

**Document Title:** War Diary of Royal Hamilton Light Infantry.

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**Item Description:** Every unit in the Canadian and British armies kept a daily record of events, titled 'War Diary or Intelligence Summary'. The length of these documents varies by unit, but they all give a detailed and revealing overview of the activities of the unit during its period(s) of operation.

**Keywords:** Normandy ; Battle of Normandy ; D-Day ; Second World War ; Canadian Army ; Royal Hamilton Light Infantry ; 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division

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

WAR DIARY  
OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to OIC 2nd Echelon for disposal.

Title pages will be prepared.

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JULY 1944 WAR DIARY

ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

			Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Place	Date	Hour		
			(1)	
MR 973827 OS Sheet 7E/5 CREULLY	1.	0630	Unit veh party moved via LONDON to marshalling area near TILBURY, arrival at approximately 1400 hrs. Vehs were separated into two groups for the purpose of loading on ships.	WSP
		1215	Marching party left WOOTTON PARK NORTH camp proceeding by march route to SHEPHERDS WELLS station, thence by train to PALMER LINC, arrival at 1815 hrs.	WSP
		1730	Comd veh party received orders from Movement Control to the effect that one party consisting of 78 all ranks and 51 vehs would leave at 0500 hrs, 2 Jul 44 for the docks. The remaining party of 276 all ranks and 51 vehs would leave at 0600 hrs.	WSP
	2.	0500	First veh party under comd Capt J.M. Bostwick left the marshalling area and proceeded to WESTGATE docks and immediately commenced loading on ship A 115/MT, a U.S. Liberty Ship which had been converted in a troop and veh carrying vessel.	WSP
		0600	Second veh party proceeded to WESTGATE docks and commenced loading on ship A 114/MT a similar vessel. Dvrs and co-dvrs only left at this time.	WSP
		0730	Balance of veh party under comd Capt. E.L. Froggett moved from marshalling area via RASC TCVs to WESTGATE docks and embarked on ship A 114/MT.	WSP
	3.	0930	Pay parades were held for marching party at which all ORs received 200 francs per man, the rate of exchange having been established at 200 francs to 1 £	WSP
		1030	Church Parades, both Protestant and RC, were held in the marching party's marshalling area.	WSP
		1100	Coy comds' meeting held in marching party's area. All personnel warned that they were CB and would move the following morning. Bath parades were held at this time.	WSP
		1400	Vessels containing veh party moved out of the dock area and proceeded down the river	WSP

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MR 973827	3.		(2) THAMES to the convoy RV where they will remain until the convoy is made up. A syllabus of trg for the tps on board has been drawn up by Major Knox, Bde Major, 4 Cdn Inf Bde. This will consist of a series of lectures by various offr and senior NCOs on board on such subjects as "The French People", "Proper Methods of Cooking Compo and Emergency Rations", "System of Paying Tps", "Purifying Water". Lectures will also be given by the U.S. Naval offr in comd of the gun crews on the ships. PT will be conducted on deck each morning with personnel divided into small groups and following this the COs will inspect quarters and personal weapons. Elimination "Quiz" contests between the various units on board will be held and suitable prizes will be awarded the winners	WDP
			The marching party were divided into ship loads and nominal rolls were prepared. Pay parades wer held when all sterling currency held by personnel was changed into francs.	
		1700	Marching party drew Mae Wests, 24 hr rations and emergency rations, kit deficiencies were made up.	WDP
		4. 0910	Complete marching party forend up in marshalling area. The Padre H/Capt R.C. Williams gave a short prayer and the first ship load of 298 all ranks moved off by TCV to NEWHAVEN where LCI's were boarded. Major G.H.B. Stinson was in comd of this party.	WDP
		1215	Balance of marching party consisting of 186 all ranks under comd Major H.C. Arrell moved by TCV to NEWHAVEN and embarked on LCI's.	WDP
		1830	Ship A 114/MT containing 78 all ranks and 51 vehs of the unit veh party weighed anchor and proceeded with other ships of the convoy on the journey to France. Owing to a broken steam line A 114/MT with the balance of the veh party on board was unable to proceed and will be delayed at least 24 hrs while the damage is being repaired.	WDP
			Convoy containing marching personnel sailed for France form NEWHAVEN at 1800 hrs	WDP

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 973827	5.	0800	(3) Marching party transferred from LCI's to LCA's and landed at "M" beach near GRAYE-sur-MER, Normandy. Mae Wests were removed on the beach and the party marched to the marching personnel assembly area near BANVILLE. After a short rest and a cup of tea the party marched through St CROIX-sur-MER and CREPON to the bn area at MR 973827 OS Sheet 7E/5 near the village of BAZENVILLE where they joined the adv party. Slit trenches were dug and evening meal was prepared.	WSP
		1830	Ship A 114/MT containing 276 all ranks of the veh party weighed anchor and proceeded in company with many other vessels on the journey to France. The trip will be via the Straits of DOVER to the ISLE of WIGHT and thence across the channel to the beach head.	WSP
	6.	0630	Passage of the Straits of DOVER was made without incident. At this time several flying bombs passed over head quite close to the ships and could be observed to excellent advantage in the clear morning sky as they travelled at terrific speed towards the English coast.	WSP
		0900	Coy posns in the bn area were improved by marching party personnel, latrines were dug and slit trenches deepened. The entire area was sign-posted and posns were chosen for the vehs when they arrive.	WSP
		1100	Comd 2 Cdn Inf Div, Major-Gen. C. Foulkes and Comd 4 Cdn Inf Bde Brig. Sherwood Lett visited tps and looked over the area.	WSP
		2000	Convoy incl ship A 114/MT arrived at the beach head off the village of GRAYE-sur-MERE and anchored for the night. All ranks were greatly impressed by the vast number of ships standing off the beach head, incl the battleship Rodney. Almost immediately a destroyer came along side and advised through its loud hailer that enemy action could be expected. Action stations was sounded and the short range guns of the ships were manned. After approximately one hr the all clear was given and the tps settled down for the night without further incident.	WSP
		2400	The first veh party of 78 all ranks which had sailed in ship A 115/MT arrived at the	WSP

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MR 973827	6.		(4) bn area near BAZENVILLE. Bn HQ personnel acted as guides during most of the night.
	7.	0700	Tps and vehs were disembarked from A 114/MT under the direction of British dock personnel who have been on the beach head since "D" day. Personnel and vehs were transferred to LCT's and Rhinos for the trip to the beach. Off loading went on throughout the day with parties moving inland about a mile to the assembly area as they landed. De-waterproofing of vehs was carried out here and Mae Wests were turned in.
		0900	Although all personnel had been previously warned not to sleep in buildings or to drink untested water, one pl lf "C" Coy took shelter from the rain under a lean-to and were found to have fleas. One pl of "D" Coy reported that they were all sick. It was found that they had drunk untested water.
		1700	Lt-Gen. Simmonds, comd 2 Cdn Corps, addressed the tps of 2 Cdn Inf Div and 4 Cdn Inf Bde. He told the men that they were going into action soon and gave them several lessons learned in recent engagements of the 3 Cdn Inf Div.
			A German plane was shot down over the beach head area, the pilot baled out and landed in the area while the tps were still formed up.
		2130	A 500 bomber raid on the German held city of CAEN was witnessed by all tps in the beach head areas. This was a most absorbing spectacle as the huge four engined planes roared in on the city accompanied by a large fighter escort. HE had incendiaries rained on the enemy posns and huge fires started almost immediately. The flak was intense at first but dropped off badly as the second wave of bombers came in. Only two of the RAF planes were observed to fall and of these the entire crew baled out over the beach and were picked up by rescue launches.
		2300	German planes passing over the camp area were met with a tremendous barrage of AA fire.
		2400	Balance of the veh party began to arrive in the bn area, and the entire unit is now together once again.

