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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 227 (H) INF BDE

Month and Year MARCH 1945

Commanding Officer Brig EC Colville, DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG	1	-	The Div Comd visited the Bde and addressed each Bn in turn congratulating them on the good work done on Op 'Veritable'. He had lunch at Bde HQ Bde HQ held an officers' dance in the Liedertaffel and afterwards many letters proclaimed it a success.	Appx B, Folio 1
TILBURG	4	-	A Divisional Memorial Service was held after which the Massed Pipes and Drums played Retreat.	
TILBURG	5	-	The Bde Gp left TILBURG and under comd 12 Corps concentrated in the following areas:- Bde HQ REKUM 5760, 10 HLI DAALRIMBY 5562, 2 Gordons EYSDEN 5767 2 A & S H 5760	Appx D, Folio 2
REKUM	6	-	Training instructions were issued and planning started for Exercise 'BUFFALO' and Op 'TORCHLIGHT'.	
REKUM	10	-	GOC held a cloth model discussion at HQ 12 Corps on Exercise Buffalo after which Bde reps reced the exercise marshalling areas.	
REKUM	12	-	Reps went to the Op marshalling area to recce routes, etc. The Bde Comd went to two points at 095460 and 104460 to look at the river banks and first Bde objectives. Going was good and the Bunds and banks were not as difficult to negotiate as first reports had suggested.	Appx D, Folio 8
REKUM	13	-	Final arrangements were made for exercise Buffalo.	
REKUM	14	-	Exercise Buffalo took place. The exercise was not tactical and was designed to practice staffs and bank unit personnel and accustom Bns to working with LVTs. H hour was 1230 and the first wave of the assault was excellent, but the second wave was too far behind and it was decided that they should go almost one behind the other. The ferrying of vehs was far too slow and this situation was not improved when LVTs, drifting down stream, broke the ferry cables. Air Marshal Tedder, Gen Dempsey and Gen Ritchie watched the exercise.	

REKUM	15	-	<p>Exercise Buffalo was repeated, but this time H hour was at 0400 on the 16th. The movement lights were too far back and as the morning was very foggy the assault took place in total darkness. With the exception of one LVT which lost direction and landed on the near bank, driving was excellent, and the first wave had all landed by 0404 hrs.</p> <p>Move of the reserve Bn was very slow as the shear pins in many of the storm boats broke after the first coy had been landed. Movement of vehs was speeded up considerably.</p> <p>The Corps Comd visited Tac Bde HQ during the exercise after which the Bde Comd attended a co-ordinating conference on Op Torchlight.</p>	
REKUM	17	-	Detailed recce of the op marshalling area was carried out	Appx D, Folio 8
REKUM	21	-	Bde Comd, Bde Maj and Tac Bde HQ moved to marshalling area and established at 057448	
REKUM	22	-	<p>The Bde Gp moved to the marshalling area in accordance with Move Order No. 21.</p> <p>Final co-ordinating conference was held at Tac Bde HQ</p>	Appx D, Folio 21
MARIENBAUM	23	-	During the evening and night, control organisations were set up and Tac Bde HQ was established at 088449 at 2000 hrs.	
	24	-	<p>At 0200 hrs the first LVTs went into the water and thereafter one wave followed another very quickly. There were almost no casualties in crossing the river itself. 2 A & S H after clearing HUBSCH 0947 pushed north along the bund and were soon in the area 100494. 10 HLI met stiff opposition and when daylight came were caught on the very open ground between WOLFFSKATH 1146 and OVERKAMP 1147. Bn HQ was in contact for some time to the right of WOLFFSKATH and were fortunate in being able to make their way back to the cover of the bund.</p> <p>The central area of the bund 1046 and the farm buildings 1047 were still occupied by the enemy at daylight and one coy of 2 Gordons was placed under comd of 2 A & S H and had cleared this area by 1200 hrs.</p> <p>At last light 10 HLI were in OVERKAMP, REE 1147 and the outskirts of MEHR 1248.</p> <p>During the night 2 Gordons relieved 2 A & S H who were placed under command 46 Bde. 46 Bde had pushed through on the right to occupy MEHR and HAFFEN.</p> <p>Enemy on the Bde front were fanatical paratroops and they put up very stubborn resistance.</p>	
	25	-	Tac Bde HQ crossed the river at 1800 hrs and was established at 116476 by 1830 hrs.	

REE	26	-	<p>During the day 2 Gordons pushed North along the bund in area of WAYERHOF 106498 and on their left contacted patrols of 1 Gordons of 51 Div.</p> <p>During the night the Bde was ordered to relieve 9 Cameronians and 7 Seaforth of 46 Bde, and (with two Bns under comd) to take over the area between the Rhine at 0949 to the wood at 1349.</p> <p>10 HLI took over positions in MEHR and HAFFEN with posts at WISSHOF 120504 and surrounding farms. 2 Gordons re-adjusted their positions to maintain contact with them.</p>	
REE	27	-	Bde positions remained unchanged but both Bns patrolled forward to the area of the wood 1352	
REE	28	-	<p>Prior to clearing the large wood South East of HALDERN 1253 227 Bde concentrated in the area of 137494 to 147495, and 9 Cameronians came under comd in place of 2 A & S H who remained under comd 46 Bde.</p> <p>At 0900 hrs 46 Bde started to clear the wooded areas in squares 1552, 1452 and 1453. They met little opposition and took 70 PWs, mainly of 22 Para Regt.</p> <p>Bde HQ moved to 144496 by 1100 hrs. Bde Comd with OC 131 Fd Regt visited CRA for arty co-ordinating conference at 0900 hrs.</p> <p>H hour was decided for 1400 hrs. The weather did not permit Typhoons to attack the wood prior to the attack.</p> <p>The Bde attacked with 2 Gordons on the left and 10 HLI on the right. Little or no opposition was encountered, but heavy mining and booby traps were found on most of the roads, particularly at the north end of the wood.</p> <p>Few PWs were taken on our front, and one when interrogated said they had been told to hold out in that area to the last but had withdrawn. SP bays, searchlights and a vacated Bde HQ were found.</p> <p>The Bde took up positions on the North and West sides of the wood. There was no contact with the enemy. Bns were ordered to take as much rest as possible and to hold the line with minimum troops.</p>	
	29	-	<p>2 A & S H reverted under command of the Bde and 9 Cameronians returned to 46 Bde.</p> <p>Bde conference was held at 1000 hrs to confirm discuss policy of rest while in this area.</p>	