

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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1st Bn., The ESSSEX SCOTTISH REGIMENT

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
	1 JUL 44		Reveille was at 0400 hrs and breakfast at 0415 hrs. At 0645 hrs the Vehicle Party moved off from Denton Camp and travelled via the main London-Dover rd to London. This party finally reached the marshalling area about 15 mi WEST of SOUTHEAST at 1430 hrs. Vehs were given ship nos, lined up in proper order and stage II of waterproofing was carried out. The camp here was a good one and everyone enjoyed the lunch served at 1600 hrs. The C.O. held an 'O' Gp at 1800 hrs. At 2100 hrs supper was served and immediately afterward, maps were issued. The Q.M. held a parade and issued 2x24 hr ration packs, emergency rations, Mae Wests, 3 bags vomit, underwear and a shirt per man. Adm duties kept many of the offrs up to a late hour. The remaining personnel which constituted the marching party filled in morning with cleaning up camp area and packing kit. At 1330 hrs the marching party, under Maj Thomson, moved off to Shepherds Well Station where they entrained for Stammer Camp near Falmer arriving at approx 1800 hrs. The camp contained all necessities to fill in time while awaiting embarkation incl a cinema, a theatre specializing in stage productions, NAAFI and shower rooms.	Appt 2, 5 F.T.
	2 JUL 44		At 0900 hrs the marching party at STAMMER Camp held roll call followed by issuing of theatre tickets for camp shows. Coys held bath parades in camp showers. At periods throughout day, Pay Parades were held at which personnel drew francs. In the evening CB was lifted and approx 90% of the Bn visited Brighton, Lewes and immediate area. For those few who remained in camp, entertainment was furnished by GERALDO and his Orchestra. Drivers of vehs were up early and those going on board HMS 116 left at 1015 hrs, while those for HMS 117 left at 1045 hrs. Col Macdonald was OC Ship 116 and Major Mackenzie, OC Ship 117. The vehs went to Tilbury Docks and were loaded in 7 hrs. Riding personnel spent a restful day and were able to get their English stirring changed to French francs.	F.T.
	3 JUL 44		Muster Parade held at 0700 hrs for Marching Party. The Adj't went to the RAP to check on Pte MacIntosh of the 'I' Sec who had been held there overnight for treatment of an infected arm. His arrival coincided with that of the unit sick parade. It was evident from the appearance of those on this parade that a few off the record incidents had taken place in Brighton last evening and the crop of black eyes awaiting treatment had to be seen to be believed. Later in a.m. the offr from movement control arrived with orders for the move to the embarkation area and the camp was immediately CB'd. A fine	F.T.



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	3 JUL 44	cont'd	sample of the marshalling area efficiency was shown when at approx 2100 hrs all eqpt and clothing ordered, and the weapons sent out for repair in the a.m. were delivered 100% perfect. In the evening all ranks drew embarkation tags, life preservers, two 24 hr rations and bag ration. At this time all personnel were assigned to their craft parties. Reveille for veh party was at 0600 hrs and tps travelling in Ship 116 moved off at 0700 hrs by TGV. Those for ship 117 left at 0815 hrs. It rained hard and everyone was glad to get in the dry holds of the ship 116 being the IGNATIUS DONNELLY and 117 the WILLIAM CARSON. The ships pulled out into the Thames Estuary around 1615 hrs. In the evening the 2 pipers aboard the I Donnelly played several selections of American flavour to the enjoyment of the crew.	
	4 JUL 44		In the morning personnel of marching party were issued with the clothing, eqpt or weapon demanded yesterday a.m. and rec'd last night. At 0900 hrs parties moved off to Newhaven by bus, where they boarded American vessels for journey to France. The flotilla sailed at approx 1830 hrs, after assembling and loading a mixed force of Imperial and Canadian Troops. The ships with the veh party on board remained at anchor throughout the day. At 1100 hrs there was a parade of all ranks and weapons were inspected. Capt F. McRitchie, Padre of the R.C.E. held a short service afterwards. Around 2030 hrs the convoy set sail.	FF
	5 JUL 44		After an uneventful voyage, members of marching party disembarked at LaValette. Party marched to assembly area near Banville where dinner was cooked from 24 hr rations. Brig Sherwood Lett met the party at this point. Following dinner the party marched to a point near Bazenville where it will await arrival of vehicle party. Slit trenches were immediately dug and bivouacs completed. Ships carrying the vehs passed through the St of Dover around 0130 hrs, but no enemy action was seen. The sea was calm and the voyage an enjoyable one. Several large convoys were passed. Around 1930 hrs the French coast was sighted and the number of ships increased. Towering over them all was the Rodney. The ships slowed to a crawl as the danger of mines increased. Around 2130 hrs the 'alert' was sounded as the now familiar hum of a flying bomb was heard. A few minutes later the 'doodle bug' burst with a loud explosion in the water a few hundred yards off the bow of the Ignatius Donnelly. Some welcome to France! The ships anchored off Luno Beach and the pipers played again. A passing American destroyer winked back the word's on its signal lamp "It's nice to hear the pipes again." The night was uneventful with the exception of the odd bit of flak that was heard falling on deck.	Appx 8 FF



