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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2 GORDONS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Jun 44

Commanding Officer Lt.-Col E.C. Colville

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
MUNTHAM COURT	5		The Bn carried out a night exercise in the battle area behind FINDON. A lovely night with a full moon and excellent visibility gave the Bn an excellent picture of an Airborne Force and an idea that Invasion had started. Some three hundred planes, Dakotas mainly, against a midnight moon, appeared at 2000 ft for two hours tugging gliders South East. They reappeared almost immediately moving North West sans gliders.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	6		The Bn returned to camp 0600 hrs. The news of the Invasion was broadcast at 0800 hrs.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	7		Traffic Control party consisting of Lieut Dingwall, Sjt Atherton and two O.Rs left the Bn at 1630 hrs for FRANCE.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	9		The finishing touches are put to waterproofing, loading trials, packing kit etc.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	11		Capt Wishart, Lieut Fairlie, CSM Kernohan and D.R. Stocker, left at 2045 hrs as Advance Party to the Bn's move to FRANCE.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
NEWHAVEN	18		Main body of Bn embarked at NEWHAVEN for France. The journey was made in very rough weather in a large troop carrying ship. The other portion of the Bn which was mainly the transport under the 2 i/c embarked at TILBURY on the ship EMPIRE FALSTAFF, 10,000 tons.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	19		This date still saw the Bn off the coast of France. The weather was extremely bad and landing was considered out of the question.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	20		Bn disembarked at ARROMANCHES and marched in parties to concentration area at VAUX-SUR-SEULLES 831785 (Sheet 7F/1 CAEN).	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	21-25		During this period the rest of the battalion landed in FRANCE in small lots. The transport party under the 2 i/c, disembarked at COURSEULLES and moved to the concentration area between the 23 - 25 Jun 44. During the day 25, plans were completed for the first action of 15 (Scottish) Div. The plan was for 44 and 46 Bdes to adv through the Canadian line about Le Mesnil Patry and to capture a line through CHEUX. 227 Bde was then to pass through with 10 H.L.I. on right to take Granville-sur-Odon; 2 GORDONS on left to take	

FRANCE		<p>COLEVILLE and TOURVILLE, 2 A. & S.H. were then to pass through 2 GORDONS and make a bridgehead over the River ODON at TOURMAINVILLE. 2 GORDONS would then take over the bridgehead and the 2 A. & S.H. would hold the next crossing over the ODON to the West. The way would then be clear for the armour to go through and a complete break through was expected.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	26	<p>During night 25 - 26 Jun, Bn moved from old conc area to a forward conc area and all day moved slowly up to our forming up place for the attack, just N. of CHEUX. The attack by 44 and 46 Bdes though successful, was slow and we were not able to form up with the supporting tanks until the evening. The Bn attack started at about 1830 with "A" and "B" Coys leading "C" and "D" Coys in the rear. A very heavy storm broke just as the Coys started and it was obvious that there would be no opportunity for the promised air support. The attack met with strong opposition from the enemy who had well placed M.Gs and several dug in tanks and A. Tk guns well positioned. Several of our tanks had been knocked out. "B" Coy were believed to have got through to COLEVILLE but "A", "C" & "D" Coys had been held up short of the village. All coys had heavy casualties particularly "A" Coy. The C.O. then decided on re-organising what could be collected of the Bn and a small defensive position was made beside the CHEUX - COLLVILLE road about 1 mile S. of CHEUX. Majors Soutar, Aitchison, and Capt Wishart, and Lts Niven and Kiddie were killed in this action. During this very bloody action the work of our Medical Officer Capt MacPhail and his stretcher bearers was magnificent.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	27	<p>When dawn broke our position was still secure. During the morning our tanks moved up on our left and the A. & S.H. passed through the Bn during the morning, making for the bridge at TOURMANVILLE and we received orders to move on to COLLVILLE. Soon after first light, "B" Coy's remnants joined us from the enemy lines where they had been cut off. The Bn took up a position in COLLVILLE in an orchard. "Sniper fever" was bad among the troops and it was several days before this could be stopped by practice of controlled fire. That afternoon we moved to TOURVILLE after having been relieved by the 9th SEAFORTHS (46 Bde). Our advance was held up by a German tank which had got into posn and was knocking out some of our tanks. The road was also being mortared. This was soon overcome and Bn moved into position south of the village in an orchard area.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	28	<p>Spent the day in TOURVILLE where we were slightly mortared and had some trouble from a tank on the main rd behind us. During this time</p>	

		the armour was passing through our area and over the river. It was unable to make much progress and later had to withdraw.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	29	In the afternoon, the Bn received orders to move back to COLLVILLE and be prepared to carry out a counter attack on the Cameronian posn at GRANVILLE-sur-ODON at dawn the next morning, should the enemy take it. Bn moved and several casualties were sustained during the move by enemy shelling of the road.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	30 30 - 1 Jul	The proposed counter attack by the Bn was not required and the Bn was then ordered to MONCEAUX. The leading coys got to the road running to the river at TOURMANVILLE but came under heavy mortar fire from German posns south of the river. There were many casualties. The B.M. Major J. Lochore was among the killed. The Bn, as a result was ordered to withdraw to its old location in TOURVILLE. 2315 - 0530 hrs 1st Jul, Bn was subjected to a very severe mortar and shell barrage. Casualties were not heavy as troops were well dug in. During the mortaring one of the casualties was R.S.M. Black killed.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.

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WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Unit 2 GORDONS

Month and Year JUL 44

Commanding Officer Lt.-Col E.C. Colville

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1		53 Div moved into our sector. Adv party for relief of 2 GORDONS arrived at 1600 hrs. Capt J. McL Smith was wounded by a mortar bomb during an attack in the late afternoon.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	2		Bn was relieved in the late evening and withdrew to BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE where they took up a defensive posn and prepared to re-equip and re-organise. (Attached is letter of congratulations from G.O.C. 8 Corps).	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	3-7		Three coys were formed in the re-organisation of the Bn ("B", "C" & "D" Coys). "B" was commanded by Capt H.T. Slight, "C" by Major G.H. Hutchinson and "D" by Major R.M.M. Tindall. Re-organization and re-equipping continued throughout this period. The complete list of casualties sustained by the Bn during its battle engagements from 26 Jun to the 2 Jul 44 were as follows:- Officers:- Killed 4, Wounded 7; Missing 1. O.Rs Killed 48, Wounded 195; Missing 11.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	7-13		Re-organization of Bn. New "A" Coy formed and Major Duke put in command. 2 men wounded in "D" Coy by shelling. Shells were not confirmed to be from enemy gun.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	14		Bn moved from Bretteville L'Orgueilleuse to conc area 944647. Slight enemy mortar fire experienced.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	15-16		Bn arrived in assembly area near BARON village during the evening of the 15th, were subjected to heavy mortar and shell fire from the enemy. Pnr 3 ton truck was hit and destroyed. At 2245 hrs the Bn moved into the attack through BARON. "C" & "D" Coys were leading followed by Bn HQ with "A" & "B" Coys follow up coys. The first objective was line of rd 928611 - 932610 - 934610 was taken and held. Whilst this action was in progress Brig Mackintosh-Walker, M.C. (Two Bars) commanding 227 Bde was killed in his forward HQ in BARON. Lt. Col Colville took over command of 227 Bde and Major Sinclair took command of 2nd Bn The Gordon Highlanders. The battle continued and "A" & "B" Coys on moving forward to pass through "C"	

FRANCE	16	<p>& "D" Coys came under very heavy M.M.G. fire on fixed lines. Their progress was slow and when first light came they were still some 400 - 500 yds behind "C" & "D" Coys. The order was then given to dig in in these positions. In the early morning of the 16th, 12 German planes circled Bn area three times and on the third occasion opened fire but caused no casualties among the unit. One plane was shot down by light A.A. fire. During the morning of the 16th, the enemy attacked at several points in the Bn front but was driven off by our weapons and the excellent shooting of our battery of the 131 Fd Regt under Major G. Campbell R.A. At about 1210 hrs enemy tried another counter attack on "A" & "B" Coys posns from the left flank. This time tanks and inf were used. Good shooting by the A. Tk pl under Capt A.W. Parish broke up the enemy attack and with two guns firing from the area of Bn HQ, knocked out 5 PZKW Mk IV tanks. Ps of W. taken up to 1300hrs 16 Jul 44 were 35. Considerable German equipment and a marked map of importance was found. Enemy continued to attack with mortar and shell fire during the afternoon and evening. Capt H.T. Slight was killed during the attack on "B" Coy's posn. At 2358 hrs, the Bn came under command 44 Bde and were ordered to hold posns pending relief. The A. & S.H. and H.L.I. had been withdrawn earlier in the day. During the night of the 16th, "C" & "D" Coys were ordered to withdraw to posns behind "A" & "B" Coys.</p>	<p>RG Hogg Capt I.O.</p> <p>RG Hogg Capt I.O.</p>
	17	<p>Bn remained holding a defensive posn throughout the day; spasmodic attacks were made by the enemy but were broken up by arty fire. Bn was again subjected to severe mortar and shell fire during the evening. Several casualties were sustained. During the late evening, the enemy attacked behind the lines with several fighters and bombers; many flares were dropped and A.A. defences along whole sector were kept busy for some time. One enemy plane was definitely shot down. A successful attack by a squadron of Typhoons was carried out on enemy tanks concs SOUTH of our sector. Great fires were seen burning in the EVRECY area after this attack. About 2300 hrs the WELSH BDE moved through our posns to attack the high ground and the FERME DE MONDRAINVILLE sector. Welsh Bde did not succeed in the operation.</p>	<p>RG Hogg Capt I.O.</p>
	18	<p>Bn held posns throughout day till relieved by the 7th Bn The WELCH R. in the late afternoon. The relief was completed by 1930 hrs. Bn moved back by march route to area of FARM 903648 N.W. of GRANVILLE-SUR-ODON to reorganise and rest. Casualties from the 14th - 18th Jul were Officers 1 Killed; 3 Wounded; Nil Missing; O.Rs 11 Killed, 107 Wounded; 7 Missing.</p>	<p>RG Hogg Capt I.O.</p>

FRANCE	19-22 22	1900	<p>Period from 19 to 23 Jul was spent re-organising and re-equipping in area of 903648. Capt E.R. Macdonald rejoined Bn and took over command of "B" Coy. Lt.-Col Sinclair appointed C.O. 2 GORDONS. Major Henderson became 2 i/c.</p> <p>Recce party left unit under I.O. Capt R.G. Hogg to make recce of area NORTH of CAUMONT with view to the relief of 1st Bn of 2nd Regt of the 5 U.S. Div. Positions selected in rear of American areas as U.S. posns were thought to be too congested.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	23		Bn left area of GRANVILLE and moved to CAUMONT to take up defensive posns as reserve Bn of 227 Bde. Role was counter-attack on CAUMONT should 10 H.L.I. be driven from the town by the enemy.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	24		<p>Bn completed preparations for defence of sector "A" Coy forward on left front; "C" Coy in posn on the left forward flank by the 2 A. & S.H. "B" Coy were in posn on left rear with "D" Coy on right rear of Bn HQ, which was situated at 702625 (Sheet 6F/2 ST LO).</p> <p>A. Tk Gun and Jeep on rd attacked by plane. Casualties were 1 killed, 7 injured incl Capt A.W. Parish who remained on duty. A recce patrol was sent out at 2400 hrs to patrol into enemy lines south LA REPAS sector. Patrol returned with some information 0230 hrs but failed to reach main objective. No casualties.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	25		<p>Quiet time spent in new area. Recces were made and plans tied up for counter attack on LA REPAS and CAUMONT if either should be attacked and overrun by the enemy. Patrol out during night. Unsuccessful.</p>	(Att Plan "A" and "B"). RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	26		<p>Standing Patrol out during night from 2400 - 0615 hrs to act as stop gap to 10 H.L.I. and 2 A. & S.H. during their patrolling. Patrol did not encounter enemy.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	27		<p>Quiet day; recces of CAUMONT area made by Coy Comds. Fighting Patrol out under Lieut McIntyre. Patrol contacted the enemy and killed 3 of them. They did not succeed in taking a prisoner. We lost one man killed and two were wounded.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	28		<p>Another day spent quietly in same location. Liaison done with H.L.I. in CAUMONT. Standing Patrol sent out to stop gap between A. & S.H. and H.L.I. Patrol did not encounter enemy.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	29		<p>Preparation for new task began. 'O' Gp at Bde revealed plan for Div attack SOUTH of CAUMONT. Loading and forming up arranged. Recces carried out from A. & S.H. locality by C.O. and Coy Commanders along with tank commanders.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	30		<p>Bn left area at 0215 hrs and moved into F.U.P. This move was completed by 0315 hrs. The attack began at 0655 hrs. 2 GORDONS objective was LUTAIN WOOD 712582 (Viller Sheet No. 37/14 N.W.). Attack put in in two phases. "A" Coy right with 1 troop of tanks</p>	

		<p>from 4 Gren Guards. "B" Coy left with 1 tp tanks; "D" Coy with objective LIEU MONDANT in left rear. "C" Coy in reserve behind "D". "A" and "B" Coys met opposition by M.M.Gs and mortars but eventually managed to push onto objective with help of tanks. Second phase began after "D" Coy had cleared LIEU MONDANT and "C" and "D" Coys on its left supported by "crocodiles" started to sweep the wood. The coys got through the wood but "D" was forced to withdraw due to heavy casualties from enemy mortars firing into the trees. Outskirts of the wood were held by three coys up and "D" was put in reserve at the N. side of the wood. Bn HQ established itself along the edge of hedgerow at 712586 (Villers sheet No. 37/14 N.W.). Bn dug in and the other big phases began. It might be added that as a direct result of our drive the armoured drive south was allowed to begin. By the morning of the 31st the high ground in a line from St Martin de Besaces 6750 (TORIGNI-SUR-VIRE Sheet 6F/4) to Pt 309 6951 was strongly held by 15 (S) Div.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	31	<p>In the early morning the Bn was subjected to some long range shelling and some bombing south east of the area. No casualties were sustained. Bn left this area at 1200 hrs and moved forward as reserve Bn into a Bde area. A. & S.H. were left forward Bn and the H.L.I. were in posn in our rt forward flank. 2 Gordons took up posn in farm W. of LA TEINTURIERE at 703555 Villers (Sheet 37/14 NW).</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.

