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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year July 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col R DELACOMBE MBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices								
	July 1st	0700	<p>A counter attack was made by the enemy on the Rt fwd Coy of the Bn in front but did not materialise into anything more than a local action and was repelled by the fwd tps with the support of the tanks. Further local attacks developed in the fwd area later in the day but no penetration was achieved and the Bn was not engaged in any fighting. Enemy mortar activity still continued.</p> <p>During the day the CO of the 1st Oxf and Bucks Regt and reps carried out a recce of the Bn area with a view to his unit relieving the Bn on the following day.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer (8RS) held a short 'O' Gp and issued instrs on the relief due to take place on the following day and the move to the rear RV.</p>	<p>Casualties 1st July</p> <table> <tr> <td>Offrs</td> <td>ORs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Killed</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wounded</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Missing</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>	Offrs	ORs	Killed	1	Wounded	3	Missing	-
Offrs	ORs											
Killed	1											
Wounded	3											
Missing	-											
	2nd	0900 1040	<p>Bn preparing for hand over to relieving Bn.</p> <p>(approx) Marching personnel of Coys assemble in Rear RV in orchard 903664 after being relieved by incoming sub-units.</p> <p>By 1530 hrs veh and marching parties had arrived in rear area east of ST CROIX GRAND TONNE (8874) in area 888742, where a period of rest and reorganisation is begun.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>								
	3rd	1245	<p>Bn still concentrated in rest area carrying out maintenance and necessary repairs to vehs and eqpt.</p> <p>Short address by the Div Comd, Major General GHA MacMillan DSO MC, on the previous week's operations to all ranks.</p> <p>Two officers and 121 ORs arrived in the Bn as reinforcements and were distributed as necessary throughout the Coys according to their qualifications and Coy requirements.</p> <p>Most of the day was spent as a day of rest and recuperation after the week's operations, which gave little chance for rest or sleep.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>								
	4th	0915 1030	<p>Talks by Bde Comd to all offrs and NCOs at Bn HQ, on the recent operations.</p> <p>CO attends conference at 15(S) Div HQ. During the day general maintenance was continued and stores and kit checked & cleaned.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>								

Field	5th	0830	CO holds 'O' Gp and discusses points raised at Div conf on previous day.	Ref Map Sh 7F/1 A Walker Capt IO
		0845	Major DAD Eykyn, 2i/c, IO and OC A Tk pl carry out recce of def posn at X rds 903731 with a view to the Bn occupying action stations in the area should the necessity arise.	
		1000	2i/c issues orders at pt 903731 for occupation of posns. During the afternoon all Coys dug def posns in the Coy areas allotted to them. Fifty members of the Bn attend a concert in BAYEUX given by the Concert Party of a neighbouring division.	
Field	6th		Coys continued during the day to improve their def posns and carry out maintenance of vehicles and eqpt. The CO attended Div HQ for an address by the CinC 21 Army Gp Gen Sir B Montgomery.	
	7th	2030	The Commanding Officer & the IO carried out a recce during the afternoon with a view to the Bn taking over the right hand sector of the bridgehead over the RIVER ODON from the 4th Bn DORSET REGIMENT. During the early evening Coy, pl and section reps had carried out a recce of their respective areas to be taken over. Marching personnel of Coys leave area of St CROIX GRAND TONNE 8974 and proceed by march route to Bde Dis P at 919652 near COLLEVILLE 9265 where guides met the column and led Coys via the br over the RIVER ODON at 930630 to their def posns preparatory to taking over from the corresponding sub units of the unit being relieved. The dispositions of the Bn were then as follows:- Bn HQ est at 934627 - A Coy area 927627 - B Coy area fm 934625 - C Coy area 930626 - D Coy area south of br at 930630. Earlier in the afternoon tps had been filtered fwd to this area in order to offload essential stores etc and then proceed back to rear Bn area at ST CROIX GRAND TONNE. The essential vehs followed the marching coln to the new area in the evening. The change over took place very smoothly without incident or interference from the enemy although on the way up from the rear area some mortar fire was brought down not far from the marching coln without causing any casualties. Major Lane-Joynt, South Lancashire Regt, arrived in the Bn on the morning of the 7th to take over 2i/c of the Bn from Major DAD Eykyn who had proceeded on 6th July to assume command of 11th Bn RSF in 49 Div.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
	8th	0030	The Bn had completely taken over from 4th Dorsets and except for occasional enemy mortar and arty fire in the vicinity there was nothing to report. During the night our own arty was extremely active.	<u>Casualties 8th July</u> Offrs ORs Killed - - Wounded 1 2

