

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

OF

Unit 102 (Northumberland Hussars)
Anti-Tank Regt RA.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year December 1944

Commanding Officer Lieut-Colonel R.W. JELF RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices															
	1.		<p>1000 hrs. RHQ moved from OOSTERHOUT to the Barracks in NIJMEGEN to join 99 Bty preparatory to the move to DEURNE area. At 0930 hrs Lt F. MOORE L.O. at HQ RA 50 Div arrived at RHQ with the last instructions to the Regt from them. Everyone is feeling rather sad. The C.O. leaves at 0945 hrs to contact HQ 97 A Tk Regt RA and HQ RA of our new Division. 2000 hrs. Column consisting of RHQ and 99 Bty leave NIJMEGEN for new area. Fine moonlight night. Arrive area LIEROP 5715 at 0115 hrs. Good journey down. Park vehicles round farm buildings and settle for the night. Men in barns. Area does not seem too bad and the hot tea waiting for us cheers everyone up. Good work by Major BARNETT, Lt QM HUTCHINSON and RHQ B Echelon.</p>																
	2.		<p>Changeover with 97 A Tk Regt has been postponed for 24 hrs. So there is little to do except remain in our incredibly uncomfortable concentration area, apart from recce of the areas occupied by 97 A Tk Regt. Filthy wet day. Everyone is naturally rather depressed including 97 A Tk Regt. It is always sad when necessities of war make it imperative for moves which have recently come about to take place. Attached Appx gives account of the recent changes. Major-General BARBER DSO Commanding 15 (S) Div paid an informal visit with his AQ - Lt-Col LETHBRIDGE.</p>																
	3.		<p>RHQ moves from area LIEROP 571156 to DEURNE and is located at 650199. 97 A Tk Regt pulled out of Div area at 0900 hrs today. 288 Bty move from area LIEROP to area Locations are as follows :-</p> <table> <tr> <td>RHQ Main/B Ech/LAD</td> <td>...</td> <td>650199</td> </tr> <tr> <td>99 Bty</td> <td>...</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>107 Bty</td> <td>...</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>288 Bty</td> <td>...</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>289 Bty</td> <td>...</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	RHQ Main/B Ech/LAD	...	650199	99 Bty	...		107 Bty	...		288 Bty	...		289 Bty	...		
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		<p>The Regt is at the moment concentrated in these areas. Troops are all under cover but areas are not comfortable. 44 (L) Bde is today clearing BLERICK and up to R. MAAS at VENLO. The Regt is not taking part in the battle as the area is waterlogged and not at all suitable for employment of tanks. Tank threat is nil. HQ 15 (S) Div is situated at PANNINGEN 7704.</p> <p>It is a very long time since the Regt was in a Division having a battle which it was not in, it is doubtful if it ever happened before. It is nearly as long since RHQ was as far from Div HQ (18 miles) during operations.</p> <p>Today has been spent settling in and trying to find out the workings of our new division. Much running about has been entailed for everyone and there is not a lot to show for it.</p> <p>Filthy wet day - with very odd bright intervals.</p>	
	4.	<p>Today has been taken up in settling in and getting to know the form in our new Division - 15 (S) Div. Already we have noted many differences from 50 (N) Div, which is only natural.</p> <p>It has not been decided yet what area the Regt is to occupy but the general form for the next few weeks seems to be that the Regt will remain in the rear of the Divisional area to rest and train. 288 Bty set up an Officers and Sgts Mess for the first time since landing (almost six months to the day).</p>	
	5.	<p>288 Bty find themselves concentrated and able for the first time since landing to lay on a Bty parade and to see all the men and vehicles in one place at one time. An orgy of maintenance and re-drilling is begun.</p>	
	6.	<p>C.O. visits range near BOURG LEOPOLD and sees Valentine SP Tp of 107 Bty shoot. OC 107 Bty and Capt F.R. ROBERTS accompany C.O. Maintenance in full swing.</p>	
	7.	<p>Nothing fresh to report. Second-in-Comd still trying to find an area for the Regt where we will have a roof over our heads and be able to do some training. So far the search has been exhaustive and fruitless.</p> <p>C.O. spends day co-ordinating B.Cs answers to the SP questionnaire preparatory to discussing the matter with representatives from Army tomorrow. For questionnaire and answers see Appx "A".</p> <p>Raining today.</p>	
	8.	<p>C.O. endeavouring to make arrangements for at least two Btys and Cadre Class to be accommodated in the Dutch Refugee Camp between LIESEL and DEURNE. This is an excellent camp and if we can get it we will be able to settle down in comparative comfort to training.</p>	

		<p>Accommodation is terribly short in the whole Div area and up to date the 2 i/c, I.O. and even the C.O. himself have spent the best part of five days recceing the area and having meetings with the AQ and his Staff in an endeavour to reach a solution.</p> <p>Lt-Col KING visits C.O. and the questionnaire on SP eqpts is discussed.</p> <p>Brig L. BOLTON (CRA 15 (S) Div) also attends.</p> <p>288 Bty M.10 Tp depart for Re-organisation Centre at BOURG LEOPOLD for change-over to Valentines.</p>	
	9.	<p>It is now decided that the following moves will take place tomorrow. RHQ will move from present location in DEURNE to nearer HQ RA at PANNINGEN and 289 Bty will move from present location to RHQ's present location at DEURNE. L.A.D. will move from DEURNE into what we call the wilderness in area 7508.</p> <p>A bit of a crisis has also arisen in 99 Bty's area. The 15 (S) Recce Regt have to pull into that area and so we shall have to move 99 Bty and also 107 Bty. It is decided to move 99 Bty to the wilderness on 11 Dec and to try and find a place to put 107 Bty. C.O. visits AQ and is given the area of VOSBERG. It is decided to put 107 Bty in VOSBERG but meantime on a previous arrangement Osc 107 Bty and 289 Bty are out today looking at areas outside the Div area as also is Lieut MARRIOTT. After all these officers have done their recces they are to report to RHQ this evening at 1700 hrs. 1700 hrs. B.C's Conference about moves. Both Majors TRIPPIER and STALLARD have found excellent places for their Btys outside the Div area and Lieut MARRIOTT has found billets and good accommodation for whole Regt in VALKENSWAARD. However, we must not now go outside the Div area.</p> <p>It is finally fixed up 289 Bty move to DEURNE tomorrow. RHQ move to PANNINGEN and on 11th 99 Bty will move to wilderness and 107 Bty to VOSBERG.</p> <p>288 Bty remain in present location during all this.</p> <p>After these moves have taken place it is still not firm that we will remain in these areas.</p>	
	10.	<p>RHQ move from DEURNE to PANNINGEN 781050.</p> <p>289 Bty move to DEURNE 650198.</p> <p>LAD move to wilderness area 7508.</p> <p>There is a lot of work to be done in both RHQ and LAD's new areas as there are no lights and no heating. If there were lights there is no blackout!! Everyone now concentrates on getting stores of every description out of ADOS, AQ, EME etc.</p>	

11.		<p>99 Bty move to wilderness (751086). 107 Bty move to VOSBERG (7706). Both areas are pretty bloody and there is a lot of work to be done to make them "liveable in".</p> <p>C.O. is still working on the Dutch Camp idea and sees innumerable AQ people to find out whether or not we are to have the Camp. It is a case of one day "Yes", another day "No", next day "Part".</p> <p>Nothing is definite in this world we know, but !</p>																
12.		<p>Major-General BARBER DSO, Cdg 15 (S) Div does an informal tour of the Btys accompanied by CRA (Brig L. BOLTON) and C.O.</p> <p>The General addresses the men in each Bty and welcomes the Regt to the Div adding that he expects us shortly to be wearing tam-o-shaners !</p> <p>Shape of things to come.</p> <p>New Div signs for our arms arrive - 7¼d per pr ! These new signs become quite expensive as this is the fourth Div the Regt has been with.</p> <table> <tr> <td>Greece 1941</td> <td>...</td> <td>2 Armd Div</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Western Desert 1941-42</td> <td></td> <td>7 Armd Div</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Western Desert/Tunisia</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sicily/Europe 1942-44</td> <td></td> <td>50 (N) Div</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Europe 1944</td> <td></td> <td>15 (S) Div</td> </tr> </table> <p>288 Bty can add more being with 4 Indian Div for a time as well and also for a very short time with 1 Armd Div, to mention two.</p> <p>We received news today that Major R. TAYLOR DSO MC who commanded 288 Bty has been promoted Lt-Col and is assuming comd of 8 Corps A Tk Regt which is being re-formed.</p> <p>Regt paints out its TTs and adopts the 15 (S) Div sign - Scottish Lion.</p>	Greece 1941	...	2 Armd Div	Western Desert 1941-42		7 Armd Div	Western Desert/Tunisia			Sicily/Europe 1942-44		50 (N) Div	Europe 1944		15 (S) Div	
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13.		<p>Field-Marshal Sir B.L. MONTGOMERY held a presentation today at ZOMEREN. Sgt WHERRELL R.J. of 99 Bty received the M.M. for the BEMMEL party. C-in-C's Certificates arrived by post for the C.O. to present to Lieut GARNER, (289 Bty), S/Sgt BATES (RHQ) and L/Bdr GIFFORD (288 Bty).</p> <p>The C-in-C addressed officers of the DIV down to Second - in - Comd after the presentation.</p> <p>C.O. still endeavouring to get an answer about the Dutch Camp. Arrangements are made to go ahead and put the Cadre Class into the accommodation in the camp which is spare at the moment.</p> <p>C.O. is invited to spend the night with Lt.General BARBER at 8 Corps HQ near HELMOND.</p>																

	14		C.O. goes straight from 8 Corps HQ to BOURG LEOPOLD to spend day with 288 Btys M.10. Troop which is at the RA Reorganisation Centre being reorganised into a troop of 3 SP 17 pdr Valentines. B.C. 107 Bty accompanied by Capt. E.R. ROBERTS visits Brigadier of 44 Bde.	
	15		Positions remain unchanged. C.O. Major G.R. BALFOUR MC and Capt. W.S. BRAMELD DSO visit 288 Bty SP troop at BOURG LEOPOLD and watch practice shoot with Valentines. B.C.'s conference at RHQ 1730 hrs on subject "Blighty" Leave. Officers ballot for leave.	
	16		Owing to general manpower shortage Regt has to post off as Inf reinforcements 29 men. These men must be A.1 and under 30 and must not hold a campaign medal. They will probably be replaced by A.2 personnel over 30. Draw for "Blighty" Leave.	
	17		Good deal of Air Activity over DIV area. DEURNE bombed. 289 Bty suffer a casualty and have a couple of vehicles damaged (A.P. bomb splinters). 289 Bty recce an area in LIESEL as they may have to move into that area.	
	18		It is now thought DIV will move from this area and concentrate 10/15 miles North of ANTWERP in V 1 & V 2 alley and fair ground.	
	19		Regtl Recce parties under Major R.A. BARNETT MC RA proceed to recce area North of ANTWERP. B.C. of 107 Bty and Capt ROBERTS do a recce in BLERICK area prior to shooting up two houses on other side of river suspected of being occupied by enemy HQ's. Fairly heavy shelling in BLERICK. 289 Bty moved to LIESEL 6714.	
	20		Regtl recce parties report on new area is very depressing. Buildings very badly damaged and not a pane of glass to be found anywhere. Heating arrangements nil. Major BARNETT MC RA was constrained to say a few pertinent words to a local Town Major who found that "troops coming out of the line did not mind what sort of area they occupied as any change was usually for the better".	
	21		Inf A/Tk plns of 46 Bde visit 288 Bty and arrangements made for them to use Miniature Range. All Btys now have a miniature range going.	
	22		Dull Foggy day. Slight drizzle.	