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Month and Year Aug 44

Commanding Officer Lt.-Col J.R. Sinclair

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
FRANCE	1		Bn well settled in new location; some local patrolling done in our area on left flank. This was the most weak flank. There was little to record except that two enemy tanks broke through A. & S.H. left flank and some of their A.P. shells fell in our area. There were no casualties. Warning was received late in evening for early morning move to new area. "O" Group was held at 2400 hrs.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	2		Bn moved to pt 244 695478 (TORIGNI-SUR-VIRE SHEET 6F/4). Adv to contact, "A" Coy leading. Bn got settled in new posn at about 2350 hrs - 10 H.L.I. on the Bn right at Pt 238 and 2 A. & S.H. were in reserve, at La Mancellive. No enemy encountered in area. Main road to Pt 244 was subjected to spasmodic shelling by long range gun.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	3		Bn still in defence posn on 244. Shelled by long range gun but most of the shells fell short. No casualties.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	4.		Still in posn on 244. Large store of German "Q" eqpt found and several documents and identifications got from it. Two bombs were dropped during the afternoon in "D" Coy area by allied aircraft. One did not explode and was dealt with by the R.Es later in the day. Enemy aircraft over during the night. Warning order to move received at 0015 hrs 5 Aug.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	5		Moved off 0830 hrs in Adv to Contact in T.C.Vs to MONCHARIVEL 7442. "B" Coy was adv guard coy. Bn debussed at MONCHARIVEL and commenced advance on 769405 with "B" Coy leading with 2 troops of tanks in support. Captured objective without opposition from the enemy. Bn dug in in area of the X-rds; were subjected to heavy shelling and mortar fire during evening and again after dark. Quiet night after 2400 hrs.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	6		Bn was ordered to move forward to capture ESTRY (VIRE 6F/6). Moved off at 0845 hrs in advance to contact with "C" Coy leading with 2 troops tanks and S.P. guns in support. "B" Coy	

FRANCE		<p>followed up with "A" & "D" and the remaining tank troops. "C" Coy soon contacted the enemy and succeeded in attacking and taking the X-rds. Further movement beyond these X-rds (746377 - 200 yds N. of ESTRY) was stopped by heavy M.G. fire and by dug in enemy troops. "B" Coy with 2 troops of tanks in support then was ordered in to help "C" Coy by going down track 756385 on the left flank and try to work round on that flank. Heavy casualties were sustained from M.G. fire and from the five of the dug in tanks. This attack failed. The enemy strength at this period was estimated to consist of strong M.G. posns, enemy in strength, and tanks in well sited and dug in posns. Another effort was made and "A" Coy was ordered forward but failed to help the situation. The tank support was badly cut up by accurate fire from German concealed tank guns and 11 of the supporting tanks of the squadron were out of action. The other tanks withdrew. C.O. tried once more to get control of left flank and put "D" Coy in to assist two S.P. guns forward in an effort to deal with the enemy tanks. This did not succeed. While this was being done, the road on which we were moving was being constantly shelled and mortared and many casualties were accounted for. After this effort, the C.O. got in touch with the C.O. 10 H.L.I. and arranged for them to move through and try to take the objective as our numbers were badly depleted. This was done and 2 GORDONS followed up the H.L.I. attack. This attack however failed and the two Bns dug in in a "tight" box N.N.E. of X-rds 746377. During this operation one enemy tank was destroyed by one of the S.P. guns under command.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	7	<p>Bn held posns all day and was subjected to the most severe shelling and mortaring experienced in any action the Bn has been in. Cas were very high in both 10 H.L.I. and 2 GORDONS Bns. R.A.P. got a direct hit and lost most of its S.Bs but it carried on as best as it could. Wonderful work was done by the medical branch during all this action. Orders for withdrawal received by C.O. at 1800 hrs but action could not be taken till next day.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	8	<p>Bn withdrew with 10 H.L.I. at 1000 hrs and moved to area L'OBTINIÈRE 7440 (Sheet 34/14 S.E.). 2 Bns of 44 Bde attacked ESTRY but failed to make strong points. Huns still hold the village.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	9	<p>Bn located in area of L'OBTINIÈRE. The day spent re-organising and getting reinforcements and new eqpt.</p>	RG Hogg Capt I.O.

	10		Bn still in area of L'OBTINIERE. C.O. decided to form three coys "A", "C" and "D" - "B" Coy incorporated in the other three till re-inforcements arrive. Great shortage of offr and N.C.Os made this action necessary.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	11		Still in area L'OBTINIERE. Busy day with organisation.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	12		Morning spent working with P.W. - Poles deserted from ESTRY area. Interrogation at Bde HQ gleaned a lot of excellent information. Recce party went out from L'OBTINIERE and reced new area in St PIERRE TARENTAINE 7045 (Sheet 6F/4). The Bn arrived later in the evening and settled in quickly in its new location.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	13		Spent quiet day in ST PIERRE TARENTAINE and day passed without incident.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	14		Casualty report on action from 5 Aug to 8 Aug 44. Offrs 1 Killed; 7 wounded; Nil Missing. O.Rs 21 killed; 146 wounded and 22 Missing (16 known to be wounded, not yet traced). Recce party left for new area at 0600 hrs today. 15 (S) Div rejoining 12 Corps in CAEN area. Bn moved by road from area of 7045 embussed. Moved through CAUMONT, HOTOT, and CARPIQUET to conc area north of MALTOT (Sheet 7F/1 CAEN). Reached new area in and around the grounds of LE CHATEAU 995626 at 1800 hrs. Found this a filthy place where a very savage battle must have raged. Lots of enemy eqpt littered around and several enemy dead still unburied in the area. Bn settled in to new location. 227 Bde HQ is quite near.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	15		Restful day. Settling in new area quite well. General Barber (new G.O.C. 15 (S) Div) visited Bn at 1030 hrs. ENSA show held for troops in afternoon and evening. News of new landings in S. of FRANCE received. Little to report on Bn activities during day. Pipes and Drums played during evening.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	16		Bn still in location at Le Chateau. At 4 hrs notice to move to a new location. Visit made by A.D.O.S. in afternoon to Bn. Mobile bath unit available for unit all day.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	17		Spent another day of waiting to move to new area. Little fresh to report. Weather still very good, warm with little breeze. News of fall of ORLEANS and CHARTRES announced. Recce party under 2 i/c left to recce new area. Bn due to leave for new location not before 1200 hrs 18 Aug.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	18		Bn left area of LE CHATEAU at 1315 hrs. Arrived in new conc location about 1500 hrs. Bn located in area FONTAINE-HALBOUT (Sheet 7/F3 AUNAY-SUR-ODON). Settled in by evening. Trg	

		conference held at Bn HQ, plans made for trg while in conc area.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	19	Weather broke early today. Rain and sultry weather cleared up by late afternoon. Day spent trg from sec to coy level. Signal, A.Tk and pioneer cadres in progress. Warning for new operation received at 1830 hrs. Bde 'O' Gp held at Bde HQ. Operation planned; adv to contact to area of VIMOUTIER and then to hold the crossings of the River VIE and TOUQUES.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	20.	Bn 'O' Gp held at 1000 hrs. Bn at six hours notice to move. This was cancelled at 1830 hrs - no move in the next 48 hrs. Church service held in field near Bn HQ.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	20-21	During night, several enemy planes flew over our area and dropped several A.P. bombs. There were no casualties in our area. Several casualties were experienced by the A. & S.H. Just after the raid, a French civilian was picked up in a house near our Sp Coy HQ. He was seen to be showing a light. The Frenchman was taken to Bde and interrogated and held for the F.S.P.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	21	Weather was extremely poor today. Rain fell all day till late evening. A cinema show was given to the Bn in a barn near HQ in the afternoon and evening.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	22	Weather back to normal again. This has been a warm sunny day. Trg was carried out by coys and specialist pls. E.N.S.A. show held in A & S.H. camp - some of the Bn attended in afternoon and evening. Lt.-Col Sinclair promoted to Brigadier to command 153 Bde (51 (H) Div). Maj Henderson took over command of Bn till arrival of new C.O. Bn received warning order to move to area of NERS to 3421 to conc prior to divisional move.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	23	Bn moved to NERS - 3241 at 0600 hrs. Arrived NERS 0920 hrs. Coys well settled into new areas. Weather unsettled with showers of rain.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	24	Bn left NERS and moved by road to area of BOURDON 4056 7F/6. No enemy encountered and lots of damaged eqpt seen on road. The general intention was for the Bn to move to BERNAY but the roads were so congested with Canadian and French tpt that Bde had to conc for night in BOURDON area. Bn settled in by 2200 hrs. Bde 'O' Gp for further move at 2200 hrs.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	25	Bn left by tpt - adv to contact to area of EMANVILLE 0373 (8F/4 BERNAY). First elements left at 0600 hrs and unit moved without incident into new def posn. Unit was established by 1845 and guns were in posn by 1900 hrs. U.S. tps also in this	

		area but moved to other location on our arrival. Bde 'O' Gp at 2345 hrs.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	26	Left EMANVILLE at 0430 hrs and moved to occupy the town of LOUVIERS 2289 (9F/1 LOUVIERS). This town was occupied without opposition from the enemy. H.L.I. took over E half of the town and 2 GORDONS the W half. This town had been bombed on night 25 - 26 Aug. Some damage done to Tech School and rds to the town, otherwise the town was untouched. Bn took up defensive posn watching all rds and bridges. No enemy seen in area.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
FRANCE	27	Bn moved at 0900 hrs from town and went on to high ground in area of WOOD 263886 (Sheet 9F/1 LOUVIERS) overlooking river, prior to a crossing being made in evening. At 1830 hrs a beginning was made and the bn less all tpt, began to form up for the attack across the River SEINE. The assault boats were brought down and put in posn near the intended crossing place 272885 just south of the railway bridge and the crossing began. Opposition was encountered from the opposite bank and after four boat loads had been destroyed by direct M.G. fire, and it was found impossible at the moment to cross at that point, the Bn was pulled back and moved down stream to area of ST PIERRE DU VAUVRAY. A fresh crossing was made at 266905 behind the H.L.I. This crossing was successful and the Bn continued to move on to clear the village of LE MESNIL ANDE 2789 and then on the MUIDS. This was cleared and occupied during the night of 27 - 28. Several prisoners were taken, most of which were S.S. tps left behind in small bands with small arms only, to hold up our advance. It was very noticeable how much confusion now prevails in the enemy's little remaining organisation on this front.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	28	During the day the advance up the N. bank from MUIDS began and by night the Bn had reached area of Pt 144 3692. This point produced some opposition but was speedily cleared up. The Bn was then ordered to send one coy "C" Coy, to clear FRETTEVILLE 3492 but the opposition here was found to be more than could be dealt with by a coy. On orders from Bde, the coy returned to the Bn which was concentrating in the area of Pt 144. During the night the Bn was subjected to slight mortar fire and cas were sustained. This was the first heavy weapon used by the enemy in this operation.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	29	At 0930 hrs the tracks and vehs of the Bn joined the marching tps and concentrated behind the defensive posns on Pt 144. The Bn remained here all day and held a defensive locality. The	

FRANCE		enemy gave no trouble in and it seemed as if they were withdrawing all along our divisional front. The weather was extremely bad as it rained heavily all day, turning the whole area into a sea of mud and made the usual tracks impassable.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	30	At noon, an order to move to better posns in the villages of LA ROQUETTE and LE THUIT 3692 came through from Bde and the Bn moved there to reorganise and clean up.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.
	31	Bn located at LA ROQUETTE and LE THUIT. Weather has improved. The new "B" Coy complete has arrived and is settling in. They have come complete from the 2/5/LANCS FUS. and are commanded by Major H.D. FOLLETT. Lt.-Col R.W.M. De WINTON assumed command of the Bn w.e.f. today.	RG Hogg Capt I.O.

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 THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Sep 44.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. De Winton

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
FRANCE	1	Sep	on. Pipes and Drums played at Le Thuits in the evening. Report of Major R.M.M. Tindall's death received. Casualties during our recent action in crossing the Seine are Major Tindall, Capt Spence, Lt. Aitken and 37 O.Rs killed. Lt. Lamont and 46 wounded. 3 O.Rs missing.	RWM de Winton
	2	Sep	Notification received re move forward. Recce party left at 1500 hrs. Div Comd visited new "B" Coy today. The following officers and O.Rs have been awarded the decorations as shown below :- Major R.M.M. Tindall - M.C. Major A.W. Parish - M.C. 2886857 Sjt J. Atherton - M.M. 2886747 Sjt C. Harris - M.M. 2888214 L/Cpl A. McConnell - M.M. 2927095 Pte J. McLean - M.M. "O" Group held at 1845 and arrangements made for bn to move to Le Tronquay 4610.	RWM de Winton
FRANCE	3	Sep	Transport left area of Le Thuit at 1115 hrs and arrived at Le Tronquay at 1235 hrs. A,B, and C Coys marched to area of 400004 where they were picked up by unit transport sent back from Le Tronquay after being unloaded. Bn was complete in new conc area by 1930 hrs. Pipes and Drums played in the village during the evening. Orders for move on 4 Sep received.	RWM de Winton
	4	Sep	"O" Group held at 0900 hrs. Bn moved at 1150 hrs and arrived in area of BOIS DES PUIITS 6437 (Aumala Sheet 9E/2) at 1400 hrs. Concentration area for the bn prior to move forward on 5 Sep. Troops moved to the above area in unit transport and the vehicles returned to collect their store loads and rejoined the Bn at 1830 hrs.	RWM de Winton
	5	Sep	Bn ordered to move to area FILLIEVRES 0305 ST POL Sheet 72 FRANCE and BELGIUM. 1/50,000. Vehicles moved off at 1035 hrs	

			and reached destination without incident at 1740 hrs. Troops were due to leave at 1400 hrs but T.C.Vs did not arrive.	RWM de Winton
FRANCE	6	Sep	Bn still in FILLIEVRES. Troops did not arrive during night or this morning but are expected later in day. Bde "O" Group at 0900 hrs. Orders for Bde, with supporting arms, to move to occupy COURTRAI 8556 (Sheet 53 FRANCE and BELGIUM 1/50,000) issued: timings delayed due to troops being late in arriving at FILLIEVRES. 2 GORDONS ordered to lead the advance. T.C.Vs did not turn up so move did not materialise.	RWM de Winton
	7	Sep	Rained all day. T.C.Vs did not arrive till 1630 hrs. Bn left on its own for COURTRAI as Bde had left early in the day. Column moved at 0030 hrs 7-8 Sept.	RWM de Winton
BELGIUM	8	Sep	At 0930 hrs Bn crossed the FRANCO-BELGIUM border at Toufflers 8239 and proceeded to St. Genois 9148 where it arrived at 1030. Bn left St. Genois at 1400 and moved up in rear of 227 with task of clearing Nazareth of enemy and occupying village. This was completed without opposition and the Bn moved in to occupy NAZARETH 0970 (Sheet 7 1/100,000 TOURNAI) in all round defensive posns. Bde also came into this area. Patrols during late evening took two prisoners.	RWM de Winton
BELGIUM	9	Sep	Patrolling of areas round NAZARETH carried out during day. Pipes and Drums played at 1800 to a large assembly of the people of the town and GOC 15 (S) Div. Nothing extra of note to report.	RWM de Winton
	10	Sep	Bn still at NAZARETH. Were at two hours to move all day but nothing resulted and bn remained at the village during the night.	RWM de Winton
	11-12	Sep	Bn moved by road at 1245 to village NW of HUMBEEK called NIEUWENRODE 6270. Took up a general defensive posn and settled there for the night. B Coy ordered to move off to guard a lock over the Albert Canal and deny it to the enemy. During morning of 12th Sep Bn got orders to follow up to support "B" Coy. Bn left at 1500 hrs and arrived in the village of ZOERLE PARWYS 9981 Sheet 3¼ ins where it remained the night after sending "D" Coy forward to assist "B" Coy.	RWM de Winton
BELGIUM	13	Sep	Bn moved forward to area of school at OOLEN where plans were made to go over canal and occupy area west and on the lock. This was not considered necessary by higher authority and the bn less "B" Coy which remained to protect the lock were moved to area of MEERHOUT where it took up an all round defensive posn in defence of 227 Bde HQ.	RWM de Winton

