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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2 GORDONS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Aug 44

Commanding Officer Lt.-Col J.R. Sinclair

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
FRANCE	1		Bn well settled in new location; some local patrolling done in our area on left flank. This was the most weak flank. There was little to record except that two enemy tanks broke through A. & S.H. left flank and some of their A.P. shells fell in our area. There were no casualties. Warning was received late in evening for early morning move to new area. "O" Group was held at 2400 hrs.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	2		Bn moved to pt 244 695478 (TORIGNI-SUR-VIRE SHEET 6F/4). Adv to contact, "A" Coy leading. Bn got settled in new posn at about 2350 hrs - 10 H.L.I. on the Bn right at Pt 238 and 2 A. & S.H. were in reserve, at La Mancellive. No enemy encountered in area. Main road to Pt 244 was subjected to spasmodic shelling by long range gun.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	3		Bn still in defence posn on 244. Shelled by long range gun but most of the shells fell short. No casualties.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	4.		Still in posn on 244. Large store of German "Q" eqpt found and several documents and identifications got from it. Two bombs were dropped during the afternoon in "D" Coy area by allied aircraft. One did not explode and was dealt with by the R.Es later in the day. Enemy aircraft over during the night. Warning order to move received at 0015 hrs 5 Aug.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	5		Moved off 0830 hrs in Adv to Contact in T.C.Vs to MONCHARIVEL 7442. "B" Coy was adv guard coy. Bn debussed at MONCHARIVEL and commenced advance on 769405 with "B" Coy leading with 2 troops of tanks in support. Captured objective without opposition from the enemy. Bn dug in in area of the X-rds; were subjected to heavy shelling and mortar fire during evening and again after dark. Quiet night after 2400 hrs.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	6		Bn was ordered to move forward to capture ESTRY (VIRE 6F/6). Moved off at 0845 hrs in advance to contact with "C" Coy leading with 2 troops tanks and S.P. guns in support. "B" Coy	

FRANCE		<p>followed up with "A" & "D" and the remaining tank troops. "C" Coy soon contacted the enemy and succeeded in attacking and taking the X-rds. Further movement beyond these X-rds (746377 - 200 yds N. of ESTRY) was stopped by heavy M.G. fire and by dug in enemy troops. "B" Coy with 2 troops of tanks in support then was ordered in to help "C" Coy by going down track 756385 on the left flank and try to work round on that flank. Heavy casualties were sustained from M.G. fire and from the five of the dug in tanks. This attack failed. The enemy strength at this period was estimated to consist of strong M.G. posns, enemy in strength, and tanks in well sited and dug in posns. Another effort was made and "A" Coy was ordered forward but failed to help the situation. The tank support was badly cut up by accurate fire from German concealed tank guns and 11 of the supporting tanks of the squadron were out of action. The other tanks withdrew. C.O. tried once more to get control of left flank and put "D" Coy in to assist two S.P. guns forward in an effort to deal with the enemy tanks. This did not succeed. While this was being done, the road on which we were moving was being constantly shelled and mortared and many casualties were accounted for. After this effort, the C.O. got in touch with the C.O. 10 H.L.I. and arranged for them to move through and try to take the objective as our numbers were badly depleted. This was done and 2 GORDONS followed up the H.L.I. attack. This attack however failed and the two Bns dug in in a "tight" box N.N.E. of X-rds 746377. During this operation one enemy tank was destroyed by one of the S.P. guns under command.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	7	<p>Bn held posns all day and was subjected to the most severe shelling and mortaring experienced in any action the Bn has been in. Cas were very high in both 10 H.L.I. and 2 GORDONS Bns. R.A.P. got a direct hit and lost most of its S.Bs but it carried on as best as it could. Wonderful work was done by the medical branch during all this action. Orders for withdrawal received by C.O. at 1800 hrs but action could not be taken till next day.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	8	<p>Bn withdrew with 10 H.L.I. at 1000 hrs and moved to area L'OBTINIÈRE 7440 (Sheet 34/14 S.E.). 2 Bns of 44 Bde attacked ESTRY but failed to make strong points. Huns still hold the village.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	9	<p>Bn located in area of L'OBTINIÈRE. The day spent re-organising and getting reinforcements and new eqpt.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.

