V.14530

M.F.M. 11A
2003M—5-40 (5185)
(H.Q. 1772-39-1658)

SECRET

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

WAR DIARIES
Appns Checked
Date - 19 Jun 1947

WAR DIARY

OF

19 Cdn Army Fd Regt RCA

FROM 1 Jul 44 TO 31 Jul 44

CDN. SEC. GHQ. 2nd ECH. 21 ARMY GP.
RECEIVED
8 AUG 1944
14 AUG 1944
WAR DIARIES

VOLUME

7/17

APPENDICES 1 TO 3

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

ORIGINAL

JUL 1944 1/018

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LIST OF APPENDICES

		ORIGINAL	DUPLICATE	TRIPLICATE
1.	AWF 3008 Fd Rtn Offrs	X	-	-
2	AFW 3009 Fd Rtn ORs	X	-	-
3.	Letter from Maj Gen RFL Keller to Col clarke	X	X	
4.	Pt II Orders	-	-	X

NO PT ORDERS PUBLISHED

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Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY
OR
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~
(Erase heading not required)

W.F.M. 21.
A.F.C. 2118.
1 Mil.—3-39 (1708)
H.Q. 1779-43-18

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
BASLY	1 Jul	44	At 0220 hrs, 100% stand-to ordered by Col. L.G. Clarke as counter-attack expected. Counter-attack did not materialize. GOC requests more attention to dress, discipline and deportment. This policy finds favour with this Regiment.	RHK
"	2 Jul	44	Still in support 9 C.I.B. Neutralized targets in GALMANCHE. Engaged many "Victor" targets. Capt. Cartmel wounded in lung by mortar fire and evacuated. FOO's do much mortar spotting. Supported in addition 177 Br Bde with D.F. Tasks. Regt teed-up by C.O. to expect a heavy week's work.	RHK
"	3 Jul	44	Participated in "V" Targets programme. Regiment moves to BRETTVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE to support 8 C.I.B. in attack on CARPIQUET. Our FOO with QOR's.	RHK
BRETTVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE	4 Jul	44	Engaged in battle for CARPIQUET airport. Took part in barrage 0500 hrs, then in direct support of 8 C.I.B. Div. reaches objectives of NORTH and SOUTH Hangars and CARPIQUET Village, but when support on right allowed enemy tanks through RWR (from 7 C.I.B.) were ordered to withdraw from South Hangars.	RHK
BOUGANVILLE	5 Jul	44	Regt moves to area North of CAIRON, still providing continuous support. Engaged a series of "V" Targets during the night - very heavy concentrations of fire. We are placed in support of 9 C.I.B. for proposed attack on BURON - GRUCHY.	RHK
"	6 Jul	44	Regt fired some "M" and "U" Targets throughout the day, but it was relatively quiet. A few enemy shells in our gun areas - no casualties.	RHK
"	7 Jul	44	Called on during the night for Defensive Fire. Received operation order for "CHARNWOOD". Participated in the preparatory series of heavy concentrations, beginning 2300 hrs.	RHK
ROSEL	8 Jul	44	Regt prepares for operation "CHARNWOOD" - the advance on CAEN. Shelled by enemy intermittently throughout the day. At gun positions 2 killed and 1 wounded: also 1 FOO, Lt. P.K. Griggs, wounded and evacuated. Aided 59 Br Div with barrage in Phase I. Regt in direct support of N.N.S. and 27 Armd Bde. during Phase II. BURON, GRUCHY, and CUSSY taken after very severe fighting. Regt moves to new position near ROSEL	RHK
"	9 Jul	44	Well dug-in in new position. In the early morning Regt engaged in barrage on CARPIQUET airfield and Southern Hangars. Col. Clarke, CRA's Rep 9 C.I.B. and our FOO's first with HLI,	RHK

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M.F.M. 11.
A.F.C. 2118.
1 Mil.—8-39 (1708)
H.Q. 1779-45-18

