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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 6th Bn The Royal Scots Fusiliers

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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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.	
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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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