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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 1st Bn The K.O.S.B.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt-Col G.D. Renny

Month and Year JUNE 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1-3		Bn in marshalling area	
	4-5		Serials commenced embarkation and the operation was postponed for 24 hrs.	
	6	(D Day)	Bn assault scale landed between 1145 hrs and 1445 hrs. The move to the assembly area just North of HERMANVILLE SUR MER was carried out without incident. At 1735 the 'R' group moved off to COLLEVILLE SUR ORNE followed by the Bn main body. After about half an hour the Bn moved to ST. AUBIN D'ARQUENAY where the night was spent. Several prisoners were brought in and many papers & documents from enemy dug-outs, etc. were sent back.	
	[7.		At 0830 the Bn moved to PERIERS SUR LE DAN where the attack on CAZELLE was prepared but at 1210 CAZELLE was reported clear of enemy. Led by 'C' Coy the move to the wood just to the North East of LE MESNIL was accomplished. Consolidation was carried out. In the evening some casualties were caused by enemy mortar fire. Patrols were sent out during the night, during which Lieut Cranston's patrol ran up against an enemy heavy tank, inflicting casualties on the crew.	
	8		At 0715 hrs 2/RUR took over R. end of wood and the Bn moved over to L. end where further consolidation was carried out. Enemy continued sporadic mortar fire without further casualties to us.	
	9		In the morning the advance party from the S. Lancs arrive to prepare to take over the position, this being commenced at 1530 hrs. Bn moved to the assembly area near LE MESNIL whilst 2/RUR put in the attack on CAMES. The Bde Comdr was forward with 2/RUR with whom communication became difficult and the Div. Comdr. placed the Commanding Officer in command of the Bde. On getting news that that RUR had got so far but were pinned down, the Bn put in an attack with two Coys forward. This met with a certain amount of M.G. fire and in the later stages enemy mortar fire which caused some casualties. Following the success of the attack, contact was made with 2/RUR and mopping up & consolidation was carried out immediately.	

10		Further consolidation was carried out. During the day spasmodic M.G. fire and enemy mortar fire occurred. There was also still some enemy snipers active. Capt Roynon-Jones with two O.Rs went out on patrol into enemy lines but failed to return.	
11		Bn area shelled from S.W. Enemy tanks seen in LA BIJUDE area and a small number to 'B' Coys front. Small number of enemy located in A/TK ditch area (0713). 'D' Coy captured a prisoner identified as a Cpl of 12 SS Div (Hitler Jugend) & killed two others of a patrol that was near their forward posns.	
12		Patrols were sent out to A/TK ditch area (0173) and towards LA BIJUDE. Bn area was shelled by 88 mm gun in LA BIJUDE area causing casualties. Sniping & sporadic shelling continued at intervals. About 20 tanks including Tigers were spotted at 023733 - these were later shelled by med. arty. Shortly afterwards there was a short severe airburst shelling near Bn HQ, Capt T.D. Sanderson & 5 ORs being wounded and 1 OR killed. Towards midnight tank movement & shouting came from LA BIJUDE area.	
13		Report of heavy enemy guns near LA BIJUDE believed to be shelling beaches. Further movements reported from area of enemy tanks, and a patrol returned after successfully blowing railway lines. Lt Drinkall was wounded. Two fighting patrols were organised but cancelled owing to inability to get arty support.	
14		Patrols sent out. One was fired on by enemy sentry wounding the Sec Comdr but no prisoners were captured. Shells again fell in Bn area from direction of the beaches. 'D' Coy reported landing of paratroops (unidentified). Reinforcements arrived from 'A' Echelon. Occasional shelling, but enemy sniping practically disappeared.	
15		Patrol was sent out to A/TK ditch area (0173), encountered enemy, there was an exchange of fire, several of the enemy believed wounded. Patrol returned safely. 'D' Coy brought in a prisoner, shot at whilst passing in motor-cycle combination. Valuable documents were found & sent to Div. The prisoner's companion was killed.	
16		Enemy intr in 'C' Coy area early in morning. Own arty laid barrage on area forward of 'C' Coy and later a low flying attack was made by enemy plane. Later in evening 2 ORs were wounded by a burst from a Spandau which fired into trees near Bn HQ. Patrols were sent out at night.	
17		Two heavy explosions, probably shells, were heard early in morning, followed by more just before first light. Origin unidentified. Area of village church was shelled by enemy about 0540 hrs. Lorry loads of enemy were seen in wood 013731 moving in Southerly direction. 1 O.R. was wounded by enemy sniper. Own Med Arty knocked out enemy mtr posn in LA BIJUDE area after a heavy barrage.	

18		Own mortar shoot at enemy M.G. and mtr posns fell well on target but damage not known. The Pnr officer, Lt Duncan & 1 OR were wounded whilst working on minefield. Patrols were again sent out and the one from LA BIJUDE reported having wounded several enemy.	
19		Bn prepared to go into Bde reserve and the advance left for LE MESNIL in preparation for the take over. Enemy movement was still reported from posns forward of LA BIJUDE but on small scale. Two ORs were killed and 1 wounded during shelling by enemy.	
20		The take over from 2/RUR was completed and by 0640 hrs all tracked vehicles were in position. An M.E. 109 flying low & fast was shot down by A/A fire. 'C' Coy O.P. reported 6 heavy lorries in wood near BURON (9972).	
21		Approx 15 enemy shells fell in Bn area damaging buildings and causing casualties. 5 ORs were killed and 11 wounded. All buildings were evacuated and trenches manned.	
22		Bn 'I' section made model of ST CONTEST area which was later used for briefing by Coys. Enemy shelling during day fell behind our area near wood (029755). 2 Mx M.G.s began shoot at 1540 hrs. Large force of Allied heavy and med bombers flew over going in direction of CAEN. Lieut Cranston went out on recce patrol to ST CONTEST area.	APPX. "A"
23		Move to take over from 2/LINCS was cancelled. Own arty was active in morning. Pnr Pl laid a minefield (025747). Lieut Cranston again went on recce in ST CONTEST area.	APPX. "B"
24		2 Bn snipers went to Div HQ for practical training. In the evening enemy shelling just outside Bn area continued at intervals until dark. One Mtr Pl carrier was hit.	
25		Own arty very active in early morning followed by enemy shelling. In the evening a patrol was sent out from LES BUISSONS to ST CONTEST area. Enemy shelling recommenced towards midnight.	
26		An O.P. was manned by 'I' section in the Canadian sector (North Nova Scotia area). Own arty was active all day and in the evening about a dozen enemy shells fell in Bn area, but no casualties occurred.	
27		Apart from enemy shelling, which caused four casualties, three fatal, nothing of importance to report. The Padre held his usual Family Worship in the R.A.P. in the evening.	
28		Bn prepared for operation ABERLOUR. A section of the Carrier Pl was sent with tanks to help 8th Bde attack. The above operation was later cancelled. Intermittent enemy shelling during the day caused four casualties at 'A' Echelon area. Two of these were fatal. Five prisoners were sent in from E.Y.	APPX. "C"

	29	Advance party for the take over from 2/LINCS at CAMBES left in morning. Bn commenced take over from midnight. 2 deserters gave themselves up to 'B' Coy O.P.	As APPX. "B"
	30	Take over completed. Intermittent shelling by enemy & some mortar fire. Patrols sent out to area of GALMANCHE.	