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Author(s): Lieutenant-Colonel F.E. White.

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Keywords: Normandy ; Battle of Normandy ; D-Day ; Second World War ; Canadian Army ; Canadian Army ; 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade ; Independent Armoured Brigade; 6th Canadian Armoured Regiment ; 1st Hussars

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M.F.M. 11A
200M—1-40 (3185)
(M.O. 1773-39-1658)

ORIGINAL
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(Strike out where not applicable)

SECRET

WAR DIARY

OF

6 CANADIAN ARMOURED REGIMENT (1H)

FROM 1 JUNE 44 TO 30 JUNE 44

War Diaries
Ser 3/1
Appx 2-11
JUN 1944

RECEIVED
21 OCT 1944
WAR DIARY

VOLUME

0446
430

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APPENDICES 2 TO 11

ORIGINAL

JUN 1944

3/1

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WAR DIARY

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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M.F.M. 11
40/F & S/37 (2072)

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Page Nine

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
NEAR CAMILLE	13 Jun Tue	44	Partly cloudy and cool, a little rain in the afternoon. Day spent in re-organizing Sqns, taking some of the original crews from "A" and "C" Sqns to form a nucleus for "B" Sqn. The idea is to balance up the Sqns so that each one has an even number (old hands). CAPTAIN J.WL POWELL is the temporary "B" Sqn Cmdr with LIEUT H.M.LEES as the 2 IC. MAJOR GENERAL R.F. KELLER C.B. GOC of 3 CID paid an informal visit to the Regt. All ranks are resting and cleaning up-we need it-checking engines, guns and wireless sets. The mail has arrived for the first time since this Regt landed in NORMANDY on "D" day. It is a morale builder and we hope it will continue to come in regularly We left this harbour for another at 2300 hours.	EDhm
NEAR CAMILLE	14 Jun Wed	44	Cloudy and fair with cool wind, clear at night. This morning found us in a new harbour near CAMILLE, the move having been carried out smoothly and efficiently. Tpr A.O. DODDS and Tpr R.H. JEFFREYS returned to our lines after escaping from behind the German positions during the night.(for account see antedoted) We still have no definite news of CAPTAIN R.H.HARRISON, "B" Sqn's OC of last Sundays battle, or of his 2 IC, CAPTAIN H.L.SMUCK. The IO(LIEUT EDL MILLER) gave "RHQ" personnel a talk on the situation in general, including the AMERICAN front as well as our own. The men appreciated being "put in the picture". Three of our tanks have been recovered.	EDhm
NEAR CAMILLE	15 Jun Thu	44	Partly cloudy and fair, clearing mid-afternoon and warm. The CO(LT-COL R.J.COLWELL) called the officers in for a discussion on troop tactics and exchange of ideas of handling the situation, which troop leaders had experienced. The 88 mm a/tank gun was the subject of a lengthy discussion, no wonder, as this weapon if well sited and camouflaged,(they usually are) are a nemises to our crews. At 1700 hours our PADRE held a service which was attended by "B" and "C" Sqns. He stirred the men deeply when he gave them something more than tomorrow to live for.	EDhm

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Page One

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			6 Canadian Armoured Regiment (First Hussars)	
FORT MONCKTON England.	1 Jun Thu	44	Fair and warm. Briefing on bogus maps-all NCO's down to Crew Cmdrs are now briefed. Quarter stores open wide to get rid of odds and ends.	EDhm
	2 Jun Fri	44	Fair and warm. Last minute preparations are being made and loads are being marshalled. Some "B" vehicles are being sent to other marshalling camps but all our "F" echelon vehicles are being loaded from here or BAY HOUSE. "A" and "B" Sqns loaded.	EDhm
Southampton Docks	3 Jun Sat	44	Generally clear and some rain. "RHQ and "C" Sqns loaded on LCT IV's and proceeded to Southampton Docks where we were tied up. The men were marched down to the NAAFI in Southampton where they saw a show or wrote letters. The remainder stayed on board and rested or sun-bathed.	EDhm
	4 Jun SUN	44	Windy but clear. Men again went for a route march around the docks but of course nobody is allowed outside.	EDhm
AFLOAT	5 Jun Mon	44	Clear and warm with strong winds. Convoy for the invasion left Southampton at 1000 hours and by Midnight all personnel had been briefed with the maps to be used on the invasion.	EDhm
PIERREPONT Sheet 7F/1	6 Jun Tue	44	Early morning fresh winds, then fair and warm. Cooler at night. After a very rough crossing sub units of this Regt arrived off the Normandy Coast, France, to participate in the initial assault that will eventually free the peoples under the yoke of the Germans. "H" hour had been posponed one hour thus we started the assault at 0735 hrs. Our two "DD" Sqns "A" and "B", arrived off "MIKE"(Red and Green) and "NAN"(Green) Beaches between La RIVIERE and COURSEULLES both inclusive, sheet 6E/5A. Due to the roughness of the seas the LCT's had to run our "DD" Sqns close inshore and when 2000 to 5000 yards off shore, our "DD" tanks were launched. All of the 19 "B" Sqn	EDhm

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6th Canadian Armoured Regiment (1st Hussars)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
PIERREPONT Sheet 7F/1	6 Jun Tue	44,	Cont'd. tanks commanded by Major J.S. DUNCAN were launched, but only ten of MAJOR W.D. BROOKS ("A" Sqn) left the LCT's for the assault. During the run in seven tanks were sunk by shell or mortar fire and at least one of them was run down by our Rocket Ships. The remainder on touching down and deflating their canvas, engaged the Beach Defenses and were successful in destroying the remaining gun positions and MG's, at least 4-75mm and 13 MG's. CAPTAIN J.W. POWELL, 2 IC of "A" Sqn, had his tank hit by a 75mm located in a concrete fort but he was able to move forward and destroy it. THE R WPG R and the REGINA R supported by "A" and "B" Sqns respectively moved accross the beach but our tanks were unable to follow them immediately inland as the exits had not been cleared. "A" Sqn was especially held up. When our tanks landed on the beach they found teller mines on the posts driven into the beach, which normally our covered at high tide, had not been dealt with. They also found far more heavy calibre weapons than they had anticipated. At 0820 hours "C" Sqn under command of A.D'A. MARKS, and "RHQ" with the Commanding Officer, LT-COL R.J. COLWELL, touched down in their LCT's and dis-embarked onto the beach, "MIKE" sector. On arriving there and finding the exits not open and a considerable number of obstacles on the beach, The CO and MAJOR F.E. WHITE, the 2 IC, left their tanks and walked thelength of the beach endeavouring to find an exit. It can be noted here that everybody was calm and one would think that this was just another exercise. In the meantime the traffic was beginning to pile up so certain troops were dispatched to engage the snipers and MG positions. They were located on the crest of the hill behind the beach and were well dug in and were successfully hindering the ENGINEERS endeavouring to clear the exits. At one exit an armoured car was hit and it was necessary to move it by brushing it to one side, this was accomplished by LT G.W. GORDON, who charged it with his tank. While on the beach the Regt was under continual mortar and shell fire but fortunately we suffered very few casualties among "B" vehicle personnel. On completion of the exits the Regt moved inland to rally at GRAYE-SUR- MER, but on the way through the exitthe CO's tank struck a mine, blowing off a track, thereby forcing him to take command of his Regt from the 2 IC's tank. A the Infantry began to move inland they ran into opposition so all available tanks were rushed to support them. "A" Sqn with the R WPG R, "B" Sqn with the REGINA R and "C" Sqn in support of the 1 C SCOT R. It may be noted here that	APPX 4 " 5 " 6 " 7 " 8 " 9

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6th Canadian Armoured Regiment (1st Hussars)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
PIERREPONT Sheet 7F/1	6 Jun 44		(Cont'd) that MAJOR J.S. DUNCAN's tank was unfortuneatly sunk and he and his crew were reported by an eye-witness to be last seen climbing into an RAF dingy. This automatically made the 2 IC CAPTAIN H.L. SMUCK temporary OC of "B" Sqn. "B" Sqn on the EAST bank of the R SEULLES helped the Inf to clean up Courseilles and "A" Sqn did likewise with LaRIVIERE. "C" Sqn started to advance and cleaned out some of the villages on the way to BANVILLE. It must be taken into consideration that all future actions were always in support of the Inf although they may not be mentioned every time. In the afternoons fighting some of "B" Sqn found themselves ahead of our own Inf. They had some tough luck with a couple of 88mm, losing 5 tanks to them, until Sjt Gariepy LR, was able to silence them. LIEUT E.L. PEASE was killed in this engagement. The action on this day was so intense and fast that the tactical picture was hard to visualize, except to advance with the Inf and consolidate. By nightfall we had completed PHASE II of our objective. PHASE II was the establishing of the 7 CIB(Cmd by BRIG H.W. FOSTER) on a line running through FONTAINE-HENRY, PIERREPONT and St GABRIEL. That night "F" Echelon harboured at PIERREPONT, excepting "C" Sqn who harboured alittle further inland. "A" Echelon arrived at BANVILLE at 1630 hours and harboured there for the night. This Ech under CAPTAIN H.R. HERBERT carried supplies of POL, Ammunition and also reinforcement tank crews. After checking up on the number of tanks left, it was found that "B" Sqn had only four tanks in fighting condition and "A" Sqn only nine, so the CO decided to put "B" Sqn under command of MAJOR W.D. BROOKS and make it a composite Sqn. On reviewing the days action, we found that we did not meet up with any of the enemy's armour but we had inflicted very severe losses on the German Inf, staff and armoured cars and at least eight 88 mm a/tank guns and many smaller a/tank weapons. Two troops of "C" Sqn advanced as far as our objective, namely, BRETTEVILLE-L'ORGUEILLEUSE, sheet 7F/1, withdrawing without loss after inflicting casualties on the enemy inf. These troops it is believed were the only troops of the ALLIED FORCES to reach their objective on "D" DAY on the whole NORMANDY battlefront. So we close this great day satisfied that we have accomplished all that was possibe and lived up to our motto "HOMDIE NON CRAS".	

