

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
 Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1.
 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

~~OF~~

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

(Delete heading not required)

Unit 102 (Northumberland Hussars)
 Anti-Tank Regt RA.

Commanding Officer Lt-Col R.W. JELF OBE RA

Month and Year April 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1.		<p>Locations unchanged except that 107 Bty Echelon moved up and joined the rest of 107 Bty.</p> <p>CRA 15 (5) Div visited Regtl HQ at 1045 hrs and addressed a Regtl parade of about 300 strong. The CRA spoke for about 6 minutes in a blinding rainstorm.</p> <p>The Regt has been given an area in which to collect and return all salvage.</p>	
	2.		<p>GOC 15 (S) Div visited RHQ and inspected and addressed a Regtl parade about 400 strong. Windy, dull day with occasional showers. Fortunately it remained dry during GOC's visit.</p> <p>GOC turned out and inspected the Regtl Guard provided by 99 Bty.</p> <p>GOC thanked Regt for its efforts since joining the Div and regretted that we had had no tanks to shoot at since we joined the Div. He complimented the Regt, and particularly 99 Bty, for its part in recent assault across the RHINE. He then went on to point out the dangers of fraternization and to urge us to keep the Boche well and truly under during the military occupation. The CRA arrived just behind the GOC and accompanied him round.</p>	
	3.		<p>Locations unchanged.</p> <p>At 0830 hrs HQ RA inform us that Div is going to move to a concentration area prior to taking over a bridgehead over the DORTMUND - EMS canal in the area of IBBENBUREN (about 10 miles due West of OSNABRUCK).</p> <p>227 Bde with 289 Bty in support are going to move up to a concentration area West of the canal and the remainder of the Div less Div HQ and HQ RA are going to concentrate in area NE of BOCHOLT. Div HQ, HQRA and a small Tac from us is going to area.</p> <p>Recce party for Tac leaves RHQ at 1030 hrs.</p> <p>Recce party for Main RHQ and 99 Bty leaves RHQ at 1300 hrs. 46 Bde with 288 Bty set off for their area NE of BOCHOLT at 1400 hrs.</p> <p>At 2300 hrs BMRA speaks to Adjt on phone and says that plans have been completely altered. The Div is leaving 12 Corps and coming</p>	

		<p>under comd 8 Corps forthwith. No moves are likely to take place tomorrow.</p> <p>46 Bde with 288 Bty plus the recce parties for Tac and main will be warned of change by Div.</p> <p>107 Bty with 44 Bde are moving to area BOCHOLT - RHEDE.</p>	
	4.	<p>0020 hrs. Duty Officer at RA speaks to Major BARNETT on phone and announces the fact that moves are likely to take place today. Div will be moving to area GREVEN 9288 to concentrate. 46 Bde with 288 Bty will move today and so also will 227 Bde with 289 Bty. 44 Bde with 107 Bty will not move until tomorrow.</p> <p>Main Div and HQRA will be moving at about 0930 hrs. RHQ will probably move with them. 99 Bty will move with RHQ. Recce parties for the above moves to meet at GREVEN at 0930 hrs.</p> <p>Recce party laid on with 99 Bty to meet 2 i/c at GREVEN at 0930 hrs. Bdes and supporting arms are moving as Bde Gps.</p> <p>0800 hrs. RA phone over move table and order of march. RHQ and 99 Bty pass SP in HAMMINKELN at 1630 hrs.</p> <p>1545 hrs. RHQ move off and arrive in new area at 2100 hrs.</p> <p>Route DINGDEN 2253 - RHEDE 2860 - GENEN 4063 - RAMSDORP 4366 - VELEN 4866 - GESHER 5073 - DARFELD 6881 - LAER 7484 - ALTENBERGEN 8283. 288 Bty move with 46 Bde to area North of MUNSTER. 288 Bty locn 795920.</p>	
	5.	<p>Wet day with bright intervals. Intervals getting less bright and considerably shorter as day progressed.</p> <p>44 Bde with 107 Bty move to new area arriving 1600 hrs</p> <p>Locations as follows: RHQ 897919: 99 Bty 901889: 107 Bty 767915: 288 Bty 789931: 289 Bty 8898.</p> <p>Capt ROBERTS of 289 Bty visits RHQ at 0900 hrs and informs us that 289 Bty are moving up with 227 Bde to area LENGERICH 0899. The inf of 227 Bde are today combing the woods West of LENGERICH. It is thought that 46 Bde will clear the woods and ridge NE of LENGERICH tomorrow.</p> <p>Capt BRAMELD of 288 Bty visits RHQ at 1100 hrs.</p> <p>RHQ send out patrols to surrounding woods and by 1500 hrs have collected 1 offr and 34 O.Rs.</p> <p>On one occasion only were shots exchanged.</p>	
	6.	<p>Recce parties from RHQ and 99 Bty recce area North of MINDEN. Main axis North blocked with traffic all day.</p> <p>RHQ and 99 Bty leave present area at 2345 hrs and after a slow all night journey arrive at new area BRAMKAMP at 1000 hrs. Woods not clear of enemy so parties are despatched to beat them. A few prisoners taken.</p>	

