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Keywords: Normandy ; Battle of Normandy ; D-Day ; Second World War ; Canadian Army ; War Diary ; 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade ; North Nova Scotia Highlanders ; 3rd Canadian Infantry Division

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(Strike out where not applicable)

WAR DIARY

OF

NORTH NOVA SCOTIA HIGHLANDERS

1 JUN 44

FROM 30 MAY 1944 TO 30 JUNE 1944

CDN SEC. GHQ. 2nd ECH. 21 ARMY GP.
RECEIVED
17 JUL 1944
WAR DIARIES

VOLUME

1, 3-15

APPENDICES 1 TO 15

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.

Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

North Nova Scotia Highlanders

Original, duplicate and [illegible] forwarded to O. i/c 2nd Echelon [illegible] disposal.

M.F.M. 11 & S/37

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Camp C 3, NETLEY	30 May 1944 Tuesday		Weather: Clear and warm. Another day of waiting around. The volleyball courts are going from dawn to dusk, also the softball field. The American Officers played our Officers today, and came out on the short end. The Lieutenants, Captains and Majors all have a volleyball team, and play for drinks every night. There was a pay parade today and the currency received was Francs. The usual shows were on in the Mess. They were interrupted by everyone leaving periodically for the latrines as everyone had the "trots". It was the first real queuing we've had for those seats yet. After the show some grog was absorbed and a sing song followed.	H.M.B.
Camp C3, NETLEY	31 May 1944 Wednesday		Weather: Clear and very warm. This mid-summer weather has had the old thermometer well up to 100 degrees in the sun the past ten days, and since no one is really working hard it is very enjoyable. Marshalling into craft loads began today and the vehicle parties left at 1630 hours for Camp A 17, near HEDGE END. (Haven't any sheet 132 left, so can't give a reference). The marching parties will marshall in their present location. The Camp is nicely laid out and, although not cleaned up, is well run. With the pine trees around, it is reminiscent of Canada. There are strawberries and tomatoes for sale at the first gate - they are good. I wonder how long we'll be here. My guess is until Friday.	H.M.B.
Camp A 17, HEDGE END	1 June 1944 Thursday		Weather: Clear and very warm. The loud speaker system in the camp seems to go night and day. It gives us great pleasure (having nothing to do) to roll over, when they announce breakfast, and say to hell with it. The showers here are excellent and everyone takes advantage of them not knowing when we'll see the next showers. Mail is still being collected but not coming in to us. Everyone is writing their loved ones. The Commanding Officer and Intelligence Officer visited Camp C 3 this morning and found everyone in good spirits. They had a ball game going with the Yanks last night and a party in the Officers' Mess afterward. Last minute shifts are still being made and the morale is good. Everyone is looking forward to D Day.	H.M.B.

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40/P & S/3

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Camp A 17 HEDGE END	2 June 1944 Friday		Weather: Clear and warm. A lazy morning. The North Nova Scotia Highlanders Officers played an Other Rank team from the 27th Canadian Armoured Regiment (Sherbrooke Fusiliers). They won, 13 to 12. This afternoon the Commanding Officer went down to Camp C 3 again. Everyone seemed to be smoking cigars, as some invasion Yanks had moved in and were being issued with a box of cigars each. The Intelligence Officer bought 25! There was a volleyball game on. Everyone has a nice tan now and looks very fit, with close cropped hair, etc. Word has been received that Captain D.M. Ripley is back at No 4 Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit and may be down to join us beforewe leave. Sea stores were issued this afternoon, that is, bags vomit, seasick pills, rations, and so forth. Just received word that we are moving tomorrow morning at 0200 hours. There was a lousy ENSA shown on tonight, and a film, Bob Hope in "Let's Face It".	
Camp A 17 HEDGE END	3 June 1944 Saturday		Weather: Clear and warm. Breakfast for vehicle parties (Serials 1713, 1714, 1716) at 0100 hours. It was good. We finally crossed the start point at 0245 hours and arrived in our "box" near the hard at 0415 hours, were we stayed until 0645 hours when wewere called forward to load. We embarked from G 1 Hard, Stokes Bay, with which we were all familiar. We drew Composite Rations for six days. They even had bread in it this time. It was a good feeling to know we were at last on the way for the job for which we have waited so long. I wondered what was running through everyone's mind. All ranks were in good cheer, but I can imagine that old nostalgic feeling crept in, because many of us have grown quite fond of England these past few years, and now have strong ties on the little island - we will be back soon. All we hope is that the weather will be good and there are no postponements. We are now lying out in the Southampton waters just opposite NETLEY. The marching parties embark on Landing Craft Infantry (Large) this afternoon at Southampton. Tonight there is a glorious moon and as we go to sleep we hope for good weather.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
English Channel	4 June 1944 Sunday		Weather: Clear and windy. It is windy as hell this morning. We are tied up with two other Landing Craft Tank. The Padre is on one, so he had church service at 1030 hours on the quarter deck of the middle craft. It was a nice voluntary service followed by Holy Communion. The Roman Catholics had a service in the bow of the boat. This afternoon a ship paper was published by Corporal D. Baker and Corporal D. Lynk. It is well turned out and the copies in the Appendix speak for themselves. The hospitality of the Skipper and crew on this craft is of the highest order. The Skipper is Sub-Lieutenant H.B. Stubbs and his Number 1 is Midshipman C.S. Baker. A rain squall blew up about 2000 hours and the weather looks bad.	A.M.S.
English Channel	5 June 1944 Monday		Weather: Clear and cool. A quiet morning was enjoyed by all on board their craft. At 1400 hours the flotilla moved out to the open sea and formed up with the other craft taking part in the invasion. The different types and total number of these craft is actually amazing. It would be quite safe to say that such a sight has never been witnessed before in the world. At 1600 hours the sand bags containing the real maps for the invasion were opened and the maps distributed. These maps had been issued to the serial commanders previous to embarkation and were kept sealed until 1600 hours.	A.M.S.

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Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders

North Nova Scotia Highlanders

F.M. 11
& 13/37 (3072)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	6 June 1944 Tuesday		Weather: clear and warm. At 0630 hours all wireless sets were on listening watch to keep the Battalion informed of the progress of the assault battalions. At 0804 hours the leading companies of the Seventh and Eighth Canadian Infantry Brigades touched down. At 0929 hours information had been received from the Seventh Canadian Infantry Brigade that the operation on their front was proceeding according to plan. At 1100 hours the order came through that we were to land through the Eighth Canadian Infantry Brigade according to plan. The marching troops in Landing Craft Infantry (Large) touched down at 1140 hours on NAN WHITE beach, ST BERNIERES, map reference 9985, sheet 7E/5 and reported "NAGA". At 1235 hours, after several landings, and finding the beach blocked by craft of the Eighth Canadian Infantry Brigade, we were able to land. Only one Mortar carrier and crew were casualties, when they ran over a mine after landing. By 1400 hours all our troops were ashore, but as the Eighth Canadian Infantry Brigade had not found the going as easy as expected, we were unable to get through the town and were unable to assemble at "ELDER", near BENY-SUR-MER as planned, and the Commanding Officer decided to assemble the battalion in a field, map reference 993845. By 1605 hours the battalion was able to move off to "ELDER", arriving there at 1644 hours after by-passing the Eighth Canadian Infantry Brigade. We had just arrived in this Assembly area when we came under shell and mortar fire, resulting in five casualties, two killed and three wounded. Word was received from the Brigadier that we were to move as soon as we were ready. The Commanding Officer gave the order to move at 1820 hours and the Battalion moved off according to plan in the following order: The Recce troop of the 27 Canadian Armoured Regiment forming a screen, followed by the carrier platoon under the command of Captain E.S. Gray, each section carrying one platoon of "C" company, followed by a platoon of Machine Guns, one troop of M 10s, 2 assault sections of pioneers and four detachments of our own Anti-Tank guns. This composed the vanguard under command of Major J.D. Learment. "A" company was on the right of the axis on "A" squadron of tanks, "B" company on the left on "B" squadron of tanks and "D" company on squadron "C" tanks, bringing up the rear on the main axis. Command Post followed the vanguard, Battalion Headquarters and Support Company with "D" company. Objective - CARPIQUET Airfield. Due to the difficulty the Eighth Canadian Infantry Brigade was having in dislodging the enemy and as time was getting on, it was decided to break through their front before they had consolidated on their objective, and continue along the axis.	

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North Nova Scotia Highlanders

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	6 June 1944 Tuesday (Cont'd)		The van guard did not encounter any serious opposition until it reached VILLONS LES BUISSONS, where it passed code word "DORIS". However "A" company on "A" squadron of tanks became involved in a fight at COLOMBY-SUR-THAON. It did not last long, but held them up, as well as "D" company which was coming along behind them on "C" squadron of tanks. By this time it was realized the battalion could not reach its objective by dark, and we were ordered by higher authority not to go beyond report line "DORIS", cross-roads map reference 007757, sheet 7F/1, but to dig in where we found ourselves and to form a firm base while there was still light. As the van guard was already fighting in VILLONS-LES-BUISSONS, cleaning out three machine gun nests and killing most of the crews, taking prisoners and weapons, ~~it was~~ the Comd Officer decided to close up the battalion and consolidate astride the ANISY-LES-BUISSONS - CAEN cross roads. The van guard, being astride the main CAEN road, dug in and sent out patrols to ANISY and VILLONS-LES-BUISSONS. "B" company on "B" squadron arrived one half hour later and dug in on left flank astride the road running towards ANISY. Casualties for the day: Killed: 4 Other Ranks. Wounded: 6 Other Ranks	Hmb

