

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**  
(Erase heading not required).

Unit 278 FIELD COY RE

Month and Year AUGUST 1944

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
705607	1 Aug	1700	Work on rd maint continues, stepping up as tactical situation permits. Recces carried out for Water Point at 692567. Br at 692567 found to be prepared for demolition and charges rendered safe. Recce carried out to find route to free tanks of main rd CAUMONT - ST MARTIN DES BESACES. Coy HQ move to 697548	
697548	2 Aug		1 & 3 pls start work on construction of the track to run EAST of rd from X-rds 688548. 2 pl open route from rd junc 680518 to rd junc 702513, including the filling in of 6 large craters caused by our own bombing.	
"	3 Aug		Work on tank track continues.	
697548	4 Aug		Work on tank tracks completed. Maint continues. 2 Pl open Water point at 675494. All responsibility for tracks behind ST MARTIN DES BESACES handed over to 8 Corps Tps. Maint of main rd and tracks from ST MARTIN DES BESACES to LE TOURNEUR taken over from Gds Armd Div and carried out by 2 Pl.	CRN
"	5 Aug	1900 2100	1 Pl take over water point from 2 Pl OC informed operation DUNHILL takes place 0730 hrs, 6 Aug Fwd recce followed by Bde O Gp 2330 hrs to 0200 hrs.	
697548	6 Aug	0400 0500 0830 1000 1100	Lt Haig moves to 9 Cams as recce offr with task of recce br at 795421. Det 3 Pl consisting of two half-tracks carrying 12 ft trackway brs and one D4 move to 9 Cams FAA at LE HAMEL 7742. Lt Haig reaches br 795421; reports br partially demolished and two charges failed to fire. Charges removed. Det 3 Pl stands by to repair br. OC 3 Pl goes fwd to carry out detailed recce of br. Hy mortaring and shelling makes work impossible. Bde agree work NOT to be carried out until situation improves. Br at 795396 reported demolished. Div RE asked to have Sec Bailey from 624 Fd Pk at immediate readiness.	CRN

		1400	Battle stagnates, no work on br possible and later in the evening 46 Bde pulls back. 3 Pl construct deviation round MONTCHARIVEL 7442 to avoid burning buildings. Buildings demolished by 2 Pl.	
"	7 AUG		2 Pl take over maint of div maint route from CATHEOLES to MONTCHARIVEL. 3 Pl construct rd fwd to 7 Seaforths.	
"	8 AUG		2 Pl working on route maint. 3 Pl working on improvements to tracks in fwd positions.	
"	9 AUG		2 Pl working on route maint.	CRN
697548	10 AUG		Recces carried out for construction of tank tracks forward from MONTCHAMP to LA CAVERIE.	
"	11 AUG		Preparation for operation DUNHILL.	
"	12 AUG		RE party briefed and prepare to go out with inf patrols from 7 Seaforths and destroy three Churchills which had fallen into enemy hands. Patrol cancelled at last minute.	
"	13 AUG		Coy moves to ST MARTIN 903606 Temporary Water Point opened at 011611 Checking of suspected minefields. 4 ORs arrived.	
ST MARTIN	14 AUG		Clearance of mines in area. Belt of 'S' mines found alongside R ORNE running from 008614 to 010610. Water Point opened up and Stellar installed.	
"	15 AUG		Mine clearance continues. 46 Bde moves fwd but 278 Fd Coy reverts from in sp and remains in present location. Det 2 Pl sent fwd to check suspected minefields in new Bde area. Det from 1 Pl check Mob Bath Unit sites for mines.	CRN
ST MARTIN	16 Aug	1800	Coy moved to new location due East of St Laurent de Condé. One sec of No 1 Pl on Water Point maintenance at MR 011611. One sec of No 2 Pl sent forward to clear new harbour area. No 3 pl on Route Maintenance, 3 secs maintaining Div route between MR 990577 and 015573 - 015573 to 986525 on Sheet 7F/3 and 1 sec on mine clearance at MR 0061 Sheet 40/16 SW	
ST Laurent de Condé	17 Aug		Pls employed as follows:-  1 Pl 2 Secs proceeded to MR 953540 to clear site for Mobile Laundry Unit. They came in contact with 'S' Mines. 1 Sec still operating at Water Point MR 011611. 2 Pl 3 Secs under Lt Baron on Rd Maintenance from St Laurent de Condé (986524) to Bois Halbout (013468). Work completed. Cutting out and filling of shell holes to make possible two-way traffic.	