	14	Sep	Capt Hogg posted to "D" Coy as 2 IC. Lieut Thompson takes over IO. Presentation of medal ribbons to Major Parish by Field Marshal Montgomery. 2 officers and 20 men present as spectators.	RWM de Winton
	15	Sep	Recce to find suitable crossing of canal by RUPOL WOOD Map Ref. Sq. 1494 (Map Sheet 25&35. TURNHOUT-GHEEL). Recce fired on by MG and one rifle shot. Bde 'O' Gp 1400 hrs. Bn ordered to cross canal by night. A & S.H to pass through. 1900 hrs Recce Party returns, IO & recce commander report to Bde HQ, maps did not show backwater which was discovered by recce & also Air Photos received at 1900 hrs causing further complication - crossing due to start at 2200 hrs but postponed for confirmation of possibility of crossing.	RWM de Winton
BELGIUM	16	Sep	Bn warned to move at 0200 hrs - "C" Coy provided Assault Platoon, comd Lt. Lamont - (dress: sandbags over boots, no eqpt) led by Taping Party from "I" Section who laid 3 mile of tape, followed by "PLANKING PARTY" consisting of one pl of "A" Coy, comd by Sjt Binnie. Arrived at Canal Bank at 0600 hrs. Crossed Backwater by Barges and Planks. Helped across by Bargees who warned us of a sniper and made a carpet of sacks across the Barges to minimise the echo from the Barges. Assault Pl fired on by sniper on crossing the Backwater. (IO made hasty retreat). Platoon held at lock by MG firing on fixed line and were unable to proceed. - Dawn was breaking - remainder of "C" Coy, "B" Coy & "D" Coy crossed the barges with Carrier Pl on foot, all pinned down on island between Breakwater and Canal. "A" Coy attempted to cross by assault boats W. of the lock but pinned by MG and rifle from far bank - A Tk gun used to fire into lock hut on far bank which was being used as a Strong Point - CO visited fwd coys and realised impossibility of crossing. Decided to leave "A" Coy under command of Major Dukes with one sec of carriers in support, remainder of Bn returned to 156921 (Sheet 25&35) 1 ins., at 1400 hrs. Lt Brownlee-Lamont K. killed attempting to cross lock. Major Follett and Capt McIntyre wounded - 2 O.Rs killed, 18 wounded. CSM Grey wounded attempting boat crossing. R.A. Trace attached	RWM de Winton Appendix I
BELGIUM	17	Sep	Early hours of morning "A" Coy report lock gates were opened by enemy. 0700 "A" Coy relieved by Recce Regt. Bn moved to KIEVERMONT in square 1088 (Sheet 25-35 1 ins) where Bn conc for one night. CO and IO recce to KOSB at 076927 where RSF and KOSB held small Bridge Head over L'Escaut Canal, NORTH of	

			GHEEL. Heavy counter attack during the visit. 1330 hrs Airborne Div passed overhead in NW direction. Saw 5 shot down on return journey. Issue of German rations to Bn. Lt Patrick rejoined Bn and posted to "C" Coy.	RWM de Winton
BELGIUM	18	Sep	Crossing postponed from daylight to night. 0700 hrs CO and Coy Comds visited Bridge Head - recce liaison with A & S.H who had taken over prev night from RSF. 1100 hrs Major Kempton joined Bn from London Scottish. CQMS WILKINSON posted to "A" Coy as acting CSM. 1200 hrs 3 carriers sent to A. & S.H to assist in evacuation of wounded. 2000 hrs First Group consisting of Bn HQ crossed canal by Assault Boats, remainder of Bn C,A,B,D, Support, at hourly intervals. (Bn held up one hour owing to counter attack). Bde LO's controlled timing of crossing. Take over complete by 0400 hrs with little interference - Code word for completion "NUTS" (Bn exchange of A Tk guns).	RWM de Winton
BELGIUM	19	Sep	Major Kempton posted to A & S.H. Lt Griffiths and Lt McDonald joined Bn, posted to A and D Coys. Bn HQ established at MR 076928 (Sheet 25-35: 1 ins to 1 mile). Bn well dug in and holding posn taken over from KOSB. Heavy shelling and mortaring encountered during the day. Notified that 10 HLI would pass through Bn positions at night. At 2245 hrs first coy HLI reported over the Canal, interference by Long Range Sniper, second Coy of HLI reported over at 2325 hrs. 20 Fd Coy RE were in charge of the ferrying across the Canal during the day and night. The Central crossing was observed as journeys nearly always resulted in shelling. Joint Command Post shared with 2 A & S.H in cellar of house on NORTH bank. The two Bns were so closely inter-locked and so essential to prevent enemy infiltration if bridgehead to be kept intact, that this close liaison essential. Casualties: 4 O.R's.	RWM de Winton
	20	Sep	All HLI Coys reported in position at 0235 hrs. HLI Carrier Pl reported they had lost contact with their "B" Coy and that their Officer was missing. CO instructed Capt Grendan to take them under his command and sent a party out to make contact between them. Bde Comdr calls for Bde 'O' Gp at 0915 hrs R.V. at Red House in Wood South Side of L'Escout Canal (MR 075925 Sheet 25-35 1" to 1 mile). The bridgehead was to be abandoned and the Division were to follow up the	

BELGIUM			<p>successful crossing of the Canal further EAST on the main 2nd Army Axis.</p> <p>The crossing started at 2000 hrs and all three bns were cleared of the NORTH bank by about 2400 hrs. HLI withdrew through the Bn first and thereafter the withdrawal carried out by Serials, the A & S.H conforming. "B" Coy was the last to leave. The Carrier Pl took up positions on South bank to cover the crossing and flanks should the enemy follow up.</p> <p>Casualties:- 1 O.R killed 20 wounded.</p>	RWM de Winton
HOLLAND	21	Sep	<p>0100 hrs Bn established in area KIEVERMONT (MR Sq 1088 Sheet 25-35 1" to 1 mile) with Bn HQ at MR 105890.</p> <p>Spent quiet day reorganising etc.</p> <p>Bn visited Mobile Baths.</p>	RWM de Winton
	22	Sep	<p>0700 hrs Harbour party under Command of Major Henderson left KIEVERMONT to recce new Bn positions at VELDHOVEN in HOLLAND (MR Sq 3714). Bn moved at 1330 hrs and arrived new location 1800 hrs. Orders for the Bn to move early on the morning of the 23rd Sep were received at Midnight.</p>	RWM de Winton
HOLLAND	23	Sep	<p>Harbour party under Command Major Henderson left VELDHOVEN at 0730 hrs to recce new Bn conc area SOUTH of WILHELMINA Canal. This area under enemy mortar and shell fire. Orders received from Bde to return and a new area allotted to the Bn on the outskirts of EINDHOVEN (MR 408228 Sheet 18 S.W 1/25000). Bn arrived new location at 1130 hrs and Bn HQ established at (MR 409229 Sheet 18 S.W 1/25000).</p> <p>The GOC 15 (S) Division visited and spoke to all ranks of the Bn at 1730 hrs. The Commanding Officer spoke to all ranks and informed them of his intention to disband "B" Coy and reform 3 strong Coys A,C & D, to take effect from 23rd Sept. Bn was billeted in houses in the "Garden City" occupied by employees of Phillips Electric Coy. All ranks were made to feel very much at home and great kindness shown.</p>	RWM de Winton
HOLLAND	24	Sep	<p>Bn still in position on the outskirts of EINDHOVEN.</p> <p>Church Service arranged for 1030 hrs in the Hospital Courtyard but had to be cancelled owing to heavy rain. A voluntary Service was held at 1215 hrs in "A" Coy area. Bn prepared to move at 1700 hrs but this order was later cancelled until 0730 hrs 25th Sep.</p> <p>The Pipe Band played Retreat at 1800 hrs in the Bn area.</p> <p>Letter of congratulation to the Bn received by C.O. attached.</p>	Appendix II RWM de Winton
	25	Sep	<p>Bn moved at 0730 hrs to Area of BEST (MR 386257 Sheet 18 S.W. 1/25,000). 2 Gordons to clear area from Main Road at 386255 to</p>	

HOLLAND			<p>incl WOOD 364250. "H" hour 1000 hrs. Attacked with C and D Coys forward, A Coy in reserve. Heavy M.G. fire met from Rly embankment and attack was held up. Bn later withdrawn to area 385257 and an attack by Typhoons on enemy MG positions dug in on rly embankment was made.</p> <p>20 PW were taken. Bn stayed night 25/26 in this area. Major Duff was wounded but remained on duty. Casualties:- Capt R.G. Hogg and Lt G.E. Beaton were killed. Major G.H. Hutchinson, Lt G.C. McDonald, Lt T.A.S. Johnson were wounded. Lt D.R. Fairlie reported missing. O.R's 9 Killed, 47 wounded and 55 missing. The object of the attack was for the Bn to secure a firm line North of the Canal and West of the railway to allow 10HLI and 2 A & S.H to form up for their attack on NAASTENBEST on the left of 44 Bde.</p> <p>During the attack some of the enemy flying white flags gave themselves up to the Bn. 54 were counted to leave the wood, but owing to many being killed by their own people only 22 returned to the PW Cage - during this action "Cat & Nine Tails" were found in enemy NCO slit trenches. The Bn were held up from very accurate and conc MG fire from the factory in BEST, and all the Platoon who managed to cross the railway were trapped, few managing to get back.</p>	RWM de Winton
HOLLAND	26	Sep	<p>After a very uncomfortable night, the Bn moved at 0800 hrs in pouring rain to area (Sq 3928) with Bn HQ at 394286 (Sheet 18 S.W 1/25000) to defend Bde HQ and as Reserve Bde while the HLI & A. & S.H advancing N. to widen the existing Line of Communication (North to Bridgehead over the Rhine). Contact made with reserve Coy of Airborne American Tps. At 1700 hrs the Bn moved to hold defensive position in area Sq. 3828 to fill a gap on the left of the Bde. Bn HQ in house Map Ref 386284 (Sheet 18 S.W. OIRSCHOT 1/25,000). Patrol sent out at 1030 hrs and 0230 hrs to contact Bde HQ Patrol.</p> <p>Casualties - One man missing, three men rejoined having previously been reported missing on Sep 25th.</p>	RWM de Winton
	27	Sep	<p>Bn ordered to move to relieve 8 R.S. in area 372277 (Sheet 18 S.W. 1/25000) moved at 0830 hrs. Bn relieved by Recce Regt. Relief of 8 R.S completed by 1000 hrs. Some enemy shelling and mortaring during the day.</p> <p>1100 hrs. Typhoon attack positions in WOOD (MR Sq 3629) and a propaganda broadcast was made to the enemy. At 1300 hrs the Typhoons again attacked their positions and 50 prisoners gave themselves up to the A. & S.H. Owing to the Brigade being on a</p>	

WAR DIARY.

In lieu of A.F. C 2118.

Month and Year:- October, 1944.

Unit:- 2nd Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Commanding Officer:- Lt.-Col R.W.M. de Winton, D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HOLLAND	1	0810 1600 2000	<p>Weather remains wet and cold, trench life becoming most uncomfortable. Bn informed that the 51st Highland Div were relieving 15 (S) Div the following day. Hoped that one of our own Bns will relieve us (1st or 5/7 Bns) - Constant patrolling during day.</p> <p>"A" Coy sent Pl under command of Lt Burge to WOOD 273287 made contact with enemy patrol - one man killed - retaliate with M.G. and Mortar "Hate Shoot".</p> <p>Standing patrol of 2 O.Rs from "D" Coy to M.R. 388288 report seeing enemy patrol on track at 365282.</p> <p>Bren party (3 Brens) from "A" Coy. Harassing Shoot on HOUSE at 372288 and WOOD 373288 for ¼ hour (10 mags Bren). Slight shelling from Enemy Inf guns during day.</p>	
	2	1100 0900 1400 1100 1625	<p>Brig Sinclair (153 Bde), Brig Colville (227 Bde) with members of 1st and 5/7th Bns visit Command Post.</p> <p>"A" Coy patrol 1 N.C.O. and 6 contact A. & S.H. Standing Patrol 2 O.Rs from "C" Coy observe enemy movements in HOUSE 372288. WOOD 373288 Report clear of enemy. Appears enemy is thinning out. Strong points remain along railway. Fighting Patrol from "D" Coy (1 N.C.O. and 8 O.Rs) to contact enemy on railway 365275. Observed two enemy sentries on W. side of railway. Patrol returned to report.</p> <p>"D" Coy patrol sent back to railway as object in morning had not been achieved. Orders were to fire at enemy if observed. Return to report hitting at least two enemy - were fired on from enemy M/G firing into top of trees - very inaccurate. Patrol lay quiet until firing ceased then returned fire from Brens.</p> <p>Explosion heard on bearing 355° from O.P. (372280) thought to be enemy Amn Dump but not confirmed.</p> <p>Recce party from 5 Camerons. Slight shelling during day, appears to be trying for Class 40 Br at M.R. 389249.</p>	

		1930	C.O. and Adjt dine with 153 Bde.	
HOLLAND	3	0800	Enemy fighting patrol attack O.P. - M.Gs and Light Inf Mortars. Difficult to tell exact location of firing but did not appear to be very close to O.P. Carrier Pl report seeing about 15 men enter WOOD 365278. Carrier Pl, 3" Mors and Gunners shoot up likely return routes to railway. No casualties - quiet by 0830 hrs.	
		1200	A tired and nervous enemy N.C.O. walked into our lines causing amusement owing to his poor condition. During day arrangements made for hand over to 5 Camerons. All surplus stores and tpt sent to Bn Assembly Area (395286).	
		1400	Commencement of "Hand Over". "A", "C" & "D" Coys of Bn change over, Camerons making slight adjustments and including their "B" Coy. We were very weak on ground.	
		1500	Bn report "STAG" - code word for completion of operation.	
		1515	Bn feed in Assembly Area.	
		1545	Move to Rest Area - Order of March Bn HQ, Sp Coy, "A", "D" & "C" Coys in 3 ton lorries.	
		1930	Arrived in DEURNE M.R. 653202 (1/25000 - 19 Sh VENRAIJ).	
		2200	Bn settled in new billets. "D" Coy in German Hutted Camp at M.R. 644209, remainder of Bn in private houses and cafes. Americans concerned about our lights and noise as enemy patrols and shelling of village were possible. Capt G. Potter joined Bn and posted to Mor Pl.	
	4	1300	Bn re-organisation. 3 coys made up to strength from drafts. For first time since leaving ENGLAND, central Officers' Mess in School. Mobile baths during day. P.R.I. opens canteen in Cafe.	
		1800	Pipes and Drums play "Retreat" in Square.	
		2100	Cinema show in local cinema.	
	5	1000	Bn trg including Drill and P.T. Bn quarter guard mounted at Bn HQ. Shelling of Village during afternoon.	
		1730	Bde Comd lectures to officers and N.C.Os - briefing of future operations.	
		1800	E.N.S.A. concert.	
	6	1000	Day's course for "I" Sec at Bde HQ.	
		1400	Bde "O" Gp.	
		1730	Div Comd lectures to officers in HELMOND (553220 Sh 5 1/10000).	

