

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

SECRET

EXCERPTS FROM
THE WAR DIARIES

OF

1ST BATTALION, CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT
FROM 1 JUNE 44 TO 11 JUNE 44



SOURCE OF WAR DIARY EXCERPTS: THE CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The First Canadian Army and The Canadian Scottish Regiment (CScotR)

NORTH-WEST EUROPE • JUNE 1944 to MAY 1945

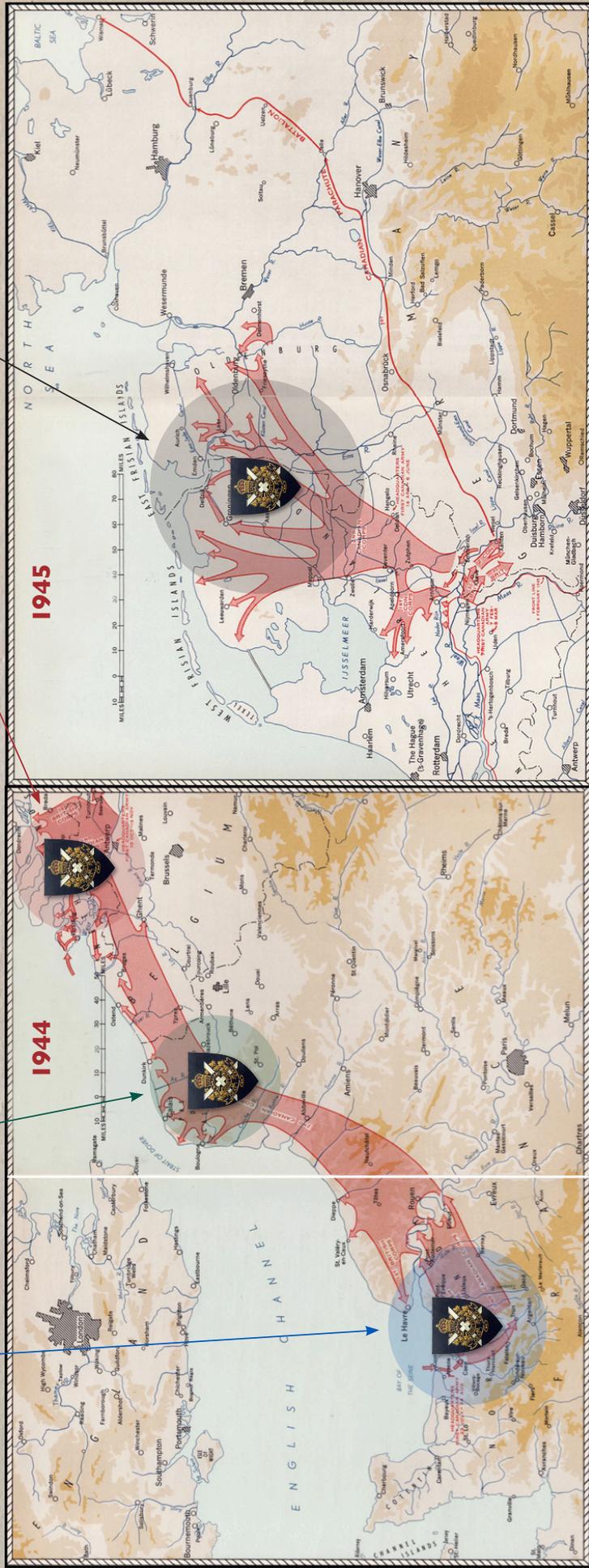
These maps show the path taken by the First Canadian Army in the Victory Campaign for the liberation of North-West Europe in 1944 and 1945. The Canadian Scottish Regiment (CScotR) was awarded battle honours in four major areas.

