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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

~~OF~~

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 46 (H) Inf Bde incorporating LAD attached.

Month and Year SEPTEMBER 1944

Commanding Officer Brigadier RM Villiers, DSO.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Ref maps : LE THUIT R3693	FRANCE 1	¼"  1700	Sheets 7, 4, 2, BELGIUM ¼" Sheet 3, HOLLAND ¼" Sheets 2A, 3A. Bde Gp remained throughout the day in the area occupied on 30 Aug except for A Coy 1 MX and 161 A Tk Bty were conc in the area LE THUIT. Sub units were conc under cover of buildings and interior economy and route marching was carried out. BM visited inf bns during the morning and warned them to be at readiness to move on the 2 Sep to area SW of AMIENS N 15. Bde Comd and IO attended Div O Gp but change of plan was received by Div just before O Gp started and as a result instrs were : No move 2 Sep, be prepared to adv by march route approx 20 miles on 3 Sep. Bns were warned of this by IO visiting each in turn.	
	2	1100  1700	BM attended Staff conference and received Mov Plan for 3 Sep. He phoned Bde HQ from Div to arrange for Warning Order to Harbour Parties to be issued and units were advised : No move before 0600 hrs. Harbour Parties incl sufficient personnel to provide sentries during the night left for new location during the afternoon. Two secs of Bde HQ Def Pl moved with Bde HQ Harbour Party. Issue of Mov Order No 10.	See Appx D/1
LE PAVILLON 5215	3	1730  2045 2130	Move of Bde Gp went as planned. BM attended Staff Conference at Div HQ with instrs re move on 4 Sep. He returned at 2000 hrs and a Warning Order was issued to Bde Gp at 2030 hrs. Issue of Bde Mov Order No 11. BM held conference of COs at Bde HQ and gave forecast of future ops (Adv into BELGIUM) to three bn comds.	See Appx D/2
ROMESCAMP 7240	4	1930	Move to area ROMESCAMPS 7240 took place in accordance with Mov Order No 11. G III attended conference at Div HQ and received instrs for a move 5 Sep.	

		2045	G III returned and orders were issued to Bns for guides to meet TCVs. Warning Order regarding Harbour Parties and readiness to move on 5 Sep was also issued.	
		2300	Issue of Bde Mov Order No 12.	See Appx D/3.
FRAMECOURT H 10	5	1700	Move to area WEST of ST POL H 12 took place in accordance with Mov Order No 11 but TCVs were very late in arriving at unit locations and did not leave ROMESCAMPs until approx 1700. Bde HQ arrived new location. Div Comd arrived at same time with orders for Bde Comd as contained in "Notes for verbal orders by Comd 12 Corps to Comd LYSFORCE." It was decided to move elements of Bde Gp required for LYSFORCE to area AUBIGNY 3506 where they would be conc with other units forming the Force. 7 SEAFORTH was selected as the Bn from the Bde and instrs were at once sent to units concerned to send fwd Harbour Parties and Staff Capt moved fwd to allot unit areas. Reps from units were called to Bde HQ and given (a) Route, Dis P where guides would meet, and timings through ST POL. (b) Warning Order of O Gp at 2130 hrs in new Bde HQ location. (c) Instrs Not to unload in present area.	See Appx E/1
FRAMECOURT H 10 AUBIGNY H 3607		2100	Bde HQ arrived new location AUBIGNY H 3607. Move went satisfactorily though TCVs did not arrive for 7 SEAFORTH until about 0100 hrs 6 Sep.	See Appx D/4 & D/5
		2400	Other units of Bde Gp not required for LYSFORCE were taken over by Div. Bde Comd returned from Corps and issued verbal orders to LYSFORCE Comds.	
	6	1730	Move to area SOUTH of COURTRAI H 85 took place according to Op Instr No 13. Bde Comd moved with Recce Regt and on contacting OC Royals at 8847 found that they had been held up by enemy infantry and inf weapons on the line of the LYS running NE to SW through COURTRAI and that they were unable to get on. He therefore decided to clear this area up first and instructed the 15 (S) Recce Regt to protect the RIGHT flank while coy gps of 7 SEAFORTH were deployed to clear up the enemy resistance holding the Royals. COURTRAI was occupied as a firm base by 1500 hrs. Coy gps were given the following tasks to be carried out as soon as they were ready. (1) to clear up enemy in area HARLEBEKE 8861 (2) to assist the Royals by capturing MOORSEELE 7858. (In fact this coy never got further than br at 7955 owing to enemy resistance). Bde HQ had meanwhile arrived at H 8851. Div Comd visited Bde HQ and infm Bde Comd that 2 GLAS H would be arriving shortly and 9	

