

1/7th Bn. **The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary July 1944**

JULY 1944.

- 1st July. Area LIVRY.
0730 hrs. 2i/c of Coys left for new Bn. Conc. area.
0830 hrs. "O" Gp. Bn. HQ.
0832 hrs. American Advance party arrives.
Liaison between opposite numbers for arrangements for handing over, Unit Comdrs. showed American Offs. their posns.
1630 hrs. Co-ordinating conference of 1/7 Queen's & U.S. Officers at Bn. HQ.
Each Coy to march to T.C.V. area 7163.
1700 hrs. Left Reserve Coy (D) relieved by American Coy.
1730 hrs. Right Reserve Coy (C) relieved by American Coy.
- 2nd July. 0045 hrs. Left fwd. Coy (B) relieved. Battle Patrol took over standing patrol on "A" Coy Front.
0220 hrs. "A" Coy Relief completed.
0330 hrs. Bn. HQ, moved to T.C.V. area.
0500 hrs. A/Tk. Pln. & Carriers arrive at T.C.V. area.
0600 hrs. Bn. column moves off in following order:- Bn. HQ, Carriers, Mortars, A/Tk. Pln. "A", "B", "C" "D" Coys.
Area 8272.
0720 hrs. Arrive at conc. area 820727. Morning spent in settling into new area.
1300 hrs. "O" Gp. Bde. HQ. New Bde. Comdr. PEPPER visited Bn. HQ. General policy in new area rest and if necessary to make a firm base on TILLY – BAYEUX rd.
Bn. defensive areas allocated. 1/5 & 1/6th Queen's of left & right of rd. respectively with own Bn. in reserve astride rd. Brig. & C.O.'s recce these areas.
1800 hrs. "O" Gp. Bn. HQ. 3 Rifle Coys to be at 1 hrs. notice to move. Remaining Coy to be at 4 hrs. notice. Latter Coy to have baths and visit at BAYEUX to cinema.
2330 hrs. O/O confirming Bde. Conference and adding that no buildings to be occupied by troops. Bn. posn. was close to gun lines and the noise was deafening day & night. Weather very wet and rds. soon became practically impassable.
- 3rd July. 0845 hrs. Brig. PEPPER visited Bn. HQ and then went to Coys to introduce himself.
1100 hrs. C.O. 1 R.T.R. visited Bn. HQ to discuss Inf. and T/k. co-operation.
1130 hrs. C.O. and Coy & Specialist Pln. Comdrs. went round Bn. area to decide final details of defensive posns.
1400 hrs. C.O. to Div. area to hear an address by C-in-C.
1800 hrs. "O" Gp. Bn. HQ. Tng. Programme to embrace following points – (1) P.T. (2) Short drill parade. (3) Discussions on enemy tactics. (4) Observation and accuracy of reports. (5) Use of Grenades. (6) More Tng. (7) Co-op with Tks.
- 4th July. 1030 hrs. C.O. & I.O visited Bn. HQ 1/6 Queen's to obtain details of posns.
Recced area in front of 7th Queen's Battle posns. in view of counter-attack role for Bn.
1130 hrs. C.O. 1 R.T.R. visited Bn. HQ to discuss Tk. & Inf. Co-operation.
1200 hrs. C.O. 1 R.T.R. lectured Offs. & N.C.O's on same subject.
1320 hrs. 2 ME 109's passed over Bn. area. Heavily engaged by local Bty's.
1400 hrs. C.O. & 2i/c visited areas for Tk. & Inf. co-operation.
1800 hrs. "O" Gp. "A" Coy to try out Inf. & Tk. co-operation following day. 50% Offs. And N.C.O's to attend. One Coy to attend BAYEUX cinema following day.
1900 hrs. 3rd Flight arrived under Lt. DEVER.

Party included Lt. A.J. DUNSTON (Asst. Adjt.) & 102 O.R's. Lt. E.G. DEVER posted to "A" Coy.