Normandy
ON 6 JUNE 1944, THE 1ST BATTALION OF THE CScotR LANDED ON JUNO BEACH AND PARTICIPATED IN EXPANDING THE BRIDGEHEAD AND THE SUBSEQUENT BREAKOUT.
NORMANDY LANDING • PUTOT-EN-BESSIN
CAEN • FALAISE

Channel Ports
LIBERATING CALAIS AND THE OTHER CHANNEL PORTS SHORTENED THE INVASION SUPPLY LINES.
CALAIS & THE LIAISON

The Scheldt
CLEARING THE ENEMY FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE SCHELDT ESTUARY WAS ESSENTIAL TO ALLOW SHIPS TO ENTER THE PORT OF ANTWERP.
LEOPOLD CANAL & THE BRESKENS POCKET

The Rhine Floodplain
CONTINUING THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS AND ENTERING GERMANY OVER DIFFICULT, OFTEN FLOODED, TERRAIN.
THE RHINELAND • MOYLAND WOOD
EMMERICH-HOCH ELTON • DEVENTER



MAJOR
BATTLE
AREAS

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR



THE CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT (PRINCESS MARY'S)
REGIMENTAL MUSEUM
BAY STREET ARMOURY, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

APRIL 2019



**INTRODUCTION TO
THE WAR DIARIES**

1ST BATTALION, CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT (CScotR)

A WAR DIARY

A war diary is the official record of a military unit that records its daily activities during wartime. War diaries provide information that can be used by the military to assess operations and improve training and tactics. They are also a source of information that historians can use for informing and educating policy makers and the public.

CScotR WAR DIARY EXCERPTS

These initial pages contain excerpts from the war diaries of the 1st Battalion Canadian Scottish Regiment (CScotR) beginning with the week before the Normandy Landing at Juno Beach on 6 June 1944. Pages will be added as we progress through significant dates during the 75th anniversary of the Regiment's action in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany in 1944 and 1945.

While these excerpts contain some modern layout and design elements such as crests and photos, we have maintained the colour, look and feel of the original record.

THE VICTORY CAMPAIGN

Following years of planning, the Victory Campaign in North-west Europe began on the 6 June 1944 (D-Day) and continued until hostilities ceased on 8 May 1945. The two maps on the preceding page show the route taken by the First Canadian Army during operations in 1944 and 1945. The four major areas where the CScotR were awarded battle honours are also shown on the map.

(cont.)

LEST WE FORGET

The victory came at a great cost. CScotR casualties amounted to:

DEAD: 394 WOUNDED: 957 PRISONERS OF WAR: 89

Those who served were from this community and others like it. They were like you, or a family member, or neighbour, or work colleague.

When reading these excerpts and viewing the photos, try to think what you, or someone close to you, would be feeling:

- *Standing in the landing craft for the long run, on rough seas, into Juno beach.*
- *Getting ready to move just before, and as, the ramp dropped open in the face of enemy fire.*
- *Seeing the person beside you fall wounded or dead.*
- *Overcoming exhaustion at the end of a long day as you dug in for the anticipated counter-attack.*
- *Experiencing the events described in these war diaries as the campaign progressed to its conclusion almost a year after it began on Juno Beach.*
- *Waiting anxiously at home for news of your loved ones.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact the Canadian Scottish Regimental Museum to:

- Obtain more information on the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's);
- Order a copy of the Regimental history *Ready for the Fray*;
- Consult with museum volunteers;
- Arrange a group tour of the museum.



THE CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT (PRINCESS MARY'S)
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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

