

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 181 Fd Reg

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt Col A.C.E. Devereux

Month and Year June

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1-8		Record lost at sea.	
Worthing	9		L.O. to District H.Q. to receive movement orders.	
	10		Regt moves to marshalling area.	
	11		Vehicles sent to dockyard - no loading as ships not available. Regt split into two parties.	
	12		Vehicles loaded on to MT ships. 177 Bty and part of RHQ sailed.	
	13		Remainder of regt aboard. By evening both ships anchored off Southend awaiting convoy.	
At Sea	14		Remained anchored all day; convoy sails at 2100 hrs.	
	15		Convoy steaming down channel with no enemy opposition. French coast sighted late afternoon and anchored off Arromanches by 2200 hrs.	
	16		A certain number of vehicles ashore, but unloading held up by swell and lack of small craft.	
	17		Sea still bad and stevedores experienced difficulty in handling derricks.	
	18		A few more vehicles ashore.	
	19		One ship emptied: part of RHQ and 177 Bty still to land.	
	20		Accident to 'rhino': two guns, Adjts half track, regt office and several vehicles lost.	
	21		Regt complete, less above vehicles & remainder of one ship in conc area.	
	22		Recce of forward areas and gun positions - amn dumped.	
	23		Preparation of new posns continued: rest of regt arrives.	
	24		Regt moves into action at Bronay.	
	25		7 casualties during move in in early hours from enemy harassing fire. 1 offr wounded: 3 OR killed 3 OR wounded.	
Bronay	26	0730 0831	Operation Epsom commenced 15(S) Div advance under strong barrage Left flank reaches first objective right flank held up by minefield. 6 RSF on left have difficulty in St Mauvieu. Throughout morning fire brought down on numerous Victor targets.	

		1150 1755 1920 2100	Officer sent to recce route to forward gun area. Held up by pockets of enemy on rt flank and advance of guns postponed. Report of enemy forming up for counter attack in Marcelet. This place engaged scale 40 by corps arty and attack did not materialise in any force. Further counter attack expected but did not occur. Report received that B Tp cmdr had been killed during the day - Capt J.C. CORY-WRIGHT.	
	27	1400	During the night objective taken over by Tps of 43 Div. Regt remains in action during the day with advance parties ready to move. Several M & U tgts fired. Adv parties move to new gun area followed by the whole regt hours later. New area reported to contain snipers, all ground searched.	
Nr Cheux	28		Little of note during first part of day. Infantry pushing forward and mopping up enemy left behind.	
	29		Heavy enemy counter attack expected from S.W. in early morning. 8 RS continue to push forward. Guns firing continuously throughout morning. Numerous enemy thrusts reported and some penetration of our lines believed to have taken place. By early evening situation confused. Enemy reported to have broken through and gun position prepared for local defence. Enemy reach point 1000 yds in front of gun position but later withdraw. Infantry reorganise during the night.	
	30		Numerous enemy thrusts met by infantry and large concs on DF tgts. Guns firing almost continuously from early hours of morning and throughout the day. Situation unchanged at end of day. Further attacks expected to follow.	

WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

In Lieu of A.F. C. 2118.  
Unit 181 Field Regt R.A.

Month and Year July

Commanding Officer LT COL. A.C.E. DEVEREUX

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Ref to Appendices.
	1		Threat of enemy break through to gun posn past but counter attacks against inf throughout the day. Most broken up by D.F. fire and ground lost is regained in the evening.	
	2		Regt relieved by 81 Fd Regt and moves to Secqueville en Bessin. Posns previously occupied by Cdns taken over but any firing unlikely.	
	3		Rest and maintenance.	
	4		G.O.C. addresses the regt. Posns prepared at St Mauvieu but no orders to occupy received.	
	5		Rest and maintenance.	
	6		Major Keenlyside posted to regt. Given command of 179 Bty.	
	7		Visit from C.R.A. Heavy bomber attack on Caen area seen during the evening.	
	8		Regt moves into action at St Mauvieu.	
	9		170 R.P.G. dumped in early morning, other 100 R.P.G. brought forward from previous posn. Further 130 R.P.G. dumped mid-day. Numerous dead cows buried. News received that Caen is in our hands.	
	10		Fire plan in support of 43 Div attack on Etterville area. OPs with 9 Cams who are assisting in this operation. Very heavy opposition encountered.	
	11		Counter mortar fire and DF fire brought down throughout the day.	
	12		Enemy mortaring still heavy. Adv parties go forward to Mouen.	
	13		Priority residue arrives. No firing except in an emergency.	
	14		Regt moves into action at Mouen. Shelling during the night. R.A.P. hit but no casualties.	
	15		Op. GREENLINE. Night attack on Bougy, Gavrus and Evrecy supported by Corps Arty.	
	16		Attack according to plan but very heavy enemy shelling and mortaring throughout the day. X2 of 178 Bty shot up. Enemy counter attacks broken by DF fire.	
	17		Enemy mortaring continues. A.O.P. fires on suspected Nebelwerfer. Capt Shaw brings down very effective DF fire on enemy counter attack.	
	18		Counter mortar & DF fire brought down throughout day on enemy posns.	