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	7 June 1944 Wednesday		Weather: clear and warm. At 0045 hours "A" and "D" companies on "A" and "C" squadrons arrived in from COLOMBY-SUR-THOAN; "A" company digging in behind and on the right flank of "C" company and "D" company astride the road behind "A" and "B" companies, with Battalion Headquarters in the centre. patrol of carriers from the van guard to ANISY, map reference 015759, which was protecting our Pioneers making a road block, were out of their carriers and, coming under fire of the enemy, were forced to return to the fortress minus their carriers At 0245 hours three more Prisoners of War were captured, and like those captured later the following day, were Panzer Grenadiers. One half hour later another prisoner was captured. Having by this time received two casualties from "B" company seriously wounded, it was decided to despatch these stretcher patients and the Prisoners of War to Brigade. For this purpose a jeep was obtained on which the casualties were loaded and they proceeded under escort with the prisoners marching ahead. Following just behind our jeep to Brigade were the Adjutant and Intelligence Officer of the 27 Canadian Armoured Regiment also on their way to Brigade. About this time the enemy attempted to counter-attack "B" company on out left flank, and after "B" company had put up tracers to show the edge of their troops the tanks opened fire with their machine guns and set three enemy half-tracks on fire. This apparently discouraged their efforts, as they withdrew. Although things had apparently quietened down, the battalion stood-to 100 percent. Shortly after this, machine gun fire and mortaring was heard to our rear and we learned that the enemy, trying to cut round the rear, had encountered the Regiment de le Chaudiere, resulting in an enemy loss of many men and seventeen half-tracks, and their final withdrawl for the night. At 0500 hours we received word that our jeep had not reached Brigade and on sending a despatch rider after it we found it on the road side undamaged, with the wounded men lying by the side of the road and the prisoners gone. On enquiring from the 27 Canadian Armoured Regiment we were told that their Adjutant and Signal Officer were both missing, together with all the code signs and orders for the operation. Apparently they ran into the enemy as they were encircling us. At 0630 hours a patrol was sent out to look for the carriers which we had lost the night previous. They were picked up in the same spot near a hedge, undamaged, apparently not having been noticed by the enemy. At 0645 hours the Brigadier gave a warning order that the advance would be continued as soon as we were ready.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	7 June 1944 Wednesday (Cont'd)		At 0740 hours the Battalion again moved off in the same order, changing our axis of advance through VILLONS-LES-BUISSONS along the main road to CARPIQUET. At 0745 hours several enemy gliders were sighted landing at approximately 9978. The vanguard encountered light opposition on the main axis. "A" company on the right encountered enemy in the wood, map reference 994749, and cleared it successfully. The area was full of snipers and machine guns, and just to the right of LES BUISSONS an 88 millimwetre gun opened fire on the tanks. This was taken out by a pincer, with the carriers and infantry of vanguard doing very excellent work. Just after this a 16 barrelled German mortar was knocked out by the vanguard, the first captured so far. They also accounted for three half-tracks in the same area. By 0930 hours the village of LES BUISSONS was cleared and the command post moved up to that point. As the vanguard moved on to BURON, just to the edge of the road into BURON was another 88 millimetre gun which was captured by the vanguard and demolished by fire from a 75 millimetre tank gun. The command post was ambushed at map reference 997044 and the Commanding Officer and the Intelligence Officer had to clean out three or four snipers before they could go on. It was here we saw our first Officer casualty, Captain D.L. Clarke, injured by mortar fire. After some heavy mortar fire from ST CONTEST, the vanguard captured BURON and reported "ALE" at 1150 hours, and we then moved the command post up to the edge of the town. Being pressed for time, the vanguard advanced quickly through BURON on AUTHIE, map reference 985713, leaving the mopping up to "D" company coming behind, "A" and "B" companies bypassing the town. The troops at the edge of the town of BURON were under very heavy mortar fire. One bomb which came close to our carrier threw the Commanding Officer flat on the ground. Fortunately he was not injured. At 1230 hours the leading elements of the vanguard who had reached AUTHIE reported "DANUBE" and were closely followed on the right by "A" company on "A" squadron of tanks. Shortly after this the stuarts of 27 Canadian Armoured Regiment reported "EVE"(FRANKVILLE). "D" company clearing BURON came under fire of snipers and machine guns which still remained in the town and suffered casualties. The vanguard in the meantime reached AUTHIE and encountered three machine gun posts and hectic fighting took place. The vanguard commander reported mortar and shell fire from both flanks and the front, and asked for a troop of tanks and some artillery to take it on. The Forward Observation Officer then reported that artillery was out of range and it would be some time before it could be moved up.	

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	7 June 1944 Wednesday (Cont'd)		The only fire available was a cruiser, which the Naval Forward Observation Officer said could engage ST CONTESTfor twenty minutes. This fire would have wiped ST CONTEST out, but faulty communications made it impossible to obtain it in time. In the meantime the troop of tanks had reached the vanguard and all were hit by 88 millimetres. The vanguard was then ordered to dig in and form a firm base. In the Commanding Officer's opinion it was impossible to go on. There was no one within miles of us on either flank or in the rear, so the flanking companies were ordered to close up on "C" company and form a fortress. The vanguard commander wanted to come back to high ground in the rear of AUTHIE. This permission was granted, and "A" company who had not yet arrived, dug in on the right, just NORTH of AUTHIE. "B" company were ordered up to dig in on their left and the rest if the battalion to bring up the rear. While this was in progress the vanguard was heavily attacked from the direction of ST CONTEST - CUSSY by at least nine tanks and about two companies of infantry. It was too late for the vanguard to withdraw to the battalion position so they decided to fight it out in front of AUTHIE. Captain F.C. Fraser, who was with the leading elements, took command of the situation and hastily organized the defence, taking the Brownings from three knocked out tanks and a machine gun from the platoon commander's carrier of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, who had become a casualty. Nothing further was heard from this small formation and no one escaped to tell the story of their gallant action. At about the same time German armour struck past AUTHIE and it could be seen a major counter-attack was being launched. All available tanks from "A" and "B" squadrons manouvered from hull-down positions SOUTH of BURON and as enemy armour broke through a great tank battle took place, 27 of our tanks being knocked out and 40 of the enemy's being confirmed. The enemy armour having taken a licking withdrew SOUTH of AUTHIE. A second attempt was then made to occupy AUTHIE and Major Rhodenizer, commanding "A" company, reported on the 18 set that he was O.K. and wanted to know what was happening. He was told that "B" company was moving down with the carrier platoon on the left flank, and the battalion was closing up on AUTHIE as soon as it re-organized. "B" company did not get beyond the SOUTH of BURON. At 1630 hours it was found that it was impossible for the battalion to push forward to AUTHIE and Major Learment was ordered by the Commanding Officer to bring the forward troops back and form a fortress just on the outskirts SOUTH of BURON. Battalion Headquarters moved back to the woods at LES BUISSONS, map reference 995741.	

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	7 June 1944 Wednesday (Cont'd)		We could not get "A" company on the 18 set but Major Learment was in touch with them on his, and it was learned that "A" company were surrounded by tanks and infantry and unable to withdraw to the battalion fortress which was being formed. Shortly after this the position South of BURON came under very heavy shell fire and mortar fire and when armour broke around our flanks the position became untenable. As there was no field of fire on the flanks the remainder of the battalion was faceing another encircling movement had they remaind in their positions. Major Learment who was then in command of the two forward companies with Captain Wilson then in command of the remnants of "B" company were ordered to withdraw to the previiusly dug slit trenches. in rear of "D" company and the battalion went to ground and prepared to hold on to the last. As the tanks came round the flank the remaining tanks of the 27 Canadian Armoured Regiment and the Self Proppolled guns of the Anti-Tank opened up from the woods of LES BUISSONS and also small arms fire from machine guns and brownings over the heads of our troops to the North fringe of BURON. The enemy then engaged our fire from BURON with 75,88s, mortars and everything they had. Under this fire enemy infantry advanced and penetrated the forward slit trenches of "D" company. It was impossible to stop them as they had to remain intheir trenches to avoid our overhead fire and also the enemies. They had no field of fire due to the high grain. Machine gun fire and grenades were fired into the slits and 10 platoon and 16 platoon having run out of ammunition were forced to surrender and were rounded up. Under our heavy Artillery fire which followed the captors went to ground and in the moment afforded by this break two sections of 16 platoon escaped and returned to their company. About this time one of "D" company men reported to Battalion Headquaters that the forward positions were overrun and they were out of communication with everybody and that support was needed immediately. A fast counter-attack was immediately ordered by the Commanding Officer. Fierce fighting followed, and under a heavy artillery concentration on the forward positions of "D" company quickly laid on by our Forward Observation Officer we counter-attacked with the 12 remaining tanks which moved out under cover of the barrage. Artillery fire got the enemy in our forward positions and with the help of the tanks they were driven out of BURON to AUTHIE. Many casualties were inflicted by the tanks' guns and in some instances the enemy being so numerous they were run over by them.	

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	7 June 1944 Wednesday (Cont'd)		The town of BURON was re-captured, but by this time we could only account for part of "D" company and the remnants of "B" and "C" companies, which was not sufficient strength, and as it was getting dark it was impossible to consolidate there and hold the position overnight. In view of this, permission was asked of the Brigadier to withdraw to the high ground in the woods at LES BUISSONS with the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders and the remainder of the 27 Canadian Armoured Regiment. Permission was granted and the remnants of "D". "A", "B", "C" and Support Companies were withdrawn into the fortress. No counter-attack came in that night and the battalion prepared to go back and occupy the town next morning, but higher authority called this off and the remainder of the Brigade was brought up on our right to occupy the town of LES BUISSONS. Casualties: Killed - Captain H.G. Longley and 10 Other Ranks. Wounded - Major J.W. Douglas, Captain D.L. Clarke, Lieutenant H.E. Murphy and 27 Other Ranks. Missing - Major J.D. Learment, Major L.M. Rhodenizer, Captain F.C. Fraser, Captain J.A. Trainor, Lieutenant S.F. Campbell, Lieutenant J.L. Fairweather, Lieutenant J.H. Langley, Lieutenant G.A.P. Smith, Lieutenant J.M. Veness and 195 Other Ranks.	

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Les Buissons Map Reference 995745	8 June 1944 Thursday		Weather: Clear and cool. The early hours of the morning passed without incident, and the two-day battle-weary remaining troops were able to get a few hours sleep. The enemy shelled and mortared us spasmodically throughout the day. Our strength was somewhat bolstered by the arrival of the "Left Out of Battle" personnel. During the evening it was apparent that the enemy were teeing up an attack on our position and at 2200 hours at last light a counter-attack developed but was repulsed by heavy fire by our artillery, mortars, tanks and infantry. No enemy reached our position. Mortaring continued, with most of us remaining awake throughout the night. Casualties: Killed - 4 Other Ranks. Wounded - 13 Other Ranks.	Hamb
Les Buissons	9 June 1944 Friday		Weather: Fair and warm. Things were quiet this morning until about 0830 hours when our position was heavily mortared and shelled with 155 millimetre, 177 millimetre and 88 millimetre guns. This continued for about an hour when the observation post reported enemy infantry approaching the position in half-tracks. They came across the open field within about 1000 yards and the machine gun platoon opened fire, causing everyone else to fire, and causing the enemy to withdraw. (Poor fire discipline, due to excitement and nerves, no enemy in the bag). At 1130 hours the observation post reported enemy in extended line were creeping through the tall grass toward our forward positions and at that time were about 900 yards away. In the meantime the left flank, held by the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders were warned of the same manoeuvre on their position. Close observation by A67800 Private Roberts, W.A.A. of "D" company who manned our observation post, kept the Command Post in the picture until the enemy were 200 yards from our leading slit trenches. At this time hell broke loose and the deadly 88s scored several hits, one on the M 14 Signals half-track and one on the observation post which temporarily broke communications, but Roberts was able to come to the Command Post and let us know that they were about to assault our positions. An Artillery SOS was ordered brought down 600 yards in front of our positions and the three inch Mortars 100 yards away. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel C. Petch, then stepped from his slit trench and shouted to the men "O.K. fellows, we'll take them when they come". It was great inspiration to the men and at this time the forward troops were given the order to fire.	

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es Buissons	9 June 1944 Friday (Cont'd)		After the fire fight had died down the carriers were sent forward into the long grass in front of our positions, but the enemy had rapidly withdrawn to the Anti-Tank ditch some 600 yards away and disappeared. That was the last we saw of the enemy but not the last we heard of them as we were shelled throughout the day. Things look a bit brighter with the Ninth British Brigade moving up on our left flank (map reference 005721) and a Brigade of the 51st Highland Division on our right, and finally the Quartermaster arrived with supplies. The first British broadcast of news flashes was received from Brigade to-day. It indicates that so far the invasion has been successful. There are three patrols going out tonight at 2300 hours, one from the Highland Light Infantry of Canada to LEVY, map reference 977753, one from the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders to BURON, map reference 995725 and ours to VIEUX CAIRON, map reference 977738. They will be fighting patrols. Casualties: Killed - 8 Other Ranks. Wounded - Lieutenant A.M. Leaman and 18 Other Ranks.	See Appendix 6 Hmb
s Buissons	10 June 1944 Saturday		Weather: clear and cool. Patrol back from VIEUX CAIRON 977738, they were pinned down by fire from enemy and did not get any information. Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders patrol did found enemy at BURON 995725 and by-passed them. Highland Light Infantry had a quiet patrol. Everyone got a bit of rest last night, everyone got washed and shaved. Had an egg for breakfast. The men found a seven hundred and fifty gallon keg of wine and queued up for it but the "dirty new Adjutant" stopped them and placed a guard on it. Reinforcements arrived and the battalion started to re-organize, appointments and promotions being made to fill vacancies. Highland Light Infantry patrol moved out through our area. Casualties: No battle casualties reported on this date.	See Appendix 6 Hmb

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WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

