

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**

or

Unit 6 RSF

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Jun 1944

Commanding Officer Lt Col CR BUCHANAN

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Worthing	1		Normal training. Waterproofing continued. Companies continued firing practice out to sea.	CR Buchanan Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers
	2		Normal training.	
	3		Normal training. Special Cashier lectured to Imprest Holders at Bde HQ at 1400 hrs.	
	4		Divine Service in Worthing Presbyterian Church.	
	5		Normal training. Waterproofing of vehicles continued. Inter-Platoon Competitions in W.T., mine laying etc and football started.	
	6		Normal training. Inter-Platoon Competitions continued.	
	7		Normal training. Inter-Platoon Competitions.	
	8		Normal training. Inter-Platoon Competitions.	
	9		Normal training.	
Worthing	10	0030	Orders received from Q(M) Seco to be prepared to move not before 1200 hrs. LO sent to HQ Seco to receive rd and rl tables. According to previous instrs received these orders should have been issued by HQ Sx Dist.	
		1403	Marching party under comd of Maj Agnew left WORTHING STA by train. Lt Patrick and 36 ORs with 5 vehs left behind as residue.	
		1500	Comd Offr with veh party passed SP. As OC Convoy the Comd Offr moved 1 hr ahead of the coln in accordance with instrs. No arrangements had been made at the RV to guide him to the transit camp and he had to ask at the nearest police sta. 1 L/Cpl and 2 Fus absent when Bn moved off.	
		2115	Both veh and marching parties conc in transit camp T7 at WANSTEAD. No unit sheet available from Movement Control. "Hotel system" in camp adequate.	

Wanstead	11	0900 1030 1030 to 1600	Unit sheet received from Movement Control. Bn split into five craft loads of vehs and marching personnel mixed. Unit sheet did not correspond at all with details previously issued in unit staff table. This added considerably to the difficulty and time taken in breaking down the Bn into ship loads. Serial T39 under comd Capt TODD moved to camp T1 - 9 vehs, 14 personnel. 50% of Bn vehs with dvrs only moved to EAST INDIA DOCKS to load into LST and MTS. Final stages of waterproofing carried out.	
	12	a.m. 2130	Loading of vehs continued. Lt TF MacCONNACHIE adm to ESSEX County Hospital with damaged back. Serial S55 moved off to docks. Composition: CO, IO, "B" Coy, one pl C Coy, Carrier pl.	CR Buchanan Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers
Wanstead	13	0550 0625 0730 2000	T36 moved to docks by TCV. Composition : A Coy, HQ Coy, S Coy HQ T34 moved to docks by TCV. Composition : Adm pl. S60 moved to docks by TCV. Composition : C Coy less one pl, D Coy. All ships moved from the docks to join convoy at mouth of Thames Estuary.	
	14	2100	Convoy weighed anchor. Ships orders laid down for action in the event of attack by U or E boats or long range shelling by coastal guns.	
	15	1930 2100	Convoy dropped anchor off "Juno" beach. No incident reported during the voyage. Marching personnel started to disembark. Carried by LCT from ship to beach. No landings allowed after 2300 hrs.	
	16	0600 to 1400 1400 2100	Disembarkation of marching personnel and vehs continued. Personnel moved through beach transit and assembly areas by ship loads. All marching personnel reported to Bn conc area at BRECY. 50% vehs had arrived in conc area. De-waterproofing started immediately.	
Brecy	17	1800	Conc reported complete. 1 offr and 8 OR cas between WORTHING and BRECY.	
	18	1000 0930 1400 1900 1400	CO & IO attended Bde 'O' Gp and carried out recce in area of RANVILLE. Normal Church Service in Bn area. Adv party warned to move 19 Jun. Bn 'O' Gp. CO gave outline plan for move of Bn to RANVILLE. IO RE demonstrated new German mines found on the beaches : (i) "Pot" mine - A.Pers. (ii) "Regal" mine - A.Tk.	CR Buchanan Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers

Rucqueville	19	0745 1000	Orders issued last night cancelled. Op planned has been cancelled because the Div cannot be concentrated in time. CO attended Bde 'O' Gp. No fresh infm. Rain all day. No incidents to report. Bn still in conc area at RUCQUEVILLE.	
	20	0915	CO attended Bde 'O' Gp. High wind with intermittent rain.	
	21		Weather still bad with high wind and skies overcast. Recces by Coy Comds in area of NORREY EN BESSIN.	
	22		Limited recces continued in area of NORREY EN BESSIN. Bn still in conc area at RUCQUEVILLE. 1 offr and 11 ORs rfts received from 32 RHU.	
	23		Lt JE Bowman, B Coy, killed by shell splinter at NORREY EN BESSIN.	
	24	1400 2000	CO held briefing conference on a cloth model for exercise "Epsom". All offr and NCOs down to sec comds attended. Weather very good. Bn moved to FAA in SECQUEVILLE for Op "Epsom".	See Appx "A"
Secqueville	25		Day spent in preparation and briefing for Op "Epsom".	
St Mauvieu	26		Op "Epsom". Attack by 15(S)Div in which 44(L)Inf Bde took part. Bde took the two left objectives with rt 8RS, left 6RSF. 6RSF objective village of ST MAUVIEU. H Hour 0730. Attack was carried out with heavy arty barrage, depth 500yds. A and B Coys were assaulting coys, C behind A, D behind B in reserve. Cas were incurred in the left coy by shorts in the barrage. On arrival on objective it was found to be strongly held by men of a unit of SS Hitler Youth Div, who carried out sniping during the clearing of the objectives with devastating results. The operation of clearing the village was well carried out by the Bn, but proved a slow and costly procedure, and it was not until 1700 hrs that the northern end of the objective was finally cleared by which time the Bn was very thin on the ground as the result of cas. Counter attack was launched about 1800 hrs on the left flank but was beaten off and no penetration was made except to an orchard at the northern end of the village. Later a further counter attack on the rt flank was seen to be developing and the CO, in order to avoid the posn being infiltrated, had to call on Bde for the assistance of two Coys 6KOSB. Bde Comd however decided in view of the cas incurred by the Bn in the operation to date to send up 6KOSB complete less one rifle coy to take over from 6 RSF. This relief was completed with difficulty as counter attacks were in progress during a portion of the time, and it was not until 2300 hrs that the final elements of the Bn were withdrawn from the posn to reserve. Total casualties incurred in this operation were as follows: Killed : 21	See Map Appx 'B'  CR Buchanan Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers

			<p>Wounded : 113 Missing : 9</p> <p>This was the first time the Bn had been in action since Jun 1940 and for the majority of the personnel of the Bn it was their first battle inoculation. The Bde Comd expressed to the Comd Offr his appreciation of the conduct of the Bn in a difficult operation.</p>	<p>CR Buchanan Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers</p>
Le Mesnil Patry	27		The Bn spent the day in reserve area in the vicinity of LE MESNIL PATRY where it cleaned up and reorganised.	
	28		Day spent in the same vicinity.	
	29	0430	<p>The Bn moved out and took up a posn in the vicinity of woods at 898664 where it was ordered to be prepared to support 8RS in their clearance of the area between RAURAY and LE HAUT DU BOSQ. By 1400 hrs it was clear that 8RS were meeting fairly stiff opposition and would not only have difficulty in reaching their final objective but would have difficulty in holding such a long front. 6 RSF were ordered to assist them and take over and hold a portion of their objective when captured. C and D Coys were ordered to take over the right half of the objective from 8RS.</p> <p>During this period of take over the Germans counter-attacked and the posns were never really firmly taken over. As a result our line was pushed back to the line of the reserve coys of 8RS. But the Germans did not press their counter-attack. The Bn spent the night in a defensive posn in the area of LE HAUT DU BOSQ 898655.</p>	
Le Haut du Bosq	30	0600  1400	<p>In the early morning at about 0600 hrs the Bn moved back to an orchard in the village of LE HAUT DU BOSQ where it remained till the afternoon.</p> <p>At about 1400 hrs the Bde took up an anti-Panzer hedgehog in the vicinity of 905660 with 6 RSF in reserve area. Intermittent mortaring took place during the night.</p>	<p>CR Buchanan Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers</p>

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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 6 ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS.

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year July 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt-Col CR BUCHANAN.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1 Jul	1830	During the day the Germans attacked the Div on our right, 49 Div, and the right forward Coy of 6 KOSB was pushed in. "C" Coy 6 RSF was ordered to attack supported by tks and arty to re-take the posn, which it did with zero at 1830. "C" Coy remained in the re-captured posn under comd 6 KOSB to strengthen the Bn posn.	
St Croix Grand Tonne.	2 Jul	1230 2300	At 1230 hrs the Bn was relieved by a Bn of HLI from 53 Div and went into a rest area at ST CROIX GRAND TONNE 8874. "A" and "C" Coys under 6 KOSB were not relieved till 2300 hrs.	
"	3 Jul		The Bn spent the day cleaning up and re-organising the allotment of officers to Coys and appts.	See Appx "A"
"	4 Jul		Rest period	
	5 Jul		Rest period	
	6 Jul		Rest period	
Baron.	7 Jul	2400	The Bn moved from ST. CROIX GRAND TONNE by march route to BARON 9462 and relieved 8 HANTS in the line. Relief completed by 2400 hrs. The Bn is now in 12 Corps.	
"	8 Jul		Bn in line, no incidents and a quiet day. Recce patrolling by night from "B" Coy.	
"	9 Jul		Bn in line, no incidents and still a quiet day. Intermittent shelling with German mortars.	
"	10 Jul		43 Div with barrage and tks, H hour 0500. The Bn took no part in this attack, but the whole of our posn was heavily mortared and shelled during the day and we had the following casualties:- Killed - 4 (Other Rks only) Wounded - 7 (incl Lt AF YOUNG) Missing - Nil (Other Rks only).	
Baron	11 Jul		The Bn remained in the line and during the day it was subjected to further shelling and mortaring. The casualties for the day were:- 6 Killed (Other Ranks only)	

			<p>11 Wounded (Other Ranks only)  2 Missing (Other Ranks only).  Some vehicles were hit. The Bn was relieved by 5 Welch Regt during the night Jul 11/12th.</p>	APPX "E" "F"
St Croix Grand Tonne.	12 Jul		<p>Relief was completed by 0315 hrs and the Bn moved back to ST. CROIX GRAND TONNE for a period of rest.  During the period in the line from 7/12 July the total casualties were:-  11 Killed (Other Ranks only)  19 Wounded (incl Lt AF YOUNG)  2 Missing.</p>	
St Croix Grand Tonne.	13 Jul		Bn at ST. CROIX GRAND TONNE resting.	
Colville.	14 Jul	2100	<p>Bn left ST CROIX GRAND TONNE at 2100 hrs and moved to a fwd assembly area in the vicinity of COLVILLE 9265 in preparation for Operation GREENLINE. (44(L) Inf Bde Operation Order for the operation is attd). Spent the night 14/15 July in F.A.A. Slight shelling of FAA during the night. Suffered a few casualties.</p>	Appx "B".
"	15 Jul	2145 2343	<p>"D" Day for operation GREENLINE. The Bn lay up in FAA all day. Bn was Reserve Bn of Bde for this operation.  Operation started with Phase CLYDE (see Bde Operation Order)  H hour for which was 2145 hrs.  CLYDE reported OK by 2343 hrs.</p>	Appx "B"
GAVRUS  Gavrus	16 Jul	0256 0720 0400  0830 0930  1020	<p>FORTH reported O.K. by 0300 hrs.  MELROSE reported O.K. by 0256 hrs.  KNIFE reported still holding out at 0720.  Bn standing by at 30 mins notice from 0400 hrs to proceed to GAVRUS and take over from 8 RS who were moving on to BOUGY after capturing GAVRUS.  CO and OsC "C" and "B" Coys proceeded to GAVRUS 0830 hrs to carry out recce to take area from 8 R.S. which was still being shelled.  At approx 0930 "B" and "C" Coys and A.Tk guns arrived up at GAVRUS and got into posn to hold it. Remainder of Bn arrived up about 3/4 hours later. 8 RS two coys released to join the remainder of their Bn at BOUGY.  DUNBAR, i.e., capture of BOUGY reported complete by 1020 hrs.  Bn left A.2 echelon tpt in assembly area and dug itself in to  [Possible page missing in original]  This was a most unpleasant area as it was shelled and mortared intermittently during the whole time the Bn was there.</p>	