		<p>C.O. visits HQ RA at 1200 hrs to discuss local defence with Lt-Col YOUNG and BMRA.</p> <p>Officers i/c Bty Recce parties visit RHQ and report result of their Recce's North of ANTWERP to 2i/c.</p> <p>2i/c makes a trace of area and writes a description of the billets which is forwarded to HQ RA.</p> <p>Move to area North of ANTWERP now considered to be fairly definitely off. DIV taking over a bit more frontage. This is no doubt due to RUNSTEDTs unexpected and large counter offensive against the 1st American Army in the ARDENNES. It is rumoured that C-in-C 21 Army Group has now taken over Command of all operations in the threatened area and things are beginning to happen on a large scale.</p>	
	23	<p>C.O. leaves RHQ with Capt. C.S. SPENCE to see the Valentines of 99 Bty do their shooting.</p> <p>Major BARNETT goes to see CRA at 1000 hrs. DIV are worried about enemy patrols crossing the river and infiltrating. A mild flap.</p> <p>Major BARNETT sees OsC 99, 288 & 289 Btys and gives them areas to recce in case of enemy infiltration. Btys are to keep a Duty Troop with necessary tpt at short notice to move out in an Inf role. SP Troops are to be held available for special jobs and crews of SP's not to be used for the Inf role of the Duty troop.</p> <p>CRA visited and addressed the senior NCOs Cadre Class accompanied by Major R.A. BARNETT MC RA. A good show was put on and CRA expressed his pleasure. The following Officers arrived to be attached to the Regt.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Major. TURNBULL MC) Capt . LANE) both late 97 A/Tk Regt RA.</p> <p>The idea behind the attachment is to keep them from rotting in RHUs. They will also be useful when leave starts. We are now considerably over-strength in Officers as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">99 Bty 2 Subalterns 107 Bty 1 " 288 Bty 1 Captain 289 Bty 1 Subaltern</p> <p>and we understand still another Capt is on his way. Major. K. TURNBULL MC goes to 107 Bty and takes over from Major. A.T.F. STALLARD posted to 190 Fld Regt.</p>	
	24	<p>Cadre Class breaks up. Btys preparing for Xmas celebration. 1500 hrs. CRA thinks the enemy may definitely try something on over the festive season and it is decided by DIV that we had</p>	

		<p>better have at least the equivalent of 2 full strength Plns per Bty standing by at short notice to move.</p> <p>1700 hrs. BC's conference and C.O. lays on the plot with Bty Cmdrs.</p> <p>C.O. inspects 289 Bty.</p> <p>289 Bty play LIESEL at soccer and win 9 - 0.</p>	
	25	<p>C.O. visits Christmas dinners of 289 & 288 Btys.</p> <p>Major RA BARNETT MC visits Christmas dinners of RHQ 99 & 107 Btys.</p> <p>Rations are excellent.</p>	
	26	<p>Training carries on as usual.</p> <p>No change in location.</p>	
	27	<p>Second senior NCO's Cadre Class assembles in Maria School ASTEN.</p> <p>Other Training goes on as usual.</p> <p>Foggy frosty weather continues.</p>	
	28	<p>Division are still worried about the thinness of the Infantry on the ground. DIV front covers some 30,000 yards from 899148 (GRUBBENVORE) to 777942 (BUGGENUM). Positions are to be recced in the 3 Bde fronts for the Regtl or individual Bty (platoons) to take up and hold in event of a flap. BCs are to do recces and contact the Bde Cmdrs. Major BARNETT is to tie up the day after BC's have done their recces.</p>	
	29	<p>BC's conference 0930. Defensive positions for Regtl or Bty Plns have been recced in 46 Bde Area (288 Bty) and 227 Bde area (289 Bty). BCs point out areas which are in squares 7496 & 7397 for 46 Bde and squares 8001 and 8405 for 227 Bde.</p> <p>Brig. of 44 Bde does not allot areas as he does not know definitely where threat will come from nor definitely that we will be available and in what strength if a threat does come.</p>	
	30	<p>C.O. visits A/Tk Range in LOMMEL near BOURG LEOPOLD and arranges for the Regts shoot on 4, 5, 6 and 7th of Jan.</p> <p>289 Btys M.10 Troop (the last in the Regt for reorganization) is at the RA reorganization centre.</p> <p>Lt. MARRIOTT finds billets to be occupied by the Btys during the forthcoming practice camp.</p> <p>Second-in-Command recces Regtl defensive localities with B.C. 288 Bty in the morning and B.C. 289 Bty in the afternoon.</p>	
	31	<p>C.C.R.A. is going to visit Regt tomorrow at 1415 hrs to present C-in-C's Certificates.</p> <p>Regtl parade of 42 OR's per Bty and 12 from RHQ is laid on to take place on the Football ground at PANNINGEN at 780047.</p> <p>Shells continue to land in the general PANNINGEN area at the usual daily rate of about 12.</p>	

		<p>We are gradually finding our feet in our new surroundings but it is going to take us a while to get used to the new administrative ideas.</p> <p>The amount of paper seems to be terrific and peace time accounting the rule rather than the exception.</p> <p>This hits us particularly hard after Regts long period away from England. The six months in England prior to the invasion were rather too busy to learn up all multifarious orders, instructions, systems on administration and we just could not compete, so we really are hardly equipped to compete now.</p>	
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WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Unit 102 (Northumberland Hussars)
Anti-Tank Regt RA.

Month and Year January 1945.

Commanding Officer Lieut-Colonel R.W. JELF RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1.		<p>Considerable enemy air activity over Div area. 119 LAA Regt have a goodish day and get five certainties. Three of them quite near our HQ from which a good view was obtained.</p> <p>Major GR BALFOUR MC RA of 288 Bty is evacuated with malaria. This is his third attack. We are all hoping he will be back soon.</p> <p>CCRA 8 Corps, accompanied by Brig BOLTON CRA 15 (S) Div, visits Regt.</p> <p>A ceremonial parade of 4 offrs and 42 ORs per bty is laid on on the football ground in PANNINGEN. CCRA inspects the parade and presents C-in-C's Certificates to 980513 S/Sgt BATES CE and 1091029 L/Bdr GIFFORD JRC. Parade was at 1415 hrs and was a great success, the 'Noodles' living up to their reputation for "putting something on".</p> <p>Three Valentine SPs of 107 Bty were on parade for the CCRA to look at, which he did with interest.</p> <p>RHQ turned out 24 chaps and 4 officers including CO.</p> <p>CRA and HMRA visit RHQ Mess for dinner at 1915. Very pleasant and happy evening spent.</p>	
	2.		<p>Major RA BARNETT MC RA with Lieut JD MARRIOTT go off to LOMMEL (near BOURG LEOPOLD) to watch 289 Bty's SP Tp shoot their Valentines.</p> <p>Lieut QM goes off to BRUSSELS to do many routine jobs and pick up some welfare goods, boot polish etc. He takes with him the second deserter of 97 A Tk Regt and hopes to get rid of him to his own RHQ.</p> <p>G.1 rings up and signifies his intention of calling on C.O. at 1415 hrs. A Capt from Battle Research Section 21 Army Group to see the C.O. who was not available. He came to ask the following questions. How many tanks had been knocked out by the Regt in this campaign and what guns did the knocking out? What were our casualties in guns, vehicles and personnel? How many guns were deployed on the floor at the time of the battle?</p>	

		He was given Appx 'A' to read and told as regards the last question that battles were so seldom set-piece that it was impossible to answer, and even more so months after. He was referred to the War Office records of the Battle of MEDENINE for answers to the last question.	
	3.	CRA visits NCOs Cadre Class at ASTEN. 288 Bty depart for MOLL for practice camp. C.O. departs for MOLL. Div Comd rings up and signifies his intention of visiting the range practice on 5 Jan. Thaw precautions instituted.	
	4.	289 Bty depart for MOLL. Foggy day. No shooting. Arrangements altered. 288 Bty with 46 Bde are now going to shoot on 5 Jan. 289 Bty with 227 Bde are going to shoot on 6 Jan. 107 Bty with 44 Bde are going to shoot on 7 Jan. 99 Bty are to try and shoot their 6-prs on the same day as Valentines are to shoot, i.e. 9 Jan. Recce Regt shoot cancelled. Great flap on because owing to thaw precautions being instituted we should not have allowed any tracked vehicles or 3-tonners on the road. Unfortunately one of 289 Bty's Carriers towing a 6-pr got lost and rolled into 8 Corps HQ to ask the way!!	
	5.	288 Bty and 46 Bde get their shooting in. Div Comd and CRA visit the range and watch the shooting. Brig of 46 Bde also visits range. Major BARNETT goes down to see how things are going. Move down of 107 Bty and 44 Bde guns is postponed 24 hours.	
	6.	107 Bty and 44 Bde move down to ranges at LOMMEL.	
	7.	107 Bty and 227 Bde shoot on ranges at LOMMEL.	
	8.	99 Bty moves down to LOMMEL.	
	9.	99 Bty shoots on ranges.	
	10.	Adjt and T/Adjt leave for rear areas to collect bits and bodies. C.O. returns lunch-time from MOLL and LOMMEL. The shooting has been quite successful in spite of snow, frost and fog, and the A/Tk pls of inf bns, as well as all our own detachments, had a shoot. In the absence of the CRA on leave, the CO is acting CRA. C.O. and 2 i/c dine with 2 Gordons.	
	11.	A four days course for all the subalterns of the Regt assembles at ASTEN.	
	12.	C.O. spends most of the day at Junior Offrs Course at ASTEN.	
	13.	Adjt and T/Adjt return, bringing with them L/Bdr Cox RHQ, who was wounded on 3 Sept. C.O. lunches at 227 Bde and meets Corps Comd.	