	10		Bn still in area of L'OBTINIERE. C.O. decided to form three coys "A", "C" and "D" - "B" Coy incorporated in the other three till re-inforcements arrive. Great shortage of offr and N.C.Os made this action necessary.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	11		Still in area L'OBTINIERE. Busy day with organisation.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	12		Morning spent working with P.W. - Poles deserted from ESTRY area. Interrogation at Bde HQ gleaned a lot of excellent information. Recce party went out from L'OBTINIERE and reced new area in St PIERRE TARENTAINE 7045 (Sheet 6F/4). The Bn arrived later in the evening and settled in quickly in its new location.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	13		Spent quiet day in ST PIERRE TARENTAINE and day passed without incident.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	14		Casualty report on action from 5 Aug to 8 Aug 44. Offrs 1 Killed; 7 wounded; Nil Missing. O.Rs 21 killed; 146 wounded and 22 Missing (16 known to be wounded, not yet traced). Recce party left for new area at 0600 hrs today. 15 (S) Div rejoining 12 Corps in CAEN area. Bn moved by road from area of 7045 embussed. Moved through CAUMONT, HOTOT, and CARPIQUET to conc area north of MALTOT (Sheet 7F/1 CAEN). Reached new area in and around the grounds of LE CHATEAU 995626 at 1800 hrs. Found this a filthy place where a very savage battle must have raged. Lots of enemy eqpt littered around and several enemy dead still unburied in the area. Bn settled in to new location. 227 Bde HQ is quite near.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	15		Restful day. Settling in new area quite well. General Barber (new G.O.C. 15 (S) Div) visited Bn at 1030 hrs. ENSA show held for troops in afternoon and evening. News of new landings in S. of FRANCE received. Little to report on Bn activities during day. Pipes and Drums played during evening.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	16		Bn still in location at Le Chateau. At 4 hrs notice to move to a new location. Visit made by A.D.O.S. in afternoon to Bn. Mobile bath unit available for unit all day.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	17		Spent another day of waiting to move to new area. Little fresh to report. Weather still very good, warm with little breeze. News of fall of ORLEANS and CHARTRES announced. Recce party under 2 i/c left to recce new area. Bn due to leave for new location not before 1200 hrs 18 Aug.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	18		Bn left area of LE CHATEAU at 1315 hrs. Arrived in new conc location about 1500 hrs. Bn located in area FONTAINE-HALBOUT (Sheet 7/F3 AUNAY-SUR-ODON). Settled in by evening. Trg	

		conference held at Bn HQ, plans made for trg while in conc area.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	19	Weather broke early today. Rain and sultry weather cleared up by late afternoon. Day spent trg from sec to coy level. Signal, A.Tk and pioneer cadres in progress. Warning for new operation received at 1830 hrs. Bde 'O' Gp held at Bde HQ. Operation planned; adv to contact to area of VIMOUTIER and then to hold the crossings of the River VIE and TOUQUES.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	20.	Bn 'O' Gp held at 1000 hrs. Bn at six hours notice to move. This was cancelled at 1830 hrs - no move in the next 48 hrs. Church service held in field near Bn HQ.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	20-21	During night, several enemy planes flew over our area and dropped several A.P. bombs. There were no casualties in our area. Several casualties were experienced by the A. & S.H. Just after the raid, a French civilian was picked up in a house near our Sp Coy HQ. He was seen to be showing a light. The Frenchman was taken to Bde and interrogated and held for the F.S.P.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	21	Weather was extremely poor today. Rain fell all day till late evening. A cinema show was given to the Bn in a barn near HQ in the afternoon and evening.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	22	Weather back to normal again. This has been a warm sunny day. Trg was carried out by coys and specialist pls. E.N.S.A. show held in A & S.H. camp - some of the Bn attended in afternoon and evening. Lt.-Col Sinclair promoted to Brigadier to command 153 Bde (51 (H) Div). Maj Henderson took over command of Bn till arrival of new C.O. Bn received warning order to move to area of NERS to 3421 to conc prior to divisional move.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	23	Bn moved to NERS - 3241 at 0600 hrs. Arrived NERS 0920 hrs. Coys well settled into new areas. Weather unsettled with showers of rain.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	24	Bn left NERS and moved by road to area of BOURDON 4056 7F/6. No enemy encountered and lots of damaged eqpt seen on road. The general intention was for the Bn to move to BERNAY but the roads were so congested with Canadian and French tpt that Bde had to conc for night in BOURDON area. Bn settled in by 2200 hrs. Bde 'O' Gp for further move at 2200 hrs.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	25	Bn left by tpt - adv to contact to area of EMANVILLE 0373 (8F/4 BERNAY). First elements left at 0600 hrs and unit moved without incident into new def posn. Unit was established by 1845 and guns were in posn by 1900 hrs. U.S. tps also in this	

