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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 624 Field Park Coy RE

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year Feb 45

Commanding Officer Maj J.B. KELSALL, RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
MOERGESTEL	1		O.C. reced new location at NIJMEGEN - MARIENBOOM HOTEL M.R. 720601 - very short of space 15 sq ft per man - adequate veh standings and Stores Dump - no Workshop facilities - they will have to remain at MOERGESTEL and complete work in hand for ops.	
"	2		CSM and 2 men sent to new locn to start making place habitable. 4 Armd D7 A/Dozers arrived on tptrs. Preliminary Movement Instructions received. Adv Party 3 Feb Main Body night 4/5	
MOERGESTEL	3		Adv Party of 1 NCO and 3 ORs sent off. O.C. and 2i/c visited new locn and tied up details. Release for first lot of stores for VERITABLE received. Will be collected when first 6 RASC 3 ton lorries arrive tomorrow. Collection from 1 Cdn Army Dump TILBURG - L.O. sent tonight to arrange details of collection.	
	4	1030 1230 1800	Offrs attended talk in TILBURG at which G.O.C. 30 Corps and GOC 15 (S) Div gave the picture of the op "VERITABLE" Conference at HQ RE attended by O.C. Main Body left MOERGESTEL at 1800 hrs for new locn. Route OISTERWIJK 2234 - S'HERTOGENBOSCH 3246 - HEESCH 4751 - OSS 4754 - HERPEN 5554 - RAVESTEIN 5657 - WIJCHEN 6158 - BEUNINGEN 6464 - NIJMEGEN 7062. Side lights only to S'HERTOGENBOSCH after there only differential lights. Rds well sign posted but surface badly broken up in many places. This made going very difficult. Whole convoy of 55 vehicles arrived at destination by 050100 hrs less 3 vehicles and Mech Eqpt. Latter consisted of 2 Armd D7s A/Dozers with Hyster winches on 20 ton Albion semi-trailer tptrs and 1 D6 w A/dozer and 1 D4 w A/dozer and Hyster winch each on 18 ton Carrimore Trailer towed by Mack 6 x 6 tractor. Classn of trains first two Cl 39, third Cl 37 and fourth Cl 34. These were refused	

			entry to a Cl 40 bridge at RAVESTEIN for purely psychological reasons as the Clns were marked on the vehicles.	
NIJMEGEN	5		Missing vehicles arrived. Collection of stores and organisation of Dump began. O.C. briefed all officers for VERITABLE	
"	6		Stores collection contd. Issues made to Fd Coys for loading on AVRE sledges and Kangaroos. 12 RASC 3 ton 4 x 4 arrived - total now 18. 2 Armd D7s w/Adozers arrived. 6 Sherdozers arrived and sent out to Fd Coys. All special stores being made by Wksp Pl collected incl sand sprayer, gap marking signs, tripods, notice boards etc. All culverting being made up into 10' lengths.	
NIJMEGEN	7		During day Fd Coys drew their stores allotments. Two loads culverting sent to 20 and 278 Fd Coys. They retain vehs - leaves 16. H.Q. RE 15 (S) Div Op Order No 4 received. O.C. spoke to all O.Rs and briefed them. C in C's and Army Cmd's personal messages read out. Received 18 tippers loaded with ballast. Sent out straight away to 20 Fd Coy for urgent work. Were out all night. 20 working nos. with shovels sent from Br Pl to load hardcore. O.C. attended final conference at HQ RE at 1700 hrs. We are to send fwd 11 lorry loads of stores to an adv dump on night 8/9 Feb. To consist of:- 5 logs, 2 culverting, 1 flexboards & logs, 3 chespale - all RASC. Also one Mine Warfare Stores lorry.	
"	8	1045 0830	Wireless net opened 0800 hrs. Div Res of Tools lorry ordered up to HQ RE. Lorry left at 1120. Tippers 18 all returned and were re-sorted. Six went to 278 Fd Coy. Br Pl returned to billets.	
NIJMEGEN	9	0130 0730 1500 1430 1600	Received orders to send out vehs for Adv Dump at first light. To be at KRANENBURG STA 803558. All vehs already loaded. Convoy for Adv Dump left. Arrived destination safely. Fd Stores sent out 6 men to mark Tank Track "EGG" under supervision of F.E.2. This required for move through of tracks of 43 Div at 1800 hrs. O.C. at Adv Dump - mine warfare stores only items being issued so far - these will be replenished tomorrow. O.C. met A/CRE at HQ RE and agreed to send out Br Pl to work on rly from level Xing at KRANENBURG 801558 towards GROESBEEK. Work	