14.		<p>C.O.2 visits 44 Bde to discuss Regts emergency infantry role. B.C's Conferenoe at 289 Bty HQ : the following were discussed :-</p> <p>(a) The deployment of four guns. An SS Bde is coming to relieve each Bde in turn. It has no A Tk guns of its own. It is decided to deploy two half troops with it as under :-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">99 Bty ... 18 - 25 Jan 288 Bty ... 1 - 8 Feb 107 Bty ... 25 Jan - 1 Feb 289 Bty ... 8 - 15 Feb</p> <p>(b) Training in indirect fire with 17-pr Valentines. It is decided to ask Fd Regts to assist.</p> <p>(c) Future NCOs Cadre Classes. It is decided to hold another 14 Day course, assembling at ASTEN on 17 Jan.</p> <p>(d) Other domestic matters.</p> <p>Lieut. M. DAVIES (288 Bty) falls on ice and breaks his ankle and evacuated. Lieut J. MARRIOTT returns from leave.</p>	
15.		<p>Cold weather continues. Roads most treacherous. C.O. lectures to all W.Os and Sgts of the Regt on all duties required from them, then proceeds to Junior Officers Course, which is a great success. AQ coming to meet C.O. at 1730 hrs, later cancelled. Regt informed that the Inspectorate of Army Equipment will pay a visit in the near future. Demonstration of 17-pr SABOT at LOMMEL ranges postponed owing to weather.</p>	
16.		<p>C.O. meets AQ at HQ RA. Major BARNETT holds conference with Capts Q and EME to discuss the visit of the Inspectorate of Army Equipment. C.O. is visited by Lt-Col STUART CO 131 Fd Regt and 2 i/c of Recce Regt. C.O., Major BARNETT and a number of other officers from the Regt, attended a lecture given by Lt-Col ANDERSON DSO on the eqpt of 79 Div. Lt-Col BAKER-BAKER comes to lunch.</p>	
17.		<p>Weather continues bad after thaw of previous afternoon, sharp frost takes place, roads a sheet of glass. The A.S.H. cancel the arrangements regarding our instructors being loaned to them, reason their A Tk personnel being used as inf. Capts MASTERS and SPENCE call in RHQ to see C O. after making a recce of the front of 227 Bde. They state impossible to do anything with four guns - need at least a Bty. C.O. and Capt SPENCE go to see G.1. Arrangements made for the Valentine Tp to be moved further up in case of emergency.</p>	

			Suggested 289 Bty go under care of 107 Bty at their location. 288 Bty to 99 Bty - same rule.	
	18.		C.O. with Col YOUNG and BM RA go to LOMMEL ranges to watch demonstration of VT Fuze in ground role - very successful. Major BARNETT visits 44 Bde. Leave allotment for U.K. first 14 days Feb disgraceful. 2 Offrs and 35 ORs. 50% cut on Jan figures - everyone mystified. Lieut K. JARVIS to be despatched to 33 RHU. 289 Bty report no accommodation for SP Tp in the area of 107 Bty. Start of NCOs Cadre Class.	
	19.		First day cancellation of leave to U.K. owing to gale in Straits of Dover. Bad weather continues, gale with sleet and snow. C.O. visited by Lt-Col FITZ-LEIGH and Lt-Col BATESON. 289 Bty's SP Tp move to accommodation in 99 Bty area. Leave for second part of Feb is 2 Offrs 31 ORs - receive long letter from HQ RA explaining why so few. NCOs Cadre have moved from ASTEN on AQ orders, go to billets vacated by 289 Bty SP Tp.	
	20.		C.O. visits CRA to glean any news of Major PUMPHREY and Major DUNKERLEY whose return would be a great help to the Regt. Learned that the former has passed medical board and has been instructed now to spend two months on A Tk course in U.K. before joining Regt. It is very mysterious trying to fathom out how the "Back Boys" in England work out such instructions. No news of Major DUNKERLEY. C.O. visits 289 Bty to see Lieut WILLIAMS and also to see Cadre Class in new accommodation. 288 Bty SP Tp now not to move. Rumours of move.	
	21.		Move now certain. The whole Regt less two SP Tps to move 22 Jan - rather short notice. Recce parties set off for BOOM 20 miles North of BRUSSELS. Instructors for inf cancelled. Artillery course cancelled. Cadre Class postponed. Considering the amount of re-fitting of vehicles, move in one is impossible. C.O.'s conference in connection with move with the following results :- Regt will move at 0730 hrs. Two SP Tps who remain behind under comd Lt O'NEILL. Route for move - MEIJEL - NEDERWEERT - DIEST - BOSCH - HAMONT - LOMMEL - MOLL - GHEEL - LIERRE - MECHLIN - WILLOEBROCK - BOOM. Order of march - 99 Bty, 107 Bty, RHQ, 288 Bty, 289 Bty.	

			First amendment arrives at 2130 hrs move postponed for 1¼ hours. Route changed, delete HAMONT, LOMMEL read HECHTEL, BOURG LEOPOLD.	
	22.		<p>Duty Officer phones at 0400 hrs - plan once again changed. Major BARNETT who is at BOOM to report to Div Check Pt at HEINTHALS at 1530 hrs. Lt QM despatched to BOOM with this information.</p> <p>Regt moves at 0845 hrs, conditions bloody, roads like glass, will be tough going for carriers and SP guns have to be towed behind wheeled vehicles. We pass many vehicles in ditch, expect to have many vehicle casualties on arrival. March of Regt excellent, arrive at 1545 hrs, distance covered 96 miles, good going under conditions.</p> <p>Casualties to vehicles (RHQ Nil 99 Bty 2 carriers; 107 Bty 1 Carrier 1 15-cwt; 288 Bty 1 SP Gun 1 Carrier; 289 Bty 1 Slave. All Regt in BOOM, people of town excellent, everyone knows by past experience that Regt could not stop in such a spot for many days. Message from Major BARNETT who is attending Div Conference, Bty Comds to be at new Mess at 2000 hrs.</p> <p>Later, Div Conference now at 2100 hrs instead of 1530 hrs - Bty Comds to be at RHQ at 2300 hrs.</p> <p>Never has there been such a C.M.F.U.</p> <p>Major BARNETT arrives back at 2330 hrs, details as follows :- Btys will go with Bdes, 99 Bty and RHQ at HILVARENBEEK; 107 and 288 Btys at TILBURG; 289 Bty at POPPEL. Recce parties for new positions off at 0800 hrs on 23 Jan.</p>	
	23.		<p>Major BARNETT off to recce at 0800 hrs, a very trying and tiring four days for him. 99 Bty recce away at 0830 hrs. 107 and 288 Btys away at 0600 hrs. 289 Bty away at 0700.</p> <p>Major BALFOUR visits RHQ for information.</p> <p>Major BARNETT holds B.C's Conference at 2100 hrs, we shall perhaps move on the night of 24th. Considering state of roads this would be most difficult. An officer to be sent to TILBURG for details of move.</p> <p>Div say at Conference that rations are to be drawn at TILBURG - 70 miles away. Arrangements trying to be made to draw at ANTWERP.</p> <p>EME goes back to sort out vehicles left at PANNINGEN.</p>	
	24.		<p>Lieut JONES goes to Div Conference, returns at 1400 hrs. No move now before 26th.</p> <p>Good baths at 99 Bty location - all Regt got through.</p> <p>We draw 2 days rations and petrol from ANTWERP. Div cannot understand how we manage to get rations not going through them. We also manage to get one ton of coal - good work by 2 i/c and Lt QM.</p>	

		<p>Big scare in RHQ - one of our billets is occupied by girls returned from Germany with V.D. Officers' Mess is once again in a collaborator's house - pity we don't want any Mess equipment. Lot of work caused by changing money back into Belgian francs, bearing in mind that we shall need Guilders again in a couple of days.</p> <p>Two or three days lost through the fear of having to move any day. Recce parties are left at new area, getting everything squared up for move. No news of the two SP Tps we left behind.</p>	
	25.	<p>No fear of moving so the Regt got down to some real work. Still without news of the C.O.</p> <p>At 1830 the bomb falls, L.O. arrives at RHQ from Div, carrying enough bump to sink a battleship, and also the orders for move, which were :-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Regt will move in Bty gps starting at 0830 hrs on 26 Jan. Most personnel were enjoying well-earned entertainment, so once again Major BARNETT was loaded with tons of work.</p>	
	26.	<p>Regt moves to new location, route ANTWERP, BREDA, TILBURG, HILVARENBEK. Order of march: RHQ, 288, 99, 107, 289 Btys. Good progress was made and the first party arrived at 1230 hrs. Excellent organisation by recce parties, all personnel in civvy billets, which are very good.</p> <p>Btys with Bdes: 107 Bty with 44 Bde: 288 Bty with 46 Bde: 289 Bty with 227 Bde: 99 Bty in reserve with RHQ.</p> <p>Locations: RHQ and 99 Bty at HILVARENBEK: 107 Bty at TILBURG: 288 Bty at TILBURG: 289 Bty 143283. C.O. at new location on arrival. The two SP Tps are on the way to us. SP Tps arrive plus 4 M/Cs left behind by RHQ.</p>	
	27.	<p>C.O. attends secret conference at Div. Orders received for disposal of Lieut JACKSON. At last we are in touch with Div with line although they are 30 miles away.</p> <p>All personnel very cold - Lt QM unable to supply any fuel. C.O. and the C.O. of 119 LAA Regt return to RHQ after conference. Everyone greatly impressed by Russian progress, a lot of money being laid on the end of the war.</p> <p>T/Adjt busy with Accident Reports owing to our long marches on bad roads. Lieut WILLIAMS sees G.O.C.</p>	
	28.	<p>C.O.'s conference on future operations. Subjects discussed :- Getting prepared for future operations. Dumping of M/Cs which are useless on these roads.</p>	

		<p>Have we to dump any more kit? Bty Comds think we can move in one. C.O. gets the changing of 6-pr Tps for 17-prs 'put off' for time being.</p> <p>We are supposed to receive 9 Valentines for BCs and Tp Comds. Impossible to cope with these at this stage.</p> <p>New W.E. discussed and we put in for amendment.</p> <p>C.O. goes to HQ RA, returns in good spirits, told he will fly home on 30 Jan.</p> <p>Lieut WILLIAMS sees the C.O. for compassionate leave and is sent to Second Army.</p>	
	29.	<p>C.O. goes on leave. Major RA BARNETT MC RA takes over comd. Div trying to take L.A.D. 15-cwt from us. Impossible to move without it so we put up a fight, many of our vehicles having been in wksps for many weeks and we are below W.E.</p> <p>Acting C.O. goes to HQ RA.</p>	
	30.	<p>Major WARD reports to RHQ to assist while the C.O. is away. Capt ROBERTS visits RHQ for maps etc for coming operations. Maps not yet received. The amount of 'bumph' being received is terrific, orders coming in one day to be amended or cancelled the next results in a lot of unnecessary and hard work.</p> <p>Bdes putting their Btys in full picture for coming events.</p> <p>EME and T/Adjt chasing new engines etc to get all vehicles on the road.</p> <p>RSM ROCKETT and BSM McCREEDY attend demonstration of blanket drying in 3-ton lorry.</p>	
	31.	<p>Complete change in weather, raining and nearly all the snow disappears. Major BARNETT goes to HQ RA for a ruling on a TOP SECRET letter, returns just the same in the dark, the reason being the staff could not explain their own letters.</p> <p>C.O.'s conference on future operations. Subjects discussed were what personnel and vehicles could L.O.B. in next operations.</p> <p>Lt QM collects three Tabbys, which are TOP SECRET, something to do with lighting in the dark.</p> <p>289 Bty unable to attend conference as they are at a Bde Conference.</p> <p>Major BARNETT attends bottle party given by G.O.C. at TILBURG.</p>	

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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 102 (Northumberland Hussars)

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Anti-Tank Regt RA.

