

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

ORIGINAL

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Unit WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS

Army Form C 2118
JRM

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. WYK BLAIR-OLIPHANT M.C.

Month and Year JUNE 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ENGLAND	1 JUN		marshalling into craft loads began. Weather which was hitherto very hot with no wind appeared to be breaking.	
	2		marshalling continued. Weather hot but some wind. Considerable quantities of stores and equipment were still arriving causing considerable difficulties in the dispersed state of the Regt.	
	3		Embarkation began. Weather fine with strong wind. Many of the baggage balloons carried by landing craft were carried away.	Appx E
	4	0730	D day announced as 5 Jun, but sailing postponed immediately by rough weather.	
	5		Craft moved off. Hyoscine Bromide anti sea-sickness tablets were issued with varying results. 10 or 15% were extremely sick.	
	6		D day. H hr was 0415 B, and at this time craft carrying 13 CRABS of B Sqn under command 231 Inf Bde and 13 CRABS of C Sqn under command 69 Inf Bde were due to touch down.	

WAR DIARIES SECTION
No. 12 JUL 1944
G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon

WAD

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Unit WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS

Army Form C 2118
74

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. WYK BLAIR-OLIPHANT M.C.

Month and Year JUNE 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices																		
FIELD	6		Accounts of D day action are appended, by sqn. Lt. Col. WYK Blair Oliphant landed at H+60 m (Sqn ARV as his rank was not due until H+15 hrs. By night B Sqn ARV, C Sqn MIA and 4 amm and pet horses were ashore.	Appx A																		
	7	1500	Lt M. J. Eely with CO's rank, 20MS Evans, and two horses due in at 01.00 hrs landed and joined C.O. and B Sqn at BRÉCY-3975.	Appx A																		
BRÉCY	8	0900	C Sqn arrived in harbour area. CRAB stats was thus as follows:-																			
			<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>B.</td> <td>C.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fit</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Repairable within 24 hrs</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Repairable when spares arrived</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beyond repair</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </table>		B.	C.	Fit	3	6	Repairable within 24 hrs	3	-	Repairable when spares arrived	2	5	Beyond repair	5	2	Total	13	13	
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Total	13	13																				
		1300	Harbour area was not mopped up and two PW taken.																			
		1500	One Gp Lt Col DAC (CHURCHILL Crocodiles) arrived for a task which did not materialize.																			
		1800	Regt refilled with POL, amm and sups from 50 Dis points. All transport was continually run regiminally under 20MS																			

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75
Army Form C 2118
Unit WESTMINSTER DGNS
Commanding Officer Lt Col WYKBLAIR-CLIPHANT MC

Month and Year JUNE 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BRECY	9	1730	UMA SUTTON (L.O.) in a Jeep. Lt RF GOULD (Sigs Otr) in a tank Capt D S SQUIRRELL, RTA in place of Capt EASTWOOD, in a Scout Car Dw RHYMES and three lorries incl. tech stores arrived in harbour having landed one day late.	
		1800	One CRAB of CSAN blown up while assisting recovery of a 14/7 DG tank from a minefield. Cause was a very deep but TELLER which did not explode until run over at least twice. Major S.P.M. Sutton who had been wounded in the thigh 7 Jun forced to leave for hospital. FDS	
	10	0900	All de water proofing now complete. About 50% of all flail cham's under replacement, and 100% for one CRAB which had dealt with 40 mines without mishap. CS Returns C 14 and 1 Bq. X Nil and one Y Nil and 3 Z Nil and 2	WAD.
		1200	Regt at one hrs notice to move. First Regt Orders in France issued.	App B

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Army Form C 2118
Unit WESTMINSTER DGNS
Commanding Officer Lt Col WYKBLAIR-CLIPHANT MC

Month and Year JUNE 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BRECY	10	1930	Dglt dinner in officers mess.	
	11	1000	Rw Rhymes held CofE Services in a barn. Weather since D day had been fine and no rain. There had been no enemy bombing or shelling whatever near regt area. Tp 141 RAC left Comd.	
		1300	Major Gen PCS HOBART commanding 79 Arm Div arrived on visit	
		1400	C.O. called to HQSO Div to orders. Whilst warning order received to move to hold high ground Pt 112/7871 with under comd two (to 6 pdr ATk, 233 Pd Coy RE as inf, and one pl MMG the whole force under 231 Inf Bde	
		1530	C.O. left in car on recce, with Capt Stampson as Commander of all tanks. P echelon moved to wood 798.2 near JUAYE. MONDAYE under Capt Taylor, arriving 1900 hrs. Bochs and tank CRABS remained at BRECY with RTA and RAMS	WAD.

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Unit WESTMINSTER BCKS Army Form C 2118
Commanding Officer Lt Col WYK BLAIR OLIPHANT MC

Month and Year JUNE 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
JUAZE- MONDAYE	11	1900	RHQ with two Shermans and 17 CRABS arrived	
		2130	All Crabs moved on urgent orders to LA BELLE ÉPINE 766g where 2 DEVONS had been overrun. The tanks under Capt Stammers shot the inf into the village with no casualties, and killed two enemy. The action finished in the dark, and tanks returned to harbour. Defence of point 112 was now laid out with two units comm and co held tanks as mob res	App C
	12	0630	Stand to. Pet and amm boxes brought up by Lt Sutton as wireless comm has been impossible at more than five miles. Two vehicles filled with water from petrol cans. Responsibility was not discovered.	WBO
		1200	Lts Hoban and Pear left with six CRABS to sp 231. Bde adv from LA FROIDE RUE 7672 to LA SENAUDIÈRE 786g	

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Unit WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS Army Form C 2118
Commanding Officer Lt Col WYK BLAIR OLIPHANT MC

Month and Year JUNE 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices	
JUAZE- MONDAYE	12	1400	Tanks RV with inf in very close country impossible for AFVs to op with success, and they were expected to adv without proper inf sp. SA and by mortar fire were met, and an 88mm gun knocked out three tanks of which one commanded by Gd McCall C Sqn brewed up. Cpl McCall escaped wounded, but the rest of his crew were missing (believed killed). Lt Pear was hit by mortar splinters in the back of the head, but made his way nearly 2000 yards before collapsing, to bring help to Tpr BRAMBY, his driver, who was severely injured and later died. Lt Pear was recommended for mention in Despatches for this action.	App D	
		15	1900	Capt Stammers and Taylor in two CRABS recovered two mch cas. under mortar fire, and retg ^{laquered} hand with six CRABS remaining fit.	WBO
		13	0430	Stand to, and move to open harbour 0530 hrs	
		1100	Retg reunited to 30 Corps Control and echelon moved to DOUET 8272		