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
ROSEL	9 Jul 44 (cont)		then to N.N.S. as they come through, then to S.D.&.G's as they go through. 9 CIB advanced leaving firm base at BURON. HLI on firm base at BURON. N.N.S. made firm base in FRANQUEVILLE. S.D.&.G's into CAEN supported by 27 Armd Bde. Our FOO's were with S.D.&.G's and 27 Armd Bde and the Regt supported the advance into CAEN. Our FOO's, in their tanks, greeted enthusiastically by the few civilians left. Advance went so well remainder of 9 C.I.B. moved up. Capt. M.A. Baker's tank destroyed by enemy A/T. Crew all O.K.	
ST GERMAINE	10 Jul 44		Regt moved to new area on outskirts of CAEN. Subjected to intermittent heavy mortar and shell fire. Col. Clarke and the FOO's return to the Regt for their first rest since the final battle for CAEN started. It had been a heavy week's work, but morale is still high.	
"	11 Jul 44		Steady shelling by the enemy during the night. He has fired no concentrations, but generally a series of 5 or 6 single rounds. He has also fired some airbursts. Eight German planes strafing our area. Four brought down by A/A in flames. One pilot, who bailed out turned over to Provost. Heavy guns shelling Divisional area - 19th the only Regt far enough forward to engage. Engaged effectively. FOO's called in and Col. Clarke sends reps to each Bde.	
"	12 Jul 44		This Regt, along with 3 Cdn Inf Div, goes under Comd 2 Cdn Corps. Gun positions subject to heavy shellfire from 155mm guns throughout the day. One shell landed three feet from one S.P. but only superficial damage resulted. Engaged on harassing fire tasks and "U" Targets throughout the day. Three casualties from mortar fire. Div Net R/T set off the air for five minutes - the first time since "D" Day, 6 June - a good record for RC Sigs.	
"	13 Jul 44		Regt placed under Command of Corps. Letter of thanks received by Col. Clarke from Maj-Gen Keller, enclosed with this Diary. 2 Corps places us again under 3 Div. Our Representative, Capt. M.A. Baker, with 9 CIB, reports four direct hits on that HQ and a resultant move. Many "U" targets engaged during the day. As the farthest regt forward this Regt was called upon for some targets which only we could engage.	
"	14 Jul 44		Two prisoners-of-war captured by 63 Bty. On information of civilians our men surrounded a house and forced them to surrender. Regt still in front of CAEN. Shelled continuously throughout the day. Casualties were one killed and two wounded. Engaged on	

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WAR DIARY
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M.F.M. 21
A.F.C. 2118
1 Mil.—5-40 (3942)
H.Q. 1772-20-1658

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
ST GERMAINE	14 Jul (cont)	44	on C.B. and H.F. Tasks. Movement in our area has been restricted to a minimum as any movement brings down enemy fire. Cdn Legion Supervisor Payne has had to cancel plans for entertainments and though staying himself, has moved his staff and equipment back to "B" Echelon. 99 Bty Cook truck hit by shellfire and set on fire. Cooks under the remains, but O.K.	
"	15 Jul	44	Still under shell fire. Civlian brought in by Capt. H.J. Stirling with valuable information re enemy POL and amn dumps; also location of railway guns that come out, fire a few rounds and are then run back in the railway tunnels. Information passed on to CRA for attention.	
"	16 Jul	44	Two of our attached RC Sigs buried in their slit trench by a shell, but were dug out before any ill effects. Regts engaged in C.B. bombardment in support of 12 Corps British advance on ESQUAY and EVRECY this morning.- ESQUAY taken early in the night and 12 Corps moved into EVRECY this morning - apparently a clockwork operation. Probably due to our C.B. bombardment, enemy shelling during the day was practically negligible. New Regt posn surveyed in area NORTH-WEST of LA BIJUDE.	
LA BIJUDE	17 Jul	44	Regt moved during the night to LA BIJUDE area in preparation for operation "ATLANTIC". R.H.Q. shares Chateau Le Mandel with Winnipeg Rifles, who are having a 24 hr rest. The Regt enjoys days of respite from enemy shelling - the first for several weeks. Task tables and traces received for "ATLANTIC" - the break-through EAST of CAEN. The programme calls for approximately 600 rds per gun - 15,000 for the Regt.	
"	18 Jul	44	Operation "ATLANTIC". Engaged in Counter-battery bombardment 0620 until "H" hour 0745. Regt on two special concentrations until 0830 when it took on one lane of a barrage (lasting 5 hrs) paving the way for the advance of 8 and 9 Bdes down the EAST side of River ORNE. Regt in support of 8 and 9 Bdes following the barrage. CO's reps Capt. H.M. Harrison and Capt. T. Bond.	
	19 Jul	44	The break-through of the 8th Corps into the tank country EAST of the ORNE brought as a result a quiet night going both ways. Regiment laid on SOS Task for Regt De CHAUDIERES through the night but was not called on. Regt moves back again to CAEN and prepares for possible D.F. Tasks. We also await with other 3 Div Arty a move across the ORNE.	