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	6 JUL 44		Marching party spent morning completing slit trenches and with clean up generally. Muster parades and weapon inspection. Men were told Do's and Dont's regarding actions in the area. Movement of personnel were limited to Bn area. In the morning the GOC accompanied by the Brig paid a short visit to the Bn. The veh party spent the morning and afternoon waiting to be off loaded. Finally around 2000 hrs, LCTs came along side and approx half of the vehs in each ship were taken ashore. It was a dry landing so that the waterproofing was just an extra precaution which was not necessary. Then they moved to the assembly area where Major Jones met the group and took them to the Bn area at Pierre Artus.	FT
	7 JUL 44		Slit trenches in the new area are taking on a finished appearance. Trg for the most part consisted of the visiting to the coys of the R.E. mine museum, bayonet trg, a lecture period on pay problem by unit pmr and review of the drill for street fighting and house clearing. The C.O. went to Bde at 0900 hrs and immediately on his return held a meeting of his coy comds. In the afternoon the Bn moved to the area of 2 Div HQ where a Bde parade was formed up. LtGen G.G. Simonds, CBE, DSO, GOC 2 Cdn Corps then arrived and after a general salute he addressed the tps. The Gen spoke of the high standard which had been set by the Canadians in this war and stressed the importance of appearance and conduct on the part of all ranks to uphold this standard. On conclusion of his remarks, Brig Lett called for three cheers and a 'tiger' all of which were responded to with enthusiasm. In the evening, a display of Britain's bomber strength was seen when Liberators by the dozens passed overhead. Later in the night a great display of Ack Ack was put on and at least one enemy fighter brought to earth.	FT
	8 JUL 44		Coy trg intensified with increased emphasis on bayonet fighting. Practice in patrol formations. Lectures on French maps and Inf in co-operation with tanks were given in coys. A talk on Air Liaison was given by ALO, Capt D. Hunden. Pls visited a German strong point where the ground was examined and discussed with pl leaders. In the evening members of Sp coy were given a lecture and demonstration on German mine-laying by members of 2 Cdn Inf Div Engrs. A football team from Bn was defeated by an Imperial unit in a game that resulted in an 8-1 score. At 2000 hrs, Maj Dalton, RC Padre held service for RC personnel.	Appx 2 FT



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	9 JUL 44		SUN but routine continued as usual with reveille at 0600 hrs and PT. Capt Cardy held service for C of E personnel at 1000 hrs. The Bn enjoyed a swim in channel at Lavalette in the morning. At 0900 hrs, the CO went to Bde for conference with Brig. At 1400 hrs he attended a meeting at Div HQ where Gen Montgomery spoke. On his return a coy comds meeting was held and infm he had received was passed on. In the inter-bde ball competition, the Bn drew a bye when their game with the RHLLI was cancelled owing to rain.	J.F.
	10 JUL		Warning order received that Bn would move to a new area tonight. Preparations for move started at once. In the afternoon the advance party of The South Staffordshire Regt arrived. They are moving into our area after we pull out. The "S Staffs" have been in action, have suffered casualties and are coming back to reorganize. By supper time all personnel were prepared to move. The C.O. returned from Bde with his final orders. Our new area is near BITOT, really only another cone area and we will NOT be disposed tactically. We are advised that we are within mortar and gun range and it appears we are being brought into action gradually. Preparations to move now being complete, and final orders having been given, rest until midnight was the routine for most personnel.	J.F.



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BITOT MR 010703	11 JUL	0300	Moved to conc area at MR 010703 and dug in. Liaison carried out with Regina Rifle Regt located at MR 024694 in Caen. HQ, A&B Ech at MR 956723.	FJ
		1200	Sitrep nil.	
		1630	CO attended 'O' Gp at MARSKLET 939684	
		1900	Rece party of 2 i/c, I.O., Coy comds, pl reps left area to make arrangements for taking over posns from 9 CAMERONIANS.	
		2240	Marching tps left conc area to march to new posns. There was fairly heavy shelling throughout the march. Tps began to arrive around 0130 hrs, 12 JUL 44 and finally all had taken over posns by 0330 hrs, at ROCRENIL, MR 978656.	
ROCRENIL 978656 Sheet 7F/1	12 JUL	0330	Pte Spotton and Mowery were killed by mortar fire while marching into the area. Pte Dunnett was killed while digging his slit trench. Cpl Bourgeois was seriously injured by the same fire. The heavy mortar fire continued throughout the night and there was no need for P.T. the following morning as everyone had plenty of practice diving into slit trenches. The CO of the 9th Cameronians was struck on the head by a mortar bomb which then exploded. Fortunately he suffered only minor head injuries. Lt A. McCrimmon had his helmet dented by a piece of hy flak.	Appx 1, 2 FJ
		0800	C.O. & I.O. visited all coys and the morale of the men was seen to be high. All are anxious to get the opportunity of handing plenty back to Jerry.	
		1230	The enemy again started mortaring our posn and continued until 1330 hrs.	
		1600	Area heavily mortared. Five cas reported.	
		2120	2 PW captured in area by Pte Colenutt of 'B' coy, later identified as being of ISS P 21.	
		2130	Hy mortaring of posn.	
		2230	LOB personnel left for 'B' Ech.	
		13 JUL 0030	Carriers returned from 'B' Ech with extra amm and supplies.	
		0500	I.O. & Maj Anderson of RRC arrived at our posn with infm that enemy tks and inf were cutting off their posn. Their comm were out and the situation appeared serious.	
		1000	C.O., I.O., Major Laird, Capt Steele, Capt Dann went to RHII area to liaison and lay out a counter attack role for the Essex Scottish Regiment in case the RHII posn are overrun by the enemy.	
		0230	C.O., I.O., Major Thomson and Capt Dann went to RRC to arrange counter attack role	
		1645	The RRC are in a hot spot and under mortar fire. Enemy inf appear to be conc 977623 exact nos not known, probably a coy. Think a counter attack probable. Arty have been contacted and have posn under obs.	



