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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn A. & S. Hrs

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan M.C.

Month and Year Nov 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BROCK	1		At approx 0030 hrs the bn had a false alarm, owing to a dog setting off a trip flare. Brig. visited Comd Post 1000 hrs. CO visited Bde 1215 hrs. A and C coys were put at short notice to move at approx 1230 hrs. Maj Pearson (2i/c) was called to Bde and given orders for an attack on the right flank of the Div area with the two coys with under-comd 1 Sqn Scots Guards. O gp 1330. 2 coys move to attack under comd 2 i/c. Objective was high ground 650077. Attack achieved its object, cas being 4 killed and 14 wounded. Lt Hulme was wounded. At 1930 hrs the coys returned.	
do	2		Padre and MO went out to area of battle and found three of the dead. Battle Group under comd 10 HLI. Maj F.G. Graham left D coy to comd the Div club at TILBURG.	
Do BROCK	3		Layout same as previous day only as other Bdes had closed the threat between the Gordons and 44 Bde every effort was made to get the men under cover. At 1015 hrs the Bde Comd visited Comd post and the possibilities of going to India were discussed at great length. Reorganisation of bn took place in the afternoon. C coy Maj J.N. Goodwyn, D coy Maj Dobbs (promotion) Sp coy Maj McElwee, Carrier pl Lt K. Meek promoted to Capt.	
ASTEN	4		CO and IO visited Bde in the morning to see the form. CO then visited B/Gp and D coy. The bn moved out of the line during the afternoon to billets in ASTEN 6113 where it was tucked in by 1600 hrs.	
do	5		Quiet day for bn. Church parades for all denoms. CO went to Brussels for 48 hours.	
do	6		2 ic, I.O. and coy comds went to Bde HQ at 0900 hrs for a recce with Bde Comd for a new area S.W. of MEIJEL where it was found that the picture was somewhat confused. The U.S. army were in the middle of an op and Maj Pearson returned to Bde HQ and explained the posn. The Bde Comd agreed that night relief was impossible, owing to the number of mines. 2 ic and the IO returned in the afternoon for a	

			further recce. Shortly after dark enemy a/c dropped flares and bombs near the village.	
ASTEN	7		The 2ic took IO and coy comds to visit the area where the bn was going to take over from the 23 Armd US inf (7 US Armd Div). The 2ic attended a conference at Div HQ. The bn moved at 1530 hrs and arrived at dusk at OSPEL, where it debussed by the church. Mortar fire was directed on the village as the bn arrived. There were no cas. Bn HQ est at 661041. One RE att D coy injured by mine during take over.	
OSPEL	8		At 0200 hrs a sentry at the mortar pl posn fired on an enemy patrol approaching by way of a ditch at the side of the road. No cas. 2 shells were directed at comd post area but there were no cas. Bde Comd visited comd post at 0950 hrs. B/gp sent out a patrol at 2000 hrs to "sausage" wood on our front. Result was very good as Sjt Skinn followed an enemy patrol to their base. He also found an enemy pillbox which was unoccupied. A patrol sent out by D coy returned at 2330 with one walking wounded, who had stopped a piece of mortar shell. Contact patrols were also laid on from the RSF.	
OSPEL	9		Bde Comd visited comd post at 0950 hrs. A 6 pdr in C coy area fired into a house believed to be used as an OP. The house was set on fire. A coy supplied a fighting patrol to go to "sausage" wood and blow up pillbox. Div Comd visited comd post at 1100 hrs. A further fighting patrol was led by Sjt Skinn of B/Gp. Just on his objective an att RE stepped on a SCHU mine. While putting him on a blanket, another RE and an Argyll stepped on mines. The first cas lost one foot and died in hospital. The other RE lost both feet and the Argyll one foot.	
OSPEL	10		C coy area shelled and the RA OP hit. Capt Cyril Wiggin, RA, and ex-Cambridge blue, was killed. Enemy activity seen on right of the axis of advance.	
OSPEL	11		Lt Laurie took out a patrol in front of C coy where they met an enemy patrol. They exchanged grenades and one of the enemy went up on a mine. Enemy shelled C coy area causing one cas. Bde Maj & IO at comd post 1545 hrs.	
OSPEL	12		Odd shelling on C coy area all day. Sjt Skinn sent out on a recce patrol to "sausage" wood. Nothing to report. Evacuation of civilians from battle area began at 0810 hrs. Lt Oliver took patrol from C coy at 1200 hrs. Encountered mines, did not reach objective, and suffered one cas. Sjt Skinn's patrol came under MG fire and suffered 3 cas.	
do	13		GIII L 15 (S) Div visited the bn. Several shells landed in A and C coy areas. One direct hit on C coy HQ. No cas. The CO and adv party	