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year February, 1945.

Commanding Officer Lieut-Colonel R.W. JELF RA

OBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices																		
	1		<p>Transport still causing trouble. Unable to get vehicles from Wksps. Regt offered a quantity of champagne at 130 Belgian francs and white wine at 50 Belgian francs.</p> <p>Capt ROBERTS called to see Major BARNETT to discuss future operations. Sgts SPOWART, CULLEN and HYNES called to say goodbye - a sad blow to the Regt after such long and good service.</p> <p>SCRA visits Regt to put us in the picture - we still find we are looking through dark spectacles after he has gone.</p> <p>C.O. goes to HQ RA.</p> <p>Adjt returns from leave after being A.W.O.L. one day.</p>																			
	2		Locations unchanged.																			
	3		<p>Major RA BARNETT accompanied by Major TA WIGGLESWORTH went off and did a recce of the area allotted for our two SP Tps which are taking part in the "Pepperpot" fire plan. Rather unsuccessful as the area had already been allotted to Fd Regts in the Gds Armd Div.</p> <p>Major FW WARD reced assembly area for Tac/Main RHQ and A Bty. This is in the middle of a town and is going to be very cramped. Space for the forthcoming operations is going to be at a premium, and as much as possible is to be left back in the Admin Gp area which is being established for the Div in this area.</p> <p>We are leaving personnel and vehicles behind as follows :-</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>RHQ/LAD</td> <td>12 Vehs</td> <td>21 O.Rs</td> <td>107 Bty</td> <td>3 Vehs</td> <td>12 O.Rs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>99 Bty</td> <td>3 "</td> <td>12 "</td> <td>288 Bty</td> <td>3 "</td> <td>15 "</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>289 Bty</td> <td>4 Vehs</td> <td>19 O.Rs.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Until some progress is made with the battle it is going to be very difficult.</p>	RHQ/LAD	12 Vehs	21 O.Rs	107 Bty	3 Vehs	12 O.Rs	99 Bty	3 "	12 "	288 Bty	3 "	15 "				289 Bty	4 Vehs	19 O.Rs.	
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			289 Bty	4 Vehs	19 O.Rs.																	
	4.		<p>Lt-Gen HORROCKS Comd 30 Corps addresses all officers in 15 (S) Div in the ENSA Cinema, TILBURG, at 1030 hrs. He outlines the plan for future ops. This is the first time 15 (S) Div have been in 30 Corps. Maj-Gen BARBER gives a short address after the Corps Commander. Major BARNETT holds a B.C's Conference at 107 Bty HQ in</p>																			

		<p>TILBURG at 1200 hrs. (After Corps Comd's talk). Major BALFOUR of 288 Bty tells Major BARNETT detailed plan for 46 Bde's effort. 288 Bty are moving up to assembly area tonight.</p> <p>Capt ROBERTS outlines 289 Bty's part in 227 Bde's effort. Arrangements for the Admin Gp are laid on.</p> <p>Still no sign of the Regt getting the various vehs of which it is deficient, i.e. 4 Carriers, one 3-tonner, 2 Jeeps. This is rather serious as we now no longer carry spares - having reduced our spare vehs over the past couple of months since joining 15 (S) Div.</p> <p>288 Bty move off with 46 Bde Gp to assembly area in NIJMEGEN. Night move. Regt is still short of 4 Carriers Mortar, 1 Carrier AOP, 1 Jeep, 1 3-tonner 4x4.</p> <p>This is now getting serious as time is short. The position is aggravated by the fact that 3 of the Regt's 4x4 15-cwts are now only 4x2 because of shortage of spare parts of Cdn 4x4, which is chronic.</p>	
	5.	<p>Preparation for move. Move order received from HQ RA stating RA Gp and HQ RA move tonight. There is doubt as to whether this includes RHQ and 99 Bty. I.O. goes off to HQ RA, to find out. Meanwhile we prepare to move. I.O. returns from HQ RA and announces that we do not move until Div Tps move tomorrow night.</p> <p>289 Bty with 227 Bde Gp move during night to assembly area in NIJMEGEN. Release for 1 Jeep and 3 Carriers (2 Mortar and 1 AOP) came through.</p> <p>Capt LESLIE spent the whole day getting them. The AOP had no towing attachment. It is disgraceful that in the sixth year of war vehs are still being issued to units about to go into action without towing attachments.</p> <p>As we are still short of 2 Carriers and 1 3-tonner 4x4 it is decided to send Capt LESLIE with the necessary driver to Veh Park at 30 Corps to wait for release coming through, while EME goes to Rear Div ADOS to sit there and wait for the release. Everyone is moving or has moved and it is now imperative to get these vehs. All the Regt's spare carriers etc have been handed in and if these vehs do not come through before the battle starts we may have to begin with a gun short.</p>	
	6.	<p>Major BARNETT leaves RHQ at 1100 hrs to attend a CRA's Co-ordinating Conference at NIJMEGEN.</p> <p>107 Bty goes to NIJMEGEN with 44 Bde Gp.</p> <p>RHQ and 99 Bty leave HILVARENBEK at 1900 hrs and proceed to NIJMEGEN, arriving at 0700 hrs 7 Feb.</p>	

7.		<p>Concentration of the Regt now effected in NIJMEGEN. EME and Capt LESLIE report to RHQ at 1840 hrs having brought remaining 2 Carriers from OFP. Unfortunately these are Lloyd Carriers and are likely to be more trouble than they are worth. So far the Regt had succeeded in avoiding these gun towers like the plague.</p>										
8.		<p>1030 hrs. 288 Bty move with 46 Bde. SP Tp is moving with 2 Bn Glasgow Highlanders. 289 Bty move with 227 Bde. The roads are in very bad condition and it is almost impossible to move 6-prs. Lt L.B. BATES of 289 Bty SP Tp is wounded and 2 O.Rs are also wounded. Valentine of 289 Bty is written off on a mine. Lt WRIDE takes over SP Tp.</p> <p>107 Bty move to forming-up area. Bty HQ at SCHILDBROEK 783554.</p> <p>2345 hrs. Plan of attack for 44 Bde changed and Axis switched from 'AYR' route to 'PEARL BLACK' route. 'AYR' is impassable owing to mud. Tp of 289 Bty 6-prs gets completely bogged.</p>										
9.		<p>Lt WARD collects a replacement Valentine for 289 Bty at GRAVE at 0800 hrs. Major BARNETT goes off at 0730 hrs to visit Btys forward. He found the going very bad indeed - the roads are in bad shape.</p> <p>Lt WRIDE of 289 Bty badly wounded in the head by mortar splinter. 289 Bty also have 2 O.Rs wounded.</p> <p>288 Bty HQ established in GROESBEEK MR 745560.</p> <p>2200 hrs. 107 Bty HQ established in NUTTERDEN 8455.</p>										
10.		<p>Major BARNETT goes off at 0745 hrs to visit Btys. Going now worse than ever. Major BARNETT goes off at 1315 hrs and visits 107 Bty, 288 Bty and 289 Bty, who are located at :-</p> <table> <tr> <td>107 Bty</td> <td>...</td> <td>843577</td> </tr> <tr> <td>288 Bty</td> <td>...</td> <td>742566</td> </tr> <tr> <td>289 Bty</td> <td>...</td> <td>835554</td> </tr> </table> <p>One 6-pr Tp of 289 Bty is completely bogged in the middle of a minefield and is unable to move.</p> <p>43 Div start to pass through 15(S) Div.</p> <p>1500 hrs. 44 Bde with 107 Bty in sp ordered to take CLEVE.</p>	107 Bty	...	843577	288 Bty	...	742566	289 Bty	...	835554	
107 Bty	...	843577										
288 Bty	...	742566										
289 Bty	...	835554										
11.		<p>C.O. arrives back from leave at 1330 hrs.</p> <p>Tac RHQ moves forward to area NUTTERDEN 8455 at 1000 hrs.</p> <p>Main Div and HQ RA move at same time but HQ RA only allow us to send a Tac. Tac consists of Maj BARNETT, Lt MARRIOTT and 10 O.Rs, M.14 and 2 Jeeps.</p> <p>C.O. leaves RHQ at 1500 hrs to take over from Major BARNETT at Tac HQ. Situation in CLEVE is still obscure.</p>										

