

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 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Nov 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col PR Lane-Joynt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
NEAR LIESEL 6614	1st	- 1700	Bn located as follows: Bn HQ 663125, A Coy 663123, B Coy 666123, C Coy 665120, D Coy 668120. Situation unchanged. Enemy shelling not so heavy as on previous day. CO and IO attend Bde 'O' Gp. Patrolling during the night did not make contact with the enemy.	
	2nd	0930 1045 1200	Bn leaves for F.U.P. for attack on MOOSTDIJK 6908. Leading carrier blown up on 'R' mine killing two signallers, wounding OC Carrier Pl and 3 ORs. Bn arrives in F.U.P. 675132. Bn cross S.L. with one sqn 4 Tk Gren Gds in sp. Very few enemy encountered during this advance but considerable number of mines and hy shelling and mortaring. All Coys in posn by 1600 hrs. Bn HQ 696095, A Coy 697089, B Coy 688094, C Coy 694286, D Coy 690092.	See Appx E1 A Walker Capt IO
MOOSTDIJK	3rd	- 1430	Situation normal except for heavy enemy shelling and mortaring. CO attends Bde 'O' Gp. Patrols during night find no enemy to west of Bn area, but est an enemy post at 695082.	
MOOSTDIJK	4th	0600	No change in locations. Slightly less enemy arty activity than before. Patrols to west and south find nothing except one enemy post at 693078. One patrol however from A Coy failed to return and is presumed to have been ambushed and captured.	X It was announced on RADIO ARNHEM on 8th Dec that these men were POW. A Walker Capt IO
	5th		Situation comparatively quiet, little enemy activity seen on bn front though enemy was very active on the front of bn on left, and attack by 6 KOSB & 6 RSF was postponed after tks in sp had encountered enemy minefields and also got bogged in the extremely soft & marshy ground. Only slight enemy mor & arty activity during the day.	See Appx E2

MOOSTDIJK	5/6		Patrols again probed fwd from our FDLs during the night for a considerable distance but encountered no enemy on our immediate front though on the left the enemy was still active.	A Walker Capt IO
	6th		Enemy activity during the day was negligible except for occasional shelling and mortaring. During the night 6/7th our patrols were again active in front but it appeared that the enemy had pulled back on this flank, leaving behind mines and booby traps.	
MOOSTDIJK	7th		Situation unchanged - Bn on left report SCHANS still occupied by the enemy. Owing to the quiet situation it was found possible to allow a limited number to attend the Mobile Baths and also a Mobile Film Show.	A Walker Capt IO
	8th	- 1900	A very quiet day with nothing of importance to report. Recce parties of the 10 HLI made a tour of bn area during the early afternoon as the bn was being relieved on the evening of the 8th Nov for a 48 hrs rest period in ASTEN. Bn concentrated in ASTEN 6113 after relief having been carried out by Coys.	See Appx E3
ASTEN	9th	0800	Bn located in ASTEN. The day was spent in cleaning up of equipment etc and reorganisation as necessary. Limited numbers from Coys also attended local Army Film Shows. Coys were also able to attend the Mobile Bath Unit.	A Walker Capt IO
NEERKANT	10th	- 1430 1800	Bn still located in ASTEN - Administration continues. Bn recce party consisting of CO, IO, Coy and Pl Comds leave for recce of def posn at present occupied by 2 Gordons in area NEERKANT 698094. Coys leave ASTEN in TCVs for LIESEL 670144 where they debussed and marched to NEERKANT and proceeded to take over from 2 Gordon H. The take over was completed by 2100 hrs without incident with Coys located as follows: A Coy 698097, B Coy 708088, C Coy 702093, D Coy 707095, Bn HQ was est at 700092.	See Appx E4 A Walker Capt IO
NEERKANT	11th	0800 1100	Situation normal - nothing of importance to report during the night. Some enemy shelling and mortaring of Bn area. Bn HQ changes location to 698094 and A Coy to 698095. Some enemy activity seen on east bank of DEURNE CANAL. Owing to the open nature of the ground B and D Coys movements in fwd areas had to be restricted, being under observation from the east side of the canal. During the night a 'B' Coy recce patrol reached SCHANS at 709082 without encountering any enemy.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx E5
	12th	0800	Situation normal - occasional shelling during the night. Our own arty was extremely active.	

