

Communications from III. Bataillon 25 Panzergrenadierregiment, 12 SS Hitler Jugend Panzer Division to Standartenfuhrer Kurt "Panzer" Meyer at Abbaye d'Ardenne 8 July 1944

05:30 - Artillery fire on position of II./25 SS-Panzer-Grenadiers (*in Glamanche*) moves from front to rear of their position (*implies attack is imminent.*)

06:40 - British break through at 7. Kompanie, II./25 SS-Pzr-Gren. in and around Galmanche, east north-east of Buron about 2,000 metres.

07:17 - Mortar bombs drop on the positions of III./25 SS-Pzr-Gren. (*in and north of Buron*).

07:28 - Report from Hauptmann Steger commander II./25 SS-Pzr-Gren.: British breakthrough of 7. Kompanie repulsed.

Notes from the War Diaries of the Highland Light Infantry of Canada, the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders and the British on their left flank

7-July, 23:10 - Highland Light Infantry of Canada Battalion HQ closes down at Villons-les-Buissons and moves to Le Vey 23:30 hrs. (*closer to the 8 July start-line*). Weather is clear, cool & visibility good. Morale is 100%. Men are anxious to get at the enemy in Buron who have mortared and shelled them for over one month.

8-July, 05:00 - H.L.I. of C. Battalion is awakened by a terrific barrage along the whole corps front. Germans open up with strong counter-battery fire and drop many into assembly area. Battalion members in Le Vey area, are obliged to shelter in slit trenches.

07:10 – British 59th Staffordshire Infantry Division, C Company 2/6 South Staffords are at the line of trees 330 metres north-east of Galmanche (*on H.L.I. of C. 's left flank*).

07:30 2/6 South Staffords begin Phase II

07:30 – Two assaulting companies of the H.L.I. of C. cross their start-line and move down their axis. 'B' Company to the left, east

07:35 - Artillery falling on the positions of III./25 SS-Pzr-Gren. (*in and north of Buron*).

of Les Buissons-Buron road, 'D' Company on the right, along the VieuxCairon-Buron road.

07:30 – Stormont Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders (on H.L.I. of C.'s right flank) cross their start-line near Vieux Cairon (*1,500 metres west-north-west of Buron*), and commence their attack on Gruchy

07:35 - 1/7 Warwicks on the left flank of the H.L.I. of C. start to attack past the west side of Galmanche (*i.e. between it and Buron*) towards St. Contest.

07:45 - The S.D. & G.H. under heavy mortar fire from Gruchy.

07:54 - The S.D. & G.H. come under heavy machine gun fire from Gruchy (*including 20 mm leichte Flak*).

07:55 – The South Staffords on the Canadian left flank have been thrown back to the Cambes rail station

08:00 - Brits are moving into St. Contest.

08:00 - H.L.I. of C. are at the anti-tank ditches. Up to that point little enemy fire due to being screened by the huge amount of dust thrown up by the supporting bombardment. Anti-tank ditch and auxiliary defensive positions behind them are cleared after heavy fighting.

08:05 - Canadian 1st Hussars moving into Gruchy in support of S.D. & G.H.

08:10 The South Staffords' troops on point re-assemble.

08:12 – German 16. Kompanie III./25 Pioniers are observed fleeing Gruchy towards Buron.

08:25 - 'D' Company of H.L.I. of C. reports Buron entered.

08:27 – (*Canadians*) have broken through between 9. and 10. Kompanie. German artillerie and nebelwerfer fire a barrage on and north of Buron.

08:35 – British tanks rolling over the battalion command post III./25.

08:45 – British tanks have broken through 5. and 7. Kompanie, II./25, east of Galmanche.

09:25 – Forward Observation Officer from the Werfer-Abteilung reports from l'Abbaye d'Ardenne: "Five heavy enemy tanks have driven into Buron."

09:33 - Rockets fire on Buron, lands between the (*Canadian*) tanks.

09:34 - Four (*unidentified*) tanks moving from Buron to Cambes (*probably the five Panzer IV's under Wünschel moving to intercept the allied tanks around St. Contest*).

08:30 The South Staffords' troops on point push forward again

08:30 - 1st Hussars mopping up between Buron and Gruchy in support of H.L.I. of C.

08:30 - 'D' Company of H.L.I. of C. continue to battle in Buron.

08:45 - 'D' Coy of H.L.I. of C. reports Buron occupied (*i.e. 'entered' but not 'cleared'*).

09:00 - 'A' & 'B' troop's M10s of 245 battery of 62nd anti-tank regiment move into Buron and into position.

09:20 - forward troops of S.D. & G.H. are in Gruchy.

09:30 - 1/7 Warwicks regroup on the west side of St. Contest (*between St. Contest and Buron*).

09.45 – Tanks have broken through & overrun 9. Kompanie (*between Buron and Gruchy, 4 Troop Sherbrooke Fusiliers? s.p. Priests? 1st Hussars?*) rolling over the positions (*west to east*) but stopping short of the battalion command post. Two anti-tank guns destroyed (*belonging to 14. Kompanie Flak, III./25*).

09.48 - 9. Kompanie overrun.

09.59 - Rocket fire on Buron. The salvos landed too wide to the northwest. The order to fire came from Buron.

10.30 - Artillerie & werfer fire again on Buron, artillery on east end of Gruchy.

SS-Panzerregiment 12, SS-Obersturmführer v.Ribbentrop is ordered to “Clear out the penetration between Gruchy and Buron.”

10.33 - Rockets fired a barrage on Buron.

10.35 - One enemy tank in flames west of Buron.

