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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 1 KOSB

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year August 44

Commanding Officer Lt-Col J.F.M. MacDonald

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
France	1		Minden Day. The day was spent settling in at the new area. A party went off to spend the day at 3 Div Club, and the Pipe Band played in the afternoon. In the evening a percentage of the Bn attended an ENSA concert at Bde HQ. A draft of 3 Offrs and 100 ORs chiefly from the Border Regt. arrived. The Bn was standing by to move, but later word came through that this would not take place before the next day.	
	2		The Bn moved by transport to area S.W. of LONGRAYE (7766) and arrived about 2030 hrs. A quiet night was spent.	APPX "A"
	3		The Bn was at short notice to move but late in the evening orders were received to move the following morning. Our own arty were active during the day, and allied aircraft continuously passed over the area.	
	4		Bn moved by TCV to area N of FORET D'EVEQUE (644511) and remained at short notice to move. This area was quiet with no enemy shelling or bombing.	APPX "B"
	5		No enemy activity in area. Reinforcements (21 ORs) arrived in the afternoon. Recce party left and preparations for capture of MONTISANGER were made.	
	6		Bn moved out in TCVs at 0500 hrs and arrived at assembly area 672379 at 0700 hrs. The 'O' Group moved to S.L. at 0815 and the attack with "C" Coy on left and "D" Coy on right commenced at 0845 hrs. By 0955 hrs MONTISANGER was occupied without opposition. Patrols were sent out to the main road and river S of PISSOT. Two bridges (675340 - 666340) reported blown. An attack on positions S of the river (sqs 6734, 6735) was ordered at 1700 hrs to start at 1800 hrs. This attack was carried out with "C" Coy on the right and "A" Coy on the left. The two coys reached their first objective and pushed on but were pinned down by enemy MG fire from flanks when approaching the railway (sq 6737). These two coys made this adv against fairly heavy opposition, almost completely unsupported. Owing to the blowing of the br (675340) and the speed with which the attack had to be prepared, it was not possible to get any sp arms to them except one tp of tanks which got over later in	

		<p>the evening, and, by a very gallant attack, saved the situation on "C" Coy front. One complete pl of "A" Coy is missing from this operation and many offrs and ORs of both coys were killed and wounded. Late that night orders were received from Bde that the Bn was to consolidate - if necessary withdrawing. The withdrawal of the two fwd coys was carried out and by first light the Bn was in position astride the bridge at 675340.</p>	
	7	<p>Patrols were sent out and reported enemy still occupying position of previous day. Enemy shelling and mortaring of Bn area occurred at midday. A later patrol reported no enemy in wood 684335. Further shelling and mortar fire occurred later in the day. One casualty. Bn left for conc area after advance party from the Suffolk Regt arrived, and the take over was done Coy by Coy.</p>	
	8	<p>Bn HQ was established in LA GROUDIERE 663342 with Coys in a fairly small area. Apart from a short shelling in the early evening a quiet day was spent. The Bn moved out to assembly area at 2130 hrs. 2 Lincolns moved in to take over. By midnight Bn HQ was established at LA PLANCHE (648338).</p>	
	9	<p>With 2 RUR on our left a two Bn attack on main road from VIRE was commenced at 0600 hrs. By 0755 all Coys had taken their objectives and shortly after the Bn consolidated in area just W of YAUDRY (655316). A patrol by "B" Coy captured four enemy, identified as belonging to a motorised Pnr Bn on special service. Two patrols sent out. The first was fired on when approaching ROULLOURS and MG fire and mortar increased as it neared the village. The MG fire was located in area of pt 262 (673303). The second patrol reported enemy in LA BOIVINIERE 6531, possibly a tank or SP gun. A later patrol reported the above village deserted and pin pointed SP gun at 656309. A further patrol was sent out to knock out the SP gun. This patrol failed to find the gun.</p>	
	10	<p>Early in the morning enemy shelling just outside area occurred at intervals for about an hour and a half. Towards midday splinters from two rounds fired by an enemy S.P. set fire to the farm building at Bn HQ. This blazed rapidly and was soon completely burnt out. Practically no kit or equipment was lost. Slight enemy shelling continued at intervals. At 1700 hrs two patrols were sent out each pl strength, under arty and mortar covering fire. The first reported the orchard at LE FAY 657307 clear of enemy. The second patrol came under heavy mortar fire on route to ROULLOURS and did not enter the village. This patrol had one casualty.</p>	
	11	<p>An attack towards TINCHEBRAY by 3 Br Inf Div with Gds Armd Div on the left and the 2nd US Div on the right started at 0900 hrs. 9 Inf Bde was in reserve and the Bn remained in its area at 4 hrs notice to move.</p>	

