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Author(s): Lieutenant-Colonel D.G. MacLauchlan.

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

Keywords: Normandy ; Battle of Normandy ; D-Day ; Second World War ; Canadian Army ; War Diary ; Calgary Highlanders

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♣ War Diary ♣
Apprs Checked
Date - 1 June 1947

SECRET

V. 15020.

ORIGINAL
~~SECRET~~
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(Strike out where not applicable)

WAR DIARY

OF

THE CALGARY HIGHLANDERS CA(O)

FROM 1 July 44

TO 31 July 44



VOLUME _____

APPENDICES 1&3 TO 12

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

Title pages will be prepared.
Calgary Highlanders C.A.(O).

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

3/19A ^{MEM 11} 40/PAS/37

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

Page 1 Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Folkestone, Kent. MR 661539	1 Jul 44		<p>This morning trg consisted of make and mend and Interior economy. Later on, many teams were formed within the coys and softball games took the front.</p> <p>Major Bruce McKenzie of D Coy received final briefing as Bde L.O. to the Marshalling Area for Bde Marching Troops. He is to leave at 1330 hrs today. At 1145 hrs a Coy Comds meeting was held and Lt.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan tied in the few remaining points on our coming move.</p> <p>In the afternoon all was very quite as half holiday and remained so, until 1730 hrs when a rush "O" Gp was called by the C.O. as final orders to move to the Marshalling Area had come in. The vehicle party is to move at 0525 hrs on 2 Jul 44 past the start line following the R de Mais. The marching troops are to move by train from FOLKESTONE Junction Stn at 1400 hrs the 2 Jul 44.</p> <p>Lt.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan with the Adjutant are travelling with the vehicle party and Major Verne Stott our 2 i/c and the I.O. are with the marching troops. The vehicle party marshalls at TILBURY, north east of LONDON and marching troops marshall at NEWICK CHALEY, North of LEWES.</p> <p>The evening was spent getting vehicles loaded completely and making final preparations for the move.</p> <p>The personnel absent at this time are M11161 Pte.Morrison, J., M60491 Pte.Hart, G., M11397 Pte.Guerard, R.V., M11830 Pte.Exeard, H.G.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather - Dull and cool</p>	<p>(W)</p> <p>2</p>
Folkestone, Kent. MR 661539	2 Jul 44		<p>At 0525 hrs our vehicle party was ready to cross the start line but were held up by a breakdown in the R de Mais column. Lt.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan had made a short trip in the evening but fog settled in and caused a great delay in his return. The C.O. made the convoy just in the nick of time.</p> <p>Support Coy had a little trouble getting the men out of bed at such an early hour of the morning and it is rumoured that when they did get under way, their speed exceeded the Robot plane.</p> <p>As the trip is divided into 2 parts (1) Vehicles and (2) Marching, the two narratives will be pieced together in the diary.</p>	

P.T.O.

every page
to 3 Jul
*

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WAR DIARY

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

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Folkestone, Kent. MR 661539. and Newick Chaley, Sx. (near Lewes)	2 Jul 4 ⁴		<p>At 1000 hrs our 2 i/c alled a meeting of Coy Comds and tied in a few points which had arisen since the last meeting in the C.O.'s presence. All this of course, was only successful, because Lieut. "Stu" Moore, I.O., acted as cook at BnHQ and dished out an excellent breakfast from what appeared at the time to be extra rations. This proved otherwise, because the rations were not extra. Everybody was happy however, and this incident caused quite a laugh.</p> <p>At 1310 hrs, 484 marching personnel formed up in front of D Coy area and under command of Major Verne Stott marched, (including baseball bats and balls) to FOLKESTONE Junction. The move was very orderly and the train pulled out at 1430 hrs sharp. Major Baker of C Coy was very lucky that Capt. "Dalt" Heyland, S.I.O., had a car at the station, because C Coy left their rations behind and Capt. Heyland drove back for them.</p> <p>Nothing exciting happened on the train throughout the journey, and at 1803 hrs we pulled into NEWICK CHALEY, North of LEWES. We were met by an English group of offrs and NCOs, and in a very few moments were marching 3 miles to the marshalling area. Many sighs of regret were heard as we passed a signpost saying "Brighton - 13 miles". We arrived in camp at 1945 hrs, and due to excellent administration, the party of 484 were in their tents in very short order. BnHQ and Coy Comds were fortunate in obtaining permission to use the Camp Commandants large HQ building and were very comfortable.</p> <p>Our Marshalling Camp was J5 and praise is to be given to the staff for their excellent administration. The first meal was very good and all went to bed in an excellent frame of mind.</p> <p>The 358 personnel comprising the vehicle party exhibited intense activity as they made last minute checks of their vehicles and loads before pushing off at 0500 hrs. Capt. McQueen and Capt. Macdonell went ahead with guides to the marshalling area and Road Convoy Regulating Post respectively.</p> <p>The road move was uneventful although several personnel expressed a desire to drop off in LONDON for a "quick one" on the way through.</p> <p>The Marshalling Area, Camp S8, was reached at 1530 hrs and vehicles and personnel directed to their respective camps. Time was spent in rearranging the vehicle party into 4 craft loads under Capt. McQueen, Tennant, Macdonell and Clarke. Documentation was completed, 24 hr rations packs drawn and sterling exchanged for Franc notes, final stages of waterproofing were completed. Weather - Fair and warm.</p>	(M)

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3

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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40/P&S/37 (5028)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Newick Chaley, Sussex. MR unknown Camp J5	3 Jul 44		<p>After an excellent nights' sleep every one awakened in excellent spirits only to have them dampened when looking out the windows of the buildings and doors of tents, rain was found to be coming down fairly well in buckets full.</p> <p>At 0830 hrs after an excellent breakfast, we drew "Mae Wests" and "Bags, Vomit" As it was raining so hard little training could be carried out.</p> <p>At 0915 hrs a Coy Comds meeting was held at BnHQ by Major Stott to make sure all standing orders of the Camp were carried out to the fullest, and to lay on the order of Coys for the Mobile baths, to arrive later. The canteen was a very favourite spot and there was loads of beer and items of interest to all, to be purchased. A picture show was on in the entertainment tent at 3 times and many attended.</p> <p>The M.O., spoke to all coys, on sterilization of water, and the Geneva Convention (protected personnel).</p> <p>Other than a softball game and organized P.T. there was no training carried out.</p> <p>Drivers and selected Oftrs and NCOs left the marshalling area early this morning with the vehicles and proceeded to TILBURY docks. The vehicles were stowed aboard their respective crafts during the day and all was completed by 1800 hrs.</p> <p>The remainder of the vehicle party remained in the marshalling area. Last minute administration details were completed. All personnel caught up on some much needed sleep. The heavy rain during the day kept most of the men in their tents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Dull and rain.</p>	
Newick Chaley, Sussex. Camp J5	4 Jul 44		<p>Once again we awakened to find the rain still coming down quite hard. No training could be carried out. During the morning, information came into the office re our boat loads and numbers of our ships. Immediately Major Stott called a Coy Comds meeting to clarify the breakdown and set up.</p> <p>The I.O., and Orderly Room Sgt prepared unit sheet rolls in quintuplicate in breakdown form of 184 for LSI(H)R326; 150 for LCI(L)R327; 150 for LCI(L)R328: Major Stott personally looked after the completion of these lists and made sure they were quite correct.</p> <p>Embarkation cards were completed with ship numbers and issued to every man. We are to move first thing Wednesday morning at 2000 hrs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">P.T.O.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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3/19A 34PM 11
40/PAS/37 (5028)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Newick Chaley Sussex. Camp J5	4Jul 44		<p>Each craft comd - Major Stott, Major McKenzie and Major Campbell were briefed in full by the Camp Commandant at 2000 hrs. At 1600 hrs Capt Paymaster "Roly" Higging completed the exchange of sterling into francs for the Bn party and also issued each man with 200 francs as an advance of £1-0-0. Every man must take 200 francs over to France with him, incl all ranks.</p> <p>In the evening the brand new French notes changed into very old ones, due to certain games being played around the area.</p> <p>At 1800 hrs "tommy-cookers", twenty four hour rations, bag ration, water sterilization tablets and an emergency ration were issued to all ranks. This extra equipment caused many laughs during the process of getting them packed into the small pack. It was found that they could go in if "pressure was exerted".</p> <p>The vehicle party still in the marshalling area embussed in TCVs at 0745 hrs and proceeded to TILBURY docks area. Each unit party got aboard their respective craft and settled down for the sea voyage. Embarkation cards were collected as the troops got aboard.</p> <p>The men were keenly interested and excited about getting on their way. Some experienced difficulty in getting into a hammock for the first time but that was soon overcome.</p> <p>Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan was O.C. ship of the American SS Henry Austin.</p> <p>The four craft with our men and vehicles aboard moved out of the docks during the morning and we anchored in the Thames Estuary off SOUTHEAST until the convoy was formed. Late in the afternoon we received word that the convoy would not be moving until the next day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Warm and sunny.</p>	
Newick Chaley Sussex. Camp J5 & Newhaven (Embarkation port)	5Jul 44		<p>Reveille was at 0530 hrs followed by breakfast at 0630 hrs and at 0715 hrs BnHQ, B Coy and 35 men from C Coy were formed up ready to move off, to the embussing area. A & D Coys are to leave a little later, approx 1 half hour after the first group leaves. At 0815 hrs the first party embussed and moved off by TCV. At 0930 hrs we debussed at the docks in NEWHAVEN and only then did we realize that we were really on our way. Tea and cakes were served to our party at the docks and at 1015 hrs the 184 embarked on the Isle of Guernsey (LSI). The 2 other groups followed us shortly and embarked in their LCIs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PPT:OC.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

3/19A ^{FORM 11} 40/P&S/37 (5028)


OR

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Newick Chaley Sussex. Camp J5 & Newhaven(embarkation port)	5Jul 44		<p>The two smaller parties were whisked out of harbour very shortly after embarking while we in the larger party sat aboard our ship awaiting its decision to move off. Hammocks were supplied to all men and cabins to officers. There were over 300 on the LSI made up of R de Mais, Black Watch, and Calg Highrs. Compo packs were issued to every 14 men and the officers pooled their rations and ate in the ships mess.</p> <p>After waiting all day, one ship finally pulled out at 2200 hrs and joined a very large convoy in the sea off NEWHAVEN harbour. At approx 2300 hrs we dropped anchor and remained there so long, everyone crawled into bed, wondering if we ever would be on our way.</p> <p>Reveille was at 0600 hrs followed by breakfast of "compo" rations at 0630 hrs. The organized P.T. on the forward deck limbered the boys up for the day. The ships lay at anchor all day, and at 2000 hrs the convoy steamed out of the Thames. Most of the troops were on deck watching the ships movements. By "lights out" the convoy was well along the coast and shortly before midnight entered the Straits of Dover.</p> <p>Weather was fair and the sea calm.</p>	
English Channel Aboard LSI R326 "Isle of Guernsey"	6Jul 44		<p>This morning we awakened to find that we had pulled out during the night and were well on our way to FRANCE. It was a perfectly marvellous sight to see the size of our convoy including, destroyers, cruisers, frigates, liberty ships and smaller vessels. Every one kept on deck and watched the ships in convoy in the distance and finally the long awaited shores of FRANCE in the distance.</p> <p>Around 1300 hrs we approached huge fleets of vessels of all sizes and shapes and all the time coming closer to what appeared to be a very peaceful beach. There was absolutely no enemy activity of any description, and at 1345 hrs we were transferred to LCIs and taken ashore. We landed on a form of floating dock and walked ashore with everything very serene and quiet. It was exactly 1420 hrs when Capt "Roly" Higgins and the I.O. shook hands on the beach, looked around and said "Well here we are" We landed on "MIKE" beach section near COURCELLES and marched 400 yards up the very peaceful beach to a point where a rest was called for half an hour.</p> <p>Around 1515 hrs we moved off again to our assembly area, a distance of approx 4 miles. A & D Coys had preceded us by about an hour. At the assembly area we again joined A & D Coys and rested in this area near BANVILLE until 1725 hrs. During the</p> <p>P.T.O.</p>	

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6
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3/19A ^{MPM 11} 40/P&S/37 (5028)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	6 Jul 44		<p>rest period tea and bully beef were issued out to the men at a point about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away and with our loads lessened by removing respirators and blankets, we once again started and marched 5 miles to our concentration area at 874834. Our respirators and blankets were transported by truck and we removed our tunics and fastened them on our packs. The march was a gruelling test because of the heat and the stony roads. but all made it and no casualties. At 1930 hrs we arrived in our Div concentration area.</p> <p>Everyone was very tired on arrival but soon got a meal and bedded down for the night. The vehicle party has not yet arrived.</p> <p>The evening became very changed from the afternoon with rain and great cool winds. The guns from the direction of CAEN became louder every minute and sleep was very difficult. Shortly the ack-ack opened up from every corner of every field in our vicinity at Jerry aircraft, and then sleep then became impossible until approx 0300 hrs. It all seems so impossible to be within 9-10 miles of the front line and slit trenches are quite in order.</p> <p><u>Vehicle party</u> - We climbed on decks this morning to find the convoy steaming up the English Channel just off BRIGHTON. Many eyes were turned in that direction to try and pick out familiar objects and buildings. After morning P.T. the men basked in the sunshine on the forward decks. There were the familiar groups playing cards on the canvas covering the holds.</p> <p>We lost sight of England's fair shore during the afternoon and seemed to be heading directly towards France. At about 1800 hrs we sighted the French coast and steamed slowly forward until we were about three miles off shore. We were told that we would be at anchor that night and unloading would commence the following morning. Already we could hear the sound of the guns in the distance. Landing craft and other ships seemed to be everywhere.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather fair with a strong wind off shore.</p>	
France NR 874834 (between Bayeaux & Crepon)	7 Jul 44		<p>Still no vehicle party, so we continued on settling in and digging slit trenches. P.T. is slated for twice per day to everyone and all are so healthy we are eating every minute of the day. Rations from compo packs are really good and readily acceptable. Lieut. "Stu Moore" I.O. visited Bde at 1000 hrs and received some very helpful info from Capt. "Bill Doheny" Bde I.O. Fighting is progressing very favourably P.T.O.</p>	

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France MR 874834 (between Bayeaux and Crepon)	7Jul 44		<p>around CAEN with the Canadians doing an excellent job.</p> <p>At 2330 hrs the first 50 vehicles of the vehicle party arrived and were immediately taken to their own area. Capt. "Bill" McQueen of Sp coy was in charge of the vehicles. The remainder of the vehicle party are split between shore and ships and can be expected early tomorrow morning. Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan is with his caravan aboard ship and is not coming ashore until his caravan is landed.</p> <p><u>Vehicle Party</u> - There was considerable bustle aboard ship this morning. Troops had to be packed and moved out of the holds so that vehicles unloading could commence. Drivers stood by to look after their vehicles as soon as they were able to reach them.</p> <p>LCTs pulled alongside and they big cranes went to work to unload the cargo of vehicles. By 1500 hrs all vehicles and personnel were loaded on LCTs and barges and laying off shore waiting to go ashore.</p> <p>The C.O. and Adjutant were the last to leave the ship and moved towards the shore in their LCT about 1600 hrs. We waited off shore until 2300 hrs and then the LCT was able to push right onto the beach. The vehicles made a dry landing and were directed inland, immediately to a transit area at St. Croix sur Mer. It was too dark to get a clear view of the country at that time.</p> <p>From the transit area we were directed to the unit concentration area and at 0600 hrs arrived to find the marching troops already settled in.</p>	
France MR 874834 (Between Bayeaux and Crepon)	8Jul 44		<p>At 0600 hrs the balance of the vehicle party arrived in camp and promptly started running vehicles all over the fields which we had been so careful to save from tell tale marks. Finally all became settled in and the Bn was complete except for one or two vehicles which had broken down previously. They are to arrive later. The vehicle party started to dig in after catching a few hours sleep. Training consisted of cleaning up and P.T.</p> <p>At 1330 hrs Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan held a coy comds meeting and covered a multitude of points. Rain caused the group to withdraw to the C.Os caravan and after Capt. "Bill" McQueen got inside, everybody looked like sardines.</p> <p>At 1600 hrs the Bn marched to an area North East of Bde in an open field and formed up with the Black Watch and the R de Mais in Mass. Rain was coming down in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">P.T.O.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France MR 874834 (between Bayeaux & Crepon)	8Jul 44		<p>torrents and gas capes were ordered worn, leaving bivouacs entirely open to the mercy of the elements. We stood around for $\frac{3}{4}$ hr or better and then the Corps comd Lt.Gen Guy Simmonds arrived and gave a pep talk to the boys who had gathered around the jeep. A remark was made by Gen Simmonds which was taken in the wrong light by the men and hard feelings resulted unnecessarily. The point is now clarified entirely.</p> <p>In the evening camp was very quiet except for gun fire in the distance and a good peppy air raid. Flak came down like hail and some pieces were fairly large.</p> <p>Rations are now broken up and cooked by coys instead of individuals. This will no doubt cause great controversy regarding the "split".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Dull and cool with rain.</p>	
France MR 874834 (between Bayeaux and Crepon)	9Jul 44		<p>This morning the Bn formed up and marched by coys to Sp coy area, where Lt.Col. D.G. MacLauchlan took over and in turn handed the parade over to Padre "Hugh" Percy for our first Church parade in France. It was an excellent service and the singing was quite fair.</p> <p>At 1300 hrs the officers and NCOs by coys were given a demonstration and explanation of German grenades and mines by the Engineers. The coys rotated and the show was in A Coy area.</p> <p>At 1400 hrs Capt. C.V. Watkins, R.A. Corps gave a very interesting lecture on Allied and Axis tanks. This was the best lecture of its type seen by the Bn for many months. Each type of tank was drawn on a blackboard, piece by piece and vulnerable parts explained. The anti tank platoon plus certain available offrs were present.</p> <p>At 1415 hrs Col. D.G. MacLauchlan attended a talk by Lt. Gen Sir Bernard Montgomery at 2 Cdn Div HQ and at 1830 hrs the C.O. called a Coy comds meeting and passed on all information obtained. The projected job for the Bde was clearly shown by the C.O. and readily digested by all present. The meeting developed into a very interesting session and many movements and jobs were discussed and explained by Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan. During the meeting a report from Bde arrived saying CAEN had fallen. This was soon rectified by a counter report saying that it was unconfirmed. It is expected that CAEN will fall later on in the evening.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Dull and cool with rain.</p>	

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France MR874834 between Bayeaux and Crepon	10 Jul 44		<p>A sunshiny morning, and everyone awaiting word of our coming move to the Fwd Assembly Area.</p> <p>"I" Section made an enlargement of the city of CAEN and FAUBOYE de VAUCELLES for the C.O., and also a very distinctive poster of British military insignia, in colours for company use.</p> <p>Movement was negligible around the coy areas today and in the afternoon enforced rest was proclaimed because warning order to move tonight has been received. At 1630 hrs Lt.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan called a Coy Comd's meeting and after lengthy discussion on the move the C.O. and I.O. went to Bde at 1745 hrs to attend a Brigadier's "O" Gp.</p> <p>At 1910hrs the C.O., called an "O" Gp to pass on data to the Coy Comds from the Bde "O" Gp. We are to move at 0010 hrs to CUSSY MR874832 near CAEN. Calg Highrs are heading the Bde move. Our order of march for the Bn is "A" "B" BnHQ HQ "C" "D". We have 33 TCVs attached to the Bn to carry marching troops.</p> <p>The Bn formed up at 2345 hrs and in a very orderly fashion we started the journey of 12 miles via MOUNT FAUVEL, BRETEUILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE and LA VILLONEUVE. "A" & "B" Echelon remained at 9372 North of LA VILLONEUVE while "F" Echelon vehs proceeded to the Bn area at CUSSY. Only two vehs were lost enroute - one 60cwt cooker and the Padre's computer. We passed the start line at 0010 hrs as per schedule.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather - Sunny then dull and cool.</p>	
France Cussy Valvados MR874832 nr CAEN sheet 7F/1	11 Jul 44		<p>We arrived at approx 0245 hrs at our new area and immediately started to dig in. Slit trenches were dug deep and narrow, and very fast, as Jerry had shelled our convoy as we approached the new area. His shells luckily were somewhat plus and many sighs of relief were heard.</p> <p>Everyone went to bed around 0430 hrs-0445 hrs and slept like babies. We awakened around 1030 hrs and had breakfast. All were hungry and enjoyed it immensely. Slit trenches were deepened and reinforced during the balance of the morning. Jerry planes came over and no finer ack-ack from our guns has ever been seen. Five Jerries were brought down and probably more but this is unconfirmed. At the same time Jerry shelled our area with no desultory damage.</p>	

P.T.O.

