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Keywords: Normandy ; Battle of Normandy ; D-Day ; Second World War ; Canadian Army ; Canadian Army ; 29th Canadian Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment ; South Alberta Regiment ; 4th Canadian Armoured Division

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WAR DIARIES
PP 8 Thec
Date - 13 Jun 1947

WAR DIARY

OF

29 CANADIAN ARMoured RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT (S ALTA BQ)

FROM 1 JUL 44

TO 31 JUL 44

B. 29
0467
625-



VOLUME

1 vol 20 Aug 44

APPENDICES 1 TO 4

ORIGINAL

1948 JUL

4336

WAR DIARY

XIX

Sheet 1

M.F.M. 21.

A.F.C. 218.

1 MB-4-50 (1750)

H.G. 12-1-43

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

Title pages will be prepared.

~~WAR DIARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MARESFIELD CAMP, ENGLAND	1 Jul 44		Cloudy and rain. Individual trg is being carried out by all sqns today. The order has come out that 24 hrs rest periods will commence again today. With that, approximately one fifth of the Regiment took off for a short rest. The fifteenth consecutive dance was held in the Officers' Mess in the evening.	HLB
" "	2 Jul 44		Cloudy and rain. Church parade was held for "A" and "C" Sqns. Two air-raid alarms were heard during the night. The buzz-bombs are still coming over fast and furious but are being shot down by the RAF equally as fast and furiously.	HLB
" "	3 Jul 44		Cloudy and rain most of the day. A few officers proceeded today on a one day course on 17 pdrs in the G.G.F.G's lines. It is expected that soon we shall be issued with 17 pdrs on Shermans on a scale of one per tp. Individual trg carried out by the sqns. At 1930 hrs all sqns were paraded to the gym to witness a series of trg films.	HLB
" "	4 Jul 44		Cloudy and cool in the morning becoming warm and sultry in late afternoon with scattered showers. The Commanding Officer and all Sqn Comds proceeded on a TEWT which is to last three days. The Sqns are carrying out individual tp trg and sports. More films were shown to the men in the afternoon. At approximately 1600 hrs the RAF shot down one "buzz bomb" over the camp which fell quite close to the GGFG's lines, damaging a few trucks and injuring one man. It was noted that more injuries occurred by men diving under their tanks, bumping their heads, than by the blast from the bomb. Evidently a drill is required. The officers' softball team played a challenged game with the officers of 5 A/Tk Regt. The officers were quite outclassed losing by a score of 14 - 2. The two teams were on the best of terms until one of our officers, at the end of the game, asked for three cheers for the AAs.	HLB
" "	5 Jul 44		Clear and warm. Cloudy in afternoon. All sqns are organizing Tabloid Sports teams. "B" Sqn spent the morning on the ranges firing Bren and Rifle. The return game between the men of 5 A/Tk Regt and ourselves was played at MARESFIELD PARK at 1900 hrs. A very close game it was, but one bad inning for the 5 A/Tk put us in the lead five runs. Final score 6 - 1.	HLB

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MARESFIELD CAMP, England	6 Jul 44		Clear and warm. "B" and "C" Sqns were allotted the ranges today for firing Bren, Rifle and Pistol. The officers' competitive pistol shoot was to commence today but due to the Senior Officers' Tactical Week it has been postponed for a few days. "B" Sqn held audience in the gym which got under way about 2030 hrs. One air raid warning in the evening. Another "buzz-bomb" was shot down very close to camp.	HLB
"	7 Jul 44		Clear and warm. To see the cases piled out in front of "B" Sqn orderly room this morning, their dance was obviously a great success. "C" Sqn was allotted UCKFIELD RANGE for firing Bren and Rifle, while "A" and "B" Sqns, aside from tp trg in the morning, polished up on their inter-tp sports in the afternoon. More buzz-bombs crossed over the camp just after mid-night.	HLB
"	8 Jul 44		Clear and cool. Individual tp trg in the morning which included route marches. The Bde Tabloid Sports Teams met in the afternoon and we won again. The tug-o-war was a stiff match but none the less we came out on top. In one respect the Regiment slipped in its sports. The Regimental softball team lost their first game of the year to the Algonquins. Score 5-2. Two air-raid alarms in the evening as well as another raid on the officers' supply line of liquor in the form of a party. This raises the casualties up to sixteen.	HLB
"	9 Jul 44		Cloudy and cool, raining most of the afternoon. Church parade was held for HQ and "B" Sqn	
"	10 Jul 44		Clear and cold. The morning is being spent in tank maintenance, the remainder of the day in sports. Serial "A" of the Cdn Army Show was put on for the men in the evening. The show was to commence at 1900 hrs but due to tpt difficulties it was delayed for some half an hour. At the time the men were a little restless but agreed at the end of the show that it was worth waiting for. Tpr Tribe, T W was SOS to X-List today on a mission to 13 Cdn Gen Hospital.	HLB
"	11 Jul 44		Cool and cloudy, warming up in the afternoon. The junior officers' TEWTs commenced today and will last until Thursday, each Sqn officers attending for two days. The tps spent the day doing individual tp trg and sports. The Regimental softball team played the most exciting game of the season with the Argyll & Sutherlands, losing by a score of 2 - 1. The sergeants covered themselves in glory by defeating the officers 9 - 8. Of course the officers were only practicing their team for future games! Lieuts A C Scrimger, W H Young and D E Stewart returned from their short 17 pdr course held at LULWORTH.	HLB

Title pages will be prepared.

~~INTELLIGENCE SECURITY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Sheet 3

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
MARESFIELD CAMP, England	12 Jul 44	44	Fair and warm. Sqn trg in camp area with sports on the camp field. HQ Sqn used CHIDDINGLY RANGE for Sg firing practice. Officers' TEWT continued all day.	HLB
" "	13 Jul 44	44	Fair and warm. Individual sqn and tp trg all day. "C" Sqn used BROADWATER FOREST rifle range. Officers' TEWT all day, this being the final day. Two air raid warnings during the night.	HLB
" "	14 Jul 44	44	Fair and warm. All-day sports competition on MARESFIELD sports field. HQ Sqn won the cup for the highest points gained by teams entered. The Recce Tp won the highest awards for teams. The final baseball game played between HQ Sqn and "C" Sqn was the event of the day. HQ Sqn lost with a tight score of 5 - 6. In the evening HQ Sqn held an sqn dance in the gym. This was a successful event. Wrens from SEAFORD, ATS from LINDFIELD and many civilians from BRIGHTON and UCKFIELD attended. Music was supplied by the Lake Superior Regimental orchestra. The gym was gaily decorated with flags. A light lunch was served at 2230 hrs.	HLB
" "	15 Jul 44	44	Fair and warm. The morning was used up with the Quartermaster issuing new gear. The afternoon free for short passes.	HLB
" "	16 Jul 44	44	Fair and warm. All leaves have been cancelled. The CO and IO left in a heavily laden 5-cwt for ports unknown. This is the long expected move we have been waiting for. The Regimental Advance Party left this morning at 0930 hrs, joining the Bde coln at 1000 hrs at JARVIS BROOK. Party consisted of the CO, IO, Sgt, a French speaking dvr and a DR. On arrival at Bde RV the other units in the Bde were contacted and it was noted that everyone seemed a bit bleary-eyed, evidence of last night's partying. The Bde Adv Party Gp left JARVIS BROOK at 1020 hrs arriving in vicinity Div Hq at 1100 hrs. We were then notified we would be halted here for 55 mins. The Div Adv Party Gp consisted of vehs of all shapes and sizes ranging from overladen jeeps to caravans. At 1205 hrs the Gp moved on Route laid down by 10 CIB Notes on Move. Coln moved very slowly, delayed by waterproofed caravans overheating and an amn truck at head of coln catching fire. Arrived at Camps 16 and 17 at 2200 hrs. At 2230 hrs we ate and received warning order to be ready to move at 0045 hrs.	HLB