WAR DIARY

1ST BATTALION, CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT

DATE: 1944 JUNE 1-5 EMBARKATION



Date	Summary of Events and Information
June 1	<p>Hiltingbury Camp Concentration Area Total Strength: Officers 37, Other ranks 815 Weather: Variable showers</p> <p>Awaiting orders to move and embark on LSIs (Landing Ship, Infantry) and LCTs (Landing Ship, Tanks). Owing to crowded conditions of a concentration area, troops are limited to lying around their tents, reading, playing cards and attending films being shown by the auxiliary services.</p>
June 2	<p>Hiltingbury Camp to Southampton Docks Total Strength: Officers 37, Other ranks 815 Weather: Clear and mild.</p> <p>Soldiers turned in their blankets and drew numerous supplies which looked impossible to get into their already weighted equipment, i.e., 24-hour rations, Hexamine fuel tablets, cooking stand, 2 chocolate bars, two water tight tins of cigarettes and vomit bags.</p> <p>Soldiers were transferred to Southampton Docks and embarked onto their craft. The luckiest found themselves on the HMCS Prince Henry.</p>
June 3	<p>The Solent off Southampton Total Strength: Officers 37, Other ranks 815 Weather: Clear and mild.</p> <p>Soldiers are relaxing on their craft. There is no evidence of the men being "keyed-up" for this invasion. On would gather they are just "going on another exercise."</p>
June 4	<p>The Solent off Southampton Total Strength: Officers 37, Other ranks 815 Weather: Clear and mild.</p> <p>Church services were held aboard all LSIs. "C" Coy (Company) on board the Ulster Monarch, held an impromptu concert with the ships crew. The rest of the time was spent writing letters home and playing cards.</p> <p>It was the general opinion of most that the next day was to be "D" Day, although this was unconfirmed from any reliable source.</p>

