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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 9th Bn The Cameronians
(Scottish Rifles)

Month and Year SEP 1944

Commanding Officer Lt Col Sir EMA Bradford Bt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
NOYERS	1	1225 1715	Situation unchanged. Harbour Parties to R.V. Bde HQ at 1500 to be prepared to stay evening, then move to NEW AREA S.W. of AMIENS. Warning order received Bn would probably move on morning of 2 SEP to same area. Commanding Off. to 'O' Gp at Bde HQ 1900. Trg during day was carried out in form of 8 mile route march in the morning ☉ Film show and baths in the afternoon. Verbal message received cancelling 'O' Gp at 1900 hrs. Also Bn move on 2 SEP.	CNB CNB CNB
NOYERS	2	1225 1345 1800 1930	Situation unchanged. Training programme:- Mortar firing 2" in coys, both H.E. and smoke. P.I.A.T. Drill, P.T. also carried out. Tp on maintenance. Warning order received from Bde. Harbour Parties to stand by from 1400 to move to Bde. Bn Tp to be prepared to move at 0600 hrs 3 SEP. Marching tps at 1100. Full details later. Harbour parties R.V. X rds at 1600. Verbal message from 46 Bde. 46 Bde Inf Mov Order No 10 received. C.O. "O" GP on 46 Bde Inf Mov Order No 10. Order of March for Vehs. BN HQ, Carriers, Mortars, A/TK. A.B.C.D. Form up 0745; Move off 0800 Order of Marching personnel. BN HQ.A.B.C.D Form up 1310. Move off 1320.	CNB CNB CNB APP E/1 CNB CNB
NOYERS	3	0800 1320 1925 2205	Tpt column moved off for area BREULLET 5115 and arrived at 1100 hrs. Marching party passed Bn S.P. and arrived in area BREULLET at 1800 hrs after an uneventful journey. Warning order received for move on 4 Sep. 46(H) Inf Bde Mov Order No 11 received	CNB CNB APP C4 CNB APP E/2

			C.O. 'O' Gp for move order of march BN HQ, carriers, Mortars, A/TK, ABCD. To move at times as shown in Mov Table.	CNB
	4	0910 1156 1730 1800 2210	Leading vehicle crossed S.P. en route for BERNAPRE 7139. Bn arrived area BERNAPRE 7139 and concentrated in this area. Afternoon spent in training consisting of a route march by coys of up to eight miles. 46(H) Inf Bde OP Instr No 11 received C.O. O Gp. Order of march for following day and route given out. 46(H) Inf Bde Mov Order No 12 received	CNB CNB CNB APP E/3 CNB APP E/4 CNB
	5	0805 1505 1930 0035	Leading veh passed Bde S.P. en route for RAMECOURT 1410 ref map sht 72. For route see APP J2. Marching personnel still located BERNAPRE 7139 awaiting arrival of T.C.Vs. Bn veh arrived RAMECOURT 1410 and took up position in CHATEAU ☉ This had previously been a German HQ and evident signs of enemy's hasty retreat. L.O. from Bde HQ visited Bn and informed C.O. that Bn now under comd 44 Bde. Location of 44 Bde NOT known ☉ 46 Bde with 1 Med Reg & Recce Regt (153). 7 SEAFORTH concentration WEST of ARRAS to clear enemy pockets. 2 Glasgow HIGHLANDERS under comd 227 Bde. C.O. at 44 Bde 'O' GP when Bn order to move at times as shown in 44 LOWLAND Infantry Bde Move Order No 13	APP J2 CNB CNB CNB APP E/5 CNB
	6	1122 1645 2300 2300	Bn on move with 44 Bde column en route for Belgium. This move was as advance to contact and column spread over about 30 miles. 'O' Gp called by Bde comd 44 Bde at MENIN 7554 and Bn ordered to take up defensive position in area 7450. C.O. recce area and sent D.R. back to Bn who were about 7 miles in rear on line of march. On D.R. returning at about 1900 hrs, he brought message that Bn was now under command 46(H) Bde and were to RV in area 8353. Bn to move independently to this area. C.O. to report Bde HQ. C.O. arrived Bde HQ and ordered to take up position for night in area AUTRYVE 9648. Rep sent to X rds 895458 to meet Bn and guide them to AUTRYVE.	CNB CNB CNB CNB
AUTRYVE	7	0230	Bn arrived X rds at 2345 and proceeded to area AUTRYVE ☉ On arriving there it was discovered that two companies were NOT in column "B & D". BHQ established in AUTRYVE and A & C Coys in defence. The gaps were filled up with personnel from Bn HQ and Carriers.	CNB CNB CNB

