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**Author(s):** Lieutenant-Colonel E.P. Thompson.

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**Keywords:** Normandy ; Battle of Normandy ; D-Day ; Second World War ; Canadian Army ; Canadian Army ; Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada ; 6<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division

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Date 11 June 1947

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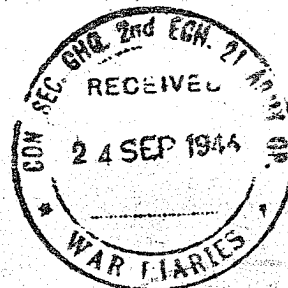
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# WAR DIARY

OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

FROM 1 JULY 1944 TO 31 JULY 1944



VOLUME

VOL 15162

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in F.S. Regs. Vol. 1.

# WAR DIARY

OR

## ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

M.F. 31. 11  
40/P & S/37 (3072)

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

Title pages will be prepared.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA	
BROOME PK KENT ENG	JULY 1		Overcast, visibility moderate, lt wind, rain morning and evening	R.H.
"	2		Cloudy, visibility good, lt wind	
		0900	R C Church Parade in Garage Bldg	
		1000	Prot Church Parade in Barkham Church, Kent. Bn confined to camp prior to moving to marshalling area EXERCISE "OVERLORD"	R.H.
"	3		Overcast, visibility poor, intermittent hy rainfall	
		0300	Reveille for unit	
		0330	Breakfast	
		0530	Veh party leaves under Lt Col M H Ross for TILBURY DOCKS via LONDON arriving at 1430 hrs. Last stage of waterproofing carried out.	
			Marching Tps - The four rifle coys, SCOUT Pl, Paymaster and I O under comd Maj J Runcie	
			M C - A/2ic formed the "march party"	
		0600	Meeting in BOR for briefing of "march party" offrs	
		0800	Tea served in NAAFI	
		0930	Tps leave BROOME PK(conc area) for marshalling area via train - entraining pt SHEPHERD'S WELL, Kent. Hy rain during move	
		1135	Train leaves for ISFIELD, SUSSEX	
		1310	Tps arrive at ISFIELD and march to SULTON HALL - the site of camp J6. Quartering in tents, 8 ors or 4 offrs per tent. Two blankets and paliasse issued per man.	
		1930	ENSA concert in NAAFI tent. Sports and reading facilities made available to keep tps rested whilst awaiting move to "hards". Serial 187/1 FUS M R also in camp J6	
SULTON HALL nr LEWES SUSSEX	4		Warm and sunny	
		1100	MARCH TPS - London Dance Orchestra entertains tps	
		1400	Cinema and sports. Camerons defeat Fus M R at basketball. Kit shortages rectified by indent.	
		0600	VEH TPS - Vehs leave marshalling area for docks	
		0950	Veh tps paid in franc notes	
		1900	MOVEMENT ORDER for 0700 hrs 5 July is broadcast over public address system.	

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SUTTON HALL nr LEWES SUSSEX	5	0900	Fair, visibility good, lt wind MARCH TPS - 200 francs paid to each man	
		1500	48 hr ration packs issued, along with emergency ration, water purifying tablets, cigarettes	lsh.
		0700	VEH TPS - embussed in TCVs to be driven to docks arriving at 0900 hrs. MUSTER PARADE held before embarking on USOS "WILL ROGERS". Lt Col N H Ross, CO Camerons of Canada assumes comd of all tps on board. Anchor weighed at 1000 hrs arriving at convoy RV, dropping anchor at 1245 hrs.	
"	6	0630	Clear, sunny and warm Bn broken into craft loads Serial LCI (L) 344 under command Maj J Runcie MC Serial LCI (L) 345 " " Maj R L Rutherford Serial LCI (L) 339 " " Maj E P Thompson	lsh.
		0900	344 leaves marshalling area	
		0950	345 " " "	
		1315	339 " " "	
		1450	Serial LCI (L) 339 board LCI (L) 390 at NEWHAVEN, SUSSEX	
		1800	LCI 390 with 193 Camerons leaves NEWHAVEN in convoy with eight other craft for beachhead area	
			Night 6/7 - Sea rough during evening hrs and night. Several cases of sea-sickness amongst tps. Slight air activity	
			VEH TPS - Remained in THAMES Estuary until 2000 hrs when convoy weighed anchor. Pipe Major McLeod played "The Farewell to Gibraltar". A few flying bombs were exploded in convoy area the night of 5/6 July.	
GRAY sur MER France	7	0700	Cloudy, warm, light breeze MARCH TPS - LCI 390 arrives at beachhead	
		1015	Tps disembark at GRAYS sur MER, CALVADOS and pass through to concentrate as a Bn at MR 674833 - RYE CALVADOS FRANCE. Maj C W Ferguson (adv party) leads Bn to concentration area. Tps immediately dig in around hedgerows. "Compo" rations provided and meals cooked	lsh.
			VEH PARTY not in FRANCE	
			VEH TPS - Arrived near French coast at 2000hrs. Dropped anchor 2½ miles offshore at 2345 hrs	