	19		Numerous V tgts in early morning. Front quieter during the day. Gun area shelled during evening. 1 O.R. killed in 179 Bty.	
	20		44 Bde out of the line & only firing likely is on V and U tgts.	
	21		3 casualties from enemy shelling.	
	22		Warning order to move received. New area is in US sector.	
	23		Shelling in night, no casualties. Regt moves into action N of Caumont. Gun area is in area of US Fd Bn and RHQ in same location as their HQ.	
	24		DF tasks arranged - No operations planned by the div. Final residue arrives.	
	25		Two surveyors sent to operate Four pen recorder.	
	26		Fire plan in support of attack by 2 & 5 US Divs. Wireless silence except in emergency.	
	27		Further fire plan in support US Army. Several H.M. tasks fired. H.F. on 2 Pz Div moving across front to meet US thrust.	
	28		Propaganda shells fired. JU 88 shot down near area.	
	29		R.E.M.E. inspection of vehs. 15 Div put in attack; forward posns reced for occupation when front moves forward. Amn dumped.	
	30		Attack begins supported by airburst barrage. Enemy resistance not heavy and guns move forward to outskirts of Caumont in the afternoon. Enemy posns penetrated to a distance of 8 miles.	
	31		Recce parties leave at first light and regt moves into action S of Caumont. Considerable firing. Armour passing through all day.	

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**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 181 Field Regiment R.A.

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

(Delete heading not required)

Lt.Col. A.C.E. DEVEREUX R.A. 1/3

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. R.B.W. BETHELL R.A.

Month and Year AUGUST 1944.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
SOUTH OF CAUMONT.	1.		Regt in action in gap in German Lines. Throughout the day armour of Gds Armd Div passes south. 11 Armd Div on right reached Beny Bocage. 44 Bde with O.Ps from the regt waiting to continue South.	
	2.		Regt move further South beyond St Martin des Besances. Gds Armd Div held up by enemy pocket.	
	3.		Enemy pocket still not cleared and 44 Bde put u/c Gds Armd Div to clear high ground dominating axis of adv. First phase carried out by 6 RSF supported by two Div Artys. Inf reach obj. Enemy mortaring bring down heavy D.F. on suspected localities.	
	4.		8 R.S. and 6 K.O.S.B. drive wood supported by fire plan. Little opposition. In evening regt advances into action 4 miles south.	
	5.		Regt remains in same location. Inf regroup to form firm base for further advance.	
	6.		Armour still held up. 46 and 227 Bdes attack Estry area, neither completely successful. Lt Col. R. Bethell R.A. assumes command of the regt in place of Lt Col. A.C.E. Devereux R.A.	
	7.		44 Bde attack Estry supported by Div Arty. Opposition strong, troops forced to withdraw. Continual counter mortar fire brought down.	
	8.		Regt prepares to move to area Montchamp.	
	9.		Regt moves to new area, slight enemy harassing fire during the night.	
	10.		Continual harassing fire brought down on enemy escape road from Estry.	
	11.		Enemy shelling and mortaring of O.Ps and inf. This is thought to be a prelude to withdrawal.	
	12.		Enemy activity continues. Shooting restricted due to uncertainty of location of flank formations.	
	13.		Enemy activity decreasing. Warning received that Bde 11 Armd Div will shortly take over front. News received that enemy has withdrawn from Estry.	

