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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

~~OF~~

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Unit HQ 46 (H) Inf Bde incorporating
LAD attached. and Def Pl attached.

Month and Year NOVEMBER 1944.

Commanding Officer Brigadier RM Villiers, DSO.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
658180 LOON 6615	1	1415	<p>Ref maps 1/100,000. Sheets 4 and Q1.</p> <p>Ops for the day commenced in accordance with 46 (H) Inf Bde OO No 13 and by 1020 hrs 9 CAMERONIANS were on their objective having met no opposition and by 1155 hrs 7 SEAFORTH were also firmly est on their objective no enemy opposition having been encountered. 6 KOSB were then ordered to advance and capture the area HUTTEN 6813 instead of 2 GLAS H as originally planned. By 1315 hrs 6 KOSB arrived in HUTTEN and as no enemy had been encountered they were ordered to patrol forward to HEITRAK 6910, preceded by Recce. Stiffer enemy resistance was encountered and Bde Comd considered that no further adv could be made to-day. Bde HQ moved to area LOON 6615.</p> <p>By the end of the day 6 KOSB were est in HUTTEN area and 2 GLAS H reverted to under comd 46 Bde and concentrated in LIESEL. Issue of 46 (H) Inf Bde Op Instr No 14.</p>	See Appx D-1 & Appx E-1.
	2		<p>Reorg of bn posns was carried out as laid down in Op Instr No 14. Enemy activity during the day was negligible but many mines were encountered and several cas occurred. Bns were informed that no move likely next day and were ordered to patrol Eastwards towards the Canal to find out as much infm as possible about crossing places and enemy posns.</p>	
	3	1600	<p>Nothing to report on 46 (H) Inf Bde front during the morning. Div Comd arrived at Bde HQ with orders for next day. 44 Bde were to attack and capture MEIJEL 7106. 46 (H) Inf Bde was to cover front stretching from grid line 09 to 17. One sqn of Recce was being allotted to 46 (H) Inf Bde to take over 7 SEAFORTH area and guard left flank. 7 SEAFORTH were ordered to detail one coy and one sec carriers to take over present area of 8 RS by 0930 hrs next day; A second coy to take over coy posn 6 RSF at 701099, third coy to go to area NEERKANT 698096. Later in the day the attack by 44 Bde was postponed for 24 hrs.</p>	

LOON 6615	4	1600	Except for spasmodic shelling and mines there was nothing to report on 46 (H) Inf Bde front during the day. Issue of OO No 14.	See Appx D-2.
	5	1350 2300	The reshuffle of bn posns took place in accordance with OO No 14 but a request was made by 44 Bde that further assistance be given them to protect their left flank in their adv. 7 SEAFORTH were ordered to do what they could in assisting 44 Bde as far as was possible. 44 Bde attack on MEIJEL failed 6 RSF being held up in SCHANS 7008 and unable to get on. No further attack was made and it was decided to put 7 SEAFORTH under comd 44 Bde and withdraw 6 RSF during the hours of darkness to area HEITRAK 6910 to come under comd 46 Bde. 6 RSF in fact were concentrated in SLOT 6713. Orders arrived from 15 Div that 6 RSF would take over positions at present occupied by 2 GORDONS tomorrow and were not to be used without reference to Div Comd. 6 RSF were then ordered to send recce parties to contact 2 GORDONS by 0900 hrs next day. The main body to move at 1000 hrs.	
	6	1000 1730	Bde Comd visited HQ 2 GORDONS to meet CO 6 RSF and tie up take over. It now appeared that 6 RSF would have to take over from 2 GORDONS and 10 HLI. 6 RSF were given one Sqn 4 Tk Coldm Gds in support. 6 RSF came under comd 15 (S) Div.	
	7	1000 1400 1530	Bde Comd attended conference at 15 (S) Div HQ. 'B' Sqn 15 (S) Recce Regt protecting our left flank was relieved by 'C' Sqn 15 (S) Recce Regt. Bde Comd and CO 190 Fd Regt prepared new DF tasks to cover 46 (H) Inf Bde front. Issue of Adm Order No: 9. Bde Comd visited bns.	See Appx G-1
LOON 6615	8	0900 1600	Receipt of 15 (S) Div Op Instr No: 36. Bde Comd and Staff Capt made recce of hutted camp near DEURNE 6419 where 7 SEAFORTH would be withdrawn to for rest. Issue of 46 (H) Inf Bde Op Instr No 15. 7 SEAPORTH came under comd 46 (H) Inf Bde once more and began to withdraw to Rest Camp 655170.	See Appx E-3 TOP SECRET See Appx D-3(TOP SECRET)
	9		There was little to report during the day although fairly active patrolling had been carried out. 'A' Sqn 15 (S) Recce Regt relieved 'C' Sqn on our LEFT flank.	
	10	1530	Nothing of importance occurred during the night and our patrols encountered no enemy. 7 SEAFORTH begin taking over from 9 CAMERONIANS who withdrew to Rest Camp 655170.	

