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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt Col PR Lane-Joynt

Month and Year Aug 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
REF MAP 6F/4 1/50,000	1st	- 1800	Bn HQ located 705535 A Coy 709528 B Coy area X tracks 711532 C Coy 707534 D Coy 705530. During the day there was little enemy activity on the Bn front and no enemy were encountered by inter-coy patrols. Attack to clear ground & wooded country between Bn and nearest troops on right in area 6951 was made by 6 KOSB. Attack met some opposition from enemy tks & inf but was successful & contact was later est by our Rt fwd Coy with this unit. Enemy concs reported in BOIS DU HOMME 7151 shelled by our arty. During the early evening C Coy (RS) was moved into posn behind 6 KOSB in area 702527 to thicken up defence of this sector in view of poss enemy counter-attack. Later in the evening this Coy returned to the original posn when posn had been firmly secured by 6 KOSB.	A Walker Capt
	2nd		Due to adv of other Br units on left flank enemy activity ceased entirely except for occasional long range shelling, and there was little to report. A number of rfts arrived for the bn (67 ORs from 6 Border Regt / 9 ORs from 32 RHU). C Coy was given task of clearing any isolated enemy from wood in front of bn posn at 7152 but after patrols had reported wood clear & contact made with friends on left the op was not carried through. Recce parties set off to recce FAA in area 680465.	A Walker Capt
	3rd	1600	The Bn remains in area 705535 but Coys were conc near Bn HQ in view of an impending move. Bn leaves present area & moves to FAA area 680465. CO and IO attend 44 Bde O Gp at HQ Gds Armd Div area 678455 for operation to take place on morning of 4th Aug, 44 Bde being under command for this op.	
	4th	0245 0630	Bn move to FUP area Pt 266 (694424) prior to attack arriving in FUP at 0500 hrs. Attack commences. SL line of stream from Le Desert 7043 to 705430. Objective was high ground to the east to pt 283 (738420). The attack was preceded by arty fire but no enemy were encountered on the	A Walker Capt

		1030	objective, having cleared off as soon as our arty opened fire that morning. All objectives gained. Coys est as follows: A Coy area 736422, B Coy area 731422, C Coy area 733420, D Coy area 737419, Bn HQ area 734422. Enemy activity was again confined to shelling of high ground. A few stragglers were rounded up during the day. A Pl of A Coy acted as covering fire to the south west of MONTCHARIVEL 7442, whilst other troops of the Bde occupied the	<u>Casualties</u> 4 ORs wounded AW
		2030	village. Inter Coy patrols were established & later in the day a carrier patrol was sent to recce routes to the east for a possible move.	A Walker Capt
	5th		During the day the Bn remained in posn, with little of note to report.	
	6th	1330	The Bn was now under orders for a quick move and by early afternoon were prepared for an immediate move. Harbour party sets off to recce conc area 771418 followed a short time later by the Bn. Arriving in this area a temporary def posn was taken up by Coys in view of poss enemy counter attack from area LASSY.	Sheet 7F/3 <u>Casualties</u> 1 OR wounded A Walker Capt
	7th		During early morning recce parties were sent fwd to new def posn and bn moved fwd to area of village 7639. B and D Coys occupied posns on SE of road at 764394 and 766395 respectively, A and C Coys having def posns in areas NW of rd at 364395 and 765396 respectively. The enemy remains very passive and no direct contact was made though this was to be expected as the Bn was slightly in rear of the line of the FDLs from ESTRY 7437 (Sheet 6F/6) and Pt 208 (772390 Sheet 7F/5). During the late evening and morning of the 8th Aug patrols were sent out to contact neighbouring units & also two recce patrols. Contact with units on the flanks was made but recce patrols did not encounter enemy.	A Walker Capt
	8th		During the day the only incident of note was the approach of 3 enemy tks and SP guns to X rds 769405 (7F/3) where two were knocked out by A tk guns of the unit on our left rear, on the NW side of the cross roads. Later in the day reps of the 2 A&SH carried out a recce of the Bn posns with a view to taking over during the night 8/9 Aug.	<u>Casualties</u> 2 ORs wounded A Walker Capt
	9th	0200	Bn leaves present location and proceed to area 735394 and begin taking over from 3rd Bn Irish Guards. The take over was effected without incident and after readjustment of posns the Bn was disposed as follows: Bn HQ area orchard 735394 (Sh 6F/6), A Coy - 734395, B Coy - 736395, C Coy - 733391 & D Coy 738392. In this posn the Bn came into Bde reserve.	<u>Casualties</u> 1 OR wounded