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RYE CALVADOS FRANCE	8		Overcast, visibility moderate, warm, light wind MARCH TPS - Tps await arrival of veh party. Lt Col N H Ross, Capt G P Kidd, Adjutant arrive after dinner as adv party from veh party VEH TPS - Start unloading at 0830 hrs landing at GRAYE sur MER at 1620 hrs proceeding to concentration area at 952837. Leaving this area at 2300 hrs for Bn area arriving there at 2359 hrs MR 674833	Red.
"	9	1145 1600	Cloudy, visibility moderate, intermittent rainfall R C Church Parade 6 Cdn Inf Bde parades to 678835 for lecture by Corps Comd	Red.
"	10	1900	Cloudy, visibility good, light showers H/Capt T R Davies held a Protestant Church Service in camp area. Adv party (recce) under Maj C W Ferguson went forward at 0830 hrs to recce new Bn area	Red.
"	11	0930 1400 2230	Overcast, visibility moderate, light wind CO issues orders for move at 2230 hrs to fwd area nr ROTS LT Col N H Ross and Lt J Maloney leave to establish Bn comd post nr ROTS Bn embusses move to 958718 (ROTS) via VIELLIERE le SEC - BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE	Red.
nr ROTS	12	0015 1430 1930 2230 2045	Cloudy, visibility good, light wind Bn arrives area 958718 sheet 6F1 CAEN and digs in. 8 Cdn BDE holding front 6 miles away WEST of CAEN. 7 Cdn BDE in CAEN Lt Col N H Ross and Lt J Maloney attend Bde "O" Gp. Brig H Young issues orders for FUS M R to move to CARPRIQUET airdrome and relieve QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES. Camerons to occupy area CARPRIQUET and S SASK R area MARSELET. Bn arrives CARPRIQUET 9769 sheet 6F1. Bn Hq in orchard 972693. Town completely demolished. Bn takes up defense posn. A few shells in A coy area. One cas slight shrapnel wound suffered by L/Cpl W Ritchie A1 ech only fwd, A2 under TO LT W Watt, 2 miles back, B ech 5 miles to rear. Camerons OPS/INT log ppenned as Appx 1	Red.  See Appx 5  See Appx 1
CARPRIQUET	14	1100	Cloudy, visibility good, cool 10 mph wind "O" Gp called by Lt Col N H Ross who issued orders for the clearing of snipers from	Red. (cont)

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CARPRIQUET	14		(cont) Carpriquet. Town divided in sectors for each coy. 1500 Enemy recce planes overhead. AA very hy. Two shot down 1830 Lecture to all offrs on Inf-Tk by Sqn OC of 1st HUSSARS 1945 Enemy aircraft interrupt lecture by straffing town area. NO damage Coys still finding enemy dead in fields around their fwd defended localities. Intermittent shelling of area by enemy. B coy (Maj R H Lane) experienced 10 mins shelling in front of their posn. A coy in the airdrome area and D coy on the EAST of town under shells aimed on the CAEN - BAYEUX rd. One bottle of beer per man brought up	
"	13		Cloudy, visibility moderate, warm Intermittent shelling of A coy area. NO cas. FUS M R in EAST hangars being shelled. Enemy intermittantly hitting main highway CAEN - BAYEUX A2 ech under the TO (Lt W Watt) at VILLONEUVE approx 2 miles NW of Carpriquet. Padre (H/Capt T R Davies) also at A2 ech. B ech in area ROSEL approx 5 miles NNW of Carpriquet. QM (Capt S Gee) and Paymstr (Capt H Chambers) at B ech FUS M R holding fwd area SOUTH of Carpriquet and the aerdrome. S SASK R in MARSEL 4 Cdn Inf BDE holding front 2 miles WEST of R ORNE and 5 miles WEST of CAEN. Patrolling only activity.	ld.
"	15	0015	Cloudy, visibility good, wind 15mph JU 88s drop 30-40 flares EAST and NE of Carpriquet presumably to take air photos Lt Col N H Ross went fwd to ARTY OP to observe enemy held territory. Shelling and mortaring by 15 cm Nebelwebers rocket projectors continues. Sp coy (Capt J E E McMamus) suffer 3 slight cas with superficial wounds during pay parade. Tps experiencing mortaring in Carpriquet find blast effect only from 15cm rockets. NO fragmentation.	ld.
"	16		Fair, visibility good, warm and sunny Night 15/16 July Hy arty barrage from our own guns in sp of Br 43 Inf Div attacking ESQUAY. Attack successful 0440 Low flying enemy ac straffe town area NO cas 1100 CO and IØ to Bde "O" Cp 1830 Lt Col N H Ross holds conference of coy comds to indicate areas of future ops	ld.
			(cont)	

