

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

or

Unit 278 Field Coy RE

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year JAN 1945

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
713968	1 Jan		NCOs visited HELMOND to see training films. Training on Bren and PIAT. Coy defence positions inspected and alterations made. Weather Frosty.	Map Series France & Belg Scale: 1:25,000 Sheet 37 NE Strength 5 & 240
"	2 Jan		Firing PIAT and Bren. 2 Pl officer on recce for work at Div Battle School 3 Pl disarming and blowing R. mines. NCOs to br MR 744960 Sheet 37 NE to recce for proposed demolitions.	do
"	3 Jan		3 Pl constructing snow plough Training Bde personnel in mines. 1 pl under command 20 Fd Coy. 2 Secs to MR 646947 KELPEN Br N to clear wreckage of demolished bridge prior to erecting Cl.40 Bailey Br. Map Sheet 4 Scale 1:100,000. L Sec 1 Pl to MR 724998 Sheet 37 NE 1:25,000 to clear wrecked br from stream. 1 Sec 1 Pl to MR 675954 Sheet 4 1:100,000 to Blow br out of stream.	do
713968	4 Jan		Two Secs 1 Pl under comd 20 Fd Coy for work on KELPEN Br. Debris still being cleared at MR 646947. Rubble cleared from stream at MR 745985 to give free waterway. 2 Pl to Div Battle School for works. 3 Pl at work on culvert at MR 763014	Map Series France & Belg Scale 1:25,000 Sheet 37 NE Strength 6 & 239 Weather Frosty.
do	5 Jan		3 Pl complete culvert at MR 763014 Cl 40 approaches being improved. 1 Offr to PAD course at EINDHOVEN. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Map Series same as for 4 Jan. Strength 6 & 240 Weather Frosty.
do	6 Jan		3 Pl recce party retaping br at LINGENHOF 760945 and general repair. Mine training for Bde personnel.	do Weather frosty slight thaw late afternoon
do	7 Jan		OC and OC 3 Pl recce blown culvert at MR 796989. Gap found to be 40', depth 11', depth of water 18". Design for repair was to use two 36" culverts and two 18" culverts. Fill with layer of brushwood then earth and finish with layer of flexboards.	Map series same as for 6 Jan Strength 6 & 238

		Demolition is under enemy observation and work will have to be by night or in fog and silent. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Weather Thaw. Frost and snow at night.
do	8 Jan	3 Pl on snow clearing.	do Weather freezing & snow
do	9 Jan	1 Pl at br MR 646947. 2 Pl at Div Battle School. 3 Pl disarmed and marked dump of R. mines and Nbk39 in NEER 779978 Sheet 4 1:100,000. 1 Sec blew dump later. Culverting and flexboard ordered for filling in blown culvert at 796989. 3 Pl cutting brushwood for filling in on top of culverting.	do
do	10 Jan	Two parties out with snow plough. 3 Pl send out party by night to demolition at 796989. Culverting and brushwood successfully put in position. Order received that task must be completed by night of 14 Jan. 2 Pl at Div Battle School 1 Pl at br MR 646947.	do Weather sunny.
do	11 Jan	1 Pl at br MR 646947. 3 Pl send out night party to fill in at culverting site. Ground found to be so hard that no soil could be shovelled in.	Do Weather Slight thaw in afternoon.
do	12 Jan	Alternative route reced to culverting task 796989 unsuccessful. Foggy day made work at culverting site 796989 possible. Petrol was carried down poured over debris and set on fire. This thawed the ground sufficiently for spoil to be filled in. Task 75% complete and passable for Cl 9 vehicles but no surfacing on. Trees obstructing road were cleared. 1 Offr to SME Ripon. 1 Pl at br MR 646947.	Map series same as for 11 Jan. Strength 6 & 239 Weather Freezing.
Do	13 Jan	Intermittent fog and further filling at 796989 possible. 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do Strength 6 & 240
Do	14 Jan	Task at 796989 completed and trees cleared to make it two way. 1 Pl on Bailey Crib Pier at MR 646947. 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do Weather Snow & Thaw.
Do	15 Jan	1 Pl on br at MR 646947 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do Weather Freezing
Do	16 Jan	CSM returned to unit. 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do Strength 6 & 241
Do	17 Jan	2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do
Do.	18 Jan	2 snow ploughs working. Some enemy explosives 3000 lbs ammonal and dynamite found in area 7798 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do Strength 6 & 242 Weather Snow
Do	19 Jan	1 Pl on br MR 646947. 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do

		Destruction of 3000 lbs explosives at 7798 commenced. One primer was placed in each 50 lbs box and fired. Explosives burned harmlessly and did not explode.	Strength 6 & 243 Weather Freezing, thaw late afternoon.
Do	20 Jan	2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do. Strength 6 & 244
Do	21 Jan	2 Pl at Div Battle School. Remains of enemy explosive at 7798 burned.	Do. Weather Rain
Do.	22 Jan	Party left Coy HQ to recce harbour area at TILBURG. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Do Strength 6 & 245
Do.	23 Jan	1 Pl at MR 646947. RED LION Br construction commenced of 290 ft of Bailey Br built in conjunction with 279 & 20 Fd Coys. First 70ft of bridge of double/single constr followed by 150ft of triple/double which was actual work performed by this unit. The last 70ft of br consisted of double/single assembly. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Do Weather Sunny
Do	24 Jan	RED LION br MR 646947 completed 1800 hrs today. Offr returned from TILBURG recce party. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Do Weather Rain
155317	25 Jan	Coy moved at approx 1000 hrs through HELMOND, EINDHOVEN and BEST and arrived at TILBURG at approx 1700 hrs. 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Map Series Holland Scale 1:100,000 Sheet No.5 Strength 6 & 246 Weather WET
Do	26 Jan	Stores checked, Mine detectors examined. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Do Weather Snow
Do	27 Jan	Instr on Bangalore torpedo. Checking of eqpt continues. OC attends CRE's O Gp and Bde O Gp for OPERATION VENERABLE	Do Strength 6 & 249
Do	28 Jan	Water Sterilising tablets, 24 hr packs etc inspected. OC attends Bde O Gp. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Do Strength 6 & 255
Do	29 Jan	G1098 inspected. OC attends CRE's O Gp and Bde O Gp. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Do Strength 6 & 249
Do	30 Jan	Stores and eqpt cleaned and checked. 2 PL at Div Battle School	Do. Weather Rain.
Do	31 Jan	Kit to be sorted for inspection. OC visits all COs to tie up details for OP VENERABLE. 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do.
		<u>C.R. Nicholls</u>	