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WAR DIARY

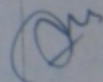
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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3/19A ^{MEM 11}
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	11Jul 44		<p>The men wandered around the area looking at the ruins of the village and gathering German pieces of equipment, etc. The I.O. went to Bde at 1400 hrs on the "I" Sgts mc and took along a few pieces of Jerry equipment and documents for their perusal.</p> <p>It is confirmed also that 2nd Div HQ was shelled during the morning and have moved back to another area.</p> <p>Jerry cigars are the treat at the moment and the odd bottle of French wine as well.</p> <p>5 Field Regt are immediately in the rear of our posn and opened up on Jerry posns to the south of the ORNE at 0300 hrs.</p> <p>P/Major Neil Sutherland has dug himself in so deep we are afraid we shall have to pull him out by means of a rope tonight. Piper Charlie Bailey of "A" Coy was interviewed this afternoon by the C.O. and Coy Comds as an OCTU candidate.</p> <p>4th Bde received orders tonight to be prepared to move fwd to the front line at 2330 hrs.</p> <p>Weather - dull and cool.</p>	

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France, Cussy Calvados MR 74832 nr Caen. Sheet 7F/1	12 Jul 44		<p>Having slept through a fairly peaceful night, everyone awakened in an excellent frame of mind. Activity around the Bn area is kept to a minimum and all coys have their men remaining in slit trenches. Jerry is continually dropping shells around the area, but so far no casualties.</p> <p>At 0945 hrs Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan, called a Coy Comd's meeting and put the senior officers in the battle picture. Many other current problems were discussed at length and a satisfactory agreement was the result.</p> <p>The I.O. was "ticked" off very nicely for not being around when a Bde "O" Gp was called at 2200 hrs last night and the C.O. had to go alone. The I.O. was interrogating 2 French civilians who had returned to CUSSY, and certainly was at fault. At 1400 hrs the I.O. was preparing to go to Bde, when a couple of shells exploded nearby and the sound apparently came from the area of Support coy. A phone call was made at once to Support coy and unfortunately a Jerry shell landed right in their area and had killed 3 of our men and wounded two. The dead are M35509 Pte. 2 Suchow, K., M33903 Pte. Stafford, R. A., and M104964 Pte. Ingle, B. Cpl. Passmore and Cpl. Lomheim were injured. Cpl. Lomheim is in hospital and Cpl. Passmore is fairly well and still working with signals.</p> <p>Two trips to Bde, were made today, to keep up on the marking of maps. Very little news is forthcoming. 4th Bde took over in the line and tonight the 8th Recce are going in "dismounted" to relieve the Chaudiere. It doesn't look as if 5 Cdn Inf Bde will move until tomorrow.</p> <p>Padre Percy held a burial service for the three lads who were killed and "I" Sec are preparing crosses for the graves. These graves are at 996702 sheet 7F/1 (ARDENNE ANCE ABBAYE). After the unfortunate accident today everyone is digging their slit trenches a little deeper and are preparing to really occupy them tonight. Certainly no more sleeping above ground.</p> <p>We are expecting a movement order any moment now to move forward to our new area in the line near ETERVILLE. 1/25000 maps were obtained in fair quantity today, and issued down to coy comds. They are received in great style and certainly appreciated.</p> <p>The score up to tonight, in Jerry aircraft attacking our posn, is 6-0 in <u>our</u> favour. Our ack-ack gunners are tops.</p>	

Weather - Fair and warm

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

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

Title pages will be prepared.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France, Cussy Calvados, nr Caen	13 Jul 44		<p>A mean rainy morning and everyone found their blankets quite damp on getting up. Activity was not very pronounced during the night and this morning continued on quietly until 1130 hrs. Around 1130 hrs a few shells came over and landed in the very close vicinity of the Abbey near Support coy.</p> <p>At 0930 hrs the "I" Sgt. travelled to Bde and obtained information for our maps. Very little change had taken place in the line during the night. Heavy counter attacks were made by the enemy and beaten back by our forces along the ETERVILLE and MALTOT fronts.</p> <p>The 2nd Mobile Bath unit was here today and carried out the "cleaning and polishing" of the Bn, in general, all ranks included. Their unit was set up in the front yard of a demolished house 25 yds from BnHQ and drew the water from a well in the yard. Later it was learned that the whole Bde was to go through this same unit, in our lines.</p> <p>F.S. Police visited the I.O. today and checked up on the two young French civilians who have returned to CUSSY. They are being left alone for the present, but will be removed at a later date. They appear quite harmless from interrogation.</p> <p>A tank squadron Comd visited the G.O. today around 1300 hrs and the Coy Comds were called in to the caravan, where certain tank problems in cooperation with infantry were studied.</p> <p>It was learned today that the two planes knocked down last night near our area, were our own planes and not Jerries. Poor show, and yet even the best make mistakes. Activity is at a minimum around the camp and no action was observed except a half dozen shells from Jerry's guns landing in the Abbey caused Support coy to once again get under ground.</p> <p>The ration of 1 bottle of Scotch per officer and senior NCOs and 1 bottle of beer per man arrived this afternoon and was a very welcome treat.</p> <p>Our aircraft were seen treating Jerry to some "cookies" and receiving some Hun flak in return. Not an aircraft appeared to be hit. Score here still remains 5-0 in our favour.</p> <p>A large mail arrived today incl parcels and much belated letters plus some new letters. Mail is a very important item in our life and the QM is simply besieged when he brings up our rations. At 1800 hrs Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan called a coy comds meeting and L.O.B. personnel lists required a little time and also the replacement</p>	

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WAR DIARY


OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France, Cussy Calvados, nr Caen	13 Jul 44		<p>of the 2 DRs who were killed yesterday.</p> <p>Heavy gun fire is heard continuing around ETERVILLE and district. A number of medium guns have taken up sites behind "C" Coy and probably will keep us awake all night, as well as draw counter fire from Jerry.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather - Dull and warm</p>	

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Title pages will be prepared.

14

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

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

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France Cussy, Calvados, Nr. Caen M.R. 996708	July Sh. 7F/1	14 44	<p>During the night, there was heavy gun fire from the direction of Malcot, pt. 986625, sh. 7F/1, and evidently there is another Allied push in that sector.</p> <p>Stand-to at 0430 hrs. brought forth much groaning and grunting from the chaps as they were awakened and told to get up. All was very quiet during the morning until Jerry started, once again, to drop a few shells around the area. Jerry ranged with coloured smoke and then dropped a shell in the centre of Able co'y's lines. Two men were wounded and one of them will be out of the scrap for quite some time.</p> <p>Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan held a Co'y Comds' meeting 1330 hrs. and a discussion on general points took up approx. three quarters of an hour. At the conclusion of the meeting we were treated to a little air activity as six Folke Wolfes started a few antics over our area. The Allied "ack ack" was terrific and when a Spitfire came along our interest increased. The Spit shot one down and the Jerry crashed near Bde. H.Q. The other enemy planes immediately high tailed it for home and were gone in a flash.</p> <p>During the morning Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan and the Adj. travelled to Authie pt. 984714 sh. 7F/1, and attended a Bastille Day ceremony. The guard of honour was supplied by the R. de Mais. because Authie is part of their area. The civilians who had returned to Authie turned out in force, and one lady cut up her small daughter's hair ribbon, containing the French National colours, and distributed the small pieces to visiting military personnel. It is rumoured that the C.O. had quite a time dragging the Adj. away from the ceremony, because of a pretty une petite fille.</p> <p>Activity was at very low ebb during the remainder of the day, with the only physical exercise being the deepening of slit trenches.</p> <p>Weather Dull and cool, turning warmer. Heavy clouds in evening.</p>	

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15

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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3/19A MPM 11
40/PAS/37 (5028)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France	July 15	44	<p>At approx. 0030 hrs, this morning, we were awakened by terrific "ck ack" coming from our own guns. We also found that Jerry was shelling us as well, which added to the noise. Shortly the sky was illuminated by very bright flares, dropped from Hun planes and night was turned into day. Sleep was practically impossible, and in the morning, bloodshot eyes were quite in order, at reveille.</p> <p>The I.O. went to 4 th Bde H.Q. this morning, and reported to Brig. W.J. McGill of 5 CIB., who was on a study of the front line. The I.O. was briefed by an L.O. at 4 C.I.B. and then taken to the front line to the R.H.L.I. area. The I.O. was to go out on a night patrol, as a patrol member and under command of the R.H.L.I. Scout Officer.</p> <p>During the Day, it was found that slit trenches were the only safe place to be in the front line, as the Hun, accurately and heavily mortared our positions, with all sizes, including the 15 cm, and his 6 barrelled N.B.W.'s. It is rumoured that the I.O. was anything but comfortable during his stay in the line and did not sleep a single wink. The night patrol was cancelled as far as the group of 5 was concerned therefore the I.O. did not get a chance at patrolling. We are quite sure that he was not unhappy over the situation.</p> <p>At approx. 1150 hrs. Lieut. "Walt" Howard, 21/c 5 pl. was wounded by a shell falling in the vicinity of Sup. Co'y. According to the M.O. "Walt's" wounds will require some long time to heal, and there is a possibility that he is out of the fight for good.</p> <p>At 1930 hrs. LT.Col. D. G. MacLauchlan went to Bde and at 2100 hrs. when the C.O. returned, a Co'y Comds' meeting was called with the chief topic "Counter Attack".</p> <p>Paymaster "Roly" Higgins did his stuff again today and paid out a few more Francs. It is highly probable that "Roly's" books will never balance, because as he was paying, Jerry shelled the area, and very few entries were made in the books. "Roly" says that in the future when the Lads require any money they can return to the REAR area at "A" ech.</p> <p>Weather Dull and cool.</p>	2

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Title pages will be prepared.

16

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

3/19A MPM 11
40/P&S/37 15028

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France Cussy, Calvados nr. Caen M.R. 996708	July 16 44	sh 7F/1	<p>After a fairly restful night, everyone awakened in good spirits this morning. At approx. 1130 hrs. the I.O. returned from the front line and was indeed very happy to see the B.N. once again. He. had many stories to tell and the chief topic dealt with the enemy mortars.</p> <p>Capt. "Bob" Gordon, T.O. and back with "A" ech. arrived in the area on his M.C. and was very thrilled to say that those back at "A" ech. now considered themselves "front line" men, because they had received some of Jerry's shells.</p> <p>At 1115 hrs. Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan went to Bde. and arrived back at approx. 1245 hrs. A Co'y Comds'. meeting was called at 1300 hrs. and the C.O. put the Comds. in the picture as to the prospective job of the Bn. We are all very glad that a Bn assault river crossing is highly unlikely and we shall cross the River Orne by means of a bridge at Caen. The I.O. produced air photos, (of course not set up and recieved a ticking off) and maps and the Coy Comds' studied the situation and were very happy with the set up.</p> <p>At 1400 hrs Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan called a meeting of all officers of Bn. H.Q. and the R.S.M. and laid down the battle location policy of the various portions of Bn.H.Q. within the groups. This very important and certainly not understood set up was explained in detail and the various queer people, such as Adj't, Sigs, I.O. M.O. and R.S.M. are now completely in the picture. This meeting was a very much needed one for all concerned. During the evening all was quiet around the area. Pipe Maj. Neil Sutherland played his pipes for an hour within our lines.</p> <p>Weather fair and warm.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France Cussy, Calvados nr. Caen M.R. 996 768	July 17 24	sh. 7F/1	<p>Activity, on the whole, today, was at a very low ebb, with only an odd Hun shell and mortar bomb dropping within our area.</p> <p>During the morning, many "monday washings" were seen around the area, with shirts and underwear and such like hanging under bushes and trees, so that they would not be seen from the air, and draw attention. It was also noticeable how many of the Lads stood in a pail of ice cold water and had a quick sponge bath.</p> <p>A warning came through that a few G.A.F. had possibly been dropped during the night and might be within our area. At approx. 1100 hrs. all Co's were given certain areas to search, but to no avail. A nil report was turned in from all Co's.</p> <p>At 1130 hrs. Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan called a Co'y Comds' meeting and general points were discussed, It is surprising how many problems are brought forth at these meetings, and they certainly serve an excellent purpose.</p> <p>The I sec. worked all day on a sand model, in the area of the orchard in our lines to be used in the study of our portion of the big push to be made within the next few days.</p> <p>The C.O. and Aft, and I.O. travelled to Bde. at 1500 hrs. and the CO. and I.O. attended an "O" gp. given by the Brig. The general plan for the attack and outline of the support for the attack were ably given by the Brig. and all in attendance were very happy about every phase. We are to have terrific Arty sup. with approx. 700 guns firing 500 shells each and a thousand bomber raid to soften things up. The 8th Corps (arm'd) are pushing the large wedge from Caen directly south to Bourguebus.</p> <p>The C.O. held an "O" gp after the Bde "O" gp. with the Co'y Comds. and put them in the picture. Many questions were asked and all were answered ably by the C.O.</p> <p>A dog fight was in progress during the evening many feet above our heads and two Jerries were seen shot down.</p> <p>Weather fair and awrm</p>	

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18

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France, Cussy Calvados nr Caen M.R. 997738 Sheet 7F/1 and Caen Calvados M.R. 007678 Sheet 7F/1	18 Jul 44		<p>As this diary is being written, the diarist is in a 6 foot deep Slit Trench, while Jerry mortars are banging all around the Bn area. The last few bombs have been uncomfortably close.</p> <p>At 0840 hrs this morning the marching personnel of the Bn left Cussy and marched to Caen. It was a hot march as the day was very warm and sunny.</p> <p>At 0830 hrs the Commanding Officer and I.O. attended an "O" group at Bde where tentative plans for our attack were given to all Commanders. As per usual the Arty fire plan was changed completely from 1st night's plan.</p> <p>The vehicle party passed the start line at 0940 hrs and arrived in Caen M.R. 007678 shortly after the marching personnel started into their new areas.</p> <p>Everyone in the Bn became very busy at once digging slit trenches and making excellent jobs of them. At approximately 1300 hrs the Hun mortared our position with a total of 16 casualties, two of them fatal. K49070 Pte. Reddington G.W. and M105757 Pte. Watts M.R. were the two lads killed.</p> <p>Meals were served on time today, regardless of the hindrances at hand and it is a good thing because it is one thing Lieut-Col. D.G. MacLauchlan definitely orders, "The men must eat".</p> <p>The Air support this morning included a 1000 Bomber raid and Arty of 700 guns firing 500 rds each. This was all a "softening up" exercise before the large Armoured drive to La Hogue, Bourguebus and Cagny.</p> <p>The situation at pursuit is running according to plan, although a little behind schedule. The R.H.C. are crossing the Orne tonight and shortly after the R de Mai will go through them. It is likely the Calgary's will move in the morning.</p>	

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Title pages will be prepared.

