

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

Unit 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt (D.C.O.)

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Month and Year September

Commanding Officer Lt Col J.P. Hall

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1st.		<p>The following account is sent in by O.C. 11 Pl "C" Coy:-</p> <p>"On 31st Aug, 11 Pl participated in the capture of 6 Germans, who, for 2 days, had been in hiding in a haystack not 500 yards from No 2 section's Gun posn. The sec must have been under observation continuously but the enemy showed no action. They were disarmed & captured by Lt Gerrard with a mortar sec from No 12 Pl, after a few bursts of L.M.G. fire.</p> <p>One of the prisoners, an SS, tried to get away but he was shot at and wounded. Lt Gerrard took them all to a P.W. Cage in his carrier. On the same day Lt Gerrard was informed by French patriots of an enemy posn near HOUVILLE 3697.</p> <p>Taking with him his Cpl Dvr Op and armed with an L.M.G. he proceeded to this posn and fired 4 magazines after which the enemy frantically waved their white flag. This added another 6 to the list.</p>	
LYONS-LA-FORET	3rd		<p>Bn HQ advances a short distance and harbours in area LYONS-LA-FORET. A Coy move to area GOURNAY.</p>	
	4th		<p>After another short move Bn HQ, HQ & D Coys harbour in area HAUGOURT.</p> <p>A Coy moves 20 miles forward to area ROMESCAMPS. The roads in this part of France are very bad - half cobbled.</p>	
ECOUVRES	5th		<p>A memorable day to all. A distance of approx 75 miles is covered after being on the road all day. Wherever we go there are smiles of welcome, waving of hands, whilst gifts of apples & tomatoes are showered on us.</p> <p>Bn eventually harbours at ECOUVRES NR. FERVENT.</p> <p>"C" Coy harbour west of ST POL at 123088</p> <p>"A" Coy is with 46 Bde and form part of a "task force" for "mopping up operations" and harbours for the night at SABY.</p>	
	6.	1800	<p>On the road again and approaching the frontier of Belgium. Our reception everywhere is amazing.</p> <p>Crossing the Franco-Belgian frontier.</p>	

		<p>Our job in France is finished. The Bn has had some very hard fighting to do before this triumphant entry into Belgium. It may well feel proud in that it shared an important part in the liberation of France.</p> <p>A Coy harbour approx 5 miles Sth of COURTRAI.</p> <p>Clearing operations take place against small enemy resistance astride road to COURTRAI, on move up.</p> <p>C Coy take up posns near COURTRAI.</p> <p>Bn HQ, HQ & D Coys harbour for the night in orchard near village of WARCOING.</p> <p>The Division is a long way in rear of fwd line of 2nd Army's advance and the Bde's job on these moves is to protect the flanks, as there are numerous enemy pockets remaining in the wake of this great advance. Bn HQ, HQ & D Coy move in the rear of 15 Division, whilst A B C Coys are with their respective Bdes pushing ahead until contact is made with an enemy force.</p> <p>It is then dealt with and so the advance continues.</p>	
	7	<p>D Coy receive orders that they will sp 44 Bde when & if required. Enemy reported on rd COURTRAI - AVELGHEM at HEESTERT and Bde is ordered to move up Sth of canal.</p> <p>A Coy are ordered to have 3 & 4 pls in sp of 2 Glas H. and to hold AUDENARDE, 5 pl at high feature north of HEESTERT in sp of 9 Cams. Enemy column of eight vehicles tried to break through 4 Pls posn during the afternoon. Pl shoot up 1st car carrying 2 officers, also a lorry, killing 4 of the occupants & wounding 7. The next 3 vehs manage to get through and are captured by 2 Glas H in AUDENARDE. The last 3 vehs manage to turn round and get away. Enemy then tries trick of white flag of surrender, and then open fire. There are no casualties to the pl. Sgt McKenzie kills one German soldier within 30 yds of section posn, who was about to throw a grenade.</p> <p>Clearing up continues until dark. After which 5 pl is placed in a defensive posn to cover approaches across canal between 9 Cams in AVELGHEM and 7 Seaforths in KERKHOVE.</p> <p>A Coy HQ is est at BERCHEM.</p> <p>Bde Gp captures approx 800 prisoners.</p>	
	8	<p>44 Bde with D Coy still in sp are moved to occupy posns further along the R. LYS from excl COURTRAI to PLAATSE.</p> <p>12 Pl who are under comd of 8 RS occupy posns on the main COURTRAI-GHENT Rd at HARLEBEKE. On occupying these posns the pl captures 2 prisoners and later another 23 come in.</p>	
	9	0800 <p>A Coy move to farm just west of WAEREGHEM.</p> <p>Coy HQ move to area OOSTERZEELE 10 miles to S of GHENT.</p>	