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Unit WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS
Commanding Officer Lt Col WYKBLAIR-OLIPHANT MC

Month and Year JUNE 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices																				
JUNE- MONDAYE	14	0900	Lt Townsend-Crean, B Sqn, left harbour with three CRABS to flail mines in back areas under C.F. 30 Corps. Two tanks were eventually put out of action by losing chains and missing occasional mines.																					
		1500	Inf took BERNIERES CHATEAU 2000 yards south and Lt Hobans tank knocked out 12 Jun. In action under 231 Bde was recovered with only track and one bogie shot away. Later Lt PEAR'S and Col. McCall's tanks, knocked out in the same action were reached both burnt out. Rev Rhymes buried the remains of some of Col McCall's crew, which could not be identified.	WBO																				
	15	1600	A Sqn under Major B.A. Wallace arrived with Capt CB Beaumont and Drs BULLOCK INGRAM, HALL and DICK and 17 fit CRABS. A Sqn's original assault party, included 12 CRABS, and a further 10 for T.D Regt. These were now returned to the Regt as reinforcements and tank status was now:																					
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fit</td> <td>17</td> <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24 hrs</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over 24 hrs</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		A	B	C	Total	Fit	17	4	3	24	24 hrs	2	1	2	5	Over 24 hrs	2	3	1	6	
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Commanding Officer Lt Col WYKBLAIR-OLIPHANT MC

Month and Year JUNE 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices																												
JUNE- MONDAYE	16	1800	Regt Det of 30 Armd Bde OEP consisting of Capt WHITTAKER and 14 ORs with eight lorries arrived for permanent attachment.																													
	17	0900	Lt D.F. INGRAM, C Sqn left with three CRABS to flail mines in back areas for C.F. 30 Corps. Field miniature range was established and officers mess opened. 75 ORs daily went on recreational transport to BAYEUX. Baths were a most urgent necessity, but could not be obtained anywhere.																													
Recommendation			Honours and Awards are summarized as follows:																													
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Army Form C 118

Commanding Officer Lt Col WYK BLAIR-OLIPHANT M.C.

Month and Year JUNE 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices																																																												
JUAYE-MONDAYE	18		<p>Rw Rhymus held services at 0600 and 1000 hrs in the cloister of the abbey at MONDAYE. Weather continues hot and fine. Casualties since D day are summarized as follows.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>A</th> <th>B</th> <th>C</th> <th>RHQ</th> <th>Casualty</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6 June</td> <td>Loueday Woodhouse Kelly</td> <td>Lt Sgt Butcher Sgt Ludoay Tpr Cooper Tpr Carey</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Wounded</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Tpr Field Tpr Shaw</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Missing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 June</td> <td></td> <td>Tpr Birch</td> <td>Tpr Birch Major Sutton Cpl A decock Cpl Gillespie Lt Cpl Lammont Tpr Kirk</td> <td></td> <td>Killed Wounded</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 June</td> <td>Allen</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Account</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 June</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Tpr Bromby</td> <td></td> <td>Killed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 June</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Lt Pear Tpr Peters</td> <td></td> <td>Wounded</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 June</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Cpl McCall</td> <td></td> <td>Wounded</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Whitehouse Kinnington Biddlecombe Munn</td> <td></td> <td>Missing</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td>4 6 2 and 12 NIL</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	A	B	C	RHQ	Casualty	6 June	Loueday Woodhouse Kelly	Lt Sgt Butcher Sgt Ludoay Tpr Cooper Tpr Carey			Wounded			Tpr Field Tpr Shaw			Missing	7 June		Tpr Birch	Tpr Birch Major Sutton Cpl A decock Cpl Gillespie Lt Cpl Lammont Tpr Kirk		Killed Wounded	11 June	Allen				Account	12 June			Tpr Bromby		Killed	12 June			Lt Pear Tpr Peters		Wounded	12 June			Cpl McCall		Wounded				Whitehouse Kinnington Biddlecombe Munn		Missing				Total		4 6 2 and 12 NIL	
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WAR DIARY

Unit WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS
Commanding Officer Lt Col WYK BLAIR-OLIPHANT M.C.

MONTH AND YEAR JUNE 44

PLACE	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY OF EVENTS	Ref. Appx.
JUAYE-MONDAYE	18	1200	Lt INGRAM'S Co returned without mishap.	
		1500	Brian DUNCAN visited the Regt.	
	19		Wooler trig and field miniature range gunnery begins. Heavy rain starts at dawn.	
		1400	US pick and three CRABS of A Sqn det to Lt Col to clear mine in rear area.	
	20		Capt G.C. BOGLE stated by Dear HQ to have been posted as HQ 30 Armd Bde as C2. Lt M. J. EEDY appointed Adjutant in his place and promotion applied for.	
		1700	The first bath parade was held for half the Regiment in BAYBUX. W.O. from 30 Corps arrived with orders for one sqn to det. to Lt Col. Coans Major RA Wallau commanding A Sqn which was selected, left for HQ HQ Bde 1715 hrs.	
	21	1030	C.O. ordered to HQ 30 Corps.	
		1130	Two lorries of Wdqs det 30 Armd Bde RA SC arrived and became "echelon" to A Sqn which still remains at MONDAYE harbour.	
		1800	Sqn ldr tanks of Band C Sqn, due D+10, arrived. A Sqn less two tpr placed under command of Lt Dew in st 110th Bde for attack on wood 8666 near TESSLE-BRETTEVILLE. Wood was suspected of being protected by mine. Attack was due to begin 0330 hrs 23 June	
	22	0900	C Sqn, now 11 CRABS and one SHERMAN placed under comd 3 Corps and sub allotted	

W90.

