

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 44 (L) Inf Bde

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year JUL 1944

Commanding Officer Brigadier HDK MONEY, DSO

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
|----------------------|------|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| LE HAUT DU BOSQ | 1 | 0703 1500 1915 | Bde was holding a def posn in front of LE HAUT DU BOSQ, with 6 KOSB in front and 6 RSF and 8 RS behind. 6 KOSB reported being attacked by inf and tks. This attack also came in on 49 Div on the right (70 Inf Bde). Confused fighting continued intermittently all day. 6 KOSB reported right hand posn partly knocked out. A Tk guns knocked out. Opposition chiefly tks. Counter-attack organised by Bde Comd, by one coy 6 RSF, supported by two sqns 7 R Tks, one sqn 3 C of L YEO, two SP A Tk Btys, collected from the neighbourhood, restored 6 KOSB posn before nightfall. The counter-attack had been done by 19 SS Pz Gren Regt of 9 SS Pz Div. | |
| | 2 | | Relief of 44 Bde by 71 Bde of 53 Div. 44 Bde moved back to rest area at ST CROIX GRAND TONNE on CAEN-BAYEUX rd. | |
| ST CROIX GRAND TONNE | 3 | 1215 | Talk by GOC 15 (S) Div to all ranks Bde HQ - and later to bns. Appx 'C' to OO No 2 issued. | Appx 'A' |
| | 4 | 1030 | Bde Comd and BM went to conference at Div HQ on lessons from recent battle. OO No 3 issued. | Appx 'B' |
| | 5 | 1430 | Bde Comd and BM went to Div and heard Gen MONTGOMERY talking to COs. | |
| | 6 | | Op Instr No 1 issued. | Appx 'C' |
| | 7 | 1000 1230 2330 | Bde Gp put at 3 hrs notice to move - 'O' Gp at 15 mins notice. Bde 'O' Gp - 44 Bde to relieve 130 Bde in TOURVILLE area. Bde took over - Bde HQ at TOURVILLE. Under comd 43 Div. | |
| TOURVILLE | 8 | 0600 1100 | Hand-over complete. Bde came under comd 53 Div. Bde in def posn - 8 RS at TOURMAUVILLE, 6 RSF at BARON, 6 KOSB at TOURVILLE. | Appx 'D' |
| | 9 | | Quiet day in contact with the enemy. 44 Bde were to be relieved by 159 Bde but this was cancelled. | Appx 'E' |
| | 10 | | 43 Div on the left put in the attack to capture ESQUAY and pt 112. This resulted in a good deal of mor, shell-fire etc falling on 44 | |

