

M.F.M. 11A
200M-5-40 (5185)
(H.Q. 1773-39-1658)

SECRET

ORIGINAL
DUPLICATE
TRIPLICATE

(Strike out where not applicable)

WAR DIARY

OF

19 Cdn Army Fd Regt, R.C.A.

FROM 1 Jun 44

TO 30 Jun 44



VOLUME

APPENDICES

1-3

L.G. Clarke

L.G. Clarke, Lt-Col.,
Comd, 19 Cdn Army Fd Regt, RCA.

ORIGINAL

1944

JUN

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WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Jun 44

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19 Cdn Army Fd Regt, R.C.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
GOSPORT & SOUTHAMPTON	1 Jun		Loading begins for Exercise "Overlord". All first tide guns and vehs loaded at GOSPORT and SOUTHAMPTON efficiently, quickly and without accident or breakdown. Maj Stronach, Unit Deployment Officer, and his party embarked. L.C.T. personnel also embarked today. By this time the equipment of the Regiment has reached a peak that can only be surpassed as advancing time brings further inventions. Each S.P. is not only a mobile fort, but also a mobile arsenal carrying a double quota of 105 ammunition and also small arms ammunition, reserves and mines for use of the Infantry. The rear platforms of the S.P.'s. are piled high and in addition a "porpose" is towed behind. Our 13 tanks each has its .75 mm gun, one .50 Browning, two .30 Brownings, two Smoke Dischargers, hand grenades, flares etc., and each also has five complete radio sets. A large percentage of our other vehs have mounted automatic weapons. Every man has his personal weapon and F.O.O. and Recce parties have grenades in addition. The balance of our equipment is modern and ample in quantity.	RAR
"	2 Jun		A day of waiting. Maj Hetherington, unit landing officer, and his party embarked today.	RAR
"	3 Jun		Another day of waiting with the Regiment scattered on L.C.T.'s. L.S.T.'s or sub-marshalling areas. F.O.O. and Recce parties embarked today.	RAR
"	4 Jun		Lt-Col Clarke, who is going ashore with the C.O. of the North Shore Regiment, the unit that we shall support in the initial stages, embarked with his party today. Maj Peene, 2 IC, who will act as Fire Control Officer for the run-in, embarked with his party. First Tide personnel are now all embarked. Each man has his "Mae West", two 24-hr ration packs, tommy cooker, emergency ration, water sterilizing outfit and some extra chocolate and cigarettes. It is announced that "D-Day" will be to-morrow and all are keyed up and hope for improved weather. Everyone is sure that this is the "real thing" but security has been good and guesses and questioning have been at a minimum. A feeling of quiet confidence reigns and the only comments are hopes that there will be no postponements. Notice of a 24-hr postponement arrives and we settle back, hoping that tomorrow brings better weather.	RAR
"	5 Jun		Word comes early in the morning that the "Exercise" is on. All personnel going in tomorrow receive a very extensive briefing. Church services are held on practically all craft.	

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19 F0 REGT RCA

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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W.F.M. 11
A.F.C. 1112
1 M.R. - 2-40 (5043)
H.Q. 1773-30-1058

