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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 9th Bn The Cameronians
(Scottish Rifles)

Commanding Officer Lt Col R.M. Villiers

Month and Year AUGUST 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LAUX HOMMES	1	1300	Bn still located LAUX HOMMES. SITREP as at 0100 hrs 1 AUG 44. Brig Comdr visited Bn and ordered Bn to clear and occupy area SOUTH of spec height 3.00 with one coy in GALET & one coy in LA MANCELLIERE.	APP/A/1 CNB
		1400	C.O. 'O' Gp. "A", "D" Coy would be 2 FWD Coys clearing from area ST MARTIN X rds whilst "B" & "C" Coy would be in reserve at RLY 675509. In sup to Bn 'C' Sqn, 15 Div recce and 1 sqn GREN. GUARDS. The recce SQN to move two tps, one in front of each leading Coy. H hour 1730 hrs.	CNB
		1600	Brig Comdr visited Bn and plan was changed slightly. Bn would now clear area with all coys concentrated in ST MARTIN, instead of 2 coys being on Rly 675509. Remainder of plan unchanged ☉ H hour now 1845.	CNB
		1845	Recce sqn leading tp crossed S.L. ST MARTIN and proceeded down rds to MANCELLIERE and GALET.	
		1855	"D" Coy followed on behind recce tp on SOUTH ROAD to LA MANCELLIERE.	CNB
		1905	'A' Coy followed behind 2 sqn recce to GALET. Their task was to clear all enemy from this area. B & C Coys held in reserve at Pt 673305 along with 1 sqn GREN. GUARDS.	CNB
		2145	A & D coys on objectives and area reported clear of all enemy. Recce sqn contacted slight enemy resistance on both routes but this was quickly overcome. Except for 1 A/TK gun (88MM) and 2 M.G. at Pt 696490.	CNB
				B, C, Bn HQ now proceeded to their respective locations, see attached map.
	2	0600	Bn still located as per map ☉ Situation normal NO enemy action during night. Patrol sent out to clear situation Re - enemy A/TK gun and MG.	
		1030	Patrol returned and reported that enemy weapons had withdrawn. Remainder of Bn generally occupied in clearing areas in Coy localities.	CNB CNB

		1815	C.O. at Bde 'O' Gp.	
	3	0600	Situation unchanged. No enemy action. Bn still located Bde now in Div Reserve. 7 SEAFORTH location now CHURCH 703446.	
QUARRY	4	0600 1930 2215 2245	Bn located GALET situation unchanged. L.O. from 46 Bde with orders for Bn to move to area QUARRY and take up defensive position on left of 2 G.H. This was to secure this position as a firm base as the 7 SEAFORTH had moved into CHURCH 703446 and this QUARRY was considered too large an area for the 2 GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS to hold. Bn now located Quarry with Coys shown as attached map. Message received from Bde that Lt Col Villiers would report to Bde HQ immediately and assume Comd of 46 Bde. Major C Mullen assumed comd of Bn.	CNB APP A/2 CNB CNB
QUARRY	5	0630 1300 1500	Situation unchanged. 'O' Gp at Bn HQ for move to area. Bde 'O' Gp at ST PIERRE TARENTAN for occupation of high ground. Bn arrived new area at 1710 with COYs as shown on attached map. This area had already been occupied by our forces and Bn took over on a firm base principle.	CNB CNB APP A/2A
	6 6	0600 2045 2100 0100 0730 0900	Situation unchanged. 'O' GP called for to R.V. at MANCELLIERE to meet Brig R.M. Villiers. Brig Comd and C.O. went off to recce new area EAST of MANCELLIERE. Bde 'O' Gp at ST PIERRE TARENTAN when Bn given task of occupying high ground. No enemy were expected in this area and it was an adv to contact with 9th Cameronians capturing height to allow remainder of Bde to push fwd to LASSY with 227 Bde making for VASSY. H Hour 0730 hrs. Bn now concentrated NORTH of LA BRUYERE. A & B Coys crossed SL and proceeded SOUTH to BR 796411. A & B Coys reported reached Bridge and that Bridge although blown would support passage of vehs. 'B' Coy continued to make for its objective which was high ground in sq 7940 ☉ A Coy on high ground at NW corner of sq 7940, to be relieved by a coy of the 2 GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS on commencement of PHASE II ☉ Bn HQ at this time carried on down route to BRIDGE 796411 and took up position beside small copse on NORTH side of track at Bridge ☉ The tanks who were in support of 'B' Coy became jammed at BR and 'B' Coy carried on without them ☉ After about half an hour the commanding officer decided to send the remaining two tanks plus a pl of D Coy (RESERVE) EAST along track to the village of GOURNAY to try and contact "B" Coy. This party set off and almost immediately "B" Coy	CNB CNB CNB CNB CNB