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MARESFIELD CAMP, England	17 Jul 44		<p>Fair and warm. Orders to move have been received. The Regiment is busy making final preparations for the move tonight at 0001 hrs. All track vehicles leave at this time followed by all 'B' Vehicles at 0630 hrs tomorrow. At 2230 hrs the roar of the Shermans can be heard from the tank park. By 2330 hrs a long line of tanks are ready to move. The men are very quiet tonight and leaving MARESFIELD is a very quiet farewell compared to previous partings. Most of the men are talking in the grass beside their tanks, with no more excitement than a normal exercise would command. There are possibly twelve civilians standing at the exit gate to wave farewell.</p> <p>The Adv Party boarded ships at 2200 hrs after a trip from 3 RCRP of about 8 miles.</p>	All
ENGLAND	18 Jul 44		<p>Fair and Warm. After 5 1/2 hrs of travel the tanks arrive at the embarkation point. The route left MARESFIELD then north to EAST GRINSTEAD through LONDON and to the harbour for the remainder of the day a short distance from the docks. Final waterproofing completes the day of very tired officers and men. The 'B' vehs arrive at 1030 hrs and all vehicles are lined up by boat loads. Maj T B Nash, Maj R A Bradburn, Maj D V Currie, Maj A J Levoie and Lieut G R Woods have a busy time preparing nominal rolls and vehicle rolls for their respective ships. We are all issued with bright new French notes.</p> <p>Eight air raid alarms were sounded during the night. Twice the sky was aglow with a bright orange flash from the buzz-bombs landing uncomfortably close by.</p> <p>Adv Party sailed at 0900 hrs. Sighted land at 2050 hrs.</p>	All
" "	19 Jul 44		<p>Fair and warm. All vehicles move to VICTORIA DOCKS for loading. We have no tank craft and it took the whole day to lift each vehicle by crane over the sides into the holds. Loading not completed by 1800 hrs, drivers sleep by the docks until morning to complete the job. Air raid alarms continue all night long and the dock area and LONDON are receiving more buzz bombs.</p>	All
FRANCE	19 Jul 44		<p>Adv Party - reveille 0300 hrs. Touched land 0625 hrs. Moved to de-waterproofing area, then to "ARNA".</p>	All
ENGLAND	20 Jul 44		<p>Fair and warm. Loading completed by 1000 hrs and tps marched aboard. Moved down the THAMES ESTUARY and anchored in midstream for the remainder of the day. There are approximately 30 ships in the convoy, lined up behind the net guarding the entrance. Only 5 ships are being used by the Regiment. The troops spend the day sleeping on the deck. They enjoyed a picture show in the afternoon down in the hold. We are told that we are moving at 2000 hrs into the ENGLISH CHANNEL, this is cancelled for 24 hrs.</p>	All

Title pages will be prepared.

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FRANCE	19 Jul	44	<u>Adv Party</u> - Clear and warm. Camp was in pasture on side of hill surrounded by ripening grain and vegetable fields with very few signs of war about.	<i>ALL</i>
ENGLAND	21 Jul	44	Cloudy and rain. Still anchored in the ESTUARY. The troops are busy reading and writing during the morning. A picture show this afternoon. We are told that we will move into the CHANNEL and across to FRANCE at 2000 hrs tonight.	<i>ALL</i>
FRANCE			<u>Adv Party</u> :- Rain all day. Waiting.	
ENGLAND	22 Jul	44	Cloudy and dull. Still anchored in the ESTUARY. No move as yet. Reason for delay is that a gale is blowing in the CHANNEL. We expect a move, however, tonight. Another picture show this afternoon. Convoy moved out at 2030 hrs into the CHANNEL and moved west reaching DOVER area at 2330 hrs. Air raid alarms can be heard from shore and shortly followed by buzz bombs flying towards LONDON area. Several can be seen shot down by fighters into the CHANNEL. More are destroyed by AA from the shore. The lines of tracer fill the area over our heads.	<i>ALL</i>
FRANCE			<u>Adv Party</u> :- Expect Unit - no dice. Visit to CAEN. Waiting.	
ENGLAND	23 Jul	44	Cloudy and cool. Sailed all night and anchored in COWES ROADS, ISLE OF WIGHT at 1130 hrs. Men spend the day washing and reading. Remain at anchor all day expecting to move on tonight.	<i>ALL</i>
FRANCE			<u>Adv Party</u> :- Warm and clear. Expect Unit--doesn't arrive at proper transit camp. News at 1000 hrs or Unit's arrival. Move out to meet "A" Sqn and RHQ tanks. First mail in FRANCE.	
FRANCE	24 Jul	44	Clear and warm. Sail at 0630 hrs. Very smooth crossing. Sight land at 1600 hrs. Some vehicles are unloaded right away. "A" Sqn arrived at 0650 from de-waterproofing area. Had landed directly on beach from LST. Vehicles are being unloaded from Liberty ships onto LCTs and Rhinoceroses. Some great tales about "D" Day picked up from the crews of these vessels.	<i>ALL</i>
"	25 Jul	44	Cloudy and cool. Regiment is still unloading and vehicles come into area at night. A lot of AA goes up from harbour and conc area.	<i>ALL</i>
"	26 Jul	44	Clear and warm. Vehicles/are in, finish de-waterproofing and everyone gets dug in comfortably in area.	<i>ALL</i>

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Sheet 6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
FRANCE	27 Jul 44		Cloudy and cool. Regiment gets allotment of Cdn Mobile Bath and each sqn gets 105 men through. Lieut A W Watson attends lecture by Div Engineers on captured German equipment. Brings back samples of wood mines, wooden bullets, etc.	Alb
" "	28 Jul 44		Cloudy and cool. Moving picture shows started at Bde Aux Ser tent. Fifty men from Regiment for each show. Lieut A W Watson conducts short course in enemy weapons for 1 officer and 4 Other Ranks from each sqn. Warning Order for a move forward was received at 1100 hrs. Sqn Leaders proceeded on a recon, with the Commanding Officer, of forward posns held by the Q.C.R. of C. Here they had their first experience of shellfire when a few mortar bombs were dropped in BOURGEBUS by Jerry. Orders to move South of CAEN were received at 2100 hrs move to take place 29 Jul 44.	Alb
" "	29 Jul 44		Clear and warm. Recce parties under command of Major A F Coffin RV'd at Bde HQ at 0630 hrs Bde Recce Parties then proceeded to the HQ of the 7 Armd Div at the SE edge of FAUBORG DE VAUCELLES. The understanding was that the 7 Armd Div would put us in the picture as to where we could harbour but due to some misunderstanding they knew nothing about us. Finally with the help of 5 Bde HQ 2 Cdn Div, areas for all units of the Bde were allotted in and around FLEURY-SUR-ORNE. The 29 Cdn Armd Recce Regt were to harbour just at the South edge of FAUBORG DE VAUCELLES. The Unit moved off at 1100 hrs and passed through CAEN just after 1200 hrs. The destruction and stench of the city finally brought home to all ranks that they were nearing a battlefield. A2 Echelon and B Echelon remained North of CAEN in the vicinity DE BURON. By 2100 hrs everyone was dug in, fed and settled down for the night. Some light shelling near us but no casualties.	Alb
" "	30 Jul 44		Clear and warm. Orders received for 4 Div to relieve 3 Cdn Div in the line from GRETHEVILLE to BRAS. 10 Cdn Inf Bde to take over BOURGEBUS, HUBERT-FOLIE and BRAS. The Regimental area is to be just South of CORNELLES in an open field. "C" Sqn has been given a role in support of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who are the Bde counter-attack force. "A" Sqn is to send two troops every day before first light into a hollow just North of BOURGEBUS to support the Lincoln and Welland Regt who are holding BOURGEBUS. The Regiment moved into its new posn at 1400 hrs and the infantry took over during the night 30/31 Jul 44.	Alb

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WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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W.F.M. 11.

A.F.C. 5118

1 MR.-4-30 (1940)

H.Q. 100-44-18

Sheet 7

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Title pages will be prepared.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
FRANCE	31 Jul 44		<p>Clear and warm. Day spent in enlarging slit trenches and household chores, etc. All crews have dug large pits and run the tanks over the top of them. The earth is then used to bank up around the bogies. This makes quite a safe and comfortable dugout. A2 Echelon moved up into FAUBOR DE VAUCELLES in the afternoon.</p> <p><i>G D Wotherspoon</i> (G D Wotherspoon) Lt Col Commanding Officer 29 Cdn Armd Recce Regt (S Alta R)</p>	<i>HLG</i>

H.F.M. 11A X
FORM 5-43 (1185)
OR.G. 1573-00-1048

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WAR DIARY

OF

29 CANADIAN ARMoured RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT (S ALTA R)

FROM 1 AUG 44

TO # 31 AUG 44



VOLUME

APPENDICES 1

ORIGINAL

1944

AUG

933/1

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WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11
40/F 26/37 (3072)