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Place	Date	Hour	19th Army Field Regiment, RCA.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
	5 Jun	(Cont'd.)	Letters from General Eisenhower and General Montgomery are distributed to all personnel. Practically all personnel take advantage of the permission that is granted to notify friends that they are going into action - letters will be mailed by Navy after the ships return. The L.C.T.'s and smaller craft push out into the Channel in the afternoon with the larger ships moving off to timings based on their roles and speeds. The Channel is by far the roughest that we have ever encountered on an exercise and unfortunately there is considerable seasickness.		
ST AUBINS-SUR-MER	6 Jun		<p>"D" DAY. Considerable improvement in the weather and despite seasickness the morale of all personnel is high as we prepare for the operation towards which we have been building up for so long. In general it seems no different from previous exercises and certainly there is nothing strange or disconcerting in the preparations that have to be made. Some are a little more serious than normally; some a little gayer, but all radiate a spirit of readiness and confidence. The rough crossing plays havoc with the orderliness of the L.C.T. flotillas and the M.L. with Maj Peene aboard only gets them collected and into formation after much trouble. "H" hour is first set for 0740 and the L.C.A.'s are lowered from the mother ships well out in the Channel approximately two hours before this. They form up and head for the French Coast and go past the L.C.T.'s looking like schools of water bugs. The Regiment has elements scattered throughout these little craft. The Regiment opens fire on the order of Maj Peene at approximately 0730 hrs, when 9000 yards from the beach. For 30 minutes the S.P.'s put down a very effective concentration on the enemy positions, which helps the first waves to get across the sand strip. Our F.O.O. and Recce parties get in with the loss of one Officer, Lt. Malcolm, wounded and one O.R., Gnr McHughen, killed. On completion of the firing our L.C.T.'s turn and go out to prepare for beaching and landing. The first L.C.T. (D Tp) beaches at approximately 0910 hrs and though heavily mortared get off the beach and have their first S.P. in action in the prepared position at 0920 hrs, at which time "Q" Bty reported ready. "C" Tp got through about 5 minutes later, closely followed by "E" and "F" Tps. One of "E" Tp S.P.'s struck a mine and lost a track, but the crew stayed and repaired it and came along about two hrs later. "A" Tp unfortunately had two vehs, one S.P. and one half-track, receive direct hits, setting the S.P. on fire. The fire spread to two more S.P.'s and a carrier, but the remainder of the vehs got away to a safe distance. "B" Tp did not land until 1500 hrs due to a damaged propeller suffered by its L.C.T., but at that time got all their vehs in safely and were in action with the</p>		

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A.P.C. 1118
1 M.L. - 4-30 (1708)
H.Q. 1773-48-18

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to O. i/c 2nd Echelon for disposal.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			19th Army Field Regiment, RCA	
	6 Jun	(Cont'd)	remaining gun of "A" Tp at 1600 hrs. R.H.Q. craft beached under heavy mortar fire and Sgt Kitby (Survey) and Gnr Walker, H.L. were killed and Capt. J.B. Walker and Gnr Dunn and Barron were severely wounded and had to be left on the beach. 99th Bty captured two prisoners. Due to the type of fighting and the intermingling of friend and enemy, the F.O.O.'s did not use the Regiment much in the early stages. However, fire brought down by 63rd Bty at 1030 hrs on the call of Capt. Spittal dispersed a number of enemy tanks that were heading towards the beach. About 1700 hrs a Regimental advance party made its way South along the road from BERNIERES. Here Maj-Gen Keller was encountered, who authorized Maj Peene to bring up the Regiment. The Regiment was in action in the new area $\frac{1}{2}$ mile South of BERNIERES at 2050 hrs. We were immediately subjected to heavy mortar fire, but these mortars were neutralized by 63 Bty, the fire being directed by Capt. J.R. Spittal. Throughout the day Col. Clarke and the F.O.O.'s, Captains Murdock, Stewart, Harrison, Bond and Spittal, have been in the thick of the fighting with the North Shores and Capt. Baker has had a warm time with the Commandos. Numerous deeds of bravery and demonstrations of coolness and clear thinking under fire were performed by members of this Regiment today, but to single out individual acts would be unfair to the balance. All performed their duties without faltering and the 19th Cdn Field Regiment is proud of its performance on this unforgettable day.	Have Be N&N
BERNIERE-SUR-MER	7 Jun		The Regiment was still in support of the North Shore Regt throughout the day. 99th Bty captured another prisoner. Capt. Murdock's tank hit by an 88mm shell and set on fire - all personnel escaped safely. A patrol from 99th Bty located an abandoned 88mm gun south of our area and dismantled it. Advance party went forward at 1800 hrs and prepared a new position South of BASLY. They reported much mortar fire and enemy sniping. One enemy bomb landed between two S.P.'s of the 63rd Bty at 2300 hrs - two O.R.'s slightly wounded. The Regimental area was also strafed by a German aeroplane.	N&N
BASLY	8 Jun		Col. Clarke receives orders to move to new area at 1100 hrs. Regiment in position on Regimental grid at 1230 hrs. Capt. Bond, Capt. Baker and Lt. Fergusson at 8 C.I.B. as FOO's and Maj Mewburn as C.O.'s rep with 2 Armd Bde. Engaged enemy tanks and mortars during the day. Also supplied D.F. fire for R. de Chaud. Some periods of mortar fire and some enemy sniping.	N&N