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Unit WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS

Army Form C 2118

Month and Year JUNE 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col WYK BLAIR-OLIPHANT

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
JUVE-MONDAYE	22		to 9 RTB, 31 TK BDE, 15 DW	
		0900	A Sqn moved to CHOUAIN B372 for Conc and C Sqn moved to FRESNAY LE CROTEUR B978. Both A and C Sqs were in res in case mins were encountered in the leg attack planned for 22 Jun.	
	23		Attack postponed to 25 Jun. Rctp A Sqn - Lt Ingram - also allotted to 49 Div. A Sqn under Major Wallace with two Tps - Lt Ingram and Bullock now under 49 Div ^{direct} with Capt Beaumont and one Tpl - Lt Hall in sp 1st Bde. C Sqn received no definite orders but were also in sp in case mins were met. Lt Dick with Lt L of C now had two out of three tanks out of action as flails having failed to deal successfully with wooden box AT mines. In one place seven were flailed and five did not explode, but in all cases flails showed pattern of field and enabled RE to lift the remainder by hand without difficulty.	
		2000	Lt Col WYK Blair-Oliphant ordered to HQ 3 Corps as advisor on Flails and AVRS for the attack. No orders had still been received for B Sqn	

W.P.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Ref. to Appendices																								
JUVE-MONDAYE	24		Lt Dick returned from Lt L of C with two tanks out of three minus flails. He dealt with 137 out of 140 "S" mins but found 75% of Holzmine in 3 to 5 inches of soil under bog grass were not blown. These mins in several cases were not exploded even by a tank running over them once.																									
		1800	30 Corps ordered B Sqn to remain in res. Lt Ingram joined A Sqn under 49 Div with his troop. Major Wallace and Capt Beaumont were now in 49 Div res. with two Tps under Lt Ingram and Lt Bullock, in all 12 CRABS, and Lt Dick was held in right res. Distribution of tanks ^(CRABS) at 2300 hrs. all being fit, was as follows:-																									
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			Two RHO Shermans and one Sherman each B+C also remained in Right Area. Capt D. S. Squirrell, RTA, in repairing Lt Dick's flails, had now used the last spares available from knocked out tanks. Only four tanks of the Right had been in REME hands in France and Right fitters had continually done the work of 2 and 3rd line workshops with the most excellent results.																									
			The official "Bob Weight" chains had never yet been seen, and less than two of res. of 200% bar link were now held. Some round links of which OFF det had eight sets were fitted.																									
JUVE-MONDAYE	25	0800	Res Rhymead held Serovia in cloisters of MONDAYE abbey, after a night very disturbed by heavy arty sited around harbour. Weather still fine and hot. The attack ^{had} now started started first light 25 June.																									

W.P.O.

WAR DIARY

WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS 13

Commanding Officer - Lt Col WY Kingston

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	
MONDAY	26		<p>C Sqn moved to NORREY-EN-BESSIN 0270. still in res. A Sqn remains in res at Le Port Rec incl Lt Hall's Tro now also under Lt DW Control. "A" Section 30 Arm'd Bde Workshop REME arrived at Monday under Capt Friend for permanent attachment. This section was originally intended for 24 eqns. It consists of 26 vehs and 63 all ranks incl one ARV, two transporters, 1000 lbs and eight stereo bombs.</p>	
	27		<p>Heavy rain fell before dawn. C Sqn broke two wheel bolts during move.</p>	
	28		<p>A Sqn units could S Land Bde but location unchanged.</p>	
	29		<p>Situation unchanged</p>	
	30		<p>Supply by 30 Arm'd Bde DASC to Regt location was begun in place of drawing from 30 Corps Tro Points by Unit Transport.</p>	<p>W.D.</p>

APPENDIX "A".

1. At approx 0725 hrs 6 Jun 44 the six LCT Mk III containing 13 Crabs of C Sqn Westminster Dragoons touched down at their appointed places on the beach west of La Riviere.
 2. The three right hand craft contained "X Breaching Sqn" consisting of 7 Crabs and 10 AVRE's, commanded by Major S.P.L. Sutton. The 7 Crabs consisted of HQ Crab, 5 3 Tp Crabs and 1 4 Tp Crab attached to 3 Tp.
- "X Breaching Sqn consisted of 3 teams. Each team will be considered separately as follows:-

No.1 Team.

Task. - To breach the minefield up to the lateral road, turn left on the lateral road and remain in reserve. While in reserve to give fire support and on orders from Sqn Comd to make a lane from the O.P. House to the Quarry.

Actual Course of Events.

Came off the craft into 4' 6" of water and did a wade of about 100 yds. Both tanks got through the beach obstacles but the rear tank stuck in the clay bog on the beach. The remaining tank which was commanded by Lt. Pear proceeded up the beach, flailed a lane up to the lateral road, and turned left as planned.

On hearing that No.3 Lane had failed the Sqn Comd ordered Lt. Pear to proceed up to the X rds, turn right and go up the hill to the O.P. house. Lt. Pear found first that the small bridge over the stream had not been blown and an even greater surprise was that the road over the A tk ditch was also not blown. He proceeded about another 25 yards up the road and found a crater on the road opposite the O.P. house about 25 ft wide probably caused by one of our own shells. The Sqn Comd ordered the bridge which had been brought up for putting across the A tk ditch to be dropped across this crater, this was done very quickly and accurately by Capt KENNY Davis RR. Lt. Pear then crossed the bridge and continued with his final task as stated above. He completed this task by himself, the lane later being widened by the Sqn Comd. This final lane from the O.P. house to the Quarry was for the D.D. tanks to get out to the open country. The information was passed over the wireless to the D.D. Sqn Ldr personally and the D.D. Sqn arrived on the heels of the flails just as the lane was completed.

No.2 Team.

Task.

To breach the minefield up to the lateral road, turn left advance up the KENNY lateral road passed the X rds, turn right into the so called Marsh where the ground looked suitable and make a lane to the outskirts of Ver-sur-Mere.

Course of Events.

After a wade of 5 ft for 150 yds both flails successfully crossed the beach and made a lane up to the lateral road. They turned left, passed the X rds and the leading Crab commanded by Cpl Walker turned right off the road as planned. He felt himself sinking into a bog and at once reversed back on to the road. He then proceeded further along the road looking for less marshy ground. He found the road barred by deep craters from our own bombs, both Crabs made a sporting effort to get ~~pass~~ past them but the leading tank got bogged in the crater and the second one in the marshy ground to the left of the road.

No.3 Team.

Task - Breach the beach minefield at as near the X rds and open up the road as far as the O.P. House.

Course of Events.

Came off craft into 4' 6" of water and did a wade of 100 yards. Both flails crossed the beach successfully but were both hit in the rotor by the 88 mm at La Riviere as they were about to enter the beach minefield. The bridge which was in this team was directed by the Sqn Comd through No.2 Teams lane through the beach minefield and so to the crater as already explained.

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The three left hand craft contained "Z" Breaching Sqn", consisting of 6 Crabs and 10 AVREs, commanded by Major Thompson RE. The 6 Crabs consisted of 1 HQ and 5 1 Tp. "Z" Breaching Sqn consisted of 3 teams each team being considered separately as follows:-

No.4 Team.
Task - To breach the beach minefield up to the lateral road, proceed straight across and take up position behind hedgerow 50 yds beyond the road and remain there in reserve.