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PIERREPONT	7 Jun 44 Wed		Cloudy, clearing mid-morning and hot. "C" Sqn was first to top up and stow ammunition and left to support the REGINA R but were unable to contact them. The composite Sqn was switched and came up to support them in taking BRETTEVILLE- L'ORGEULLEUSE. This push resulted in a salient being made in the enemy lines and as the flanking formations were not successful their drive we had to spend the night in watching our flanks. We suffered no casualties this day although along with the infantry we had inflicted some on the enemy. Our immediate needs were supplied quite adquately by "A" Ech who by mid-night had established small dumps of ammunition, petrol, derve, oil, compo rations and water at PIERREPONT.	
SEQUEVILLE-EN- BESSIN	8 Jun 44 Thu		Fair and warm, clouding at night with a little rain. In the morning we received reports that the enemy was counter-attacking from the SOUTH EAST. "A" Sqn was despatched to help the Inf to retain their positions they had taken yesterday. The chief annoyance to our Unit, especially to our Crew Cmdrs is the considerable number of snipers left behind. The 1 C SCOT R area was especially thick with these pests, around SEQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN, and as the y were unable to ferret them out called on us for assistance. The CO despatched one of the Recce tanks to give them aid, LIEUT WAP SMITH was the Crew Cmdr and while giving the Inf assistance a sniper hit him in the arm. A bullet also went through the side of his helmet and came out through the top without causing any injury to his head. He came back to "RHQ" which had been established with the 1 C SCOT R SEQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN, and he would allow his wound to be seen to he insisted on passing the information as to the location of the snipers. Another two tanks were despatched which covered the Inf who used a flame thrower and in all over thirty snipers were killed or captured. We were very sorry to lose LIEUT WAP SMITH, who had done sterling work, all hope that his wound will not incapacitate him very long. In the afternoon "C" Sqn set out in support with one Coy of the 1 C SCOT R to cover a gap in the flanks in the area around CAIRON. PIERREPONT has been established as a base through which all our supplies will come. During the evening some of "B" Sqn crews who had lost their tanks on "D" Day arrived there from the beach and at present we have far more tan k personnel than we have tanks. MAJOR EM HARDING OC of "HQ" Sqn and RSM AA KEATING are in charge of "B" Ech.	

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SEQUEVILLE-EN- BESSIN	8 Jun Thu	44	(Cont'd) A noticable feature was the jamming of our wireless frequency by the enemy, who played records of both music and French dialogue. It might be said that they caused a great deal of annoyance when our wireless sets were some distance apart.	
LE BOUT-CACHARD	9 Jun FRI	44	Cloudy and warm with a little rain at night. The enemy continued to counter-attack with the aid of his tanks succeeded in over running the positions held ~~with~~ by the R WPG R at PUTOT- EN-BESSIN, penetrating in between the battalion positions and appearing at various points throughout the day on the Bde perimeter. All the available tanks plus "RHQ" were thrown in, forcing the enemy to withdraw after suffering casualties. In this action Tpr A. CHAPMAN gunner in a Firefly knocked out FIVE PANTHERS with five shots, a record up to the present for the Regt. TPR. CHAPMAN IS in LIUET HK HENRY's tank of "C" Sqn. BRIGADIER H.W. FOSTER Cmd of 7 CIB ordered an attack at night to restore the situation in PUTOT and to relieve the R WPG R with the 1 C SCOT R. The Regt less "C" Sqn went in support of the Inf and it proved to be a complete success, inflicting fairly heavy casualties on the enemy and shooting up enemy MG and mortar positions. The tanks remained out on the right flank until dark and prevented the Germans from counterattacking. When relieved we moved back to LE- BOUT- CACHAR and laagered out in the open. A few more of our "D" Day personnel arrived at PIERREPONT and will be sent up to the front as soon as the y are needed.	EDhm
CAIRON & BRAY	10 Jun Sat	44	Partly cloudy with showers. In the morning the Regt moved to a harbour near CAIRON and after lunch received a warning order for an attack which was to take place on the 12th of June 44. Late in the afternoon we moved to another harbour in BRAY sheet 7F/1. The CO attended a conference where the BRIG of this Bde issued the preliminary information necessary for the attack. We were to have under command the QOR(less two COYS) and the support of the DIV artillery. The intention was to attack around the right flank of CHEUX and capture the high ground at GRANVILLE-SUR-ODON. In the early evening we received twenty new tanks with a large percentage of inexperienced crews. This brought up our tank strength to 76 and the CO immediately reorganized the Regt on a three Sqn bases again, putting CAPTAIN R.H. HARRISON in command of "B" Sqn: We also exchanged tank crews, that is we put our experienced	EDhm

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BRAY	10 Jun 44		(Cont'd) men who had been saved from ~~xxx~~ our drowned "DD" tanks and knocked out tanks in place of the GRKEN men, and sent the latter back to TDR.	
CAMILLE	11 Jun 44 Sun		Cloudy and cool. At 0400 hours the CO (LT-COL R.J. COLWELL) returned from a conference at our Bde HQ and informed his officers that the attack was to be put in and we had only 24 hrs to prepare for it. At 0800 hours we were informed that the situation had changed and we were to attack at 1300 hours. BRIGADIER R.A. WYMAN (2 CAB) held his "O" group at 1100 hours and then the CO held his own an hour later. The plan was that "B" Sqn and one COY of Inf were to seize the initial objective, LE MESNIL- PATRY, while "C" Sqn deployed on the high ground on the right flank to support them with covering fire. There was no time for the DIV Art plan and the shortness of time allowed for planning did not give the sub-unit cmdrs the chance to brief their men of their own individual tasks. However we managed to make the start line by 1420 hours, but was our leading Sqn was starting off they found that the Regt would have to pass through NORREY-EN-BESSIN in line ahead formation. Our Inf had sown mines on both sides of the road BRETTEVILLE-NORREY, and they had not been lifted: there was no time to wait for them to accomplish this. We changed our start line as soon as this intelligence was received and "B" Sqn went on its way followed by "C" and "A" Sqns and "RHQ" close in the rear. "B" Sqn crossed the start line with Inf riding on their tanks and advanced towards LE MESNIL-PATRY. Between the two towns the enemy brought down heavy motar and MG fire to bear on the Inf who were forced to go to ground. The tanks moved forward and mopped up the MG nests and Inf positions , thus allowing some of our Inf to gain the immediate objective. In the meantime "D" Sqn after passing through NORREY deployed to the right flank of "B" Sqn. "B" and "C" Sqns seem to run into heavy enemy Inf concentrations and were expending their ammunition with devestating effect on the Germans. While the battle was progressing "A" Sqn and "RHQ" were advancing through NORREY-BESSIN to the start line which was just to the WEST of the town. Over the air came the information from "B" Sqn that they had reached their initial objective and their forward troops were well on there way beyond LE MESNIL-PATRY. Suddenly both "B" and "C" Sqns reported	EDm Appx 10