	7.		<p>99 Bty take a party of seven prisoners including three very arrogant officers and all heavily armed.</p> <p>Locations remain unchanged. Beating the surrounding woods continues. Recce party from 107 Bty leaves BERGHORST area and recce area round LAVESLOH.</p> <p>288 Bty move to HOLZ HAUSEN 749162.</p>	
	8.		<p>Locations unchanged. Maintenance.</p> <p>G.A.F. does a little road strafing. Odd sniping from woods, beating continues.</p> <p>107 Bty arrives LAVESLOH.</p>	
	9.		Locations unchanged. Maintenance.	
	10.		<p>Recce party recce area of HAGENBURG.</p> <p>107 Bty move to JOPPEN across river WESER.</p> <p>288 Bty move to ROSENHAGEN 930231.</p>	
	11.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty leave BRAMKAMP at 0700 hrs. Cross WESER at 0800 hrs and arrive HAGENBURG at 1100 hrs. Pull into a field at HAGENBURG. Recce parties go off again to recce FUHRBERG area and main parties pull out at 1500 hrs arriving FUHRBERG at 1800 hrs after usual slow journey.</p> <p>107 Bty moves to MEITZE with 44 Bde. 288 Bty move to area of THONSE.</p>	
	13.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty move to ESCHEDE.</p> <p>Progress of Div slowing down owing to demolitions and small rearguards covering them.</p> <p>Div directed on UELZEN.</p> <p>107 Bty moves to CELLE with 44 Bde.</p> <p>288 Bty in sp of 46 Bde prepare to clear routes running NE to UELZEN.</p> <p>288 Bty HQ at 805625.</p>	
	12.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty move from FUHRBERG to CELLE.</p> <p>Ghastly sights seen in a local concentration camp.</p>	
	14.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty move to HOSSERINGEN.</p> <p>107 Bty moves to SUDERBERG.</p>	
	15.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty move to HAMERSTORT 8383 arriving at about 1600 hrs and find themselves on the extreme left flank of the Div. Weapon pits are dug and a 50% stand-to is ordered during hours of darkness.</p> <p>Patrols are sent out and a few prisoners taken.</p> <p>288 Bty involved in a strenuous night party at STADENSEN. Capt WS BRAMELD DSO distinguishes himself. Appx A attached describes action.</p> <p>Div held up at UELZEN which appears to be strongly held.</p>	

			<p>The first news received by RHQ of the battle in STADENSEN was at about 0930 hrs on the morning of 16 Apr at HQ RA, and nothing was said or appreciated that the attack concerned had any significance apart from a village skirmish. This of course was not the case and the German plan was to push through STADENSEN and cut the main Div and Corps axis. Fortunately the attack was held in STADENSEN as otherwise the Germans would have broken right through and cut the axis. Our reserve SP Bty (99 Bty) was not deployed to meet the attack, had it pressed on further because (a) No infm came to us until the party was almost over and (b) The object of the STADENSEN attack was not appreciated.</p> <p>107 Bty move to MOLDERSTAR.</p>	
	16.		<p>Locations unchanged (RHQ and 99 Bty). 107 Bty sp 44 Bde's attack on GT LIERDEN and UELZEN. 288 Bty in sp 46 Bde attack UELZEN at 1900 hrs.</p>	
	17.		Locations unchanged (RHQ and 99 Bty).	
	18.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty locations unchanged. 107 Bty with 44 Bde established East side of UELZEN. 288 Bty with 46 Bde move to UELZEN.</p>	
	19.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty move up through UELZEN to BARUM. 107 Bty move to area EMMENDOR 9095. 288 Bty move North to area of BEVENSEN 905020.</p>	
	20.		<p>RHQ and 99 Bty move from BARUM at 0930 hrs and arrive at SCHARNEBECK (North of LUNEBURG) at 1130 hrs. Div concentrating for assault of ELBE river. 227 Bde at present deployed on the river bank round RAVENDORF and HOHNSTORF. ARTLENBURG on South bank still held by enemy. 107 Bty move to area ROLSTORP. 288 Bty in sp of 46 Bde who are ordered to take BLECKEDE 901260. 288 Bty HQ at SUTTORF 938210.</p>	
	21.		<p>Locations unchanged. 107 Bty moves to area LUNEBURG. 288 Bty move to VOGELSANG 9429. Enemy inf counter-attack during a bn relief broken up by Lt DAY firing HE. Enemy retire leaving a 20mm gun knocked out.</p>	
	22.		Locations unchanged.	
	23.		<p>Locations unchanged. Major J.M. PUMPHREY MBE is leaving the Regt to take up an appointment in SHAEF. Lt-Col R. TAYLOR DSO MC, Major J. COWEN MC and Major J.M. PUMPHREY MBE dine in Mess. Farewell dinner to Major PUMPHREY. Lt-</p>	