		2000	<p>As 8 RS had suffered fairly heavy casualties in capture of BOUGY Comd 44(L) Bde instructed 6 RSF to send them one Coy to reinforce them in holding BOUGY and to be placed under comd 8 R.S. "A" Coy was sent off at 2000 hrs.</p> <p>Touch was gained with OXF &amp; BUCKS on the left of the Bn who were operating north of the River ODON.</p> <p>During the night 16/17 July the enemy shelled and mortared GAVRUS almost continually.</p> <p>The RAP moved back to LES VILLAINES the location of the CCP as it was not possible to do any treatment in the GAVRUS area.</p>	
Gavrus	17 Jul		<p>A certain number of vehicles were knocked out by shelling and maintenance became difficult as a result. Casualties on the whole were very small considering the amount of shelling.</p> <p>Deep slit trenches had been dug.</p> <p>The Bn remained in reserve to 44(L) Bde in posn at GAVRUS.</p> <p>Slight counter-attacks against 8 R.S. and 6 KOSB were held by them. The remainder of operation GREENLINE continued but KNIFE STIRLING and BERWICK were not captured as planned.</p>	
Gavrus.	18 Jul	1100	<p>Bn remained in GAVRUS night 17/18 Jul. At approx 1100 hrs the C.O. was informed by Bde Comd that the Div Comd had said the Bn should if possible be moved out of GAVRUS in view of the shelling situation to another posn from which it could operate as Reserve Bn to the Bde. The CO reced the area north of the R. ODON in the vicinity of the WOOD at 906626 and the Bn moved to take up a posn in this vicinity at approx 1730 hrs.</p> <p>"A" Coy remained with 8 RS.</p>	
	19 Jul	1030 2100	<p>Bn still in area 906626. Orders were received from 44(L) Bde that the Bn would be relieved by 1 OXF &amp; BUCKS and reps from this Bn arrived for recce at 1030 hrs.</p> <p>Relief was completed by 2100 hrs and the Bn moved back to the area 905665 near HAUT DE BOSQ for a period of rest.</p> <p>During operation GREENLINE the Bn suffered the following casualties:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Officers wounded: Lt JDM Steel Lt A Tweedie Lt PE Labonte Capt GD Monro RACHD.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Other Ranks killed: 14 Other Ranks wounded: 50      Missing: 5.</p> <p><u>NOTE IN CONNECTION WITH SHELLING AND MORTARING IN GAVRUS ON 16, 17 AND 18 JULY.</u></p> <p>It was considered that the shelling and mortaring which was intense might have been directed on the village as a result of the Germans using D.F. apparatus to locate the Bde rear link wireless</p>	APPX "D"

			scout car. It was noticed that on several occasions after the Bde rear link and the Bn control 18 set had sent out a tuning call a "stonk" came down on the Bn H.Q. area within 15/20 minutes.	
905665	20 Jul		The Bn remained in the rest area at 905665 re-organising and cleaning up. The area is by no means ideal as a rest area. It is in the middle of a gun area and it is completely open and bare. The Bde Comd held a conference on casualties which are required to be replaced.	
905665	21 Jul		Bn still in the rest area. Lt-General N. RITCHIE Comd 12 Corps visited the Bn. Parties of men were sent off to a Field Cinema show during the day.	
905665	22 Jul		The Bn remained in rest area. CO carried out recce of new area to which the Bn is going.	
Caumont.	23 Jul	1200	The Bn moved by TCV to the area of CAUMONT to take over from 2nd Bn 10 US Inf who were in the line in this sector. 15(S) Inf Div relieved 5 US Inf Div. The relief was carried out during the night 23/24 July. 15(S) Div came into 30 Corps from 1200 hrs today.	15(S) Div and 44(L) Bde orders for relief attd. Appx "C".
Caumont.	24 Jul	0600	The relief was completed by 0600 hrs. Quiet day in the line except for a certain amount of shelling and mortaring. No casualties to personnel. Two patrols were sent out but no enemy was found in the localities which were searched.	APPX "C"
Caumont.	25 Jul		Fairly quiet day, except for intermittent shelling and mortaring. This increased in intensity during the night. The Bn however, being well dug in in foxholes dug by personnel of the U.S. unit we relieved suffered only one casualty. One recce patrol was sent out but obtained little information except that the house to which it was sent was occupied.	
"	26 Jul		Nothing particular occurred on the front except intermittent shelling and mortaring which was not heavy. The Bn suffered two casualties. At night the Bn was relieved by 9 Cameronians of 46 Bde. Relief was completed by 0300 hrs.	APPX "E"
Mesnil.	27 Jul		The Bn proceeded to a rest area at MESNIL. Div Concert Party gave a show to the Bn in the bivouac area.	
"	28 Jul	2215 0300	The Bn remained in area of MESNIL till the evening when at 2015 hrs orders were received to proceed to the area of CAUMONT and take over that position of the line which we held before we were relieved by 9 Cameronians on July 24th. The Bn left the bivouac area at 2215 hrs and the relief was completed by 0300 hrs 29 Jul. No difficulty was experienced in the relief as the Bn was taking over from 9 Cameronians again.	



Caumont.	29 Jul		Bn spent a quiet day. Very little shelling. Brig HDK Money D.S.O. came to say goodbye on appt to the War Office. New Comd 44(L) Bde is Brig COCKBURN A & SH. 15(S) Div reverted to 8 Corps.	
Caumont.	30 Jul	1330  2000	Operation BLUECOAT started, H Hour 0655 hrs. 44(L) Inf Bde formed the firm base through which 15(S) Div 46 and 227 Bdes advanced. 30 Corps and 8 Corps carried out the attack. 15(S) Div supported by Gds Tk Bde and 11 Armd Div attacking on 8 Corps front. 43 Div supported by tks attacking on 30 Corps front. 8 Corps made good progress from the start and got well fwd to the line of 2nd Phase by approx 1330 hrs, but 43 Div on 30 Corps front made little progress from the start line with the result that the flank of 227 Bde on left of 15(S) Div was exposed. 6 R.S.F. were lent to 227 Bde to protect left flank. The Bn moved over from posn on firm base west of CAUMONT to take up posn south west of LALONDE 7157 to facing EAST to cover approaches from the east. The Bn was in posn by 2000 hrs and spent the night in this posn.	
Lalonde.	31 Jul		The Bn spent a quiet period and was not attacked from the open flank to its front.	44(L) Inf Bde Operation Order No. _____ dated _____ at Appx "D"  CR Buchanan Lt-Col <u>Comd 6 R.S.F.</u>

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**WAR DIARY**

or

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 6th Bn The Royal Scots Fusiliers

Month and Year August 1944

Commanding Officer Lt Col CR BUCHANAN

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LE BENY BOCAGE	1 Aug	0800	The Bn rejoined 44(L)Bde and concentrated with the rest of the Bde in the area of the Orchard 694565 with a view to moving forward to the high ground to the East of LE BENY BOCAGE to exploit the advance of the 11 Armd Div. But this operation was postponed as although considerable success had been achieved on the front the left flank was still open to a certain extent. The Bn was therefore ordered to take up a position in the vicinity of the farm at 692538 facing South in reserve to the remainder of the Bde which was dispersed to protect the left flank of the Div. During the day it became obvious that the enemy was pulling out on this front although leaving strong rearguards.	Appendix "A"
	2 Aug		The Bn spent a quiet night with no shelling and did not move although it was at four hours notice to do so all day.	
ST PIERRE TARENTAIN	3 Aug	1130	At about 1130 hrs the Bn moved carried on tanks of 4 Gren Guards to an FAA in the vicinity of ST PIERRE TARENTAIN 7045 where it arrived at about 1230 hrs. Orders were received at 1400 hrs to attack and capture the hamlet of LA COUR 723438 supported by one sqn of 4 Gren Gds. This attack was supposed to be put in with zero at 2030 hrs but owing to the fact that the Bn could not complete the necessary previous reces etc in time it was changed to 2100 hrs. The attack was successful and the objective captured. Consolidation had to be carried out in the dark. Casualties were light, Lieut Street, 2/Lt Hollidge, 2/Lt Patrick, 2/Lt Campbell were wounded and the casualties in ORs were killed 8 wounded 17.	Appendix "B" Appendix "C"
MONTCHARIVEL	4 Aug	1900	The Bn spent a quiet night and was not counter-attacked. At 1900 hrs the Bn moved out to occupy the village of MONTCHARIVEL 7442. The adv gd on arrival found the village held by approx a coy and some armd cars. An attack was put in round the left flank by two tps of Churchills (4 Gren Gds) and two	

			pls "C" Coy in support working round the left of the village. This attack cleared the village but not till approx 2200 hrs. The Bn then entered the village and was disposed to hold it. All Recces for defences had to be carried out in the dark, but fortunately there was a bright moon. Cas killed 8, wounded 5, missing 14.	
	5 Aug		The Bn remained in MONTCHARIVEL and 227(H) Bde passed through to continue the adv. The rest of the Bde were disposed with 8 RS in LES FIEFFES 7241 and 6 KOSB in LA MOTTE 7541.	
	6 Aug	0700	Bn at 2 hrs notice to move wef 0700 hrs and move to an FAA on the main rd to VASSY just South of Condraies with 8 RS on the other side of the rd and 6 KOSB close behind. The Churchills accompanied the Bn and harboured close by.	Appendix "D"
	7 Aug		Bn moves partly carried on tanks and partly by march route to a position on the high ground in 7438. 8 RS to area LES CLOS and 6 KOSB 7440. Some shelling and mortaring but few casualties.	Appendix "E" Appendix "F"
	8 Aug		After an evening and night of "O" Gps and preparation Bn moved to an FAA at 740387 for an attack on ESTRY.	
ESTRY	9 Aug		44(L) Bde attacked ESTRY with Bn Coldstream Churchills under comd 6 RSF left with one sqn, 6 KOSB right with another, 8 RS in reserve. The object of the attack was to clear ESTRY and then retire to positions near Xrds at 756379. The leading coys "A" and "C" were to cross the start line at 1200 hrs and clear the village while "D" right and "B" left were to dig in on the main rd. The start line was the stream at 7438. The Bn was very weary but the leading coys set off and reached the Northern edge of the village which they found to be strongly held. The Churchills had difficulty in crossing the stream and were late in arriving on the objective and the A.V.R.E. was hit in the early stages. The leading coys struggled on during the afternoon but did not manage to get into ESTRY itself or reduce the strongpoint of the Church. Meanwhile "D" Coy had dug in behind the main rd without much trouble but "B" had been heavily shelled and mortared on the start line and while digging and were reduced to 38 in number but managed to establish themselves before dark.  The CO was slightly wounded in the arm about 1300 hrs but when the 2 IC went up he insisted on finishing the battle and was only evacuated later in the evening when the 2 IC took over. By this time "A" and "C" Coys had retired on to "D's" firm base and the Bn was disposed "C" Coy at the Xrds with one pl forward of the lateral rd, "A" Coy at the rd & tr junc 749380 with one	

			section fwd of the lateral rd and "B" Coy at 751382, the Carrier Pl lining the track leading to "A" Coy at 749380 and "D" Coy dug in just South of the stream. Lt Col CR Buchanan was wounded and evacuated in this action.	
ESTRY	10 Aug		Lt Col I Mackenzie assumed command of the Bn. After a night of very heavy shelling and mortaring "B" Coy were withdrawn into reserve near Bn HQ at 745385 and it was arranged that the Churchills stayed on the left flank with "A" Coy. The KOSB occupied similar positions on the right of the MONTCHAMPS-ESTRY rd.	
	11 Aug		Bn remained in defensive positions all day and were relieved by 8 RS at night. Higher Comd were insistent that the enemy were withdrawing but this was found not to be the case and an advance to contact plan to move to the high ground overlooking VASSY had to be abandoned.	Appendix "G" Appendix "H"
MONTCHAMPS	12 Aug		Bn at MONTCHAMPS and washed, bathed and changed clothes for first time for three weeks. Move to ST PIERRE TARENTEINE 7045 in the evening.	Appendix "J"
ST PIERRE TARENTEINE	13 Aug		Bn remained all day at ST PIERRE TARENTEINE and continued to clean up, check deficiencies and carry out maintenance tasks. The mosquitoes and wasps were extremely troublesome.	
LES IFS	14 Aug		The Bn moved by TCV to LES IFS. After a march of four miles from the debussing point the Bn were dispersed in some orchards and fields clear of the village. The area had not been completely cleared of mines. This was done by RE with the assistance of the Pioneer Pl. Apart from the mosquitoes and wasps which infested the area it was clean and afforded plenty of shade.	
	15 Aug		The Bn remained all day at LES IFS and bathed in a stretch of river, this entailed a march of some 3 miles each way. All coys held a drill parade and the Bn was addressed by the Div Comd.	
	16 Aug		A CofS Church Parade was held during the morning. The remainder of the day was allotted to coy drill parades, cleaning of weapons and rest.	
CESNY-BOIS- HALBOUT	17 Aug		The Bn moved by TCV to CESNY-BOIS-HALBOUT 9945. This move was done in order to conform with the concentration of 15(S)Div. The area was constricted owing to the presence of "B" Echelon of 7 Armd Div who had already occupied the best billets.	
	18 Aug		No move was anticipated, or took place on this day. Coys spent the day cleaning up, holding drill parades and washing clothes.	

	19 Aug		All coys carried out route marches of approx 12 miles to harden the men's feet, which had become very soft at ESTRY. The Bn was warned to stand by at 3 hrs notice to move from 0900 hrs on 20 August.	
	20 Aug		15 Div were allotted the task of securing crossings over the rivers LA VIC and LA TOUGES to the East of LES SAP 5859. The role of 44(L)Bde was to secure the high ground pt 258, 4159 - pt 261, 4160 - pt 259, 3334. The CO held his "O" Gp at 1030 hrs and ordered that the Bn was at 3 hrs notice till 1500 hrs and thereafter at 15 mins notice. Through the afternoon messages were received from Bde to the effect that the move was increasingly unlikely owing to the congestion of the rds leading fwd. At 1900 hrs the Brigadier arrived at Bn HQ and informed the CO that the move was cancelled and that no move was expected for a further 48 hrs till the situation fwd had been clarified.	Appendix "K"
	21 Aug		All Coys had prepared training programmes which included a 12 miles march, however owing to the heavy rain throughout the day these programmes were cancelled and the Bn moved into buildings which had by now been evacuated by "B" Echelon of 7 Armd Div.	
	22 Aug		The weather cleared up and showed signs of becoming fair, by 1000 hrs the sun had come out and the Bn were able to dry their clothes. All coys carried out route marches, during which they were able to hold several tactical exercises and to bathe. Dinners were eaten out of billets. The Bn harbour party was ordered to stand by at 15 mins notice to move from 1700 hrs. The Bn was informed that no move other than harbour parties was expected on 22 August. No destination was given in the warning order.	
	23 Aug		During the night 22/23 Aug it poured with rain, however as the Bn were all under cover of buildings no ill effects were felt. The Bn moved, embussed in TCVs, at 1545 hrs to the area of DAMBLAINVILLE 2038 via USSY 0841 and FALAISE, 15(S)Div having been ordered to concentrate EAST of FALAISE with a view to advancing to the river SEINE and starting on 24 or 25 August.	
DAMBLAINVILLE	24 Aug		The Bn area at DAMBLAINVILLE was in some low lying fields off the main rd. Heavy rain fell during the night but the Bn had rigged up good bivouac shelters and emerged damp rather than wet. Owing to the congested state of the rds fwd no move took place before 1600 when the Bde moved to an area SW of ORBEC 6572, the Bn being allotted the area of the village VIEL 5768. We arrived late in the evening just as it was getting dark and	