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Sheet 1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
<i>In France</i>	1 Aug	44	<p>Reference Maps for period 1 Aug - 23 Aug GSGS 4249 - 7F 1:100,000</p> <p>Clear and very warm. Quiet, lazy morning. Warning order was received at 1400 hrs to provide "A" Sqn for a show with the LINCOLN AND WELLAND REGT that night or the next day. Major LAVOIE of "A" Sqn was given the job, and reported to Bde HQ immediately with the CO. The Brigadier's "O" Group was held at 1900 hrs and that of Lt Col McQUEEN of the LINC & WELL R at 2200 hrs in BOURGEBUS (MR 0761). The plan is as follows: The enemy are holding TILLY LA CAMPAGNE (MR 0760), strength uncertain. The LINC & WELLD R are to seize TILLY silently during the night. "A" and "B" Coys are to move in on the left flank and "C" Coy on the right. "D" Coy is to move forward about half way to the objective and form a firm base. "A" Sqn 29 CDN ARMD RECCE REGT is to move to a position just NW of BOURGEBUS before first light, with the following tasks: (1) If the infantry advance proceeds according to plan, "A" Sqn is to move forward to support the LINC & WELLD R in TILLY against a tank counter attack and also to provide a mobile counter counter-attack force. (2) If the attack bogs down and doesn't succeed by first light, they are to shoot the LINC into their objective. Two 17 pr tanks are attached to "A" Sqn for the show, and also two troops stowed with smoke, from "C" Sqn. The smoke is to give them protection against 88mm A/Tk guns to their front and flanks. The attack by the LINC & WELLD R bogged down due to heavy MG fire from the flank. "A" Sqn could do little to support the infantry at this time, due to darkness.</p>	<p><i>MLL</i></p>
	2 Aug	44	<p>Clear and warm. "A" Sqn did their utmost to shoot the LINC & WELLD R into TILLY, but without success. They found themselves in a precarious position exposed to enemy fire, and decided it best to stay and observe from their then position throughout the day. Shelling and mortaring was heavy all day, but the men dug themselves in sufficiently to gain protection. "A" Sqn dealt heavy blows to the enemy, particularly to their MGs, while helping the infantry infantry to regroup. The Bde Comd (10 CDN INF BDE) Brigadier JEFFERSON, complimented Major LAVOIE and his Sqn for their excellent work, and placed the onus of a further Bde attack on Major LAVOIE. The CO was particularly pleased with "A" Sqn's efforts.</p>	<p><i>MLL</i></p>

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Sheet 2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	2 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>Casualties were extremely light. No one was killed. "A" Sqn feel that they would like another crack at "Jerry" as soon as possible, and next time nothing will prevent them from taking their objective. "B" Sqn, "C" Sqn and RHQ were comparatively inactive, although heavy shelling and mortaring of their positions took place all day. The Regiment is now concentrated in the general area 055646.</p>	Mll
	3 Aug 44		<p>Clear and Warm. Lieut IRVING's troop in "A" Sqn, slightly overworked in the past few days, was given the task of showing a troop from "C" Sqn the situation from his observation post, The task formerly done by "A" Sqn is now to be carried out by "C" Sqn, supporting the ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA. The general plan is that two troops of "C" Sqn are to support two two companies of the ASH in an attack on TILLY. <u>"B" Sqn is to make a right flank threat, with a view to disturbing an enemy counter-attack from the left flank.</u> Major R A BRADBURN's plan ("B" Sqn) to do this task is to place one troop in the area a <u>VERRIERES</u> 0560 with instructions to move as close as possible to the CAEN/FALAISE road. This troop's task is to smoke smoke off TILLY in order to cover the advance down the EAST side of the CAEN-FALAISE road. The job is to be done by Lieut T H HOWARD and his troop. Word was received at 2000 hrs that <u>"B" Sqn must be in position as ordered and commence firing at 2145 hrs,</u> as it was believed the enemy were withdrawing. If such was the case, a break-through might be effected, and the whole division enabled to push on. <u>"B" Sqn moved out immediately, and commenced firing at the time stated,</u> but communications were extremely bad and no word was received of their progress. The Regimental area, unchanged, received heavy shelling and mortaring throughout the day</p>	Hhb

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WAR DIARY

XIX

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Sheet 3

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	4	Aug 44	<p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <p>Clear and warm. Major BRADBURN gives the following account of his Sqns activities last night.</p> <p>No. 1 Troop came under fire commencing at TROTEVAL 0561 and were fired on for some twelve hundred yds until they reached VERRIERES area 053601.</p> <p>The leading tank was hit on the right front track by what was presumed to be an enemy medium gun. This tank was eventually towed out on B Sqns return at dark.</p> <p>The advance continued as far forward as 056601 at which point they came under A/Tk gun fire which was considered to be coming from TORGUCHION 0756. It then became dark and one troop was ordered to withdraw.</p> <p>The remaining troops moved forward by fire and movement. No. 3 troop commanded by Lieut A.C. SCRIMGER got on their objective at 060607 without incident.</p> <p>Major BRADBURN called for a cone of medium artillery fire on the forward edge of TILLY and at the same time Sqn HQ and 4 troop laid on a smoke program to blank off TILLY.</p> <p>No. 3 Troop was then ordered to move as close as possible to TILLY and investigate any enemy positions on the WEST side of the railway track. They reached point 067603 and reporting no enemy, returned back to harbour area losing one tank which turned over. This tank was later recovered.</p> <p>C Sqns work in aiding the AASH into TILLY will never be forgotten by the men who actually saw the show and by the men whose lives were protected by C Sqns efforts.</p> <p>Major CURRIE found it necessary to dismount and lead his tanks into position while mortar bombs were landing all round his area.</p>	

Note: T
This account must refer to the night following support provided the A/S# High on the evening of 4 Aug

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WAR DIARY

XIX

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Sheet 4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	4 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>It was only after the show was finished that he realized he had forgotten to wear his steel helmet.</p> <p>Lieut ROBERTS found the tracks shot off his tank and it was uncertain whether it was by an A/Tk mine or an 88 but with his turret and weapons intact he was determined to stay and fight his tank at all costs to assist the Infantry. Major CURRIE decided otherwise for him however and allowed him to keep his tank under observation all day to prevent looting and booby trapping by the enemy while awaiting recovery.</p> <p>Unfortunately the tank was in no man's land which at this time was dominated by enemy patrols, making the task more difficult. It was none the less carried out successfully.</p> <p>The Sqns were given the chance to get some rest and do maintenance pending further operations.</p> <p>The tanks are daily being equipped with extra armour in the form of additional track links being welded to the turret and the hull. This gives a great deal of extra protection to the crew.</p> <p>To date we are the only Regt to attempt such a modification and those who have had experience with it can vouch for its usefulness.</p> <p>More shelling and mortaring of the Regt's area took place throughout the day but no casualties were incurred.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer held a meeting for all Officers in the evening at which he explained the past few days actions and discussed future operations.</p> <p>It is thought we are to be concentrated in the CAEN area just NORTH of where we are now situated to allow the 51 HIGHLAND DIVISION and 33 ARMoured BRIGADE to make an opening of the TILLY line and allow us to push through.</p>	Hll
	5 Aug 44		<p>Wlear and warm. A and B Sqns spent the morning shooting in their guns in order to have them calibrated. The area chosen for such a shoot was the buildings in TILLY. The Regt received orders to move to a cone area in CAEN, the move to be completed by dark.</p>	

WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11
40/P & B/37 (2072)

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Sheet 5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	5 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>Major T.B. NASH Reg'tl harbouring officer set out in early afternoon and recce'd the area O43673 and the buildings in that vicinity. All Sqns, RHQ and the two Echelons moved into the CAEN ruins arriving at 1500hrs and immediately commenced setting up their private homes for at least one nights stay.</p> <p>The only positions available for the vehicles were along the sides of the road; some pulled off the roads close to the buildings others had to remain where they were putting up camouflage nets on the spot.</p> <p>The Adjt set up his office in the cellar of a house and commenced work there. For the most part it was unnecessary to dig in because of the good protection afforded in the cellars of houses; luckily for shells fell within a hundred yards of RHQ area.</p> <p>LT-COL WOTHERSPOON backed his HUP down a grade to a garage and set up house there with Major A.F. COFFIN.</p> <p>A meal was prepared by Lieuts REARDON and HOLTON at which all Sqn Commanders were invited.</p> <p>A certain amount of cider was found in the area but orders were issued that none was to be touched until tested.</p> <p>Several members of RHQ swore they were connoisseurs of all forms of liquor but that angle didn't work.</p> <p>Later the men were allowed to drink a small quantity of cider but not to excess. There was continued shelling of the whole Reg'tl area but no casualties were incurred.</p>	Hh6
	6 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm. Everyone was allowed to clean up during the morning and administration functioned as normal.</p> <p>With the exception of a few shells landing in the Reg'tl area there was no great activity during the day.</p> <p>Forthcoming operations were discussed by everyone and maps were issued to cover the expected drive SOUTH.</p>	Hh6