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MR 973827	8.	0900	(5) Coys commenced trg in street and village fighting.	WDP
		1330	Sports afternoon. A baseball game was played between RHLI and R Regt C which resulted in a score of 11 - 11.	WDP
	9.	0900	Protestant Church Parade conduted by the Padre H/Capt. R.C. Williams in fd next to Bn HQ.	WDP
			Meeting of unit COs at HQ 4 Cdn Inf Bde attended by the CO Lt-col. W.D. Whitaker, DSO	WDP
		1000	RC Mass held in church at village of BAZENVILLE (4 Cdn Inf Bde HQ).	WDP
		1415	Meeting of unit COs and Brigs held at HQ 2 Cdn Inf Div.	WDP
	10.	1000	Advance party consisting of the 2 IC Major G.M. MacLachlan and 2 ICs of coys left for new bn area .	WDP
		1500	Advance party of South Staffords came into our area in preparation for taking it over from us as a rest area. They had been in the line for one week. The offr and men gave us many valuable hints gained from their experiences.	WDP
		1900	The Commanding Officer, Lt-col. W.D. Whitaker, DSO, held coy comds 0 gp.	WDP
		2130	The bn moved by TCVs to their assembly areas in two gps, A 1 Ech which went to the area of ARDENNE, ANCE ABBEYE, BITOT; A & B Ech going to the area of BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE.	WDP
	11.	0130	A 1 Ech arrived at their assembly area and took up their posns. The area had not been cleaned up and there were many German dead lying about and a considerable amount of enemy eqpt.	WDP
		0930	Coys began to bury the German dead. Most of these were Waffen SS tps, the majority	WDP

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			(6)	
BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE	11.	1500	of them not 20 years of age. During the day there was casual shell fire which caused no casualties. The CO attended 0 gp at 2 Cdn Inf Div HQ for Bde and Bn comds.	WDP
		1730 to 2330 to	Word received that the bn was to relæve the 7th Seaforths in the line just EAST of ETERVILLE. The CO and coy comds proceeded fwd for recce and the bn proceeded in two gps, the first marching the second vehs, by separate roads, starting at 2330 hrs. The marching party proceeded wit out incident until the town of BRETTEVILLE-sur-ODON was reached when it came under heavey mortar fire which forced a deployment into the hedges SOUTH of the town. Coys proceeded to the RV and met guides of our own bn and the 7th Seaforths and commenced doing a relief by sections. During the entire period the posns were under heavy mortar and 88 mm arty fire and the men were forced to dig shell scrapes before moving in to the coy posns. In the meantime the Bde tpt had come under heavy concentrations af arty in the village of VERSON and due to a direct hit on a Bde veh the column was held up. There was considerable confusion and the last of our vehs did not reach their posns until 0500 hrs. The entire relief was effected with casualties of two killed and five wounded. The posn occupied by the bn consisted of wide open wheat fields and an orchard on the reverse slope of a hill the other side of which is occupied by the enemy. A squadron of Sherman tanks with an independent role was in indirect support of the bn and during the daylight hrs took up posns on the crest of the occupied feature.	WDP
NORREY-en-BESSIN		0730	A Ech move from area BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE to new area at MR 926706 Sheet 7F/1 near NORREY-en-BESSIN. B Ech will remain in the area at BRETTEVILLE until further orders as the area intended for them near the village of ROTs had not yet been cleared of mines.	WDP
		1500	Capt. E.L. Froggett, offr i/c A Ech visited the bn posn in the forward area at MR 985656 near ETERVILLE. Upon his return he reported that the roads into the area were under continuous mortar and arty fire and that the day had been without incident at the bn posn except for heavy arty and mortar fire which caused several more casualties. Patrolling was attempted forward and the Scout Pl offr, Lt. Hinton, and two other ranks	WDP

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NORREY-en-BESSIN	12.		(7) crossed the reverse slope but were forced back by German small arms fire, their retreat covered by the tanks. 4 Fd Regt RCA took over the arty support from the British Fd Arty during the day and 3 FOOs and COs rep were att to the unit. During the afternoon orders were received from Bde that LOB personnel were to be despatched to B Ech.	MOP
		1500	B Ech moved from area BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE to area MR 951718 near the village of ROTS.  The 2 IC Major G.M. MacLachlan, 2 ICs of coys, four Lts and forty other ranks returned in the evening to RV where they were picked up by tpt and arrived in B Ech area after suffering one casualty. They had to proceed through heavy shell fire to get out of the advanced area. This gp was the bn LOB personnel.	MOP
		2100	Bn ration party left A Ech area for RV with carriers from each coy at the village of VERNON. The carriers will pick up the rations at this point and take them to the coy posns as it has been found impossible to get soft skinned vehs into the area without loss from shell and mortar fire. The ration party reported on their return that they had come under fire at the RV and it has been decided to move this back outside the village in future.	MOP
		13.	Capt. E.L. Froggett and CSM Hibberd proceeded to VERNON to attempt to recover a bn water trailer which had gone through a temporary bridge on the outskirts of the village the previous night. This was successfully accomplished and the trailer was brought back to A Ech where it was found that a few minor repairs were all that was necessary. Capt. Froggett went on to the bn posn and on his return reported that the day had been fairly quiet and that there had been no further casualties.	
		2200	Ration party left A Ech to RV with carriers at MR 946673 between MARSELET and HAUT de VERNON, returning without incident.	MOP



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NORREY-en-BESSIN	14.		(8)	
		1000	H/Capt. R.C. Williams, the unit padre, who had been wounded in the forehead by shrapnel on night of 11/12 Jul, and had continued on duty, was evacuated to hospital.	WDP
		1500	Enemy planes overhead and a very intense AA barrage put up. Prevailing low clouds have favoured the Luftwaffe and they have taken advantage of this to come out in some strength for the first time since our arrival in Normandy.	WDP
		2300	Enemy bombers over the A Echelon area. One bomb scored a direct hit on an ammunition lorry parked at the rear of the area and exploding amn kept things quite lively for about one hour. Roads throughout the area are jammed with tps, vehs, tanks, etc, all moving up to the fwd areas.	WDP
			The fwd bn posn at MR 985656 has been under incessant shell and mortar fire throughout the day. Bn HQ posn was strafed by German planes several times, few RAF aircraft being seen.	
	15.	2315	Bn fwd posn heavily shelled. A dug-out containing the CO, Lt-col. W.D. Whitaker, DSO, the IO, Lt. L.H. Doering and a signaller received a direct hit. The CO suffered an injury to his face, the other two occupants were uninjured. SBs were called and the CO was evacuated at once under heavy fire.	WDP
		2359 to	Major J.B. Halladay, OC "A" Coy assumed temporary comd of the bn.	WDP
		0600	Recce patrol under comd Lt H.F. Hinton went out but because of enemy fire was unable to return to unit lines until 0600 hrs.	
			Major G.M. MacLachlan, 2 IC, arrived at the fwd bn posn and assumed comd of the unit.	WDP
		1500	Bn posns under unceasing mortar and shell fire throughout the day. Personnel continued improving dug-outs and slit trenches.	
			Capt. E.L. Froggett, comd A Ech and Orderly Room Sgt visited the bn fwd posn in a Jeep. It was decided to take a new route fwd by way of CARPIQUET-BRETTEVILLE-sur-	

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NORREY-en-BESSIN			(9)	
	15.		ODON-Le MESNIL. Fire from enemy snipers was encountered on this road and immediately thereafter a heavy concentration of arty fire was brought down on the road near Le MESNIL necessitating a prompt dive for any available cover on the part of the occupants of the Jeep. When the arty lifted the journey was completed without further incident.	
	16.	0900	L/Cpl. Robertson, W.J., a member of the unit police reported on his return from the fwd posn that he had killed an enemy sniper in the village of VERNON while on his way down from the posn.	WJP
		1700	A Echelon received orders to move to area LASSON, Sq 9674 but on arrival there it was found that the movement had been in error as the posn had already been surveyed by the R.A. as an alternative arty posn. After some little confusion A Echelon finally moved back to a former posn near BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE.	WJP
	17.	1600	Fwd bn posns fairly quiet throughout the day with only intermittent shell and mortar fire.	WJP
		2200	29 other rank reinforcements arrived at B Echelon from No. 2 CBRG. They were documented and immediately sent fwd to the bn posn along with returning LOB personnel who will RV en route with LOB personnel coming out of the line.	WJP
		2300	Three of the outcoming LOB personnel suffered wounds on the way out of the bn posn. The bn was briefed to attack the village of LOUVIGNY but R Regt who were closer to the posn put in the attack. We were then told that we would attack the village of ATHIS, MR 003642.	WJP
		2330	Enemy bombers over A Echelon posn. A stick of anti-personnel bombs was dropped directly on the posn. The only casualty was Capt. E.L. Froggett who suffered minor shrapnel wounds to the head and arm. He was immediately evacuated to the	WJP

