

W A R D I A R YUNIT: HQ 227 (H) Inf Bde

FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1944

Comd: Brig EC Colville, DSO

DATE	PLACE	I N F O R M A T I O N	Ref To Appx
1	ASTEN	2 A & S H carried out a raid on an enemy post at 649077. Bad going made Tk support ineffectve and the enemy put down such a fierce concentration of mortar and arty fire that it was decided to return. One tk had to be left but this was recovered the next day. Lt Gen Sir R O'Connor, Comd 8 Corps, visited Bde HQ.	
2	ASTEN	During the morning 10 HLI and 2 Gordons made local attacks to conform with the advance made by 44 and 46 Bdes. Apart from mines and booby traps both Bns advanced unopposed and took their lines forward a mile.	
3 - 5	ASTEN	Apart from occasional shelling, the next three days were very quiet on the Bde front, and on 4 Nov 2 A & S H were withdrawn to rest at ASTEN.	
6	ASTEN	During the morning the Bde Comd visited tps of 7 US Armd Div at NEDERWEERT, where it was proposed that 227 Bde would take over from Combat Comd 'A'. 6 RSF took over from 10 HLI and 2 Gordons, who were withdrawn to rest at ASTEN and HELMOND. During the night six enemy aircraft strafed the Bde area. There was no damage or cas and two flares which failed to ignite dropped on Bde HQ.	
7	ASTEN	2 A & S H moved to area PLAT VELD (6804) during the afternoon and came under comd 152 Inf Bde, of 51 Inf Div, w.e.f. 0600 hrs 8 Nov; 51 Div having relieved 7 US Armd Div.	
8	ASTEN	The Bde relieved 44 Bde. Bde HQ moved to LIESEL at 1500 hrs, and the relief was completed without incident. Great difficulty was caused by the vast numbers of Schu mines laid throughout the area. Even the enemy experienced trouble with his own mines, and several of them were blown up by their own mines.	
9	LIESEL	During the day the Div Comd and the Bde Comd visited Bns, including 2 A & S H.	
10	LIESEL	44 Bde relieved the Bde, Bde HQ returning to ASTEN, 10 HLI to ASTEN and 2 Gordons to HELMOND.	
11 - 13	ASTEN	The next three days were very quiet, and on 13 Nov 2 Gordons relieved 2 A & S H at PLAT VELD.	
14	ASTEN	During the night civilians reported that the enemy was withdrawing, and plans were made for 10 HLI to advance into MEIJEL (7106) at first light. A patrol of pl strength was sent into the town immediately.	

15	ASTEN	<p>10 HLI moved into MEIJEL at first light and they entered the town without meeting any opposition. Extensive mining and booby traps made progress very slow and caused a few cas.</p> <p>Bde HQ moved to HEUSDEN (636105) during the afternoon.</p>	
16	HEUSDEN	<p>Apart from active patrolling there was little to report during the day.</p> <p>Lt Gen Sir R O'Connor, Comd 8 Corps, visited Bde HQ.</p>	
17	HEUSDEN	<p>2 Gordons returned to rest at HELMOND and 2 A &amp; S H moved from HELMOND to LANGSTRAAT 710041, just South of the HLI, with one coy across the NORD Canal protecting the bridge at 710041.</p> <p>Throughout this period the Bde had dominated the enemy by vigorous patrolling and secured a clear picture of the enemy's dispositions.</p>	
18	HEUSDEN	<p>During the day, 10 HLI and 2 A &amp; S H edged forward towards the canal. 10 HLI moved one coy to the canal at 727066 and 2 A &amp; S H pushed a coy forward to a feature dominating the canal at 720048.</p>	
19	HEUSDEN	<p>During the night there were indications that the enemy was pulling out from the Canal line and one coy 10 HLI crossed the canal without being opposed. They made contact with 5 Seaforth, of 51 Inf Div, who had advanced along the road from BERINGEN 7406 without encountering any enemy but they reported mines and rd blocks.</p> <p>Class 40 br was started immediately and by night 10 HLI were concentrated in BERINGEN.</p>	
20	HEUSDEN	<p>The Bde Gp, less 10 HLI, moved across the Canal, with 2 Gordons leading. 2 Gordons advanced to a point about three miles North of BERINGEN, where they harboured for the night, with 2 A &amp; S H immediately behind them. During the day's operations 2 Gordons took 41 PW.</p> <p>2 Gordons sent out patrols but they contacted the enemy in str and withdrew.</p> <p>Bde HQ moved to North of BERINGEN at 752062.</p>	
21	BERINGEN	<p>Two coys from 2 A &amp; S H attempted to outflank the enemy opposition reported by 2 Gordons patrol, but ran into mines, and as 2 Gordons were not making good progress along the main axis 2 A &amp; S H recalled their two coys and followed immediately behind the Gordons.</p> <p>Blown br at 764085 held up the advance and it was decided that the two Bns should concentrate in this area for the night.</p>	
22	BERINGEN	<p>The Bde moved forward in general direction of SEVENUM 8113. Little opposition was met, but in addition to the mines and road blocks, the operation was made very hazardous by the bad weather, continuous rain having made the roads and tracks little better than quagmires. Despite the extremely bad conditions by last light 2 Gordons had occupied VOORSTE-STEEG 8013 with 10 HLI and 2 A &amp; S H in the area of VOORST 8112 and 8113.</p>	