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CARPRIQUET	16	1500	(continued) CO and IO fwd to FUS M R OP at Carpriquet airdrome Intermittent mortaring all day from multi-barrelled mortars. NO cas Padre (E/Capt T R Davies) held a short service for each Pl in their Pl localities	
"	17	1100	Fine, visibility moderate, light haze, cool wind Night 16/17 Enemy ac flew in low approx 800 yds in front of B coy (Maj R H Lane) and dropped flares on FUS M R posns. These planes were followed by lt bombers and fighters (8-10) Bombing and strafing FUS M R. Cas nil excl 4 vehs of 23 ATK BTY. Mortaring continued of Carpriquet area. Lt Col N H Ross inspects coy posns with Adjt (Capt G P Kidd) During early morning hrs our own 4.2 mortars fired a counter barrage against enemy mortars. The enemy replied, it quitened down by 0800 hrs 1600 Lt Col N H Ross and Lt J Maloney attend BDE "O" Gp 1800 A Bn "O" Gp held of all offrs under Lt Col N H Ross	R.H.
"	18	0545	Fair, visibility good 10mph wind Several hundred four engined bombers open Gen Montgomery's attack to clear path to R ORNE Valley. 750 arty guns also took part.	R.H.
"	19		Overcast, visibility moderate, 10 mph wind All excess vehs leave Bn proper for A2 ech at 1645 hrs. Bn leaves CARPRIQUET at 1900 hrs for Assembly area 0069. At 2330 hrs Bn crosses R ORNE. See Appx 6 for story of Bn's first major attack in FRANCE	R.H. See Appx 6
ST ANDRE sur ORNE	20	1100	Fine, visibility good, lt haze, 15 mph wind A2 ech moves to Fauberge de Vaucelles area 038668. Bn attack from FLEURY sur ORNE during daylight consolidating at ST ANDRE sur ORNE holding against all counter attacks The Bn received special mention in dispatches from Staff Officers and the Press for its work in holding this town which formed a salient into the enemy lines. Comm were badly hit when the SCOUT CAR was blown up on the main rd from VAUCELLES - ST ANDRE. Lt J Maloney, IO and Capt H Grundy, OC HQ coy were killed. 3 ors from BDE sigs were also killed. Pte Weiger of Bn sigs kept comm open with BDE for the next 48 hours without any relief from set in COS carrier	R.H. See Appx 6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
ST ANDRE SUR ORNE	21		Cloudy, visibility moderate, hy cloud after 1800 hrs with rain, 10 mph wind See Appx 6 for story of ST ANDRE sur ORNE BATTLE. Offrs wounded to-day : Lt Le Fevre ; Lt Ridgway ; Lt Beech ; Lt Plastow ; Lt Dickson	See Appx 6 <i>LR</i> .
"	22		Overcast, visibility moderate, 15 mph wind Lt Col N H Ross wounded on his return from BDE "O"Gp to Bn posns. Maj Rutherford OC A coy wounded in coy area. ST ANDRE BATTLE see Appx 6 Maj J Runcie, MC took over active comd of Bn on word of Lt Col N H Ross being wounded	See Appx 6 <i>LR</i> .
"	23		Overcast, visibility good, cool 10 mph wind See Appx 6 for ST ANDRE sur ORNE BATTLE Capt W W Willson and Lt Morrison were killed. Lt J S Rogers wounded	See APPX 6 <i>LR</i> .
"	24		Overcast, visibility good, cool 1t wind Lt Chopp killed Maj Lane OC B coy wounded Lt D Rogers wounded. See Appx 6 for BATTLE ST ANDRE sur ORNE	See APPX 6 <i>LR</i> .
"	25		Fair, visibility very good, 1t warm wind, sunny At 2400 hrs German AC attack by bombing bridges over R ORNE in Vaucelles de Fauberge. MO damage done, several near misses to A2 ech. See Appx 6 for BATTLE ST ANDRE sur ORNE Lt P Kenway wounded	See APPX 6 <i>LR</i> .
"	26		Cloudy, visibility good, 1t wind, sunny At 2200 hrs German AC attack Vaucelles de Fauberge dropping bombs, 4 amn dumps hit. An enemy radio suspected in the town. See Appx 6 for ST ANDRE BATTLE	See APPX 6 <i>LR</i> .
"	27		Cloudy, visibility good, 1t wind A2 ech watch Rocket Projecting TYPHOONS attack enemy tks in area O459 At 2200 hrs enemy AC attempt sneak raid on Vaucelles de Fauberge area driven off by hy and 1t AA barrage. See appx 6 for ST ANDRE BATTLE	See APPX 6 <i>LR</i> .



