

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS BY COMMANDING OFFICER



OFFICAL WAR DIARY

BRITISH 3rd
DIVISION



ENTRY WRITTEN BY _____

APPROVED _____

MORNING 18 JULY 1944

WOKE TO THE SOUND OF 6 ARTY REGTS + 14 SQUADRONS OF LIREATORS BOMBARDING GERMAN POSITIONS IN THE WOODS TO OUR FRONT. (3 REGTS AGRA ATTACHED) INITIAL ATTACK PLAN HAS 152 BDE ON THE RIGHT AND 185 BDE ON LEFT CLEARING THE WOODS EITHER SIDE OF THE ROAD TO TROARN. TROARN IS THE OBJ OF 27 ARMA + 8 INF BDE (PLUS DIV RECCE) PASSING BETWEEN 185 + 152 BDE. 9 BDE IN RESERVE.

BRIEF CALL FROM 7 ARMA ASKING TO CROSS CORPS BOUNDARY FOR SUPPLIES OVERNIGHT - OUTRAGEOUS. CALL XXX CORPS TO COMPLAIN AT IMPERTINENCE

LIGHT RESISTANCE IN THE WOODS. 185 BDE CONT TO CLEAR 152 CONT CLEAR. ONE BN + CROCODILES PLUS 3 X FLD ARTY TO CLEAR WOODED T-JUNCTION (P69).

27 ARMA + 8 BDE BREAKING CLEAR OF START LINE AND READY TO BREAK OUT TO SE OF WOODS TOWARDS TROARN

NO MATERIAL CASUALTIES

ENTRY WRITTEN BY

MG WHISTLER

APPROVED



AFTERNOON 18 JULY 1944

ORDERS

185 BDE TO CONTINUE TO CLEAR EDGE OF BAVANT
152 BDE TO CONTINUE CLEARING WESTERN WOODS AND ASSAULT KNOWN INF CONCENTRATION AT P69 JUNCTION + 3XFA
27A + 8 INF IN 3X BG TO PUSH NE OF P69 AND ON TO TROARN - PRECEDED BY 2RD DIV RECCE.
9 BDE RES IN O70 (SE OF ESCOVILLE)

185 CLEARS EDGE OF BAVANT SUCCESSFULLY AND 152 CLEAR WESTERN WOODS AND P69 WITH NO LOSSES.

27A + 8 INF HIT HEAVY DEFENCES. AND ONLY CAPTURE OUTSKIRTS OF TROARN BY NIGHT FALL

ENTRY WRITTEN BY

MG WHISTLER

APPROVED



NIGHT 18/19 JULY 1944

27A + 8 INF TO PREP TO ATTACK TROARN
AT DAWN. SUPP BY 152 BDE + CROCODILE
6 REGTS FA/MA SUPPORT WITH HARASSING TROARN
OVERNIGHT.

185 TO EXTEND LEFT FLANK OF 3 DIV TO Q69
9 BDE REMAINS IN RESERVE RESTING.

REORGANISING AND RESTING PLUS PREPARING
AN ATTACK ON TROARN ON AM 19 JULY

Q69 WOODS CLEARED SUCCESSFULLY.
NEBELWERFER BATTERY IDENTIFIED AT R67

ENTRY WRITTEN BY

MG WHISTLER

APPROVED



MORNING 19 JULY 1944

PREPARED ASSAULT ON TROARN

27A + 8 INF (2 SQDN + 2 BN)

152 INF (1 SQDN + 1 BN)

5 x REGT FA/MA.

1 x REGT MA VS N. WERFER COUNTER BATTERY.

9TH REMAIN RESERVE

185 BDE SECURES ~~E~~ FLANK

TROARN CAPTURED 982 REGT SMOKED + CAPTURED

982 + N. WERFERS IN NON-DUG IN POSITION

R66 + S67

INT REPORTS BOIS DE BAVANT EMPTY

ESCOVILLE ROAD NET CUT TO 7 ARMO / VIII CORPS

ENTRY WRITTEN BY

MG WHISTLER

APPROVED



AFTERNOON 19 JULY 1944

27A + 8 INF ORDERED TO EXPLOIT S OUT
OF TOWN INTO GERMAN 2ND LINE.