NEERKANT			The day was uneventful with little enemy activity. The greatest danger was from scattered mines particularly in B Coy area and some casualties were incurred. Bn Pioneer Pl swept safe lanes in the Coy area to prevent further accidents. Night recce patrol reached 711079 and 714081 without incident.	A Walker Capt IO
	13th	0700 1000 1415	CO visits Coys to say goodbye on his leaving the Bn. Enemy movement seen on far bank of canal. Little enemy activity apart from shelling and mortaring during the day. The Commanding Officer departs. Major JAH Douglass MBE 2i/c assumes command pending arrival of new Commanding Officer.	See Appx J1
NEERKANT	14th	0200- 0600 1100 1900	Recce patrol reaches 718077 without encountering any enemy. New Commanding Officer, Lt Col BA Pearson arrives from 2 A&SH. On instructions from 44 Bde to occupy SCHANS, the Commanding Officer issues orders to OC C Coy to carry out this operation. In view of the danger from mines, assistance was to be given to C Coy by the Pioneer Pl. OC S Coy, Pioneer Pl Comd & SO attended this 'O' Gp. A Coy takes over from D Coy during the early evening, the change-over being complete by 1930 hrs. D Coy now occupy A Coy's posns.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx E6
NEERKANT		1000	C Coy preparing for move to B Coy area preparatory to moving fwd to SCHANS.	A Walker Capt IO
	15th	0005 0115	Carrier Pl in posn formerly occupied by C Coy. C Coy report arrival in SCHANS without incident and by 0225 hrs have completed the occupation of the village. Mines were encountered by a standing patrol in area 713082 causing one casualty. Pioneer Pl did excellent work in mine clearing. Enemy activity on this part of the front apart from shelling and mortaring was negligible but units on the right conforming in the general move fwd found the enemy active in the MEIJEL area and HELDENSCHEDIJK 7206.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx E7 for move of flanking unit
NEERKANT	16th		During the night 15/16 an enemy patrol was reported in front of B Coy but contact was not made with it, but our own recce patrol which reached 720078 reported no enemy in the area. Except for occasional enemy sniping from across the canal on B Coy area there was little to report. Infrequent shelling continued without causing damage. The Commanding Officer accompanied by OC 6RSF visit C Coy area and SCHELM 704086 and arrange for C Coy 8RS to move back into SCHELM and SCHANS to be occupied by a coy of 6RSF who were now in area HOF	A Walker Capt IO

			7007. This operation was carried out in the early evening without incident.	
NEERKANT	17th	1600	<p>During the night 16/17th a recce patrol from B Coy reached the canal in area 719089 and established the presence of the enemy on the far bank.</p> <p>During the afternoon reps of 6KOSB arrived with a view to their bn taking over from 8RS in the early evening.</p> <p>Relief begins and is carried through by Coys without incident and is completed by 1930 hrs. Coys on their relief embussed in M.T. at rd junc 693102 and proceed independently to rest area in ASTEN.</p> <p>Owing to the unlikelihood of receiving sufficient reinforcements to make the bn up to full strength, orders had been received from HQ 44 Bde to the effect that the bn would have to be reorganised on a three Rifle Coy basis. This change over was carried out in accordance with details in Appx G1. The other bns in the Bde were already organised on this basis.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>See Appx G1</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
ASTEN	18th	- 1500 1800	<p>Bn in rest area at ASTEN, Bn HQ 620133. The day was devoted to administration, cleaning up and checking of stores. Opportunity was also given for Coys to attend Mobile Bath Unit, and vacancies were allotted at Army Film Unit shows in ASTEN & HELMOND.</p> <p>CO & IO attend 'O' Gp at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde.</p> <p>CO holds short 'O' Gp and gives out projected operations in which the Bn would take part. Some administrative problems in the bn were also discussed.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
ASTEN ASTEN	19th	1130 -1215 1215	<p>Church service in Presbyterian Church ASTEN.</p> <p>During the morning the Corps Commander Lt Gen Sir R O'Connor KCB DSO MC paid a short visit to the bn, and spoke to a number of the officers and men on an informal tour of HQ & B Coys.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer speaks to all available Offrs and ORs in the bn, the first opportunity he had had of doing so since assuming command.</p> <p>Bn Harbour party leaves for HOF 7007 but returns on information being received that bn would remain at ASTEN, night 19/20th Nov.</p> <p>One liberty truck per Coy proceeded to EINDHOVEN.</p> <p>In the evening the Commanding Officer held a conference of Coy Commanders on general points of organisation and administration.</p>	<p>See Appx E8 para 17</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
	20th	1600 1730	<p>Bn still located in ASTEN.</p> <p>Bn recce party proceeds to MEIJEL.</p> <p>Bn leaves ASTEN by TCV and proceeds to conc area in MEIJEL.</p> <p>Bn conc in MEIJEL as follows: Bn HQ 714067, A Coy 713065, B Coy 713066, C Coy 713066, S Coy 715065.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>