			<u>3 Pl</u> Whole pl on Div Route Maintenance and repair at previous Map refs.	
"	18 Aug		Pls employed as under:-  <u>1 Pl</u> 2 Secs completed task of clearing 'S' mines and returned to harbour 1300 hrs. 1 Sec returned from duty at Water Point with Water Purification set. <u>2 Pl</u> Rd Maintenance St Laurent de Condé to Bois Halbout. <u>3 Pl</u> Still maintaining Div route between previously mentioned MRS.	CRN
St Laurent de Condé	19 Aug		No <u>2 Pl</u> employed on Rd Maintenance between St Laurent de Condé and Bois Halbout. No <u>3 Pl</u> Div Route Rd Maintenance between MR 998502 and Fresnay-le-Vieux.	
"	20 Aug		Coy moved to new location north of Bois du Roi MR 117390 by Pls. Coy employed as follows:-  No <u>1 Pl</u> Pl Sjt & 3 ORs clearing mines at MR 953540 and 1 Sec out at Water Point MR 065410. Remainder of Pl in harbour. No <u>2 Pl</u> Three secs on rd maintenance between St Laurent de Condé and Bois Halbout. No <u>3 Pl</u> Whole pl employed on Div Route maintenance between MRS 990577- 015573- 986525.	
Bois du Roi.	21 Aug		No <u>1 Pl</u> Two secs on rd maintenance between MRS 015467-032489 on 7F/3. No <u>2 Pl</u> Two secs still employed on route maintenance between St Laurent-de-Condé and Bois Halbout. No <u>3 Pl</u> On Div Route Maintenance from 998502- 002489- 032489.	
"	22 Aug		No <u>1 Pl</u> One Sec on Water Point MR 065410. Three secs on rd maintenance from MRS 054443- 015467 on 7F/3. No <u>2 Pl</u> Two secs on rd maintenance between St Laurent de Condé and Bois Halbout. No <u>3 Pl</u> Employed on Div Route Maintenance between 998502- 002489- 032489.	CRN
Bois du Roi	23 Aug		No <u>1 Pl</u> Two secs checked Div HQ harbour for mines at MR 215350. <del>No <u>2 Pl</u> Two secs still employed on route maintenance between St Laurent de Condé and Bois Halbout.</del> No <u>2 Pl</u> Remained in Harbour Area No <u>3 Pl</u> Remained in Harbour Area Lt Haig sent to investigate mines with which 2 Glas H had had an accident.	
"	24 Aug		Coy moved to S of Falaise near village MR 170340.	

			<p>No 1 Pl One sec opened Water Point at MR 289570. Two secs attd to Div HQ for all purposes.</p> <p>No 2 Pl One sec employed on rd maint on Star diversion at MR 473635.</p>	
170340	25 Aug	0030 0600 0700  0715  1200    1315  1415  1645 1700  1800 1815 2330	<p>Coy ordered to move to area VIMOUTIERS at 0715 hrs</p> <p>Two secs despatched to clear Div HQ of mines.</p> <p>Coy Comd visited by CRE who states that Coy will be responsible for opening a Class 40 br at BEAUMONT LE ROGER if brs found to be blown. Not known where br eqpt is to come from.</p> <p>Coy Comd and OC 2Pl move off to recce BEAUMONT LE ROGER. Coy moves off.</p> <p>Coy Comd and OC 2 Pl reach line of R. RISLE and contact 15(S) Div Recce Regt to obtain information on river line. All brs reported blown. 4 sites visited and OC finds that br at 926769 is intact but as river is split in two this still does not mean a through route. OC crosses river in BEAUMONT, receives two German prisoners from F.F.I. and decides to bridge at 925768. Contacts Pl Comd from 279 Fd Coy who agrees to break in on to the route by constructing a br at 922769.</p> <p>Message sent back on Recce Regt net asking for br eqpt and No 2 Pl to be sent forward. (This message reached CRE). OC details OC 2 Pl to do detailed recce and then RV with for br eqpt and bring it forward. OC leaves to find Coy.</p> <p>OC meets OC 624 Fd Pk and finds their Coy and br eqpt are already moving well fwd. Coy meanwhile has had to despatch sec from 3 Pl to maint br at 543748.</p> <p>Coy reaches harbour area at 882750.</p> <p>2 Pl arrive on site of proposed br site and start adv party work.</p> <p>Br eqpt arrives on site and work commences - 70 ft D.S. Bailey.</p> <p>3 Pl ordered to improve diversion round demolished br at 843748.</p> <p>Enemy aircraft bombing nearby and drop flares over br under construction.</p>	CRN
882750	26 AUG	0040 1100 1400	<p>Br complete and open to traffic. 1 pl take over br maint.</p> <p>Coy moves to ECARDVILLE 975810.</p> <p>2 and 3 Pls start work on opening route from BEAUMONT LE ROGER to rd junc 937774. Work consists of filling craters and removing burnt out vehs.</p>	
ECARDVILLE	27 AUG		<p>Coy moved to MR 2985, Sheet 9F/1.</p> <p>1 PL One Sec attd Div HQ, one Sec handed over 2 Pl's Class 40 br to Corps Tps.</p> <p>2 PL Moved up with Coy convoy.</p>	CRN

			<u>No 3 Pl</u> Clearing rds and mines from MR 2785- 313887. Four secs employed on this job.	
2985	28 AUG		<u>No 1 Pl</u> One sec attd to HQRE. Whole pl moved up with Bde at 2330 hrs. On rd and verge clearance (MR 326906). <u>No 2 Pl</u> One sec blowing up Tiger Tank. One sec filling crater. One sec checking verges for 1000 yds from 269872 to 267876. One officer killed (Lt F Baron). 2 ORs wounded. <u>No 3 Pl</u> Pl moved to harbour sq 3289.	
MUIDS	30 AUG	0400	<u>No 1 Pl</u> Left Bde and returned to unit location. Operated two close support rafts on R Seine at MUIDS. <u>No 2 Pl</u> Maintenance of Cl 9 br at MUIDS (MR 315881) <u>No 3 Pl</u> Maintenance of Cl 9 br at MUIDS (MR 315881). One pl 280 Fd Coy placed under comd and employed to assist in rafting and clearance of verges from MUIDS to LES ANDELYS.	
MUIDS	31 AUG		<u>No 1 Pl</u> close ferries and move to LES ANDELYS. 2 & 3 Pls still continue maint of class 9 Br.	Weekly Aps W3008 & W3009  <u>C.R. Nicholls</u> Major