H 8851		1830 2200	CAMERONIANS later that night. A Div O Gp was ordered for 2100 hrs. Bde Comd attended and was told that 46 Bde would come under comd 7 Armd Div the following day. At their request LO, Lt D.T. Allan, was sent to HQ 7 Armd Div. 2 GLAS H on arrival took up posns to cover the brs from 9354 to excl 8657. CO 9 CAMERONIANS arrived at Bde HQ and was instructed to conc his bn in area AUTRYVE 9648.	
H 8851	7	0830 1320	Lt D.T. Allan failed to return from HQ 7 Armd Div until 0845 hrs having been captured by enemy on his return journey about 033540 and only escaped by jumping into and swimming R ESCAUT. By morning 9 CAMERONIANS, owing to two coys being lost did not complete their conc until 1100 hrs. The situation at AVELGHEM 9750 became confused during the night and Bde Comd instructed 9 CAMERONIANS to deal with this. 7 SEAFORTH and 2 GLAS H who had been relieved by units of 44 Bde were instructed to move fwd and conc in the area HEESTERT 9351 and 9451 respectively. On arrival in these areas 2 GLAS H were directed on AUDENARDE 0957 and 7 SEAFORTH on BERCHEM 0251 and KERKHOVE 0152. For the remainder of the day clearing ops NORTH of rd AVELGHEM - AUDENARDE were carried out in conjunction with 4 Armd Bde. Bde HQ with 193 Fd Amb moved to area 005507 and thence at 1720 hrs to QUAREMONT 032503. By last light bns were ordered to be in posns covering the brs over the ESCAUT at AVELGHEM (9 CAMERONIANS) KERKHOVE (7 SEAFORTH) and AUDENARDE (2 GLAS H).	
QUAREMONT 032503	8	0745 1330	Op Instr received from 7 Armd Div as a result of which Bde Comd sent Warning Order to (a) 9 CAMERONIANS to be prepared to take over GAVERE 1367 from 1-7 Queens. Recce parties to contact them as soon as possible. (b) 7 SEAFORTH to be prepared to take over GHENT J 18 from 1/5 Queens and 5 R Tks. The move of the bns depended upon the move of 15 (S) Div engaged in clearing up the SOUTH of LYS Canal as far as GHENT. TCVs were to be made available and were asked for at 1040 hrs. Bde Comd and IO attended O Gp HQ 7 Armd Div where he was notified of change in plan. Bde area was to be excl GHENT - incl GAVERE 1367 - excl AUDENARDE 0958 - rd and rly crossing 2463 - X rds 2474. At end of O Gp IO communicated with Bde HQ and gave following instrs. (a) 2 GLAS H to stay in AUDENARDE 0958 (b) 9 CAMERONIANS area GAVERE 1367 (c) 7 SEAFORTH to FAA SCHELDRODE 1762. (d) CO 7 SEAFORTH with Carrier Pl to meet Bde Comd at HQ 7 Armd Div as soon as possible.	