		0830	Brig arrived and ordered Bn to take up position in AVELGHEM 976498. This NOT to take place until other Coys arrived. The coys had been located and guides sent to them. Expected to arrive at 1230 hrs.	CNB
		1100	Bn i.e. A & C coys moved to area AVELGHEM. C Coy to area tk jct 980509. Bn HQ and A Coy to area 976498. Bn task now to clear MAIN AXIS NORTH of AVELGHEM area 968513 with in SUP 1 sqn SCOTS GREYS. H Hour 1330. This was postponed until 1415 as B & D coys had NOT arrived ☉	CNB CNB CNB
		1310	B & D Coys arrived and moved to F.U.P. 'B' Coy DRIESCHT 968514. D Coy 980508 behind 'C' Coy. Shortly before this C Coy tried to put a fwd pl into the houses about 200 yds to their front and in doing so ran into cross fire from enemy MG. They had fairly heavy casualties and wounded could NOT be evacuated because of enemy cross fire. C.O. O Gp. A Coy to remain in area 976498. C Coy firm base in area rd jct 980507. D Coy to pass through and capture CAPHOUEK and rd jct NORTH sup by Sqn SCOTS GREYS. 3" MORTAR from Z to Z+7. B Coy attack rd jct 975521 then N and clear KLOOSTERHOUGH sup by LOYALS and 3" mortars Z+20, Z+26. This was changed later and "B" Coy would attack same objective first, then 'D' Coy would move fwd and clear same area.	CNB CNB
		1415	B Coy commenced attack and immediately held up by 88MM fire and MG. They pushed forward slowly under continuous fire, until at 1515 hrs C.O. ordered D Coy fwd. They made fairly good progress and at 1550 they were on their first objective, having taken 5 offrs and 90 ORs prisoner.	CNB
		1830	Bn ordered to take up position in area 9748 to protect Bridges over canal. Coys to be in position before last light. C.O. went round coys and gave them new areas. A Coy 974487; B Coy 973497; C Coy 972492; D Coy 975499.	CNB
		1945	Coys began to pull back to new areas ☉ All in position by 2100 hrs. Bn HQ established 976484. 15(S) Inf Div Adm Order No 18	CNB APP E/6
ESCANAFFLES 977494	8 SEP	0900	C.O. group for move to area GAVERE 1366 to take over from 1/7 Queens to enable them to continue advance. C.O. to go fwd with "R" Gp and recce 7 QUEENS AREA.	CNB
		1215	Recce party arrived GAVERE 1366 and recce QUEENS POSITIONS and fixed A Coy 118669, B 136668; C 140692, D 143656 to take over on arrival:- Carrier sec to patrol the EAST bank of canal in Bn area. The movement of Bn to this area delayed because T.C.Vs could NOT be obtained. At 1600 Bn T.C.V. arrived and Bn moved off at 1700 hrs.	