3RD BG OF 27A/8 INF TO EXPLOIT TO CANAL BRIDGES.
T65 + T66 + RECCE 3 DIV

152 BDE TO SECURE AND DIG IN AROUND
TROARN + BRIDGE / RIVER LINE

9 BDE TO HOLD

27A/8 INF HIT GERMAN 2ND LINE BUT
COUNTERATTACKED BY P2G + P2S FROM
JANVILLE AREA. BRITISH COUNTER COUNTER
STABILISED FRONT IN FRONT OF TROARN

185 BDE CLEARS + SECURES BOIS DE RAUANT

9 BDE COMMANDER COMPLAINS AT LACK OF
ACTIVITY BY HIS BDE

ENTRY WRITTEN BY MG WHISTLER

APPROVED M

NIGHT 19/20 JULY 1944

BRING FWD FA + ~~GS~~

27/8 REST + REFIT N OF TROARN

9 INF BEHIND TROARN PREP TO COUNTERATTACK.

152 DEFEND TROARN

185 HOLD W FLANK OF 3 ARMD DIV

7 ARMD INFORMED OF OPEN WEST FLANK
+ PRESENCE OF PANZERS.

QUIET OVERNIGHT

REACH AGREEMENT WITH VIII CORPS + 7 ARMD
TO TAKE CONTROL OF P64 - P68 MOVING
CORPS BOUNDARY TO THE WEST. 9 BDE WILL
FILL THE TRIANGLE TO PROTECT FLANK OF
7 ARMD.

ENTRY WRITTEN BY MG WHISTLER

APPROVED M

MORNING 20 JULY 1944

NO A.I.R

185 TO EXTEND TO COVER FULL
~~THE~~ EAST FLANK, TO TROARN BRIDGE.

152 DIG IN AT TROARN 2 UP 1 BACK
2 X FA ASSIGNED

27/8 REFIT TANKS N OF TROARN.

9 + TENTACLE + IFA, IMA IN SUPPORT
ADVANCE TO ST PIERRE OUSIN (P64) + Q66
TO SECURE LEFT FLANK OF 7 ARMO.
ONE BN IN RESERVE.

P2 + P2G ATTACK WEST INTO FLANK
OF 7 ARMO — RESULTS IN MITG
ENGAGEMENT WITH 9 BDE + P2G.
9 BDE HOLDS P2G + P2 N OF LE HAVRE

ENTRY WRITTEN BY

MG WHISTLER

APPROVED

AFTERNOON 20 JULY 1944

152 + 185 HOLD + DIG IN

9 BDE TO CONTINUE ATTACKING
TO PIN P2 + P2G N OF LE HAVRE

27/8 TO ATTACK SOUTH OUT OF TROARN

TK/INF 1X BG → JANVILLE BRIDGES

TK/INF 1X BG → THROUGH ST PAIR TO BRIDGES

TK/INF 1X BG FROM TROARN AND SWING WEST
INTO REAR OF P2/P2G. (SS)

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL COUNTERATTACK
INTO SS P2 + P2G HITTING FLANKS WITH
9 BDE + 1BG OF 27A/8INF DRIVING GERMAN
BACK ACROSS THE CANAL
2 OTHER BG DRIVE TO BRIDGES CHASING GERMAN
REMNANTS BACK ACROSS THE BRIDGES.
MY FULLSOME PRAISE TO ALL THREE BDES

2 DSO 5 MC 5 MM

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| E RIDINGS | 1 DSO |
| 1 SUFFOLK | 3 MC |
| | 1 MM |

ENTRY WRITTEN BY

APPROVED

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| 2 LINGS | 1 DSO |
| | 1 MM 1 MC |

| | |
|-------|------|
| 2 RUR | 1 MC |
| | 2 MM |

NIGHT 20/21 JULY 1944

9 BDE TO SECURE CANAL LINE FROM
ST PIERRE TO R64. 1 UP 2 BACK

8 BDE TO SECURE JANVILLE AREA BRIDGES(?)
+ 27A

1 BG 27/8 RESTING AT ST PAIR

185 + 152 HOLD TROARN + E. FLANK

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE
OPERATIONAL PLAN TO BITE AND SECURE
THE WHOLE AREA ALLOCATED TO 3 DIV

ENTRY WRITTEN BY

MG WHISTLER.

APPROVED

MORNING 21 JULY 1944

IT HAS BEEN A GREAT HONOUR TO
COMMAND 3 DIVISION. MY STAFF AND
BRIGADE COMMANDERS ALL PERFORMED
EXCELLENT DUTIES AND WERE WELL SERVED
BY ALL OF THE MEN UNDER COMMAND

THE BREAKTHROUGH WAS EASIER THAN
ANTICIPATED AND THE ASSAULT ON TROARN
ON THE MORNING OF 19 JULY WAS A MODEL
OF COMBINED ARMS ASSAULT.

THE FOLLOW UP WAS BRIEFLY STALLED BY
A COUNTERATTACK FROM SS PZG + PZ BUT
TROARN WAS HELD AND AFTER REFITTING THE
TANKS A SUPERB COUNTERATTACK BY 27 ARMD
8 BDE AND 9 BDE SMASHED THE GERMAN
FORCES AND DROVE THEM BACK ACROSS THE
RIVER + CANAL ON THE AFTERNOON OF 20 JULY

ENTRY WRITTEN BY

MG WHISTLER

APPROVED

M