

ACTION 26 June - 1st JULY 1944

29th June.

No enemy movement was noted by O.Ps during the morning so the C.O. ordered Lt. Robertson to take a patrol south to the bridge held by the Argylls (of 227 Bde) at 915622 and Lt. Woodall to take another patrol down the road to 902628. At about 1600 hrs Lt Robertson left with his patrol.

Lt Woodall at 1615 hrs was about to leave when an enemy Mark IV Tank emerged from the trees 300 yards in front of 'C' Company. It knocked out an R.A. 6 Pounder in the Company position and subsequently Capt Hendry and Lt Woodall were hit while trying to stalk it with a P.I.A.T.

'C' Company was then over-run by the tank and some infantry and remnants withdrew to the main Bn position. This position was then attacked by four Mark IVs and about a Company of Infantry. Three hours later four Mark IVs had been destroyed and the Infantry driven off. Lt Col. Grant had been hit in the knee and Major Johnston had had his leg broken by a 75 mm shell. They were both evacuated and Major Blair took over command.

During an enemy mortar stonk at 2200 hrs Capt Berry and Lt Durham were hit and evacuated. Capt Berry subsequently died of wounds.

After this mortar fire the enemy kept very quiet all night. After this, the first defensive action fought by the Bn., both officers and men were feeling most confident about future defensive engagements with enemy tanks or Infantry.

APPENDIX 'E'30th June.

The morning was very quiet, a few Germans were seen about 1000 yards up the road running west from our positions. An Argyll Carrier ran about a mile and a half up this road but managed to turn about and get back. The driver only saw 2 A/Tk guns and about 30 Infantry up this road.

At about 1200 hrs Sgt Finlayson took a carrier sec out on patrol to visit the road junction 907635 and see what could be seen from there down the road towards CAHIER and MISSY. Capt Lochhead joined this patrol when it was about half way out as a carrier shed a track and got stuck in a hedge row. At the road junction the section lost a carrier from A/Tk gun fire, exactly from where was unknown and the patrol returned.

During the afternoon a message was received from Bde saying that 46 Bde was being relieved and that 4th Bn The Welch Regiment would relieve 7 Seaforth commencing 2300 hrs.

At about 1600 hrs a German patrol about 10 strong tried to infiltrate into 'D' Coy positions on the right. They succeeded in surprising Cpl Strike and 4 O.Rs and killed them but then were dealt with most effectively by Lt Ewart and some of his ~~patrol~~ platoon; they killed eight of the enemy in this action.

Guide parties under Lt. Col Ripley arrived at Bn HQ at about 2100 hrs.

Owing to shelling of routes up the 4th Welch Regiment's main body arrived very late at about 0230 hrs. Just previously Col Ripley was killed so the hand over had to be to his 2 i/c who had never seen the ground. By 0700 hrs 1st July the relief less A/Tk Guns was complete after considerable difficulty because 4th Welch Regt Companies arrived split up and they had never been in the front line before. However, luckily the Germans did not mortar or patrol into the Bn positions during the relief.

By 1000hrs all the A/Tk Guns were out and Major Blair and forward Bn HQ moved back to join the remainder of the Bn in a rest area at 905712, The total casualties within the Bn during 26th June - 1st July 1944 were:-

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| <u>KILLED:</u> | 5 Offrs. | 29 ORs. | = | 34 |
| <u>WOUNDED:</u> | 7 Offrs. | 140 ORs. | = | 147 |
| <u>MISSING:</u> | 2 Offrs. | 20 ORs. | = | 22 |
| <u>Totals:</u> | <u>14 Offrs.</u> | <u>189 ORs.</u> | = | <u>203</u> |