

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. 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
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~
(Erase heading not required).

Unit 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt., (D.C.O.)

Month and Year December 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. J.P. Hall

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
PANNINGEN 773045	1st		Os.C. A,B,D Coys recce areas for Op GUILDFORD.	Sitreps from B Coy F.F. J118 to J135. OP Reports D Coy F.F. J136 to J193.
	2nd	0900 0930 1530 1830 2230	O.C. 5 pl A Coy proceeds on recce with Coy Comd and tasks are arranged for Op GUILDFORD. D Coy mortar pls move to posns for the impending Op - 13 pl to 872104, 12 and 14 pls to 879114 with Coy HQ at 819134 just S of SEVENUM. A large bomb dumping programme is carried out. 13 R.A.S.C. lorries are employed to carry the bombs to the pre-arranged R.V. at 872114. The amount of bombs to be dumped is 200 per pl mortar. B Coy Tac HQ is est at 846088. C.O. establishes a command post incorporating Tac HQ D Coy and Tac HQ mortar Coy. 1 Mans who are under comd for Op GUILDFORD - location - 837082 just W of MAASBREE. 12 and 14 pls D Coy are heavily stonked. 1 D.R. is killed and 2 O.Rs wounded.	F.F. E17.
	3rd	0545 0745 0930 1330 1615 1630	5 pl A Coy leave their present location to take up new posns for Op. H hour Op GUILDFORD 5 Pl A Coy ordered to sp 7 Seaforths in last phase of Op. 44 Bde attack BLERICK 9009. All four mortar pls are supporting this attack and fire in accordance with 15 (S) Inf Div R.A. Task Table. In addition 12 and 14 pls fire on the ferry across the MAAS at 908108. B Coys pls move fwd to conc area at 823078. Tac HQ A and B Coys join 5 pl A Coy already in posn at 888135. BLERICK taken. 5 pl are not required and are therefore released.	F.F D4, E13, 14 J.98 J102,3 FF J 104

	4th	2200	Division takes up defensive posns along the west bank of the R. MAAS in the VENLO area from 8914 to the CANAL at 7997. 2 Bdes are to be fwd in posns whilst the other is resting in the ASTEN area. 6 pl B Coy occupy posn at 862087 covering the right flank of HOUT BLERICK with D.F. tasks.	FF D6.
	5th	1500 1800	13 and 14 pls D Coy are in action on call for harassing fire. 12 and 15 pls D Coy are at rest. 227 Bde take over from 160 Bde, 53 Div the line between junc of VITWATERINGS - R. MAAS 7998 - CANAL and BLERICK 8910. The front is to be covered by M.M.G. fire, on a Bde plan. 8 pl B Coy move to fwd R.V. at 868150 and are ordered into action at 888136 in a direct fire posn D.F. tasks are selected in sp of Recce sqn. Tac HQ B Coy rejoins Coy HQ at new location SEVENUM 838139.	
	6 Dec	1500	As a result of a recce O.C. C Coy decides to place 10 Pl in a posn previously occupied by 1 Mans at 809009, also 9 pl in area 849049. These pls to cover the Bde front. 13 pl D Coy move to new posn at 880124 in order to carry out their new role of protecting the northern flank of the Div front more effectively.	
	7th	0930 1000	O.C. B Coy attends conference at BDE HQ - Coy is required to carry out snap harassing shoots as a retaliation to the enemy's daily "hate". 14 Pl D Coy is withdrawn to rest area - 13 Pl is to fire in retaliation only on to the town of VELDEN, a known enemy strong point east of R MAAS.	
	8th	0900 1320 1400	C Coy HQ and 11 pl move to HELDEN 7903. O.C. B Coy recces posns for 7 and 8 pls at 850083 and 875130 respectively. They are to occupy these from 0645 - 1700 daily, for the purpose of retaliation shoots. 15 Pl D Coy take up a posn S.E. of HELDEN at 806011 in sp of 227 Bde and on the right of the Div front. The following amount of bombs have been fired by pls in the last 2 months :- 12 pl - 4671, 13 pl 4221, 14 pl 3107, 15 pl 4941. 7 pl B Coy move to better accommodation in MAASBREE 827080. 12 and 14 pls D Coy remain at rest. 13 pl continue to sp 44 Bde in accordance with 15 (S) Inf Div Op Instr. No 42 - Observation and Fire Control. The pl comd occupies and remains in an O.P. at 892122 from dawn to dusk, submitting reports daily.	