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M.F.M. 11
A.F.C. 2118
1 MR.—5-40 (3942)
H.Q. 1773-99-1000

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
CAEN	20 Jul	44	Engaged in fire plan in support of the 2nd Division's advance on ST ANDRE SUR ORNE. Also participated in "Victor" Targets where they reached strongpoints. Advance successful and Regiment is warned for move across the ORNE. Advance party crosses the ORNE at 1830 hrs and prepares position just North of CORMELLES.	
CORMELLES	21 Jul	44	The Regiment moved across the ORNE in non-tactical formation at approximately 0630 hrs and was ready in new position on Final Grid at 0821 hrs. R.H.Q. established in a former munitions storehouse with protecting walls over 8 feet thick. Several booby traps found and detonated safely. Regt engaged in extensive H.F. fire tasks. One S.P. of 63rd Bty knocked out by an 88mm shell - no casualties. Enemy bomb dropped 100 yds from RHQ - no casualties.	
"	22 Jul	44	One troop out during the night in a rover position engaged in extensive H.F. plan. Lieut. D.G. Lott FOO with North Nova Scotias used the regiment extensively against enemy tanks and defended positions during morning and afternoon. Lieut. Lott's O.P. received a direct hit and his signaller and Able are killed and himself very severely wounded. Capt. Murdock takes over as FOO with N.N.S.	
"	23 Jul	44	One troop in a rover position during the night on an extensive H.F. plan. Remainder of Regiment did a C.B. bombardment for the C.B.O. in addition to regular Div Tasks and Targets. Called on for many M.L. and D.F. tasks during the day. Comment passed back from Colonel Petch of N.N.S. "The accuracy and timing of the shooting on the M.L. and D.F. Tasks has done much to strengthen the morale of the infantry".	
"	24 Jul	44	Regt engaged in a very extensive H.F. programme during the night. At noon to-day the Regiment along with the rest of 2nd Cdn Corps came under Command of First Cdn Army. Ammunition holdings reached over 1000 rds per gun for a new record for this campaign. Col. Clarke and the adjutant went to CRA's conference re operation "SPRING". This will be the first battle engaged in under Canadian "Army". Officers briefed by Col. Clarke for the operation. The operation entails further advances South from ST ANDRE SUR ORNE and BOURGEBUS.	
"	25 Jul	44	The heaviest bombing attack yet made by the Luftwaffe took place to-night. Some close bombs and strafing of our areas - only casualty was a sprained ankle caused by a poor pivot in diving for a slit trench. The Regiment engaged during the night on special concentrations in support of 2nd Div attack . Attack goes forward under searchlights - a new experience for our troops. Reports from FOOs show that opposition is extemely heavy and stubborn.	