| | | | | |
|---|----|--|---|-----------|
| | | | Bde posns. LO 2 spent the day at HQ of 129 Bde passing infm on the progress of the attack. | |
| TOURVILLE | 11 | 0045 2100 2200 | 8 RS relieved by 5 WELCH, who came under comd 44 Bde. 44 Bde HQ, 6 RSF and 6 KOSB relieved by 160 Bde of 53 Div and returned to area ST CROIX GRAND TONNE. GOC 15 (S) Div arrived at Bde HQ just before the move and stated that the Div were to come under 12 Corps and do an attack across the ODON to capture GAVRUS, BOUGY, EVRECY, and the high ground beyond. | Appx 'F' |
| ST CROIX GRAND TONNE | 12 | 0200 2100 | Relief completed. 'O' Gp at Div HQ. | |
| | 13 | 1000 | Bde 'O' Gp at Bde HQ. Day spent in preparation for forthcoming attack. | |
| | 14 | 0900 1800 | Bde 'O' Gp at Bde HQ. Briefing conference at Bde HQ, attended by GOC 15 (S) Div and all Bde Coy Comds. Bns moved down to FAA in TOURVILLE area by night. | |
| BRIDGE over ODON near TOURMAUVILLE | 15 | 0600 2215 2245 | Bde HQ moved to new HQ at the br over the ODON between TOURVILLE and TOURMAUVILLE. <u>Op "GREENLINE"</u> began with attack on ESQUAY by 2 Glas H. 6 KOSB attack on pt 113 began, preceded by arty and with the help of artificial mov light. | Appx 'G'. |
| BRIDGE over ODON near TOURMAUVILLE. | 16 | 0045 0135 0255 0530 1018 1215 1600 1700 1945 2015 | 6 KOSB with little opposition got their first objective. The night was confused and 227 Bde HQ on the left became disorganised, Brigadier JR MACKINTOSH-WALKER, MC, being killed. Zero for 2nd objective attack. 6 KOSB reported 2nd objective captured, but they had difficulty in establishing contact with 2 GORDONS of 227 Bde on their left. 8 RS began Phase "DUNBAR" of Op "GREENLINE" - the capture of GAVRUS and BOUGY, supported by 34 Tk Bde. At Bde HQ there was a good deal of shelling and mortaring and one bomb landed near the Sigs office, wounding several members of Bde HQ, incl Capt GIROTTI and Lt STEARS, Sigs Offrs. Phase "DUNBAR" complete - GAVRUS and BOUGY captured. COs of 8 RS and 6 KOSB both wounded and evac. 6 KOSB posn was made difficult by failure of attempt to capture ESQUAY on left. 6 RSF moved up to GAVRUS - 8 RS at BOUGY. Counter-attack by inf and tks against 8 RS beaten off. 6 KOSB est contact with 2 GORDONS on their left. Counter-attack by inf on 6 KOSB beaten off. Counter-attack by inf on 6 KOSB again repulsed. | |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|------------------------------|--|----------|
| | | 2050 | Army Comd congratulates all ranks of 44 Bde on "a splendid performance". | |
| | 17 | 1915 2200 | Attack by 158 Bde on EVRECY failed. Attack by inf on 6 KOSB repulsed. 158 Bde again attacked EVRECY and again failed. | |
| SCHOOL at MONDRAINVILLE | 18 | 0615 1530 1800 | Small counter-attack by inf on 6 KOSB beaten off. Bde HQ moved to School at MONDRAINVILLE which was anticipated to be a quieter area. 6 RSF, who had been heavily mortared and shelled at GAVRUS moved NORTH of R ODON. | |
| | 19 | 1700 | 44 Bde relieved today by 71 Bde and went to rest area near HAUT DU BOSQ. Bde HQ received by shelling incl a direct hit on Offrs' Mess in the School. One slight cas only - narrow escape of mess staff. Capt BLACK and Lt E KNOTT joined Bde HQ as Sigs Offrs vice Capt GIROTTI and Lt STEARS wounded. | Appx 'H' |
| FIELD WEST of HAUT DU BOSQ | 20 | 0332 0410 0700 1415 | Relief of 6 KOSB completed. Relief of 8 RS completed. Relief of Bde HQ completed. GOC 15 (S) Div addsd personnel of Bde HQ and read to them special message given to him by Gen MONTGOMERY. Lt J MURRAY, KOSB, joined Bde HQ as Camp Comd. | |
| FIELD WEST of HAUT DU BOSQ | 21 | 2000 2200 | 6 KOSB, being shelled in their location, were moved further NORTH. Bde Comd and Bde IO went to Div 'O' Gp Conference, where the plan was divulged for 15 (S) Div to take over from 5 US Div in area CAUMONT. | |
| | 22 | 1900 | Bde Comd and recce party went to BALLEROY and then made recce of new area. 44 Bde is to take over from 10 US Regt just WEST of CAUMONT. 'O' Gp at Div HQ. | |
| SALLEN | 23 | | 44 Bde Gp moved to CAUMONT area and began to take over from 10 US Regt (Mov Order No 2). | Appx 'I' |
| | 24 | 0800 | Relief complete. The new area was very much quieter and less affected by the war than the ODON sector. | |
| | 25 | | Normal activity - patrolling at night. | |
| | 26 | 1920 | Relief of 44 Bde by 46 Bde (Mov Order No 3). 6 KOSB relief complete. | Appx 'J' |
| Near CAUMONT | 27 | 0245 0305 | 8 RS relief complete. 6 RSF relief complete. Bde moved back to rest area NORTH of CAUMONT. | Appx 'K' |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|------------------------------|---|----------|
| | | | Capt GIROTTI returned and took over as Bde Sigs Offr. Capt BLACK returned to Div Sigs. | |
| | 28 | 1800 2130 | Bde to move back to SALLEN to relieve 46 Bde. 'O' Gp at Div HQ for Op "BLUECOAT" | |
| SALLEN | 29 | 0500 1000 1400 1800 | Relief complete. 'O' Gp Bde HQ. Patrols sent out by bns to keep contact with enemy who showed signs of withdrawing. Brigadier HDK MONEY, DSO, received appointment in ENGLAND and left Bde after comd for more than 3 years. Brigadier JC COCKBURN, MBE, took over. | |
| | 30 | 0655 | Op "BLUECOAT" began - attack by 227 Bde followed by 46 Bde on the high ground EAST of ST MARTIN DES BAGACES. Div supported by 6 Gds Tk Bde - 44 Bde initially in res. After successful fighting all day, by 2300 hrs 46 Bde were on their objectives. | Appx 'L' |
| AUBIGNY SOUTH of CAUMONT | 31 | 0400 | 44 Bde moved up behind 227 Bde in res near AUBIGNY, SOUTH of CAUMONT. 6 RSF were under comd 227 Bde as left flank protection. During the rest of the day, 11 Armd and Gd Armd went through and 15 Div formed left flank screen, 8 RS and 4 GREN Gds in the evening pushed up on the left of 46 Bde as flank protections in area BOIS DU HOMME. Weekly str returns att. | |