		<p>An attack is laid on to take place this afternoon. 227 Bde with 289 Bty attacking from NW and 44 Bde with 107 Bty from West. 46 Bde with 288 Bty are moving up this afternoon to take over the ground East of NUTTERDEN.</p> <p>Usual heavy rain falling in intermittent showers of about 2 hours duration. Conditions for movement very bad. All roads from NIJMEGEN to KRANENBURG impassable except for the main road NIJMEGEN - CLEVE.</p> <p>6 German Para Div has put in an appearance at CLEVE and is fighting well.</p> <p>Message received from Tac to send recce parties from Main RHQ and 99 Bty to Tac at 0930 hrs tomorrow.</p> <p>Div is being relieved by a Cdn Div and is going into Corps reserve. Regt is going to concentrate in NUTTERDEN/KRANENBURG area.</p> <p>288 Bty HQ established in NUTTERDEN 854555.</p>	
	12.	<p>Only 3-tonners can now make the journey from NIJMEGEN to NUTTERDEN. Floods across road are up to 3 ft deep. Recce party consisting of 15-cwt, Jeep and M/C set off. 15-cwt just managed to get through the flood. Jeep, M/C had to come back.</p> <p>Move now out of question owing to floods. 15-cwt unable to come back because of floods. Water rising 1" per hour. Recce party except for driver of 15-cwt hitch-hike their way back on 3-tonners and DUKWs. Tac RHQ have a few requests. 2 i/c of 119 LAA Regt who have borrowed a Weasel take up a few things for us. Lt QM sets off in a 3-tonner with various things they require but after spending 5 hours on the road is turned back because floods are now impassable even by a 3-tonner. 43 Div, who have passed through 15 (S) Div and gone South of CLEVE, bump into 116 Panzers who have come up from VENLO area.</p> <p>Major APT MASON arrives. He has been posted to us from 31 RHU. He is ex-97 A Tk Regt RA. There is actually no vacancy for him as both Majors DUNKERLEY and PUMPHREY have been posted back by War Office and will arrive at end of this month.</p> <p>Capt J. LESLIE (T/Adj) leaves for a 6-weeks course at RHYL followed by his leave.</p> <p>288 Bty SP Tp moves under comd Coldstream Gds (Tanks) for a mobile column role. 288 Bty HQ at CLEVE 876553.</p> <p>116 Panzer Div identified on 43 Div front in area of CALCAR and HAU.</p> <p>107 Bty recce area of BRESSERBURG as long stop.</p> <p>289 Bty deploy round 227 Bde HQ area 8656.</p>	

13.		<p>Water still rising. 3-tonners not able to negotiate the floods. Amphibious vehs only. Locations as follows :-</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Main RHQ) NIJMEGEN</td> <td>Tac RHQ</td> <td>NUTTERDEN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>99 Bty)</td> <td>107 Bty</td> <td>NUTTERDEN</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>288 Bty</td> <td>882570</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regtl Residue GOIRLE nr TILBURG</td> <td>289 Bty</td> <td>DONSBRUGGEN 8657</td> </tr> </table> <p>Battle going reasonably well in spite of floods. 289 Bty have a 15-cwt stolen in NIJMEGEN. 289 Bty 6-pr Tp at last gets out of bog and rejoins Bty.</p>	Main RHQ) NIJMEGEN	Tac RHQ	NUTTERDEN	99 Bty)	107 Bty	NUTTERDEN		288 Bty	882570	Regtl Residue GOIRLE nr TILBURG	289 Bty	DONSBRUGGEN 8657	
Main RHQ) NIJMEGEN	Tac RHQ	NUTTERDEN													
99 Bty)	107 Bty	NUTTERDEN													
	288 Bty	882570													
Regtl Residue GOIRLE nr TILBURG	289 Bty	DONSBRUGGEN 8657													
14.		<p>Still cut off by road from Tac RHQ in NUTTERDEN. Official mail received from HQ RA by DUKW DRLS. Amphibious vehs only able to maintain service between the forward tps and echelons, but it looks as if "peak flood" has been reached. 288 Bty move East of CLEVE 916537.</p> <p>44 Bde with 288 Bty in sp attack towards MOYLAND. Bty deployed on right flank of Bde as flank protection. Very heavy mortaring and shelling by enemy. 288 Bty have an SP knocked out by a direct hit. No casualties. 107 Bty HQ move to CLEVE.</p>													
15.		<p>Orders received from HQ RA via 119 LAA Regt that RHQ and 99 Bty will move up from present locn NIJMEGEN area to area of CLEVE. Owing to flooding route will be MALDEN - MOOK - HEKKENS - MATERBORN - CLEVE. At 1640 hrs further order received stating no move today but to be ready from 1800 hrs on 16 Feb.</p> <p>A detachment of 288 Bty surprise a party of Boche and take 17 prisoners. Enemy still shelling and mortaring heavily. 288 Bty lose a 6-pr from shell splinters.</p>													
16.		<p>Leave to U.K. postponed further 24 hours.</p> <p>Leave parties assemble at RHQ at NIJMEGEN and are despatched to Residue at GOIRLE.</p> <p>Orders received that we shall move off past SP in NIJMEGEN at 2245 hrs. We follow 119 LAA Regt. We move off at 2245 hrs and are met at DP by Major BARNETT and Lt MARRIOTT. Arrive in new location at 0315 hrs. RHQ and whole Regt now in GERMANY less for residue parties at GOIRLE. 288 Bty take a further 7 prisoners. 288 Bty lose another 6-pr, this time mortar splinters. Shelling and mortaring continue on a heavy scale. Valentine of 289 Bty goes up on a mine. Detachment get out but SP unapproachable owing to heavy MG fire.</p> <p>227 Bde with 289 Bty in sp given outline plan to capture GOCH, but this is later cancelled.</p>													
17.		<p>Locations as follows :-</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>RHQ 888560</td> <td>:</td> <td>99 Bty 893566</td> </tr> <tr> <td>107 Bty -</td> <td>:</td> <td>288 Bty 915537</td> </tr> </table>	RHQ 888560	:	99 Bty 893566	107 Bty -	:	288 Bty 915537							
RHQ 888560	:	99 Bty 893566													
107 Bty -	:	288 Bty 915537													

		<p style="text-align: center;">289 Bty 863567</p> <p>GOCH is to be assaulted tomorrow afternoon and we are to supply two SP Valentine Tps to take part in the "Pepperpot" shoot. Tps concerned are 99 Bty's SP Tp and 289 Bty's SP Tp. 2250 rds reduced charge HE 17-pr are to be dumped on gun posns. Majors MASON and WIGGLESWORTH attend conference at HQ 119 LAA Regt (who are also shooting) during afternoon. Major MASON attends final conference at HQ 119 LAA Regt at 2100 hrs for final laying of pepperpot party.</p>	
	18.	<p>46 Bde is to take MOYLAND. 288 Bty's SPs in sp. Party called off and Bde Gp concentrate in CLEVE area. 44 Bde start attack on GOCH with 107 Bty in sp. 289 Bty's SPs fire an indirect shoot. Two guns fire 260 rds each. 99 Bty's SPs also fire indirect shoot.</p>	
	19.	<p>288 Bty organising and doing maintenance in CLEVE. Bty area heavily shelled. Trucks are parked very close together and several amn and petrol dumps in area go up along with half a dozen Cdn vehs. 288 Bty personnel O.K. as there are good cellars, but B.C. decides vehs must be moved and moves Bty to an area 2 miles away. 44 Bde clear GOCH. 99 Bty relieve 289 Bty and 289 Bty go to CLEVE area and take over 99 Bty's billets. 99 Bty in sp 227 Bde for an attack to area of SCHLOSS CALBECK 941430 and rly crossing (941422). 99 Bty HQ established by 1200 hrs at 922471.</p>	
	20.	<p>288 Bty SP Tp takes part in an indirect shoot and fire 350 rds HE in sp 44 Bde. 107 Bty remains in area of GOCH. Mortaring and shelling fairly heavy. 227 Bde attack towards SCHLOSS CALBECK starts at 1030 hrs. Lt GERRARD of 99 Bty is slightly wounded but remains at duty. Heavy shelling and mortaring.</p>	
	21.	<p>A dry sunny day !! 44 Bde area have good deal of bombing by jet-propelled fighter bombers. M.O. inoculates a large number of 289 Bty.</p>	
	22.	<p>46 Bde attack woods East of GOCH with 288 Bty in sp. Major GR BALFOUR MC slightly wounded but remains at duty. 44 Bde with 107 Bty in sp prepare for an attack through 46 Bde. Objective GOCH - UDEN roads.</p>	
	23.	<p>It is now known that 15 (S) Div is to be relieved by 3 Brit Div during the period 24 - 26 Feb. It is anticipated that the Div will move to TILBURG area where for a period of 14 days it will</p>	

		<p>rest and re-fit. It is considered likely that the regt will re-organise on to an establishment of one Bty SP Valentine and three Btys of two Tps of towed 17-pr and one SP Valentine 17-pr_Tp. All Tps will be three-gun and the number of guns in the Regt will be reduced to 36.</p> <p>No-one is pleased at the idea of either three-gun Tps or towed 17-prs.</p> <p>44 Bde pass through 46 Bde. 288 Bty concentrate guns in Tp areas. 107 Bty Valentines get a few shots at a Panther and an SP gun but results not observed.</p> <p>107 Bty area subjected to fairly heavy shelling and mortaring all day.</p> <p>99 Bty and whole area round SCHLOSS CALBECK heavily shelled. Several guns of 99 Bty have to be withdrawn slightly owing to the shelling and mortaring.</p> <p>Recce party from 45/20 A Tk Regt arrives in 99 Bty area.</p>	
	24.	<p>107 Bty area still being heavily shelled and mortared. A 15-cwt of Bty HQ gets a direct hit from an 88mm.</p> <p>Recce parties of 20 A Tk Regt (3 Brit Div) move in to start taking over from us. One casualty in 107 Bty. 289 Bty revert to 227 Bde for move out of area.</p>	
	25.	<p>RHQ, 99 Bty and 289 Bty leave CLEVE/GOCH area at 0930 hrs and proceed to TILBURG area via S'HERTOGENBOSCH. Village of HILVARENBEEK is to be Regtl Area and RHQ will be returning once more to billets. We left on 6 Feb to take part in the attack on CLEVE and the breaching of the Siegfried Line. We have now returned after "hanging up our washing" and arrive in HILVARENBEEK at 1700 hrs.</p> <p>Flying bombs continue to fly over regularly with the odd one dropping in the neighbourhood. TILBURG seems to be one of the objectives. Lt J. DAY joins Regt as a reinforcement and is posted to 288 Bty. Three casualties in 107 Bty during morning. Area still under heavy shell and mortar fire. Relief of 107 Bty completed by nightfall by Bty of 20 A Tk Regt.</p>	
	26.	<p>288 Bty move out with 46 Bde and proceed to DIESEN in HOLLAND, SW of TILBURG.</p> <p>107 Bty move off with Bde Gp to DIESEN.</p> <p>99 and 289 Btys in HILVARENBEEK. Maintenance.</p> <p>B.C's Conference at RHQ in HILVARENBEEK. C.O. tells BCs of the new establishment, i.e., one bty of nine SP Valentines and three btys of one tp of three Valentines and two tps of three towed 17-prs.</p> <p>99 Bty is to be the reserve and SP Bty.</p>	

	27.		The unanimous opinion of all officers of experience in the Regt is that it is not a good establishment to say the least. The towers for the 17-prs are to be M.14s. This would seem to be an improvement on quads. The present period is to be one of rest and maintenance. It is hoped to get every-one in the Div off for 48-hrs to BRUSSELS.	
	28.		Locations remain unchanged.	

