bn advanced in the following order:- "B" "D" "C" "HQ" "A" Coys with the object of establishing itself on the high ground EAST of the wood 3196 and SE of SENNEVILLE prior to an assault at first light. The advance was completely successful and by 0200 hrs the high ground was occupied without major incident, a few small enemy posts had been met but no casualties were sustained by our tps.	
		0200	Just before reaching the final positions on the high ground "D" Coy, who had been passed into the lead, found themselves some 500 yds too far WEST and at the same time bumped into a small enemy post. They brought heavy LMG fire to bear on the enemy and then swung EAST to correct their positions. The effect of this manoeuvre was to puzzle the enemy as to our line of adv and flares were sent up from several directions by enemy who presumably thought they were being outflanked. These enemy posts subsequently withdrew before dawn.	
SENNEVILLE		0700	At 0700 hrs the fwd coys moved in to clear and occupy the	
		0800	village of SENNEVILLE and at 0800 hrs "A" Coy started to clear the large wood 3196 immediately SOUTH of the village.	
		0900	By 0900 hrs the village had been occupied and by 1200 hrs the	
		1200	wood was reported clear by "A" Coy.	

		Remainder of the day was spent digging in and improving our positions, two small recce patrols were sent fwd to the villages of AMFREVILLE-SOUS-LES-MTS 3098, ORGEVILLE 3298 and AMFREVILLE-LES-CHAMPS 3498, these patrols reported the villages to be very lightly held. Throughout the day it poured with rain but the bulk of the Bn were under cover in barns and houses so did not suffer unduly.	
	30 Aug	A day spent at one-third alertness and the remainder resting. Tpt was ordered to keep off the rds as 53 Div was passing through 15 Div. Throughout the day heavy showers fell. The Bde Comd visited the Bn and told the CO that we could anticipate remaining at SENNEVILLE for a further 3 or 4 days.	
	31 Aug	A fine sunny day.	I Mackenzie Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers