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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 190 Field Regt. R.A.

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year NOVEMBER 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. RJ STREATFIELD R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HOLLAND	1		The Regiment was still in action in area of ASTEN and supporting 46 Bde with 6 K.O.S.B. under command in operation to clear area between main road LIESEL to HEITRAK eastwards to Helena Canal. The operation was a success. Very late in afternoon CO2 and recce parties rushed off and in half light reced a new gun area at Rinkveld 6414 which the Regt occupied in dark, the first night occupation since we crossed the Seine.	
	2		46 Bde continued to advance South of Heittrak 6910 encountering heavy mortaring and shelling. Again very late in the afternoon CO2 and recce parties were ordered forward to a new area 6712 which was reported heavily mined. The area was found to be poor and mined as reported and Lt. G.A. Smith was blown up in his Jeep and killed approaching the area from the West. His CPOA was evacuated with severe head injuries. These were the Regts first mine casualties. The new area was pronounced impossible by CO2 and after considerable talk with HQRA it was abandoned.	
	3		The most important event today was the conflagration in 530 Bty Command Post which was in a building shared with the cookhouse of 8 R.S. The CO2 also visited 6411 and neighbouring area in search of a possible new area to support further operation on MEIJEL.	
	4.		In the morning CO2 and recce parties moved to area 6411 and the Regt moved at midday. The gun area was well away from the road and the long tracks were already badly rutted when we occupied. We supplied a shellrep OP of two officers to take flash bearings and pass reports on the shellrep frequency to C.B.O.	
HOLLAND	5		Smoke was the order today. The first screen was fired as part of a normal fire plan in support of 44 Bde and 4 Tank Coldstream Guards who were attacking south of Heittrak. Owing to the extremely boggy country the tanks got stuck very early on and we continued to fire smoke all day whilst recovery went on. We expended some 4000 rounds of smoke altogether.	R Streatfield

	6		We again fired smoke in support of the 7 Seaforths who gained their objectives at NEERKANT 7009 without much opposition. Mines were the chief delay. Dinner time in the evening at RHQ was considerably interrupted by a brief aerial attack with a few bombs which removed half of the roof and subsequently drenched the Assistant Adjutant.	
	7		Things were fairly static and batteries carried out troop shoots on enemy positions with considerable success. We are told that one Bty at a time would be allowed to withdraw to ASTEN area for two days rest. Capt. DYAS of 529 Bty takes over Adjutant whilst Capt BRETT was away at BRUSSELS.	
	8		531 Bty went out of action to rest at ASTEN. Very little happened and a large number of entertainments were given to batteries. The C.O. arranged an Admin Inspection of Batteries during their rest period.	
	9		More entertainments and Baths were allotted to the Regiment and the Divisional Education officer talked to a selected audience on "The Far East".	
	10		529 went out to rest and 531 returned. The area South of ASTEN became restricted and numbers of civilians were passed to POW cage. The RSM took over the responsibility of the roads in the Regimental area and reced a new way-out to a hard road.	
	11		Road maintenance, entertainments, and baths continued and 200 rds per gun were dumped in preparation for further ops.	R Streatfield
HOLLAND	12		530 went out to rest and 529 returned. Troop shoots were continued otherwise things were very quiet.	
	13		Continued rain and entertainment transport rendered the roads in the gun area almost impassable and traffic was cut to a minimum. A bulldozer gave invaluable assistance but things were still very bad. For the first time in the history of the Regiment a battery refused some vacancies for entertainment.	
	14		Today we fired a deception Fire Plan together with a fair amount of infantry small arms and mortar fire as a prelude to the 12 Corps attack on our right. The Boche seemed to swallow the bait though his reactions were not as vigorous as expected. At 1600 hrs we heard in the distance the terrific barrage which announced the 12 Corps attack to BERINGE.	
	15		530 Bty returned from rest and the rest programme was completed. Patrols from 227 Bde pushed down to MEIJEL and beyond finding no opposition but many mines and booby traps. Lieut. C.R. ASHWORTH arrived from 31 R.H.U. and took over duties as Assistant Adjutant.	
	16		Infantry patrols pushed further South. CO2 and recce parties prepared a new area at 6910 Heikant - a good area though 530 Bty's	