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
CAMILLE	11 Jun 44 Sun		(Cont'd) a/tank guns and tanks were firing on them. This information was passed on to our Bde who in turn ordered our men not to fire on them as they were friendly tanks. The CO ordered MAJOR AD'A MARKS "C" Sqn to hold his fire and fly his recognition flags. MAJOR AD'A MARKS acted upon this and even got out of his tank to ensure that all the tanks were flying their flags. He wireleded back to "RHQ" that the fire was increasing and the position of his Sqn was becoming untenable. "RHQ" tried to get in touch with "B" Sqn but there was no reply, then the CO gave "B" Sqn permission to fire which was carried out with celerity. It was evident that the enemy were beginning to outflank us and also they were mortaring and shelling "A" Sqn and "RHQ" in NORREY with great accuracy, which showed that the Germans had range of the town. The position of the whole Regt was in danger of being outflanked by the enemy's armour, so the CO ordered his Sqns to the original start line and reform. The original start line was the line of railway linking BAYEUX and CAEN in front of BRETTEVILLE. "A" Sqn was immediately ordered to the high ground east of BRETTEVILLE to cover the Inf withdrawal which they did; and they also stayed there until the enemy withdrew. "B" Sqn went on fighting as they must not have received the order to withdraw. We suffered heavy casualties, but we inflicted heavier ones on the enemy, especially on his Inf. The CO's tank again became a casualty in NORREY and he and his crew was forced to bail out , the CO and the IO(LIEUT EDL MILLER) jumped onto another "RHQ" tank. Some of the tanks at the start line were still battleworthy so MAJOR F.E. WHITE reorganized them into a road block as immediate cover for the Inf and to prevent the enemy's panthers from breaking through. The Fort Garry Horse(10 CAR) who were in reserve at the time of the attack were moved forward. Fortunately we were not called upon to defend so our tanks were withdrawn to laager in a field near CAMILLE. When all the tanks were camouflaged and the men had eaten their meal we began to assess the days battle and to find out how many men and tanks had failed to return. On he credit side of the account we knocked out definitely 14 tanks, eleven of them panthers and many probables, besides killing a huge number of their Inf. "B" Sqn again lost it's OC and the last report we had of CAPTAIN R.H.HARRISON he had bailed out of his disabled tank and was throwing hand grenades into the enemy slit trenches. Not one of "B" Sqn Officers returned to the Unit, all of them fighting to the very last. Only three NCO's returned, SJTS GARIEPY, GRISTEY, and CPL SIMPSON, who had fought their way back to our lines. Many heroic deeds were performed this day but only a few can be narrated here.	

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nCAMILLE	11 Jun 44 Sun		(Cont'd) The most notable was the dragging back of LIEUT W.F. MCCORMICK (who was badly wounded) by Tprs COOPER AND PARSONS. They assisted LIEUT McCORMICK for over a mile while under enemy fire. Sjt Simmons collested his crew together after his tank had been hit and was returning to the rear when he noticed a panther was about to use its small arms on them. He told the men to scatter and he himself ran towards the panther so as to draw their fire. He was not seen again. MAJOR ADJT A MARKS covered his Sqn while they withdrew from the battlefield. Tpr A. CHAPMAN the gunner who knocked out five panthers two days previous, scored three enemy tanks today. Many of the men who bailed out of their tanks fought along side the Inf and after dark make their way back to Unit lines. Our PADRE(H/CAPTAIN R.C. CREELMAN) assisted in dressing the wounded and when the tanks came in to laager at night he prepared tea and gave incouragement to the crews in an effort to raise the men's morale. It turned out later that the Regt had been thrown in to the attack suddenly to break up a Panther div attack, so saving the 7 CIB from being cut off and in the broader picture it helped the 7 A noured Div to advance on our right flank, so the casualties although fairly heavy had not been in vain. Some of our tanks had only run over mines so that many of these will be recovered. For personal accounts read anecdotes attached.	
	12 Jun 44 Mon		Fair and warm with slight breeze, cloudy at night. The Regt rested today and were able to get some much needed sleep, the men having very little during the past week. We were informed that the Corps Cmdr had stated "that while the battle yesterday had seemed futile, it actually put a Panther Div attack on their skids", thereby saving our front and flanks. Had the attack gone in this morning as scheduled it would have been far too late, that is the reason so little time was given for planning. The 54 LAD, under CAPTAIN P.C. NEIL and our technical staff under CAPTAIN W.A. ROBINSON are working hard to recover some of our tanks. We received word that MAJOR J.S. DUNCAN and some of his tank crews are safe in England.	

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NEAR CAMILLE	16 Jun 44 Fri		Cloudy and warm, with little rain early in morning. The CO sent some of his Subalterns to the various Bde HQ to pass and receive information of the immediate front and flanks. "C" Sqn held troop shoots, giving the gunners a chance to T&A their sights. The shoots took place near BRETTEVILLE L'ORGEILLEUSE, firing into the enemy's lines at a knocked out panther. The IO again gave a talk on the situation in general, this time to "B" Sqn.	
	17 Jun 44 Sat		Cloudy, clearing mid-afternoon and hot. "B" Sqn's reveille was at 0400 hours, so that their crews could T&A their sights of their 75mm guns; it was planned to use the same area as "C" Sqn used yesterday. The REGINA R would not allow any firing as the Germans retalliated with mortar fire after "C" Sqn left yesterday. The shoots were carried out just EAST of BRETTEVILLE. MAJOR J.SL DUNCAN returned to the Unit lines, and again assumed command of "B" Sqn. Sjts PAYNE and JOHNSTONE and Tpr McClean returned to us after being behind enemy lines for three days. According to Sjt PAYNE the Germans are shooting our men who have been taken prisoner in the back. He said that " along with two other men he was taken prisoner and as the German was taking them back the guard fired his weapon, shooting one of them (Tpr PRESTON) in the back" He and the other man made a run for it and managed to get away, although Sjt PAYNE was slightly wounded in the ear. After lying in a ditch for three days the Germans withdrew a few hundred yards and so he was able to get away under the cover of darkness. While making his way back he met Sjt JOHNSTONE and eventually landed at 7 CIB HQ, where they were interrogated. Tpr McClean told very much the same story, only that the enemy on withdrawing took Tpr PRESTON's body back with them. Tpr PRESTON, he claimed, was shot in the back while they were being conducted to the rear. The men are resting, cleaning up their kits as well as their vehicles. "RHQ and Recce Troop went on a short route march under LIEUT G.R. DAVY. "A" and "C" Sqn are taking an interest in sports, playing baseball, etc.	

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Page Eleven

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 9375 Sheet 7F/1	18 Jun 44 Sun		Cloudy with cool wind, clear at night. Church parades were held for all personnel. The Protestant service being taken by our popular PADRE(H/CAPTAIN R.C.CREELMAN) and the Roman Catholic by H/Captain GLEASON, Bde Padre, both at 0900 hours. The services were held out in the open. Our Padre during his brief sermon drew our attention to the fact that he did not wish to be PADRE to a Unit that shot it's prisoners in the back and that while we felt like doing so, it was wrong. He added that while the enemy was reported to be doing this, it did not give us license to follow suit, and in the long run if we played the game, this Regt would suffer fewer casualties. [redacted] We moved at night to a harbour vacated by the 27 CAR who are expected to put in a dawn attack tomorrow. Our move again was accomplished with efficiency to MR 9375 sheet 7F/1.	
	19 Jun 44 Mon		Heavy rains with strong winds. Day spent under cover of tarpaulins.	
	20 Jun 44 Tue		Cloudy with strong winds. Officers spent the day reconnoitering for a new harbour.	
COLUMBY-SUR-THAON	21 Jun 44 Wed		Cloudy and cool. We moved to this harbour at COLUMBY-SUR-THAON, arriving at 1000 hours after a 2 hour journey. The order of march was "A", "B", "RHQ" and "C". Balance of day spent settling in, digging slit trenches, latrines, camouflaging, etc. The Regimental Orderly Room vehicle and the IO's vehicle arrived, a few days late as they had been phased back. Most of the Regt has landed, just a few attached personnel to come in yet.	
	22 Jun 44 Thu		Cloudy and cool, clearing mid-morning and very warm with slight wind. "RHQ" held a muster parade and were informed of the syllabus that is to be followed while we are here. Reveille at 0630 hours, parade at 0830 hours withpersonal weapon and wearing headdress and dinner and supper to be over by 1230 and 1730 hours respectively.	

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Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY

OR

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(Erase heading not required)

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Place.	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
COLUMBY-SUR-THAON	23 Jun 44 Fri		Partly cloudy early morning, then clearing and hot with cool breeze. Reveille was at 0630 hours and the syllabus followed as laid down yesterday. It also applies to our "A","B", "C" Sqns, and our "A" and "B" echelons. We are training our reinforcements(some of them have not even fired the 75mm yet) to fit in with our old crews, so that all the individual members will get to know the rest of the crew.	
	24 Jun 44 Sat		Cloudy early morning, then clearing and very warm with slight breeze. Reveille parades and meals according to syllabus. While we are in a static position, we are to hold an information group at 1000 hours, given by the IO. We have made up a situation map of the local dispositions and also a map showing the world front. The officers after receiving this information, returned to their troops to pass on to them what they have learned. The men are taking a great interest in the world war news and especially the Russian front and at present this is the only means they have of getting the news. At the same time as this information group is being held LIEUT D.C. COUGHTRY issues the code signs and all the necessary codes for the following day.	
	25 Jun 44 Sun		Fair and warm, slight breeze with a little rain at night. This being Sunday morning reveille was at 0730 hrs, but the muster pa rade was called at 0930 hours, on which each man was given a package of Canadian cigarettes. These cigarettes were donated by our former CO of this Unit(LT-COL SANDERSON). Protestant church parades were held as follows: "RHQ" and "B" Sqns at 1000 hours, "A" Sqn at 1020 hours and "C" Sqn at 1100 hours, H/CAPTAIN R.C. CREELMAN officiating.	
	26 Jun 44 Mon		Partly cloudy and fair, cloudy in the evening, rain at night. Reveille at 0630 hours and parade and inspection at 0830 hours. Harbour discipline is to be more rigid, the CO has ordered that all empty tins will be flattened and thrown in a hole with all other refuse. After the hole had been filled and covered with earth a sign has to be placed there stating that is was a "refuse dump". Our new tank crews are still training and fit in well with the Regt. All the troops are well rested and their morale has improved considerably since the hard battle they fought on 11 Jun 44.	

