

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 278 Fd Coy RE

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year FEBRUARY 1945

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
155317	1 Feb		OC at Bde O Gp. Water ster equip & Emerg rations checked. 2 Pl att to 15(S) Div Battle School for works. Div att to 30 Corps for next op.	
"	2 Feb		Inspection of personal kit. Arrangements made for return of 2 Pl. Orders recd for disposal of all surplus kit & stores.	
"	3 Feb		OC at O Gp at HQRE, then on to Bde to tie up points on preliminary moves prior to Op 'VERITABLE'. 2 Pl rejoined unit at 1230 hrs.	
"	4 Feb		Coy moves to NIJMEGEN, arriving there at 2100 hrs.	
NIJMEGEN	5 Feb		Pl offr's O Gp giving rough outline of Op 'VERITABLE' and possible tasks.	
"	6 Feb		2 & 3 Pls on rd maint in & around NIJMEGEN on routes to be used in advance.	
"	7 Feb		Outline of Op 'VERITABLE' given to offr's (copy enclosed). Copy of unit tasks on 'D' day & Arty fire plan given to offr's (copy enclosed). Pls briefed on preliminary tasks of the op. No 3 pl at 624 Fd Pk to load culverting for first possible task. 2 Secs of No 1 and the whole of No 2 Pl moved off in the evening to join 2 GH.	APP 2 APP 3
"	8 Feb	1230 1545	Two secs of No 1 pl att 9 Cams for initial adv - to keep routes open in fwd area & check for mines. 0630 hrs - 2 secs of 1 Pl & 2 Pl moved off with 2 GH for mine checking and clearance. 2 Pl one cas caused by Schu mi. Coy HQ & 3 Pl moved from Nijmegen to 725586 where they remained on the rd throughout the night. 1545 No 3 sec of 3 Pl att 7 Seaforths. No 1 Pl opened AYR route (see op order) 790548- 795548 and clearing commenced. Cleared for tracks but impassable for wheels by 1830 hrs. No 2 Pl cleared GROESBECK lateral rd within Bde boundary by 1745 hrs.	

749560	9 Feb	<p>All secs 1 Pl returned to their harbour area 746569 after 24 hrs work.</p> <p>All secs 2 Pl in harbour area 755552 in the morning. In the afternoon 2 secs of 2 Pl on rd maint in and around Groesbeck, 756553-756556.</p> <p>HQ Pl & 3 Pl moved to harbour area 749560 at 1000 hrs and arrived there at 1230 hrs.</p> <p>Three secs of 3 Pl standing by for att to columns (see 278 Op instr No 2). Sec of 3 Pl att 7 Seaforths rejoined their pl as op cancelled. OC informed to carry on with plans in original Op Order as all objectives had been taken.</p> <p>Alterations in columns recd.</p> <p>2030 hrs. Sec comdrs briefed on possible tasks and final objective of flying columns.</p>	APP 4
"	10 Feb	<p>Udem column cancelled at 1100 hrs.</p> <p>2 secs of 3 Pl moved off at 2200 hrs to respective RVs for Calcar & Emmerich columns.</p> <p>No 1 Pl making rly track at 801557 suitable for wheels.</p> <p>Mines in tracks lifted.</p> <p>No 2 Pl to clear rly track up to 772552-792558-796555 and make track suitable for wheels. Returned at 2200 hrs</p> <p>No 1 Pl returned to harbour area at 2330 hrs.</p>	
	11 Feb	<p>No 1 Pl making rly track at 801557 passable for wheels.</p> <p>No 2 Pl making rly track 772552-792558-796555 passable for wheels.</p> <p>No 3 Pl - 2 secs on rd maint in and around GROESBECK and returned to harbour at 1630 hrs. 2 Secs called out at 1800 hrs to fill in rly track from Groesbeck to Kranenburg. Returned to harbour at 2130 hrs. 2 secs of 3 Pl to go with Calcar & Emmerich flying column.</p>	
	12 Feb	<p>No 1 Pl still making track passable for wheels at 801557.</p> <p>No 2 Pl on rd maint at 757553.</p> <p>2 secs 3 Pl on rd maint in Groesbeck area.</p> <p>1 sec 3 Pl returned from RV of Emmerich column as op was cancelled.</p> <p>Rly at Kranenburg flooded to 2 ft plus.</p>	
	13 Feb	<p>No 1 pl resting.</p> <p>No 2 Pl resting.</p> <p>2 secs of 3 Pl on rd maint in Groesbeck. 1 Sec of No 3 Pl returned at 1200 hrs from RV for Calcar flying column. Op cancelled.</p>	