		2310	Again the movement along roads to GAVERE very slow because of amount of supply tpt on roads. Bn arrived GAVERE and guided to Coy localities as given. 7 SEAFORTH located SCHELDRODE 1771 and 1 Coy of 2 GH in ADENARDE 0957 while remainder were awaiting T.C.V. for move to clear GHEEL.	CNB CNB
GAVERE	9 SEP	1200 2200 2230	Patrol sent out to find locations and on return it was established that 227 Bde & 44 Bde were in area to WEST of Bn. Bn now cleared area on WEST bank of canal and no enemy encountered. T.C.V. to arrive at 0800 hrs 10 SEPT ☉ No move before 1500 hrs 10th SEP. Harbour parties will be prepared to move off by 1200 hrs 10th SEP.	CNB CNB CNB
GAVERE	10 SEP	1215 1420 1540 2359	C.O. O Gp at Bde HQ. Orders given out that 46 Inf Bde would move to area of ALBERT CANAL at LIERRE and carry out deception plan to enable 53 Div to get a crossing over canal S.E. of ANTWERP. 46 Inf Bde Mov Order No 14. Inf and RE patrols required to recce ALBERT Canal. We had to supply 1 off and 1 NCO and 4 ORs ☉ To meet C.O. at X rds LIERRE 7886 at 1830 hrs where instructions would be given. During this time C.O. had recce area and Bde 'O' Gp held in TOWN HALL LIERRE where final arrangements made ☉ Our Recce patrol to lie up in area BROECHEM 8191 and to observe any enemy movements ☉ Patrol to report back to unit conc area on completion of task. Bn left area GAVERE (1366) and arrived area LONDERZEEL 582735 at 2130 hrs and took up all round defensive positions. Plan for deception crossing at LIERRE cancelled. Bn would remain in present location until further orders.	CNB APP E/7 CNB CNB CNB
LONDERZEEL	11 SEP	1030 1400 1700	Message from Bde that C.O. would meet Bde Comd at X rds 0481 at 1400 hrs, ref map 25/35 FRANCE 1/50,000. C.O. at Bde O Gp X rds 0481. 9th Cameronians to relieve 7 GREEN HOWARDS in area 063875. Area to be recce immediately by Coy Comds who arrived at 1500. This recce was completed and 1 offr and 1 NCO from each of our Coys left behind with 7 GREEN Howards until Bn arrived on following day. 46(H) Inf Bde O.O. No 7 issued and Movement order. Instructions received from Bde for permission to allow 80 men from Bn to visit BRUSSELS. To leave BRUSSELS at 2100. 46 Inf Bde Adm Order No 5.	CNB APP E/8 CNB CNB APP G/1
	12 SEP	0800 1045	C.O. 'O' Gp for move to relieve 7 GREEN HOWARDS to concentrate before crossing Bridge in area 4381. Bn left LONDERZEEL for area 4381. Move from CONC AREA order from 46 Bde as Bn crossing pt had been changed from CLASS 40 BR to Class 9 BR.	CNB APP E/9 CNB

		1410	Arrived area 4381. After debussing Bn then moved off to further CONC area at SOUTH of RD in 0586 to be called fwd to 7 GREEN HOWARDS when situation permitted.	CNB
		1800	Bn conc in 0586. The relief could NOT be carried out as 7 GREEN HOWARDS were being counter attacked by enemy (53 G.A.F.). By 2200 the situation was cleared up and coys moved fwd and all in posn by 2230. Locations A 057877; C 062877; B 056871; D 063874.	CNB
057873 Ref Map 25/35 France & Belgium 1/50,000	13 SEP	0210	Patrol went to village LARUM and returned at 0330 with infm that village occupied and enemy were to this side of it.	CNB
		0600	Situation unchanged. 4 P.O.W. taken during night.	CNB
		1015	Brig J.M.L. Villiers D.S.O. visited Bn and gave out plan for next move. Objectives VELVEKEN 0487 (2) LARUM 0588 (3) RAUWELKOVEN 0589 (4) Area 0490. To be known as WALNUT 5,6,7,8 respectively. The 7 SEAFORTH were doing much the same on the left flank and generally moving fwd to canal ESCAUT.	CNB
		1300	Carrier sec ordered to patrol to area NIEUWMOLEN - X rds 058886.	CNB
		1330	B Coy to move into position behind A.	
		1510	Recce report LARUM clear of enemy.	
		1515	'C' Coy now in VELVEKEN 0487.	
		1545	'B' Coy report on way to LARUM 0588 and at 1605 in position.	CNB
		1646	D Coy report leading child now approaching 0589 and in position by 1700.	CNB
		1735	A Coy approaching objective in position by 1810.	
1830	Bn HQ moved to LARUM 049885 and 'C' Coy ordered to move into reserve in area 047887. Patrols laid on for night 13/14 SEP along CANAL bank to ST JOSEPH OULEN and LOCK at 057917.	CNB		
LARUM	14 SEP	0600	Situation Normal. Enemy on NORTH bank of canal in fairly large numbers, continual sniping by enemy on any movement on our side of CANAL. During daylight this was even more so and as O.P. were difficult to find because of flat nature of country, it was difficult to bring ARTY and MORTAR fire down. Also MORTAR and ARTY ammo were in short supply and Units were ordered NOT to fire this ammo unless in case of a strong counter attack. Unit snipers were in action during hours of daylight and inflicted a number of casualties on enemy while his snipers inflicted 4 casualties.	CNB
				CNB
				CNB
	15 SEP	0600	Situation unchanged. Patrolling carried out along CANAL bank encountered NO enemy. During daylight enemy activity still on same scale.	
		1420	Pl of B Coy ordered fwd to occupy ST JOSEPH OULEN and to stop any enemy movement to this side of CANAL. In position by 1700.	CNB