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ST ANDRE sur ORNE	28		overcast, visibility moderate, low rain clouds, lt wind During night 27/28 own night fighters are heard MGing enemy sneak raiders over CAEN and Vaucelle de Fauberge area. 3 are shot down. See Appx 6 for ST ANDRE BATTLE Lt D C M Elliott wounded	<i>Rud.</i> See APPX 6
"	29		Cloudy, visibility good, lt wind	" <i>Rud.</i>
"	30		Fine, visibility very good, fresh wind The Padre (E/Capt T R Davies) held a Protestant Church Service for A2 ech personnel See Appx 6 for ST ANDRE BATTLE	<i>Rud.</i>
"	31		Fine, visibility very good, fresh wind Two coys B and D with Bn HQ leave the line for a 48 hr rest period. Bn HQ now situated at 029665 sheet 7F1 CAEN. A and C coys still at the front under comd FUS M R who have taken over defense ST ANDRE sur ORNE. At 0300 hrs enemy long range guns begin an intermittent attempt at shelling military bridges over R ORNE in the center of CAEN. NO damage done.	<i>Rud.</i>

*S. Col.*  
*Chambers*

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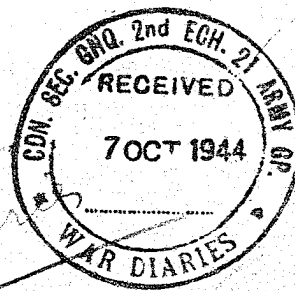
WAR DIARY  
S. Throck  
1 Jun 1947

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OF

THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA

FROM 1 AUGUST 1944 TO 31 AUGUST 1944



VOLUME

APPENDICES 1 TO 13

ORIGINAL

1944 AUG 1/261

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA	
Faub de Vaucelle	AUGUST 1		Fine, visibility good, slight haze, lt warm wind Bn Hq in area 019615. B and D coys in close contact with this area. All personnel resting and general reorganization almost completed.	
		1515	"O"Gp of all coy comds held under Lt Col J Runcie, MC. The following officers were promoted to Majs of respective coys:- Capt J J D Gagnon to Major Comd D coy Capt J E E McManus to Major Comd B coy Capt A C Kavanagh to Major Comd A coy Capt E R Talbot to Major Comd C coy	
		2130	B and D coys leave rest area to relieve A and C coys. After relief is completed B and D coys sp one coy of FUS M R in attack and taking of Church at 025607	
"	2		Fine, lt morning mist, visibility good, lt wind Fighting patrol from B and D coys night 1/2 Aug met NO enemy, NO PW taken. Moved on edge of Quarry cliff found nothing to report	
		1100	Lt Col J Runcie, MC and Capt G P Kidd, Adjt attended "O"Gp at Bde Hq. Cdn Legion put on a film show for A and C coys at 10 Fd Amb lines gen area 035668	
"	3		Fine, visibility good, 15 mph cool wind Recce patrol found mine held by enemy and houses at 022606. Enemy found to be sensitive to our patrols. Houses later cleaned up by FUS M R with aid of B and D coy of Camerons Enemy mortaring and shelling quietened down but very sensitive to any of our movements	
		1000	Lt Col J Runcie, MC and Lt J E D Graham, IO, attended Bde "O"Gp. 6 Cdn Inf Bde to move to new area. Preparations for move began after Col's return from "O"Gp	
"	4		Fine, visibility good, 10 mph wind During night 3/4 Aug "A" coy carried out a raid on mine at 026604. Raid comd by Maj A C Kavanagh, MC with Lt D C M Elliott, Lt T G Reardon, Lt F W A Glossop. Lt W F Bawlf and Capt R C Counsell. Hy opposition was encountered but A coy surrounded the mine. Engrs unable to get at mine shaft due to hy MG fire from mine shaft itself. Cas were Lt W F Bawlf missing, 8 ors missing, and 21 ors wounded.	
		0945	Maj E P Thompson, 2 IC, left on Recce of Bns new posn area VERRIERES	

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Faub de Vaucelle	4	1515 2200	continued :- "O"Gp of coy comds to receive final orders on Bn relief of ESSEX SCOTS posns Bn leaves Hq at 09615 to relieve ESSEX SCOTS. Bn Hq takes over ESSEX SCOTS Bn Hq at 054607 at 2350 hrs. See Appx 1 for map enlargement and posn of own tps and enemy localities.	See Appx 1
Verrieres	5	0550 1100	Fine, visibility very good, 10 mph wind Completed relief of ESSEX SCOTS posns Lt Col J Runcie, MC held coy comds "O"Gp Very quiet day almost a rest period for Bn as a whole. C coy posn shelled and mortared during evening. Lt cas suffered Enemy shells intermittently throughout day TROTEVAL Fm 0561, 500 yds NW of Bn Hq posn and S SASK R on our right flank (see Appx 1 for posn) receiving most of enemy's attention. During evening own tks approx a SQN in str move about our area and take hull down posn for several hours between Bn and S SASK R posns	see Appx 1
"	6	0300 1500 2000	Fine, visibility very good, no wind Units of 4 Cdn Armd Div made a moonlight Inf-Tk attack on TILLY la CAMPAGNE on Bn's left flank during night 5/6 Aug. Very quiet on Bn front during night 5/6 Aug. One PW deserter brought in by C coy. PW from Yugoslavia of unit 11 coy 1055 Gren Regt from FINLAND. <del>XXXXXX</del> During morning hrs Jerry puts three 10.5 cm shells in Bn Hq area. NO cas Lt Col J Runcie, MC and Lt J E D Graham, IO, and Coy comds attend Bde "O"Gp CO and IO attended a second Bde "O"Gp re Bn move and large scale attack for night 7/8 Aug Enemy shelling livelier from 1900 to 2200 hrs. TROTEVAL Fm and S SASK R again taking brunt of mortars and shells. Enemy very sensitive to our patrols area VERRIERES 0560 Sitreps speak of possible enemy withdrawal - NO sign of it this area	Aug
IFS	7	1430 2300	Fine, visibility very good, lt wind Night 6/7 Aug contact patrols only meeting 10 Cdn Bde and units of 51 BR Inf Div at track junc 06356111. Patrol reports NO incidents Morning very quiet, No shelling or mortaring by enemy. Bn leaves posns for FUP at Xrds 036615. Bn Hq in IFS at 042634 just in front of demolished Church. This move in preparation for coming large scale attack 500 hy Bombers plaster FONTAINE le MARMION, MAY sur ORNE, ROCQUANCOURT and enemy defs in between.	