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BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILL- E USE	17.		(10) nearest aid post for treatment and from there was despatched to British hospital at BAYEAUX.	
	18.	0530	Approximately 1000 RAF heavy bombers raided the CAEN sector. These were followed throughout the morning by hundreds of USAAF heavies. So heavy was the bombing that the entire area became obscured by a pall of dust and smoke. Very few of our planes were seen to fall and there appeared to be no enemy fighter opposition whatever.	NDP
		0900	Lt-col. J.M. Rockingham, former CO of the bn who has been on course at the Staff College, Camberley, Surrey, arrived at the fwd bn posn to assume comd.  "B" Coy to-day provided flank protection for the R Regt C during their attack on LOUVIGNY and took 10 prisoners in the area they cleared.	NDP NDP
		1900	Draft of two offrs and six other ranks arrived at B Echelon as reinforcements from 2 CBRG. Of the offrs, Lt. E.T. Harshman will be carried as surplus to WE for a period of thirty days and Lt. H.E. Harrison will act as extra offr in the Scout Pl. These reinforcements proceeded to the bn posn with the ration party arriving without incident.	NDP
	19.	1800	A quiet day in the bn posn. R Regt C completed the capture of LOUVIGNY at 0830 hrs, the garrison surrendering en masse and the posn was reported consolidated at 1140 hrs with nil opposition.	NDP
		1900	The CO, Lt-col. J.M. Rockingham held Bn O Gp and attack on village of ATHIS was teed up. The gen plan was for two coys up supported by Div Arty, 4.2 Mortars, MGs and a Sqn of tks. Because of the danger of arty fire falling on 5 Bde posns on the other side of the river the attack was called off.	NDP
	20.	0200	Orders received that bn must be prepared to move to new posn by 1230 hrs.	NDP
		0230	Bn moved off from posn at 985656 to new posn at MR 006686 Sheet 7F/1 in the city of CAEN. The move was made via LOUVIGNY-BRETTEVILLE-sur-ODON-CAEN and the bn will rest for 24 hrs in the new posn.	NDP

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BRETTEVILLE- L' ORGUEILLEUSE	20.	0900	(11) Capt. E.L. Froggett arrived at A Echelon having been discharged from hospital at BAYEAUX and assumed comd of the Echelon. He appeared to have suffered no ill effects from his recent experience.	MSP
		2000	Bn rested throughout the day in their new posn. The CO, Lt-col. J.M. Rockingham attended O Gp at HQ 4 Cdn Inf Bde.	MSP
	21.	0900	Mobile Bath visited the Bn posn and the tps marched in pouring rain to obtain much needed baths. The rain continued without interruption throughout the day and the men, standing around in the mud, did not succeed in obtaining much rest.	MSP
		1400	The CO left for IFS, Sq 0463 Sheet 7F/1 to make recce of new bn posn.	MSP
		1830	Veh and marching parties moved from area 006686 to area Sq 0464 Sheet 7F/1. Veh party could not move in to allotted area at once because of heavy enemy shelling. Tactical HQ was set up at MR 047695 with Rear Bn HQ at 045652. All personnel proceeded to dig in but this was found extremely difficult owing to rocky nature of the ground.  Casualties since arrival of the bn in Normandy have been as follows:- Killed in Action - Offrs NIL, ORs 8; Wounded - Offrs 3 (of whom one has returned to duty), ORs 30; Medical Causes (incl battle exhaustion) - Offrs NIL, ORs 21.  Reinforcements received - Offrs 2, ORs 62.  Bn Strength as at 1830 hrs, 21 Jul 44 - Offrs 39, ORs 808 (of whom 3 are permanently att to HQ 4 Cdn Inf Bde).	MSP
		1900	H/Capt J.G. Gault, CCS, arrived at A Ech from HQ 4 Cdn Inf Bde. He will assume the duties of unit padre as successor to H/Capt R.C. Williams	MSP

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BRETTEVILLE- L'ORGUEILLEUSE	22		(120)	
		0900	B65514 Sgt Ryan, J.D. of "A" Coy was killed by a direct hit at the fwd bn posn. The same 88 mm shell damaged one of our A tk guns which will have to be evacuated to LAD for repair.	WSP
		1500	A rum issue for the bn has been authorized by the Bde Comd. This will be sent up to the fwd posn with the ration party to-night.	WSP
	23	2000	Reinforcements of 27 ORs arrived at "B" Ech from 2 CBRG. These were immediately documented and sent fwd to the bn posn.	WSP
			The bn moved to a posn to the SE of CAEN with tac HQ in a farm house at 046357, Sheet 7f/1. Rear Bn HQ was est at a point 1/2 mile to the rear. Although the coys were on a reverse slope the posns were quite exposed and there was very little protection from shell fire.	WSP
		1100	"B" Ech, which had been on one hour's notice to move since last evening, moved from area of ROTS to a new posn at 000692 Sheet 7F/1 about one mile NW of CAEN in the suburb of St GERMAIN LA BLANCHE HEREE.	WSP
VAUCELLES	24	1900	Draft of 6 ORs arrived from 2 CBRG. Five of these were dvr mechs who were urgently required to fill vacancies in the carrier and A tk pls caused by recent casualties. However, it was found that none of them had handled a tracked veh for the past two years and it was decided to retain them at "A" Ech for 24 hrs to give them some practice on carriers before despatching them to the fwd posn.	WSP
		2000	Infm was received that the bn would be taking part in a large scale attack in the near future and patrols were sent out to ascertain the strength of the enemy still in the area of TROTEVAL Fm. Our casualties during the day were very light.	WSP
		0730	"A" Ech moved from area BRETTEVILLE - L'ORGUEILLEUSE to a new posn across the river ORNE in the suburb of VAUCELLES. On the move all personnel were amazed at the terr-	WSP

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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

# WAR DIARY

## OR

### INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

3/19A <sup>MF 11</sup> 40/P&S/37 (5028)

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JULY 1944 WAR DIARY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
VAUCELLES	24		(13)	
			ific damage to the city of CAEN caused by the recent heavy allied air raids and the arty shelling. On arrival in VAUCELLES it was found that very little accommodation for vehs was available, all the streets in the vicinity were occupied by the tpt of other units and it was necessary to put the RHLI vehs and personnel into a cemetery at 035665, Sheet 7F/1. Slit trenches were dug and some empty graves were utilized by the men for shelter.	
		1500	The CO, Lt-col. J.M. Rockingham made an ariel recce of the area TROTEVAL Fm and the village of VERRIERES in an RAF plane.	WSP
		1700	CO's O Gp held at tac HQ, reps of att arty, mortars and MGs were present. The intention of the RHLI was to destroy the enemy in the village of VERRIERES and to capture and hold the posn. The gen plan was to attack with three coys up and one back. The SL at TROTEVAL Fm was to be secured for us by the FMR. H hr was to be 0300 hrs, 25 Jul 44.	WSP
	25	0300	Infm received that the SL had not been cleared of enemy so the attack was delayed.	WSP
		0430	SL still not cleared by FMR but attack commenced anyway. (Story of the battle of VERRIERES is incl as Appx No. 1 to this War Diary).	WSP
		0600	Tac HQ was est in the centre of the village of VERRIERES with rear Bn HQ est behind TROTEVAL Fm.	WSP
		0730	VERRIERES reported clear of the enemy. Our posns heavily shelled and mortared while the tps attempt to dig in. Shelling continues throughout the day.	WSP
		1700	Counter attacks were put in by enemy inf and tks which were repulsed by our tps.	WSP
		1900	The 7th Armd Bde ("Desert Rats") began to move in behind our posn and added depth to our defences.	WSP

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40/P&S/37 (5028)

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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