			<p>2 Glas H with 3 pl in sp are ordered to assist in clearing GHENT. 3 Pl move to centre of GHENT to assist in street fighting. It is impossible for the carriers to cross the canal until late at night when bridge will be repaired by sappers.</p> <p>C Coy take up posns in following areas:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Adv Coy HQ 882561</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">9 Pl 878592</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">10 Pl 923638</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">11 Pl 937671</p> <p>B Coy are situated as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">7 Pl in sp of 2 A&SH at MACHALEAN</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">8 Pl in sp of 10 HLI (1 section at DEURLE: 1 section S.W. of GHENT)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">6 Pl in sp of 2 Gordons - all covering canal crossings</p>	
LONDERZEEL	10	0800	<p>The advance continues.</p> <p>C Coy move to area 680692 N. of BRUSSELS, having covered a distance of approx 43 miles.</p> <p>0830 Bn HQ, HQ & D Coy advance to LONDERZEEL</p> <p>Being the first troops to enter the town, we are given a great welcome. Flags of all kinds are displayed and a miniature fete takes place supported by a brass band to which the people sing & dance.</p>	
	11		<p>14 Pl move to join 46 Bde N. of LONDERZEEL -</p> <p>12 pl in the evening join 44 Bde E. of LONDERZEEL and are ordered to move under their respective Bdes.</p>	
	12		<p>D Coy HQ & 13 & 15 pls move with Bn HQ to area N of HASSELT.</p> <p>Meanwhile 12 pl cross the ALBERT CANAL with 44 Bde. They carry out a considerable number of shoots which include the town of GHEEL.</p> <p>14 Pl are also across with 46 Bde.</p> <p>B Coy move to HUMBEEK N. of BRUSSELS.</p> <p>7 pl is detached to sp 1 coy of 2 Gordons in posn covering lock gates on ALBERT CANAL near OOLEN.</p> <p>0700 "C" Coy pass through MALINES to S. of ALBERT CANAL at 043808. 11 Belts are expended in this posn by 10 pl.</p> <p>1700 Coy then continues to area around GHEEL 058873 - 11 Pl NE with KOSB - 9 Pl NW with R.S. - 10 Pl in reserve S. of GHEEL.</p>	
	13	1700	<p>GHEEL being occupied 'C' Coy move to 058873.</p> <p>12 Pl D Coy move up through GHEEL to RETHY in sp of 44 Bde.</p>	
	14		<p>13 Pl are now placed in sp of 227 Bde and move to a posn N. of MOLL.</p> <p>15 Pl is sent fwd to main GHEEL-TURNHOUT road in sp of 8 RS.</p> <p>During the afternoon the C.R.A. issues orders that certain targets on N. side of the JUNCTION CANAL are to be registered by means of an air O.P.</p>	

