

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. 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 2nd Bn A. & S. H.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Dec 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan M.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ASTEN	1		Bn carried out normal trg. Weather good. Many of the local municipal officers went to Comd Post for drinks after listening to Pipes and Drums of the Bn. B/Gp held a dance in the Town Hall which was a great success. Cinema and Ensa shows during the evening. R.S.M. Wilson lectured all Cpls and L/Cpls on their duties as N.C.Os.	(A) (B)
do	2		Bn carried out trg as per programme, assault crossing, etc. Entertainment as usual in the evening.	
do	3		Bn attended church parade, Pres and C of E service being conducted by Rev Ross, C.F., after which the Bn was given the rest of the day free.	
do	4		C.O. went to conference at Bde on future ops. Bn on trg. Weather dull and cold. Entertainments at Deurne and Helmond.	
do	5		Still carrying out normal trg. Weather very bad. Recce party visited new Bn area. Capt Reed lectured junior offr on loading, laying and firing Atk gun.	
do	6		Bn still on trg. Sigs trg for all offr on "18" sets. Weather fairly good.	
ASTEN	7		Bn still in rest area, and on normal trg. C.O. and 2ic held a kit inspection during the morning. Entertainments at Deurne in evening.	
HELDEN	8		Bn 'O' gp at 0900 hrs for move to new area at HELDEN (787043). Recce party moved ahead of Bn. Bn moved by T.C.Vs to new area at 1215 hrs and arrived at 1400 hrs. New posns - Bn H.Q. 772038, 'A' coy 773034, 'B/gp' 772037, 'C' coy HELDEN 787043, 'D' coy HUB 763037. The move and taking up posns were carried out without incident.	
do	9		Bn spent the day settling into its new posns. A little reorganisation took place but basically posns remained the same. C.O. and 2ic visited coy locations. Offrs' shop at div was open for all offr. I.O. and I. sjt visited 10 HLI and were able to see	

			German territory for the first time, the first men in the Bn to do so during the present operation. HLI report posn to be very quiet.	
HELDEN	10		Only R.C. church parade at 1000 hrs, conducted by Father O'Brien. C.O. and I.O. visited 10 HLI to get local picture. HLI posns have been fairly quiet and enemy activity has been limited. Adjnt attended a welfare meeting at Bde. Offrs Mess meeting in the afternoon.	(C)
do	11		Large part of Bn was employed on rd maintenance. I.O. and I. sjt visited 2 Gordons and got a report on fwd posns. Weather cold and dull. Training instruction on future trg sent out, trg to commence on Dec 13th. Brigadier visited comd post at about 1600 hrs, and the B.M and Bde I.O. came at about 1700 hrs.	(See appendix 1)
do	12		Two patrols, Lt Hughes and 20 also 2/Lt Hutton and 20 men went to HLI area on the river MAAS as the previous night they recd some cas from a patrol which followed one of their own contact patrols in. The offrs went on a recce in the afternoon to the HLI area and later went by transport to the HLI to remain until nightfall. Major F.G.S. Graham visited Comd Post as the Red Lion Club had closed down and he was on his way to Div H.Q.	
HELDEN	13		The Bn remained in reserve and cont with trg and road making. The C.O., Major MacElwee and C.S.M. Davies (C coy) went to ZOMERON to receive their medals from the C-in-C. CSM Davies' medal had not been approved by the King so the C-in-C was unable to present it on this occasion. The 2ic went to the speech given by the C-in-C after the presentation. 2ic gave a lecture to all offrs on various aspects of the attack on a pillbox. Bde Comd also attended this discussion. The patrols of the previous night encountered nothing.	(D)
do	14		The CO went to lunch at Bde HQ and to meet the new Corps Comd who had visited the OPs. Two patrols to HLI area, one under Sjt Duffin and one under Lt. Wilson. Junior offrs received instruction on the handling of a 6-pdr.	
do	15		Bn carried on with training. A discussion was held on House and Street fighting. No patrolling in the evening.	(E)
do	16		Normal trg. Two patrols from 'C' coy each of one and ten went on a fighting patrol to HLI. One under Lt V.L. MacDonald and one under Sjt Andres. Nothing was reported. I.O. gave lecture on "Int within the Inf Bn". Lt Colonel H.A. Campbell visited bn & stayed the night.	
do	17		Moderator of the Church of Scotland took service in HELDEN Hall and afterwards visited the Bn. Definite increase of enemy aerial activity during the day. In the evening entertainment - piano	

