

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. WDF/2

- To
- Under Secretary of State (C.7), War Office.¹
 - Under Secretary of State (R. Records), War Office.²
 - Under Secretary of State (A.M.D.2), War Office.³
 - Officer i/c _____ Records.⁴
- Cross out addresses which do not apply. (See Footnotes.)*

I enclose War Diary (A.F. C.2118) as indicated on this page.⁵
Please return receipt below to address given.

(Signature) _____

W. Bean Ouplant

FOOTNOTES (SEE A.C.I. 533 of 1941).

- (1) For all original diaries (except Medical Diaries).
- (2) For duplicate diaries of Headquarters of Formations (but NOT H.Q. of Units).
- (3) For originals of Medical Diaries only.
- (4) For duplicate diaries of units.
- (5) On this page, fill in date of diary, name of unit and number of appendices.

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		Lt Townsend, Cree
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7		Attack postponed
8		H hr 0800 hrs.
		country. Two
		their CRAB when
		none encountered
10		Further attack
11		Attack on HOTPO
		were held in re
		by night.
		A trial of the p

*5973. Wt. 22661/1499. 300

Army Form C. 2118

SECRET

HS/WD/NWE/

SHS/I.G.

0/5

ORIGINAL
~~DUPLICATE~~
~~TRIPPLICATE~~

Strike out where
not applicable.

WAR DIARY

OF

WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS

From 1 JULY 44 To 31 JULY 44

Appendices TACTICAL "A" To "C"

**INVESTIGATION
DIRECTORATE
WAR OFFICE**

les

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Unit WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS

(Delete heading not required).

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. W. Y. K. Blair Oliphant MC

Month and Year JULY 44.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Juaye Monday	1		Major J.M. Sidey, Second in Command arrived from England. Lt. Bright and Lt. K. Crosthwaite arrived later from England.	
	5		One Cpl. RAMC att to each A, B & C Sns. Residues of the Regt due to arrive by 8 July and considerable difficulty was found in finding space for bivouac area. Lt. K. Crosthwaite was appointed Intelligence Officer.	
		1305	A Sqn reverted to comd 30 Corps.	
		1930	B Sqn placed under comd 50 (N) Div (30 Corps).	
	6	1600	A Sqn arrived at MONDAYE. B Sqn Ldr Capt STANFON received his orders from 50 (N) Div. These involved flailing one lane parallel with the road from some 500 yards north of GRANVILLE 7664 on the west of the road down to the X rds 7663. On the left a troop under Capt TAYLOR was to flail parallel with the track X rds 762656 to 778640. Each lane was to be flailed by two CRABS up with two in res, and one tp of 5 CRABS loaned from A Sqn in res in rear. The actual flailing tanks were commanded by Lt Potter on the right and Lt Townsend Green on the left. Flails followed the assaulting inf and were intended to clear a way for veh and guns to follow up and consolidate the objective, the high ground about BOIS ST GERMAIN 7764.	
	7		Attack postponed to 8 Jul.	
	8		H hr 0800 hrs. Attack was carried out according to plan, in very close country. Two ORs of Lt Potter's tp wounded while dismounted to tow their CRAB when bellied on a bank. About 30 S mines blown on right, but none encountered on left. Sqn harboured 2130 hrs 792688.	
	10		Further attack by 50 Div on HOTTOT 8265 postponed.	
	11		Attack on HOTTOT launched. No mines were definitely identified and B Sqn were held in res. Inf had strong opposition and did not reach objective by night.	
			A trial of the present Bar Link Flail Chains and the new Bob Weight Chains	

WAR DIARIES SECTION
No. _____
13 AUG 1944
G. H. Q. 2nd Echelon

WYD

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WAR DIARY

SHEET 2.

Army Form C. 2118

118

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Unit WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. W. Y. K. Blair Oliphant MC

Month and Year JULY 44.

