

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
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Delete heading not required)

Unit 190 Field Regiment.R.A.

Month and Year Apr 45.

Commanding Officer R.J. Streatfield.R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1.		The beginning of the month found the regt at HAMMINKELN still resting after taking part in the assault over the Rhine. We were expecting soon to resume the chase, clearing up behind the 12 Corps spearhead, 7 Armd Division.	
	2.		In the morning Maj Gen Barber GOC the Div visited the regt and addressed all ranks. He spoke some very timely and pertinent words on the subjects of looting and fraternisation. He congratulated everyone on the most successful operation just accomplished and hoped for like success in the difficult tasks still ahead of us.	
	3.		Today we came under command 46 Bde group and moved on our first stage to catch up the ever faster battle. It was a short move of about 25 miles and we harboured the night just south of GR. BURLO in a group of up to date farms 3565.	
	4.		Early in the morning we moved again, this time to an area near the village of BORGHORST 7992, a march of some 55 miles. Provisional orders for the next day were that the Division in Bde Groups would clear up the wooded area just East of the DORTMUND - EMS canal. We learned that the Division now came under Command 8 Corps and we were amused to find that Corps HQ was plumb in the middle of the area we were due to clear.	
	5.		We did not embark on our first plan, the new object for the division was to advance as far as the Weser, clearing all the small side roads on the way.	
	6.		We started off early in the morning and made fine progress until we reached the Dortmund-Ems canal where an incredible traffic jam began. After hours of patient waiting the harbour parties managed to get through and after a wild chase south of OSNABRUCK arrived at the harbour area, which was just NW of Minden in the village of FRIEDEWALDE 7618, with a few minutes of light left to do the recce. This was successfully accomplished and it but remained for the main party to arrive.	

7.		About 0200 hrs the first elements of the regt arrived and they continued to do so until it became light. The march was quite the worst ever experienced, the 90 miles having taken 16 hours. The rest of the day things were taken rather quietly by most people.	
8.		A quiet day with nothing unusual to report.	
9.		Today we learned that our next task as a division would be a long advance to contact battle via CELLE and UELZEN to the Elbe. We were to start next day. In the evening we had a regtl sing song and 46 Bde held a short course in the disposal of wines and spirits.	
10.		Today was a short move over the Weser to a concentration area prior to the start of our advance to contact battle. The regt harboured in the village of RADERHORST 9220.	
11.		We set out on our chase with the 4 Tank Coldstream Guards in support of the Bde Gp. All went well until we were a few miles short of Celle when opposition was met at the road and rail crossings in 5638. The regt came into action round the village of Engensen 5036 and fired a little in support of the infantry and tanks.	
12.		The regt moved up early a few miles to the village of Ramlingen 5338 to support the continuation of the clearing operations. In the morning 227 Bde entered Celle and in the afternoon opposition ceased. 46 Bde moved into the south of the town and harboured the night. Some grim sights were seen in a small concentration camp in the town, which brought home to many people what we were fighting against. An abortive recce was made by the CO2 & RSO of an area over the Aller river west of Celle.	
13.		Early we started on the next phase, the advance to Uelzen. 46 Bde covered both flanks of the Div axis with the 9 Cams and 2 Glas H on the right and 7 Sea on the left. 531 Bty accompanied the 7 Sea in an independent role. The 2 Glasgow Highlanders were in the van on the right supported by the Coldstream Guards. The advance was hindered by weak bridges and bad tracks and the regt did two quick actions to clear up small pockets. In the evening we went into action round the village of Eidengen 7657. During the day the CO Lt.Col. Streatfield left the regt to go on a CO's Gunnery Course at Larkhill. Major GS Cole took over command of the regt during his absence.	
14.		Advance continued and in the middle of the morning the regt deployed in sq 8262. There was little trouble however and the advance soon continued. By night the group on the right reached the village of Stadensen 9079. The group less 9 Cams harboured the night here with the guns out of action.	
15.		At 0330 hrs the guards woke the sleeping regt to the accompaniment of a continuous volley of warlike noises. It was soon apparent that	

		<p>there was enemy very close and reports spoke of tanks at both ends of the village. For two hours things were completely disorganised and individual efforts and initiative were responsible in preventing what might have developed into a very nasty situation. Early in the battle several houses were set alight and soon a large part of the village was aflame. Heaps of German amm were soon exploding and several amm trucks of the infantry added to the din and chaos. Terrific work was done in preventing our vehs catching alight and at 0600 hrs when RHQ was forced to evacuate all its vehs were recovered intact. RHQ withdrew a little to the west of the village and dug itself deep in a field. After some time our calls for fire on both wireless nets were answered by 531 Bty on the left of the division and by 181 Fd Regt. Meanwhile 529 and 530 Btys had both got several guns into action in anti tank roles and had knocked out several enemy vehs. Major Stephenson of 530 Bty in particular showed great courage in knocking out 2 enemy half-tracks with a Piat. By 0900 hrs we had got both btys into action and 530 OPs joined the Glas H and assisted in chasing the Germans to the next village of Nettlekamp. The position was considerably relieved when the Cams arrived and by 1500 hrs the situation was completely restored. The final count revealed that the Group had destroyed 12 enemy SP guns and 15 half-tracks. It appeared that the attacking force was a battle group from the new Panzer Div Clausewitz whose aim was to disrupt 8 Corps axis. Losses in the Regt were 1 man killed 6 injured and 1-3 ton lorry destroyed. Later in the afternoon we learned that the Bde was being relieved by 6A/B Div and that the regt was to move into action at Borne 8883 south of Uelzen. Recce parties went off to prepare the area, which was already occupied by a battalion of infantry and a squadron of tanks. 531 Bty were to rejoin the regt in this area. They had had a most interesting time on the left flank supporting the Seaforths.</p>	
	16.	<p>The Regt arrived very early in the morning. It appeared that 46 Bde was to take over from 227 Bde opposite Uelzen and do a frontal assault in a few days time. There was a little firing on observed tgts in and around Uelzen.</p>	
	17.	<p>During the day we learned that Lt. K. Ohlson of 531 Bty had been awarded the MC for gallantry in the operations West of the Rhine. Gnr Bennington of 530 Bty also received the MM. The day was reasonably quiet and in the evening 46 Bde began to patrol into Uelzen. The situation in the town by night was very fluid with some nasty pockets to crack.</p>	