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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NO.F. 11.
A.P.C. 1118
1 M.L. - 8-30 (1700)
H.Q. 1773-40-18

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to O. 1/c 2nd Echelon for disposal.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
BASLY	9 Jun		Called on for DF (SOS) and DF Fire during the night by 8 C.I.B. Engaged enemy concentrations during the day. 63rd Bty bothered by enemy solid shot, but no casualties. 99th Bty locates 3 Germans in mortar position in grain field and they are taken prisoners. Maj. Hetherington and Capt. Stewart subjected to heavy enemy shelling at their OP in LES BUISSONS. Maj Peene makes a round of all the Regimental OP's - LES BUISSONS; ANISY; VILLONS LES BUISSONS and ANGUERNY.	RHK
"	10 Jun		Maj. Peene and Capt. Stirling take over at the LES BUISSONS OP. The Regt is put in support of 9 C.I.B. with Lt.-Col. Clarke as C.R.A.'s Rep., Maj. Peene is recalled to the Regiment. Rather a quiet day on our front. An attempted counter-attack on the left flank was repulsed by the Royal Ulster Rifles. Suspected enemy mortar position and enemy working parties engaged during the day.	RHK
BASLY	11 Jun		Capt. Spittal, who has been in the thick of it since "D" Day is reported as badly in need of rest and is replaced. A plane is seen to crash near 63rd Bty and their patrol discovers it to be a Thunderbolt slightly damaged and pilot, Lt M.M. Koff, safe. We supported 9 C.I.B. as they moved forward into LE VEY and VIEUX CAIRON.	RHK
"	12 Jun		Capt. Bond, FOO with Chaudieres, as they clean out Rots. The enemy keep trying to dig in and lay mines North of BURON, but each time they appear they are engaged and dispersed by our F.O.O.s	RHK
"	13 Jun		Called on for D.F. fire twice during the night as the enemy were forming up in the vicinity of GRUCHY. Corps grid survey data is finally brought to the area. Pockets of the enemy in the valley on our right have been playing havoc with the Survey Regiment (as well as bothering us with mortar fire). They have now apparently been cleaned out. Regiment kept busy by considerable enemy activity on our front during afternoon and evening.	RHK
"	14 Jun		An uneventful night. Dr & DF(SOS) tasks co-ordinated and distributed in the forms of tasks and traces by HQ, RCA. The day has been the quietest so far.	RHK 5

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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W.F.M. 11
A.F.C. 1118
1 M.L. - 449 (2042)
H.Q. 1773-89-1488