(Delete heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			was held. It was found that both types would blow Teller mines up to 5" below the surface, but wastage of Bob Weight Chains was 50% less, and jamming of the rotor less likely. Speed of rotor improved by 100 to 200 r.p.m. and BELGIAN BOX MINES thought to be impervious to flails were blown up to 3" depth. Lt. Col. W. Y. K. Blair Oliphant MC returned FROM to HQ from HQ 8 Corps.	
	12		4 ORs wounded in Regt Area by shell fire. Attack on HOTTOT continued B Sqn called upon to hold a posn very close to enemy in close country. One tank fired upon a TIGER result not known. Two ORs were wounded by mortar bombs and one evacuated. C Sqn returned from 8 Corps area, arriving 1900 hrs. Regt reverted to Second Army control and Warning Order received to send a Sqn of 20 Flails to 15 Scottish Div of 12 Corps, to move evening 13 Jul. A Sqn warned and Lt Dick's tp with B Sqn relieved by Lt. Bright's tp from C Sqn.	
	13	0800	Line coms to 30 Corps established. B Sqn reverted to Regt control and returned to MONDAYE. A Sqn warning order for det to 15 Div cancelled.	
	14	0001 0620 0900	W Dgns less A Sqn placed under comd 8 Corps; A Sqn under 30 Corps. NO move. 20 residue vehicles arrived. All residue tanks arrived and remaining B veh at 2000 hrs.	
	15	1200 1700	A Sqn moved to join 33 Armd Bde of 59 Div at ST CROIX GRAND TONNE 8874. Commanding Officer received orders from Gds Armd Div Comd.	
	16	0040 0200	Regt Mov. Order issued for conc. Whole commitment of W Dgns less A Sqn to 8 Corps cancelled by HQ 30 Armd Bde. Lt. R. Sellman appointed IO in place of Lt. K. Crosthwaite. A Sqn at ST NICHOLAS PM 886672. At 1530 hrs 1 and 4 Tps flailed two lanes on either side of rd NE of QUEDEVILLE 888643 under mortar fire. Tpr Overton was later killed by a bomb.	

WMO

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WAR DIARY

SHEET 3.

Army Form C. 2118

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Delete heading not required).

Unit WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. W.Y.K. Blair Oliphant

Month and Year JULY 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	17		<i>p.c.</i> Major S.P. SUTTON rejoined from hospital in England. Gen MONTGOMERY decorated Capts Bell and Taylor with the Military Cross. Major Sutton's award of the Military Cross was also approved and the Military Medal for Sjt Lindsay of B Sqn, still in hospital. A trial with live mines was held which conclusively proved new BOB WEIGHT chains superior to WELING BAR LINK all along the rotor. During night 16/17 A Sqn in harbour at ST. NICHOLAS EM was mortared and Capt BEAUMONT and two ORs Tprs Beard and Cannon were wounded. 1 and 4 tps which had harboured at 893647 rejoined the Sqn. No. 2 Tp placed under cmd 1 NY for the day but did not see action and reverted at 2200 hrs. Warning Order to prepare Roller Tanks for disposal. Provisional WE allowing only 3 Flail Troops per Sqn and no Roller tanks at all received. Roller Tanks had never been tried in action although 12 tanks and 24 3 ton lorries of rollers had been brought overseas.	
	19		A Sqn returned to Regt Area. The first CONTOURING CRAB trial.	
	21	0100	Orders from 30 Corps for 3 CRABS to flail minefield behind FDLs for 50 Div. Lt. Moore of B Sqn moved out 0900 hrs and returned without flailing. Sgns began reorg to new WE on basis of three Flail tps each of five CRABS per Sqn, but fourth tp remained in being for the moment.	
	23	1800	A Sqn reverted to Regt control from 30 Corps.	
	24		All Sgns at indefinite notice until 0900 hrs 27 Jul when C Sqn will be at 24 hrs. Further CONTOURING CRAB trials.	
	26		Roller tanks (Less Rollers) transferred to 270 Fwd Del Sqn.	
	27		C Sqn at 6 hrs notice. New WE received in approved form.	
	28		Planning conference for proposed ops under 30 Corps attended by Lt. Col. W.Y.K. Blair Oliphant. Reorganization to new WE completed but surplus personnel remained with unit.	
			Lt. LEATHER A Sqn att to HQ 30 Armd Bde as asst Bde HQ.	