HOLLAND		1800	For the first time during this war, a performance of the Div. Pipe Band has been held on the Continent. The Pipe Band under Drum Major Wilkie and Pipe-Major Nicol paraded in the grounds of The Castle, HELMOND before the Corps and Div Commanders. After the performance the Corps Commander expressed his high approval of the excellent display that had been given. The programme was as follows:- Blue Bonnets over the Border - Skye Gathering - Atholl and Breadalbane - Because he was a Bonnie Lad - High Road to Linton - Glendurnie Highlanders - Lady Dorothea Stewart Murray - Farewell to the Creeks - The Mist Covered Mountain - Australian Ladies - Munlochry Brig - Scotland the Brave.	
		1930	Shelling of Village.	
		2000	Film Show.	
	7	1445	Corps Commander's interview with C.O. and 2 i/c at Bde HQ. The Bde's intention to attack W. of Forest RUCHSWALD to GENNEP on TUE 10 Oct cancelled. Maj G.H. Hutchinson returns to Bn from hospital. Shelling during day. Two S.Bs wounded.	
		1730	For the first time on the Continent a performance of the 1st, 2nd and 5/7th Bns' Pipe Bands played "Retreat" NORTH of the ZON Bridge. It is a memorable occasion for the three Bns. The Pipe Band under Drum Major Ferguson (5/7th Bn) and Drum Major (1st Bn). The Pipe Majors, all from Balmoral Castle lead the pipers - Pipe Majors Brown (1st Bn), McGregor (5/7th Bn) and Nicol (2nd Bn). The Div and Bde Comds were present.	Retreat Programme Appendix I.
	8		Enemy patrols laid A/Tk mines on road between DEURNE and BAKEL. Two Jeeps of 11 Armoured Div blow up. Interpreter L. Dunke Jacob joins Bn from EINDHOVEN.	Appendix II.
		1145	Scale X Church Parade in "D" Coy Camp.	
		1900	Guest Night in Officers' Mess.	
	9		Return to Bn from hospital of Sjt Harris and 4 O.Rs. Owing to enemy activity it was necessary to send out patrols during the night. "A" Coy supply patrols along road to Bde HQ; they have nothing to report except meeting patrols from Recce, A. & S.H. and American Army. While repairing roof of factory, Pte Candie of Pioneer Pl fell through roof of factory and fractured his skull. American Div move to area of DEURNE and take over patrolling between DEURNE and MILHEEZE.	Appendix III.
HOLLAND				
	10	0920	Corps Comd lectures to Bn Comds at Corps HQ (8th Corps).	

			C.O. lectures to all Coys.	
	11	1545 1730 1930	Hockey match between offrs and Sjts. Score 0 - 4. Pipe Band plays "Retreat" at DEURNE. Film Show. 1st Publication of Bn News Summary as "BY DAND" taking the place of "The Gordonian".	Appendix IV.
	12	1630 1700 2030	Hockey. DEURNE Hockey Club v. Gordons Team. Score 1 - 0. Members of team presented with Souvenir Picture. Football Match A & S.H. v Gordons. Score 2 - 1. Bde Comd spectator at game. Film show in Deurne Cinema. 5 members of Bn return from Hospital. Night patrol in Village. Bn being worried by a number of Dutch civilians desiring to join British Army.	
	13	1645	The following awards were published:- Brigadier Sinclair J.R. - D.S.O. Capt MacPhail A.N., R.A.M.C. - M.C. Lt Hitchcock J.H. (Can Inf Corps) - M.C. 2817733 L/Sjt C. McGregor - M.M. Officers and N.C.Os visited HELMOND to see Armoured Troop Carriers.	
	14	0930 1400 1500 1400 2000	Bn Holiday with exception of officers and men on certain essential duties. Bde 'O' Gp. "C" & "D" Coys visit to Helmond to see Troop Carriers. "B" Ech move to area 598235. Reps from coys visit HELMOND. Film Show.	
	15	1000 1100 1800 2030	Church Parade in School Yard. Lecture of Officers and N.C.Os by Major Campbell (R.A.) on R.A. Support. Cinema Show in Theatre. Bn Concert arranged and produced by Capt Rae (P.R.I.).	Programme Appx VI.
HOLLAND	16	1000	C.O., 2 i/c and Coy Comds attend demonstration of Armoured Troop Carriers working with Tanks. General trg and recreation. Film in evening.	
	17	0900	Bn Exercise with Armoured Troop Carriers on Trg Area N. of Trg Pl Comds to work on briefing from Map and not on Ground - using Carriers as flank protection.	

		1400	Conference on morning's trg. Suggested that 2 i/c Coys should travel with rear pl together with the 18 set. Comn difficult, possible use of flag signal.									
		2030	Film show.									
	18		General trg. Coys practice quick decision orders and comn for use in Armoured Troop vehs.									
		1400	C.O. visits 51 Highland Div to make arrangements for take over from 153 and 152 Bdes. Visit to 1st Gordons. Nothing definite arranged as times of take over not certain.									
		2130	Bde 'O' Gp. Bn load and prepare to move. Bn '68 RESERVE' Sign put on all House and Buildings occupied.									
	19	0930	Bn 'O' Gp. 227 Bde to take over from 153 and 152 Bdes. Defensive role - to allow 51 H.D. to reform and prepare for attack N. of River DOMMEL (Sh 18 N.W.). Cameronians under command of 227 (H) Inf Bde.									
		1000	C.O. and I.O. leave for 5/7th Bn GORDONS from whom the Bn takes over. Recce of Coy positions etc.									
		1230	Coy Comds and guides arrive at 5/7th Gordons.									
		1430	Bn arrive at Assembly Area. - 153 Bde HQ 419314. - to reorganise into coy groups prior to moving forward. Food is cooked in this area.									
		1515	Mortar Pl and "C" Coy move forward to 5/7th Area 404314 (Map 18 N.W. 1/25000).									
		1530	Bn HQ move forward.									
		1600	"A" Coy with 2 6 pdr A. Tk guns, 2 Secs carriers and Coy Carrier.									
		1630	"D" Coy with 2 6 pdrs and 2 secs of Carriers.									
		1700	Move complete. Track leading down to Bn area impossible for wheeled vehs. Standing patrol as shown on sketch sent out to fill gap left by the Black Watch who moved out at 1800 hrs - also to let enemy think that posn still occupied.									
		1700	Change over as follows:- <table style="margin-left: 40px; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>2 Gordons Coys.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>5/7 Gordons Coys.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>"C" Coy and 2 17 pdrs.</td> <td>"A" Coy.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"A" Coy and 2 6 pdrs.</td> <td>"C" Coy.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"D" Coy and 2 6 pdrs</td> <td>"D" Coy.</td> </tr> </table> 2 Secs of Carriers and the Assault 2" Mortar Section Standing patrol in Black Watch area.	<u>2 Gordons Coys.</u>	<u>5/7 Gordons Coys.</u>	"C" Coy and 2 17 pdrs.	"A" Coy.	"A" Coy and 2 6 pdrs.	"C" Coy.	"D" Coy and 2 6 pdrs	"D" Coy.	See Appx VII. Sketch of Coy locations.
<u>2 Gordons Coys.</u>	<u>5/7 Gordons Coys.</u>											
"C" Coy and 2 17 pdrs.	"A" Coy.											
"A" Coy and 2 6 pdrs.	"C" Coy.											
"D" Coy and 2 6 pdrs	"D" Coy.											
	20	0112	"A" Coy report farm building on fire - 600 yds in front of their F.D.L. Patrolling during day with harassing fire from									

			<p>Brens and Mortars - from position on Bn left flank and also GASTHURSHOEF area to make enemy think we still held the ground. Enemy mortaring on wood at 387324 (Sh 18 N.W. 1/25000).</p> <p>Considerable patrolling during day and night, no contact with enemy. Standing Patrol in GASTHURSHOEF. Enemy still thinks village is occupied as slight mortaring on one previous forward positions. Night patrols penetrated as far forward as 383328 with no contacts made. Tracks in Bn area becoming very muddy and difficult for tpt. All available men on road maintenance.</p>	
	21		<p>Still appears enemy think GATSHURSHOEF (M.R. 3932 1/25000) occupied by Black Watch. Mortared forward positions during day. Deception plan by firing 3" Mor and M.Gs from GASTHURSHOEF area. Held by 1 Pl Standing Patrol. Enemy not very active. No sign of patrols.</p>	
	22		<p>Active patrolling during night 21/22. "C" Coy contact enemy at 388316 (1/25000). Exchange of fire. No casualties. Heavy shelling of enemy posns during day. Enemy shell St Oedenrod. Mortar had direct hit on enemy digging at 385322. Bofors det under command of Bn.</p>	
	23	0001	<p>Active patrolling during night. No enemy contacted. 51st Highland Division put in attack on right towards our right flank.</p>	
	24	0630	<p>Party of 2 offrs and 5 O.Rs left for 48 hrs short pass in BRUSSELS. Bn move at 1200 hrs. Attack as shown in Appx XVIII. No enemy encountered. 1 O.R. killed by Box Mine. Bn HQ at 358296. Attack completed by 1600 hrs. Quiet night.</p>	
HOLLAND	25	1200 1500	<p>Two civilian prisoners handed to "C" Coy sent from BOXTEL. Bn marching personnel left for NOTEL (Sh 18 S.W. 1/25000). Arrived at new location. Conc in area for night.</p>	
	26		<p>Bde move to conc area MOERGESTEL as shown in Appendix XIV. Bn HQ established at 224316. Bde 'O' Gp at 1700 hrs.</p>	
	27		<p>Bde attack on TILBURG. See Appx X. Bn in town at 1830 hrs; great reception from civilians delaying operation for a short time. No enemy encountered. Civilians report enemy left town at mid-day. Bn spent peaceful night in good billets. Bn goes into Battle using KANGAROOS for first time, supported by tanks. No casualties.</p>	

	28		Div Pipe Band play "Retreat" in TILBURG - day of celebration for civilian population. It was hoped that the Bn would remain in TILBURG for a few days to clean up and enjoy civilisation for a change to the field and slit trenches. This was not possible as there was a threat of enemy infiltration on 8th Corps front at ASTEN, which was held by a small American Battle Group.	
		1400	Bn move to ASTEN with 227 Bde only, prepare for counter-attack role and defence of ASTEN.	
	29		Evacuation at own request of civilians in area of ASTEN, scared of counter-attack, atmosphere very tense. Bn moves to conc area in Sq 6113, defending 227 Bde HQ. Bde defensive role on ASTEN. Bn takes over from Americans. See Appx XI for dispositions. Active patrolling by enemy during night. Enemy using more and heavier arty than encountered since NORMANDY - Counter-attack expected. Americans withdrawn through our line and completed by 2400 hrs.	
	30	0430	Enemy Fighting Patrol of Coy strength attacked and took House M.R. 664108, occupied by "C" Coy. 3 O.Rs killed and 2 wounded. Two P.Ws taken. At 1400 hrs Pl of "C" Coy supported by two tanks counter-attacked and re-took house, taking 1 offr and 20 O.Rs P.W. Heavy shelling during day. 8 P.Ws taken during the evening by Maintenance Party from Sig Pl - kept in area under guard all night.	
	31		Active patrolling during night. Heavy shelling. Gunners firing all day. P.W. reported to be very effective.	

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 The Gordon Highlanders

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year November 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt Col R.W.M. de Winton D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HOLLAND	1		Bn still in area sq. 6511. During night 3 P.W. walked into our lines, in very poor condition, 1 Polish, who seemed to be very pleased to be in our hands. He reported that most, if not all, of his coy were either killed or wounded, and that our shelling had been most effective. Heavy shelling during day caused casualties. Lt Griffiths, Sjt Anderson and Sjt Chell were killed. Patrolling during night.	Appx 1. Coy locations.
Holland	2	0930	Patrols during night showed signs of enemy moving back. Bn in series of coy attacks supported by tanks, moved forward to area of PEEL Xtracks, with H.L.I. moving up on the right. At the same time 44 Bde moved to 692086. Our coys reached their objective meeting no enemy. A short time after the attack slight enemy shelling of "D" Coy area slightly wounded Major Duff, who remained on duty. Appx 1 shows disposition of coys. During the day, pioneers cleared several mines from the tracks, some of which were found to be Booby trapped. At M.R. 667105 our gunner OP carrier blew up on a mine, killing one OR.	Appx 1.
	3		Quiet day with no shelling, coys sending out of line a platoon each day to rest and bath. During day Bn rest with OP's and Bren screen for protection.	
	4		46 Bde having reached MOOSDIJK forced enemy to withdraw from our front Sq. 6908 (Sheet 27 NW 1:25000) leaving behind him mines both A/Tk and A/P and cratering the main road at 681086. Only necessary to have small protective screen on ground. Bn resting in local buildings with parties to ASTEN for baths. Meals served in daylight. Very bad weather and tracks becoming very difficult for vehicles.	