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
COLUMBY-SUR-THAON	27 Jun 44 Tue		Clear early morning, cloudy at noon, showers in the afternoon, clear at night. Reveille, meals and parades as per syllabus. Day spent in checking all tanks, also supplying men with QM stores, who in the previous battles, lost all their kit. Our Padre held Communion for those desirous of attending at 1100 hours.	
	28 Jun 44 Wed		Partly cloudy with showers, clear at night. Information given out at usual time at 1000 hours. Following is the routine used on the information group: the intelligence summary sent down to us by 2 CAB is read out and the places mentioned are pointed out on the map. The BBC news broadcast which is read out over the air at dictation speed at 0900 hours is taken down by a member of the Int staff and then typed. After being read, copies are given to each of the Sqn Cmdrs. Any information of value received from other sources, liason officers etc., is also passed on. After this period is over LIEUT D.G. COUGHTRY (Sigs Officer) gives out the codes, unicodes, slidex, password, code signs and frequencies to be used on the following day. We are not allowed to have more than one days' code in advance. "A" Sqn with part of the Recce Troop moved to take over positions vacated by the 27 CAR, who were to put in an attack. The attack did not materialize, so our tanks returned to the lines.	
	29 Jun 44 Thu		Cloudy with cool winds, showers in the afternoon and evening, and warmer at night. Reveille, meals and parades as per syllabus. A certain number of men enjoyed the luxury of a shower in the morning, provided by a mobile bath unit. Owing to limited accomodations at the bath location, it will take three days to put this Unit through. Information group held as usual at 1000 hours. Regt ordered to stand by at 2300 hours. Message received that a fairly strong enemy force with tanks had attacked from GRANVILLE-SUR-ODON in the direction of CHEUX. One hour later we were informed that our troops in that area had counter-attacked and the situation was restored. Our "stand to" order was rescinded and we were able to relax.	
	30 Jun 44 Fri		Cloudy with showers, fair at night. Reveille at 0630 hrs, parade and inspection at 0830 hrs and the information group at 1000 hours. More men went to the mobile bath unit at 1100 hours. Our padre	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
COLUMBY- SUR-THAON	30 Jun 44 Fri		(Cont'd) Our Padre is still busy checking and burying our dead and it is his opinion that many of the men missing from the battle just beyond NORREY-EN-BESSIN, have been taken prisoner. Situation static. I hereby certify that this is a true history and narrative of this Unit, 1 Jun 44 to 30 Jun 44. Lt-Col (F.E. White) Commanding Officer 6 Cdn Armd Regt (First Hussars)	EDW

V. 14213.

M.F.M. 11A

ORIGINAL
~~DUPLICATE~~
~~TRIPLICATE~~
(Strike out where not applicable)

SECRET

WAR DIARY

OF

6 CANADIAN ARMOURED REGIMENT (1H)

FROM 1 JULY 44 TO 31 JULY 44

VOLUME

War Diaries
Appx Checked
Date 9 June 1947

War Diaries
Ser 3/1
Appx 2-10 A.
JUL 1944

RECEIVED
21 OCT 1944
WAR DIARIES SECTION
30 OCT 1944

1. 50

APPENDICES 2 TO 10 A.

ORIGINAL

JUL 1944

3/1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			6 Canadian Armoured Regiment(First Hussars)	
COLUMBY-SUR-THAON MR 998774 Sheet 7F/1	1 Jul 44 Sat		Partly cloudy and cool, rain at night. Reveille at 0630 hours and parade held at 0930 hours. The day passed quietly. Men received an issue of one ounce of rum. Situation static	
	2 Jul 44 Sun		Partly cloudy with intermittent rain afternoon and night. R.C. church parade held at 0900 hours. The individual Sqn parades at 0930 hours. H/CAPTAIN R.C. CREELMAN, our Padre, held communion at 1100 hours. We are now converting a room in a house located in this orchard into an "Ops" room. In this area is a house that has been booby-trapped and has been used by the enemy for instructional purposes on how to deal with booby-traps. "A" Sqn today were shown some booby-traps and were instructed in the art of neutralizing them. The samples left behind by the Germans were very valuable because it gave "A" Sqn some practical problems to work upon.	
	3 Jul 44 Mon		Cloudy and cool in morning, then rain most of the day. Situation very quiet. A few of the men attended a picture show, held somewhere in the rear. Usual routine, reveille, parades and information groups held according to syllabus. The morale of the men can be considered very high, for they have been able to rest quite comfortably while in this area.	
	4 Jul 44 Tue		Partly cloudy with intermittent rain. Reveille at 0630 hours, parade at 0830 hours and information group at 1000 hours. "C" Sqn are keeping its men in physical shape by having PT at 1000 hours daily. "A" Sqn played "HQ" a game of baseball, the former winning the game.	
	5 Jul 44 Wed		Cloudy with cool wind. PARADES AS PER SYLLABUS. "C" Sqn area was shelled by the enemy, but fortunately no casualties were caused. PT for all ranks at 1000 hours. The Regt plus all attached personnel have now landed and are stationed close by. Supervisor W.J. WILKES gave the men a show at early dusk, using an old barn for this purpose.	

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COLUMBY-SUR-THAON MR 998774 Sheet 7F/1	6 Jul Thu	44	Clear and very warm, cloudy with showers at night. Men giving tanks and all vehicles a thorough checking, and signals testing all wireless sets. In the afternoon the CO (LT-COL R.J. COLWELL) accompanied by the IO (CAPTAIN E.D.L.MILLER) attended a conference at 7 CIB HQ. We are support this fine Inf Bde again, this time in an operation called "CHARWOOD", which we expect to come off in two or three days.	
	7 Jul Fri	44	Fair and very warm. All tanks are being thoroughly checked for battle worthiness. For the first time the tank crews are leaving bed-rolls and bulky articles behind, to be looked after by "A" Ech. The CO and IO again visited 7 CIB HQ, this time for an "O" group held by BRIG FOSTER and after returning to Unit lines, the CO held his own "O" group at 1100 hours. In this coming operation "A" Sqn will support the REGINA R, "C" Sqn the 1 C SCOT R and "B" Sqn in reserve with the R WPG R. The men are very happy that they will be on the move again and feel well rested after this long rest.	Appx 4 & 5
MR 9773 Sheet 7F/1	8 Jul Sat	44	Clear morning, cloudy afternoon. Reveille for all ranks at 0400 hrs and the tanks moved off to take up position at start line, AUTHIE-GRUCHY ROAD. The attack was to go in two phases, the 27 CAR supporting the 9 CIB, who were to capture GRUCHY and AUTHIE. Our start line for the second phase was to have been the road mentioned above, however as "A" Sqn moved up on the right, they found that the enemy had not been cleared and consequently were involved before reaching the start line. Despite the slow beginning, the attack soon gathered momentum, and by evening had supported the Inf into the ABBEY and CUSSY. Afterwards MAJOR AD'A MARKS, OC "C" Sqn paid tribute to the manner in which "A" Sqn supported them from the right flank, enabling them to go on to their objective. During this action we succeeded in knocking out nine enemy tanks and many a/tank guns, for the lose of only two tanks. MAJOR W.D. BROOKS tank was hit but was saved by extra tracks welded on the front. Sjt LUMLEY's tank was hit and set on fire, but the crew stuck with it and succeeded in extinguishing the fire and bringing it back from the action. After this phase had been completed it was decided that the enemy was retreating	Appx 7 & 8