W30

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WAR DIARY

SHEET 4.

Army Form C. 2118

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Unit WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS

Month and Year JULY 44.

(Delete heading not required).

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. W.Y.K. Blair Oliphant MC

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	29		Flail demonstration by A Sqn for Brig Gds Tk Bde cancelled by Ops. Regt placed under command of 30 Corps for ops due to begin 30 July and W Dens less twp Sqs under 7 Armd Div. B Sqn under comd 8 Armd Bde (43 Div) C Sqn under 50 Div with Major Sidey as adviser to Div HQ.	
		0915	B Sqn tanks moved under comd 8 Armd Bde (under 43 Div) by half Sqn to 730641 (Capt Cooper and Lt Potter) and 773631 (Capt Stanyon and Capt Taylor). C Sqn tanks - twp tps each of 6 Grabs, one under comd 56 Bde and one under 231 Bde of 50 (N) Div moved to 760656 and 768657 respectively. Major Sutton attached to HQ 56 Inf Bde and Major Sidey as adviser to 231 Bde. RHQ and A Sqn under comd 7 Armd Div remained present location. New system of supply whereby each Sqn is self contained was tried for first time. One DR of 30 Armd Bde RASC was att to each Sqn A2 echelon to bring up Sqn RASC det to refill A2.	
	30	1200	RHQ and A Sqn at 30 mins notice. CO went for orders to HQ 7 Armd Div. Accounts by Sqs will be appended when available.	
	31	2145	RHQ and A Sqs moved out.	

L1130

WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS MOV ORDER NO 1

SECRET

As per Dist.

Copy No. 4.....

INTENTION

W Dns less A Sqn will move to area Gds Arm'd Div, where B Sqn will come under comd 2 Arm'd Gren Gds, and C Sqn under comd 1 Arm'd Coldm Gds.

METHOD

(1) Sqn harbour parties inclea of one officer in jeep or scout car, and three guides will reconnoitre harbours as follows:-
Capt GR Cooper will comd both Sqn parties, and Lt Crosthwaite with veh for RHQ, and RQMB in veh detailed by RHQ Capt for A2 Ech.

- B Sqn - 7F/1823801 - 2 Arm'd Gren Gds (Lt-Col Moore)
- C Sqn - 7F/1836793 - 1 Arm'd Coldm Gds (Lt-Col Middleton)

RHQ Sqn - At HQ Gds Arm'd Bde
Harbour Parties will leave RHQ at 0700hrs and will move together by road. Dis P 8A5766, where they will be met at 1100hrs and guided to harbour. One man will remain at Dis P to guide in A1 Ech to tanks.

(2) Move Ready to move 1000hrs, tanks and vehicles on tank track, A2 on road, hd facing east.
Order of march - RHQ, B, C, both tanks and echelon.
All A1 will follow A2 to Dis P where guides will lead them off.
Speed - 12 mph for tanks, 25 mph for veh.
Density - 30 vtm for all vehs.
Route - Lt MA Sutton will guide tks along tk track to Dis P Ech
Route, by road as ordered by RHQ Capt.

ADM

Details will be issued by QM in harbour.
SQMBs will bring 3-ton ration lorry.
One RHQ 3-ton will constitute "echelon" for RHQ comd by suitable NCO detailed by Maj Buckingham.

INTERCOMNET

0900 hrs. Comms for mov as for ops.
Codes and link signs will be issued by RSO in harbour.
Maps - further scale if required will be drawn from user fmm.

ACK

[Signature]
Captain,
Adjutant Westminster Dragoons,
Royal Armoured Corps.

Date - 16 Jul 44.

Time of Issue - 0040hrs.
Method of Issue - DRIS.

- Dist
- OC B Sqn
- OC C Sqn
- RHQ Capt
- RTA
- RSO
- MO

Copy No	Dist
1	War Diary
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