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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 624 Field Park Coy RE

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year Mar 45

Commanding Officer Maj J.B. KELSALL, RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
S'HERTOGEN BOSCH	1	1345 1600	Coy in rest area. Work to be done incl checking of all plant, eqpt and vehicles and necessary repairs, checking of individuals kit and making good, bringing inoculations etc up to date. Baths for all. Propn of unit get afternoon off with tpt to TILBURG or other places within 30 mile radius. Br Pl refilled 3 Panel & 2 Decking - complete now. OC visited CRE - received orders re GOCs parade on 7 Mar - we must find parade ground and erect flag pole also get made a RE flag with Div sign. Vacancies for Brussels leave received 1 or 2 offrs and 52 ORs every 4 days. Now under 1st Cdn Army for RE stores etc.	
S'HERTOGEN BOSCH	2	1630	CRE called - we are to collect Storm Boats and Mk III Asst Boats for trg of Inf Bdes. Br Pl offloaded 6 vehs to provide recvy tpt for recreational journeys etc.	
"	3	1000	Stores Pl left for Army Dump at TILBURG to collect Boats and deliver to Bdes. Evinrude motors will be held here until required for actual use.	
"	4	2315	First leave party left for BRUSSELS - 1 offr and 52 O.Rs - greatly depleted Unit's working capacity. CRE called to say we would be moving on 6 Mar to DIEST area K16. Storm boats etc to be collected from Bdes and taken. Means using 6 Br vehs and returning for br eqpt. Will also have to allow for leave personnel returning from BRUSSELS pm 6 mar.	
S'HERTOGEN BOSCH	5	0830 1000 1200 2345	Stores Pl collecting in Storm Boats etc. Other Pls loading up. Ordered to send Adv Pty to HQ 2 A Tps near LOMMEL K39. Adv Pty left. Orders for move received. Pass S.P. at 1330 tomorrow.	

"	6	1830	Coy arrived at new locn HEPPEN K2583. Delayed 2 hours at Dis Pt through not knowing exact locn. Rep had to go to Div HQ to find this. Rear Pty left with 2i/c.	
HEPPEN	7	0800 0900	Storm Bts etc off-loaded and vehs returned to s'HERTOGENBOSCH to collect their normal br loads and other stores. Welding set (elec) left for 18 GHQ Tps Engrs - to be there 2 days.	
"	10		Storm Boats and engines reissued to Bdes. Preliminary instructions for Exercise "BUFFALO" received.	
"	11		Ordered to provide 2 offr & 2 Sgts as umpires for Ex "BUFFALO".	
"	12		Ordered to make 20 Storm Boat sledges. Stores available from 265 Corps Fd Pk Coy (12 Corps). Sledges to be completed by 20 Mar.	
"	13		O.C. and others briefed at EELEN K6176. Visited sites for Exercise "BUFFALO".	
HEPPEN	14		O.C. and other umpires attended exercise "BUFFALO". Asst crossing by 2 Bdes of R MAAS in LVTs and Storm Boats, Cl 9 and Cl 50/60 rafts. Dutch Interpreter sent out to obtain stores for Storm Boats sledges - many items not available from 12 Corps e.g. sheet metal, bolts etc. All were requisitioned from LOUVAIN or BRUSSELS.	
"	15		Wksp machinery lorry not available. Timber for sledges cut by local contract. Umpires went out for night version of BUFFALO.	
"	16		O.C. out all day - visited 508 Fd Pk Coy to obtain timber for sledges.	
"	17		OC and 2i/c reced new location near SONSBECK A0635 - very congested but found a possible site - on return asked Div to confirm and were told we had been given wrong locn.	
"	18		Oi/c Br Pl left early with small Adv party for new locn area A0164. Oi/c Stores Pl left to collect 14 RASC lorries and then load stores at WEERT K5997 and take them to new locn. Work on sledges progressing well. Collected 7 weasels for Fd Coys & HQ RE. Coy will move on 21 Mar.	
HEPPEN	19		Stores Pl collecting Storm Boats and engines from Bdes and delivering to 12 Corps Dump.	

			20 Storm Boat sledges completed - also navigation signs for Rhine ferries. Move to new locn now 21 Mar - new locn will be near KEVELAER A0033	
"	20		Coy packing up & preparing for move.	
"	21		Move at 220040 - O.C. went on ahead.	
ALT WETTEN A0033	22	0730 1630	Coy arrived in new locn, after tiring journey. Two accidents Ramp Lorry of Br Pl and compressors of Stores Pl both complete write-offs. Large programme of stores collection from 12 Corps Dump nearby. Received 18 more RASC lorries - total of 24 now. OC attended CRE's "O" Gp.	See Appx "A" JBK
"	23	1200 1400	Stores continued collection & preparation. OC attended CRE's "O" Gp - received detailed instrs re sending fwd of stores vehs etc to far bank of RHINE. 40 RASC lorries arrived for loading with Br Eqpt from 12 Corps Dump as follows - 30 Bailey, 3 Asst Boats, 2 Kapok, 5 LSUs (FBE eqpt). 26 Br Pl organising this - completed by 2000 hrs.	See Appx "B" JBK
"	24	0200 0600 0730 1300 1330	Op TORCHLIGHT commenced. Ordered to send fwd first 10 stores vehs. Stores vehs left. Next 5 stores vehs to go fwd. Vehs left.	
	25	0130	Ordered to send up a LSU to meet rep 20 Coy at Cl 9 FBE Br at 0600 - left at 0400. Ordered to collect replacement veh for 26 Br Pl.	
MEHR 191248	26	0200	Recd order to move across R RHINE. Head of col to pass Cl 9 Bailey Pontoon br at M.R. A0846 at 0845 hrs. New locn in area A1248. Large propn of Dump Stores to remain also Mack 6 x 6 tractors with Carrimore trailers, latter too heavy. Collected in stores and lorries sent across river previously. CRE called and gave verbal orders - Div Br Pl to 278 Fd Coy and Bailey Pl on 30 RASC lorries to 20 Fd Coy - also reallocation of Mech Eqpt.	
"	27	2230	Br Pl returned - RASC Bailey lorries as emptied returned to Div Maint Area. CRE called and gave allotment of stores & eqpt to 20 Fd Coy for tomorrow's task. Wksp Pl erected Water Point.	
"	28		Div Br Pl refilled. All surplus br eqpt dumped at Corps Dump and empty vehs returned.	

		1700	Recd orders to move to area 1648 - to be clear by 2359 tonight. OC did recce - found locn in area but approaches sand & earth tracks in fair condition.	
		2130	Coy complete in new locn - Mech Eqpt had returned.	
A1648	29		OC visited CRE - latter agreed to our returning all bulk stores and br eqpt still on RASC vehs - to retain 6 of latter only. Water Point closed - had issued 34000 galls water in 2½ days.	
	30	0800	Br Pl went out to 12 Corps Tps to build a br at BOCHOLT A26. O.C. visited 265 Corps Fd Pk Coy (12 Corps) and arranged to return surplus stores & br eqpt. Also to return refill Div Br Pl. CRE said we could look for a locn with Coy accom under cover and if found move there. Locn found at A199571.	
	31		Coy moved to new locn.	
			31 Mar 45	JB Kelsall Maj R.E.