

26 Bomb Disposal Section.

1 June 1944 to 30 November 1944 file reference WO171/1963.

Officer Commanding Lieutenant A Blackwall RE.

2 June.

Location Felixstowe.

2200 Main body of section embarked personnel and vehicles in Landing Ship Tank II Serial 3761.

2 to 7 June.

At moorings and at sea – no sign of enemy activity.

7 June.

Location MEUVAINES.

1630 Disembarked at JIG Green Beach and set up Sect HQ at MEUVAINES T 892850.

2350 Section standing by for immediate BD operations, vehicles tactically loaded.

8 June.

Cleared 1000lb GS British UXB from near FOS at VER-SUR-MERE, a German bazooka from REME HQ and forwarded report, swept area of mines for HQ 30 Corps and cleared a 6-inch Naval Shell. Units are not reporting UXB.

9 June.

Cleared 2 AA shells and OC Section dismantled an 8-inch rocket shell fired from aircraft., forwarded report by IO RE 104 BSA.

10 June.

Made safe small dump of German bazookas, cleared road of tree blocks and demolished tree stumps for neighbouring units, 1 UX AA shell at CREULLY Water Point.

11 June Dismantled enemy rocket battery on ELS at ASNELLES-SUR-MERE. Investigated enemy ammo dumps in RE stores area. Cleared suspect UXB at BUHOT and LA ROSUERE.

12 June.

Dismantled enemy rocket battery and work at disposal CRE 104 BSA.

13 June.

Cleared one 500lb British bomb from ARBOMANCHE-LES-BAINS AND A 4 INCH Naval shell from AAOR.

14 June.

Work at disposal CRE 104 BSA.

Visit from RAF intelligence re 8-inch rocket shell.

15 June.

RAF intelligence uncovered 8-inch rocket shell for further investigation. Residue part arrived ? ?

Section clear one UX AA shell from AA Site near MEUVAINES.

16 June.

Section employed in removal of enemy explosives from near 104 BSA Command post.

OC Section contacted by 9 beach group, received info of 3 UXB.

2230 OC Sec called out by BM 104 BSA-certified UXB at MONT FLEURY as safe.

17 June.

Work started 2 UXB near 9 Beach GP HQ. Work started completed on a suspected UXB in Convent, VER-SUR-MER and on a British 500lb GP at MONT FLEURY. Suspected 4000lb British bombs on beach near LA RIVIERE.

Were investigated and discredited by OC Sec, UX 25lb shell reported by RASC.

18 to 21 June.

Work continued satisfactorily on both the a/m bombs-conditions very difficult owing to alternate layers of wet sand and clay and shortage of suitable timber. UX 25lb shell reported by RASC cleared.

22 June.

One bomb reached and disposed of 500lb GPUU near 9 Beach GP depth 20' 6 " Advance part of section moved to BAYEUX to start 2nd Army Mine School with OC Section.

23 June.

Main body of section officially released from CRE 104 BSA and moved to VILL SEANARL, BAYEAX. Work started on UXB near FUMICHON work continuing on 2nd UXB AT REAR OF 9 Beach Group HQ – Work started on Exhibit room and store of 2 Army Mine School.

24 June.

Location BAYEUX.

Work continuing on both UXBs mentioned above and in Mine School.

25 June.

500lb GPUS bomb from near FUMICHON, depth 18 feet work continued with UXB at rear of 9 Beach Group HQ and with preparation of mine-school.

26 June.

Bomb cleared from rear of 9 Beach Gp HQ mine-school depth 27 feet. Many visitors received and instructed at mine-school. Inf received school to be handed to 31 RHU.

27 June.

Section continuing to extend and run museum of mines ect and remaining at VILA JEANDARC. Over 100 visitors each day including senior officers and BDE Commander who arranged for officers in al Sqdhs to attend. Sub secs preparing timber and veh for RD operations.

1 July.

Location BAYEUX.

Section employed as staff of 2nd Army Mines-School which was designed t and constructed by this section 100% of sappers employed as instructors OC Sec , school commandant. Up to 1000 men per day of units moving forward RHUs ect. Normal attendance about 500.

2 to 18 July.

Work continues at mine-school.

18 to 21 July.

As sheet 1 ?

22 July.

Work at mines-school 90mm US AA Shell dug up from British Hospital.

23 to 26 July.

Work continues at mine-school.

27 July.

Work at mines school. 100lb GP US UXB removed from LA ROSIERE.

28 to 29 July.

Work continuing at mine-school.

