

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 119 LAA Regt RA

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer LT COL J.F. Young RA

Month and Year Oct 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ZON - ST. OEDENRODE area	1	0713 1400 1730	and 0800 hrs, groundshooting on harassing fire tasks G2AA 12 Corps visited LAA OP at 380240 to see groundshooting (indirect fire) 390 bty HQ with A and I tps under comd, relieved of ground defence of ZON bridge 4425 by tps of 51 (H) Div, moved to harbour areas 5829-5830 ◉ C tp moved to same area at 1735 into harbour	
ST. OEDENRODE and GEMERT areas	2	0530 1000	2 guns of G tp engaged suspected mortar posn at 1200 yds range ◉ same target, engaged at 1400 hrs, flew white flag ◉ However, no sign of enemy coming out to surrender ◉ Signal was therefore ignored 390 bty resumed comd of C tp, and 392 bty of G tp	
ST. OEDENRODE and GEMERT areas	3	1030 1645 1700	Three Dutch (civilian) interpreters picked up from HQRA for att to regt ◉ 2 to rank as Lieuts, one as sjt ◉ All to be clothed, armed, rationed and paid by unit ◉ One (Lieut) to be att 390 bty and one RHQ ◉ sjt to be att B ech B ech moved to harbour area at GEMERT Orders to move remainder of regt tomorrow at 1115 hrs via NIJNSEL, LIESHOUT and BEEK to GEMERT area (E 5730)	
GEMERT area	4	1105	RHQ and bty A echs with E tp moved to harbour in GEMERT area ◉ F tp moved independently with 131 fd regt and G tp independently when relieved by tp of 51 (H) Div LAA	
	5	- 1505	Start of period of rest to be devoted to cleaning and maint of all eqpt incl clothing and personal eqpt, with as much as possible of recreational trg, baths, concerts, etc. Orders from HQRA to provide AA protection at HELMOND 5622 where div comd is to address all offr of div pm 6 Oct 44 ◉ CO detailed A and I tps, 2IC to coordinate	
	6	1000	C.O. discussed groundshooting with offr ◉ 1430 hrs C.O. spoke to dvr-ops on new arrangement for regimental wireless nets: all	

GEMERT area		1645	tps and bty HQs to be on one net to RHQ, and BC and tps to flick off on to bty when required, for fire orders, etc 1500 hrs A and I tps in action at HELMOND till last light GOC 15 (S) Div addressed all offr in HELMOND ☉ Massed pipe bands of div sounded retreat in grounds of HELMOND castle, after GOCs address	
	7	0745 1415 -	10 3-tonners, 4 tractors, 2 DRs reported to FMC to assist in dumping programme of fd arty GOC addressed regiment at RHQ ref discipline, turnout, etc Vehs used for dumping fd arty amn returned later same day when operation concerned was indefinitely postponed Lieut R.S. MADDOCK returned from 31 RHU ☉ Posted to I tp 392 bty as tp leader	
	8	1300	CO left to contact 43 div in NIJMEGEN area to find Maj COPELAND (392 bty) at 110 LAA Regt RA ☉ Found that Maj Copeland was not to return to 119 LAA as had been supposed hitherto, on infm of 15 Div ☉ CO reported to CRA	
GEMERT and OPLOO area	9	0815 1100 -	10 3-tonners, 4 tractors, 2 DRs reported to fd arty reps for moving of dumped 25 pdr amn to new gun area near OPLOO (E 7136) Orders from HQRA to redeploy four tps, partly for AA, partly for ground defence of new gun area & of HQRA in new location approx E 6939 For this op in sp of div arty, A & G tps under comd 390 bty; C and I tps remain harboured under comd 392 bty ☉ 391 and RHQ send fwd tac HQs, sited with E & A tps respectively	
	10	1130	G.O.C. comd 2nd Army at HQ 15 (S) Div to meet regt comds ☉ 2IC attended in place of CO absent on duty	
	11	-	Considerable intermittent shelling & mortaring of fwd tps	
	12	-	390 bty sends fwd tac HQ, sited with A tp	
	13	1245	Parties leave to recce locations in area WEERT 5897	
	14	0715 1000	3 gunners leave for 48 hrs BRUSSELS leave The 3 attached Dutch interpreters called to Town Hall EINDHOVEN for interview by Dutch authorities ☉ Only one allowed to remain with unit, the other two being required in other capacities.	
	15	1430	Groundshooting task begun but cancelled before completion	
	16	- 1415 2100	Two sections from fwd tps move to new posns when fd arty leapfrog fwd Major J.B. LIDDELL (166986) from 105 CRC to take up appointment of OC 392 bty (posted 11 Oct 44) (approx) 3 gunners return from 48 hrs BRUSSELS leave	