		<p>Towards the end of the day it became apparent that the 8th and 185 Inf Bdes had not got on as far as they had expected owing chiefly to mines and the difficult nature of the bocage country. By the evening 185 Inf Bde were definitely held up by strong enemy MG and Mortar positions on Hill 312 6929. The Bn received a warning order that it would have to attack this the next morning if it had not yet been taken.</p>	
	12	<p>By 0900 hrs it was reported that Pt 312 had already been taken and that 8 and 185 Inf Bdes were pushing on towards TINCHEBRAY. The Bn therefore remained in reserve at short notice to move. Several enemy shells fell around area about midday, but apart from these the day was quiet.</p>	
	13	<p>The Bn was ordered to take over the village and the high ground at VIESSOIX, which protected the left flank of the Bde, from two Coys of 1 Gren Gds who had had a hard fight to take it two days before. The advance party for the move to VIESSOIX left at 0630 hrs and the remainder of the Bn followed an hour later. Bn HQ was established at 698317. Slight enemy shelling after midday but otherwise a quiet day. At night 3 deserters came into our positions. Patrols were sent out.</p>	
	14	<p>Patrols reported no enemy except at 707316 where two sentries were heard. Towards evening a prisoner was taken at 693320, identified as 10 Coy 21 SS Pgr (10 SS Pz Div). Patrols were sent out at night and one reported tank movement in wood 722312.</p>	
	15	<p>Night patrols reported small arms fire at 728323 and movement of MT at 732310. Extensive patrols during the day found a wide area clear of enemy. Three casualties were caused by an enemy A/P mine in the Carrier Pl area. No enemy shelling of area.</p>	
	16	<p>It has now become evident that the enemy rearguards (composed of 3 Para Div) who have been opposing us have completely withdrawn. Early in the morning the Bde was moved up towards TINCHEBRAY to be ready to move fwd behind the Div Recce Regt which was directed on FLERS. By 1100 hrs the Recce Regt had reached the outskirts of FLERS which they reported held only by very small rearguards.</p> <p>The Bn moved up to an area just WEST of LANDISACQ where it took up a def posn, although it was evident that all enemy tps had already withdrawn well beyond this area.</p>	
	17	<p>The Bn was ordered to sweep a large area of country SOUTH of FLERS. Companies were taken out in 3 ton lorries and at 1100 hrs the sweeping started. A holiday atmosphere was obvious ahead, and the men and vehicles were soon covered with flowers pressed on them by the French. Five prisoners only were found although the area included the large FORET D'HALOUZE. An enemy gun park and three tks - one of them a Panther in good condition were found. It was evident that a fairly</p>	

		large proportion of German armour had used this area in its retreat towards the gap between FALAISE and ARGENTAN.	
	18	A quiet day. In the evening the pipe band played retreat.	
	19	All Coys went out on a short route march along with Coy pipers. The rest of the day was quiet.	
	20	Advance party left to recce new area in the vicinity of LA CHAPELLE AU MOINE at 0645 hrs. Main body arrived at Bn HQ 851161 at 1215 hrs. The rest of the day was spent getting the troops settled in the new area. An invitation was extended to all RCs in the Battalion to attend Church Service at the local church.	
	21	The Bn carried out special training for an assault river crossing operation, using the equipment as follows :- (a) Class 9 FBE Bridge (b) " 9 Close Support Raft (c) Storm boats. This trg was designed for an assault crossing of the SEINE. Owing to recent news bulletins, however, it does not appear probable that this will be necessary.	APPX "C"
	22	General training under Coy arrangements was carried out. The Div Concert Party performed at 'A' Echelon. A party left for a 3 day stay at the Corps Rest Camp.	
	23	Pl and Section trg. A draft of 3 officers and 60 ORs arrived. Some of these were members of this Bn who had been wounded. The majority however were from the Royal Scots, and were posted to "A" Coy.	
	24- 27	The Bn Intelligence Section under the IO left to carry out a search for destroyed enemy equipment in an area round FALAISE. The Bn remained in the same position and carried out Coy and Pl training under Coy arrangements. Training with tanks was also carried out. The 4th Gren Gds co-operating. Bn Church Parade was held on Sunday followed by a march past with the Pipe Band. The Bn I Sec returned from their search with good results.	
	28	CO, Coy and Pl Comds carried out a recce for a night attack exercise.	
	29	Reinforcement draft arrived of 3 offrs and 7 ORs. Night attack exercise was carried out.	
	30	Bn still static. More reinforcements arrived making the Bn up to strength in ORs. Training under Coy arrangements.	
	31	Recce party left for new area believed to be in the vicinity of EVREUX north west of the SEINE. HAQUEVILLE NORTH EAST of ROUEN.	