

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 97th Anti-Tank Regiment, RA

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year October 1944

Commanding Officer Lt-Col P.R. Henderson, RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
In the Fd	01	0950	A Troop report taking two prisoners. L.O. 161 Bty called. He had nothing to report except a certain amount of mortar and MG fire during the night. No casualties. 153 Bde, 51 (H) Div relieve 44 Bde, 159 to Harbour Area 4631. J Troop 346 Bty relieved and withdrawn to Bty Area. C.O. recces Div Arty Rest Area with Staff Captain, in vicinity of Gemert. Btys of Regt allotted sub-areas.	See Trace No 1 See Trace No 1
	02		"K" Troop take over position from 71 A.Tk Regt for two days area 4232. 346 Bty move to 609286. 159 Bty move to map ref 584307.	
	03		5 Interpreters sent to Regt. L. Visser to 161 Bty, J. Brouwers to 286 Bty, P. Deon (NCO) to 159 Bty, A. Beunger (NCO) to 346 Bty, Wim Van der Wal to RHQ. 227 Bde and 286 Bty withdraws, 286 Bty move to area 571298. SP Troop given job of knocking down two factory chimneys. As from 2400 hrs, 129 SP Bty, 278/71 and 336/71 Anti-Tank Regt, RA cease to be under command. 46 Bde and 161 Bty relieved, 161 Bty move to area 596292 to rest	
In the Fd	04		Div HQ and RHQ move to Rest Area. RHQ located map ref 591294 (Gemert).	
	05	1000 1500	C.O. attends Planning Conference Capt. J.P. Lane and RQMS T. Robson attend Q Conference in re Q matters in Germany.	
	06	1000 1630	Adjutant attends Conference at Div HQ on Administration and Documentation All officers addressed by Div Commander at Helmond.	
	07	1430	Div Commander addresses all ranks of the Regiment at RHQ. 144 SP Bty and 344 Bty of 91st Anti-Tank Regt to come under Command when they move into Area. Major Geddes, BC of 144 Bty. Two DRs attached from 144 and 344 Btys.	
	08		Nothing to report	
	09		Two DRs attached from 144 SP Bty and 344 Bty returned to their respective Batteries.	

			HQRA move to Area St Anthonis 7138 plus Div Arty less 97 Anti-Tank Regt, RA	
	10	1130	C.O is seen by Army Commander at Div HQ	
In the Fd	11		Nothing to report	
	12		Nothing to report	
	13		RHQ recce party plus 346 Bty recce party visit area Weert	
	14	1000 1100	Capt Aitken of 144 SP Bty informs us that he is in support 46 Bde and will move with them to new area Weert not before 151200A. Conference at 46 Bde on future plans. 46 Bde to force bridgehead over canal East of Weert. 46 Bde to go through in Armoured vehicles plus 161 and be prepared to be cut off for a day or two. S.Ps to be left in troops along the 46 route guarding the North approaches.	
	15	1615	C.O. 91st Anti-Tank Regt called to say he is prepared to supply Crusader drawn Bty for 46 Bde job. He thinks that SP Bty should not undertake lone role, but accompany 227 Bde and that he does not want to move S.Ps up to join the Regiment here, but will supply DR and subsequently join us in new area.	
In the Fd	16	1130	C.O visits C.O 91st Anti-Tank Regt ref future plans. 46 Bde rehearsal for operation attended by C.O and 2 i/c. All Interpreters returned to their homes.	
	17		Future operations with 8 Corps cancelled. Div reverts to 12 Corps. Btys of 91 Anti-Tank Regt no longer under command. Lieut Van den Brenk, Dutch Army attached plus batman. Warning order received for move of 44 Bde and 159 Bty subsequently cancelled	
	18		Orders received for move of 286 Bty on 19 Oct to Best area with 227 Bde, with 9 Cameronians under command, to take over from 51st (H) Div, sector Best - St Oedenrode. C.O and Adjt visit 286 Bty. Dutch batman exchanged for L.P. Van Kugen	
In the Fd	19	1000 1600	286 Bty moves to Best area with 227 Bde. G & I Tps (less one gun) deployed Boschkant and Donderdonk. G Tp in support 2 Gordons. I Tp in support 10 H.L.I. H Tp in harbour area with 2 A & S.H. C.O attends Planning conference at HQRA. C.O holds planning conference at RHQ for 159, 161, 346 Batteries. Lieut C. Chicken, RA posted this Regt from 102 Anti-Tank Regt, RA and interposted to 159 Bty. C.O visits 51st Highland Division and 61st Anti-Tank Regt RA	See Trace No 2
	20		C.O visits 227 Bde and inspects G & I Tps, deployed in action	
	21	1030	C.O attends CRAs "O" Group. C.O and Adjt visit G & I Tps, 227 Bde HQ and 286 Battery HQ.	