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Sheet 6

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	7 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm. Maintenance and rest was carried out by all Sgns in the morning. Locations remained unchanged.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer attended an "O" Group at Brigade at which the drive SOUTH was discussed particularly our part in the show.</p> <p>On his return to the Regt the following orders were issued.</p> <p>The 29 Recce with under command 1 troop 17 pounders, 1 troop 9 Field Sqn and 1 troop AVRE's (6 Churchills mounting an HE pole charge) will support the 10 CDN INFANTRY BRIGADE to high ground SOUTHWEST of GRANVILLE LANGANNERIE 0846 and EAST of POTIGNY 0944.</p> <p>"C" Sqn will come under command the A&SH of CANADA while the remainder of the Regt must be ready to support this Inf Bn if necessary.</p> <p>It is intended first to move to a cone area SOUTH of CAEN and await orders to continue the advance, the orders being issued as the success of the preceding troops in TILLY and ROUANCOURT 0558 areas is determined.</p> <p>Order of March of the Regt - "C" Sqn who will fall in behind the tail of the A&SH column - "B" Sqn - RHQ plus additional troops - "A" Sqn - "A1" Echelon.</p> <p>Routes from present area to the SP for the move to cone area is to be received by Major COFFIN.</p> <p>This move is to be completed by 0600 hrs tomorrow after which time no move is expected before 1400 hrs.</p> <p>The AA troop is to be split with 2 tanks at RHQ and 4 with "A1" Echelon for the move.</p> <p>With these orders issued and the Sqn Commanders passing on the information to their own Sgns, very little time remained before the move is to commence.</p>	<p>HL6</p>
	8 Aug 44		<p>Clear and cool, warming up about 0900 hrs.</p> <p>The advance commenced at 0120 hrs, "C" Sqn taking its place behind the A&SH. All vehicles moved nose to tail with no lights during the early stage of the advance.</p>	

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Sheet 7

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	8 Aug '44 (Cont'd)		<p>The convoy later became long and drawn out, moving by bounds at times speeding up kicking up dust and making it difficult to see the vehicle ahead and then jerking along with numerous halts. How all vehicles managed to arrive in cone area by 0330 hrs is a question which will remain unanswered.</p> <p>On arrival at cone area everyone bedded down on previous orders issued for what was expected to be a reasonable nights rest. Such was not the case as the opening in the TILLY line was made sooner than expected and at 0600 hrs orders were received that the advance would continue immediately. "C" Sqn continued on their mission with the ASH of Canada while the remainder of the Regt advanced on the axis ROQUANCOURT 0558 - CINTHEAUX -754 - LANGANNERIE 0949 a halt occurring EAST of ROQUANCOURT at the trail 063577. Heavy mortaring followed, particularly in "A" Sqns and "A1" Echelons area where 2 amn trucks were hit. A fire caught in the wheat in the Sqns area and all ranks aided in putting it out. Some of the tanks had to be jockeyed around to prevent the fires affecting them as well.</p> <p>We were not long in the area before the advance continued halting again in the area NORTH of CINTHEAUX 0854 where we dispersed tactically for the night. "C" Sqn in support of the ARGYLLS moved on the CAEN - FALAISE forming up to attack CINTHEAUX. At 1600 hrs the attack went in and by 1830 hrs they had succeeded in capturing the town losing one tank. They knocked out one 88 MM A/Tk gun in the area.</p> <p>A firm base was formed with on troop on the left with 2 Corp of Infantry while the remainder pushed on and captured HAUTMESNIL 0852 and the quarry to the SOUTH. They then consolidated the town for the night.</p>	
	9 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>"C" Sqn spent the morning mopping up the quarry at 0851 which later proved to be a V2 site.</p> <p>"B" Sqn took over the defences of CINTHEAUX from "C" Sqn and were later relieved by Units of 3 CDN DIVISION.</p>	

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

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Sheet 8

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	9 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>XXXXXXXXXXXXXX</p> <p>"A" Sqn spent the morning teeing up for an attack on LANGANNERIE 0949 with the LINC AND WELLD REGT which was to develop later in the day. RHQ remained at CINTHEAUX.</p> <p>During the afternoon "C" Sqn with the ARGYLLS launched an attack on BRETTEVILLE - LE - RABET 1050 and succeeded in capturing the town. Following this "A" Sqn with the LINC AND WELLD REGT passed through "C" Sqn and the ARGYLLS and attacked LANGANNERIE from the EAST. This attack was also successful with a loss of 2 tanks only out of which the personnel escaped.</p> <p>The X rds NORTH of our position at CINTHEAUX were shelled continuously all day as this route was the main supply route. Few casualties were inflicted on troops in the area we fortunately escaped any. The positions remained unchanged during the night, everyone digging in.</p>	<p><i>Hhb</i></p>
	10 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>At 0500 hrs the Regt moved forward to the general area 096502. "B" Sqn in front of RHQ, "C" Sqn in the village of LANGANNERIE and "A" Sqn slightly to the right of RHQ.</p> <p>One of "A" Sqn's tanks knocked out yesterday was spotted at the entrance to RHQ's area. The tank had several penetrations but the Crew Commander Sjt SANDS remained in the turret awaiting the recovery of his vehicle which took place in the morning.</p> <p>"B" Sqn sent 2 troops of tanks to the area of ST HILARE 092489 which was occupied by the ALGONQUINS. Their task being to watch the left flank for any enemy activity. The was given orders to report to "B" Sqn to assist in carrying out this task.</p> <p>As the approach to ST HILARE was under enemy fire a new route to the area was recce'd and the troop sent that way. A miscalculation in map reading caused the Sjt in charge of the to take a wrong turn and the complete troop was knocked out from enemy A/Tk fire in QUESNAY woods 1047.</p>	

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Sheet 9

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials.
	10 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>Rece patrols were sent out to the right flank to report on enemy activity, 2 of the tanks never returned, being knocked out by Jerry 88's from a range of 50 yards. "A" Sqn was sent to the right flank to aid the LINC AND WELLD REGT in area 082481. They had difficulty in getting by the area of the church at 093493 due to a congestion of tanks of the 21 ARMD REGT. However, they broke through the orchard to their right and proceeded to their objective disposing one troop at 085485 giving direct support to the Infantry while another troop covered the first from behind the railway tracks at 088490. Sqn HQ and the remaining troops were disposed in the same area.</p> <p>A threat of an enemy counter attack was suspected in "A" Sqns area and "A" Sqn kept a watchful eye shooting up any targets of opportunity.</p> <p>Heavy shelling and mortaring took place all day, RHQ and "B" Sqn suffering a few casualties.</p> <p>"A" Sqn received some shelling and mortaring by our own artillery and MG Coy which was duly-stopped and no casualties were inflicted.</p> <p>"C" Sqn remained in reserve in the village.</p>	<p><i>MLB</i></p>
	11 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>Locations remained unchanged but with the heaviness of the fighting in the area NE of QUESNAY woods more Infantry was required.</p> <p>"B" Sqn sent out three troops and a new SP troop to the area of ST HILARE fm again while "A" and "C" Sqns remained the same.</p> <p>The heavy enemy resistance seemed to be centred about QUESNAY woods and it was learned that the QUEENS OWN RIFLES 3 CDN DIVISION would be putting in an attack on the woods tonight.</p> <p>The 2 ARMD BDE are to relieve us in our present area and the whole Infantry Bde is to be withdrawn back to CINTHEAUX pending further operations to the EAST.</p> <p>All Sqns were placed on 30 minutes notice to move and "B" Sqn having reported an A/Tk gun at 101482 were told to smoke off the gun before withdrawing or wait until last light.</p>	<p><i>MLB</i></p>