19

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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3/19A ^{MM 11} 40/PAS/37 (3028)

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	18 Jul 44 (Con't)		<p>At 1900 hrs the 4th Bde are driving towards Lonvigny M.R. 013656 to take care of our right flank.</p> <p>At 1500 hrs the Commanding Officer called an "O" group of all officers under his command and laid forth his plan of the Calgary attack. During the last few minutes word came through that the Brigadier was calling an "O" group at Bde at Bde in Caen and that due to our phone lines being out, we were very late. Lieut-Col. D.G. MacLauchlan and the I.O. were soon on the way there and had only missed a short portion of the "O" group. The Brigadier laid on his immediate plans to include the R.H.C. and R de Mais and the Calgarys will move later.</p> <p>Coming back to our Bn area the I.O. forgot to watch the road in Caen and lost both D.Rs and the C.O. The situation was soon rectified and the C.O and I.O., after finding our Med. Arty F.O.O. enroute, arrived back at BnHQ. The I.O. in future will be more careful.</p> <p>In the evening "B" Coy area was heavily mortared but no resultant casualties. Reinforcements arrived tonight to replace two officer vacancies and several O.Rs, only one officer is staying and the other is returning to "B" Ech as L.O.B.</p> <p>As all in the Bn are quite worn out from digging trenches, "lights out" is on a very "voluntary" plan, with many lads going to bed quite early including the diarist.</p> <p>Weather - Fair and warm.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

20

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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MPM 11
40/P & B/ST (897)

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 Appendixes and initials
CAEN, Calvados & Fauberge de Vaucelles & Fleury sur Orne	19 Jul 44		<p>Once again a day of real excitement and amazing experiences. In the morning we carried on normally until approx 1100 hrs, when we were told we were to move into the attack, by-passing through the R de Mais position in Fauberge de Vaucelles.</p> <p>The C.O., and I.O., were at Bde HQ many times and Capt. Robinson and Capt. McQueen went to the forward assembly area to recce our new position for the "take off".</p> <p>At approx 1200 hrs the R de Mais started across the river ORNE and up to their start line where they were greeted by a bombardment from Jerry's vicious mortars. The Calgary's passed their start line in CAEN at 1300 hrs and arrived at their F.A.A. in FAUBERGE DE VAUCELLES at approx 1445 hrs. The coys's were placed in their own areas in complete preparation for our attack. We started across our start line at 1715 hrs, many minutes later than Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan, had planned on, but due to the exigencies of service, we were delayed. With "A" Coy ahead, on the right of the road from CAEN to ST. ANTOINE SUR ORNE, our axis of advance; and "C" Coy right front and "B" Coy left front, then "D" Coy following "B". "A" Coy was to advance to FLEURY SUR ORNE, hold it and then with "B" & "C" up, our attack got under way. "A" Coy then followed up behind "C" Coy, giving us 2 up and 2 back. The coys pushed through wonderfully, and under a hail of terrific Hun mortar fire, Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan with the I.O. travelled up the main axis of advance with the forward coys, and several times, Jerry all but knocked them out with extremely accurate mortar fire. It was found later that our 19 set in the carrier was the probable source of direction, and it was quickly shut off.</p> <p>During the attack and consolidation of coys there were very few casualties. Upon consolidation around 1830 hrs "C" Coy was counter attacked by the enemy and against great odds, held their position. "B" Coy helped them out and finally 2 platoons from "D" Coy under Major McKenzie, and guided personally by Pte. Kessler, D Coy orderly, went into the "C" Coy positions and reinforced "C" Coy whose numbers had been greatly reduced at this time.</p> <p>This counter attack caused many anxious hours throughout the night of July 19/20 and Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan had many gray hairs sprout up before morning. Consolidation and reorganization required a lot of guts and the Bn proved its mettle and excellent training. Many casualties resulted from the first day's operation but most casualties were wounds, with only very few fatal. Casualties numbered, Officers 3 and 89 ORs wounded; and Officers 1 and 3 ORs killed and 2 ORs missing.</p>	

P.T.O.

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21

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

M.F.M. 11
40/P & S/37 (307)

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
	19 Jul 44		<p>Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan did an excellent job at the helm of the Bn, and it is only through the excellent guidance of the C.O. and the will of the men, that the "Take and hold" of our position, succeeded.</p> <p>During every hour of our "stay", so far, in this posn we have been heavily mortared, shelled or bombed. There have been comparatively few suffering from shell-shock. BnHQ took up a spot immediately in the centre of the 4 rifle coys and shortly after arrival, under mortar fire, our ammo 15 cwt caught fire and blew up, in a grand display of fireworks.</p> <p>It can be safely said now, that for "green horners" in real live battle, we have proven our worth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather - Fair and warm.</p>	
France Fleury sur Orne.	20 Jul 44		<p>This morning, the dawn of our second day in battle, brought forth many beads, red eyes, and tired bodies. We are in position and nothing can push us out. Every man in the Bn has a score to settle and will go to no end of trouble and fatigue to accomplish the job.</p> <p>Mortaring continues from Jerry's mortar batteries and NEWs and constant shelling fails to shake our morale. Everyone's tail is high and general feelings excellent.</p> <p>Today the 6th Bde passed through us to take and hold a line from ST ANTOINE SUR ORNE and VERRIERES. We are perhaps so tired today, that we are glad to see somebody go through to the front of us. The 6th Bde took and held their objectives until late evening. Attached to the 6th Bde were the Essex Scottish from 4th Bde, The Camerons and F.M.Rs held their posn but the S.S.R. were very badly mauled when their C.O. was killed and withdrew leaving the Essex Scottish in their places. During the afternoon, rain started and slit trenches began to fill with water. It is a very demoralizing state of affairs and yet, still the boys fight on, in excellent spirits. No sleep as yet and certainly very very irregular meals fail to do anything but keep our spirits high.</p> <p>At 1800 hrs "A" Coy was sent to clear the area east of the river ORNE between BASSE and ETAVAU, which had been by-passed by the Camerons, now holding ST. ANTOINE SUR ORNE. Major John Campbell took his coy in and at 2300 hrs, the hour to report back, "A" Coy was caught in a lively battle in the area around the Chateaux at 021623. They remained unheard of, for many anxious hours and when found out later, P.T.O.</p>	6

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Title pages will be prepared.

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WAR DIARY

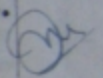
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	20Jul 44		<p>they were playing a game of "peek a boo" with the Germans, 400 yds to their front. In the evening, and throughout the night, we continued to sit tight and hold our positions. No news of a move forward as yet.</p> <p>Weather - Rainy and cool</p>	
France. Fleury sur Orne.	21Jul 44		<p>After a very restless night, no sleep and lots of rain and Normandy mud, the state of affairs is amazing. Everyone is quite happy and contented, waiting for our next move forward. Slit trenches are being deepened as mortaring continues, and trenches are covered to keep out this fiendish rain. We are very wet and dishevelled, yet there is still that undying spark of Calgary Highlander neatness and everlasting smartness even under these adverse circumstances.</p> <p>The coys are repeatedly shelled and mortared and yet casualties are very slight as we hold on. Major Bruce McKenzie had moved his 3rd Pl forward and now "D" Coy have completely taken over "C" Coys area. The remainder of "C" Coy have taken up the former "D" Coy position under the guidance of Lieut. G.W. Atkinson, their remaining officer. It is now officially known that Lieut. Vern Kilpatrick died while defending his coy with a PIAT and only died after knocking out 3 German tanks. Major Franko Baker has been evacuated to hospital suffering from a chest wound, plus exhaustion.</p> <p>Reinforcements are steadily arriving and today it is hoped "C" Coy will be brought up to strength.</p> <p>A terrific tank battle is going on today on our left flank and it looks like an Allied victory once again, in that area. In the evening Major John Campbell still holding fast between BASSE and ETAVAUX sent a message to the C.O., saying he was attacking ETAVAUX at 2000 hrs. The I.O. was sent to Bde in a jeep to get the Brigadier's OK for the attack and the request was refused, because it would interfere with plans for tomorrow. The I.O. having 14 mins to travel a long distance covered by M.T. and supplies rushed to A Coy area and stopped "A" Coy as it was crossing the start line.</p> <p>The I.O. received a severe ticking off by the C.O. later because he had not put the C.O. in the picture and had caused many anxious moments for Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan.</p>	2

P.T.O.

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WAR DIARY

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
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

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Title pages will be prepared.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	21 Jul 44		<p>At 2300 hrs the I.O. went to Bde to give the Brigadier a complete picture of "A" Coys posn in their present area, and after some many hours minus food, had a bite to eat there, with sardines as main course.</p> <p>A fair nights' rest was accomplished by all possible, regardless of mud and water, at that.</p> <p>Weather - Rain and cool.</p>	

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Title pages will be prepared.

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WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

M.P.M. 11
40/P & S/37 72

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France Fleury Sur Orne. MR 023641 Sheet 40/16 SW	22 Jul 44		<p>After a fairly noisy night everybody was quite ready to sleep all day. However, duties kept all busy in one way or another, particularly the officers, with O Gps and their many normal duties.</p> <p>Plans are under way for the next big step of the offensive. Our portion is to take and hold, MAY-SUR-ORNE during phase I of the attack towards the high ground at CINTHEAUX. This move of the Calgary's presents many problems to Lt.Col.D.G. MacLauchlin, because the ground west of the ORNE at MAY SUR ORNE is heavily covered by fire from the enemy and a very sturdy defense line faces us from the front.</p> <p>During the day we were shelled many times and also mortared consistently.</p> <p>Lt.Col.D.G. MacLauchlin went out of the line today to get a very much needed rest and also to get a general clean up. Major Vern Stott 2 i/c took over in the CO's absence at 1800 hrs and is holding the fort until the CO returns tomorrow. The C.O. returned to "A" Ech and travelled back by jeep. The C.O. will return here to lead the Bn in the next attack.</p> <p>During the evening all was fairly quiet until approx 2200 hrs when Jerry had a few planes over our area, evidently taking pictures.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather - Cool and rainy.</p>	
France Fleury Sur Orne. MR 023641 Sheet 40/16 SW	23 Jul 44		<p>This morning word came through that there was to be an "O" Gp at Bde at 1400 hrs. Major V. Stott sent word to Lt.Col.D.G. MacLauchlin and the C.O. is returning for the "O" Gp. At 1330 hrs the I.O. went to Bde and there met the C.O. who had stopped off on his return from A Ech to the BN AREA.</p> <p>The Brigadier held a two hour "O" Gp, laying on the complete plans for the attack on MAY SUR ORNE by the Calgary's and to FONTENAY-LE-MARMION by the R H C.</p> <p>After the "O" Gp the C.O. spent an hour with the Brigadier laying on the arty programme for our support. At 1800 hrs the C.O. and I.O. returned to BnHQ and Lt. Col.D.G. MacLauchlin held a Bn "O" Gp laying out his plans for attack in detail.</p> <p>Major Vern Stott returned to LOB personnel and surely hated to leave the line. He really wanted to stay for the big show which is to come, not before Tuesday. Major Stott also took back a list of names for LOB personnel and those who are to come into the line tomorrow morning to replace them.</p> <p>Lt.Col.D.G. MacLauchlin brought forth some very good news, a portion of which</p>	

P.T.O.

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WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France Fleury Sur Orne. MR 023641 Sheet 40/16 SW	23 Jul 44		<p>is a little belated but very important. . It is now known that Piper Joe Auld of "B" Coy piped his coy into the attack last Wednesday and in no way failed, but very much upheld the fame of a good Scottish piper. He is certainly to be congratulated because he was under terrific fire during the attack and came through unscathed.</p> <p>We were mortared and shelled again, during the evening and later had several visits from Jerry planes. No casualties resulted again today much to the relief of everyone. We are all looking forward to the next "show" which should be a real good one, and certainly one to take part in because we expect considerable opposition.</p>	
France Fleury Sur Orne. MR 023641 Sheet 40/16 SW	24 Jul 44		<p>At 1100 hrs the CO and IO went to Bde to attend a final "O" Gp in preparation for the big push. The "O" Gp lasted approx 1 1/2 hrs and then the CO and IO remained for dinner at Bde in order to tie in a few remaining points.</p> <p>We are to attack at 0330 hrs Tuesday Jul 25 using artificial movement light given by searchlight batteries.</p> <p>At 1400 hrs the CO held a Bn "Q" Gp and after anxiously awaiting the arrival of supporting arms reps the group got under way at 1430 hrs. Air photos, maps, and arty task traces, were studied and digested and after several hours discussion the plan was considered complete. The I.O "ran the gauntlet" to the Cameron of Canada area and tied in a few remaining points for the Camerons of Canada portion of the attack which is the securing of the Calgary startline in ST. ANDRE SUR ORNE. Guides are to meet the Calgarys there and lead them onto the start line.</p> <p>So far it has been a fairly quiet day, and well it may be, too because it should be a peppy night. At 2130 hrs the C.O. and IO in the CO's carrier went to Bde HQ to await all info coming in from the Camerons. The Bn is to move to their assault area outside the Cameron positions at last light. They are to move to the start line at 0130 hrs, and "F" Ech is to move to the start line at 0230 hrs. The marching personnel are to cross their start line at 0230 hrs.</p> <p>During the evening at Bde HQ word came through that the Camerons of Canada were having a terrific fight for the securing of the start line and that the enemy was using a type of flame thrower, or flame producing weapon causing a fire in the Camerons area.</p>	

P.T.O.

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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France Fleury Sur Orne MR 023641 Sheet 40/16 SW	24 Jul 44		<p>The Calgary's sent a patrol forward to communicate with the Camerons and the R de Mais supplied a patrol to act as runners for communication to and from Bde to the Camerons of Canada. The Calgary's were told to sit tight and move on Bde's order. Bde ordered the Bn to move at 2400 hrs. At 2400 hrs the info came through that the Camerons of Canada had secured our start line and "all was well" for our advance.</p> <p>Weather - Fair and mild</p>	
France St Andre Sur Orne. MR 02106105 Sheet 40/16 SW	25 Jul 44		<p>Word arrived at 2400 hrs last night that the Camerons of Canada had secured our start line in ST ANDRE SUR ORNE, and that the situation was ready for our attack to proceed as per schedule.</p> <p>At approx 0130 hrs Lt.Col.D.G.MacLauchlin awakened after a short rest at Bde HQ and took matters in hand. All our area including Bde HQ and our FUP were under terrific mortar fire and shell fire at this particular moment and to add to the almost demoralizing sound of all this noise, the Hun sent a number of planes over and bombed and strafed surrounding points. Great fires were seen burning in FAUBORGE DE VAUCELLES and our own guns beat out a blood curdling rythm. At approx 0150 hrs word came through W/T that D Coy had the serious misfortune of being lost from the other three advancing coys in the move to the FAA at 019617. This caused great worry and then to add to this all coys reported in position. It was very confusing to the C.O. and there is no question, but that 10 years were added to his life during those first hours of the attack.</p> <p>At 0230 hrs the CO and IO in the carrier proceeded to the point of starting, vehs forward, the CO first having sent word over the air to the coys that Plan "A" was in effect. The night was very dark and full of eerie sounds and the diarist wasn't very happy at the moment.</p> <p>The CO and his group proceeded across country, led by the IO to the FAA and took up position of control at 019617. The coys had proceeded fwd to their start line at 02106105 by the time we arrived at 019617, assisted during this preliminary adv by artificial movement lights produced by specially placed searchlights in our rear. At present there is a question as to whether the lights were an advantage or disadvantage.</p> <p><i>moonlight</i></p>	6

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WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France St Andre Sur 44 Orne. MR 02106105 Sheet 40/16 SW	25 Jul		<p>The first coys passed the start line at 0330 hrs as per plan and it was then that we received a terrific disappointment, because it was then found that the Camerons of Canada had not secured the start line as reported. However, against these odds, the coys pushed fwd and then communications failed to junction as required. Approx at 0530 hrs "A" Coy reported "GOBBO BAKER" telling the CO that the Calgarys were in MAY SUR ORNE. This was excellent news to us and the CO took a new lease on life. This news, however, was unbiased, and led to a terrific situation which was very difficult to handle from Command. "C" Coy managed to get into MAY SUR ORNE and then due to terrific enemy mortaring and shelling, the coy was forced to withdraw to a point some two hundred yards north of the village. "B" Coy sent through word that our very dear brother offr, Major C.C.A. Nixon had been killed by machine gun fire, leading "B" Coy fwd to its objective and the coy had come under command of an NCO. CSM Ralph Wilson and Sgt. Brandon take great applause for handling the coy under these circumstances. "D" Coys situation finally became clearer and it was found that the coy under Lieut. "Sandy" Pearson had gone fwd as planned, minus Coy HQ and the coy comd Capt. Del Harrison. It was only Coy HQ which had become lost during the adv to the FAA.</p> <p>"A" coy and "C" Coy now became pinned to ground by fire and "D" Coy HQ now having reported in, were sent to their coy to reorganize, and in time go fwd to assist "C" Coy. The R H C had pushed through us to their objective at FONT NAY LE MARMION and they suffered very heavy casualties. Many prisoners were taken during the day and the arrogant type of German was noticeably present among a collection of Poles, Ukrainians and Russians.</p> <p>The Hun played many very dirty tricks on us during the day, such as 88mm sniping at Red Cross sites and the machine gunning of their own men who had been taken prisoners by us. He would not even hold fire to allow our plainly identified stretcher bearers the chance to evacuate casualties from the field of battle. He absolutely mowed our RAP personnel down as they attempted evacuation. It was noticeable that the Hun was pushing in fresh troops to our front because opposition was gradually becoming heavier. The situation was a very difficult one to handle for the CO and he did everything humanly possible to ease the situation for the coys. Arty was brought down everywhere possible both DF and SOS and conc. on call to little avail.</p>	6
P.T.O.				

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WAR DIARY

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France St Andre sur Orne. MR 02106105 Sheet 40/16 SW	25 Jul 44		<p>BnHQ and "F" Ech were subjected to a terrific mortaring and shelling during the battle and were anything but in a happy position. At 1615 hrs the C.O. had smoke brought down by two Field Regts and our mortars plus RH C mortars and on orders from the Brigadier the Bn withdrew to the south perimeter of ST ANDRE SUR ORNE where the remainder of the Bn formed a defense line in conjunction with the R H C. The smoke screen was effective and covered by the carrier Platoon we withdrew to south of the village of ST ANDRE SUR ORNE. The coys moved back quickly and took up their new posns along the perimeter of the village.</p> <p>The boys held tight and later at approx 2100 hrs word came through that the R de Mais who had by now passed through our line in a further attempt to take MAY SUR ORNE, were now held down and would withdraw at once to our new line of defense and relieve the Calgarys and the R H C. The Calgarys and R H C would then be pulled out of the line and during the night return to a rear area near FLEURY SUR ORNE.</p> <p>At 1700 hrs Lt.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan was relieved by Major Vern Stott for a period of much needed rest, and Major Stott was immediately put into the picture by Brig. Magill. Major Thompson, of the Camerons of Canada, was given the job of constructing all round defense of ST ANDRE SUR ORNE. Major Stott and Capt.Stewart of the R H C were to assist in this place.</p> <p>After the short conference by Brig.Magill, Major Stott, the Adjutant and the IO were standing by the 2 i/c 's slit trench when a crump of mortar came down, quite as close as one would ever wish to have them and a piece of shrapnel struck Major Stott in the shoulder. During this same period Major John Campbell of "AM Coy staggered into BnHQ and after his wound was dressed, both Major Stott and Major Campbell were evacuated. Capt.Ross Ellis took over command of the Bn and carried on all administration in an excellent manner.</p> <p>Many excellent examples of hard boiled tenacity and "ne'er do care" attitudes for danger were shown during the whole attack, and personnel in the carrier platoons, scout platoons, and sigs platoon deserve whole hearted credit for the excellent part they played in our success.</p> <p>During the late part of the evening and up until 2400 hrs BnHQ and F Ech were subjected to a pounding by enemy arty and mortars and it was proven that our particular area was anything but healthy.</p>	6
			P.T.O.	