North Nova Scotia Highlanders

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

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Les Buissons	11 June 1944 Sunday		Weather: Fair and cool. Stand-To this morning was at 0430 hours. It was a quiet night and everybody had a fair rest. Battalion spent day getting reorganized and drawing the equipment that was lost. Occasional shelling throughout the day. A minor accident occurred during the noght, when Major Edwards of the Highland Light Infantry, who was returning from patrol, jumped down on Major E.S. Gray, while the latter was enjoying a short rest in his trench. Major Gray's egg, his prized possession and the only one since D day seemed to have great possibilities for an evening meal, but yielded - not a yoke - but a "grown duck". Fresh milk was enjoyed by most of the battalion this morning. One of the new reinforcements was Baptized by the Padre this evening near the Regimental Aid Post. The Padre (Captain Cox) found a bullet in his bed roll which unfortunately punctured his air-mattress. Two French civilians were picked up by "D" company and sent back to Brigade. Troops received first newspapers to-day dated the 2 June 1944. Casualties: Killed - 1 Other Wounded - 13 Other Ranks. Rank.	
Les Buissons	12 June 1944 Monday		Weather: Clear and cool. Stand-To at 0430 hours after a quiet night. Mail, newspapers and comforts arrived in to-day for the troops, which was greatly appreciated. A bunch of the boys got into another wine cellar and were having a great time until the Regimental Police came along and dumped it all out. Most of the day was spent cleaning weapons and the area. Seargent D. Wolfe became a casualty this morning which gave him a trip to the 22nd Field Ambulance and a couple of stitches to boot. A young calf "somehow" kicked him over the eye. However he was back on the job a few hours later. More reinforcements arrived in this evening. Casualties: Wounded: 1 Other Rank.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Les Buissons	13 June 1944 Tuesday		Weather: Clear and cool. Stand-To at 0430 hours after a quiet night with very little machine-gun fire. Captain Sutherland and ten other ranks from "A" company went out on patrol at 0100 hours to BURON and captured one live prisoner. They were fired about and did not have any sucess. They returned at 0400 hours. Our position was under occassional shell-fire during the day. The ammunition truck was on fire for a short time when a shell landed a few feet from it. More reinforcements arrived in this evening. The majority of battalion Headquarters enjoyed a nice steak for the evening meal - "veal at that". It is at times like that, that we think Jerrys mortar fire helps us a bit - only a bit though. As usual the day was spent cleaning up and keeping fit. Casualties: Wounded - 2 Other Ranks	See Appx 6
Les Buissons	14 June 1944 Wednesday		Weather: Fair and cool. Stand-To at 0430 hours this morning after a fairly quiet night. Jerry fired at least three "BREN" on our position from BURON at 0300 hours. Captain Sutherland and ten other ranks from "A" company went out on patrol at 0100 hours to BURON. They were fired upon by Jerry with "Bren" and in the face of such "fire power" they were delayed and had to return before they reached their objective. Sergeant Crowell is having his troubles in the Pioneer platoon, after spending most of the night setting booby traps, meant for the enemy, the cows set all but one off to-day. It was an unusual quiet day to-day and appreciated by all. Mail arrived in to-day. A few reinforcements came in including Captain D.M. Ripley. Casualties: Wounded - 1 Other Rank.	See Appx 6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Les Buissons	15 June 1944 Thursday		Weather: Clear and cool. Stand-To at 0430 hours after an uneventful night. Captain J.R. Grieves and three other ranks of "B" company went out on patrol to BURON. They met another Allied patrol which had strayed off their route and not knowing it was friendly, they shot it up and returned to our area. Just at daylight one of the wounded patrolmen arrived in our forward position where he was helped to the Regimental Aid Post and evacuated. Some of the stretcher bearers volunteered to go out to search for others in that area and one was found. Another minefield was laid last night and some were put out. The Commanding Officer spent the day at Brigade to-day. One lad from "C" company seemed to be having his troubles last night, after a hard struggle at trying to get a pig on his shoulders, he was heard to say "So you want to wrestle, huh" and from there on he dragged the pig to his resting place. No mail arrived in to-day. On the whole the day was quiet in our area. Casualties: Wounded - 5 Other Ranks.	See Appendix 6 See Appendix 10
Les Buissons	16 June 1944 Friday		Weather: warm and clear. Battalion still in the same position, stand-to at 0400 hours after a fairly quiet night. Lieutenant E. Sutherland and two other ranks of "C" company went out on patrol to a point near BURON. They returned safely before first light. Colonel Petch picked up a part of a fuze cap from a 170 millimetre shell this morning. Those are the type of shell we experienced for a few days. Major Gray, Captain Sutherland and C.S.M. Paynter of "A" company all enjoyed a sponge bath to-day behind the carrier. It was unusually quiet to-day with only a few shells to bother. No mail arrived in to-day. The day was spent cleaning up and sleeping. Casualties: Wounded - 1 Other Rank.	See Appendix 6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Les Buissons	17 June 1944 Saturday		Weather: Fair and cool. Stand-To was at 0400 hours after a fairly quiet night with only heavy Anti-Aircraft fire to disturb us. The battalion is still occupying the same position with the orders "to hold and worry" during the present phase of building up. Most of the battalion went out for a bath to-day, leaving in groups of twenty-five men at a time. Remainder is to go tomorrow. On the whole it was a quiet day with very few shells falling on the area. Some mail came in to-day and also a few parcels. Reinforcements arrived in to-day. Casualties: There were no casualties today.	
Les Buissons	18 June 1944 Sinday		Weather: Cloudy and cool. Battalion still in same area. Lieutenant J.P. McNeil and two other ranks left at 2359 hours 17 june 1944 on a twenty-four hour patrol. Their task is to recce the position of the enemy south east of BURON. Certainly hope they get some good information as we do not know what troops we are fighting against. Nothing happened during the night and the battalion stood-to at 0400 hours and stood-down at 0545 hours. The battalion continued to go for baths at the river map reference 972795twenty-five men at a time. We have found that the river is cold and muddy but anything is better than lying around here all day filthy dirty. The Nova Scotian Flag was raised to-day this making the third Country "over here" - England, Scotland and now France. It has been put up at the south end of our Cemetary. Movie Pictures have been taken of it for Unit Film. The Cemetary is still looking clean and quiet. Flowers being on every grave. Roman Catholic Padre Honourary Captain Kerr and our own Padre Honourary Captain G.O. Cox held voluntary services to-day under the trees. The Intelligence Officer slipped up there because he did not get any pictures of them. C company moved into Highland Light Infantry of Canada position in orchard of Villons Les Buissons map reference 004747 tonight. That will relieve some of the conjestion around this place. Jerry must be getting tired - no shelling or mortaring to-day - what a relief. Casualties: Wounded - Lieutenant A.M. Harper and 1 Other Rank.	See Appendix 6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Les Buissons	19 June 1944 Monday		Weather: Rainy and cold. Lieutenant J.P. McNeil and the two other ranks came in at 0045 hours from the all day patrol. They seemed to have "taped" enemy positions fairly well. At 0355 hours Jerry cut loose with machine gun fire over our positions, no casualties however. It started to rain early this morning and kept it up all day. We have heard from the vetrans of World War I about the mud of France and now we have experienced it for the first time ourselves. It is the worst thing that we have had since Jerry let up on his Mortar. The troops showed their initative though in erecting covers for their slit trenches. The men spent most of the day in their slit trenches and what time they did spend out of them was used in frying steaks from the unfortunate cows that have wandered into our booby traps. !!!! Even cows can be led astray! Mail is arriving fairly regularly now but cigarettes and parcels arrived to-day for the first time. It makes a lot of difference to get mail from home, telling of the little things that are happening there. The boys spend a lot of time writing home these days as there is not much else for them to do. On the whole it was a very quiet day with nothing to bother us except the mud. There were no casualties today.	
Les Buissons	20 June 1944 Tuesday		Weather: Fair and warmer. The day started off dark and cloudy but has cleared up a bit and things are drying up after the awful mud of yesterday. The highlight of the morning was our first issue of rum in France. The boys claim it is the best that we have ever had, of course that may be because we have been so long away from spirits of any kind. At any rate we started the day out in high spirits, The day has been spent so far in cleaning up after the mud. This morning a party of seven French civilians came to our area. One old man who was a Artillery General in the last war is the owner of the house in our area. When we conducted him into his house so that he could get some of his clothes we could see that his heart was almost broken. In his own "den" on the second floor everything was in an awfull mess. This was due mostly to two bombs landing just outside his windows. Some of his most prized possessions such as his uniform and hat were lying on the floor in the midst of all the mess. It certainly makes you think. The Frenchman is paying an awfully high price for this war. Our own six pounders and three inch mortars have been doing some practicing to-day to get some of their new men worked into a team. So There were no casualties today.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Les Buissons	20 June 1944 Tuesday (Cont'd)		So far the Anti-Tank platoon has only expended twenty-four rounds of ammunition and fourteen of that was lost and four fired to try out their guns. The day ended with a visit from Major General R.F.L. Keller and Brigadier D.G. Cunningham. Very little shelling and mortaring to-day.	
Les Buissons	21 June 1944 Wednesday		Weather: Clear and cool. The day started off with Lieutenant Lorimer coming in from his patrol at 0500 hours He was to have stayed out all day but he ran into a line of Germans in slit trenches and he was not able to get through. Drier weather again to-day, things are getting back to normal. Captain Robinson a 3 Canadian Division Aerial Photograph Interpreter was here this morning. He went over our immediate front with us and we should have a clearer picture of the situation. He stayed to have a steak dinner in Battalion Headquarters Mess; quite a change for him he says. A little mortaring this afternoon and four casualties. That kind of stuff keeps your nerves on edge and we have enough trouble without that. Battalion Headquarters Mess has been moved into the old Regimental Aid Post house to give the boys a chance to cook etc., with out being bothered by mortar bombs - to bad it did not move this morning. Fighting patrols going out to-night - should prove interesting. Visitors to-day were General Crocker General Officer Commanding the First British Corps, Brigadier Beamish Brigadiers General Staff of First British Corps and Brigadier D.G. Cunningham Commander of Ninth Canadian Infantry Brigade, and Lieutenant Colonel Wright, G. I. Casualties: Wounded - 4 Other Ranks.	See Appendix 6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Les Buissons	22 June 1944 Thursday		Weather: Fair and cool. Patrol came in at 0420 hours to report that they could find no enemy in area previously indicated. Battalion Headquarters decided to move to-day into a old Highland Light Infantry of Canada position, we had no sooner arrived than Jerry gave us "what for" with a battery of 170 millimetres. Another cow "got it" to-day, so I guess we have more steaks in the near future. Jerry seems to drive the cows our way to set off our mines and booby traps. Quite a good idea, but a damn nuisance. "A" company turned in a German Platoon roll book to-day. Every person in the book was born in either 1924 or 1925, quite a young crowd that we are fighting against. They are good though with little battle experience something like ourselves. An alarm late last night from "A" company that an enemy patrol was just outside our area turned out to be nothing more than "Poles, mine gap making, two". Seems as if "A" company is getting jittery, better to be jittery than dead says "A" company. Casualties: Wounded - 2 Other Ranks.	See Appendix 6
Les Buissons	23 June 1944 Friday		Weather: Clear and cool. Sergeant Bartlett came in at 0415 hours after a very successful patrol, finding out exactly what he was told to do. We were shelled this morning air burst artillery but had no casualties. Jerry should have learned by this time that we are all in our slit trenches at 0800 hours. We got a bit of a blasting from Division to-day on the effectiveness of our patrols. Guess they are NOT satisfied with the results we produce. Too bad but we can only learn through experience. Two airforce squadron-leaders came up to visit us to-day to get a look from the ground at what we are doing The airforce has done a great job to date in keeping Jerry out of the skies. Lets hope they continue to do so. Meeting of company commanders this afternoon to "get them all in the picture". It lasted two hours so everyone should know what is going on. "A" company reports that the co-operation between them and the artillery forward observation officers is superb. Every afternoon they have afternoon tea with each other, quite chummy. Jerries machine gunning dispersed several "O" groups last night. It is rather inconvenient of Jerry to pick the time when our "O" groups are being held to machine gun us. It was reported from higher authority that heavy counter battery artillery fire was going to start at 1530 hours but as yet we have not heard it. It is rather hard on the nerves to sit near your slit trench waiting for something that never happens. No casualties this date.	See Appendix 6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Les Buissons	24 June 1944 Saturday		Weather: clear and cool. Our twenty-four hour patrol returned at 0330 hours with a good amount of information even if they were NOT able to stay out all day to-day. Quiet morning once again and a nice sunny day. The King's Own Scottish Borderers have been sending all their Officers over to our Observation Post to have a look at GALMANCHE and ST. CONTEST. They have been coming over by groups of company officers. They seem to think that our Observation Post is quite a good one. It is a wonder Jerry has not plastered that place to pieces. "D" company started out early in the morning to make themselves a bath tub, by the end of the day most of the company had a hot bath. The bath consisted of all sorts of things including one hydraburner, two galvanized washtubs, the company jeep and sundrious vessels and containers of various shapes and sizes. Jerry shelled us this evening and poor "C" company report the loss of one of their best sources of fresh milk. Very disconcerting to think that Jerry would do a thing like that. The Regimental Aid Post report that a bomb landed on the rear of their Headquarters - no damage was done that cause any suffering to them. "C" company had their dinning room hit by a shell - guess they will have to eat in the open in the future. No casualties received this date.	See Appendix 6
Les Buissons	25 June 1944 Sunday		Weather: Clear and warmer. On the whole it has been the quietest day on our own sector for some time. Maybe Jerry observes Sunday too. A nice warm sumny day but towards evening it clouded and started to sprinkle. Hope we dont have a repeat performance of that rain. "C" company have been busy to-day bringing in dead cows and horses. The cow "got it" during the shelling and the horses got theres by wandering onto our anti tank mines, poor chaps but I guess they are happy now. The Royal ~~Victoria~~ Ulsters Rifles and the King's Own Scottish Borderers of the Ninth British Brigade were over again to-day to look over the situation on their front from our direction. We have met nearly all the officers those battalions by now. The Colonel and Intelligence Officer were invited out to dinner by "B" company. One would never think we were in the front lines. Steak, potatoes, cabbage, tomato juice and fruit was the menu. Protestants had services this morning in small groups and the Roman Catholics were to have communion this evening but the rain started before they were finished. "B" company reports they churned eight pounds of butter to-day. This place gets more like home every day, except for the odd shelling and mortaring. There were no casualties today.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Les Buissons	25 June 1944 Sunday (Cont'd)		"A" company reports a change in cows, they say they get more milk and that it is of better quality. That is the way it should be. The mortars and artillery have been having a lot of fun with Jerry. Every time Jerry sticks his head out they let him have a few just to see him scatter.	
Les Buissons	26 June 1944 Monday		Weather: Rainy and cool. During the early hours of the morning "D" company heard stealthy movements and gutteral sounds on their sector of the front in the minefield. The sentry challenged and got no reply, rifle and Bren gun fire were brought to bear in the direction of the "stealthy movements". Later when a party went out to find out what damage had been done to the "enemy" they found one dead sow, riddled with bullet holes. "D" looked sort of foolish but it doea show that they were on their toes and after all the Germans do sound a lot like a sow. Mail arrived again to-day as it usually does. Very helpful to have mail and parcels arrive regularly like they have been. The Canadian Press News came in this afternoon. It has been a thorn in the side of the Unit ever since. The write-up given to the Third Canadian Division and more especially the Ninth Canadian Infantry Brigade and North Nova Scotia Highlanders has been the topic for discussion. We feel that we have done as much if not more than any other Unit in the Third Division, yet no mention was made of the Unit. The article mentions an all Ontario Brigade doing a wonderful job of which we are part and we did all the fighting. It is the opinion of most that it was put in through gross lack of knowledge. It certainly does not do the boys any good, especially on the eve of another push forward. During the afternoon the Commanding Officer held a meeting of company Commanders and the Intelligence Section got under way preparing to knock Jerry back where he belongs once again. A bit of rain during the day which turned into quite a deluge before the day was out, but this time we were more prepared for it. The attack going in on our right flank has certainly raised our morale to a very, very high pitch. Casualties: 2 Other Ranks wounded.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Les Buissons	30 June 1944 Friday		Weather: fair and cool. Two thirds stand-to was ordered last night but nothing came of it and everything was peaceful and serene this morning when we woke up. The weather on the whole has been good to-day but it has been spitting rain once or twice at us. Maybe it will be dark to-night and we can get a good patrol out. Excitement ran high for a while this morning when two Jerry planes were shot down close to our area. It is not very often we see the Jerries in the air and when we do our own Airforce deals with them very effectively. Reports have come into us to-day, which have been confirmed, that Jerry ME 109's have been seen wearing our own distinguishing marks, that is not at all a clean way to fight a war, and he shall have his fair share of trouble for the rottenness that he plays with us. Pictures came into the Unit that a Photographer had taken. There were only about eight or ten but what there were were exceptionally good. A copy of the write up of the Unit in action, which is going into the paper, came in to-day. We should be grateful to William Stewart for his effort to put the Unit where it belongs. There were no casualties today.	See Appendix 13