			Lt Arnall joins Bn and posted to Pioneer Pl. Quiet night with contact patrols to H.L.I. only.	
Holland	5		R.S.F. take over from H.L.I. and 2nd Gordons at 1400 hrs. Recce party left for ASTEN where we were to take over A & S.H. old billets. These billets were not found suitable so Bn moved to HELMOND, arriving at 1630 hrs. Coys billeted in private houses with Bn H.Q. in town Post Office.	
	6		Bn resting in HELMOND. Baths and entertainment during day. Party of 300 in TCV visit EINDHOVEN to see ENSA show. Bde "O" Gp and Recce to American Battle HQ where it was expected we should relieve them the following day. A & SH take over in area OSPEL during evening and come under comd of 51st Div.	
	7		Bn in HELMOND. Baths and entertainment. Warning order. See Appx. Baths and Cinema during day.	Appx II.
	8		Bn takes over from Seaforths area NEERKANT Sheet 27 NW/W. See Appx III. Take over completed by 2400 hrs with no incidents. No patrols out during night. Enemy patrols reported seen by "D" Coy. A little shelling but no casualties.	Appx III
Holland	9		The country in this area being very flat and open made observation for both sides very easy and consequently any movement by day drew mortar fire so feeding and movement restricted to hours of darkness. Patrolling during night for contacting enemy and recce for mines. Mine clearing by Pioneer Pl along tracks, finding Tellermines and Tin Box Mines. Very little enemy activity. Thought that he had withdrawn to far bank of canal, and sending out recce patrols and a patrol to destroy one of our bogged tanks.	
	10		Draft of three officers and 58 OR's join Bn. Lt Prentice joined and posted to "D" Coy. Bn relieved by 8 R.S. See Appx IV. Sp Coy take over in daylight drawing little mortar fire on Bn H.Q. Bn in HELMOND by 2200 hrs occupying same billets as on 6 Nov. Major Henderson (2IC) command of Bn during absence of the Commanding Officer on leave in Brussels.	Appx IV
	11		Bn in HELMOND. 1000 hrs Corps Commander visits Bn. Cinema in evening.	
	12		Bn visit to demonstration of L.V.T. (See Appx V) Bn tea dance 1500 hrs to 1800 hrs.	Appx V
Holland.	13		Instruction on mines in morning by RE's. Take over from 2 A & SH. See Appx VI. C.O. returns to Bn.	Appx VI

			<p>Minimum tpt used owing to 51 (H) Div using axis and bad condition of roads. Coy position see Appx VII No patrols sent out. Very little enemy activity.</p>	Appx VII
	14		<p>Feeding by darkness and very little movement by day. Slight shelling on Coy forward area. Gunner O.P. with "C" Coy. No enemy movement observed during day, thought that he had moved out, leaving a fantastic number of mines along the whole front, both A/Tk (Tellermine and Box Mines) and A/P Schu Mines. During the day the Pioneers cleared many mines. The Pioneer Officer, Lt Arnall lost a foot on a Schu Mine. During night, a Recce Patrol leaving from the Sausage Wood at 681072 (Sheet 27 N.W.) to area 695053 saw no signs of enemy although several slit trenches and equipment.</p>	Appx VIII. Mine and Enemy positions.
Holland	15		<p>Quiet day on our front, with 51(H) Div advancing under heavy barrage along South of canal to GALGENBERG with very little resistance. Pioneer and Coys clearing mines from area to make shorter communications between coys. Possible to move by day without drawing fire party from each coy. Visit Bde demonstration on "Lifting a Schu Mine". Bath parties to ASTEN. Coy of Seaforths under Comd.</p>	
	16	1800	<p>Relaxation in alertness. Food brought up by daylight. H.L.I. advance to MEIJEL after confirming by Recce that town had been evacuated. Found to be heavily mined and booby trapped. 51 (H) Div reached canal running N to S. To fill gap between the two we sent two pls of Seaforths and 1 Pt of "D" Coy to area of ROZZELSEHEDINK in square 7004. Div Comd visited Bn in morning. R.E. party contacted 49 Div clearing main road at 658013 which was very heavily mined. Finding that the road had been cleared and bridging equipment already on road, the party returned. Difficulty during night in keeping touch with forward pls. Wireless communication not very successful.</p>	
Holland	17	0800 0810	<p>C.O. visited forward pl and bridging site at 710040. Bridge was completed by 1030 hrs with one coy of 51(H) Div over canal at 725035, meeting no resistance. Forward pl relieved by Recce Regt. Bn rest in coy areas leaving double sentries at pl positions until 1400 hrs when Bn moved back to HELMOND occupying previous billets. Seaforth Bn under comd relieved by A & S.H. at same time. Bn at three hours notice to move.</p>	

	18		Bn resting at HELMOND. At three hours notice. Baths and entertainment.	
	19		Bn in HELMOND. Preparation for next action. Evening entertainment.	
Holland.	20	0700	Bn move in T.C.V.s to MEIJEL (M.R. 712067, 1:25000 27 N.W. E. Half) and then on to BERINGEN on foot where Bn prepared for the advance to the River MAAS. Bde Gp moved at 1400 hrs with ourselves in the lead followed by the A & S.H. and H.L.I. Bn order of march, "D" Coy, attach. H.Q., "C" and "D" Coy, Sup Coy. First Bn objective, high ground in area 7708. Recce working in front contacted enemy in this area. "D" Coy with left flank Sqn Scots Guards Tanks in support attacked, taking 43 prisoners. Casualties 13 slightly wounded. Bn consolidated for the night, sending out patrols to contact enemy and find out if bridge at 782104 had been blown. Bn H.Q. situated at 764084.	
	21		Bn moved forward with Carrier Pl leading to area of bridge at 782104 which had been blown during the night. Carrier blown up on mine across track. Pioneers sent ahead of tpt to clear road while "C" Coy crossed stream and formed small bridgehead on far side. R.E.s constructed bridge and Bn moves forward to SEVENUM supported by tanks. The enemy had left but leaving every possible obstacle to clear in the form of road blocks, blown bridges and the church at SEVENUM. We found that all our possible O.P.s had been blown down. Bn consolidates at SEVENUM for the night, sending out patrols to the enemy line. Shelling during night.	See Appx XII for route and bounds.
	22		Bn moved forward to HORST, with H.L.I. and A & S.H. leading. No enemy resistance with exception of obstacles. Few enemy found hiding in houses. Shelling during day and Lt Stewart wounded.	
Holland	23		1 P.W. taken from house. Owing to difficulty of communication and supplies Bn remained in HORST during day sending parties to fill craters and clear mines from axis at 823204 to allow R.E.s to construct bridge during night. Patrol out during night did not contact enemy.	See Appx XIII. Corps Comd's message.
	24		Bde at 833204 constructed at first light allowing the Brigade to continue their advance, Bde objective TIENRAIJ 6523. Bn in reserve at DIJK. As enemy was not contacted was decided to push forward to SWOLGEN with Scots Guards in support. Enemy seen leaving as forward elements approach SWOLGEN. Bn	

			consolidates for night, sending out patrols. Shelling becomes a little acute. No casualties.	
Holland.	25		<p>Was decided to send out small recce parties to contact enemy. Coys brought up at intervals to sort out any opposition encountered. "D" Coy reached OSTERBOS where they found an O.P. overlooking the river into Germany. "C" Coy made their way forward to BROEKHUIZERVORST meeting slight enemy resistance. As light was failing Bn consolidated in their positions with "A" Coy back at SWOLGEN. Patrols out during night. 2 enemy walked into "C" Coy lines.</p> <p>Order came through that the Bn had to get forward to line of river before first light. "C" Coy after sending forward fighting patrol, found BROEKHUIZERVORST clear and consolidated on South side of village. "A" Coy moved forward to North side of village, and "D" Coy to OIJEN at 904243. Bn occupied positions overlooking the river by night and rested in the buildings by day.</p>	
	26		The enemy do not appear to know that we occupy the position overlooking the river as during the day digging and visits from officers seen on far bank, also ferry at 911221, still working. Gunners put ferry out of order in afternoon.	
Holland.	27		<p>Enemy still using ferry at 911221. "C" Coy send fighting patrol into BROEKHUIZEN but were held up by mines losing 3 OR.s killed and 2 wounded from "S" mines. The outbuildings of a farm were also blown up on approach; it appears the enemy meant to hold this small bridgehead as long as possible and using every means to do so, laying mines a foot apart.</p> <p>Two Pioneers clearing mines from 4022 area were reported missing and presumed P.W. During the night the gunners gave BROEKHUIZEN and the ferry all their attention. R.E. section cleared path to our two killed and S.B. carried them in with the loss of one S.B. who was killed by an "S" mine. The R.E.s found that they could not manage to clear all the mines by night.</p>	
	28	1800 2230	<p>46 Bde reached STOKT from the South but were held up by m/g fire from KASTEL and houses in 9021 area. During morning Battle Gp and Carriers supported by tp of tanks raided the KASTEL area taking prisoners, 1 officer and 4 OR's. Shelling and mortaring very heavy during day.</p> <p>Bn relieved by 159 Bde of 11 Armd Div.</p> <p>Bn relief complete and in ASTEN for a rest period. Capt Buchanan (CANLOAN) rejoins from hospital.</p>	Appx XIV

	29		Bn in ASTEN. Baths and entertainment. Visit from Div Comdr. Pipes and drums play retreat.	
	30		Bn resting in ASTEN. 8th Corps Commander visits Bde H.Q. before leaving his comd to go to India. Arrival of new draft of 55 OR's. Posted to coys.	

WAR DIARY.

In lieu of A.F. C 2118.

Month and Year DECEMBER 1944.

Unit:- 2nd Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
Commanding Officer:- Lieut. Col. R.W.M. de Winton, D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HOLLAND.	1st to 6th		Bn concentrated in Rest Area at ASTEN. Time spent training, recreation and entertainments. Pipes and Drums play "Retreat". Bn Inter-Coy Football match.	Appx. I - Example of Entertainment Allocation.
	5th		Bde "O" Group. Discussion on future Bde Ops.	See Appx 2.
	6th		Recce party visit KESSEL, prior to taking over from East Lancs of 160 Bde.	
	7th	1200 1910	Bn leave ASTEN for Assembly Area in HELDEN (M.R. 8003). Bn feed and move forward at 1800 hrs to take over from East Lancs. Hand over complete. Standing Patrol on river bank with constant patrolling during night between Coys and to H.L.I. at HORST (M.R. 8502) and R.W.F. at 7998.	See Appx 3. " " 4. " " 5.
	8th	 1930	Slight shelling during day. Div Commander visits Bn Area. (1145 hrs). During day, O.P as shown on sketch, have nothing to report. Many earthworks, trenches and A/tk ditches seen but no movement of the enemy. Thought he rests by day and all movement in darkness. We rest in buildings during day and occupy dug positions after "Stand-to" times, with sentries and O.Ps observing during daylight. Civilians still in occupation of all villages along river. Movement heard on far bank during night.	Appx 6 and 6A.
	9th	0130 0145	Bde HQ report Enemy Patrol had shot up an H.L.I. Contact Patrol, killing one O.R. and wounding 3 O.Rs. Thought that enemy were using Bren. "D" Coy report Standing Patrol at 838010 attacked by Enemy Patrol thought to be using Bren Gun. 1 - O.R. killed. Gunners - 25 lbs and A/Tk 6 lbs snipe Church which was being used as enemy O.P. (845001). Visibility poor but enemy movement observed. Shelling and Mortaring more active.	
	10th	1400	Lt W. Tasker and Lt S.W. Telfer joined Bn. Div Commander visits "A" Coy O.P.	

			Carriers relieve Battle Group of forward position.	
HOLLAND.	11th		Enemy observed during day - Snipers firing on targets when opportunity arose. Heavy shelling during day chiefly in "C" Coy Area - one casualty in "A" Coy Area. Civilians report that enemy probably cross river in area 864030 and 862023. Believe boats are hidden under burnt out barn 86530278 and in Slit Trench 868022.	
	12th		2 - O.Rs return from Hospital. 21 reinforcements from Inniskilling Fusiliers. Between 2000 hrs and 2045 hrs noise of vehs and what sounded like a concrete mixer about 830999. Several illuminating Verey Lights were fired and one Veh moved for a short time with full headlights.	
	13th		2 - ORs return from Hospital. Commanding Officer, Capt McPhail (M.O.), 2886747 Sjt Harris, 2888214 L/Cpl McConnell, 2927095 Pte McLean were presented with Medal Ribbon by Field Marshal Montgomery at Div HQ in ZOMERON. Spectators from the Bn were also present. Awards presented were:- Commanding Officer - D.S.O. Capt McPhail (M.O.) - M.C. 2886747 Sgt Harris C. - M.M. 2927095 Pte McLean J. - M.M. 2888214 L/Cpl McConnell - M.M.	See Appx 7.
	14th	1400	5 - ORs return from Hospital. H.V. Gun fire at O.P. No casualties. Corps Commander visits "C" Coy O.P. Major Duff leaves for BRUSSELS to recce area for Div Battle School. Capt Grose command of "D" Coy.	
	15th		Bn W.E. up to strength, decided to reform "B" Coy, commanded by Major Hutchinson. O.P. observe enemy activity during day. Slight shelling.	
HOLLAND.	16th	1400	Bn draw for Home Leave. During night enemy patrol cross river. Civilians report 3 enemy broke into house at M.R. 853027, crossing river at 852013.	
	17th		Enemy patrol crossed river during night. Offensive activity during day - Jet propelled planes patrolling front. Enemy Rocket-firing plane attacks road leading to "C" Coy Area. "C" Coy Sniper killed by Mortar Bomb.	

	18th	<p>Three enemy patrols were seen during night - a small one at 852024 and 841015 and a strong patrol of 14 at 806980.</p> <p>1 Pl and Battle Group of A & S.H. attached and under command to fill gap left by any Fighting Patrol found necessary to send out during night.</p> <p>Slight shelling during day.</p>	
	19th	<p>Dog reported crossing river during night. No enemy patrol seen. Considerable noise heard during night. 3" Mortar active time engaging targets.</p>	
	20th	<p>Enemy Patrol reported by Carrier Pl. Owing to thickness of Fog, visibility very poor and for a period in the morning when S.P. and Ambush had to be manned.</p> <p>Slight mortaring observed during afternoon when fog rose.</p>	
	21st	<p>Quiet day. Very little shelling. O.P., with "C" Coy, sniped at from far bank.</p>	
	22nd	<p>Commanding Officer, by invitation from the Div Commander, leaves to spend 24 hours at Div HQ.</p> <p>Quiet day. No shelling, and owing to visibility very little enemy activity observed.</p>	
	23rd	<p>During the night "C" and "D" captured 3 and 1 prisoners.</p> <p>A party of two crossed in boat to collect four others who had been on this side of the river all day, hiding in a wood.</p> <p>Commanding Officer returns from Div HQ.</p> <p>Recce party from H.L.I. to see Bn positions prior to taking over.</p> <p>Bde Exercise "Calling for Fire". See Appx.</p>	Appx 8 and 9.
HOLLAND.	24th	<p>Quiet day. No shelling. 10 H.L.I. taking over Bn positions, started with Bn HQ at about 1230 hrs. Relief completed 2100 hrs. No casualties. Capt J.H. Thompson proceeded on Course to the U.K.</p>	
	25th	<p>Bn in reserve at EGCHELHOEK with Bn HQ established at 772038 (Sheet 1/25,000), "D" in HELDEN. Duty Coy provided each day who supply patrols as required by the Left hand Bn of the Bde front.</p> <p>ORs had Xmas dinner. C.O. visited each Coy.</p>	
	26th	<p>Quiet day. Still in reserve.</p> <p>Entertainment at night (Cinema).</p>	
	27th	<p>Quiet day. Still in reserve.</p> <p>Entertainment at night (Cinema). Baths in HELDEN.</p>	
	28th	<p>Quiet day. Still in reserve.</p> <p>C.O. and recce party visit 2 A & S.H. area prior to taking over their positions.</p>	

	29th	Relieved 2 A & S.H. Area BARLOW. Bn HQ established at 853047 (Sheet TEGELEN 1/25,000). Very quiet night. No incidents and no casualties. Disposition of Bn as per trace.	Appx 10.
	30th	Very quiet during the day, when sentries and O.Ps man the posts, others resting in buildings. Standing Patrols along the river bank during the night.	
	31st	Again a very quiet day. No enemy activity.	

