

August 1944

The battalion was in continuous action until 23 Aug in the battle of the Falaise Pocket; a south eastern thrust to meet up with American troops and close the Falaise pocket and isolate the German 7th Army. 10,000 Germans were killed and some 50,000 taken prisoner - even so up to 30% escaped. As Lt Ken Crockford recalled:

We experienced a number of battles and skirmishes before reaching the top of the hill at Cerisy. We were told we had outstripped the units on our flanks and that we should dig a deep defensive position ... we came under occasional shell and mortar fire but no bullets. The advance continued with orders to clear the town of Flers. At first all was eerily quiet and we suspected an ambush. Then the shutters opened and we were showered with flowers and fruit, and the inevitable bottles of wine and calvados appeared. On the 23rd we arrived at our harbour area for a rest and preparation for the next op. As boots were removed feet blew up like balloons - we were warned that unauthorised removal of boots could result in court martial! - however we were authorised to wear plimsolls.

It was during this period that CSM (D Company) Jack Greenhouse was wounded:



Army Form B. 104-81A.

No. CAS/K
(If replying, please quote above No.)

Infantry Record Office,
Shrewsbury.

24th August 1944.

~~XXXX~~ MADAM,

I regret to have to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office to the effect that (No.) 4105008.

(Rank) C.S.M.
(Name) Albert Jack GREENHOUSE.
(Regiment) Herefordshire Regiment.

has been wounded, ~~subsequently killed~~ in North West Europe.

on the 14th day of August 19 44.
The nature of the wound is Gunshot Wound Right Ankle, and Right Arm.

I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Army Council.

Any further information received at this office as to his condition will be at once notified to you.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]
Lieut. Colonel,
Officer in Charge of Records.

IMPORTANT.—Any change of address should be immediately notified to this Office.

159400 162135/1318 500m. P.A.C. 14/29 82-4101 Form B.10-81A/3

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. 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.

PAGE THREE

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire R.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Turner. Cain.

Month and Year August 1944.

Place	Date	Hour	cont. from page 2. Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			been poor because Bn had to return to its posn of the previous night to protect the right flank. The Bn I.O. went off in a carrier and succeeded in contacting the Executive Officer of the American forces on our immediate right. The American information having been obtained it was passed to higher fmrs.	
		1400	Bn cont adv. in T.C.Vs. through Forêt L'Eveque and took up a position for the night at 6342 first carrying out a clearing operation of the area in which no enemy were encountered.	
	2	0430	Bn moved to 6936 East of Vire. Bn was in reserve on reverse slope of high ground in this posn and adv of 11 Armd Div halted.	
	3		Bn remained in this area in reserve. Subjected to dive bombing attack by American Thunderbolts. The only cas was a cow that was splattered over the Bde Comd A.C.V. (in next field to 1400. C Coy)	
	4		Still in reserve and subjected to slight shelling. An offr. of the Bn seated himself at the side of the road to brief a small patrol	

WL 67724 008 2,000,000 8.48 W.H. & S. 51/5075

* Capt Ronny Cowan. 2IC C Company

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Sheet 104.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

1st in Herefordshire Regt.
Unit.....

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. G. R. Turner. Caim.

Month and Year.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			of two men. While he was doing so a car drove up and some Germans jumped out and drove as surprised to see him as he was to see them. The Germans put the off and the patrol in the bag and drove off with them in their car. The third member of the patrol who had been lying in a ditch returned and reported the incident. (21st Dicks)	
	5	.	40 reinforcements arrived.	
	7		Further reinforcements arrived.	
	8	0615	Rece party left for posn of 2 Warwicks at 7135. It looked to be a particularly unhealthy one and it was decided to affect a relieve at night.	
		2230	Bn moved to relieve 2 Warwicks which was carried out without incident.	
	9		Bn spent day in slit trenches and was subjected to frequent mortaring. During the afternoon reps from the I.W.G. arrived for relieve by them. During the day the P.A.P. which was situated in a quarry in rear of the Bn suffered particularly from enemy mortaring. Relieved by I.W.G. and moved to rest area at La Parville 7138.	
	10			

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Sheet No. 5.

Army Form G. 2118.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit 1st Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. G. R. Turner Cain.

Month and Year Aug 14.

			Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
			The relieve was carried out without being shelled and everyone breathed a sigh of relief when they were well clear. Having been told we were to rest and refit it came as a bombshell to be told at lunch time that we were to return the following day to the area we had just left.	
	11	0700	Bn left rest area to take up posn at Le Bas Ferrier in Pressles. 7236.	
		1500	Bn arr in area in rear of 1st W.G.s who were at Chenedolle 7335. and quickly dug in.	
	12		The day we spent in active patrolling. A few mortar-bombs came over but the day was not nearly as unpleasant as our experience in the 2 Warwicks posn, half a mile away had led us to expect.	
		2300	Bn of Coldstream Gds relieved 1st Herefords and we left the area of Le Bas Ferrier for the last time and returned to La Marviniere.	
	13	1800	Bn moved to take over a posn from a Bn of the 15 (S) Div immediately N of Estry. 7638. On arr there it became known that the enemy who had put up a very stubborn resistance at Estry had withdrawn.	