Course of Events.
Came off the craft into 4' 6" of water and waded for 100 yards. Both tanks got through the beach obstacles and started to flail up to the lateral road; however both tanks got bogged before reaching the road.

No.5 Team.
Task. - To breach the beach minefield up to the lateral road, to the North - South minefield, turn left handed 50 yards across the road and breach the N/S minefield. To turn right at the end of the minefield and make a lane up to the lighthouse position.

Course of Events.
Came off craft into 4' 6" of water and waded for 100 yards. Both tanks got through the beach obstacles and started to flail up to the road but both tanks got bogged before reaching the. From there they gave cover to No.6 Team and also supported the infantry attack on La Riviere by HE and smoke.

No.6 Team.

Task - To breach the beach minefield up to the lateral road left of the N/S minefield, turn right handed immediately after crossing the road, breach the N/S minefield and take up a position behind the hedgerow. From there on orders from the Sqn Comd to make a lane up to the road just to the right of the lighthouse position.

Course of Events.
Owing to a wire in the starter solenoid burning out on Capt Bell's tank whilst on the craft it was necessary for him to be towed to start by the Bobbin, thus changing the order of the tanks leaving the craft. This led to Capt Bell's tank touching the rails, of the assault boats without him knowing it, as a result all remaining vehicles were delayed coming off the LCT.

Capt Bell saw an AVRE hit by what he assumed to be the 88 mm on the end of the La Riviere sea wall, he advanced to a position from where he could engage the gun and silenced it.

He then proceeded to make a lane through the minefield and became bogged just as he reached the road. Col Thorpe followed up, made a lane beside his tank, crossed the road but had his track blown by a mine immediately across the road.

The lane was made usable by towing Capt Bell's tank onto the road with the fascine AVRE and dropping the fascine into the boggy patch just before the road where it was used by the Fd Coy RE to cover up the boggy patches.

As the ground beyond the lateral road was sheer bog, Capt Bell was ordered to proceed up the road to Ver/sur-Mere and ensure it was open.

4. GENERAL REMARKS.

(a) The area which contained the 88 mm gun on the end of the sea wall at La Riviere was dealt with in the fire plan by 6 Sqns of Fortresses (88 mm was aiming pt), 4 Destroyers, 86 Fd Regt, 2 LCT (R) and sundry smaller supporting craft.

How much of this fire support actually took place is not known, in any case the primary target the 88 mm gun was active when we touched down on the beach. It was silenced by a tank of C Sqn namely that commanded by Capt Bell.

(b) Information regarding minefields was inaccurate, there were far more minefields than we had been told about, they were, however, well marked by signs.

(c) Information about the marsh was even more inaccurate; the only ways off the beach on the front in which we were put down, were along the roads.

June 6th 1944.

1. At 0730 hrs on the morning of the 6th June 1944 five out of six LCT IVs carrying breaching teams comprising AVREs, Flaiks and Bulldozers touched down on German occupied France East of LE HAMEL.

The sixth LCT IV was unable to discharge its lane team owing to heavy seas and enemy shellfire putting the craft out of commission.

2. Craft touched down at approx half tide in heavy seas.
3. Beach obstacles comprised:-
Element 'C') With Teller mines
Tetrahedra) and shell heads
Ramp type Obstacles) attached.
Hedgehogs.

Minefields and wire were encountered on the mainland. In no cases, with the exception of the bad clay were beach obstacles troublesome and it was possible for all troops to by-pass the artificial obstacles.

4. The beach was fairly flat leading up to small sand dunes 3 to 6' high. Clay patches were present on the beach in varying depth and were another obstacle to tanks.

5. The craft did not touch down exactly at the places as planned. This was due to a slight sea mist rising when the LCT's were some 1000 - 2000 yards out from the shore making recognition of landmarks difficult. As a result all lane teams were landed to the EAST of the selected points by some 400 yds and the position of the teams detailed for lanes 2 and 3 were reversed.

6. Lane 1 Team did not land as LCT IV was hit before it could touch down. Tank Comd - E/Sjt Byrne and Col Middleton.

7. Lane 2 was unfortunately set down in Lane 3. Leading AVRE rolled out its matting and the Bobbin AVRE was not required to cover the bad ground.

The leading flail (Lt. Townsend-Green) began flailing at H.W.M., flailed some 20 yds inland and was bogged in the very marshy ground. The second flail (Cpl Barton) was not committed to the lane owing to the bad going and the troop leader (Lt. Townsend-Green) from the bogged tank took over command of this vehicle. As orders had been given that the ramp exit at the EASTERN end of LE HAMEL was vital this tank then proceeded across the beach towards this exit but unfortunately was bogged in the clay. This tank was subsequently hit three times by an 80 mm Fd gun sited at the EASTERN end of LE HAMEL to flail the beach.

The fascine AVRE on this lane reached H.W.M. and as it jettisoned its fascine a burst of MG fire killed the driver. The tank being gear slowly climbed the fascine and turned over on its side.

8. Lane 3. The team of this lane touched down roughly in its correct position and was thus on the wrong side of Lane 2. The Holey Poly laid its matting. The Bobbin AVRE was not required as the condition of the beach was good. The leading flail (Sjt Lindsay) began flailing at H.W.M. and flailed a path through the minefield on the mainland. On reaching the lateral road into LE HAMEL the flail turned right to carry out the task ordered in the support of the 1 HANTS. Unfortunately the attack on LE HAMEL did not go according to plan and this flail was destroyed in the town by A tk gun fire. Details cannot be ascertained as crew were wounded and returned to UK.

The second (Capt B. Taylor) flail cheloned right of the leading flail passed almost through the minefield and was blown up by what was thought to be two mines connected on the same fuse.

Number of mines destroyed on this lane were eight. The fascine AVRE was not required in the breaching of this lane. Although the second flail was blown up in the lane it was possible for track vehicles to use it. It was subsequently used as a heavy track exit.

9. Lane 4. The team on this lane was put down some 400 - 500 yards EAST of its prearranged objective. The leading AVRE rolled out its matting and was followed by the Bobbin AVRE. Unfortunately the Bobbin AVRE was able to cross the bad ground without laying its matting and the AVRE tank comd did not therefore lay the matting.