		0430	Bn stands-to till 0530 hrs in def posns. During the day enemy activity was on a small scale and except for individual movement reported by our OP's and occasional mortaring the enemy remained passive. Our own tps made themselves completely acquainted with the new Bn layout improving posns where possible. The morale of the opposing tps must have been very low as several deserters gave themselves up to our fwd tps.	Missing - - AW A Walker Capt IO
		2200	Major Mould, Worcester Regt, reported for duty as OC D Coy. During the night 8/9th two patrols were sent out, one each by B and C Coys approx 800 yds ahead of our FDLs but though enemy mov could be heard no actual contact was made.	A Walker Capt IO
	9th		During the day there was little to report except for isolated enemy targets which were observed and engaged by our arty and mor fire. The CO of the 1st/5th Welch Regt carried out a recce of the Bn area with a view to his unit taking over the bn sector.	
	10th		During the day there was little enemy activity on the front. Reps of the relieving unit arrived during the evening in preparation for the change-over.	Casualties 10 July ORs:- 1 killed 1 wounded AW
	11th		During the night 10/11 July the Bn was relieved from its posn in the bridgehead over the R. Odon and proceeded back to the rest area at ST CROIX GRAND TONNE (SH 7F/1 8874). During the day rest and reorganisation was carried out.	A Walker Capt IO
	12th		The Bn remained in the rest area. A recce is carried out by the CO & IO in the area of MONDRAINVILLE 9264 and TOURVILLE 9364 with Bde recce party and planning for an operation for breaking out of the bridgehead over the RIVER ODON is carried out.	
	13th	1000 1500	CO and IO attend Bde 'O' Gp. Bn 'O' Gp. Recce party from Bn sets out to recce FAA in area MONDRAINVILLE - TOURVILLE for forthcoming operation. Regarding this op the CO liaises with affiliated Tk bn. During the day the priority residue of the bn arrived and joined the bn in the rest area.	A Walker Capt IO
	14th	2100 2300	During the morning and afternoon briefing of the bn took place by the CO. Each Coy also being briefed by the CO on the scale sand model of the area of the forthcoming op. Due to a slight change another recce party sets off to recce a new FAA in the same gen area as before. OO No. 1 and Mov Order No. 1 for Op "GREENLINE" issued. Marching party of Bn leave for FAA. Veh party leave rest area for FAA.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx C1 and C2 att.
	15th	0100	Arrive FAA. Bn HQ est 927648.	

		1400	The day was mostly spent in lying up in the FAA & in final tying up of details of attack. Recce party for FUP sets out returning at 1500.	
16th	0300 0530		Bn leaves FAA & moves to FUP between LES VILAINS 930625 and R. ODON. Zero hour for attack. The attack is planned in three phases: (a) D Coy (Major Mould) objective gen area gully 924622 (b) A Coy (Major Gullett) objective GAVRUS 9161 (c) C Coy (Major Douglass MBE) objective BOUGY 9161, B Coy being in reserve. The attack progressed favourably against varying opposition, a considerable number of prisoners being taken and by 1017 hrs all objectives had been gained and Coys consolidated. At the commencement of the attack the Commanding Officer Lt Col R Delacombe MBE was wounded by splinters from a mortar bomb and had to be evacuated through the medical channels. Major Layne-Joynt 2i/c then took over command. The number of casualties suffered by the Bn in the attack was comparatively small but on the objectives casualties were sustained through hy enemy arty and mortar fire. For the remainder of the day Coys continued to improve their defensive posns and were now reorganised as follows: A Coy area - wood 916612, B Coy area 906613, C Coy area BOUGY 912610 and D Coy orchard 914614. Bn HQ was est at BOUGY CHATEAU 913614. Attempts to infiltrate by the enemy were all repelled.	A Walker Capt IO Casualties 16th July Offrs ORs Killed 2 20 Wounded 4 91 Missing - 2 AW A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
17th			An order of the day from Lt Col Delacombe was given out to the Bn. A Coy of the 6RSF were put under comd of the bn to hold the gap between C and B Coys in area 909611 as the Bn was fairly "thin" on the ground in this area. Again during the day the enemy tried infiltration but without success and our own Coys maintained inter-coy patrols which gave warning of enemy intentions. The enemy was however now much more passive due to the hy defeat of the previous day but continued with mortar and arty fire in the bn area.	See Appx C3 Casualties 17th July Offrs ORs Killed - - Wounded 1 10 Missing - - AW A Walker Capt IO
18th	1900		The odd German prisoner continued to be brought in or give himself up but otherwise there was no great activity on the bn front. D Coy made local attack in area wood 909611 to clear up enemy in it but encountered very hy M/G fire and not having tk sp or arty sp due to close proximity of our tps the attack was called to a halt before completion and D Coy returned to their original posn. Reps of the Royal Welsh Regiment visited Bn with a view to taking over.	Casualties 18th July <u>ORs</u> Killed 4 Wounded 7 Missing - AW A Walker Capt IO
19th			Patrol activity continued during the day and enemy spotted opposite the fwd coy posns were engaged by 3" mor or arty fire. Otherwise, there was nothing of importance to report.	Casualties 19th July <u>ORs</u> Killed 2

