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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 119 LAA Regt RA

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year April 1945

Commanding Officer Lt Col JF Young RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BISLICHER WALD	1	1130	CRA 15 (S) Inf Div addressed the regt, to congratulate them on past achievements and to exhort them to an equally high standard when the fighting is over and the more tedious task of clearing up is still to be done.	
	2	1030	GOC 15(S) Inf Div, accompanied by CRA, visited the regt, inspected the men on parade and the 18 SP guns of the regt, which were lined up on the parade ground ☉ He congratulated the regt on their turnout and past exploits [in both ground and AA role] and warned against the far-reaching dangers of fraternization	
	3	1800 1500 2240	Regt recce parties left for WINTERSWIJK area (approx) I tp moved with 190 Fd Regt in 46 (H) Bde Group to harbour area south of WINTERSWIJK Move to WINTERSWIJK area cancelled owing to div coming under comd 8 Corps ☉ Move to GREVEN area now probable for 4 Apr	
BURGSTEINFURT - GREVEN area	4	a.m. 1500	A & F tps moved with fd regts in 44 (L) & 227 (H) Bde Gps to BURGSTEINFURT - GREVEN area ☉ I tp also moved, with 46 (H) Bde Gp. Remainder of regt moved to harbour west of GREVEN arriving approx 2200 hrs	
GREVEN - TECKLENBURG area	5	a.m. p.m. -	F and I tps deployed by sections to give protection in combined AA and infantry role at bridges over RIVER EMS at 929948 and 911886 and over DORTMUND-EMS Canal at 960027 and 978892 ☉ In action before 1200 hrs ☉ One sec C tp added later at 960027 A tp moved with 181 Fd Regt, and remainder of regt moved to harbour near TECKLENBURG Instructions received from Div HQ that future standard layout will be that Div HQ is surrounded by HQ A tk regt and one bty, HQ LAA Regt and one bty, HQ Recce Regt and one sqn, and HQ Sp Bn and D Coy [or one pl, if remainder committed] ☉ Rep of 119 LAA	

GREVEN			Regt [2IC] to sub-allot areas and coordinate defence arrangements	
LAVELSLOH and TECKLENBURG areas	6	1100	RHQ, 391 & 392 bty HQs, E & G tps B ech & Wksps moved to LAVELSLOH area arriving approx 1830 hrs ◉ E & G tps took up posns around & in defence of Div HQ area in conjunction with A Tk Regt & Sp Bn	
GREVEN - LAVELSLOH - PETERSHAGEN areas	7	0115 - 1200 1800 2100	Orders received from 8 Corps via RA 15 (S) Div to deploy 2 tps at first light in AA role over bridges across RIVER WESER at PETERSHAGEN ◉ E & G tps detailed During the early morning C tp moved up to new area and took over ground defence task from E tp, and A tp moved up to remain harboured with 181 Fd Regt On orders from division, Regt & bty HQs carried out local house-to-house search for arms & military personnel, while 2IC organised clearing of woods 2-3 miles SE of LAVELSLOH (FOREST MINDEN), in conjunction with tanks & SP guns of 102 A tk Regt, and rounded up eleven prisoners hrs approx, E & G tps [deployed at bridges at PETERSHAGEN] placed under comd 6 Airborne Div, ready to be moved fwd to newly-won bridges over RIVER LEINE hrs approx [last light] F and I tps relieved of tasks on bridges over RIVER EMS and DORTMUND-EMS Canal	
LAVELSLOH and NEUSTADT areas	8	a.m. 1000 1415 2000	E & G tps moved to RIVER LEINE and deployed at bridges at BORDENAU [intact] and NEUSTADT [blown, and under reconstruction] - 1345 hrs, 390 bty HQ, F and I tps moved up to LAVELSLOH area and deployed in AA and ground defence respectively A tp provided party to reflush woods of FOREST MINDEN into which small numbers of enemy were suspected to have filtered back ◉ Task not completed owing to orders from RA to have RHQ and one complete bty [390 bty] at short notice to move under comd 6 Airborne div (1515 hrs) ◉ LO despatched to HQ 6 Airborne Div, returned 2130 hrs with orders for move next day Small numbers of enemy fighters engaged by E & G tps at bridges over RIVER LEINE ◉ One FW 190 claimed destroyed by E tp - plane seen to crash in flames	
LAVELSLOH - STEINHUDE - NEUSTADT areas	9	0800 0830 2000	A & C tps moved fwd to take over AA defence of bridge at BORDENAU relieving E tp to deploy with G tp at bridge at NEUSTADT Regt HQ, 390 & 391 bty HQs, and a wksp det moved to STEINHUDE area - 2100, small numbers of enemy fighters engaged in area of bridges over RIVER LEINE ◉ No claims [extreme range]	