WAR DIARY

In lieu of A.F. C 2118.

Month and Year January 1945

Unit:- 2nd Bn The Gordon Highlanders.

Commanding Officer:- Lt. Col. R.W.M. de Winton, D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Holland	1	0001 0420 0940	Bn still in defence position as per Trace, with Bn HQ at 853047 (Sh Tegelen 1/25000). 'Shoot' with 3" Mortar, MMG, 6-pr and small arms to let 'New Year' in across the River MAAS. No enemy reaction. Call from 10 HLI that 1 Sec (PIKE) had been over run on our right. 6-pr 'Shoot' from 'A' Coy area at houses on other side of river used by enemy. Good shooting. Several direct hits. Very quiet during the day, no movement of enemy seen. No shelling and no casualties.	
	2		Very quiet day. Enemy keeps well under cover during daylight. Spasmodic Spandau and rifle fire during the day. We retaliate with 3" Mortar. No shelling and no casualties.	
	3		Very little to report. No enemy movement, slight Spandau and rifle fire which we engage with 3" Mortar. Explosion on far side of river bank during the night but unable to say what it is. Sounds like a mine. No shelling, no casualties.	
	4	0115 1430	Call from Bde that enemy patrol had crossed in 2 A & SH area on our left and in Glasgow Hrs area on our right. Visibility during the morning very poor making observation impossible. Good shooting by 3" Mortars caused a loud explosion followed by a column of black smoke 100 ft high. Possibly hit an amn dump. No shelling and no casualties during the day.	
	5		One of 'C' Coy had accident with Schumine. Enemy MG and rifle fire more active during the day but he still keeps well under cover. Two enemy seen enter house and 3" Mortar quickly engage them scoring several direct hits through the roof. Friendly aircraft (Spitfire) makes crash landing in Bn area. Pilot safe having come down by parachute in our area. No shelling during the day.	

	6	1300	<p>Visibility very poor through thick ground mist, listening posts manned.</p> <p>Visibility improves and listening posts return and OPs fully manned. Spandau and rifle fire fairly active but still no enemy movement observed.</p> <p>Recce party from 10 HLI visit Bn area prior to taking over. No shelling.</p>	
Holland	7		Relief by 10 HLI started at noon and completed by 1900 hrs. No incidents. Bn moved back to rest area at Egchelhoek as relieved. Two casualties caused through accident with 36 Grenades.	
	8/11		Bn in rest area at EGCHELHOEK with 'D' Coy in HELDEN. Bn HQ established at 772038. Days spent reorganising, resting, with baths at Helden and entertainment at Helden and Helmond.	
	11		Recce party visit 2 A & SH area at Kessel prior to us taking over.	
	12		Bn take over 2 A & SH defensive area at KESSEL with Bn HQ established at 816013. Sheet Tegelen 1/25000. Disposition of Bn as per trace. Relief of 2 A & SH completed by 1930 hours. Very quiet night. No shelling and no casualties.	Appx 2 Appx 3
	13		Corps Commander visits the area. Major A.J. McKenzie visits the Bn after nearly 3 years absence. Slight enemy shelling and mortaring during the day and Gunner's OP hit. No casualties. Spandau fire and snipers very active and enemy movement observed. Retaliation with 3" Mortars very effective. Nothing to report during the night.	
	14		Slight enemy shelling and mortaring during the day. Very little enemy movement observed. Snipers and Spandau fire active but firing seems to be erratic. No casualties. House at 829996 occupied by enemy. Engaged by 3" Mortars. Very effective shooting, several hits through roof.	
	15		Very quiet day. Visibility rather poor through ground mist. No enemy movement during the day.	
	16	0430	Boat seen making its way towards CARP, engaged with small arms fire by posts at CARP and FILLET and returns to opposite bank. Engaged with 3" Mortars also. Visibility not very good during the day. More enemy movement seen but 3" Mortars soon send them scurrying to their 'slits'. Slight enemy shelling and mortaring during the day but no casualties. Capt McIntyre and CSM Duncan rejoin Bn from wounded list and posted to 'D' Coy.	
Holland	17		Snipers and Spandau fire very active although doing no damage. Very little movement observed. C.O. and I.O of No. 6 Commando	

		arrive at Bn HQ prior to taking over. Stayed at Command Post. Recce party left for 6 RSF area at BLERICK whom we are due to relieve. Change over postponed.	
	18	Little enemy movement during the day. Slight shelling and mortaring. Weather changing, beginning to thaw. Gunners have 'shoot' with 1 - 25-pr at Church Steeple in the village of REUVER. Very successful. Steeple demolished. 'D' Coy sniper kills one German opposite Kessel area.	
	19	Another quiet day. No enemy shelling. Visibility at times very poor due to spasmodic snow storms. OPs nothing to report during the day. 2-i/c and recce party leave for BLERICK area to recce 6 RSF positions.	
	20	Very quiet day. Snow storms during the day again making conditions rather hard for observation. No 6 Commando take over Bn area. 'C' Coy being the last Coy to be relieved. Bn proceeded direct, as relieved to BLERICK area to relieve 6 RSF. Bn in position without incident by 2400 hours. Bn HQ established at 894098 Sheet Tegelen 1/25000. Disposition of Bn as per trace with 'C' Sqn Recce under command. 'D' Coy sniper has good day, claims 2 Germans killed and 1 wounded, area opposite KESSEL.	Appx 4
	21	2-i/c and recce party leave to recce Bn rest area. Bn billeted in houses and cellars, resting during day and manning forward posts at night. OPs manned during the day. Very little movement during the day. No shelling and no casualties.	
	22	Very quiet day with little enemy movement to observe. Recce party from 12 Devons of 6th A/B Landing Bde arrived to see Bn layout prior to them taking over. Stayed the night with their respective groups. No shelling and no casualties.	
	23	Another very quiet day, slightly more enemy movement observed and our 3" Mortars used to good effect. Visit of Div Comd of 6 A/B Div who visited the OPs.	
	24	Still very quiet with no enemy shelling.	
	25	Very quiet during the day. No shelling. Relief of the Bn by 12 Devons of 6th A/B Landing Bde. Coys moved by march route as relieved to Staging Area at BOEKEND, Sheet Tegelen 1/25000. Bn settled in Staging Area by 2200 hrs and prepared for early move next morning to Rest Area.	
Holland	26	Bn moved from BOEKEND at 0900 hours as per Movement Order (Appx 5). The Commanding Officer leading the convoy. Arrived at new location area 9714 (Lunatic Asylum) at 1600 hours. Bn HQ established at 976153 Sheet 3 Antwerp 1/100000.	Appx 5

	27/28		Days spent resting and reorganising, with cinema shows in the Asylum and recreational transport into TURNHOUT in the evening.	
	29/31		Bn carry out training programme under Coy arrangements. Cinema shows and baths in the Asylum and recreational transport into TURNHOUT.	
	30		Major General G.H.A. McMillan, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. visited the Bn.	
	31		Bde Conference. Coy Comds attend.	

WAR DIARY

In lieu of A.F. C 2118.

Month and Year:- February, 1945

Unit:- 2nd Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
Commanding Officer:- Lieut.-Colonel R.W.M. de Winton, D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1		Bn still in area 9714 (Sheet 3, ANTWERP 1/100000)	
	2		Trg (Breaching minefield, assault on pillboxes and A/Tk defences) continues.	
	3		Trg - Pipes and Drums play Retreat.	
	4		All officers attend an address by the Corps and Div Comds at TILBURG.	
	5	1430	Bn column left at 1430 hrs for NIJMEGEN (Bde Movement Order att) led by 2 IC. Route was 'Maple Route Up' but many diversions owing to state of the road - Road surface very bad in parts. Order of March - Bn HQ, "A", "B", "C", "D" & Sp Coys.	
	6.	0230	Bn arrives at its billets in a large school in NIJMEGEN. Remainder of the day spent in preparation for coming action.	
	7		Final preparations and 'O' Group for Op 'VERITABLE'. Six shells land in A.2 Ech area but no military damage done.	
	8	0700	Bn moves off at 0700 hrs for assembly area (movement order att) with rifle coys on foot. Routes SKYE and GLEN proved to be little better than mud tracks running through the gun areas. The guns (25 prs, medium and heavies) were putting down a terrific barrage which had started at 0500 hrs while Bofors, M.M.Gs., etc., were 'peppercotting'. In spite of the depth of mud on the roads the Bn column reached its assembly area (7557) a wooded area North of GROESBEEK, complete at 1000 hrs. There the Bn remained all day with the barrage continuing unceasingly and with no apparent reply on the part of the enemy.	
	9.	0200	At 0200 hrs the Bn moved forward, the marching personnel, "A", "B", "C", "D" Coys and Carrier Pl, going by the more direct route onto the NIJMEGEN - KRANNENBURG road while vehicles were routed via GROESBEEK and the lateral road running N.E. to join the main road short of WYLER. The marching personnel had an uneventful approach to KRANNENBURG reaching the R.V. (Rd Junc 805563 on the Western entrance to KRANNENBURG) at 0330 hrs where the 2 IC, who had gone on in advance had set up a	

		<p>control post. Meanwhile the vehicle column had met with several delays on the lateral GROESBEEK - WYLER road. These took the form of (1) Two abandoned three ton trucks across the road (one with its engine still running) (2) Two sets of trenches dug right across the roads into the first of which the I.O's Jeep, which was leading, fell and had to be pulled out by the Bty Comd's half track (3) Mines and finally (4) felled trees across the road. These obstructions delayed the column which finally met up with the rifle coys at the R.V. at 0430 hrs.</p> <p>It was during this approach that the Bn crossed the frontier into Germany at the road Junction on the NIJMEGEN - KRANNENBURG road just south of WYLER.</p> <p>As soon as the vehicle column arrived at the R.V. Phase III (see Op Order att) commenced. Tac Bn HQ moving up to the East side of KRANNENBURG. Within half an hour "A" Coy had reported that the main road bridge over the A/Tk ditch was intact and the opposition very slight. Phases IV, V and VI were put into execution in quick succession and by 1000 hrs the Bn was through the Siegfried Line and had taken NUTTERDEN with Tac HQ at farm 837557. Mopping up continued during the morning bringing the total P.O.W. for the day to 135 which included 30 taken by "D" Coy from one of the Siegfried 'Bunkers'. There was a little spasmodic shelling of the NUTTERDEN area by one enemy gun during the evening and at about 2000 hrs the Comd Post received a direct hit, killing 11 including Major A.W. Parish (Sp Coy) and Lieut T.N. Salter (S.O.) (Died of Wounds) and wounding 5 including Captain J.H. Thompson (I.O.)</p>	
	10	<p>Bn ready to move off at 0930 hrs but the plan was changed and at 1330 hrs coys moved down the NUTTERDEN - DONSBRUGGEN road and took up positions astride the road "A" Coy in advance and "B" & "C" Coys in the wooded area to the South East of the road. Tac HQ at 848561.</p>	
	11	<p>At 0930 hrs the Bn moved off with CLEVE as its objective with special reference to the canal bridge in the centre of the town. By 1100 hrs "A" Coy was beyond DONSBRUGGEN and "B" Coy had passed through while "D" Coy with the help of the Carrier Pl (dismounted) cleared the high wooded area running immediately South of the road, a troop of Left Flank Sqd, 3 Scots Guards going through the woods in support of them. By 1430 hrs Tac HQ was in a large shoe factory on the outskirts of CLEVE (M.R. 889566) with "C" and "A" Coys well into the</p>	

			<p>town making for the canal. At 1530 hrs "C" Coy reported one of the bridges damaged beyond immediate repair but the other was made serviceable with the help of the trackways carried by the R.E. party attached to the Bn. By nightfall "A" & "C" Coys were finally established in their areas astride the canal with "B" Coy in the area of Tac HQ and "D" Coy on the high wooded ground to the rear. Some shelling from a heavy gun was experienced during the afternoon but ground opposition had proved slight with 46 P.O.W. taken. Our own casualties since the start of Op 'VERITABLE' being K.I.A. one officer and four O.Rs. D.O.W. one officer and three O.Rs. W.I.A. one officer and ten O.Rs.</p> <p>Lieut J.A. Rankin joined the Bn as Mortar Officer.</p>	
	12		<p>During the morning a Bn from the 6 Cdn Bde took over from "A" & "C" Coys and the Bn concentrated with "A" Coy in the shoe factory, Tac HQ having moved to a row of houses at 892567, "B" Coy in its original position around the rd junc 893564 and "C" & "D" Coys back along the DONSRUGGEN road at 883569.</p>	
	13		<p>Bn still in same position with floods in the Tac HQ area gradually rising.</p>	
	14.		<p>The Commanding Officer proceeded on leave to the U.K. and Major R. Henderson took over command.</p> <p>Captain H.C.S. Chilman and Lieut T. Horsnby joined the Bn.</p>	
CLEVE	15		<p>Bn ready move by 1030 hrs the plan being an advance down the CALCAR road but this was cancelled.</p> <p>Captain S.C. Reiss and Lieut A.R. Bruce joined the Bn as I.O. and S.O. respectively. Lieut A.R. Speak also joined the Bn from the London Scottish.</p>	
	16	1100	<p>Bn still conc area 893564. Slight shelling from heavy gun North of the RHINE 1015 hrs.</p> <p>Bde Comd informed C.O. of projected attack on GOCH.</p>	
	17	0900 1600	<p>Bde 'O' Group. Seizure of GOCH planned. 1400 hrs Bn 'O' Group. 1430 hrs operation cancelled owing to progress of 43 Div, given to 44 Bde.</p> <p>Bde Comd indicated possible new Bde task to make an advance to contact from GOCH to WEEZE.</p> <p>Captain I.C.S. Munro and Lieut D. Smith joined the Bn.</p>	
	18	1700 2100 2230	<p>Still no move.</p> <p>Bde 'O' Group; the Bde less 10 H.L.I. to 'crash' the woods area 9443.</p> <p>Bn 'O' Group. Coy objectives allocated.</p> <p>Information from Bde of probable further change of plan.</p>	

	19	0930 1000 1245 1400 1700	Bn moved off by march route to assembly area 9147. C.O. met Bde Comd at 504498 and went to recce fwd areas. Bn HQ est at 914475. Bde 'O' Group. The Bde now to receive the support of 2 Glasgow Highlanders and the woods in 9443 were now to be cleared. Bn 'O' Group. Coy Comds given their new objectives. The Bn to receive, apart from an enormous arty programme, the support of a Sqd of the Coldstream Guards and half a sqd of CROCODILES and to be carried in KANGAROOS. "D" Coy right and "C" Coy left to lead the attack followed by "B" & "A" Coys who were to pass through them.	
On the move SCHLOSS CALBECK	20	0930 1230 1400 1445 1600 1630 1930	Bn left assembly area 9147. Heavy drizzle. 2 A & S.H. and 2 Glas H. having captured their objectives, 2 Gordons advance from its F.U.P. 939449 and attacked the woods. Heavy drizzle and rain continued. "D" Coy captured its objective SCHLOSS CALBECK 9442 and took 70 prisoners. "C" Coy on its objective 950426, 20 prisoners. "B" Coy on objective 946425, 15 prisoners. "A" Coy on objective 943424, 8 prisoners. Comd Post est at the SCHLOSS 9442. The enemy infantry which comprised the remnants of the much battered 84 Div gave very half hearted resistance but he responded vehemently with his guns and mortars. The thickness of the woods and the extreme softness of the ground made the going very difficult and it was well after dark before the Bn was properly consolidated. The main tracks were found to be blocked by felled trees and camouflnets, but very few mines were encountered. Owing to the heavy shelling it was decided not to bring up other than the most essential sups. Own casualties during this operation were one killed and seven wounded.	
	21	0100	"A" Coy supported by 131 Regt R.A. attacked the wood 941421 with a view to securing a bridgehead over the canal but heavy opposition was encountered from elements of 7 Para Regt and the coy was forced to withdraw to the North of the canal though still retaining command of the approaches to the bridge at 941423. Two prisoners were taken. "A" Coy lost thirteen men including Lieut Paterson wounded, one killed and one missing.	