The first flail followed immediately behind the Bobbin was able to get across the clay but the second flail became bogged. The leading flail (Cpl Adams) having crossed the bad ground tried to find his objective but was unable to discover the correct place. He eventually made a gap through the minefield but became bogged in the marshy ground on the mainland.

The fascine AVREs were not required to lay their fascines on the initial breaching.
 10. Lane 5. The Roly Poly AVRE laid its matting on leaving the LCT. It was then followed by the Bobbin AVRE which was not required to lay its matting as the clay patches were small and easily distinguishable.

The two flails (L/Sjt Poole and Cpl Roberts G.) then started flailing at H.W.M. and flailed a path through the minefield on to the lateral road and went towards the X rds at LES ROQUETTES. Some 200 yds from the cross roads a shell fell on to the road making a crater which proved to be a tank obstacle. The leading flail then called up the fascine AVRE which had followed the flail off the LCT and the fascine was used for filling the crater. The flails then continued up to the X rds turned left and flailed a 16 ft gap in the infantry through the minefield on the SOUTHERN side of the road in order that the infantry could get through their carriers and wheels. Subsequently a gap was also made in a minefield further inland for the Sp Arty and the AA gunners.

The final flail off this LCT carrying the Breach Comd (Capt. H.P. Stanyon) was struck on the petrol tank by a heavy mortar or gun shell which pierced the petrol tank. The tank immediately went up in flames. The lane to the lateral road was completed at approx H plus 15.

11. Lane 6. The Roly Poly AVRE laid its matting and was followed by the Bobbin which laid its matting over a bad patch of clay. The two flails then crossed the matting and started flailing at H.W.M.

The two flails (Sjt Marsh and Cpl Roberts A) were successful in breaching the minefield up to the lateral road and the lane was open at approx H plus 22. The fascine AVRE was used to place its fascine in the crater mentioned in para 10 to make a more effective bridge. The leading flail having breached the minefield was then ordered to rally and come to 231 Inf Bde res.

The second flail was used to develop the single tank gap mentioned in para 9 above but unfortunately was bogged in the marshy ground through the lane which had been made.

12. Subsequently the Sqn reverted to Comd of 31 Inf Bde and came under control of Regt HQ. The Sqn harboured for the night D/D plus 1 on the outskirts of MEUVAINNE.

13. On D plus 1 work went on preparing the tanks for further action and recovering the bogged tanks. AT 1200 hrs on this day the Regt was ordered to a fwd rally at BRECY where it remained for the night D plus 1/D plus 2.

14. Throughout the whole of the action on D day casualties were as follows:-

Vehicles.

- (a) By enemy action 3
- (b) Stuck in mud and subsequently inundated by the Sea owing to failure of Beach Rec. 2

Personnel.

Killed.

- Officers - NIL.
- ORs - NIL.

Wounded.

- Officers - NIL.
- ORs - Sjt Lindsay.
 E/Sjt Butcher
 Tpr Cooper
 Tpr Shaw.

Missing believed wounded.

- Tpr Field.
- Tpr Gray.

C SQN WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS.

D day continued.

On completion of the initial assault operation the Sqn rallied in an orchard on the Southern outskirts of VER SUR MER. Five Crabs had reached the rally by 1400 hrs when the Sqn was ordered forward to VILLERS le SEC..

Before reaching there the four Crabs commanded by Major Sutton with the comds Lt.Hoban, Lt.Pear, Cpl McCall were ordered SOUTH of CREULLY. On passing through CREULLY information came over the air that 30 - 40 German tanks were moving NE from RUCQUEVILLE 3 miles away.

The four Crabs took up position on the high ground on the Southern outskirts of CREULLY where they were joined 1 hr later by 7 more Crabs of the Sqn which had been recovered from the beaches. However, the enemy tanks did not come within range and the battle passed a mile to the SOUTH.

At midnight the Sqn moved back just South of CREPON where it leagured for the night.

D plus 1.

At 0545 hrs the Sqn moved alongside a hedge on the immediate South outskirts of CREPON. At approx 0610 hrs a shell exploded in the trees above the Sqn followed by SAA fire. A second shell fell shortly after by the Sqn Ldr's tank killing Tpr Birch and wounding Cpl Adcock. A third fell wounding the Sqn Ldr, Cpl Gillespie and I/Cpl Lennon. The Sqn Ldr spotted the gun a 10 cm Fd gun about 150 yards away, and jumped on to Lt.Hoban's tank which put the gun out of action with one shot, killing one member of the crew and wounding the rest. Cpl Baldwin carried out First Aid most efficiently and coolly under fire.

The Sqn then moved back 400 yards taking the wounded to 86 Fd Regt RAP. As a pill box had been seen left of the gun position a composite force was formed consisting of 1 Tp C Sqn 2 Crocodiles 141 RAC and 10 men from 86 Fd Regt as infantry to mop

1 Tp commanded by Lt.Hoban covered the Crocodiles which moved within 30 yards of the pill box before squirting. There proved to be no one in the pill box but the 86 Fd Regt party on reaching it saw Germans in dug outs 50 yards to the rear covered by wire and mines. These were engaged by 1 Tp with Browning and HE, whereupon 100 Germans surrendered with one 88 mm and 4 75 mm guns intact except for one of which the breach block was missing. This was destroyed by 75 mm HE.

During this action 4 Germans surrendered to a Crab crossing the oatfield to which the rest of the Sqn had moved.

At 1200 hrs, 3 Tp were sent off to recover an RAF I truck which had been shot up at BAZENVILLE; however there was no sign of the truck and so after shelling one or two houses known to contain enemy 3 Tp returned.

The afternoons maintenance was considerably interrupted by snipers from CREPON and at 2015 hrs Sjt Birch reported a party of 30 Germans 1,500 yards away moving across our front from the direction of BAZENVILLE. 3 Tp were despatched to deal with them capturing 1 Officer and 6 ORs and certainly killing and wounding more. The exact number was impossible to discover as the party was engaged in a field of oats; blood trails showed that some got away.

C Sqn leagured for the night in the same location.

D plus 2.

The Sqn remained just South of CREPON all day, petrol being fetched from the Beach Group. In the evening our D day 2 lorries arrived. Orders were received in the afternoon to join RHQ and B Sqn at BRECY the following morning.

Appx A. 103

"A" SQN WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS.

INTRODUCTION.

On May 44 A Squadron were ordered to provide 22 Flails for 1 Corps which were to be allocated as follows:-

12 to 27 Armoured Brigade and come under command of Major Clifford of 22 Dragoons and for the initial landing to be divided into two parties, one of eight flails under Major Wallace and the other of four under Capt Beaumont.

