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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 6th Bn The Royal Scots Fusiliers

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year April 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie DSO

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
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| West of Dingen | 1 | | Easter Sunday was observed by all denominations at three separate services. The CO went to visit the 4/5th Bn but found they had moved. | |
| " | 2 | | Coys spent the morning firing and zeroing all weapons. Six officers and 22 other ranks joined the Bn. Lt BCT COOTE (rejoined from wounds). Lt RW OWENS, Lt L SOBEY, Lt RB DODMAN, Lt J WROTH and Lt DW MURPHY. | |
| " | 3 | 2300 | Received warning order that the Bn would be moving to an area NORTH of BOCHOLT. At 2300 hrs harbour parties were given orders to proceed next morning to CLEWEN (North of MUNSTER). CO dined with 6 KOSB. | |
| " | 4 | 1000 | Harbour parties left at 1000 hrs for GREVEN but were sent on to BORGHORST. Bn's move was postponed for a day. | Appx E No5 |
| BORGHORST | 5 | 0715 1200 | Bn left at 0715 hrs on TCVs and arrived at BORGHORST at 1200 hrs. The CO saw the Brigadier and was informed that 15 Div was now under command of 8 Corps, which now consisted of 11 Armd Div, 6(Br)Para Div, 6 Gds Armd Bde, 15(S) Div and a Cdo Bde Gp. 15(S) Div would probably take up the running from 6 Para Div and head for HANOVER. | |
| " | 6 | 1130 | Field Marshal MONTGOMERY stopped his car at BHQ and chatted for ten minutes with the CO and 2 IC. Harbour parties left for LAVELSLOH. | |
| LINTELER | 7 | 0730 | The Bn left in TCVs at 0730 hrs and met harbour parties in LINTELER. Support Coy rounded up 5 prisoners in their area. | |
| " | 8 | | Coys conducted a house to house search over a fairly wide area. Five prisoners in uniform and a small amount of arms and eqpt were collected. Also a few dubious characters were put away through POW channels. | |
| " | 9 | 1900 | The day was devoted to Coy training. A warning order to be ready to move early next day arrived at 1900 hrs. At midnight details of move across the WESER were received. | |

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| DOHREN | 10 | 0915 | Bn left in TCVs at about 0915 hrs and arrived at DOHREN at 1300 hrs. Harbour parties warned to RV next day at 1815 hrs. A message of congratulations on the Battalion's part in the crossing of the RHINE received from the Colonel of the Regiment, Viscount Trenchard. | |
| OGENBOSTEL | 11 | 0615 | Harbour parties left at 0615 hrs for OGENBOSTEL, the main body today at 1630 hours. The latter arrived at 2230 hrs after a slow journey. 44 Bde is at present in reserve. 46 Bde and 227 Bde are reported to be closing in on CELLE. | |
| CELLE | 12 | 1500 | CELLE has fallen to 227 Bde. Harbour parties left for CELLE at 1500 hrs but were recalled. | |
| CELLE | 13 | 0830 | Harbour parties left at 0830 hrs, the Bn at 1000 hrs. The latter arrived in TCVs at CELLE about 1230 hrs. 44 Bde is still in reserve. | |
| HOLDENSTADT | 14 | | The Bn left in TCVs in a semi-tactical formation up the main Div axis to UELZEN. The Bn was directed to a conc area at SUDERBURG. At 1900 hrs the CO was informed that the Bn had been put under comd 227 Bde to assist in the clearing of UELZEN. The CO left at once for 227 Bde HQ and the 2 IC took the Bn to another conc area in HOLDENSTADT. The CO held an O Gp and outlined a plan for assisting in the occupation of UELZEN. The operation would not start before midnight. | Appx E No5 |
| | 15 | 1000 1045 | 227 Bde met stiff opposition in the outskirts of UELZEN and were held up. 6 RSF spent an uncomfortable night at short notice to move. At 1000 hrs the CO was informed that the Bn had reverted to command of 44 Bde. He went immediately to 44 Bde HQ and received orders. He returned and ordered O Group at 1045. 44 Bde have been ordered to open up an Axis round the EAST of UELZEN to enable the 6th Airborne Div to by-pass the town. The 8 RS were to form a firm base in the area BORNE (8883). Then 6 RSF were to secure the bridges in NIENDORF and if possible patrol forward to HALLINGDORF. The 6 KOSB would go through to HAMBROOK. The CO's plan was as follows: "A" Coy, the Carrier Platoon and a section of A tk guns to form a firm base in the southern edge of the woods to the NW of NIENDORF. "B" and "C" Coys were then to seize the bridges from the North using the KG line as an axis. "D" Coy to be used either for clearing the village or exploitation to HALLINGDORF. No 2 Sqn 4 Coldstream Gds were under comd with the task of shooting "B" and "C" Coys in from the area of the firm base. Before this plan had started to be put into operation a report came through gunner channels that NIENDORF was clear of enemy. | |