		2000	<p>During the day enemy shelling continued to be heavy and seemed to arrive not merely from the East but from the South, S.W. and N.E. Own cas were 3 killed, 14 wounded.</p> <p>The greater part of Rear Bn HQ under Comd Major D. Duke remained at 914475 though Major Duke himself moved fwd to 932457 to keep in wireless comm with Tac HQ.</p> <p>6 R.S.F. passed through the Bn and captured the wood 940420.</p>	
	22	0200 1400 1415 1630 1715	<p>"B" Sqd, 15 Recce Regt passed through "C" Coy to 957424 but subsequently withdrew under pressure to "C" Coy's immediate flank.</p> <p>9 Cams passed through the Bn to area 946416.</p> <p>"C" Coy attacked the buildings 947423. This attack was only partly successful but heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy and 15 prisoners taken. In this action Major T.A. Gloster was killed by a shell splinter. One further man was killed and 17 wounded.</p> <p>7 Seaforths passed through moving South.</p> <p>"B" Coy attacked through "C" Coy and captured PLEESENHOF 9442. During the day enemy shelling and mortaring continued to be heavy and about seven vehicles incl coy carriers standing at SCHLOSS CALBECK were set alight.</p> <p>Casualties during the day were 3 killed, 31 wounded. Lieut Harvey ("A" Coy) and Lieut MacFarlane ("D" Coy) were wounded.</p>	
	23	1000 1100 2300	<p>44 Inf Bde passed through the Bn moving South.</p> <p>An incipient enemy counter-attack on "B" & "C" Coys was broken up and heavy casualties inflicted. One of "B" Coy's PIATs knocked out a half track inf gun. 68 enemy dead were counted in this area during the two days fighting.</p> <p>Our losses during the day were 10 killed, 20 wounded incl Lieut Hornsby ("C" Coy), 2 missing.</p> <p>9 Cams captured a fortified house 945422 which it was believed had been directing enemy arty fire.</p>	
SCHLOSS CALBECK	24	1600 2300	<p>Major Campbell R.A. directed our arty with considerable effect against an enemy S.P. gun and infantry which had been troubling "B" & "C" Coys from the East.</p> <p>C.O., 2 R.U.R. (3 Div) visited Comd Post prior to taking over Bn area.</p> <p>- 0145 2 Gordons relieved by 2 R.U.R. and spent the night area 928436.</p> <p>Total casualties during the period 20 Feb to 24 Feb were</p> <p>"A" Coy 1 killed 1 missing 25 wounded "B" Coy 6 do 1 do 9 do.</p>	

			"C" Coy 2 do. 1 do 29 do. "D" Coy 6 do. 13 do. HQ Coy 2 do. 3 do. Sp Coy 1 do. 6 do. P.O.W. captured during the period 20 Feb to 24 Feb were:- "A" Coy - 20, "B" Coy - 25, "C" Coy - 42, "D" Coy - 75. During the period 21 Feb - 24 Feb while other units were passing through, the Bn gave considerable assistance to them in the clearing of cas and P.W. and in marking routes.	
On the move	25	0810 1400	Bn left area 928436 in T.C.Vs. Arrived TILBURG. Bn HQ est 172313. The whole Bn billeted in private houses.	
TILBURG	26		Adm and rehabilitation.	
	27		Lt.-Col R.W.M. de Winton DSO returned from leave and resumed comd of the Bn.	
	28	1100	Bn parade - practice for Div Comd's inspection 1 Mar 45.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn The Gordon Highlanders

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year March 1945

Commanding Officer Lt Col RWM de Winton D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG	1	1130	The Bn paraded in pouring rain for inspection by the GOC 15 (S) Division Major General C.M. Barber DSO on the quayside PIUSHAVEN, TILBURG. The General arrived about 1150 hours and after the inspection he thanked the Battalion for their achievements in the recent actions at CLEVE and SCHLOSS CALBECK, and took the march past. The Pipes and Drums of the Battalion accompanied the inspection and march past.	
	2	1430 2100	Trg conference Bn HQ; Coys to practice speeding up of orders and assault river crossings. Sig Officer to give lessons to officers in wireless procedure. C.O. 2IC and 3 officers attended dance in the town given by HQ 227 (H) Inf Bde.	
	3	2000	Bde Comd and Lt Col H.I. Bradshaw (ex C.O. of the Bn) dined at Bn HQ Officers Mess.	
	4	1130 1500 1600 2130	Bn Church Service in Garrison Cinema TILBURG. The address was given by Rev Davidson (A.C.G. Scottish Command). C.O. 4 Offrs and 40 ORs attended Div Church Service at the Garrison Cinema. C.O. and greater part of the Unit listened to the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Div which played in spite of the heavy rain. First news of an early move to 12 Corps area.	
TILBURG EYSDEN.	5	0900 1500 2045	Recce parties left for new area. Major G.H. Hutchinson in Comd. Bn embussed left TILBURG. Arrived EYSDEN K 56 (NW Europe 1/250,000 Sheet 3) a mining village in the Belgian Limbourg. The move was made somewhat awkward (1) by the absence of more than 100 of the Bn, including the 2IC and Adjutant, on Brussels leave (2) the numerous changes in the allocation of TCVs (3) the arrival at EYSDEN in pitch darkness. At EYSDEN the Bn found itself interspersed with elements of HQ 12 Corps.	

			Bn HQ and Bn Officers Mess were est in a vacated chemists shop 570675.	
	6		Bn settled in. Trg Conference in the afternoon.	
	7		C.O. left for 48 hrs in Brussels. Several of the Bn listened to the HLI Band during the afternoon at the Colliery Hall, EYSDEN. 'B' Echelon rejoined the Bn.	
	8		Offrs Wireless Cadre (two days)	
	9		Lieut J.W. Lewis (ex Gunner) and 20 ORs arrived to join the Bn. C.O. returned from Brussels.	
	10		C.O. attended conference at HQ 12 Corps and HQ 227 Bde ref Ex TORCHLIGHT.	
	11		Coys practiced embarking and disembarking of storm boats. Bn team beaten at football by HQ 12 Corps - 7 Nil.	
	12		Maj Grose and Capt Reiss recce assembly area and inf route for Ex TORCHLIGHT.	
EYSDEN	13	pm	The majority of the Officers and about 20 ORs per Coy spent the afternoon and evening at NEERITER with 1st and 5/7th Bns The Gordon Highlanders. The Massed Pipes and Drums of the three Bns played. The Bn team were beaten at football by a combined team of the other two Bns, six goals to two.	
	14		The Bn took part in Ex BUFFALO (daylight). They left EYSDEN at 0730 hrs, crossed the MAAS just South of MAESYCK at approx 1430 hrs and returned to EYSDEN in the early evening. Air Marshall Tedder, Gen Dempsey, Lt Gen Ritchie and the GOC 15 (S) Div all watched the Bn crossing. The exercise took place in excellent weather. Major Hutchinson attached to 34 R.H.U. BOURG LEOPOLD to look after Div interests there.	
	15		Bn took part in Ex BUFFALO (night). The Bn crossed the MAAS at the same place as on the previous day at approx 0700 hrs - there was considerable delay over the crossing owing to the greater part of the storm boats breaking down.	
	16	1000	Bn returned to EYSDEN.	
	17		Further recces for Ex TORCHLIGHT. C.O. briefed Coy Comds.	
	19		C.O. reconnoitred Assembly Area and Inf Route for TORCHLIGHT.	
EYSDEN	20	1700/ 1800 2030	C.O. briefed Coy Comds on model. He and four other officers went down the coal mine at EYSDEN in the afternoon. Pipes and Drums beat Retreat. The Bde Comd spoke to all officers about TORCHLIGHT. Sjt Raymaker replaced Sjt Jacobs as interpreter, the latter having volunteered for service in the Dutch East Indies.	

	21	0930	The C.O. addressed the entire Bn on the subject of the Bn task in the crossing of the RHINE. He later visited the Div Battle School at WATERLOO.	
	22	1730	The Bn left EYSDEN.	
	23	0400	The Bn arrived on the Eastern edge of the HOCHWALD Forest in the Assembly Area for TORCHLIGHT. Bn HQ est SHINKEN HO 059420.	
		1100	Bn 'O' Gp. The Bn took maximum advantage of the wonderful weather and rested during the day.	
		2330	The Bn led by 'A' Coy and TAC HQ began to move forward to the Storm Boat Waiting Area 096456.	
RHINE CROSSING	24	0210	Lieut A.A. Cameron and 16 Platoon 'D' Coy who had been lent to the HLI for the operation landed on the far bank of the RHINE. They were the first to land in this sector. Lieut Cameron was slightly wounded during the crossing. The rest of the Bn, which was reserve Bn for the Op, had expected to cross at about 0400 hrs, but owing to various mishaps, 'A' Coy did not cross until 0615 hrs, and instead of taking over from 'C' Coy HLI as planned they were ordered to assist the Argylls, which involved landing about 1200 yards downstream of the point of embarkation. The Coy came under direct small arms fire from the bund on the far bank which had not yet been cleared. Lieut R.A. Patrick and three ORs were killed and ten ORs wounded. Several of the storm boats failed to reach the far bank and drifted downstream. 'B' Coy were also ordered to cross to assist the Argylls but were mortared while attempting to embark and owing to shortage of storm boats did not cross till late.	
		1000	At 1000 hrs in bright sunshine, the airborne forces passed over the Bn. At 1030 hrs the bund was reported clear and the rest of the Bn crossed also landing however 1200 yards downstream of the point planned in order to move up behind the Argylls. The crossing took place from 104461 to 093474.	
		1030		
		1120	Tac HQ crossed. The storm boat in which the C.O. travelled ran out of petrol in midstream and the paddles had to be brought out, but eventually the far bank was successfully achieved at 093474. There was virtually no shelling during the crossing. The Bn formed up on the West side of the bund 0948, still in excellent weather. 'A' Coy suffered a few casualties from mortar fire in the F.U.P. Capt GWL Smith, Lieut WIM Ankers, Lieut W McIntyre were wounded.	

RHINE CROSSING		1715	It was not until 1715 hrs that the Bn had been collected together and was in a position to launch an attack through the Argylls to capture HAFFEN 1149. The attack was made from the West by 'B' Coy (left) and 'C' Coy (right); the arty sp had to be called off at the last moment owing to our own tanks being reported as entering the village from the East, but the attack was successful and 71 prisoners were taken. Most of these were identified as belonging to 19 Para Regt. Lieut S.W. Telfer 'B' Coy was wounded. 'D' Coy, which had supported the attack contacted 5/7 Gordons at 095501 during the afternoon. Bn HQ est 096493. Two Secs A/Tk Pl moved up to 'B' and 'C' Coy areas during the night.	
		25	'D' Coy relieved the two fwd coys of the Argylls. This necessitated the ejection of a small enemy post at HOPERHOF 1050; at 1715 hrs therefore 'D' Coy attacked this farm with the support of wasps. The attack was successful and four prisoners taken.	
		26	1000 Information received from Dutch farmer that enemy had withdrawn from the farms North of 'D' Coy. Patrols confirmed this and at 1230 hrs 'A' Coy moved fwd to occupy the farms 106514 and at 1240. 5/7 Gordons are again contacted in this area. Weather had now deteriorated. 1630 Bn HQ est WAYERHOF 105498. 14 prisoners drifted in during the day.	
		26/27		Night quiet and uneventful.
HAFFEN	27	1015	Bde Comd warned CO that the Bn will be required to attack the wood 1352 at 0200 hrs 28 Mar, but at 1545 hrs the attack is postponed.	
		2100	Bde 'O' Gp followed at 2200 hrs by Bn 'O' Gp preparatory to attack on wood 1352.	
	28	1000 1430	Bn left HAFFEN area and assembled area 1450. 'C' Coy (left) and 'D' Coy (right) crossed S.L. 142514. HLI went into the attack simultaneously on the right and two Sqns Recce Regt supported the attack by fire on the left - each of the leading Coys also had one crocodile and one gun tank in support. It was soon discovered however, that the wood had been vacated by the enemy and no opposition was encountered, though progress through the wood was greatly hampered by mines and booby traps, which had been laid both in the roads and in	

		<p>the wood. No casualties were sustained until the clearing of the wood had almost been completed, when Capt J.W. Buchanan, Lieut W. Tasker and four men of 'D' Coy were blown up on a string of 'S' Mines; Lieut Tasker died of wounds. Bn HQ 134517. Thirty Rfts arrived.</p>	
	29	<p>The Bn became non-operational and Coy locations were re-adjusted to provide maximum comfort. 'A' and 'B' Coys were accommodated in the BLAUHAUS 1252. Command Post 127523. Twenty seven Rfts arrived.</p>	
	30/31	<p>Major D.H. Duke returned to unit. Lieuts F.T. Innell, J. Warr. J.H. Pacy and A.L. Nield posted to the Bn w.e.f. 26 Mar 45.</p>	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn The Gordon Highlanders

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year April, 1945

Commanding Officer Lt.Col RWM de Winton D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Near HALDERN 1252	1		C.O. with Bde Comd attended memorial service to the late Maj Gen Rennie.	Sheet P.1. 1/100000
	2		C.O. and Adjt visited 5/7 GORDONS near ISSELBURG. Lieut J.M. Coltart posted to the Bn.	
	3	1200	R. Gp. (C.O. and Coy Comds) left HALDERN with a view to recceing areas at present held by 155 Bde (52 Div) from which it was expected 227 Bde would take over. At approx 1830 hrs at the x-rds 5692 the G.O.C. 15 Div was informed by the Corps Comd that the Div had been transferred to 8 Corps. The R. Gp. was present at the time, therefore billeted themselves for the night in the area of the x-rds.	
EMSDETTEN	4	0900 2100 2130	The Bn, after several changes of plan, left HALDERN area and arrived EMSDETTEN 8595 at 1620 hrs. Bn HQ est in school 852954. Bde O Gp - The Bde to sweep the woods in the area TECKLENBURG 0503, LEEEDEN 1002 where it was believed a few franc-tireurs had been left behind in the wake of the 11 Armd and 6 Airborne Divs. Bn O Gp; the bn to sweep a strip of high wooded ground from LENGERICH 0899 to area 1606. Job to be done by Carrier Pl with under comd 1 sec Carriers from 2 A & S.H. with "C" Coy on the right and "D" Coy on the left moving up behind to take on any opposition should this be encountered.	Sheet P.2. 1/100000 Sheet P.2. 1/100000
Near OSNABRUCK	5	0745	Left EMSDETTEN. Coln held up by rd jamming and did not arrive at LENGERICH until 1105 hrs. At LENGERICH an ex French P.O.W. offered to help expose several franc tireurs in LEEEDEN. The job of sweeping the woods was completed in roughly six hours in heavy rain. 10 suspects including the Kreisleiter of TECKLENBURG were arrested with the help of the French P.O.W. also 3 R.A.F. personnel and one German medical officer. No firing took place.	