<p>QUAREMONT 032503</p> <p>241702</p>		<p>1600</p> <p>1720</p> <p>2200</p> <p>2230</p>	<p>TCVs arrived at Bde HQ and were sent to 9 CAMERONIANS immediately. As only one lot of TCVs were available orders were given for them to return to 7 SEAFORTH as soon as 9 CAMERONIANS had debussed.</p> <p>9 CAMERONIANS move completed followed by 7 SEAFORTH tpt only.</p> <p>Bde HQ arrived new location 241702.</p> <p>Instrs were received from 7 Armd Div that one of our bns is to perform a special task in GHENT under 131 Bde. Bde Comd decided to use 2 GLAS H and instrs were given for CO 2 GLAS H to contact Comd 131 Bde in GHENT at 0830 hrs next morning 9 Sep. Bn to be ready to move at 0730 hrs.</p>	
	<p>9</p>	<p>1230</p>	<p>TCVs lifting 7 SEAFORTH had been ordered to return to AUDENARDE to pick up 2 GLAS H and take them to GHENT. 2 GLAS H were ordered to leave sufficient carriers and A Tk guns in AUDENARDE to guard hrs. This responsibility was taken over soon after by 15 (S) Div. TCVs did not arrive until 1100 hrs but delay was of no consequence as Comd 131 Bde was in no hurry to use 2 GLAS H. 46 Bde less 2 GLAS H reverted to comd 15 (S) Div. Bde Comd received orders to move to a conc area near WILLEBROECK J 6479 prior to making crossing of ALBERT Canal in area VIERSEL J 8593.</p>	
<p>LIPPELOO J 5677</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>1230</p> <p>2100</p>	<p>Bde Comd met Div Comd at X rds J 2563 and after receiving instrs from him saw Comds 190 Fd Regt and 278 Fd Coy to pass on infm and arrange RV in LIERRE for Recce Parties. Bn Comds less 2 GLAS H and reps from sp arms in Bde Gp met Bde Comd at 1430 hrs at Bde HQ. The plan was to prepare for a crossing of the ALBERT Canal EAST of ANTWERP as a deceptive measure to assist 53 Div to cross NORTH of ANTWERP. Recce patrols incl RE and bn R Gps were ordered to move fwd to LIERRE J 7887 at once where recce patrols would be carried out; Bde Comd briefing patrols at 1830 hrs and holding co-ord conference with Bn Comds at 2000 hrs. The Bde Gp moved in accordance with Mov Order No 14 to area SW of WILLEBROECK 6278.</p> <p>Bde HQ arrived new location LIPPELOO J 5677. In absence of Bde Comd BM attended O Gp at Div HQ at 2100 hrs and heard new plan for relief of 50 Inf Div.</p> <p>COs 9 CAMERONIANS and 7 SEAFORTH were advised of this between 2300 and 2330 hrs and conference for Comds of all sp arms was arranged for 0930 hrs next day.</p>	<p>See Appx D/6</p>
	<p>11</p>	<p>0930</p> <p>1030</p>	<p>Bde Comd infm Comds of sp arms of probable future ops in area GHEEL I 0888.</p> <p>Bde Comd left HQ to meet Div Comd at WESTERLOO rd junc I 0482 at 1230 hrs. He was accompanied by Comds of all sp arms.</p>	