5 to 266 Forward Delivery Squadron. This in fact was 1 Tp under Lt. Ingram.

5 to 'C' Sqn Canadian Armoured Delivery Regiment. This was 3 Tp under Lt. D. S. Squirrell and subsequently Lt. A. K. Dick.

The above parties waterproofed their vehicles at Thorpeness Suffolk and proceeded from there by Transporter to Concentration Areas as follows:-

Major Wallace's party to Bolney, Sussex with Staffordshire Yeomanry.

Capt Beaumont's party and 1 Tp to Petworth Sussex.

3 Tp to Gosport, Hants.

The remainder of A Squadron under Capt P. J. S. Squirrell and consisting of one crew of Sqn HQ, 5 Tp (Rollers) and all administrative personnel and vehicles less Sqn Ldr's Jeep with the driver and three fitters remained behind in Thorpeness.

After about a week in Concentration Areas parties moved to Marshalling Areas and on 3rd June Major Wallace's party left their Marshalling Area at Stanmer park and embarked in LCT's at Newhaven. Two flails were allotted to each LCT and loading went very well, particularly in view of the fact that crews had not done it before, and was completed by 2000 hrs.

4th June The convoy of LCT's was to have sailed at 0800 hrs but this was cancelled, probably due to bad weather in the Channel. In the late afternoon crews were ferried back to the Marshalling Area Camps for a wash and hot meal, returning on board about 2100 hrs.

5th June Convoy put out from Newhaven starting at 0800 hrs and anchored outside for an hour or two. Convoy then sailed and was under way for the rest of the time. The sea was rather choppy and most of the men (and officers) felt seasick. Maps were issued during the evening when it was known that the operation was definitely on.

6th June (D day). Sea was still rather rough and personnel not in very good form for the coming operation. H hour was 0725 and 8 Flails of Major Wallace's party landed at H plus 3 hours 5 minutes on Queen White Beach at Hermanville-sur-Mer. LCT's were shelled while ~~coming~~ coming ashore and at least one destroyed. On landing there was considerable congestion at the beach exits which were under mortar and ~~possibly~~ possibly field gun fire. However all flails eventually reached Assembly Area with Staffs Yeomanry just S of Hermanville. On moving forward two flails commanded by Cpl Coop and L/Cpl Davis were knocked out by 88 mm fire from the West. Cpl Coop's tank went on fire and two members of the crew, Tpr Woodhouse and Tpr Kelly, wounded, the former seriously. Lt. Bullock's tank was also hit and the jib and 75 mm gun damaged but was able to proceed. The advance continued as far South as Bieville where the Staffs Yeomanry took up battle positions and engaged about ten enemy tanks reported to be Tigers but later turning out to be Mark IV's disguised as Tigers; about six of them were knocked out. The flails were given the task of covering the left flank and did not actually engage the enemy. The positions occupied were shelled intermittently and had to be changed from time to time. During the previous advance to Bieville Cpl LoveDay's tank was fired on and intaking avoiding action went over a sharp drop and damaged the rotor and jib and Cpl Loveday himself became a casualty owing to the turret flap crashing onto his hand and breaking three fingers. A large force of British gliders were seen to land to the East during the late afternoon. About midnight flails went into close harbour with Staffs Yeo and refuelled about 0200 hrs. Of the eight ~~flails~~ flails of Major Wallace's party five were now left and these had been joined by two of the 22 Dragoons which had taken part in the initial assault at H hour, bringing the total up to seven. Major Clifford was travelling in an ordinary Sherman V.

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It was a long and exciting day, which one felt to be something historic on which one could look back in due course and from the comfort of an armchair feel glad that one had been there.

Capt Beaumont with four flails landed at H plus 5 1/2 hrs with the East Riding Yeomanry and received a slight shrapnel wound on one hand on the beach. Apart from this, this party suffered no casualties and harboured the night at Colleville-sur-Orne. June 7th. All flails of Major Wallace's party were withdrawn into Brigade reserve at Hermanville-sur-Mer where they joined up with a number of flails from 22 Dragoons who had taken part in assault on the beach. Snipers were still active in the town, which was bombed during the night.

June 8th. Major Wallace and Lt. Hall with four flails took part in mopping up an enemy strongpoint at ~~the~~ ^{the} sur-Mer, which was giving trouble to our forces. The defences included at least one 88 mm which had accounted for two AVRE's and a number of flame throwers. Two platoons of Infantry from B Coy South Lancs Regt and two SP guns also took part in the attack which was preceded by an artillery bombardment which probably destroyed the 88 mm before the attack was launched. The job given to the flails was to clear a path through a minefield just South of the gas works in order that the SP guns could advance and engage the enemy positions. In fact the minefield consisting of light French mines was only 200 yards in depth and the SP guns could easily have engaged the targets without entering the lane. Flails and SP guns engaged enemy in houses and in the open with HE and Browning and parties of the enemy started surrendering. The minefield proved not great obstacle and one tank flailed through a thick belt of wire at the end of it. Prisoners totalled about 80 including three officers from 736 Infantry Regiment. Two men from one of our own Commandos captured on D day were released. All prisoners were handed over to B Coy South Lancs for disposal. The number of enemy dead and wounded is not known, there were no casualties to the flails and infantry losses were light.

9th June. Major Wallace and Lt Hall with four flails proceeded to Cazelle and came under command of East Riding Yeomanry for an attack being launched from Anisy on Cambes Galmanch and St Certest. Contact was reestablished with Capt Beaumont's party which was still attached to the East Riding Yeo. Attack secured first objective but no minefields were encountered and flails were kept in reserve. Sjt Wilson however did a useful job of work with his tank in recovering the crew from a tank of the East Riding Yeo which had been hit and set on fire.

10th and 11th June. All flails of Major Wallace's and Capt Beaumont's parties were withdrawn and concentrated in Brigade reserve SW of Hermanville-sur-Mer in an area literally scattered by the Germans with Butterfly Bombs. Attempts were made to flail these but only two were exploded in this way, possibly the remainder were blinds as many appeared to have exploded on landing. Sqn remained in this location until 15th June during this time area was heavily bombed at night and troops learned to dig themselves in well. On 13th June flails were asked to clear an enemy minefield surrounding a strongpoint now in our hands SOUTH of Ouistieham. This would have involved flailing an area containing 400 lorry ~~loads~~ loads of mines and was not considered a worth while task in view of the casualties which would have certainly occurred to the jibs and rotors and tanks themselves. In the end two lanes of one tank width each were made into the strongpoint and the RE were very satisfied. Teller, Belgian, anti tank and 'S' mines were all encountered but no major damage was done to the flails.