(C. Petch) Lieutenant-Colonel,
Commanding,
North Nova Scotia Highlanders.

M.F.M. 11A
200M—5-40 (5185)
(H.Q. 1772-39-1658)

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SECRET

WAR DIARY

OF

NORTH NOVA SCOTIA HIGHLANDERS

FROM 1 JULY 1944 TO 31 JULY 1944

CON. SEC. GHQ. 2nd ECH. 21 ARMY GP.
RECEIVED
24 SEP 1944
WAR DIARIES

VOLUME

PAGES 1 TO 17

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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3/19A MFM 21 40/P&S/37 (5028)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Les Buissons 1 Reference, Map 7F/1, Map Reference, 095742	JUL 44		Weather - Light rain through night and early morning. Remained overcast all day. Usual two-thirds stand to all night. It appears that higher command feels that the inevitable counter attack may be getting tied up. We had two reconnaissance patrols out during the night who found out that Jerry is doing little work on his defensive positions. It seems that the Boche has enough positionsto hold a Battalion but mans them with but a platoon. Very Our area has been very difficult to collect prisoners. quiet today - Jerry is throwing the occasional shell and mortar round to keep the boys mentally alert. One of his bombs landed directly on one of our slit trenches but caused no damages as the occupants were not at home.	2 pp. 8. Patols
Les Buissons 2 Reference, Map 7F/1, Map Reference, 995742	JUL 44		Weather - Drizzling rain and very overcast. Our reconnaissance patrols for the night were cancelled because of Boche flanking patrols. Needless to say, the Patrol Commander was pleased, although the best type of night for Patrol activity. They are not pleasant physically. Our Brigade Commander, Brigadier D.C. Cunningham, D.S.O. was in the area today bringing the General Officer Commanding, 59 British Division and Brigadier Nelson, 4 Canadian Infantry Brigade. The "Novies" seem to be getting quite famous around here judging by our distinguished visitors. Activity today consisted of eating, blanket drill, and pulling heads down to escape the occasional mortar bomb or shell. Unit Headquarters had requested reports from personnel who had been serving with the Unit since "D" Day and they have brought to light interesting stories, which serve to illustrate the wilyness of the Boche. For instance, Sergeant Schurmann, of Support Company, who, on the advance inland from the Beach, came across two dead Jerries lying over a machine-gun position. After prodding he turned them over and found two perfectly fit Boche playing "possum". Our spiritual welfare was attended to by the Padre, holding services in the little Les Buissons church, Map Reference, 9974. Casualities were light as we are well dug in, one mortar round landing near the Artillery Observation Post placed our Forward Observation Operator out of action.	2 pp. 8. Patols

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Les Buissons 3 Map 7F/1 Map Reference 995742	JUL	44	Weather - Very overcast all day. Visibility poor. Enemy activity today has again been confined to throwing over his occasional shell and mortar round. Enemy troop movements were observed in the area of Gouchie, map reference 980724. Our artillery and mortars have been handing out tasty dishes to the Boche, making them step very lively. Foot Patrols from the Unit were cancelled because of the Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Highlanders carrying out carrier reconnaissance. The Battalion was treated to several good shows by the arms of the Service. Tank busting Typhoons carried out low-level attacks on enemy positions immediately to our front. The Roman Catholic Padre was up this afternoon holding church service for "Dog" and "Support" Companies. Mail a'la plenty has come in with a fair proportion of parcels. Talk about a morale raiser - it is the best in the world.	app 8.
Les Buissons 4 Map 7F/1 Map Reference, 995742	JUL	44	Weather - Overcast with showers. Limited visibility in early morning, clearing towards late afternoon. We have been formally introduced to "Moaning Minnie", the Boche multiple mortar. From the concentrations we received we feel that our position was one of his DF tasks. Regimental Sergeant-Major D. Grant was very fortunate with his ammunition - one mortar bomb landed directly in his mine dump. Result - three mines ruined but no explosion. 8 Canadian Infantry Brigade launched their attack on Carpiquet Airfield squares 9667,9668, & 9767, at 0500 hours and met stiff resistance. However, at 0745 hours word was received that all was going well and that the Airfield and village of Carpiquet, map reference, 973693 had been captured. "Baker" Company has used a bit of ingenuity and set up a mobile laundry, enabling them to wash a section's clothes at a time. All Companies have made up showers in the trees from biscuit tins, giving the men much needed showers. Patrols on foot and carriers were out during the night 3-4 JUL 44. One Prisoner of War was captured and it was ascertained that he was from the 25 Panzer Gren. 12 Panzer Division.	app 8.

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Les Buissons Reference, Map 7F Map Reference 995742	5 JUL	44	Weather - Cloudy with poor visibility clearing later in the day. Area relatively quiet today. Company barbers are taking the opportunity of getting the men's hair cut to a respectable length. At 0800 hours Lieutenant-Colonel C. Petch, commanding, attended Brigade "Orders" Group for the purpose of co-ordinating the fire plan in forthcoming events. Our own artillery and mortars have been firing heavy concentrations in Buron, map reference 992725 and Bitot, map reference 003713 which would indicate that something is in the wind for us. Typhoons recketed and strafed Bitot, map reference 003713 from a very low altitude. We have been annoyed practically all day by snipers picking at us apparently from the area of a burnt out Sherman near Buron, map reference 992725. Our Observation Points report further enemy troop movements at the Buron-Caen Road, map reference 992725. We have heard that the Royal Winnipeg Rifles had a rough time in Carpiquet Airfield, map reference, 9667, 9668, 9767. The Boche finally pushing them back to the general area of Vitteneuve, Map reference, Squares, 9470, 9570 The North Shore Regiment, Queens Own Rifles, Regiment de la Chaudiere have consolidated in the front of Carpiquet, map reference, 977692	AS
Les Buissons Reference, Map 7F/1 1/80,000 Map Reference 995742	6 JUL	44	Weather - Warm and somewhat cloudy but one of the nicest days we have had yet. The men have put in most of the day just resting. Activity from our side of the fence consisted of mortar and artillery concentrations on known Jerry positions in the area of Buron, map reference, 992725.	AS

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Les Buissons Reference, Map 7F/1 1/50,000 map reference, 995742	7 JUL	44	Weather has continued warm with good visibility. Nothing very exciting has happened with the exception of the occasional mortar round and artillery shell. Enemy trucks and three tanks have been sighted in the area of St. Cantes, map reference 00672 and a reconnaissance car was seen on the road, Buron-St. Contest Lieutenant-Colonel C. Petch, commanding, attended Brigade Orders Group for the purpose of receiving further definite plans for pending operations. Lieutenant-Colonel C. Petch, commanding, at 0930 hours held Orders Group and gave his detailed plans for operation "Charnwood" in which we were to capture Authie, map reference 994713 and Patrol to Franqueville, map reference 979703. The general plan was that "Dog" Company would be Fire Company, moving in on a frontal attack on Authie, map reference 994713, mopping up the village. "Baker" Company was to be on the right flank, "Able" Company on the left, moving on either side of thevillage and consolidate along on either side of the main road, Authie to Franqueville, map reference 994713 and 979703 "Charlie" Company was to be reserve and it was to be their task to do the patrolling in Franqueville, map reference 979703. The attack was to take place the following day. Company Commanders immediately returned and ensured that all personnel were in the bigger picture and absolutely clear in their own particular job. Rest was ordered for all personnel after precautions for battle had been completed. The boys were treated to a good show this evening at about 2100 hrs. when about 500 Royal Air Force heavy bombers paid a visit to enemy positions on the outskirts of Caen. This was a very imposing sight and a great morale raiser the night before battle.	App 5. Col. ats.

