



Information Sheet

D-Day War Diary Excerpt

1st Battalion, Canadian Scottish Regiment

Date: 1944 June 6 "D" Day Morning 04:30 – 09:35

Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
June 6		<p>Aboard Ship</p> <p>Total Strength: Officers 37, Other ranks 815</p> <p>Weather: Clear and mild</p>
	0430	<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</p>

		crossing. Up to this point, "A" Company had already suffered casualties in the crafts and on the beach.
		<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>

The War Diary for 6 June continues until 23:00 when "patrols were sent out." The last entry for the day is the list of casualties:

June 6	Casualties	
	Officers	Other Ranks
	Killed: Lieut. F.G. Radcliff	Killed: 22
	Wounded: Lieut. J.H. Russell	Wounded: 58
	Lieut. V.R.Schjelderup	Missing: 1
	Lieut. P.E. Turnbull	