		2025	B Coy pl at ST JOSEPH OULEN reported enemy crossing river in their area. At 2100 C.O. ordered 'C' Coy fwd with a carrier sec to contact Pl of B Coy and to clear situation. 'C' Coy would occupy this area, as the bridge at 021913 although blown could still be used as crossing place.	CNB CNB
LARUM	16 SEP	0100 0600	C Coy in position in ST JOSEPH OULEN. Situation normal. Enemy still on opposite bank. Enemy were found to be occupying area on NORTH side of CANAL at LOCK 058917 and C.O. ordered D Coy fwd to occupy this area.	CNB
LARUM	17 SEP	0600	Situation unchanged. Enemy still occupying far bank of CANAL. OP. FLOOD 46. Inf Bde deception plan. 46 Inf Bde OO No. 8 issued.	CNB APP E/10 APP E/11
	18 SEP	0600 0800 1435	Situation unchanged. Enemy still occupying far bank. C.O. of 7 QUEENS arrived Bn HQ and prepared to take over our position at ST JOSEPH OULEN. One Coy 7 QUEENS relieved C Coy and returned to reserve position as they were on arrival at LARUM. BDYs, ROUTES and CODEWORDS issued by 46(H) Bde.	CNB CNB APP E/12
	19 SEP	0600 1400	Situation unchanged. Enemy still on far bank of canal. B & D Coys changed location, B Coy now at LOCK and D Coy back in their original position.	CNB CNB
LOMMEL	20 SEP	0600 1200 1430 2015 2310	Situation unchanged. C.O. at Bde HQ ordered to RV at 160 Bde HQ as soon as possible at Map Ref 319952 LOMMEL and to come under comd immediately. Bn left LARUM 049885 and arrived area LOMMEL 319952 at 1715 hrs. Coys to areas as shown on map. Message received from 158 Bde that Bn now under comd of 160 Bde. Message received that Bn would be prepared to move at 0600 hrs 21 SEP to area 3817 and 3818 ref map BELGIUM & NE France 1/100,000 Sht 4 ☉ Harbour party to R.V. 71 Bde HQ at 0500 hrs. 71 Bde HQ at WESTERHOVEN 3706.	CNB CNB CNB
	21 SEP	0600 1300 1430 2005	Bn left area LOMMEL for area 3817 & 3818 and arrived at ZEELST 386167 at 0810. Crossed the DUTCH frontier at 0615 hrs. Brig J.M.L. Villiers D.S.O. visited Bn and informed C.O. that Bn now back under command of 46 Bde and that Bn had to move immediately to relieve Bn OX and Bucks at 317246. Bn left ZEELST 386167 for area 317246 and arrived at 1800 hrs. Relief of OX and BUCKS complete by Coy to areas as shown on attch map. Bn task to hold area in all round defence as enemy could attack from practically all directions but was obviously holding the opposite Bank of WILHELMINA CANAL in some strength. MG's and 1 88MM	CNB CNB CNB

			gun reported by previous unit. All the Bridges over the canal were blown. 50 per cent stand to all night and 100 per cent at 0515 - 0615 hrs.	
	22	0600 0615 0800 1800 1930 2100	No change in situation. Report received over wireless that 7 SEAFORTH had crossed CANAL about 4 miles EAST of our location. Complete surprise obtained over enemy. 46(H) Inf Bde MOV Order No 15 issued. Remainder of day very quiet and no enemy activity. Our A/TK guns engaged CHURCH throughout day to deny use of it as O.P. Message received from carrier patrol that route to ACHT along canal bank was suitable for vehicles although considerable part of it under possible enemy obs. Message by wireless ☉ You will be relieved by 53 Div, instructions to follow. As soon as Bn of OX & BUCKS arrive and as soon after last light as possible you will move to area 4022 & 4122. Harbour parties in advance.	CNB CNB APP E/13 CNB APP E/20 CNB
	23 SEP	0315 0730 0935 1025 1230 1905	Bn left area 317246 by route already recce. On passing along the edge of canal convoy was engaged with enemy mortars and 88MM ☉ No casualties were inflicted although about 5 vehicles were ditched. They were recovered later. Bn tpt arrived in ACHT 406222. Bn marching personnel arrived ACHT. Message received from Bde for C.O. to RV at 2 GH HQ at 386253. At this 'O' Gp Bn to relieve 2 GH in area of CL 40 Br. Task to defend area of Br, dispositions as shown on. To enable 2 GH and 7 SEAFORTH to push on to area BEST. Bn left area ACHT and arrived at CL 40 Br at 1310 and took up position as shown on Map 389254. One child to come under command 2 GH and take up position at Rd jcts 375262 ☉ GH location 384260.	CNB CNB APP E/21 APP E/22 CNB CNB CNB
	24	0530 0615 0745 0850 0935 1155 1530	Situation report:- unchanged. C.O. 'O' GP on general situation:- see APP E/14 C.O. to O Gp at 2 GH HQ 384260. See APP E/15. Bn to concentrate in area 384260 prior to moving up to relieve 2 GH in area BEST. Bn moved off to conc area. 'C' Coy now back under comd 9 CAMERONIANS. BN HQ est at 380259. C Coy in position rd jct 375262. A Coy move off to obj LEVEL CROSSING 371263.	APP E/14 APP E/15 CNB CNB