			<p>returned to BR and Commanding Officer brought Pl of "D" Coy back and ordered 'B' Coy to carry on and exploit through GOURNAY. During this time there was intermittent MG fire from enemy in the area of Bridge.</p> <p>At about 1030 hrs 'B' Coy supported by 2 tanks had reached village of GOURNAY ☉ And leading Pl had cleared first line of houses, when enemy opened up with mortars and heavy M.G fire. 'B' Coy suffered fairly heavy casualties from this and were forced to withdraw to line of road ☉ 'C' Coy who moved up the right of the feature SE of BRIDGE had reached Pt 794405 when they were met by the same accurate M.G and Mortar fire. Bn HQ had also been engaged three times with Mortar fire and 'D' Coy had moved to the NORTH end of copse beside BN HQ. This mortar fire had inflicted a number of casualties on 'D' Coy ☉ About 1230 hrs the enemy who seemed to have excellent observation on Bn HQ dropped six mortar bombs in and around Bn HQ killing five and wounding 12 ☉ After this Commanding Officer decided to move Bn HQ to the rear at pt 783411. Enemy mortar fire continued to fall in Bn area and during this time casualties were evacuated from Bn HQ and D Coy who had received worst casualties. L/Sgt Aitken of the signal Pl did excellent work during this evacuation.</p> <p>At 1500 coys had moved to locations as shown on map and held ground in vicinity. The tanks had moved to the EAST in area 803401 and protected the left flank. Mortar fire still fell on Bn area, but not quite so accurate. The second phase of the attack had now started and the 7 SEAFORTH had pushed forward to the outskirts of LASSY where they encountered the same heavy mortar and arty fire. The 2 GH were on the high ground in AREA BOIS DES MONTS.</p>	
		1800	Bn still located same area, no change in situation. Mortar & arty fire still intense but NOT accurate.	CNB
		2025	Harbour parties called for, to move to area LA DRUERIE 7641 NOT to move before 2300 hrs, followed by 7 SEAFORTH, and 2 GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS, who would occupy areas as shown on map.	CNB
		2300	Bn marching and Veh parties left area BRIDGE and moved off for LA DRUERIE 7641 and arrived at 0045 hrs and took up positions as shown on map.	CNB
LA DRUERIE 7641	7	0600	<p>Situation normal. Enemy seemed to be under impression that the Bde were still in area Bridge as he shelled it continually during night.</p> <p>Casualties during battle of Bridge - 5 Officers wounded 12 OR killed, 65 wounded; 25 missing.</p>	CNB

			No enemy actively observed during day although continually shelled LA CAVERIE cross roads 769405 causing a few casualties to the 7 SEAFORTH. The whole of the Bde area was under enemy observation therefore movement was very restricted.	CNB
	8	0600 1410	Situation normal. No enemy activity during night although still continued to shell cross roads at LA CAVERIE. Two enemy tanks observed 800 yds from Bn area in LA CAVERIE cross roads ☉ They were immediately engaged by the 17 pdr in Bn area. Both tanks were knocked out with four shots from this gun. No enemy infantry observed in support of tanks so it can only be presumed that they were on recce. Remainder of day no activity. Bn now on defensive and given primary object of observing, patrolling, whilst Div Arty would concentrate on destroying enemy MORTARS and ARTY.	CNB CNB
	9	0600	Location same, situation unchanged. 46 Bde Inf OP instr No 9.	APP A/2
	10	0600	Location same; situation unchanged ☉ 43 Div now reported in line with 15(S) Div on EAST flank. This stopped a certain amount of shelling on Bn area.	
	11	0600 0900 1145 1430	Situation unchanged. Lt Col Sir E.M.A. Bradford BT arrived and assumed comd of Bn ☉ Major D.C. Mullen assumed 2 I/C. Bde 'O' Gp. Bn 'O' Gp giving future operation. See 46 Bde Op Order No5	APP A/3
	12	0600 1100 2300	Situation unchanged. Harbour parties called for to RV at Bde HQ at 1125 hrs. Information, Bde being relieved night 12 AUG as follows: 1 MONMOUTH, 2 GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS; 8 Rifle Bde 9 CAMERONIANS and one coy of 8 Rifle Bde to relieve 7 SEAFORTH ☉ To harbour in area 7145. 15(S) Div now under comd 12 Corps; Harbour Parties would RV Bde HQ at 1100 for Move to 12 CORPS area WEST of CAEN. Bn being relieved by 8 Rifle Bde and on move to area 7145.	APP A/4
	13	0540 1200 1450 2030	Bn now located area 7145. Harbour Parties left Bn area for new location FEUGUEROLLES 9961. Leading Veh passed Bde S.P. for area FEUGUEROLLES and after an uneventful journey arrived at 1745 hrs and Bn established in all round defence in WOOD. Brig R.M. Villiers visited Bn HQ and informed C.O. that Bn would NOT be used in 12 CORPS plan for the capture of FALAISE at least NOT until possibly 16 AUG 44. In meantime Bn had to carry on re-organising and maintenance of weapons and vehs.	APP A/5