ALTENHAGEN - STEINHUDE - NEUSTADT areas	10	a.m. 2000	392 bty HQ, F & I tps moved fwd with HQ 15 (S) Div to ALTENHAGEN & tps deployed in AA role ☉ B ech and remainder of wksp to follow next day - 2045, small numbers of enemy fighters engaged over and in rear of bridge areas, incl jet propelled ☉ G tp claim one fighter destroyed ☉ Pilot seen to bale out	
NEUSTADT - CELLE area	11	0730 a.m. 1615 1900 2030 2100	F & I tps deployed at bridge at NEUSTADT, releasing E & G tps to advance with the leading elements of the division along northern axis in sp 227 (H) Bde and southern axis in sp 46 (H) Bde respectively. B ech and remainder of Wksp moved fwd to STEINHUDE RHQ, all bty HQs, B ech and Wksp moved to FUHRBERG approx, F & I tps relieved at NEUSTADT by bty of 121 LAA Regt [8 Corps tps] but remained in action till after last light ☉ [Hoping for usual dusk targets] C tp claim hits on Ju 88 claimed destroyed by F tp jointly with tps of 121 LAA Regt. A & C tps claim one Ju 188 [or 88] destroyed - seen to crash	
CELLE area	12	a.m.	RHQ, bty HQs, B ech & Wksp moved into CELLE; and all tps moved to CELLE and surrounding area to deploy in defence of bridges and tp concs	
	13	0730 1200 1500 2200	F & I tps redeployed in AA defence of Class 40 bridge across R. ALLER in CELLE E tp moved fwd in sp 227 (H) bde [leading bde, advancing NE], and regt less E, F & I tps and 392 tac HQ, crossed R. ALLER to harbour just NORTH of river ☉ Wksp left in CELLE Regt [less dets mentioned] moved fwd to ESCHEDE where A, C & G tps deployed in primarily ground defence role of div HQ area - 2300, enemy recce plane heard ☉ Engaged by A tp after commission of hostile act [MG fire]; no claims	
CELLE - UELZEN area	14	a.m. 1540 1950 2030 -	E tp (in sp 227 (H) Bde) deployed in AA defence of 61 Med Regt Regt & bty HQs, A, C & G tps, & B ech moved to HOSSERINGEN On arriving in new area, A C & G tps did a "crash-action" to engage jet-propelled enemy fighter plane on recce - 2100, small numbers of enemy fighters engaged During the day, I tp collected 15 PW in assisting to flush woods NORTH of CELLE	
	15	0700 0730	A tp spotted one offr & 4 OR enemy in vicinity, captured two and wounded one who escaped with remainder and evaded subsequent search - 1030, intermittent engagements by A C E & G tps of single enemy fighter planes, apparently on recce	

