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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 102 (NH) A/Tk Regt R.A.,

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer Major.R.A. BARNETT M.C.

Month and Year MAY

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1		107 Bty less SP troop cross ELBE and proceed to SCHWARZENBEK where they relieve 99 Bty with 44 Bde. 158 Bde of 53 (W) Div come under comd 15 (S) Div and march into GEESTACHT which surrenders. It is announced that HITLER is dead. RHQ moves to BRUNSTORF. 288 Bty moved to GULZOW (8342)	
	2.		Continuous expansion of Bridgehead. SACHSENWALD cleared. Germans in Italy surrender. Negotiations started by 227 Bde for surrender of HAMBURG reach a high level. 99 Bty deployed eastern outskirts of SCHWARZENBEEK. 107 Bty moved to KASSEBURG. 288 Bty SP tp captured DASSENDORF by mistake - on false information from Tk Cmdr who they were supporting.	
	3.		HAMBURG surrenders. Div concentrates N.W. of SCHWARZENBEK. 99 Bty & RHQ on road ready to move at 1500 hrs when urgent message sent for C.O. to visit C.R.A. Major Barnett goes off to see C.R.A. and is told RHQ & 99 Bty are to move forthwith to LAUENBURG where about 10,000 P.W. are out of hand. RHQ & 99 Bty arrive at LAUENBURG and at P.W. collecting Centre find complete shambles. Prisoners are quite docile but wounded, women, DPs POWs etc are all completely mixed up, and there is no food or water at the same time more are streaming in. Eventually by dark some order is restored and rations have been issued. 107 Bty to RAMSDORF 288 Bty to TRITTAU 289 Bty to WARSEBURG	
	4.		Numbers in P.W. cage at LAUENBURG have now reached about 50,000. C.O. of 92 Fd Regt of 5th Div arrives and says they have been sent to take over from us. It is decided to hand over tomorrow. RHQ & 99 Bty are then to proceed to rejoin 15 (S) Div. 107 Bty to KL HANSDORF 288 Bty to FRANZDORF	

		289 Bty to area of AHRENSBURG at WITZHAVE.	
	5.	RHQ & 99 Bty leave LAUENBERG at 1100 hrs and proceed to Div conc area in BARGTEHEIDE N.E. of HAMBURG. Btys static, capturing prisoners. Fighting ceased.	
	6.	Major R.A. Barnett MC attends a COs conference at HQ RA at 1400 hrs. He is told some of the future form and comes away most depressed at the prospect before us of peace time soldiering. Everyone is rather depressed at what the future holds for us. The div is being divided into 4 Bdes i.e. 3 Inf and 1 R.A. RA Bde area is to be HAMBURG.	
	7.	Locations unchanged. Orders still awaited for moving to occupation area.	
	8.	V.E. Day celebrated by general holiday.	
	9.	Locations unchanged.	
	10.	Lt.Col P.R. Henderson D.S.O. assumes comd of the Regt.	
	11.	C.O. visits 289 Bty	
	12.	-	
	13.	-	
	14.	289 Bty move to BARGTEHEIDE.	
	15.	107 Bty move to BARGTEHEIDE.	
	16.	CRA inspected 288 Bty and 289 Bty	
	17.	Regt given an area around BARGTEHEIDE and everybody settles down to organise German POW Camps DP Camps and restore law and order. (see Op - Eclipse No. 1 N.H. attd) 288 Bty to BARFELD 289 Bty to WESTEDT	
	18.	Two Tps 99 Bty move to RUMPEL, rest of Bty to FISCHBEK. C.O. held BC's conference to clarify policy of organising Russian and German POW and administering the Regtl area. Btys concentrating on making themselves comfortable and doing maintenance.	
	19.	Burgomasters are co-opted by all BCs to prepare nominal rolls of DPs, PWXs in their local areas. 289 Bty had slight trouble with Russians who are now beginning to revenge themselves on the Germans.	
	20.	Regtl Church Parade held at BARGTEHEIDE. It got lost and went to the wrong Church. 289 Bty had 2 Germans shot by Russians.	
	21.	Regtl Recce Parties sent to MOLLN but CRA had not finished his own recce, so recce party returned.	
	22.	Regtl Recce parties go to MOLLN once more.	

	23		Regt prepares for move to MOLLN on 24th May.	
	24		Regt moves to new area. RHQ to MOLLN. 99 Bty to ROTHENBEEK, 107 Bty to SCHRETSTAKEN, 288 Bty to MOLLN 289 Bty to NUSSE. The reorganisation of the new area starts all over again. Nominal rolls of DPs, PWXs etc are made, wrecked or otherwise Wehrmacht vehicles are gathered in a central dump, and the area searched for hidden arms etc. Masses of German eqpt collected and disposed of. Capt E.R. Roberts appointed Regt Town Major of MOLLN.	
	25		A DP Camp (no 528) is started in MOLLN under LT PACKHAM - A polyglot mixture of DPs and PWXs. Stop Line of bridge over ELBE - TRAVE Canal started.	
	26		The NH Cinema opened in MOLLN but the Regtl commitments are so great that the audience is very small. C.O. holds BC conference on recreational training, and came to the conclusion that the Regt too busy for any play.	
	27-31		General admin of area. ELBE-TRAVE stop line gave a lot of trouble, holding up crowds of Germans wishing to return home or fleeing from the Russians. These were simply turned back. All Germans, discharged from the Wehrmacht after 1 May were sent to the POW Cage run by 119 LAA. Lt Col Henderson flew home on priv leave on 30 May. Major Barnett assumed command of the Regt.	