	14.		Regt moves to other end of front and harbouring on banks of R. ORNE. South of Caen. Preparations made to take over posn from 53 Div.	
	15.		Regt addressed by new GOC Gen Barber. Day spent in rest. Tps bathed in river.	
	16.		Advance parties prepare fresh areas further south. Regt moves to new harbour area across the R. ORNE near FORET DE CINGLAIS. Heavy regt moves into fresh gun area before preparations completed.	
	17.		Remain in harbour area.	
	18.		Warning received for move next day.	
	19.		Regt moves into action. N.W. of Falaise. No firing from this position as The Gap becomes full of own tps.	
	20.		Warning received for advance to contact march. This later postponed for three days.	
	21.		Release from firing commitments.	
	22.		Warning received for short move next day.	
	23.		Moved to harbour area East of Falaise.	
	24.		44 Bde gp incl this regt advances as far MEULLES without opposition and harbours for the night.	
	25.		Advance continued towards LOUVIERS, held up by blown bridges. Regt moves during night. Regt arrives in action.	
	26.		Regt moves into action outside Le NEUBOURG early morning. No opposition, and no firing.	
	27.		Regt moves E of Louviers and prepares to support crossing of R. SEINE. Crossing done during night and is "silent."	
	28.		Little opposition met across Seine and little fire required. Regt moves to cover enlargement of bridgehead to the north.	
	29.		Regt crosses R. SEINE and goes into action near NATTEVILLE.	
	30.		53 Div passes through bridgehead. No firing.	
	31.		Recreation and training.	

I N T E L L I G E N C E S U M M A R Y A N D W A R D I A R Y

Date - FEBRUARY 1945.

181 FIELD REGIMENT R.A.

Offr Commanding Lt Col R.B.W. Bethell

PLACE	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY	REMARKS
TILBURG	1-6		Regt re-fitting, planning and preparations for operation 'VERITABLE'. Unnecessary stores and MCs left in Div dump. All Offrs address by Cmdr 30 Corps.	
	7		Night move to conc area South East of NIJMEGEN.	
	8		Operation 'VERITABLE' begins. Prolonged CB programme, followed by Corps Arty Barrage, lasting five hours. Late afternoon guns move up and support inf in breaching of SIEGFRIED DEFENCES.	
	9		Infantry advance to outskirts of CLEVE. Bogging on one axis and use by another div of remaining road prevent move fwd of guns.	
	10		Guns out of range. OPs still in action and fire of other regt is used. Rep sent to another Field Regt for quick passage of orders.	
	11		Advance continues beyond CLEVE and guns are able to move up - No OPs deployed.	
	12		Considerable firing in support of other Bdes. Enemy resistance stiffening.	
	13		Fire plan fired in support of 46 Bde several U Tgts otherwise NTR.	
	14		Regt comes into action in CLEVE at first light. A certain amount of enemy air activity with single jet-propelled planes. One bomb causes two casualties.	
	15		Regt move SE to continue support of attack towards Calcar. Still no OPs deployed.	
	16		Continued to fire in support of attacks towards Calcar. 4000 rds fired during day.	
	17		Moved SOUTH to support attack on GOCH. OPs joined Bns.	
	18		Attack on GOCH supported by fire plan. OPs with inf in KANGAROOS. Enemy opposition mainly shelling and mortaring.	
	19		Mopping up in GOCH continues. Enemy shelling of area mainly with SP guns.	
	20		Very heavy shelling of GOCH in early morning. Fire plan fired in support of 227 Bde attack E of GOCH. Fire plan during night to support 51 Div clearing GOCH south of the river.	

	21		Quiet day and weather fine and clear for the first time for several days. Typhoons out in force taking advantage of the weather. ME 262s over in late afternoon bombing. Fire plan in evening in support of 227 Bde pushing SE to SCHLOSS KALBECK. Enemy aircraft bombing in the vicinity in the evening.	
	22		Fire Plan in sp of 46 Bde attacking over rly and est bridgehead 935420-952415-952420. RSFs badly knocked about the previous day and failed to gain their objective which held up the start of 46 Bde attack. H Hr originally fixed for 1100 hrs was finally at 1400 hrs. Objective gained as far south as 415 Northings.	
	23		44 Bde carry on thro 46 Bde. Considerable opposition from mortaring and shelling encountered. All objectives gained and front est on 400 northings.	
	24		53 Div attack South beyond GOCH. Adv very slow and heavily opposed by SA and Mortar fire. Regt firing in sp.	
	25		OPs with 44 Bde relieved by OPs of 76 Fd Regt, 3 Br Div. OP hand over complete by 2200 hrs when inf change. Guns remain in support until 3 Br Div Arty ready the following day.	
	26		Division leaves for rest. Div Arty remains to support attack by Canadians and 11 Armd Div. Attacks go according to plan.	
	27		Fire plan in support of 3 Br Div. Warned of probable move next day to TILBURG. 4 Cdn Armd Bde make big advances. Calcar and Udem taken.	
	28		Fire plan in sp 3 Br Div. Not fired owing to movements of 11 Armd Div in area. Regt preparing to move. Regt moves out for Tilburg at 2030 hrs.	
				T P Keene



I N T E L L I G E N C E S U M M A R Y A N D W A R D I A R Y

Date - MARCH 1945.

