

Second World War Unit War Diary - 1/7th Bn. Middlesex Regiment, July 1944 - Capt Shippam

The following is from the National Archives WO 171/1345

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Month and Year JULY 1944

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required).

Unit 1/7 Middlesex Regt., B.C.O.
Commanding Officer LtCol A.M.Mans.

Place.	Date	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	References to Appendices.
Colville	8		During the morning CO visits A coy and 3 & 5 pls and later 153 Bde HQ. Operation Uhamwood reported to be going well. Co attends a conference at 153 Bde HQ where reliefs of 153 fwd Bns is planned by 154 Bde with a view to possible exploitation fwd to the factory area. Also plans for MG pi to cross river and sp 153 from the LESISSI feature, but COC will not permit the mortar pls to accompany it. Some shelling of fwd areas during day, and enemy air activity at night fairly heavy.	
	9		Weather: Fine, but cloudy later. D coy relieved B coy without incident. Nothing to report during day from coys. CO visited C coy and 153 Bde HQ, and later A coy to discuss possible sp for operation towards factories at COLOMBELLES. 1600 Capt Burton and Capt Shippam wounded on a mine whilst making a recon in a jeep for an area for HQ coy near HQ. Quiet night.	
	10		Weather: Fine and warm, but later cloudy with some rain. 14pi now in posn on the LESISSI feature with good observation of the factory area, under comd of C coy. Plans received for the attack on the Colombelles area to enable the RS to demolish the Chimneys now for a long time a thorn in the flesh of the fwd Bns who claim enemy observation from them. CO visits C, D and A coys. 1130 Sharp raid of enemy fighters on 152 and 153 Bde areas, newly pursued by Spitfires, with the result a Sgt standing outside the S.O.R. was struck 1622/PMEA/1-500,000-9/41.	

6 PM - 2000 Hrs 17 Jul 44.
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Colville.	10		in the foot by spent cannon shell from one of our own fighters, causing a very nasty wound. Otherwise no other cas reported from coys. Report is received of the death of Capt Shippam from pneumonia brought on by shock, a very sad loss. Capt Burton has been evacuated to U.K., with damage to his sight, thought to be serious.	
	11	0100	Weather: Cloudy and windy, much colder. Operation "Stack" commences, spd by A coy, C coy and 14pi D coy. Operation started well, but enemy counter attacked very strongly and supported by six "Tiger" tanks at very close quarters forced us to withdraw, which 10pi carried out in a very exemplary manner though under heavy mortar and 88mm fire, bringing out all their guns and carriers, though losing much small personal kit, under comd Lt Hawkins. CO visits A and C coys during the battle and then 14pi. Enemy aircraft again active during daylight over the divisional area. Enemy shelling very heavy at night on rear areas where coys HQs suffered some cas. Enemy still shows much uneasiness towards any movement of ours to exploit.	
	12		Weather: Cloudy and dull. Colder. Quiet day apart from normal enemy attention to the woods and St HONORINE. Consequent upon the mixing of Bns for "Stack", reorganisation will take place today and tomorrow and 154 Bde will relieve 153 Bde. Apparently suspecting it to be our intention to seize the factory area for use of the Chimneys for OPs, the enemy appears to be surely destroying them all. Lt Abiman at 14pi CP reports several of them missing. 1800 A coy sp by 14pi carry out a most successful shoot on to Rd triangle area at COLOMBELLES where three large fires developed after smoke had 1622/PMEA/1-500,000-9/41.	

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