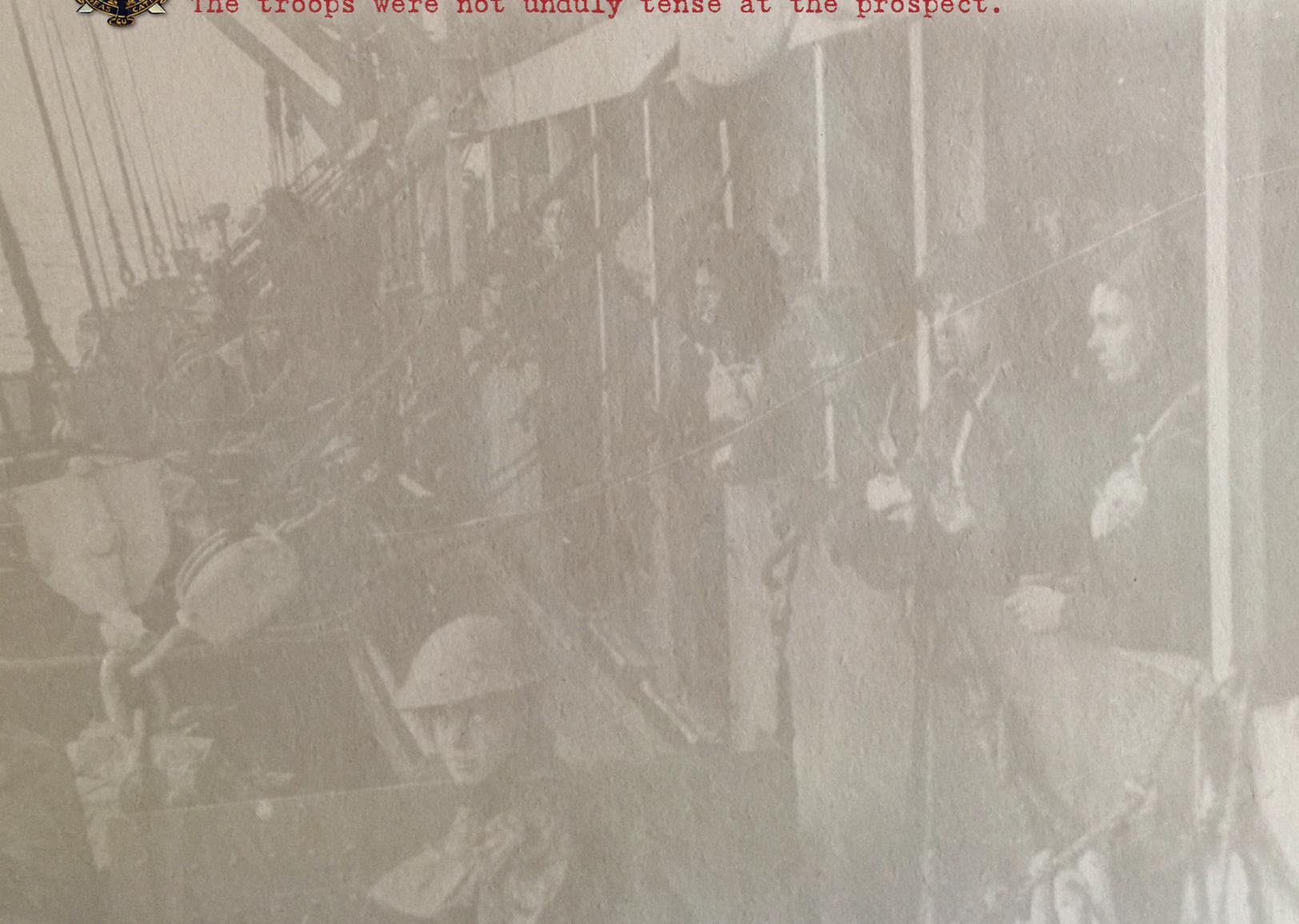


(cont.)

Date	Summary of Events and Information
June 5	<p>The Solent off Southampton Total Strength: Officers 37, Other ranks 815 Weather: Cloudy and fresh wind.</p> <p>Today is rather more exciting than yesterday. We were given maps of the actual area which we are to assault tomorrow. Our objective is to be the severing of the Tilly-Caen railway in Normandy. The day was spent in priming grenades, cleaning all weapons, and generally preparing for the morrow's activity. The troops were not unduly tense at the prospect. As the LSIs steamed out of the Solent the men lined the rails for one last glimpse of Ryde and the Isle of Wight.</p> <p>In the evening, messages were read over the P.A. system from General Eisenhower, General Montgomery, and General Crerar. The troops turned in to get all the rest possible.</p>



The day was spent in priming grenades, cleaning all weapons, and generally preparing for the morrow's activity. The troops were not unduly tense at the prospect.



**WAR DIARY**

1ST BATTALION, CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT
 DATE: 1944 JUNE 6 "D" DAY MORNING 04:30-09:35



Date	Time	Summary of Events and Information
June 6	0430	<p>Aboard Ship Total Strength: Officers 37, Other ranks 815 Weather: Clear and mild</p> <p>"Wakey, Wakey" was heard over the P.A. system and the Officers, N.C.O.s and men of the First Battalion, Canadian Scottish Regiment arose to face the greatest day in their military career. There was no fuss, no sign of "jitters", the troops ate their breakfast (knowing it would be the last proper meal for a couple of days) and then prepared to embark on the A.L.C.s (Assault Landing Craft).</p>
	0700	<p>The A.L.C.s were lowered from the Mother Ships. There is a strong sea running and the seven miles to shore (in 90 minutes) seemed like seventy miles. In spite of the anti-seasick pills taken last night and this morning, vomit bags were used by many.</p>  <p>As the "Fleets" of A.L.C.s approached the French Coast there was no sign of enemy activity, however this calm state was soon changed.</p>
	0750	<p>"C" Company, under the command of Royal Winnipeg Rifles, touched down to take out a pill-box (where MIKE & LOVE SECTORS meet).</p>
	0830	<p>"A" Company, with the C.O.s party, touched down about fifty yards from shore, 100 yards to the left of their beach exit, and waded through chest deep water to the beach. While enemy mortar fire hummed over their heads, they found their beach exits, and under heavy sniping and occasional burst of M.G. (machine gun) fire, the company made it way to the designated track and road crossing. Up to this point, "A" Company had already suffered casualties in the crafts and on the beach.</p> 

(cont.)

Date	Time	Summary of Events and Information
June 6	0830 (cont.)	<p>"B" Company and the 2 I/Cs (seconds in command) touched down on MIKE RED SECTOR where they were greeted by enemy mortar fire. One of their craft received a direct hit that caused several casualties before they were able to land.</p> <p>"B" Company and attached troops were pinned down with a shower of direct mortar fire directed from an enemy pillbox on the extreme left of Mike Red Beach. The troops were getting "hell" as the mortar fire peppered the beach causing several casualties. The pillbox was finally cleared out by the Beach Group and a German Lieutenant with a dozen men surrendered. This episode served to reinforce the strong morale of the men, who were waiting for their beach exit to be cleared of mines.</p> <p>~ ~ ~</p> <p>The enemy had flooded the lowlands which lie laterally behind the sand dunes. A tank had attempted to cross this flooded area and was bogged down, so the troops were able to clamber over its rapidly sinking chassis, otherwise they would have had to swim for it.</p> <p>~ ~ ~</p> <p>Meanwhile, "D" Company, with their bicycles, headed up "A" Company's exit across an open field which was under machine gun fire, to secure two bridges over the Suelles River.</p>



As the "Fleets" of A.L.C.s approached the French Coast there was no sign of enemy activity, however this calm state was soon changed.