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IFS	7	2330	Continued :- Bn crosses SL to take objective at FONTAINE le MARMION. See Appx 2 for details and traces of attack	See APPX 2
FONTAINE le MARMION	8		Fine, misty early morning clearing up by noon, visibility good, warm 10 mph wind Hy fighting takes place during night and morning in FONTAINE le MARMION. Hy sniping and 88 mm guns take their toll but the Bn hangs on through several counter attacks inflicting in turn punishing cas on the enemy. In the afternoon 2 coys S SASK R and a sqn of tks break through to Bn clearing up our left flank. Bn takes 207 PWs during afternoon. Rfts reach Bn during evening. Rest of night 8/9 Aug uneventful.	
		1330	Fighter patrol sent out to contact enemy reach R LAIZE SW of Bn posn and report NO activity. Enemy has withdrawn completely FONTAINE le MARMION area. See Appx 2 for story and trace of Battle of FONTAINE le MARMION	See Appx 2
"	9		Fine, visibility very good, lt wind Bn Hq at 035582. Bn resting, cleaning up and generally taking it easy. A good percentage of Bn enjoyed a good night's sleep. A/Comd Maj J J D Gagnon reorganize coys and posns for a firm base around FONTAINE le MARMION	
		1330	Night 8/9 Aug fighting patrol to protect right flank and recce up to R LAIZE found several localities of enemy retreating in disorganized state Fighting Day Patrol sent out again and return to report NO enemy and NO activity as far as R Laize New IO from rfts Lt R B Marshall - former IO promoted to Adjt - A/Capt J E D Graham	
"	10		Fine, visibility good, very dry 15 mph wind Bn resting and reorganizing. Bath parades morning and afternoon to Bath unit in mine NORTH of MAY sur ORNE. WARNING ORDER of 2 hrs notice received for after 2400 hrs All patrols were cancelled at 1450 hrs but later contact patrols laid on with S SASK R and FUS M R A quiet evening and night. A few enemy AC flew overhead but everyone enjoyed another good night's sleep	

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Fontaine le Marmion	11	0700 1600 1720 1930	Fine, visibility good, cool lt wind "STAND DOWN" received. Bn spends day in gen routine The Pipe Band arrived from "B" ech to play the favorite tunes of the Regt for the men The Band played from coy area to coy area Bn "F" ech vehs pass start line at 018577 on route to new posns at GOUVIX area 0651 arriving by 1830 hrs. Coys complete relief of NNS High Regt No incidents for rest of night "A" 2 ech received 12 German shells near their area at woods 0553 Bn Hq at 068516. See trace of posns and air photo of area Appx 3	See Appx 3
GOUVIX	12		Cloudy, visibility good, lt SW wind, warm and sunny During night 11/12 Aug Bn put out 2 contact and one recce patrol. Nothing to report very quiet. A daylight recce patrol sent out at 1330 hrs to recce woods and monument at 058512 report NO enemy, many slit trenches and a goodly amount of personal equipt Bn spends quiet day and prepares for next move into fighting area. Everyone well resyed and general reorganization completed. New Col arrives from REGINA RIFLE REGT A/Lt Col A S Gregory takes over comd of Bn from Maj E P Thompson, 2 IC.	
	13	1330	Fine, visibility good, wind 5 to 10 mph warm wind, warm and sunny Bn leaves GOUVIX area by TCVs and own tpt for assembly area at 044484. After Lt Col A S Gregory's "O"Gp Bn moves on to FUP area le MESNIL 0545 where Bn received orders from Bde "O"Gp at 053450. Bn to move to clear enemy pockets WEST of R LAIZE and seize bridgehead across R Laize at CLAIR TIZON 0643	
LE MESNIL	14	0400 0910	Fine, visibility good, wind 5 to 10 mph, warm and sunny, lt haze early morning Arty barrage laid down on known enemy pockets as Bn pushed on to R LAIZE. Enemy offered token resistance up to R Laize crossing but strenghtenned as Bn pushed towards objective area 072425. Bn objective reached R Bn Hq remained area 061436 as hy shelling of bridge at 065435 (which enemy left only slightly damaged) stopped "F" ech vehs moving up to comd post in house area 072425 RAP at R Bn Hq. Rest of "F"ech at 055450. Many PW taken of Russian and Polish origin Mostly deserters who gave themselves up at first opportunity. Bn fwd posns received desultory mortar and shell fire. Enemy tks kept the men to their slit trenches During evening ATK Pl got their first kill by knocking out a Panther Tk. ATK gun crew	