30 July.

Work mines-school. 1 UX mortar bomb cleared from 6 Bd Hospital.

31 July.

Work continues at mine-school attendance lighter.

1 to 18 August.

Section continued to run and instruct 2 Army the Mine-School. OC Sec investigated TMZ 43 for 21 Army Group sectioning and mine tests carried out for production of Tech ?and drawings .

18 to 24 August.

Section continued to run and instruct 2 Army Mines-School.

24 August.

School handed over to 136 BD Section and Section moved to PUTANGES.

25 August

Location AMANELS.

Section working on two German 1000kg SC bombs and 500lb British and US bombs at LA CARNEILLE and 2 US 500lb GP and 5 UX US 155mm shells. In ARGENTAN. Orders to move to 4 Army roadhead at 1845 hrs Report to 661 A W Company.

26 August.

Location COUVAINES.

OC Sec arrived at COURVAINES and reported to 661 AW Company at 0100. Main body of Sec arrived at 0530.

28 August.

Location LA RABOTIERE.

Sect employed on 2 UXB at JUIGHETTES and 1 UXB at Roby St, LA FERTE FRESNEL and one dump of enemy HE rockets and sweeping verges.

29 August Sec employed on 2 UXB at JUIGNETTES and sweeping road verges from LA FORTE FRESNE.

30 August.

10 C x UXB at JUIGNETTES detonated in situ, sweeping road verges from RUGLES towards LAIGLE. UXB 500lb US removed from house in LAIGLE.

31 August.

2 x UXB at JUIGNETTES awaiting opportunity for detonating. Road verge sweeping completed to LAIGLE. Recce carried out UXB sect in the whole of LAIGLE.

1 September.

Location LARABOTIERE.

Not mentioned in War Diary specifically however the Section title was redesignated to Platoon on the 1 September.

Work completed on 500lb US GP at JUIGNETTES. Two 100lb US GP removed at GASINETTE. Work proceeding on buried 500lb in Hospital at LAIGLE.

2 September.

Work continuing on bomb in Hospital and started on 500lb by side of river in LAIGLE. TWO 100lb GP US, one 100lb GP US and a 150kg German bomb removed from Rly Station LAIGLE.

3 September.

Work continues on bombs in hospital and river LAIGLE. Nineteen 50kg German bombs, laid as demolition charges, removed from Rly near LAIGLE.

4 September.

Work continues on bombs in hospital and river at LAIGLE. 2 x 500lb US GP bombs removed from BOIS ARNAULT – RUGLES. 1500lb US removed from level crossing at LA BOULIER. 6 German aircraft rocket bombs removed from near LARABOTIERE making a total of 40 UX aircraft bombs and 20 ground rockets cleared by Platoon during the last week.

5 September.

Platoon employed on domestic duties and loading to move.

6 September.

Platoon moved by road to JEUFOSSE on river SEINE near VERNON.

7 September.

Location JUEFOSSE.

Work started on 500lb in factory in VERNON and a parachute flare removed.

Two UXB detonated in MANTES GASSICOURT.

8 September.

UX Anti-tank shell and French 10kg A/P bomb removed near JUEFOSSE Platoon packing up to move.

9 September.

Platoon moved into bivouac at MARSEILLE EN RAUVAISIS.

10 September.

Platoon moved into bivouac at ARRAS.

11 September.

Location ARRAS.

Platoon moved into bivouac at GASBAEC near LENICK St QUINTON-BRUSSELS.

12 September.

Location GASBEAC.

OC immunised and defuzed a flying bomb left armed by Germans at QUAREMONT.

13 September.

Recce carried out on 2 UXB in 6 roadhead at HERRINES.

14 September.

Work started on excavation for two bombs at HERRINES.

15 September.

1000lb GP US removed at HERRINES and also from MUILEBEEK, work continuing on 2nd 1000lb GP at HERRINES.
One section assisted to clear quarters of 21 AG ? during night.

16 September.

Platoon moved by road to MEYSSE 2nd 1000lb GP at HERRINES removed.

17 September.

2 UXB at WLLNBOECK investigated. Work started on clearing house of possible booby traps for 21 AG Rear in Brussels.

18 to 23 September.

Location MEYSSE.

Platoon clearing house of possible mine, bombs and booby traps for HQ 21 AG.

24 September.

Platoon cleared former RADIO GUAERBEEK Brussels.

25 September.

Platoon started excavation of 3 UXBs in grounds of Chateau Royal LIMBEAK.

