

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 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. RA Bramwell-Davis

Month and Year MARCH 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1st		Bn paraded at 1200 hrs for address by Div Comdr who afterwards took the salute at a march past.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	2nd		Bn engaged in a period of rest and re-organisation.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	3rd		Bn engaged in a period of rest and re-organisation.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	4th		Bn engaged in a period of rest and re-organisation.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	5th		Bn engaged in a period of rest and re-organisation. Warning Order for Bn to move along with rest of Div to area of BREE for training.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	6th		Div Trg Instr No. 23 issued giving details of future trg. (see Appendix E1) Recce parties left for new area at 1000 hrs. 1430 hrs - Bn moved off embussed for new area on Route MOERGESTEL : OIRSCHOT : BEST : EINDHOVEN : HECHTEL : PREE : BREE : ASCHE : OPGRIMBY. Bn HQ est at 556626. Bn arrived at 2130 hrs.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf:
	7th		Bn trg areas allotted and Coy tactics, weapon trg, etc., practiced. First technique instrs issued for Op "PLUNDER", dealing with the crossing of a large water obstacle. (See Appendices - E2, E3, f4.)	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf:
	8th		Further "PLUNDER" instrs issued and 1st instrs for 15 Div Ex "BUFFALO" to be held on 14th March to practice this technique. (See Appendices E2, 3 & 4)	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf:
	9th		2015 hrs Bn Night Exercise held in area 5363 to practice the drill of crossing a water obstacle by night together with subsequent advance. Emphasis laid on control and maintenance of direction. Further instrs for "BUFFALO" issued. (See Appendix E7)	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf:
	10th		1000 hrs Div Comdr briefed CO and Rifle Coy Comdrs on future Op. at HQ 12 Corps. (See Appendix E18). Bn trg to incl loading of LVTs with vehs and 6pr guns. Further instrs for "BUFFALO" issued. (See Appendix E8).	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf:

	11th		Bn marching personnel did practice loading and unloading of LVTs incl practice crossing on the MAAS. Veh drivers practiced driving onto rafts with the aid of "Mock Ups". (See Appendix E5)	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf:
	12th		0930 hrs CO, IO and MTO did recce of marshalling area and LVT route for forthcoming Ex "BUFFALO". (See Appendix E9). Veh drivers practiced driving vehs on and off Class 9 and Class 50/60 rafts. CO and IO viewed model of area for future ops at HQ 12 Corps.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: N
	13th		<p>1000 hrs - Bde "O" Group for Ex "BUFFALO". (See Appendix E7,8 and 10, H1). Final Details of Bank Control, Comms, etc., given out and loading tables fixed for personnel and vehs travelling in LVTs. (See Appendix G1). 1600 hrs Bn "O" Group. (See Appendix E7). for Ex "BUFFALO". 227 Bde to cross river MAAS area 6172 to 6475, with right 10 HLI-Left 2 A&SH and secure a bridge head up to JULIANA CANAL 6472 to 6677. Bn assault to be made in LVTs in 3 waves 1st wave-"C" Coy right, clearing PAPENHOVEN 6273 and advancing to 6372. Left "A" Coy advancing to area 6474. 2nd wave-"D" Coy advancing through "C" Coy to secure bridge 6473. Left - "B" Coy advancing through "A" to take bridge 6475. 3rd Wave-Essential HQ and "S" Coy vehs (for details see loading table). Bn to assemble in Marshalling area 6076 by 0830 hrs 14th March where Inf and vehs would be loaded onto LVTs. Remainder of vehs also to be assembled in this area by Bank Control for passage over LVT ferry or Class 9 raft. Bn control of vehs on far bank to be arranged by Unit Landing Officer (Lt Short) assisted by Regtl Police DRs and 1 sec Div Provost under comd.</p> <p><u>METHOD</u></p> <p>Initial assault wave to enter water at H-Hour under control of LVT Sqn Comdr. 2nd Wave to cross as soon as 1st wave had cleared bank. 3rd wave to cross on orders of CO.</p> <p><u>Support</u>- 1 sec Mortar Pl, to be manhandled in 2nd wave and be est on bank. Remaining mortars to cross with vehs and be est in "A" Coy area, original two dets then moving up to "C" Coy. ATk Pl - 2 dets to "A" Coy, 1 det to "B" Coy, 1 to "C" and 1 to "D". Carrier Pl to move with and protect Bn HQ. Pioneer Pl- 1 sec to "C" Coy to tape and clear landing place, remainder "A" Coy for same task. MMGs- 1 sec to be manhandled into "C" Coy area, to be joined there by the remainder of Pl. Comms- Bn HQ to be crossed in 2nd wave and be est near "A" Coy. LVT wireless net to be used until after landing when 18 set comn would be resumed. 18 sets with ULO and LVTs 3rd wave, for calling fwd vehs. Bde rear link set to be manhandled in posn until Comd Carrier has landed.</p>	<p>Cas: NIL</p> <p>PW: NIL</p> <p>Reinf:</p>