WAR DIARY

1ST BATTALION, CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT
DATE: 1944 JUNE 6 "D" DAY 09:35-23:00



Date	Time	Summary of Events and Information
June 6		<p>Normandy Beachhead (Cont.) Weather: Clear and mild</p>
	0935	<p>Battalion H.Q., "A" and "B" Companies - with "D" Company already going through them - organized and started their advance through the grain fields toward the second objective. A party from "A" Company under Captain W.H.V. Matthews, M.C. and Lieutenant G.I. Hope routed out the machine gun positions and sent a dozen more prisoners back to the Beach Cage, which was now becoming crowded as the battalion advanced.</p> <p>"C" Company again came under command of 1 C.Scot.R when they met the Battalion at our axis of advance toward St Croix sur Mer. Our advance to St Croix sur Mer was very hazardous as our only protection from M.G. and sniper fire was the grain which was growing three to four feet high.</p> <p>In spite of constant cross fire, the troops, under noble leadership, ploughed forward only using the cover available when the M.G. fire became too hot. The Battalion suffered many casualties in the attack. Every man realized the necessity of reaching the Battalion objective and went "all-out". This advance in the grain fields will linger long in the minds of those who were there.</p> <p>~ ~ ~</p> <p>Despite the Royal Winnipeg Rifles having proceeded us, there were many M.G. post which had to be taken out as we advanced. Hoards of prisoners were taken and our advance was too rapid to cope with routine searching other then disarming them and sending them to the Beach Cage under one or two escorts. Of course, the odd prisoner made the mistake of trying to escape and will never have the opportunity to make the same mistake again.</p> <p>~ ~ ~</p> <p>As far as we knew, Ste Croix-sur-Mer was cleared of enemy when we reached there, but when</p>



Date	Time	Summary of Events and Information
June 6	0935 (cont.)	<p>the HQ Admin Group arrived, having landed on the second tide, they had to do a bit of house clearing owing to sniper activity. Hence, more prisoners were taken and sent back - 200 would be a conservative estimate of the prisoners taken by this battalion today.</p> <p>~ ~ ~</p> <p>From Ste Croix-sur-Mer to Colombiers-sur-Mer the battalion moved on the axis of advance with little or no opposition. However, from the number of wounded and dead found during the advance, there was proof that the enemy had once controlled this area. Upon arriving in Colombiers, further proof of the enemy's rapid retreat was evident - the Germans had left their H.Q. in full retreat leaving behind their typewriter and office supplies.</p> <p>The Battalion carried on through the town after sampling various wines and ciders brought to them by the local inhabitants.</p> <p>~ ~ ~</p> <p>Thinking about the typewriter left behind at the German H.Q. Sergeant Woodcock, L.G. couldn't stand the thought of leaving it there, so with the help of a jeep, driver and co-patriot he went back for the machine which will no doubt be used by the battalion for the duration.</p>
	1830	<p>The Battalion reorganized in the area just south of Les Planches. Lieutenant-Colonel F.N. Cabeldu, E.D., wanted to push on to the battalion's final objective but permission for this advance wasn't granted, so the battalion consolidated in the areal of Pierrepont.</p>
	2200	<p>The battalion dug in and awaited a possible enemy attack.</p>
	2300	<p>Patrols were sent out.</p>

June 6

Casualties

Officers

Killed: Lieut. F.G. Radcliff
Wounded: Lieut. J.H. Russell
Lieut. V.R. Schjelderup
Lieut. P.E. Turnbull