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 9773 Sheet 7F/1	8 Jul 44 Sat		(Cont'd) and with the 9 CIB and the 27 CAR the attack was pressed home and the NORTH side of CAEN was liberated. The R WPG R also pushed forward during the night and entered CAEN against little opposition. "A" Sqn had been ordered to support them.	
	9 Jun 44 Sun		Clear morning, clouding at noon with a little rain in afternoon. It was at first light that "A" Sqn arrived at the WPG's position in CAEN, which incidentally was also the objective. "A" Sqn on arriving there, found their Sqn OC MAJOR W.D.BROOKS, waiting for them in a scout car and as they were not needed, they returned to the harbour adjoining "RHQ". The tanks laagered all day at MR 9773 7F/1, and the men were resting from yesterdays battle. Our "A" Sqn has been divided into "A-1" and "A-2" Sqns, with "A-1" Sqn using our last harbour at COLUMBY-SUR-THAON as a base.	
	10 Jul 44 Mon		Cloudy with strong cold winds. Regt still resting and checking vehicles. Parade held at 0830 hours and the men were informed they would be moving to a rest area tonight, however it was cancelled we are to move tomorrow. During the day we managed to bring back a captured Panther which had been abandoned by its crew. This is the first Panther, we believe, to be captured intact and it will be turned over to technical experts.	
MR 027714 Sheet 7F/1	11 Jul 44 Tue		Cloudy and fair. The Regt moved to near LA FOLIE early this morning and on arriving, immediately dug in, but as a rest area it cannot be recommended at present, as the area close by was shelled and mortared. One of "B" Sqn's men was slightly wounded by a small cut in the back which wasn't serious. Regt is still checking it's tanks and drawing replacements. Along with t he compo rations came our first bread, not much, but very much appreciated.	
	12 Jul 44 Wed		Partly cloudy and warm. Reveille at 0630 hours, with the 0830 hr parade are being cancelled while we are so near to the front. Our men always have their tanks battleworthy if possible, but even then they keep checking their equipment, wireless sets, etc.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 027714 Sheet 7F/1	12 Jul 44 Wed		(Cont'd) Our "A" and "B" Echs are functioning perfectly and the mail is coming in regularly. "B" Sqn suffered another slight casualty from Mortar fire. The Regt is to come under 2 CID Cmd for a period not yet determined. Lately we have begun to notice the strength of the enemy bombers, many of them are passing over after dark. Their operation is evidently to bomb our L of C, and from the number of fires, it was evident that they were partially successful.	
	13 Jul 44 Thu		Weather partly cloudy and cool. The Regt is nearly up to full strength in tanks and is being organized as follows: "RHQ" with the same four tanks and each fighting Sqn with four troops of four tanks each and "HQ" with three tanks, making a total of nineteen tanks for each Sqn. The men are resting although we are under nervous tension owing to the enemy shelling and mortar fire. We have had a few enemy planes over and Sjt R. LILLEY A.88 is credited with shooting one down, also another probable. Sjt ROY LILLEY ~~REM~~, ~~MMX~~ is the senior NCO for the Aak Aak troop, this troop is doing splendid service in defending our harbour from air attack. The CO and IO attended a conference at 2 Div HQ (C), we are to support their Inf in a forth coming attack. After LT-COL R.J. COLWELL returned he dispatched the Sqn Comds to the various Inf Bdes of 2 CID to acquaint themselves with their personnel, as we have found this to be a very important point in operations. More enemy planes were over tonight.	
	14 Jul 44 Fri		Cloudy with sky clearing occasionally. Reveille at 0630 hours, men still resting and cleaning up, situation static. The CO and IO again visited 2 CID HQ. This area especially around our Bde HQ is constantly under shell and mortar fire. A few enemy reconniance planes were over during the night and were engaged by our Aak Aak troop.	
	15 Jul 44 Sat		Cloudy. Reveille at 0630 hours. All ranks enjoyed the luxury of a shower in our own lines, the mobile bath unit also exchanged towels, underwear and shirts, A boon to tank men.	

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M.F.M. 11.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 027714 Sheet 7F/1	15 Jul 44 Sat		(Cont'd) The CO, Adjt, IO and the Sqn Comds held a conference, there is to be a rehearsel tomorrow of an attack to come off the following day. The rehearsel is called "CHANWICK".	
	16 Jul 44 Sun		Cloudy wit h slight wind. The rehearsel referred to yesterday took the form of a set piece attack, with the Inf closely supported by the tanks, as this show is being laid on at a very high level, and has wide strategic implications and a great amount of secrecy is necessary in the preparation. This is being carried tothe extent that no one knows what is taking place. The rehearsel was carried out in the GRUCHY-BURON-ST CONTEST area and in spite of little time for preparation, was considered a success. Communications worked very well and the GOC MAJOR GENERAL R.F.L. KELLER C.B., who watched the proceedings very carefully expressed his pleasure at the results. 2 CAB HQ entertained at an "AT HOME" for the officers of the three Regiments, which was thoroughly enjoyed. The officers of our Regt unfortunately had to attend in their working clothes complete with dust and grime from the afternoon's rehearsel.	Appx 6
MR093742 Sheet 7F/1	17 Jul 44 Mon		Clear and very warm. Reveille at 0630 hours. The day spent on the last minute check of vehicles and tanks to make sure they were battle worthy. We received rations at 1800 hours, but instead of the usual one days ration per man, we received three days ration. We were also told that our water supply would have to last for the same period. "RHQ", "B" and "C" Sqns moved off to a new harbour MR 093742, Sheet 7F/1 at 2300 hours. "A" Sqn which was in reserve will stay behind until called for. The Regt was placed under Comd of 8 CID Inf Bdes, "B" Sqn under 8 CIB and "C" Sqn under 9 CIB.	
FACTORY AT COLOMBELLES	18 Jul 44 Tue		Clear and very hot. During the night we saw heavy bombers of the RAF pound the German defenses before and in FAUBERG-VAUCELLES, SOUTHERN suburb of CAEN. The Regt less "A" Sqn moved over LONDON BRIDGE which had been constructed across the RIVER ORNE and moved a short distance into the FUP.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
FACTORY AT COLOMBELLES	18 Jul 44 Tue		(Cont'd) The plan of the attack was "C" Sqn with the R de CHAUD to attack and capture the factory area at COLOMBELLES. The QOR supported by "B" Sqn were to move straight towards the factory buildings and strike east along the main road to take out GIBERVILLE. In the final phase the NSR's supported by "C" Sqn were to push around the right of the factory buildings regardless of the success of their attack and seize FAUBERG de VAUCELLES. On our left flank the GDs Armd Div and the 11th Armd Div were to make a sweeping attack and take out the gun area in the hills south of VAUCELLES. Opening the curtain for the show, the RAF put on a monster bombing raid and dropped some 7,500 tons of bombs on enemy strong points. The attack began slowly as the R de CHAUD had considerable difficulty in clearing out a Chateau just north of COLOMBELLES and the NSR trying to by-pass this attack on the right flank became involved in the fight. On the left flank the attack was more successful and the QOR ably supported by "B" Sqn swept through and captured GIBERVILLE, knocking out many light and heavy a/tk guns and SP equipment on the way. The attack on the right bogged down during most of the day and it was not until evening that the Inf swept through the factory area and into VAUCELLES. The G-O/C finally ordered that VAUCELLES would be cleared out even if the Inf had to fight all night and "C" Sqn had a troop supporting the Inf long after dark into the town. During the day the Inf communications broke down and the G-O-C received most of his information from the CO, who stayed with him at Div HQ.	Appx 9
MR 042664 Sheet 7F/1	19 Jul 44 Wed		Cloudy with an occassional clear sky. In the morning "A" Sqn crossed over the bridge in CAEN to rejoin the Regt. "A" Ech moved over LONDON BRIDGE in the afternoon and harboured near "RHQ" in the factory area near VAUCELLES. During the evening counter-attacks by the enemy seemed immenent and the Regt moved SOUTH of VAUCELLES to the area of IFS and took up fire positions. No counter-attack materiallized but it was a very uncomfortable night with enemy mortaring and shelling and very concentrated air attacks. A temporary HQ has been ~~[illegible]~~ established in a house just outside of VAUCELLES, MR 042664, sheet 7F/1.	