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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

~~OF~~

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Unit 102 (Northumberland Hussars)
Anti-Tank Regt RA.

Month and Year March 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt-Col R.W. JELF OBE RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1.		Regt gets large allotment of 48 hours BRUSSELS leave. It is hoped to get everyone through in a week.	
	2.		Rest, maintenance, Brussels leave. C.O. visits 1 Cdn Army to arrange release for M.14s.	
	3.		Rest, maintenance, Brussels leave.	
	4.		Maintenance still in full swing. Massed pipes and drums of the Div play in TILBURG. Wet day, of course.	
	5.		Information received in the early hours that 289 Bty are moving with 227 Bde to area LEUTH 602628. 289 Bty move off to new area with 227 Bde at 1545 hrs. Recce parties from Regt go to new area. Major G.W. DUNKERLEY MC RA having at last succeeded in breaking out of England arrives back in the Regt to take over 107 Bty. Major DUNKERLEY was wounded in the early NORMANDY days. He has been fit to return for some months but could not break loose. He tells us that Major J.M. PUMPHREY is also on his way back to join us. Tpt is immediately despatched to pick up Major PUMPHREY but as he is an ex-P.O.W. and not ex-B.L.A. he is not allowed to rejoin until the necessary forms have been filled in and the truck returns empty.	
	6.		107 Bty move to LOXBERGEN near DIEST. RHQ move to MOLL (near BOURG LEOPOLD). 99 Bty move with RHQ.	
	7.		289 Bty have to vacate present area and recce party goes to area of NEERHARAN. Regt gets down to re-equipping and try with new equipment as it becomes available. Carriers have to be handed in and all 6-prs. Regt has to re-organise on the new W.E. 17-prs and M.14s have to be drawn and also 6 Valentine SPs.	

		<p>All this is accompanied by the usual order and counter order - availability and non-availability.</p> <p>The Regt is well concentrated for just such work being scattered over about 300 square miles of BELGIUM!! Communication except by D.R. is practically out of the question.</p> <p>Major J.M. PUMPHREY rejoins the Regt. Major PUMPHREY was taken prisoner at MSUS Western Desert in 1942 and escaped from ITALY last year.</p>	
	8.	<p>289 Bty move to NEERHARAN.</p> <p>17-prs begin to arrive and are issued to Btys.</p> <p>C.O. carries out a detailed inspection of 99 Bty.</p>	
	9.	<p>Major G.W. DUNKERLEY MC RA goes to 107 Bty and assumes comd.</p> <p>99 Bty having drawn an additional 6 SP Valentines now begin intensive training, instructors being provided by the old SP tp of the Bty.</p>	
	10.	<p>C.O. C.O.2 and B.Cs attend a briefing conference at 12 Corp HQ.</p> <p>Subject - forthcoming operations.</p> <p>Training continues.</p>	
	11.	<p>B.Cs conference at MOLL.</p> <p>C.O. goes through the new establishment with B.Cs and appointments and promotions are brought up to date. Shortage of tpt in the Regt is a source of worry. We are six 3-tonners short. Workshops main pre-occupation seems to be rather more inclined to the trade of clerks than that of engineering and all our vehicles seem to be "Beyond local repair" although all that is wanted in most cases is the fitting of a new engine. It is decided that amount of 1st line amn carried can be reduced from 90 rds per gun to 60 rds per gun for towed 17-prs and 90 for SPs.</p>	
	12.	<p>289 Bty practice boating drill on the Meuse with M.14s and 17-prs.</p> <p>Lieut H.W. SMITH comes to RHQ from 107 Bty as I.O.</p> <p>Lieut J.D. MARRIOTT goes to 289 Bty from RHQ as L.O.</p>	
	13.	<p>Boating exercise on the Meuse. Regt supplies a composite tp of three 17-prs towed by M.14s and-three SP Valentines. The detachments are made up by personnel from all Btys so as to spread the knowledge. Lieut J. LANE who has been attached to the Regt from 31 RHU is absorbed into W.E. and is posted from 288 Bty to 107 Bty as L.O.</p>	
	14.	<p>Boating exercise continues and regtl composite tps under comd OC 289 Bty get on board Cl 50/60 rafts and are ferried over the Meuse.</p>	
	15.	<p>Night exercise cancelled for composite tps.</p>	

		Lieut SAUNDERS is posted from 289 Bty to 107 Bty and takes over 17-pr tp.	
	16.	Maintenance and painting of new vehicles and guns. Major G.R. BALFOUR MC comes to RHQ from 288 Bty where he has been relieved by Major J.M. PUMPHREY. Major BALFOUR who has more than four years of actual fighting service to his credit is being posted to Home Establishment.	
	17.	Practice shoot at LOMMEL for all Btys. Towed 17-pr detachments use 288 Bty's guns. Performance of 288 Bty's guns brings up need for zeroing. Recce parties depart for area of SONSBECK to recce concentration area prior to Regt taking part in assault across RHINE.	
	18.	All Btys (less SP Bty) take their 17-prs to LOMMEL range and zero. BC's conference at RHQ at MOLL. C.O. puts BCs in the picture regarding the next operation which is to be the assault crossing of the RHINE. We are the assaulting Div of 12 Corps with the Highland Division (30 Corps) on our left assaulting REES and the Commando Bde assaulting WESEL on our right. 15 (S) Div assault is to take place between BISLICH (1342) and VYNEN (0845). It is not anticipated that any A Tk guns will be across before D plus 2. It is decided to press for much earlier priority for at least one Bty which it is decided will be 99 Bty (SPs). The operation is to be carried out according to "12 Corps Assault Crossing Technique" which is no doubt an excellent and bulky volume. The Regt however is quite confident it will be able to compete and the pamphlet is not indented for. Lieut McGREGOR who has volunteered for airborne ops is posted from 107 Bty to 99 Bty while awaiting the result of his application.	
	19.	Orders are received that the Regt will be required to provide 2 offrs and 20 O.Rs to take over the job of running the Vehicle Marshalling Areas (SUN and STAR) which are to be established between the MAAS and the RHINE and through which all vehicles will pass and assemble on their way to the ferries. Capt E.J. BONSALE MM and Capt R.E. WHEATLEY are the officers who are to take on these jobs. SP 17-prs of Regt are to take part in the fire plan for next operation and gun posns are reced by C.O.2.	
	20.	Capt C.S. SPENCE goes up to new area (SONSBECK) to arrange for the deployment of SPs in their gun area for the PEPPERPOT shoot. SP Tps move off to new area. They are concentrating in area South of SONSBECK. Route is via MAESEYCK, VENLO, GELDERN to SONSBECK.	

21.		<p>Regt less SP Tps moves to concentration area South of SONSBECK. Leave MOLL at 2130 hrs with 288 Bty joining in column at BOURG LEOPOLD. 107 Bty at HECHTEL and 289 Bty at MAESYCK. Arrive in new area at 0600 hrs.</p> <p>Locations :- RHQ - 048341 99 Bty - 047341 288 Bty - 049344 107 Bty - 0734 289 Bty - 0734</p>	
22.		<p>Capt BONSTALL MM and Capt WHEATLEY go off to Div HQ to fix up the Marshalling area job. It now transpires that each of these officers requires a party of one subaltern and 30 O.Rs including cooks, DRs, wireless operators etc. Capt ROBERTS of 107 Bty is required to report to CRE with 12 M.14s and 24 men for the purpose of towing sledges containing raft bldg material from Rear down to fwd Bdes and thence on night of D-1/D Day to the river bank for assembly.</p> <p>It now looks as if all the initial A Tk work will be done by SPs. We have had and are having a lot of trouble with the Valentines - chiefly burnt out clutches. Unfortunately the Div Workshops are not able to effect repairs and when one goes to Div Workshops it is necessary for us to send in Craftsmen from our own L.A.D. The position at the moment is that 99 Bty are complete and all on the road. 107 Bty are one deficient in Workshops and have lent one complete with crew to 288 Bty. 289 Bty have two off the road and have lent one complete with detachment to 288 Bty who have two off the road. 288 Bty can therefore put a complete troop of three in the field but 107 and 289 have only a one-gun SP Tp each. In any case as the Marshalling Area parties have been found by 107 and 289 and also the M.14 sledge party 107 and 289 are out of the battle.</p>	
23.		<p>This is D-1 and the assault is due to start at 2130 hrs tonight. It is now arranged that 99 Bty's SP guns will cross on first priority on the Cl 50/60 rafts. It is hoped to start getting them across about H + 10 hrs and not on D + 2 as originally estimated.</p>	
24.		<p>289 Bty get one of their SPs back on the road and it is ordered to report to 107 Bty.</p> <p>SPs return to Bty areas after taking part in fire plan.</p> <p>H Hour for 15 (S) Div is 0200 hrs.</p> <p>Assaulting Bdes are 44 and 227 Bdes.</p> <p>At 0930 hrs the Airborne forces sail overhead and the sky is filled with aircraft all day. About 8 are seen coming down in flames from RHQ area.</p> <p>At 1100 hrs BC of 99 Bty and L.O. cross the RHINE.</p>	

		See Appx "A" for account of 99 Bty's part in the RHINE battle.	
	25.	<p>Orders are received from Tac that the Regt will move over the RHINE probably tomorrow.</p> <p>107 Bty will concentrate on the other side in area of BERGEN with RHQ. 288 Bty will report to 44 Bde, 99 Bty echelon to 46 Bde and 289 Bty to 227 Bde.</p> <p>A Residue will be left to deal with U.K. leave personnel and L.A.D. will concentrate Bty sections in present Regtl area where they will finish the work in hand and rejoin Regt later. Regt is to cross the RHINE over a Cl 12 Br.</p>	
	26.	<p>Regtl column consisting of 107, 288, 289 Btys, RHQ and 99 Bty echelon move off at 1100 hrs.</p> <p>RHINE crossed between 1600 and 1700 hrs. Column got split up on the move and the Cl 12 br turned out to be a Cl 9 so the Regt had to cross at a different place over a Cl 40.</p> <p>107 Bty goes off in sp of 157 Bde of 52 (L) Div. This Bde was put under comd 15 (S) Div and arrived without its supporting arms.</p> <p>289 Bty location MR 122477</p> <p>RHQ location BERGEN 1445 (Tac and Main join up again).</p> <p>289 Bty SP Tp made up with an SP from 288 Bty which had been in L.A.D. move up from SONSBECK.</p> <p>288 Bty location area 1147.</p>	
	27.	<p>289 Bty maintenance and preparation to sp a 227 Bde attack laid on for tomorrow.</p> <p>289 Bty SP Tp Sgt reports to RHQ that his Tp have bedded down at side of road on this side of RHINE for night.</p> <p>Lt SMITH sent out to contact Tp Comd of 289 Tp SP and to tell him to join his Bty at first light.</p> <p>288 Bty assist 44 Bde to clear woods at 170505. Day of fierce close quarter fighting and heavy mortaring and SP shelling on Bde front.</p>	
	28.	<p>289 Bty move to area MR 143497. SP Tp from 107 Bty joins 289 Bty. 227 Bde attack at 1400 hrs after 46 Bde had secured their objectives.</p> <p>227 Bde on their objectives by 1800 hrs.</p> <p>107 Bty take over from 99 Bty with 44 Bde in area NE of HAMMENKELN.</p> <p>Relief completed and all guns in action before dark.</p>	
	29.	107 Bty SPs return from 289 Bty to 107 Bty.	
	30.	New Valentine SP issued to 289 Bty bringing their SP Tp up to strength. 289 Bty concentrate in 227 Bde area 1449.	
	31.	No change. Nothing to report.	