		1330	Bde Comd held an O Gp for Bn Comds and all sp arms at rd junc I 0482 and gave outline plan for relief of 69 Inf Bde by 46 (H) Inf Bde. Later all recces were carried out.	
		1830	A co-ord conference held at Bde HQ.	
		2100	BM went to Div HQ for mov timings and after warning order - No move before 0930 hrs - Op Order No 7 was issued.	See Appx D/7
I 0485	12	1030	Move by Bde Gp was carried out in accordance with Op Order No 7. BM attended conference at HQ 69 Inf Bde at which TC org for relief was worked out. Brief plan was (a) All units relieving tps SOUTH of ALBERT Canal to have completed move on rds by 1615 hrs. (b) 9 CAMERONIANS to cross by Cl 9 br 1800-1830 hrs. (c) 7 SEAFORTH to cross by Cl 40 br 1745-1810 hrs. (d). 129 SP A Tk Bty to cross by Cl 40 br 1815-1825 hrs. Relief was completed by 2300 hrs.	
		1830	Bde Comd attended Div O Gp at which forecast of ops in this area were given. Patrols for the night were ordered as follows (a) 9 CAMERONIANS - Recce patrol to LARUM 0588. (b) 7 SEAFORTH - Recce patrols to (i) VELVEKEN 0487 (ii) KRUISWEG 0286.	
I 0485	13	1100	Patrols of 9 CAMERONIANS and 7 SEAFORTH confirmed that posns in front of them were still held by enemy but 44 Bde had found GHEEL clear of enemy and occupied it at once. 9 CAMERONIANS and 7 SEAFORTH were instructed to keep patrolling fwd and to occupy posns as soon as feasible. Patrolling continued as far NORTH as the line of the Canal 0291 and as far WEST as VEENAN 9889.	
		1130	Bde Comd visited Div HQ where Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery KCB DSO addsd all senior offrs of the Div.	
		1630	CO 2 GLAS H arrived at Bde HQ with coy comds for orders. Main body 2 GLAS H arrived in the area and crossed Cl 40 br to posns just NORTH of it.	
	14		The bns remained during the day in the posns they occupied yesterday apart from a few minor changes in the dispositions of 7 SEAFORTH who took over LOCK at 992883 from a coy of 2 GORDONS at 1600 hrs. Patrols were carried out as follows (a) 9 CAMERONIANS - between LOCK 057916 and br 0291. (b) 7 SEAFORTH - to br 980997. 2 GLAS H were ordered at 1900 hrs to send one coy under comd 44 Bde and were warned that the remainder of the bn would come under comd 44 Bde morning 15 Sep.	
	15	1020	46 (H) Inf Bde were ordered to stage feint attack by a coy of 9 CAMERONIANS as a diversion in conjunction with attack by 44 Bde to take place 20 mins before Zero. Timings were later changed and feint attack was to take place between 1220 and 1250. Zero being 1230 hrs. Although little time was available to produce a	

			real deception plan the 6 RSF made a crossing without any opposition, or cas. All available boats of 9 CAMERONIANS were then ordered to 44 Bde to enable the remainder of the Bde to cross. Little else of note happened during the day except that one pl 1/5 Queens relieved the 7 SEAFORTH coy on the LOCK 9988.	
060869	16	1000 1400	Bde HQ moved to 060869 and Bde Comd and IO attended Div Comd's O Gp for Op "GARDEN". Bde Comd held O Gp and later visited HQ 44 Inf Bde to find that plan had been changed and that Op "FLOOD" was now going to take place.	
	17	0900 1200	Bde Comd held conference with COs 9 CAMERONIANS and 7 SEAFORTH to discuss Op "FLOOD". Bde Comd and BM attended Div O Gp. The plan was later changed again and at 1500 hrs Bde Comd held an O Gp and infm Comds that dispositions of 46 (H) Inf Bde were being changed and that units of 131 Bde were taking over part of 46 (H) Inf Bde front WEST of GHEEL brhead.	See Appx D/8 & D/9
060869	18	0730	Bde Comd 131 Bde visited HQ to tie up relief of one coy 9 CAMERONIANS by 1/7 Queens and three coys 7 SEAFORTH by 1/5 Queens, fourth coy of 7 SEAFORTH being relieved by 1/7 Queens. During the day 46 Bde dispositions were changed and bns were disposed to cover each side of the brhead from incl crossing I 0894 to incl crossing 117938. The reorg was completed by 2105 hrs.	
	19		There was little of note to record and dispositions of bns remained unchanged.	
	20	1030 1830 2200	Although the night had been quiet there was little indication of the enemy withdrawing. Bde Comd and IO attended Div O Gp at HQ 227 Bde. 46 Bde would come under comd 53 (W) Div. 9 CAMERONIANS to move forthwith under comd 158 Bde to take over protection of br at LOMMEL 3195. The remainder of the Bde was to move early next day. Bde Comd and IO then went to HQ 160 Bde to meet Comd 53 (W) Div. Bde Comd was ordered to conc the Bde less 9 CAMERONIANS in the area astride the rd between LOMMEL 3195 and the Canal. Bde Comd held O Gp. Orders were changed and Bde was ordered to conc in area VELDHOVEN 3715 and 9 CAMERONIANS were to relieve 1 Oxf and Bucks (43 LI) on the SOUTH bank of the Canal opposite OIRSCHOT E 3324. 7 SEAFORTH were to adv as quickly as possible and attempt a crossing of the Canal at BEST E 3824.	