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MR 042664 Sheet 7F/1	20 Jul 44 Thu		Cloudy with rain in the afternoon. Today "A" Sqn supported the 6 CIB in an attack on BEUVOIR and TROTTEVALLE FARMS. "RHQ" tanks were established in a sunken road just NORTH of IFS. It was probably our most nerve racking day in action, as it was the 6 CIB's first show and the enemy's shelling and mortaring was most intense and accurate. LIEUT G.R. DAVY and Tpr M. TOOMBS were both injured when a shell scored a direct hit on their scout car while at 6 CIB in IFS. The enemy tried several ruses today, which added to the confusion. They would come out, either with a white flag or with their hands up and when within a hundred yards of our positions would drop into prepared slit trenches while their MG's behind opened up on our Inf who had advanced to take them prisoners. The day ended with the Sqns withdrawing to the high ground on either side of IFS prepared to hold off any enemy counter-attacks.	
	21 Jul 44 Fri		Rain most of the day. The situation remained unchanged, the enemy engaged in sporadic shelling. The Corps axis is to be the main CAEN-FALAISE ROAD with 2 CID on the right and the 4 CAD on the left. This is the first appearance of the fourth CAD and we welcome them while anxiously awaiting their main body of troops.	
	22 Jul 44 Sat		Partly cloudy and fair. The Regt was pulled back for a period of rest and refitting and "RHQ" is definitely established in a vacated house MR 042664, sheet 7F/1. The 27 CAR taking over from us, moved up to support 2 CID, but it is not thought that anything but local actions are pending. It appears that higher command are waiting for the bulk of their equipment and supplies to get across the river before carrying out any intensive operations.	
	23 Jul 44 Sun		Partly cloudy and fair. Day spent in rest and maintenance, conference held in "RHQ at 1400 hours. "B" Ech moved across the river and harboured forward of the Regt as there were no other positions available. MAJOR W. HARRIS MP was given Comd of "B" Sqn as MAJOR J.S. DUNCAN had been evacuated after the COLUMBELLES show. CAPTAIN H.S. BRYDGES is at present in charge of both "A" and "B" Echs. There was considerable airaativity and shelling at night.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 042664 Sheet 7/1	24 Jul 44 Mon		Cloudy with the sky clearing occassionally. Tanks are being prepared for another drive although we are a few tanks short of our full compliment. The vehicles we have must be battleworthy by tonight. Troop leaders and crews were briefed.	EDM
	25 Jul 44 Tue		Mostly cloudy and warm. The day was spent in making last minute preparations. We were to move out at last light to take up battle positions for the attack going in the next day. Before the Sqns moved off the Luftwaffe came over and gave us a thorough dusting off with anti-personnel bombs. Unfortunately we had a number of casualties, including LIEUT H.K.PATTISON, L/CPL T.A. DRIVER, killed and six others wounded. The tanks moved off to their positions. The CO (LT-COL R.J. COLWELL) rendered first aid to several English Provost who had been wounded in the air attack. Our Adjutant CAPTAIN R.G. ROGERS received the glad tidings that he was to leave the next day for the War Staff Course in CANADA.	EDM
(Should be 18 J.B) CB	26 Jul 44 Wed		Cloudy in morning, clearing partly in afternoon. Today in support of the 5 CIB, we launched an attack, with the ultimate objective of taking ROCQUANCOURT and FONTENAY-LE-MARMION. The 7 A Div were then to push through and seize the high ground NORTH EAST of FALAISE. Unfortunately very stiff opposition was encountered SOUTH o fVERRIERS and ST ANDRE SUR-ORNE. All day long we were subjected to intense and accurate mortar and shell fire. Our casualties were heavy, including MAJOR W. HARRIS M.P. who was wounded and Sjt UTTER and Sjt EASTON, who were killed. The latter person being killed when MAJOR AD'A MARKS tank was knocked out. One of our tank casualties resulted when a RP Thypoon mistook one of our tanks for the enemy. At night ~~xxxxxx~~ our tanks stayed with the Inf. During the day's battle we encountered our first Ferdinand and were greatly disheartened when our AP shots just bounced off. A number of the enemy tanks were engaged and some knocked out. We were unable to give CAPTAIN R.G.ROGERS A proper sendoff, CAPTAIN EDL MILNER become Adjutant.	EDM APPX 10

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M.F.M. 11
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 042664 Sheet 7F/1	27 Jul 44 Thu		Partly cloudy and fair, clearing a little at night. "B" and "C" Sqns were combined under MAJOR J.W.POWELL, total number of tanks-14. The day was spent in a holding role with sporadic shelling by the enemy, resulting in two of our tanks being knocked out, but fortunately none of our casualties were serious. We are still bothered by the nightly visits of the Luftwaffe.	EDhm
	28 Jul 44 Fri		Partly cloudy and fair. Today we were releived by the 4 Br Armd Bde and returned to our area in VAUCELLES, for an indefinite period. This area has been held by a few soft skin vehicles, such as the IO's 15 cwt and a few HUP's. We are now in Corps reserve. Everyone tried to make themselves as comfortable as possible under the existing conditions. Bde HQ moved to near LOUVIGNY, across the ORNE RIVER.	EDhm
	29 Jul 44 Sat		Cloudy and fair. A mobile bath has been set up near Bde HQ and we managed to send quite a few men to it. There was also a show by Aux Services for "A" Sqn in "A" Ech lines.	EDhm
	30 Jul 44 Sun		Fair and hot. Today we were informed that for the first time in 56 days our Regt has no operational responsibility for 72 hours. However we are still in the gun lines and we still receive due attention from the enemy. Refitting and maintenance continues.	EDhm
	31 Jul 44 Mon		Cloudy morning, clearing and warm afternoon. The month ended quietly today, the only outstanding event being a show presented by the ENSA, which was quite good.	EDhm

This is to certify that this is a true history and narrative of this Unit, 1 Jul 44 to 31 Jul 44.

F.E. White Lt-Col
(FE White) Commanding Officer
9 Cdn Armd Regt (First Hussars)

M.F.M. 11A

ORIGINAL

(Strike out where not applicable)

SECRET

WAR DIARY

OF

War Diaries
Apps Checked
Date 9 June 1947

6 CANADIAN ARMOURED REGIMENT (1H)

FROM 1 AUGUST 44 TO 31 AUGUST 44

0139
430

CDN. SEC. OHQ. 2nd ECH. 21 ARMY GP.
RECEIVED
16 NOV 1944
WAR DIARIES

VOLUME 1 : 60

24 NOV 1944
OMHQ

APPENDICES 2-9

ORIGINAL

3/1 AUG 1944

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Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY

OR

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(Erase heading not required)

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			6 Canadian Armoured Regt (First Hussars)	
MR 042664 Sheet 7F/1	1 Aug 44 Tue		Partly cloudy, clearing in the afternoon and hot. Reveille at 0630 hrs. Regt is still resting and efforts are being made to entertain the men as much as possibel. We are sending small groups of men to the beach to indulge in swimming. "C" Sqn received ten more tanks.	CMG
	2 Aug 44 Wed		Clear and very warm. Regt is still resting, we are subjected to a little shelling and mortaring. The Sqns are beginning to get back to full W.E. "A" and "C" Sqns went back to COURSEULLES-SUR-MER for a swim. It seems a good morale builder, for the men to go back over hard won country and see how the bridge-head is becoming organized.	CMG
	3 Aug 44 Thu		Fair and hot. The inter-comn troop has consistently entertained "RHQ" with their little group of musicians, another morale booster. The compo rations now being issued in bulk to cook's lorries which look after the Sqns and Echs has relieved the men of the responsibility of cooking their own food. We received our beer ration today, but the beer does not come in as frequently as the men had hoped.	CMG
	4 Aug 44 Fri		Clear and very warm with slight breeze. Reveille as usual at 0630 hours, meals at 0700,1200 and 1700 hours. Men still going back to the beach to indulge in swimming and they are enjoying this prolonged rest, even though subjected to mortaring, shelling and air raids. From information, we gather at Bde HQ, there is a large operation in offing, but this Regt will be the last committed in this Bde.	CMG
	5 Aug 44 Sat		Clear and very hot. Tanks and vehicles are being checked over to make sure they are battleworthy. "RHQ" tanks today had a lot of tank treads welded on to give them more protection. Experience has shown that many lives have been saved through this extra armour. A large battle map is being kept available, so that all ranks receive what progress is being made. A Sqn moved to take over position held by C Sqn 10 CAR at VERRIERS MR 0560 Sheet 7F/1 late afternoon.	CMG Appx H

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3/19A MFM.11 45/Pam/37 (3028)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 042664 Sheet 7F/1	6 Aug 44 Sun.		Cloudy Morning, clearing and warm. RHQ received a half track veh fitted with two No 19 sets. The CO intends to use this veh as a Comd veh when tactics warrant it. The situation is static although A Sqn in VERRIERS suffered two minor casualties.	Appx 4 CHG
	7 Aug 44 Mon		Clear and very hot. B Sqn took a supporting position behind A Sqn and RHQ tks were established near a dug-out west of IFS, with C Sqn on left flank. This particular part of the front is extremely active with the enemy shelling all the veh concentrations between VAUCELLES and IFS. A Sqn again suffered two casualties. Forthcoming operations gives a reserve role, supporting "DOWN THE CORRIDOR", (5 CIB) which will be opened towards ROQUANCOURT.	Appx 4 CHG
	8 Aug 44 Tue		Clear and very hot. A Sqn in VERRIERS pulled back with the SSR to TROTTEVILLE FARM, MR 053616, sheet 7F/1, behind the bomb line. B Sqn at this time was supporting 4 CIB in ST ANDRE-SUR-ORNE area and were held up by strong a/tk defences and tanks. The 27 CAR with flails and AVRES supported 2 CIB in a break through made at night towards ROQUANCOURT. For the first time Inf from the 6 CIB were carried in modified SP's to hold the objective. Our B Ech harboured in area 0464, sheet 7F/1, today suffered eighteen casualties eight of them killed, when the U.S. AIR FORCE bombed them by mistake. Eight men were killed and the remainder evacuated to CCP's. Unfortunately we lost some of our key personnel. Our Bde HQ was also hit in the same raid and the G-O-C MAJOR GENERAL R.F.L. KELLER, who was there at the time was also wounded. He later issued a statement saying that-"That the results of the bombing justified the risk". Brig R.H. WYMAN was wounded while leading a column up to the front. He has been evacuated.	Appx 4 + 5 CHG
MR 0656 Sheet 7F/3	9 Aug 44		Clear and very hot. A and B Sqns commanded by Majs CONRON and POWELL respectively moved forward to the attack with BRETTEVILLE-SUR-LAISE as the objective. A Sqn supported the CALG Highrs and B Sqn the R de MAIS, with A Sqn on the right flank and B on the left. In this action MAJ JW POWELL was wounded making the fourth B Sqn OC to leave the Sqn. C Sqn commanded by MAJ D'A MARKS were in Regtl reserve were diverted to restore the	CHG