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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 Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F.
 C.2119. If this is not available, and for
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Unit 102 (Northumberland Hussars)
 Anti-Tank Regt RA.

Commanding Officer Lt-Col R.W. JELF OBE RA

Month and Year April 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1.		<p>Locations unchanged except that 107 Bty Echelon moved up and joined the rest of 107 Bty.</p> <p>CRA 15 (5) Div visited Regtl HQ at 1045 hrs and addressed a Regtl parade of about 300 strong. The CRA spoke for about 6 minutes in a blinding rainstorm.</p> <p>The Regt has been given an area in which to collect and return all salvage.</p>	
	2.		<p>GOC 15 (S) Div visited RHQ and inspected and addressed a Regtl parade about 400 strong. Windy, dull day with occasional showers. Fortunately it remained dry during GOC's visit.</p> <p>GOC turned out and inspected the Regtl Guard provided by 99 Bty.</p> <p>GOC thanked Regt for its efforts since joining the Div and regretted that we had had no tanks to shoot at since we joined the Div. He complimented the Regt, and particularly 99 Bty, for its part in recent assault across the RHINE. He then went on to point out the dangers of fraternization and to urge us to keep the Boche well and truly under during the military occupation. The CRA arrived just behind the GOC and accompanied him round.</p>	
	3.		<p>Locations unchanged.</p> <p>At 0830 hrs HQ RA inform us that Div is going to move to a concentration area prior to taking over a bridgehead over the DORTMUND - EMS canal in the area of IBENBUREN (about 10 miles due West of OSNABRUCK).</p> <p>227 Bde with 289 Bty in support are going to move up to a concentration area West of the canal and the remainder of the Div less Div HQ and HQ RA are going to concentrate in area NE of BOCHOLT. Div HQ, HQRA and a small Tac from us is going to area.</p> <p>Recce party for Tac leaves RHQ at 1030 hrs.</p> <p>Recce party for Main RHQ and 99 Bty leaves RHQ at 1300 hrs. 46 Bde with 288 Bty set off for their area NE of BOCHOLT at 1400 hrs.</p> <p>At 2300 hrs BMRA speaks to Adjut on phone and says that plans have been completely altered. The Div is leaving 12 Corps and coming</p>	

		<p>under comd 8 Corps forthwith. No moves are likely to take place tomorrow.</p> <p>46 Bde with 288 Bty plus the recce parties for Tac and main will be warned of change by Div.</p> <p>107 Bty with 44 Bde are moving to area BOCHOLT - RHEDE.</p>	
	4.	<p>0020 hrs. Duty Officer at RA speaks to Major BARNETT on phone and announces the fact that moves are likely to take place today. Div will be moving to area GREVEN 9288 to concentrate. 46 Bde with 288 Bty will move today and so also will 227 Bde with 289 Bty. 44 Bde with 107 Bty will not move until tomorrow.</p> <p>Main Div and HQRA will be moving at about 0930 hrs. RHQ will probably move with them. 99 Bty will move with RHQ. Recce parties for the above moves to meet at GREVEN at 0930 hrs.</p> <p>Recce party laid on with 99 Bty to meet 2 i/c at GREVEN at 0930 hrs. Bdes and supporting arms are moving as Bde Gps.</p> <p>0800 hrs. RA phone over move table and order of march. RHQ and 99 Bty pass SP in HAMMINKELN at 1630 hrs.</p> <p>1545 hrs. RHQ move off and arrive in new area at 2100 hrs.</p> <p>Route DINGDEN 2253 - RHEDE 2860 - GENEN 4063 - RAMSDORP 4366 - VELEN 4866 - GESHER 5073 - DARFELD 6881 - LAER 7484 - ALTENBERGEN 8283. 288 Bty move with 46 Bde to area North of MUNSTER. 288 Bty locn 795920.</p>	
	5.	<p>Wet day with bright intervals. Intervals getting less bright and considerably shorter as day progressed.</p> <p>44 Bde with 107 Bty move to new area arriving 1600 hrs</p> <p>Locations as follows: RHQ 897919: 99 Bty 901889: 107 Bty 767915: 288 Bty 789931: 289 Bty 8898.</p> <p>Capt ROBERTS of 289 Bty visits RHQ at 0900 hrs and informs us that 289 Bty are moving up with 227 Bde to area LENGERICH 0899. The inf of 227 Bde are today combing the woods West of LENGERICH. It is thought that 46 Bde will clear the woods and ridge NE of LENGERICH tomorrow.</p> <p>Capt BRAMELD of 288 Bty visits RHQ at 1100 hrs.</p> <p>RHQ send out patrols to surrounding woods and by 1500 hrs have collected 1 offr and 34 O.Rs.</p> <p>On one occasion only were shots exchanged.</p>	
	6.	<p>Recce parties from RHQ and 99 Bty recce area North of MINDEN. Main axis North blocked with traffic all day.</p> <p>RHQ and 99 Bty leave present area at 2345 hrs and after a slow all night journey arrive at new area BRAMKAMP at 1000 hrs. Woods not clear of enemy so parties are despatched to beat them. A few prisoners taken.</p>	

	7.		<p>99 Bty take a party of seven prisoners including three very arrogant officers and all heavily armed.</p> <p>Locations remain unchanged. Beating the surrounding woods continues. Recce party from 107 Bty leaves BERGHORST area and recce area round LAVESLOH.</p> <p>288 Bty move to HOLZ HAUSEN 749162.</p>	
	8.		<p>Locations unchanged. Maintenance.</p> <p>G.A.F. does a little road strafing. Odd sniping from woods, beating continues.</p> <p>107 Bty arrives LAVESLOH.</p>	
	9.		Locations unchanged. Maintenance.	
	10.		<p>Recce party recce area of HAGENBURG.</p> <p>107 Bty move to JOPPEN across river WESER.</p> <p>288 Bty move to ROSENHAGEN 930231.</p>	
	11.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty leave BRAMKAMP at 0700 hrs. Cross WESER at 0800 hrs and arrive HAGENBURG at 1100 hrs. Pull into a field at HAGENBURG. Recce parties go off again to recce FUHRBERG area and main parties pull out at 1500 hrs arriving FUHRBERG at 1800 hrs after usual slow journey.</p> <p>107 Bty moves to MEITZE with 44 Bde. 288 Bty move to area of THONSE.</p>	
	13.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty move to ESCHEDE.</p> <p>Progress of Div slowing down owing to demolitions and small rearguards covering them.</p> <p>Div directed on UELZEN.</p> <p>107 Bty moves to CELLE with 44 Bde.</p> <p>288 Bty in sp of 46 Bde prepare to clear routes running NE to UELZEN.</p> <p>288 Bty HQ at 805625.</p>	
	12.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty move from FUHRBERG to CELLE.</p> <p>Ghastly sights seen in a local concentration camp.</p>	
	14.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty move to HOSSERINGEN.</p> <p>107 Bty moves to SUDERBERG.</p>	
	15.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty move to HAMERSTORT 8383 arriving at about 1600 hrs and find themselves on the extreme left flank of the Div. Weapon pits are dug and a 50% stand-to is ordered during hours of darkness.</p> <p>Patrols are sent out and a few prisoners taken.</p> <p>288 Bty involved in a strenuous night party at STADENSEN. Capt WS BRAMELD DSO distinguishes himself. Appx A attached describes action.</p> <p>Div held up at UELZEN which appears to be strongly held.</p>	

			<p>The first news received by RHQ of the battle in STADENSEN was at about 0930 hrs on the morning of 16 Apr at HQ RA, and nothing was said or appreciated that the attack concerned had any significance apart from a village skirmish. This of course was not the case and the German plan was to push through STADENSEN and cut the main Div and Corps axis. Fortunately the attack was held in STADENSEN as otherwise the Germans would have broken right through and cut the axis. Our reserve SP Bty (99 Bty) was not deployed to meet the attack, had it pressed on further because (a) No infm came to us until the party was almost over and (b) The object of the STADENSEN attack was not appreciated.</p> <p>107 Bty move to MOLDERSTAR.</p>	
	16.		<p>Locations unchanged (RHQ and 99 Bty). 107 Bty sp 44 Bde's attack on GT LIERDEN and UELZEN. 288 Bty in sp 46 Bde attack UELZEN at 1900 hrs.</p>	
	17.		Locations unchanged (RHQ and 99 Bty).	
	18.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty locations unchanged. 107 Bty with 44 Bde established East side of UELZEN. 288 Bty with 46 Bde move to UELZEN.</p>	
	19.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty move up through UELZEN to BARUM. 107 Bty move to area EMMENDOR 9095. 288 Bty move North to area of BEVENSEN 905020.</p>	
	20.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty move from BARUM at 0930 hrs and arrive at SCHARNEBECK (North of LUNEBURG) at 1130 hrs. Div concentrating for assault of ELBE river. 227 Bde at present deployed on the river bank round RAVENDORF and HOHNSTORF. ARTLENBURG on South bank still held by enemy. 107 Bty move to area ROLSTORP. 288 Bty in sp of 46 Bde who are ordered to take BLECKEDE 901260. 288 Bty HQ at SUTTORF 938210.</p>	
	21.		<p>Locations unchanged. 107 Bty moves to area LUNEBURG. 288 Bty move to VOGELSANG 9429. Enemy inf counter-attack during a bn relief broken up by Lt DAY firing HE. Enemy retire leaving a 20mm gun knocked out.</p>	
	22.		Locations unchanged.	
	23.		<p>Locations unchanged. Major J.M. PUMPHREY MBE is leaving the Regt to take up an appointment in SHAEF. Lt-Col R. TAYLOR DSO MC, Major J. COWEN MC and Major J.M. PUMPHREY MBE dine in Mess. Farewell dinner to Major PUMPHREY. Lt-</p>	

		Col R.W. JELF leaves the Regt to take up an appointment as Col GS 8 Corps.	
	24.	Static. Major J.M. PUMPHREY MBE leaves Regt.	
	25.	Static.	
	26.	Proposal to cross R. ELBE today abandoned.	
	27.	Static. Usual lack of information on forthcoming ops.	
	28.	Operation ENTERPRISE for crossing of the ELBE to take place at 0200 hrs tomorrow. Regt to fire a PEPPERPOT with towed guns. 99 Bty to be in sp of 44 Bde for the initial assault. SPs to be rafted over when Cl 40/50 rafts built. Arty fire plan starts at 2350 hrs.	
	29.	D Day for ELBE crossing. PEPPERPOT successfully fired by one Tp each from 107 and 289 Btys and two Tps from 288 Bty. 99 Bty's SPs and SP Tp of 289 Bty cross ELBE in evening. Opposition slight but a fair amount of shelling of crossing places.	
	30.	Bridgehead expanded. RHQ, 288 and 289 Btys plus SP Tp of 107 Bty cross ELBE by Cl 40 bridge at ARTLENBURG. Some shelling on far bank while head of column crosses bridge brews up six amn 3-tonners just ahead and brings column to a standstill. RHQ arrive at JULIUSBURG. It is thought that a PEPPERPOT shoot will be required in sp of 158 (W) Bde's attack on GEESTHACHT. 107 Bty recce positions to fire from near bank of ELBE. Shoot later cancelled. 288 Bty cross ELBE during the afternoon and join 46 Bde in area of LAUENBURG.	