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LE MESNIL	14		Continued :- moved fwd of our posns to get at tk. First shot hit at 200 to 300 yds range, a second shot was put in for good measure. The enemy tk burnt out, two of crew killed rest taken PW by Scout Pl Snipers who were in area.	
La CRESSONNIERE	15	1200	Cloudy, visibility moderate, hy haze in morning, lt wind R Bn Hq and "F" ech attempt crossing R Laize to Bn area. Hy shelling from 88s encountered especially White Scout Car with 22 set came under (it seemed) observed fire. A speed of 50 to 70 mph needed to save veh as it retreated up main rd to R "F" ech at 055450 NO cas except one ATK gun KOD. R Bn Hq left RAP at 061436 to retire with "F" ech at 055450	
		1400	Several hundred hy 4 engined Liberator Bombers drop fragmentation bombs on enemy pockets of resistance between own lines and FALAISE. This attack lasts 2 hours. Two coys of Bn fall back to R Bn Hq before attack. Several bombs fall short on R Bn Hq causing 8 cas. Coys move back after bombing reported finished.	
		1630	It was reported that RAP had been shelled by 88s and Capt H Marantz, MO and Sjt G A Wilwand of RAP killed. Rest of RAP staff wounded. Cpl R Stimpson only one severely wounded. This gp of men was a great loss to Bn as they had shown themselves efficient and fast at evacuating Cameron wounded. 10 Fd Amb sent a composite force to take over until Bn reorganized RAP Pl. Just before RAP shelling a near misswounded the Padre Hon/Capt T R Davies. By evening enemy fire died down and R Bn Hq and "F" ech moved up to Comd Post at 072425. Bn fwd posns very quiet. Bn Hq receives some long range mortaring suffering lt cas. One killed, two wounded from Carrier Pl	
X "	XE 16	0600	Cloudy, visibility moderate, 10 mph cool wind Bn receives orders to move via main rd USSY to Villers Canivet to rd and track junc 122384 to track junc 123380, SOUTH to track junc 114370 following track SE into FALAISE NO opposition met until 113372 at 1158 hrs where enemy found 25 strong. 2 PW taken report 150 enemy in woods area 112376. Bn bypass and push on to FALAISE, only token resistance offered, lt cas suffered by Bn R Bn Hq and "F" ech vehs moved up and remained at Fm MR 106406	
ST CLAIR	17	0145	Cloudy, visibility moderate to good, lt showers, lt WSW cool wind Fwd Bn units reach rlwy line SOUTH of FALAISE under lt enemy opposition. Town of Falaise left to FUS M R to clean up snipers left by retreating enemy. S SASK R move through	

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ST CLAIR	17		Continued :- with Camerons 1200 approx Bn take up def posn around village of ST CLAIR 1433. Bn Hq in large house and barn at 146335. sealing German pocket to a few miles from Americans coming up from SOUTH. Bn once more the spearhead of a salient into enemy posns but a strong attack by a BR DIV on right flank keep enemy quiet about Bn posn around ST CLAIR, NO shelling or mortaring. Many PW taken and one enemy Scout car fires on "B" coy OP causing superficial cas to one man. Scout car later captured without petrol and crew 2350 A force of American Lightnings bombed and strafed our area mistaking Bn posns for enemy causing in cas 2 killed and 6 wounded. During the day the men were able to watch a Div cone of arty on 60 enemy targets from Bn posns on high ground. Everywhere to the SOUTH of Bn could be seen hy plumes of black smoke. Orders were received to clear all tps out of FALAISE for night 17/18 Aug. One contact and one fighting patrol sent out night 17/18 Aug.	
"	18		Fine to cloudy, visibility good, 10 mph SW wind, cool and sunny Contact patrol night 17/18 Aug did not contact FUS M R as planned. Fighting patrol did not reach objective but contacted enemy dug in at 149329 approx str one sec. Patrol fired on enemy who returned fire. German AC severely bombed Falaise between 0100 and 0300 hrs. Bulldozers soon had roads cleared and FUS M R at first light bagged 45 groggy enemy snipers. During day "A2" ech was brought up. Hot meals and new clothing given all personnel. Mail also was abundant everyone at least receiving a letter. Bn resting, reorganizing and generally cleaning up. NO enemy activity seen or heard during daylight hrs. Very quiet. 1900 Lt Col A S Gregory held an "O" Cp at Bn Hq, all offrs attended. A reorganization of Bn worked out and a new plan for Bn Hq in active ops worked out. "F" ech, Mortars, ATK, Carriers and Pnr Pls with R Bn Hq to travel in rear of Bn as one unit instead of two as before. A few enemy AC flew over Bn posns at approx 2300 hrs dropping flares over FALAISE	
"	19		Cloudy, visibility good, 10 mph WEST wind, patchy sunlight During morning Bn prepares for move, A2 and F echs remaining with Bn. 1400 Bn leaves ST CLAIR to move via Falaise 1435 to Damblainville 2038 to Barou 2539 to posns in woods at 260350 reaching here at 2030 hrs to relieve 4 Div unit	



