

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

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 279, Field Coy. R.E.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year JULY '44.

Commanding Officer Major.P.T. WOOD M.C.R.E.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Mesnil Patry.	1 Jul		2 Pln established Water Point at CHEUX. 1 Pln maintained Rd at CHEUX under spasmodic shellfire. Very wet day.	
SECQUEVILLE	2 Jul	0500 1000 1415 1530 2230	1 Pln laid defensive minefield of 431 Mk.V mines at 898652. Coy handed over all commitments to 244, Fd. Coy R.E. 53, DIV. Coy moved to rest area in SECQUEVILLE Arrived at SECQUEVILLE. Visited by C.R.E.	
"	3 Jul 7 "		Rest period, taken up with general cleaning and checking of stores, baths etc.	
	8 "	1900	One sec of 1 Pln placed under Comd of 44(L) Inf. Bde.	
	9 "		Still at rest, very quiet. News that CAEN has fallen.	
SECQUEVILLE	10 "	0745 1700 1900	No.3 Pln off to ST AUBIN-SUR-MER 022846 to construct Rest Camp. D.R. reported that L/Sjt Rogers, L/Cpl Knox, and Spr. Robb of 3 Pln had been wounded by an "S" Mine whilst mine clearing at ST AUBIN-SUR-MER. Cas confirmed.	PT Wood Major R.E. O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.
	11 "	1900	3 Pln relieved of their commitment, rejoin Coy.	
	12 "		Quiet day. Church service.	
	13 "	0600 0800 0800 0930 1330	Priority Residue rejoin Coy. 2 Pln out to construct track for tanks from 932632 to 929642. 3 Pln out to construct 20' FBE Class 9 Br. Lt. K.W. Bennett off to O Gp at 44 (L) Inf. Bde 1 Sec of 1 Pln out to mark minefield in area LES VILAINS 9262.	
	14 "	0800 0950 1000 1200 1300 1800 1900	3 Pln out to improve tank track 932632. Lt. Bennett off to recce Harbour area at ST MAUVIEU. O.C. to 44 (L) Inf. Bde for O Group Lt. Bennett returns. O.C. returns. Coy move to harbour area ST MAUVIEU 928682 Coy arrive at harbour area.	PT Wood Major R.E. O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.

ST MAUVIEU	15Jul	1800 1800 2145	Nos. 1 & 3 Plns & recce party under Lt. Scanlon move to Conc Area 934634. Coy in Sp of 44 Bde for Op GREENLINE. OP GREENLINE COMMENCED	44(L)Inf.Bde Op "GREENLINE" order dtd 14 Jul. (1) RE 15(S)Div O.O.No.2 dtd 14 Jul.44 (2)
	16Jul	1015 1720 1940	3 Pln returns. Report 2 cas. Narrative of ops attached. Lt. Scanlon returns from recce, on 3 Pln transport, having been "unhorsed". Spr. Mabon wounded in stomach, but all stores were recovered. Narrative of Lt. Scanlon attached. 2 Pln set out to relieve 1 Pln at 1800 hrs at 934634. 1 Pln return report 5 cas all wounded.	Appx (3) Appx. (4)
	17 "	1145 1820 1920	1 & 3 Pln off to assist 2 Pln in collection of local materials and construction of overhead cover for 44(L) Inf. Bde. 2 Pln return to Coy location, report 1 cas - shell shock. 1 Pln return to Coy location.	
	18 "	0200 1020 1630 1800 2000 2050 2100 2230	Come under Comd C.R.E. 53(W) DIV. Lt. Bennett out to Rd. Recce. Lt. Bennett returns. No.1 Pln relieved No.3 Pln who reported 2 cas wounded. O.C. attends conference at C.R.E.s HQ. Visit by C.R.E. 15(S) Div. No.1 & 2 Pln committed to clearing mines in LES VILAINS area. O.C. returns to Bde HQ. Work commenced on Minefield Serials A8 and A9.	RE 53(W) Div Op No.1. (5) PT Wood Major R.E. O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.
	19 "	2400 0025 0215 1145 1300 1400 1430 1700 1730 1800 1910	Minefield serials A.11 and A.12 completed. Serials B.1 and B.2 cannot be located as no distances were given on chart, permission requested from C.R.E. to defer lifting until first light. Permission granted. Serial A.8 and A.9 completed. Serial B2 completed. 15 O.R.s from 3 Pln sent to reinforce 2 Pln. Remainder of 3 Pln sent off to area 9165 to Blow holes to bury dead animals. 2 Pln return. 15 men of 3 Pln return from assisting 2 Pln. 3 Pln return. Revert to Comd C.R.E. 15(S) Div. Move to new harbour area 908687.	PT Wood Major R.E. O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.
908687.	20Jul	1200 1300 1500	Lt. Haines detained in hospital with slight injuries received on mine clearance. 1 Offr and 3 men off to Corps rest camp. Coy committed to road maint. as in Op Instn. No.2. dated 20.	RE Op Instn. No.2 (6)

