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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 44 (L) Inf Bde

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year APR 45

Commanding Officer Brig HCHT CUMMING-BRUCE DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
nr HAMMINKELN 199499	1) 2) 3)		Bde resting	
	4	0010 1430	Recce and harbour parties ordered to RV at rd & rly crossing at GREVEN 904886 at 1300 hrs. H hr for move of main bodies finally fixed at 0715 hrs 5 Apr. Move order issued.	See Folio 4
BOGHORST 7792	5	1530 2310	Conc of Bde Gp in BOGHORST completed. All units had first class billets in this town which had scarcely been touched by the war. Orders from Div for Bde Comd to meet Div Comd at Div at 1000 hrs 6 Apr. LO to be brought.	
	6	0930 1130 1225 1330	Bde Comd went to Div taking BM and LO with him. All recce parties warned to be ready to move at 1230 hrs. All vehs of Bde Gp less Bde HQ ready to move NOT before 1800 hrs. COs for O Gp NOT before 1200 hrs. O Gp summoned for 1245 hrs and bns warned to meet TCVs at 0030 hrs 7 Apr. Fd Marshall Montgomery visited the Bde Comd in the Offrs' Mess.	
MEISTER- STRASSE 6326	7		Conc of the Bde Gp completed in area of LAVESLOH 6825 with Bde HQ at MEISTERSTRASSE 635262.	
	8	0200 1340 1410	Gen clearing of all the woods in the area was commenced by all 3 bns and some PW taken. Warning Order: No move before midnight 9 Apr. 6 KOSB ordered to find gd of one coy for amn dump in the OSTER WALD.	
	9		IO spent fruitless morning with sec of def pl searching houses as a result of infm from Russian PWX. Bns did coy trg and a little wood clearing. 1745 Warning order sent to Bde Gp of probable early move on 10 Apr.	

WINDHEIM 8626	10	1415 1800 1945	The Bde Gp conc in the area EAST of R WESER was completed with Bde HQ at WINDHEIM 8626. Bde Comd went to 'O' Gp at Div. No move before 1100 hrs 11 Apr.	
HELLENDORF	11	1600 1720	Bde moved off in rear of 227 and 46 Bdes who were continuing the adv on CELLE against fairly hy opposition in way of demolitions and defended rd blocks. Bde HQ est at HELLENDORF 350428 with bns in the neighbouring villages of OGENBOSTEL, ELZE, GAILHOF.	
	12	1206	Progress on 46 & 227 Bdes fronts very slow and move of the whole Bde Gp was cancelled with exception of 6 KOSB who cleared through the woods on the left of 227 Bde axis and bivouaced for night in woods NW of CELLE. Tps were warned NOT to approach nearer than 4000 yds to the br at WINSEN 4756 as Germans were treating for surrender of area WEST of R ORTZE.	
CELLE	13	1100 1650 2100	Bde Gp moved into CELLE 5849 and were put at one hr's notice to move behind 46 and 227 Bdes who were continuing the adv towards UELZEN. Bde Gp were infm that there would be no move before 0730 hrs next day. O Gp met at Bde HQ for planning next day's move.	
SUDERBURG 8381	14	0920 1030 1605 1800	Bde Gp ordered to move as soon as possible with 181 Fd Regt leading. Leading bns to clear main axis and following bns to clear diversion. 227 Bde were reported to be fighting on the outskirts of UELZEN. Bde Gp moved off with O Gp at head of coln. Bde HQ was est in SUDERBURG 8381 with 6 RSF in same village and 6 KOSB in RABER 8079. 8 RS were still held up by lack of BD squads in their clearing of the main axis. 6 RSF were put under comd of 227 Bde and the bn moved off to harbour in the area NORTH of HOLDENSTEDT. 8 RS had now cleared the axis and were moving up to conc in HOLDENSTEDT. Bde Gp were then warned for an op to outflank UELZEN from the EAST supported by two sqns of 4 COLDM GDS.	
SUDERBURG	15	0635 1107 1200	6 KOSB moved fwd to conc in area of HOLDENSTEDT having been previously warned that they would probably not op before 0900 hrs. Bde HQ followed at 1010. Leading tps of 8 RS reached BORNE and pushed to NIENDORF and WRESTEDT, meeting little opposition. 6 RSF moving up to HALLINGDORF against scattered opposition. Two coys finally est there.	

SUDERBURG	15	1355	6 KOSB were ordered fwd to NIENDORF and thence to carry on to HAMBROCK, where they met some opposition but finally were in possession at 1900 hrs. One coy relieved a coy of 2 A & SH in the woods to the WEST of this village.	
NIENDORF	16	2200	Active patrolling and extension of posns was carried out during the night, and by morning all posns were firm. The 6 Air Ldg Bde began a further outflanking mov on our right and made good progress. Two coys 6 RSF moved on to MEHRE against slight opposition and were completely est there by midnight.	
	17	0200 1000 2220	8 RS commenced an attack on GR LIEDERN and the village was completely taken 3 hrs later. Patrolling was at once commenced in the direction of OLDENSTADT to the NORTH. Bde Comd & BM went to O Gp at Div. 6 KOSB carriers pushed into the eastern outskirts of UELZEN. They were followed by a coy. That was the beginning of a gradual infiltration which preceded the next night's attack and brought two coys 6 RSF and two coys 6 KOSB half way through UELZEN by 2100 hrs. Meanwhile tps of the Airborne Div were making steady progress round on right flank and had reached MASENDORF due NORTH of UELZEN by 1800 hrs. 6 KOSB pushed a patrol across the River ILMENAU into UELZEN and formed a slight bridgehead there. OO No 10 issued.	See Folio 5.
	18		During the night 6 RSF and 6 KOSB completed the occupation of the eastern half of UELZEN, taking a large number of PW. Mopping up began at first lt and when completed the bns sat down to await the arrival of 46 Bde on the west half of the town. A number of BRIT-FRENCH PWX were liberated. 8 RS carriers found OLDENSTADT clear and it was occupied by two coys. Further patrols were made to the NORTH clearing RIPDORF & the surrounding country. Op Instr No 4 issued.	See Folio 6.
MASENDORF	19		Bde Gp moved fwd to conc in the area of MASENDORF.	
ROHSTORF	20	1430	Bde Comd & IO went fwd to Div which was in SCHARNEBECK six miles EAST of LUNEBURG, while Bde HQ and 3 bns moved to area of ROHSTORF 9015. First Outline Plan for ELBE crossing issued.	See Folio 9
LUNEBURG	21		Bde moved to conc in eastern outskirts of LUNEBURG.	
	22 to 25		Resting and cleaning up were the main occupations of the Bde. Planning for Op "ENTERPRISE" was carried on by staffs and a conference for COs was held at Bde at 1830 hrs 24 Apr. Naval recce parties arrived with the Bde and did good work in recce of the river.	

			Adm Order No 25 issued.	See Folio 11
	26 & 27		Little to report. Planning and recces for the op continued. OO No 12 issued. Adm Order No 26 issued.	See Folio 10 See Folio 12
	28	1500 1800 2130	Corps Comd visited the Bde Comd. Massed pipe bands of the Div beat retreat in the Cavalry Bks LUNEBURG. Bde Tac HQ moved up to ARTLENBURG and est alongside Crossing Control.	
ARTLENBURG	29 & 30	0200	8 RS and 6 RSF began the aslt on the ELBE. (The crossing of the ELBE is very fully described in CV1 Logs and in "The Story of the Brigade Crossing", copy of which is att. Details are not given here).	See Folio 25