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Army Form C.2118

# WAR DIARY

or

Unit 624 Field Park Coy RE

## ~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year Aug 44

Commanding Officer Major M.D. Wilkinson RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
CAUMONT	1st		Issue stores continued ☉ considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting mech equip operators' blankets and kit carried to their harbour area. Especially on small machinery (ie D6 & D4) there is NOT room for 2 operators kit and blankets ☉ they frequently work with different pls & units during one day and have not time to send back for their kit before moving on ☉ it is recommended that a small trailer (about size of a small handcart) be provided for each D6 & D4 so that when they are working for long periods away from their transporter they can take kit, blankets, rations, maintenance equip etc with them. This unit has captured a small German horse drawn trailer which is proving ideal. There is room to carry it on the transporter when the mech equip is travelling on the transporter.	
HERVIEU	2		Coy moved complete with 150 tons stores from dump to area HERVIEU starting 1600 hrs and all being in by 2200 hrs. Loading pty 30 men & 20 RASC lorries provided. New design for tank track notice boards brought out ☉ experience shows nothing less than 4' x 4' timber or 6' x 3' CGI is any good for size. The former takes an immense amount of timber and the latter is very slow to paint. Recommended large size notice boards (Provost type) be made an ord issue. These require tripod (like blackboard easel) each leg made out of 1½ angle iron pickets welded together, the three legs being wired together with snake lashing of 14 gauge wire. Large scale production of these tripods started but painters a serious bottleneck.	
	3		Painting new design signs ☉ very unsatisfactory as CGI difficult and slow to paint ☉ issue stores carried on	
	4		Orders received to move following day first light. 30 load stores returned to Corps Fd Pk. 15 loads sent fwd with CSM to form adv pty. RAF disposed of U.S. A/P bomb dropped Gordons during afternoon. Home made Div RE shower bath erected.	

Le Tourneur	5		Coy moved during morning in 2's & 3's as roads very congested. RAF disposed 2 U.S. A/P bombs one at Main, one at rear div. Air strip completed. Jar air O.P. opposite coy locn.	
	6		Issue of stores continued ☉ ME much in demand. 1½ pls Bailey Br from Br Coy RASC under command. RE 15 (S) Div Op Instr No 5 received 0730 hrs.	
	7		Issue stores and ME continued up to 2200 hrs. Otherwise quiet day. Making and painting signs as usual. Could do with at least 3 more painters permanently as painters are bottleneck in this. 50 sheets 22 gauge sheet metal 6' x 3' arrived from Corps for experimenting as signs (see my suggestion on 2nd Aug). These require stiffening - experiments in hand.	
	8		Experiments successful with 2 battens down back. Started on production. Other types notices continued in production	
	9		Production signs etc continued ☉ semi rest period - coy shower in full blast for 4 days now bathing other coys ☉ ME, Stellar trailers and Petter pumps overhauled and repaired	
	10		1½ pls Bailey, FBE & 2 Arm D7's all reverted from under command this unit ☉ Production of signs continued. Estimated signs made since arrival 6' x 3' - 100, 4' x 4' 300, 2'-3" x 2'-3" 500. Miscellaneous smaller signs 500. Since most of these were made of timber, the value of the circular saw has been enormous. It has seldom worked for less than 8 hours a day.	
	11		Painting signs, repairing ME & Stellars, & generally getting ready for next move fwd expected soon.	
	12		Received warning order to move near future as Div leaving 8 Corps & joining 12 Corps. Returned certain stores & packed up	
	13		Move postponed one day - rested coy.	
AVENAY	14		Coy moved to AVENAY. 8 lorries sent back to lift remainder of dump	
	15		2 secs FBE under command for br over ORNE built by 279. 2 - 500 lbs and one 1000 lbs (British) bombs removed by RAF	
	16		Resting, visit by Div Commander	
	17		OC reced new area near FRESNAY LE VIEUX. Half dump moved out in evening with adv pty under CSM. RAF disposed 4 Allied Bombs (one - 1000 lb British 3 - 500 lb British & American)	
FRESNAY LE VIEUX	18		Coy moved new location arriving 1400 hrs ☉ digging in not possible due to rock at depth 6" ☉ however long way from front so not worried	
	19		One 500 lb bomb (Brit) removed by RAF. RE 15 (S) Div Op Instr No 8 issued for next operations. One pl Bailey under command	

VILLERS-CANIVET	20		OC reced new area 0600 hrs, coy started moving 0900 hrs and all in incl extra 10 loads. 6 extra lorries from Div RASC, 4 Cl II angledozers and 2 tptrs. 4 Landing Stage units and 2 centre panel units under command. Operation postponed 48 hours.	
	21		Very heavy rain from midnight till late afternoon.	
	22		Received orders to make 20 brackets for assault boats, new General's caravan from a TCV (unfortunately the general is very tall), new G.3 I's office ☉ fixed up details and ordered stores, received RE Op Instr No 10 allotting stores etc.	
	23		Issued br equip and stores to coys as follows to 279 Fd Coy, 26 Br Pl, 1 Arm D7, 1 Arm D6, 5 stores vehs, 4 Landing Stage Units & 2 Centre Panel Units FBE to 20 Fd Coy, 1 Pl Bailey, 2 unarmd TD 18's, 4 stores vehs. Drew 6 more RASC lorries and was able to become fully mobile in one shift. Work proceeding on signs brackets & caravans	
FALAISE	24		H hour for Op GALLOP 0830. Coy moved to 4 miles E of FALAISE. 10 Assault Boat lorries under command plus 45 Seagull engines. Difficulty in keeping ME on move as one transporter did not turn up, one was bogged and one was lost.	
GRANDCHAIN	25		Coy moved 0750 destination being unknown. OC ahead & moved 278 Fd Coy. Bridging equip (incl refilled 26 Br Pl and new pl from Br Coy picked up en route) & rest of coy in priority convoy to GRANDCHAIN. One pl Bailey immediately sent fwd 2 secs each to 278 279 fd coys ☉ new Bailey pl drawn & 2 secs FBE night 25/26 ☉ own Br pl in reserve	
ECANDEVILLE	26		Coy moved 1200 hrs to ECANDEVILLE ☉ 26 Br Pl moved 0700 hrs to LOUVIERS with pl 20 Fd Coy ☉ additional 8 Panels 4 Decking 2 Accessory from att br veh sent fwd 1800 hrs to same location. Mech equip collected & reissued	
QUATREMARE	27		Empty br vehs returned ☉ 26 Br Pl made up from remaining loads of att 147 Br Coy vehicles ☉ this pl returned to GRANDCHAIN and new pl 147 Br Coy drawn in lieu. Coy moved to QUATREMARE	
	28		Att Br Pl returned to 147 Br Coy. Empty Assault boat vehs returned 85 Can Br Coy. ME collected in	
	29		Weather broken - heavy rain. Maintenance of equipt whilst waiting to move across SEINE.	
HEUDEBOUVILLE	30		Informed not to move across until div relieved of responsibility of maintaining crossings. Coy moved to HEUDEBOUVILLE afternoon. Attached ME returned to 6 ME SEC	

	31		<p>Coy at normal work. Collected assault boats from R Seine and decking from demolished German brs and transported to Cl 40 Bailey Pontoon site</p> <p>Coy at full strength and with additional captured tpt, 1 - 15 cwt, 2 3 tonners, 1 6 tonner, 2 trailers.</p> <p>M.D. Wilkinson Major RE</p>	
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