

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 20 FIELD COY RE

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Month and Year JULY 1944

Commanding Officer MAJOR J.H. GILLINGTON

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LE MESNIL PATRY	1		Coy in harbour resting checking stores and deficiencies (unit had lost 1 3 tonner & 2 trailers in battle).	JG
"	2	1430 1800	Coy moved further back to Div conc area in SECQUEVILLE-en-BESSIN. Coy rested with odd jobs until 15 July. Cpl & 2 men who had been on patrol with A&SH Bn in GAVRUS area returned.	JG JG
SECQUEVILLE- en-BESSIN	3	1000 1800	1 pl erected 60,000 gal per day Water point at SECQUEVILLE-en-BESSIN. 3 pl cleared road of rubble in village caused by a shell blowing in a high wall.	JG
"	4	1200	2 pl took over maintenance of Water point from 1 pl.	JG
"	5	1130	Men had use of mobile bath (very welcome and necessary)	JG
"	6	0800	3 pl set up water point at BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE capacity 6,000 gals per day max. They maintained this until dismantled by them on 14 July.	JG
SECQUEVILLE- en-BESSIN	9	2200	OC received orders from CRE that pls would maintain routes in Div area. 2 pl and 1 pl each had 2 sections committed. Little work was entailed.	JG
"	11	0900	2 pl engaged on digging bunkers for vehicles of Div HQ in proposed fwd location. Again has section on same job on 14 July.	JG
"	13		2 pl engaged on digging bunker for proposed fwd Bde HQ.	
"	14	1730	3 pl had 2 sections blowing craters for burying dead cows in gun area. Coy complete with all its transport moved to new harbour at ST MAUVIEU to concentrate in Div area for Operation GREENLINE.	JG JG
ST MAUVIEU	15	1600 1800	2 pl in Support 2 GORDONS moved to harbour N of BARON with min transport. Supplied 2 recce parties of 1 NCO and four men to go fwd with leading Coys. Balance of pl dug in behind S/L to be called up if rqd to breach a minefield. 1 pl supplied 4 parties of 4 men to blow in pits for speedy siting of the 4 guns of G troop of 286 ATK Bty.	JG JG

		2100	3 pl with one D4 bulldozer moved to harbour N of BARON to maintain and keep the road clear of obstacles behind the leading infantry battalions.	JG
		2145	Battle started.	JG
ST MAUVIEU	16	0200	1 pl had blown holes for 2 of the 4 17 pounder ATK guns. 2 guns were K.O. before they were due to move fwd. 1 pl suffered 2 men killed and 6 injured when this happened. Remaining men returned to coy harbour at 0830.	JG
		0500	3 pl had advanced 1200 yds from start line for their work. Could not get any further fwd for heavy shelling and mortaring. Road fwd clear of obstacles.	JG
		0700	3 pl returned to bridge at TOURMAUVILLE and with D4 and D7 dug positions for 227 Inf Bde HQ near Bridge.	JG
		0830	2 pl (less recce pts) returned to coy harbour having suffered 6 casualties through "shell shock" while subject to very heavy mortar fire in their harbour when waiting to go fwd.	JG
		1300	1 recce pty returned having found no mines. The other recce pty returned at 1100 hrs on 17 having been in a dug in position with the 2 GORDONS the previous day and unable to return. They reported no mines in area where they had dug in.	JG
ST MAUVIEU		1400	2 pl called out again to breach own minefield in area LES VILAINS. They were not required and returned at 0000 hrs.	JG
		1400	3 pl returned after digging "holes" for Bde HQ.	JG
ST MAUVIEU	17		Coy checking stores, resting, vehicle maintenance etc.	JG
"	18	0800	2 pl took over water point S of CHEUX from 53 Div. Set up own water trailer. Water point gave total yield of 55,000 gals in day.	JG
		1000	Coy moved to new div concentration area. Coy harboured 1 mile N.W of LE MESNIL PATRY.	JG
LE MESNIL PATRY	19	1000	1 pl employed on blowing craters for burying dead cows S of CHEUX.	
		1700	Coy had use of M.B. Unit near SECQUEVILLE EN BESSIN.	JG
do	20		1 & 3 pls clearing own minefields N of BARON.	
do	21		Collecting salvage in one grid map square in Div area.	JG
do	22		Collecting salvage.	JG
do	23		2 pl handed over water point to 53 Div.	JG
BALLEROY		1400	Coy moved to new harbour in New Div area S of BALLEROY Div came under Comd 30 Corps.	JG
	24		3 pl bulldozing in new Bde harbour for 227 Comd Vehicles. 1 & 2 pls on maintenance of roads in Div area.	JG
	25		1 pl road maintenance, 2 pl filled shell crater, 3 pl widening entrance and exit to coy harbour.	JG

	26		1 pl road maintenance. 2 pl ditto, 3 pl quarrying and loading stone near TILLY. 2 men from 1 pl went out during the night with a patrol from HLI and blew up an enemy half track which was suspected of being an O.P.	JG
	27		Same as for 26. One NCO and three men from 1 pl went out with fighting patrol from HLI and returned safely.	JG
	28		1 pl road maintenance, 2 & 3 constructing tank track PARSLEY, 30 ft wide 9 miles long, 2 L/Cpls from 2 pl went out with recce patrols from HLI and reced for sunken roads and minefields.	JG
BALLEROY	29	2300	1 pl road diversion E. of Caumont; 2 and 3 pl completed PARSLEY and handed over northern four miles of PARSLEY to 101 Corps Field Coy RE for marking and picketing. 1 pl with escort of one pl from KOSB went out to lift own minefield S.E of CAUMONT. Lifted 500 American mines and blew in 2 sunken roads to provide 3 tank crossings. Evening - All platoons moved into area LA TRINGALE (1 mile N of CAUMONT).	JG JG
"	30	0001 0600 1700 1900	15 Div came under Cmd 8 Corps for Operation BLUECOAT. 1 Sec of 2 pl joined 2 GORDONS and went fwd with them and then with the 2 A&SH as far as LUTAIN wood and cleared mines N of the wood. Afternoon - 2 & 3 pls carried tank and wheel tracks fwd down the fwd slope of CAUMONT Ridge. 2 pl less detachments joined the 6 RSF and went fwd with them to ECORIGNY and with a bulldozer drove a wheel and tank track subsequently called 'TIN'. Detachment 2 pl went fwd to 2 GORDONS to clear minefields E of LUTAIN wood but were not employed and subsequently returned to coy harbour at LA TRINGALE.	JG JG JG JG
LA TRINGALE		1700	Coy HQ moved fwd and set up again at LA TRINGALE.	JG
"	31	0500 0700 1600 1830 1900	1 pl went out to improve route TIN and drive it forward to ST JEAN DES ESSARTIERS to LE HOMME lateral wood. 3 pl went out to improve wheel tracks and clear minefields in AREA LUTAIN Wood. 3 pl diverted to assist 1 pl in opening TIN route now urgently required. This was completed fit for tracks and wheels at about 1830 hrs. 2 pl established a water point at AUBIGNY for fwd troops. Night - 3 pl with 2 sections maintained the roads, 1 pl returned Recce Officer with 1 section from 2 pl started bulldozing Bde HQ in new area. Total casualties for day 2 wounded and 2 shell shocked.	JG JG JG JG JG

	11 25		LT. D.R. GIFFORD RE joined this unit posted from 31 R.H.U. 2/LT JJ COCKLE RE joined this unit posted from 31 R.H.U. Strength of company on 31 July 1944. 7 Officers and 230.	JG JG JG
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