			found a congestion of Canadians clearing out of the area. Bn HQ and most of the coys found accommodation in houses, however the night was fine. The CO was warned to attend Bde "O" Gp at 0700 hrs on 25 August and the Bn was warned to expect to move at 0900 hrs.	
	25 Aug		<p>A very trying day involving a move of approx 35 miles, embussed in TCVs which took from 0900 hrs till 2400 hrs 25/26 August. The Bde moved via BERNAY 8078 and BEAUMONT-LE-ROGER 9376 to the general area of LE NEUBOURG 0263. The rds were crammed with traffic and very dusty.</p> <p>The bridges over the river LA ISLE at BEAUMONT-LE-ROGER had not been repaired by the time we got there and such as remained would not carry TCVs, in consequence the Bn debussed and marched the last 10 miles to a reverse slope position immediately SW of IVILLE 0486. Very little information was available about the enemy, however a general air of optimism prevailed and COs were warned to be prepared to recce fwd for crossings over the river SEINE. This project was abandoned later. The Bn was widely dispersed and could do little more than cover the rds and obvious approaches, however it was generally understood though not confirmed, that an American Armd Div was deployed NE of our positions.</p>	
IVILLE	26 Aug		The Bn was informed that a move was most unlikely and that 227 Bde would pass through during the day and occupy LOUVIERS 2288. The situation fwd remained obscure and such reports as were received indicated that the battle was fluid.	
ST LUBIN	27 Aug	1000	<p>The Bn moved to ST LUBIN 1989 at 1000 hrs and harboured in some thick woods. 227 Bde were ordered to secure a crossing over the SEINE at ANDE 2890 at 1800 on 27 Aug. Various alternative plans were in store for us but at 1815 an LO arrived and gave orders that we were to be at immediate notice to move and secure a further crossing over the river. No further details were available at the moment. At 2000 hrs the Bn moved by march route, under the RSM, to a FAA in the area of some farm buildings 277935 NE of PORTEJOIE 2892. Meanwhile the CO gave out his orders and conducted officers on a brief recce before dark. Briefly the plan was as follows:-</p> <p>The Bn were to cross the SEINE at PORTEJOIE and establish a bridgehead at HERQUEVILLE. The crossing was to be made in assault boats with two coys ("C" and "D") up; transport was divided into priority routes, the first group being 15 vehs which were to include the rear link and 4 6 pr guns while other</p>	<p>Appendix "L"</p> <p>Appendix "M"</p>

			gps were organised by the MTO on the priority by which they were required within the bridgehead.	
	28 Aug		Zero hr was ordered at 0030 hrs. The crossing was made almost without opposition, "A" Coy were unfortunate and had two boats shot up by an isolated automatic weapon and lost 1 officer and 8 ORs, fwd coys did not consolidate their final objectives till after dawn on 28 Aug as the thick scrub and high cliffs proved almost impenetrable in the dark.	
		0800	However, by 0800 hrs on 28 Aug the Bn had firmly established the bridgehead and had started to ferry tpt across. During the morning the remainder of the marching tps of the Bde were ferried across.	
		1500	At 1500 hrs the KOSB took over the Bn positions and the Bn was ordered to stand by for a night advance and attack on SENNEVILLE 3197 - the reason why the RSF were again to be used for this action was that no other Bn in the Bde had yet got its "F" and "A" Echelon tpt across the river.	
		0830	At 0830 the Bn moved to a FAA at 306945 slightly South of the fwd tps of 227 Bde who had by now cleared the wood 3194. The CO took Coy Comds on a recce during the move of the Bn but did not manage to see much of the ground.	
SENNEVILLE	29 Aug	0030	At 0030 hrs 29 Aug the Bn advanced in the following order:- "B" "D" "C" "HQ" "A" Coys with the object of establishing itself on the high ground EAST of the wood 3196 and SE of SENNEVILLE prior to an assault at first light. The advance was completely successful and by 0200 hrs the high ground was occupied without major incident, a few small enemy posts had been met but no casualties were sustained by our tps.	
		0200	Just before reaching the final positions on the high ground "D" Coy, who had been passed into the lead, found themselves some 500 yds too far WEST and at the same time bumped into a small enemy post. They brought heavy LMG fire to bear on the enemy and then swung EAST to correct their positions. The effect of this manoeuvre was to puzzle the enemy as to our line of adv and flares were sent up from several directions by enemy who presumably thought they were being outflanked. These enemy posts subsequently withdrew before dawn.	
SENNEVILLE		0700	At 0700 hrs the fwd coys moved in to clear and occupy the	
		0800	village of SENNEVILLE and at 0800 hrs "A" Coy started to clear the large wood 3196 immediately SOUTH of the village.	
		0900	By 0900 hrs the village had been occupied and by 1200 hrs the	
		1200	wood was reported clear by "A" Coy.	

		Remainder of the day was spent digging in and improving our positions, two small recce patrols were sent fwd to the villages of AMFREVILLE-SOUS-LES-MTS 3098, ORGEVILLE 3298 and AMFREVILLE-LES-CHAMPS 3498, these patrols reported the villages to be very lightly held. Throughout the day it poured with rain but the bulk of the Bn were under cover in barns and houses so did not suffer unduly.	
	30 Aug	A day spent at one-third alertness and the remainder resting. Tpt was ordered to keep off the rds as 53 Div was passing through 15 Div. Throughout the day heavy showers fell. The Bde Comd visited the Bn and told the CO that we could anticipate remaining at SENNEVILLE for a further 3 or 4 days.	
	31 Aug	A fine sunny day.	I Mackenzie Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers



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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 6TH BN THE ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie

Month and Year Sep 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
SENNEVILLE	1 Sep		Reinforcements from 2/5 Lancs Fus and 6 Border Regt joined and sent to coys. Day of rest.	
	2 Sep		Further day of rest. Coys bathed in the SEINE. Div Comd spoke to reinforcements at 1630 hrs and later took tea in HQ mess. Harbour party left at 1430 hrs for area LE CAMP JEAN 4915.	
	3 Sep		Bn moved off for LE CAMP JEAN in two parties - MT at 0730 hrs arriving at 0930 hrs - marching tps at 1230 hrs being picked up half way at 1700 hrs. Whole Bn conc LE CAMP JEAN area 1800 hrs.	
LE CAMP JEAN	4 Sep		A further move forward of about 20 miles using own tpt to ferry marching personnel. Main body left LE CAMP JEAN for area HADANCOURT 6738 with tps embussed in unit 3 ton lorries at 0800 hrs arriving at 1030 hrs. 3 ton lorries then returned to pick up stores. Bn conc HADANCOURT 1600 hrs and received orders to prepare to move fwd following day in TCVs.	Appx "A"
HADANCOURT	5 Sep		Bn moved to L'ABBAYETTE 1009 in two parties. Bn tpt left HADANCOURT at 0830 hrs arriving at 1630 hrs after a long move with very heavy traffic on the roads. Marching tps in TCVs left at 1630 hrs and arrived at 2030 hrs. Orders were received for a move fwd to ROUCERS, BELGIUM 7670 the next day, KOSB acting as adv gd to Bde.	Appx "B"
L'ABBAYETE	6 Sep		Bn crossed the Bde SP at 0923 hrs, marching tps being embussed in TCVs. A long uneventful journey as far as the enemy was concerned, followed. The local population showed great enthusiasm along the whole route, every town and village turning out to greet us. In some places civilians were a hindrance to smooth movement. At about 1700 hrs the adv gd reported the br over the R LYS between MENIN 7554 and HALLUIN 7553 blown. At this time the Bn was halted on the rd SOUTH of RONCQ 7449. Orders were received to close up and harbour area HALLUIN for the night. "A" Coy was ordered to cover the br on Northern outskirts of HALLUIN. Bn HQ was est at 753530.	

HALLUIN	7 Sep		Bn moved to cover the crossings of the COURTRAI BOSSUYT CANAL from incl br 923533 to incl br 880569. Bn left HALLUIN at 0530 hrs and relief of 2 GH on canal was complete by 0730 hrs with Bn HQ est in SWEVEGHEM 9055. At 1630 hrs orders were received to clear enemy from DEERLYCK 9159. "C" Coy with under comd the Carrier Pl, a sec A Tk guns and a sec Mor with in sp 190 Fd Regt and 59 Med Regt attacked at 1935 hrs. Complete success was achieved. 75 prisoners and a quantity of enemy equipment was captured and only two casualties sustained. At 2230 hrs "B" Coy was ordered to join "C" Coy to assist holding the village for the night. Orders were received for move to R LYS on 8 Sep.	
DEERLYCK	8 Sep	0830	At 0830 Bn conc DEERLYCK before moving fwd to R LYS. Adv to LYS was achieved without opposition but approx 250 enemy gave themselves up including two naval ratings. Bn covered all crossings from excl br 956654 to excl rd river junc 898624. Infm received that bn was likely to remain in present posn until 10 Sep. Bn HQ est DESSELGHEM 9163.	
			[Page missing in original]	
MALINES	10 Sep		Orders received to conc area MALINES 7275. Bn moved off 0830 hrs. Journey without incident and Bn conc in rest area by 1500 hrs.	Appx "C"
MALINES	11 Sep		Day of rest and maintenance. Regimental football team played the town on the town ground - result win for town 7 - nil. Orders received to take over br hd on ALBERT CANAL in area STEELAN 0684. Adv parties left at 1830 hrs.	Appx "D"
STEELAN	12 Sep		Bn moved up to assembly area at OOSTERLOO 0682 without incident arriving at 1030 hrs. Br hd taken over from 6 Green Howards at 1730 hrs on general line 076842 - 076852 - rd junc 072855 - houses 068854 - 064848. Intermittent shelling during afternoon and evening.	Appx "E"
STEELAN	13 Sep		During the night the enemy withdrew North of the JUNCTION CANAL 1093. Carrier patrol was sent out to ZITTART 1283 and MEERHOUT 1484 and reported both clear of enemy. "D" Coy was accordingly ordered to occupy posn in area Xrds 121837. At 1400 hrs orders were received to relieve 8 RS in GHEEL 0888. Relief completed by 1800 hrs. Intermittent shelling during evening and night. One OR of "D" Coy killed.	Appx "F"
GHEEL	14 Sep		Day of rest and maintenance. "A" Coy moved up to the MEUSE - ESCAUT CANAL at 089931 at 1500 hrs to stop any enemy infiltration South of CANAL. Slight enemy opposition was encountered from woods 0992 which were cleared successfully.	Appx "G" Appx "H"

		Orders were received in the afternoon for the remainder of the Bn to move up to reinforce the br hd held by 8 RS across the CANAL at 0793 on 15 Sep. Casualties - 2 killed, 5 wounded from "A" Coy.	
GOOREINDE	15 Sep	The Bn left GHEEL at 0600 hrs and moved up to FAA in area 076920. At this time although 8 RS were across the CANAL crossings were under MG and sniper fire at times. Crossing was made at 1230 hrs in assault boats by "B" and "D" coys followed by Bn HQ and "C" Coy. Although enemy shelling had been persistent from the time of arrival at FAA the crossing was achieved without casualties. The village was cleared and penetration made to rd junc 074940. Enemy later counter-attacked and forward troops were pulled into rd junc 074934. Heavy enemy shelling and mortaring continued all day and throughout the night. Several enemy counter-attacks were put in in varying strengths. Some achieved slight penetration but all were eventually driven back or broken up. Killed 7 other ranks, wounded 3 officers 43 other ranks.	Appx "J" Appx "K"
GOOREINDE	16 Sep	Enemy counter-attacks and infiltrations beginning at 0730 hrs prevented the expansion of the bridgehead and they continued throughout the day accompanied by very heavy artillery and mortar fire. Movement in road around the bridgehead was extremely hazardous. Air support by Typhoons somewhat eased the shelling from 1430 hrs until 2005 hrs when a very strong counter-attack developed. Through a captured document it was found that the objective for this attack was the factory at 075928. This attack was broken up by mass artillery concentrations and many casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Shelling continued throughout the night but was very slightly lighter. Killed 2 officers 6 other ranks, wounded 36 other ranks.	Appx "L" Appx "M" Appx "N"
GOOREINDE	17 Sep	Heavy fighting continued in the bridgehead during the day. There was slight infiltration during the night but all enemy were thrown out by 0800 hrs with losses to them. A further op at 1500 hrs cleared the enemy from houses at 078933 all being killed or captured and one 22 mm gun destroyed. Shelling of the area was lighter until 1230 hrs and practically ceased from then until 1430 hrs in face of airborne ops being carried out. Later shelling became intense and at 1730 hrs was very heavy indeed including some heavy enemy guns. Several enemy counter-attacks developed and were pressed with great determination. Some slight penetrations were made but were always thrown out. 2 officers and 18 other ranks of the Herman Goering Trg Regt surrendered to the Bn today after attack by PIATs. Wounded 10 other ranks.	Appx "O"