	14		Still located WOOD 9860. Placed at 4 hours notice to move to AREA 0091-0191.	
	15	0010 0600	Orders received from Bde that Bn would move to area WOOD 1146 by march route. Bn left area WOOD 9860 and arrived WOOD 1146 at 0930.	APP A/6
	16		Still located WOOD 1146, Bn carrying on with general maintenance on vehs and weapons.	
	17		Still located WOOD 1146. Generally resting, veh & weapon maintenance.	
	18	1930	Location still same. Received warning order that Bde would relieve 158 Bde and be prepared to clear area down to RIVER BAISE.	APP A/7
	19	0530 0930 1430 1730 1930	Recce parties left for area 1033 (WOOD) to recce area occupied by 7 R.W.F. Bn arrived area and commenced to take over from 7 R.W.F., completed and all coys in position. A Coy patrolled down to RIVER BAISE. O Gp at Bde HQ in which Bde was given the task of clearing the area to BAZOCHES-AU-HOLME. This was only in the event of 59 DIV failing to clear this area. Codeword CAT from A Coy which meant area cleared of enemy down to RIVER BAISE and they were established firmly on this line. This was time Bn was supposed to attack area BAZOCHES but this was now unnecessary as 59 Div had cleared this area. The position of the enemy in front was now very difficult as the FALAISE GAP was now closed and Inf Tanks and ARTY were now mopping up areas at the slightest movement. Prisoners were also coming in large numbers, although 1 off & 2 ORs only passed through this area ⊙ Civilians are the chief problem as they are now attempting to return to their homes.	
	20	1100 1800	Bn again in same area and troops generally resting. No further MOVE until 1200 hrs 21 AUG when possible to area TROARN. Major DC MULLEN second in command injured and evacuated when JEEP which he was on ran over a mine. Commanding Officer at 46 Bde 'O' Gp when details were given out re next OP. 46 Bde OP Instr No 6.	APP. A/8
	21		Bn still located WOOD 1146. Preparations being made for next move.	
	22	2400	Still located WOOD 1146. Maintenance on vehicles and generally preparing for move to clear area as laid down in APP. A/8. OP. GALLOP warning order received that 46 Bde OP Instr No 6 cancelled.	APP. A/9.

	23	1400	Commanding Officer at 46 Bde 'O' Gp when details of OP. GALLOP given. Reason for change - Further area liberated and division would be required to do a further adv than first anticipated. 46 Bde O.O. No 5. Also Adm Instr No 2. OP. GALLOP. ADM Order No 4.	APP A/9A APP A/10.
		1900	Message received from 46 Bde that harbour parties will be prepared to concentrate in place ordered by 0615 hrs if H hour earlier than 0715 hrs. Instrs later when H hour is.	
	24	0130	H Hour 0800 hrs. Bde Op Instr No 7 received re EX GALLOP. 15 Div may be reqd to continue adv. beyond present area.	APP A/11
		0930	Brig Comd visited Bn and gave Code Word BALCONY, which meant that Bn would be adv. still further.	APP A/11A
		1110	Message received that NO move would be made until further orders received from Bde HQ. New harbour party reqd to RV 266289 immediately, which was astride Axis of adv.	
		1640	Bn continued adv. on troop carrying vehicles.	
		1830	Arrived area 266289 where Bn would concentrate night 24/25 Aug.	
	25	0200	Commanding Officer to be at Bde 'O' Gp at 0730 hrs.	APP A/12
		0730	Commanding Officer at Bde 'O' Gp where details given for move to BEAUMONT LE ROGER where Bde would take up def position. 46 Inf Bde Move Order No 8 ☉ At 'O' Gp 'O' Order No 6 received.	APP A/13 A/13A
		1000	Recce party consisting of C.O., Mortar Officer and A/TK pl Comd left with Brigade Comd for BEAUMONT LE ROGER.	
		1215	Bn passed S.P. for new area, still embussed on T.C.V.s. This move was uneventful but very slow, due to roads being blocked by enemy vehicles, and bridges being destroyed.	
		1805	Bn Recce and Harbour Party arrived rd jct 878746 where plan was changed. Bde would now concentrate night 25/26 in AREA LA PREVOTÉ 8774 to be prepared to move not before 1000 hrs 26 AUG.	
		2100	Bn arrived area LA PREVOTÉ.	
	26	0230	Outline Order and MOVEMENT Table dated 26 received from Bde.	APP A/14
		1030	Bde Comd 'O' Gp at LES LONDES ☉ Bde taking up defensive position, with 2 GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS and 7 SEAFORTH in area EMMANVILLE with 9 CAMERONIANS in area LES LONDES.	
		1200	Bn arrived LES LONDES. Coy localities as shown on attch map.	
		1430	Warning order received that Bde would be prepared to cross River SEINE on night of 27/28 ☉ Commanding Officer to attend Div Comd conference at 1900 hrs. At the conference it was decided that this crossing would NOT take place until Night 28/29.	APP A/15