		Instrs issued for night Ex "BUFFALO" on 15/16 Mar (See Appendix E11) and also 1st instrs issued for Op "TORCHLIGHT". (See Appendices E12 & H2.)	
	14th	0715 hrs - Bn moved off embussed for Ex marshalling Area arriving 0830 hrs. (See Appendices E10 and G1) 1100 hrs Final instrs issued. 1200 hrs All personnel embussed. 1415 hrs - H-Hour. 1530 hrs All Coys on objectives and were being sent fwd. 1600 hrs. Ex ends and instrs were issued for dispersal. Chief points noted on the exercise were:- Slowness in est control on far bank and difficulty of comms while manhandling sets.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf:
	15th	0900 hrs Bde Conference on exercise. 1215 hrs Bn "O" Group. CO gave out points from day exercise and issued gen instrs for night ex. Emphasis was laid on the necessity for increased control on the far bank, and necessity for ensuring that all veh drivers were briefed as to their exact route and destination. Night Ex to be the same in all respects as the daylight practice. Bn to leave for marshalling area at 1415 hrs (See Appendix E11). H-Hour for exercise to be 0400 hrs 16th March. 1415 hrs Bn moved off embussed to marshalling area where it had evening meal and rested. 1800 hrs Bn "O" Group. Final details given for night exercise. As 5 LVTs were out of action for repairs 3rd wave was curtailed for exercise purposes. MO and fwd RAP personnel from 2nd wave to change places with sec Mortar Pl in 1st wave, in order to be able to deal immediately with any cas on far bank. Vehs of 3rd wave to be preloaded by 1900 hrs, remaining personnel to be loaded ready to move by 0300 hrs. At 1900 hrs CO gave Coy Comdrs gen idea of the future op for which Bn was now practicing.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	16th	0300 hrs. All personnel of Bn and vehs loaded into LVTs. 0400 hrs. Assault wave of LVTs crossed. Owing to difficulty of landing the LVTs on the far bank the leading Coys were landed at scattered places and there was some delay before Coys could be rallied, and control regained. This also occurred with the follow up wave. 0530 hrs -Right hand Coys had advanced to their objectives but owing to delay, left hand Coys were still moving up. Thereafter landing of vehs proceeded satisfactorily until exercise ended at 0700 hrs. Draft Bde Op Instr issued for Op "TORCHLIGHT". (See Appendices E14 and H3).	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	17th	0900 hrs CO, IO, and OsC "B" and "D" Coys carried out recce of marshalling area and approach routes for future op near XANTEN. (See Appendix E13). Warning Order received for Bde to move to marshalling area on 22nd Mar preceded by Harbour Parties on 20 Mar.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL

	18th		Int Sec constructed Sand Model of area for future op to be used for briefing within the Bn. Bde Op Order No.5 issued for Op "TORCHLIGHT". (see App E18)	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	19th		Bn Admin instrs issued dealing with special feeding arrangements and giving revised loading tables for LVTs and priority of vehs on ferry service. (See Appendix G2 and G3).	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	20th		0900 hrs 2 i/c and OsC "B" and "D" Coys carried out recce of Op area. Unit Harbour party left for marshalling area. 2030 hrs. Bde Comdr briefed all Officers on the future op. (See Appendices D1, E7 and H9.)	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	21st		1000 hrs CO briefed all offrers and NCOs in gen idea and Bn plan for future op. (See Appendices D2, G4, H18, J2) Warning Order for Bn move issued. (See Appendix E20)	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	22nd		0600 hrs All tracked vehs left for marshalling area in order not to delay move of main convoy. 1030 hrs. Adjnt gave out orders for move of Bn coln to ass area. 1700 hrs. Bn embussed less tracked vehs left for ass area. Route:- ASCHE 4970 : BREE 5084 : LOOZEN 4972 : WEERTE 5897 : BERINGEN 7406 : MAASBREE 8207 : HORST 8318 : LOTTUM 9019 : TWISTEDEN 9429 : KAVALAER 9632 : UDEM 9842, thence along rly line to LABBECK 0540 : to ass area 0542. (See Appendices D3 and E21).	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	23rd		Bn arrived ass area 0300 hrs. Bn HQ est at 064433. Coys dispersed under cover in HOCHWALD FOREST. 1030 hrs Bn "O" Group. Final infm and details about operation. (See Appendix H10) Landing to be made slightly further right than planned in order to enable LVTs to take advantage of beaches to facilitate landing. LVTs to leave loading area by H-80 mins. Loading to be completed by 0300 hrs. Details of arty programme given which was to consist of groups of concs fired on a time basis but also available on call as required (See Appendices E18 and J2). From 0930 no high angle fire to be used on account of airborne ops at 1000 hrs. 1200 to 1300 hrs CO spoke to Coys and explained the gen idea of the Operation. 1500 to 1600 hrs Coy and Pl Comdrs carried out recce of river. 1730 hrs Bn attended Church Service.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	24th		0030 hrs - Loading of LVTs completed. 0040 hrs Bn began moving down to river in LVTs. 0200 hrs. "A" and "C" Coys crossed river without cas but were landed several hundred yards to the right of the right hand objective. As a result "A" Coy had to take on the strong point of WOLFFSKATH 119461 (C Coy objective) in order to get on to their own axis. The river bank at this point was strongly held by 3 Coys of 1/21 Para Regt and the second wave together with Bn HQ were held up while the clearing of the bank was going on. On the landing of	

the 2nd wave an erroneous report was received that the leading Coys had cleared the bank. "B" and "D" Coys accordingly attempted to move fwd and Bn HQ moved inland from the bank although not landed in the correct place to get clear of stray fire falling near the river. When the posn became a little clearer it was seen that "A" and "C" Coys had succeeded in clearing most of the strong point around WOLFFSKATH but had suffered a large number of cas incl both Coy Comdrs wounded. "A" Coy lost their remaining Offr Lt Picken who was killed silencing a 20 mm gun which was fired directly at WOLFFSKATH. The Coy was rallied by the CSM and brought under comd of "C" Coy. "B" and "D" Coys had not been able to carry on to their objectives. Bn HQ having landed well to the right was for the time being in "No Mans Land" and was once attacked by small arms and grenades and subsequently fired on from both the right flank and from a posn on the river bank behind it which had been occupied since the landing. At 0500 hrs it was possible to extricate Bn HQ. The posn was then that "C" Coy had managed to advance some 500 yds north from WOLFFSKATH while "A" Coy had encountered large quantities of small arms fire in attempting to clear westward along the river bund. "B" Coy had been ordered to continue clearing the enemy posns westward along the bund as it was appreciated that advance inland was impossible until this was done nor could vehs safely be ferried over. "C" Coy were instructed to press on to their original objective in OVERKAMP 1247 with "D" Coy following up. Bn HQ was temporarily est at WOLFFSKATH 119461. 1000 hrs Airborne troops flew in across Bn area to their landing places. 1100 hrs. Coy of 7 SEAFORTHS supported by 2 troops of DD tanks reached Bn from 44 Bde bridgehead without having encountered any enemy opposition. "C" Coy had by now reached the southern edge of OVERKAMP where they were temporarily held up by determined opposition but were subsequently able to get fwd and allow "D" Coy to move through and capture the north end of OVERKAMP. On the left 2 A&SH had experienced similar difficulties in the initial stages of the attack and were still engaged in clearing the bund towards "B" Coy. At about 1200 hrs the two linked up and the bund was clear. To assist the Bde on to their further objectives a Coy from 7th SEAFORTHS with tank support was ordered to take LOHR 1047 while the remainder of the Bn passed through OVERKAMP to clear up REE 1147 MEHRBRUCH and MEHR 1248. 1600 hrs Bn HQ moved fwd into OVERKAMP at 123470 while "B" Coy joined the other Coys in concentrating nearby 123472. During the evening 9 CAMERONIANS passed through to attack HAFFEN 1149. During this day's action as