GHEEL	18 Sep		Bn relieved in the bridgehead by 2 A & SH and returned to GHEEL conc there by 1130 hrs. Owing to the failure of class 9 raft all Bn transport across the canal had to be left for 2 A & SH use. The past few days were the heaviest fighting the Bn has had since Aug days in the beach head, shelling being perhaps heavier than at any other time. Total casualties over the period, killed, wounded and missing were 7 officers 141 other ranks. Reorganisation, rest and maintenance were carried out in GHEEL. Orders were received for move to MOLL 1690 at 1730 hrs. This was later postponed until 1100 hrs 19 Sep.	Appx "P"
SLUIS	19 Sep		Orders for move to MOLL changed. Bn ordered to take over line of canal from incl canal junc 206960 to excl crossing 172951 and to stop any enemy penetration to SOUTH. Bn left GHEEL at 1100 hrs and was conc in FAA in area 180924 by 1145 hrs. By 1400 hrs the Bn less "A" Coy, one platoon "C" Coy and two sections carriers were conc in SLUIS 1893. "A" Coy was ordered to watch crossing at DONCK 1795. One platoon of "C" Coy was to guard class 40 bridge at 200928 and one section of carriers was to guard approaches at each bridge 208943 and 186946. Enemy positions were located in houses and wood at 186954 by a fighting patrol of "B" Coy but were not dislodged. Patrol withdrew to SLUIS.	Appx "Q"
SLUIS	20 Sep		"B" Coy cleared enemy from SOUTH side of CANAL at 186954 and were firmly established there by 1200 hrs. Very light shelling of SLUIS area at 2200 hrs. No damage. Orders received for move on 21 Sep to EINDHOVEN area. No other activity.	Appx "R" Appx "S"
RIETHOVEN	21 Sep		Bn conc in area SLUIS during morning in preparation for move. Due past SP at 1450 hrs. After considerable delay due to other traffic on route SP was eventually passed at 1600 hrs. Journey was very slow due to heavy traffic and by nightfall Bn had only reached area WESTERHOVEN 3706 and was ordered to harbour in REITHOVEN 3608 for the night.	Appx "T"
EINDHOVEN	22 Sep		Move to conc NW of EINDHOVEN continued and Bn concentrated in area 403225 by 1500 hrs. No contact with enemy throughout the day.	Appx "U"
BEST	23 Sep		Bn moved up to enlarge the bridgehead over the WILHELMINA CANAL in area of BEST 3726 to the NE. After slight enemy resistance our forward troops were established at Xrds 384279 and position was consolidated for the night. The larger plan of a push through to BOXTEL 3234 was not able to be achieved owing to enemy resistance.	Appx "V" Appx "W" Appx "X"
VLEUT	24 Sep		A further enlargement of the bridgehead to the NE took place today by coy gp actions. By nightfall the Bn had consolidated the	Appx "Y" Appx "Z"

			position in and around VLEUT 3828. In places stiff opposition was encountered.	
VLEUT	25 Sep		Bn remained in area VLEUT. Patrols were sent out all day to locate enemy positions in woods to NW. A Coy posn was located by a patrol from "D" Coy astride the track at 378292.	Appx "AA"
VLEUT	26 Sep		An adv up the track running NE from VLEUT was ordered. All enemy were to be cleared as far NORTH as 373298. The country was extremely close and only allowed the advance to be made with one company at a time. "B" Coy cleared the enemy from posn 378292. "A" Coy, "D" Coy and "C" Coy were then passed through. "A" Coy reached final objective by 1430 hrs against strong enemy MG fire. A considerable number of enemy snipers were active and the whole area was alive with Bosche which were very difficult to find owing to the nature of the country. At 1700 hrs a withdrawal was ordered and the Bn was ordered to concentrate in area EAST of DONDERDONK 3930 with a view to adv North on right flank of 227 Bde following day. Conc complete by 2000 hrs.	3929
DONDERDONK	27 Sep		The Bn was to attack and capture FRATERSHOEF 3832 during the day but owing to reports of strong enemy opposition from 6 KOSB this attack was put off until night and the objective reduced to the two groups of houses at 395323 and 393320. The attack went in at 2100 hrs with "D" Coy right and "C" Coy left preceded by a heavy artillery conc on the objective. By 2200 hrs the objective had been captured and consolidated, 53 prisoners being captured with killed 4 other ranks, and wounded 1 officer and 4 other ranks as casualties.	Appx "BB" Appx "CC"
DONDERDONK	28 Sep		Posn consolidated with "C" and "D" Coys as above and "A" Coy and "B" Coy at 398317 and 398320 respectively. Enemy snipers active. Our snipers accounted for three enemy. At 1700 hrs a sharp counter-attack was launched by the enemy mostly against 8 RS but "C" Coy was involved. Very heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy who asked for a truce from 1915 hrs to 2015 hrs to collect his wounded. This was granted. Uneventful night.	Appx "CC"
DONDERDONK	29 Sep		Little activity during the day. Spasmodic shelling by enemy.	
"	30 Sep		More patrols were carried out and some prisoners taken. At 1800 hrs very heavy enemy shelling began in area of "C" Coy which lasted until 1830 hrs. Small arms fire was also directed on to this coy locality. Some enemy came out into the open at this time and it was thought that a counter-attack was developing but heavy concs from our arty broke up whatever there was of it. A letter from Comd 2nd Army was issued during the month on conditions on entering Germany.	Appx "DD"  Appx "EE"

				I Mackenzie Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers
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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 6 RSF

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Oct 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
GEMERT	1944 1 Oct	2200	The Bn was relieved by Gordons at 2200 hrs. Relief accomplished without incident. Whole Div moved to rest area at GEMERT where the Bn was conc by 0200 hrs 2 Oct.	
"	2 Oct	0200	Day of rest and maintenance.	
"	3 Oct	0900	Bn was addressed at 0900 hrs by Div Comd and congratulated on fighting in the GHEEL brhead. Further maintenance carried out.	
"	4 Oct		Trg and maintenance. Div Comd addressed all officers in HELMOND. Div massed bands played outside the Castle.	
"	5 Oct		Trg	
"	6 Oct		Trg	
"	7 Oct		Orders received for move to area of MOOK in preparation for a future operation. This move was cancelled at 1700 hrs.	Appx "A"
"	8 Oct		Day of rest. All Coys attended Church Parade.	
"	9 Oct		Trg	
"	10 Oct		Trg	
"	11 Oct		Trg with assault boats and Kapok on moat at Castle at GEMERT	
"	12 Oct		Trg. Conferences and recces for Op SIRIUS. Recce parties left for area WEERT 5796.	
"	13 Oct		Trg. Conferences Op SIRIUS.	
"	14 Oct		Trg. Conferences Op SIRIUS.	
"	15 Oct		Rest day. Church parades. Recces Op SIRIUS.	
"	16 Oct		Trg. Conferences and recces Op SIRIUS. Op SIRIUS cancelled 2100 hrs.	
"	17 Oct		Trg. Recce parties from area WEERT return. Warning order for move to area HERTOGENBOSCH 3146.	
"	18 Oct		Move to area HERTOGENBOSCH cancelled.	
"	19 Oct		Trg.	
"	20 Oct		Trg. Leave parties to BRUSSELS.	
"	21 Oct		Trg. Recreation parties to EINDHOVEN.	
"	22 Oct		Rest. Church parades for all coys.	

"	23 Oct		Orders for move to area ODENRODE 4232. Preparation for this move.	
OIRSCHOT	24 Oct	1030 1400 1600 2000	The Bn left GEMERT at 1030 hrs after a rest of three weeks. A great deal of trg and maintenance had been carried out and the Bn left in very fine form. Orders were received for conc on Western exits of ST ODENRODE but before main bodies arrived further instrs were received for move on to VLEUT 3928 where the Bn was conc by 1400 hrs. At 1600 hrs orders were received to take over from one sqn 15 Recce Regt at OIRSEHOT 3125. Bn embussed on tks of 4 Gren Gds arrived OIRSCHOT 2000 hrs with "C" Coy guarding crossing at 309264. No enemy seen during the day.	
OIRSCHOT	25 Oct		Consolidation of OIRSCHOT while 46 Bde moved through to MOERGESTAL 2230.	
HILVARENBEEK	26 Oct	1200	Bn left OIRSCHOT for VINKENBERG 2229 in preparation for further move to HILVARENBEEK 1924 when br at 2027 was complete. Conc at VINKENBERG complete by 1200 hrs. Much delay caused by mines South of canal with result that Bn was not conc in area North of HILVARENBEEK until 2100 hrs.	Appx "B"
TILBURG	27 Oct	1100 1250 1500	Attack on SE outskirts of TILBURG 1632. Zero at 1100 hrs. All coys were on their objective by 1250 hrs with only two killed and four wounded incl Major MHC Hughes-Young OC "A" Coy wounded. Patrols reported no enemy South of rly running through town so whole of SE sector of town was occupied by 1500 hrs with 6 KOSB occupying SW sector. Tremendous reception by civilians who turned out in force it being impossible to move vehs along the streets at times owing to the crowds. Later 46 Bde occupied Northern part of town.	
TILBURG	28 Oct	1630 1830	Enemy completely withdrawn and Bn conc in coy areas. Rest and adm. Pipe band played in the town square at 1630 hrs where tremendous crowds had gathered. Cheering for the band was interspersed with shouts of derision as local quislings were marched through to the police station. Warning order for move at 0230 hrs 29 Oct received at 1830 hrs.	
TILBURG DEURNE " VOORDELDONK LEENSEL	29 Oct	0200 0600 1000 1500 1800	Harbour parties left TILBURG area for conc area DEURNE via EINDHOVEN - HELMOND. Bn arrived conc area and harboured. Bn moved to defence area one mile S of DEURNE. Began to dig in. Bn moved via ASTEN to conc area VOORDELDONK. Bn occupied def area near LEENSEL and remained overnight. Patrols out incl recce patrol to LIESEL which identified one enemy post in village. No enemy activity.	



LIESEL  HAZELDONK LIESEL	30 Oct	1700	<p>6 RSF supported by I tanks of G Gds attacked LIESEL. Enemy resistance, spandau posts and mortaring. All four rifle coys and carrier pl in occupation of part NORTH of main cross-rds. CO ordered consolidation of positions won before dark. Posns held overnight.</p> <p>Bn HQ moved to HAZELDONK, 8 RS taking over Bn HQ and original LEENSEL posn. Sniping and mortaring in village of LIESEL overnight but no posns lost. Enemy counter attack on village about 1700 hrs stopped by CO asking for VICTOR def fire shoot, most successful.</p>	
LIESEL	31 Oct	0830  1530	<p>All Bn posns in LIESEL intact. Seaforth Highlanders attacked through RSF along both sides of rd from NW to SE. Determined enemy resistance but village successfully cleared by mid-day. Hy shell and mortar fire from enemy on LIESEL after Seaforth attack had gone through, inflicting several casualties in Bn. Bn casualties during fighting in LIESEL 30/31 Oct were killed 3 ORs; wounded 27 ORs; missing 1 OR.</p> <p>RSF withdrawn from LIESEL. Moved by march route to occupy posns on SOUTH edge of large wood SW of LIESEL. Bn HQ to farmhouse posn WEST of wood. Quiet night.</p>	HWP Harrison, Major pp Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers

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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 6 RSF

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Nov 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
SLOT	1 Nov		Quiet morning. Troops rested and washed. CO held conference. Orders to move received in afternoon. Bn to SLOT before nightfall. Considerable enemy shelling in the late afternoon and night. CO gave orders out for next day's attack.	
MEITIEL  BROEK	2 Nov	1630	RSF with Glasgow Highlanders on right carried out first phase of advance of 44 Brigade down the road towards MEITIEL. No opposition and no casualties in this phase. Bn moved forward in rear of forward Bns, RS and KOSB who had advanced in face of some slight opposition. Bn occupied BROEK area overnight. Very heavy shelling and mortaring but only one casualty during the night.	Appx 'A'
BROEK	3 Nov		Bn remained in position BROEK area, being occasionally shelled. Local patrols sent out. CO gave orders for attack next day on villages SCHANS and HOF as part of the Brigade attack, but postponement order came through before orders finished. Fairly quiet night. Motor pool shelled. Some casualties.	
BROEK	4 Nov	1700	Bn remained in BROEK area making preparations for attack as above next day. CO held co-ordinating conference 1700 hrs. Fairly quiet night.	
MEIJEL	5 Nov	0745	B and D Coys crossed start line 0745 hrs with two troops tanks in support in first phase of Brigade attack on MEIJEL. Tanks struck minefield immediately and suffered heavy casualties from mines and anti tank guns. Two carriers of 6 RSF on wounded and evacuation duties also blown up. B and D Coys pressed forward attack without the tank support and reached near edge of objective, but suffered heavy casualties. Intense mortar, shell and MG fire. Took 20/30 prisoners. Brigade cancelled second phase of attack involving A, C, D Coys. B and D Coys remained in occupation of part of objective SCHANS throughout the day until orders received from Brigade that they might be withdrawn. Withdrawal successfully accomplished by CO. Bn harboured for	Appx 'B'

			night in and South of LIESEL less A Coy which remained under command KOSB for night. Bn temporarily under command 46 Brigade.	
ASTEN	6 Nov	1600	6 RSF moved into Div reserve taking up covering positions astride road ASTEN - MEIJEL relieving part of 227 Brigade. All sub units in position by 1600 hrs including A Coy released from KOSB. CO held conference at which special commendation of Div Commander for the SCHANS action was read. Maj HWP HARRISON joined the Bn on posting from 4/5th RSF and assumed appointment of 2 IC. Lieut TAK SAVAGE joined the Bn on posting from 33 RHU and assumed appointment of 2 IC Carrier Platoon.	Appx 'C'
ASTEN	7 Nov		Colonel in Chief of the Regiment Lord TRENCHARD visited the unit and met various officers and men at 'A' echelon and Bn HQ. CO lunched with him at Div HQ. Quiet day. No enemy contact.	
ASTEN	8 Nov		Quiet day. No contact.	
ASTEN	9 Nov		Quiet day. Three officers joined the Bn. T/Capt MACBETH ex R IR F attached "HQ" Coy T/Capt MURPHY ex R IR F posted to "D" Coy Lieut SULLIVAN ex R IR F posted to "S" Coy, 2 IC Anti Tank Contact patrols sent out to flanking units. Coys engaged in rest and adm and baths. Small parties sent in to entertainments at HELMOND.	
ASTEN	10 Nov	1100 1400	Quiet day. CO held conference of Coy Comds and QM at 1100 hrs to discuss re-organisation on a three Coy basis. It was decided to split up C Coy and to allot one platoon each to A, B, D Coys. G1098 stores of C Coy to be held by QM in readiness for a return to four Coys when authorised. Demonstration. At 1400 hrs Coy Comds and Specialist Comds attended a demonstration of LVT 2's and LVT 4's at Div.	
ASTEN	11 Nov		Quiet day. Four officers and 44 other ranks joined the Bn. They were posted as follows:- WS/Lieut WL TAIT "A" Coy 2/Lt SW TATNELL "A" Coy WS/Lieut CJ GERRARD "B" Coy WS/Lieut JM WILLIAMSON "D" Coy 22 other ranks to "B" Coy, 14 other ranks to "D" Coy. The remaining 8 as specialists or batmen.	
ASTEN	12 Nov		Quiet day. Maj HWP HARRISON represented the CO at a conference of COs at Bde HQ to discuss tank co-operation and intercomm with infantry.	
ASTEN	13 Nov	1800 1400	Bn relieved by 10 HLI and moved to ASTEN for 48 hr rest period. Relief completed without incident by 1800 hrs. Maj HWP HARRISON representing CO attended conference at Bde 1400 hrs.	
ASTEN	14 Nov		Bn resting. Baths, washing and general administration.	