			recital in HELMOND by Pousinoff. Snipers section reconstituted under Sjt Mitchell.	
do	18		Int demonstration held in 'A' coy area at 0930 hrs despite enemy air activity. Two patrols sent to Gordons one under Lt Hutton and the other under Sjt Drummond. Nothing reported. Capt Rosdel, Div I.O. gave lecture on history of German Army since D day.	
do	19		Int. demonstration put off owing to fog. CO and IO visited the HLI area to get latest information. 'O' gp at 1230 hrs. Coy comds visited HLI to get picture for take-over.	
BAARLO (8505) 1/250,000, Sheet 4 602	20		Change-over day with the HLI. Rather foggy, which enabled the move to take place mainly in daylight. One pl of HLI remained with 'C' coy. No patrols during night.	
do	21		Quiet day. One patrol of HLI went to D coy fwd pl as striking force should anything happen. There was only a false alarm. Pte Bradley of 'C' coy was killed by a sentry when he failed to answer a challenge.	
do	22		At approx 0615 hrs just before dawn the enemy must have got across to the Ferry house and set a time fuse to blow the house up. At 0900 hrs the CO attended a conference at Bde on the policy of defending the river Maas. Div Comd and Lt Col Mackenzie visited Comd Post. Landing reported on either side of the Bn front but little was heard on our front. Two ambushes were set by HLI pl, but nothing was netted.	
Do BAARLO	23		During the night 22/23 arty engaged several targets and sirens were sounded by enemy in the village of BELFIELD opposite. Sjt Johnstone of Car pl was accidentally killed while cleaning a Sten gun. Pte Stevens, Sigs pl, was wounded in the hand while playing with a .38 pistol. Weather - thick fog with a slight frost. Bde Comd visited Comd Post.	
do	24	0740	Sjt Paynter, of HLI patrol reported in and recorded movement of vehs, and tracks, spandau fire and sound of explosion. 3in mortars engaged targets in area 875045 and fired 60 rounds. 6pdr fired 15 rounds at water tower 876054. No hits recorded. Gun area reported SOS signal seen in Bn area and after several hectic minutes in which the telephone wires grew hot, the signal proved to be flares dropped from a/c. 'D' coy reported singing behind BELFIELD church. An arty stonk put a stop to it. Arty also engaged a train moving towards TEGELEN.	
do	25		Early morning patrols reported no activity. Expected enemy activity did not materialise and the Bn spent a quiet day. Every man received a parcel from the Commanding Officer.	

BAARLO	26		Another quiet day for the Bn. In the evening we laid on the usual arty fire on enemy posns. Weather fine.	
do	27		Except for spasmodic spandau fire, there was no enemy activity and the standing patrol and ambush patrol had nothing to report.	
do	28		Recce party from the relieving bn (Gordons) visited comd post, and their respective coy areas. In the evening, sounds of enemy activity on the opposite bank received attention from our arty and mortars. Weather still fine.	(F)
do	29		Little activity during the night. Two B/Gp patrols rendered nil report. At 1300 hrs the Bns began change over, a thick mist making this much easier, and there were no incidents. We moved to reserve area at EGCHELHOEK with H.Q. at 771038, B/Gp 775038, 'C' coy at HELDEN 790049, 'A' coy 773035, 'D' coy HUB 763057. After today B/Gp ceases to exist and 'B' coy is being reformed under Major W.L. McElwee, M.C. with Capt J.D.C. Graham 2ic, and CSM Dean.	
EGCHELHOEK	30		Baths and change of clothing for all troops. Day was spent in cleaning up. Entertainment in the evening - film at HELDEN.	(G)
do	31		Bn spent the day in the traditional manner, although festivities were curtailed owing to our role of counter-attack force. Just after midnight the enemy heralded the New Year with M.G. fire and many Verrey lights, but he put nothing down on the Bde front.	