Appx 'A' to War Diary, 102 (Northumberland Hussars) A Tk Regt RA

An account of the part played by C Battery
Northumberland Hussars when an enemy column
attacked the village of STEDENSON during
the night of the 14/15 April, 1945.

In the early hours of 15 April 1945, the battalion group of the 2 Glasgow Highlanders which was concentrated at STADENSEN was attacked by an enemy column of about 15 SP guns and 30 half-tracks. The enemy attacked from NETTLEKAMP (a little over a mile to the East) after surprising a squadron of the Recce Regt. The force in STADENSEN consisted of the 2 G.H., a troop of towed 17-pr guns and Bty HQ of C Bty Northumberland Hussars (in charge of Capt W.S. BRAMELD DSO), one tp of 63 A Tk Regt (M.10s), one bty of 190 Fd Regt, one pl of 1 Mx, one sqn Coldstream Gds Churchill tanks, and some R.Es etc.

The Bty received no warning of the attack and at about 0400 hrs half-tracks entered the village from East and South, infantry coming in from N.W. Until firing began they were thought to be American as they were shouting "O.K. Sarge!" and using other American slang. Capt BRAMELD went out of Bty HQ to get the 17-pr troop into action but found them cut off. The guns, which had not been sited to fire in the NETTLEKAMP direction, as this was held by the Recce Regt, could not be brought to bear and were over-run. The personnel of the troop joined and fought with the infantry. Capt BRAMELD then went to see what the tanks could do, and found that they were parked in a long double line. The front tank had been put out of action by a bazooka and they were unable to move. Capt BRAMELD next went to the M.10s of the 63 A Tk Regt, who were leaguered with the tanks. The officer of this tp had earlier become a casualty and so Capt BRAMELD took command and led one gun up to a position on the East side of the village where the infantry had said there was an enemy SP gun towing a damaged one. There were found to be several enemy SPs in the area and the towing one was engaged and knocked out first shot. The M.10 then pulled back and waited for half-an-hour and then went out again and shot up two half-tracks. Capt BRAMELD then left this gun, and went to make another attempt to contact the N.H. 17-pr tp, but found the enemy still in possession. On the way he met a Sgt-Major of the Glasgow Highlanders who was trying to get the assistance of another of the M.10s of 63 A Tk Regt to deal with some enemy SP guns on the N.E. side of the village. After some difficulty they brought the gun into position and killed two SPs. Capt BRAMELD then returned to the first M.10 and arrived just in time to see it reverse into a wood-pile and turn over after knocking out an enemy SP gun at 20 yds range. The third M.10 of the tp had meanwhile caught fire from a neighbouring house and jammed its turret. The driver could not be found, so Capt BRAMELD roped in a Sgt-Major of the Coldstream Gds to drive it. He then collected together the gun crew, put out the fire and sited the gun in a position where it could fire. He then went back to the other M.10 still in action and, personally directing its fire, accounted for three more S.Ps and some probables.

By 0900 hrs what was left of the enemy column had withdrawn. A captured map revealed that its objectives were far-reaching and that it was intended to take the whole division in the rear and then to disrupt the L of C. Capt BRAMELD's initiative in taking control of and directing all and every anti-tank resource in the village had been largely instrumental in foiling this ambitious plan. In a period of 5 hours he had been responsible for the destruction of at least 7 SP guns and 2 half-tracks.

The crews of the towed guns which had been destroyed also assisted greatly in clearing the enemy infantry from the village. The personnel of Bty HQ, under Lieut M.A. MAY, after finding an enemy SP gun parked outside their front door, left by the back entrance, carried out a patrol and, taking the enemy in the rear, accounted for a considerable number of Germans.

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or

Unit 102 (NH) A/Tk Regt R.A.,

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer Major.R.A. BARNETT M.C.

Month and Year MAY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1		107 Bty less SP troop cross ELBE and proceed to SCHWARZENBEK where they relieve 99 Bty with 44 Bde. 158 Bde of 53 (W) Div come under comd 15 (S) Div and march into GEESTACHT which surrenders. It is announced that HITLER is dead. RHQ moves to BRUNSTORF. 288 Bty moved to GULZOW (8342)	
	2.		Continuous expansion of Bridgehead. SACHSENWALD cleared. Germans in Italy surrender. Negotiations started by 227 Bde for surrender of HAMBURG reach a high level. 99 Bty deployed eastern outskirts of SCHWARZENBEEK. 107 Bty moved to KASSEBURG. 288 Bty SP tp captured DASSENDORF by mistake - on false information from Tk Cmdr who they were supporting.	
	3.		HAMBURG surrenders. Div concentrates N.W. of SCHWARZENBEK. 99 Bty & RHQ on road ready to move at 1500 hrs when urgent message sent for C.O. to visit C.R.A. Major Barnett goes off to see C.R.A. and is told RHQ & 99 Bty are to move forthwith to LAUENBURG where about 10,000 P.W. are out of hand. RHQ & 99 Bty arrive at LAUENBURG and at P.W. collecting Centre find complete shambles. Prisoners are quite docile but wounded, women, DPs POWs etc are all completely mixed up, and there is no food or water at the same time more are streaming in. Eventually by dark some order is restored and rations have been issued. 107 Bty to RAMSDORF 288 Bty to TRITTAU 289 Bty to WARSEBURG	
	4.		Numbers in P.W. cage at LAUENBURG have now reached about 50,000. C.O. of 92 Fd Regt of 5th Div arrives and says they have been sent to take over from us. It is decided to hand over tomorrow. RHQ & 99 Bty are then to proceed to rejoin 15 (S) Div. 107 Bty to KL HANSDORF 288 Bty to FRANZDORF	

		289 Bty to area of AHRENSBURG at WITZHAVE.	
	5.	RHQ & 99 Bty leave LAUENBERG at 1100 hrs and proceed to Div conc area in BARGTEHEIDE N.E. of HAMBURG. Btys static, capturing prisoners. Fighting ceased.	
	6.	Major R.A. Barnett MC attends a COs conference at HQ RA at 1400 hrs. He is told some of the future form and comes away most depressed at the prospect before us of peace time soldiering. Everyone is rather depressed at what the future holds for us. The div is being divided into 4 Bdes i.e. 3 Inf and 1 R.A. RA Bde area is to be HAMBURG.	
	7.	Locations unchanged. Orders still awaited for moving to occupation area.	
	8.	V.E. Day celebrated by general holiday.	
	9.	Locations unchanged.	
	10.	Lt.Col P.R. Henderson D.S.O. assumes comd of the Regt.	
	11.	C.O. visits 289 Bty	
	12.	-	
	13.	-	
	14.	289 Bty move to BARGTEHEIDE.	
	15.	107 Bty move to BARGTEHEIDE.	
	16.	CRA inspected 288 Bty and 289 Bty	
	17.	Regt given an area around BARGTEHEIDE and everybody settles down to organise German POW Camps DP Camps and restore law and order. (see Op - Eclipse No. 1 N.H. attd) 288 Bty to BARFELD 289 Bty to WESTEDT	
	18.	Two Tps 99 Bty move to RUMPEL, rest of Bty to FISCHBEK. C.O. held BC's conference to clarify policy of organising Russian and German POW and administering the Regtl area. Btys concentrating on making themselves comfortable and doing maintenance.	
	19.	Burgomasters are co-opted by all BCs to prepare nominal rolls of DPs, PWXs in their local areas. 289 Bty had slight trouble with Russians who are now beginning to revenge themselves on the Germans.	
	20.	Regtl Church Parade held at BARGTEHEIDE. It got lost and went to the wrong Church. 289 Bty had 2 Germans shot by Russians.	
	21.	Regtl Recce Parties sent to MOLLN but CRA had not finished his own recce, so recce party returned.	
	22.	Regtl Recce parties go to MOLLN once more.	

	23		Regt prepares for move to MOLLN on 24th May.	
	24		Regt moves to new area. RHQ to MOLLN. 99 Bty to ROTHENBEEK, 107 Bty to SCHRETSTAKEN, 288 Bty to MOLLN 289 Bty to NUSSE. The reorganisation of the new area starts all over again. Nominal rolls of DPs, PWXs etc are made, wrecked or otherwise Wehrmacht vehicles are gathered in a central dump, and the area searched for hidden arms etc. Masses of German eqpt collected and disposed of. Capt E.R. Roberts appointed Regt Town Major of MOLLN.	
	25		A DP Camp (no 528) is started in MOLLN under LT PACKHAM - A polyglot mixture of DPs and PWXs. Stop Line of bridge over ELBE - TRAVE Canal started.	
	26		The NH Cinema opened in MOLLN but the Regtl commitments are so great that the audience is very small. C.O. holds BC conference on recreational training, and came to the conclusion that the Regt too busy for any play.	
	27-31		General admin of area. ELBE-TRAVE stop line gave a lot of trouble, holding up crowds of Germans wishing to return home or fleeing from the Russians. These were simply turned back. All Germans, discharged from the Wehrmacht after 1 May were sent to the POW Cage run by 119 LAA. Lt Col Henderson flew home on priv leave on 30 May. Major Barnett assumed command of the Regt.	