		1755 'A' Coy reached obj on right, held up on left obj by MG fire ☉ Big brothers have gone to deal with some S.P. guns. 1755 B Coy on obj. No enemy encountered. 1810 B Coy proceeded NORTH and arrived on obj at 1840 rd & tk jct 375267. D Coy in school 375263. During this action the enemy used mortar and MG fire only and casualties were 5 Killed, 25 WOUNDED.	CNB CNB
BEST	25	0600 During night local patrols were out and enemy were holding line of Rly WEST of BEST. 1545 Situation unchanged. Enemy mortared Bn area during night. 1830 TYPHOONS attacked factory MAP Ref 365256. O Gp at Bde at 1830. See APP E/16	CNB CNB APP E/16
BEST	26	0600 Situation unchanged. 1115 A Coy pushed onto line of Rly. 1130 B Coy started attack on houses 373261. 1245 A B Coy in position. 1430 D Coy commenced to attack area 374258 but held up by MG and mortar fire. 1625 B.HQ moved to area School in BEST 375263. The Bn area during this time was subject to heavy mortar and 88MM fire. The remainder of the night was spent in local patrolling ☉ The enemy was located on other side of rly at several points all in very close contact with forward Coys.	CNB CNB CNB
BEST	27	0530 C Coy patrol returned having contacted 7 SEAFORTH. A Coy patrol obs. 12 Horse drawn veh and heard movement of tps. 0730 'O' Gp (C.O.) during today we will hold line of Rly and clear all enemy from it ☉ At same time being aggressive in patrolling area on other side. D Coy to clear and occupy farm houses. For this, all coys, 2 A/TK, 3 MORTARS, CARRIERS to give Supporting fire to enable D Coy to cross open ground. Sup arms 3 SP guns, MMG Pl and 190 Bty. H hour 1000. A Coy to patrol to NASTA BEST. 1030 D Coy Fwd Pl now on obj. SP guns with them and have engaged targets.	CNB CNB APP E/17 CNB
BEST	28	0330 B Coy patrol returned and reported movement as before in respect of enemy Horse drawn tpt. 0700 C.O. at Bde 'O' Gp. SEE APP E/18 Remainder of day was spent in harassing enemy by mortar and arty fire. Crossing and occupying houses on other side cancelled by Bde. 1600 'O' Gp. Weapon trng being commenced on 29 SEP.	CNB APP E/18 CNB

			Tired personnel to visit BRUSSELS on 48 hours leave commencing 30 Sep.	CNB
BEST	29	0600	Situation unchanged. Enemy still located on WEST side of Rly. Enemy obs. continually on opposite side of Rly and were continually engaged with MORTARS and S.A fire.	CNB
		1400	Deception plan by smoke to try and make enemy disclose positions. This was unsuccessful.	CNB
		2200	A Coy Ambush patrol returned. Cas inflicted on enemy at 368264.	
BEST	30	0600	Situation unchanged. Patrolling on 30 SEP. APP E/19 Remainder of day spent in obs. on known enemy localities and engaging them by fire.	APP E/19 CNB
		1930	C.O. 'O' Gp. 'C' Coy will occupy houses on WEST of cross rds pushing one sect across under cover of fire from A, B & D Coys. If successful remainder of Coy will cross.	