Cas: Offrs 3K:4W
ORs 10K:61W
PW: 180
Reinf: NIL

		was revealed by a captured Bn Order, the Bn broke through the sector held by three Coys of a German Para Regt taking approx 180 PW and causing large numbers of cas. (Effect vouched for by two of the Bns SBs who were for some time attending German cas in a German RAP). The Bn lost 3 Officers and 11 ORs killed, 4 Officers and 61 ORs wounded.	
	25th	Bn remained at rest in OVERKAMP. A burial service was held at 1400 hrs for those killed in the previous day's operation. The Bn was warned in the evening that it might be required to assist 46 Bde or to take over from one of its Bns. 2300 hrs Bn was placed at 1 hrs notice. 2330 hrs. CO attended "O" Group at 46 Bde HQ to discuss take over from 7 SEAFORTHS and 9 CAMS in the area HAFFEN-MEHR. Bn warned to be ready to move at once.	Cas: ORs - 1K : 1W PW: 12 Reinf: NIL
	26th	0030 hrs Bn "O" Group. Bn ordered to take over from 7 Seaforths and 9 Cams to release them for operation on following day. Take over to be carried out as follows:- "A" Coy to take over from Coy 9 Cams area BRUCKSHOF 1249 : "B" Coy to take over from Coy 9 Cams area WISSHOF 1250 : "C" Coy to take over from Coy 9 Cams at STOPPENDAHL 1249 and Coy 7 Seaforths at AVERFORTH 1249. "D" Coy to take over from Coy 7 Seaforths in area 134494. Bn HQ est at 119491. Take over completed by 0400 hrs. Coy doubled up in posns with outgoing units. 1445 hrs "C" Coy attacked the moated house at BELLINGHOVEN 1350 but found it clear of enemy. Bn HQ moved up to AVERFORTH 1249.	Cas: NIL PW: 7 Reinf: NIL
	27th	During afternoon Bn was ordered to take over whole of Bde front by relieving 2 Gordons with one Coy in area 108510. Posns reorganised as follows:- "B" Coy to take over from 2 Gordons in area mentioned: "D" Coy to take over posn vacated by "B" Coy: "A" Coy to push out to area 127509 (already patrolled during day) this change over was completed by last light. 1900 hrs 2 Sqns Recce Regt arrived to take over from operational commitment of Bn in existing Coy posns to enable Bn to rest in preparation for an op to be carried out the following day. 2100 hrs. CO attended Bde "O" Group. Orders given for a Bde attack on wood 1352. 46 Bde at present holding up to SE corner of this wood against stiff opposition. Attack to be made with HLI right-Gordons left in bounds dependent on advance of 46 Bde through wood on right 1452. (See Appendix E23). Troops allotted in support:- Each Bn to have 1 tp CROCS, 1 tp 17 pr SP, 1 Pl MMGs. Arty fire plan to incl "softening-up" all through night followed by groups of concs immed prior to attack. (See Appendix E24). Enfilade small arms fire to be given from flank by Recce Regt. Limit of advance to be determined by progress of 46 Bde on flank. If this was slow Bns were to halt on reaching eastern edge of wood and dig	Cas: NIL PW: 7 Reinf: NIL