26 September.

One small GP US removed from Chateau Royal LIMBEAK, work continuing with three others.

27 to 30 September.

Working continuing on 3 UXBs at Chateau Royal LIMBEAK.

29 September.

Location DIEST.

Platoon moved out of MEYSSE by road, bivouac near DIEST.

30 September.

Platoon arrived at NIJMEGAN and became part of 30 Corps Troop RE.

1 October.

Location NIJMEGAN.

Investigated UXB in R2 US Div area under SLELLFFENETT Bridge at night.

2 October.

Plt cleared SD 4 and SC10 A A/P bombs and a large number of shells at NIJMEGAN.

3 October.

NIJMEGAN Bridge area searched for UXBs none found. Old Police HQ searched for possible time bombs. A/Tank mine ? shellfire in locality at night.

4 and 5 October.

Assistance given to St Bridge RWR in investigating NIJMEGAN Bridge for mine-charges.

6 October.

Plt employed on removal of UX shells and 1 SC10A bomb.

7 October.

Work started on 2 UXB and on further small jobs.

8 October.

500lb British GP with time fuze detonated at 10 ft after 42 hrs by this Plt.

9 October.

1000lb US GP bomb cleared, 4 mines type GS similar to the ones used on NIJMEGAN Bridge sabotage attempt found on river bank 4 ? under enemy observation. All float chambers were flooded to avoid re-use by an enemy raiding party by water.

10 October.

2 x 250kg bombs laid as bridge dem charges removed. Houses checked over for HQ 10 Gar.

11 September.

2 further houses checked over for 10 Gar. Charges removed from petrol tanks at Shell Mek depot.

12 October.

Further houses checked over for 10 Gar.

13 October.

Minor incidents – shells grenades ect cleared.

14 October.

Minor incidents and 1 260lb fragmentation US cleared.

15 October.

4 x 250kg bombs laid as br dem charges removed. Brickwork of Rly br checked for concealed charges. 2 shells cleared.

16 October.

2 x 250 kg bombs laid as br dem charges removed. Minor Incidents.

17 October.

18 UX shells removed from various parts of NIJMEGAN.

18 October.

Minor incidents and repairs to prospective billet.

18 October.

Platoon moved into private house 24 and 26 SUMATRAPLEIN, NIGMEGAN, from dugout in woods.

20 October.

Plt spent morning training – concealment and camouflage with 11 Fld Company, afternoon minor incidents and moving BD Timber. Billets shelled. In morning.

21 October.

Pl employed in minor incidents all day. Billets shelled in the morning.

22 to 24 October.

Pl employed on minor incidents including 2 15cm German HE Rockets reported by US Command Post Kidnap area.

25 October.

Training-map reading-weapon training – protection on move and in ? Shelling at night.

26 October.

Pl loaded preparatory to move to BALEN.

27 October.

Pl moved by road to covered billet at BALEN.

28 October.

Working on accommodation.

30 October.

Pl employed sweeping banks of MEUSE-ESCAUT Canal and work at disposal of DCRE BOURG LEOPOLD.

31 October.

Pl employed sweeping banks of MEUSE-ESCAUT Canal and work at disposal of DCRE BOURG LEOPOLD.

1 November.

Location BALEN.

1 and 2 November.

Checking banks on MUESE-ESCAUT Canal for mines and work at disposal of DCRE BOURG LEOPOLD.

3 to 6 November.

Clearing UX shells, mortar bombs ect in region of 2 Army Tps HQ and works at disposal of DCRE BOURG LEOPOLD.

7 November.

Dismantled Bailey Br at SCHAFT and returned to RE dump.

8 September.

Work at disposal of DCRE BOURG LEOPOLD.

9 September.

Diving crew provided for work on bridge at BEERNGEN.

10 September.

Work at disposal of DCRE BOURG LEOPOLD. Crew as above O i/c dived.

11 September.

Work at disposal of DCRE BOURG LEOPOLD. Lieutenant Fairhall and Sgt Bryce dived.

12 September.

Work at disposal of DCRE BOURG LEOPOLD.

13 September.

Lt A Blackwall RE relinquished command of Platoon after 3 ¾ years and Lt J Fairhall RE took over. Work at disposal of DCRE BOURG LEOPOLD.

14 to 30 November.

Clearing UV Missiles from BALEN area. Work at disposal of DCRE BOURG LEOPOLD. Diving crew for works on bridge at BEERINGEN BOURG LEOPOLD. Lt J Faihall and Cpl Taylor dived.