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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required)

Unit 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry

Month and Year February 1945

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. RA Bramwell-Davis

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1st		Bn still in area MERKSPLAS carrying out training. CO and IO carried out recce of FUP for future operation. Warning order received for move to conc area.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil See Appx E1
	2nd		Bn trg by Coys contd. 1500 hrs C.O., Coy Comdrs, I.O., Adjt., and Q.M. attended briefing by Bde Comdr for future op. Conference held in Model Room in Div HQ. Outline Plan of Operation given.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil
	3rd		Training continued. Bde Operation Order issued giving detailed plan for Operation "VERITABLE". Major F.G. Wood relinquished appointment as 2 i/c on leaving Bn. Recce party left for conc area.	Cas: Nil P.W.: Nil Reinf: Nil See Appx E2. H1.
	4th		Training continued. 1030 hrs All Officers attended address by Comdr 30 Corps on Op "VERITABLE", followed by address by Div Comdr. 1245 hrs All Officers with Officers of Supporting Arms attended issue of Orders for Operation "VERITABLE", by CO in Model Room at Div HQ. Warning Order received for move to conc area night 5/6th Feb. Bn Admin Order governing details of special equipment to be carried, and re-allocation of tpt for the op, issued. Movt order for move of Bn to conc area issued.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil See Appendix (D.1. (D.1A (G.1. (E.3A
	5th		1100.-Bn 'O' Group- at which CO explained details of Bde Op Order No. 5. Major FBB Noble arrived to take up appointment of 2 i/c. Bn left MERKSPLAS embussed at 1500 hrs. Route:- TURNHOUT : POPPEL : TILBURG : VUGHT 3143 : OSS 4754 : Bridge NIJFTRIK 5757 : NIJMEGEN.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil
	6th		Bn arrived conc area 0400 hrs. Rest of day spent in rest and preparation for Op "VERITABLE". CO and Coy Comdrs carried out recce of FUP and SL for op. Bn HQ located E711620.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil
	7th		During morning C.O. addressed all coys; Coy and Pl Comdrs carried out further recce of FUP and SL. 1430 Bn 'O' Gp. Final details and timings given for operation.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: 10 O.R.s See Appx D.2. G2
	8th		0530.- Bn began to move up to FUP. Order of March:- "C", "A", "B", Tac Bn HQ, Mortar Pl, "D" Coy, Rear Bn HQ. 1115.- Bn moved fwd to pass through gap made in minefield by 2 A&SH and advanced behind barrage to assault KRANENBURG 8056. Going for vehs very bad, which	See Appx D1A, D2. E5.) J.1.) Cas: 1 Offr K 2 W

		held up RE specialist equipment. By 1600 hrs "C" Coy had successfully entered west end of village securing intact br over A Tk ditch, but "A" and "B" Coys were held up in area of rly station by small arms fire and point blank fire from a NEBELWERFER in the village. 1615 hrs Tac Bn HQ brought fwd on foot the Wireless Sets taken from the bogged down carriers and est HQ at 803559. 1635 "C" Coy completed its task of clearing the western half of KRANENBURG but "A" and "B" Coys were still unable to carry out their part of the op, except for one pl of "A" Coy which had succeeded in entering the village. "C" Coy Comdr therefore took on the task of clearing this remaining enemy posn from the rear. By 1800 hrs the post had been eliminated and the remaining Coys were able to proceed to their objectives which were consolidated by last light. After dark in spite of the great difficulty in moving vehs the majority of the Bn's essential tpt was brought fwd together with a hot meal. Owing to the great difficulty in moving fwd vehs in the boggy ground west of KRANENBURG the subsequent phases of the Div Op were set back and the Bn remained over night in KRANENBURG. In all nearly 200 PW were taken by the Bn during the operation.	ORs 12K 26W 5M PW: 185 Reinf: 30 O.R.s
	9th	0945 - 44 Bde and 2 Gordons having been successful in breaking through the SIEGFRIED LINE at NUTTERDEN 8455 the Bn was warned to be ready to take over from one Bn of 44 Bde in order to release them for a further advance. 1015- Bn 'O' Group. Bn to take over from 6 KOSB as follows:- "B" Coy - HINGSTBERG 848552 : "D" Coy - WOLFSBERG 844544 : "A" Coy - 840547 : "C" Coy - 830537. Move probably not to take place before 1300 hrs. Coy reces to be carried out in the meantime. 1500 hrs - Bn moved up to new area as above. "B" Coy were shelled en route in FRASSELT 8153. Tpt delayed by bad condition of tracks through minefield and A Tk ditch. Bn established in new posns by last light and Bn HQ est at 834546.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil
	10th	Following an advance by 44 Bde towards high ground SW of CLEVE, and attack by 2 A&SH along southern edge of forest 8655, Bn was ordered to remain in posn until tpt congestion caused by passing of 43 Div through to the south of CLEVE was relieved. 1800 hrs- Bn ordered to be ready for counter attack on 2 A&SH area 870550 should this be necessary. Recce of approach and FUP carried out at last light by CO and provisional orders given to Coy Comdrs.	Cas: 12W O.R.s PW: Nil Reinf: Nil
	11th	0400 hrs- Warning Order for advance to be resumed. 0700 hrs- CO attended Bde 'O' Group. 0830- Bn 'O' Group. 44 Bde now est in South-Western outskirts of CLEVE. 2 Gordons to continue clearing northern edge of TIERGARTEN FOREST 8856 and enter north of CLEVE securing br head over canal area 9056. 10 HLI then to pass through	