JULY 1944 WAR DIARY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			(14)	
VAUCELLES	26	0600	Inf Bde of the 5, 6 and 7 Queens, part of the 7 Armd Div, moved in behind TROTEVAL Fm and took up posns behind the Fm.	WSP
		1900	Enemy counter attack consisting of about 30 men was disposed of by one pl and two prisoners were taken.	WSP
			Reinforcements of 5 offrs and 175 ORs arrived at "B" Ech from 2 CBRG to replace casualties suffered by the bn in the attack on VERRIERES. These reinforcements had evidently been assembled hurriedly from available material and were, for the most part, not suitable to an inf bn's requirements. The majority of them were tradesmen and they incl one RSM, one Pipe Major and one S/Sgt clerk none of whom were required by the unit. 4 of the offrs and 75 ORs were immediately sent fwd to the bn posn at VERRIERES under comd Capt H.A. Welch, the balance remaining at "B" Ech until further orders.	WSP
		2330	Sgt. J.T. Procter of the scout pl while out on patrol by himself encountered about 30 Germans. Opening fire with his sten gun he killed seven, wounded several others and the remainder fled. On hearing the firing several scouts appeared on the scene and assisted in the rout.	WSP
	27	0800	Work commenced at "A" Ech on completing lists of our casualties. This was found to be an extremely difficult job as a great many of the wounded had been evacuated from the battlefield immediately without passing through the normal unit RAP channels and had been despatched to any available medical installations without any record being taken of names, regt numbers, etc. It has not yet been found possible to recover and bury many of the killed owing to the battle still raging around our posns at VERRIERES. Pending more thorough investigation, RHLI casualties in the battle of VERRIERES and the subsequent counter attacks on the village, are estimated as follows:-  Officers killed - 3 (Major G.H.B. Stinson, Capt. R.G. Hunter, Lt. H.P. Beasley. Officers wounded - Major J.L. Firth, Lts R. Sharp, J.T. Clark, H.F. Hinton, J.A. Lawrason, D.T. Knight, G.R. Reid, E.T. Harshman.	WSP

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JULY 1944 WAR DIARY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
VAUCELLES	27		<div>5 42 3 146 11 188</div> <p>(15) Other Ranks killed or died of wounds - 42 Other Ranks wounded - 146</p> <p>Not one of our men is in enemy hands and none are known to be missing.</p> <p>Many instances of outstanding gallantry by offrs and men of the RHLI have taken place throughout this action and these have been brought to the attention of higher authorities by the CO in the form of recommendations for suitable awards. (Copies of recommendations for awards, giving citations, are att to this War Diary as Appx No. 2).</p>	WST
		1500	A further batch of the reinforcements stationed at "B" Ech arrived at "A" Ech and were immediately sent fwd to the bn after having been allotted to coys most in need of additional personnel.	WST
		2340	The heaviest enemy air attack experienced since our arrival in Normandy was put in on the CAEN area. Numerous anti personnel and HE bombs were dropped throughout the area although there were no casualties to members of the unit.	WST
	28	0900	Capt. E.L. Froggett, comd "A" Ech paid a visit to ARCO at HQ 2 Cdn Inf Div in an endeavour to clarify the posn with regard to reinforcements. Arrangements were made at this time to have the unsuitable personnel who had been posted to us re-posted to units who might require their servides.	WST
		1300	Two men were discovered at the unit fwd posn who had previously been members of the RHLI but had lately been sent as reinforcements to another bn. They had reached our unit when it was going into battle, without any permission or authority, and had fought continuously with us for two days. A request was made to 2 Ech to have them transferred to the unit and this was done.	WST
			O f the five new offrs recently posted to the unit as reinforcements, four have been posted to coys as follows:- Lt. H.A. Oliver to "A" Coy, Lt. C.D. Gibson (a former member of the unit who had been in hospital due to an injury suffered while	



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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY			JULY 1944 WAR DIARY		Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information		
VAUCELLES	28		(16) the unit was trg in England) to "B" Coy, Lt. D.R. Noiles to "C" Coy and Lt. G.C. Eden to "D" Coy. The 5th offr, Capt D.F. Kennedy for the time being is acting as IO relieiving Lt. L.H. Doering who has come out of the line as LOB for 48 hrs rest.		
		1800	Major G.M. MacLachlan, the 2 IC, took over comd of the bn while the CO, Lt-col. J.M. Rockingham went back to "B" Ech as LOB. One half of the remaining offr s also went LOB.		WDP
		2230	Switch over took place when 56 reinforcements moved into the line and 30 men went out as LOB.		WDP
	29	0500	The enemy put in an attack on the "C" Coy posn held by No. 14 Pl. Our men allowed the enemy to move in very close and then opened up with their LMGs wiping out most of them. Two PW were taken.		WDP
		0930	The A/Brig, 4 Cdn Inf Bde, Lt-col Gagnon, visited the bn area.		
	30.	1730	The Adjt, Capt. W.D. Parker, who has been in the line continuously since 12 Jul 44 without a break, came down to visit "A" Ech for the first time since that date. Several outstanding adm matters were cleared up and he requested that the balance of the reinforcements on hand at "B" Ech should be despatched to the bn posn on the following afternoon. The Adjt reported that two ORs had been killed and five wounded by enemy mortar and shell fire which has been very heavy and concentrated in the bn posn all day.		WDP
		31 0845	The enemy laid a heavy smoke screen covering our posns and also our flanks. Small tanks, either remotely controlled or driven by one man were then driven towards our posns. These tanks carried a load of HE and were destroyed before reaching our posns. When they exploded they made a terrific blast but no casualties were suffered by personnel of the unit. Lt. J.W. Strachan of "D" Coy went fwd to examine the remains of one of these machines and was wounded by shell fire. He later died of the injuries received after he had been evacuated to hospital.		WDP

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JULY 1944 WAR DIARY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
VAUCELLES	31	1100	(17) Two pls were taken out of the front line and sent by captured enemy veh to the mobile bath at FLEURY-sur-ORNE, 022560, Sheet 7F/1 .	WDP
		1500	Twenty-one reinforcements comprising the balance of those held at "B" Ech arrived at the bn posn and were posted to coys.	WDP

*Gen Rockingham*  
(J.M. Rockingham) Lt-col.,  
Comd 1 Bn RHLI, Cdn Army A.

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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

APPENDICES TO JULY 1944 WAR DIARY

Place	Date	<del>Index</del> No.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials		
			(1)			
		1.	Story of the Battle of VERRIERES, 25 Jul 44	ORIG X /	DUP X	TRIP X
		2.	Recommendations for Honours and Awards for RHLI personnel	X /		
		3.	Ordnance Survey Map CAEN, Sheet 7F/1, CREULLY, Sheet 7E/5	X /		
		4.	Aerial Mosaic of TROTEVAL Fm - VERRIERES - ROQUANCOURT area	X		
		5.	4 Cdn Inf Bde Patrol Programme Night 31 Jul/1 Aug 44	X		
		6.	File of RHLI Daily New Bulletins issued to tps in the fd	X /		
		7.	Field Return of Offrs for weeks ending 8, 15, 22, 29 Jul, 5 Aug 44	X /		
		8.	Field Return of ORs for weeks ending 8, 15, 22, 29 Jul, 5 Aug 44	X /		
		9.	RHLI Daily Order Part I No. 22 of 5 Aug 44	X /		

M.F.M. 11A

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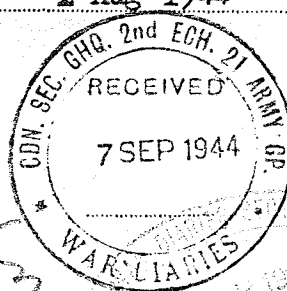
WAR DIARY  
Apprs Chco'd  
Date - 11 Jun 1945

# WAR DIARY

OF

ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

FROM 1 Aug 1944 TO 31 Aug 1944



VOLUME IV

APPENDICES 1 TO 11

ORIGINAL

182/1  
AUG 1944

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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

