

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 227 (H) Inf Bde

Month and Year MAY, 1945

Commanding Officer Brig EC Colville, DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
GRUNHOF			<p>On May Day the projected 8 Corps bridgehead had been secured, had in many places been expanded, and from it the 11th Armoured Division had broken out towards the Baltic.</p> <p>The Bde occupied the following positions:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">10 HLI - WORTH (7744) 2 Gordons - HAMWARDE (7843) 2 A & S H - Area 7839 Bde HQ - GRUNHOF (7938)</p> <p>When Bde HQ arrived in GRUNHOF on 30 April, the telephone system was still operating and the Dutch interpreter answered calls from both GEESTHACHT (7540) and HAMBURG.</p> <p>At mid-day General Barker, GOC 8 Corps, came to see the Bde Comd and discuss the further enlargement of the bridgehead and before he left suggested that negotiations be opened on the 'phone with the Burgomaster of GEESTHACHT, whose number was soon acquired from the local authorities.</p> <p>At 1500 hrs the interpreter passed the following message:- "It is not the wish of the Allied Military Commander of this District to destroy GEESTHACHT, but this will be inevitable unless the town is surrendered by 2000 hrs to-night. A similar warning was given to the German Commander of LAUENBURG. It was unheeded and the town is now utterly destroyed and many soldiers and civilians have been killed or wounded. You must contact your local military commander at once and I shall ring up in one hour for your answer."</p> <p>When the interpreter rang up one hour later, he was informed by the Chief of Police that the Burgomaster was still at the Military</p>	

		<p>Commander's HQ, and asked if we would ring back in three quarters of an hour.</p> <p>The Burgomaster had still not returned three quarters of an hour later, so the Chief of Police was informed that if a decision had not been reached in 15 minutes time, negotiations would be broken off.</p> <p>At the end of the 15 minutes, the interpreter rang again, and this time the Burgomaster had returned. He said he was sorry that although the civilians and soldiers were agreeable, the Military Commander would not agree to the surrender of the town. The Burgomaster, however, pleaded that we should spare the town as it was full of hospitals and evacuees, and asked if he could come and talk the matter over.</p> <p>This ended the negotiations and the telephone system was then put out of order.</p> <p>Meanwhile, during the afternoon a civilian in GRUNHOF had given the information that there was 170,000 tons of V2 explosive stored in GEESTHACHT.</p>	
GRUNHOF	1	<p>At 0300 hrs a Major, Lieut and the manager of the explosive factory at GEESTHACHT came through 2 A & S H lines carrying a white flag and were brought to Bde HQ</p> <p>On arrival at Bde HQ they said they had come to make arrangements for the surrender of their town. The Bde Comd informed them of his terms which included the withdrawal of all German troops from the town by 1200 hrs and the provision of police to guide our troops into the area.</p> <p>The Germans were then conducted back to their own lines, and a further meeting was arranged to take place at the x roads at 778390 at 1000 hrs to confirm the terms.</p> <p>At 1000 hrs the German officers together with the Burgomaster returned, and it was agreed that the police of GEESTHACHT would guide our troops into the area at 1400 hrs.</p>	
GRUNHOF			

		<p>2 A & S H and 1/5 Welch, of 159 Bde, who were under comd the Bde, entered the area without incident, and occupied the high ground to the North of the town.</p> <p>In the evening the town was bombed by enemy planes but no damage or casualties were caused.</p> <p>An outline "O" Gp held at 1930 hrs is as follows:-</p> <p>15 (S) Inf Div was to protect the left flank of the 11th Armoured Division.</p> <p>227 Bde, supported by one sqn Coldm Gds and two tps 15 Recce Regt, would advance at 0800 hrs tomorrow on two axis. 10 HLI, 2 Gordons and Bde HQ right, 2 A & S H left.</p> <p>On the right, the leading Bn, 10 HLI, would clear HOHENHORN (7445), KROPPELSHAGEN (7147) and occupy the area NEU BORSEN (6946). On the left 2 A & S H would clear the buildings in square 7344, ESCHBURG (7144) and occupy BORNSEN (6945).</p>	
GRUNHOF	2	<p>10 HLI met stiff opposition in HOHENHORN (7445), which was defended by Marine troops supported by 20 mm SPs. Approx 150 PW were taken and the Bn pushed through the wood west of the village on a narrow front and cleared FAHRENDORF (7146) and KROPPELSHAGEN of Wehrmacht troops.</p> <p>2 Gordons then swept through the wood on a wide front.</p> <p>Meanwhile 2 A & S H were making good progress along their axis when at 1100 hrs a German Major, who had conducted the surrender of GEESTHACHT, and a Lieut came through their lines, and the Bde Comd went to 2 A & S H Bn HQ to meet them.</p> <p>They said they had come to make arrangements for their Commander to meet our Commander.</p> <p>A meeting place was arranged, and they returned early in the afternoon with a Colonel who told the Bde Comd that he had come to make arrangements for Field Marshal Busch, C-in-C North Germany, to meet our Commander. The Colonel also asked if "Cease Fire" could not be put into force on this sector, but the Bde Comd told him that our advance would continue.</p>	