- 5th July. 0900 hrs. Inf. & Tk. Co-operation exercise took place as arranged.
1100 hrs. Maj. P.E. BARNESLEY of the Hertfordshire Regt. posted as O.C. "D" Coy.
1800 hrs. "J" Gp. Bn. HQ. C.O. emphasised importance of deepening slit trenches.
1900 hrs. Brig. D.S. GORDON DSO visited Bn. HQ.
- 6th July. 0900 hrs. "C" Coy experimented in Inf. & Tk. co-operation exercise. Weather fine and warm.
1100 hrs. Brig. visited Bn. HQ.
1800 hrs. "O" Gp. Bn. HQ results of "C" Coys exercise with Tks. discussed.
- 7th July. 0900 hrs. "D" Coy experimented with Inf. & Tk. co-operation.
1800 hrs. "O" Gp. Bn. HQ.
- 8th July. C.O. gave short talk to each Coy in turn.
Rifle range set up. I.O. talked to Coys on the situation in NORMANDY.
0800 hrs. Capt. T.H. KEMP assumed post of Adjt. in place of Capt. G.H. COURCHEE who was posted as 2i/c "A" Coy.
Lt. E.D.J. MARTIN appointed S.O.
1800 hrs. "O" Gp. Bn. HQ. Battle Patrol to begin training Bn. Snipers on 10 Jul.
- 9th July. Capt. J.M. SKILLINGTON evacuated through A.D.S.
0900 hrs. News received of entry of British tps. Into CAEN.
1500 hrs. Conference at Bde. Brig. explained new counterattack role of Bde. on FONTENAY 8767 and RAURAY 8865. Bde. Conc. area 8770.
1700 hrs. I.O. reced routes through LE PARC DE BOISLANDE 8768.
1800 hrs. "O" Gp. Bn. HQ. Promotions conference.
- 10th July. 0845 hrs. Capt. S.E. Brown (L.O. 131 Bde.) posted temporarily to this Bn. Lt. E.G. DEVER temporarily posted to 131 Bde.
0900 hrs. Training of Bn. Snipers under Battle Patrol "A" & "C" Coys with sec. of Carriers carried out exercise in Inf. & Tk. co-operation.
1145 hrs. C.O. & Coy Comdrs. reced for counterattack roles at FONTENAY, CRISTOT and RAURAY.
1700 hrs. 2i/c reced Bn. conc. area.
1800 hrs. "O" Gp. Bn. HQ Discussion on days training.
1900 hrs. Warning order from Bde. two hrs. notice to move to E. of R. SEULLES.
Weather colder and wet almost all day.
2330 hrs. Order from Bde. for recce of Conc. area St. LEGER at 0800 hrs. following morning.
- 11th July. 0800 hrs. 2i/c & 2/i/c Coys reced area.
0900 hrs. "B" & "D" Coys exercise in co-op. with Tks.
1800 hrs. "O" Gp. Bn. HQ.
- 12th July. 0900 hrs. C.O. visited Coys on training.
1800 hrs. "O" Gp. Bn. HQ. Instructions for exercise on Inf. & Tk. co-operation to take place 0830 hrs. 13 Jul. given to all Coys & Spec. Pln. Comdrs. area N. of TRUNGY.
2000 hrs. Lt. Col. GIBBON O.C. 1 R.T.R. and Sqn. and Pln. Comdrs. visited Bn. HQ and met corresponding Coy and Pln. Comdrs. problems of Inf. & Tk. co-operations were discussed.
- 13th July. 0200 hrs. Notification from Bde. of immediate wireless silence. Bn. scheme accordingly cancelled.
0900 hrs. Training on Coy basis.

1800 hrs. "O" Gp. Bn. HQ. Discussion of future training up to 7 days ahead.
Training to include marching, shooting and P.T.