			The supply route to this pl is still receiving intermittent hostile attention and Coy HQ Sigs truck is hit by a shell whilst on its way to the pl. The driver is wounded and evacuated.	
	9th	0130	A Coy is at rest until the 13th. 9 pl C Coy engage target on the E bank of the R MAAS. 10 belts are fired. 13 pl D Coy continue in sp of 44 Bde on the left of the Div front and 2 O.Ps are put out at 892122 and 896136. 7 pl B Coy engage retaliation targets during the morning and afternoon.	
		1630	An enemy mortar is observed from a posn at 908139 and is heavily stonked. Attention is also given to VELDEN, the pl firing forty bombs during this action. 15 pl remain in the same posn as yesterday and an O.P. is occupied at 809999.	
	10th		7 and 8 pls B Coy engage retaliation targets - Enemy fighter planes over the Bde area during the morning. O.C. C Coy visits O.C. 10 H.L.I. and arranges S.O.S. tasks for 9 pl on to far side of the river bank at 871035. 13 pl D Coy fire on retaliation targets at 911105 and in VELDEN.	
	11th	0900	Conference at Bn HQ to discuss 2nd Bn Middlesex Regts suggestions for the revised W.E. of a Sp Bn. General opinion was not in favour of a change. 13 and 15 pls D Coy in action.	
	12th	1700	7 and 8 pls B Coy engage retaliation targets. These targets are changed daily and based on reports of enemy movements. Enemy fighters over the Bde area and spasmodic shelling of SEVENUM is attributed to these planes. Harassing shoots carried out by 9 and 10 pls C Coy. 11 pl relieved 10 pl C Coy. On orders from 44 Bde 13 pl D Coy fire on two targets at 905116 and 904118 especially at meal times.	
	13th	1000	Several shoots carried out by 9 and 11 pls C Coy. Presentation of awards by C-in-C Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery, Capt P.J. Livemore presented with the Military Cross. Capt J.H. Gerrard " " " " " Lieut R.W.B. Lloyd " " " " " 6207135 Sgt D. Reed presented with the Military Medal. 6210105 Cpl A. Stewart " " " " " 6857201 Pte L Lear " " " " " 13 and 15 pls D Coy continue in action vide O.P. report.	
	14th		Normal activity on front.	FF. G.81
	15th	1500	Div Comd visits B Coy HQ and enquires about billets.	

		1515 1830	6 pl B Coy engages lanes leading up to woods at 900071. 7 and 8 pls engage retaliation targets during the day. 15 pl relieved by 12 pl and comes out to rest in Coy HQ area.	
	16th		A Coy pl comds of 3 and 4 pls carry out recce to take over from Bn HQ 1 Mans. The Coy has been ordered to occupy posns in area of ROERMOND as 46 Bde is taking over from 158 Bde 53 Div. 6 and 8 pls B Coy engage in retaliation targets during the day. In the afternoon new D.F. tasks are selected for 6 pl with the Coy of 6 KOSB in HOUT BLERICK. D Coy report submitted.	F.F. E 19,20
	17th	0030 0930 1025 1125 1500	Recce Sqn post south of 8 pl B Coy informed them that an unidentified patrol has been seen moving towards their posn. A Coy HQ and 5 pl move to HEITHUIJEN. 3 pl A Coy leave SEVENUM and join 2 GH. 4 pl A Coy also leave SEVENUM and join 9 Cams. These pls take up posns previously held by 1st Mans at 764946 and 774971 respectively. 7 pl B Coy relieves 6 pl. O.P. report received from D Coy.	F.F. J 105 F.F. J 108
	18th		1 Mx Movement Instruction No.1 issued.	F.F. D10, D11
	19th		A Coy pls carry out harassing shoots in conjunction with 190 Fd Regt. 7 and 8 pls B Coy fired on retaliation tasks. O.P. report received from D Coy.	
	20th	1530	10 and 11 pls C Coy carry out harassing shoots. 6 pl B Coy relieves 8 pl who come into mobile reserve at SEVENUM 821142. 7 pl B Coy engage D.F. tasks at 1900 - 1915 hrs at request of 6 KOSB who state that the B.B.C. are recording the nightly "hate" programme. 4 pl A Coy engage enemy section seen moving in area 799968. 12 pl D Coy remain in sp of 227 Bde. 13 pl remain with 44 Bde - O.P. reports received from both these pls.	F.F. J 106
	21st	0330	Recce Sqn Sgt reports to 6 pl B Coy to inform them that the enemy has a patrol which has successfully surrounded two posts at 893129, causing the occupants to scatter. D Coy is informed and puts down a stonk on fwd edge of wood 8913 and the posts are retaken. C Coy continue with harassing shoots. O.P. report received from D Coy. A Coy report considerable enemy activity on E bank of R Maas. Harassing shoots carried out.	
	22nd	1700	5 pl A Coy relieve 4 pl. O.C. B Coy attends conference on the reorganisation of the Bde front. 7 enemy reported at 878074 and when fired on run into a wood.	