WAR DIARY AUG 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information (1)	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
VERRIERES	1.	0001	Terrific shelling took place by enemy and our own arty. The Calg Hghrs were putting in an attack on TILLY LA CAMPAGNE. The arty barrage was to cover their movement. Shells from our own guns fell on our posns but the shelling could not be stopped without interfering with the arty plan for the TILLY LA CAMPAGNE attack.	
		0230	A fighting patrol consisting of Lt. HE HARRISON and eight ORs went out to ascertain whether certain posns were occupied by the enemy and to bring back PW if possible. After finding several enemy posns the patrol bumped into a strong enemy force which they estimated to be a coy. When the enemy opened fire several of the patrol were wounded but three were able to escape and made their way back to our lines. On the way back one German prisoner, a member of the SS Adolf Hitler Panzer Div was captured and brought back to Rear HQ. Much valuable infm regarding the strength of the enemy on our front was handed over to Intelligence. When last seen by the men who were able to return, Lt. HARRISON and the men who were with him were surrounded by enemy, so it is presumed that they were taken prisoner.	
			The bn posn was under constant mortar and shell fire and no movement could be made in daylight. Several direct hits were made by enemy guns on the building which was occupied by BnHQ.	
		1100	A change over with ROYAL REGT OF CANADA was supposed to take place but at the last minute this was cancelled.	
	2.	1430	Lt. GC EDEN of "D" coy was wounded by shell fire and evacuated.	
		1530	"reinforcement draft of two offrs and eleven ORs arrived, together with forty LOBs. Forty ORs switched over and were sent out for a rest. Because of the shortage of offrs none were sent out for a rest at this time.	
		0800	Plans were made for a change over with the SOUTH SASK REGT. The change over was to be on a coy basis, so that each of their coys would take over our respective posns.	
	3.	1400	Capt. WD PARKER, Adjt, made a recce of the new bn posn at HLOUVIGNY WOODS at 001655 Sheet 7E/1, 1/50000, then reced routes for the veh and marching parties.	

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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

(Erase heading not required)  
(2)

WAR DIARY AUG 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
VERRIERES	3.	1600	Recce party from the SOUTH SASK REGT arrived to look over our posns.	W.D.F.
		1800	The Adj't, Capt WD PARKER, attended a meeting at Bde Tac HQ and confirmed the bn posn, and tied in with the Bde scheme.	
	4.	0001	The SOUTH SASK REGT began to move into our posn at VERRIERES. The rifle coys, in the order of "A", "B", "C", "D" moved in at twenty minute intervals. None of our coys moved out until the corresponding coy of the SOUTH SASK REGT had taken over its posn. While the change over was taking place a large force of enemy planes dropped flares over our posn, then bombed and strafed our men. Many anti-personnel bombs were dropped which made a great deal of noise and broke up into many small fragments.	W.D.F.
		0200	The change over of the rifle coys was completed. The marching party and veh party moved off separately to LOUVIGNY WOODS and arrived there at 0330 hrs.	
LOUVIGNY WOODS	4.	1130	The CO, Lt-col JM ROCKINGHAM held a meeting of all offrs so that they might become acquainted with the new offrs who had joined the bn since the attack on VERRIERES commenced. Due to conditions some of them had not previously met. The CO then outlined some gen plans for forthcoming ops and informed the bn that we were coming under comd of 2 Cdn Armd Bde.	W.D.F.
		1700m	Maj-Gen C. FOULKES, CBE, GOC 2 Cdn Inf Div visited the bn and addressed the offrs. He complimented the whole bn highly on its achievements during the past few weeks and informed us that the CO, Lt-col JM ROCKINGHAM had been promoted to the rank of Brigadier, and was to take over comd of 9 Cdn Inf Bde. The 2 IC, Major GM MACLACHLAN was appointed to the rank of Lt-col, to comd the bn.	
		1800	A meeting of all offrs was held and Brig ROCKINGHAM said goodbye to the bn.	
		2000	A NCO selection board sat, at which 53 NCOs weremade to fill vacancies in the bn. A draft of 1 offr and 4 ORs arrived from 2 CBRG and were allotted to coys.	

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WAR DIARY Aug 44

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information (3)	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
LOUVIGNY WOODS	5.		The bn spent the day in adm, giving the men a chance to rest, wash their clothes and clean their weapons. Secs and pls were reorganized so that the bn could once again go into action at full strength.	ADP.
		1300	Coy comds meeting held at which the CO, Lt-col GM MACLACHLAN, informed us that armd vehs would be arriving in our area, and also armd TCVs which would be used in our next role.	
		1400	Armd TCVs began to arrive in the bn area.	
		1630	The CO held an O gp and passed infm about the op which is to take place within the next few days. Only the adm end is to be passed on to the tps at the present time.	
		1830	All the offrs taking part in the next op left to visit and to discuss the op with the offrs of 8 Sgd, 27 SHERBROOKE TK REGT. C. M. J.	
LOUVIGNY WOODS	6.		Major AJ O'DONOHUE arrived at the bn and took over comd of "D" coy.	ADP.
		0900	All coys trained in area near camp. Loading of vehs was practiced and the fmn in which they would travel. The tks, 27 Armd Regt (SHERBROOKE FUS) that would be used with the bn also took part. All vehs and weapons in the bn were checked by LAD.	
		1200		
		1400	A pl of TOR SCOT MGs arrived and were attached for all purposes.	
		1700	Lt. HL HEGELHEIMER left for 4 Bde HQ to supervise the taping for the attack.	
		1800	A tp of M10 SP guns arrived in the camp together with a tp of Ram-towed 17 pdrs.	
		2000	A pl of TOR SCOT Mortars arrived.	
			Capt HA WELCH appointed to the rank of Major, to act as coy comd of "B" coy.	

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WAR DIARY AUG 44

ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information (4)	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
LOUVIGNY WOODS	7.	0830	Bn O gp held. Detailed op order given. See Appendix I attached for particulars.	W.D.J.
		1700	Hot meal taken out to assembly area at 645635 Sheet 40/16 SW 1/25000.	
		2300	RAF Lancasters bombed MAY-SUR-ORNE and FONTENAY-LE-MARMION.	
		2330	"H" hr - break through commenced. Tks led by flails crossed the start line.	
MR 071563 SHEET 7F/3 1/50000	8.	0500	Armd TCVs reached the obj and tps unloaded. Total cas for the op were one killed and thirteen injured. About thirty-five prisoners were taken. 3rd and 4th Divs p passed through.	W.D.J.
		1700	The Adj t, Capt WD PARKER and Capt EL FROGGETT went fwd to find out requirements of amn, water, food, etc.	
	9.	1400	Remainder of "F" ech that had not participated in the attack moved fwd to the bn posn.	W.D.J.
		1900	Five offrs and fifteen OR reinforcements arrived at "F" ech. Offrs were allotted to following coys andpls:  Major JM FIGOTT      Coy Comd "C" coy. Capt GA MARRON      2 IC "A" Coy Lt. G JEANS      9 Pl "A" Coy  Lt. JR SAMS      10 Pl "B" Coy Lt. GE HENDERSON      17 Pl "D" Coy.	
MR 071563	10.	1000	Vehs from "A" ech arrived at fwd posn.	W.D.J.
		1400	"B" Ech moved to ETAVAUUX 0062 Sheet 7F/1 1/50000.	



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WAR DIARY AUG 44

ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information (5)	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 071563 Sheet 7F/3 1/50000	10.	1800	Meeting of all offrs held. New offrs were introduced and the CO, Lt-col GM MACLACHLAN, laid down his policy re promotions. He also spoke on coy comds concentrating on interior economy during the rest period.	
		2100	COs O gp held. Op "STAG" planned. This was a diversionary role to secure the town of BARBERY 0349 Sheet 7F/3 1/50000, following which the R REGT C were to exploit SOUTH to MOULINES 0445 Sheet 7F/3 1/50000. The bn was to move by march route with a carrier screen and attack at first light. Very little infm re enemy or ground was available, so a patrol under Lt. HF HINTON went fwd to recce the area. They found that the road arteries in BRETTEVILLE-SUR-LAIZE sq 0553 were impassable as a result of our bombing and shelling. Mines were also located. Two prisoners were taken by this patrol and sent back to Div HQ.	
		2400	Op "STAG" cancelled.	
	11.	0930	The CO attended a meeting at Bde HQ.	
		1300	52 LOB personnel were switched over. Fourteen of the outgoing LOBs went to Corps rest centre at ST AUBIN SUR MER.	
		2030	The CO attended an O gp at Bde.	
		1800	A search party consisting of five Jeeps and twenty men swept the area between VERRIERES and ROCQUANCOURT in search of eqpt for Bde.	
		2100	Bn O gp held. The Bde plan was to prevent the enemy from withdrawing. The RHII obj was to be the village of CLAIR TIZON, sq 0643 Sheet 7F/3, 1/50000. The R REGT C was to pass through us and secure the town of USSY, sq 0842.	
		2215	The bn moved off. The start line was BRETTEVILLE-SUR-LAIZE, sq 0553.	
	12.	0500	The bn reached the FUP and dug in.	