		area but moved to other location on our arrival. Bde 'O' Gp at 2345 hrs.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	26	Left EMANVILLE at 0430 hrs and moved to occupy the town of LOUVIERS 2289 (9F/1 LOUVIERS). This town was occupied without opposition from the enemy. H.L.I. took over E half of the town and 2 GORDONS the W half. This town had been bombed on night 25 - 26 Aug. Some damage done to Tech School and rds to the town, otherwise the town was untouched. Bn took up defensive posn watching all rds and bridges. No enemy seen in area.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	27	Bn moved at 0900 hrs from town and went on to high ground in area of WOOD 263886 (Sheet 9F/1 LOUVIERS) overlooking river, prior to a crossing being made in evening. At 1830 hrs a beginning was made and the bn less all tpt, began to form up for the attack across the River SEINE. The assault boats were brought down and put in posn near the intended crossing place 272885 just south of the railway bridge and the crossing began. Opposition was encountered from the opposite bank and after four boat loads had been destroyed by direct M.G. fire, and it was found impossible at the moment to cross at that point, the Bn was pulled back and moved down stream to area of ST PIERRE DU VAUVRAY. A fresh crossing was made at 266905 behind the H.L.I. This crossing was successful and the Bn continued to move on to clear the village of LE MESNIL ANDE 2789 and then on the MUIDS. This was cleared and occupied during the night of 27 - 28. Several prisoners were taken, most of which were S.S. tps left behind in small bands with small arms only, to hold up our advance. It was very noticeable how much confusion now prevails in the enemy's little remaining organisation on this front.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	28	During the day the advance up the N. bank from MUIDS began and by night the Bn had reached area of Pt 144 3692. This point produced some opposition but was speedily cleared up. The Bn was then ordered to send one coy "C" Coy, to clear FRETTEVILLE 3492 but the opposition here was found to be more than could be dealt with by a coy. On orders from Bde, the coy returned to the Bn which was concentrating in the area of Pt 144. During the night the Bn was subjected to slight mortar fire and cas were sustained. This was the first heavy weapon used by the enemy in this operation.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	29	At 0930 hrs the tracks and vehs of the Bn joined the marching tps and concentrated behind the defensive posns on Pt 144. The Bn remained here all day and held a defensive locality. The	

FRANCE		enemy gave no trouble in and it seemed as if they were withdrawing all along our divisional front. The weather was extremely bad as it rained heavily all day, turning the whole area into a sea of mud and made the usual tracks impassable.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	30	At noon, an order to move to better posns in the villages of LA ROQUETTE and LE THUIT 3692 came through from Bde and the Bn moved there to reorganise and clean up.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	31	Bn located at LA ROQUETTE and LE THUIT. Weather has improved. The new "B" Coy complete has arrived and is settling in. They have come complete from the 2/5/LANCS FUS. and are commanded by Major H.D. FOLLETT. Lt.-Col R.W.M. De WINTON assumed command of the Bn w.e.f. today.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.