		area was a known German DF Task. First proper frost during the night. V2 rockets launched due East were observed from RHQ in the evening as on several other nights.	
	17	A few hostile mortar targets were fired and a rum ration issued. 529/530 had a most successful afternoon dance at HELMOND.	
HOLLAND	18	In the morning the C.R.A. walked around the Gun Positions. We were warned of move to new area probably on 19th. An OP was attached to B Sqn Recce who would be acting as right flank OP. CO2 went to orders at 46 Bde and had an order group on return. Infantry plans formed and cancelled with remarkable rapidity.	R Streatfield
	19	9 Cams crossed double canal at HOOGEBRUG Bridge and patrolled towards Helenaveen. Regt moved in the morning to the area already prepared at Heittrak.	
	20	Cams push on to Helenaveen meeting most difficulties in the shape of mines (Schu and AP) and boggy country. The C.O. gave orders to the effect that the 2 G.H. were to go through to SEVENUM. A suggested new gun area was 7312.	
	21	CO2 visited the suggested area but found it impracticable. He then proceeded to a more Southern area and had to fix 7708 as final area. Recce parties hurried forward but only 530 Bty moved that afternoon. It was obvious that we would have great trouble with the roads in the area which were very bad before we moved in.	
	22	Rest of the regt moved to new area. The infantry pushed on well in very bad conditions and deliberate fire plans were formed and cancelled as their need disappeared.	
	23	H.Q.R.A. wanted us to move forward as we were rapidly getting out of range. C.O.2 set out to recce the route out but found an impassable part. The proposed new gun area 8014 was reced by proxy by Major Ginn OC 531 Bty and pronounced good. Move was however cancelled as alternative routes were found equally impracticable.	
	24	The Regiment was completely mud bound and fired nothing all day being out of range. CO2 and recce parties struggled through and reced new area 8219 near HORST. This area was extensively mined, but nevertheless good gun area.	R Streatfield
HOLLAND	25	The Regt left its mud bound position and took six hours to get to its new area 8219 leaving a few breakdowns on the way.	
	26	Today the Regt shot its first round at Germany. The C.R.A. in person directed an U Tgt and our first rounds landed on German soil at 1200 hrs. Very little opposition was being met by infantry and recce and CO2 reced a new area at 8519 Melderslo in anticipation of a new move. Later in the day full preparation of the new position was	

		carried out. We received a fire plan in support of 9 Cams and 3 Tank Scots Guards against Lottum 9019.	
	27	9 Cams operation carried out with little opposition and the Fire Plan was cancelled. We were warned of move over to present 49 Div area and later this was confirmed. We were to take over complete from 143 Field Regt in area 8408 near Maasbree.	
	28	C.O.2 and recce parties left in morning for new area. We took over Gun Pit for Gun Pit from 143 Field Regt. The area was quite good though RHQ appeared to be quite a likely H.F. Task. The Regt moved in the afternoon and was ready in time for tea. Our infantry also started to move down, 46 Bde taking over from 56 and 146 Bdes of 49 Div.	
	29	A fairly quiet day. In the afternoon an HF fire plan was fired on selected enemy posts in and around Blerick the suburb of Venlo on the West of the Maas. The RAF raided 531 battery with propaganda leaflets but the Gunners unfortunately couldn't read German.	
HOLLAND	30	<p>The Gun position was shelled in the morning and 531 Bty had slight vehicle casualties. More HF was fired in the afternoon and the evening was marked by the arrival of the Regimental Christmas Card (Copy attached as Appx). 8 Corps Comdr Lt.Gen Sir Richard O'Connor came to say Goodbye to all Senior Officers on having to take up his duties in India. Information received that Capt. AC HOBSON Tp Comdr D Tp 530 Bty and Capt. JFB O'SHEA Tp Comdr A Tp 529 Bty have been awarded the M.C. for conspicuous gallantry during the operations on the Dutch/Belgian frontier. This now makes 4 MCs in the Regt.</p> <p>It is food for thought whether we do not move too many <u>Regts</u> of Artillery fwd when the enemy is weak and the ground bad for deployment and full of mines. The fire power of one Regiment instead of three would often have met the case and caused less harm to bad tracks, eased the supply problem and rested the guns and gunners. I feel it is a point that should be noted.</p>	<p>R Streatfield</p> <p>R Streatfield</p>