- 14th July. 0530 hrs. Enemy shell wounded one man in "D" Coy area. Coy training.
1500 hrs. 4 ME 109's flew over Bn. area. Engaged by our troops, 1 plane brought down by L.M.G. fire.
- 15th July. Training on Coy basis.
2340 hrs. Bn. shelled (3 minor casualties).
- 16th July. 1000 hrs. Coy 2i/c's depart to recce new conc. area BRECY 8778. Offs. Of 8 Hus. Visited Bn. HQ to discuss with C.O. problems of Inf. & Tk. co-op.
1430 hrs. I.O. visited Bde. HQ for briefing for forth coming operation GOODWOOD. Order for move following morning. Intermittent shelling of Bn. area throughout night. No casualties.
- 17th July. Area BRECY 8778.
0830 hrs. Bn. formed up in column and moved to Div. conc. area arriving 1000 hrs.
1100 hrs. C.O. & I.O. attend conference at Bde. HQ where general plans for forthcoming ops. Were outlined.
1530 hrs. Div. Comdr. Maj. Gen. ERSKINE addressed all offs. Of the Bde.
1600 hrs. C.O. outlined plans for the next days ops. And situation in general.
- 18th July. 0545 hrs. Heavy bombers commenced softening up of enemy posns. E. of R. ORNE and S. of CAEN.
0945 hrs. Bn. passed Bde. start pt. route CULLY 9176, SECQUEVILLE – EN BESSIN 9274 – CAIRON 9675 – BIEVILLE 0574.
2000 hrs. Column passed over river and leagued for night in area 1072.
Enemy bomb bridgehead during night and large fires were started.
- 19th July. 0700 hrs. C.O. reced area DEMOUVILLE 1067 to establish a firm base.
0910 hrs. Bn. moved to above area with Carrier Pl. and one Bty. 258 A/Tk. leading.
1200 hrs. Coys in posns. S. of DEMOUVILLE with Bn. HQ at 104677. The previous days bombing reduced the village to rubble and many enemy dead were left unburied. Bn. at 30 mins. Notice to move.
1543 hrs. Lt. P. HOGGARTH I.O. wounded by 105mm shell while recceing area GRENTHEVILLE. Lt. A>J> DUNSTON took over duties of I.O.
2015 hrs. Bn. HQ moved to 101687 for the night.
2030 hrs. 18 FW 190's attacked previous location and area of village. No casualties within Bn.
- 20th July. Bn. placed u/c 22 A.B. Task to form firm base in area SOLIERS 0862.
SOLIERS occupied previous night by 1 R.T.R. & 1 Coy R.B. 22 A.B. now pushing on to HUBERT – FOLIE 0662 and BOURGUEBUS 0761.
0700 hrs. Bn. moved off in following order:- "A", "B", "C", "D" Coys Battle Patrol.
Tps. moved on foot carrying all tools.
Tps. followed up A/Tk. Pln., Mortar Pln. Carrier Pln. & Bn. HQ.
0835 hrs. Bn. HQ established 088652. Coys took up posns. in area SOLIERS and formed firm base.
1520 hrs. Bn. HQ area strafed by 12 F.W. 190's but no damage or casualties were sustained.
1540 hrs. Carriers moved fwd. and established posns. in BOURGUEBUS 0761.
A/Tk. Pln. and Coys less "C" Coy commenced moving up. A firm base was then established in BOURGUEBUS while our armour pushed on to VERRIER 0560. Throughout day much arty. fire on our posns.
2130 hrs. C.O. & I.O. moved up to BOURGUEBUS to establish Tac HQ.
2200 hrs. Bn. area shelled and mortared periodically through the night.

2359 hrs. Two patrols left Bn. area, 1 to contact 1/6th Queen's on right, the other to contact Cdns. In HUBERT FOLIE.

- 21st July. 0100 hrs. C.O. slightly wounded by a shell.
0300 hrs. Patrol reports contact with "B" Coy 1st STORMONT DUNDASS & GLENGARRY HIGHLANDERS at HUBERT FOLIE.
1200 hrs. C.O. to Bde. 131 Bde. to be relieved by 8 Cdn. Bde. and move to Conc. area at CUEVILLE 1069 with a view to future Ops.
1500 hrs. C.O. Coy & Spec. Pln. Comdrs. of NORTH SHORE SCOUTS arrived and reced areas prior to taking over.
1900 hrs. Take over began.
2230 hrs. Last elements of Bn. reached Main HQ at GRENTHEVILLE and moved to CUEVILLE.
Total casualties through shelling during day – 7 Killed 26 wounded (1 Off. & 25 O.R's wounded).
- 22nd July. Area 1072 Caen-Falaise map.
0815 hrs. S & ME 109's passed over Bn. area strafing. No casualties, 1 ME seen to be shot down.
1400 hrs. Bn. area shelled by 105mm guns .
Adj. Capt. THOMAS HARTLEY KEMP, 207689 & "I" Sgt. BERNARD SHEPHARD, 5886886 killed. Lt. L.C. CROSS & 2 O.R's wounded.
Capt G.H. COURCHEE assumes appt. of Adj. Lt. G.R. ROPER assumes Comd/ of Carrier Pln. L/Cpl. WADGE takes over as "I" Sgt.
2000 hrs. C.O. to conf. at Bde.
2200 hrs. Last light, N.T.R.
- 23rd July. 0430 hrs. First light, N.T.R.
0900 hrs. Lt. Col. M.F.P. LLOYD left Bn. to await posting.
Maj. W.D. GRIFFITHS M.C. assumes Comd. of Bn. and is promoted to A/Lt. Col.
Maj. E.G. SANDYS assumes 2i/c Bn. temporarily for the 3rd time.
Capt. B.G. MEARA assumes comd. of "A" 2 Ech.
1400 hrs. C.O. & I.O. attend conference at Bde. As a result of re-grouping and planning, 7 Rmd. Div. now comes u/c of 2 Cdn. Corps.
On Tuesday 25th July an attack is to be made by 2 Cdn. Div. on a line from MAY SUR ORNE 0259 to TILLY LA CAMPAGNE 0760 as first objective and a line from FONTENAY 0260 to ROQUANCOURT 0559 as second objective.
7 | Armd. Div. to push through to high ground area 0737 where 131 Bde. will form a firm base. Guards Armd. Div. will push E. final objective of 7 Armd. Div. is BRETTEVILLE SUR LAIZE.
1500 hrs. C.O. holds "O" Gp. And issues orders to Coy & Spec. Pln. Comdrs.
Move from present area probably Monday 24 July further order to be issued later.
2230 hrs. Approx. e/a flew across Bn. area strafing – no casualties.
- 24th Jul. 0900 hrs. Brig. visits Bn. HQ with Bde. I.O.
1000 hrs. Maj. SANDYS recces route to new conc. area at IFS.
1800 hrs. C.O's "O" Gp. For operations 25 July.
Bn. to be reserve of Bde. in push to occupy the LA BRUYERE feature fwd. on the line ST MARTIN DE FONTENAY – ROCQUANCOURT. Bombing raid by 15 e/a on FAUBOURG DE VAUCELLES.
1 bomb approx. a mile from Bn. area otherwise. N.T.R.
- 25th July. 0600 hrs. Day fine & clear. Bn. moves to Bde. SP at 089652 and proceeds along Div. route "B" reaching the outskirts (N) of FAUBOURG DE VAUCELLES at 0900 hrs.
0700 hrs. Intercept message reports our tps. in VERRIERS.