			<p>possible, the br at 622484 while "B" Coy with the remainder of the Sqn in sp were given the job of making a brhd over the River ALLER at the main rd crossing 589506. By 0600 hrs all these objectives had been achieved. 15 pl "C" Coy comd by Lt JEFFERY with the tp of Honeys had two skirmishes en route, one in the middle of the town with the staff of Celle Gas School, and one just outside at 604483. At 0600 hrs they captured the br 622484 intact. The bn suffered 4 cas during this operation. 28 P.Ws were taken.</p> <p>0830 15 pl joined by the remainder of "C" Coy in the brhd. 1000 The whole bn conc in the brhd. Bn HQ 617481. Owing to further demolitions along a stream just North of the brhd, it was decided to continue the adv along the main axis, i.e. over the main br at Celle. The bn therefore obliged to move between 2200 hrs and 2400 hrs to NE part of the town 589514 and abandon its brhd which was taken over by an American Bn.</p>	
CELLE	13	1000 1600	<p>Bn (now third bn in the line of march of 227 Bde) left CELLE on the road to UELZEN.</p> <p>Carrier Pl given the job of finding a diversion and were in action against an enemy posn with bazookas at DALLE 7468. They were soon recalled as it was believed this diversion would no longer be required. One P.O.W. was taken.</p>	
UELZEN	14	0200-0600 1200 2000 2200	<p>Bn took part in the dramatic advance on UELZEN led by the 10 H.L.I. At 0700 hrs Bn HQ was attacked by a small party of enemy who had been by-passed during the night advance, at the same time a party of 26 gave themselves up. At 0800 hrs the C.O. who was travelling with Tac Bde HQ called up his O Gp. and gave out provisional orders for the attack on UELZEN. It was later decided, however, that the attack should be carried out during darkness.</p> <p>1200 Bn HQ est 874840. 2000 Bn O Gp. Orders for the attack on UELZEN. "D" Coy to lead, followed by "B", "A", and "C". Left Flank Sqn 3 Scots Gds in sp. 2200 Bn moved fwd to F.U.P. area 884866.</p>	
	15	0030	<p>H hr, "D" Coy crossed rly line. They advanced to the outskirts of the town but were there fired on both from the front and their left flank, the enemy on their left having evidently let the leading tps go by with the purpose of setting an ambush. The leading tank was destroyed by bazooka fire. Maj Grose (O.C. "D" Coy) then attempted a flanking movement to the left but again came under hy fire from strongly fortified houses</p>	

			<p>and also from an SP and a half track. Owing to the threat of encirclement from behind and the difficulty of control under the circumstances Maj Grose decided to withdraw onto "B" Coy about 300 yds behind and here the two coys remained until the following night when they were relieved by the 9 Cameronians. "D" Coy lost two killed and 8 wounded during this op. 17 prisoners were taken. It was generally agreed that street fighting against a well established enemy during darkness and with tanks in sp was definitely 'not on'. It was found also that the artificial moonlight was no assistance in such circumstances.</p> <p>At 0400 hrs "C" Coy was moved to the area of the level crossing. The H.L.I. was also held up on the left under similar conditions.</p> <p>Intermittent shelling from SPs, 20 mm and mortars.</p>	
BORNE	16	0200-0400	<p>Bn relieved by 2 Glas H and one coy 9 Cameronians and conc in BORNE 8883. Bn HQ est 887834. Bn rested all day. Capt J.H. Carvill joined the unit. Offrs of Left Flank Sqn 3 Scots Gds invited to drink with Coy Comds at Bn HQ Mess during the evening.</p>	
	18	1730	<p>Excellent weather.</p> <p>Bde O Gp. The Bde to move through UELZEN and occupy area VASTORF 8714 - GIFKENDORF 8813. No T.C.Vs. Bde had to lift itself on tks, A ech, Fd Regt, etc.</p>	
	19	0600 0950	<p>Bn left BORNE 8883, lifted on Left Flank Sqn, fd bty and sp coy tpt.</p> <p>Arrived Gifkendorf 8814 but almost immediately owing to the progress of 11 Armd Div, the Bde was ordered to move on. During the next two or three hours five different objectives were given to the bn, the final one being the area LUDERSBURG 8928, JURGENSTORF 9129 which was entered at 1730 hrs. Bn HQ est in a large house 894287. Soon after arrival the Brig informed the C.O. that the bn would have to move to area BARUM 7831 - BUTLINGEN 7833 on the following morning.</p>	Sheet L.5. 1/10000
BARUM	20	0900 1200 2100	<p>Carrier Pl followed by R Gp went off to recce area BARUM - BUTLINGEN found br at 780321 blown but encountered no opposition.</p> <p>Rest of bn moved into BARUM - HORBURG - BUTLINGEN. Bn HQ est 783317.</p> <p>-0100 (21 Apr) "D" Coy cleared TESPE 7838 on the bank of the ELBE; took 7 P.O.W. without a shot being fired.</p>	

	21		Evacuation of civs from the area began. Showery weather. "A" Coy took over from "D" Coy and Carrier Pl in TESPE.	
	22-28		Weather improved. 'Fishing' on the Barummer sec. Occasional shelling from the far side of the Elbe which completely overlooked the bn area, but no cas were caused. Int Sec and F.O.O. scrutinized the far bank and picked out a considerable number of enemy posns. The factory at KRUMMEL was still evidently in partial operation, and was occasionally visited by a train which came out of the tunnel in TESPERRUDE 796374. On 26 Apr the train was shelled by 131 Bty and although it was not thought to have been damaged it did not reappear. Lt D.C. Burgess and 2/Lt D.J. Smorthwaite joined the bn on 22 Apr. Lt T. Hornsby joined on 23 Apr.	
	27		Bde O Gp. Crossing of the ELBE put forward owing to the rapidity of the Russian advance. 227 Bde to pass through 44 Bde's brhd and swing WEST with 2 Gordons on the left actually clearing the river bank, A & S.H. centre and H.L.I. on the right.	
BARUM	28	0930	C.O. addressed the entire bn in a hall in BARUM and told them of the coming operation.	
	29	0230 0900-1000 1000 1115 1400 1720	Bn began to move out of BARUM - BUTLINGEN area breakfasted at BRIETLINGEN 8029, 0430 hrs and moved into assembly area LUDERHAUSEN 8131. The bn was ordered to cross the ELBE in storm boats with essential vehicles (carriers and jeeps) in 'buffaloes'. This operation was completed and the bn concentrated in the bridgehead already taken by 44 Inf Bde. Bn ordered to move off up the main rd and capture the village of TESPERRUDE (MR 3779 Sheet 2528) and clear the wooded area SE of the village along the North bank of the river. Rd blocks at 814374 and 807376 reported. Bn bypassed them to the South leaving a platoon with a R.E. party to clear them. Objectives taken with 6 offrs and 205 O.Rs as P.O.W. Good work was done by "A", "B" and "D" coys in clearing the many snipers and bazooka parties from the woods. Total Casualties - 6 killed and 25 wounded, including Major GORDON CAMPBELL, MC, RA comdg 320 Bty RA. Major Campbell who was wounded in the thigh by a sniper had been bty comd with the bn during the whole campaign since landing in NORMANDY. Following on the capture of TESPERRUDE by "A" Coy and the high ground beyond by "C" Coy, "D" Coy was ordered to pass through and clear the KRUMMEL Factory area as far as 766387 with "C"	

			Coy working along the high ground above the factory as far as 773384.	
TESPERHUDE	30	0400	"D" and "C" Coys reported their tasks completed and on their objectives 794376 and 796377. Total P.O.W. 2 offrs, 116 O.Rs. At 0640 hrs they were relieved by a coy of 2 A. & S.H. and took up posns in GRUNHOF 8038.	
		0700	Carrier Pl despatched to recce HAMWARDE 7843, which they found to be held 30 P.O.W brought back. During the morning "A" Coy captured two 'Frogmen' their task was not discovered.	
HAMWARDE		1600	Bn moved off to HAMWARDE which had now been cleared by 15 Recce Regt and occupied posns in the village during the night with 2 troops, 3 (Tk) Coldm Gds in sp. Bn HQ 786433. Meanwhile the Adv Adm Area 838350 had been heavily shelled during the day and the ration 3 tonner, the Pnr 3 tonner and the med half track were destroyed.	

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. THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year MAY 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. RWM de Winton D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HAMWARDE	1	0900 2000 2100 2300	"B" Coy with tp of tanks cleared woods area 77.42 and brought back 43 prisoners. During the afternoon 2 A & S.H. with a unit of 53 Div moved into GEESTHACHT which had been surrendered by the Burgomaster to the Comd, 227 (H) Inf Bde. Bde 'O' Gp. The Bde to adv due EAST with 10 H.L.I. right, 2 A & S.H. left 2 Gordons in reserve. Bn 'O' Gp. News of Hitler's death.	
KROPPELSHAGEN FAHRENDORF	2	1000 1030 1515 1800	Bn left HAMWARDE 78.43 Bde Comd temporarily handed over Comd of the Bde to Lt.Col R.W.M. de WINTON D.S.O., whilst he conferred with a member of F.M. BUSCH's staff apropos the surrender of the enemy forces in N.W. Germany. Bn arrived at KROPPELSHAGEN FAHRENDORF 71,46 without incident. Bn HQ 713,464. News of the surrender in ITALY.	Sheet 1/100,000 L.4
KASSEBURG	3	0700 P.M.	Local truce in the HAMBURG Sector came into effect. Bn moved to KASSEBURG 77.55 without incident. Rifle coys marched. Bn HQ 778,557.	
GROS HANS DORF	4	 2100	Bn moved to GROS HANS DORF 68,66. C.O. marched with rifle coys. Bn HQ 688,668. Announcement of the surrender of all the German forces in N.W. Europe.	
	6	1100	Church Service at AHRESNBURG in the open air, attended by the entire Bde. Bde Comd addressed the gathering after the service.	
	8		V.E. Day. Excellent weather.	
	9	1200	Div Comd inspected the Bn and outlined its great record since landing in Normandy in 1944. He stated that the Bn had lost altogether 64 officers and 1127 ORs in casualties during the	

			whole campaign. Of those who attended this parade there were 8 officers and 314 ORs who had landed originally with the Bn in JUNE and JULY 1944.	
GROS HANSDORF	10		Weather continued very good and many of the Bn bathed in a local swimming pool.	
	11		The Bn took over several PW Cages from the Mx Regt. "B" Coy took over a cage at BARGTEHEIDE 66,73. "A" Coy cages at BARGTEHEIDE and KREMERBURG 66,69. "D" Coy and A/Tk Pl cages in and near AHRESNBURG and Mortar Pl took over the Div PW Cage. "C" and HQ Coys remained in GROS HANSDORF. P.R.I opened an O.Rs Club - Canteen in GROS HANSDORF. Bde Comd, 227 (H) Inf Bde, CRA 15 (S) Div, C.O. and 2 I.C. 2 A & S.H. invited to dinner at Bn HQ Officers Mess.	
	12		"B" Coys PW Cage moved to BUNNINGSTEDT.	
	14		Recces of REINFELD 8185, where it was believed the Bn would be moving, were carried out, but in the evening the place was changed to LUBECK.	
	15		C.O. left Bn to go on a Hygiene Course at Mytchet Bks, ALDERSHOT, followed by leave. Major Henderson carried out recce of LUBECK.	
GROS HANSDORF	16		Further recces in LUBECK. Bn relieved of responsibility for PW Cages on their being taken over by 8 (German) Para Div. Coys returned to GROS HANSDORF.	
	17	1800	Bn 'O' Gp ref LUBECK, etc.	
	18		Pte SPENCER of the Sigs Pl drowned while bathing in the local swimming pool. Although several arrests have been made the Bn experienced little trouble with the civil population in GROS HANSDORF.	
	19	0800-1145	Bn moved to LUBECK where it took over from 6 SEAFORTHS of 5 Div and became responsible for the guarding of several V.Ps including the DRAGERWERKS, Red Cross Food Dumps, Sugar Barge, Amn Train, the Rly Sta and an Ord Dump. Check points were also est on 3 road and one Rly bridge. Major Hutchinson rejoined the Bn. Coys were located as follows:- "A" - 933,898 "B" - 940,875 "C" - 938,913 "D" - 936,914 Bn HQ in the Labour Exchange 934,904 with Sp Coy opposite.	Movement Order Appx "A" O.O. Appx "B"
LUBECK	21		Funeral of Pte Spencer.	
	25		Bde Comd inspected the Bn informally. Veh check carried out in Bde area.	Appx "C"

			"B" Coy moved to the DRAGERWERKS where it took over from the Mortar Pl.	
	26		Further veh check. Corps Comd visited the Bn.	
	27		Riot between Russians and Poles in one of the many D.P. camps in the Bn area, prevented from becoming serious by a show of strength by the inlying picquet (one Pl "D" Coy and a Carrier Section)	
	28	p.m.	Div Comd carried out an informal inspection of the Bn.	
	29		Check of German Red Cross personnel.	