			Two deserters arrested from 1st Bn KOSB. 14420177 Pte Curtis E and 6203711 Pte Beetlestone A.F. See Trace No 3 for Anti-Tank gun dispositions on 227 Bde front.	
	22		C.O visits HQRA. 2 i/c visits 286 Bty. Nothing to report.	
In the Fd	23		C.O visits G & I Troop, 286 Bty and 227 Bde. Nothing to report. 2 i/c procured five Welfare Wireless Sets on payment for the Regt. C.O discussed the proposed employment of 17-pdrs on Op Eric II with O.C. 190 Fld Regt RA.	
	24	1330 2130	C.O. attends CRAs "O" Group. 159 Bty move to area STEENWEG 3827 with 44 Bde. 161 Bty move to concentration area Aacht 3724. 286 Bty remain present location although 2 Gordons and 10 H.L.I. advanced clearing woods to north of Bde position. RHQ move slightly to map ref 385285. RHQ move to map ref 465515, 346 Bty move to area 466514. All these moves are for commencement of Op Eric II.	
In the Fd	25	1610	Recce party for RHQ and B Ech, area Oirschot 3125 find factory for new location. As no orders for move come through and 44 and 46 Bdes have advanced with their Anti-Tank Batteries in support and are too far forward, a Tac HQ consisting of the C.O, Asst Adjt, Rear Link, Z, Z2, and a D.R are sent forward to map ref 316258. Orders received at Tac HQ to move 346 Bty and RHQ complete past start point X-rds Best 3726 by 1730 hrs. The C.O learns that 129 S.P Bty is under command and that RHQ has to administer them. They are placed in support 4th Gds Tank Brigade. 46 Bde with 161 Bty advance with little opposition. 227 Bde with 286 Bty move up short of Oirschot 3125.	
	26		161 Bty in support 46 Bde in area Oirschot - Moergestel 2330. Lieut M.I. Hore, RA wounded and evacuated in morning; two O.Rs killed and 4 wounded in afternoon. E Tp in support of 2 Glas H. 286 Bty harboured Moergestel area. 159 Bty harboured Houtakker area 2126.	
	27		161 Bty in support 46 Bde. 159 Bty in support 44 Bde in assault of Tilburg, but were not used. 286 Bty in support 227 Bde harbour in Hilvarenbeek area 1924. Tac HQ move to Laagspel area 1923.	
In the Fd	28	0845 1730 1900 2000	346 Bty and RHQ move to area Laagspel. Area reced near HQRA who moved to Tilburg. C.O instructed to move whole Regiment to area Geldrop - Heeze less 286 Bty who have moved with 227 Bde to area Asten. Whole Regiment to be in support 227 Bde. Recce Party leaves RHQ. Regiment passes S.P. and proceeds to new area. These moved to meet threat from Venloo area.	

			129 SP Bty ceases to be administered by the Regiment.	
	29	0600 0830 1100 1800	346 Bty moves to area Asten. C.O visits 286 Bty. Tac HQ moves to Asten. As 46 Bde have moved to Deurne, 161 Bty moved to same area in support. 44 Bde and 159 Bty move to Asten. HQRA and Div move to area Helmond. RHQ instructed to join them as soon as possible by C.O. 286 Bty and 346 Bty deployed area Asten. RHQ move to area Helmond 567234. 146 SP Bty come under Command.	
In the Fd	30	1700	Whole Regiment deployed RHQ move to 594123 near Zomeren where HQRA and HQ 15 Div are now located. Tac HQ withdrawn to RHQ area. 146 SP Bty - 1 Tp in support of Coldstream Gds, 1 Tp in support of Grenadier Guards, 1 Troop in support of Scots Guards. 2 i/c visited CCA, 7 US Armoured Div at Weert which is the formation on our right. Americans stated that co-ordination of A.Tk defence is not centralised within the Div, Coys of the Tk Destroyer Bn being placed under Comd and NOT in support. C.O of Tk Destroyer Bn said that he was not permitted to exercise Comd over his Bn when in action. S3 of CCA confirmed this, and both seemed in agreement that decentralisation of Comd had not proved satisfactory during recent ops. 2 i/c considered that tie-up between 15 (S) Div and 7 U.S. Armd Div was adequate, but suggested that liaison between the two formations regarding A.Tk defence should be closer. S3 agreed to visit 97th A.Tk Regt on 31 Oct with this object. 2 i/c gave copy of our gun trace to CCA and obtained approx US dispositions. He returned to RHQ at 1900 hrs.	See Trace No 4
In the Fd	31		Lt. T.J. Hogarth, RA and Lt. G. Simpson, RA plus two Gun Fitters leave for Courses in England. 46 Bde plus 6 KOSB, less 2nd Glas H advance S.E against stiff opposition. 159 Bty report one O.R killed and one wounded. 161 Bty report one O.R killed, Carden Loyd Carrier burnt out and a Quad heavily damaged by shell-fire. 159 Bty report a Quad damaged by shell-fire. See Trace No 5 for 159 Bty's new position.	