

W A R D I A R Y O R I N T E L L I G E N C E S U M M A R Y

DATE APRIL 1945.

UNIT : 181 Field Regt R.A.

Comd Offr : Lt Col TP Keene, R.A.

| PLACE | DATE | TIME | INFORMATION   | REMARKS |
|-------|------|------|---|---------|
|       | 1-4  |      | Rest in gun area close to Rhine continued. The regiment was addressed by the GOC on 2 Apr and congratulated on its good work and smart appearance.  |         |
|       | 5    |      | The battle was well into Germany and a 70 mile move to the area of BORGHORST (14 miles NW of MUNSTER) still left the regiment harbouring many miles away from the fighting.   |         |
|       | 6    |      | A night move on congested roads and again a harbour area in the village of NORDEL NW of MINDEN.   |         |
|       | 7-9  |      | Remain in harbour and again the battle moves well away. During the period numerous German prisoners and stragglers were collected.  |         |
|       | 10   |      | A short move across the R. WESER to clear the bridge and another harbour at NEUENKNICK where some excitement was provided by tales of GESTAPO agents knifing soldiers in the back but nothing more than a NAZI schoolmaster was discovered. |         |
|       | 11   |      | The Division advances through the 6th Airborne Division in the direction of CELLE. The regiment in support of the reserve brigade harbours at MEITZE until CELLE is captured.   |         |
|       | 13   |      | Still in reserve moved into CELLE, a very pleasant town. Many Slave workers and political prisoners were found dead or dying from starvation and undressed wounds.  |         |
|       | 14   |      | UELZEN was proving difficult to take and the regiment moved into action with the other Div Arty. A fire plan fired in the evening but town still uncaptured.  |         |
|       | 15   |      | Supported 44(L) Bde in an attack to outflank UELZEN on the EAST, which was very successful.   |         |
|       | 16.  |      | Flanking move continued and town effectively isolated from the EAST.  |         |
|       | 17   |      | Fire Plan in support of attack on UELZEN entirely successful and all eastern half of town captured.   |         |
|       | 18   |      | While mopping up continued in Western half of town the brigade pushed further north and east and the regt moved fwd to GROSS LIERDEN (1 mile EAST of UELZEN).   |         |

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|--|----------|--------------|--|--|
|  | 19       |              | Bde Group concentrates NE of UELZEN. The regt moves to MOLZEN and guns are put in action as a precautionary measure against roving enemy columns.  |  |
|  | 20       |              | R. ELBE is reached by other formations. Two bdes of the division mop up and take over a section of the bank, the regt and 44 Bde concentrated ready for any future operation. RHQ occupies the palatial Schloss Ludersburg, three miles SOUTH of the ELBE.   |  |
|  | 21-23    |              | Remained in conc area. Planning for future operations begins.  |  |
|  | 24-27    |              | Remained in conc area.   |  |
|  | 26       | 1400         | Regt 'O' Gp and warning order to move at short notice. Outline plan for covering the ELBE as follows: RSF and RS to cross in area ARTLENBURG 8334, followed by A & SH and KOSB. The A & SH take over the initial bridgehead and KOSB push fwd to capture SCHNAKENBEK. Arty support by conc to H hour.  |  |
|  | 27       |              | Regt moves at midnight to gun area around Britlingen where guns were camouflaged before crossing.  |  |
|  | 28       |              | Tac HQ moved up to Bde at ARTLENBURG on river bank, OPs join Bns. Final preparations for the assault.  |  |
|  | 29<br>30 | 0200<br>2100 | 44 Bde assault R. ELBE as planned. Heavy CB programme and concentration fired in support. Inf firmly est br head by first light. 1 Cdo Bde est br head on 44 Bde right. Steady advances. Regt moved up to Artlenburg at 1530 hrs, and at 2100 hrs prepared to cross river. River crossed during night and regt harboured near KRUKOW going into action in GULZOW at first light. Rapid advances made by 44 Bde. Some aerial activity over gun position caused one casualty. RS and RSF move up to SCHWARZENBEK which was clear of enemy. |  |