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Sheet 10

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	11 Aug 44		<p>Meanwhile Major BRADBURN showed an Offr from the 10 ARMD REGT around his positions and pin-pointed several enemy positions for him in lieu of the attack to follow. At 2018 hrs we started to pull out of the area the leading troops arriving at the RV at '083537' at 2100 hrs and the Regt cone in the open field at 084537 the last Sqn reporting in at 2300 hrs.</p>	<p><i>MLB</i></p>
	12 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm. Locations remained unchanged. No activity throughout the day. Everyone was allowed to clean up and carry out maintenance. A mobile bath was enjoyed by all ranks. Liaison was carried out between ourselves, 3 CDN DIVISION, 51 HIGHLAND and the POLISH ARMD DIVISION all situated in the area. Particular attention was paid to the locations of the units in 51 HIGHLAND DIVISION at ST SYLVAIN 1154, CONTEVILLE 1257 and POUSSY 1356 this being the direction in which we expect our future move to take place. The Adjt visited "B" Echelon to straighten out a few admin problems which occurred during the last four days fighting.</p>	<p><i>MLB</i></p>
	13 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm. Church service was held at CAUVICOURT 1152 for the R.C's and some shelling of the area took place, one shell striking the church. It was later explained that since we had mortar positions behind the church Jerry took for granted we also had OP's in the church as was his normal practice. The Sqn Commanders were taken to Bde to see Air photographs of the area in which we are to continue the fight. Major BRADBURN was called to Bde at 1100 hrs and was placed in command of the ALGONQUIN REGT as their commanding officer had been wounded. The C.O. attended an "O" Gp at Bde in the evening where the information was passed on that a Corps drive was to take place to cut off the remaining Germans in the FALAISE pocket.</p>	

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sheet 11

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	13 Aug 44	(Cont'd)	<p>We are to lead the advance of 10 CIB the Sqns in extended line each followed by and Inf Bn lorry borne. The forming up plan is to be in sq 0953 and we are to commence moving to our area at 0800 hrs.</p> <p>"H" hr for our advance is to be timed by the Airforce success and 1 hr after Corps "H" hr which is expected at 1200 hrs.</p> <p>Under our comd and in addition to our normal allotment of 1 troop of SPs we have a Sqn of FLAILS.</p> <p>Order of March for the Regt "A" Sqn left, "C" Sqn centre, "B" Sqn right.</p> <p>The Infm was passed on to the Sqn Comds at an "O" Gp at 2300 hrs and one officer was detailed to liaise between ourselves and Bde Hq for the move from our present area to the FUP.</p>	<p><i>HLG</i></p>
	14 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>The advance to the FUP commenced at 1000 hrs and we arrived in position by 1200 hrs where a meal was served before the advance across country started.</p> <p>The Adjt took ill and returned to "A2" Echelon while Lieut HUGHES took over his task and the CO decided to move with the half track.</p> <p>The advance commenced at 1301 hrs preceded by a bomber attack.</p> <p>We were held up in the area of SOIGNOLLES 1451 the leading troops being a little uncertain as to their direction.</p> <p>Bombing was seen to take place in the area we had just left and it was later discovered that the Airforce had chosen the wrong targets and bombed hell out of our Echelons at CINTHEAUX.</p> <p>Troops on our rt in the area of SOIGNOLLES were strafed and yellow smoke was thrown out to no avail. For a period of about 2 hr we were severely strafed but nothing could stop it.</p> <p>As the situation cleared up the CO went fwd to overlook ROUVRES 1648 from the high ground on which we were halted.</p> <p>Determining the correct approach to the village he ordered "A" Sqn to continue the advance giving them a bearing of 135 degrees on which to move.</p> <p>"A" Sqn reached the outskirts of BOUT DE HAUT 1648 at 1700 hrs and succeeded in getting 2 troops across the river.</p>	

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Sheet 12

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	14 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>Our reconce patrol working on the left flank reported two Panthers moving SOUTH from area 175513 which was the first indication that the enemy was starting to withdraw.</p> <p>"C" Sqn reached their objective and reported snipers in ROUVRES 1648. They succeeded in clearing up the town and by 1930 hrs got their troops across the river pushing fwd to the high ground beyond the river where they spent the night.</p> <p>"A" Sqn met slight resistance and cleared it up with the assistance of the Infantry and settled down in position for the night.</p> <p>RHQ settled in BOUT DE HAUT 1648.</p> <p>"A" Echelon brought fwd replenishments of amn and petrol and everyone settled in for the night.</p>	Hll
	15 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>Occasional sniping continued throughout the night and the odd shell fell on our positions but no casualties were sustained.</p> <p>"A" Sqn pushed fwd to OLENDON 1643 and "C" Sqn to PERRIERES 1842.</p> <p>"B" Sqn was engaged in providing left flank protection on the high ground 1747 and was ordered fwd to OLENDON to receive instructions from the CO regarding a further push SOUTH.</p> <p>The plan was for "B" Sqn to provide right flank protection for "A" and "C" Sqns on the high ground running SOUTH to a position dominating FALAISE 1436. They were also to contact the 2nd ARMD BDE which was also operating in the same area.</p> <p>"B" Sqn pushed off on their task and on arrival at an RV 156438 they found that the 2nd ARMD BDE was held up by 88s and they discovered that an attack was being put in by 3 DIV INF.</p> <p>The CO ordered RHQ fwd to OLENDON, a position being reconce'd by Lieut R.C. SMITH. As this position proved unsuitable the comd half track moved over to an evacuated house at 166442 and remained there for the day.</p> <p>"B" Sqn continued to advance along the high ground to the outskirts of EPANCY 1641 where they were held up by 88s.</p>	

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Sheet 13

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	15 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>An unsuccessful attack by the Inf followed and an arty shoot was brought down on the position.</p> <p>At 1900 hrs "B" Sqn was ordered to withdraw to area 156426 and in doing so were engaged, two tanks being lost, one "B" Sqn tank and the att'd FOOs tank. They finally settled down in harbour at 2200 hrs.</p> <p>Meanwhile "A" Sqn was kept busy cleaning up snipers in their area and "C" Sqn shot up Infantry on their front.</p> <p>Once again the Airforce strafed us this time the road leading into OLENDON was the target.</p> <p>Marching Inf and amn trucks on the road were hit and several casualties were incurred.</p> <p>The Sqns settled down for the night and supplies were sent fwd.</p>	<p><i>HLB</i></p>
	16 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>All troops stood to from 0600 to 0800 hrs expecting a move at approx 0900 hrs. The Sqns carried out maintenance during the day and little enemy activity was reported.</p> <p>"C" Sqn did a small amount of shooting on enemy positions SOUTH of PERRIERES and between PERRIERES and OLENDON.</p> <p>Everyone remained static in their positions all day and the CO received orders for a task for "B" and "C" Sqns for tomorrow.</p> <p>Hot tea was arranged to be brought fwd to their positions for 0300 hrs.</p>	<p><i>HLB</i></p>
	17 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>"B" Sqn moved off to join the ALGONQUIN REGT at 0330 hrs and reached the gen area of 205396 at 0500 hrs.</p> <p>This is their first show with their former Sqn Comd in comd of the ALGONQUIN REGT Lt.-Col. BRADBURN. An attack was put in on LOUVRES 215388 and proved successful.</p> <p>"A" Sqn entered the town of DAMBLAINVILLE 203rd at 0830 hrs and were actively engaged clearing up the town.</p>	

WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11
40/7 & 8/37 (2072)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
	17 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>"C" Sqn working in the same area reported snipers in the town and proceeded to clean them up. By 1000 hrs the town of DAMBLAINVILLE had been cleaned up "A" Sqn taking 20 PW and knocking out one enemy MK IV tank. The resistance here was reported as very weak.</p> <p>"B" Sqn located 2 enemy tank destroyers at 207369 and one tiger tank at 209367. This info was passed on to the FOO and he had them engaged forcing them to withdraw.</p> <p>By 1450 hrs we had crossed the railway tracks while heavy mortaring and shelling of our area followed.</p> <p>"C" Sqn ranged on the woods SOUTH of their position where enemy soft-skinned vehicles had been reported and raised havoc among the enemy.</p> <p>Enemy tanks, mortars and small arms fire were observed in area 241362 and the CO arranged to have this area stonked by medium arty.</p> <p>A 16 rd salvo was fired and Major CURRIE made the corrections bringing the arty on the target. At 1800 hrs the Regt concentrated in the area 209356 where orders were issued no move before 2030 hrs.</p> <p>We remained in that gen area for the night.</p>	<p><i>HLB</i></p>
	18 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>"B" Sqn moved off at 0001 hrs carrying the leading coy of ALGONQUINS on the tanks. They arrived at the FUP at 0500 hrs to put in an attack on LE MARAIS LA CHAPELLE 2634.</p> <p>The plan for the attack is to have one troop supporting a coy of Inf while the remainder of the Sqn formed a firm base with 2 coys of Infantry.</p> <p>The attack was successful against very light opposition. A few PW were taken and 2 enemy half tracks were destroyed.</p> <p>As evidence that the enemy is withdrawing hurriedly "A" Sqn reported enemy tanks and soft skinned vehicles moving SOUTH at high speed from area 224322.</p> <p>The advance towards TRUN 3029 continued with "B" Sqn carrying a coy of the ARGYLLS.</p> <p>"C" Sqn proceeded towards ST LAMBERT SUR DIVES XXXX 3426 and CHAMBOIS 4051 our final objective.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	18 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>By taking CHAMBOIS we would cut off the last remaining gap out of which the Jerry could escape from FALAISE.</p> <p>RHQ and "B" Sqn temporarily harboured in an orchard at 313295 in the town of TRUN. At this time Major T.B. NASH took over "B" Sqn as the CO ordered them to go forward. He also ordered RHQ troop to proceed down to "C" Sqn's positions at hill 117 - 3328.</p> <p>It began to look as if a big show were coming off. The weather became difficult comms beginning to fail.</p> <p>"B" and "C" Sqs and RHQ troop leagured on hill 117 at about midnight. The remainder of RHQ which now became a relay station moved to area 306300 where better wireless comms were established and remained there for the night. The town of ST LAMBERT was reported to be strongly held by A/Tk guns and Infantry and everybody stood to awaiting for some movement which would start things flying.</p>	<p><i>MLB</i></p>
	19 Aug 44		<p>Rain throughout the night clearing up shortly after first light and becoming clear and warm.</p> <p>All crews stood to throughout the night which passed without incident. At first light "C" Sqn and the coy of Infantry moved on ST LAMBERT "B" Sqn taking up ossitions to cover them. "A" Sqn moved into position on their rt. RHQ troop took up a defensive position behind "B" Sqn.</p> <p>During the morning "B" Sqn pushed fwd beyond ST LAMBERT to the left rear to point 124 sq 4053 leaving RHQ in possession of hill 117.</p> <p>The CO ordered the attd SP troop forward to RHQ position and also asked for all available PIATS which were duly sent.</p> <p>Our own aircraft appeared on the scene at 0800 hrs but were unwelcomed by our fwd troops.</p> <p>However they did a good job and accounted for several enemy.</p> <p>"C" Sqn took 20 PW and knocked out a MK IV tank, Capt REDDEN getting credit for the tank.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	19 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>During the morning the ridge to the SOUTH which later became famous as the FALAISE RIDGE was kept under observation but no movement of any kind was seen. RHQ troops first contact with the enemy came when two Ukrainian stragglers wandered into the lines and on being questioned they advised that there were 20 more of them hiding in a farm house about a mile and a half away from ST LAMBERT. An offr and 1 OR were sent fwd to pick these up. This was done and the civilians in the area informed us that this sector was full of small parties of Jerries wandering through.</p> <p>The prisoners were brought back without eventuality.</p> <p>At 1100 hrs very heavy convoy movement was observed on the FALAISE RIDGE. The tanks immediately began to shoot up all visible targets and the CO also brought arty fire down on them.</p> <p>Apparently Jerry had no idea we were in the vicinity.</p> <p>However it was not all one sided as return 88 fire was received causing a readjustment of positions.</p> <p>During the shellfire Capt REDDEN and Lieut BURGER were wounded.</p> <p>During the afternoon prisoners started to come in to RHQ troop in large numbers particularly from "C" Sqn. With the few men available these became quite a nuisance to handle.</p> <p>The main road leading down from TRUN was under enemy fire and observation and a new back road had to be found to take back prisoners and to bring amm fwd. In this role the AA tanks proved to be invaluable.</p> <p>By nightfall it was realized that the front of about 1000 yds would have to be held by RHQ troop which consisted of 4 Shermans, 5 Stewarts, 4 Crusaders, 4 17 pr SPs and 3 Scout Cars, some 80 all ranks.</p> <p>Defenses were tied up with personnel manning ground posts with Brownings and Brens augmented by patrols. The help of the attd SP troop and their .50 calibre Brownings was invaluable.</p> <p>Wireless comm became difficult and the half track with 2 light tanks and 2 AA tanks moved back to their previous harbour in TRUN.</p>	<p><i>MLB</i></p>

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Sheet 17

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	20 Aug	'44	<p>Clear night and cool clear morning becoming quite warm by noon. The night was rather hectic with considerable infiltration by enemy infantry. Small parties of infantry were shot up all night and the bag of prisoners considerably augmented.</p> <p>The prisoners were a source of worry for RHQ troop as at this time there were about 500 awaiting movement to the rear. Lieut P.B. HOWARD and about 3 men were all that could be spared to handle them. As a result prisoners were kept lying on the ground covered by tanks ready to fire on fixed lines with searchlights mounted. Casualties for RHQ troop during the night were two men wounded in a skirmish with a patrol of about 30 Jerries.</p> <p>Lieut D.M. SHUTE captured a Jerry convoy of 10 vehicles and 200 men with a scout car mounting a bren gun.</p> <p>"C" Sqn took a PW with a marked map in his possession showing the xxxxxx enemy's line of withdrawal.</p> <p>For the first hour after first light everything seemed very xxxx quiet. Considerable movement was observed on the FALAISE RIDGE which was obligingly stonked by arty.</p> <p>At about 0800 hrs waves of German Infantry began moving against the positions. It could hardly be called an attack as there was no covering fire plan, simply a mass movement of riflemen.</p> <p>RHQ tanks were moved to better fire positions and began to mow down the advancing Infantry.</p> <p>Similar activity occurred on Band "C" Sqn's sectors, "B" Sqn finding themselves defending the axis of an enemy attack and "C" Sqn busily engaged in knocking off Infantry on their front sending back an additional 200 PW at 0930 hrs.</p> <p>A xxxxxx little later the situation at RHQ began to get out of hand as there were just too many infantry. The CO ordered "A" Sqn to move into the position to sp^r RHQ and with this the enemy broke and fled.</p> <p>From a PW it was ascertained that the idea behind the attack was a mass recce to find any holes in our lines to enable the large forces trapped in the pocket to find a way through.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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Sheet 18

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	20 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>The casualties inflicted on the enemy by RHQ troop alone were two - three hundred killed and wounded and one hundred PW taken.</p> <p>"C" Sqn reported that the POLISH ARMED RECCE UNIT was in CHAMBOIS and by 1600 hrs "C" Sqn's bag of prisoners had amounted to 500. They knocked out a Panther tank and reported their position firm except for a few snipers in the vicinity. The men became tired and the CO asked if relief could be sent, infantry particularly being needed.</p> <p>"C" Sqn freed 12 American PW from the Jerries and put them to work with ground weapons.</p> <p>German wounded in the Reg'tl area by this time had amounted to three hundred and evacuation became difficult. The MO did an excellent job of work with the assistance of medevacs being sent from Bde.</p> <p>The Jerries sent over a request for us to remove their wounded from a hospital in the vicinity and a party was sent over under a red cross flag to size up the situation. It proved to be a trap and Lieut BURNS and 3 other ranks were killed. Later 500 German wounded were passed through our lines.</p> <p>"C" Sqn reported three 88 mm's moving into the town from the SOUTHWEST and enemy tanks were reported moving in the direction of "C" Sqn's position. With this "C" Sqn prepared to engage enemy armour at close range.</p> <p>XXXXXXXXXX "B" Sqn's position became precarious with enemy tanks moving to their left flank and rear.</p>	<p><i>114</i></p>
	21 Aug 44		<p>Clear night, rain in the morning clearing up by noon.</p> <p>Just after midnight some Infantry Units from 3 CDN DIVISION started to come in to help the situation.</p> <p>"B" Sqn was forced to withdraw back over the river as by this time they were surrounded. They succeeded succeeded in fighting their way back. Lieut HOWARD turned the tables on one Jerry who attempted to take him prisoner.</p> <p>At 0730 hrs "C" Sqn knocked out another MK IV tank and took 50 PW. They also reported that the enemy in their area were ready to surrender. At the same time "A" Sqn saw 2 enemy vehicles bearing white flags at 318289 and it appeared that they had had about enough. With this the Jerries on the whole front were ordered to surrender or suffer the consequences.</p>	

WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/91 (3072)

