

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. 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
(Erase heading not required)

Unit 153 (Br) Fd Amb

Month and Year February 1945

Commanding Officer Lt Col C.B.R. POLLOCK

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Field	1	1100 1400 1800	C.O. given outline plan of Operation VERITABLE by Bde Comnd 227 Bde and by ADMS 15 (S) Div. No change of location. B.C. Nil Adm Sick 8 Evac 8	Vide Appx I Vide Appx II DMcC
Field	2	1400	227 Bde Comd (Brig E. COLVILLE) briefs Bde Coy (& equivalent) Commanders on sand table model at Div HQ. General. 30 Corps under command of Canadian Army is undertaking a breakthrough into Germany from NIJMEGEN area in a S.E. direction with the intention of clearing the enemy from territory between Rs Rhine & Maas. <u>Method</u> 30 Corps attacks on a 5 Divl front as follows: RT a) 51 Div : To seize features 7852 and 7751 & clear Western extension of REICHSWALD (7451). b) 53 Div : Seize feature 8053 & clear edge of REICHSWALD Eastwards as far as STOPPEL BERG 8553. Centre c) 15 (S) Div to force defended obstacle zone WEST and East of KRANENBURG 8156 & assault the SIEGFRIED defences in area NUTTERDEN 8455 & to seize the high ground W. of CLEEVE & support general line UDEM 9842 - CALCAR 0049 - EMMERICK 9760. Left d) 2 Cdn Div to capture WYLER 7852 - DENHEUVEL 7756 - HOCKSTRASSE 7856. e) 3 Cdn Div to clear area N. of road WYLER - CLEEVE as far as SPOY canal. Very heavy artillery (1000 guns) and air support to be available for the operation.	
Field		1800	Preliminary medical Adm Instruction issued by ADMS 15 (S) Div. No change of location. Adm B.C. Nil Sick Adm 7 Evac 7	Vid App III DMcC
	3	0800	Major G. Percy proceeds with advance party to NIJMEGEN. Bde Operation Order for Op Veritable received Medical plan for 227 Bde Group issued by O.C.	Vid Appx IV Vid App V Vid App VI

		1800	Major D. McCallum returns from temp duty as DADMS on return of Major Royds from leave. No change of locn. B.C. Nil Sick Adm 6 Evac 5 RTU 1	DMcC
	4	1030 1800 1830	Conference of all available Div Officers in TILBURG; Commander of 30 Corps (LT GEN HORROCKS) outlines his plan for the offensive which is due to start on 8th Feb. No change in locn. Adm B.C. Nil Sick 3 Evac 3 Bde Movement Order for move to NIJMEGEN area received	Vid App VII DMcC
Field	5	0800 1400 1645	Final preparations made for movement of entire Unit. Two ORs dispatched to 79 GEN HOSP for training as NO1 All personnel due for leave up to Feby 12th sent to 22 FDS which is remaining in TILBURG area. Corps reserve of stretchers & blankets collected from DIEST 1368 (K) Unit moves in rear of 2 Gordons convoy (vid Movement Order)	
Field	6	0430 1000 1200 1600 1800	Unit arrives at Disp. Pt. after circuitous journey over bad roads. Met by Major Percy who has arranged accommodation in NIJMEGEN 713622. Recce by O.C. & Capt Senior (Coy Comd of 'A' Coy) of GROSBEEK area 7456 with a view to establishing a CCP in that area on the night of 7 FEB prior to infantry attack on 8th. Div Med Op Order received " " Adm " " M.I. Room established. B.C. Nil Admitted Sick 10 Evac 10	Vid App VIII do IX DMcC
	7	1600 1800 1900 2200	A Coy move forward to location 748561 & prepare C.C.P. for battle on 8th. Remainder of Unit remain in NIJMEGEN. Admitted Sick 7 Evac 7 Capt EJ JONES & Capt CMF WALTERS report back from temp duty with 2 Gordons & Div RASC respectively. Lt Col Pollock joins C.C.P. to be in vicinity of Bde H.Q. (227) in initial phase of battle. Heavy air raid on CLEEVE & EMMERICH (9661)	DMcC
Field	8	0500 1000 1200 1000	Artillery barrage commences Infantry lined up on F.U.P. Only slight enemy C.B. fire Casualties arriving at C.C.P. - mainly from mines. Heavy tracked vehicles becoming bogged in soft ground. Infantry have reached initial objectives at KRANENBURG (8056) & FRASSELT (8153) but transport incl. carriers falling behind in marshy ground between GROOSBEEK 7655 and KRANENBURG. Consequently 44 Bde with 2 Gordons under command fall behind schedule in mounting attack on SIEGFRIED defences at NUTTERDEN 8455.	DMcC