		1715 1730	is to fill northern pair of rails with ballast so that rly can be used for tracks. 20 Fd Coy collected 6 loaded tippers. Br Pl left for KRANENBURG - personnel only.	
"	10	1700 1730 1800	Br Pl returned having worked almost continuously Wksp Pl arrived from MOERGESTEL O.C. attended CRE's conference.	
"	11	2130 2345	Warned that 26 Br Pl will be required tonight. 2i/c returned to say Br Pl reqd to report to 20 Fd Coy at KRANENBURG as soon as possible.	
NIJMEGEN	12	0400 1200 1300	Br Pl arrived 20 Fd Coy after difficult journey on flooded roads. OC visited HQ RE after travelling in 4 x 4 winch lorry along rds flooded up to 2ft deep. Adv Dump returned to this locn, having been flooded out of KRANENBURG Sta.	
"	13	0930 1100 2200	OC visited SO RE 30 Corps and got latest battle picture - now out of touch with HQRE except by wireless through 278 Fd Coy. 6 tippers despatched to 278 Fd Coy. Part of Br Pl returned remainder came in later.	
"	14		Br Pl refilled from Army Dump.	
"	15	1400	Warning order to move received. OC with Adv Party left for HQ RE in CLEVE. Locn reced at DONSBRUGGEN E8757.	
DONSBRUGGEN	16	0830	Coy arrived after difficult journey through REICHSWALD FOREST and outskirts of CLEVE. Enemy shelling entrances to and exit from REICHSWALD. Accommodation good on whole.	
"	17		Stores Pl went back to NIJMEGEN to collect and dispose of remainder of Dump. D4 A/dozer and 3 loads of culverting sent to 279 Fd Coy.	
"	18		Stores Pl collecting Sommerfeld Track from Army Dump NIJMEGEN. Br Pl collected a 15 cwt truck for completion of vehicle establishment. Following eqpt from 86 Cdn Br Coy arrived under cmd 2 Secs FBE, 4 Asst Boat Units, 2 Cl 5 Rafts, 2 Kapok Units.	
DONSBRUGGEN	21		O.C. and 2i/c did recce for new locn but no suitable site found.	
"	22	1200 1600	LO from HQ RE arrived to say Coy must move. O.C. and 2i/c reced again and found harbour area in fields at E907459 North of GOCH. CRE said Coy move at once.	

		1930	Coy completed move - all men bivouac - no billets available.	
E907459	23		Lt Lodge Oi/c Fd Stores Pl posted to 20 Fd Coy. Lt Meredith at present Oi/c 26 Br Pl will take over Fd Stores and new officer Lt Thompson will be Oi/c 26 Br Pl. Small amount of br eqpt sent out to 278 Fd Coy for br at E923432.	
E907459	24	1400 1730	Wksp Pl ordered to stand by to move to LOUVAIN as Adv Pty. Wksp Pl ordered out to assist 278 Fd Coy with br at E932423. Br completed Wksp Pl returned. Ordered to send Adv Party to TILBURG tomorrow. Coy to move following day.	
"	25	0530 2130	Adv Pty left. Rep 3 Br Div RE arrived to arrange hand over of Dump stores, Mech Eqpt, tippers and attd br. Orders received to move tomorrow at 1630. OC visited CRE - move cancelled. 278, 279 Fd Coys, HQ RE and this Unit remain present locns to carry out rd work for 3 Br Div - approx 48 hrs work. This Coy reqd to supply rubble on 6 tippers and baulks and planks on Br Pl vehicles. In absence of Fd Pk Coy of 3 Br Div this Coy issuing stores and Mech Eqpt to Fd Coys of 3 Br Div.	
"	26	1330	Wksp Pl providing rubble and loading tippers. Br Pl collecting and carrying timber for rd u/con by 278 Fd Coy. Rep from 15 Fd Pk Coy, 3 Br Div arrived and took over stores etc.	
"	27		Wksp Pl again working for 278 Fd Coy. Br Pl completed delivery of timber. 15 Fd Pk Coy arrived. Orders received to move at 0910 tomorrow to s'HERTOGENBOSCH	
E907459	28	0910 1245	Coy moved off for s'HERTOGENBOSCH Arrived new location. Accommodation in large Tech School - quite good. Vehs parked in streets. Great difficulty in keeping local civilians from pilfering.	
				JB Kelsall Maj R.E.