

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year May 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
|-----------------------|------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| SCHWARZENBECK 8249 | 1st | 2100 2230 | Location no change - Bn disposed as follows: Bn HQ 823488, A Coy 819486, B Coy 819495, C Coy 818487, D Coy 816493. Coys carried out local patrolling fwd of coy localities. Comd 15(S) Div, Maj Gen CM Barber DSO visited Bn HQ. There was some intermittent enemy shelling of the area, which however did not cause any damage. CO & IO attend 'O' Gp at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde for clearing of woods in area SACHSEN WALD, to the north-west of the town. Commanding Officer holds 'O' Gp at Bn HQ and issues order for clearing of sector of the wood allocated to the Bn. | A Walker Capt IO |
| | 2nd | 0730 0745 | Bn with tk sqn Coldm Gds in sp ready to move off for SCHWARZENBECK. B Coy mounted on the tks move fwd along main road to GRANDE 7657 as adv guard coy. Remainder of bn followed in rear by march route tactically disposed. On reaching X rds 788522, it was found that the road ahead was blocked by a crater and B Coy were ordered to make a detour to the east of the woods via X tracks 808528 and 793543, reaching their obj, X rds 780538 without opposition but collecting in a considerable number of enemy PSW. A, C & D Coys meanwhile were disposed along track to the west from X rds 788522 and in extended order proceeded to carry out a drive through the woods to the North with final objective main rd from X rds 780538 to 751527. Opposition was again negligible though considerable numbers of enemy stragglers were rounded up. A total of 240 PW were taken during the operation. Some short but sharp enemy shelling of X rds 780538 took place, causing some casualties. The Carrier pl meanwhile reported GRANDE and KUDDEWORDE 7657 clear and in the late afternoon the bn moved fwd and concentrated in KUDDEWORDE 7657 with Bn HQ at 764572, Coys being disposed for perimeter defence of the village. The Carrier pl continued to patrol fwd into neighbouring village rounding up approx 240 PSW. | A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO |

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| | | | The night 2/3 May was spent in this location, orders being received by LO from 44(L) Bde late that night for move to RAUSDORF 7258. | A Walker Capt IO |
| GRANDE - KUDDEWORDE 7657 | 3rd | 0900 | The Carrier Pl having been sent on ahead to report on the village the remainder of the Bn followed by march route to RAUSDORF. Orders were received to push on to PAPENDORF 6960 and the CO and Coy Comds carried out a recce of this area for Coy positions prior to the arrival of the Bn, the village having already been cleared by the Carrier Platoon. By midday the Coys had commenced to occupy their def posns but on orders from Bde to the effect that all enemy tps in the HAMBURG garrison area had laid down their arms, the Bn concentrated in the village and was finally disposed with Bn HQ at BRAAK 665603 together with S and D Coys, the remaining three rifle coys spending the night at PAPENDORF. | A Walker Capt IO |
| PAPENDORF | | | | |
| | 4th | 0900 1000 | Veh column leaves BRAAK for conc area in BARGTEHEIDE 6673. Rifle Coys leave BRAAK and proceed by march route to BARGTEHEIDE. Bn HQ was established at 665733 with Coys conc nearby, in the western end of the village. During the evening it was announced the GERMANS had surrendered unconditionally on all Second Army Fronts, hostilities to cease at 0800 hrs 5 May. | A Walker Capt IO See Appx G1 |
| BARGTEHEIDE | | | | |
| | 5th | 0800 | An informal Bn parade took place in front of the Command Post to commemorate the end of hostilities. The pipers played the Fall in and after the Cease Fire had been sounded by the bugler, the Commanding Officer addressed all ranks informing them officially of the end of hostilities and congratulating them on the completion of a long and arduous task, since the initial landing in Normandy. He also spoke of the tremendous amount of work which was still to be done in winning the peace, now that we had won the war in Europe. The biggest problem was now the rounding up and dispatch to the PW cage of the hundreds of Germans, on foot, in carts, and in tpt who were now streaming down the roads. Another problem was the feeding etc of the innumerable DPs in the various camps. The Bn was responsible for a Russian PWX camp at JERSBEK 6474 having approx 1700 PWX and the task was given to D Coy, the complete company moving from BARGTEHEIDE to JERSBEK to facilitate the task. | A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO |
| BARGTEHEIDE | | | | |
| | 6th | | With no further tactical role, the Bn now busied itself with admin matters and an increase in sport and recreation. The Bn remained at BARGTEHEIDE until the 14th May and a summary of events until then is given below. | |

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| BARGTEHEIDE | 8th | | Comd 15(S) Div visits Bn HQ. Pte Nelson, C Coy, takes part in VE Day broadcast after 9pm news from the BBC studio at LUNEBURG. | A Walker Capt IO |
| | 9th | | Instrs having been received for a move in the near future to area BAD BRAMSTEDT, the CO, SO and OC HQ Coy carry out recce of this area. | |
| | 11th | | On account of the innumerable problems in the BAD BRAMSTEDT area regarding German PsW, allied PWX and DPs, A Coy moved to this area ahead of the Bn, the Coy being located in BAD BRAMSTEDT with Coy HQ at 419943. Recce parties for HQ Coy and Bn HQ move to new area. | A Walker Capt IO |
| | 12th | | CO and IO recce new Bn area. | |
| | 13th | | Bn attend Bde drumhead service at BARGTEHEIDE, Comd 15(S) Div also attending. B Coy move to new area from BARGTEHEIDE and are est at WAHLSTEDT in NAVAL ARSENAL with Coy HQ at 624980. | |
| KREIS SEGEBURG BAD BRAMSTEDT | 14th | | Remainder of Bn move to new area according to Appx A to 8RS S/7 of 13 May. Bn HQ est at 419930 with HQ Coy A Coy area BAD BRAMSTEDT HQ at 419943 B Coy area WAHLSTEDT 6298 HQ at 624980 C Coy area BOOSTEDT 5004 HQ at 507042 D Coy area RICKLING 5904 HQ at 598037 S Coy area GROSSENASPE 4600 HQ at 470005 | See Appx G2 A Walker Capt IO |
| BAD BRAMSTEDT | 15th 15- 31st | | The Commanding Officer proceeds on Gas Course to UK and Major Douglass MBE, 2i/c takes over Command. Coys were now busily engaged in making a census of all DPs PWXs etc in Coy areas. A coy area of responsibility covered many square miles when it is considered that to travel round the bn area entailed a journey of almost 50 miles. There were numerous DP camps, munition dumps etc throughout the area needing administered or guarding while the rounding up of enemy stragglers and mounting of check points had to be continued. A considerable increase in the sporting activities of coys took place with numerous inter-coy football matches. | A Walker Capt IO See Appx G3 A Walker Capt IO |