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France St Andre Sur Orne MR 02106105 Sheet 40/16 SW	25Jul 44		<p>While we did not take our objective the Bn, and tanks and supporting arms did an excellent job and are to be congratulated. The Bn certainly held up to the high mark which has been set for them and Lt.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan can well be proud of each and every man. Our casualties were heavy in one way, but yet not as heavy as was expected because of the pounding we had taken. Unofficially, at the moment we have <u>5 Offrs and 172 ORs casualties, in killed, wounded, missing.</u> This number is being whittled down, as some missing men are straggling back. Another battle and another "win" for us. We have at least managed to draw all of Herr Hitler's famous SS troops to our point and this relieves the other fronts for this very important hour in the battle of Freedom.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Dull and cool.</p>	
France St Andre sur Orne MR 02106105 Sheet 40/16 SW	26Jul 44		<p>Up until 0430 hrs we all sat tight awaiting word that the R de Mais had taken over our position of the south perimeter of ST ANDRE SUR ORNE and then on finally receiving this word, the Bn moved back to FLEURY SUR ORNE. Our move back was quite uneventful and our new quieter area was received by every man as a God send. Men literally fall asleep with their equipment still on and were want to let slit trenches go by the way until they had a sleep. Slit trenches were dug however first and sleep came afterwards.</p> <p>The day was very quiet and men slept, washed and shaved and had a good square meal. Lt.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan called an "O" Gp at 14 0 hrs after returning from a Bde "O" Gp with the IO, which was called at 1100 hrs. The "O" Gp simply covered the points learned in the last action and outlined the plans for the future.</p> <p>The balance of the day was very quiet and no mortaring or shelling to disturb us.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and warm.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France Fleury sur Orne. MR 013642 Sheet 40/16 SW	27Jul 44		<p>Although last night was somewhat on the moist side, everyone awakened bright and early this morning, and in good spirits. After the terrific noise we have become educated to in the last week, it will require a locomotive running over our slit trenches to keep us awake in this rear area.</p> <p>So far, very few shells have dropped even near to us and although we are still in a very forward area, rest is quite possible. The lads are busily cleaning up and giving everything a general scrubbing prior to our coming show. It is not peculiar that everyone is looking forward to the next event because we all have very definite scores to settle, having lost a great number of our buddies.</p> <p>At 11⁴⁵ hrs Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan held a Coy Comd's meeting and it is strange to see such a decided change in Commanders. Capt. John Bright commands A Coy; Capt. Wyn Lasher commands B Coy; Capt. George Stott commands C Coy; and Capt. Del Harrison, D Coy. The C.O. covered a great number of points in reorganization of the Bn and the new comds are very enthusiastic. Several promotions amongst the NCOs took place and we are slowly turning around to our normal establishment. It really is surprising how the Bn suffered losses in Comds of all grades.</p> <p>During the afternoon, Major R.G. Slater, B.M., 5 Cdn Inf Bde arrived at BnHQ and interrogated the remaining officers of each coy, on each phase and step of the last attack. "I" Section drew up an enlargement of the area ST ANDRE SUR ORNE. This enlargement will be a progressive build-up showing all features and location of trouble during the last battle and should be a definite help in the study of the next attack over the same ground.</p> <p>Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan and the I.O. visited 5 Cdn Inf Bde at 1430 hrs and the C.O. and Brigadier spent approx 1½ hrs "rehashing" our portion of the ST ANDRE battle and going into complete "post mortem" details.</p> <p>RSM Bowen has a prty digging a bomb proof BnHQ under the railway tracks. It is quite a job, but will be done to ensure a safe place for the execution of BnHQ business. The balance of the day was quiet and the only highlight being the visit of the Paymaster Role Higgins to the "front line". If he has to go any further forward than our rear area, where we now are, he demands an armoured car or tank. During the evening 3 - 88mm shells landed too close for comfort and now everyone is on their guard. We were becoming a little careless.</p> <p>Weather X Clear and cool</p>	

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WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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40/P & S/37 (3072)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
France Fleury Sur Orne, MR 013642 Sheet 40/16 SW	28 Jul 44		<p>Today activity was at a minimum around the Bn area. General cleaning up and continued washing of dirty clothes seemed to be the order of the day.</p> <p>Major SO Robinson and Capt. Ross Ellis visited "A" Echelon during the morning and spent an hour or so with Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan on the reorganizing of the Bn and of prospective and immediate changes in personnel. The C.O. also spent some time writing letters of condolence to next of kin of our departed officers and NCOs. Coy Comds are responsible for this type of work for those men in their coys who were killed and are missing up until the present time. It is a big undertaking and a very important one. Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan places great importance on the execution of such letters.</p> <p>Work is still progressing on the BnHQ dugout and except for the occasional cave in all is quite up according to schedule. At 1900 hrs Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan held a coy cmd's meeting at "A" Ech and outlined several tentative moves in the next action, and also spent some time on promotions and switches of personnel within coys. Our strength is almost normal once again.</p> <p>During the C.O.s meeting the G3, Capt. Charles de Salaberry arrived with much belated news that we had to put out two standing patrols near ETAVAU, to prevent the infiltration of Huns from the west side of the river into our area. The English are pushing south into FUGEROLLE, with a one-coy attack. It is quite definite now that our right flank will be entirely cleared before our next action. This news is accepted with great applause by our Coy Comd's and is certainly a great relief to the C.O. Later about 2200 hrs, one patrol was cancelled because the FMRs are sending patrols out into the same area and ours will be quite unnecessary.</p> <p>"Lights Out" became very voluntary around 2230hrs and until midnight all was quiet, then the Hun dropped a few bombs in our area.</p> <p>Weather Fair and warm</p>	

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32 WAR DIARY

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

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

Title pages will be prepared.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France Fleury sur Orne. MR 013642 Sheet 40/16 SW	29Jul 44		<p>Today has been a very quiet day, throughout, with no excitement whatever. The lads continue to rest and clean up and it appears now, that with our strength up to establishment, we are quite prepared to get into battle once again. Everyone is itching to get going and get even with the Hun for the definite scores we have to settle.</p> <p>As a matter of fact our meals are becoming too good. Everyone is becoming fat and lazy and "compos" are certainly in order plus a little work. During the afternoon the "cave" which has been built for BnHQ to execute their very important business, was completed.</p> <p>Capt. Ellis made several trips to A Echelon to converse with Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan and many subjects of prime importance were settled. Several new "crowns" are being sported by Coy Comd's and it is a pity a little "Hootch" is not available to wet them. The rest of us sure could make a killing in "wetting our whistles". At 1830 hrs Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan called an Coy Comd's meeting and using different maps and "Def" viewprints and aerial photos the group studied the ground around FONTENAY LE MARMION in preparation for our coming job. There is still great controversy over the advantages and disadvantages of "artificial movement lights". As per usual some like it and some don't. The diarist hopes the answer is in the negative.</p> <p>Around 2230 hrs the Hun sent over a few more planes as is his usual custom around this time. They dropped the odd bomb around the area and generally made a nuisance of themselves. Our Ack Ack "fireworks" went up in wonderful splendour but to no apparent avail. And so to bed at 2330 hrs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and warm</p>	
France Fleury sur Orne MR 013642 Sheet 40/16 SW	30Jul 44		<p>This morning Padre Hugh Percy held a church service in the caves below FLEURY. Services were held in two phases and the first one started at 1015 and the next at 1115 hrs. It is an experience that will go down in everyone's memory. The caves are an amazing series of tunnels under the earth and in them at present are living all the civilian refugees from the surrounding districts.</p> <p>At 1330 hrs Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan and the I.O. went to 4th Bde HQ at 047646. There Brig. McGill met the C.O. and in attendance also were the Div Comd, and Brig.</p>	

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33 WAR DIARY

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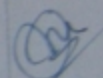
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
<p>FRANCE Fleury sur Ogne. MR 013642 Sheet 40/16 SW</p>	<p>30 Jul 44</p>		<p>Jefferson 10th Bde Comd, and Lt.Col. Ganong acting Brig. 4 Bde HQ. The conference was a study of the situation around TILLY DES CAMPAGNES and it was then brought out that the Calg Highrs will attack and hold TILLY on Monday Jul 31.</p> <p>The C.O. and several other high ranking officers went forward to the Essex Scottish area and studied TILLY from that area. The Coy Comds arrived at 4 Bde HQ and were taken forward by Lt.Col. D.G. MacLauchlan to a vantage point showing the ground over which they will have to attack.</p> <p>The Calgarys are sending out a Recce patrol and a portion of a fighting patrol from the Essex Scottish later tonight. The two patrols will be briefed by the Essex and they will report to the Calg I.O. at 0800 hrs Monday Jul 31 at 4 Bde HQ. We are also sending a working party to the chateau at 060606 now held by the Essex and they will build up a solid BnHQ for the attack on TILLY.</p> <p>Capt. Ross Ellis and Capt. D. Kearns went forward to this point at 060606 at 1745 hrs to make a recce for an approach for the COs recce group at 0800 hrs Jul 31 and for BnHQ. It is understood that Ross and Dib were "sniped" by an 88mm and luckily it missed.</p> <p>During the evening the CO attended a conference at 5 CIB and the complete plan of attack was discussed and laid on for tomorrow.</p> <p>Weather Fair and warm</p>	

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34 WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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40/P & S/37 (3072)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France Elwury Sur Orne. MR 013642 Sheet 40/16 SW	31 Jul 44		<p>At 0630 hrs all Coy Comds went on a recce to Thorn House at 060606 to view the ground over which they will advance to TILLEY LA CAMPAGNE tonight. During the recce one jeep had a hole punched in the radiator by flying shrapnel, and the Coy Comds had to push the jeep back to 4th Bde HQ. At 0800 hrs the I.O. and a working party of 6 ORs and 1 sigs and 1 pioneer went to 4th Bde HQ. The I.O. got off there and the party went forward to the Essex Scottish and were met by Cpl. Melanchuk who took them to the new comd post of BnHQ to dig in and reinforce the post for easier execution of control during the attack.</p> <p>The I.O. interrogated the patrols who had been out during the night in the TILLY area and the results of the patrols were far from good. The patrol report was put on a trace and the C.O. studied it in conjunction with Brig. Magill during the latter part of the morning. At 1200 hrs Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan went to 060606 and witnessed the registration of our arty tasks for the attack. The results were gratifying.</p> <p>During the afternoon everyone spent an hour or two in resting and at 1700 hrs the C.O. held a co-ordinating conference of Coy Comds and all supporting arms, plus tanks, to tie in all remaining points for the attack tonight. The conference was wholly successful and everything points to a very successful attack early tomorrow morning. Zero hour is set for 0230 hrs Aug 1st 1944 and the C.O. left no stone unturned during the "O" Gpi.</p> <p>The evening was spent preparing for the move. The Bn moves off at 2300 hrs and will be in the ass. area by 0130 hrs Aug 1st 44. LOB personnel are remaining in our present area until further notice.</p> <p>Weather Fair and warm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(D.G. MacLauchlan) Lieut. Col The Calgary Highlanders CA(O)</p>	<p>Remarks, references to Appendices and initials</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MacLauchlan</p>

SECRET

ORIGINAL
DUPLICATE
TRIPLICATE

(Strike out where not applicable)

WAR DIARY

OF

THE CALGARY HIGHLANDERS CA(0)

FROM 1 Aug 44 TO 31 Aug 44

War Diaries
Ser. 192/1
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AUG 1944



VOLUME 2

33

War Diaries
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APPENDICES 1 & 3 TO 13

ORIGINAL

1944 AUG

192/1

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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The Calgary Highlanders CA(O)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, reference to Appendices and initials
France Tilly la Campagne & Fleury sur Orne. MR 060606 sheet 40/16 SW	1 Aug 44		<p>Marching tps started their long trek to our FUP at TILLY at 2315 hrs 31 Jul 44. The route to be followed was clearly marked and guides were placed by important points. We are to pass down south around IFS to Trotteval Fm and form up in the Essex Scottish area behind 060606. BnHQ including Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan and I.O. in the C.O.'s carrier and Capt. Ross Ellis, Adjutant in the K Sigs truck left A Echelon at 0015 hrs and crossed country in almost total darkness. They arrived safely at the FUP after two or three lost moments and were surprised to find the marching tps already in the FUP area.</p> <p>The C.O. and I.O. immediately followed by the Adjutant proceeded up the road, leaving the carrier behind and entered the prepared BnHQ in the basement of the pump house at 060606. An ops room was immediately set going and K Sigs and Bn Sigs set their wireless in their own prepared posns below ground. The troops formed up behind the start line upon arrival and waited until 0230 hrs (H Hour). At 0230 hrs arty was also to start up in support.</p> <p>During the hour preceding H Hour reports came in from Bn Scouts who were already forward of "yellow" with a section of carriers that the coast was clear for our advance. No movement had been heard around TILLY except the occasional movement of a tracked veh in the distance. This news plus the news that there were no mines pleased Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan and all is set to go ahead as prearranged.</p> <p>At 0230 hrs, all hell let loose, and our arty pounded the ground following the tasks laid on by the C.O., and our men advanced. At 0232 hrs D Coy passed "Blue" the start line, and was immediately followed by the other coys in their own respective lines of advance. B Coy wireless failed immediately and all info re this coy had to be relayed through other coys. Progress here appeared to be quite normal at laid down rate of 100 yds in 5 minutes. At this time the noise was terrific and the Hun improved the din and clamour by laying down a terrific mortar barrage and shelled apparent DF tasks. Bn HQ resembled a buzz saw around this time with messages going hither and thither and runners coming and going and the odd casualty being directed by mistake into ops. Unfortunately at this time our RAP and medical evacuation system was not working and caused considerable flux. Wounded were being attended to by one and all, and all available means of transportation were being utilized.</p> <p>At 0252 hrs word came over the air that D Coy had passed "Yellow" which was a check line and shortly afterwards this was followed by news from the other coys that they were also crossing "Yellow".</p>	9

P.T.O.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France Tilly la Campagne & Fleury sur Orne. MR 060606 sheet 40/16 SW	1 Aug 44		<p>B Coy wireless was still out and news was still being relayed. Communications always manage to go wrong when they are most needed. Shortly after this message, another message came through that our troops were under terrific shell fire from our own arty. This caused great concern for the C.O. and yet it did not seem possible. No tasks were being fired even close to our own troops. Word was sent out to the coys concerned that it was Hun counter shell fire and could not be our own arty. However strong, our messages were regarding this unfortunate feeling amongst the troops, messages continued to pour in to ops that it was our own arty. Lt.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan had our fire stopped and still word was received that our own troops were under our own arty fire. This immediately proved that the Hun was up to his old trick of firing into our own barrage and in this case it was working to perfection. Many casualties were caused by this Hun fire.</p> <p>Throughout the next few very anxious hours we received several setbacks. Some of our troops managed to get into TILLY but were immediately pinned by terrific MG fire and mortar fire. B Coy knocked out 2 tanks with the Piat and finally we received word that the coys could not possibly get into TILLY itself. This was caused by terrific counter fire and our troops dug in close to the railway tracks. The C.O. ordered our troops to get on "Bow River" which was the original B Coy objective, at all costs. Our tank support went in and assisted by the troops managed to get across the tracks into the village. Two of our tanks were knocked out by 88s and the 3rd one withdrew. Our troops were then forced back and then against terrific odds in the form of fire power, at approx 1000 hrs and with very few men left, under Major Bill McQueen, Major Wynn Lasher and Major Del Harrison the troops withdrew to the original start line "Blue".</p> <p>During this time a coy of the Royal Regiment was committed to assist our troops forward. This attempt failed however and the R.R.C took up position near the start line on the south side of the axis of advance. Our men withdrew and were quickly organized behind the start line and under the remaining officers formed an all round defense between "Blue" and "Yellow".</p> <p>All troops were dug in at once and prepared for an enemy counter attack because word was received that enemy tanks and troops were advancing on our HQ. This was unfounded it was disclosed later and the Coy Comds then were called to HQ and explained their decision to withdraw to the C.O. The Brigadier arrived and a plan was made at once to have the remainder of the troops go forward in another attempt at "Yellow".</p>	

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France Tilly la Campagne & Fleury sur Orne. MR 060606 Sheet 40/16 SW	1 Aug 44		<p>Capt. Mark Tennant had up until this time been a very busy man getting ammo and weapons forward to the boys. Before the withdrawal the few remaining men were without auto weapons or Piats and Capt. Tennant got them a supply from one and all sources and his carriers managed to get them forward to the front line up the main road of advance under cover of a heavy fog. The fog was a god send because the Hun had the road covered by 88s. After the coy comds had received orders from the C.O. they moved to their coy areas and prepared to advance once again. During the next few minutes, rations arrived and hot tea was taken to every man in the line. The advance started at 1430 hrs and the troops managed to get to "Yellow" under heavy MG fire. They remained in that position until dusk when they returned to their rear posn and formed all round defense posns of BnHQ and roving patrols. An OP was left at the north end of "Yellow".</p> <p>The Lincoln and Welland Regt of the 10 Bde made an attack in conjunction with us and came in from the North East, as a means of causing diversion of attention. They held their posn until later in the evening and at 2000 hrs we were informed the 10th Bde were going to make a full attack on TILLY at 0230 hrs tomorrow morning. As from 2230 hrs we are not to do any firing even at snipers who are bothering us considerably. During the evening all was fairly quiet with little enemy activity and little mortaring or shelling. With troops at "Stand to" and every one on their toes, we awaited 0230 hrs for the Lincoln and Welland attack.</p> <p>Weather . Foggy and cool.</p>	
France Tilly la Campagne MR 060606 Sheet 40/16 SW	2 Aug 44		<p>At 0230 hrs the Lincoln and Welland were to attack but there was no activity, no noise of any kind and we do not know even now if the attack has been made. During the day we were shelled and mortared consistently. Our men continue to hold on in their posn between "Blue" and "Yellow". The RRCs are remaining in their posn as there was no word to withdraw or advance. During the day BnHQ was shelled by 88s many times and it caused considerable anxiety. Our casualties appear very high at present and it is hoped the list will decrease as more troops who became lost in the original attack are found. Up until now small groups of men have reported in to HQ and have been sent to reinforce the coys.</p> <p>Word also came in around 1400 hrs that the Lincoln and Welland attack had failed and the L & W had been forced to withdraw with heavy casualties. We at least know</p>	