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Roorenil MR 978656 Sheet 7F/1	13 JUL 44	1645	Other units concerned have been infm'd.	F.D.		
		1730	Unrecognized recon car reported at MR 995653. Can you identify.			
		2030	Red very light fired from 995657 at 2020 hrs.			
		2036	Two civilians women seen living in ROORENIL 980656. For infm civil affairs or interr option.			
		2042	Troop movements at 968622 appears to be a counter attack.			
		2200	Green very lights MR003658 enemy obs leaving chateau MR 014658 at 2140 hrs.			
		2250	Smoke screen coming in 1000 yds approx west of here.			
		2105	Tks & tps come for counter attack Pt 112965, 623 to 960615 confirmed by senior summary by similar eqpd fan on our left.			
		2139	Enemy tks and inf forming up for apparent counter attack area pt 1102 and 965623 to 960615 this infm not confirmed.			
		2253	My main sub units now being attacked			
		2220	2 flares seen 998653 at 2210			
		2225	Our patrol reached RHII area nothing to report.			
		2230	Patrol has reached RRC area nothing to report.			
		1900	Lt G.A. Pansford known to his many friends as Pete, was killed instantly when a piece of shrapnel from a mortar bomb exploding in 'A' coy area pierced his heart. He was taken to the MC but was beyond aid. The brief service at his burial was given by Capt Cardy. In attendance was LtCol Macdonald, Major Burgess, Capt MacLellan, Lt Wilson and some members of his pl.			
		2335	Smoke across entire bn front. Major Thomson ordered coy stand-to.			
		2340	CO orders stand-to of all coys.			
		2350	Smoke has cleared from our bn area no sign of enemy only two large fires from RHII area.			
		2351	CO orders all dvrs to take fire extinguishers out of trucks and keep handy in slit trenches.			
		2359	Enemy withdrawing from RRC front.			
		14 JUL 44	0010		Report enemy fire on our front sounds like Schneisser.	Appx 21 F.D.
			0012		Tracer fire from right of 12 pl.	
			0020		More tracer fire from B & C coy front believed to be enemy patrol seeking infm. Tracer fire going into the air.	
			0025		B coy sending out a patrol to round up enemy.	
			0030		Enemy activity ceased on our front.	
			17			



# WAR DIARY

## ORX

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oceanil R 978656 heet 7F/1	14 JUL	0031	2 flares seen over D coy area.	
		0035	Trip flares seen going off in front of D coy area	
		0040	D coy patrol returned from RRC area on return came under fire from RRC area.	
		0107	Patrol returned from RHLI nothing to report.	
		0108	2 flares seen over RRC area	
		0130	Sitrep as at 2400 hrs. Our patrols have made contact as previously, laid down but reported no enemy. Flares were seen in vicinity of RRC. Patrols were also sent out to trg and locate snipers but so far were unsuccessful.	
		0135	CO orders Stand-down of bn but one third alert.	
		0150	Heavy SA fire in area of RRC. Sniper still in vicinity of B coy.	
		0200	Air burst over B coy, white flare over.	
		0210	Patrol returned from RHLI but did not contact any of RHLI	
		0245	Bn area under smoke A coy ordered to stand-to, remainder of bn warned but kept at 1/3 stand-to.	
		0215	Report burst and single shots from woods N of 'D' coy area.	
		0540	Smoke screen at rear of BnHQ.	
		0545	Enemy posn located between following 2 pts 972642 to 980643. Consists of dug in tks and Inf.	
		0707	Serial 53 has been proven false. Possible snipers only enemy there.	
		0855	Loon of Rear Div HQ admin area 944709.	
		1234	RHLI report no contact with 'A' coy patrol at 1200 hrs.	
		1420	Tks were reported by our walkers as being 800 yds in front of GBC Sunray of G has been within 400 yds of where reported and could not see dust or movements.	
		1550	Patrols left to make contact with RHLI.	
		1600	A coy patrol returns from RHLI nothing to report.	
		1600	D coy shelrep reports three casualties.	
		1610	Rifle & mortar fire coming from vicinity of MAITOT	
		1800	Sherman tank burning near D coy area defective wiring.	
		1755	Probable mortar position at MR 987637	
		1756	Arty fire being brought to bear on MR 994638	
		1753	Enemy seen approx 2000 yds south of RRC. Can you see them and engage.	
		1835	Air OP going up he will engage any enemy he sees and report later	
		1845	Approx 1 pl enemy moving WEST at 002645.	
		1908	Enemy approx 1 coy moving down to river on far side in area 015634 arty shoot was short. (info about 30 min old)	



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Roorenll MR 978656 Sheet 7F/1	15 JUL	2230	Patrol sent out earlier made contact with Royals nothing to report.	J.F.
		2150	Two pigeons spotted flying toward enemy lines from rear of C coy area.	
		2340	Patrol left to make contact with RRC also report large fire off to left flank in direction of RHLLI area.	
		2359	Small arms fire heard in RRC direction.	
		0010	Patrol to Royals returned after making contact nothing to report.	
		0015	Sitrep nil as of 2400 hrs.	
		0026	RHLLI CO reported died of injuries sustained when direct hit was made on comd post at 2312 hrs. <i>This is NOT correct. Was seriously wounded</i>	
		0215	Patrol reports RHLLI patrol failed to make contact with them at 0200 hrs.	
		0425	Small arms fire between RRC and RHLLI	
		0450	Our tanks are going out.	
		0415	Our patrol did not make contact with RHLLI at this time.	
		0535	Our patrol made contact with RRC and on return was pinned down by sniper with LMG	
		0820	Patrol to RRC returned after contacting RRC OK.	
		0830	One Tiger and one Panther tank engaged at MR 985627 by 4 Fd Regt.	
		0900	CO went to 'O' Gp at Bde.	
		1015	Report that CO of RHLLI had died now proved false.	
		1030	Work on remodelling comd post proceeded until 1245 hrs.	
		1240	Patrol to RHLLI had to go right up to RHLLI lines to make contact as patrol from RHLLI late.	
		1240	Tank burning 400 yds off right flank cause unknown.	
		1400	Patrol contacted RHLLI patrol. Nothing to report.	
		1600	Our patrol reached RHLLI. Nothing to report.	
		1712	Brig will hold 'O' Gp in our HQ as soon as possible.	
		1730	CO ordered carriers to prepare to move off.	
		1735	CO ordered A coy to have 2 pls ready to join tks in attack at 1800 hrs. We have been ordered to dominate the high ground in front of this bde to prevent enemy from observing our tp movements South of Verson.	
		1745	Brig's 'O' Gp finished and left for Bde.	
		1800	Unconfirmed report that enemy have withdrawn from posn west of River Orne. Brig has ordered RRC to recon area and confirm report.	
		1835	Col Morton (Fort Gary Horse) is in charge of this gp which comprises two pls of RHLLI and two pls Essex Scottish Regt and necessary carriers for tpt. Major HWP Thomson,	