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WAR DIARY Aug 44

ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY				Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Place	Date	Hour			
MR 071563	12.	0730		The bn moved forward assisted by a sqd of tks. "C" coy came under hy MG fire SOUTH of BARBERY, pt 173, sq 0347 sheet 7F/3, then a terrific mortar barrage came down inflicting hy cas. The bn dug in and resisted counter attacks by inf and tks. Lt. HF HINTON who comd the Scout Pl was killed while fighting Panther tks.	[Handwritten initials]
		1800		An 88 mm shell landed in the BnHQ Comd Post injuring Lt-col GM MACLACHLAN, the arty rep and four ORs. Major JM PIGOTT assumed comd and the CO was evacuated.	
		2050		The 2 IC, Major HC ARRELL, arrived and took over comd.	
		2300		"F" ech commenced move to pt 151, mr 0445.	
	13.	0730		"A" ech moved from 0655, Sheet 40/14 NW, 1/25000 to SOUTH of BRETTEVILLE-SUR-LAIZE.	[Handwritten initials]
		0900		"F" ech reached a posn SOUTH of MOULINES, sq 0346. About 50 PW were taken. This posn was quiet except for mortaring.	
		1100		"B" ech moved from CAEN to 011665, sheet 40/14 SW of FONTENAY-LE-MARMION.	
		1400		A burial party from "A" ech swept the area covered by our tps in the last 24 hrs and buried 20 men. Total cas in the last 48 hrs were 1 offr killed, 19 ORs killed, 10 offr and 90 ORs injured. The offr cas were LT. HF HINTON killed, Lt-col GM MACLACHLAN, Lt. RC DOERING, Lt. DR NOILES, Lt. GE HENDERSON, Capt EB DODGSON, Lt. G JEANS, Lt. RL STERN, Lt. CD GIBSON, Lt. JR SAMS, Lt. GR HOLDER wounded.	
				CO went to Bde 0 gp. He returned with infm that the bn was to attack orchard at MR 0544, sheet 7F/3, passing through 5 Bde who held LE MESNIL, 0545. We were to consolidate in wood and orchard 053438.	
		1600		Bn moved off. Move was via LE BEQUET and LE MESNIL 0545. During the move into coy areas, "C" and "D" coys, who were forward, came under fire from an 88 mm gun which caused several cas. The CO was ordered by Bde to return via LE MESNIL through pt 151 and capture TOURNEBU 0444. It was not known if the town was held by enemy	

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WAR DIARY  
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3/19A MFM 11  
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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

(Erase heading not required)

WAR DIARY AUG 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information (7)	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials.
TOURNEBU	13.	1600	or not, but an enemy withdrawal was believed to be taking place.  Lt-col GM MACLACHLAN returned to "F" ech and took over comd.	[Handwritten initials]
		1830	Bn moved off. The town was found to be occupied by about 40 enemy who offered no resistance and in an hr the town was cleared and coys consolidated. Included among the PW was a CSM and two Sgts. The night was quiet. The enemy left in TOURNEBU twelve 8.1 cm mortars with a large supply of bombs, 1 Renault (French) tk and dozens of MGs, rifles and automatic weapons.	
GOUVIX	14.	0800	ID from Bde arrived with orders for the bn to move NORTH to GOUVIX, sq0651, Sheet 7F/3, for twenty-four hrs rest as our men were exhausted.	[Handwritten initials]
		1400	The bn arrived at GOUVIX by march route.	
		1600	While "A" ech vehs were moving to GOUVIX, hy bombers of the RAF, supporting the attack on the EAST of 3 and 4 Cdn Divs and the POLISH Div, came over and due to an error commenced to bomb the area to our EAST causing cas to the R REGT C, RCA and supply vehs of the POLISH Div. Our "C" coy had to evacuate their posn due to the danger. Several vehs in the Bde "A" ech convoy were destroyed.	
GOUVIX	15.		The CO, Lt-col GM MACLACHLAN, and the IO, Lt. LH DOERING went to Bde O gp and returned with infm that the bn was on one hrs notice to move after 1700 hrs, to LANGANNEERIE, sheet 7F/4, 1/50000, to take over from a POLISH Motor Bn. The enemy was pulling out and rest was sacrificed for exploitation.	[Handwritten initials]
		2100	Bn recce gp composed of coy 2 ICs under Major JB HALLADAY left to recce posn. No movement order arrived and bn remained in area until next day..	
		2400	German planes raided the area dropping flares, then bombs, but no cas were suffered.	
GOUVIX	15.	0930	The CO and IO attended Bde O gp and received orders to move to FONTAINE-LE-PIN, 0844, sheet 7F/4, to take over from a POLISH Motor Bn.	

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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
GOUVIX	15	1130	Bn moved off.	[Handwritten initials]
		1400	Bn arrived at FONTAINE-LE-PIN.	
		1845	Bn moved SOUTH towards FALAISE via VILLERS-CANIVET sq 1041, sheet 7F/4 where it was delayed by traffic congestion. The bn continued fwd movement but tracks shown on map as our route were found to be non-existent, and in total blackness the move was painfully slow and 88 mm and mortar fire harassed us on many occasions. As our route was to take us over an unreced river, the CO decided that due to extreme difficulty in navigating, we should consolidate. On moving down our convoy was being guided by Capt CD MACKAY and on reaching 127363, sheet 7F/6, 1/50000, an enemy tracked veh drove up to our head. Fire was exchanged between the enemy and Capt MACKAY's veh, and the enemy driver ran away leaving a veh heavily loaded with 88 mm shells. Bn consolidated area 127363.	
MR 127363 Sheet 7F/6 1/50000	16	0300	While digging in, our posn was taped by enemy 6 barrel Nebelwerfer Mortar and we suffered six cas. Shortly after reaching this posn a RAF pilot came through our lines. He had been shot down four days previously while flying a Typhoon in a dive bombing attack. He had slept by day and travelled by night until he made contact with our tps.	[Handwritten initials]
		10400	A patrol under Sgt JT PROCTER of the Scout Pl was sent out to recce R ANTE to see if a br existed as shown on map at 121357, Sheet 7F/6. He reported none existed and that the banks were extremely steep and unsuitable for tracked or wheeled vehs.	
		1500	Bde Major arrived and ordered us to proceed to pt 151 but results of patrol upset the plan as the only other crossings were via FALAISE or MIETTE, 1134, and it was not known whether either were cleared of enemy or not. Lt. AAH PARKER was sent out on a patrol to check further.	
		1630	Word was received that an English Recce unit had reached MIETTE, so the bn was ordered to proceed to pt 189.	

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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

WAR DIARY AUG 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 127363 Sheet 7F/6 1/50000	16	2100	Bn O gp held.	W.D.
		2130	Bn moved off. During the move our convoy came under more 6 barrel mortar fire which caused several cas.	
		2330	The bn arrived at obj and consolidated.	
MR 125347 Sheet 7F/6 1/50000	17	0100	A patrol was sent out under Sgt JT PROCTER to the area of rd and rail jct, 134346, Sheet 7F/6, and enemy were reported there. Enemy were also seen in direction of ST MARTIN de MEUX, 1133. Our posn was isolated and enemy were on all sides. However, they were in small groups and completely disorganized. During the early hrs of the morning a terrific arty barrage by Second Army fell close to our posns but no cas were caused. Three PW were taken during the morning. They were POLISH arty personnel.	W.D.
		18	The bn rested during the morning.	
DAMBLAIN-VILLE	19	1400	"F" Ech moved to DAMBLAINVILLE, 2038, sheet 7F/6, 1/50000, to take over from a regt of the POLISH ARMD DIV which was shoving ahead. "B" ech moved moved to USSY at MR 082422, Sheet 7F/6.	W.D.
		19	"A" Ech moved to DAMBLAINVILLE. The bn cleaned up and rested, and maintenance of vehs was stressed.	
		20	1100 R.C. communion was held in the village church at DAMBLAINVILLE.	
		1400	Protestant communion was held.	
			A meeting of Adjts and IOs was held at Bde HQ. Adm procedure was slightly changed to meet new circumstances arising from the war of movement. Any adm problems were straightened out.	
	21	1030	A bn O gp was held. The CO, Lt-col GM MACLACHLAN informed us that the FALAISE gap	W.D.