				Wounded 10 AW
HAUT DE BOSQ	20th		During the night 19/20 the Bn was relieved and proceeded to a rest area at HAUT de BOSQ in gen area ORCHARD 905665. Once again the task of reorganising and re-equipping where necessary was begun. Advantage was also taken of Mobile Bath facilities & a number of vacancies at the Corps rest camp were given to the Bn. This was a most welcome rest period for all.	A Walker Capt IO
	21st		Bn remains in rest area. Major Chalmers S.L.I. arrives to take over 2i/c of the Bn on Major Lane-Joynt assuming command of the Bn.	
	22nd		Bn still in rest area. CO and SO carry out recce of def area at LA VACQUERIE 6659 (Sh 6F/4) with a view to taking over this sector of the front from the U.S. troops then in occupation.	A Walker Capt IO
	23rd	0830 0930 1345 1455	Recce party leave for new area. Harbour party leave to recce conc area for bn prior to moving fwd to take over. Marching personnel of Bn leave by TCV and proceed via AUDRIEU (7F/1 8671) JERUSALEM 8172 - LA BELLE 7669 - LA BUTTE (6F/2 7469) - ST HONORINE DE DUCY 7365 - to conc area in VILDAY 693633. Veh party leave for conc area by above route. During the evening preparations for the take over during the night were completed.	A Walker Capt IO
LA VACQUERIE	24th		During the night 23/24 the bn took over the LA VACQUERIE sector and by morning was est as follows: Bn HQ 662598 A Coy 656594 B Coy 664587 C Coy 670590 D Coy 672592. During the day there was little enemy activity on the ground except for mortaring and shelling in fwd Coy areas. A slight readjustment of Coy posns took place on orders from Bde and C Coy now occupied LA VACQUERIE 668597. A tp of 15(S) Div recce took up posn between A & B Coy in area 662592 & another tp area 668589.	<u>Casualties 24th July</u> 1 OR wounded AW A Walker Capt IO
LA VACQUERIE	25th	1015 1340	Coys settled in def posn with inter Coy patrols established. Patrols into the enemy lines were also carried out and valuable information obtained during night 24/25th. Div Comd Major Gen GHA MacMillan DSO MC accompanied by Comd 44 Bde visit Bn. CO & IO attend conf at HQ 44 Bde. They were accompanied on their return by reps of 2 Glas H of 46 (H) Bde who carried out a recce with a view to taking over the sector. Enemy activity was again on a small scale.	A Walker Capt IO
LA VACQUERIE	26th		During the night 25/26th there was a considerable number of patrols sent out when contact was made on a number of occasions. Enemy activity was also marked along the FDLs of fwd Coys.	

LA VACQUERIE		0630	An attack by US forces on the sector on right of the Bn posn commenced and considerable fire sp was given to it by our sp arms in engaging enemy targets. This attack gained considerable ground but after enemy counter-attacks was temporarily held up but later pushed fwd again. During the evening and the night of 26/27th the bn sector was taken over by 2 Glas H and the bn proceeded to a rear area near LA MULOTIERE 713636.	A Walker Capt IO
	27th		Bn remains in rest area. One other rank was killed & 3 wounded by enemy shelling of the area in the early morning. Rest and reorganisation & cleaning up was the general order of the day.	Casualties 27th July ORs Killed 2 Wounded 2 Missing - AW
	28th		No change in Bn location. During the day the CO & IO carry out recces for counter attack roles to be done if necessary by the bn in area LA VACQUERIE 6659, CAUMONT 7059 and LA REPAS 7259. Baths, cinema & concert were popular with those privileged to attend but at 2000 hrs a sudden change of plan necessitated the Bn preparing to move back to the LA VACQUERIE area as soon as possible and by 2130 hrs the Bn was again on the move.	A Walker Capt IO
LA VACQUERIE	29th		During the night 28/29th the Bn once more took over the def posn around LA VACQUERIE, but enemy activity was again negligible during the day due to the US troops on our right flank now being slightly fwd of the bn posn.	Casualties 29th July 1 OR killed AW A Walker Capt IO
	30th		No change in bn location. Inter coy patrols continue as before but there was nothing of importance to report. During the day the remaining Bdes of the Div put in an attack south from CAUMONT and it appeared that in face of this threat the enemy were withdrawing on our front, even mortar & arty activity having considerably decreased.	
	31st		Following the success of the ops south of CAUMONT the bn move during the early hours of the morning through CAUMONT and then south. Some hours were spent in a conc area at 693558 during which time the CO & IO attended a Bde Comds conference on possible sp roles for the Bde. Instrs were finally given for an attack with tk sp on a high feature in area 709532 to fill a gap between 227 Bde on the left on pt 226 (711536) and 46 Bde in area pt 309 (694512). After Coy Comds recce and liaison with the tk bn cooperating (4 GREN GDS) the attack was finally tied up and commenced at 1845 hrs. The bn advanced on its objective from the west with two Coys up, A on right & B Coy on left. D Coy followed in rear of A Coy and C Coy	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO

		<p>followed B Coy. Limited sp was given by the tks who had failed to tie up with the left Coy on the S.L. However, no enemy opposition was encountered as the enemy apparently had withdrawn when his flanks had been threatened. Coys were thus able to establish themselves on their objectives and reorganise as follows: B Coy area X tracks 711532, A Coy area 709528, C Coy 707534, D Coy 705530. Bn HQ was est area 705535.</p> <p>Some enemy activity was apparent to the East of the fwd coy posns and there was occasional mortaring and shelling of the bn posn. Otherwise there was little of importance to report.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
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