	10th		Bn located as for 9th Sept - Little enemy activity except for occasional mor or arty fire. Recces for counter attack role carried out.	<u>Casualties</u> 2 ORs wounded A Walker Capt
	11th		Located as above. An opportunity for reorganisation & cleaning up was taken due to passive enemy resistance in fwd area of the Bde.	<u>Casualties</u> 1 OR wounded
	12th	2100	During the day recces were carried out by Coys as the Bn was being called on to relieve the two fwd bns of the Bde. Enemy mortaring of area continued. Standing patrol of one pl strength continued by night at 750381 on left of 6RSF. 5 OR Rfts from 32 RHU join Bn. Change over with 6 KOSB & 6 RSF takes place & continued until completion with little reaction from the enemy. Bn HQ located 743385 with B Coy in res area 745385 and other Rifle Coys as follows: C Coy area 741375 A Coy 745378 D Coy 747379.	A Walker Capt
ESTRY 6F/6 7437	13th	1415 1830 2300	Considerable slackening of enemy activity was noticed on the Bn front suggesting signs of an enemy withdrawal. During the afternoon vigorous patrolling was carried out by Coys all information pointing to the fact that the enemy were pulling out from that sector. Recce party of 4 KSLI arrive to take over Bn sector. Carrier patrol sent out beyond Estry to south. Road found blocked and mined. REs protected by B Coy were given the job in the late evening of clearing the village of Booby traps and mines. 4 KSLI in process of taking over sector.	<u>Casualties</u> 3 wounded A Walker Capt
	14th	0200- 0430 1930	Bn moves back from rear RV at 723400 (Sheet 6F/4 1/50000) to CATHEOLES 7044 to rest area. During the day however instrs were issued for move back to the eastern sector of the bridgehead area and at 1600 hrs the Bn moved off to AMAYE-SUR-ORNE (Sh 7F/3 1/50000) via VILLERS BOCAGE (see Appx A attached) and eventually arrive in rest area LES IFS 966571.	
	15th		Bn in rest area at LES IFS 966571. Reorganisation and re-equipping where necessary takes place. Coys allowed mobile baths. 5 Rfts from 32 RHU join Bn.	
	16th		Bn still conc in rest area as on 15th Aug. Rest and reorganisation continues.	A Walker Capt
LES IFS 966571 Sheet 7F/3	17th		Bn still located at LES IFS 966571. Visit to Bn of Div Comd Maj Gen Barber and address by Div Comd to all ranks. Brigadier Cockburn MBE Comd 44(L) Inf Bde accompanied the Div Comd.	
Sheet 7F/3 1/50000	18th		Bn moves to area CHATEAU 999454 near CESNY BOIS HALBOUT by march route. Coys conc as follows A Coy 999453 B Coy 997453 C Coy 998450 D Coy 000453. Bn HQ est at Chateau 999454. Commanding Officer attends conference at Div HQ.	

	19th		Bn located as for 18th Sept. Trg was carried out by Coys with short route marches.	A Walker Capt
	19th to 22nd		Advantage was taken of the prolonged period of rest in bringing the bn up to full fighting efficiency again. During this period there was little else to report except for the appearance for the first time since the Bn's arrival in France of a Mobile Canteen, and also an "Officers Mobile Shop". Situation otherwise normal - nothing to report	A Walker Capt
	23rd		Following the complete collapse of the German forces in Normandy there commenced a period of mobile ops which entailed moves of some considerable distances in an effort to keep pace with the German retreat. The Bn left present location on the morning of the 23rd and proceeded by TCV via FALAISE to DAMBLAINVILLE (SH 3A&8 1/250000 2138) where the night 23/24 was spent in harbour. 13 Rfts from 32 RHU join Bn.	
	24th		Leave DAMBLAINVILLE and proceed by TCV to MEULLES 5868 (Sheet 7 1/250000) and harbour.	
1/250000 Sheet 7 LE NEUBOURG	25th	0930 2130	Depart for LE NEUBOURG 0283 via ORBEC 6573 and BERNAY 7979. Bn HQ est 031841 and Coys disposed as follows: A Coy area 0487 B Coy 0484 C Coy 0683 D Coy 0386 (FRANCE SHEET 8F/2 1:50000) in defensive posns to the N and NE of LE NEUBOURG. Enemy still continuing hasty withdrawal and bn not engaged in any fighting. Situation normal - nothing to report.	
	26th	0630	Coys relieved by 6RSF and 6KOSB and withdraw to posns A Coy area rly station 031829, B Coy area C Coy area 032828, D Coy area 030826. In these positions it was possible to carry out maintenance and reorganisation to a great extent with no interference from the enemy whose main purpose appeared to be to get back over the RIVER SEINE with all possible speed. Situation normal.	A Walker Capt
LE NEUBOURG	27th	0900 1730 2200 2300	Bn moves from LE NEUBOURG by MT to area west of LOUVIERS 2289 (1/50000 Sheet 9F/1) and by 1130 hrs is est as follows: Bn HQ - 203893, A Coy 202892, B Coy 204890, C Coy - 200892, D Coy 204891, S Coy 201891. CO and IO attend Bde O Gp and afterwards carry out a recce for a crossing of the RIVER SEINE in the area of PORTEJOIE 290920 night 27th/28th Aug 44. Bn O Gp at Bn HQ and orders for river crossing issued. Bn leaves present area by march route and proceed to FAA in area 2794. Veh party move in rear of Bn to veh park in area 268922. Tac Bn HQ was est at 290921 in PORTEJOIE next to 44 Bde regulating point.	A Walker Capt