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Les Buissons Reference, Map 7F/1, map reference 995742	8 JUL	44	Weather - Fair and warm. Visibility good. At 0600 hours this morning, operation "Charnwood" commenced with a heavy airial bombardment. Company Commanders reported to Battalion Headquarters for a final Orders Group before our phase of the operation started. Phase one of the operation was the taking of Galmanche, map reference, 0073 by the 3rd British Division. Was completed at 0800 hours. On this operation, 3 Canadian Infantry Division with the 9 Canadian Infantry Brigade and spearhead launched its attack with the Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Highlanders right - objective Gruchy, map reference 98724 and Highland Light Infantry left, objective, Buron, map reference 992725 and North Nova Scotia Highlanders were, on completion of Buron, and Gruchy being captured, to move forward and capture Authie, exploiting forward to Franqueville, map reference 994713. This phase of the battle began at 0900 hours and our troops followed very closely the men of the rest of the Brigade. At approximately 1045 hours, when the two villages were considered held, we pushed forward to the forming up point which was in an orchard just South of Buron, map reference,992725 Very heavy casualties were inflicted on us by mortar and 88 MM shell fire. Major E.S. Gray, Commander of "Able" Company was the first officer casualty of the day. The Company was then taken over by Captain L.J. Sutherland with the able assistance of Sergeant-Major F.J. Paynter. Shortly after this, Major C.F. Kennedy, commanding "Dog" Company lost his right arm and passed over command to Captain S. Byrd who was also seriously wounded shortly after and lived only a few hours. It has since come to light that Major Kennedy, commanded the Company, for two hours, with his right arm hanging by a small shred of skin which he had cut off by one of his section commanders Captain S.V. Matson, commanding "Support" Company used his initiative by quickly taking over command of "Dog" Company. The Battalion was then ready to move forward to its objective. At 1530 hours the village of Authie, map reference, 994713 was considered to be completely in our hands. The enemy, however, shelled it very heavily and with tanks and infantry fought on to the last. It was by one of these machine-guns Lieutenant D.C. McKinnon lost his life. As soon as Authie was adequately cleared, "Charlie" Company put a patrol forward to the village of Franqueville, map reference,994713 and although thin on the ground were able to hold it against the enemy. At about 1830 hours, Royal Winnipeg Rifles, Regina Rifle Regiment, and Canadian Scottish, began to move to us with subsequent objectives of Cussy, map reference	app. 5

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Les Buissons 8 Reference Map 7F/1 map reference 994~~7~~43	JUL	44	(CONT)996708, This considerably relieved the pressure on us and the night was rather quiet with the exception of a few mortar bombs. The Brigade thus ended this operation with the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders right at map reference, 978714 North Nova Scotia Highlanders left in Authie, map reference, 994713 with a Company forward to Franqueville, map reference, 979703 and the Highland Light Infantry in reserve at Buron, map reference, 992725. The casualties for the day being 9 (nine) officers and 192 (one hundred and ninety two) other ranks.	
Authie, Reference, Map 7F/1 map reference ~~994713~~ 983713	9 JUL	44	Weather - Clear and warm. At 0500 hours this morning the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. Petch was called to Brigade for the Orders Group. He was accompanied by the Adjutant, Captain H.M. Cunningham. Brigade Commanders orders were to push the Battalion down to Franqueville, map reference, 979703 and hold it. After breakfast the move was completed and the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders passed through our position with orders to take St. Germain, map reference,0069 , a suburb of Caen. They were to push through the 7th Brigade. The Battalion was very hastily ordered to move into Vaenot, map reference, 0167 with axis of advance through Franqueville, map reference 979703 and occupy it. The Corps Commander, Lieutenant-General Crocker, claimed that the enemy had fled through that region. After a hasty Orders Group, the Battalion moved forward once again under heavy mortar fire, down the railroad track to Vaenot, map reference, 0167 It was found that this road was mined and no vehicles were able to go through. However, the marching troops moved on, the vehicles returning to Carpiquet and going through St. Germain and east into Vinot, a suburb of Caen, map reference, 0167 The civilians in this city received us in a true French manner appearing very pleased to see Allied troops in their presence. All buildings were searched systematically for snipers and a complete check carried out on suspected German collaborationists. It was rather a shock when the 4 (four) officers	app. 5

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AUTHIE (CONT)	9 JUL	44	and 61 (sixty-one) other rank reinforcements received that morning who had not even time to meet their platoon and Company commanders, to be whipped off so suddenly on such a move. They were simply detailed to Companies and platoons by numbers. At 1600 hours the move was completed and the Battalion held the position very strongly. However, about 1635 hours, German Armour was reported east of our position and a number of 88's began whizzing over our heads. A number of SS Division Troops were captured and had the cock and bull story that there was 5000 (five thousand) Jerries across the river and planned to launch an attack that night under a strong artillery barrage at 2300 hours. The Battalion went on a 100% standto, pushing patrols east of the river Orne and preparing the bridges for demolition. One of the high lights of this move was the information from a French civilian that some of our men, who had been wounded on the 7 JUL 44 at Franqueville had been in their city hospital. A check was made with the hospital and they show that 10 (ten) of our men had been there and have subsequently been moved to a German prison camp. The evening was quiet except for spasmodic artillery shell fire.	App. 3 & 4 [initials]
CAEN Reference, Map 7F/1 MAP REFERENCE 015677	10JUL	44	Weather - Warm and overcast - Visibility limited this morning due to mists, clearing later in the day. "Support" Company, the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa are located immediately to our rear and are banging their 4.2 mortars incessantly. Of course they draw fire and our Battalion Orderly Room seems to be in the short end of the Boche Bracket. Jerry's odd round causes some consternation as cover is somewhat scarce. Enemy troop movement in Louvigny has been observed from our "Charlie" Company Observation Posts area. Only troops have been seen. The forward platoons of "D" Company have experienced difficulty in feeding today as any movement encourages the Boche to let go another round. However, the men were finally given a hot meal. Jerry booby-traps have been located in the gardens along the southern end of our positions. No mines have been encountered. Booby traps were pointed out to us by French	[initials]

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			civilians for which we are very thankful. Our Observation Point has spotted gun flashes from area of 005645 and 999664 and our Forward Observation Operator has been bringing our 25 pounders to bear on them. Enemy vehicle movements have been noted in the area of Basse, map reference, 013637. Infantry supported by tanks in area 9865 have been observed and after much delay, fire has been brought to bear on them.	
CAEN ~~HENVIX~~ Reference, Map 7F/1 1/50,000 map reference 015677	11 JUL 44		Weather - overcast - visibility poor in early morning, clearing towards evening. Area relatively quiet with only spasmodic shelling and mortaring on Company positions. Companies spend the day in organizing their defences and getting well dug in. Although not altogether a hard day yesterday, the boys were quite tired and with the Boche facing them but a few hundred yards away they feel the tenseness of it all. One hundred percent standto is the order during the night and fifty percent during the day. The mortar and artillery fire has been spotted coming from the area of Louvigny at 015662 and from the orchard immediately in front of "Charlie" Company. Visits were paid us by two Jerry planes who did a bit of strafing, to our immediate front. Damages were negligible and no casualties were caused.	
CAEN Reference, Map 7F/1 map reference 015677	12JUL 44		Weather - Warm and clear during early part of day. Clouding over with poor visibility in late afternoon. Stand to as usual at 0500 hours. Mortar has pretty well plastered our area but petered out this afternoon. Jerry seems to feel that we have an Observation Point in the area at the church in "Charlie" Company area, and has been plastering it with shells. He is right about the Observation Point in the area, but not in the church. One of his shells ploughed through a house in the main street and started a fire. The boys of Charlie Company were able to	

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			douce it temporarily but it has broken out again this evening so the Army Fire Service has been called in. The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa mortars have been very active giving Jerry about three bombs to every one of those we get from him. One Prisoner of War was picked up by the carrier platoon this morning. The Boche came driving into our lines nonchalontly on his motor cycle and was very surprised when pulled up by our carrier. He said that he had no idea that Caen was occupied by us. It would seem that the German is not keeping his front line men informed on enemy dispositions.	
CAEN Reference, Map 7F/1 map reference 015677	13 JUL 44		Weather - Warm and somewhat overcast. Visibility fair in early morning - good in afternoon and evening. Area again quite quiet. The Boche is still carrying out mortar shoots against our positions and is doing little damage. Our own Artillery has pin pointed enemy gun positions in the area of Fleury, map reference, 022647 but acurate observations not possible. They are also laying it on intermittantly in the areas of 006652, 003663, 006607, 014635, 014662, 028658, 018657, 936625 and 035629. In all these places enemy movement has been observed and the gunners are not giving them any rest. Unit activity today has consisted of feeding under the watchful eye of the Boche, and trying to give the men a bit of a sleep. Sharp lookouts are being maintained as counter attack is imminent at any moment. The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, who have a vickers post in a quarry under the nose of "Support" Company area, received a direct hit on part of their ammunition dump with a Boche mortar round. The result is that belts of vickers ammunition is going off round by round and almost as bad to the men of the forward platoons as they were under continual machine-gun fire. Enemy machine-guns have been potting away down on our right flank but their targets cannot be observed.	

