

NOTE

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Directorate of History
National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Canada
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RESTRICTED

AMENDMENT TO
REPORT NO. 139
HISTORICAL SECTION
CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: DHD 33
by SAE for DHist NDHQ
Date: AUG 11 1985
ADUT

1. The following amendment, dealing with the casualties suffered by the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion on 6 Jun 44 should be read in conjunction with para 40 of Report No. 139.

2. This breakdown of casualty figures has been compiled by the Officer i/c War Diaries, Historical Section, C.M.H.Q., from information contained on the "battle casualty statistics cards" maintained by the Casualty Section, Overseas Canadian Records Office.

3. Casualties for 6 Jun were as follows:

Presumed Killed	2
Killed	18
Missing	91
Wounded	<u>6</u>
Total	117

This figure 'Missing' 91, includes 10 listed as "now safe" and 81 listed as "P.O.W. now repatriated."

[Signature]
(C.P. Stacey) Colonel
Director Historical Section

5 Oct 46

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R E P O R T NO. 139

HISTORICAL OFFICER

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Authority: DHD 3-3

CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS by 722 AUG for DHist NDHQ
Date: ADUT 11 1986

THE 1ST CANADIAN PARACHUTE BATTALION IN FRANCE
(6 JUNE - 6 SEPTEMBER 1944)

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JUL 7 1945

SECRET

REPORT NO. 139

HISTORICAL OFFICER

JUL 7 1945

CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

The 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion in France
(6 June - 6 September 1944)

1. This report is the story in outline of the participation of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion in the Allied Invasion of France. The period covered is from D-day, 6 Jun 44, to the unit's return to England on 6 Sep 44. The formation of this unit, and the problems arising out of its early training in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, have been briefly discussed in an earlier report (No. 138).

2. After its arrival in the United Kingdom on 28 Jul 43, under the command of Lt.-Col. G.F.P. Bradbrooke, the Battalion had ten months' extensive training in preparation for the airborne phase of the Allied assault. During this period of training, and subsequently during action in France, the unit formed part of the 3rd Parachute Brigade of the British 6th Airborne Division. The latter formation was included in 21 Army Group which, under the command of General Sir Bernard Montgomery, comprised the British and Canadian component of the Allied forces that invaded France. The following brief account will inevitably make frequent reference to the activities of the British formations under whose command 1 Cdn Para Bn served, in order that the relationship of the unit to the operation as a whole may be clearly established.

3. Material for this report has been drawn from the unit War Diary, substantially supplemented by the War Diary of 3 Para Bde (Brit), and from sitreps and the statements of officers who participated in the airborne assault. Map references throughout this report refer to: FRANCE, 1:100,000, CAEN-FALAISE, Sheet 7F; LE HAVRE - PONT-AUDEMER, Sheet 8E; and LISIEUX - BERNAY, Sheet 8F.

GENERAL PLAN OF THE INVASION

4. The general plan of the Allied invasion of France in Operation "OVERLORD" is described in the report, -- "Canadian Participation in the Operations in North West Europe, 1944. Part 1: The Assault and Subsequent Operations of 3 Cdn Div and 2 Cdn Armd Bde".# In very condensed form the initial Joint Plan visualized a night attack by bombers, in very great strength, followed by a large-scale attack by airborne troops. The latter would precede and prepare for the main seaborne invasion, which would take place under the cover of further air support and a tremendous naval bombardment. The general area of the attack was that portion of the north-eastern coast of NORMANDY in the vicinity of CARENTAN, BAYEUX and CAEN.

FORMATION AND UNIT OPERATIONS

5. The airborne attack comprised two major operations. In the western sector, on the right of the Allied landing, near CARENTAN and VARREVILLE beaches, two American divisions, 82 and 101 Airborne Divs, were to make a descent in preparation for the seaborne landings in that area. In the eastern sector, allotted

Still in preparation.