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Roorenil 15 MR978656 Sheet 7F/1	JUL	1835	Offr I/C Essex Scottish party and has two pls namely those of Lt Martin and Lt Webster. The gp moved off at 1835 hrs.	
		2300	8 and 9 pls of A coy reported in after successfully completing job.	
		2325	CO ordered general stand to.	
		2340	Red flare reported off D coy area. No movement visible.	
		2345	Second patrol from A coy sent out in aid of 1st patrol	
		2345	Lt Webster A coy reports ditch across field from 978631 to 984635 also men digging in at 984633.	
		2350	C coy reports nothing unusual on their front.	
16 JUL	JUL	0025	Heavy smoke screen in front of 12 pl B coy.	f.f.
		0030	Report LMG fire believed to be part of patrol in front of our lines	
		0045	Bridge out of action at 978657. Echelon in Verson OK	
		0050	Sitreps sent to bde by IO.	
		0100	Patrol contacted enemy of estimated strength of coy. MR given by sunray. 6 barrell mortars at 105° 135° 180°. Time of flight 60 seconds.	
		0145	CO orders stand down from complete to 1/3.	
		0225	Enemy MG reported at 991649.	
		0245	Very heavy concentration of mortar fire around BnHQ	
		0330	Sitrep reported to Bde by IO.	
		0403	Heavy mortaring around BnHQ and vicinity.	
		0435	Heavy mortaring in vicinity.	
		0620	In sitrep report anti tank weapon at 003653 and also movement of 5 or 6 men in same area.	
		0625	2 pigeons reported flying in same direction as previous reported by Capt Steele 'D' Coy. Seen at 0617 hrs.	
		1200	EAST.E No enemy seen except a recce plane around 1000 hrs. A There has been slight mortaring during the morning. S Close observation from our OPs is being kept. Smoke seen rising from sq 0260.	
		1430	Patrol sent out this morning to investigate source of pigeons. Reports no success.	
		1740	Shelling a woods at MR 003633 now going on. Have OPs keep sharp look out for enemy activity.	
		1805	S Recce Regt report that shells landing in this area in last 2 days have been exploding by delayed action 12 - 15 hrs after landing. Check this area and report in full as to nos and length of delay.	



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Rocrenil MR 978656 Sheet 7F/1	17 JUL	1700	Padre Cardy held church service for various coys in small gps.	
		1910	Bridge 017052 owntrps machine gunning day and night.	
		2130	BnHQ left ROCRENIL area and moved up to HETVILLE to take over from R Regt C.	
		2245	About 6 4-engined bombers flew over area dropping flares and then bombs. Everyone took PAD.	
		2300	By mortaring of posn and occasional sniping in village.	
		0030	EAST sent to Bde.	
		0055	8 or 9 by mortar shells fell in HQ area.	
		0200	DANE BAKER	
		0330	DANE CHARLIE	
		0400	General stand-to for bn until 0600 hrs. At this time the area presented quite a storm swept appearance as a result of the previous night's shelling and bombing. One shell hole was about 30 ft in diameter and 15 ft deep. Two cas, killed were reported, one being Pte I.Q. Jones, clerk of 'A' coy.	
		0625	A PW captured in A coy area was brought in. He was young (19) like those captured earlier and was suffering from a bad leg wound.	
		0930	All coys and some of scout pl begin clearing chateau and buildings of Hterville	
		0500	Maj Thomson, 'A' Coy, reports his patrols on left flank contacted RHII, 'D' Coy every odd hour commencing 0100 hrs. RHII patrol contacted our left flank every even hour commencing 0200 hrs. Our friends on right report enemy tanks moving from right to left.	
		1155	Four tiger tanks reported at 976625 by friends on right.	
		1128	Artillery shelling 994636 from 1200 to 1230 hrs.	
		1200	EAST sent to Bde.	
		1515	CO & IO went to 'O' Gp at Bde.	
		1800	IO and Lt Cropp, 'D' coy went to RHII to interview a patrol leader who had done several patrols in enemy territory. Air photos and maps were used today on a route to find if any enemy located at 994639.	
		2000	On way back to Hterville, Pte Hello, the COs dvr who was sitting in the back of the jeep was wounded in the leg. After having the wound dressed at the RAP, he was evacuated to ADS. Dvr C.H. Wagner and Pte A. Anderson of RAP did excellent work this evening in pulling two members of a crew out of a burning tank.	
		2200	CO & IO at Bde conference.	
		2330	Lt Cropp and 2 men of D coy left to recce enemy posn at 994636.	