891555	14 Feb	45	Coy left harbour at 0630 hrs & proceeded to Cleve through the Reichswald Forest and arrived Cleve MR 904558 at 1200 hrs. Due to serious flooding and risk of being isolated coy moved again at 1700 hrs to higher ground at MR 891555 arriving at 1830 hrs. Enemy jet planes active in the evening. 1 sec of 2 Pl on br maint at 901557 (sheet 4202) throughout the night.	
	15 Feb		1 Pl on rd maint in Cleve. Very much brick and rubble in rds. Pl returned at 1900 hrs. 2 Pl on rd maint in Cleve. Returned at 1900 hrs. Sec returned from br maint at 901557. 3 Pl on rd maint on Cleve-Goch rd. Returned to harbour at 1800 hrs.	
	16 Feb		1 Pl - rd maint in Cleve. 2 Pl - in harbour cleaning tools. 3 Pl - rd maint in Cleve. 1 Coy of 8 RS att.	
	17 Feb		1 Pl - rd maint in Cleve 2 Pl - rd maint at 890548-894545. 3 Pl - resting.	
	18 Feb		1 Pl - stand by to assist 279 Fd Coy. 2 Pl - rd maint 890548-894545. 1 sec sent to fwd infantry to blow up dump of enemy ammunition. Recalled 1200 hrs and whole pl to stand by to assist 279 Fd Coy RE. 3 Pl - 1 sec of 3 Pl moved off to construct water point at 0900 Hrs. Remainder of pl cleaning tools. Shells dropping in immediate vicinity of coy location.	
	19 Feb		1 & 2 Pls standing by. Water point being maintained by 3 Pl. OC at Bde O Gp. More shelling.	
	20 Feb		Nos 1 & 2 Pls stand down. Water point being maintained by 3 Pl.	
	21 Feb		1 Pl - painting trucks and checking tools. 2 Pl - resting. 3 Pl - Water point being maintained. 1 sec to be att to 7 Seaforths for next op. Pl comds and sec comds given outline of next op and possible tasks - see 278 Fd Coy RE Op Instr No 4. 46 Bde Op Order enclosed.	APP 5 APP 6
	22 Feb		Coy HQ moved off at 1400 hrs to MR 840480 arriving there at 1700 hrs. No 1 Pl moved with coy HQ. 3 secs & Pl Comd of 2 Pl att 3 Pl for rd maint task in GOCH. Remainder of pl in coy convoy.	

			One sec of 3 Pl att 9 Cams for mine clearance. Proceeded on Kangaroos to SP. Op then cancelled. Returned to Coy Harbour area at 1800 hrs. 1 sec still maintaining water pt.	
840480	23 Feb		No 1 Pl left harbour at 0830 hrs and proceeded to MR 934433 - task removing by explosives existing demolished br. Explosive used was General Wade expl charges - very effective. Site was ready for bridging by 1700 hrs. Pl returned to harbour at 1730 hrs. No 2 Pl proceeded to 934433 to build Bailey Br at 1630 hrs. 1 sec of 3 Pl at water point. 3 secs att 2 pl for bridging. 2 Pl returned at 2130 hrs.	
	24 Feb		1 Pl in harbour area. 2 Pl proceed to 934433 to continue br task. 3 Pl cmd and recce party proceed to br site at 0500 hrs to fell trees for making br and returned at 1600 hrs. 2 secs returned at 1130 hrs and 1 sec at 1630 hrs. One sec at water point. 2 Pl returned to harbour at 2300 hrs - br completed. Recce party sent to Tilburg. Given billets in s'HERTOGENBOSCH	
	26 Feb		1 Pl left harbour to 934433 to make existing D/S br into T/S Cl 40. This was completed by 1600 hrs. Nos 2 & 3 Pls moved with coy HQ to 921446 (South of GOCH), arriving at 2000 hrs. Pls dug in. Water pt closed.	
921446	26 Feb		1 Pl - rd maint at 936436 2 Pl - " " " 937439 3 Pl - to br site at 934433 at 0800 hrs. Task - making one way rd from tower to br. Returned to harbour at 1800 hrs.	
	27 Feb		1 Pl rd maint 936436 2 Pl rd maint 937439 3 Pl same task as on 26 Feb.	
	28 Feb	0900	hrs. Coy proceeded to s'HERTOGENBOSCH (318462) arriving at 1400 hrs. Whole coy billeted in school. N. Harrison Watson Capt RE for OC 278 Fd Coy RE	