GEMERT area	17	1115	Regt and bty tac HQs and A,E,F and G tps return from OPLOO area to harbour in GEMERT area ⊙ C tp reverts to under comd 390 bty, G tp to 392 bty	
	18	-	Nothing to report ⊙ All tps in harbour carrying out maint	
	19	1000	2IC attended orders gp at HQRA: the regt to deploy 9 guns in AA role and 15 guns in islands of 3 guns for ground defence, in new arty area centred round 4544: also one tp for AA defence of bridge over canal at 389249: deployment to begin 20 Oct 44	
GEMERT, DINTHER and BEST areas	20	- 1130	A and I tps deployed in arty area, E tp at canal bridge ⊙ 391 bty sent forward tac HQ - 0330 approx, E tp gun posns heavily shelled intermittently, esp posns NORTH of bridge at 389253 ⊙ 2 fatal cas (1 sjt, 1 gnr), 2 wounded (1 gnr, 1 dvr-mech) ⊙ fatal cas occurred during attempt to evacuate one of the wounded	
GEMERT, DINTHER ST. OEDENRODE and BEST areas	21	0600	E tp posns again shelled ⊙ Fresh posns subsequently dug a few hundred yards to the NORTH. RHQ, 390 and 392 btys sent fwd tac HQs ⊙ C and F tps deployed in arty area, G tp harboured near future deployment area	
	22	-	G tp deployed in ground role in DONDERDONCK area ⊙ Extensive and successful indirect groundshooting by E tp guns	
	23	-	Nothing to report	
	24	1600 2330	Rep called to rear div HQ, received orders for A and B echs to move, at unspecified time next day to approx area 4022 Orders from div HQ to move past SP 578300 at 1100 hrs.	
ACHT area  OIRSCHOT - ACHT area	25	1040  1640	Tac HQ, A ech and B ech moved to 400226 arriving 1245 ⊙ CO reorganized echeloning of regt as follows ⊙ A ech to consist of RHQ (less QM MO and Padre and their vehicles) and 3 bty HQ subalterns each with batman and jeep ⊙ Duties of subalterns, to keep contact with tps and with own bty tac HQ (at bde HQs), and to take turn with Adjnt & RHQ subaltern in manning wireless by night ⊙ B ech to consist of bty HQs (less BCs with their tac HQs, and less bty HQ subalterns), QM MO and Padre A ech left, arriving 313245 at 1730 hrs	
	26	0715 1000	2IC and Lieut Newton (with driver) left for 48 hrs BRUSSELS leave hrs onwards, B ech moved up in small groups to area 340257	
HILVARENBEEK - OIRSCHOT areas	27	1010 1205	A ech moved in two groups to HILVARENBEEK 1924 - 1235 Successful groundshooting by C tp guns, in support of 44 (L) Inf Bde attack on TILBURG, firing as a tp of 5 guns	
	28	0900	B ech moved to DIESEN 2222	

TILBURG - DIESSSEN		1500 1530 1800 2215	F tp and 391 bty tac HQ moved with 227 bde gp to go under comd 8 Corps ☉ E tp placed under operational comd 392 bty A ech moved to TILBURG 158332 ☉ 5 tps [in secs] for AA defence of TILBURG Maj MURPHY (2IC) and Lieut NEWTON (C tp) returned from 48 hrs BRUSSELS leave I.O. called to RA, received orders to send off recce party at 0500 hrs to GELDROP 4816 ☉ Main Body to pass Start Pt in HILVARENBEK (1923) at 1600 hrs, thence via MIDDELBEERS, VESSEM and EINDHOVEN	
HELMOND (5521)	29	- 1515 1910	48 hrs leave for ORs, at the rate of 2 or 3 every 2-3 days, commenced again. A ech left location, joined by E tp at outskirts of TILBURG and by B ech at DIESSSEN ☉ Arrived HELMOND area 1830 hrs ☉ Other tps moved with units to whom they were in sp - 1930 Tps engaged enemy aircraft which dropped bombs and flares in HELMOND area ☉ One bomb which fell in B ech location set fire to amn lorry, caused leg wounds to one DR and damaged several vehicles	
LIEROP - ZOMEREN	30	1415	A ech moved to ZOMEREN, and 1500 hrs B ech (less wksps) to LIEROP and VLERKEN	
	31	1500 2200	- 1600 hrs, groundshooting on harassing fire tasks and:- - 0500 hrs, harassing fire programme in conjunction with fd arty 14 out of 18 NCOs and men, hitherto attached to HQRA for counter-mortar duties, now posted to 15 (S) Div as from 2 Sep 44	See Appx J