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Ederville	17 JUL	2330	Lt Martin and 2 men left on a recon patrol with the purpose of finding a few targets to hand back some arty fire to the enemy.	
MR980643				
Sheet 7F/1	18 JUL	0300	Lt Cropp's patrol reported back, having contacted the enemy and estimate a pl to be at 924036.	
		0400	- 0600 Stand-to	
		0545	Hundreds of Lancaster bombers passed over the area on the way to unload their bombs on enemy posns south of Caen.	
		0805	Reported mortar fire from a bearing of 300° dropping short into our area.	
		1130	Following taken from sortie flown late afternoon 16 JUL 44: Sheet 37/16 SE; 993618 tk camouflaged; 990617 1 fd gun; 990618 possible fd gun; 997604 possible 3 fd guns; 985606 three tks; 996623 six NBW now possible 5 SPs. Sheet 40/16SW 022639 4fd guns in emplacements; 023629, 023628 seven weapon pits; 019627 2 tks dug in; 009623 three light flak; 019623 possible 5 NBW.	
		1150	First patrol report enemy occupying dug in posn at 994634. Seven counted in addition to one sniper. Patrol fired on by rifle and mortar and withdrew followed by sniper. No cas. Mist hampered observation. Primary report from second patrol from point 200 yds from X rds 994632. No enemy seen but patrol fired on by mortar from our direction. Continuing patrol.	FD
		1215	Final report second patrol. First encountered enemy 995631. Counted 12 moving along path 993629 apparently moving from one posn to another. Heard enemy voice at 996631. Patrol withdrew without drawing fire other than being sniped at from derelict tks 985635. No Cas.	
		2400	EAST.E. no further enemy seen. A. Heavy mortaring at intervals apparently directed by snipers S. Blew up suspected sniper posns. T. Hy mortaring 1800 hrs.	
19 JUL		0500	Two PW belonging to Fus Bn 272 captured in D coy area. Report their coy strength of approx 90.	
		1120	Objective reached, consolidating. Patrol through to river keeping opposite bank in observation.	
		0915	A tk gun blew 2 chimneys off the chateau in Ederville as those places looked like hiding spots for the snipers who have been bothering us.	
		1000	Sitrep as at 0830 hrs indicate that B Regt C are consolidating in Louvigay after a night of rather by fighting. During this action Brig Lett was wounded. Others on Bde staff also receiving wounds were Lt Patterson and Lt Bud Lynch.	
		1200	EAST.E. Except for 2 PW taken no enemy activity has been seen. A. No mortaring throughout morning. S. Patrols being carried out. T. Time of capture of PW - 0500 hrs.	FD



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Etterville MR 980643 Sheet 7F/1	19 JUL	1450	A108912 Pte Moroz, E. cut above eye while sitting in slit trench when fragment went through helmet.	f f
		1725	A 21278 Sgt Lucas, G.W. reported wounded slightly, shrapnel, evacuated.	
		1630	Lt Col Macdonald & IO went to RHLI for 'O' Gp. Arranged for an attack by the RHLI on ATHIS. Lt Col Roc ingham is again back as CO of the RHLI. This attack was later postponed. News from higher fms is to the effect that 5 Bde is making good progress on the East side of the Orne R and are as far SOUTH as Basse. The Arm Divs are also pushing down well along the high ground EAST of this pt.	
		2400	EAST. E. No enemy seen A. Slight mortaring S. nil T. Mortaring 2030. CO gone to recce new posn.	
	20 JUL	0100	Major Burgess and IO gone to Bde to get further info on move.	f f
		0115	Bn ordered on 100% stand to and to prepare for move.	
		0215	IO and Major Burgess returned from Bde.	
		0230	'O' Gp at BnHQ	
		0445	Bn clear of area and new regt taken over.	
		0930	Bn crossed start line.	
		1130	Bn arrived at FUP and started to dig in.	
		1300	Enemy arty shells are falling in our immediate area.	
		1435	Our arty barrage started to fall on the enemy	
	21 JUL	1500	Fwd tps started the attack.	
		1600	Fwd tps gained objective. Enemy counter attacked with 2 coys and 13 tks. Our tps withdrew slightly and held during the night.	
			The rain which had started shortly after 'H' hour yesterday continued intermittently throughout the night. Slit trenches accumulated water, the fields became muddy and the task of keeping weapons in working order became almost impossible. The men worked continuously on their DMCs, even tearing off their shirts for rags in a futile attempt to keep them in order. C and D were the forward coys, being both sides of the road at area 035635 SW of IFS. During the morning the counter attack by enemy inf supported by tanks came in cutting off C coy completely, 17 pl D coy and BnHQ. It is difficult to <sup>fill the</sup> exact the details of what happened to these coys because of the great number of missing personnel, particularly from C coy. We do know that a number thought to be about a pl in strength were taken prisoners from C coy as they were seen being marched off by the enemy. It is thought the same took place to the offr, Lt R.S.	



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	1944			
	21 JUL		Morgan and men of 17 pl. We are unable to gather details of what occurred at BnHQ other than that being surrounded, they made their way out as best they could. Lt K. Jeanneret (sigs offr) tells of crawling a long distance thru a wheat field before finally being able to make his way back to the bn. The IO, Lt W.C. Wilson plus his staff are missing, as are the COs batman and ROCS signallers. In the late afternoon we were advised the R.H.C. (Black Watch) would attack through us at 1800 hrs. Their well supported attack came off and the bn was relieved, going back to Fleury-sur-Orne area 025645 for the purpose of reorganizing and re equipping.	FD
	22 JUL		Reorganization began with muster parade. First count shows casualties as follows: Killed - 3 offr, Capt H.E. Dann, Lt J.A. Chandler, Lt W.J.R Fogerty and 17 ORs. Wounded - 8 offr, Major H.W.P. Thomson, Lt T.E. Martin, Lt J.P.O'F Webster, Lt L.C. Bond, Lt F.B. Walton, A/Capt S.B. MacDonald, Lt P.A. Cropp, Capt J.S.M. MacIellan and approx 140 ORs. Missing - 3 offr, Lt W.C. Wilson, Lt A.H. Zaldin, Lt R.S. Morgan and approx 130 ORs. It is not a pleasant picture to realize that so many of the bn have been lost, especially when the action was not successful and many of the casualties could have been avoided by better planning and the observance of the procedure that our trg had led us to believe would be followed before going into battle. All the rules of man management were either violated or ignored, by the sudden move ordered after mid-night, the loss of sleep by all ranks, a poor breakfast and little or no noon meal before battle, and the general or detailed picture and plan, if known, was not given to the junior offr or troops. The COC came around before 1000 hrs. He checked casualties and equipment and weapon losses and ordered immediate refitting. The balance of the day was spent in carrying out these orders.	Appx 21 FD