		0900	- 1000, E tp engaged enemy OP situated in UELZEN, firing 37 rounds & scoring 34 hits, of which 12 went into windows of the building concerned	
		1545	Regt & bty HQs, A, C & G tps moved to HAMERSTORF ◉ Joined by Wksp	
		1700	- 1830, engagements mostly of single jet-propelled fighters over HAMERSTORF area by A, C & G tps, G tp claiming two hits on a Messerschmitt 262, and A tp claiming a hit on an ARADO 234 ◉ Fighters also engaged over HOLDENSTEDT area by E tp, who destroyed one FW 190 [wreckage later found] ◉ I tp claim hit on FW 190 in CELLE area	
		-	Copy received of Supplement to London Gazette dated 20 Mar 45, notifying 'Mention in Dispatches' awarded to Maj. ATW MURPHY (2IC) and WOII KEMP [I tp sjt-major]	
UELZEN area	16	0730	F and I tps, having been released from commitment at bridge in CELLE, redeployed in 131 and 190 Fd Regt areas respectively ◉ Layout coordinated with that of E tp to give adequate protection to bde HQs in HOLDENSTEDT	
		1945	- 2030, spasmodic engagements in HAMERSTORF and HOLDENSTEDT areas, I tp claiming a hit which knocked a piece of structure from a FW 190	
		-	Notification received of award of Croix de Guerre with gilt star to Capt. L.J. DIMOND (OC G tp) and Croix de Guerre with silver star to WOII KEMP (Sjt-Major, I tp), French decorations awarded for gallantry WEST of the SEINE	
	17	1130	CO attended conference at HQRA to receive orders for support of div attack on UELZEN early 18 Apr ◉	
		1230	Returned to give orders for one gun of A tp to give directional fire along axis of 44 (L) Bde attack on Eastern side of town, and for 3 guns of I tp to fire, during first phase of 46 (H) bde attack on WESTERN half of town, to deny enemy the use of roads leading from centre of town to enemy FDLs	
		1630	I tp guns registered on targets by means of Air OP	
		1730	Timings for 46 (H) Bde attack brought fwd to p.m. 17 Apr and fireplan as such [incl LAA task] abandoned	
	18	0400	- 0445, one gun of A tp gave directional fire in support of 44 (L) Bde attack on Eastern half of UELZEN	
		1915	CO held O Gp and gave orders as follows:- 390 bty to move at once to deploy by first light in AA defence of approaches exits and bridges of UELZEN ◉ 391 and 392 btys to harbour in area of regt HQ, ready at half an hour's notice to move under comd 11	

		2130 2135	Armd Div, if necessary, to provide AA defence of bridge at LAUENBURG if captured intact Redispositions completed, as ordered by CO. Single enemy plane machine-gunned road in regt HQ area ◉ Engaged by G and I tps ◉ No claims	
LUNEBURG area	19	0630 0830 1000 1530 - 2255	Enemy fighters attacked without success 227 (H) Bde column moving just NORTH from UELZEN ◉ 390 bty, deployed in the town, shot down one FW 190 F & I tps moved to rejoin 131 & 190 Fd Regts moving with 227 and 46 (H) Bdes respectively Regt HQ, 391 & 392 bty HQs, B ech & Wksp moved through UELZEN to BARUM, guns of E & G tps being dispersed down the div column for move & deploying in div HQ area on arrival E tp moved to sp 227 (H) Bde, deploying at canal bridge 8427; G tp readjusted deployment to take in complete div HQ area - 390 bty left at UELZEN till morning in order to provide mil sp for Mil Govt, preventing looting rioting etc, till 5 Div take over town Orders from RA to move remainder of regt through LUNEBURG to SCHARNEBECK area 0900 hrs 20 Apr 45	
	20	0700 0840 - 2020 -	390 bty were relieved of task in UELZEN ◉ A tp moved fwd with 181 Fd Regt, and C tp took over AA protection of canal br 8028, from which E tp had been taken to deploy with 131 Fd Regt while F tp had left 131 Fd Regt to defend canal br at 8826 RHQ, bty HQs, B ech & Wksps moved to SCHARNEBECK, G tp guns being dispersed along the div column for movement and deploying in div HQ area on arrival - I tp moved with 190 Fd Regt in sp 46 (H) Bde ◉ During afternoon, groundshoot was begun against enemy strong-point, but called off after only 2 rounds had been fired since supporting tanks broke through on to objective 2020 Two FW 190, apparently on recce, engaged by C & E tps in BRIETLINGEN area ◉ One plane shot down, pilot baled out and was captured [injured] & evacuated - During the afternoon, woods in SCHARNEBECK area were flushed by HQ personnel ◉ 2 German soldiers taken, and one civilian with underground hoard of food and supplies [incl wireless], believed Obersturmbannfuhrer of SA, handed over to FSP	
	21	1530 1500	F tp ceased firing at canal bridge and redeployed in div HQ area, in addition to G tp - 1700, further flushing of woods in SCHARNEBECK area brought to light considerable quantity of explosives [enemy] apparently	