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 0656 Sheet 7F/3	9 Aug 44 Wed		(Cont(d) situation with the CH of C on the right flank. This Sqn not only succeeded in restoring the situation but in doing so took some 250-300 POW. They rallied in the areax North of ROQUANCOURT after handing over the POW to the Inf to look after. The attack of A and B Sqns were successful, with A Sqn reaching their objective by 1900 hrs, and staying there until after darkness. As all the Bde is located in area m/n the CO decided to move some 500 yds to the North and A Ech were brought up. We ceased to be under 5 CIB and an operation is being planned under 8 CIB. As an item of interest, the quarry at MR 0852, Sheet 7F/4 was overrun by our men, who found the quarry catacombed with rooms and passages and all kinds of enemy eqpt deposited there was captured intact.	CHG
MR 0657 Sheet 7F/3	10 Aug 44 Thu		Clear and very hot. Morning spent by crews checking tks and making sure they are still battleworthy. C Sqn returned to the Regtl Harbour area this morning. The Regt moved in the evenign to support the 8 CIB in an attack on QUESNEY WOOD MR 1047 Sheet 7F/4. RHQ moved to beside 8 CIB HQ and then withdrew to north side of quarry MR 5208 Sheet 7F/4. The attack went in but was not successful owing to very heavy MG fire against the Inf and a/tk fire against ourselves. At about 1900 hrs it was decided to withdrew the Regt to harbour S.E. of ROQUANCOURT on the - CAEN-FALAISE highway MR 0657 Sheet 7F/3. Capt GW GORDON came in and B Sqn was placed under his Comd.	Appx 6+7 CHG
	11 Aug 44 Fri		Clear and warm, cloudy in the evening, clear at night. The day passed quietly but everone spent his time watching our arty fire and learned to appreciate its devastating effect.	CHG Appx 6+7
MR 065536 Sheet 7F/3	12 Aug 44 Sat		Very hot, cooling at night. The Regt was placed in Corps reserve and expect to rest for three days, but an operation with 5 CIB was planned so the Regt moved to and hasboured at QUILLY WOOD MR 065536 Sheet 7F/3. To-day the CO (LT-COL RJ COLWELL) and MAJ WD BROOKS were informed they were the recipeints of the D.S.O. The CO said he accepted it as an honeour to the men, and MAJ WD BROOKS accepted it as an honour to the men who served with him. CAPT A/MAJ JW POWELL and LT WAP SMITH were both awarded the MC and B 19523 Cpl BEVERLEY HT and .	CHG Appx 6+7

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 065536 Sheet 7F/3	12 Aug 44 Sat		(Cont'd) H 63809 Tpr A/Cpl RUNOLFSON HS were awarded the MM. C Sqn commanded by MAJ AD'A MARKS was to attack at night down the west side of LIAZE RIVER but the attack was called off.	CHG
MR 065536 Sheet 7F/3	13 Aug 44 Sun		Clear and very hot. The day was spent quietly awaiting developments of the attack, which the 27 CAR were putting in with the 4 CIB. By evening this Unit had reverted to Corps Reserve, but with an operation impending, moved to an assembly area, MR 113575, sheet 7F/4. RHQ remained at QUILLY WOOD and the CO held an "O" Gp at 2300 hrs. We lost a capable NCO Cpl G. SMITH-LOGGIE this afternoon, one of his crew accidentally discharged the co-dvrs browning, while he was standing in the line of fire. He was seriously wounded and was evacuated, and later on he died.	Appx 6+7 CHG
MR 1342 Sheet 7F/4	14 Aug 44 Mon		Clear and very hot. The CO rejoined F Echn very early this morning and prepared the Regt for its part in an operation called "TALLULAH" the attack started at 1200 hrs, A and C Sqns in the lead with B Sqn in reserve. The units involved experienced great difficulty in keeping direction due to the speed, confusion caused by the smoke and poor intelligence in that the LAIZON RIVER was not reported as a tank obstacle. That B Sqn became the leading Sqn and that A C and RHQ lost so many of their tanks. The Regt advanced on a axis which took them to a crossing at ROUVRES and B Sqn with part of RHQ pushed on beyond the river and reached the objective Pt 184 MR 136426 sheet 7F/4 by 1900 hrs and stayed there until relieved by the consolidating Inf. The first contact with Inf was with the 7CIB consolidating at 2300 hrs. In this action B Sqn is credited with eight 105mm and six 88 mm guns. Numerous POW were taken the best bag being one of 342 taken to the rear by a tank commanded by SGT L GARIEPY, whose guns were all out of action. To-day we lost several capable Offrs and OR's, CAPT HS BRYDGES, LT J FREEDMAN, LT C COLE, LT R COOMBS, and SGT LILLEY R - B.E.M. were among those killed.	Appx 6+7 CHG Appx 8+9

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 065536 Sheet 7F/3	15 Aug 44 Tue		Cloudy early morning clearing and very hot. To-day our CO LT RJ COLWELL D.S.O. became A/Brig of 2 CAB. Due to the heavy casualties suffered yesterday A and C Sqns were combined under MAJ AB CONRON who spent most of the morning preparing with the A/C.O. of the 1 Scot R to take pt 168 MR 145403 sheet 7F/4. While this attack was being prepared the Germans counter-attacked the positions we already held and B Sqn had to move just after dawn with their amn unreplenished and very low to restore the situation. The scheduled attack with the 1C Scot R went in at 1400 hrs and pt 168 was taken. Two tks were lost in this action and Inf cas were also quite heavy. An attack was then planned for 2000 hrs to take pt 184 supporting 7 CIB; however before reaching the SL two units of the 4 CAB who had been reported as holding the ground to the left of our immediate objective were found approx 1,000 yds behind our SL. Darkness set in before it was possible to sort out this situation caused by faulty infm, and the attack was cancelled. RHQ and B Sqn moved back to harbour and the composite Sqn following an hour later.	
" "	16 Aug 44 Wed		Clear and warm - slight breeze. The attack to put 7 CIB on to high ground at pt 184 went through to-day in the face of strong anti/tk fire and we are still questioning some of the dispositions of our flanking tps, who are reported to be where the enemy fire is coming from. By 2100 hrs the Regina R were firmly dug in on the objective and the Regt withdrew to harbour at QUILLY WOOD. At the termination of this days operation the Regt could hardly field one complete Sqn and many of these tks were not battleworthy. Personnel cas were however very low.	
MR 124412 Sheet 7F/4	17 Aug 44 Thu		Mostly cloudy and very hot with high humidity. Before leaving QUILLY WOOD we were visited by BRIG BLACKADER A/GOC of 3 CID who informed us we had given the inf great support which was highly appreciated. The Regt moved to an orchard MR 124412 sheet 7F/4 completing the move by 1000 hrs. Bath parades were held soon after arrival and in the evening we received a rum ration.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 124412 Sheet 7F/4	17 Aug 44 Thu		(Cont'd) The Regt were re-organized on a three very low strength Sqn basis, C Sqn being commanded by MAJ WD BROOKS D.S.O.	CMG
MR 289428 Sheet 7F/4	18 Aug 44 Fri		Partly cloudy and fairly warm with slight breeze. Reveille at 0630 hrs, tks being checked and topped up. The Aux Ser put on a show in the afternoon which was interrupted by the A/CO MAJ F.E. WHITE who informed us that the Germans were reported to be moving out fast and our tps were having difficulty in keeping contact with them. We were on a hours notice from 1400 hrs and at 1730 hrs F Ech was on the road to the Bde area BOIS de COURCY MR 2742 sheet 7F/4, but when we finally harboured we were in an orchard at NEUVILLETTE MR 289428 sheet 7F/4. A Ech moved at 2000 hrs and were on their way when they experienced an air raid, but fortunately did not sustain any casualties. The spontaneous reception which we have received from the civilians is very heartening and it is evident that they regard us as their real liberators. The morale of the men is very high, the contributing factors being, having the enemy on the run, the reception of the people, and the tank crews have been adjusted and the crew members are familiar with each other. The CO rejoined his Regt today to assume comd, Brig JF BINGHAM is now Comd of 2 C.A.B.	CMG
" "	19 Aug 44 Sat		Partly cloudy and hot, a little rain in afternoon clearing, rain at night. Reveille at 0630 hrs, and we awoke to find A Ech had joined us and were in the field adjoining our harbour. We are now under comd of 10 CIB but we are to support the HLI on to x point 124 MR 408535 sheet 7F/6.	CMG
MR 3329 Sheet 7F/6	20 Aug 44 Sunday		Partly cloudy, rain at night. A long night move from NEUVILLETTE to NEAUPHE-SUR-DIVES was necessary for us to join the HLI. We joined the HLI at pt 177 which was being held by elements of the SAR plus the scout platoon of the A & S Highrs. This marrying up was not completed until after dark which left us a considerable distance to travel to our objective to dense woods. It was now evident that the enemy was pulling out in great haste and utter dis-organization, but he is making great efforts to escape from the pocket.	CMG