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PAUB de VAUCELLES	1944	1000	Adv wksp open at MR 033663 at 212000 hrs.	
MR 028658	23 JUL	1005	Report that HHC meeting mortar shell, light MG fire and sniping but are still in solid no indication of enemy tks small bodies of inf engaged by Shell Drake in FUP	
Sheet 7F/1		1105	PW will be turned over by units to Div PW cage 951706. All visitors car pk until a clearance is received from Bde IO.	
		1200	East E - nil A-nil S-nil T-nil	
		1500	Enemy determined counter att ck on our R flank Camerons of C posn 34 PWs taken incl deserters. Tk cas 3 destroyed. 21KO-1 SP gun KO. Enemy inf cas reported as hy. No numbers confirmed. 160 Br Bde forced back to line 945826. Enemy now hold Le Bon Repos 945674. 45 Br Div 129 Bde captured Maltot. R de Mais attack Etavaux 2 Can Arm'd Bde. confirm 21 enemy tks today 22 JUL.	FD.
		1505	Shelrep sent to Bde.	
		1300	HHC report some shelling of their area. RHII report no contact or observation of enemy. SX reorganizing. June pt patrol RHII - QOW rd & tk junc 054633. Rd & tk junc 023642 is being sniped by 8.8 cm. 3 jeeps cas report by 2 Can Inf Div offr Div Prov.	
		1830	Shelrep Shell passed overhead believed to have landed in Caen. A-1805 B-W11 C-033656 D Caen MR approx 037665 E-one Tk or A tk Gun F-One AF gun (88mm?) G-unobserved H-192°	
		2215	2 i/c went to Bde.	
		2225	C & HQ Sqn of 27 Arm'd Regt on our units left flank. 5 tks in A coy area.	
		2350	Sitrep nil.	
		2355	Patrol routes of thru forward bns. Right bn to May-Sur-Orne. Left Bn to Trotenat Fe. Pwd bn to right bn along rd.	
24 JUL		0745	2 searchlights set up in our <sup>area</sup> between C & A coy.	
		0800	'O' Sp held by 2 i/c.	
		0900	2 i/c and 'I' Sgt on recce.	
		0945	HQ Prov coy and PW cage open at MR 028660 from 202000B.	
		0230	Sitrep nil.	
		1500	Sitrep. 43 Div front 271 inf Div identified; 400 PW captured. 2 CID front inf dug in supported by small groups of tks continue to be active front. Caen shelled without effect - 6 bombs dropped at area 043614 at 0130 hrs; flares dropped over 6 Bde area; shell and mortar firing over Div area - HQ 3 Can Div shelled in evening suffered cas; 43 Br Div no change since capture of Maltot; 2 Div regrouping; C coy Tor Scot (G&G) reverted to Regt Comd - HQ rear 2 Can Inf Div 015660	FD.



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E of Ifs MR 047639 Sheet 7F/1	1944			
	25 JUL	0400	Moved to new area, arrived at 0430 hrs. Tac HQ at MR 047639. Rear HQ at MR 045651.	Appt 1  fJ
	0445	3 Cdn Inf Div have captured Tilly-la-Compagne at 0440 hrs.		
	0512	Leading tps of PHLI at Vettieres at 0505 hrs.		
	0520	Hard fighting against hard bodies SW		
	0530	Enemy activity nil.		
	0600	No enemy activity in immediate area. Large numbers of our own tks of various types moving through coy area.		
	0940	117th Queens Lorried inf 7 Armd Div digging in our area.		
	1020	GO holding 'O' Gp at 1100 hrs.		
		MRC are held up north of Rocquancourt by hy mortar & 88mm fire. Sunray and Shellray going forward to investigate.		
	1250	Morep sent to Bde		
	1420	Report location of HQ immediately.		
	1440	Enemy movement and one gunflash spotted at Lellamel 0061 infm passed to PNV 1415		
		SSRs will recce area R de Mais against possible move there.		
	1553	Queens Own Regt have moved on our right flank.		
	1600	Sitrep nil		
	1610	Royal duty offr dropped in for latest infm		
	1715	Prepare to move to R de Mais area and take over the existing posn and task likely to clear out snipers. No move likely before 1745 hrs, move will be code word SCRAM followed by the hr. 5 Bde THQ Inf Co at 015642.		
	1716	Warned coys to stand by for 'O' Gp and recce		
	1735	0062 our next area. R de Mais to capture Fontain De Morina.		
	1845	CO & I Sgt went to recce new area.		
	2200	Tac HQ set up at MR 007634		
	2210	Location of Tac HQ sent to 6 Bde		
	2320	Latest sitrep received from 6 Bde.		
	26 JUL	2330	PW infm as to time of air raid proved to be correct. No bombs in our immediate area.	
0020		One casualty reported in D coy making second for day. One E coy mid afternoon.		
0530		LO gone to 6 Bde for latest news.		
0610		A coy report no enemy activity on their front during night. No mortar or air bombs in area.		
0645		C coy report bombing NE of their area about 2330 hrs hut no bombs in immediate area.		
	0830	D coy patrol returning from Camerons report their disposition as BnHQ area orchard 019615 also D coy in same area. A coy orchard 015613. B&C coy 025608	/16	