		<p>The Bn was visited by Maj Gen CM BARBER DSO Div Comd who praised the Bn for its work in the recent fighting. He personally visited all Coy areas and spoke to many of the Fusiliers. In the absence of the CO Maj HARRISON attended a conference at Bde outlining the coming ops.</p> <p>Bn received instructions to relieve the 6 KOSB at NEERKANT.</p>	Appx 'D'
NEERKANT	15 Nov	<p>The Bn was visited by Lt Gen O'CONNOR the Corps Comd who visited Bn HQ, 'A' and 'D' Coys.</p> <p>In the afternoon the Bn took over from 6 KOSB at NEERKANT. Instructions were received to occupy HOF with one coy. This task was successfully carried out by 'B' Coy. No enemy were encountered.</p> <p>The CO of the Bn, Lt Col I MACKENZIE returned to the Bn from 48 hrs leave in Brussels.</p> <p>Maj HM GOW left the Bn to establish 44(L) Inf Bde Tactical School at HELMOND.</p> <p>Maj GOW assumed the appointment of Commandant of the School and Lieuts MACLACHLAN and LOGAN also left to act as instructors. Maj HL MACKINNON assumed command of 'D' Coy in the temporary absence of Maj HM GOW.</p>	Appx 'E'
HOF	16 Nov	<p>'D' Coy took over SCHANS from 8 RS.</p> <p>'A' Coy occupied the SE corner of the WOOD at the EAST of HOF. The Carrier Pl reced an area in the NE corner of the WOODS. Bn HQ moved to HOF. The Pnr Pl did excellent work in mine clearance. The WOOD area was found to be extensively mined and SCHUMINES were much in evidence. During the night 16/17 Nov there was some enemy shelling but no casualties were sustained.</p>	
HOF	17 Nov	<p>Two standing patrols were sent out to the DEURNE CANAL BANK at first light. One from 'D' Coy was driven in by spandau fire from the canal banks.</p> <p>One from 'A' Coy was successful in establishing itself unobserved about 100 yards from the bank and remained there maintaining observation of the canal.</p> <p>A patrol of snipers under Sjt PERRY worked up the canal but was unable to observe beyond the canal owing to the trees and shrub.</p>	
HOF	18 Nov	<p>'A' Coy standing patrol was maintained during the night and reps from CROCODILE and FLAIL tank units and the REs were escorted by a protective patrol from the Bn to recce the CANAL BANK. The bank was found to be thickly mined with A/P mines, nevertheless the recce was completed, but unfortunately Sgt BARNES of the Westminster Dragoons who was the flail tank rep was killed by a 'S' mine.</p>	

			<p>A sniper OP maintained observation on the CANAL bank and beyond from the roof of a house.</p> <p>The Bn snipers again reached the canal bank, claimed two enemy killed and two wounded. Two snipers were slightly wounded by an 'S' mine. The REs reported that they had cleared over 500 Schumines and 100 tellermines from the area of the wood.</p>	
HOF	19 Nov		<p>'A' Coy standing patrol reported no activity during the night 18/19 Nov. The CO received orders for a crossing of the CANAL the following day, the task of the Bn being to drive NORTH and clear the enemy from the HELENAVEEN bridge to allow 46 (H) Bde to cross there. The Bn was under comd of 46 (H) Bde for this operation. Two pioneers were wounded by an 'S' mine. Capt IA MUNRO the IO was wounded by an 'S' mine and was evacuated.</p>	<p>Appx 'F'</p> <p>Appx 'G'</p>
	20 Nov	1400	<p>Bn under comd of 46 (H) Bde prepared to move over the CANALS East of MEIJEL with the task of turning North and clearing to HELENAVEEN thereby enabling 46 Bde to cross and push on to SEVENUM.</p> <p>Bn moved off at 1400 hrs. Order of march 'B' Coy, Adv Bn HQ, Carrier Pl, Pnr Pl, 'A' Coy, MO, Mor Pl, 'D' Coy, Rear Bn HQ. By dusk the Bn had established itself on the road running North from BERINGEN to HELENAVEEN.</p> <p>'A' Coy which had pushed on through 'B' Coy met some resistance at the North end of the Wood to the East of the Canal and it was decided to stay put until dawn when patrols were to push into HELENAVEEN. 'A' Coy carrier blew up on a mine the driver being unfortunately killed.</p> <p>Rear Bn HQ moved up and formed Adv Bn HQ about one mile North of HELENAVEEN.</p>	
GRASHOEK	21 Nov		<p>The night 20/21 was uneventful except for the loss of 'A' Coy jeep on a mine, and at dawn the patrols found HELENAVEEN unoccupied. Bn HQ moved up to GRASHOEK and the three rifle coys established themselves West of the Wood whilst 46 and 227 Bdes pushed on to SEVENUM now reported by civilians clear of enemy. About 300 refugees passed through the Bn lines and were evacuated through BERINGEN.</p>	
GRASHOEK	22 Nov		<p>Quiet day. Bn still under comd 46 (H) Bde.</p>	
GRASHOEK	23 Nov		<p>Quiet day. Bn reverted to 44 (L) Bde. Troops resting.</p>	
GRASHOEK	24 Nov		<p>Quiet day. Troops resting.</p>	
GRASHOEK	25 Nov		<p>Quiet day. Troops resting.</p>	
GRASHOEK	26 Nov		<p>Brigadier COCKBURN MBE called to say goodbye on handing over comd to Brigadier The Hon HCHT Cumming Bruce DSO.</p>	

GRASHOEK	27 Nov		<p>Quiet day. Coys had baths. 2" Mor practice shooting was carried out. A proportion of men were sent in to entertainments. 'B' Coy supplied 50 men to assist the RES.</p> <p>Maj HARRISON 2 IC attended Welfare Conference at Rear Div HQ.</p> <p>Maj AND HUNTER MC joined the Bn and assumed comd of 'A' Coy.</p>	
GRASHOEK	28 Nov		<p>The Bde Comd, Brigadier HCHT CUMMING BRUCE DSO arrived at Bn HQ and held a conference of the three Bn COs ref pending operations. Coys continued training on 2" Mor and rifle and Bren shooting.</p>	
GRASHOEK	29 Nov		<p>CO attended planning conference at Bde ref forthcoming operations. A list of awards was announced as follows:-</p> <p><u>DSO</u> Lt Col I Mackenzie CO MAJ AMM BUCHER '</p> <p><u>MC</u> Capt IA MUNRO IO</p> <p><u>DCM</u> Fus J MURRAY ex 'S' Coy</p> <p><u>MM</u> Sjt G BANNERMAN ex 'A' Coy</p> <p>L/Sjt A CURRAN 'D' Coy</p> <p>A/Sjt W BEAGAN 'A' Coy</p> <p>Cpl J McCARTHY 'A' Coy</p> <p>Cpl F MCHUGH 'D' Coy</p> <p>A/Cpl R GARDINER ex 'B' Coy</p> <p>Fus T THOMSON ex 'C' Coy</p>	
GRASHOEK	30 Nov	<p>0930</p> <p>1130</p> <p>1430</p>	<p>CO held conference of Coy Comds KANGAROO Comd, MTO and QM at 0930 hrs. He outlined the operation under consideration.</p> <p>At 1130 hrs the CO and 2 IC went to Bde HQ to meet Lieut Gen O'CONNOR who was visiting Bde to say goodbye on relinquishing comd of 8 Corps.</p> <p>At 1430 hrs CO, 2IC, Adjut and Coy Comds attended cloth model at Bde HQ whilst Bde Comd outlined his plans for op.</p>	<p>I Mackenzie Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers</p>

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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Unit 6th Bn The Royal Scots Fusiliers

Month and Year December 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
MEIJEL	1 Dec		All offrs, WO's and NCOs down to pl Sjt attended briefing conferences by Commanding Officer.	
"	2 Dec		Quiet day. Training with KANGAROOS.	
BLERICK	3 Dec	0600 0730 1015 1800	Bn coln moved off at 0600 hrs. Bn was transported in KANGAROOS (RAM tank chassis with no turret) as armoured transporters. Flail tanks, flame throwing tanks (CROCODILES) and bridging tanks moved up to the A Tk ditch surrounding BLERICK by 0730 hrs. At 1015 hrs Bn received word to advance and cross A Tk ditch. Most KANGAROOS were bogged but the Bn reached the town and occupied their sectors. 28 prisoners were taken. Bn casualties were one killed and eight wounded. "F" Echelon under 2 IC and MTO moved up at 1800 hrs.	
"	4 Dec		Bn improved positions after fairly quiet night with intermittent shelling. Another 22 prisoners came in.	
"	5 Dec		Bn improved positions and checked area. There was some periodical shelling by the enemy. Some of it from heavy guns. No casualties. Awards as follows were announced. MC - Major HM Gow MC - Major MHC Hughes-Young MM - Cpl A Davison MM - L/Cpl F Bell MM - Fus J Earnshaw Gen Ritchie, Comd 12 Corps, accompanied by the Div Comd and Bde Comd called at Bn HQ at 1030 hrs. At about 2200 hrs "B" Coy called up to say a civilian had swam the MAAS and was at their HQ. He was sent to Bn HQ and interviewed by Lieut Baymaker the Dutch LO from Bde. He gave much interesting information and stated that about 400 German troops had refused to patrol the river banks and had been taken away in consequence.	

BLERICK	6 Dec		Periodic shelling by enemy. No casualties. Coys occupied with improvement of positions and areas.	
"	7 Dec	2205 2000	Day opened with a heavy attack by the enemy on Bn HQ area. No casualties. Very little shelling during day. Bde Comd called in during morning. Plans were made to shoot up enemy bank with 3" mortar, smoke and HE, also flares in order to tempt him to disclose himself. Shoot was made at 2205 hrs. Several hits were made across the water with the PIAT. About 2000 hrs another Dutchman came in having swam the MAAS from VENLO. He did not have so much information as the previous man on the 5th.	
"	8 Dec		CO went to Div to lunch with Div Comd. Spasmodic shelling by the enemy was reported at scattered parts. No casualties. 53 reinforcements who had joined the Bn the previous day were posted to Coys. The A Tk pl carried out a very successful shoot against the suspected enemy OP at the top of a factory tower on the opposite bank. Twenty three AP and HE hits were recorded out of twenty-four shots fired. A recce patrol went down to the river bank at dusk and pinpointed three enemy positions.	
"	9 Dec	2100	Reasonably quiet day. Bde Comd called. CO returned from Div. Coys improved positions. At about 2100 hrs flares were put up from "A" Coy area and three PIATs were fired at a battery at the factory over the river. 3" mortars supported with HE and smoke.	
"	10 Dec		CO inspected Coy areas and pl posts. Div Comd called at Bn HQ and went forward to "A" Coy OP overlooking river MAAS and VENLO. Big increase in shelling and mortaring of Bn area. No casualties reported.	
BLERICK	11 Dec		Quiet day	
"	12 Dec		Little to report. Quiet day. A Tk guns of Bn and 3" mortars carried out offensive shoots across the MAAS.	
"	13 Dec		The CO, Lt Col I Mackenzie DSO Maj HM Gow MC L/Sjt P Rees DCM L/Sjt A Curran MM Sjt W Beagan MM Cpl J McCarthy MM Cpl F Bell MM	



		<p>The above mentioned attended an investiture held by Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery KCB DSO at ZOMEREN. After the ceremony the C-in-C addressed the recipients and spectators. He then addressed the senior officers of the Div down to 2ICs of the Bns.</p> <p>In the Bn area there was an increase in mortaring and shelling, two hits being recorded on the Bn OP in "A" Coy. "A" Coy area generally came in for a good deal of mortaring and 88 shelling. There were no casualties. A tk guns and mortars of the Bn continued their aggressive policy and took on a number of targets across the MAAS.</p>	
"	14 Dec	<p>Lt Gen GH Barker DSO the new Corps Comd visited Bn HQ accompanied by the Bde Comd. He visited "A" Coy OP and studied the enemy side of the Maas. He also fired a specially laid 6 pdr A Tk gun and registered a hit on BRODIES TOWER across the MAAS. The CO fired a captured 75 mm gun and it was estimated to be the first shot actually fired into Germany by this Bn. Range about 7000 yards.</p> <p>During the night three civilians swam the river MAAS from VENLO. They were all youngsters and had stripped and then greased themselves beforehand. Shelling and mortaring of the area was quite heavy but no casualties were sustained. Offensive shooting was carried out with all Bn weapons.</p>	
"	15 Dec	<p>Enemy mortar and shell fire fell in the Bn area at intervals during the day. No casualties were sustained although two 88 shells struck the Mortar Pl HQ. Coys spent the day in improving their positions.</p>	
"	16 Dec	<p>Quiet day. Less shelling. Bde Comd called. Capt GC TURNER rejoined Bn after having been away wounded since June 29th. Capt KJ BURNETT rejoined Bn after having been away wounded since 8 Sep 44. Bde IO IAN ROBERTSON R. Scots arrived to spend night at Bn HQ.</p>	
"	17 Dec	<p>During the night 16/17 there were several bouts of enemy shelling. An enemy aircraft was also heard overhead and some bombs were dropped, but not in the area of the town. The CO and 2 IC attended a conference at Bde. Arrangements were completed for relief by 8 RS. Offensive action by fire from all weapons was carried out on enemy positions across the MAAS in VENLO.</p>	
MAASBREE	18 Dec	<p>Battalion was relieved from BLERICK by 8 RS. Relief was carried out at last light without incident or casualties. Relief completed and Bn installed in new area by 2200 hrs.</p>	

"	19 Dec		CO inspected new drafts from Green Howards and Royal Irish Fusiliers. Admin by Coys. 2 IC left with Bde party to recce probable rest area.	
"	20 Dec		Re-organisation of fourth company was completed, thus putting Bn back on a fourth Company basis. "B" Ech moved to Bn Area at MAASBREE - ROOTH.	
"	21 Dec		CO made recce for counter-attack role for a company held at short notice. "A" Coy moved out to a fwd location for the night.	
"	22 Dec		Quiet day. Bn in reserve and resting.	
"	23 Dec		-do-	
"	24 Dec		-do-	
MAASBREE	25 Dec		"A" "B" and "S" Coys held Xmas dinners in a barn. They were a great success. Xmas fare was plentiful. CO visited all dinners.	
"	26 Dec		"C" "D" and "HQ" Coys held Xmas dinners. Bde Comd and CO visited dinners. Div Comd called with seasons greetings.	
"	27 Dec		Recces carried out for relief of 8 RS.	
	28 Dec		Relief of 8 RS carried out without incident.	
	29 Dec		Quiet day. Coys settling in and improving positions.	
	30 Dec		Quiet day. Coys settling in and improving positions.	I Mackenzie Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers

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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 6 RSF

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Jan 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Anna Hoeve	1		The New Year started with a bang for the Bosche, the Bn firing everything they had for the first 30 mins after midnight. Daylight found the Bn standing to as patrols were expected to cross the river on our right. About 0930 hrs enemy fighter aircraft in considerable strength flew over our lines and bombed SEVENUM among other places. They were engaged by our fighters and gd tps and three were shot down (none by the Bn).	
"	2		Normal routine in the line was carried out. The weather was dull and cold. OPs were manned along the front by day and listening posts right on the river bank by night.	
"	3		Normal activity throughout the day. At night assistance was given to two agents who were put across the river in a rubber boat. It was an ideal night for the job which was successfully accomplished.	
"	4		The Mortar Pl was concentrated in the area of B Coy and registered all its old targets once again for a battery shoot. Observation of the front was kept up throughout the day and very little enemy movement was reported.	
"	5		During the day S Coy moved to Hoeve Rosa and took up its HQ there. The Bn was visited by Phillip Stalker, war correspondent of the Scotsman. In the morning he visited B Coy and the Mortars with the CO, and after lunching at Bn HQ he was taken by the 2 IC and the IO to see C and A Coys. Finally he was taken to the Int OP where he witnessed a shoot on a farm some 600 yds inside the enemy lines. He was delighted with all he saw and duly "wrote up" the Bn on his return to Scotland. The GIII Camouflage from Corps visited the Bn and professed himself to be very satisfied with camouflage in the Bn area, particularly screens which had been constructed by B Coy.	
"	6		Normal routine throughout the day. The Div Comd visited the Bn and had a look at the front from various places.	