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France Tilly la Campagne	2 Aug 44		<p>now that the attack was made. Around 1700 hrs the Brigadier arrived and stated that TILLY would be bombed by Typhoons at 1800 hrs; also we were informed that the Calgarys will pull out tonight for the rear area at FLEURY and be replaced by the Essex Scottish, who will hold our present posn. This is very welcome news.</p> <p>Lieut. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan called an O Gp and laid on a plan of moving out by coys and issued orders also to the RRCs, who will also return to their own area at the same time. Our OPs report all enemy slit and weapon pits to be occupied at 1730hrs. At 1800 hrs the Typhoons arrived and TILLY went up and then down in a mess of smoking rubble. All coys have yellow signal smoke ready in case the planes bomb our posn as well as TILLY. After TILLY had received a terrific pounding the planes did bomb us and thank God had misses. We threw up yellow smoke and they soon stopped. Only four bombs were dropped on us and it is only by the grace of God that their aim was not so good as that on TILLY.</p> <p>Shortly afterwards our arty played terrifically heavy fire into the rubble and many air bursts were fired directly over TILLY as well. It is seemingly impossible thing for anyone to live under such fire. Snipers continue to be very active and the seemingly impossible has happened because we are once again receiving MG fire from the slits at TILLY. The Hun is like a rat and comes up for more no matter how hard we pound him. During the evening we received a few more mortar bombs and shells and the diarist aged 10 yrs when an SS went by his back like an express train and exploded down the road a short distance away.</p> <p>Time is 2230 hrs for our coys to start withdrawing to the area behind HQ and to start the trek home. The RRCs are to precede followed by C Coy B D A and BnHQ. The CO and IO are going to a point up near Troteval Fm to check the coys through. Sigs once again did a wonderful job in keeping our phone lines intact and deserve a great deal of credit. It is with great pleasure that we pull out at 2230 hrs and wend our way home. The trip home was quite uneventful and the CO, IO and Adjt stopped in at 5 Bde Tac HQ to report the Bn out. The Essex took over from us on leaving and also manned our forward OP. We arrived home at 0015 hrs and the marching personnel, weary and tired were filled by a "tot" of rum and a hot meal.</p> <p>And so to bed after a tiresome 48 hrs. Our job was to take TILLY; we did not do this but we at least have held the Huns crack SS tps and so allowed the western advance to Brittany to be a success. The CO is proud of the Bn and well he can be, because every man was in the fighting every minute.</p> <p>Weather Fair and warm.</p>	

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France Fleury sur Orne MR 013642 Sheet 40/16 SW	3 Aug 44		<p>While all were sleeping, and the time was 0900 hrs the CO and IO were up, dressed and refreshed and on their way to Bde to attend an O Gp. It is a beautiful morning and certainly a day to make one very happy. The Bde O Gp lasted until 1215 hrs and during the two hours and fifteen mins many points were covered and the broad outline of the coming tasks was given to us. The best news is that we out for another week or 10 days.</p> <p>Lieut. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan held a coy comds meeting at 1400 hrs at A Echelon and covered points received at the Bde O Gp. This meeting lasted until 1715 hrs and the officers were warned of another Coy Comd's meeting at 2200 hrs tonight to clarify certain prevailing problems and readjust the Bn. There will be no reinforcements for a while because of an acute shortage at the present moment. We are to organize the Bn with the remaining men and build up as we are able.</p> <p>During the evening the area was very quiet with only the noise of our own arty pounding away at the Hun. The troops received their beer rations today and a surprise to all was English beer in cans. At 2200 hrs Pipe Major Neil Sutherland and the pipe band entertained the area with a grand retreat programme. Lights out is early again and the boys are disappearing very early into their slit trenches into dreamland. A complete casualty list is still not available and the diarist is prone to give out an estimate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and mild.</p>	
France Fleury sur Orne MR 013642 Sheet 40/16 SW	4 Aug 44		<p>Another grand morning and all awakened in good spirits. Normal routine of cleaning up and general interior economy comprised the full morning. Jerry must be out of range now with his mortars because our area is fairly quiet.</p> <p>At 1430 hrs Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan called a Coy Comds meeting and general reorganization and promotions were the main topics. Around 1700 hrs the meeting dispersed and will be resumed at the call of the Adjutant. The IO and Scout offr are attending a two days refresher course at Main Div HQ. It is hoped that many problems will be clarified in full. At 1930 hrs Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan and the Coy Comd's resumed the meeting and at 2100 hrs word arrived that the CO and Adjt were to report to the 8th Recce area at MR 0362. There is a chance we will take over this area and allow them to move elsewhere. The Coy Comd's meeting dispersed at 2110 hrs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">P.T.O.</p>	

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France Fleury sur Orne MR 013642 Sheet 40/16 SW	4 Aug 44		<p>The CO and Adjt drove to the area and picked the coy posns. Tomorrow morning the Adjt will take the coy Comd's forward to recce their coy areas. Time set is 0830 hrs. The I Section prepared an elaborate sand model in a nearby farm yard of the MAY SUR ORNE and FONTENAY LE MARMION area in preparation of our coming job. Now it is likely that the model will not be used if we take over from the 8th Recce.</p> <p>The evening was very quiet and only once did we hear evidence of mortar fire or shelling. During the day our armour moved consistently up and down the front making a considerable dust screen and it is felt that it is a movement to confuse Jerry.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and warm</p>	
France Fleury sur Orne MR 013642 Sheet 40/16 SW	5 Aug 44		<p>This morning at 0830 hrs the Adjt, Capt. Ross Ellis took the Coy Comd's and RSM on a recce of the 8th Recce area. The IQ returned to Div accompanied by the scout offr to complete the 2nd and last day of the I refresher course.</p> <p>The morning was very quiet and there was little activity around the Bn area. At 1200 hrs the Adjt and Coy Comds returned from their recce, quite satisfied to take over the new area. Our strength is now back up to 65 per coy and full complement of officers. At this rate we should be back to normal very shortly.</p> <p>At 1430 hrs Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan called a Coy Comd's meeting to tie in final arrangements for our move to the 8th Recce area. This meeting was broken up at 1530 hrs by an order to report to 5 CIB HQ at once. The CO and Adjt reported to Brigadier McGill and received orders to immediately start preparations for the move. Not to the 8th Recce but to the south through ST ANDRE, MAY and on to FONTENAY. There is proof at the moment that the Hun has pulled out on the right flank west of the ORNE. The 53 Div has been pushing south. There is also reason to believe that the Hun has pulled out from our front and 5 Bde will push south at once towards FALAISE. The RHC push into MAY. The R de Mais will push through the R H C to FONTENAY LE MARMION. The Calgary Highlanders will tail the R de Mais behind one and a half hours. Times are not available at the moment.</p> <p>At 1600 hrs the 60 held a coy comd's meeting to give the order of march and tie in a few points remaining before the job. During the evening all was very quiet. Capt Bill Riley and Capt. Dick Cornelius of 5 Fd Regt are to be with us again. They are two grand chaps and are glad to have them back with us.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and warm.</p>	

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FRANCE, IFS. MR 039632 Sheet 40/16 SW	6 Aug 44		<p><i>at the last minute our orders were changed again and after all we are to take over from the 8th Recce.</i></p> <p>At approx 0200 hrs the Bn had completed its move from FLEURY SUR ORNE to the vicinity of IFS. The take-over from the 8th Recce was very orderly and done quietly and effectively. As one tp of 8th Recce pulled out, one coy simply "rolled" into already prepared slit trenches. BnHQ was a cinch because the 8th Recce RHQ was a completely sandbagged dug out, and another exactly the same for the I Sec and Sigs.</p> <p>Calg Highrs sent out two patrols replacing the 8th Recce on the patrol programme and did excellent jobs. One was a recce and the other a fighting patrol. The fighting patrol could not get into a scrap because the enemy ran from them when attacked. The new area is very quiet and this is attributed to the fact that no unnecessary movement is allowed around the area.</p> <p>There has been only the occasional mortar bomb and the odd shell dropped around the area and none actually in our rear lines. Our forward coys have been shelled slightly. Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan and the I.O., Lieut. Stu Moore attended a bde "O" Gp at 2030 hrs and were treated to good news. The big push is about to take place and is really good news because this is the push to the end and must succeed. Large formations of armour and 3 Inf Divs are included. There is the 2nd and 3rd Can Inf Divs and the 51st Highland Div. Our part is follow up at first and breaking out in phase 2 to take and hold BRETEVILLE SUR LAIZE. We will have terrific support incl air this time and it should be a good show. D Day is tomorrow. H Hour is not determined as yet.</p> <p>After the Bde "O" Gp Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan called an "O" Gp and every Coy Comd and every ofr of all support and arty crowded into a dugout, big enough for 3 at the most and it became so warm, all were "done to a turn". The C.O. passed on the story in complete detail and at 0200 hrs the meeting was dispersed.</p> <p>Weather Fair and warm.</p>	5
FRANCE, IFS MR 039632 Sheet 40/16 SW	7 Aug 44		<p>After being up half the night with "O" Gps and patrol reports the diarist is a little tired today. The area was very quiet during the morning, and no shelling or mortaring was sent over to bother us. This is a definite relief to one and all.</p> <p>Meals are a little irregular and a little cold when they do arrive in this area because of the ban on daily movement. Brig. McGill arrived at approx 1000 hrs and we are warned to move our 4 coys back a few hundred yards to allow the 6th Bde to take over our ppens and make way for the armour lanes.</p> <p>P.T.O.</p>	

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FRANCE, IFS MR 039632 sheet 40/16 SW	7 Aug 44		<p>This move will be made at approx 1400 hrs. During the morning the C.O. held a Coy Comd's meeting and cleaned up many points, too numerous to mention.</p> <p>At 1400 hrs Lt.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan and the I.O. went to Bde to attend a final "O" Gp on the big push to come later tonight. The "O" Gp finished at 1630 hrs and all tie in points were complete and everyone satisfied of their own move. Calg Highrs will move into VERRIERES at 052602 relieving the S.S.Rs for our part in phase 1. This move will take place at 0030 hrs 8 Aug 44.</p> <p>Upon returning from the Bde "O" Gp Lt.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan called a Bn "O" Gp and all final points were covered for our move. There is to be a terrifically large bomber raid upon several key points and approx 1000 tons of bombs will drop on each one. This is good news.</p> <p>The evening was spent preparing for the move and supper was served at 2030 hrs. The concentration of tps and armour within the small area of IFS is a sight to behold and it will sure be a relief to break out of the "wardine can".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and warm.</p>	
FRANCE Verrieres MR 0560 sheet 40/16 SW. Roquancourt MR 0558 sheet 40/14 NW Cailluet MR 0555 sheet 40/14 NW Bretteville sur Laize MR 0453- 0452 sheet 40/14 NW	8 Aug 44		<p>At approx 0010 hrs the Bn moved from IFS at MR 0463-0563 across country to TROTEVAL FM and thence to our first objective VERRIERES MR 0560 sheet 40/16 SW. We were heavily shelled and mortared throughout the move and it is only by the grace of God that there were no casualties. Marching tps were followed by a skeleton F Echelon. We arrived at VERRIERES around 0130 hrs and the tps dug in at once. Some former SSR slit trenches were used to good advantage as well. BnHQ was set up in a demolished farm house, where the SSR had also made their HQ. Upon entering the building muffled cries were heard emanating from a pile of rubble, and a party set out to extricate some buried SSR lads. The I Section room which had been part of the SSR BnHQ had received a direct hit by a Jerry shell and the four lads were relieved in time to save their lives. They were sure in poor shape and were sent at once to hospital.</p> <p>At 0430 hrs Lt.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan and the I.O. attended an "O" Gp at Bde where orders were received to proceed at once on the next step of our follow up, to ROQUANCOURT, and once again dug in. BnHQ was set up around a Jerry 7.5 cm A/Tk gun site and here 2 prisoners were taken from a dug out. The armour was an impressive sight around this area. Tanks and AFVs of all descriptions were lined up waiting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">P.T.O.</p>	

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	8 Aug 44		<p>to push Jerry back still further and were present in hundreds of numbers.</p> <p>During the morning, at approx 1000 hrs the C.O., and I.O., attended another "O" Gp at Bde at TROZVAL FM. Orders were here received to proceed by 1200 hrs to our start line behind Cailfuet. The Bn moved forward over open ground to CAILFEUT and with very little opposition from Jerry except for NEW and the odd shell. CAILFEUT, however became a very hot spot for us and Jerry continually shelled our posns with everything he owns. At 1300 hrs the C.O., and I.O., once again attended an "O" Gp at Bde held in 2nd Cdn Armd Bde HQ, and orders were received to proceed at 1600 hrs our H Hour, to our objective at BRETTWILLE SUR LAIZE. Heavy bombers knocked BRETTWILLE apart for a half hour prior to our attack. The Bn moved forward into the attack at 1600 hrs and once again we advanced over open country and fringed by evil looking woods. To our utter surprise we were not molested and the four rifle coys passed over the hill and down into the demolished town. Except for the odd MG no enemy sounds were heard. As the C.O. and I.O. in the carrier, came over the high ground a Jerry 88mm ATk gun fired 4 shots at the carrier and luckily just missed the veh. The occupants jumped out and dove into the ditch, where many more shells were directed slightly overhead. D Coy carrier was hit immediately in front of the CO's carrier. Both carriers were brought back up the hill a little later and were left in the wood above BRETTWILLE where BnHQ was finally set up. Our troopsof tanks did a magnificent job and are credited with knocking out the 88mm to our right flank.</p> <p>During the evening the C.O. asked permission to withdraw the four rifle coys to the high ground surrounding BRETTWILLE and to hold the town from this vantage point. Brig. McGill concurred and the coys were withdrawn. As the coys came back up the hill Jerry shelled the area and many casualties were received. This shelling brought our wounded to three wounded officers, Major Bill McQueen, Capt. Wilkes and Lieut. Kirby and Lieut. Ford shell shocked. 3 ORs killed, 39 wounded, and 26 missing. Later on 6 ORs turned up and brought our missing list down to 20.</p> <p>The boys dug in and took up all round defense. OPs were set out by I section and the scouts. During the night we also sent out patrols to recce the area of BRETTWILLE. The night was fairly quiet and a few of the lads got in a few hours sleep. One very noticeable thing is the aggressiveness and complete thoroughness of the lads in building slit trenches and magnificent dug outs. Once again we are successful in taking and holding our objective - BRETTWILLE SUR LAIZE.</p> <p>Weather Fair and warm.</p>	

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FRANCE, Bretteville sur Laize MR 0453-0542 Sheet 40/14 NW	9 Aug 44		<p>This morning word arrived from the GOC to once again occupy BRETTEVILLE. We will occupy it with 3 coys and leave the 4th coy on the high ground by BnHQ to hold this area. D Coy is left behind as their present posn warrants no move for them. The other 3 coys went back into BRETTEVILLE and occupied the same posns they had held yesterday. This movement wasn't quite as simple as was at first believed, because several MGs had been placed neatly and caused some consternation for the coy comds but they pressed on and took their posns as per plan. Scouts and snipers were sent out on patrols and brought in a nil report re enemy activity.</p> <p>Prisoners number 2 Offrs, and 19 ORs up until the present moment. They are of a poor grade and are partly Russian and Polish and very willing to be taken prisoners. They claim 3 Inf Bns of enemy are forming up in the wood directly south 3 kilometers of BRETTEVILLE and that their own 3 coys are out of ammo.</p> <p>The balance of the day was very quiet and sleeping in shifts the troops obtained some rest and managed 2 hot meals which were received very gratefully. Water and food had we none- from the end of the fight to the time it began.</p> <p>The C.O. and I.O. attended an "O" Gp at Bde at 2130 hrs and the Brig put the group in the picture regarding all surrounding movements of Allied tps. Our "push to the end" is so far very successful and the 4th Cdn Arm'd Div is within 5 miles of FAILAISE. We are to remain in our present area for at least the time being, and a large plan is in progress for other Divs around us. A rest will do us good and give us time to re-organize.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and warm.</p>	
France, BRETTEVILLE sur LAIZE. MR 0453-0452 Sheet 40/14 NW	10 Aug 44		<p>Another bright sunshiny day and fortunately another quiet one too. Jerry is sure pushed back because there is only a very odd shell coming our way. It is also quite evident that he has thinned out considerably in strength.</p> <p>Most of the tps spent the day in quiet slumber and rest, around their coy areas. There were many visitors to BnHQ today incl. Major Doug Robertson, a former Calg Officer now at Army. Patrols were sent out once again but no evidence of enemy activity was found and a nil report arrived into Bde.</p> <p>At 2000 hrs Lt. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan and the I.O. went to Bde and the C.O. spent an hour with Brig. Megill. Bde HQ staff are getting bolder and bolder every day. They P.T.O.</p>	

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			<p>In reading the narrative of the BRETTEVILLE attack, many points were found missing and as these points definitely affected the success of this attack, it is found necessary to make an addition in the form of an appendix.</p> <p>During the original attack on BRETTEVILLE SUR LAIZE, the Regt de Maisonneuve made a parallel attack on our left flank with their objective, the little village of QUILLY MR 0651 Sheet 7F/3. Between the two Bns we had a troop of tanks from the 6th A.M'd Bde. The R de Mais were not as successful as ourselves in getting fwd quickly with the result that when we took BRETTEVILLE our left flank was exposed and the Hun brought NBW fire on our tps fr m a short distance of 400 yds. Later the R de Mais located this Nebelwerfer posn and successfully took two brand new weapons with a supply of ammo.</p> <p>When the coys entered BRETTEVILLE, BnHQ personnel located enemy by observation in the immediate front approx 1000 metres distant and as this posn would in all likelihood cause trouble later on, the tanks within the close proximity of BnHQ brought hy fire on to the observed posn and were certainly very successful in knocking out an OP and hy MG and rifle posn, located in a large home south of BRETTEVILLE. It was also at this time that the tanks knocked out an 88 on our right flank which had been bothering us. We then withdrew to the high ground surrounding the village and the next day were ordered to re-occupy BRETTEVILLE again.</p> <p>The second move into BRETTEVILLE was not an easy one because during the night Jerry had placed some MG and snipers in commanding posns within the town. As our coys worked fwd they were fired upon by these posns and the coys lost no time in exterminating the Hun. However, there are two or three bright spots within this portion of the story. One sniper and rifle posn was taken out by a sniper from the Bn and Pte. Cook, A.M.B. of A Coy, single handed, and took out several MGs and riflemen in one posn. This enemy posn had until that moment been holding up the adv of A Coy and accordingly the adv of the Bn. Pte. Cook has often been referred to as the man who took BRETTEVILLE. Another excellent example of heroism is a story told and recorded of Major Mose Ellis our Adjt at the time and now A Coy comd.</p> <p>During the pull out of the coys to the high ground commanding BRETTEVILLE after the first attack, the Hun opened intense 88 mm fire and severely messed up the movement. Many of our gallant lads were killed and wounded and medical evacuation was a very difficult thing. The medical orderlies carried on very heroically and as fast as</p>	