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Sheet 19

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	21 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>The PW started to come in in large numbers and by 1200 hrs "C" Sqn had sent back 150 wounded enemy and 700 PW. The total for the Regt today being 200 wounded and 1000 PW.</p> <p>3 DIV INF started to come in and relieve us in our position which helped considerably.</p> <p>Throughout the afternoon PW were coming in by the thousand and at 1715 hrs when we were officially relieved of our position the enemy casualties inflicted by the Regt were estimated at 7000 PW, 2000 killed and 3000 wounded from the time we arrived at ST LAMBERT.</p> <p>We prepared to pull out of our position but the Infantry had not got fully in and we were ordered to remain there until they did. By nightfall the situation hadn't cleared and we prepared to stay again in the same area.</p> <p>The CO asked for harassing fire tasks to be laid on which was duly carried out but the limitations were great due to the fact that we had friendly troops in CHAMBOIS.</p>	Hh
	22 Aug 44		<p>Cool dull morning warming up about noon.</p> <p>The night was uneventful and the Regt started pulling out at 0900 hrs by which time the 3 INF DIV had taken over all positions in our area.</p> <p>Major A.F. COFFIN was sent to recce an area near LE MENIL GIRARD 3231 but had a difficult job as other units had already taken the better areas.</p> <p>An area was finally chosen in an orchard at 345312 and the Regt moved up from TRUN concentrating in that area for the night.</p>	Hh
	23 Aug 44		<p>Reference Maps GSGS 4249 Sheet 7F and 8F 1:100,000</p> <p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>The CO advised all Sqns that rest was of primary importance as we would not likely be moving today. The Sqns proceeded to carry out these instrs and carry out maintenance and clean up when word was received at 0900 hrs that the advance would be continued.</p> <p>The CO informed the Sqns that although we must continue the advance it is unlikely we would be called upon to do a fighting role.</p>	

WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11
30/7/55/37 (P. 1)

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Sheet 20

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	23 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>We were placed at the end of the Bde Order of March, the advance to be from our present area to FRESNAY-LE-SAMSON 4958 - ROUVILLE 5158 - ORVILLE 5458 - LE SAP 5859 a distance of some 12 miles.</p> <p>The trip was uneventful and we arrived in harbour at 2300 hrs in area 591593 and remained there for the night.</p>	<p><i>MLB</i></p>
	24 Aug 44		<p>Reference Map GSGS 4249 Sheet 8F 1:100,000</p> <p>RHQ, "C" Sqn and "A1" Echelon remained in harbour area 591593 while "A" and "B" Sqs were under comd their respective Inf Bns. "B" Sqn returned under Regt'l control at 1300 hrs but remained in their harbour area 6359. "A" Sqn remained in position at 641659.</p> <p>We were advised that now move would occur before 1530 hrs. The advance today to be from LE SAP - MONNAI 6358 - BROGLIE 7370 - BERNAY 8079 a distance of some 30 miles. Order of March "B" Sqn - RHQ - "C" Sqn - "A1" Echelon. RHQ is to join the tail of "B" Sqn at the main rd at 637596. RHQ moved off at 1530 hrs while "A" and "B" Sqs jockeyed into position. We joined the tail of "B" Sqn at 1600 hrs.</p> <p>A halt occurred at rd and railway junction sq 7076 where mines had been previously reported on the sides of the rd. A jeep and its crew struck a mine at this point and one of the occupants was killed, others in the area sustained injuries.</p> <p>We reached the outskirts of BERNAY and a report was received that 300 enemy were in the area of an old airfield at 7780. The CO ordered a recce patrol out at 2045 hrs to verify this patrol. The patrol travelled up and down the runways of the airfield but found no enemy and returned. "B" Sqn met the guides at 809805 and we were led into harbour just NORTH of the town. We arrived in harbour at midnight, refuelled and bedded down.</p>	<p><i>MLB</i></p>
	25 Aug 44		<p>Reference Maps GSGS 4249 8F and 9F, 9E 1:100,000 for period 25 Aug - 31 Aug.</p> <p>Heavy rain throughout the night clearing up by 0700 hrs.</p> <p>The Sqs remained in the area 8080 and carried out routine maintenance, the Regt being placed on one half hrs notice to move from 1330 hrs.</p>	

WAR DIARY

M.P.M. 11
40/P & S/97 (3072)

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Sheet 21.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	25 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>The advance today is to be from BERNAY - SERQUIGNY 8980 - LE NEUBOURG 0283 - CRIQUEBEUF LA CAMPAGNE 1088 - VRAIVILLE 1390 - LA HAYE MALHERBE 1591 - MONTAURE 1692 - TOSTES 1894 - to river SEINE in area CRIQUEBEUF SUR SEINE 1899. The order of march to be the same as yesterday.</p> <p>The Regt moved off "B" Sqn tying in with the tail of Bde Hq column. The speed was extremely great and some of the slower vehicles had difficulty in keeping up. A halt occurred at 1730 hrs when American troops crossed in front of the Div column. This delay lasted until 1830 hrs, and we finally arrived in area of VRAIVILLE 1390 at 1930 hrs. Band "C" Sgns and "Al" Echelon harboured in the same general area as RHQ at 126902 while "A" Sqn remained under comd the LINC AND WELLD REGT in area 135908. A recce patrol was sent fwd to recce tank firing sites on the approach to the river crossing and report on enemy activity in general area 1896. Lieut YOUNG'S troop was sent on a similar task; both patrols reported no enemy and it was too dark to choose the sites.</p>	<i>Ahe</i>
	26 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm.</p> <p>Everyone stood to from 0600 - 0800 hrs and routine maintenance was carried out. A Recce Patrol was sent out at 0650 hrs with one troop of "A" Sqn to report on enemy activity in the area 1895. Lieut YOUNG'S troop was again selected for the task and on reaching point 185958, reported no enemy.</p> <p>We were placed on one half hrs notice to move from 0930 hrs and awaited the COs return from Bde. At 1030 hrs the CO returned and issued orders that "A" and "B" Sgns would sp their respective Inf Bns to the river line between squares 1499 and 2099. Order of March for the remainder of the Regt RHQ - "C" Sqn - "Al" Echelon. A Recce Patrol was sent fwd to recce the route and returned at 1245 hrs to lead the coln from area VRAIVILLE 1390 via LEMONT HONNIER 1591 - MONTAURE 1691 to a position NORTH of TOSTES 1895.</p> <p>"B" Sqn at the head of our coln left at 1330 hrs to join the ALGONQUIN REGT. They took up positions SOUTH of the river SEINE with the task of observing and firing on targets of opportunity.</p>	

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Sheet 22

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	26 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>Meanwhile "A" Sqn had moved with the LINC AND WELLD REGT with a similar task. "C" Sqn remained in reserve with RHQ in area 185956. RHQ's area proved unsuitable for the night and a recce party was sent out at 1900 hrs to select a new harbour. We moved off at 2020 hrs taking up position in new harbour area at woods 163972. "C" Sqn remained in its former harbour area and Major CURRIE was called fwd to Bde to discuss future plans with the CO. "B" Sqn arrived in position with the ALGONQUIN REGT at 2250 hrs and remained there for the night.</p>	<p><i>Hll</i></p>
	27 Aug 44		<p>Clear and warm. All Sgns are to sp the ALGONQUINS in an attempt to cross the River SEINE and form a bridgehead preparatory to a bridge being built by the Engrs. "H" hr was advised by the CO as being 0700 hrs. The disposition of the Sgns is "C" Sqn on rt, "A" Sqn centre and "B" Sqn left. At 0804 hrs "A" Sqn reported some light unobserved shelling which indicated that the enemy was not holding the river line in any great strength and not with much determination. Very little activity during the day "A" Sqn fired on targets of opportunity on the other side of the river while "C" Sqn shelled the top of the hill continuously to keep the enemy's heads down while the Infantry consolidated their positions. "A" Sqn reported an enemy SP gun which although it was inactive may be used as an OP. They could not engage it due to the nearness of the Infantry. The Sgns were ordered to cease fire at 1808 hrs and "C" Sqn received word to move to the area they occupied last night after leaving a small force with the ASSH. The Sgns were warned to be prepared for a move later in the evening. "C" Sqn to send two troops to "A" Sqn for the river crossing.</p>	<p><i>Hll</i></p>
	28 Aug 44		<p>Rain during the night clearing up in the morning. The crossing of the SEINE River is slow due to the fact that only two rafts are available. "A" Sqn reported having one troop across the river by 0600 hrs and a total of 8 tanks over by 0800 hrs.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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