15th June. A Sqn rejoined remainder of regiment in harbour at Juay Monday with 19 flails including five from 3 Tp and two from 1 Tp which were picked up with their crews from Forward Delivery Sqn on the way over. Two flails were left in 27 Armoured Brigade Workshops awaiting repairs with two men per crew.

D day continued.

On completion of the initial assault operation the Sqn rallied in an orchard on the Southern outskirts of VER SUE MER. Five Crabs had reached the rally by 1400 hrs when the Sqn was ordered forward to VILLERS le SEC.

Before reaching there the four Crabs commanded by Major Sutton with the comds Lt. Hoban, Lt. Pear, Cpl McCall were ordered SOUTH of CREULLY. On passing through CREULLY information came over the air that 30 - 40 German tanks were moving NE from RUCQUEVILLE 3 miles away.

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At midnight the Sqn moved back just South of CREPON where it leagued for the night.

D plus 1.

At 0545 hrs the Sqn moved alongside a hedge on the immediate South outskirts of CREPON. At approx 0610 hrs a shell exploded in the trees above the Sqn followed by SAA fire. A second shell fell shortly after by the Sqn Ldr's tank killing Tpr Birch and wounding Cpl Adcock. A third fell wounding the Sqn Ldr, Cpl Gillespie and L/Cpl Lennon. The Sqn Ldr spotted the gun a 10 cm Pd gun about 150 yards away, and jumped on to Lt. Hoban's tank which put the gun out of action with one shot, killing one member of the crew and wounding the rest. Cpl Balowin carried out First Aid most efficiently and coolly under fire.

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During this action 4 Germans surrendered to a Crab crossing the oatfield to which the rest of the Sqn had moved.

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The afternoons maintenance was considerably interrupted by snipers from CREPON and at 2015 hrs Sjt Birch reported a party of 30 Germans 1,500 yards away moving across our front from the direction of BAZENVILLE. 3 Tp were despatched to deal with them capturing 1 Officer and 6 ORs and certainly killing and wounding more. The exact number was impossible to discover as the party was engaged in a field of oats; blood trails showed that some got away.

C Sqn leagued for the night in the same location.

D plus 2.

The Sqn remained just South of CREPON all day, petrol being fetched from the Beach Group. In the evening our D day 2 lorries arrived. Orders were received in the afternoon to join RHQ and B Sqn at BRECQY the following morning.

FLYING COY. SERIAL NO.	LA NAMED		MAJOR SPH SUTTON		WIDGAS		CAPT. STAMVEN		LE HAMEL		231 BDE	
	MAJOR THOMPSTONE (2/2 CAPT R.F. BELL WIDGAS)	SCPT WEBB	SGT BIRCH	CAPT SAVOUSY (SGT SUTTON)	MR PEAR	SGT WRAHSH (SGT ROBERTS)	SGT POOLE (SGT ROBERTS)	SGT WIDGAS	WIDGAS	WIDGAS	WIDGAS	WIDGAS
12	CAPT BELL (PL THOMPSTONE)	SGT MOORE (PL WILD)	SGT RUDER	SGT SAVOUSY (SGT SUTTON)	PL McCall	SGT ROBERTS	SGT POOLE (SGT ROBERTS) <td>4</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td></td>	4	3	2	1	
11	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
10	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
9	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
8	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
7	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
6	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
5	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
4	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
3	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
2	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
1	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
13	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
12	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
11	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
10	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
9	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
8	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
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2	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
1	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
14	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
13	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
12	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
11	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
10	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
9	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
8	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
7	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
6	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
5	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
4	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
3	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	
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1	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	

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10 Jun

Appx B

WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

The Commanding Officer congratulates all ranks of B and C Squads on their exceedingly stout performance in the very forefront of the battle on the beaches.

The determination and fine fighting spirit shown in this, the Regiment's first action of the war undertaken under hazardous and adverse conditions, were most praiseworthy, and give every promise of further successes in the future.

The following messages have been received:-

FROM: General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery.

PERSONAL FOR GEN GRAHAM. General Montgomery wishes to pass heartiest congratulations on achievement of 50 Div to yourself and all ranks 50 Div. Corps Commander also adds congratulations.

FROM: 30 Corps Commander.

personal for Commander 50 Div from Commander 30 Corps. Please congratulate all ranks most heartily on first class fighting performance in the face of very adverse sea conditions and stout enemy opposition. All our objectives have now been gained and vigorous reconnaissance thrusts are now proceeding towards vital spots. Well done indeed 50 Div. Grady Lads Champion.

Commanders 69 and 231 Brigades have also asked that their gratitude for the excellent performance of Westminster Dragoons under their command may be made known to all concerned.

Appx B. 113

REGIMENTAL ORDERS - PART ONE
-by-
Lt. Col. W.Y.K. Blair Cliphant, MC.,
COMMANDING WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS
Royal Armoured Corps.

Saturday 10 Jun 44

Issue No. 1.

1. ROUTINE.
While in present Area, daily routine will be as follows:-

Reveille	0600 hrs
Breakfast	0700 hrs
1st parade	0800 hrs
Dinner	1245 hrs
Tea	1700 hrs
Supper	under Sqn arrangements.
2. GENERAL.
All continue as already detailed. All personnel will know the password for the day.
3. CHURCH SERVICES - Sunday 11 Jun 44.
A Voluntary Church of England service will be held on Sunday 11 Jun 44 in the Barn 50 yds from HQ at the following times:-
Holy Communion 0800 hrs
Morning Service 1000 hrs.
4. MAIL.
Mail will be censored by Sqn officers and handed to the Adjt in bundles labelled to Base Censor by 1200 hrs daily. Postal addresses remains unchanged.
5. WATER SUPPLY.
NO water in France is safe to drink, whatever the inhabitants may say, unless either:
(a) Certified by an MO
(b) Sterilized with tablets provided.
(c) Boiled.
Normally empty water cans will be handed into HQS daily by 0900 hrs for refilling.
Personnel going sick will be reported to HQ by 0800 hrs daily for arrangements to be made.
Severe disciplinary action will be taken against personnel failing to use proper latrines.
6. DISCIPLINE.
No person will, except on duty, proceed more than 100 yards from camp perimeter, i.e. nearest vehicle in camp and then only in daylight. ALL personnel leaving the camp area at all for any purpose will always be armed.
7. CAPTURED MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT.
Nothing whatever may be kept unless permission has been received by an officer to do so. All papers in particular will be handed at once to an officer. To keep these may mean delay in obtaining important information.
8. CODES.
All codes, line signs and pass words will now change at midnight GMT (i.e. 0200 B).