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
BASLY	15 Jun		Another quiet day and the personnel of the Regiment begin to take stock of themselves, & regularly change clothes and wash and shave. (We now have water in sufficient quantities to look after the latter). Our first reinforcements - Capt Cartmel, Lts Allen and Carson, and 20 OR's are received. Capt J.R. Spittal is evacuated for a rest. In a re-shuffle of personnel the Adj't, Capt Hunstein, goes to the 63rd Bty as Bty Captain; Capt Chapman becomes Adj't; Capt Harrison goes to the 99th; Lt Paterson comes from the 99th to be Tech Adj't and Lt Read leaves the 63rd to be R.S.O.	KH
BASLY	16 Jun		Vehs lost on the beach have now been all replaced with the exception of one carrier. RHQ area shelled by a presumed 88mm gun - 1 OR hit by shrapnel and evacuated. OP's report all quiet and that our infantry are sending out extensive patrols. Usual Jerry nuisance and reconnaissance air-rd at dusk - at least two enemy planes brought down by our ack-ack.	RH
BASLY	17 Jun		Capt Cartmel replaces Capt Baker as F.O.O. with M.L.I. During the day the Radar Station, a strongly defended enemy position to our left rear that has been a source of annoyance to the Regiment with its snipers and mortars since "D"-Day, was finally forced to surrender from a combined attack put on by artillery, naval guns, tanks and infantry. Many A.P. ricochets from our tanks fell in the Regimental area but no damage was done. A notification is received and passed on to F.O.O's that the locating of enemy heavy ack-ack positions is to receive high priority.	KH
BASLY	18 Jun		The Regiment participated in its first extensive predicted counter battery bombardment this morning. Regimental "B" Echelon organized under the Q.M., Capt J.E. Porteous, and its vehs and personnel moved to the rear artillery "B" echelon area now established. Col Clarke calls for D.F. fire to break up a suspected organization of a counter-attack by the enemy West of GRUCHY.	RH
BASLY	19 Jun		Counter-attack did not materialize and remainder of the night fairly quiet. A quiet day with a few "M" targets on small enemy working parties and suspected gun positions.	RH
BASLY	20 Jun		A quiet night. An extensive counter battery programme firing a different bombardment every 15 minutes during the afternoon. The only enemy activity seems to be extensive digging.	RH

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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M.F.M. 11
A.F.C. 2115
1 M.B.-4-49 (2042)
H.Q. 1773-59-1608

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
BASLY	21 Jun		Another counter battery programme today and Regimental targets of enemy working parties.	RKH
"	22 Jun		Enemy mortars in BURON and GRUCHY that the infantry had been unable to take out were silenced today by Regimental fire called for by the F.O.O's. Various enemy working parties dispersed.	RKH
"	23 Jun		A comparative calibration by shooting was performed today by all the guns in the Regiment under the supervision of Maj Mewburn and Maj Stronach. No adjustment to present M.V. data was found to be necessary. Col Clarke called to a CRA's conference. Capt Murdoch replaces Capt Stewart at his O.P. Capt Stewart has a badly gashed hand.	RKH
"	24 Jun		Propaganda leaflets dropped by the enemy during the night. R.C. personnel attend Mass in BASLY Church. A sunny, restful, quiet Sunday.	RKH
"	25 Jun		One troop engaged on H.F. tasks during the night. Expected visit by Gen Crerar did not materialize. Col Clarke dispatches Maj Stronach to 8 Brit Corps to be CRA's rep with them for operation "Epsom" - an attack on CARFIQUET Aerodrome. Our role for "Epsom" will be counter battery bombardment.	RKH
"	26 Jun		Task tables for our Counter battery tasks in operation "Epsom" received and the Regiment prepares gun programmes, ammunition, etc, during the night. Programme for "Epsom" completed. This apparently was to "soften up" the enemy in that area.	RKH
"	27 Jun		Briefing by Col Clarke for operation "Aberlour" - an attack on GRUCHY and BURON. We will support H.L.I. with observed fire. "Aberlour" postponed.	RKH
"	28 Jun		"Aberlour" again postponed and our normal OP's are again manned. OP Officers, Capt Murdoch with S.D.&G's., Capt Cartmel with N.N.S. and Capt Baker with H.L.I.	RKH
"	29 Jun		Another quiet day as we await a new operational plan. We were called on for some D.F. tasks and participated in some Uncle targets. Regimental recce party stands by awaiting an order to move.	RKH
"	30 Jun		Still awaiting movement orders. OP's report considerable movement of enemy armour in	

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A.F.C. 5118
1 MLE-4-49 (2010)
H.Q. 1173-99-1089