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CAEN Reference, Map 7F/1 map reference, 015677	14 JUL 44		Weather - Again overcast and cloudy - visibility fair. Local people claim that since "D" Day there has been more rain in Normandy than in the last forty years. We believe them. Area 01567 has again been quiet with the exception of mortar and shell concentrations. Word has finally been received that the Battalion will be moving out to Anisy, map reference, 013763 for a three day rest. Moves are scheduled for after dark to avoid giving the Boche the chance to inflict casualties. Battalion Orders Group was held at 2030 hours and it was laid on that marching troops would leave their area from 2330 hours onward. Unit transport would leave at 0030 hours. Boche shelling continued and increased towards evening. Two houses on the main road were on fire and the light was drawing more fire from the enemy. Our route lay along the main road in Caen, map reference, 015677 with the turn out in the area of the burning houses. Many anxious moments were past by all as they passed through that area as everybody knew that the area was under shell fire and anticipated a round at any time. Several casualties were caused by vehicle accidents on the way out as the night was exceptionally dark. All moves were completed by 0200 hours 18 JUL 44.	[illegible]
ANISY Reference, Map map reference 013763	15 JUL 44		Weather - Warm with visibility fair. Activity in the Battalion area has been very small. Everybody is really enjoying themselves, being able to rest and clean up. Several Boche planes were overhead this morning doing a bit of strafing just outside our area. Heavy ack/ack was sent up and brought down two of them, much to our gratification. Companies have taken over old slit trenches and have modified them for their needs.	[illegible]
ANISY Reference, Map map reference 013763	16 JUL 44		WEATHER ~~Wather~~ warm and somewhat cloudy. A somewhat quiet night was passed. Only interruptions being a Boche plane overhead which drew a large amount of ack/ack fire. Rest is the order of the day and all the boys are taking every advantage of good sound sleep. Only those personnel essential to carrying out duties are being utilized. Company reorganization is being squared away with weapons and equipment being checked and made ready for the next do.	[illegible]

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ANISY Reference, Map map reference 013763	17 JUL 44		Weather - Warm and sunny with good visibility. Little activity on the part of the men this morning but the officers have been busy. The talk of the forthcoming attack on Vaucelles, map reference 065681 is grim reality and Lieutenant-Colonel C, Petch, commanding, is taking all precautions in his peep. The Commanding Officer accompanied by the 2 in charge, Company Commanders, and Intelligence Officer went to the River at Benouville, map reference, 097748, which is to be our assembly area. After receiving this position, the party crossed the river and went along the road towards Vaucelles, map reference, 065681 as far as the FORWARD POSITION of the 51st Highland Division At 1130 hours, the Battalion moved off to the area between Buron, map reference, 992725 and Les Buissons map reference, 095742 to prepare for tomorrows operation. The idea that the Brigade as a whole is allotted one house to cross the bridges over the River Odon, it is necessary to have each Unit practiced and timed to avoid delay. The rehearsal went off fairly well, everybody being smothered in huge clouds of dust and eaten by a multitude of black flies. From the worm's eyeview all that could be seen was a maze of trucks and men - all just going. At 2000 hours the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. Petch, called Orders Group. The setting was very peaceful. The background, a French Farmyard, chairs arranged in a circle and a small table dominating the centre of it all. Everything has an air of friendship about it and it all seemed so far away from War. However, this was the real thing and plans were here being formulated for an advance in the morning. Orders Group terminated and Company Commanders proceeded to Companies as the men were to move off on foot at 2330 hours. Vehicles were to follow to the Assembly Area 2 (two) hours later. At 2330 hours Companies moved off to schedule. The dust was horrible and vehicular traffic very heavy which did not help to keep it down. All personnel made it to the assembly area satisfactorily and dug shell scrapes for the night on the bank next to the canal. Our vehicles, which came later, made there way down by following where the dust clouds were thickest. The road could not be seen at all.	app. 6.

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BENOUVILLE REFERENCE, Map 7F/1 Map Reference 097748	18 JUL 44		Weather - Warm and Clear. At 0600 hours we received word that "H" hour had been advanced 15 minutes. This appeared to be an indication that things were going well. We were in hopes that we had at last hit an easy task of cleaning out the enemy from AUBERGE DE VAUCELLES, map reference 065681. At about 0700 hours the airforce appeared in great numbers and it was the greatest bombing display we have witnessed yet. At 0800 hours the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders began to cross the canal and the river ORNE over the Bailey Bridge which is now known as London Bridge. The Unit was completely across the river by 0900 hours and we regrouped behind the Eighth Brigade who we were to follow on the high road above the river. The other two Units of the Brigade went according to plan along the river row. Our advance depended on the success of the Eighth Brigade and we found ourselves held up at the starting line for a long time. The Regiment de la Chaudiere of the Eighth Brigade was being permanently held down by machine gun fire in the factory area just east of the river. The plan was then changed. The Eighth Brigade to clean up the factory area whom we were to push through and capture our objective of VAUCELLES. The Highland Light Infantry were to follow up our advance and capture the ground south of our objective. We were held up at the factory area for two hours while bull-dozers worked on bomb craters so that we could proceed, with vehicles, to our objective. In the meantime the infantry pressed on and found heavy sniping and spasmodic mortaring to be the only opposition on that sector. About 1830 hours Lieutenant Gammel, G.L. Second-in-Command of the carrier platoon lost his life when his carrier hit a mine. When we advanced past the factory area, Lieutenant G. MacDonald and Lieutenant Campbell of "B" company were wounded by machine-gun fire. There were five other ranks casualties and by 2230 hours our objective was secure. There was much uneasiness among all ranks as darkness approached from the number of snipers left behind in the city. A minor bombing raid by the Jerry's marked the close of the day. Our Unit was the only one of the Ninth Brigade who reached its objective that day.	App 6.

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FAUBERG DE VAUCELLES Reference, Map 7F/1 map reference 065681	19 Jul 44		Weather - Warm and overcast all day. All companies are firmly in their positions and on a sharp lookout for Boche counter attacks but none have developed. Battalion Headquarters is located in an old Boche Headquarters which affords fairly good shelter. There is only one thing unpleasant and that is the Boche smell. Very distinctive odor. The Boche apparently left here in great haste as some choice wines and foodstuffs have been located in his position. Very handy to us in supplementing our compo packs. Carrier reconnaissance has shown the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders moving in the direction of CORMELLES, map reference 061654. Also evidence around of the opposition "Charlie" Company met yesterday, in their advance. Area has been very quiet - almost too quiet. A total of 31(thirty-one) Prisoners of War taken today and are a mixture of everything, gunners, Luffwaffe ground personnel. All lads of 17-18 years of age with the exception of two Red Cross stretcher bearers who were 35 and 37. It is worth noting that all the Boche captured were well fixed up with money, in fact it would almost make your hair curl to see it.	ads.

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FAUBERG DE VAUCELLES Reference Map 7F/1 map reference 061631	20 JUL 44		Weather - Warm and sunny. Visibility good in both morning and afternoon, clouding towards evening. Our area was very quiet during the night with only the occasional shot to disturb the silence. Consequently the boys were able to get a well earned rest. Today was scheduled as the occasion of raising the Canadian flag in the main square of Vaucelles, map reference 065681. This was cancelled however as word came that we were going to move. Our new area was to be at Bras, map reference 061631 approximately four miles south-east of Vaucelles. It was being held by the Manmouthshires - one of the infantry regiments with Eleventh Armoured Division. Preliminary recconaissance was made by the Second in charge and the Intelligence Officer. They were greeted with a few rounds of mortar which indicated that the position was very much alive. One of Jerry's shells caught a brand new three-tonner belonging to the British Companies and burnt her out. the bad part about it being that the new venicle had been hauled up to pull away an old vehicle to the workshop. The old vehicle never received a scratch. On completion of the Second in charge recconaissance, Company Second in Command's were brought up and allotted Company positions, forming a rough square about the village, map reference 065681. Our troops from the area of Vaucelles were started marching at 1015 hours. Company carriers were loaded with a section of men and wheeled right out to Company locations as we would have a leg on the ground. By 1330 hours all our Unit was in position and the Monmouthshires had started to trudge back to the area of Vaucelles, map reference 065681. The Boche had been driven out of this area only yesterday and as he is within range, he has been demonstrating his ability with his mortars. Spasmodic concentrations are being placed all over our area coming from all directions. A big treat today was an uncalled for visit from four to five ME's 109's who proceeded to strafe and rocket the area. One rocket scored a direct hit on a Sherman tank and burned it up. Ammunition from the tank has been pooping off all day.	app 11 app 6

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BRAS Reference, Map 7r/1 map reference 061631	21 JUL 44		Weather - Wet and very dismal. The dust on the roads has been turned into pure unadulterated mud and many choice expletives are being issued about its tenacity. Area has been moderately quiet all day. The Boche is continuing his mortar and shell concentrations which are hard to endure but do not create very many casualties. It appears that he is making map shoots as the rounds are not landing on any definite target. Our Artillery Forward Observation Operators from 14th Field was unfortunate today in that he lost his carrier from one of the Boche concentrations. Our vehicles moving back and forth along the dirt road to Vaucelles, map reference 065681 say that it is pretty rough with shell craters and pot holes. The mud is axle deep in places with the water going a little higher.	app. 11
BRAS Reference, Map 7F/1 map reference 061631	22 JUL 44		Weather - Dull all day attempting to clear without much success. Very wet and muddy underfoot. The enemy continued their spadmoradic shelling and mortaring during the day. Slight showers made the setting more miserable with the enemy forcing us to keep our heads down. We are really getting to hate this mud. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. Petch held a Company Commanders conference today, putting everyone in the picture and the day passed without mishap.	

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BRAS Reference, Map 7F/1 map reference 061631	23JUL	44	Weather - Warm and overcast with fair visibility. Enemy activity in our front limited to spasmadic shelling during the day which was very uncomfortable. Shelling was carried on into the night with heavy concentrations landing in our area. The boys of the Regimental Aid Post had a lucky escape when a shell went through one window and out the other. The result was a minor wound in the arm of one of the boys by a piece of shrapnel. Captain Jock Grieves of "Baker" Company also had a close one when a shell landed beside his pitburying him up to the shoulders. He got out uninjured. This afternoon, Company Commanders held a recconaissance at Bourguebush, map reference, 079614 looking over at Tilly la Campagne which is the next objective. Little could be seen of the actual detail of the ground but with the assistance of Defence Overprints and Air photos, a pretty fair picture has been formed. Lieutenant-Colonel C. Petch, Commanding, attended Division Orders Group at 1500 hours today, bringing back detailed information on our attack on Tilly At 2000 hours the Commanding Officer's Orders Group was held and the rough plan gone over. Further information will be available tomorrow when Brigade Orders Group is held and further Company Commander's Recconaissance carried out. The general plan is that we will leave our present location on 24 JUL 44 at night and move to Soliers, thence to Bouragebus and put in an attack on Tilly la Campagne. Meanwhile, on our right flank, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division will be pushing forward. Ours is a big job and on it depends whether the Eleventh Armoured Division makes their thrust. It is intended that we will attack by moonlight which will be simulated by searchlights. This is the first attack of this nature that we have had, but it sounds quite feasible and all express confidence in it. When our position in Tilly is consolidated the Eleventh Armoured Division are to come through us at first light and make a push through to the high ground to the south, followed by the Highland Light Infantry of Canada. This then may mark the break through which we narrowly missed in our last show. Our patrol at Bourguebus, composed of Lieutenant Ward, six Other Ranks and two Free French personnel, during the hours 0100 hours and 0330 hours this date, scouted around down the main road to Tilly from Bourgebus. The Boche were heard laughing and talking in the area of on both sides of the road. 88 mm. were seen to be firing from dug in positions at	app 8 ats

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			one-half hour, our troops having by then been committed were forced to push on. Eventually the lights flickered on, contrary to the opinion of higher formation commanders, silhouetting our troops so that they were good targets for the enemy. The enemy, however was playing a cagey game and "Charlie" Company got into fire position in front of the town of Tilley, map reference, 073613 without any difficulty. Shortly after they had reported this success, signals by "Dog" Company, firing white and green Verey lights, systematically indicated to us that they were in position in the rear of the village. we could not get in touch with them but it was assumed that they were in their position on the left of the village. As no safe position had been negotiated at this point, "Able" Company, who were in reserve, were ordered by Lieutenant-Colonel C. Petch to the right of the village. Just after they had started around, Jerry opened up with everything. Chiefly from a large barn just in front of the village completely pinned down "Able" Company and "Charlie" Company. It seemed that he had opened the door, let them in, and trapped them. The Battalion plan was, that at first light, to screen the carrier platoon down to the village and ring it with mobile fire power followed closely by our own support Company Anti-Tank Guns in case of another attack by tanks. We had also under command, a troop of S.P. Anti-Tank guns. These were also used. A higher formation plan was that at 1930 hours the armour of the 7th British Division (Desert fighters) were to pass around our right flank and strike south, taking any armour pressure off our position. One section of carriers reached the village and were swallowed up. At this point one of the S.P. Anti-Tank guns that were engaging the target of the barnyard with High Explosive was knocked out by an enemy Anti-Tank gun and our own carriers which had not returned seemed to have met a similar fate in the village. Therefore no more were committed as no help was forthcoming by way of armoured going through our right flank, and south a squadron of tanks from the 10th Canadian Armoured Regiment in our support were sent around to the right of the village in the low ground of the railroad tracks and eleven of them were knocked out. The Battalion Commander, realizing that unless some help was received immediately that the elements of the Companies in the village would be cut off. A considerable number of men had returned to our area who had been cut off with shell and mortar fire and were	