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St. CLAIR	19	1400	No incidents to report on Route or after posn taken over. Roads were packed with vehs from Damblain-ville-Barou-les Mautien en Auges. It seemed whole Cdn Army was moving fwd. Bn passed by 8" land arty, Polish units, Corps comd, Lt Gen Simonds and staff and 4 Div. units plus Amb truckloads (16-20) of P.Ws. Jeeps in hundreds who never bothered keeping to rds but dashed in and out as occasion permitted. A2 Ech broke away from Bn as it neared 260350 to its own locality at 251359.	ke.
Nr Les Moutien on Auges	20		Fine to overcast, visibility good, hy rain after 1900 hrs, lt wind. Bn new posn in very quiet area. Bn spends quiet day except for one incident. French doctor reported enemy pocket at 244347 North of R. Dives. A patrol sent out who carefully crept up on a party of S Sask Regt having an enjoyable swim. Our patrol quietly crept away. No enemy activity during evening. Scout Pl and Int Sec ppen OP but only reported a few desultory shells from enemy hy guns which landed East of Beaumais 2335. One contact patrol sent out to contact R de Maid at church 267340 at 2400, 0300 and 0600 hrs.	ke.
Le Grand Mesnil(3137)	21	0600	Overcast, hy low cloud, intermittent hy rain, visibility moderate, 15 mph wind. At 0600 hrs Bn moved for assembly area at Grand Mesnil 3137. Bn H.Q. at 310377 by 0715 hrs Bn had breakfast here. Bde '0' Gp called for at 0955 hrs at Bde HQ at 285408. Bn did not move then till 1430 hrs. Intermittent by rain made things fairly miserable for personnel during morning but as Bn moved fwd <del>rather</del> weather cleared and everyone's spirits improved. See Appx 4 for trace of route and report lines. Bn moved fwd smoothly meeting no resistance stopping for night nr Neulles 5968.	See Appx 4 ke.

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The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Nr Meulles	22		Cloudy, visibility good, hy rain at 2200 hrs to intermittant for night 22/23 Aug, 10 mph wind to gusty for night. Bn moved fwd at first light meeting little opposition except for rd blocks and craters. no mines reported. As Bn pushed near to Orbec opposition grew stiffer and the adv slowed down somewhat. Enemy where using tks and Sp guns well fwd with arty and hy mortars from high ground across R. Orbec. Bn held for night Fm house area 637717.	
Nr Les Bois 6371 SW Orbec 6572	23	1430	Cloudy, visibility good, lt wind. Rain after 2100 hrs. During morning Bn reorganized as hot meal was served. Bde orders were received and Bn left axis of adv to make left flanking attack North of Orbec. By 1430 hrs Bn were on objective area 642753 suffering lt cas. from tks and sp guns. The enemy were rather bold and lucky as Bn was without piats. By evening though Bn had consolidated against attack with tks and Inf from St. Germainla Campagne 6575. Enemy then retreated after losing 2 tks and one sp gun. It was during this def of posns that CSM A. Arbour was killed by direct hit from enemy tk gun. Lt shelling and mortaring for rest of night. No cas.	hal.
SW St Germain la Campagne	24	1535	Overcast, visibility modetate, lt rain. During early morning hrs Bn march to assembly area at Le Ruquesni 6675. Bn HQ at 666749. Bn rests while waiting for move by tpt to new area. At 1535 Bn leave Le Hamel 6575 where tpt were waiting for tps and moved to Bde Assembly araa at Ducoure 7083. Bn served hot meal here and rested until 1830 hrs. Lt Col A.S. Gregory and I.O. Lt. Marshall attend 'O' Gp at Bde HQ and receive order for tptn to Brionne 8990.	