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| | | | The CO accordingly told the Carrier Pl to proceed by their most direct route to NIENDORF and ordered "A" Coy and their supporting ranks to follow. The report that NIENDORF was clear was, however, ill-founded, as the leading carrier was narrowly missed by 2 rounds from a bazooka just outside the village. The carrier platoon dealt with this opposition and inflicted several casualties on the enemy and took a few prisoners. The CO on hearing that NIENDORF was not free of the enemy ordered the carriers to fight their way into the village, and otherwise reverted to the original plan. "C" and "B" Coys plus the Carrier Platoon successfully took the bridges and cleared the village without much further interference apart from some spasmodic shelling. "D" Coy then went through to HALLINGDORF followed by "A" Coy and later "B" Coy. CSM CADDEN ("B" Coy) was wounded and evacuated. A few more prisoners were taken but the main opposition was from some rather accurate shelling. The KOSB later went through towards HAMBROCK. | |
| NIENDORF | 16 | | The day was spent in the same dispositions with A, D and B Coys in HALLINGDORF and the rest of the Bn in NIENDORF. The CO was warned by the Brigadier that as soon as 6 Para Div had taken LEHNEKE the 6 RSF would be required to take MEHRE as a prelude to night attack by 8 RS. During the evening a force consisting of the Carrier Pl, some A Tk guns B and C Coys under OC "B" Coy advanced and seized MEHRE without opposition. MEHRE was secured by midnight and soon afterwards "C" Coy moved to a brickworks about one mile to the North. Prisoners were taken during the advance and in MEHRE. | |
| HAMBROCK | 17 | | "A" and "D" Coys seized HAMBROCK and Bn HQ moved there. The general attack on UELZEN was now beginning and the Bn's task was clearing the eastern suburbs. "B" Coy relieved "A" Coy at HAMBROCK and the latter Coy successfully attacked at 2130 hours. Lieut RJ TREWREN was wounded and evacuated. Later "D" and "C" Coys moved through clearing the streets of the Bn objective, and "B" Coy followed the following morning. | |
| UELZEN | 18 | | The whole Bn was now in UELZEN having successfully cleared and seized a large area of the east part of the town. | Appx E No2 |
| MASENDORF | 19 | | The Bn left UELZEN and moved by march route to MASENDORF. The 2 IC went to England for a course and Major DEEKS took over duties of 2 IC. | Appx E No2 and No3 |
| WULFSTORF | 20 | | The Bn left MASENDORF and moved by march route to WULFSTORF. | Appx E No5 |