	11)		During this period our Bde front was held by two bns with one bn	
	12)		out of the line resting. Each bn was relieved in turn every 48	
	13)		hrs. Active patrolling along the bank of the CANAL DE DEURNE was	See Appx D-4.
	14)		carried out during the whole of this period to build up an exact	
	15)		enemy picture in the event of an assault crossing having to be	
	16)		made, and also to find out immediately should the enemy withdraw.	
	16	1000 2030 2230	Bde Comd attended Div conference. Bde Comd held 'O' Gp conference and gave his plan for the crossing of the Canal against no opposition. It having been reported that the enemy had withdrawn at least 8 miles Eastwards. The plan was for the Bde to adv across the Canal as far EAST as area HELENAVEEN 7311 which would be held by two bns - 2 GLAS H RIGHT and 9 CAMERONIANS LEFT with 7 SEAFORTH holding a posn around the br 708123 to cover the RE who were building a Cl 40 br in that area. This plan was to be put into effect should it be confirmed by patrols early next morning that the enemy had in fact withdrawn. Orders were received from Div that this plan would not be put into effect until 44 Bde on our RIGHT had made a crossing of the Canal EAST of MEIJEL.	See Appx E-4.
LOON 6615	17		Issue of Op Instr No 17. and Adm Order No: 10. Patrolling continued active throughout the day and night and it was est that the enemy still held the line of the Canal.	See Appx D-5. and G-2
	18	2359	Orders were received from Div to make a Bde plan for an assault crossing of the Canal. Bde Comd held 'O' Gp at 1430 hrs and gave his plan - Op LENTO. Patrolling was continued as usual throughout the night. Issue of Op Instr No 18.	See Appx D-6.
	19		During the night and at first light patrols est that the enemy had withdrawn from the Canal bank. 9 CAMERONIANS were ordered to send recce patrol over in recce boats to get further infm. 7 SEAFORTH were ordered to send a Standing Patrol EAST of the br at 715101. Reports of these patrols still confirmed that the enemy had withdrawn and 9 CAMERONIANS were ordered to send one coy over the Canal in the area of the br 7012 and est a br head to cover RE party who were to begin building Cl 40 br in that area. 2 GLAS H were also ordered to be at 2 hrs notice to move through 9 CAMERONIANS and adv towards HELENAVEEN 7311. Bde HQ moved to 679135. By the end of the day 9 CAMERONIANS had succeeded in getting one coy in the area rd junc 733115. Active patrolling	See Appx E-5. See Appx D-7.

			was ordered during the night to see if enemy still held HELENAVEEN. If it was found that HELENAVEEN was still held 9 CAMERONIANS were ordered to capture it in the morning.	
679135	20		After being held up mostly by enemy mines 9 CAMERONIANS succeeded in getting three coys up to the line of the Canal. 2 GLAS H were then ordered to be prepared to go through 9 CAMERONIANS and make a small br head over the Canal so that bridging might be started at 736116 without delay. This order was cancelled however when it was found that 6 RSF on our RIGHT had advanced rapidly Northwards and were likely to reach HELENAVEEN on the Eastern side of the Canal by dark. Owing to mines 6 RSF were held up about 1,000 yds short of HELENAVEEN on the EAST side of the Canal and they were ordered to adv at 0800 hrs the next day and clear up to HELENAVEEN. 2 GLAS H were ordered to have a recce patrol ready to move through 9 CAMERONIANS and adv Eastwards along main axis to SEVENUM. Issue of OO No 15.	See App D-8.
	21		46 Bde continued adv in accordance with OO No 15 and by dark 2 GLAS H had reached Eastern edge of wood 7912 and 7 SEAFORTH were concentrated area 7812. 9 CAMERONIANS remained in the area of HELENAVEEN.	
735121	22	0815	Bde Comd visited 2 GLAS H and 7 SEAFORTH and ordered them to push on as quickly as possible to the areas VOORSTE HEES 8114 and ACHTERSTE HEES 7914. Bde Comd then reced new fwd area for 9 CAMERONIANS and decided to send them to hutted camp at 765132. Bde HQ moved to HELENAVEEN 735121. By 1700 the three bns were concentrated as follows : 9 CAMERONIANS area 764132, 2 GLAS H 794145, 7 SEAFORTH 798144. Owing to the state of the track leading from the br at HELENAVEEN to bn areas bns were only able to take fwd carriers and jeeps. The state of the track deteriorated throughout the day and comms with bns became almost impossible. The sup problem became acute and the Bde Comd asked for 12 Weasles to be allotted to the Bde to carry fwd food etc. A ferry service of Weasles went on throughout the night.	
	23		Rd building from br 736116 to commencement of concrete rd at 764130 was given first priority and that stretch of rd was closed to all traffic between 0800 and 1230 hrs and from 1430 to 1530 hrs. Bns were ordered to patrol Northwards and Eastwards and report on state of rds, enemy mines and enemy posts if any. Mines were found to be plentiful and rd maint necessary. Bns were ordered to send parties to repair the rds as follows : 9	