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W.F.M. 11
A.F.C. 2118
1 M.—5-40 (2242)
H.Q. 1773-59-1658

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
CORMELLES	25 Jul 44 (cont)		At one time during the day our troops held MAY SUR ORNE, VERRIERES and 3/4 of TILLY LA CAMPAGNE. Called on for extensive fire support during the day. Heavy shelling of our gun areas and R.H.Q. "F" Troop Command Post was buried by a shell - no casualties. 99th Bty cook truck damaged. One delayed shell burrows underneath Cdn Legion truck and explodes on other side - no damage except covered with debris.	RAK
"	26 Jul 44		Another heavy bombing - no casualties. Results of operation still not clear. First clear picture of the operation comes from Major R.S. Hetherington and passed on to CRA. NNS being withdrawn to re-organize and Major Hetherington and Capt. Stewart return, Capt. Bond and Capt. Harrison remain and engage many targets of opportunity. Capt. Murdock relieves Capt. Harrison. Special briefing by Lt.-Col. Clarke explains how the enemy has been "built up" on the Canadian Corps front, warns of the expected attack and outlines preparations to be made. Our main role will be anti-tank for the Orne Valley. During heavy enemy shelling to-day two S.P.s of the 99 Bty were set on fire by enemy shell fire but prompt work by the crews got the fires out. In one case this entailed driving the smoking S.P. away from a pile of smouldering ammunition, shrapnel from these two shells accounted for nine casualties. Their good work saved a possibility of a more serious loss in equipment and personnel and they had both guns back in action within ½ hr.	CO's Rep with Bn HQ NNS. RAK
"	27 Jul 44		Early in the night word was received that the enemy was attacking and we were called on for extensive D.F. fire in support of 2nd Div on our right. Attacks were repulsed by R.H.L.I. About 1330 hrs the enemy put on another heavy bombing attack. One bomb fell beside one "D" Tp S.P.s and set dumped ammunition on fire. Dvr. Mech J.V. Nichol got in the S.P. and moved it away - a second bomb fell on the former site of the S.P. There were 4 casualties The remainder of the night and all day was very quiet with very little shelling from the enemy. Capt. Murdock engaged any signs of enemy activity from his O.P. in HUBERT FOLIE.	RAK
"	28 Jul 44		Last night enemy bombing attack was very mild and only one bomb was dropped in this area - no damage. Our own night bombers gave the enemy on our front a going over. Otherwise a quiet night. During the day engaged many "Uncle" tgts - main ly suspected mortar and Artillery positions. Supplied special support while 3rd A/T got some guns into special positions.	RAK

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A.F.C. 2118.
1 Mil.—8-39 (1706)
H.Q. 1773-48-18

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
CORMELLES	29 Jul	44	Enemy bombing and considerable shelling during the night. Two shells fell among the personnel of R.H.Q. but one buried itself before exploding and the other failed to explode - result no casualties. Extensive H.F. programme of a new type - coverage of a 24,000 yd square. We had a visit to-day from General Keller and Brig. Todd. They visited each battery and conversed with personnel. Capt. T. Bond engaged any enemy activity observed on Div front.	RAR
"	30 Jul	44	Engaged in extensive H.F. plan during the night. A mild air-raid during the night. Heavy 17cm enemy shelling about 0600 hrs - some close calls but no casualties. Col. Clarke briefs his "O" group with the information that the Regiment will be relieved to-day by 4 RHA and go with the balance of 3 Div to a rest area. Capt. Bond keeps the Regiment busy during the day engaging any sign of enemy activity. The Regiment was relieved one battery at a time by 4 RHA and was completely out of action for the first time since "D" Day at 2109 hrs, excepting while moving across the Orne. The Regiment commcenced its move back over the Orne at 2245 hrs.	RAR
VILLONS LES BUISSONS	31 Jul	44	The Regiment reaches the "Rest Area" without incident. Our area is part of the flat open grain country North of VILLONS LES BUISSONS. There is absolutely no cover and the only protection from air attack is dispersal as wide as the area allows. It is a real attribute to our airforce and also our AA defence that such an area can be used thus. A quiet and restful day was enjoyed by all personnel.	RAR

Diarist: R.A. Read
Lt. R.A. Read

(L.G. Clarke) Lt.-Col.
Commanding
19 Cdn Army Fd Regt RCA

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