		Col R.W. JELF leaves the Regt to take up an appointment as Col GS 8 Corps.	
	24.	Static. Major J.M. PUMPHREY MBE leaves Regt.	
	25.	Static.	
	26.	Proposal to cross R. ELBE today abandoned.	
	27.	Static. Usual lack of information on forthcoming ops.	
	28.	Operation ENTERPRISE for crossing of the ELBE to take place at 0200 hrs tomorrow. Regt to fire a PEPPERPOT with towed guns. 99 Bty to be in sp of 44 Bde for the initial assault. SPs to be rafted over when Cl 40/50 rafts built. Arty fire plan starts at 2350 hrs.	
	29.	D Day for ELBE crossing. PEPPERPOT successfully fired by one Tp each from 107 and 289 Btys and two Tps from 288 Bty. 99 Bty's SPs and SP Tp of 289 Bty cross ELBE in evening. Opposition slight but a fair amount of shelling of crossing places.	
	30.	Bridgehead expanded. RHQ, 288 and 289 Btys plus SP Tp of 107 Bty cross ELBE by Cl 40 bridge at ARTLENBURG. Some shelling on far bank while head of column crosses bridge brews up six amn 3-tonners just ahead and brings column to a standstill. RHQ arrive at JULIUSBURG. It is thought that a PEPPERPOT shoot will be required in sp of 158 (W) Bde's attack on GEESTHACHT. 107 Bty recce positions to fire from near bank of ELBE. Shoot later cancelled. 288 Bty cross ELBE during the afternoon and join 46 Bde in area of LAUENBURG.	

Appx 'A' to War Diary, 102 (Northumberland Hussars) A Tk Regt RA

An account of the part played by C Battery
Northumberland Hussars when an enemy column
attacked the village of STEDENSON during
the night of the 14/15 April, 1945.

In the early hours of 15 April 1945, the battalion group of the 2 Glasgow Highlanders which was concentrated at STADENSEN was attacked by an enemy column of about 15 SP guns and 30 half-tracks. The enemy attacked from NETTLEKAMP (a little over a mile to the East) after surprising a squadron of the Recce Regt. The force in STADENSEN consisted of the 2 G.H., a troop of towed 17-pr guns and Bty HQ of C Bty Northumberland Hussars (in charge of Capt W.S. BRAMELD DSO), one tp of 63 A Tk Regt (M.10s), one bty of 190 Fd Regt, one pl of 1 Mx, one sqn Coldstream Gds Churchill tanks, and some R.Es etc.

The Bty received no warning of the attack and at about 0400 hrs half-tracks entered the village from East and South, infantry coming in from N.W. Until firing began they were thought to be American as they were shouting "O.K. Sarge!" and using other American slang. Capt BRAMELD went out of Bty HQ to get the 17-pr troop into action but found them cut off. The guns, which had not been sited to fire in the NETTLEKAMP direction, as this was held by the Recce Regt, could not be brought to bear and were over-run. The personnel of the troop joined and fought with the infantry. Capt BRAMELD then went to see what the tanks could do, and found that they were parked in a long double line. The front tank had been put out of action by a bazooka and they were unable to move. Capt BRAMELD next went to the M.10s of the 63 A Tk Regt, who were leaguered with the tanks. The officer of this tp had earlier become a casualty and so Capt BRAMELD took command and led one gun up to a position on the East side of the village where the infantry had said there was an enemy SP gun towing a damaged one. There were found to be several enemy SPs in the area and the towing one was engaged and knocked out first shot. The M.10 then pulled back and waited for half-an-hour and then went out again and shot up two half-tracks. Capt BRAMELD then left this gun, and went to make another attempt to contact the N.H. 17-pr tp, but found the enemy still in possession. On the way he met a Sgt-Major of the Glasgow Highlanders who was trying to get the assistance of another of the M.10s of 63 A Tk Regt to deal with some enemy SP guns on the N.E. side of the village. After some difficulty they brought the gun into position and killed two SPs. Capt BRAMELD then returned to the first M.10 and arrived just in time to see it reverse into a wood-pile and turn over after knocking out an enemy SP gun at 20 yds range. The third M.10 of the tp had meanwhile caught fire from a neighbouring house and jammed its turret. The driver could not be found, so Capt BRAMELD roped in a Sgt-Major of the Coldstream Gds to drive it. He then collected together the gun crew, put out the fire and sited the gun in a position where it could fire. He then went back to the other M.10 still in action and, personally directing its fire, accounted for three more S.Ps and some probables.

By 0900 hrs what was left of the enemy column had withdrawn. A captured map revealed that its objectives were far-reaching and that it was intended to take the whole division in the rear and then to disrupt the L of C. Capt BRAMELD's initiative in taking control of and directing all and every anti-tank resource in the village had been largely instrumental in foiling this ambitious plan. In a period of 5 hours he had been responsible for the destruction of at least 7 SP guns and 2 half-tracks.

The crews of the towed guns which had been destroyed also assisted greatly in clearing the enemy infantry from the village. The personnel of Bty HQ, under Lieut M.A. MAY, after finding an enemy SP gun parked outside their front door, left by the back entrance, carried out a patrol and, taking the enemy in the rear, accounted for a considerable number of Germans.
