

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 278 FIELD COMPANY RE

**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**

(Erase heading not required).

Month and Year JULY 1944

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
CHEUX	1 Jul		Coy moved to Le MESNIL PATRY 9071.	Weekly AFs
LE MESNIL PATRY	- 5 Jul		Employed on mine clearance and rd maintenance.	W3008 & W2009
"	4 Jul		T/Major C.R. Nicholls, RE posted to this unit from HQ 8 Corps - OC unit vice T/Major J.G. Osler RE.	
"	6 Jul		New equipment etc arrived. Coy still engaged on mine clearance and road making.	
"	7 Jul		1 Platoon - Rd repairs; 2 Platoon - Reserve; 3 Platoon - Mine lifting.	
"	8 Jul		Coy comes under comd 46 Bde. 2 m/cs and 1 ½-track veh arrive as replacements.	
"	9 Jul		2 Pl move forward at 2200 hrs.	
"	10 Jul		278 Fd Coy in sp 46 Bde for operation JUPITER. 2 Pl move to MOUEN 7365 and has one sec with each 2 Glas H 7 Seaforths for checking routes. 20 rfts arrived. 1 ½-track arrived.	
LE MESNIL PATRY	11 Jul	1700	OC moves forward to Bde and takes forward 1 Pl. 2 Pl check carriageways and verges from excl X-rds 967656 to level crossing 986665 and from 970653 to ROCRENIL 978657. Rd opened from X-rds 977662 to track junc 978657, fallen trees removed and brs classified. Bde HQ moves to new harbour NE of Verson 973658. 2 Pl moves with Bde HQ. 1 Pl returns to Coy. Mortaring and shelling during night.	
"	12 Jul		2 Pl returns to Coy. Casualties :- 1 killed, 3 wounded, 3 vehs badly damaged. 2 ½-tracks arrived.	
"	13 Jul		Complete coy resting in harbour area. Priority residue arrived A.M. 1 m/c and 1 winch lorry arrived.	
"	14 Jul	1200	Whole coy moved to St Mauvieu 9470.	
St Mauvieu	15 Jul		Coy in sp 46 Bde with pl 263 Fd Coy under comd for operation GREENLINE. One D4 and one D7 placed under comd.	

			1 & 3 pls move forward to take over crossings on R. ODON. 1 pl responsible for maintenance of routes DUNDEE and QUARRY I. 3 Pl responsible for maint of QUARRY II, CART I and CART II. Pl 263 Fd Coy employed on maint of actual crossings at CART I and CART II.	
"	16 Jul		Maint tasks continued and routes opened up as far as BARRON. 3 tippers and D7 employed under 3 pl filling in craters round GOURNAY 9563.	
"	17 Jul		CART I and CART II handed over to 43 Div. Coy takes over HEREFORD. 3 Pl withdraw into reserve.	
"	18 Jul		1 pl hand over routes and return to coy location. Total casualties for operations. Lt D.D. Murray wounded - returned to duty. 1 OR killed, 3 ORs wounded. 14 rfts arrive.	
ST MAUVIEU	19 Jul		Coy resting. 3 rfts arrive.	
"	20 Jul		2 Pl erecting Water Point at Collville and lifting British minefields.	
"	21 Jul		Non-Priority Residue arrive. Lifting of British Minefields contd.	
"	22 Jul		Infantry Pioneer Mines course commenced. 1 Light Recce car received.	
"	23 Jul		Coy move to new location. 688676. Engaged in route maintenance &	
688676	24 Jul		training. (23 & 24th)	
"	25 Jul		Training contd. Maintaining a Water Point and routes. 17 ORs rfts.	
"	26 Jul		Training & route maintenance.	
"	27 Jul		" " " " . A pl went to RE Bridging School at Bayeux.	
"	28 Jul		As for 27 Jul. A road screening operation was carried out in the evening.	
688676	29 Jul		OC 2 pl with recce party moves to 2 Glas H and recce offr moves to 9 Cam in preparation for operation BLUECOAT.	
"	30 Jul	0600  1300	278 Fd Coy in sp 46 Bde for operation BLUECOAT. OC moved to Bde HQ at 0600 hrs. 3 Pl positioned to move behind Bde HQ Gp ready for immediate tasks. Coy HQ and 1 & 2 pls ready to move in rear. Coy task - to open up routes used on third objective - rd from X-rds 714544 rd junc 707518. Bde HQ moves to 696594 followed by 3 pl. Plan for third phase is changed and 2 Glas H and 7 Seaforths advance on route X-rds 688548 - to LA MORICHESSE LES MARES. OC 2 pl carries out route recce on rds X-rds 688548 - X-rds 715544. Recce offr recces	

		1615	<p>route forward as far as 688540 and is then held up by heavy fighting ahead.</p> <p>Coy HQ move to 705607.</p> <p>In the evening Bde HQ moves forward to 694565.</p> <p>3 Pl moves to area SEPT VENTS 6957.</p>	
705607	31 Jul		<p>3 Pl checking verges on rd from X-rds 688548 to X-rds 682522, repairing road and erecting notice boards.</p> <p>1 Pl called forward to assist in route maintenance. Recce made of damage to route in quarry 6951 and deviations made.</p>	<p><u>C.R. Nicholls</u> Major</p>