1800 hrs. "O" Gp. Bn. to form firm base in IFS area as situation in VERRIERS is confused. Cdns. attacking MAY SUR ORNE and TILLY LA CAMPAGNE at 1830 hrs. Operation seems to be going slowly – this is no doubt because the enemy is stronger on the ground than was expected. Nevertheless a good thing as this is the chance to inflict heavy casualties on him instead of letting him withdraw to a more rearward defence line.

Arty. on both sides active all day, our own always far more so.

Fighter bombers and rocket firing Typhons very active.

2330 hrs. e/a over FAUBOURG DE VAUCELLES, heavy A.A.

- 26th July. 0530 hrs. Day breaks fine & clear.
0830 hrs. Maj. J.L. FREELAND arrives as Bn. 2i/c.
1000. hrs. C.O. to "O" Gp. At Bde.
1030 hrs. Maj. J.L. FREELAND & 2 O.R's wounded in shelling of Bn. area by 105mm guns.
1100 hrs. Bn. moves fwd. to area 053615 TROTEVAL FARM and establishes firm base.
1/5th Queen's to the right 1/6th Queen's further to right rear. "A" 2 Ech. Under 2i/c remains in present area.
Cdns. (Royal Hamilton L.I. & Royal Regt. of Canada) are established in VERRIERS 0560. 9 S.D. and G.H. are in HUBERT FOLIE 0662.
1500 hrs. I.O. visits HUBERT FOLIE to tie up patrols for the night.
2000 hrs. Enemy reported counter attacking VERRIERS and Bn. stands to but it is smashed before it develops.
2359 hrs. Patrols have to contact Cdns. In VERRIERS and HUBERT FOLIE and 1/5th Queen's. all rtn. Safely with N.T.R. Considerable shelling of Bn. area throughout day by conc. of 105mm guns.
- 27th July. 0300 hrs. Another suspected counterattack meets similar fate.
0330 hrs. Day breaks fine and clear. Morning passes uneventful except for shelling of area by 105mm guns.
1500 hrs. I.O. goes to HUBERT FOLIE to tie up patrols for night with Cdns.
1530 hrs. C.O. goes to Bde. The S. SASKATCHEWAN Regt. who are on the right of 1/6th Queen's are extending their F.D.L's to the left consequently 1/6th Queen's withdraw posns. Slightly to conform. No forecast for future ops. Bde. is to establish a really strong firm base.
1700 hrs. C.O. has "O" Gp. And gives details of patrols for the night. They are mainly contact patrols with Cdns.
Typhon A/C firing rockets active all day. Total of 11 enemy tks. knocked out by this means.
- 28th July. 0600 hrs. Day breaks fine although slightly overcast. Patrols from previous night have nothing to report. Contact has been made throughout night with Cdns. To the front and left.
1430 hrs. ST BLOCKLEY 621 Field Sqn. R.E. arrives to discuss creation of dummy minefields fwd. and left of TROTEVAL FARM.
1500 hrs. C.O. discusses composition of Assault Pioneer Pln. with Lt. HUGHES. Battle Patrol to be converted to Assault Pioneer Pln. Spasmodic shelling of Bn. area throughout day. Patrols leave during night to contact fwd. to VERRIERS and left to HUBERT FOLIE.
1700 hrs. C.O. to Bde. Preliminary orders for take over by Cdns. Of Bde. area.
1800 hrs. Maj. YOUNG 2i/c R.R.C. arrives to discuss take over.
2200 hrs. Offs. Of R.R.C. arrive to recce for take over.
- 29th July. Day breaks fine and clear. Patrols from previous night report all contact patrols successful.
1000 hrs. C.O. & I.O. go to Bde. 131 Bde. is being relieved by Cdns. 1/7th Queen's to be relieved by Royal Regt. of Canada.
Bde. to move to the back night of 29/30 July to conc. area in 30 Corps.
4 Cdn. Armd. Div. newly arrived is taking over from 7 Armd. Div.