			hidden for later use by saboteurs or guerrillas, and 4 suspects of whom one proved to be soldier in disguise - I tp also took 5 prisoners during the day, and moved with 190 Fd Regt	
	22	1515	A tp engaged two Me 109s and claim damage to one	
	23	0930 1400 -	CO attended CRA's O Gp to receive preliminary briefing on proposed future op across R. ELBE CO briefed bty & tp comds on general plan of proposed future op, and detailed areas to be reced by night 23/24 Apr for possible ground-shooting positions close to R. ELBE to support assault crossing of river - After dark tp comds carried out recces as detailed	
	24	1300 1400 2130	Eight 3-tonners reported to amn pt to assist in RA dumping programme for future op ◉ Expected to be required for latter half of each day for several days to come Tp Comds reported to CO on results of previous night's recces CO left to recce in river bank area with OC G tp returning at 2300 hrs having made preliminary survey of 'pepperpot' areas	
	25	-	Five enemy aircraft destroyed and two damaged [category II] during period 8 - 5 Apr - officially credited to the regt.	
	26	0900 1700 2125 - 2130	CO visited CRA with plans for 'pepperpots' ◉ Informed op possibly brought forward to night 26/27 Apr ◉ Fixed details with BCs on return and presented finished plan to CRA at 1400 hrs ◉ Informed them that op would NOT be night 26/27 Rep of 11 R Tks called on C.O. to ask for directional fire for 'buffaloes' [LVTs] carrying assaulting infantry across R. ELBE for future op ◉ Firing on three lines arranged E tp engaged Ju 88 at 3000 ft and A & C tps engaged a FW 190 ◉ Small number of rounds fired ◉ No claims - During the day, unit tpt again assisted in RA dumping programme, and after dark bty capt 392 bty supervised dumping of 5000 rounds of 40 mm HE for pepperpot on right of div front. I tp shot down one FW 190 which crashed at 970277	
	27	- 1600	During the day, unit tpt gave further assistance in RA dumping programme, and, after dark, bty capt 390 bty supervised dumping of 5000 rounds of 40 mm HE for pepperpot on left of div front CO attended CCRA's conference at HQRA; and, 2245 hrs, received from CRA details of tasks for pepperpots.	
	28	a.m. 1400	Fireplan for LAA and A tk of pepperpots prepared by this unit; Fireplan for mortars and MMG of 'pepperpots' prepared by 1 Mx Final conference of bty & tp comds to arrange last details and distribute fireplans	See Appx J See Appx J

		1730	onwards, tps began to move fwd as far as possible, but not so as to come under observation, and after last light moved right fwd to take up and dig in groundshooting positions	
	29	0100	Pepperpot was fired in accordance with timed programme, and directional fire given to guide the buffaloes [LVTs] across river for initial assault ☉ Harassing fire on railway bridge at 899350 was continued until 0530 hrs, with the result that the bridge, although extensively mined for demolition, was captured intact	
		1230	- 1430, E & F tps fired in ground role in support of 227 (H) Bde's exploitation to NW from bridgehead across river	
		1300	- 1330 hrs, considerable enemy air activity over area of river crossings ☉ Own fighters also up in force but enemy aircraft were engaged at this period and also about 1645 hrs	
		1315	In view of increased enemy air activity, CO raised the state of readiness to 4-man manning on every gun till further notice, and ordered C & G tps to deploy respectively on route protection of main axis SOUTH of river and on Class 9 bridging site at LAUENBURG	
		p.m.	E tp deployed in div HQ area, and A, F & I tps rejoined 181, 131 & 190 Fd Regts respectively, crossing the river with their fd regts during the night 29/30	
	30	0645	, 1015 & 1400 hrs, scattered enemy fighters were engaged, one Me 109 being claimed Cat. 2 by C tp	
		1400	RHQ, 390 & 392 bty HQs moved with div HQ to JULIUSBURG where I tp adjusted layout to cover div HQ area ☉ 391 bty joined its tac HQ at AVENDORF, and B ech and Wksp moved to LUDERSHAUSEN	
		2000	- 2100, enemy fighters in considerable numbers attacked area of Class 9 bridge at LAUENBURG ☉ Several bombs were dropped, without damage to bridge ☉ F & G tps each claim one fighter shot down ☉ AA fire caused remainder of aircraft to take evasive action	