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BRAS Reference, Map 7F/1 map reference 061631	24 JUL 44		Weather - Warm and overcast. Visibility good. Enemy sporadic shelling continuing with no apparent targets. Shells land everywhere and are a great source of annoyance. Roads are dried up now and vehicular traffic is much easier. The local barnyard, which is our Headquarters, is still very moist and emitting all manners of odours. Activity in Companys has increased with all personnel preparing for the attack on Tilly. Initial recconaissance for Command Post was done this afternoon and a suitable area was found.	
BOURGUEBUS Reference Map 7F/1 map reference 079614	25 JUL 44		Weather - Warm and overcast. Visibility fair. At 0230 hours, Company Commanders reported to Command Post stating that their Companies were formed up on the starting line ready for the operation. The Command Post carrier was completely bogged down in a shell crater and communication to Brigade by 18 set to rear Battalion Headquarters gained by Second in Command, Major D.F. Forbes. We relayed messages to Brigade on the 19 Set. At "H" hour, 0300 hours, the leading troops crossed the starting point and reported in code words to Headquarters. The searchlights which were supposed to illuminate the operation at this stage did not come on and the Battalion moved forward under cover of darkness. At 0350 hours a message from Brigade stated that the operation, which was named "Spring" was held up by the 2nd. Canadian Infantry Division for at least	

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			organized and held in readiness for a counter attack. The only communication then, was with a signaller of "Charlie" Company who was in a shell hole with three comrades just north of the village. He was able to contact Major Jefferson of "Able" Company who was also in a shell hole not too far away. The picture then, was that at least five enemy tanks with self propelled guns were reported around the village and were shooting our men on sight with machine guns if they so much as moved. Brigade did not seem to be able to hold us in our position and so the order was given by the Battalion Commander for those who were able to, to withdraw that night under cover of darkness. Quite a large number were able to do so. Casualties included Major C.V. Matson, now known to be buried in that area; Captain D.J. Nicholson who was reported to be badly wounded; Captain J.P. MacNeill who was left in the field suffering from two machine gun bullet wounds; Major J.A. MacDonald; Major A.J. Wilson; Captain R.C. Graves were evacuated and lived. Lieut. C.T. Gilbert is still missing. Casualties of all ranks amounted to a total of 196 (one hundred and ninety six).	

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CORMELLES Reference, Map 7F/1 map reference 0665	26 JUL 44		Weather - Quite warm with visibility good. The Battalion withdrew from area along track 072617 to Cormelles 0665. Order of march being "Dog", "Charlie", "Baker" "Able" and "Support Companies. Command Post stayed in Bourgebus 0761 and withdrew to Cormelles at 1100 hours. The Battalion entered Cormelles at 0930 hours a took up Company positions as follows: "Able" Coy. 055652, "Baker" Company 055651, "Charlie" Coy. 052654, "Dog" Company 056651, Battalion Headquarters and Support Company at 051656. The men were beaded down in houses and had a well earned rest, followed by an excellent meal. A slight raid was over tonight but there were no casualties. The Battalion Headquarters is set up in a house with kitchen, bathroom with running water and dining room complete with dishes etc. A great difference from the front line.	
CORMELLES REFERENCE, Map 7F/1 map reference 0665	27 July 44		Weather fine and clear. All personnel are resting and getting cleaned up as well as possible. The Battalion went through the mobile bath this morning and we all had baths and feel much better. Morale is high. There is talk of going back for a week's rest. Jerry is sending over the odd shell but we are suffering no casualties.	

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CORMELLES Reference, Map 7F/1 map reference 0665	28 JUL 44		Weather - Clear and warm. The Battalion is still taking it easy and eating like kings. Everyone is anxiously awaiting word as to the next move. Jerry still sends over the odd shell but so far there has been no casualties.	[illegible]
CORMELLES Reference, Map 7F/1 map reference 0665	29 JUL 44		Weather - Bright and sunny, visibility very good. The Battalion is still resting before the next move. Our artillery has been firing all day and disturbs some of our slumber. Word was received today that we would be moving back tomorrow.	[illegible]
LEVEY Reference, Map 7F/1 map reference 971763	30 JUL 44		Weather - Clear and fine. Visibility good. A good day to move. The Battalion crossed the starting line at 1920 hours and proceeded in convoy to the new area near Thaon, and were dispersed as follows: "Able" Company 975769, "Baker" Company 976768, "Charlie" Company 974766, "Dog" Company, 974765, Support Company 973764 and Battalion Headquarters 971763. The new location is a perfect spot and all are looking forward to a good rest.	app/6 [illegible]
LEVEY MAP REFERENCE 971763	31 JUL 44		A fine warm day with many of our own planes in the sky. Everyone enjoyed a really good nights rest and we all feel much better. It is certainly good to be away from all the noise for a little while. Everyone is getting settled and complete reorganization is in progress.	[illegible]

[illegible] Major
for o/c HNS Hqtrs

M.F.M. 11A
200M—5-40 (5185)
(H.Q. 1772-39-1658)

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Time Cleared

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(Strike out where not applicable)

SECRET

WAR DIARY

Narrative 29

OF

NORTH NOVA SCOTIA HIGHLANDERS

FROM 1 AUGUST 1944 TO 31 AUGUST 1944

CDN. SEC. GHQ. 2nd ECH. 21 ARMY GP.
RECEIVED
12 OCT 1944
WAR DIARIES

VOLUME

APPENDICES 1, 3 TO 15

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La Vay Map Reference 974794 Sheet 7F/1	1 August 1944		Weather:- Slightly overcast this morning, but cleared up later and was fine and warm. Things are very quiet around here, with everyone making the best of the rest period. Re-organization of the Battalion is in process. Tonight we received four Officer reinforcements - Major M.G. Clennett, Captain F.M. Sutherland, Lieutenant W.H. Mackie and Lieutenant A.B. MacGillivary and two hundred and nine other ranks. These reinforcements bring our Battalion up to strength, which is very gratifying. We will soon be able to start training again, with a full Battalion. The Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel C. Petch, informed us to-day that a Regimental Officer's Mess will be formed; this will now provide a place where all the Officers can get together and become acquainted. There are so many new Officers in the Battalion now and many of us have not had the opportunity to meet each other. The mail is coming through regularly, and the morale is generally very high. We are sending various older members of the Battalion to the rest camp at CHATEAU BEAUREGARD 067717. This morning we sent approximately two hundred men to the beach for the day, which was enjoyed by them all.	
La Vay Map Reference 974794 Sheet 7F/1	2 August 1944		Weather:- Slightly overcast this morning, but cleared up later on. A Battalion parade was held this afternoon, Lieutenant Colonel C. Petch, Commanding Officer gave his farewell address. Some of the older members commented how strange it was to look over the Battalion parade and see the vast number of new faces. The Commanding Officer left the Battalion this evening, a loss which will be felt greatly throughout the whole Unit. Instructors from Brigade arrived to-day and training will start tomorrow. Everyone is well rested now and we are ready to swing into a full training syllabus.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
La Vey Map Reference 974794 Sheet 7E/1	3 August 1944		Weather:- Slightly overcast in the morning, clear and warm in the afternoon. The weather is becoming very warm now and bath parades are being arranged. The Second-in-Command Major D.F. Forbes has taken over Command of the Battalion and Major F.A. Sparks from the Highland Light Infantry of Canada is Second-in-Command. The Battalion paraded to-day, and was inspected by Major General R.F.L. Keller, the Divisional Commander. Training is proceeding on schedule and things are shaping up nicely.	
La Vey Map Reference 974794 Sheet 7E/1	4 August 1944		Weather:- Warm sunny day. The rest period is nearly over now, and the Battalion is getting ready to move up again. Training is proceeding according tomplan. The Battalion enjoyed a Canadian Army Show at the cave at FONTAINE HENRY to-day, Map reference 9679, it was certainly a marvellous show.	
La Vey Map Reference 974794 Sheet 7E/1	5 August 1944		Weather:- A fine, warm day. Trainign going ahead, "A" and "B" companies completed zeroing on the rifle range. "B" Echelon is moving up tomorrow. We are expecting to move up to the forward area soon. Major Forbes' appointment came through and he has taken over Command of the Battalion Officially. We are looking forward to big things.	
La Vey Map reference 974794 Sheet 7E/1	6 August 1944		Weather:- Warm and sunny. The weather has certainly been good to us during our rest. We are prepareing to move up to LOUVIGNY map reference 0165. This morning we are all anxiously awaiting the big drive that is presently scheduled to start, and are hoping it will mean the end of the Hun. We are well prepared for this show, and are looking forward to seeing some more of France.	
La Vey Map reference 974794 Sheet 7E/1	7 August 1944		Weather:- Sunny and warm. Battalion is preparing for a move tomorrow; all personnel seem to be quite happy and morale is high. Our American cousins are going ahead in great style on their front, and we all feel it is our turn now.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
La Vey Map reference 974794 Sheet 7F/1	8 August 1944		Weather:- sunny and warm. Battalion left camp at 1030 hours, crossed the starting line at 1100 hours; passed through ST. GERMAINE at 1130 hours, VENOISE at 1150 hours, crossed the river ORNE at 1215 hours. Halted outside FLURY-SUR-ORNE where the Battalion stayed all night. At 1330 hours one Flying Fortress believed to be damaged by enemy Anti/Aircraft dropped its bomb load at map reference 046648 (crossroads) no casualties within the battalion. A t approximately 2100 hours all personnel proceeded to large cave outside FLURY-SUR-ORNE map reference 026646, where they slept for the night. Major General R.F.L. Keller lost a couple of fingers in the bombing.	Appx. 11.
Flury-Sur-Orne Map reference 026645 Sheet 7F/1	9 August 1944		Weather:- Sunny and warm. Embussed at 0930 hours, order of march; Carriers, Command Post, Rear Link, "C","A", "B" and "D" companies in troop carrying vehicles. At 1015 hours overheard message re revealing that CINTHEAUX (081539) was unoccupied by enemy. Crossed the starting point at 1030 hours; held up on road on right of BRAS 160630 for period of 1¼ hours, reason not known. Battalion debussed 1240 hours and moved into formation, line of march "C" company in front, "B" on left "A" on right and "D" in reserve. Arrived at HAUTMESNIL 083524 at 1320 hours, where we had a hot meal. Troops on foot started out for GOUVIX 070524 at 1720 hours. At 1840 hours "C" company fired small arms to draw fire from GOUVIX, could not raise any. At 1840 hours the whole Battalion entered GOUVIX 070548 without any opposition. At 1902 hours received orders from Commanding Officer to bring all vehicles in GOUVIX 070518. At 2000 hours being shelled within town by "Moaning Minnies". Five killed and eight injured in "D" company. Could not locate enemy weapons, general direction was West-South-West. Company locations in GOUVIX 070518 were - "C" company 064514 "A" 067521, "D" 069519 and "B" company at 057514. Battalion Headquarters located in private home, which has been ransacked but after cleaning it up is quite comfortable.	See App. 12.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Gouvix Map reference 070518 Sheet 7F/3	10 August 1944		Weather:- very warm and sunny. An odd shell coming in but very comfortable. Nineteen prisoners of war taken by Battalion patrols, mostly eighty-ninth Division. Shelled by our own artillery, but soon had it stopped.	
Gouvix Map reference 070518 Sheet 7F-3	11 August 1944		Weather:- warm and sunny. Infantry on foot left GOUVIX 070518 at 2100 hours, rear link at 2300 hours; reached LANGONNERIE map reference 0940 at 0015 hours 12 August. Battalion was relieved in GOUVIX by the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada at approximately 2000 hours. Arrived in new area to find we had lost one platoon of "D" company. Just the odd shell coming over now and then throughout the relief, but no casualties.	
Langonnerie Map reference 0949 Sheet 7F/3	12 August 1944		Weather:- fine and warm. Located lost platoon of "D" companyand moved it into position. This is rather a funny position, we are dug in along hedges and fields with the enemy facing "A" company across the field about 75 yards away. They are continually sniping and firing grenades into our forward company's position. Lieutenant J H. Christie "the scout officer" went out on a short recce and returned with a couple of prisoners. Later he went out again with one of his scouts and both were killed practically in view of our position. A few shells fell in our Command Post area to-day, one fell in our trench and seriously wounded the Commanding Officer's batman.	See App. 12.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Langonnerie Map reference 0949 Sheet 7F/3	13 August 1944		Weather:- Sunny and warm. Battalion had a very peaceful and quiet night. At 1000 hours the second in command relieved the Commanding Officer at the Command Post. A t 1030 hours the carrier patrol went out to recce the area in front of the battalion position 076416 and found it clear of enemy. Infantry on foot patrolled immediately afterwards and confirmed it. Two Polish Officers conversed with our Commanding Officer at 1120 hours concerning the battalion position. The Adjutant left Battalion Headquarters at 1300 hours to recce the concentration area at BRETTEVILLE-LE-RABET, map reference 102515 and returned at 1800 hours. The Commanding Officer left at 1400 hours to attend a conference at Brigade. At 1900 hours Polish Officers returned and recced the company positions where they relieved the battalion at approximately 2359 hours. We arrived at BRETTEVILLE-LE-RABET map reference 102515 at 0130 hours 14 August. No shelling on way to new area.	
BRETTEVILLE-LE-RABET Map reference 102515 Sheet 7F/4	14 August 1944		Weather:- warm and clear. The attack is all teed up, and the battalion moved up to the start point, order of march "B","D","A" and "C" companies. The attack began at 1200 hours and it certainly was an awe inspiring sight. At the Forming Up Place there was a magnificent display of fighting power. The Artillery was laying down a smoke screen and carrying out counter battery work, tanks were rumbling across the fields, long lines of priests loaded with troops; carriers, flails, Averies all criss-crossing through the grain. All this noise and clatter interspersed by the odd explosion of Jerry shells in his defensive fire task area; nevertheless the great wave of men and machines rolled forward heedless of the enemy shells. The attack went on, and we pushed in with our tanks, to the foot of our objective. Three companies gained the top of the wood, and started mopping up. "C" company got pinned down on the slope, but after some delay trying to get the tanks to shoot up the machine gun positions, an M 10 which seemed to be tired of waiting around rumbled up the hill and into the woods, scaring the enemy out, and allowed our company to get on to its objective. During consolidation on the top of the hill we scared up six Boche in the shrubs, the Commanding Officer took the Bren from the carrier and carried out a pincer movement on them with "B" company left and Lieutenant Colonel Forbes right. Consolidation completed at 1650 hours. At 1515 hours our own planes bombed the rear area, we had no casualties although considerable damage was done to other units.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Wood Map reference 1348 Sheet 7F/4	15 August 1944		Weather:- Warm and sunny. Battalion Headquarters (rear link) moved to Battalion position in wood 1348 at 1000 hours. Battalion received message at 1300 hours to be ready to move on thirty minutes notice, which came at 1400 hours. Troops moved on Priests to area 142431. At 1600 hours the battalion got word to move into OLENDON at 1900 hours. Arrived at OLENDON at 2230 hours map reference 167439. Settled down in a vacated house which was quite comfortable.	
OLENDON Map reference 167439 Sheet 7F/4	16 August 1944		Weather:- Sunny and very warm. No shelling throughout the night; established an Observation Post at 1030 hours at map reference 168430. There were a few Jerry planes over during the night, but they bombed Artillery positions behind us with no success.	
Olendon Map reference 167439 Sheet 7F/4	17 August 1944		Weather:- Sunny and warm, a few clouds overhead. At 1055 hours one squadron of Folke Wulfs attacked a convoy moving through out area, no damage done. Observation Post observed one plane shot down 132° approximately 600 yards from map reference 168430 . No shelling in area. At 1500 hours three (3) men patrols left the area to patrol area of woods in square 1840 and 1941. Returned at 1830 hours nothing observed. Everyone enjoying a good rest.	
Olendon Map reference 167439 Sheet 7F/4	18 August 1944		Weather:- Sunny and warm. Commanding Officer held Orders Group at 0830 hours. Marching troops left for CANTEPIE at 1300 hours, landed there at 1800 hours map reference 233373. Remainder of vehicles arrived at 2100 hours. Quite a number of refugees from FALAISE are entering town. The Hun is just across the river from us and the odd shell whistles into the town. The Royal Canadian Engineers have blown the bridge across the river to-day.	