			Casualties from initial phase had to be evacuated by F.W.D. vehicles, light tracked vehicles & eventually by hand carriage as the state of the routes deteriorated as far as the C.C.P. 2 Cdn Div on left advanced in a SE direction towards WYLER 7858 & were still in the process of mopping up this pocket at last light. During the day casualties from the Bde Gp numbered about fifty - remarkably light for the scale of the attack.	DMcC
Field	9	0800 1015 1300 1500 1800 1900 2000	Major McCallum does a recce of NIJMEGEN - KRANENBURG road, & on finding it open reports to ADMS for movement instructions. H.Q. & B Coy (less staff cars & trailers) move forward into KRANENBURG 808560 & ADS opened in what remains of Kindergarten school. Tarpaulins & windowlite used to make ADS weather & wind proof. A Coy joins HQ & B Coy after very heavy going over dreadful tracks from GROOSBEEK to KRANENBURG. Admitted to ADS B.C. 25 Sick 2 P.W. 4; Evac to 3 CCS - 30 QM & five ORs, returning from leave, join Unit via 23 FDS at NIJMEGEN. 15 (S) Div have breached SIEGFRIED LINE at NUTTERDEN 8455 & have gained control of high ground to the West & S.W. of CLEEVE. Rain continues to fall throughout the day.	DMcC
Field	10	1100 1400 1600	Unit visited by Brig Cameron DDMS 30 Corps & by ADMS 15(S) Div. Section of LT FD AMB attached to Unit to look after the Bn of Armd Scots Guards operating with the 227 Bde in event of an armoured breakthrough. Battle Casualties 73 Sick 12 P.O.W. 20 Evacuated 110 Rain continues throughout the day.	DMcC
	11	1600 1800	B Coy move forward in support of 227 Bde for the attack on CLEEVE and establish a Coy C.C.P. at DONSRUGGEN 8557. Admitted 46 B.C.; 20 Sick 13 P.W. Transferred 16 B.C. 3 Sick Evacuated 102 R.T.U. 2 Awaiting Evac 5	DMcC
	12	1200 1630 2050 1800	Evacuation difficulties as NIJMEGEN - KRANENBURG is under water for a stretch of 2 - 3 miles to a depth of twelve to eighteen inches. Convoy of eight amb cars evacuates casualties, but flooding so bad that they are unable to return to the Unit. A DUKW Point for the transference of casualties from amb cars to DUKWs established by Section A3 at 831553. Section of 11 L.F.A. moves forward towards CLEEVE with armoured column. Admitted B.C. 29 Sick 14 P.W. 3 Evacuated 40	DMcC
	13		Evacuation by DUKWs proceeding smoothly.	

		1500	ADMS visits ADS.	
		1800	Admitted BC 31 Sick 30 PW 1 Evacuated 73	
FIELD	14	0900	ADS 193 FD AMB opens at CLEEVE	
		1800	Admitted B.C. 20 Sick 17 P.W. 3 Evacuated 40	DMcC
	15	0700	Advance party moves into CLEEVE to hold accommodation for Unit.	
		1300	ADS closes & Section of A Coy opens at KRANENBURG B Coy still at DONSBRUGGEN	
			Fd Marshal MONTGOMERY at 227 Bde H.Q.	
		1800	Admitted BC 2. Sick 6 Evacuated 8	DMcC
	16		No change of location. HQ re-equips. Long range shells narrowly miss Unit location.	
			Admitted BC 1 Sick 2 Evacuated 3	DMcC
	17		No change in location. HQ & A Coy closed.	
	18	0700	HQ & A Coy move from KRANENBURG to MOOK 921518 (South of BEDBURG) & remain closed.	
			B Coy open at DONSBRUGGEN.	
	19	0900	B Coy move forward with 227 Bde & establish C.C.P. at 917471. HQ & A Coy unchanged.	
	20		HQ & A Coy remain at 921518	
			B Coy open at 927468 with car post in support of 44 Bde at 911469.	
			Street fighting still in progress in GOCH.	
		1000	Lt Col CBR POLLOCK proceeded on U.K. leave.	
	21		Position of HQ & Companies unchanged.	
	22		Car post established at 941455. Heavy mortar & artillery fire along whole front.	
	23		Evacuation from C.C.P. has been to BEDBURG to the ADS of Fd Amb of 43 Div.	
		0700	HQ & A Coy move forward to 932478 & establish an ADS there. B Coy position unchanged.	
		1800	Admitted BC 84 Sick 23 POW 17 Evacuated 96 Priority evacuation 28.	
			Roads in the area are in a very bad state & elements of two Armoured Divisions are moving into the area, so that evacuation by road is very slow indeed. Because of the delay in returning amb cars from CCS 24 Austin ambulances and two TCVs were driven in from medical units closed in the vicinity.	DMcC
	24	1600	Conference at 227 Bde HQ. Brigade moves out of the line during the night of 24/25 back to a rest area & 3 Div is taking over the sector.	
		1600	B Coy closes C.C.P. and joins HQ & A Coy.	

		1800	Arrangements made with OC 19 LT Fd Amb whereby that Unit takes over ADS when we move. Admitted B.C. 102 Sick 35 P.W. 1 Considerable difficulty still experienced in evacuating casualties to C.C.S. at MOOK because of movement also of 11th Armd Div, Guards 2359 Armd Div and 3 Inf Div. Sufficient M.A.C. cars available to prevent hold up at ADS. ADS closes & light section of 19 LT FD AMB opens.	DMcC						
	25	0800	Unit (complete) moves in rear of three Bns to rest area in TILBURG. Unit billeted comfortably in private houses.							
Field	26	1800	No change in location. Men rested, bathed & given recreational facilities.	DMcC						
	27		Arrangements made for a course of instruction for men from each of the three Bns in the Bde on stretcher bearing duties. Vehicles & equipment maintained & made up to appropriate scale.	Vide Appx X DMcC						
	28	0830	Stretcher Bearer Course started. The following numbers attended <table style="margin-left: 40px; border: none;"> <tr> <td>10 HLI</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Gordons</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19</td> </tr> </table> The course will be for a period of five days & will include five 1st Aid lectures by an MO & the practical work organised & supervised by the two S.B.Os, Lt POULTER & LT HORSBURGH. A very generous allotment of 48 hour leave to BRUSSELS has been organised & it is anticipated that the complete Unit could have a spell there within fourteen days. There are also very good recreational facilities in TILBURG itself & the Unit is thoroughly enjoying the change. D McCallum, Major	10 HLI	16	2 Gordons	20	2 Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders	19	
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