		in for night. 2200 hrs Warning Order for following day issued to Coys.	
	28th	0900 hrs CO and IO carried out recce of FUP and SL area 146517, while Bn moved up to conc area 144497. 1030 hrs. Bn "O" Group. CO gave details for attack. Initial advance to be made as far as edge of wood with "A" Coy right-"D" Coy left "C" Coy mopping up and "B" in reserve. Troops of Crocs to be in close support of leading Coys and 2 Wasps to be under comd "C" Coy. Assault to be made frontally, closely following arty concs with support of enfilade fire from MMG Pl and Recce Regt and close support of crocs. From the mornings recce little enemy activity had been apparent and it was not expected that enemy opposition would be strong. 1200 hrs Bn moved up to FUP area 145513 while Coy Comdrs carried out recce from SL. 1415 hrs Attack began. 1435. Coys reached eastern edge of wood without opposition and were ordered to carry on to final objectives. 1610 - Final objectives reached without opposition although advance of 2 Gordons on left delayed by mines. Bn HQ est at 137521.	Cas: NIL PW: 1 Reinf: 1 and 10
	29th	As a Bde of 3 Div had cleared HALDERN 1253 and remaining ground ahead of Bde advance, Bde op role was ended. Bns were told to move fwd into suitable accm where personnel could rest. Bn est in following areas:- "A" Coy 131551: "B" Coy 130538 : "C" Coy 128535 : "D" Coy 138542 : "Sp" 130533 : Bn HQ 134536.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	30th	Bn at rest.	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: NIL
	31st	Bn at rest. Messages of Congratulation received from Army and Corps Cmdrs. (See Appendix J3)	Cas: NIL PW: NIL Reinf: 4 Offrs and 70 ORs.
<p>F.B.B. Noble Lt. Col. Major Comdg 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regt.)</p>			

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Unit 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry

Month and Year MARCH 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. RA Bramwell-Davis

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			<u>Administrative War Diary</u>	
Field	24th		<p>162941 WS/Lt LJJ Picken DLI) Killed in action on the 24th of March 276868 WS/Lt JA Kerr HLI) 45. Buried in Bn cemetery ref. Sheet 285564 WS/Lt D McVean HLI) GS GS 4414 No 4204, Map ref. 119466.</p> <p>67193 T/Major IH Murray HLI) Wounded in action on the 24th of 138555 WS/Capt AF Reddick HLI) March 45. 315725 WS/Lt GG Hutchison H.L.I.) Evacuated through CCP. 330186 WS/Lt NB Hubbard Essex)</p> <p>326363 WS/Lt M Timmons HLI took over duties of Signal Officer wef 23rd March 45.</p> <p>304166 WS/Lt GG Adey Royal Signals posted to 3rd Br, Div Signals wef 24th March 45 and SOS this unit.</p>	<p><u>Authy:</u> SA/160/A/101 Dated 23rd of March 45.</p>
Field	26th		<p>138556 T/Capt AN Scott HLI to be A/Major wef 25th of March 45 289894 WS/Lt JD Robinson HLI to be A/Capt wef 9th of Feb 45. Cdn/223 WS/Lt IF McMillan HLI Can to be A/Capt wef 25th of March 45.</p> <p>324306 WS/Lt JC Coates DLI posted to WE of 10th HLI from 32 RHU and TOS this unit wef 22nd March 45.</p>	<p><u>Authy:</u> 2E 21/2025/4 (ORG) 5th Nov 44.</p>
Field	30th		<p>203126 WS/Lt SJ Burrows N Staffs) 271204 WS/Lt F Hollands RWK) Posted to We of 10th HLI from 33 335350 WS/Lt TC Nolan Lincs) RHU and TOS this unit wef 30th 335325 WS/Lt SL Hooker RF) March 45</p> <p>B.L.A. April 45</p> <p style="text-align: center;">F.B.B. Noble Major Lt. Col. Comd 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regt.)</p>	<p><u>Authy:</u> 33 RHU 3012 A Per 180 dated 26th March 45</p>