			CAMERONIANS from present HQ to rd junc 782144, 2 GLAS H from 782144 to 797144, 7 SEAFORTH from 797144 to 812140. Work to begin next day.	
735121	24		Patrols from 7 SEAFORTH were out during the night working Northwards to the rly getting all infm possible about enemy, enemy mines, demolitions and state of rds. This patrolling was carried on during the day and a few enemy were encountered. TIENRAIJ 8523 227 Bde are advancing on/ HORST tomorrow and 7 SEAFORTH have been ordered to give right flank protection with one coy which would move to area MELDERSLO 8519. 9 CAMERONIANS and 2 GLAS H were ordered to be at ½ hrs notice to move from 1100 hrs next day.	
817145	25	1730	The Bde moved up behind 227 Bde and by night were disposed as follows : 9 CAMERONIANS 816168, 2 GLAS H 830181, 7 SEAFORTH area MELDERSLO 8519, Bde HQ moved to 817145. Bde Comd held 'O' Gp for ops next day. Issue of 46 (H) Inf Bde Op Instr No 19.	See Appx D-9
HORST 833182	26		Ops were carried out during the day in accordance with Op Instr No 19 but 9 CAMERONIANS were unable to capture LOTTUM 9019. During the morning Bde HQ moved up to HORST 833182. With 7 SEAFORTH in area HOUTHUIZEN 8917, 9 CAMERONIANS containing LOTTUM and one coy of 7 SEAFORTH 2 GLAS H at LOVENDAAL 8915, ops were discontinued for the day, except for patrolling. Issue of 46 (H) Inf Bde Op Instr No 20. and Adm. Order No: 11.	See Appx D-10 and G-3.
HORST 833182	27	2020	The night's patrols by 9 CAMERONIANS reported quite a lot of mov area LOTTUM otherwise the front was quiet. 9 CAMERONIANS found LOTTUM unoccupied at first light and occupied the village immediately. Ops went according to Op Instr No 20. Bde Comd visited bns during the day and gave orders to 9 CAMERONIANS and 7 SEAFORTH for holding the front from excl GRUBBENVORST 8914 to incl STOKT 9021. 2 GLAS H were to clear the large wooded area 8820 and then conc in area 8418. The reshuffle was successfully carried out and patrol orders were given for the night to 7 SEAFORTH and 9 CAMERONIANS. Orders were received from Div that we were to move to new area and take over front opposite BLERICK 8909 from two bns 56 Bde and one bn 146 Bde. Recce parties to leave Bde HQ 0915. 46 Bde were being relieved in present area by 159 Inf Bde.	
	28	0930	Bde Comd 159 Bde visited HQ to discuss relief with Bde Comd 46 Bde.	

		1030 1115	Bde Comd held 'O' Gp and gave outline plan for the take-over in new area. COs were then sent to their respective bns, 9 CAMERONIANS would relieve 2 ESSEX, 2 GLAS H the 2 GLOSTERS, 7 SEAFORTH the 4 LINCOLNS. Bde Comd and IO visited HQ 146 Bde 837083, HQ 4 LINCOLNS 849089 and HQ 56 Bde 853131 to discuss plans for relief with Comds. 46 Bde to move next day to new area. Issue of 46 (H) Inf Bde Mov Order No 20.	See Appx D-11.
	29		46 Bde moved into new area in accordance with Mov Order No 20 and reliefs went on during the day and night. Bde HQ moved to 837083.	
MAASBREE 837083	30		There was little to report on our front although patrols were able to confirm that the enemy was still holding BLERICK. Relief of 7 SEAFORTH by 9 CAMERONIANS started in the afternoon and was completed by 1845 hrs. 7 SEAFORTH withdrawing to area 7915 conc in readiness for future ops when they would come under comd 44 (L) Inf Bde.	