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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde incorporating Def Pl att

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year DEC 44

Commanding Officer Brig the Hon HCHT CUMMING-BRUCE DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BERINGE	1	2115	Preparations for the attack on BLERICK continued. 44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 1 issued - orders for the attack on BLERICK. With 44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 7.	Folio 4 Folio 9
	2	1400	Bde Tac HQ moved to Rooth for the battle - Main HQ remaining back at BERINGE. It was joined there by Tac HQ of 31 Tk Bde, whose comd Brig I. KNIGHT, was to fight the first part of the battle. The day was very wet and doubts arose as to whether the battle could go on or not, owing to the mud. Brig KNIGHT expressed doubts of the ability of the Flails and AVRES to get through without being bogged.	
Tac Rooth Main BERINGE	3	0400 0745 0850 0900 0905 0910 0915 0920 0932	Comd 12 Corps finally decided that the battle would proceed as planned and, if the armour failed to negotiate the mud, the inf would have to carry on as best they could. 0745 hrs was to be 'H' hr for the first part of the op. 31 Tk Bde reported five Flails bogged en route to FUP. Details of the op are very fully given in CV1 Logs att. It was very slow to start with and great apprehension was felt about the armour getting bogged for an hour. Brs were called fwd on 1 and 2 Lanes. Brs were down on 1 and 2 Lanes. Flails were over the brs on 1 and 2 lanes. Bde Comd ordered 6 RSF to rear edge of FUP. 31 Tk Bde reported brs on lanes 5 and 6 in place. Bde Comd ordered 8 RS fwd on lanes 1 and 2. Bde Comd ordered 6 RSF fwd on lane 6. The adv went very smoothly and by 1100 hrs 8 RS were in the town. Their Kangaroos came back according to plan to lift 6 KOSB.	
Tac Rooth Main BERINGE		1225 1231	6 KOSB moved fwd in Kangaroos and drove right into the town. 7 SEAFORTH moved fwd on LEFT in KANGAROOS sent back by 6 RSF. The whole op went very smoothly thereafter and BLERICK was firmly in our hands by 1500 hrs. Mopping up continued.	

		1630	<p>Bde Comd, DAA & QMG, Bde IO, Comd 181 Fd Regt and Comd 279 Fd Coy went into BLERICK in a Kangaroo and found things under control. The lanes by this time were almost impassable owing to hy rain which continued most of the day, and undoubtedly the op would have been impossible 12 hours later.</p> <p>Total cas in the Bde were under 50, in spite of hy enemy mortaring and shelling. 2 offr and 225 prisoners were taken and much material captured.</p> <p>8 RS and 7 SEAFORTH came out of BLERICK during the night, the former to area ROOTH and the latter to rest under comd 46 (H) Inf Bde.</p> <p>6 KOSB took over area of BLERICK occupied by 8 RS and 6 RSF area occupied by 7 SEAFORTH. 9 CAMERONIANS coy at HOUT BLERICK came under comd 8 RS.</p>	
	4	0815 0830 1200	<p>6 KOSB reported relief complete.</p> <p>7 SEAFORTH reported relief complete.</p> <p>8 RS coy relieved 9 CAMERONIANS coy at HOUT BLERICK and 9 CAMERONIANS coy rejoined its unit.</p> <p>The battle field was gradually cleared up - damaged tks, Kangaroos etc taken away.</p>	
	5	1500	<p>Tac Bde HQ moved to SEVENUM 819141 where it was joined by the rest of Bde HQ. 44 (L) Inf Bde became responsible for def of an area of the WEST bank of R MAAS between 873057 and excl GRUBBENVORST 897144. One sqn 15 (S) Recce Regt came under comd and took up posn NORTH of BLERICK, with 6 RSF on Northern part of BLERICK and 6 KOSB in Southern part. One pl 8 RS was in HOUT BLERICK and remainder of 8 RS area ROOTH in res.</p>	
SEVENUM	8		6 KOSB Coy took over HOUT BLERICK from 8 RS pl.	
	9		<p>8 RS pl moved to area 889123 to bolster up Recce Sqn.</p> <p>8 RS pl also moved to BERCKT cloister 869063 and came under comd 10 HLI.</p>	
	11	1450	<p>8 RS pl at BERCKT cloister came under comd 6 KOSB.</p> <p>6 RSF area was attacked in error by BRITISH 'Typhoon' planes.</p>	
	13	0430	44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No. 1 issued. (This never took place).	Folio 5
	14	1030	<p>Lt Gen BARKER, Comd 8 Corps, visited Bde HQ and met Bde Comd, Comd 181 Fd Regt and Comd 8 RS. He then went to BLERICK, met Comds 6 RSF and 6 KOSB and visited OPs in 6 RSF area.</p>	
	16	1415	<p>Bde Comd attended Div Comd's conference at Div HQ, when future events were discussed. 44 Bde were to be relieved by Christmas and, after a rest, take over from 227 Bde. (This never happened).</p> <p>There was some enemy patrol activity during the night in area of 6 KOSB and Recce Sqn.</p>	

	18		8 RS and 6 RSF changed places.	
	19	0030	44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 9 issued.	Folio 10
	21	0405	Infm received from "A" Recce Sqn that post had been overrun. There was some confusion and doubt as to what actually occurred, but it was eventually discovered that a GERMAN fighting patrol had crossed the river, rushed the post and captured nine men. One coy 6 RSF moved to area Recce Sqn for night. Enemy patrol activity continued.	
	22		Bde front was re-organised - Recce Sqn took over HOUT BLERICK area and 8 RS moved into area NORTH of BLERICK vacated by Recce Sqn. 227 Bde took over pl posn at BERCKT CLOISTER and 6 KOSB took over all BLERICK. This evening there was a good deal of confusion and shooting during the hand-over, owing to reports of GERMAN patrols in Recce Sqn area. It was never clearly established exactly what happened, but it was later thought that NOT more than one recce patrol actually crossed the river and that it went back when fired on.	
	23	1100 1500	Enemy activity continued. This was the period when the GERMAN offensive in the ARDENNES was at its height and they were showing activity all along the front. It was considered that a raid or small attack was possible anywhere on the front, especially over the Christmas period. Conference at Div HQ attended by Bde Comd. Warning was given for especial vigilance over Christmas. Bde Comd held conference for COs at Bde HQ and gave orders for special stand-to measures over Christmas period.	
	24		No. 6 DUTCH Patriot Coy came under comd 6 RSF and took up posn behind HOUT BLERICK.	
	25		<u>Christmas Day</u> . There was little festivity owing to the special vigilance order. Bde Comd went round bns. At Bde HQ there was a Football Match Officers V Sergeants followed by Christmas dinner and a concert. Despite anticipated GERMAN activity over Christmas everything was very quiet and NO special activity was noticed.	
	27	2100	6 RSF relieved 8 RS who came back into res. 44 (L) Inf Bde OO No. 2 issued.	Folio 6
	28	1300	Bde Comd visited 8 RS Christmas dinners. Notes on employment of res bn issued.	Folio 7
	31		Bde Comd and Bde IO went on BLA leave.	