

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. 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 HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year JUNE 1944

Commanding Officer Brigadier HDK MONEY DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BEACH HOTEL WORTHING	2	0915 1430	All members of Bde HQ attended a small demonstration given by the BM of Ground/Air Recognition Sigs All ranks watched demonstration circus of American and British aircraft which flew round WORTHING	
	6	0200 0300 0940 1400 2000	Many aircraft heard crossing over. Report from 6 KOSB that a glider has fallen into the sea off the coast. Reported to SUSSEX Dist Official announcement from BBC that the invasion of FRANCE has begun Maps, pamphlets etc of FRANCE issued to bns A whole Airborne Div passed over WORTHING	
	7	1200 2130	LO went to SECO Movements and returned with the orders for adv party to move tonight Adv party moved. They went to Marshalling area at CANNING TOWN, LONDON DOCKS. Adv party consisted of Bde Comd, SC, Bde IO, Sigs Offr, G III, Lt WEBSTER and dvrs etc. Adv party subsequently left the THAMES on 11 Jun and landed in NORMANDY on 13 Jun near COURSEUILLES-SUR-MER	
	8		Main body still at WORTHING	
MARSHALLING AREA, LONDON DOCKS	11	1000 1400	LO went to SECO Movements to receive orders for move of Bde HQ Bde HQ and 8 RS moved off to Marshalling area in LONDON DOCKS	
	12	1600	Vehs started loading on ships	
AT SEA	13	1630 2045	All personnel embarked Ship sailed	
	14	2130	Convoy forming at Mouth of THAMES and later sailed	
NORMANDY	16		Convoy arrived off NORMANDY beaches	
BRECY, NORMANDY	17	2115	Bde HQ came on shore and moved up to BRECY where the adv party were met Bde Comd and BM went to Div HQ for a conference - plan divulged of taking over from 51 Div by this Bde EAST of R ORNE, with a view to breaking out EAST of CAEN	
	18	0800	Bde Comd, BM, SC and Sigs Offr spent day doing recce in 51 Div area	

BRECY, NORMANDY		1000 2000 2100	Bde IO puts COs into the picture at Bde HQ. They later met the Bde Comd at RANVILLE, EAST OF R ORNE, for recces. All returned to Bde H.Q. Bde Comd and BM went to a conference at Div, at which the whole plan was cancelled.	
	19	2100	Very wet day. Bde Comd and BM went to a conference at Div HQ - new plan for 8 Corps to attack WEST of CAEN through the Cdns - Op "EPSOM".	
	20		Bde Comd, Bde IO etc made recce of ground for the attack near BRETTEVILLE-L'ORGUEILLEUSE with the Queens Own Rifles of CANADA. Went up to fwd oot at NORREY-EN-BESSIN.	
	21		Attack postponed owing to bad weather which is holding up the landing. Recces on the Cdn's front continued.	
	22	0915	(O) Gp at Bde HQ. Bde Comd later visited Cdn OPs at NORREY-EN-BESSIN. Preparation for Op EPSOM continued.	
	23	1715	BM went to conference at Div HQ.	
	24	2230	Another day of preparation for Op EPSOM. Bde HQ moved to assembly area in SECQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN, along with Bde Gp.	Appx "A"
SECQUEVILLE- EN-BESSIN	25		The morning was spent in briefing conferences and preparation for Op EPSOM. Bns moved up to FUP near NORREY-EN-BESSIN.	Appx "B"
SECQUEVILLE- EN-BESSIN	26	0600 0730 1103 1700 1635	Tac Bde HQ moved up to fwd posn in a farm near NORREY-EN-BESSIN held by Cdns. <u>Op EPSOM began.</u> 8 RS and 6 RSF with tks of 9 R Tks moved fwd behind a barrage to capture LA GAULE and ST MAUVIEU. 46 Bde on the RIGHT going for LE HAUT DU BOSQ and CHEUX. 8 RS taken all objectives. 6 RSF had some tough village fighting in ST MAUVIEU and a lot of trouble with snipers. They had captured most of their objectives by 1600 hrs but suffered by casualties in rifle coys. 6 KOSB moved up to relieve 6 RSF and captured the rest of their objective - BOULIESSE-LE-PERRON. Tac Bde HQ moved up on to the battlefield, where it remained all night. Four or five young GERMANS of the 12 SS Pz Div "HITLERJUGEND" were found by Bde HQ hiding in the undergrowth during this period. They were all 18-19 years of age and very scared. Bde relieved overnight by 130 Inf Bde of 43 Div and conc in Div Res in area LE MESNIL PATRY. Main Bde HQ moved and joined Tac Bde HQ there.	Appx "C"
LE MESNIL PATRY	27		44 Bde had a quiet day in res while 227 Bde pushed on and crossed the R ODON.	

	28	1010 1430 1930	6 KOSB moved up to relieve 10 HLI at LE HAUT DU BOSQ. 'O' Gp at Bde HQ - 8 RS to go off on RIGHT flank and do a drive SOUTH to clear the enemy from the pocket of ground between 15 Div and 49 Div - from CAEN - FONTENAY rd SOUTH to western outskirts of GRANVILLE-SUR-ODON, where they were to link up with 9 CAMERONIANS. Zero hr for 8 RS attack - 1930 hrs. 8 RS met opposition and did not complete their task before dark.	
LE MESNIL PATRY	29	0700 1000 1030 1315 1545 1647 1802 1805 2130 2315	8 RS began attack to get their objective but again made slow progress. Tac HQ moved fwd to posn on lateral rd FONTENAY - CAEN. 8 RS "A" and "C" Coys on objective - "B" and "D" Coys thought to be on objective. 8 RS were then counter-attacked and pushed back. 8 RS counter-attacked successfully. 8 RS finally reported firmly in posn on objective. 6 RSF moved up to take over from 8 RS. Counter-attack developed on 8 RS and 6 RSF. This counter-attack over-ran 8 RS and 6 RSF fwd coys and the situation became difficult for a time. Bde Tac HQ moved up to LE HAUT DU BOSQ but withdrew again to the lateral rd one mile back as the counter-attack developed. This counter-attack was eventually contained and bns remained in original posns. Bde Tac HQ returned to LE HAUT DU BOSQ. 6 KOSB relieved 6 RSF and 8 RS and the latter two bns took up posns behind.	
	30	1100 1450	Bde organised itself in def posn in front of LE HAUT DU BOSQ. Main Bde HQ moved to LE HAUT DU BOSQ. No further enemy developments took place on this front today. Up to date Bde HQ had suffered no cas. Weekly Str Returns att.	Appx "D"