392181	21		Move of Bde Gp was carried out in accordance with Amendment to Mov Order No 15, and by 2010 hrs 9 CAMERONIANS had completed relief of 1 Oxf and Bucks. During the night 7 SEAFORTH also crossed the Canal at BEST.	See Appx D/10
ACHT 398227  ACHT 398227	22  23	1500  2200	By 0340 hrs 7 SEAFORTH had all coys on objectives and patrols had reached town which was apparently clear of enemy. At 0800 hrs Bde Comd ordered 7 SEAFORTH to send one coy to occupy BEST. This coy however ran up against stiff enemy resistance and could not get on and one pl was lost. It was later established BEST was strongly held and it was decided to make an attack on BEST with 2 GLAS H preceded by a sqn of 15 (S) Recce Regt. On capture of BEST 2 GLAS H to adv WEST preceded by Recce Regt towards OIRSCHOT with a view to clearing enemy out of that area and allowing 9 CAMERONIANS to cross the Canal. This operation however was unsuccessful as 2 GLAS H did not succeed in clearing the enemy wholly out of BEST. 6 KOSB came under comd 46 (H) Inf Bde to protect our flank to the NE. It was later learned that 9 CAMERONIANS were being relieved by the 1 Oxf and Bucks at first light and were to conc in the area I 4022 to take over brhead from 7 SEAFORTH, and it was decided to make a two bn attack to capture the line of the rly from incl crossing I 3726 - incl crossing I 3724. This was timed for 1530 hrs. Neither bn reached their objectives owing to fierce resistance and the battle ended with 2 GLAS H in posn round the Church in BEST 3727 and 7 SEAFORTH just short of the rly line held up by strong enemy posn in a big stone Factory at 3726. Bns were ordered to stay in these posns for the night. 6 KOSB reverted to comd 44 Bde but still protecting our right flank.	
	24		2 GLAS H who had suffered fairly hy cas were relieved by 9 CAMERONIANS, 15 (S) Recce Regt being responsible for protection of the br. 7 SEAFORTH were then ordered to patrol to the line of the rly to gain as much infm as possible and to occupy the area of the Factory should it be found clear of enemy, the Divisional plan being for 227 Bde to attack along the NORTH bank of the Canal to the rly and then to turn NORTH and clear the enemy in the area NAASTEBESTE I 3625. This attack to take place the following morning.	
	25		Attack by 227 Bde failed and the Div plan was changed once more, 44 Bde and 227 Bde being ordered to adv NW the next day. The strongest enemy resistance seemed to be coming from the Factory 3726 area, and it was decided to withdraw tps and attack it with	

			Typhoons. This attack seemed highly successful. The clearing of BEST was still left to 46 Bde and it was planned to carry it out as laid down in OO No 9.	See Appx D/11
ACHT 398227	26		Clearing ops were carried out in accordance with OO No 9 and the line of rly was eventually reached and firm posns est by both bns. Active patrolling was carried out during the night.	
	27		Our posns on the rly were still intact and one coy of 9 CAMERONIANS was moved up onto the rly to reinforce the line. More patrolling was carried out during the night.	
	28		Active patrolling continued.	
383278	29	1500 2230	Bde HQ moved to new location 383278. Bns were ordered to continue patrolling during the night. Small arms fire heard in vicinity of Bde HQ. Infm received that 2 GORDONS on our immediate front had contacted an enemy patrol. Bde HQ ordered to Stand To.	
	30	0030 1200	Bde HQ ordered to Stand Down. Bns had a quiet day and there was very little to report. Bde Comd summoned to Div HQ for conference. He was infm that Bde was being relieved in one or two days time by a Bde of 51 (H) Div and that probably 15 (S) Inf Div would be conc in a Rest Area for at least four to five days prior to reverting to under comd 8 Corps.	