1/50000 Sh 9F/1	28th	0300	<p>After the assault Bn (6RSF) has crossed with some MG opposition from the enemy the Bn which had been called fwd from the FAA began the crossing. Some difficulty was encountered at the most southerly crossing at pt 289918 due to enemy interference from further up river. D Coy however eventually managed to cross without mishap at this crossing while C, B, HQ and A Coys crossed at pt 291921. Crossings were made by assault boats in each case. Enemy resistance became negligible due to 6RSF having est their limited bridgehead on the east bank and the crossing was uneventful except for occasional indirect enemy MG fire, and completed by first light. After a short pause in the RSF bridgehead while mopping up of some snipers took place at 0730 hrs the Bn moved out of the Bridgehead along the east bank of the river and adopted a defensive posn on rt of 6RSF in area 285912, disposed as follows: Bn HQ 285912, A Coy 286913, B Coy 286912, C Coy 284911 and D Coy 284912. No contact was made with the enemy who had withdrawn from the area at 0600 hrs that morning. During the afternoon and evening the build up of the bn in the bridgehead continued as vehs were ferried across by raft at PORTEJOIE. Later in the day on the completion of a Cl 40 RE br at 272906 the complete veh party that remained on the west bank was able to join the Bn.</p> <p>CO and IO attend Bde O Gp when instructions are issued for an adv to contact the enemy on the following day.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt</p> <p>A Walker Capt</p> <p>A Walker Capt</p>
NEAR HERQUEVILLE 2991	29th	0700	<p>Bn leaves present location and moves fwd in adv to contact formation with A Coy as vanguard Coy via DAUBEUF 325942 - VATTEVILLE 3295 - LE LONDE 3396. Our fwd tps reached the limit of their adv at X rds 350966 with very little opposition, a few prisoners being taken. The bn then adopted a def posn in area LE LONDE with Coys disposed as follows: A Coy south of rd in area 346965, B Coy N of rd in area 346966, C Coy area 331960, D Coy area 331965. Bn HQ was est at 332964. Contact patrols were carried out with units on rt and left and during night 29/30 two patrols were sent to AMFREVILLE 3498 and returned with the infm that the enemy appeared to have withdrawn from the village.</p>	<p>1/50000 Sheet 9F/1</p> <p>A Walker Capt</p>
LE LONDE	30th		<p>Enemy activity throughout the area was confined to a few rds shellfire which caused no damage and on account of the very bad weather and the tactical situation permitting, a relaxation of the state of alertness was ordered and Coys were able to make use of the available cover in the vicinity of each Coy area. As a precaution a pl of B Coy was moved out to occupy a posn at pt 159 337973 but shortly after the posn had been occupied permission was given by higher authority to withdraw it as the situation to the North had</p>	<p>A Walker Capt</p>

			gone so well in our favour and the enemy had completely withdrawn from the area.	
LE LONDE	31st	1030 1430	<p>Bn remains in present area carrying out maint and reorganisation. A Bde O Gp took place at Bde HQ to discuss plan for dealing with pockets of enemy believed hiding in woods immediately South of the FLEURY SUR ANDELLE 3704 - PONT ST PIERRE 3101 rd.</p> <p>The Bn were given the task of adv North from BACQUEVILLE 380989 (Sheet 9F/1) and clearing woods in a gen line through the BOIS DE BONNEMARE 3501 NW to main rd. The wood clearing presented many difficulties with regard to control and eventually after a very slow advance and trying to keep contact with 6KOSB on right in the FORET DE BACQUEVILLE 3701 the leading Coys finally gained the road on the North end of the wood without encountering any enemy. By this time darkness was beginning to fall and the second stage of the op, that of sweeping through the BOIS de DOUVILLE 3200, was cancelled and the Bn returned to LE LONDE at 2230 hrs. 12 Rfts join Bn from 32 RHU.</p>	<p>Sheet 9E/5 1/50000</p> <p>Walker Capt</p> <p>A Walker Capt</p>