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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

WAR DIARY AUG 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
DAMBIA IN-VILLE	21		was almost closed and the enemy were on the run. 3 Cdn Inf Div and 4 Cdn Armd Div were committed to deal with the enemy in the trap, so that 2 Cdn Inf Div could shove on to the R SEINE.	W.D.T.
		1100	"F" ech moved off by march route to the area of NORREY-EN-AUGE, sq 2738 sheet 7F/6 1/50000. This spot was a staging area for 4 Cdn Inf Bde. Bde intention was to reach the SEINE and if it had not been crossed, to cross it and form a br head for following tps. The bn stopped for the night at MESNIL, 458728, sheet 7F/4, 1/50000. No opposition was met on the move.	
			"A" Ech stayed in DAMBLAINVILLE while "F" ech moved out. 45 reinforcements came up to "A" ech and 26 were allotted to "A" coy and the balance to the other coys in order to bring all up to approximately 80 per cent strength.	
MESNIL	22	1800	Strength of the unit as at 1800 hrs 21 Aug 44 is: Offrs 38 ORs 630.	W.D.T.
		0700	The bn continued to move forward by march route heading eastwards towards the R TOUQUES, through LIVAROT, sq 4672, sheet 8F/3. All brs had been blown but by nightfall a crossing had been made at 539719, sheet 8F/3. BnHQ was set up in a chateau which had been a German hospital.	
	23		"A" ech moved to 3267 sheet 7F/4, 1/50000 and spent a wet night there.	W.D.T.
		0500	Orders were received from Bde to move forward and an O gp was held. The bn moved by way of CERNAY, sq5873, sheet 8F/3 to TORDOUET, sq 6076. The ESSEX SCOT, who were preceding us, were held up at the R FORBEC, where all brs had been blown by the enemy. There was slight mortar and arty fire coming from across the river. Several tks were also known to be in that vicinity. After a crossing had been made, the Bde shoved on, using a single thrust line with 8 Recce out in front. The route of the bn was through ST PAUL DE COURTONNE, 6379, to CORDEBUGEL, 6483, sheet 8F/3.	
		0800	"A" ech moved to MR 443712 sheet 7F/4 just EAST of HEURTEVENT arriving at 1100 hrs.	
		1500	"A" ech was ordered to move fwd to 595754 sheet 8F/3 NORTH of CERNAY.	

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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

WAR DIARY AUG 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MESNIL	23	1900	"A" ech arrived at 595754 and dug in. Rain fell heavily all during the night.	WPT.
MR655837 Sheet 8F/3 1/50000	24		The bn moved by march route to MR 655837 sheet 8F/3, 1/50000.	WPT.
		0900	A captured staff car with four prisoners was brought back to "A" ech. One prisoner was badly wounded and was evacuated to CCP. "A" ech remained in this posn during the whole day. Capt WD PARKER, the Adjt, went fwd as 2 IC "A" coy. Capt EL FROGGETT, who had been acting as 2 IC "A" coy during the rapid progress fwd, came back to "A" ech to resume his duties as OC "HQ" coy. Capt GA MARRON assumed the duties of Adjt and relinquished his appt as 2 IC "A" coy.	
		1700	The bn was consolidating on posn when a German amphibious-type veh passed right through our lines going at very high speed, and was not stopped by our SA fire.	
	25	2200	The TOR SCOT MG pl u/c RHLI and located in our area destroyed an enemy armd MC, a petrol truck, and a mobile AA gun which attempted to get through our line. Four enemy tks went through the edge of our lines, but were not engaged.	WPT.
			The bn rested in this area during the day and BnHQ enjoyed a roast chicken provided by the lady of the farmhouse.	
		2215	Bn left by march route to THIBERVILLE MR 7085 sheet 8F/1. Here the unit embussed in TCVs and went by convoy to area LE MESNIL 820913 sheet 8F/2 arriving at 0100 hrs.	
			"A" ech moved from 598760 sheet 8F/3 to 793861 sheet 8F/2 a distance of 20 miles. LOB personnel which the bn had left at CORDEBUGEL 6483, 8F/3 joined "A" ech as rds were jammed and it was impossible for them to return to "B" ech. The 60 Lt-col GM MACLAACHLAN came back to "A" ech for a rest as LOB and the 2 IC Major HC ARRELL assumed cmd.	
		2300	The enemy dropped flares all around "A" ech posn lighting up the main rd from LISIEUX. HE and AP bombs were dropped in the fd where "A" ech was located. One bomb dropped about twenty feet from the COs caravan and set it on fire. Another	

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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY						
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information		Remarks, references to Appendices and initials	
LE MESNIL	25		made a direct hit on the HUP which contained all the Adj't's belongings. Three other vehs were also afire. Cap't GA MARROW was hit on the knee by shrapnel, which did not necessitate evacuation but seven ORs who were either hit by shrapnel or burned were evacuated. These included the CO's caravan dvr, the Adj't's batman-dvr, two Bn Orderly Room clerks, CQMS of "A" coy, and two dvrs.		W.B.T.	
	26	1300	The bn left by march route, less all soft skinned vehs, crossing the river at BRIONNE, 8990 sheet 8F/2, and stopped at a farm at MR 916913 sheet 8F/2, where for a gift of three litres of petrol, the farmer operated a Delco unit, and we enjoyed electric light.		W.B.T.	
		1530	"A" ech moved from 793861 sheet 8F/2 via GIVERVILLE - BRIONNE 915912 and took up posn in an apple orchard on high ground. "A" ech arrived about 1800 hrs just prior to "F" ech moving off.			
MR 916913 sheet 8F/2		1800	The bn remained in this posn until approx 1800 hrs when move by TCVs was commenced. Tpt moved along hwy BOSROBERT AUX POULETS (MR 9293) - BOURGTHEROULDE (MR 0100) thence EAST towards LA BISSONNIERE Mr 0599. On arriving near BOURGTHEROULDE area tpt in front of us came under hy shelling and we debussed at once. Bde Comd gp held an urgent O gp, followed by a bn O gp. The bn moved off by a main route via BOURGTHEROULDE. Object was to secure high ground 1704, thus assisting 3 Cdn Div by protecting their br over the SEINE R. C coy lost a carrier which ran over a Teller mine injuring several of the crew. The pnr pl under Cpl AJ KELLY were brought fwd and cleared about twelve mines from the road and verges in ten mins, which was exceptionally good time. At the rd jct 109010 the bn took the left fork in error and the front reached the rd where ry br runs over it at 018015 and found it blocked off by rd blocks. All "F" ech was on this rd under view of the high ground to the SOUTH (1102) and the enemy who held this posn used Verrey lights to locate us and MG and mortar fire came down causing a few cas. Major HC ARRELL, acting CO, ordered "F" ech to return to ELBEUF and this was completed before first light.			