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Etavaux MR 007624 Sheet 7F/1	26 JUL	0905	C coy report enemy mortar fire falling in vicinity of Camerons of Can	
		1030	Now under comd of 5 Bde. CO gone to Bde 'O' Gp. Bn 'O' Gp still 15 hrs. Connected to Bde by line.	
		1140	Sitrep nil	
		1125	R de Mais to relieve RHC immediately 025607. Return RHC to A Ech.	
		1325	Burning Br veh at MR 018624	
		1128	D coy mortared 1 D coy cas. leas from another unit approx 16 pl area	
		1320	Enemy trench believed to be mortar OP spotted at 00906135. Difficulty is being experienced in clearing corner due to an empty house IMG post in supported by A tk which we have been unable to locate. Can anything be done in way of crawling support	
		1345	Patrol leaving at 2400 hrs returning in half hour and one leaving at 0300 hrs returning in half hour.	
		1355	An IO from this unit will contact Cam of C at their HQ between 2300 hrs and 2400 hrs today. May Cam of C be infm.	
		1400	Two moreps sent to Bde	
		1512	Shell drake on target as suggested at 1515 hrs.	
		1525	Signal location A ech.	
		1645	Sp gun posn (unknown) but apparently in front of B coy firing on derelict tk MR 020625. Report mortaring in front of B coy area. NBWs	
		2000	All civilians to be sent to 1st Fd Security is set up there. Maj Harrington (civil affairs) has visited our HQ 007637. All civilians N of Grid 63 will be sent back those of Grid 63 sent forward.	
		2030	6 Bde HQ will be at 014633 will infm us when they are set up. Pass word for to night patrols is Dominion Day	
		2020	Peculiar purple vapour from direction of Le Hamel our D coy. Infm passed to Bde.	
		2021	Pat 1 D coy Pat 1 (out) Pat 2 (in)	
		2036	Enemy Div recognized 272 Inf Div (possibly 1 bn in strength) 1st SS Pz; 268 Pz; 21 SS Pz; May-Sur-Orne 9SSP2	
		2040	All HQ to be made bomb proof while working watch for counter attacks. Our air is to be active. Anxious to know if our patrols are beyond 500 yds of our front. DF tasks of arty approx in front of Bns. Our mortars will be firing. All rds running towards enemy lines to be blocked. Div is anxious for infm. Enemy line strongly held by IMG and IMG. Approx 25-30 enemy tks facing our front. 131 Br Bde right bay. Tilley-la-Campagne lost by 3 Can Div. 2 Armd Bde going out R de Mais and Cam of C to fortify our front Mines to be plotted on air photos Our units will be laying mines and booby	



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Etavaux MR 007637 Sheet 7F/1	26 JUL	2040	traps - check with coy for mines and booby traps before going through coy fronts.	FJ
		2325	Pat 2. No action on enemy side of river. Camerons holding down O.K.	
		2330	Major Bull reports armour moving south on far side of river believed to be Shermans.	
		2335	Pate 1 out.	
		2345	Sitrep unchanged. Tanks moving near Maltot 2330 hrs.	
	27 JUL	0045	Pat 2 - everything OK.	
		0100	Working party from 'A' coy going out to 4 Bde to lay mines (50 men)	
		0150	Sitrep nil reported to Bde.	
		0315	Small arms fire reported in front of carrier pl area.	
		0320	Sigs off returns from Bde. Nothing new to report.	
		0330	A coy reports small arms fire direction of B coy lines.	
		0345	B coy reports no activity on coy front.	
		0405	Pat one.	
		0350	Sitrep nil. Reported to Bde.	
		0435	Very heavy explosions in front of Beay area believed to be delayed action air bombs. Also mortaring. Morep within hour.	
		0500	5 MCOs & 50 ORs have finished mine laying no cas.	
		0503	Flares seen on our R flank from our HQ.	
		0535	Pat 2 0430 hrs everything OK.	
		0545	Sitrep nil	
		0800	Pat 1	
		0745	Sitrep nil	
		0946	Sitrep nil	
		0948	'I' Sgt has left to recon area for OP.	
		1025	Pat 2-c-nil	
		1040	5 Bde BM called to have us check a rd block at 004628 and to have it blocked and covered. Rd block is right in A coy areasso it will be covered.	
		1155	Quiet in general. 2 snipers near posn but have withdrawn	
		1140	G coy pat 1	
		1141	Mortar shoot - 2 plus 2 minus enemy OP across river	
		1145	Sitrep nil	
		1213	Major Bull reports no activity during night heard some firing but were later infm that it was the Br tps across the river	
		1224	Mor pl reports 30 bombs dropped in enemy OP area. 2 burst within 10-20 yds of OP. No	



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Etavaux MR 007637 Sheet 7F/1	27 JUL	1224	activity seen believe posn has been evacuated.	45
		1125	Rifle shot in HQ area on other side of railway track. CO sent scout pl out to search area across tracks.	
		1315	Sitrep sent to 6 Bde - sniper scout pl - MR - mortaring	
		1400	Sitrep nil	
		1401	Have you any targets that may be engaged by air. If so advise us immediately.	
		1418	Pat I	
		1440	Enemy HQ fire heard in area woods MR 003631	
		1509	A coy at 1230 hrs OP reported mortar fire from 205°. O.P. 004628	
		1530	D coy adrep nil	
		1535	Bomb line church 011593 rd and track junc 049592 rd 064594 track junc rd fork 097608 X rds 098612 north of wood to X rds 123608 thence former bomblines.	
		1540	Pat II report nil.	
		1545	Small amount of small arms fire coming into D coy area from 005617.	
		1600	Sitrep nil sent to Bde	
		1640	2 Pz Div identified south of St Andre sur Ornce. Vehs show 2nd Pz Div trident.	
		1700	Water point now open at 021650	
		1720	C coy Pat I	
		1725	Mortar fire in D coy area partly hit one of our A tk guns. (May be 88mm)	
		1725	Two men from scout pl going out in front of D coy area in search of enemy OP. Enemy fire in D coy area believed too accurate for lucky hit.	
		1745	Morep B coy A 1431 B 1450 C 005621 D 997624 E Mortar slow rate G-H-I 197° 30	
		1900	Pat 2 report pinned down for 1 hr by mortar fire otherwise nil	
		1800	Sitrep nil. Sent to bde.	
		2045	Morep sent from A coy passed on to 6 Bde.	
		2050	Password for tonight JUL 27-28 "Robin Hood"	
		2055	D coy leaves to morrow at 0530 hrs then BnHQ at 0600 hrs. Mines and trip wires and booby traps will be laid in new area	
		2100	A ech at MR 038668	
		2101	IO of MR visited of HQ for info about our area. They are taking over our posn.	
		2102	2 fwd coys of FMR taken over by some of 131 Br Bde	
		2045	Sitrep no change in situation since your sunray here this afternoon.	
		2100	Morep from D coy. Recce patrol out in area EAST of Le Hamel 0061, Wood 009610 between 2300 hrs-0400 hrs. Fighting patrol attack area HQ 998616 with arty sp. Fighting patrol moving out 2335 hrs.	