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Sheet 23

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	28 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>The rafts being used are class 40 and quite speedy, the delay in getting vehicles across is caused by the rafts having to make so many trips back and forth. Rate of crossing is estimated at 4-5 vehicles per hr.</p> <p>The crossing is being made at the old ferry k at CRIQUEBEUF SUR-SEINE firstly to the Island by means of a Bailey Br and then ferrying on the rafts.</p> <p>At 1100 hrs RHQ received orders to be prepared to move from present area to CRIQUEBEUF and await its turn to cross the river.</p> <p>By 1200 hrs "A" Sqn plus one troop of "C" Sqn had crossed the river and took up a position of observation.</p> <p>RHQ advanced into MARTOT 1598 and halted in outskirts of CREQUEBEUF SUR SEINE.</p> <p>The advance continued, RHQ crossing the first gap in the river at 1315 hrs finally crossing at 1345 hrs and moved to PRENEUSE sq 1700, taking up a location in a house.</p> <p>Band "C" Sqns and "A" Echelon moved into the same general area.</p> <p>"A" Sqn was given two tasks (1) to sp the LINC AND WELLAND REGT to hill 88 sq 2101 (2) to sp the ALGONQUINS by fire to hill 135 sq 2403.</p> <p>At 1900 hrs a change in plan occurred and the Inf Bns are moving to high ground sq 2901, and vicinity ALIZAY 2401 sp by Band "C" Sqns respectively while the LINC AND WELLANDS move to point 135 sp by "A" Sqn.</p>	<p><i>shb</i></p>
	29 Aug 44		<p>Continued rain all day.</p> <p>Slidex and Maplay Codes were compromised some time during the night and a new issue of codes was made. This difficulty took approximately 2 hrs to straighten out before proper comm was made on the rear link net. No activity during the morning.</p> <p>"A" Sqn supported the LINC AND WELLAND REGT in an attack on point 135 sq 2403 and had 2 troops on their objective by 1800 hrs. No enemy resistance was met.</p> <p>We received orders to move again and a recce patrol was sent fwd to recce both the route and the general area 2403 near the town of YMARE.</p> <p>On arrival RHQ took up position at 240036 and "A" and "C" Sqns were warned of a further move.</p> <p>"B" Sqn and "A" Echelon moved fwd to RHQ's area and pulled into harbour at 2000 hrs.</p>	

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Sheet 24

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
	29 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>"C" Sqn received the task of sp the ARGYLLS in an attack on BOCS 2608 and arrived on their objective at 1930 hrs and reported that everything was going according to plan. They had just taken care of two 88 mm A/Tk guns 229047.</p> <p>"A" Sqn moved off in support of the LINC AND WELLAND REGT at 2130 hrs their final objective being point 163 in square 2708. They arrived on their objective at 2235 hrs. The Infantry consolidated and "A" Sqn withdrew under the Infantry's protection for the night in the area 2808 reporting no enemy resistance.</p> <p>All Sqns were warned to be prepared to move by 0700 hrs in the morning.</p>	<p><i>Jhb</i></p>
	30 Aug 44		<p>Dull and cool in the morning followed by rain.</p> <p>The Sqns remained in their present positions, "A" Sqn with the LINC AND WELLAND REGT in the area 2808, "B" Sqn area 2404 and "C" Sqn with the AASH at BOCS sq 2608. The Sqns had nothing to report until 1030 hrs when "A" Sqn reported a small group of enemy presumably only Infantry on their front and they prepared to engage with a troop shoot. The CO intercepted the message and suggested that they may use AA Tks if only Infantry were in the area. He also warned them that some of our own troops are in the area they are prepared to engage and they must be extremely careful.</p> <p>This small pocket was duly cleaned up and things quietened down again.</p> <p>At 1500 hrs was an "O" Group was called at Bde and we expect another advance tonight.</p> <p>The information received on tonight's move is that the Division will advance to BUSHY 3829 on three centre lines with the ARMD BDE leading.</p> <p>The move is expected to commence at 1630 hrs, earlier than anticipated and hence all Sqns are placed on one half hrs notice to move.</p> <p>"A" and "B" Sqns have been placed under comd their respective Infantry Bns while the Order of March for the remainder of the Regt is RHQ - "C" Sqn - "A1" Echelon. The CO's intention is to protect the right flank of the Bde during the move and to do this he called for recce patrols at 1700 hrs; the patrol to receive special instrs from him.</p> <p>The Regt's 1 comd post is moving with Bde Hq.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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

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Sheet 25

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	30 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>RHQ started to advance at 1715 hrs but were held up due to one of the Infantry Bns passing through ahead of us and holding up the coln. The routes were extremely bad due to rain. A Recce Party from each Sqn left on a route laid on by the CO to recce the area GRANVILLE-SUR-RY 3417 on the left centre line at 2030 hrs. They reported the routes washed out and we proceeded through MARTAINVILLE - EPREVILL 3315. RHQ arrived in harbour at 2245 hrs in the midst of extremely heavy rain. It was suspected that enemy withdrawing from ROUEN may try to pass through our area which lie on one of the main routes leading EAST from ROUEN. All round defence of our area was taken up and linked up with "C" Sqn, "A1" Echelon and Bde Hq; "C" Sqn to protect the left front, RHQ rt front Bde Hq rt rear and "A1" Echelon left rear. A Recce Patrol was sent out to observe from the forked roads to our right. Guards were placed on all vehicles but no enemy was reported.</p>	J.L.L.
	31 Aug 44		<p>Rain cleared up just after first light but continued spasmodically throughout the day. With no enemy threats throughout the night, guards stood down and there was very little activity during the morning. We received orders to be prepared to move on the same route as yesterday any time after 1230 hrs. The CO sent a Recce Patrol to the right flank should we have difficulty advancing on the present route. The advance continued at 1258 hrs and moved along speedily; so fast in fact that we arrived at the meeting point before the recce patrol on the right had completed its task. This however was explained by Sjt BROWNING that the route recced was extremely bad and one of his tanks broke down delaying him for an hour.</p>	

WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 31
52.7 & 52.37 (cont)

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Sheet 26

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	31 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>Once again RHQ, "C" Sqn and "A1" Echelon pulled into the same general area with Bde Hq in LA QUAINNE 4325. No opposition was encountered.</p> <p>"C" Sqn was sent on a special task with the AASH to FORGES-LES-EAUX 5330 arriving on their objective at 1900 hrs. They took 30 PW in the area and later 20 more when civilians gave them info as to the whereabouts of the enemy.</p> <p>The CO attended an "O" Group at Bde at 1830 hrs and received word that the POLES would be passing through the 4th DIV area and that we would become Corps reserve for approximately 4 days during which time we would regroup and refit.</p> <p>With this news the Regt less "C" Sqn who would remain in their area in FORGES-LES-EAUX concentrated in an orchard at BOIS-HEROULT 4226.</p> <p>"A2" Echelon was ordered fwd in order to facilitate the work which must be carried out during the next few days.</p> <p>At 2127 hrs a message from Bde cancelled previous orders and we must be prepared to move in a NORTH-EASTERLY direction tonight.</p> <p>An "O" Group was attended at Bde by the CO and traces were brought back from Bde to be issued to Sqn Comds.</p> <p>The advance is to be continued to the river SOMME tonight and the only maps available for use are small scale maps 1:250,000 sheet No4 and 1:100,000 Sheets 9E and 9D.</p> <p>Route is as follows - From present area through "C" Sqn's area & at FORGES-LES-EAUX 5330 - GUILLE FONTAINE 5835 - CONTEVILLE 6039 - AUMALE 6946 - X rds 733466 near the town of DIGEON - MORVILLERS ST SATURNIN 7548 ORIVAL 7650 - HORNOY 8054 - CAMPS EN-AMIENOIS 8858 - AIRAINES 8567 - SOREL EN VIMEU 8273 across the SOMME River at PONT REMY 8277 and left to ABBEVILLE a distance of some eighty miles.</p> <p>The advance is to be led by INF BDE followed by the ARMD BDE, the ARMD BDE passing through 1 hr after first light tomorrow.</p> <p>Order of March for the Regt "B" Sqn - RHQ - "A" Sqn - "C" Sqn - "A1" Echelon.</p> <p>"B" Sqn is to follow behind 10 Bde Hq.</p> <p>The reason for this new advance is explained by the CO is that the enemy is disengaging and we will not only maintain contact with him but will likely overcome or cut him off again as in the PALAISE show.</p>	

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Sheet 27

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
<i>In France</i>	31 Aug 44 (Cont'd)		<p>Immediately after the "O" Group at Regt'l Hq the Sqn Comds returned to their Sqs and prepared to advance. The work done by the Echelons in the past month has been nothing less than spectacular. Driving trucks up to the tanks feeding them with amm as they are being fired on, never once failing to refill the tanks with petrol and supplies during long advances or at any time during the day or night. This is a very small example of the excellent work don by the Echelons, but it is more than worthy of note.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Lt. A. Allsop Capt & Adj. Lt.</i> (G D Wotherspoon) Lt Col Commanding Officer 29 Cdn Armd Recce Regt (S Alta R)</p>	<i>Hll</i>