	18.		Progress into the town continued at first light and after a slow start the operation went well and the whole town was cleared by afternoon; many prisoners were taken. Future plans for the division involved an advance to the Elbe clearing up pockets on the way.	
	19.		In the morning harbour parties left for the village of Kleine Hesebeck about ten miles N of Uelzen. In this area the Bde group was concentrating. The Regt arrived in the area in the afternoon but did not go into action. In the evening there was a brief scare when 2 Hitler Youths were captured and found carrying arms. At first popular report had it that we were to be brewed up again, but further interrogation discovered that the only aim of the two boys was to get home to mother.	
	20.		The Bde formed up in Bevensen and set out on its road to the Elbe. The Cams led and progress was steady until a little opposition was met N of Dahlenburg 0114. A regtl area was quickly reced at Dahlem 0116 and 529 Bty did a quick action. Owing to the opposition it was decided to switch the bulk of the Bde up another route further to the west. After a short time however it was decided to send the Seaforths alone on the right with 531 Bty in support, and 530 Bty would join 529 at Dahlem. No sooner were they established there than recce parties were again rushed off to recce a further area in the village of Rosenthal 9328 a few miles south of the Elbe. This recce complete, orders were changed and once more they dashed back to the village of NEETZE 9322 where 529 & 530 eventually arrived as night drew on having leap frogged their way up. It was rather appropriate that RHQ finally ended the day by being established in a circus with bears, elephants and a monkey complete. 531 Bty spent the night in the Seaforths area further North.	
	21.		Early in the morning the Regt occupied the Rosenthal area where accommodation was good though the ground rather wet. We had OPs out with the Cameronians and the Seaforths; the Glasgow Highlanders were in reserve. The day was spent in clearing the few pockets this side of the river on our front.	
	22.		The thing of greatest interest today was the passage of trains up and down across our front on the far side of the River. The Air OP had several good shots at them. It was considered probable that we would remain in this location for several days prior to our move to the Divisional gun area to support the crossing of the Elbe by our Division.	
	23.		Another fairly quiet day. Recce parties did a provisional recce of the next gun area near the village of Bratlingen 8129. The area was not good being chiefly in view from the other bank of the Elbe.	See Appx 11

	24.		In the morning the final preparation and survey of the new gun area was carried out. Apart from that everything was very quiet and the only shooting was that aimed at deer and hares.	
	25.		A very quiet day. In the evening 531 bty fired propaganda shell at Lauenburg and Boizenburg. There was however an unfortunate number of prematures which did no damage luckily though the pamphlets were wasted.	
	26.		During the day a large drive of the area was organised to clear out any civilians who still remained within the forbidden area south of the Elbe.	
	27.		Preparations were completed for our move to the gun area for the crossing. Now the crossing was to be carried out by 44 Bde on the left and the 1st Commando Bde with 7 Seaforths under command on the right. Not much opposition was expected.	
	28.		At midnight we left Rosenthal and we soon arrived at Brietlingen and settled in for the night. B Echelons had previously moved to an area south of Luneburg. The fire plan and CB plan were received and issued out in the morning. Arty support was divided into 3 Groups and we were under command the 5th Div Gp. Calls for fire from this group were to be controlled first by the CO of the 1st Mountain Regt supporting the Commandos and finally by our CO. At 2350 hrs the CB programme "COSSACK" began.	See Appxs 12 & 13.
	29.		At 0200 hrs the attack over the Elbe was launched supported by 11 Fd, 4 Med and 1 Hy regts. All went well and quicker than plan and the first objectives were soon taken. Soon after first light recce parties left to prepare an advance position on the banks of the Elbe 8533. It was a poor area with little cover and very wet. The regt moved in later in the morning welcomed by a certain amount of straffing from enemy planes. Air activity was greater than we had seen in the whole campaign and throughout the day there were repeated attacks on the bridging sites. In the afternoon we had a warning that the regiment might move across the river that night. More definite orders came later and recce parties left to find a harbour area in the village of KRUKOW 8339. According to our maps this had not yet been cleared and the recce parties arriving there as dusk approached entered the village with all circumspection. All was well however and, recce completed, the arrival of the regt was awaited.	
	30.		After a horrible night march over the river the regt did not arrive until first light. After a few hours sleep and breakfast we moved forward into action in 8240 with RHQ in Piependorf 8140. It was a good gun area, but a poor one for accn. Meanwhile our OPs were still	

			with our infantry on the East of the bridgehead and meeting more opposition than anyone else. And so the month ended. During its 30 days we had covered about 300 miles and come very close to the end of the war in Europe.	
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