181 FIELD REGIMENT R.A.  
 Offr Commanding Lt Col R.B.W. Bethell  
~~DSO RA., and~~  
 Lt.Col. TP Keene RA.

PLACE	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY	REMARKS
	1-5		Regt returns to TILBURG for rest and re-equipping.	
	6		Lt Col Bethell DSO R.A. posted to staff of SEAC. Regt moves from TILBURG to area of HASSELT.	
	7-19		Training in river assault crossing and ferrying of guns across a river obstacle. Planning for Operation Torchlight. On 11 Mar Lt Col T.P. Keene R.A. assumed command of the regt.	
	20-21		Regt moves to fwd harbour area S.E. of GOCH.	
	21		Preparing for ops.	
	22		Regt moves to gun area near VYNEN arriving in the dark. Guns not put in action.	
	23		Day spent preparing for Rhine crossing. Weather excellent. Occasional enemy shells coming over.	
	24		Regt commenced firing at 0025 hrs in sp of 44 Bde. Crossing made with little opposition. All three battalions established firmly by morning. Airborne tps began arriving at 1000 hrs. By afternoon RS and KOSB have linked up with 6 Airborne Div and 17 US Airborne Div.	
	25		By early morning the 44 Bde and the two Airborne Divs formed one solid bridgehead of considerable depth. The advance was to continue but fire support had to be provided by other units while the regt was crossing the Rhine. Damage to the bridge and trouble with the rafts made this a lengthy process. Recce parties were over in the morning but it was late afternoon before the complete regt was in action. During the interim period our OPs remained with their respective bns and support was given by a SP regt, which had crossed earlier in the day, and Medium guns still West of the Rhine.	
	26		The guns had been put in action well fwd in the bridgehead and were well able to cover the further advance towards the River Issel. Amn supply was difficult and most necessary as there was still only one field regiment across the Rhine.	
	27		A bridgehead was established across the River Issel, a deep salient was thrust into the rear areas of 7 Para Div and throughout the day repeated counter attacks were broken up by concentrations of fire. Very	

		large numbers of Germans were killed while trying to fight their way back from the West.	
	28	Stragglers continued to be roped in but by evening another formation had taken over the advance.	
	29 30	Guns brought out of action. OPs withdrawn and regt concentrates in present gun area. All ranks addressed by the C.R.A. who thanked them for the good work done in the past.	
	31	Remained in concentration area. Large numbers of German Army horses provided the main occupation.	

W A R D I A R Y O R I N T E L L I G E N C E S U M M A R Y

DATE APRIL 1945.

UNIT : 181 Field Regt R.A.

Comd Offr : Lt Col TP Keene, R.A.

PLACE	DATE	TIME	INFORMATION	REMARKS
	1-4		Rest in gun area close to Rhine continued. The regiment was addressed by the GOC on 2 Apr and congratulated on its good work and smart appearance.	
	5		The battle was well into Germany and a 70 mile move to the area of BORGHORST (14 miles NW of MUNSTER) still left the regiment harbouring many miles away from the fighting.	
	6		A night move on congested roads and again a harbour area in the village of NORDEL NW of MINDEN.	
	7-9		Remain in harbour and again the battle moves well away. During the period numerous German prisoners and stragglers were collected.	
	10		A short move across the R. WESER to clear the bridge and another harbour at NEUENKNICK where some excitement was provided by tales of GESTAPO agents knifing soldiers in the back but nothing more than a NAZI schoolmaster was discovered.	
	11		The Division advances through the 6th Airborne Division in the direction of CELLE. The regiment in support of the reserve brigade harbours at MEITZE until CELLE is captured.	
	13		Still in reserve moved into CELLE, a very pleasant town. Many Slave workers and political prisoners were found dead or dying from starvation and undressed wounds.	
	14		UELZEN was proving difficult to take and the regiment moved into action with the other Div Arty. A fire plan fired in the evening but town still uncaptured.	
	15		Supported 44(L) Bde in an attack to outflank UELZEN on the EAST, which was very successful.	
	16.		Flanking move continued and town effectively isolated from the EAST.	
	17		Fire Plan in support of attack on UELZEN entirely successful and all eastern half of town captured.	
	18		While mopping up continued in Western half of town the brigade pushed further north and east and the regt moved fwd to GROSS LIERDEN (1 mile EAST of UELZEN).	