Field,
NJB/DEP.

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

Appx C 114
Appx C

Map ✓
back slides

100 13/6

TOP SECRET

COPY No 11

50 (N) DIVISION Operation Instruction No.6

12 JUNE 44

1. SITUATION.

The general situation is favourable for 7 Armd Div to pass round the westerly flank of 17 LEHR Div, and operate behind them in the direction of VILLERS BOCAGE.

7 Armd Div and one Bn 131 Inf Bde is being disengaged this afternoon and assembling in the area just West R.AURE South BAYEUX.

2. 50 (N) DIV.

a) The task of 50 (N) Div in this operation is to maintain the firm base from incl la BELLE 7669 - Pt 103 8570 wood 8973 and to contain the enemy on this front.

b) Under Comd 50 (N) Div forthwith :-

- 8 Armd Bde
- 56 Inf Bde
- ~~131 Inf Bde (less one Bn)~~ (Amendment)
- 86 Fd Regt
- 147 Fd Regt
- One Bty 73 A.Tk Regt

In Support :-

- Arty of 49 Div (up to one Fd Regt at present).
- 5 AGRA

3. METHOD

The firm base will be held by a series of defended localities as follows :-

a) Right 231 Inf Bde with under comd W Dgns

61 Recce Regt. 'C' Sqn 141 RAC

Bde area incl la BELLE EPINE 7669 la SENAUDIÈRE 7868 - BERNIERES - BOCAGE

7970 - BUTTE du GROS ARME 7971 - Xrds 7772.

In Support 74 Fd Regt
289 A.tk Bty.

b) 56 Inf Bde with under comd one Bn 131 Inf Bde (other than 8 DLI)

In Support 86 Fd Regt and 73 A.Tk Bty.

Area River crossing 836702 BUCEEELS 8370 - the BOCAGE feature about rd
Junc 812708 814698 wood 805690.

c) 69 Inf Bde with under comd one Regt 8 Armd Bde

in support 90 Fd Regt and Arty 49 Div (being built up now)
99 & 288 A.Tk Btys.

Area present bn localities from incl Pt 103 8570 to wood 892731.

d) 151 Inf Bde (less one bn)

One Bty 73 A.Tk Regt is located present brigade area as a Corps step. Bde will hold present area to which 8 DLI will move under arrangements 8 Armd Bde to day.

e) 8 Armd Bde less one regt will move when ordered to area West of road about 8074 - 8174, and will be in Divisional reserve prepared to operate in support of brigades in Div area.

4. Withdrawal from SAINT PIERRE.

The withdrawal of 147 Fd Regt from area just North of Pt 103 and 8 DLI from ST PIERRE will be coordinated between Comd 8 Armd Bde and Comd 69 Inf Bde.

8 Armd Bde will be responsible for the return of 8 DLI to 151 Inf Bde. A.Tk Arty in area ST PIERRE will be moved by 69 Inf Bde and will remain in support 69 Inf Bde.

5. 2 CHESHIRE

All MG Coys and Hy Mortar Pls revert to comd 2 CHESHIRE and will be in support of the Div front. Comd 2 CHESHIRE will coordinate with Bde Comds.

6. R.A.

Fd Regts will be regrouped under comd CRA. Gun area will be in present 151 Inf Bde area. Arty will support Inf Bdes as shown above. The fire of 5 AGRA will be available on Div front on call through CRA.

7. A.Tk

A.Tk btys will be in support as above and the a.tk layout will be coordinated under arrangements CRA.

8. LAA

25 LAA Regt (less one bty) will protect gun area. One Bty will protect exits BAYEUX.

9. R.E.

Fd Coys will revert comd CRE for work on main routes and will be prepared to support Inf Bdes as follows :-

295 Fd Coy ... CLUB Route	231 Inf Bde
233 Fd Coy ... SPADE Route	56 Inf Bde
505 Fd Coy ... CROSS Route	151 Inf Bde

116
Appx D
Appx D
War Diary
TOP SECRET

Copy No. 111..

50 (N) DIVISION OPERATION INSTRUCTION NO 7

12 JUNE 44

1. SITUATION

As the threat of the advance of 7 Armd Div round the enemy's Western flank makes itself felt it is quite possible that the enemy will draw out from the front particularly on our right. In this case he will be followed most vigorously by 50 (N) Div.

2. PLAN

(a) Phase 1.

Code word VIGOROUS

151 Inf Bde (incl 9 D.L.I.) which would revert from comd from 56 Inf Bde and with under comd

One Regt 8 Armd Bde
In support - One A.Tk Bty
One Coy MG 2 CHESHIRE
One Hy Mortar Pl 2 CHESHIRE
One Pl 505 Fd Coy
86 Fd Regt 6 AVRE

will advance and secure the high ground and village of HOTTOT 8266

(b) Phase II

Code Word ENTERPRISE

231 Inf Bde with ~~under~~ command

in support Det 141 RAC
One Fd Regt
One A.Tk Bty
Pl 295 Fd Coy 6 AVRE

61 Recce Regt and W Dgns will come into Div Reserve area BERNIERES - BOGAGE 7970 from 0700 hrs 13 June 44.

231 Bde - Task to advance and secure the high ground Pt 154 7761 village of FEUGUEROLLES - SUR - SEULLES 8061.

56 Inf Bde with under comd one Fd Regt
One A.Tk Bty
One Pl 233 Fd Coy

will advance and seize the area Pt 123 8263 - les HOULLES 8563.

Phase II will start only when ordered by Div HQ using codeword as above.

3. 151 Inf Bde and attached tps will be prepared to move early 12 June to carry out Phase I.

4. Next location HQ 50 (N) Div area about 806750.

ACKNOWLEDGE by IMPORTANT Signal.

TGLC/LWB

TIME OF SIGNATURE 2310

METHOD OF ISSUE by LO to 7 Armd Div, 8 Armd Bde, 151 Inf Bde 231 Inf Bde 56 Inf Bde
by SDR to W Dgns
Remainder by DRIS 30 Corps 49 Inf Div 1 US Div 3 CDN Div Comd G
AQ File Wardiary (2)

H. C. ...
Colonel,
General Staff,
50 (Northumbrian) Division.