		<p>The Divisional Commander then came forward and took the Colonel back to Corps HQ, where arrangements were made to receive Field Marshal Busch through the lines of 2 A & S H at 0700 hrs the following morning.</p> <p>Throughout OC 2 A & S H was in the unenviable position of trying to fight a battle.</p> <p>Meanwhile the Bde Gp had made good progress and by 1800 hrs Bde HQ was at 715467, 10 HLI west of KROPPELSRAGEN and 2 Gordons in FAHRENDORF, with 2 A & S H at BORNSSEN (6945).</p> <p>Two carriers of 2 A & S H were hit by bazookas on their final objective.</p> <p>At 2030 hrs the Burgomaster and Chief of Police of BERGEDORF (6447) came through the 2 A & S H lines and were sent to Bde HQ, where they told the Bde Comd that they wished to surrender the area of BERGEDORF. The Bde Comd, however, insisted that the ground to be surrendered should include all the country to the North of BERGEDORF up to and including the Autobahn. They said they could not do this as the area North of BERGEDORF was not under their control, but they agreed to go back and return with a military representative to arrange for the surrender of this area.</p>	
FAHRENDORF	3	<p>They returned through 2 A & S H lines at 0330 hrs but without a military representative. They explained to the Bde Comd that they had not been able to contact the military governor due to communications having broken down. They guaranteed that there would be no opposition in their area, and thought that it was unlikely there would be any fighting in the area to the North of the town.</p> <p>The Bde Comd then said he would order his troops not to fire on BERGEDORF, and that a local "No Firing" order was in force until 0700 hrs due to the expected arrival of Field Marshal Busch.</p> <p>The Burgomaster and Chief of Police remained at Bde HQ</p> <p>The expected arrival Field Marshal Busch through the lines of 2 A & S H at 0700 hrs did not materialise. Instead a German Major presented himself and said that Admiral Doenitz's representatives had gone direct to 21 Army Gp HQ.</p>	

			During the afternoon, 10 HLI moved to WITZHAVE (7255), 2 Gordons and Bde HQ to KASSEBURG (7856) and 2 A & S H to ROTHENBEK (7655). This was carried out without incident.	
KASSEBURG	4		The Bde continued the advance, and, meeting no opposition, reached AHRENSBURG (6567) by 1600 hrs. Bde HQ was est at 667663, with 10 HLI and 2 A & S H in AHRENSBURG and 2 Gordons at Gr HANSDORF (6866). At 2200 hrs the news was received that the German Army facing 21 Army Gp had surrendered unconditionally and that all fighting in North West Germany and Holland would cease at 0800 hrs 5 May.	
AHRENSBURG	5		Fighting ceased on 21 Army Gp Front at 0800 hrs.	
AHRENSBURG	6		Bde Church Parade with Pipe Bands was held on the lawn in the grounds of the Officers' Mess. The Bde Comd thanked all Supporting Arms, particularly 131 Fd Regt, RA, for their magnificent co-operation with the Bde.	
AHRENSBURG	7		News was received that the whole of the German Army had surrendered unconditionally and fighting would cease at 0001 hrs 8 May.	
AHRENSBURG	8		Fighting ceased at 0001 hrs, and the day was officially announced as VE Day.	
AHRENSBURG	10		The Divisional Commander addressed the Officers and Men of Bde HQ and thanked them for all the work they had done.	
AHRENSBURG	12		Bde HQ moved to new area of VINZIER (687837) at 1500 hrs and was est by 1800 hrs. The Officers' Mess at NUTSCHAU (7084) was in the house of General Baade, Commander of the 90 PG Div, and many interesting diaries were found.	APPX "D" Folio 2
VINZIER	13		10 HLI and 2 A & S H moved to their new areas of ZARPEN (8389) and BADOLDESLOE (7487). 10 HLI were est as follows:- BN HQ - Zarpen (833902) A Coy - Renhorst (8090) B Coy - Zarpen (8289) C & D Coys - Badendorf (8789) 2 A & S H were est as follows:-	

			<p>Bn HQ - 775780 A Coy - Bad Oldesloe 7482 B Coy - Rethwischdorf 7681 C Coy - Politz 7479 D Coy - Meddewade 7882</p> <p>2 Gordons remained at Gr Hansdorf, and maintained guards on PW Camps in the area.</p> <p>The Bde Comd held a conference with Bn COs to discuss the rounding up of all German soldiers still wandering about the area and also the collection and disposal of Displaced Persons, who were mostly Russians.</p> <p>In order to facilitate this task two Russian officers from PWX Camp at BAD OLDESLOE were attached to Bde HQ.</p> <p>Copy of the message addressed to the Bde Comd when they left on 19 May is attached.</p>	<p>APPX "D" Folio 1</p> <p>APPX "J" Folio 9</p>
VINZIER	14		2 A & S H reported that a 13-year-old boy had been killed by a German booby-trap ---- a pair of motor cycling goggles connected to an explosive charge ---- at POLITZ 751792	
VINZIER	15		The Bde Major addressed the men of Bde HQ and gave them an outline of occupation duties and conditions, and stressed the strict need for non-fraternisation.	
VINZIER	16		Bn Adjutants and RSMS met at Bde HQ to decide on a general policy for guard mounting.	
VINZIER	17		Order for the Bde's move to LUBECK issued	APPX "D" FOLIO 3
VINZIER	18		2 Gordons moved to LUBECK and 2 A & S H to TRAVEMUNDE	
VINZIER	19		Bde HQ left at 1230 hrs for LUBECK and arrived at approx 1400 hrs 10 HLI also moved to LUBECK	APPX "J" FOLIO 10
LUBECK	24-26		<p>The Bde Comd inspected the Guard and Billets in the Bn areas during the three days</p> <p>General Barker, Comd 8 Corps, visited the Bde area on 26 May, and arrived by plane at approx 1000 hrs</p>	
LUBECK	28		In response to a proclamation in the local Press sheet, more than 3,000 German soldiers who had been discharged after 1 April paraded in the BUNIAMSHOF (9489). Thereafter, approx 1,000 were temporarily discharged on medical grounds and another 1,000 temporarily released to carry on essential employment.	

			NOTE: The innumerable DP problems, etc, following the Bde's arrival in LUBECK will be dealt with in the June War Diary.	
--	--	--	---	--