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Etavaux MR 007637 Sheet 7F/1	27 JUL	2210 2220 2330  2359	Pat 2 - no enemy activity seen patrol came under mortar fire. Sniper in our area patrols out after him. Special instr waiting for our unit SI at 6 Bde. OC Cam of C says to keep special alert. First D coy moves off at 0500 hrs BnHQ at 0600 hrs the following coys at 7 & 0800 hrs. Sitrep nil up to 2345 hrs	<i>JS</i>
	28 JUL	0030 0040 0250 0330	Pat 2 - D - nil no incident Sitrep unchanged Pat I D coy Pat II reported no incidents, contact made O.K.	<i>JS. App 1</i>
	28 JUL		Daybreak brings more mortar and shellfire. By the accuracy of the fire the enemy must have a good CP. During the day the feeling develops that the high ground to our right at MR060606 must be providing observation. The CO goes to Bde and returns with inf that we are to attack and take out this point. The CO spends the remainder of the day completing his plan.	<i>JS</i>
	29 JUL		D coy under Comd Major T.E. Steele, were ordered to attack and capture the high ground at MR060606 on Caen Falaise Rd. INF: <u>Enemy</u> Holding high ground at MR060606 with known strong points at North and South end each containing at least one .42 MMG. Strength about one pl of SS Pz Div. <u>Own Tps</u> D coy and u/c one sec carriers, one MFC, 1 sec A tk guns and in sp 4 and 5 Fd Regt RCA and one pl 'C' coy Essex Scottish Regiment plus supporting fire of one tp tks. INTENTION: D coy will capture and hold high ground at 060606. METHOD: At 1655 hrs tp tks opened up with arty fire on ruined house at South end of objective. Maintained for five mins. At 1700 hrs the attack began with arty putting down a murder fire on North and South ends of objective and a conc on orchard between two strong fire. This lasted till 1708 hrs. The arty was inaccurate, some rounds falling 300 yds short. At 1700 hrs inf moved fwd, #16 pl left fwd, #17 pl rt fwd, coy HQ in rear of 16 & 17 pl and # 18 pl in rear of coy HQ. Carrier sec (dismounted) moved with coy HQ. No 15 pl C coy moved to rt flank of objective giving flank protection and covering fire. At 1708 when arty lifted, D coy started its assault,	<i>JS</i>



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	29 JUL		having to cross 300 yd of ground before hitting enemy. # 16 pl with the task of capturing the north strong point and consolidating there failed to reach their obj and were pinned down by hy MMG fire. # 17 pl with task of clearing centre of orchard made a successful attack and consolidated in proper area and put up two 2" M flares to indicate their success. On this signal No 18 pl assaulted strong point at South end of obj, capturing it and consolidating there. At the same time coy HQ moved across the road, put in an assault on the orchard coming under intense MMG fire from strong point at north end of orchard. Seeing #16 pl had failed in its objective, Major Steele ordered Sgt Burdick (OC 17 Pl) to organize and take out strong point at north end. This time Sgt Burdick was killed. Major Steele was then notified his FOO was badly wounded. He went back to the FOO, learned his DF and DF SOS tasks then ordered him to be evacuated. Now CSM Dixon came fwd with the coy carrier, also the sec of A tk guns under Sgt Wold. CSM Dixon having grenades in his carrier ordered his dvr to drive along the hedge row from where the MMG fire was coming. As he passed the slits he tossed out grenades. This did not remedy the situation so the coy cmd ordered the CSM to organize another party and to wipe out the opposition. He did this with three men giving covering fire while he went fwd dropping 36 grenades into the enemy slits. This brought results. All remaining enemy were killed or captured. #16 pl now came fwd and consolidated on the north end of objective. Counter attack was immediate by means of hy mortar fire. Casualties of D coy for attack were 13 ORs killed, one offr (Lt W.H. Pope) and 18 ORs wounded. Of C coy Lt A. Edmundson was wounded. There were 14 enemy known killed and eight PW. The remainder withdrew. That night, from hy mortar fire Lt A.K. Blois and one OR were killed and four OR wounded. The coy successfully held this important ground which gave observation in all directions, and as much as five miles observation in some directions. The damaged bldg turned out to be a waterworks with a reservoir of 30000 litres supplying adjacent enemy held towns. It is little wonder they wished to hold point 060606. The work of Major Steele, CSM Dixon, L/Sgt Burdick, Cpl Boland (C coy) and Pte Borthwick during this action was outstanding. All have been recommended for decoration.	JF
	30 JUL		The bn feels elated after the success of D coy of yesterday. Major Steele completed defensive area of his coy and then proceeded to bury fifteen casualties of yesterdays action plus a number of enemy dead. Sp to his posn was given in the form of additional 17 pr A tk guns and two SF guns. After dark the Calgary Highlanders passed thru to attack Tilley la Campagne. For the remainder of the bn, it was comparatively quiet, the only action being the long range mortaring and shelling against which little or no	JF app 6



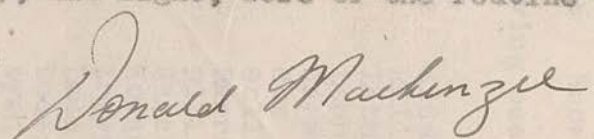
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	30 JUL 44		direct action can be taken.	
	31 JUL 44		<p>Improving of posn is an never ending job. It always provides work for any spare moments. C coy relieved D coy, permitting the latter to take things a little easier and earn some rest. For some reason the mortaring and shelling is at a minimum today. That is until evening when "Jerry" came to life once more to provide us with our evening game of "hear and duck", the idea being on hearing an approaching shell to duck for cover. Other than this, events throughout the day, and night, were of the routine expected in a defensive posn.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">             (D. MACKENZIE) Major,            A/Commanding Officer,            ESSEX SCOTTISH REGIMENT.         </p>	<p><i>JD Appx 6</i></p>