MEIJEL	21st	0800 1630 2300	There was nothing to report during the night and the bn remains in conc area during the day awaiting orders. Pioneer Pl at instant readiness to go and assist 227 Bde, proceeding later in the evening and being att 227 Bde for 48 hrs. Orders received from 44 Inf Bde:- Bn at 2 hrs notice to move wef 0800 hrs 22nd Nov. Harbour party to be ready to move at 0700 hrs.	See Appx E9
MEIJEL	22nd	0730 0915 1500 1930	Harbour party leaves. Officer representatives from Coys come to Bn HQ for short conference on the impending move and tactical situation. Harbour party returns to Bn. Owing to the nature of the ground and the heavy rains of the last few days it was found almost impossible to move transport in fwd areas and orders were received that the bn would remain in present location. Orders received from 44 Inf Bde to the effect that there would be no move tomorrow but that work parties would be required for roads.	A Walker Capt IO
MEIJEL	23rd	0730 0900	Composite party from the bn of one offr and 50 ORs proceed to HELENAVEEN to assist RE in carrying out maintenance work. During the day Coys carry out maintenance work on the LIESEL - MEIJEL road. CO, Adj & SO visit 44(L) Inf Bde Tactical School at HELMOND during the afternoon.	A Walker Capt IO
	24th		Location no change. Bn continues to find work party for RE and also to carry out administration.	
	25th	1000	Comd 44(L) Inf Bde holds Training Conference for COs at HQ 8RS. Work party assists RE in rd & br maintenance.	
MEIJEL	26th	0930 1000 1130	Work party of one officer and 50 ORs proceed to HELENAVEEN. Church service held in MEIJEL for CofS and CofE personnel. Comd 44(L) Inf Bde, Brigadier H.C.H.T. CUMMING-BRUCE DSO who had taken over from Brigadier COCKBURN visits Bn HQ. Administration and training continues.	A Walker Capt IO
MEIJEL	27th	0800 0900 1400 1430 1630	Work party proceeds to HELENAVEEN. All Coys proceed on route march, returning by 1300 hrs. Instrs received from 44 Bde for Commanding Officer to proceed immediately to HQ 56 Inf Bde with a view to the bn taking over from 2 ESSEX in area 8811 on the following day. Recce parties to follow as soon as possible. CO and IO proceed to HQ 56 Inf Bde at 864132 and thence to HQ 2 ESSEX 876121, and carry out a recce of bn area. Bn Recce party leaves for 2 ESSEX, and meet CO at HQ 56 Inf Bde when instrs are given to Coy representatives regarding respective areas to be taken over.	A Walker Capt IO

		1935	CO and IO return to MEIJEL, when Commanding Officer is informed that take-over from 2 ESSEX has been postponed. Recce parties to remain night at 2 ESSEX.	
MEIJEL	28th	1100 1200 1430 1730	RE assistance continues to be provided. CO proceeds to HQ 6RSF for conference held by Comd 44 Bde. Bn recce party returns from 2 ESSEX. Lt Carr and 2 ORs of A Coy leave for 4 Lincs to carry out patrol in area 8808 acting as covering party for recce party from R.A.C. but returns at 1630 hrs as patrol was being carried out by bn holding that sector. Commanding Officer's conference at Bn HQ on future ops.	A Walker Capt IO
MEIJEL	29th	1430 1800	Administration and training continues. CO proceeds to Bde planning conference for OPERATION 'GUILDFORD'. All Coys inspect A.P.C. ("Kangaroos") of 'A' Sqn 49 Armoured Personnel Carrying Regt with which the Bn was to operate in the forthcoming operation for the capture of BLERICK 8909 on the west bank of the RIVER MAAS opposite VENLO (this operation was known as operation 'GUILDFORD'). Commanding Officer's Conference for Coy Comds on OPERATION "GUILDFORD", and a rehearsal to be carried out on the morning of 30th Nov, to practise those taking part in the co-operation with "KANGAROOS".	A Walker Capt IO
MEIJEL	30th	0845 0915 1100	CO, 2i/c and Coy Comds proceed to area 6210 where practice was to take place and arrange final details on deployment of Coys etc. Bn less dets of S Coy mounted on KANGAROOS proceed to area 6210 where a rehearsal on forming up, advance and deployment and "de-tanking" is carried out according to the bn plan for OP "GUILDFORD". After the rehearsal the bn returned to MEIJEL in the KANGAROOS. CO proceeds to HQ 44 Bde for farewell address by Comd 8 Corps, Lt Gen R O'Connor KCB DSO MC. Planning for OP 'GUILDFORD' continues. In the evening a St Andrew's night was held at Bn HQ attended by all officers.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO