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WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

M.F.M. 11
& S/37 (9/42)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
			1st Bn THE REGINA RIFLES REGIMENT	
HILTINGBURY CAMP C-7	Jun 44	1	Weather - hot and sultry. Units in the clutches of Movement Control. All movement taking place by craft loads.	JLB
		2	2200 Weather - hot and dry with occasional showers. Most of serials leave Marshalling area C-7 for embarkation ports.	JLB
		3	2200 Weather - very hot and dry. CO's serial leaves Marshalling area C-7 at 2200 hrs to embark.	JLB
AT SEA		4	Weather - cool and cloudy. CO visits Coy Comds aboard their craft. D-Day postponed 24 hrs due to weather.	JLB
		5	1000 All craft under way at 1000 hrs. Weather - Cool and cloudy. Sea none to smooth.	JLB
COURSEULLES SUR-MER		6	0805 D-Day 1st Bn THE REGINA RIFLES REGIMENT, on Lx "OVERLORD" landed at NAN GREEN BEACH, COURSEULLES-SUR-MER, NORMANDY, FRANCE at 0805 hrs., with A Coy being first in, followed by B Coy at 0815 hrs. C Coy landed at 0835 hrs. D Coy at 0855 hrs.	JLB
		0900	Comd Gp, with Lt-Col F. M. Matheson, S.D., touched down at 0900 hrs.	
		0830	A Coy report that they are held up by heavy fire.	
		0855	Two LCAs of D Coy strike mines about 250 yds from beach and are blown up. Major J.V. Love, Comd D Coy, Lt R.B. Murchison, Signal Offr and a number of ORs are casualties. A number of others were rescued by RN craft, and some swam ashore.	
		0930	D Coy, consisting of approximately 49 all ranks, under comd of Lt H.L. Jones began advance to Reviere	
		1000	Bn HQ at 973855. A Coy in particular still engaged in heavy fighting in beach area and in area behind beach.	
		1100	Bn HQ moving to 965819. Civilians of COURSEULLES-SUR-MER welcomed our troops with flowers. Many a bottle of wine was dug up and presented to the troops, who at that moment had a more serious task in hand.	
1215	C Coy reports bridge at REVIERS clear.			
1330	Bn HQ, followed by B Coy, moves forward to REVIERS.			

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REVIERS	6	1500	Bn HQ arrives REVIERS.		
		1555	QUEENS OWN RIFLE REGT of CANADA report that they have taken MAGNY and are advancing on BASLY.		
		1800	B Coy, followed by C Coy, with in support B Sqn 6 CATR, were ordered forward to FONTAINE-HENRY. C Coy instructions were to by pass FONTAINE-HENRY and to proceed to LE FRESNE-CAMILLY.		
LE FRESNE-CAMILLY		1850	B Sqn Comd reports that he has withdrawn his tanks after having had 6 tanks knocked out by 88 mm guns.		
sq 9477 Sheet CAEN 7 F/1		1900	D Coy moves direct to LE FRESNE-CAMILLY followed by Bn HQ. A Coy ordered to remain in REVIERS to guard approaches to river and to guard bridges.		
		1900	B Coy reports that they are in FONTAINE-HENRY.		
		1950	C Coy reports that they have reached LE FRESNE-CAMILLY.		
		1950	Bn reports to Bde that Intermediate Objective on line ELM has been reached. Bn HQ is set up in LE FRESNE-CAMILLY sq 9477.		
		2100	Bn ordered by Bde to consolidate for the night on line ELM sq 9578.		
		2115	B Coy reports that they had been subjected to enemy arty fire and that Major F.L. Peters, Comd B Coy and Lt G.D. Dickan, 2IC B Coy were killed.		
		2115	Up to this time, approximately 150 PW were taken, over 100 of these being captured in COURSEULLES SUR-MER.		
		2200	CO goes to make recce of position to be taken up for the night.		
LE FRESNE-CAMILLY	7	0030	Bn begins move to new position in sq 9578.		
sq 9477 Sheet CAEN 7 F/1		0300	CO and IO attend O Gp at HQ 7 Cdn Inf Bde. Days operations were discussed, and plans made to move forward to final objective on line OAK. COs of units exchanged information on the D Day activities. It was evident to all that, due to adverse flying conditions, that the air support had not been as great as been expected. Pillboxes and other emplacements were still open for business when our troops touched down.		
		0300	Bn now in new position.		
		0500	Lt-Col F.M. Matheson holds Bn O Gp, and orders for the advance to final objective on line OAK are given.		
		0715	Coys move off with A and C Coys on right and B and D Coys on the left.		
		0730	Bn HQ moves off.		
		1200	At 1200 hrs, Regina Rifle Regiment moved into BRETEVILLE L'ORGEULLEUSE which was clear of the enemy and the civilian population gave the troops a very friendly reception. The Bn took a defensive position with A Coy at 925718, B Coy at 934705, C Coy at 923703, and D Coy at 948703, Bn HQ set up at 927718. The Bn dug in and things remained quiet during the afternoon. R Wpg Rif took up a position on our right at approximately 1330 hrs. Thus the Regina Rif were out in front with no protection on our left flank, a position which we refused to vacate until relieved 11 days later by the QOR.		

JLB

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BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEVILLEUSE 927718 Sheet 7/ F/1 CAEN	7			During the night, the enemy pulled off a counter attack on E, C, and D Coy positions which was repulsed by our troops. The Bn was determined to stay put on the final objective.	JLB
	8			Weather - fine and clear.	
		0850		At 0850 D Coy reported that they were being mortared. At 0858 enemy tanks were seen at 963703. 2 enemy tanks were seen at 9770 and reported to Bde HQ. At 1220 enemy tanks were reported advancing along road to our HQ. At 1100 hrs, D Coy reported enemy tanks in considerable strength 1000 yds to their front.	JLB
		1400		D Coy moved to 919713 to improve the Bn fortress. C Coy report they had repulsed an infantry attack but were being attacked by tanks and requested arty support. This was granted. Attack was repulsed. The Bn still sits on objective.	
	2230		Bn HQ attacked by Panther tanks and infantry beginning at 2230 hrs.		
BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEVILLEUSE	9	0030		At 0030 hrs Bn HQ WAS SHELLED AND MACHINED GUNNED, when the enemy put in a tank and infantry attack on the town. One Panther tank pulled up outside Bn HQ and the crew jumped down and demanded that we surrender and was met with a suitable reply - a PIAT bomb. The tank was then knocked out by a PIAT. Meanwhile a hot time was had by all as enemy tanks were all about the town blasting away at the men in their slit trenches and destroying one of our A/Tk guns. The whole sky was lit up by blazing roofs and burning tanks as well as our own parachute flares. At 0220 hrs, another tank was knocked out by a PIAT near our mortar positions. At 0315 hrs, an enemy AA Harad car SD KFZ 140 ran up the main street of Bretteville and was knocked out by PIAT fire in front of our Bn HQ. During the scrap, we lost seven carriers including one loaded with amm. In return five Panther tanks were bagged in the vicinity of Bn HQ. At 0423 Panther tanks left vicinity of Bn HQ and RVD a short distant away. We requested arty fire on them. This was granted. We were informed that tank support would be forth coming at first light. At 0445 hrs, the enemy put in determined attacks on all Coys, but were thrown back. Altogether a very hectic night was spent by all. A bright new page was written in the records of this Bn. Everyone fought magnificently and although the picture looked black, there was no sign of wavering anywhere. In this attack, Capt R.G. Shinnan lost his life.	JLB
		0200			
		0315			
		0423			
		0445			
		0745			

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BRETTEVILLE L'ORGEUILLEUSE	9	0445 0515	would be forthcoming at first light. At 0445 hrs the enemy put in determined attacks on all coys but were thrown back. At 0515 our tank support arrived. Altogether a very hectic night and one on which a bright red page was written into the record of this Bn. Everyone fought magnificently and although the picture looked black there was no sign of wavering anywhere.	
BRETTEVILLE L'ORGEUILLEUSE	10	1900	Weather--cool and cloudy. Very little activity either ours or enemy. Patrols are active on all coy fronts. Typhoons dive-bombed targets on our front towards CHEUX at 1900 hrs. Mines being laid and the coys strengthen their posns. Slight mortar fire on D Coy posns but no damage done.	JLB
BRETTEVILLE L'ORGEUILLEUSE	11		Weather--cloudy and warm. Little activity except patrols. Patrols very active but are not meeting up with enemy resistance. Tanks came up in support. QOR of C make an attack on our front supported by Sherman tanks but are beaten back by stiff opposition. 7 Armad XXXX vehs and tanks knocked out and 4 Armad Vehs captured during a short encounter with Enemy armour.	JLB
BRETTEVILLE L'ORGEUILLEUSE	12		Weather--cloudy and overcast with occasional showers. Occasional bursts of mortar and arty fire enlivened the days proceedings but did very little damage. Our activity was mainly confined to patrols and to strengthening our posns.	JLB
BRETTEVILLE L'ORGEUILLEUSE	13	1545 1915	D/8. Our positions--BnHQ - 927717, A Coy - 927717, B Coy - 930716, C Coy - 922703, D Coy - 919712. On our right 1 C Scot R, on our left R de Chaud, to our rear R Epg Rifard GH of C. Weather--Fine with clouds in afternoon, clearing in the evening with cloudless sky. A quiet night followed by a quiet day which was interrupted at 1545 hrs by enemy artillery fire on Bn HQ and A Coy. Approximately 5 rounds landed in the area and we had 2 casualties, slightly wounded. Another flurry of enemy arty fire at approximately 1915 hrs. No damage done.	JLB

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BRETEVILLE L'ORGEUILLEUSE	16		<p>afternoon with practically no opposition under cover of a heavy arty barrage. Infantry may have retired from immediately to our front, and we are endeavouring to re-establish contact with patrols that went out in the evening. Sgt Johnson, 6 Cdn Armd Regt., who has just returned from the area, reports that the heavy equipment in LE MESNIL PATRY was withdrawn to the SOUTH two nights ago. To all appearances the enemy have withdrawn from immediately to our front and our patrols have not established contact. They will attempt to do so tonight.</p>	
BRETEVILLE L'ORGEUILLEUSE	17		<p>Positions still the same. Weather--cloudy and dull in the morning and early afternoon, clearing in the evening with cloudless sky. A very quiet day with no reply to our arty fire on this front. Our patrols were out trying to establish contact. One patrol from C Coy had a tangle with the enemy in the afternoon, and were caught in their cross fire suffering 2 killed, 7 wounded and 6 missing. Some of the casualties were caused by booby traps in abandoned enemy slit trenches which our troops used during the fight. The unit prepared to move to BRAY, NR 9473 sheet 7F/1 Caen. our present positions being taken over by the QOR of C. Further patrolling was carried out by the units of this Bde.</p>	JLB
BRETEVILLE L'ORGEUILLEUSE	18	0030	<p>Regina Rif positions: Bn HQ 943736, A Coy 943735, B Coy 946734, C Coy 947741, D Coy 939736. On our right front 1st Scot R and QOR and on our left flank R Wpg Rif and 9th Cdn Inf Bde. Weather--mild and dry with clouds--visibility good. Regina Rif commenced to move to the area 9437 at approximately 0030 hrs and were in the new position before first light. Our activity was confined to patrols in the immediate area. No whelling of our area today for the first time since landing. Bn held the objective attained on D 1 for eleven days until relieved by QOR. Morale was high throughout. Everybody XXXXX proud of the record of the Regiment. General B Montgomery made special mention of the 7 Cdn Inf Bde. Everyone is trying to catch up on his sleep and recheck eqpt and weapons. Patrols were sent out in the night but did not contact the enemy.</p>	JLB
BRAY XXXXXX 9425735 5 sheet 37/16 NE THAON 1/25,000				

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BR AY	19		Positions BRAY (NR -- FRANCE-1/25,000-- 37/16 NE, THAON) Bn HQ 94257355, A Coy--943735, B Coy 946734, C Coy 947741, D Coy 939736. Weather--It started to rain in the early hours of the morning and continued throughteut the day making conditions generally miserable for all.	
		1400	Little activity in our area and no sign of the enemy during the day. An O Gp at Bde HQ at 1400 hrs attended by the CO and IO of this Bn. Lt-Gen Crerar, GOC in C 1st Cdn Army was present at this meeting and expressed his satisfaction with the trend of events and with the progress made by this Div. An O Gp was held by the CO of this unit which was attended by all Coy Comdrs Points discussed at both conferences were the matter of a tightening up of discipline made necessary by the let down after the last weeks activity, and the subject of looting. which was net of a vicious nature but mainly thoughtlessness on the part of a small minority. A serious view will be taken of this in future.	JLB
BRAY	20		Positions of the Bn still the same. Weather--cloudy and dull with occasional periods of sunshine. A quiet day in our area as far as the infantry was concerned. Patrols went out during the day but did not contact the enemy. Our arty was busy all day hammering away at enemy posns. A number of the personnel of this bn were present at a demonstration of HONEY tanks put on by the 10 Cdn Tank Regiment at 1400 hrs. Checking of eqpt and replacing destroyed and damaged eqpt continues.	JLB
B RAY	21		Positions unchanged. Weather cloudy Patrol Conference HQ 7 Cdn Inf Bde at 1000 hrs. Bn in Reserve posn at Bray 944735. No signs of enemy activity during mornng. Own arty in this area firing at intervals. Bn is getting rested and bringing equipment up to scratch.	JLB
		15 00	At 1400 hrs Lt-Gen H D Crerar, Comd 1st Cdn Army visited the Bn. He was conducted on his tour by Brig HV Foster, Comd 7 Cdn Inf Bde.	
		2100	At 2100 hrs Maj-Gen R F L Keller GOC 3 Cdn Inf Div accompanied by Brig H W Foster visited this HQ.	

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BRAY	June 22		<p>Sky remains overcast in morning and clears up in the afternoon. Bn remains in present posn. All quiet during night 21/22 June. Patrols report MG fire from EAST well fwd of our posns. Approximate casualties since D-Day: 360 ORs, and 17 Offrs. The CO visits 14 Fd Amb at PIERPONT. The Sniper School continues trg. Four Candidates sent out to front lines for practice on live targets.</p>	JLB
BRAY	23	1200 1500 1900	<p>Weather--cloudy and overcast. Clears in afternoon. Quiet during night 22/23 Jun 44. At 1200 hrs a dogfight overhead and 1 ME109-- was shot down. The pilot was picked up by the 1 C Scot R. The CO attends a conference at HQ 7 Cdn Inf Bde at 1500 hrs. The CO holds an O Gp at 1900 hrs. Possible future operations were discussed as well as trg and Adm.</p>	JLB
BRAY	24	1400	<p>Weather--bright and warm. Patrols night 23/24 report little enemy activity other than numerous flares and occasional MG bursts well to our front. Historian 3 Cdn Inf Div visited this HQ at 1400 hrs and discussed historical records with the CO. Patrols for night 24/25 June as per appendix.</p>	JLB Appendix #5.
BRAY	25	2000 2100	<p>Weather--clear and bright. Capt Jamieson, unit chaplain held services in Coy areas during morning and evening. Coys were gathered in orchards and or under cover from air observations. Sounds of Ack Ack fire and Arty fire did not prevent the padre from delivering an excellent sermon. CO attended a conference HQ 7 Cdn Inf Bde at 2000 hrs. Our arty putting down heavy barrage commencing 2100 hrs.</p>	JLB
BRAY	26	0730	<p>Showers during day. Beginning at 0730 hrs and lasting for 2 hrs. over 600 guns put down heavy concentrations and barrage on ST. MAUVIEU, and CHEUX area in sp of attack by 8 Br. Corps. which was successful. These places are now in our hands. Major A S Gregory, 2IC, made a recce to St. MAUVIEU 9368 to observe enemy in MARCELET 9468. He reported that enemy still in MARCELET.</p>	JLB

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BRAY	26	1945 1745 2200	Bn on 1 hr notice to move from 1200 hrs. Stand down at 1945 hrs. Stand to continues from first light 27 Jun 44. Several close arty shells landed of 105 variety at 1745 hrs. in Bn area. No damage done. At 2200 hrs, 1 C Scot R Bn HQ received a direct hit. CO, 2 IC, Adj, IC, and Signal Offr wounded.	JLB
BRAY	27		Showery during the day. Own arty in our area doing considerable firing during the day. Bn still remains on 1 hr notice to move.	JLB
BRAY	28		Some showers during the day. Exercise Albeleur postponed. Bn stands down from 1 hr notice to move. Sde order patrol to CARPIQUET through MARCELLET. IO and Lt L Bergeron liaise with D Coy, 5 Coldstream Guards in MARCELLET and arrange patrol. Meaning Minnies (Hy mortars) firing from area FRANQUEVILLE intermittently during the night. Shells were not particularly close.	JLB
BRAY	29	0930 0700 1400 2300	Sky partially overcast. CO and IO attend conference at HQ 7 Cdn Inf Bde at 0930 hrs. Lt L Bergeron reports in from patrol to CARPIQUET at 0700 hrs. Enemy still occupy CARPIQUET. Second NCO school begins for NCOs recently appointed. School is under direction of Major C.T.S. Tubb, G Coy cmd. Snipers continue trg. Lt-Col F.M. Matheson holds O Gp at 1400 hrs. Mobile Bath Unit does one stand at the Bn. Parade by Coys. Lt Brundige takes out recce patrol from MARCELLET to CARPIQUET at 2300 hrs.	JLB
BRAY	30	1400 1515	Night of 29 Jun quiet in Bn area, but our arty fire was being brought down to south near CHEUX, where enemy tank concentration was reported. Identification of 9 Pz Div were obtained by units in CHEUX area 9065. Apparently the enemy is responding to the thrust from CHEUX by bringing up fresh Divs. Lt-Col F.M. Matheson, CO, and the IO attended an orders gp at HQ, 7 Cdn Inf Bde at 1400 hrs. Brig H.E. Foster, Comd 7 Cdn Inf Bde presented the general picture and explained the move of units required to present a solid front to the enemy threat of armour from CAEN direction. At 1515 hrs, CO held O Gp for move from BRAY 9473 to area 9470 La VILLENEUVE, where the Bn takes over from the North Shore Regiment and 7 Recce Regt. Change of cmd at 2000 hrs. R Wpg Rif to take over from 1 Regina Rif.	JLB

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BRAY	30	1600 1700	<p>At 1600 hrs, CO, C Coy Comd, A Coy Comd, mortar pl comd, A/Tk Pl Comd, and IG go to new area for recon.</p> <p>At 1700 hrs, C Coy arrives in new area, A Coy arrives at 1745 hrs, and Bn HQ at 2025 hrs.</p> <p>Location of sub units are as follows:</p> <p>Bn HQ - 946712 A Coy - 949706 B Coy - 943710 C Coy - 948712 D Coy - 943715</p> <p>Minefields, arty, 4.2 mortar, MGs, and A/Tk tasks were tied in and Bn began digging in.</p> <p>Standing patrols were sent out as per appendix #5.</p>	Appendix #5