

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

Unit 119 Laa Regt RA

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer LT COL J.F. Young RA

Month and Year AUG 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BLA CAUMONT AREA	1.		Day opens with heavy mist after very quiet night. Trouble with enemy patrol near La Homme. Capt HOLDEN wounded, two ORs killed, two wounded. Total days casualties 3 killed nine wounded.	
	2.		R.H.Q. moves to new location just S of Sept Ventes Enemy shelling during night.	
	3.		Misty early, little activity up to 1000 hrs. Later nothing	
	4		RHQ & B ECH move to ST MARTIN DES BESACES	LPG
	5		Weather hazy still in situ. No activity. 54 ORs despatched to 38 RHU, authority 8 Corps TPM, & struck off strength	
	6		Nothing to report	
	7		Order received from 8 Corps that all 20mm Tps & one tp each Bty 40mm were to be despatched to UK via 38 RHU & struck off strength	
BLA ST MARTIN DES BESACES	8		RHQ moved to ST PIERRE TARENTEINE. Tps affected by Corps order harboured with respective Bty HQs at ST MARTIN DES BESACES	
	9		Nothing to report early, but evening orders received to delay departure of tps to UK by 48 hrs pending reconsideration concerning whether each bty should be left with 2 SP tps or one SP and one tractor drawn. Decision to be made at Army level.	LPG
	10		Nothing to report	
	11		Message from RA 15 (S) Div, timed 101730B, received about 1200 hrs ref departure of three 40mm & three 20mm tps, to the effect that the details of original order were in no way to be departed from. CO checked with HQRA who could only inform him that this latest order had been received from 8 Corps. CO ordered B D H tps (40mm) and X Y Z tps (20mm) to prepare to move forthwith, in accordance with original instructions, viz - to despatch tps to 38 RHU on 10 Aug 44. At 1850 intimation from RA 15 (S) Div that tps should NOT have been dispatched. LO from each bty sent off to harbour tps at earliest moment, but tps NOT contacted till	

			after reaching RHU, where eqpt had begun to be handed in. All further action frozen.	LPG
	12		Ref departure of tps, message from RA 15 (S) Div to effect that all action to be postponed from 12th to 13th August.	
	13		Ref departure of tps, message from RA 15 (S) Div that original programme to be restarted on 14 Aug. Capt FE Lywood [Adjnt] to HQ RA 15 (S) Div as Counter-Mortar Officer. Lieut LP Gerrish [Orderly Officer] takes over duties of Adjnt. Lieut A.S. Partridge [392 Bty Subaltern] takes over duties of Orderly Officer. Orders received, late evening, for move a.m. on 14 Aug to area Amaye-sur-Orne	
AMAYE-SUR-ORNE 9657	14		0600 hrs, the regt, in column with remainder of 15 (S) Div passes under comd 12 Corps. 1215 hrs Regt & bty A echs move off, joined on route by B echs, to area of AMAYE-SUR-ORNE arriving 1520 hrs. Sound of very heavy bombing to the South & SE heard during journey. Enemy air attacks seen and heard on areas SE and NE of location about 2400 hrs and intermittently till first light 15 Aug.	LPG
	15		Nothing to report till 2300 hrs when dog, attached to member of RHQ, ran out into middle of field round which Regt A ech was parked, and remained barking at something unknown; immediate investigation revealed nothing. 2345 hrs shots fired by sentry of 390 bty (at top of field) after challenging at movement in bushes. BSM & 4 OR patrolled immediate area, and during gunflash saw what might have been 4 figures crouched in long grass. CO organised systematic sweep across whole field; nothing found.	
	16		0100 hrs Regt A ech stood down. Approx 0130 hrs 3 anti personnel bombs in close vicinity of regt B ech. No damage or cas. C tp also report suspicious sounds in cornfield and woods adjoining site about midnight 16/17; nothing revealed by immediate investigation or later by day.	LPG
LE HUTRAY	17		1530 - 1700 A ech moves in small groups to area LE HUTRAY, 0054.	
FRESNEY-LE-VIEUX	18		1700 - 1800 A ech and B ech move to area FRESNEY-LE-VIEUX 0048	
LE HAMEL	19		1900 - 2000 A ech moves to LE HAMEL 0939	
	20		1600 - 1700 B ech moves to VILLERS-CANIVET 1040. 2345 - 0030 hrs 21 Aug, air attack, with flares, seen and heard a few miles to NW NORTH and NE of location	
	21		As a result of air attack on previous night, when one bn of the div had 7 men killed and 4 injured, local relaxation of restriction on night firing by LAA authorised by 12 Corps. Now allowed to fire by night within div area at seen & unseen	

			targets provided hostile act committed and master gun (controlled by officer) appointed for each defended area, other guns to fire only when master gun fires. Flares to be engaged at 40° angle of sight or over. G tp 366 bty and C tp 364 bty of 112 LAA regt (12 Corps LAA) come under comd, but C tp 364 bty subsequently ceased to be under comd, during the day.	LPG
	22		Ref revised rules for LAA night firing. C.O. lays down that when tp is deployed in normal manner, 3 points shall be fixed, in or around the VA, to which AA fire from all guns can be directed - bearing & elevation for each point being worked out beforehand for each gun; fire to be in bursts of 8 rounds fast single shot, and the master gun to give the lead to the others. When tp is deployed in 2 'islands', i.e. 2 sections, each of 3 closely-sited guns, an officer at each island to control the fire of one gun, and the remaining 2 guns to direct their fire accordingly.	LPG
	23		One tp 344 SL bty and a second tp 112 LAA Regt RA come under comd for operation GALLOP ⊙ Op GALLOP to begin 0830 hrs 24th, LAA tps moving with bdes, fd regts & div HQ, and Regt A and B echs independently at H + 8 hrs 45 mins together with SL tp.	
FALAISE AREA	24		1735 hrs regt A & B echs move to area EAST of FALAISE, 172343 arriving 1950 hrs. C.O. forms tactical HQ consisting of C.O., I.O., 2 dvr-ops, batman, to be with and move with HQRA.	
BERNAY area	25		0745 hrs regt A and B echelons move EAST along given route to unspecified location. Ordered to harbour at 674741, arrived 1520 hrs. Ordered to move on to St Clair d'Arcey, left 1825 hrs, arrived (841766) 2020 hrs. CO and tac HQ rejoin A echelon. 2245-2315, enemy bombing attack visible several miles to the NORTH.	LPG
COMBON	26		1145 hrs A and B echelon move through BEAUMONT LE ROGER to COMBON, 0076.	
LOUVIERS area LOUVIERS area	27		1250 - 1430 hrs, A and B ech move through LE NEUBOURG to area of LE PARC, 1887, two miles WEST of LOUVIERS. Individual guns carry out ground shooting during evening and early part of the night at targets on right bank of R. SEINE. B tp / 344 SL bty, under comd, illuminate all night the area within loop of river SEINE at 3090. All guns and SLs operated from left bank. Both ops highly successful; complimented by Brig COLVILLE (OC 227 (H) Inf Bde) and Brig BOLTON (CRA 15 (S) Div)	
	28		Further ground shooting during the morning from left bank to targets on right bank of SEINE. 1750 hrs A ech moves to 247901, 1½ miles NE of LOUVIERS, followed at 1845 hrs by B ech, both echs moving in groups of 15 vehs, or less, to avoid impeding	LPG

			movement of bridging materials. At night B/344 SL tp illuminate axes of adv EAST from SEINE.	
LOUVIERS area	29		1200 hrs one offr (Lieut FLINN) and 8 ORs go back to 8 Corps Rest Centre for 3 days ☉ 1800 hrs, C/364 and G/366 tps of 112 LAA Regt cease to be under comd, as 67 med regt and fd regt of 4 Armd Bde (to which the tps were in sp) ceased to be under comd 15 (S) Div ☉ B/344 SL tp illuminate from 2200 hrs axes of adv EAST of R. SEINE and road from VENABLES 3186 to PT. ANDELY 3990	
MUIDS area	30		B/344 SL tp ceases to be under comd, and is placed under comd 4 Armd Bde ☉ 1215 hrs A and B echelons leave to cross R SEINE and take up new location at 3190 ☉ Much traffic congestion at start pt and at RE bridge across river ☉ R SEINE crossed at approx 1930 hrs and new location entered at 1955 hrs ☉ Weather dull and rainy, ideal for ops by ground-strafting fighter aircraft, but none seen operating against 12 Corps' densely-packed columns ☉ 15 (S) Inf Div believed passing into 21 Army Group reserve.	LPG
	31		Tps remain deployed in div area but bty comds withdraw tac HQs from bde HQs and rejoin regt A ech ☉ In view of improbability of any move in near future, CO orders time to be devoted to thorough maint of vehs, eqpt, clothing, etc.	