1300 hrs. C.O's "O" Gp. Details for move considered.
 1600 hrs. IFS heavily shelled by 110mm guns.
 2230 hrs. Take over begins. Bn. begins moving back to assembly area.
 2245 hrs. Slight enemy activity around CAEN.

- 30th July. 0100 hrs. Bn. complete in assembly area 7775.
 0300 hrs. Bn. starts night move to new area 7773 route CAEN – BAYEUX rd. – LES FIETTES.
 0730 hrs. Bn. complete in conc. area. Troops rest.
 1700 hrs. C.O. & I.O. to Bde. 8 Corps are attacking on left with 30 Corps right.
 7 Armd. Div. intension to break through 43 Div. who established bridgehead and have MT. PINCON as ultimate objective.
 1900 hrs. C.O. has "O" Gp. Preliminary orders for move.
 1600 hrs. Maj. W.G. COCKCRAFT arrives to take over duties of Bn. 2i/c. Quiet night everyone sleeps well.
- 31st July. Day spent in cleaning up and preparation for move. Americans reported in AVRANCHES. 11 Armd. Div. progressing well on 8 Corps front. 43 Div. held up by large minefield S. of BRIQUESSARD but push a Bde. through CAUMONT into CAMPAGNES. Bn. at 1 hr. notice to move.
 2350 hrs. Bn. commences to move and last elements reach the conc. area at LIVRY X rds. at 0430 hrs.

Lt. Col. W.D. Cockcraft MC.
 Comdg.
 1/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regt.

Officer List 29th July 1944

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| A/Lt. Col. W. D. Griffiths, MC | Queen's |
| T/Maj. P. Bosanquet | Queen's |
| T/Maj. P.E. Barnsley | Hereford. |
| A/Maj. E.G. Sandys | Queen's |
| A/Maj. E. S. Corbett | Hamps. |
| T/Capt. D. L. Fennell | Queen's |
| T/Capt. A.R. LUGG | Hamps. |
| T/Capt. J.B.L. Ainsworth | S. Staffs. |
| T/Capt. B. G. Meara | S.W.B. |
| A/Capt. J. K. Wood | (U.D.F.) |
| A/Capt. A. Reed | Duke of W. |
| A/Capt. S.E. Brown | Hamps. |
| Lieut. E.G. Dever | Kings. |
| Lieut. A.J. Dunston | R. Warwicks. |
| Lieut. G.I.S. Burnett | Queen's |
| Lieut. R. A. Hughes | Devons. |
| Lieut. P.M. Jones | Queen's |
| Lieut. P. Greenall | Queen's |
| Lieut. D.R. Anderson | Queen's |
| Lieut. G.W. Roper | Ox & Bucks. |
| Lieut. E.C. Read | Queen's |
| Lieut. E.D.J. Martin | Queen's |
| Lieut. N.F. Burrell | Ox & Bucks. |
| Lieut. W. J. Lalonde | Cdn. Inf. (Wilts.) |
| Lieut. G.P. Rist | Cdn. Inf. (Wilts.) |
| Lieut. H.L. Mackenzie | Cdn. Inf. |

Lieut. J.E. Catley
Capt. C. H. J. Stammer, (QM)
Capt. J. Sheehan,

Cdn. Inf. (Wilts.)
Queen's
R.A.M.C.

Rev. J. Macintosh

R.A.Ch.D.