		<p>brhead and clear North Eastern part of CLEVE. Bn to be ready to move at 1000 hrs. 1000 hrs - Bn moved off on route - NUTTERDEN - Main rd through DONSBURUGGEN - CLEVE, in order of March 2 tps 3 SG tks - "B" Coy - Tac Bn HQ - "D" Coy - "A" Coy - Pl RE - Rear Bn HQ - "C" Coy - Pl MMGs. Bn Coln halted for long period in DONSBURUGGEN owing to difficulty experienced by 2 Gordons in clearing enemy from Northern edge of TIERGARTEN FOREST and entrance to CLEVE.</p> <p>1600 hrs.- Bn warned to recce accn with a view to commencing 48 hr rest period next day. This order was countermanded when it was found that 2 Gordons had been successful in gaining their brhead and pushing on beyond it. Div Comdr therefore directed that 10 HLI with support of tanks and flame-throwers should clear pocket of enemy resistance in area 891553 between 2 Gordons and 44 Bde. CO held brief 'O' Group and divided area into three zones to be cleared by Right- "B" Coy : Centre- "D" Coy : Left- "A" Coy. Bn coln moved off at once with leading inf riding on tanks and closely supported by flame-throwers Coys quickly overcame what resistance remained and linked up with friendly troops before last light. Coys then withdrew slightly to billets in area around 892558. Bn HQ est at 893562.</p>	<p>Cas: O.R.s 7 W PW: Nil Reinf: Nil</p>
	12th	<p>Bn at rest and re-organising. CO addressed Coys in turn during morning. Bn HQ moved to 895562.</p>	<p>Cas: ORs 9W PW: Nil Reinf: Nil</p>
	13th	<p>Rest and re-organisation. Bn ordered to recce possible counter attack against any enemy infiltrating into area MATTERBORN 8754 through REICHSWALD FOREST by rd running South from 890520. Kangaroos were allotted for this operation and Sqn 3 Scots Gds tks in support.</p>	<p>Cas: ORs 1W PW: Nil Reinf: 2 Offrs & 34 ORs (see Appendix D3)</p>
	14th	<p>Bde Op Order issued for attack on high ground south of CALCAR 0050. 1200 Bn 'O' Group - Orders given for Bn's plan in above attack. Advance to be made with 2 Coys up (in Kangaroos) closely sp by tks, with remaining two coys with tanks to mop up. 2130- Bn O Group.- Bde plan changed because of slow advance of 46 Bde against hy opposition around MOYLAND 9651. Bde advance now limited to the high ground south of MOYLAND.</p>	<p>(See Appendix D4) E.6. Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil</p>
	15th	<p>1000- Coln formed up in Kangaroos, 1200 hrs. Bn placed under comd 46 Bde and 227 Bde op suspended. CO and IO left to receive orders from 46 Bde HQ. 1300- B coln moved fwd by march route to conc area BEDBURG 9252, while CO and Coy Comdrs reced SL for Bn attack to be carried out that night. Bn HQ est at 925532. 1900 hrs- Bn 'O' Group. 46 Bde had reached SE corner of wood 964513 but unable to advance further in this direction or on MOYLAND. 10 HLI to attack by night across open ground to the south and secure features at</p>	<p>See Appx E.7. Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil</p>