	21 "	0800	No.3 Pln road maint. in CHEUX. Tropical rain all day. Quiet day.	
	22 "	0800	No.1 Pln Road main. in CHEUX. Quiet day.	
MOLANDIN	23 "	0800 0805 0820 1400 1725	Residue arrived. Coy now complete. RE 15(S) Div Op Inst. No.4 and RE 15(S) Div Movement Order No. received. Coy prepare to move to new location. Lt. Bennett off to recce new location. Left harbour and moved to new location. Arrived at new harbour area 864866. Lt. du Vivier and 3 men rejoin unit from Rest Camp.	PT Wood Major R.E. O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.
	24 "	1340	Lt. Haines rejoined unit from 30 Gen Hosp.	
	25 "	1430	1 N.C.O. and 12 O.R.s Reinforcements arrived.	
	26 "	1300	2 Offrs and 10 O.R.s off to the Rest Camp at ST AUBIN-SUR-MER for 48 hrs rest.	
	27 "	1120 1350 1400 1850 2020	O.C. and Lt. Bennett out to recce tank track. 2 secs of 3 Pln under Lt. McNaught out to construct Comd Post for 44(L) Inf. Bde. 1 Pln under Lt. du Vivier off to construct and mark tank track. 1 O.R. reinforcement arrived. Lt. Bennett returns.	PT Wood Major R.E. O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.
	28 "		Very quiet day, weather changeable.	
	29 "	0630 0730 0900 1430 1810 1910 1925 2100 2110 2130	O.C. off to C.R.E.s "O" Gp. No.1 Pln to clear route 6 No.2 Pln " " " 5 No.3 Pln " " " 1,2,3,4. Plns off to carry out tasks. Lt. Haines & Lt. Scanlon return from Rest Camp. No.3 Pln return. No.1 Pln return. No.2 Pln return. Coy O Gp ref 227 (H) Inf Bde Op Instn. Coy. Intention to open & maintain IRON route. Method Lt. Bennett with recce party up with loading transport 9 Cams. 3 Plns move with H.L.I. Tasks. 2 Pln open & maintain route for wheels, 3 Pln open & maintain route for tracks. 1 Pln in reserve. Lt. Bennett off to join 9 Cams. 227(H)Inf.Bde O.O. despatched to CRE	PT Wood Major R.E. O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.
	30 "	0415 0655 1000 1005	O.C. & 3 Plns off to join up with HLI. OP BLUECOAT begins. Lt. Bennetts Recce car blown up on scattered U.S.A. mines at 699584. No cas. Harbour recce party despatched to find harbour in LA TRINGALE area 7060.	

LA TRINGALE.		1200 Recce party return having found harbour at 706602 1600 Arrived at new harbour area. 1930 Visit by CRE. 1935 No.1 Pln arrive for food. 2015 No.1 Pln off to open bye pass at LE BOURG. 2040 No.3 Pln return. 2050 No.2 Pln return. 2100 Lt. Bennett returns on captured enemy vehicle, complete with S.P gun, having taken 14 prisoners. 2150 O.C. returns 2210 O.C. off to Bde.	PT Wood Major R.E. O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.
	31Jul	0100 1 Pln return. 0900 No.2 Pln off to make diversion for tanks at LE BOURG. 0900 No.3 Pln off to make diversion for wheels at LE BOURG. 1050 Lt. McNaught O.i/c 3 Pln trod on mine and lost a foot. 1055 Lt. Bennett sent out to take over 3 Pln. 1100 Lt. Scanlon off to recce water pt at CAUMONT 1145 Lt. Scanlon returns. 1200 1 Sec of 1 Pln off to construct water pt at CAUMONT. Remainder off to open Route FLINT for tracks. 1230 Visit by C.R.E. 1430 Visited by Chester Wilmot of B.B.C. 2235 3 Pln return to harbour. 2310 2 Pln return. 2350 1 Pln return to harbour.	PT Wood Major R.E. O.C. 279th Field Company R.E. PT Wood Major R.E. O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.