			O.P. report received from D Coy.	
	23rd	1500 2200	EX "SHAMPOO" carried out to test O.Ps in calling for artillery and M.M.G. fire. 5 pl have 6 calls during the day and 3 pl fire 4. The average time taken from time of receipt of map ref was 2 minutes. The Ex is found to be extremely useful. 8 pl B Coy relieve 7 pl. 3 pl A Coy carry out harassing shoot on enemy veh movement. D Coys O.P. report received. 1 Mx Defence Scheme No. 2 issued.	F.F. D12, J95
	24th	1430	46 Bde Conference on revised plan for holding Bde Line. A Coy Defence Scheme issued, only to be effective so long as reserve pl is at Coy HQ. 13 pl D Coy who are at rest prepare new posn at 872104. This to be occupied in the event of an enemy attack across the MAAS. O.P. Report from D Coy. Sitrep from B Coy.	F.F. E 39 F.F. J 97
	25th		Bde Comd visits A Coy HQ in morning. O.P. Report from D Coy. Sitrep from B Coy. The C.O. and 2 I.C. share in visiting the pls in the morning and celebrations take place where and when circumstances permit. There is no great activity on the front and therefore to some extent the Yule-tide spirit can be expressed.	
	26th		11 pl C Coy relieve 10 pl - new posns are dug for task of shooting across 44 Bde front. 3 pl A Coy dig series of crawl trenches from their alternative posn to orchard at rear in order to make posn tenable under enemy fire. Sitrep from B Coy. O.P. Report from D Coy.	
	27th	1600	10 pl enjoy a somewhat delayed Xmas Dinner. Remainder of C Coy pls carry out harassing shoots. 4 pl A Coy relieve 3 pl. O.P. Report from D Coy. Sitrep from B Coy.	
	28th		Bde Comd (227) inspects C Coy pls posns. A Coy carry out harassing shoots. Sitrep from B Coy. O.P. Report from D Coy.	
	29th		10 pl C Coy relieve 9 pl. 4 and 5 pls A Coy carry out harassing shoots. O.P. Report from D Coy.	

		Sitrep from B Coy.	
	30th	<p>9 pl C Coy have their Xmas Dinner. Shells fall in area of Bn HQ and C Coy. These shells are fired at regular times each day - 1030 hrs, 1330 hrs and 1630 hrs. Sitrep from B Coy. O.P. Report from D Coy. Fair amount of activity by all mortar pls.</p>	<p>F.F. J 101 F.F. J 100</p>
	31st	<p>12 pl D Coy at rest - 13 pl continue in sp of 227 Bde - 14 pl in sp of 44 Bde and 15 pl with 46 Bde. Arrangements made by A Coy in conjunction with all Bde weapons and Sp arms for 2 minutes intense fire on selected targets at midnight. O.P. Report from D Coy. Sitrep from B Coy.</p>	