		<p>962496 and 967502. Advance to be made on foot from SL previously taped by Int Section, 948509, following in bounds behind arty barrage moving 300 yds every 12 mins. One Sqn tks 4 Coldm Gds to be in sp. Advance to be made with 2 Coys fwd- "B" Right- "D" Left- with "A" Coy mopping up behind "B" and "C" Coy behind "D". "B" Coy objective area 961497: "D" Coy objective - 965502. Bn A Tk guns and tp SP guns to be brought into Coy areas on consolidation, when remainder of Bn essential tpt would be brought fwd under OC "S" Coy. Artificial moonlight to be provided during op and direction to be assisted by Bofors tracers on right and left bdy. 2230 Bn Gp moved fwd to cross SL at 2340. Tk support was withdrawn at last minute but Coys were ordered to carry on with attack keeping closely behind barrage.</p>	
	16th	<p>By 0130 Coys had consolidated on objectives and Bn HQ est at 951507. Coys were est as follows:- "B" 961497- "D" 965503- "A" 957502- "C" 960506. Heavy mortaring and shelling cont during the hours of darkness. During the night 2 counter attacks were made on "D" Coy posn sp by SP guns. Both were beaten off by small arms and arty fire. An enemy fighting patrol was also beaten off. Later a heavy counter attack was made with SP guns and succeeded in overrunning "B" Coys posn, causing a large percentage of casualties. The remainder of the Coy was withdrawn to a firm posn between "A" and "C" Coys. "B" Coy later reorganised as a one pl posn around houses 956502. 0730- "C" Coy ordered to attempt to clear wood 9650 and 9750 from the west. The attack was made in mist and heavy cas were incurred by enfilade MG fire as the Coy entered the wood. As an unsupported attack was not poss CO ordered Coy to withdraw to its previous posn. At about 0800 hrs reports were received of a number of inf (probably about 60) forming up with SP guns in front of "D" Coy. This was dispersed by arty fire before it attacked. Canadian attack which was due to release the Bn by midday was postponed and the Bn was ordered to remain in posn. Hy mortaring and shelling continued intermittently throughout the day. Over 100 PW were taken during this action.</p>	<p>See Appx J.2.</p> <p>Cas: Offrs 2W ORs 9W PW: 108 Reinf: 40 O.R.s</p>
	17th	<p>Bn remained in posn subject to continued mortar and shell fire and with movt by day harassed by MG fire from enemy posn in wood North of Bn posn. 1400 hrs Two Canadian Bns advanced through Bn and secured objectives at 961488 and 975497. Relief of Bn however was still not possible because of enemy remaining in wood 9650. In view of this remaining threat "A" Coy was ordered to take up posn between "C" and "D" Coys in area 962503 and 960501.</p>	<p>See Appx E.8.</p> <p>Cas: ORs 12K PW: Nil 9M 2W Reinf: Nil</p>

	18th		1400 hrs.- Two Cdn Bns began attack on wood 9650 but withdrew at last light to posns just outside wood. Bn to be relieved by Black Watch of Canada. Relief commenced 2200 hrs by Coys, and Bn returned to billets in CLEVE by 0500 hrs on the 19th.	Cas: Offrs 1W ORs 1K 5W PW: Nil Reinf: Nil See Appx E.9.
	19th		Period of rest and administration for 48 hrs. Bn HQ est at 894562. Coys in same billets as night 14/15 Feb.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil
	20th		Bn resting and reorganising. Warning Order issued for Bn to move with 46 Bde to area north of GOCH prior to attack between GOCH and UDEM.	Cas: Reinf: Nil PW: Nil See Appx E.10.
	21st		CO attended "O" Group at 1000 hrs at Bde HQ. Bn to be under Comd 46 Bde for attack through 227 Bde area 9442 to secure posn on rd UDEM - WEEZE 950393. Plan changed after visit of Div Comdr and 10 HLI ordered to revert to comd of 227 Bde, relieving 2 Glas H night 21/22 Feb, thus releasing 2 Glas H for participation in 46 Bde attack. 1300 CO and Coy Comdrs visited 2 Glas H to recce Coy posns. 2330- Bn moved off embussed by route CLEVE - PFALZDORF 9146 to ass area 9445 to take over from 2 Glas H.	See Appx E.11. Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: 5 ORs
	22nd		Take over completed by 0700. Bn HQ est 944445. Coys located as follows:- "A" 951432 : "B" 949436 : "C" 954435 : "D" 949439. Owing to state of ground one "Kangaroo" under comd for distribution of food and getting A Tk guns in posn. Bn area shelled and mortared at intervals throughout the day. Sqn of 3 SG tks available for counter attack along with "D" Coy should the occasion arise. During the night "C" Coy patrolled to houses 949431 and found them occupied by enemy.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: 62 ORs
	23rd		Arty deception plan to assist Bde on right in their advance brought down considerable enemy fire on our fwd posns. Shelling and Mortaring continued during day especially on wood south of "A" Coy. By night fighting patrol from "B" Coy brought in 6 PW from enemy posn located by "C" Coy.	Cas: ORs 1M 3W PW: Nil Reinf: 2 ORs
	24th		Div Comdr visited Bn and gave news of forthcoming relief and return of Div to rest area in Holland. 1400 Repls from Bn 1st KOSB (3 Br Div) arrived to recce posns prior to taking over. 1600 Co-ordinating conference at Bde HQ to arrange details for hand over attended by CO. 1800- Relieving unit arrived and began taking over at 2200 hrs. Bn conc in area 925452.	Cas: ORs 2W PW: 6 Reinf: 7 ORs
	25th		0750.- Bn moved off embussed to rest area at TILBURG on route:- GOCH 9043 - ASPERDEN 8745 - OTTERSUM 7846 - GRAVE Br - s'HERTOGENBOSCH - TILBURG. 1430.- Bn arrived TILBURG and took up quarters in billets. Bn HQ est at 167311.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil
	26th		Bn resting and carrying out interior economy.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: 3 ORs

	27th		Bn resting and carrying out interior economy. Bn given sufficient allocation to enable each man to have 48hrs leave in Brussels.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: 5 ORs
	28th		Bn held Drill Parade to practise Ceremonial Parade before Div Comdr on following day. R Bramwell-Davis Lt. Col. Comdg 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regt)	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: 41 ORs