	19		Bde Group concentrates NE of UELZEN. The regt moves to MOLZEN and guns are put in action as a precautionary measure against roving enemy columns.	
	20		R. ELBE is reached by other formations. Two bdes of the division mop up and take over a section of the bank, the regt and 44 Bde concentrated ready for any future operation. RHQ occupies the palatial Schloss Ludersburg, three miles SOUTH of the ELBE.	
	21-23		Remained in conc area. Planning for future operations begins.	
	24-27		Remained in conc area.	
	26	1400	Regt 'O' Gp and warning order to move at short notice. Outline plan for covering the ELBE as follows: RSF and RS to cross in area ARTLENBURG 8334, followed by A & SH and KOSB. The A & SH take over the initial bridgehead and KOSB push fwd to capture SCHNAKENBEK. Arty support by conc to H hour.	
	27		Regt moves at midnight to gun area around Britlingen where guns were camouflaged before crossing.	
	28		Tac HQ moved up to Bde at ARTLENBURG on river bank, OPs join Bns. Final preparations for the assault.	
	29	0200	44 Bde assault R. ELBE as planned. Heavy CB programme and concentration fired in support. Inf firmly est br head by first light. 1 Cdo Bde est br head on 44 Bde right. Steady advances. Regt moved up to Artlenburg at 1530 hrs, and at 2100 hrs prepared to cross river. River crossed during night and regt harboured near KRUKOW going into action in GULZOW at first light. Rapid advances made by 44 Bde. Some aerial activity over gun position caused one casualty. RS and RSF move up to SCHWARZENBEK which was clear of enemy.	
	30	2100		

W A R D I A R Y O R I N T E L L I G E N C E S U M M A R Y

DATE MAY 1945.

UNIT : 181 Field Regt R.A.

Comd Offr : Lt. Col.

T.P. Keene R.A.

PLACE	DATE	TIME	INFORMATION	REMARKS
	1.		Regt still in action at GULZOW 8 RS and 6 RSF in area of SCHWARZENBEK, 11 Armd Div pushed through. KOSB move to KOLLOW and then attack BRUNSTORF and take it. Opposition slight. Tac HQ move up with Bde HQ to SCHWARZENBEK. Plans made for clearing of SACHSEN WALD. One Sqn Coldstreams to support operation.	
	2.	0800 hrs	44 Bde start wood clearing. 177 moved to BRUNSTORF. An area at DASSENDORF reced but not occupied - Regt moved into action in evening at HAVEKOST. Little or no opposition in wood which was quickly cleared in a N. Westerly direction. Regt moved to area of HAVEKOST to support final part of operation. Tac HQ moved with Bde HQ to KASSEBURG. Rumours of surrender parleys very strong.	
	3.		160 Bde 53 Div take over from 46 Bde who occupy area TRITTAU taken by 11 Armd, who broke through to LUBECK. 44(L) Bde move NW to take high ground NE of HAMBURG. Regt moved to area of KASSEBURG and later, when infantry had found no opposition in villages, to area of RAUSDORF, HAMBURG and surrounding area surrendered, and at 1225 no firing order received. RS at PAPENDORF, RSF at STELLAU and LANGELOH, KOSB at KRONSHORST.	
	4.		Bde moved to concentration area around BARGTEHEIDE. Regt in area of VORBURG with 178 in action. Announcement of surrender received.	
	5.		Regt in concentration area. 178 out of action.	
	6-19.		Regt remained concentrated in area of BARGTEHEIDE. Numerous PW rounded up but no definite occupation role allotted. During excellent weather a considerable amount of sport was fitted int.	
	20-24.		Allotted occupational role in Northern part of KREIS STORMARN. Task included rounding up of all German P.W. Maintenance of order among the civil population. Management of several DP camps and control of movement of all D.Ps, especially Russians in order to facilitate removal to Russia at short notice. This latter task proved the most difficult as the displaced Russian prefers to remain mobile and a very large number had no desire to return to their homeland. There were however few incidents.	
	25-31.		Area of KREIS LAUENBURG taken over from 5 Div. Tasks similar to those previous area but knowledge that station was likely to be of	

			considerable length enabled a more satisfactory long term policy to be adopted. Numerous German PW continued to be rounded up.	
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