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WAR DIARY AUG 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
ELBEUF	27		<p>During early morning hrs all coys were withdrawn to high ground 1001 sheet 8E/6. Enemy snipers and MGs and mortars located on high ground at 1102 harassed us all during the day causing about 20 cas incl Major AJ O'DONOHUE, OC "D" coy, wounded. Evacuation of cas was most difficult. Capt SW CIVKIN, the MO was also evacuated due to shrapnel injuries. Many veh cas were suffered also.</p>	u.D.
		1800	<p>The Brigadier came fwd to our BnHQ and ordered rifle coys to move b y track through FORET de la LONDE to RV at rd jct 082032, sheet 8E/6. Lt-col GM MACLACHLAN arrived and took over comd. All "F" ech were to proceed by another route to RV. When the CO reached our BnHQ at ELBEUF he was again called to Bde and was advised that the route the rifle coys were taking was heading for heavily defended enemy posns. The CO returned to previous area from which rifle coys had left to try to contact them by wireless to advise them of this fact, but communication failed. "F" ech remained at ELBEUF.</p>	
		1530	<p>"A" ech moved from 915912 sheet 8F/2 to 052002. Enemy mortar and MG fire were heard to NE but "A" ech passed a quiet night.</p>	
ELBEUF	28	0600	<p>At first light "F" ech moved to area 085010, sheet 8E/6 and patrols were sent out and contacted the marching tps. Coys had had great difficulty in navigating as the maps were inaccurate and nearly every coy had missing personnel. During the morning most of these people were able to find their way back. We remained during the day in area 0900 in reserve. The ESSEX SCOT and R REGT C were meanwhile trying to secure enemy held high gd.</p>	u.D.
		1600	<p>Bde O gp was held. Lt-col GM MACLACHLAN was taken ill at the meeting and was evacuated through medical channels. Major JB HALLADAY took over temporary comd of the bn and went to Bde.</p>	
		2000	<p>Bn O gp was held. Bn was ordered to do a night infiltration to outflank the enemy held high gd and to pass through the R REGT C lines, area ry halt 093026, sheet 8E/6. Major HC ARRELL arrived from "B" ech and took over comd of the bn. Route for attack was rd and track jct 101023, track jct 117030, then SOUTH to high gd 1102 through dense woods of the FORET de la LONDE. Order of march, D,A,B,C coys.</p>	

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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

WAR DIARY AUG 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
ELBEUF	28	20 00	On the obj the bn was to consolidate on high gd and at first light sweep enemy MGs from high gd. Communication was by pack set 22.	WDJ.
		2330	Marching tps left.	
	29	0600	Navigation and inaccuracy of maps caused delays and the R REGT C guide, who was to assist in the early stages of the move was unable to help, thus at first light the bn had only reached area 096025 where it came under hy MG and mortar fire from high gd to the EAST. During the early morning four MG posts were located in area 100023 and 100021, Major ARRELL decided to attack these posns from the flanks with arty sp, particularly smoke. "D" coy was to go right and "A" coy left. "D" coy under Capt DF KENNEDY did an excellent job and were close in on the enemy posn when previously undisclosed MGs opened up from the right flank. In spite of hy fire "D" coy pushed fwd but their posn became untenable and the coy made an orderly withdrawal under cover of arty smoke provided by 4 Fd Bty, RCA. Cas were light considering the posn they found themselves in. Three SS prisoners were taken. "A" coy on the left under Capt WD PARKER succeeded in getting one pl fwd over the ry at br 100025 when once again undisclosed MGs opened up on them causing rather hy cas incl Capt WD PARKER, wounded in the head. Capt HGG TOLCHARD was wounded seriously and reported missing as evacuation was impossible. Two RAP stretcher bearers sent out to evacuate him had one killed and the other wounded. Lt. HA OLIVER was also missing when balance of coy withdrew. Up to this time cas were Capt HGG TOLCHARD and Lt. HA OLIVER missing, Capt WD PARKER, and Lt. EA HOWEY wounded, Capt PA SHULTIS wounded, eight ORs killed, four missing and twenty-five wounded.	WDJ.
		1400	Major HC ARRELL was called back to Bde and advised that the bn would be withdrawn next morning. During the day the men had no food and hy rain caused considerable inconvenience.	

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WAR DIARY AUG 44

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ELBEUF	29	2200	The bn withdrew across the tracks to the R REGT C area, 093010, sheet 8E/6, where they remained in posns until the following morning.	W.D.J.
LE THUIT SIGNAL	30	0900	The bn moved by own tpt to 063964, sheet 8F/2, LE THUIT SIGNAL. Here a recce party had provided us with comfortable billets, and "A" ech joined us. The forecast was that we would rest for two or three days. During the morning the bn spent most of the time getting comfortable and sorting themselves out.	W.D.J.
		1300	The new CO, Lt-col BR RITCHIE, joined us and took over cmd of the bn. Lt-col RITCHIE was formerly Major 2 IC of the BLACK WATCH (RHC).  During the day the following promotions and appointments were made - Capt EL FROGGETT to be A/Major to cmd "D" coy: Lt. GT GALBRAITH to be A/Capt and to cmd "HQ" coy: Lt. HL HEGELHEIMER to be A/Capt: Lt. WO AVERY to be A/Capt and Adjt.	
		1600	The new CO, Lt-col BR RITCHIE, called an O gp and met the senior ofrs, and discussed future plans of the bn and the possible impending move. About this time a recce party was called to Bde to recce a new area.	
		1630	An RAP jeep arrived with Lt. HA OLIVER, who had a slight wound in his thigh, and C10514 Pte O'NEIL, TS, and B139737 Pte GAUTHIER, PE unwounded, all of "A" coy who had managed to escape from the previous bn posn and return. They brought infm that Capt HGG TOLCHARD was quite severely wounded on the ry tk and would need help in getting omt. Major HC ARRELL detailed B74606 Sgt KNOTT, FP and B37061 Sgt DOLMAN, DG and one of the men who had returned to go back to the area and see if they could get Capt TOLCHARD out.	
		2000	The party returned and stated that they were successful in getting Capt TOLCHARD out and evacuating him to a medical centre.  During the night infm came through that a new area had to be picked and that we had to provide another recce party at 0800 hrs the following morning.	

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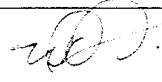
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ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY

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LE THUIT SIGNAL	31	0900	The CO, Lt-col BR RITCHIE, held an O ap where he gave the order of march and the time past the SL.	
		1025	The bn was marshalled and promptly at 1025 the leading veh crossed the SL. The route was across the river at ELBEUF, where the engrs had constructed a Class 40 br at 117988, sheet 8F/2. We continued via the ROUEN rd which follows the course of the R SEINE to 092211, sheet 8F/2.	
		1300	We were met at 092211 by our recce party who directed the coln into a cable factory area. We were warned that we would not be here long and that a party was going to recce a further route. During our stay in this area the coy cooks prepared a quick lunch.	
		1440	A warning order came through the 22 set to prepare to move in one hr's time.	
		1545	The order came in to move now. Recce parties were to RV at Bde for a further recce. The CO returned from Bde and ordered that "A" ech would remain in the present area while "F" ech plus att tps would proceed at once. The route was through ROUEN and NORTH on the DIEPPE rd.	
		1600	The bn moved off and proceeded via the same route NORTH to ROUEN, where we were given a tremendous welcome by the civ population, who lined the route and threw flowers into the vehs. Passing through the town we noticed that severe bomb damage had been caused. Buildings were devastated and brs had been blown. We proceeded NORTH through the town and passed through DEVILLE-LES-ROUEN - MARONNE to MALAUNAY where we took the left fork and proceeded to pt 175315, sheet 9E/3. Here we turned left and the coln was halted in order not to congest the rds and to allow the CALG HGHRS to proceed NORTH.	
SIERVILLE MR 166314 sheet 9E/3		1630	Our recce party met us and allotted coy areas. We waited approx half an hour for the Calg Hghrs to clear the village then coys moved into their respective posns. The att arms were tactically sited with the coys. Forecast from Bde at this time was that we would move very shortly. However, later in the evening a further	

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OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)  
(17)

WAR DIARY AUG 44

3/19A MFM 11  
40/P&S/37 (5028)

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to OIC 2nd Echelon for disposal.

ROYAL HAMILTON LIGHT INFANTRY				Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	
STERVILLE	31		forecast came through that there would be no move before 0800 hrs.	R.R. Ritchie
		1730	As we had no rations at this pt, we sent for our cooks who later arrived and cooked the evening meal.	
		2200	Patrol programme was laid on during the night to investigate the villages of HUNTERS sq 1633 and MILLERAYE sq 1532. The patrol reported that these areas had been cleared of enemy but that a German tk had been knocked out quite recently at 145321, and one patrol reported a sm1 German veh burning in this same area. No enemy were encountered during the night.	
			Str of the bn as at 31 Aug 44 is 31 offrs and 587 ORs.	

R. R. Ritchie

(BR RITCHIE) Lt-col,  
Comd, 1 Bn RHLI, CA(0s).