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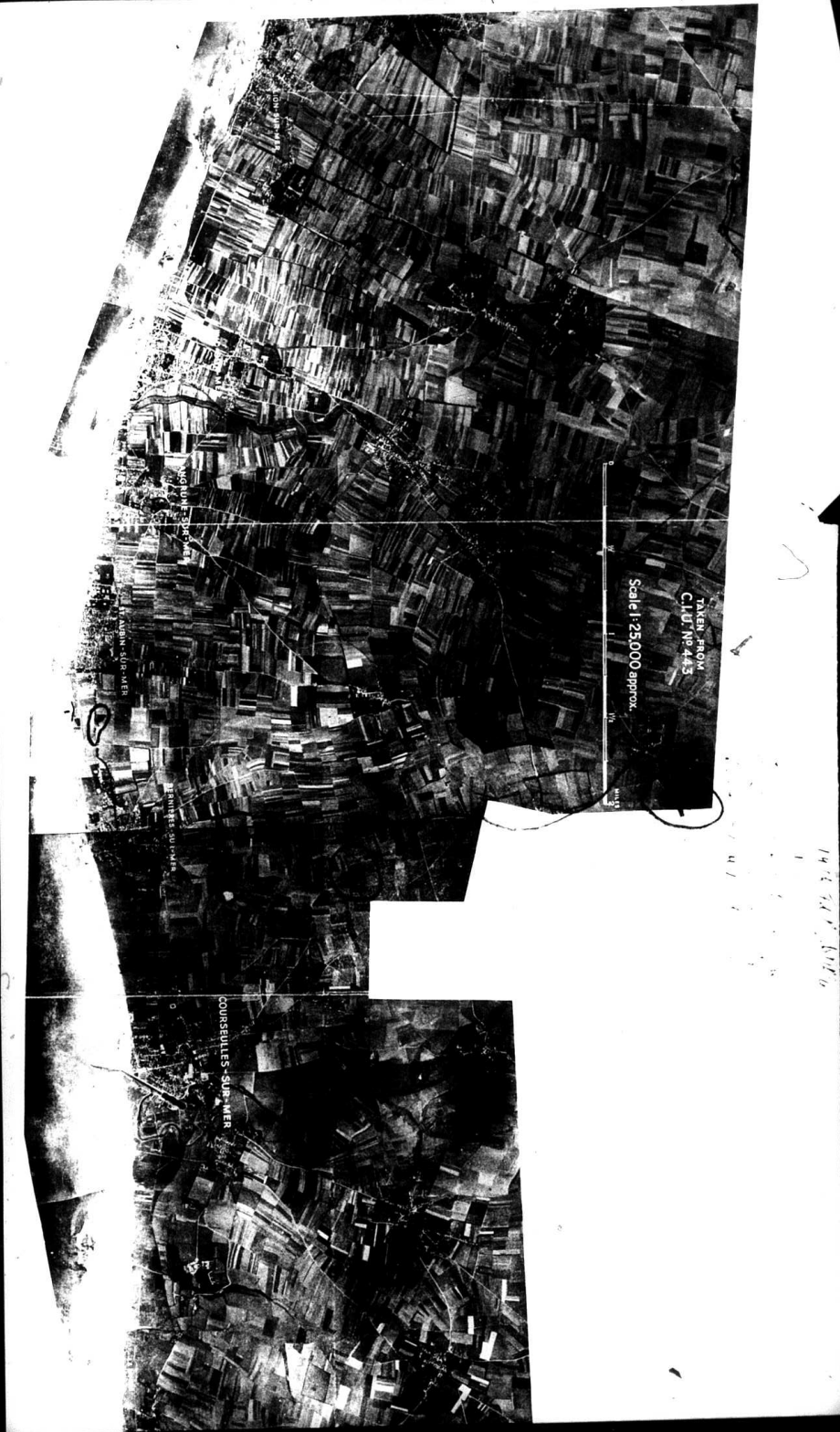
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to appendices and initials
	30 Jun (Cont'd.)		CARPIQUET area.	
			<p>Diarist: <i>[Signature]</i> Lt. R.A. Read</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> L.G. Clarke, Lt-Col., Comd, 19 Cdn Army Fd Regt, RCA.</p>	<i>[Initials]</i>

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