			<p>when the Commanding Officer decided to send 'A' Coy carrier into the village before the recce party went in. 'A' Coy carrier was about to enter the village when a rifle shot came from a wall about 200 yards away. This was engaged by fire from the remaining carriers. At approx the same time there was an explosion in the area of the village and more fire continued to fall on remaining carriers. C.O. decided to withdraw and came back to LA ROCQUETTE. "A" Coy carrier joined the Recce Party line and Major C SHEARER comd 'A' Coy was wounded in the back. 1 OR rank and Officers Batman was also injured slightly.</p> <p>The adv. of the Bde Gp was by this time held up and the GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS and 9 CAMERONIANS had halted in track through WOOD 3492 where they commenced to dig in. At 2400 2 GLASGOW HIGHLANDERS started moving again to their objective CUVERVILLE. 9 CAMERONIANS remain present location ☉ C.O. to be prepared to go to Bde HQ during night.</p>	
	29	0215	<p>Commanding Officer at Bde HQ and given outline plan for next operation which was occupation of LE THUIT by one Coy (D). When this complete C Coy would capture NOYERS, followed by 'A' Coy to Pt 114 and finally B Coy to LA VACHERIE. When A & B Coy on obj they would be prepared to send patrols to LES ANDELEYS to find strength of enemy, if any, occupying this area. For this OP. one sqn of tanks would be in sup, plus 191 Fd Reg. If enemy in LES ANDELEYS Bn would be prepared to send a coy to CHATEAU at 398904.</p> <p>0900 "D" Coy approaching obj LE THUIT under concentration of 25 PDRS, MEDIUM and 3 in. MORTAR FIRE and 2 secs carriers as fire units, 1 sec A/TK guns firing on buildings with H.E.</p> <p>0920 D Coy, leading Platoons EAST of church, continuing to clear obj beyond.</p> <p>0935 'D' Coy now on obj and clear of enemy.</p> <p>1000 H hour for second phase, 'C' Coy capturing NOYERS.</p> <p>1120 'C' Coy formed up ready for attack.</p> <p>1140 'C' Coy on objective NO enemy encountered.</p> <p>After this complete "A" Coy moved up to Pt 149 ☉ At 1345 Commanding Officer arrived in NOYERS and organised patrols to LES ANDELEYS to leave at 1415.</p> <p>1350 FFI report LES ANDELEYS clear of all enemy.</p> <p>'B' Coy approaching LE VACHERIE.</p> <p>1600 Patrol returned from LES ANDELEYS and confirmed that it is clear of enemy.</p> <p>1620 D Coy ordered to move from LE THUIT to area of NOYERS to cover EAST. Wheels of Bn HQ ordered fwd at approx same time.</p>	

		1920	Bn HQ arrived area NOYERS and established there. D Coy comd arrived NOYERS and recce Coy LOCALITY. During this action Bn suffered NO casualties and 1 POW of 5 Coy 26 PGR was taken. Bn now located as shown on attached MAP.	
NOYERS	30	0600	Situation unchanged. NO enemy action of any kind. All roads to be kept clear for passage of Armour and PRIORITY traffic. Weather has now broken, and coys ordered to concentrate under shelter, to leave one pl in position. At 1930 this order was changed, and Coys ordered to get all troops under cover, with double sentries throughout night.	
NOYERS	31	0700 1900	Situation NORMAL. Coy cleaning and bathing parades organised. M.T. engaged in MAINTENANCE. Personnel, equipment and tpt reqd for 15(S) DIV General improvised TP. COY. Orders received personnel to RV Bde HQ 0830 hrs 1 SEP 44. 46 Bde ADM ORDER No8	APP A/18