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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 119 LAA Regt RA

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Commanding Officer Lt Col JF Young RA

Month and Year January 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
PANNINGEN area	1	- 0920 1130	During the first 20 mins of the New Year, considerable activity along the front - fd arty & AA arty fire, flares, small arms & MG fire, low-flying planes, etc. - 1000 hrs, considerable enemy air activity over the div area, mostly low-flying recce, but also low-level bombing and ground-strafting ⊙ Me 109s, FW 190s, and jet-propelled aircraft were engaged by all tps ⊙ Six planes (Me 109s and FW 190s) were claimed shot down by the regt during the morning, and the CO later received congratulations, on behalf of the regt, from the GOC and from other units of the div A successful demonstration was given for CCRA 8 Corps - a sec of three guns engaging operational ground targets, as a section, and controlled by Air OP ⊙ CCRA met 2IC, BCs, QM and RSM before the demonstration	
	2	1500 1530	63401 T/Maj SUGDEN arrived to take up appointment as OC 390 bty, bringing batman, driver and jeep. 20 rounds expended in ground role at target EAST of R. MAAS	
	3) -	Slight thaw giving rise to mist which cut down groundshooting	
	4) - 0700	activities Thaw precautions caused limitation of all except light (and priority) transport ⊙ Restrictions relaxed later in the day (approx 1800 hrs)	
	5	1500	18 rounds expended in ground role at target EAST of R. MAAS	
	6	1430	17 rounds fired at ground target EAST of R. MAAS	
	7	1000 1300 1600	onwards, CREME 15 (S) Div carried out inspection of vehicles of the regiment - 1415 hrs, groundshooting at targets EAST of R. MAAS ⊙ Direct hits included two on house, which caught fire and burned out Enemy SP gun engaged and hit by one 40 mm groundshooting	
	8	1340	Enemy strongpoint engaged ⊙ Buildings hit, but not set on fire	
	9	-	Nothing to report	

	10	1000 1400 2135	Groundshooting gun, hitherto deployed with 181 Fd Regt, withdrawn to harbour when 181 Fd Regt were relieved by 25 Fd Regt B ech moved to PANNINGEN Extreme frost warning received and passed on ☉ Minimum temperatures of 5 - 10 degrees Fahrenheit expected	
	11	-	Frost continued throughout day - slow thaw predicted for 12 Jan	
	12	1015 -	One gun fired 16 rounds into TEGELEN to test gun which had had minor defect repaired by unit wksps Slight thaw only in afternoon; low temperatures again by night	
	13	-	Nothing to report	
	14	1415 2130	CO held conference of BCs to lay down training programme for coming 6 weeks ☉ Policy-training on det and sec basis to bring rfts up to standard and to train reserve Nos 1 and layers ☉ Training and inter-det competitions to include gunnery, aircraft recognition and modelmaking, mechanism, general military knowledge Extreme frost warning received and passed on ☉ Thaw predicted for following day	
	15	-	Thaw did not materialize, but night slightly less cold than 14/15	
	16	1930	hrs, 2020 hrs & 2135 hrs, concs of enemy shellfire in close vicinity of RHQ location, probably aimed at nearby med regt ☉ No cas in this unit	
	17	-	Training periods, decided on 14 Jan, now functioning	
	18	-	Wind rose considerably ☉ Gale warning issued during evening and departure of UK leave party a.m. 19th cancelled	
	19	- 1100 1600	Wind often at gale force until dropping during afternoon Lt-Col Ackland arrived from School of AA Arty, Manorbier, to spend 24 hrs with the regt to find out latest trends in tactical handling of LAA 214250 Lt HE CRANE joined regt on attachment from 31 RHU ☉ Attached to E tp 391 bty	
	20	1830	Recce parties ordered to leave Div HQ at 0830 hrs 21 Jan for HERENTHALS - LIERRE area	
	21	1645	Orders from HQRA to move a.m. 22 Jan to area SOUTH of ANTWERP, leaving behind 3 tps deployed with fd arty, to follow later	
PANNINGEN and GHEEL -	22	0915	Regt less 3 tps left PANNINGEN area for WAVRE ST CATHERINE (J 7579) but were halted short of HERENTHALS by officers who had gone fwd to contact recce party in new area ☉ Owing to change of div plan, future area now being TILBURG (E 13), regt	

HERENTHALS areas			harboured in villages between HERENTHALS (J 99) and GHEEL (K 08) ⊙ Accommodated in small groups mostly in civilians' houses, great kindness shown by the inhabitants	
	23	a.m.	Reconnaissance of TILBURG and HILVARENBEEK (E 1924) areas for concentration of regt by btys	
	24	0930	A and F tps ceased firing and moved to TILBURG area ⊙ On information (subsequently found to be false) that I tp were moving also, permission was obtained for 392 bty HQ & G tp to move into TILBURG, which they did 1500-1700 hrs	
	25	- 2015	I tp moved to TILBURG area, arriving 2030 hrs Orders received to move remainder of regt to TILBURG area a.m. 26th in small groups	
TILBURG area	26	1010	Regt (less 3 tps) left GHEEL area for TILBURG - HILVARENEBEK - DIESSEN area; all in new locations by 1530 hrs	
	27	1000	C.O. attended conference at RA on future ops, followed by recce, lasting till last light.	
	28	-	Wireless working period 281500A-291100A for deception regarding future op	
	29	-	Confirmation from 8 Corps of 5½ out of the 6 category 1 claims made by the regt in respect of aircraft shot down on 1 Jan 45	
	30	-	Nothing to report	
	31	0600	Wireless working period till 012200A for purpose of confusing enemy intercept with regard to future op	