			of the Gordons arrived at 1330 hrs to take over. Takeover completed 2215 hrs, and the bn had a very grim and muddy move out, to eventually reach HELMOND at 0200 hrs 14th. Maj Pearson left to comd 6 RSF.	
HELMOND	14		The bn tidies up most of the day, and the Pipes and Drums played in the afternoon. The offr held a party in the Tilburg Hotel. Guests were Maj Cornwall and Capt Alexander. Maj E. Remington-Hobbs joined as 2ic.	
do	15		Bn placed at 2 hrs notice to move. Corps Comd arrived at 1230 hrs to visit the bn. Pipes and Drums played in Castle grounds, with the Pipes and Drums of the Scots Guards. Film shows for the troops.	
do	16		Bn placed at 4 hours to move. The CO attended O gp at Bde at 1500 hrs. Bn O gp at 1915 hrs. A coy told to be prepared to get astride br SOUTH of MEIJEL at 710040, while rest of bn is prepared to cover the line DONK 710058 to the br.	
DONK	17		Bn moved out of HELMOND led by A coy. Owing to the good adv of 51 div and 53 div it was hoped that the crossing of the double canal would be unnecessary. A coy got astride the br where a class 9 had been erected during the night. A coy heavily shelled during the day but no one was hit. Comd post area shelled and the house across the road was hit. During the night a terrific barrage was heard from the 51 div front, where a night attack was apparently in progress. Comd post was house at trck junc 709053.	
do	18		Bde Comd visited comd post. C coy moved to area KATSBERG 7216 without difficulty. 18 Tellermines were removed from track in C coy area. Fighting patrol sent out under Lt Oliver, and returned with nothing to report. Patrol were almost on objective when area was mortared so patrol returned. 1 pl D coy moved into C coy to fill gap.	
do	19		Op instructions 3 Nov arrived. Arty offr from 49 div called to get the local picture. Bde Comd visited comd post and discussed general picture and future ops. Patrol from A coy met only a few mines.	
772094	20		1015 hrs, the bn moved by march route to new location at 772094 and was not committed en route. The weather was foul and roads and tracks almost impassable. Bn O gp 2200 hrs.	
do	21		Quiet night. No move for bn before 1430 hrs. The Gordons made good progress and met no enemy but many mines. Bde Comd visited CO and discussed times for move. Moved at 1430 hrs to 784103. The enemy dropped a few shells over as we arrived and Nebelwerfers were active on our left all evening. One German deserter came in and was sent to Bde.	

do	22		Night patrols had nothing to report. We moved off at 0920 hrs and after a trip through pouring rain and thick mud arrived at 813126. No enemy. Spasmodic shelling. Weather is still our chief enemy and going extremely difficult. Our supply lines are becoming very frayed and only 3 ton, 4-wheeled drive can get through, even jeeps and carriers getting bogged.	
813126 to HORST	23		After a very quiet night the bn moved off to HORST and just walked into the place the enemy having left 24 hrs previously. The IO caused quite a stir by protecting himself from the rain with an umbrella. Riding in the C.O.'s carrier he looked somewhat like an Indian potentate riding in state. Remainder of time in HORST was spent without incident - except for a few shells in the evening. There were no cas to us. A 3 tonner at Bde HQ carrying 4in mortar was hit. Some mines in front of D coy were lifted by the Pioneer offr.	
do	24		Bn expects to remain in present location until a.m. tomorrow. Day spent in getting dry and cleaning up. Message of congratulation from Corps comd on good show put up by div. B/gp sent to guard a br which was being built by REs but owing to RE trucks being bogged down the job had to be scrapped. Many civilians gave useful infn re enemy.	
TIENRAIJ	25		Bn moved at 0930 hrs and met no opposition. Comd post at 855231. Enemy arty and mortar fire very active. Capt Sword and L/Cpl Strang wounded.	
do	26		Slight shelling in the early morning. Enemy reported in a school at BLITTERSWICK, which Recce dealt with. Civilians reported that enemy were in wood 861243.	
do	27		Ferry across MAAS in use by the enemy, but being shelled by our arty. Bde HQ moved to EIKELENBOSCH during the morning. BM 'phoned to say that all vehs had to be out of area before first light, except essential vehs. BROEKHUIZEN was reported to be strongly held by the enemy and the arty stonked it at night. Things quiet in our own area.	
TIENRAIJ ASTEN (6113)	28	0630	Bn started to move to rest area by march route and later by TCVs. Arrived ASTEN 1200 hrs. Rest of day spent "settling in". ENSA shows at HELMOND and DEURNE.	
do	29		Bn spent day on maintenance on weapons and vehs. Entertainment in evening. Pipes and Drums played in the village in the afternoon.	
do	30		Bn on training and maintenance. Entertainment as usual.	