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SW St Germain la Campagne	24	1535	IO returns with trace of route and report lines. See Appx 5. Bn leaves Ducoure at 1830 hrs and proceeds towards Brionne without incident. Bn debussed North of St. Pierre de Salerne 8591 on rd 858918. Bde orders Bn to stand here for possible southward swing into Brionne.	See Appx 5 ke
Nr Brionne	25	0050	Cloudy, hy morning mist to hot sun dry lt wind. At 0050 hrs Bn moved South to X rds 861859 thence main rd North to Brionne to cross river at 982868. Bridges blown by enemy but poorly done and engrs managed quick tempory repairs. Slight enemy resistance put up by MG fire and road blocks, soon overcome and by first light Bn consolidated in area 907909. Rest of day uneventful and Bn rests and reorganizes. Sleep, wash, hot meals soon put all men into fine shape for next move. At 2300 hrs approx, German AC bomb Brionne attempting to hit mil bridges put over R. Lisle in center of town. No damage to bridges but town received severe damage. It is here that Bn received its first taste of French reception to its Liberators as before this most towns passed through were completely empty of civilians. Bn H.Q. were completely swamped as they came up road at 901903. Even Lt Col A.S. Gregory was forced to stop and say "Hello" as best he could in French. Bn H.Q. managed to move fwd 3/4 an hour later only on a pretext of a German counter attack when the woman and children marched off to their air raid shelters.	ke
Nr Brionne	26	1800	Fine, visibility good, lt warm wind. Bn rests at 907909. Bn preparing to move along axis rd Bourgtheroulde NE to R Seine grid square 0605. At approx 1800 hrs Bn leaves posn for move to R Seine. By evening reaching point 971957 where Bn took up posn for night. See Appx 6 for trace of route and report lines.	See Appx 6 ke

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Nr Bourgtheroulde	27	0945	Fine, visibility good, wind 15 mph. Bn marches along axis reaching Bourgtheroulde 0100 by 0945 hrs. At Pt 127 at 042027 reached at approx 1200 hrs hot meal served. "F" Ech remains at Pt 127 while Coys march ahead. As Bn moved on R Seine stiffening resistance was met by SA and MG fire. When Bn crossed rlwy at 055041 enemy arty fire became evident. As Bn moved to its objective center of area 080045 enemy tks and sp guns were met. What had been a march to contact enemy became a regular slugging match as enemy rearguards protected their lines of retreat over R Seine furiously and fanatically. By 2005 hrs Bn reached objective but also found enemy tks therē. By late evening Bn consolidated but not without hy cas. R. Bn HQ remained at Pt 127 at 042026 See appx 6 A for trace of objective of 6 Bde and 5 Bde units.	See Appx 6
La Chenaie 0904	28		Overcast, visibility good, lt wind. Bn in posn overlooking R Seine and cutting off German escape route. Bn posn area 080045. Bn being hy shelled and mortared intermittantly during night and morning. During daylight hrs enemy under cover of woods move close to our posn to find sanctuary from our shelling and especially our Typhoon R.P. planes. A battle of mortar fire by both sides commenced with Bn enjoying high ground but woods cutting down observation. Hy cas caused to both sides. German arty from across river and sp guns on South side of River joined in Mortar battle.	
La Chenaie 0904	29	1600	Cloudy to overcast, visibility moderate, rain late evening, gusty wind 20 mph. Hy cas were suffered and inflicted by both sides as partly sucessful attempts to cut Germans from escape routes across River. Thousands of Germans drowned or were killed from our 4.2" mortars and arty fire plus our MMGs. Germans replied in kind from across river. The Brigadier was wounded on a visit to this front. Lt.Col A.S. Gregory was wounded at approx 1600 hrs during enemy mortar concentration around the	

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La Chenaie 0904	29	1600	comd post. Maj. E.P. Thompson took over A/comd of Bn. During evening at approx 1900hrs S.Sask R. start to retreat with their tk sp through Bn saying Bde had given orders. Bn suspicious I.O. Lt. Marshall calls on Maj. E.P. Thompson who was at Bde to clear up situation. Nothing known at Bde. Bn stood firm and S.Sask R. returned to their pOsns suffering hy losses as enemy were proven to have given order over our link with proper code signs. Rd to S. Sask R posns covered by enemy arty and MMG fire.	yal
La Chenaie 0904	30		Overcast, visibility poor, rain all night and intermittant during day. Hy downpour during evening hours. High wind reaching 30 mph. During night 29/30 Aug the enemy retreated with his remnants from R Seine and Rouen area. Bn spent a quiet day reorganizing, cleaning up and receiving a few rfts. Possible move to-morrow through Rouen.	yal
La Chenaie 0904	31	1330	Cloudy, patches of sunlight, good visibility, 20 mph wind. A quiet night and a good sleep put Bn in good trim for further action. By 1330 hrs Bn once move move towards Rouen by main rd 1204 to Sotterville les Rouen. By approx 2200 hrs Bn crossed River into Rouen proper receiving great ovation from citizens. Bn spends night 31 Aug/1 Sep in western outskirts of Rouen. All personnel were glad to relax and enjoy a few minutes away from the tough going of the last few days. Nothing to report of enemy activity during 31st Aug.	yal

*Thompson* Lt.-Col.