			<p>12 & 15 pls are selected for this task and it is arranged for 12 pl to register first.</p> <p>The pilot fails to recognise the first & second targets, but the third and fourth are registered satisfactorily.</p> <p>Division move to ALBERT CANAL taking over bridge-head from 53 Div.</p>	
	15.	0230	<p>It is planned for 6 R.S.F. to go through GHEEL and cross the JUNCTION CANAL. To give the required support 12 Pl are moved at 0230 hrs to join 15 Pl in area just S. of the JUNCTION CANAL on the GHEEL TURNHOUT road.</p> <p>1200 O.C. 12 pl reports to O.C. 6 R.S.F.</p> <p>Capt Livemore (O.C. 12 pl) then crosses the canal taking with him his 22 set (manhandled by 6 men).</p> <p>1230 He establishes his O.P. in a mill on the far side from where he controls the fire of both 12 & 15 pls.</p> <p>Some very heavy and effective shooting is carried out on enemy counter attacks.</p> <p>During the day Capt Livemore does excellent work from his OP which is continually under heavy fire and really a death trap, remaining there until it is set on fire. He also accounts for 6 of the enemy who are around his post, by means of a sniper's rifle.</p>	
	18		<p>7 pl (B Coy) in Sp of 2 Gordons cross canal at night in assault craft - the intention being to widen bridgehead. 1½ mile long carry is involved.</p> <p>C Coy move to MOLL area and pls occupy posns as follows:- 9 Pl - 173933 10 Pl - 159937 - 11 Pl 171952.</p> <p>11 Pl is in a factory on the canal bank, from where they can see the enemy quite distinctly. They are ordered not to fire except in the event of major enemy crossings. Numerous counter attacks occur throughout the day that are all successfully repelled.</p>	
	19.		<p>Guns of 7 Pl are now sited in outer perimeter on bridgehead and are subjected to heavy mortar fire. Pl comd and 1 O.R. are wounded by SA fire. During the night the bridgehead is evacuated - 8 pl assisting 10 HLI to cover the withdrawal.</p>	
	21	0700	<p>To conform with the evacuation of the bridgehead by 227 Bde and the taking over of the south bank of the canal by another formation, 12 & 15 pls come out of action and harbour just sth of GHEEL. Meanwhile the remainder of the Bn proceeds to the EINDHOVEN area in HOLLAND. D Coy HQ moves in Bde column and Bn HQ is est in area just S.W. of EINDHOVEN.</p> <p>44 Bde is relieved by 7 ARMD Div & C Coy move with them to area of RIETHOVEN near LUMMEL.</p> <p>B Coy move to VELTHOVEN.</p>	

	22		<p>B Coy move to conc area on Northern outskirts of EINDHOVEN. Whilst in this area General Dempsey visits Coy HQ.</p> <p>The enemy has had time to prepare strong posns along railway N of EINDHOVEN to the extent of digging himself in between the sleepers and under the rolling stock.</p> <p>Coys are now in the following posns:-</p> <p>A in BEST area & covering EINDHOVEN-BOXTEL rly embankment Coy HQ being est at 383278, B pls sited on Sth bank of WILHELMINA CANAL.</p> <p>C - 10 pl across the canal in the area of BEST at 385262 engaging targets in the VLEUT area.</p> <p>D - less 12 & 15 pls are on E. of main EINDHOVEN-BOXTEL road Sth of canal.</p> <p>12 & 15 pls remain in harbour at GHEEL with 227 Bde.</p>	
	25	2100	<p>Lt Gerrard (D Coy) promoted rank of Capt.</p> <p>All weapons of 44 Bde fire 2 mins rapid as a propaganda shoot. 13 pl fire 120 mortar bombs in this time.</p>	
	27.		<p>D Coy HQ move to area east of STEENWEG 387274. During the night 44 Bde carry out successful attack on large wood N of DONNERDONCK capturing about 100 PW. This attack is supported by 13 pl.</p>	
NIJNSEL 4330	28		<p>Bn HQ moves to village of NIJNSEL 4330 and are est in cemetery.</p>	
	29		<p>A Coy HQ moves to 383278 - B Coy HQ moves to area East of PRINZHOEUF.</p>	
	30		<p>4 Pl is placed under comd 53 Div.</p>	