Other Ranks

Killed: 22
Wounded: 58
Missing: 1



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

WAR DIARY

1ST BATTALION, CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT

DATE: 1944 JUNE 7



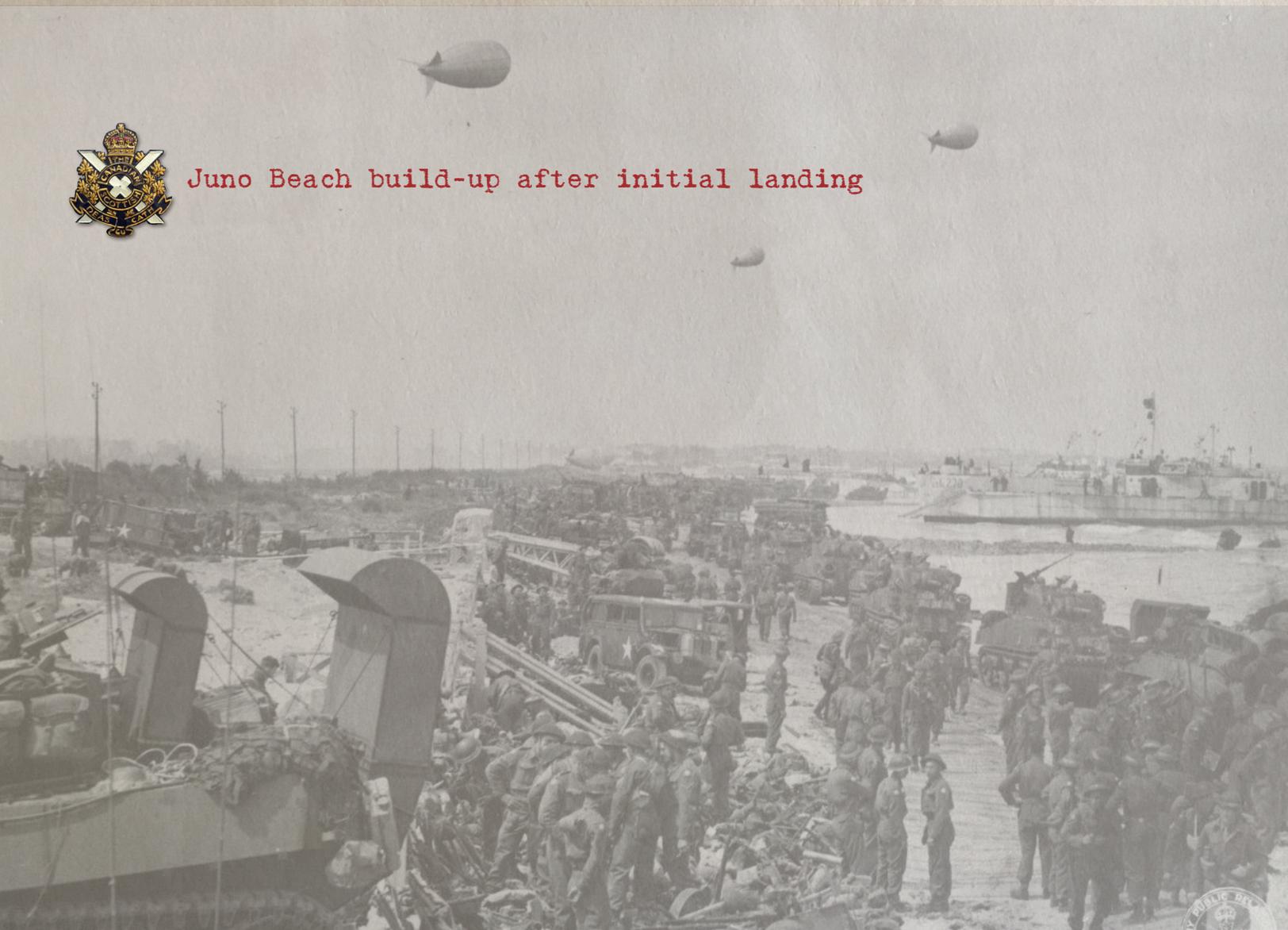
Date	Time	Summary of Events and Information
June 7		<p>Pierrepoint Total Strength: Officers 33, Other ranks 717 Weather: Clear and mild</p>
	0400	<p>Stand To – Our first night on French soil had been spent; spent in waiting for a tank attack which didn't come. Although the troops were fatigued after what had been the most nerve-racking day in their career; they were ready, not eager, to repulse any attack that the enemy might put in. However, with the dawn came the assurance that a panzer threat was not immanent</p> <p>First light and the "Tommy-cookers" (gelled fuel in a tin can used for heating food in the mess tin) went into action on the second day's 24 hour ration pack.</p>
	0850	<p>The Battalion closed down its present position and with "A" Coy in the lead moved toward the objective our Commander set his heart on last night.</p> <p>~ ~ ~</p> <p>An enemy plane had been shot down and the young pilot whom we captured later, bailed out. From this incident a rumour reached us that a company of enemy paratroops were landing. We are green troops, in a strange land and we are not in a position to disbelieve any information that reaches us by so-called "reliable sources." So, until the rumour has been debunked we had to treat it as a fact and prepare a defence accordingly.</p> <p>~ ~ ~</p> <p>As the Battalion pushed on, snipers were encountered and dealt with by the forward companies.</p> <p>"A" and "B" companies bagged many prisoners. Most didn't object once they were convinced that we did take prisoners for the duration and not line them up against the wall as targets.</p> <p>~ ~ ~</p> <p>Our convoy was continuously halted as small groups of the enemy were dealt with.</p>