"	7		The weather was very poor, but despite that, the Bn began to make preparations for its relief the next day by the 6 KOSB, advance parties of which arrived in the area in the afternoon. O Gp met at 1800 hrs.	
"	8		The Bn was relieved in the line by 6 KOSB and the relief was completed by 2000 hrs. Bn HQ moved to ROOTH with coys at SEVENUM, ROOTH, MAASBREE, WIELDER and OPDENHOUT. HQ Coy and A and B Ech did not move. The 6th Indep Dutch Coy came u/c the Bn.	
ROOTH	9		The day was spent resting and re-organising. A large programme of entertainments had been organised for the troops and many availed themselves of the opportunity.	
	10		Still resting. Major Boyle GSOII 8 Corps visited the Bn.	
	11		The Bn was still resting, but preparations were begun for the move back up the line to BLERICK.	
BLERICK	12		Advance parties moved off to BLERICK in the morning and the remainder of the Bn followed in the evening and relieved the 8 RS there by 2000 hrs. 6 Ind Dutch Coy reverted to comd of 8 RS and B Sqn 15 Recce Regt came u/c of the Bn. It was a very quiet take over and no difficulties were experienced.	
"	13		A very busy day spent settling in. Two photographers from 2nd Army came round and took photos of the whole front, particularly the bridge area. Intermittent shelling throughout the day. Bn snipers were active throughout the day.	
"	14		Normal line routine was carried out. The 2 IC went off on a recce of rest areas in BELGIUM. Offensive shoots were carried out against the Bosche, but drew very little fire back from him. Bn snipers were very active.	
"	15		C Sqn 15 Recce Regt relieved B Sqn already under comd. The Bn was visited by the Brigadier, and later by OC 2 Gordons whose Bn was going to relieve on this front.	
"	16		Harbour parties left to join 2 IC in GRAMMONT. The GII 15 (S) Div visited the Bn in the afternoon. Normal routine continued. Enemy shelling was intermittent.	
"	17		Advance recce parties from 2 Gordons visited the Bn area. They were accompanied by RAF officers who had taken part in the bombing of VENLO bridge. The latter were shown their handywork by the I Sjt from a forward OP. The GI 15 (S) Div, Commander 44 Bde and the GOC 8 Corps paid an unexpected visit in the afternoon and toured the forward positions looking out at VENLO from a fwd OP. The GOC expressed satisfaction with everything he saw.	
"	18		A very quiet day and normal routine was carried out.	

"	19	Advance parties of 2 Gordons arrived during the day and were shown round the area. The Bn prepared for its relief on the morrow and O Gp met at 1730 hrs. A formal farewell was taken of the Bosche at 2200 hrs, the Bn firing everything it had, including captured 75 mm guns. Unfortunately shortage of amm prevented the gunners from joining in. The enemy suffered in silence.	
"	20	The day was spent in handing over, and the Bn finally moved out to an area South of BOKEND. The handover to 2 Gordons was completed about 2000 hrs.	
"	21	The Bn moved in TCVs commencing at 0700 hrs to the area of GRAMMONT, BELGIUM which was reached at 1800 hrs. Bn HQ and HQ Coy were located at IDIGEM with coys in all the neighbouring villages. The track vehicles did not accompany the Bn and remained in ASTON under comd of Capt Brodie. A tremendous ovation was given to the Bn on its arrival in this area. All ranks were housed in private billets.	
IDIGEM	22	The day was spent settling in and reorganising. Orders were received at 2000 hrs for advance parties to move to HERENTALS at first light next day. Parties were collected with difficulty and spent a very uncomfortable night in Bn HQ.	
"	23	Resting continued. Adv parties moved off at 0700 hrs.	
"	24	Resting continued.	
"	25	The CO held an O Gp at 1400 hrs and gave out orders for the next day's move, the timings of which were still on an H hour basis. The tracked vehs u/c Capt Brodie moved to TILBURG to join the adv party under the 2 IC.	
TILBURG	26	The Bn moved off at 1600 hrs to TILBURG and arrived there after a very cold journey at 0100 hrs. All ranks were once again billeted out in private billets.	
"	27	Tuesday was spent settling in to new location.	
"	28	Reorganisation continued and trg was commenced.	
"	29	Gen trg	
"	30	Gen trg. The CO went to a conference convened by Corps Comd and learned the outline plan for op VERITABLE.	
"	31	Gen trg for rifle coys. Serious planning for the new op VERITABLE was commenced.	I Mackenzie Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers

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**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 6 RSF

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year February 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG	1		Planning for operation VERITABLE was carried on with IO very busy making up aerial photos. Coys continued normal trg on assault lines ie trg with flails, AVREs, crocodiles.	
"	2		Coys continued their specialised assault trg. The CO briefed Coy Comds to the effect that the Bn would take part in a major operation in the near future. The Sjts held a very successful dance which was attended by all offr. s.	Appx 'J' No4
"	3		Further trg as above. The CO briefed all offr. s to the effect that the Bn would take part in a future operation.	
"	4		In the morning the Comd 30 Corps put all offr. s of the Div in the big picture, followed in afternoon by Brigadier giving his outline plan on cloth model - down to and incl Coy Comds. Recce party to Nijmegen.	
"	5		Lt Col Mackenzie DSO went on UK leave. Maj Harrison assumed comd with Maj HM Gow MC as 2 IC. Bn outline plan given out down to pl sjts and all supporting arms.	Appx E No1 Appx G No1
NIJMEGEN	6		Occupied in packing up for move. Bn moved by MT to Nijmegen at 1600 hrs and arrived shambolically at 0200 hrs.	Appx J No1
NIJMEGEN	7		Final check up of plans. 2 IC received orders for move of the Bn on the commencement of op VERITABLE. CO and IO attended final tying up of Bde plan at 1700 hrs, followed by final Bn conference.	Appx J No7
"	8		Op VERITABLE commenced at 1030 hrs. CO, IO and Capt Sullivan went fwd with Bde "R" Gp to follow the battle and watched 46 Bde attack up to FRASSELT. Remainder of Bn stood by all day, ready to move, and finally did so at 2100 hrs. Good weather conditions which had prevailed by day deteriorated at night and the Bn spent a miserable night in kangaroos.	
NUTTERDEN	9		Roads by this time were almost impassable and many vehicles were bogged. The Brigadier decided to push the 6 KOSB ahead on to our	

		<p>objective as it was impossible to pass the Bn through them. Two coys were finally moved up on kangaroos, and two pls, Bn HQ on foot and occupied WOLFSBERG without opposition. Some PWs were taken incl one offr. Later on the same day "C" Coy took over HINKSBERG after the KOSB had moved towards MATERBORN. This was the Bn's first view of the Siegfried Line. Considerable enemy harassing fire and some air activity were encountered.</p>	
CLEEVERBERG	10	<p>At about 1300 hrs the CO got orders to clear wooded area NW of CLEEVE. At 1645 hrs Maj ADN Hunter MC with u/c one FOO, the Carrier Pl and one det of A Tk guns and the Bn Wasps were despatched to take the CLEEVERBERG feature as a firm base for the rest of the operation. The Bn moved off at 1900 hrs in the order D, C, Tac HQ, B, A Coys followed by elements of S Coy. On arrival at the CLEEVERBERG feature the CO found that it had been successfully cleared against considerable opposition, flame throwers having proved invaluable. D and C Coys were not to be found, but they finally arrived on their objective against only minor opposition. A and B Coys then walked on to their objective without any opposition. Bn HQ was established in the cellar of a beerhouse at KLEEVERBERG. The Bn unfortunately received a number of casualties in the operation, Maj ADN Hunter MC receiving wounds whilst leading the assault on CLEEVERBERG, from which he subsequently died. D Coy suffered some casualties from a clash with an enemy outpost. Approx 7 PW were taken.</p>	
CLEEVERBERG	11	<p>At first light the CLEEVERBERG feature held by the Carrier Pl was counterattacked in about coy strength. The enemy was halted by the use of the A Tk Pl dismounted, as a reserve, and finally put up the flag on the arrival of 2 tps of tanks (No 1 Sqn 4 Gren Gds). 1 officer and 35 other ranks were taken prisoner. In the course of the night and first light coys had exploited to the edge of the wood overlooking CLEEVE, D Coy meeting stiff opposition from their left flank. A Coy suffered some casualties from our own arty. Lieut Tatnell and six ORs being wounded. 227 Bde clearing the woods to the West of our posns flushed some Germans across our left flank and afforded D Coy an excellent shoot. 8 RS and 6 KOSB moved through into CLEEVE with two of our coys under command (B &amp; C) which the CO visited when in posn that night.</p>	
CLEEVE	12	<p>CLEEVE was now reported clear and the rest of the Bn having been relieved by the Regina Rifles moved up into billets to the West side of the town, and proceeded to rest.</p>	

"	13		The Bn was under short notice to move under 53 Div to the Reichswald Forest area but this move did not materialise.	
"	14		Still resting in CLEEVE. Warned that a move towards GOCH under 43 Div might come off. Considerable enemy aerial activity was experienced but no casualties were sustained.	
"	15		Future plans still uncertain and Bn still resting, retaining our excellent billets against strong opposition.	
"	16		Reverted to comd 15 (S) Div and warned for possible operation against GOCH.	
"	17		In the afternoon orders were received for the assault on GOCH by 44 Bde. CO outlined plans to Coy Comds.	Appx E No2
SE of CLEEVE	18		O Group met at 1000 hrs and Bn moved off to FAA at 1100 hrs. CO and O Group went forward to Tac Bde HQ. It was thought that there might be no enemy in GOCH and accordingly one Coy of 8 RS was sent down Carter route as a recce in force. When this met with considerable opposition the Brigadier decided to put in original attack with a modified fire plan to fit in with 51 Div attack on the right. For this operation 6 RSF were in reserve and moved off at 1730 hrs. As the opposition encountered by 8 RS was stiffer than anticipated, it was impossible to pass 6 RSF through, and they were finally halted in line of march in the order C, B, Tac HQ, A and D Coys with the leading Coy on the start line. The night of 18/19 was spent in this way.	
GOCH	19		At 0700 hrs the Bn moved along the southern route into GOCH with orders to secure the river line in the middle of GOCH. Soon after moving off the Bn came under intense shell and mortar fire from the area south of the R. Liers. Maj Harrison, acting CO, was among numerous casualties (nasty wound in the arm). The IO established Bn HQ about five hundred yards from the centre tank ditch covering GOCH, and Maj HM Gow MC came up from Rear Bn HQ to take over command. Meanwhile C and B Coys were reported by the FOO to be nearing their objective (Bn wireless communication had broken down at this period) and No 1 Sqn 4 Gren Gds did good work in keeping the left flank quiet. The CO and the IO then went up with D Coy and found the other three coys consolidating on their objectives, having met only moderate opposition from small arms, though still under heavy shell and mortar fire. Bn HQ was moved up to the area two hundred yards East of rly line in GOCH and the remainder of the day was spent in mopping up in the immediate area of Coy objectives. A night patrol of Phantoms under Sjt Rees reported enemy pockets still in the area between ourselves and 6 KOSB. The Bn continued to sustain fairly heavy casualties which	



		included Maj HL Mackinnon wounded and Lieut Coote wounded but remaining at duty (in command of C Coy). It is interesting to note that physical contact was established with 51 (Highland) Div on a partially blown bridge across the river.	
GOCH	20	Coys were allotted areas for mopping up, and B Coy in whose area Sjt Rees had reported enemy the previous night, had u/c one troop of 1 Sqn 4 Gren Gds. No one of the coys found any enemy though B Coy found signs of recent occupation where the patrol had indicated. Though all enemy were cleared on our side of the river, he appeared still to have observation from the SE end of GOCH which 51 Div had not yet cleared, and there was still sporadic SA fire from this area and the shelling and mortaring was still at times heavy. A few more casualties were sustained incl Lieut Readwin our LO from Bde who was wounded while bringing a marked map to the Bn. Lt Col Mackenzie DSO returned late in the evening and reassumed command.	
"	21	Bn HQ was moved to a more spacious cellar in the early a.m. Orders were received by the CO while on the way to meet the Corps Comd that the Bn would be relieved immediately by 2 Mons and would come u/c 227 Bde for an operation that night. The CO reported to HQ 227 Bde for orders and then proceeded on a recce with Brig Colville, sending the IO back to arrange "O" Group and the moving of the Bn. "O" Group met at 1530 hrs and the Bn moved by Coys to an FAA by 1630 hrs. The Bn objective was a bridge 800 yards south of the Schloss KOLBECK and the task of the Bn was to rush the bridge and form a bridgehead on the south side as a start line for future operations by 46 Bde. H hour was 2000 hrs. A Coy, first in the order of march, successfully rushed the bridge without encountering much opposition, but attempts by the other three Coys to extend the bridgehead met with fierce opposition both from SA and mortars. It was eventually decided that coys should dig in where they were and extend the bridgehead at first light with the assistance of tanks. Enemy shelling became intense during the night: some of this seemed to be at short range from SP guns - this was confirmed by the fact that one WASP was knocked out by an SP gun (another WASP was lost on a mine). Casualties were considerable, both from shelling and SA.	
Woods South of SCHLOSS CALBECK	22	At approx 0600 hrs the CO held an O Gp of Rifle Coy Comds plus comd of a Sqn of 4 Coldstream Gds and tp comd of SP Anti Tank guns. It was decided to enlarge the bridgehead first to the right with B Coy supported by one tp of tanks. An enemy counter attack came in on B Coy while the Coy Comd was giving out his orders and	