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| LUNEBURG AERODROME | 21 | | The Bn left WULFSTORF and moved by march route to an aerodrome just east of LUNEBURG. It was an excellent area once it was cleared of the mess left by civilians. The Bn soon settled in. | Appx E No5 |
| " | 22 | | The Bn's programme was a general clean up of all admin pts. There were good facilities for this and the area soon looked like a peace time barracks in England. All vehicles were stripped for washing and cleaning. Signs were being renewed, and everyone was cleaning up. Medical inspections for Coys were started. A Canteen committee consisting of the 2 IC, Padre, RSM, PRI and Interpreter Sjt had an excellent canteen running. | |
| " | 23 | | As for 22nd. Dental inspections were also started. Coy drill parades were held on the aerodrome tarmac. | |
| " | 24 | | Inspections, drills and admin were in full swing when the disappointing news came through that the Bn was to move in to LUNEBURG itself the following day. Harbour parties left in the evening. | |
| " | 25 | | The Bn moved into its area during the day. Pleasant, well furnished houses provided the billets and the Bn area was taped and barricaded off from the civilians. Canteen opened. | |
| " | 26 | | Coy Comds briefed for Op "ENTERPRISE" (the assault over the ELBE), and pl comds in the evening. Coy drill parades and range shooting during the day. | |
| " | 27 | | Early morning recce for operation. Coys training as for 26th during daytime. Co-ordinating conference at 1800 hrs for op. | |
| Woods East of BRIETLINGEN | 28 | | Harbour parties moved to marshalling area. Marching personnel followed at 1400 hrs and pre-loaded vehicles and LVT vehs later. Marshalling area in woods to the EAST of BRIETLINGEN 8029. Final conference was held at 2000 and troops mounted their Buffalos at 2300 hrs. | |
| The ELBE | 29 | | At 0200 hrs the Bn assaulted across the ELBE at ARTLENBURG with their immediate objective a limited bridgehead directly opposite. The RS were assaulting on our left and the Cdo Bde on the right - immediate objective: LAUENBURG. The KOSB were to pass through 6 RSF and 8 RS and later 227 and 46 to pass through the Bde. The CO's plan was:- (SEE FILE "OP ENTERPRISE", which incl:-) 1. 44 Inf Bde Op Order 2. RA 8 Corps Fire Plan Map 3. RA 8 Corps Fire Plan Map 4. 6 Aerial Photos showing Coy objectives:- Preliminary in yellow) 1st phase Intermediate in black) Bde plan | Appendix E No 6 |

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| | | <p>Final in red)</p> <p>5. 1 Oblique showing coy objectives:- Preliminary in yellow) 1st phase Intermediate in blue) Bde plan Final in red)</p> <p>6. Bn Op Instrs "Op ENTERPRISE".</p> <p>7. Defence overprint showing posns of Coys at first light April 29th.</p> | |
| The ELBE | 29 | <p>The Bn assaulted on two crossings.</p> <p>Right - "C" Coy leading followed by "D") Timed for "C" Left - "B" Coy) and "B" to land together.</p> <p>"D" Coy were close on "C" Coy and were in fact an assault coy. "A" followed on right as reserve Coy, preceded by Bn HQ. All assault coys pushed on with great speed and quickly seized their preliminary objectives taking many prisoners and having very few casualties, and the intermediate and final objectives were reached with the same result. About 0430 Tac Bn HQ unfortunately sustained some heavy and accurate shelling, and there were many casualties among the CO's personal staff. The KOSB had passed through during the night and 227 and 46 Bdes were also pressing on, so the CO altered slightly the Bn layout which was then as per appx 7 in file "Op ENTERPRISE". Rear Bn HQ joined the Bn at 1430 hrs. In the evening the whole Bn, less RAP and minimum Motor Pool, which had managed to cross with rations through the exertions of the MRO moved up to JULIUSBURG, where a hot meal was consumed.</p> | |
| JULIUSBURG | 30 | <p>There was little activity in this town, although Coys had dug in on arrival the previous night. Balance Motor Pool arrived 1000 hrs. About mid-day the Bn moved to SCHWARZENBEK without incident, except rumours of an SP gun on the left flank and an actual one on the right. The Bn occupied the right half of the town and the RS the left. Many prisoners were taken and no casualties sustained. Once more the Coys dug in for the night.</p> | <p>I Mackenzie Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers</p> |