(cont.)

Date	Time	Summary of Events and Information
	1250	<p data-bbox="391 237 781 268">Secqueville-en-Bessin</p> <p data-bbox="391 306 1523 485">Battalion H.Q. was established in a large farm that was still inhabited by its owner and had been a Hun H.Q. only yesterday. The R.A.P. (Regional Aid Post) set up their medical centre in the main farm house and the officers were established in the big barn.</p> <p data-bbox="391 527 1484 632">All ranks dug slit trenches and prepared for an all-round defense. "A" Coy ran into 30 enemy in the area: one got away, three were killed trying to escape and 26 were taken prisoner.</p> <p data-bbox="391 667 1487 772">This new area is by no means free of snipers, some of whom are local towns people who do not look upon us with any ore favour than they did the Hun.</p>
June 7		<p data-bbox="391 810 578 842">Casualties</p> <p data-bbox="391 856 886 888">Wounded: R.S.M. Stothard J.</p>



Juno Beach build-up after initial landing



**WAR DIARY**

1ST BATTALION, CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT

DATE: 1944 JUNE 8 AND 9 NORMANDY



Date	Time	Summary of Events and Information
June 8		<p>Secqueville-en-Bessin Total Strength: Officers 33, Other ranks 717 Weather: Clear and mild</p>
	0145	<p>Our patrols reported having contact with enemy firepower but no direct contact with the enemy.</p>
	0245	<p>We intercepted a message that the Regina Rifles had been overrun by a large number of tanks.</p>
	0545	<p>Enemy tanks and infantry have broken through the Winnipeg Rifles area. Our thought is "We are next!" Enemy tanks are reported as being a little south of our position.</p>
	0800	<p>All Companies awaiting panzer attack. Two squadrons of the 6th Armoured Regiment have taken up defensive positions and are awaiting the enemy thrust.</p> <p>Battalion HQ has moved from the barn to the heavily reinforced wine cellar. (Diarist comment: no wine, but cider at 5 Francs a quart was available at the farm house.)</p> <p>Our position at this point was quite uncertain. The Royal Winnipeg Rifles (RWR) and the Regina Rifles have suffered considerable casualties and it was expected that we would relieve on of these battalions.</p> <p>~ ~ ~</p> <p>Col. F.N. Cabeldu received a warning order to be prepared to relieve the RWR and put in an attack at that location as all but one of their Companies had been overrun.</p>
	2030	<p>Our counter-attack resources included 2 field artillery regiments and a regiment of tanks.</p> <p>"D" Company led the attack and secured their objective at terrible cost. "A" Company joined the assault and, led by Major Plows, moved past the original position held by the RWR around Putot-en-Bessin and across the Bayeaux-Caen railroad.</p> <p>The counter-attack on the enemy was a complete success.</p>

(cont.)