10.50 – Enemy (*British*) in St.Contest.”

11.01 - Two (*German*) tanks in the northern edge of Authie (*south of Buron*). Enemy firing artillery barrages on the east edge of Buron.

11.05 - Two (*Canadian*) tanks destroyed near Buron.

11.10 - Rockets fired a salvo at the depression between Vieux - Cairon.

09:40 – ‘2’ Troop Sherbrooke Fusiliers finally in position to support ‘B’ Company, fear of mines had delayed them.

09:45 – Battalion reports Gruchy taken by S.D.&G.H.

09:50 – S.D.&G.H.s report ready to attack Chateau St. Louet

10:30 two tank squads support right flank of ‘C’ company 2/6 South Staffords in attack on Galmanche

11:00 H.L.I. of C. ‘all in’ Buron except HQ

11.15 - One (*German*) tank and a half-track burning 200 meters (*just S-E of*) Buron.

11.32 - 9. and 10. Kompanie overrun. Ten enemy tanks in the depression in the direction of Buron.” (*west-south-west of Buron*)

11.43 - Rocket fire on Buron on target.

12.30 – No more news from 7. Kompanie II./25! (*was in Galmanche & St. Contest*) Enemy (*British*) tanks in St. Contest.

12.35 - Four (*Canadian*) tanks moving south out of Buron.

12.40 – (*British*) trucks and cars are in Galmanche.

12.41 - Report from III./25 “Enemy tanks in front of battalion command post.” (*was eventually trapped in Buron*)

12.53 - Four enemy tanks on the road Buron - Authie, southern entrance to Buron.

12.59 – Artillery fire from southwest edge of Buron.

13.12 - Smokescreen east of Buron.

13.15 – Enemy tanks rolling past Buron direction 9. Kompanie positions (*new positions further south or old ones between Buron & Gruchy?*).

13.17 - Six enemy tanks in front of command post III./25.

13.20 - Four enemy tanks moving from Buron to Cussy.

11:30 – HQ of HLIC is in Buron: D Coy. Has only 39 survivors, B Coy 1/3, C Coy ½, A Coy 2/3.

12:30 – Buron quiet except snipers

13:10 – Survivors of Sherbrooke’s move south, joined by 2 platoons from Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa Machine Gun Battalion.

13.26 – Enemy infantry in the garden in front of command post III./25.

13.28 – Enemy tanks have laid down smoke from east to west in front of *Cussy (north of St. Contest)*.

13.50 - Rocket fire on Buron. Enemy tanks pull back into the woods east of Buron. (*German*) artillery firing on Buron.

14.13 – (*German*) Corps Artillerie ordered to “Fire on Buron.”

14.52 – (*German*) rockets firing on Buron.

15.20 - Report from III./25 : “We have been overrun by enemy infantry.” (*last message*)

14:30 - S.D.&G.H. start attack vs Chateau de St. Louet. (some report they penetrated chateau at 14:00)

14:30 – N.N.S. pass through Buron and advanced against Authie? As HLIofC just finishing fighting?

14:45 – C Coy S.D.&G.H.s close up to chateau St. Louet (*St. Louis*)

15:10 – 1st Hussars and S.D.&G.H. enter chateau St. Louet (*St. Louis*)

15:12 – Sherbrooke Fusiliers report consolidating south of Buron.

15:15 – report all three squadrons of 1st Hussars supported S.D. & G.H. entering chateau St. Louet (*St. Louis*)

15:25 – Sherbrooke’s & 245 Batt. A/Tk move south of Buron?

15:45 - German rockets and artillery firing on Buron.

Overnight – Those German defenders who are able to escape, abandon those objectives which have not already been captured by the allies in an effort to establish a new defensive line across the Orne River.

Casualties of SS-Panzergrenadier Regiment 25 on July 8, 1944 as reported:

KIA: 5 officers, 19 NCOs, 86 enlisted.
WIA: 1 officer, 20 NCOs, 116 enlisted.
MIA: 8 officers, 43 NCOs, 410 enlisted.”

15:30 – NNSH have pushed into Authie

16:00 – ‘A’ Coy H.L.I. of C. move south of Buron?

16:00 – N.N.S. in north edge of Authie?

16:40 – S.D.&G.H. in Chateau St. Louet ?

18:35 - Canadian Scottish begin to assault Cussy. The Regina Rifles make moves against Abbaye d’Ardenne.

20:50 – N.N.S. in Franqueville

21:00 – 5th South Staffords supported by ‘A’ Company of East Riding Yeomanry tanks on their right flank again assault the 7. Kompanie II./25 SS Pzr.Gren. in Galmanche and fighting continues into the night.

21:30 – Canadian Scottish occupy Cussy.

Nightfall – St. Contest finally cleared.

Although Buron was occupied by the H.L.I. of C., it and the over-run SS positions north of Buron were not completely cleared and secured until the next day.

Overnight and the next day, July 9th – The Canadians have achieved all of their objectives either by force of arms or by the German defenders abandoning their positions overnight. Those remnants and snipers unable to escape are mopped up on the 9th.

The divisional history states 410 as total casualty figure for 7th & 8th July so either the divisional or the regimental record is in error.

What to learn from the above reports:

Combat is fluid.

When an attacking force reports having 'entered', 'occupied' or 'secured' an objective formerly occupied by its enemies, it does not mean that the objective has been completely 'cleared' of the enemy. Pockets of resistance may remain and may commonly have been left behind during a 'break-through' or 'overrun'. This is especially true in built-up areas where every space in every building has to be searched and cleared.

This is so unlike any computer, miniature or board wargame.