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Sheet No 6.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit..... 1st Bn The Herefordshire Regt.

Lt. Col. Turner Cain.

Commanding Officer.....

Month and Year..... August

			Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
	14		At first light Bn commenced adv on two routes to the area of Thiel 7635	
			with 2 Coys and sup arms U/C 21/C known as Bar Force on one route	
			and the remainder of the Bn on another.	
	0900		Bn arr in the area of Thiel and were joined later in the day by Bar Force.	
			In the late afternoon an att was put in on hill feature 212 with	
			B Coy fwd right and D Coy fwd left, which despite fierce opposition	
			was successful.	
	15	2000	Bn took over posn from 4 K.S.L.I. N of Vassy.	
	16	0700	Adv cont through Vassy Bn moving on two routes.	
		0245	Bn reached conc area immediatly N of Flers, the feature Mt De Carisi 8326	
			not being held by the enemy.	
	17	0700	Bn moving on one route cont its adv. Flers was reached about 1000 hrs	
			and we experienced for the first time the demonstrations of joy of	
			the civil population.	
		1600	Bn divided onto two routes to deal with minor opposition in the area of Durcet	

WL47721 908 2,000,000 8.48 W.H.A.S. 51/5975

may Peter Bright - MC
Capt Benjamin Stevens - MM
Sgt. Walter Pallard - MM

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Sheet 7.
WAR DIARY

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Re

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. J. R. Turner Cain.

Month and Year August 41.

Place	Date	Hour	cont from page 6. Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			and St Opportune 9518. Bar Force carried out its task at Durcet and returned to the Bn. B Coy took an obj 500 yds N of the rd in the face of very slight opposition while 4 KSLI passed through them and cleared another enemy posn. Rifle Coys had now been adv on foot since leaving La Mairvindiére on 13 August and the men were very foot-sore and weary.	my final attch with 1482: No CAS
	18	0630	Bn cont its adv with Coys sitting on the backs of tks. Leading elts passed through Briouze and reached the rly and river brs at 0416 at about 0900 hrs. The rly br was being subjected to a certain amount of shelling which was thought to be from American forces adv N. Visibility was very bad there being a thick mist which made it difficult to sent out patrols to make contact.	
		1100	Contact was made with the Americans and the Div cmd of 11 Armd Div and the American Div met in the Market-Place. The Bn moved to a conc area N.E. of the town and at least some of its personnel obtained	

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Sheet 8.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire F.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. J. R. Turner Cain.

Month and Year August 4.

Place	Date	Hour	cont from Page 7.	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
				obtained/- a refreshing bath and swim in a tributary of the river Ronore.	
		1600	Adv cont in TCVs to SW of Ecouche 1816	The C.L. was being shelled by the enemy just W of Ecouche and one of our Gaden Lloyd carriers was hit and set on fire, fortunately without any cas. <i>Foot soldier killed - some wounded - type given furnished by phone.</i>	
		1900	En arrived in conc area outside Ecouche.		
		2100	Two shells landed outside the Command Post vehicle killing two members of the Pioneer pl who were digging in C.P. and wounding the 2I/C and Adj.		
	19		Contact was made with the French Arm'd Div in Ecouche.		
		1200	En adv deployed to Montgaroult 182196.	Opposition was very slight but unfortunately one Coy Comd who was leading his Coy and sitting up in his carrier instead of sitting well down and moving in a less conspicuous posn was hit in the shoulder by a shell from a tk.	
	20		Adv cont to Bourg St. Leonards via Argentan without incident where we bivouached for the night at 2000 hrs.		
	21	0745	En cont adv and sat on Xrds W of Gace 5549 for the night while		4 KSLI 4444611D.

WL4724 808 2,000,000 2-43 W. H. & S. 51/5575

*no Joel Phillips OCC Bouffay
which was followed by...
and in...
OCC Bouffay...
...
been killed.*

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Sheet 2.

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Unit 1st Bn The Herefordshire R.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Turner. Gair.

Month and Year August 1944

(Delete heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			invested Gace and cleared it.	
	22.		Bn cont adv at first light passing through 4 KSLI at Gace. Part of Bn reached conc area 629396 at 1730 hrs. Confusion arose over conc area due to 2 Trig points being the same with the result that recce party proceeded too far and we got onto the Armd Rde Route. Part of Bn had to clear the rd while Armd Rde passed through with the result they did not reach conc area until after dark. A Coy Comd was run over by a 15cwt truck in the dark and had to be evacuated with a badly lacerated leg.	
			<i>M. Turner</i> Lt. Col. Commanding Officer. 1st Bn The Herefordshire Regiment.	