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WAR DIARY appendix

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
FRANCE Brestville our lines	10 Aug 24		<p>they could possibly move. However as were so numerous, many wounded had to wait a long time before evacuation. Major Ross Ellis heard that Capt. Wilkes of D Coy was severely wounded and lying in a shell hole down the hill. Word arrived that Capt. Wilkes would not allow himself to be evacuated until every one of his men had been recovered. Major Ellis, personally in the face of intense fire, went to Capt. Wilkes's assistance and brought him to medical care. Major Ellis had to carry Capt. Wilkes the greater part of the distance up hill, possibly 250 yds.</p> <p>Jerry landed a few stray shells in Brestville around 2300 hrs and hit the newly prepared road heading it up again, all right. Shells are getting a little more regular now because A Echelon and F Echelon are right up forward with us.</p> <p>Weather Fair and very warm.</p> <p>This morning, Lieut. Ben Moore, Tn I.C., took a working party of 6 GPs and an MLC to the site of our new Bunk and set about getting the new quarters in a state of readiness. By about 0800 hrs MLC had completely moved and everyone appears quite happy in their new home.</p> <p>The day came spent a great portion of the day in adjusting personnel and re-organizing their own troops under the supervision of Lieut. Wilkes. This is a lot bigger job than appears on the surface and requires a great deal of thought. We are slowly adding up to strength and now we total 750. With the number of reliable comrades adding up after the last three weeks fighting. The Pn does not appear in the old one, with only a very small percentage of the original band still present.</p> <p>Major Ross Lecker of D Coy returned to us today having spent the last week in hospital with a piece of shrapnel in his arm. He looks 100% fighting fit again. Word arrived today that the body of Major Ross Wilkes, former boss of D Coy, who had been missing since our attack on Brestville on 27 July, had been found and his body placed in the small Canadian cemetery east of Brestville near Brestville. Several other soldiers' bodies were also found, and their names are not known at present. Another body was found but its identity could not be determined.</p>	
FRANCE Brestville our lines BR 055-115 sheet 40/1834	11 Aug 24			

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FRANCE Bretteville sur Laize	10 Aug 44		<p>now have their HQ in the very front line and if we don't watch out they will soon be moving inside enemy lines and functioning from there. The C.O. held a coy comds meeting twice today and discussed the personal problems in detail. Reinforcements have arrived and we are now nearly up to strength once again.</p> <p>News today shows the Yanks closing around our southern flank and into a fair striking distance of PARIS. The end is at last, in view. In the later part of the evening I.O., Lieut. Stu Moore liaised with the R de Mais and arranged for a Chateau as our new HQ with the R de Mais lines. Preparations will begin first thing tomorrow morning for the move.</p> <p>Jerry landed a few stray shells in BRETTEVILLE around 2200 hrs and hit the newly prepared road messing it up again, slightly. Meals are getting a little more regular now because A Echelon and F Echelon are right up forward with us.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and very warm.</p>	2
Brance Bretteville sur Laize MR 058535 sheet 40/14NW	11 Aug 44		<p>This morning, Lieut. Stu Moore, Bn I.O., took a working party of 6 ORs and an NCO to the site of our new BnHQ and set about getting the new quarters in a state of readiness. By 1100 hrs BnHQ had completely moved and everyone appears quite happy in their new home.</p> <p>The Coy Comds spent a great portion of the day in adjusting personnel and re-organizing their own troops under the supervision of Lieut. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan. This is a lot bigger job than appears on the surface and requires a great deal of thought. We are slowly coming up to strength and now we total 756. With the number of reinforcements coming up after the last three weeks fighting, the Bn does not appear like the old one, with only a very small percentage of the original gang still about.</p> <p>Major Wynn Lasher of B Coy returned to us today having spent the last week in hospital with a piece of shrapnel in his nose. He looks 100% fighting fit again.</p> <p>Word arrived today that the body of Major "Cy" Nixon former comd of B Coy, who had been missing since our attack on MAYSUR ORNE and ST ANDRE SUR ORNE last Jul 25th had been found and his body placed in the small Canadian cemetery East of ST ANDRE SUR ORNE near BEAUVOIR FM. Several other Calgary lads were also found, and their names are not known at present. At least we know that "Cy" is in good hands and we can ease our minds as to him being on the missing list.</p>	

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France Bretville sur Laize. MR 058535 sheet 40/14 NW	11 Aug 44		<p>The day was very quiet and Jerry left our area alone throughout the hours of day- light and darkness. He must be pushed back a considerable distance. At 1930 hrs Lieut. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan attended a Bn Comd's meeting at Bde. The Brigadier put the C.O.'s in the picture as to the present situation and the coming job for the Bn. At present Bdes are simply relieving each other to ease the strain and monoton- y. We will possibly relieve the 8th Bde of the 3rd Div. in the next 2 or 3 days. Good news is that the Mobile Laundry and Bath will be available, to the Bn some- time tomorrow. We sure need a bath.</p> <p>Weather Fair and very hot.</p>	(14)
France Bretville sur Laize MR 058535 sheet 40/14 NW Mesnil Touffley MR 0349 7F/3 LE MESNIL MR 0545 7F/3	12 Aug 44		<p>Another grand sunshiny morning and nothing to do but clean up and get our equipment and personnel back into shape. Our new HQ is excellent and it is hoped that we remain here at least a few more days. At 1200 hrs however all those hopes were dash- ed to pieces and bad news was received by the C.O. that we are to prepare to move fwd. At the Bde "O" Gp at this time orders to move fwd by 1400 hrs were received very unwillingly. We are to push fwd to MESNIL TOUFFLEY and go into concentration with the R de Mais immediately in rear in preparation for a big push southwards. The 4th Bde are making a drive ahead of us and when their objectives are taken we will once again push southwards to our ultimate objective at CLAIR TIZON.</p> <p>We moved by 1430 hrs and upon arriving at MESNIL TOUFFLEY we were ordered to concentrate here instead of a few metres westward at MESNIL AUMONT. Two coys who were already fwd in MESNIL AUMONT were drawn back and we took up a Bn position around MESNIL TOUFFLEY. It was a very hot, long and dry march for the troops.</p> <p>Upon going into MESNIL TOUFFLEY the command group came under hy shellfire and once again, as on many previous occasions the C.O.'s carrier was a chief target. The carrier escaped damage but very unfortunately, Driver Bradley was killed by flying shrapnel. During the stay in MESNIL TOUFFLEY of a few hours we were con- tinually shelled and even under these adverse conditions the men were fed at 2400 hrs.</p> <p>Weather Fair and very hot.</p>	2 (14)

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France MESNIL TOUFFREY REY MR 0549 Sheet 7F/3 LE MESNIL MR 0545 Sheet 7F/3	13 Aug		<p>We were ordered to push on by 0145 hrs and once again we headed southwards to CLAIR TIZON, via MOULINES, LE BEQUET and LES HOULLES. It was a vicious, dark night and we were to travel over territory, not recce'd before, and over trails taken from the map and through country where we had no knowledge of enemy posns. The movement was carried out very well and very uniformly by all. The Bn had two "I" Sec people in front and they must be congratulated for the splendid work of map reading which they executed. We travelled all night and the hours were most anxious ones. The trails were really trails no wider than a carrier, and very difficult to follow even at the best of times. However, including the odd road block, high banks on either side and the occasional shell we pushed fwd until at 0545 hrs our leading tps cleared LE MESNIL and here we were ordered to stop and take up a Bn posn around the area. The Huns were certainly on the run and we took approx 75 prisoners. Fighting up until now had not been fierce but very antagonistic caused by well placed MGs and Infantry A/Tk guns.</p> <p>We remained here until 1400 hrs when once again we proceeded fwd to take CLAIR TIZON. Many queer things happened around LE MESNIL during our stay there. One was the taking over of a Jerry RAP and its MO plus cas. Prisoners simply poured into our cage and looked like a queue going up to the ticket box at a theatre, with the IO acting as doorman. Each and every prisoner had an Allied leaflet entitled "Safe conduct" assuring them of good treatment if taken prisoner. These leaflets were handed to the IO like tickets to the picture show, accompanied by "Me camarad" They smelled as if a bath had been lacking for weeks and they appeared half starved as well. One young Hun when trying to assist his platoon hold off "D" Coy commanded by Major Del Harrison, saw he was not getting anywhere fast and threw away his rifle and ran like hell for the safety of D Coy lines.</p> <p>Another interesting incident was a young German who jumped out of the bushes into Capt. Mark Tennant's jeep as it passed by and refused to get out. He just wanted to be safe and away from our fire and bombing.</p> <p>An RAP jeep taking Sgt. Al. Palfe/nier to hospital with a very bad head wound took a wrong turn and ended up in Hun lines. Palfe/nier and a medical orderly were taken prisoner and the driver managed to escape from his guard, and tell us the story. BnHQ remained at LE MESNIL until the clever plan laid on by Lieut. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan was executed by the persevering coys and then moved fwd to LES HOULLES. The coys fanned</p>	

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France MESNIL TOUFFREY MR 0549 Sheet 7F/3 LE MESNIL MR 0545 Sheet 7F/3	13 Aug 44		<p>their way into CLAIR TIZON step by step with the coys leap frogging and with each bite holding firm. C Coy commanded by Dalt Heyland took out an 88 during the advance and many sighs of relief were heard. It had been giving us hell.</p> <p>At 1800 hrs two coys, A and B were across the river LAIZE and two coys C and D, took up posns on the west side of the river. The town was definitely in our hands and the original job of forming the bridgehead had been completed. Another success for the Bn and a good one too, with a small percentage of cas numbering 3 killed and 3 wounded. During the evening we were heavily shelled and mortared, and yet no sign of breaking, we are hanging on like the proverbial bulldog.</p> <p>Major Wynn Lasher who had just returned to the Bn after a face wound at TIMMY LE COMPAGNE, once again managed a wound and yet not enough for a "Blighty". He is not happy because he is rumoured to have said "England here I come" and now he isn't serious enough to warrant the trip. B Coy took a German Regt'l Comd as BOW.</p> <p>During the evening the R de Mais attempted to push through our dug in fwd lines to gain their objective but were repelled by the enemy with considerable cas, as they withdrew out of our fwd area. They were withdrawn as the 6th Bde was pushed through to take up posns East of CLAIR TIZON on the high ground. This attack was successful and now we are once again transferred to a posn behind the front. Our firm bridgehead was the reason for their success.</p> <p>At 2345 hrs the CO and Io were called to a CO's conference at Bde. At this time the enemy was shelling and mortaring us and it was a terrific experience, especially in a jeep to cross this ground which contained many enemy snipers who had infiltrated back through our lines.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and warm.</p>	
France CLAIR TIZON MR 064435	14 Aug 44		<p>After a very restless night caused by hy shelling and mortaring we were treated by to another beautiful day. The tps are very tired and yet the state of morale is at an uncomparable height. The men are happy and discipline is perfect. They are proud of themselves for the grand job the Bn has done in securing the bridgehead, across the LAIZE. The lads may well be proud too because they did a grand job.</p> <p>During the morning Lieut. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan attended an "O" Gp at Bde and we received orders to move back from CLAIR TIZON and LES MOULLES to TOURNEBOU. TOURNEBOU is held at present by the RRC and Essex and they are moving out for another job. We moved at approx 1200 hrs and strangely the Hun allowed our move to take place</p>	

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France Clair Tizon MR 064435 Sheet 40/14 SW Les Houles MR 060443 Sheet 40/14SW Tournebou MR 041447 Sheet 40/14SW	14 Aug 44		<p>quietly and we received no shelling whatever. Capt. Mark Tennant liaised with the 4th Bde at TOURNEBOU and recce'd our new area. 6th Bde are holding the ground East of CLAIR TIZON. In the new area at TOURNEBOU we dug in and by 1600 hrs we had tied in with the R de Mais slightly south east of our posn and all coys reported "Charlie" Charlie is our code word for "in and consolidated fully".</p> <p>The C.O. was relieved by Major Robinson our 2 i/c and the S.O. went back for a well earned rest to "A" Ech. Everyone is so tired now we are almost to the numb stage.</p> <p>During the day a few chickens happened to be wounded by shrapnel and the smell of fried chicken filled the air, and what a grand smell. Later in the evening Jerry came out in full force, of about 2 of his famed Luftwaffe and managed to drop a few bombs in the area to our rear. It is possibly his idea of retaliation after the terrific bombardment this afternoon at FONTAIN LE PIN. And so to bed after a tiresome day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and hot</p>	7
France Tournebou MR 041447 sheet 40/14 SW Urville MR 075507 Sheet 40/14NW Fontain le Pin MR 082448 Sheet 40/14 SW	15 Aug 44		<p>We certainly do get moved around. First thing this morning a message arrived and was later confirmed by an LO from Bde to move at once. northward to URVILLE. For a while it looked as if we were going to get a rest and general clean up. But this was soon changed.</p> <p>The marching tps started from TOURNEBOU at 0900 hrs and the vehs at 1030 hrs. It was a very hot, long dry march for the men and yet once again we must mention the spirit of every man, tired and all, as he may be, and smiles were very much in evidence. Our new area is really very good and looks quiet, at least.</p> <p>Arrangements were made at once for a hot dinner and a possible bath and change of clothes. Major Robinson and the IO attended a conference at Bde around 1200 hrs and a general picture was given by the Brigadier. A further move is probable within 10-12 hours and our next job maybe the attacking of the high ground SW of FALAISE.</p> <p>However after lunch and at approx 1515 hrs word came to report to Bde for an "O" Gp. The inevitable has happened again and we are to proceed southward once again to FONTAIN LE PIN and relieve the RHLI who have just taken over the badly battered town which had just been taken at 1300 hrs by the Polish Div. No bath or change of clothes, but push on once more.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">P.T.O</p>	

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France Tournebou MR 041447 Sheet 40/14SW Urville MR 075507 Sheet 40/14 NW Fontain le Pin MR 082448 sheet 40/14SW	15 Aug 44		<p>Lieut. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan joined us once again still a very tired man, due to enemy bombing of A Ech last night. Nobody can get any rest and it makes no difference where we go. If we get into a quiet area we have to move anyway so it appears as if there is no end to it. We just fight on anyway.</p> <p>We received reinforcements this afternoon, consisting of 4 officers, Lieuts. Bacon, Little, Major and Shantz and 40 ORs. Our LOB personnel also came up to us and our strength is increased considerably. Our move from URVILLE to FONTAIN LE PIN started at 1730 hrs and by 1930 hrs we had reported "Item Charlie" All in and consolidated. The move was once again a quiet one, thank goodness. The amount of German eqpt lying around the country is amazing and shows a very hurried withdrawal.</p> <p>We also came across the area which had received the pounding from our bombers yesterday afternoon. The area incl the village of FONTAIN LE PIN and craters 20 ft deep and 30 ft across simply dotted the ground. Many "deceased" Huns were lying about the crater edges and reports from the Engineers, who are clearing the mess indicate the extraction of many "shell whacky" buried alive Huns. It is quite evident that the bombers struck a complete defended enemy locality.</p> <p>At 2000 hrs a hot meal arrived and a fresh supply of water to quench our thirst. Our new posn was recce'd by Capt. Mark Tennant and reps from each coy and they did an excellent job. BnHQ is probably the worst we have had for some time but nevertheless we are under cover and can catch up on our "paper work".</p> <p>The men as usual found a supply of excellent cider and with the cigarette issue and the possibility of at least a few hours rest, they are all very happy. The C.O. and M.O. are at it again tonight with a battle for champion cribbage player. Good news tonight with confirmation of a new allied landing in Southern France and successful in every way. The Hun is being surrounded and if he soon doesn't get back to Germany, the population of our PW camps will be greatly increased.</p> <p>As the diary is being written, several coy comds are pouring over strength returns and general reorganization of their groups. This gives the COs a great headache after each battle, and this is no exception. In the not too far distance can be heard the pounding of guns and mortars and this is hopefully taken as further indication of Jerry's retreat.</p> <p>Weather Fair and very warm.</p>	2

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France Fontain Le Pin MR 082448 Sheet 40/14SW	16 Aug 44		<p>During the early hours of the morning the Hun had a proud time galloping over our newly taken posns with his Luftwaffe. Several fairly heavy bombs were dropped around the surrounding area and fortunately none hit our posns.</p> <p>Starting at 0700 hrs this morning the coys started going to the Mobile Bath and Laundry in groups of approx 100. This is a much appreciated treat and is a popular idea with the troops. When they arrived at the Baths clean clothes were issued out to each and every man. This issue consisted of towel, shirt, underwear and socks and after a good hot shower it was like candy from home to don new clothes.</p> <p>A CO's meeting was held at Bde at 0900 hrs and the general picture of the present allied posns was given by Brigadier McGill. There is little chance we will move before tomorrow so it looks as if we may get a rest after all.</p> <p>Lt. Col. D.G. MacLaughlan held a coy comd's meeting at 1100 hrs and gave them the picture given the C.O. at Bde. Our strength is not up to establishment as yet but it is hoped that we shall be nearly 100% before our next job. Part of "B" Ech and all of A Ech arrived today and lo and behold even the Paymaster Capt. Roly Higgins and Clair Lannan our Aux Services supervisor were among the group. A search was made at once for a very deep cellar for their living quarters and it is rumoured they are some 20 feet under ground. Leaving all joking aside, it is really good to see them. Clair is putting on a picture show for the coys tonight and this is an added treat for the lads plus the possibility of a bottle of beer tomorrow. The coys are all very happy and when the next show starts it is likely we shall drive straight through to Berlin, SS or no.</p> <p>Our telephone eqpt is growing with the addition today of 5 German field sets. This is a good find because they really are excellent phones and will help our comms considerably.</p> <p>Once again the problem of personnel within the coys is the main topic of conversation and the C.O. and Coy Comds are fast getting it under control. Two more budding Majors were appointed today and the lucky but very deserving officers are Major Ross Ellis and Major Dalt Heyland. Ross is our present Adjutant and will be commanding A Coy while Dalt will command C Coy. "Dalt" took C Coy through the CLAIR TIZON show and this promotion brings both officers up to their majority for the second time.</p> <p>Brigadier McGill visited our HQ during the evening and put the CO in the pic-</p>	<p>Wanting</p> <p>2</p> <p>P.T.O.</p>

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France FONTAIN LE PIN MR 082448 Sheet 40/14SW	16 Aug 44		<p>ture re recent developments around FALAISE. Capt. "Bob" Porter, D.O. 5 Bde was with the Brigadier. Bob is a Calgary Highlander officer and has been at Bde approx 5 months now.</p> <p>At 2200 hrs the air was filled with music and on investigating the source the diarist found a large group of the lads gathered around a small demolished building with an accordian and saxophone. Memories of schemes in "England" came drifting back to us, rather than the front line in a big operation. A group of the officers gathered in BnHQ late in the evening for a chat over old times. It's the first time in 6 weeks we have had the group together. And so to bed.</p> <p>Weather Fair and very warm</p>	
France FONTAIN LE PIN MR 082448 Sheet 40/14SW	17 Aug 44		<p>All awakened this bright sunny morning with only one thought in mind. Namely, are we going to move today or stay here another few hours. At 0830 hrs this question was answered at a Bde meeting attended by the C.O. and I.O. A code word had been arranged between the Adjutant and I.O. with the two colours, red and green. If we were to move the I.O. would wireless the Adjutant and say "green" however the code word "Red" was sent and everyone here at BnHQ was very happy long before the C.O. and I.O. returned with the news. The C.O. is still quite unaware of this situation.</p> <p>During the afternoon a coy comd's meeting was held and further personnel problems were straightened out successfully, although at present we are only up to 80% of our total strength. A picture show was held at 1500 hrs for the troops by the Aux. Services. It was "The Sullivans".</p> <p>Meals are a little more regular today and this is a definite improvement and a very welcome one, too. Letters of condolences to relatives and next of kin of some of our fallen lads have started back to Canada and England. This is a big job for Lieut.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan and the Coy Comd's and not a very pleasant job neither.</p> <p>The troops will be treated to a half bottle of beer each today. This supply is not nearly good enough but nevertheless a little is better than nothing at all. The day was spent in general cleaning up and getting ready for a likely movement fwd tomorrow. Instead of us being front line as per normal, we are at present very far behind the front line, but in all likelihood we will be front line and spearhead before very long. During the evening two more movies were shown by the Aux Services entitled "Wintertime".</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France FONTAIN LE PIN 44 NR 082442 Sheet 40/14EW	17 Aug		<p>Another day completed and we are very much better off in the respect of rest and all ready to get at Jerry once again.</p> <p>Weather Fair and warm</p>	
France FONTAIN LE PIN 44 NR 083442 Sheet 40/14EW AUBIGNY NR 133325 Sheet 40/12EW	18 Aug		<p>At 0730 hrs the Adjutant, Major Ross Ellis had a message handed to him, informing the Bn to be prepared to move by 1200 hrs. A moment later, another message arrived cancelling previous instructions. On again, off again as per usual army orders. For a few moments it looked as if our grand rest had come to an untimely end.</p> <p>However, a very short time later our hopes were really dashed to pieces, when a message arrived by BR, telling us to be prepared to move definitely by 1200 hrs and that we were to relieve the Royal Winnipeg Rifles whose present post, as part of the 7th Bde was in AUBIGNY and at point 163. The R R C were to relieve the R.R. and the R de Mals to take over VERSAINVILLE.</p> <p>A Coy Comd's meeting was held immediately to tie in details of the movement. This meeting was very short and a recon party under Capt. Mark Tennant travelled to the R.W.R. area and arranged our Bn area and take over. The recon party returned in short order and at approx 1300 hrs vehs of F Ech moved off, followed immediately by the marching personnel. A Ech followed shortly as well. B Ech is still in the area of DWA at LA CHEENAIRE 075431.</p> <p>Immediately prior to the move off, a message arrived for the GO to report to a Bde "O" Gp at 1400 hrs. At exactly 1400 hrs the C.O. and I.O. were at Bde regardless of the terrific hold up in traffic. At the "O" Gp the Brigadier put those in attendance in the picture. News is very good, and it doesn't look like a move for us before tomorrow anyway. One point for the Cals Highers is the placing of a coy well fwd of our post to the East of FALAISE along the river towards ERAMER to act as a stop gap in case of infiltration. Later on B Coy was chosen to do this job assisted by a section from A Coy to act as guards of prisoners.</p> <p>Our new area in AUBIGNY is very good and by 1500 hrs allcoys were in post. Aux. Services Supr. Mr. Lannan held a movie for the troops in the town at 1900 hrs. Reports of the show are good and it was very much appreciated. At 1900 hrs a message arrived stating that 1000 enemy tanks, MT, and some infantryman were formed up 5 miles SE</p>	

P.T.O.

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Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY

OR

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France Fontain Le Pin mr 083448 Sheet 40/14 SW AUBIGNY MR 133385 sheet 40/12NW	18 Aug 44		<p>of FALAISE. This report nearly caused us heart failure. This report never was confirmed and we let it more or less pass from our minds.</p> <p>Our special coy patrol a long the river made excellent liaison on the left with the R de Mais and on the right with the SSR and with this line it is highly unlikely that any more Jerries will infiltrate through the fast closing gap. This coy also found a former enemy tank repair dept containing 2 new 88 mm barrels, breech pieces and also 2 French Red Cross families in houses directly to their front and under FMR guard. Both of these things were reported quickly to Bde and further by Bde to Div. The families were removed during the night. Once again it looks like a good nights rest and of course it is very welcome.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and very warm.</p>	
France AUBIGNY Mr 133385 Sheet 40/12NW	19 Aug 44		<p>Another solid nights rest and we are awakened to be greeted by a beautiful sunny day. Further, to make us feel good the news is excellent, with the report that the battle of NORMANDY can be regarded as a thing of the past. All Allied moves are progressing excellently and with the present rate of advance, the SEINE is nearly in sight.</p> <p>At 1000 hrs the G3 from Bde, Capt. Charlie de Salaberry, arrived at Bde HQ and gave us further good news in that it is highly unlikely for a move to occur today, as far as we are concerned. If a move does occur it will be an admin. move northwards to allow fms to pass through our present posn. It is possible now that 2nd Cdn Div will be last to move in the movement Eastwards. At 1015 hrs Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan held a coy comd's meeting when the CO put the group in the present picture and passed on the good news.</p> <p>We have been ordered to stand down and B Coy comd by its 2 i/c Capt. Knobby Clark has been withdrawn to its original posn on our right flank. The carrier platoon has also been placed back under its normal command. We are now advised that we are not any longer, on 1 hours notice to move.</p> <p>During the afternoon activity was practically nil around the area. Latest infm is that we will hear possibly by 1500 hrs of what time our move will take place. The C.O. visited B Ech of Bde and there procured a good hot bath in a bath tub. Needless to say he has been taking quite a kidding from the Adjt and I.O., because the C.O. CAME back and told us all about it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">P.T.O.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France AUBIGNY MR 133385 Sheet 40/12NW	19 Aug 44		<p>At 1700 hrs word arrived that a meeting would be held at Bde when the Brigadier would post the various COs in the picture.</p> <p>Two members of the Special Investigation Squad of the RCMP arrived around 1700hrs to investigate 2 cases within the Bn of suspected SIWs. We were told that at present they have about 100 cases of suspected SIWs to look into and report upon.</p> <p>At approx 1700 hrs the G 1 Liaison from Div, Col. Pawle arrived and had quite a chat with Lt. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan re the question; were the tactics as taught to the Bn in England as pre-battle trg applying in the actual fight as we have been committed since our first battle.</p> <p>At 1930 hrs the C.O. and I.O., attended the meeting at Bde and plans were laid on for our move, which is likely to happen by 0700 hrs tomorrow. We will take over from the North Shore Regt. After the Bde meeting a meeting was held at BnHQ and the C.O. put the Coy Comds in the picture and laid on final plans for our move.</p> <p>Once again it looks as if we will be up in the front line according to reports from Capt. Mark Tennant who took our recce party to the new area. Mark claims there are many civilians, tanks and MT moving along the roads Eastwards that there is hardly any room for the ducks and geese, the civilians are driving before them in their flight for safety.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and warm.</p>	
France Norrey en Auge MR 277375 Sheet 7F/6	20 Aug 44		<p>This morning we were moved from AUBIGNY to NORREY EN AUGÉ, in a great rush, as the usual result of the Bde "O" Gp held last night. We took over from the 8th Bde North Shore Regiment. The marching tps covered approx 13-14 miles while the veh partym travelled approx 15-16 miles due to road diversions. It was a long hot march for the men but they are in good shape and with morale so high all came through with high marks.</p> <p>The take over was perfect and as the coys moved in the NSR moved out without a hitch. Very soon the rations came up and the men were fed. At 1530 hrs a church service was held by Capt. Hugh Percy, our Padre and as it was impossible for one gp the Padre went to individual coys and held coy services.</p> <p>The balance of the day was spent clearing up and sleeping and general settling in. At 2300 hrs word arrived for the CO to attend an "O" Gp at Bde HQ at 2400 hrs. Once again hopes of a 48 hr rest were dashed to pieces. We are to move between 5 & 6 in the morning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and very warm, then heavy rain.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France Norrey en Auge MR 42737 Sheet 7F/6 Le Boscarie MR 45366 Sheet 8F/3	21 Aug 44		<p>The results of the "O" Gp, finishing at 0300 hrs at Bde were anything but happy ones. We shall move at 0500 hrs to cross the start line by 0700 hrs as a part of the Bde move to the attack. VIMOUTIERS-LE BOSEAIR-MEULLES on the main road FAITLAISE A ORBIE. The route we are to follow is of course a very vague one and while the Black Watch travelled the already known route a little further north, we will blaze a trail through a map maze of tracks and trails, which of course means nothing anyway.</p> <p>The R H C are to take and est themselves in VIMOUTIERS 4964, the Calgarys, LA BOSCARIE 5366 and the R de Mais, MEULLES 5868. Our start was slightly delayed because of a slight error made in time judgement, through tiredness, however, we blazed the trail to our junction point with the R H C at 424669. We both met at 1200 hrs a little tired and unhappy because the maps had been anything but accurate and caused much worry. When the two Bns arrived here, word was received that the bridge across the river MEULLES on our route had been blown by the retreating enemy. Engineers rushed up and in due course a makeshift was erected, followed shortly by a Bailey type for heavy traffic.</p> <p>The R H C went on into VIMOUTIERS and were at once held up by a small party of enemy around the town with MGs. We carried on our route until we were within a mile of VIMOUTIERS and there, Lieut.Col.D.G.MacLauchlan held up the Bn awaiting word of R H C success. The success was however not forthcoming and while we remained at 4763 the Brigadier passed the R de Mais around the R H C south flank to assist in the taking of VIMOUTIERS.</p> <p>At 2300 hrs we were warned of the R H C success and to prepare to move as quickly as possible on a start word from Bde. Preparations were at once set to work and in very short order we reported ready to go.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Warm and raining</p>	

WAR DIARY

OF

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

France
Pt 4763
LE BOSCARIE
5366
MEULLES
5868

22 Aug
44

The Bn moved off in adv to contact fm from 4763 to VIMOUTIERES at 0200 hrs. The night was pitch black and only lightened up when Jerry dropped a few bombs in the distance and started fires. It must be a natural tendency to dislike night attacks because everyone seemed to feel a slight bit uneasy. We moved through VIMOUTIERES, through rubble fire and shell holes, over a route recce'd by Capt. Mark Tennant. It was the only route through town that could be used and it was a very difficult one. Passing through VIMOUTIERES we found the remnants of an R H C Coy which had been mixed up by the enemy.

Our route took us through formidable forests and roads and which we were quite aware contained enemy. Every moment we expected to contact the enemy and were constantly on the alert. Strange as it may seem we arrived in LE BOSCARIE at 0530 hrs without having one enemy round fired at us. A defensive posn was taken up at once, and we had no trouble until B Coy under Capt "Knobby" Clark moved fwd to the high gd to our front. Here the enemy resented being disturbed in his bridge demolition and fired a few 88s into B Coy causing 2 casualties and 1 death. B Coy forced the enemy back and took up their posn. During the day 6th Bde passed through us to take MEULLES and ORBEC. *This 6th Bde move was made possible by 1st Bde clearing the main road.*

We took 2 Offrs, and 54 ORs Ps.W and also a number of German weapons and vehicles including a fine "LaSalle" wagon. The scout platoon now have a veh for themselves and the Adjutant and IO have a special run-about in the LaSalle.

Everyone is quite tired and the afternoon found a good number trying to catch up on much needed rest. At 1830 hrs word arrived for us to move at once to ORBEC which had just been taken by the Camerons. Immediately after the recce party started to ORBEC the orders were changed and we are temporarily to curl up at MEULLES.

The route from LE BOSCARIE to MEULLES is one of memory. There is a destroyed enemy tank or vehicle every few yards along both sides of the route. Some were caused today and others were caused by the Allied air-force in the past few days. Tonight Jerry shelled the surrounding area, more or less to let us know he is still around.

P.T.O.

W A R - D I A R Y

or

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

France
MEULLES
MR 5964
Sheet
ORBEC
MR 6572
sheet 86/3
ST GERMAIN LE
CAMPAGNE
MR 6571
sheet 86/3

23 Aug
44

The Bn was informed that the FMR were still short of their objective at "Mickey" minus 800 and our progress was severely held up. C Coy pushed fwd and joined the tail of the FMR A Coy who were pushing fwd to ST GERMAIN. This little village was surrounded by enemy MGs and several tanks who fought a delaying battle and managed successfully for several hours in doing this job.

All higher fms became very agitated at the delay in the Bns getting fwd even in the face of such opposition. Very shortly, Lieut. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan liaised with the C.O. of the FMR and immediately put over C Coy in to assist the FMR coy fwd. D Coy was pushed around to the left flank with the intention of attacking ST GERMAIN from that direction and to assist in holding down the enemy fire coming from that direction on to the FMR A coy and our own C Coy adv along the central axis of the main road from ORBEC to THIBERVILLE. One coy was apparently insufficient on the left flank and the CO sent B Coy around with D Coy and ordered A Coy to come up behind C Coy, on the main axis. During all the afternoon while we were in the "hold up" posn the enemy heavily shelled and mortared our column with very little if any success. It was really only annoying fire and we lived through it quite happily. Our artillery pounded ST GERMAIN and surrounding area during all of this time and when at 1900 hrs we finally attacked ST GERMAIN the enemy fire had ceased considerably. The left flank caused considerable trouble however and D and B Coys remained tight until C Coy and A Coy with the FMR had gotten in to the town, itself. When the code word "How 3 Able" and "How 1 Able" was received Lieut. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan shot the 2 left flanking coys into the town from the left. D Coy managed to get through but B Coy was badly mauled by tanks and became pinned to the ground.

The command Gp led by Capt. Mark Tennant in a jeep ran the gauntlet through 88 fire and sniping to a group of bldgs slightly south west of ST GERMAIN and once again as usual had several narrow escapes when a Jerry 88 placed directly up the straight road near ST GERMAIN, laid shells down the road and hit two carriers and narrowly missed the Command Gp. The Comd Gp raced into the courtyard of this group of bldgs and were no sooner inside when the enemy heavily shelled the area and bldg. Only one cas resulted here, when a DR received a

P.T.O.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

France 23 Aug
 MEULLES 44
 MR 5868
 Sheet
 ORBEC
 MR 6577
 SHEET 8F/3
 ST GERMAIN
 LE CAMPAGNE
 MR 6577
 Sheet 8F/3

slight leg wound when the bldg in which he had taken cover had the whole west corner torn out by a direct hit.

Later in the evening B Coy was collected and placed under control to the rear of BnHQ with their remaining 37 men and 2 Offrs.

Just to make our area more obvious around BnHQ we had the Black Watch, Bde HQ and the Bde Defense Platoon move in on us. Soon enemy trouble ceased all together and everything became serene and quiet. No orders were received up until 2400 hrs as to the time of the continuation of our adv.

Weather Fair and Warm

12

France 24 Aug
 ST GERMAIN 44
 MR 6575
 Sheet 873
 BourNainville
 MR 7284
 Sheet 872

At 0400 hrs after an anxious few hours waiting the inevitable word to push fwd, Bde ordered the Bn to be moving at 0500 hrs and to follow the R H C who were proceeding to LE HANQUAY. The Black Watch proceeded fwd as ordered at 0400 hrs and pushed fwd with no enemy opposition. We passed our start line at 0500 hrs as ordered and then we had a visit from the enemy. As we passed through ST GERMAIN with the vehs of Command Gp and took up our posn in the column of marching troops we were suddenly fired upon from a side street, by a hy weapon and then heard the rumble of tanks, certainly none of which could possibly be ours because there were no Allied tracked heavy vehs in the vicinity. The column broke and took up posn on both sides of the cross roads and PIATS were brought into action. The section of carriers with BnHQ fired and on the second bomb the enemy veh broke into flames. It was later disclosed that our arty rep, Capt. Walter Newman had made a roundabout the left side of the Cathedral and brought PIAT fire on the vehs from the left flank. It was soon made clear we had hit and destroyed 2 large enemy halftrack troop transports and the explosions and fire caused by the two vehs was intense. The vehs were filled with mines and demolition eqpt. We killed one Hun and severely wounded another but the balance ran away in the darkness. Enemy tanks were also heard cavorting about and when this situation was reported to Bde, we were ordered to sit tight in ST GERMAIN in our original layout of coys, and await orders to proceed.

Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY

OR

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			<p>When we reported the presence of enemy tanks during the early morning in ST GERMAIN we were ordered to sit tight and await orders. Orders finally came down to move and at the same time we were promptly told off and reminded that AFVs were not tanks. We stuck to our story that enemy tanks had been in the area. Later in the day, we found out that the GOC 2 Div had personally been shown a deserted Panther tank near ST GERMAIN. The GOC examined the tank and it is rumoured he found a lovely German flag in the tank and it has been added to his personal collection. We feel quite happy that our point was proven and that enemy tanks were in the area. The posn of this deserted tank ties in perfectly with all our reports.</p> <p>and a welcome home after the morning rain we had experienced all day. Four German prisoners were taken incl two SS men. One is from the 1 SS Pz (Recon) and this brings our list of SS for the week to representatives of 1-2-3-7-8-11 SS Divs. They are a grateful and content bunch of heartless brutes and they are given no consideration when they are taken by us. The usual procedure is to have them dig slit trenches for us, standing in their own excrement.</p> <p>We got to bed about 2100 hrs and looked for a good night sleep after 3 days without sleep.</p> <p>Weather: Cool and heavy rain.</p> <p>At 0800 hrs the SS moved into ST GERMAINVILLE to the new line at ST GERMAIN. The move was made by TOV and of course this played havoc to our plans. The move was made through BURNVILLE and TILLY northwards to ST GERMAIN. The day was perfectly beautiful with bright sunshine and a warm wind, which added to the already excellent spirits of the men every man.</p> <p>Last night was the very first time any of us had had in several days and the few hours of sleep in BURNVILLE were very welcome. The move went back plans slightly and was an indication of the excellent morale and the fact that the SS was immediately without any men, although the local French farmer didn't exactly like our looking at his orchard, he had to take it and like it.</p>	

XX

France
ST GERMAIN
MR 6675
Sheet 87/3
BOURNAINVILLE
MR 7284
Sheet 87/4

24 Aug
44

At 0900 hrs the Bn moved ahead once again and at the same time word arrived that the RHC were successful intaking and holding LE RANQUAY and had no enemy opposition. Our new objective is BOURNAINVILLE and the R de Mais are to push through us to DURANVILLE. For the very first time since our fighting started in France we had what is known as a "walk up" and a thing we had often heard about but never had. We pushed straight through to BOURNAINVILLE without a single shot being fired. Our new support of a Squadron of tanks reached us and were pushing fwd to DURANVILLE to secure this posn for the R de Mais. *The anti was essential*

We were greeted by a grand representation of the French people in every town and village as we passed through and were showered with flowers and food and drink. Our new area in BOURNAINVILLE is very good and a welcome haven after the pouring rain we had experienced all day. Four German prisoners were taken incl two SS men. One is from the 1 SS Pz (Recco) and this brings our list of SS for the week to representatives of 1-2-3-7-9-12 SS tps. They are a hateful arrogant bunch of heartless humanity and they are given no consideration when they are taken by us. The usual procedure is to have them dig slit trenches (for us) exactly to their own measurements.

We got to bed around 2230 hrs and looked fwd to a much needed sleep after 5 days without sleep.

Weather Cool and heavy rain.

France
BOURNAINVILLE
MR 7284
Sheet
ST CYR DE
SALERNE
Sheet
MR 8484

25 Aug
44

At 0800 hrs the Bn moved off from BOURNAINVILLE to its new locn at ST CYR DE SALERNE. The move was made by TCV and of course this pleased everyone immensely. The route taken was through DURANVILLE and BOISNEY northwards to ST CYR. The day was perfectly beautiful with bright sunshine and a warm wind, which added to the already excellent spirits of one and every man.

Last night was the very first sleep any of us had had in several days. and the few hours obtained in BOURNAINVILLE were very welcome. The movement took place quietly and due to Capt. Mark Tennant's excellent recon ability the Bn was immediately whipped into posn, although the local French farmer didn't exactly like our mucking up his orchard, he had to take it and like it.

P.T.O.

XXXXXX

France
BOURNAINVILLE
MR 7284
Sheet 8F/2
ST CYR DE
SALERNE
MR 845893
Sheet 8F/2

25 Aug
44

It so happened that his orchard wasn't hurt anyway and he was finally quite happy. During the day activity was practically nil and the tps generally cleaned up clothes and bodies and rested while they could do so.

At 1630 hrs Lieut. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan was called to Bde to an "O" Gp and when it finished we had exactly 30 mins to get the Bn on the move and in posn with the balance of 5 CIB to cross the river RISLE and on to the SEINE. This time however lagged on and on because very shortly after 1730 hrs we were told to sit tight and move at 1830 hrs and then again this time was changed so that we were still in the area around the TCVs at 2330 hrs.

At 2330 hrs the Hun dropped many flares from planes and it struck queer to see one complete area ringed by bright lights. At this same time the CO was called up by the Brig to check line "Wynn" 9394 to attend a conference. Report line "Wynn" was the posn across the river RISLE of the fwd recce gps of the 8th Recce. This route is our main axis through to the SEINE river. As the CO and I were pulling well away from the Bn area on the way to "Wynn" it was a horrible sight to see the Bn being very heavily bombed by the Hun. Lieut. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan had to push ahead anyway and when comms from the carrier to the Bn failed, it was a very definite feeling of anxiety that overcame the CO and IO and yet nothing could be done at the time.

Weather Fair and warm.

France
BOURGTHEROULDE
MR 0200
Sheet 8F/2

26 Aug
44

At 0100 hrs Lieut. Col. D. G. MacLauchlan and the IO arrived at the HQ 5 CIB on line Wynn 9394 and here many hours of waiting took place, once again. The RHC were to pass through in TCVs to the SEINE river by 0300 hrs but this movement did not take place until 0500 hrs and we were brought up in TCVs immediately in RHC rear. Following us were the R de Mais. We followed the axis of adv, on foot having dismounted at check line Wynn on the excellent intuition of the C.O. Just because the RHC had passed through to their objective without trouble from the enemy was no indication that all would be smooth with us. For one thing we were advancing by daylight, while the RHC had passed through in darkness.

P.T.O.

Title pages will be prepared.

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OR
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France BOURGTHER/ 44 OULDE MR 0200 Sheet 8F/2	26 Aug		<p>At 0800 hrs the Bn set out towards our objective with the carriers in front followed by marching tps from C-D-A-B with BnHQ immediately in rear of A Coy. A sqdn of the 27 Arm'd wbb with us for support and this was very welcome news for the tps. 8th Recce preceded our adv followed by tanks, arty, engineers, press and everything but the Cabinet itself, until finally the column came under by MG and mortar fire at 9697. Then there were only tanks and recce on our front.</p> <p>Our adv was greatly hampered here and we were held up for two or more hours. The Hun had several well placed MGs at the cross roads and in their cross fire, the inf could not possibly move. Finally these posns were taken out by tanks and we pushed ahead. Our adv continued to be very sticky and caused considerable worry and consternation for the CO. It was a very peculiar situation all the way through the adv because we were caught between two other Bns who had no fighting and here we were in the center fighting, every inch of the way.</p> <p>During the day Lieut. John Hayes was wounded and Lieut. J.H. Gillis and Capt. R.L. Morgan Dean were killed and with the bombing of our posn last night our total cas amount to 115 ORs and 5 Offrs.</p> <p>Lieut. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan caused more worry for the IO during the day when he insisted in marching with the fwd coys and when contacted appeared to be really enjoying himself. By 1930 hrs the Bn was again bogged down when the fwd coys became pinned down by MG fire some 1000 metres. short of our objective of Pt 132, 007013 at point of junction North of BOURGTHEROULDE 017006. By darkness the marching tps were filtered into a defensive posn just short of their objective, incl all of BHQ dismounted. and the tanks harboured in the centre of the posn. When the coys were in their own coy localities the tpt was filtered into the orchard in small packets. All of this took place in complete quiet both from our own side and more particularly from the enemy side.</p> <p>By 2400 hrs a good hot meal arrived and a very weary, hungry bunch of boys, par-took of their rations and wended their way to bed, in slit trenches.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather Fair and warm</p>	13

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

France
BOUGETHROULDE
MR 020004
Sheet 2F/2

27 Aug

44

After a fair night's rest we were awakened with the most welcome surprise of breakfast actually being on time, for a change. It sure is queer how meals become irregular once in a while, and also funnier still, how it takes cooks two and a half hours to prepare a can of bully beef and hardtack, C'est la guerre. *Our camp area was re-adjusted to conform with our defenses last night.*

The day was very quiet with little or no activity around the area. Everyone managed a couple of extra hours sleep and a little clean up, certainly not that it wasn't needed. The dust of the day before was very thickly caked on one and all and when we awakened we looked more like a negro side show than white people. *During the day we assembled extensive patrols to the surrounding area including both caissons & infantry.*

Strangely we were not warned to move during the day and when 1800 hrs arrived we became a little anxious because we certainly wouldn't be allowed a whole day of rest. We were quite right because at 1930 hrs the CO was warned for a Bde "O" Gp "Green" and to be there at 2130 hrs. The Bde "O" Gp brought about news of a move for us tomorrow to an area south of the city of ROUEN and we would cross the class 9 bridge at ELBEUF when the bridge was in operation. Time could not be set at that time because of the uncertainty of the time of completion of the bridge. We do know however that we shall cross some time tomorrow.

Once again for a change the RHC will precede us and this is welcome news. We are to take over from the 10 Bde and form a firm base. The R de Mais will then clear a route through ROUEN for the continuation of Trump route, on our push to DIEPPE. It is hard to believe that we shall soon be in DIEPPE the city where Canadians have a real score to settle. Total prisoners of war taken for the last couple of days amount to 42 ORs no officers.

After the Bde "O" Gp Lieut. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan held an "O" Gp and when it lasted until after midnight the 10 Lieut. Stu Moore promptly fell asleep and this evidently wasn't the thing to do because shortly he was awakened by none other than the CO. It has been a quiet day in all respects with no enemy action. This quietness continued all evening and so to bed.

Weather Fair and very warm.

15

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

France
BOUGHTEROUDE
NR 007020
Sheet 2F/2
LE CHENAIE
NR 035043
Sheet 2F/2

23 Aug
44

For a change this morning we awakened to a fairly dull day and from all appearances rain was certainly in the air. We were just thinking how nice a rest might be, when out of a clear blue sky an "O" Gp was called at Bde and for the Co to get there as soon as possible. The warning "Huddle Green" means we are moving. Preparations were started at once by Major Ross Ellis our Adjt to get the Bn ready to move and Lieut. Col D.G. MacLauchlan and the I.O. went on to Bde at approx 1100 hrs.

Upon returning from Bde, the CO held an "O" Gp and put the Coy Comds and supporting arms in the picture. We are not to go through to ROEN as previously decided but of all things to go fwd to LA CHENAIE 035043 and relieve the Camerons of Canada. Most peculiarly this new posn is our original objective for the last show, when at the last moment we were deflected from that axis, northwards to point 132, 007020.

The take over is in conjunction with the prospective move fwd of 6 Bde and our move will take place as soon as the Camerons of Canada move out or are at least ready to move. The news is that the Camerons of Canada have been having a tough go of it and we will possibly walk into a hornet's nest, as usual. Time past our start line was set for 1345 hrs and we left our F Ech in area of 007020 and took only stripped F Ech with us. The complete command gp travelled as a packet itself and moved independantly of the marching troops.

At 1400 hrs the C.O. and command gp arrived at HQ 5 CIB and there remained while the marching troops arrived in the general area of ST MARTINS 035020. There the Bn curled up and awaited further orders which depended on the info from the Camerons of Canada. During the afternoon Lieut. Col. D.G. MacLauchlan conferred with Brigadier McGill re plans, etc and at 1800 hrs word arrived that the 6th Bde move, comprising the SSR, attacking through the Camerons of Canada was to take place at 2000 hrs. Marching tps were pushed ahead to the railroad and track junction at 055040 and curled up in that area, until they could go right in and take over from the C of C.

At approx 2100 hrs the coys were ordered fwd to take over and F Ech was to follow in packets under Capt. Mark Tennant. The Hun was merrily mortaring and shelling TAC HQ and all coy posns from the time of arrival until the coys reported "Able" around 2400 hrs, and then it subsided.

WAR-DIARY

or

~~XXXXXX LXLXIXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

France
BOURGTHEROULDE
MR 007020
Sheet 8F/2
LA CHENAIE
Sheet 8F/2
MR 085043

28 Aug
44

Command Gp followed along behind the coys and took up HQ in a prepared dug out. Cas were totalled at 14 with 1 Offrs and 1 OR missing. Lieut. J.O. Dutton is the officer missing and it is hoped he will turn up in the search of the R A P.

Deep slit trenches are very much in order once again.

Weather Dull and cool

2

W A R D I A R Y

or

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

France
Nr LE CHENAIE
MR 0704
Sheet 8E/6
FORET DE LA
LONDE

29 Aug
44

Today has been a nightmare for the Bn in our hazardous position in the FORET DE LA LONDE. All day long we were subjected to heavy MG, rifle, Schmeisser fire and to continuous harassing long range shellfire interspersed with 88 from the village of LE CHENAIE. We were dug in on the reverse slope of the high feature west of LE CHENAIE and had little protection from the type of fire that was directed at us.

Six prisoners were taken and strangely they were only from ersatz Bns. The fire that rained on us certainly couldn't have come from this bunch of scruffy because they are certainly not the type. The day was probably the most hectic on the Bn has had, bar none, and this includes TILLY LE COMPAGNE and ST ANDRE SUR ORNE. The fire was no heavier than any time before, but was certainly more constant.

During the day the 6th Bde on our right flank had a very bad time as well as ourselves and finally at 1800 hrs the SSR misinterpreted an order and withdrew from their vital position. Shortly afterwards the Camerons followed suit and it took considerable trouble and worry to get these two Bns back into position. In the evening the C.O. was called to Bde and was greeted with the excellent and very welcome news that the 5th Bde was to pull out and the only position of the 3 Bns to be relieved was to be ourselves. We were to be relieved by 2 coys of the FMR and the balance of the front was to be held by the Camerons and the SSR.

We were moved by tpt to a new and very much quieter area near ELBOUF. It was a wonderful relief and also a terrific shock to find our cas for the day from the shelling totalled 43 ORs and 3 Offrs. Lieut. Ernie Teagle, Lieut. Bud Shantz, and Lieut. Jim Dutton were unfortunately hurt, the extent of their injuries is not known at present. We arrived in our new area near ELBOUF at 2400 hrs and were quickly bedded down.

Weather Rain and very dull

France
ELBOUF nr
LE MARAVEL
MR 0700
Sheet 8E/6

30 Aug
44

After an excellent night's rest we awakened to a nice bright morning and everyone was found in good spirits even after the terrible nightmare of yesterday. We all awaited word for the Bn to move at anytime and Capt. Mark Tennant had gone fwd at 0830 hrs with Bde across the SEINE to point 88 at 233125 to recce and arrange the take over from the 7th Bde.

P.T.O.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

France
ELBOUF nr
LE MARAVEL
MR 0700
Sheet 8E/6
LE MARIE DU
GHOSE
MR 233125
Sheet 9E/5

30 Aug 44

The Bn was to take over from the Cdn Scot. When this arrangement had been made the CO returned to the Bn and no sooner had the CO started his "O" G-p when word arrived that former plans were off and we were to send the Recce party fwd to MESNIL ESNARD south of ROUEN to arrange take over from the 9th Bde instead of the 7th Bde.

The map reference of the meeting place for the recce parties was given wrongly and after waiting for Brigadier McGill for 2 hours we were advised to return to our own area and await orders. In the meantime the CO found that the Bn was already moving fwd and we were to relieve the Cdn Scot after all at 233125 over night and prepare to move at first light fwd to take over from the HLI of the 9th Bde. During the evening at 0800 hrs the CO and IO travelled to MESNIL ESNARD and liaised with the HLI and arranged complete take over first thing tomorrow morning.

At 2300 hrs rain came down in torrents and nearly flooded the lads out of their slit trenches. Major Ross Ellis claims the convoy and move from ELBOUF across the SEINE to 233125 as the worst trip the Bn has ever made.

Weather Rain and dull

France
LE MARIE
DUGHOSE
MR 233125
Sheet 9E/5
MESNIL ESNARD
SIEKVILLE
MR 1631
Sheet 9E/3
TOTES
MR 1621
Sheet 9E/1

31 Aug 44

At 0630 hrs the R H C passed through to BOAS and on to MESNIL ESNARD and we followed on their feet 4 hr later. We took over from the HLI and curled up around the BnHQ, because word arrived we would move in a very few minutes through ROUEN to SIEKVILLE at 1831. The move took place very orderly and within 1 hr of arriving at MESNIL ESNARD we were again on the move to SIEKVILLE. The route through ROUEN northwards to SIEKVILLE and the sights that met our eyes leave memories that will last forever in our minds. We were greeted with huge crowds, who threw flowers, wine and cakes at our vehs. The entire column of 5 CIB was embussed and we travelled 17 miles north at a very fast pace with only the occasional stop. It was very queer to travel so far at such a pace and never once meeting the enemy. The only enemy we saw all were 70 prisoners taken without much of a struggle. The only struggle was at SIEKVILLE between our recce party under Capt. Mark Tennant and 10 Jerries. As our recce party entered a farm house recceing our BnHQ they were fired

P.T.O.

Title pages will be prepared.

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Original, duplicate and triplicate
forwarded to O. 1/c 2nd Echelon for

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
France LE MARIE DU CHOSE MR 233125 Sheet 9E/5 MESNIL ESNARD SERNVILLE MR 1631 Sheet 9E/3 TOTES MR 1621 Sheet 9E/1	31 Aug 44		<p>by the Hun and promptly returned fire, and took 10 prisoners. A Jerry truck dashed madly away from the scene of the fracas and Capt. Tennant and his recon party chased it approx 400 yds in his jeep. When close enough to fire, the recon party let go at the truck causing a tire to blow out. The truck then crashed into a ditch and the occupants disappeared into the woods. The recon party were successful in killing one German and taking the truck but the remainder of the scared occupants got away. A Hun tank near the area which had been shelling the cross roads at COTE, was attacked by the recon party and blew itself up.</p> <p>At 1830 hrs we moved northwards again to TOTES at 1621 and took up a new area west of the valley. No trouble was experienced here and by 2000 hrs we were solidly in and reported "Nam Charlie". During the evening the Bn became settled in and after the coys reported their coy areas, to BnHQ, the area became very quiet and so to bed.</p> <p>Weather Fair and warm - slight rain</p> <p>(D.G. MacLauchlan) Lieut. Col The Calgary Highlanders CA(O)</p>	<p>63</p> <p><i>MacLauchlan</i> <i>initials</i></p>