		<p>"O" Group suffered casualties of two pl comds wounded (one being Lieut VE BOX) and CSM Barlow killed. The tp of tanks unaware that orders had not reached the men, for 15 mins engaged some houses on the right flank and on finding that they had covering infantry withdrew. Just after news of the situation had been received by the CO, Brigadier Colville came up to Tac HQ and gave orders that the bridge was to be held at all costs and that he did not expect the Bn to extend it further. He also promised that 46 Bde would come through later in the day on a revised plan. Coys then dug in where they were with the tanks within the perimeter of the bridgehead in support. 46 Bde passed through at 1400 hrs and captured and consolidated our Bn objective against fairly heavy opposition. The Bn were relieved at 1800 hrs by the reserve Bn of 46 Bde reverting to comd 44 Bde at present in reserve. Shelling and mortaring during the day was as heavy as any encountered since GHEEL and casualties were considerable and included Lieut TAK Savage wounded.</p> <p>Maj ADLER, Maj BOCKENHAM, Lieut BINGE joined the Bn as rfts and remained at "A" Ech.</p>	
"	23	<p>44 Bde attacked through 46 Bde and the Bn was in reserve for this operation but under notice that it might have to find up to three coys (B Coy being too weak to be available) to take over ground taken by 8 RS and 6 KOSB. In the course of the day A Coy went u/c 8 RS at 1100 hrs, followed by D Coy at 1400 hrs, their moves being coordinated by the 2 IC.</p> <p>C Coy went u/c of 6 KOSB at 1800 hrs. Shelling and mortaring was still heavy in the forward areas and all the above Coys had a very unpleasant approach march and a few more casualties were suffered.</p>	Appx E No3
"	24	<p>A, C and D Coys still u/c 8 RS and 6 KOSB. Bde received a warning order that it was coming out for a rest and harbour parties left under 2 IC at 1800 hrs for TILBURG.</p>	
"	25	<p>A C and D Coys spent another uncomfortable day as above and the whole Bde was relieved by 9 Bde of 3 (Brit) Div by midnight. Coys on relief moved to conc area in the neighbourhood of Bn HQ.</p>	
VUGHT	26	<p>Bn moved off at 1800 hrs in TCVs bound for TILBURG. It was stopped just South of S'HERTOGENBOSCH by the advance party with the news that their billets which were to have been in VUGHT had received two direct hits from V1's. Accommodation for the night was found in the Monastery at STARRENDAL and harbour parties went on to TURNHOUT.</p>	Appx E No4 and 6

TURNHOUT	27		Bn moved off again at 1000 hrs for TURNHOUT and were met there by the advance party at 1230 hrs. Practically the whole Bn was housed in civvy billets.	
"	28		This day was spent in settling in and administration. The CO held a conference of all officers and WOs and gave new Bn order of battle.	I Mackenzie Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers

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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 6 RSF

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Mar 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG	1		Bn trg in the morning including a drill parade. Recreation in the afternoon.	
	2		Same programme as previous day. The Bn is sending large number on 48 hrs leave to BRUSSELS.	
	3		RSM's parade, which was a rehearsal for the GOC's visit to the Bn. Still large numbers in BRUSSELS.	
	4		Church Parade Bde HQ in the morning. In the afternoon the CO, 2 IC, MO and a representative party under comd of Lieut Binge attended a Div Memorial Service in TILBURG. Massed Pipe Bands of the Div beat Retreat after the Service.	
	5		GOC inspected the Bn. He thanked all ranks for their excellent performance in recent fighting. Harbour parties under 2 IC left for HERCK LA VILLE (South of DIEST). An officers' dance was held at Bde HQ.	
HERCK LA VILLE	6		Bn moved in TCVs to HERCK LA VILLE.	
	7		Coys at Coy Comds disposal for settling in and adm. CO went on 48 hrs leave to BRUSSELS. 2 IC attended a conference at Bde and received outline plans for rehearsals for a large river crossing operation, also an indication of the Order of Battle for the RHINE crossing.	
	8		2 IC saw RE Fd Coy Comd regarding mock-ups (Class 9 Rafts) for practising drivers. Bn employed in testing and zeroing weapons.	
	9		A Buffalo arrived in Bn area. Coys still mainly occupied in zeroing. CO returned from BRUSSELS.	
	10		Coys allotted periods for practising getting on and off Buffalos. MT and Sp Coy practised driving on and off the Buffalo. The Bn held a trial football match in order to pick a team to play the 6 KOSB. CO outlined coming events to Coy Comds.	
	11		I Sec busy with maps for coming exercises. Church Service held in Convent, where B and C Coys were billeted.	

	12		MT loading trials were held by 2 IC with a view to crossing a large river with limited MT. C Coy held a dance in a neighbouring village.	
	13		The day was mainly spent in briefing on all levels for coming exercise to cross the MEUSE from West to East just South of MALSZYCH.	
	14		Bn left in TCVs for assembly area at 0700 hrs. Order of Battle for crossing was 44 (L) Inf Bde Right, 227 Bde Left. Within the Bde, 6 RSF Right, 8 RS Left, 6 KOSB in reserve. The two assaulting Bns crossed in Buffalos. The reserve Bn in storm boats. The exercise went well and many useful lessons were learnt. Unfortunately the CO's Buffalo broke down and he never got across the river. The Bn was back in billets by 1930 hrs.	
	15		The Bn left in TCVs at 1500 hrs to repeat the above exercise by night. Again the CO's Buffalo broke down, but a duplicate 22 Set reached the far bank and made communications possible. The Bn was back in billets by 1000 hrs.	
	16		The Bn was mainly occupied in resting and cleaning up. Maps and photographs for the RHINE crossing started coming in.	
	17		I Sec preparing maps etc for exercise TORCHLIGHT.	
	18		CO briefed Coy Comds on model and air photographs. Advance parties under OC S Coy left for assembly area on the RHINE.	
	19		The model was allotted to each Coy in turn for briefing of Pl Comds. Activity in the I Sec had now reached feverish proportions.	
	20		CO gave outline of coming operation to all NCOs. The Adjutant and RSM of the 2nd RSF came over to lunch, having arrived in BELGIUM from ITALY a few days before.	
	21		Viscount Lord Trenchard, Colonel of the Regiment, visited the Bn. In addressing the Bn he said that wherever he went he heard praise for the great deeds the Bn had performed. In the afternoon the CO and Rifle Coy Comds left for the assembly area.	
	22		The CO and Coy Comds spent the day on recces and tying-up the operation for crossing the RHINE. Meanwhile, the Bn left in TCVs under the 2IC at 1800 hrs.	
SEELENHOFF	23		The Bn arrived at first light in the assembly area. Troops rested in the morning and were briefed and did recces in the afternoon. H hour was fixed for 0200 hrs on the 24th. At midnight the Bn moved off in Buffalos.	
THE RHINE And	24		At 0200 hrs the Bn hit the river opposite Xanten. The Bn crossed three Coys up, "D" Right, "C" Centre, "B" Left.	

BISLICH		<p>The second wave, consisting of the CO, A Coy, Supporting Arms Comds and various pre-loaded vehs followed.</p> <p>By 0220 hrs the three leading Coys were on their preliminary objectives, which were all on the bund some 250 yards on from the actual bank of the river. The Carrier Pl dismounted had a stiffish fight to capture a house which had been booked for the RAP. They sustained several casualties from AP mines as well as small arms fire. However, the house, after some hand to hand fighting, yielded 40 prisoners.</p> <p>In another 15 mins the three leading Coys were on their first objectives. (B Coy halfway up the village of BISLICH, C Coy at Xrds just to the East of the town and D Coy a row of houses along the bund to the East of C Coy). Bn HQ was set up in D Coy's area. By 0330 hrs first objectives were cleared and consolidated and the CO gave orders for Coys to continue to their second objectives, which entailed C Coy expanding North, D Coy East and A Coy further East into the area of a large factory. "D" Coy unfortunately received two of our own shells in the middle of them while preparing to continue their advance. They sustained about twenty casualties, including all Pl Comds, Lieuts Murphy and Binge among them. Prisoners were now coming in fast. By 0415 hrs Coys were on their second objective, and vehs were coming over the river. Shelling and mortaring had been light throughout and casualties surprisingly small. At 1000 hrs the airborne operations commenced. This was an awe inspiring sight, and any scattered resistance on our immediate front collapsed, when they saw our airborne troops coming down in hundreds to their rear. The whole Bn then expanded further to the East against negligible opposition, and spent a remarkably peaceful night for the first across the RHINE. A large number of prisoners were taken during the day.</p>	
HORSTER	25	<p>At 1000 hrs 44 Bde set out in an advance to contact formation in the order: 6 KOSB, 6 RSF, 8 RS to make contact with our airborne troops in the woods to the North of BISLICH. This was achieved without serious opposition, and the Bns received the warmest of welcomes from our airborne troops. The Bn took up a defensive position in the area of HORSTER. Coys sustained some fairly heavy and accurate shelling. Lieut Tait (A Coy) was slightly wounded and spent the night in the RAP, but returned to duty the next day. A small enemy convoy apparently unaware of our presence ran right into B Coy's area, who captured one veh and several prisoners.</p>	

			Copy of letter received from the Prime Minister is attached at Appendix J.	
Bridge West of DINGDEN	26		<p>During the night the KOSB had been advancing with a bridge across the river ISSEL as their objective. The KOSB encountered considerable opposition and by daylight were still held up short of the bridge and had not discovered whether the bridge was blown or not. The Brigadier decided to put 6 RSF through to capture the bridge or the site of it. The Bn was allotted kangaroos and a Sqn of the 4th Armd Bde in support. At 1400 hrs D Coy moved off to capture a small wooded feature on this side of the river as a preliminary to the main operation. "D" achieved this successfully against only slight opposition, and took about 60 prisoners. "D" Coy established the fact that the bridge had been blown. The plan for the remainder of the Bn was that "C" on the right of the bridge and "A" on the left should leave their kangaroos on the near bank and covered by fire from tanks get over the obstacle each to a small wood some 200 yds over the river. This "A" and "C" Coys successfully achieved but not without considerable opposition. One kangaroo being blown up by a Bazooka. "B" Coy then crossed and held the immediate area of the bridge site. Shelling and mortaring by this time had become intense and attempt to put a scissors bridge over the river failed, when the bridge was hit by a shell. Coys received considerable casualties and the CO asked the Brigadier for more infantry to hold the bridgehead until a Class 40 bridge could be erected by the REs. At about 1800 hrs a Coy of the 8 RS arrived to come under comd. This Coy relieved C Coy on the right. C Coy Comd Maj Adler, who had been wounded some hours earlier, only allowed himself to be evacuated after this move was completed. After dark a thunderstorm and heavy rain made it impossible to get any transport except Weasels even as far as Bn HQ, which was near D Coy three-quarters of a mile on the near side of the river.</p>	
	27		<p>In the early hours of the morning the Coys somehow collected a meal from weasels, and at 0300 hrs the Engineers commenced to build a Class 40 bridge under a noise cover plan from arty MGs and mortars. To their great credit the Engineers completed the bridge by 0600 hrs, although most parts of the Bn area were heavily shelled all night. As soon as the bridge was completed the Bn's 6-pdrs and two troops of SP guns crossed the river and were in position before it was fully light. Shelling continued heavy all day. At about 1500 hrs the 8 RS Coy on the right were counter-attacked in some strength. This interfered with 160 Bde</p>	

		(53 Div) who were due to launch an attack through us at 1600 hrs. However, 6 RSF were able to borrow two tps of tanks from the Bn of the Welch Regt who should have gone through. The posn on the right was finally stabilised at about 1800 hrs. Meanwhile the 6 RSF had been given two Coys of 6 KOSB under comd, and these were used to extend slightly and strengthen the bridgehead as a really firm base for 160 Bde. The Bn of the Welch Regt finally passed through at midnight. The MO, Capt Pooley and Capt Mann were among the casualties from shelling.	
	28	The night had produced a remarkable change and the shelling had almost ceased. During the day more and more of 53 Div went through and 6 RSF were able to stand down and get some well earned rest. Bn HQ moved across the river early in the morning, and the Coys of the KOSB and RS returned to their own comd.	
	29	By this date, the Bn ceased to have any operational role and spent the day making itself comfortable and in getting better billets.	
	30	The troops spent the day cleaning up themselves and their new billets. The CO and Coy Comds on promotions and re-organising. General Barber, his CRA and GII, came to tea.	
	31	A salvage drive for enemy equipment and jerricans was put into action. The BM came to tea. The Brigadier and Lt Col Richardson 6 KOSB came to dinner.	I Mackenzie Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers



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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 6th Bn The Royal Scots Fusiliers

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year April 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
West of Dingen	1		Easter Sunday was observed by all denominations at three separate services. The CO went to visit the 4/5th Bn but found they had moved.	
"	2		Coys spent the morning firing and zeroing all weapons. Six officers and 22 other ranks joined the Bn. Lt BCT COOTE (rejoined from wounds). Lt RW OWENS, Lt L SOBEY, Lt RB DODMAN, Lt J WROTH and Lt DW MURPHY.	
"	3	2300	Received warning order that the Bn would be moving to an area NORTH of BOCHOLT. At 2300 hrs harbour parties were given orders to proceed next morning to CLEWEN (North of MUNSTER). CO dined with 6 KOSB.	
"	4	1000	Harbour parties left at 1000 hrs for GREVEN but were sent on to BORGHORST. Bn's move was postponed for a day.	Appx E No5
BORGHORST	5	0715 1200	Bn left at 0715 hrs on TCVs and arrived at BORGHORST at 1200 hrs. The CO saw the Brigadier and was informed that 15 Div was now under command of 8 Corps, which now consisted of 11 Armd Div, 6(Br)Para Div, 6 Gds Armd Bde, 15(S) Div and a Cdo Bde Gp. 15(S) Div would probably take up the running from 6 Para Div and head for HANOVER.	
"	6	1130	Field Marshal MONTGOMERY stopped his car at BHQ and chatted for ten minutes with the CO and 2 IC. Harbour parties left for LAVELSLOH.	
LINTELER	7	0730	The Bn left in TCVs at 0730 hrs and met harbour parties in LINTELER. Support Coy rounded up 5 prisoners in their area.	
"	8		Coys conducted a house to house search over a fairly wide area. Five prisoners in uniform and a small amount of arms and eqpt were collected. Also a few dubious characters were put away through POW channels.	
"	9	1900	The day was devoted to Coy training. A warning order to be ready to move early next day arrived at 1900 hrs. At midnight details of move across the WESER were received.	