Date	Time	Summary of Events and Information
June 9		Putot-en-Bessin Total Strength: Officers 37, Other ranks 822 Weather: Cloudy with variable showers
	1215	Enemy mortar fire continued during the early morning but no serious counter attack followed. Enemy snipers have been active in forward company areas and around Battalion H.Q.
		Enemy tanks supported by infantry were reported approaching) but were met by our fire and retired in the direction of Bronay.
		<p>Two major enemy counter attacks developed during the afternoon (from 1200 to 1400 hrs and from 1530 to 1800 hrs) and both were successfully repulsed by "A" and "D" Companies, with "D" Company suffering further heavy casualties.</p> <p>The armour was slow in giving support due to enemy tank threat from the north. During this time the forward companies were almost constantly under heavy mortar fire. Snipers continued to be active around Battalion H.Q. and several were eliminated during the day.</p>

Casualties

Note: Most of the casualties reported and recorded on June 9 occurred during the late evening of June 8.

June 8	Officers	Other Ranks
	Killed: Capt. J.T. Bryden	Killed: 3
	Wounded: Major G.T. MacEwan Lieut. A.C. Peck	Wounded: 2
		Missing: 0
June 9	Officers	Other Ranks
	Killed: 0	Killed: 36
	Wounded: Lieut. B. Clarke Lieut. B. Carrothers	Wounded: 63
		Missing: 12



"The 1st Battalion of The Canadian Scottish Regiment had distinguished itself; but the cost had been high."

- Colonel C. P. Stacey, The Victory Campaign, Pg. 136

**WAR DIARY**

1ST BATTALION, CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT
DATE: 1944 JUNE 10 AND 11 NORMANDY



Date	Time	Summary of Events and Information
June 10		Putot-en-Bessin Total Strength: Officers 36, Other ranks 708 Weather: Overcast
		Companies have retired from positions occupied after yesterday's attacks to better defensive positions around Putot-en-Bessin.
	0930	<p>"D" Company patrolled to the bridge over the railroad and came under heavy MG (machine gun) fire. A patrol of one section of bren carriers and two sections of MG carriers reached the bridge area, dismounted and fired at enemy positions.</p> 
	1020	A patrol from "B" Company reported a party of 30 enemy troops who could be laying mines and digging in. Our artillery engaged these troops and forced them to retire.
	2300	Lt. Col. Cabeldu briefed Lieuts. McDonald and Ross on a reconnaissance they will lead this evening. Two platoons from "B" Company will attempt to determine the location and strength of the enemy 88 mm guns and MG positions. They will be supported by 4.2-inch and 3-inch mortars, artillery and MGs. The platoon will return and not attempt to hold the area.

June 10

Casualties**Officers**

Killed: Lieut. I.P. McDonald

Wounded:

Other Ranks

Killed: 13

Wounded: 5

Missing: 4

(cont.)

Date	Time	Summary of Events and Information
June 11		Putot-en-Bessin Total Strength: Officers 37, Other ranks 808 Weather: Cloudy and cool
	1200	Capt. Mathews with Lieut. Lundie and personnel from Support Company crossed the bridge to retrieve a Bren gun carrier, a 15 cwt (hundredweight) truck and an anti-tank gun but were unable to find the equipment which was presumably removed by the enemy.
	1515	A patrol of 10 under Lieut. Hope reported in from a four-hour recce of the area around the bridge. Having cleared houses in the area and not seeing any enemy, it appears the area has been cleared.
	1430	While the 7 Canadian Infantry Brigade (of which the CScotR are at part) played a holding role, the Queens Own Rifles on our left and the 6th Green Howard Regiment on our right attacked Le Mesnil Patry and received heavy casualties.
	2200	Lieut. G.I. Hope was killed by a sniper.

June 11	Casualties	
	Officers	Other Ranks
	Killed: Lieut. G.I. Hope	Killed: 0
	Wounded:	Wounded: 3
		Missing: 0