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Cantepie Map reference 233373 Sheet 7F/4	19 August 1944		Weather:- Sunny and warm. A few shells landed in "C" companys area. Nothing to report all day. Left CANTEPIE at 1420 hours and proceeded to concentration area 2585, stayed there all night. Relieved at CANTEPIE by the Regiment de Maissoneuve.	
Woods Map reference 2585 Sheet 7F/6	20 August 1944		Weather:- Heavy overcast and light mist. Troops started to move at 0920 hours, arrived in TRUN map reference 309557 at 1100 hours. Battalion left for objective at 1230 hours NEUPHE-SUR-DIVES 335555, no opposition entering; Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa doing a little shooting. Battalion Headquarters arrived in objective at 1425 hours. At 1445 hours an enemy halftrack with red cross on it entered town and immediately behind came another halftrack which fired on battalion headquarters position. No serious casualties; a considerable amount of S.S. troops clothes and equipment were found in area 335555 including a brass band. Four prisoners were taken at 1530 hours. Civilians are still in town and refugees are coming in. "C" company dug in at ST LAMBERT SUR DIVES map reference 339531, "B" company 332543, "D" 338543 and "A" 335551. A considerable amount of enemy guns and vehicles seen on road TRUN to ST LAMBERT SUR DIVES. At 2230 hours two prisoners of war were taken and guarded all night.	See App. 12.
Neuphe Sur Dives Map reference 335555 Sheet 7F/6	21 August 1944		Weather:- raining steadily, heavy overcast. Enemy trying to come into our position in small numbers and we are all taking prisoners. Throughout the day the battalion tookmin approximately 3800 prisoners of war including the 84th Division Commander at 1000 hours. At 1200 hours it was reported that an enemy counter attack was coming from the North East, but did not reach us. At 1800 hours a report came in revealing S.S. troops fighting with own regular army, area not given. A few enemy try to enter out position every now and then. Early this morning several enemy attacked the Command Post. The batmen turned out in strength, with the signals in support and broke up the attack, taking the somplete enemy force prisoners, and straight away demanding a bren gun for defence against fut re attacks.	

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Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY
~~OR~~ INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

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

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Neuphe Sur Dives Map reference 335555 Sheet 7F/6	22 August 1944		Weather:- Rainy and heavy overcast. Approximately 150 prisoners taken thoughout the day including some S.S. troops. Three enemy Medical Officers are assisting the Unit Medical Officer with enemy wounded. Rum ration was issued today which was appreciated by all. S.S. troops were used to dig German graves, the other prisoners were not quite sure whether we were taking them out to shoot them or to work.	
Neuphe Sur Dives Map reference 335555 Sheet 7F/6	23 August 1944		Weather:- clear and warm. Commanding Officer attended Orders Group at 1030 hours. Thirteen prisoners taken. Battalion started to move at 1330 hours. Troops travelled in troop carrying vehicles. Arrived in area map reference 593677 at 0330 hours. The move was very uneventful and rather tiring.	
Neuphe Sur Dives Map reference 335555 Sheet 7F/6	24 Augsut 1944		Weather:- Heavy overcast, raining now and then. Battalion started to move on at 0915 hours for map reference 751819 ST MARTIN DU TILLEAU, arrived there at 2030 hours. We passed through an abonded German radio station, which would have been rather hard to attack if occupied. The unit moved through a miserable rain storm to-day and everyone is wet and tired. A good nights sleep will be appreciated.	

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St.Martin du Tilleau Map reference 751879	25 August 1944		Weather:- Sunny and warm. Commanding Officer attended Orders Group at 0100 hours. Battalion started on foot for LA HAIE map reference 855845 and arrived there at 0700 hours . Some of us enjoyed a sponge bath, and a short lounge in the sun. Battalion Headquarters in a little house in Chateau grounds, "B" company complete in Chateau itself. Received warning order at 1330 hours about move tonight towards the river SEINE. At 2330 hours Jerry bombers bombed the Highway about 500 yards from our area, made us think for a while.	
La Haie Map reference 855845	26 August 1944		Weather:- clear and warm. Battalion started to move at 1330 hours on all vehicles available. Debussed and cleared wooded area 0090 and found nothing. Re-embussed and moved ahead to prepare to attack ELBEUF 1296. Met our American cousins enroute, and later received instructions to move straight into the town as the Seventh Brigade had already occupied it. Spasmodic shelling from across the river, and numerous fires were burning in the centre of the town. We moved into area 121968 at 2230 hours, and settled down in the grounds of a beautiful big chateau. We picked up three Rumanian collaborators here and turned them in.	
Elbeuf Map reference 107984 Sheet 8F/2	27 August 1944		Weather:- clear and warm. "D" company sent out to clear our area in 1098. The Commanding Officer made a recce of the other side of ELBEUF in area map reference 107984. Companies took up defensive positions in area. Battalion Headquarters again in lovely chateau.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Elbeuf Map reference 107984 Sheet 8F/2	28 August 1944		Weather:- Clear and warm. Intelligence Officer visited all companiesand lectured to men on whole front and War situation in general. Padre buried five American soldiers map reference 108984. No shelling during day. We are having considerable trouble keeping our men out of the cafes and brothels in town. It is rather interesting looking at the destroyed Jerry tanks and Self-Propelled's in town. A Mark IV is on the road outside Battalion Headquarters and a large gun on a tiger mount.	Appx 12. A.L.
Elbeuf Map reference 107984 Sheet 8F/2	29 August 1944		Weather:- Overcast. Battalion left ELBEUF at 0430 hours, crossed the SEINE at approximately 0530 hours. Troops rode on all Battalion vehicles, arrived at ST AUBIN CELLOVILLE map reference 231060 at 1500 hours. Battalion took twenty-four prisoners. Companies left at 2100 hours, Highland Light Infantry were held up and we had to deploy along the road in square 2309 and slept in hay stacks all night. Rather a miserable night to say the least.	A.L.
Map reference 222098 Sheet 8 E 5	30 August 1944		Weather:- Raining and heavy overcast all day. Entered small town at 227098 at first light. Battalion set up Observation Post overlooking ROUEN at map reference 222098. No shelling during the day. A good rest was enjoyed by all. Eight prisoners taken. The Adjutant took some sleeping pills and that was the last we saw of him for over twenty-four hours.	A.L.
Map reference 222098 Sheet 9 E/5	31 August 1944		Weather:- Showers now and then. Battalion started to move on all vehicles at 0700 hours. Weather cleared a little, and the trip down into ROUEN and up through the valley was beautiful. The country we are entering now looks like the downs in England, and like some parts of Canada. This has certainly been a lovely trip so far. "C'est la guerre".	A.L.

for (D.F. Forbes) Lt. Col.,
Commanding,
North Nova Scotia Highlanders