DOHREN	10	0915	Bn left in TCVs at about 0915 hrs and arrived at DOHREN at 1300 hrs. Harbour parties warned to RV next day at 1815 hrs. A message of congratulations on the Battalion's part in the crossing of the RHINE received from the Colonel of the Regiment, Viscount Trenchard.	
OGENBOSTEL	11	0615	Harbour parties left at 0615 hrs for OGENBOSTEL, the main body today at 1630 hours. The latter arrived at 2230 hrs after a slow journey. 44 Bde is at present in reserve. 46 Bde and 227 Bde are reported to be closing in on CELLE.	
CELLE	12	1500	CELLE has fallen to 227 Bde. Harbour parties left for CELLE at 1500 hrs but were recalled.	
CELLE	13	0830	Harbour parties left at 0830 hrs, the Bn at 1000 hrs. The latter arrived in TCVs at CELLE about 1230 hrs. 44 Bde is still in reserve.	
HOLDENSTADT	14		The Bn left in TCVs in a semi-tactical formation up the main Div axis to UELZEN. The Bn was directed to a conc area at SUDERBURG. At 1900 hrs the CO was informed that the Bn had been put under comd 227 Bde to assist in the clearing of UELZEN. The CO left at once for 227 Bde HQ and the 2 IC took the Bn to another conc area in HOLDENSTADT. The CO held an O Gp and outlined a plan for assisting in the occupation of UELZEN. The operation would not start before midnight.	Appx E No5
	15	1000 1045	227 Bde met stiff opposition in the outskirts of UELZEN and were held up. 6 RSF spent an uncomfortable night at short notice to move. At 1000 hrs the CO was informed that the Bn had reverted to command of 44 Bde. He went immediately to 44 Bde HQ and received orders. He returned and ordered O Group at 1045. 44 Bde have been ordered to open up an Axis round the EAST of UELZEN to enable the 6th Airborne Div to by-pass the town. The 8 RS were to form a firm base in the area BORNE (8883). Then 6 RSF were to secure the bridges in NIENDORF and if possible patrol forward to HALLINGDORF. The 6 KOSB would go through to HAMBROOK. The CO's plan was as follows: "A" Coy, the Carrier Platoon and a section of A tk guns to form a firm base in the southern edge of the woods to the NW of NIENDORF. "B" and "C" Coys were then to seize the bridges from the North using the KG line as an axis. "D" Coy to be used either for clearing the village or exploitation to HALLINGDORF. No 2 Sqn 4 Coldstream Gds were under comd with the task of shooting "B" and "C" Coys in from the area of the firm base. Before this plan had started to be put into operation a report came through gunner channels that NIENDORF was clear of enemy.	

			The CO accordingly told the Carrier Pl to proceed by their most direct route to NIENDORF and ordered "A" Coy and their supporting ranks to follow. The report that NIENDORF was clear was, however, ill-founded, as the leading carrier was narrowly missed by 2 rounds from a bazooka just outside the village. The carrier platoon dealt with this opposition and inflicted several casualties on the enemy and took a few prisoners. The CO on hearing that NIENDORF was not free of the enemy ordered the carriers to fight their way into the village, and otherwise reverted to the original plan. "C" and "B" Coys plus the Carrier Platoon successfully took the bridges and cleared the village without much further interference apart from some spasmodic shelling. "D" Coy then went through to HALLINGDORF followed by "A" Coy and later "B" Coy. CSM CADDEN ("B" Coy) was wounded and evacuated. A few more prisoners were taken but the main opposition was from some rather accurate shelling. The KOSB later went through towards HAMBROCK.	
NIENDORF	16		The day was spent in the same dispositions with A, D and B Coys in HALLINGDORF and the rest of the Bn in NIENDORF. The CO was warned by the Brigadier that as soon as 6 Para Div had taken LEHNEKE the 6 RSF would be required to take MEHRE as a prelude to night attack by 8 RS. During the evening a force consisting of the Carrier Pl, some A Tk guns B and C Coys under OC "B" Coy advanced and seized MEHRE without opposition. MEHRE was secured by midnight and soon afterwards "C" Coy moved to a brickworks about one mile to the North. Prisoners were taken during the advance and in MEHRE.	
HAMBROCK	17		"A" and "D" Coys seized HAMBROCK and Bn HQ moved there. The general attack on UELZEN was now beginning and the Bn's task was clearing the eastern suburbs. "B" Coy relieved "A" Coy at HAMBROCK and the latter Coy successfully attacked at 2130 hours. Lieut RJ TREWREN was wounded and evacuated. Later "D" and "C" Coys moved through clearing the streets of the Bn objective, and "B" Coy followed the following morning.	
UELZEN	18		The whole Bn was now in UELZEN having successfully cleared and seized a large area of the east part of the town.	Appx E No2
MASENDORF	19		The Bn left UELZEN and moved by march route to MASENDORF. The 2 IC went to England for a course and Major DEEKS took over duties of 2 IC.	Appx E No2 and No3
WULFSTORF	20		The Bn left MASENDORF and moved by march route to WULFSTORF.	Appx E No5

LUNEBURG AERODROME	21		The Bn left WULFSTORF and moved by march route to an aerodrome just east of LUNEBURG. It was an excellent area once it was cleared of the mess left by civilians. The Bn soon settled in.	Appx E No5
"	22		The Bn's programme was a general clean up of all admin pts. There were good facilities for this and the area soon looked like a peace time barracks in England. All vehicles were stripped for washing and cleaning. Signs were being renewed, and everyone was cleaning up. Medical inspections for Coys were started. A Canteen committee consisting of the 2 IC, Padre, RSM, PRI and Interpreter Sjt had an excellent canteen running.	
"	23		As for 22nd. Dental inspections were also started. Coy drill parades were held on the aerodrome tarmac.	
"	24		Inspections, drills and admin were in full swing when the disappointing news came through that the Bn was to move in to LUNEBURG itself the following day. Harbour parties left in the evening.	
"	25		The Bn moved into its area during the day. Pleasant, well furnished houses provided the billets and the Bn area was taped and barricaded off from the civilians. Canteen opened.	
"	26		Coy Comds briefed for Op "ENTERPRISE" (the assault over the ELBE), and pl comds in the evening. Coy drill parades and range shooting during the day.	
"	27		Early morning recce for operation. Coys training as for 26th during daytime. Co-ordinating conference at 1800 hrs for op.	
Woods East of BRIETLINGEN	28		Harbour parties moved to marshalling area. Marching personnel followed at 1400 hrs and pre-loaded vehicles and LVT vehs later. Marshalling area in woods to the EAST of BRIETLINGEN 8029. Final conference was held at 2000 and troops mounted their Buffalos at 2300 hrs.	
The ELBE	29		At 0200 hrs the Bn assaulted across the ELBE at ARTLENBURG with their immediate objective a limited bridgehead directly opposite. The RS were assaulting on our left and the Cdo Bde on the right - immediate objective: LAUENBURG. The KOSB were to pass through 6 RSF and 8 RS and later 227 and 46 to pass through the Bde. The CO's plan was:- (SEE FILE "OP ENTERPRISE", which incl:-) 1. 44 Inf Bde Op Order 2. RA 8 Corps Fire Plan Map 3. RA 8 Corps Fire Plan Map 4. 6 Aerial Photos showing Coy objectives:- Preliminary in yellow ) 1st phase Intermediate in black ) Bde plan	Appendix E No 6

		<p>Final in red )</p> <p>5. 1 Oblique showing coy objectives:-  Preliminary in yellow ) 1st phase  Intermediate in blue ) Bde plan  Final in red )</p> <p>6. Bn Op Instrs "Op ENTERPRISE".</p> <p>7. Defence overprint showing posns of Coys at first light  April 29th.</p>	
The ELBE	29	<p>The Bn assaulted on two crossings.</p> <p>Right - "C" Coy leading followed by "D" ) Timed for "C"  Left - "B" Coy ) and "B" to land  together.</p> <p>"D" Coy were close on "C" Coy and were in fact an assault coy.  "A" followed on right as reserve Coy, preceded by Bn HQ. All  assault coys pushed on with great speed and quickly seized their  preliminary objectives taking many prisoners and having very few  casualties, and the intermediate and final objectives were  reached with the same result. About 0430 Tac Bn HQ unfortunately  sustained some heavy and accurate shelling, and there were many  casualties among the CO's personal staff. The KOSB had passed  through during the night and 227 and 46 Bdes were also pressing  on, so the CO altered slightly the Bn layout which was then as  per appx 7 in file "Op ENTERPRISE". Rear Bn HQ joined the Bn at  1430 hrs. In the evening the whole Bn, less RAP and minimum Motor  Pool, which had managed to cross with rations through the  exertions of the MRO moved up to JULIUSBURG, where a hot meal was  consumed.</p>	
JULIUSBURG	30	<p>There was little activity in this town, although Coys had dug in  on arrival the previous night. Balance Motor Pool arrived 1000  hrs. About mid-day the Bn moved to SCHWARZENBEK without incident,  except rumours of an SP gun on the left flank and an actual one  on the right. The Bn occupied the right half of the town and the  RS the left. Many prisoners were taken and no casualties  sustained. Once more the Coys dug in for the night.</p>	<p>I Mackenzie  Lieut-Colonel,  Commanding 6th Bn. Royal  Scots Fusiliers</p>

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. 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 6th Bn The Royal Scots Fusiliers

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year May 1945

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
SCHWARZENBURG	1		Bn still at SCHWARZENBURG. 2100 hrs O Gp for clearing of SACHSENWALD FOREST the following day. Surrender in ITALY reported. Hitler's death reported.	
ROTHENBEK	2		Bn cleared a large sector of the forest, and arrived at ROTHENBEK during the afternoon. The Bn took up tactical positions round the village.	
LANGLOHE	3		Bn left ROTHENBEK, and moved to LANGLOHE. Billets were occupied as the Bn was in an area in which hostilities had ceased.	
BARGTEHEIDE	4		Bn moved to BARGTEHEIDE, preceded by harbour party. During the afternoon the BBC reported that surrender by the Germans in NW Europe would take place the following day at 0800 hours.	
"	5		"Cease-fire" 0800 hrs, for NW Europe. Pipe Band played. Church Service 1100 hrs.	
"	6		No change.	
"	7		Bn still at BARGTEHEIDE. It was reported that VE day would be 8 May.	
"	8		VE Day. Addresses to the Bn by the Brigadier and Div Comd.	
"	9		Coy route marches. Recce parties to BAD SEGEBERG to recce area for final occupation area.	
"	10	1800	Recce parties again to new area. 'O' Gp for move to BAD SEGEBERG.	
"	11		Adv parties move to BAD SEGEBERG. Accommodation in Kinhome and Klostercomp strasse taken over.	
"	12		Capt KJ Burnett drowned in Segeberg-see 1915 hrs. Major HM Gow MC returned from course in UK.	
"	13		Bde church parade held at BARGTEHEIDE in memory of fallen comrades. A Coy moved to SEEDORF 755100. C Coy moved to SCHMALENSEE 664125.	
"	14		Bn HQ, B and D Coys moved to area BAD SEGEBERG. CO's conference to all officers and WOI on methods of disposal of POW - searching areas etc.	

BAD SEGEBERG	15		CO went to UK on course. Major Deeks urgently required Hygiene course! Memorial service in church BAD SEGEBERG for Capt KJ Burnett.	
"	16		Transit Camp opened HOLSTENDORF 884 082. Carrier Pl manning this. CO visited A and C Coys, Transit Camp and Bde HQ.	
"	17		Cinema show held in S Coy theatre; the usual high standard of Army films was maintained!	
"	18		Normal routine and no change from 17th.	
"	19		The population of BAD SEGEBERG was called out to watch Guard mounting in the town square (Lieut RB Dodman and RSM). Brigadier and BM attended. Later ceremonial raising of the flag over Military Government offices.	
"	20		Nothing to report.	
"	21	1800	CO went to Bde Comd's Military Government conference. Conference of all Bn sector comds. ENSA show in S Coy Theatre.	
"	22		Normal routine. ENSA show in S Coy Theatre.	
"	23	1800	Pipe Band beat Retreat in the town.	
			A raid was carried out on a sabotage dump - the dump was blown up but its owners were not traced.	
"	24		Capt Burnett's body was recovered from the Segeberg lake.	
"	25		Lieut Binge rejoined Bn after being wounded on the RHINE crossing.	
"	26		Capt KJ Burnett buried in the British section of the cemetery in HAMBURG. Funeral conducted by Rev G MUNRO CF and attended by the CO (Major HM Gow MC) and other officers and a party from S Coy. Ceremonial Guard mounting in the town square.	
"	27		Church Service held in S Coy - conducted by Rev Randall. "Go-as-you-please" concert held in the evening to get talent for the Bn concert party.	
"	28	1730	CO went to Bde Comd's Military Government conference. Conference of all sector comds.	
"	29		Pipe Band went to C Coy and played there all day. Two officers attended as witnesses in the Military Government Court at RENSBERG.	
"	30		CO visited A and C Coys and the Transit Camp. Pipe Band beat Retreat in the town square. Lieut J McKee rejoined the Bn after being wounded on 26 Jun 44.	
"	31		Quiet day. Nothing to report.	HM Gow, Maj Comd 6th Royal Scots Fusiliers