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 3529 Sheet 7F/6	20 Aug 44 Sun		Sometime before the CO's return from an "O" Gp at Bde HQ an OR from the SAR who had been with some of their tks in the wooded area between us and pt 124 passed through RHQ in an highlyexcited state. He reported to the 2i/c that the SAR had been overrun in the dark by German Inf with bazooka's and as far as he knew was the only one to escape, the remainder of the night proved both miserable and hectic. Heavy MG fire from all points of the compass flew through the harbour of the combined units, supplemented by the occasional solid shot and mortar shells. Both CO's appreciated that it was impossible to move under the circumstances and the move to pt 124 was postponed till first light. A Ech moved at 2000 hrs to area MR 3032 sheet 7F/6.	CMG
MR 408535 Sheet 7F/6	21 Aug 44 Mon		Rain - Rain - Rain. This morning we formed up again with the HLI, and with the Inf mounted on our tanks moved on to pt 124 MR 408535 sheet 7F/6. A nd B Sqns, right and left, covered the forward slopes in the direction of ST-LAMBERT-SUR-DIVES MR 2426 sheet 7F/6. C Sqn were in reserve and RHQ in the middle. The HLI dug in all around us as we expect the enemy to try and break out. The situation is very confused owing to such large numbers of prisoners, the Recce tp alone convoyed over three thousand back to provost arrangements. Many important documents which had a bearing on future operations have been handed in. LT DG COUGHTRY Signals Officer was wounded to-day during a skirmish with the enemy inf, some of them S.S. Troops who had infiltrated as far back as our A 1 Ech at NEUPHE-SUR-DIVES. C Sqn with a company of the HLI were give a task of recoying a rout to supply Polish units which had been cut off in the CHAMBOIS area, this was completed satisfactorily and the route picketed.	CMG

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M.F.M. 11
40/7 & S/37 (8/43).

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Pt 124 MR 408535 Sheet 7F/6	21 Aug 44 Mon		(Cont'd) The area directly ahead of us is strewn with the remains of the enemy who were trapped and had been taken prisoner in droves. The morale of our men is very high as this is the first time they have seen the German army in total rout. At the end of the day no accurate figure could be given as to the number of P.W. which had passed through our hands. During the day the Arty opened up on the woods immediately in front of us and many of the enemy Inf including some SS troops who had been in hiding rushed out and nearly over-run our position, but we managed to control them and turned them over to the provost. The end of the day found us very tired but happy, our battering to close the FALAISE gap had not been in vain.	CMG
Pt 258 MR 4159 Sheet 7F/6	22 Aug 44 Tue		Partly cloudy and cool, with a little rain. Prisoners continue to stream into our lines and we have identified over twelve divisional formations. "C" Sqn has been recalled and "A" sch has been brought up to Pt 124. The next operation is intended to carry the FIRST CANADIAN ARMY to the line of the RIVER SKINE and the Regt once more being in Corps Reserve will not have an active part in the op unless the enemy decides to hold the line before the SKINE. The first part of our advance took place tonight to Pt 258, MR 4159, sheet 7F/6 and on harbouring there found the balance of the Bde was with us. We have been warned to move early tomorrow morning and the "O" Gp was held in a farm house located close by. All maps covering the route, approx 40 miles, was issued at the same time.	CMG
MR 587688 Sheet 8F/3	23 Aug 44 Wed		Cloudy with rain in afternoon and night. The Regt moved from Pt 258 along the Corps route, the TRUN-ORBEC HIGHWAY. "A" sch kept to the roads, while "F" sch "A", "RHQ", "B" and "C" Sqns led by the Recce Troop went cross country over very difficult ground. All along the road German equipment of which there was a huge amount, was found burned out and abandoned as a result of our air attacks. All the vital crossing had been treated thoroughly by the RAF. The Regt harboured in an orchard near MEULLES, MR 587688, sheet 8F/3.	CMG

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M.F.M. 11
40/7 & 8/37 (9/43).

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Page ~~Eight~~ 9

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 587688 Sheet 8F/3	24 Aug 44 Thu		Rain-rain-rain. Regt resting uncomfortably, due to the atrocious weather. Message came that LT-COL R.J. COLWELL D.S.O. was to report to number 2 C.B.R.G. to take up another appointment effective 22 Aug 44. Before leaving he shook hands with those present and thanked everyone for the help they had given him. MAJOR F.E.WHITE is again A/CO, with MAJOR W.D.BROOKS D.S.O. 2 IC.	MKG
	25 Aug 44 Fri		Clear and very warm. The Regt has been notified it will not be moving for at least 48 hours and while we are here the crews are checking their tanks and the fitters are overhauling the ones that need their attention. We are still in Corps reserve.	MKG
	26 Aug 44 Sat		Clear and very warm. R.C. church parade held at 1100 hours. Bath parades were held several times during the day to enable all ranks to have a shower. The Cdn Legion showed a film in the local town hall and it was attended by all ranks of this Regt with many of the local children enjoying it also. A civilian reported two enemy snipers under a tree near our area. The Recce troop was sent out and captured eight SS prisoners, with the 1st SS, 10th SS , 9thSS and the 12thSS Div represented, all of them belonging to the Arty. Much difficulty was experienced in finding a P.O.W. cage as they are nearly all forward of us now.	MKG
	27 Aug 44 Sun		Partly cloudy and fair, slight breeze. Reveille at 0630 hours, meals at 0730 hours, 1200 and 1700 hours. Men enjoying rest as well as working on tanks. The FFI are becoming more active in their operations and locally have dealt with several small parties of the enemy. The day passed quietly for us. MK	MKG
ENROUTE TO M.R. 1693 Sheet 9F/1	28 Aug 44 Mon		Partly cloudy and fair, clearing at night. The Regt was ordered to "stand to" and be ready to move by afternoon. The men have used this three days rest to clean themselves up and their morale is very high. We have been able to sleep well, not experiencing any air raids and cannot hear any Arty fire. The Regt moved at 1830 hours, moving in convoy behind 2 CAB HQ with the 17 L.F.A. behind us. We followed the Diamond route and we expect to harbour in the area MR 1693	MKG

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40/P & S/37 (3/42)

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Page ~~Nine~~ 10

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR 1693 Sheet 9F/1	28 Aug 44 Mon		(Cont'd) sheet 9F/1 by tomorrow morning. "A" ech as usual kept to the highway and the tks to the sideroads.	
MR 166937 Sheet 9F/1	29 Aug 44 Tue		Cloudy, rain most of the day, cloudy at night. The Regt pulled into m/n area at 0230 hours, the Sqns and "A" ech harbouring in close proximity to "RHQ". The day passed quietly, the rain making movement difficult. Bde Aux Ser entertained the men with a picture show. The A/Co MAJOR R.E.WHITE, Padre(H/CAPTAIN R.C. CREELMAN) and the M.O.(CAPTAIN A.E. CONLEY) journeyed to CAEN to give evidence at the atrocity trial being held there.	
	30 Aug 44 Wed		Cloudy, rain most of the day. Regt is still in Corps reserve, so we are gradually building back up to full strength. MAJOR F.E.WHITE, A/CO, has been promoted to LT-COL and been appointed to command this Unit wef 23 Aug 44. The officers and other ranks are pleased with the appointment. At 2300 hours the Regt was ordered to be ready to move at 0530 hours tomorrow and with 2 CAB HQ will cross the RIVER SEINE. Our Aux officer presented a show twice this afternoon so all the Regt could attend.	
MR 317083 Sheet 9E/5	31 Aug 44 Thu		Partly cloudy and cool, fair wind. Reveille was at 0400 hours and the Regt was ready to move at 0530 hours. We pulled out according to schedule and by 0900 hours were crossing the RIVER SEINE at CRIQUEBEUF-SUR-SEINE, MR 1899, sheet 9F/1 and then followed the main road EAST. We turned NORTH at MR 3102, sheet 9E/5 and continued with reasonable speed to our harbour at L'EPPINETTE, MR 3107, sheet 9E/5. The morale of the men is very high, especially as the news of the immediate front is very good. We are receiving more tanks and reinforcements. At 1900 hours we received orders that we are to move tomorrow for a long distance, approximately 58 kilometers. LT-COL F.E.WHITE held his "O" gp at 2000 hours at which the officers received their instructions.	

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40/7 & S/37 (A/AD)

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Page ~~No~~ 11

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			I hereby certify that this is a true history and narrative of this Unit, from the 1 Aug 44 until 31 Aug 44. LT-COL (F.E. White) Commanding Officer 6 Cdn Armd Regt (First Hussars)	