		<p>Bde HQ was est at VOORSTE-STEEG 803129.</p> <p>Despite the difficult going, few vehicles were lost and the advance of the Bde was highly praised by the Corps Comd.</p> <p>During the night and early morning 88 SP guns shelled the Bde HQ area, but there was no damage or cas.</p>	
23	VOORSTE-STEEG	<p>The Bde HQ advanced to capture HORST 8218. 10 HLI led the advance and apart from mines, rd blocks and craters entered the town shortly before mid-day without encountering any opposition. By 1500 hrs the Bde was concentrated in HORST.</p> <p>Continuous rain had made the main axis impassable and 131 Fd Regt RA was unable to advance in sp of the Bde.</p> <p>This was felt very keenly at night when the Bde HQ was twice shelled by SP guns, setting an amn truck on fire and wounding three ORs.</p>	
24	HORST	<p>Bns spent the day patrolling, and the shelling of the town decreased. The Corps Comd, Lt Gen Sir Richard O'Connor, visited Bde HQ during the morning.</p> <p>Although the rds to HORST were still difficult to hy traffic 131 Fd Regt were able to move forward and arrived at HORST during the afternoon.</p> <p>During the day, First Lt John B Hoggs, Jun, American Air Force pilot, who had been shot down six weeks previously and had evaded capture by acting as a deaf mute, came into Bde HQ, and was able to supply infm about the local defences.</p>	
25	HORST	<p>The Bde Gp continued the advance to TEINRAIJ 8523. Apart from mines, rd blocks and hy shelling, opposition on the ground was light and by the afternoon 2 Gordons had occupied SWOLGEN 8722, 2 A &amp; S H TIENRAIJ and 10 HLI EIKELENBOSCH 8521, with Bde HQ north of HORST at 828188.</p>	
26	HORST	<p>The HLI and Gordons edged forward again, the HLI reaching the outskirts of BLITTERSWIJK 8727 on the West Bank of the River MAAS and the Gordons reached DE HEI 8922 and the outskirts of BROEKHUIZENVOORT 9023. 2 A &amp; S H remained in the area of TIENRAIJ except for one coy which was moved onto the feature at GUN 8724.</p>	
27	HORST	<p>During the night 10 HLI moved into BLITTERSWIJK which they occupied after a sharp fight.</p> <p>2 Gordons sent a fighting patrol into BROEKHUIZEN, but were held up by mines. 2 Gordons, however, had already occupied posns overlooking the river and the Bn OP did good work in directing arty fire on the ferry.</p> <p>During the morning Bde HQ moved to EIKELENBOSCH 855213.</p>	
28	EIKELENBOSCH	<p>Plans for the relief of the Bde were now put into operation. By 2345 hrs the relief of 10 HLI by RUR of 3 Inf Div had been completed, and Bde HQ, 10 HLI and 2 A &amp; S H moved to rest at ASTEN.</p>	
29	ASTEN	<p>2 Gordons were relieved by 159 Inf Bde, of 11 Armd Div, and also moved to ASTEN to rest.</p>	

30	ASTEN	<p data-bbox="517 153 1742 247">Lt Gen Sir Richard O'Connor, comd 8 Corps, visited Bde HQ at 1100 hrs to say farewell to senior offrs of the Bde on relinquishing his comd as Corps Comd.</p> <p data-bbox="517 271 1742 365">Great praise is due to 20 Fd Coy RE for their magnificent work during the month in clearing countless minefields and maintaining roads in very bad conditions.</p>	
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