

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required)

Unit 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry

Month and Year MAY 1945

Commanding Officer Major FBB NOBLE, OBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1st		<p>Recce found to be in occupation of WORTH and Bn occupied posns by 0900 hrs around the village. 1130 hrs-Bde Major visited CO and informed him that on 2 A&SH front surrender of GEESTHACHT was being negotiated and that a truce was in force until 1700 hrs. 2 A&SH and a Bn of 53 Div would then occupy GEESTHACHT. 10 HLI would patrol at 1700 hrs to HOHENHORN and occupy if no opposition was met. 1530 hrs-Bn "O" Group. CO gave orders for "B" and "C" Coys to send fwd patrols at 1700 hrs on both rds leading to HOHENHORN. Patrols would send back word as to whether enemy occupied village or not. If there was no opposition Bn would move fwd at 1800 hrs on both routes to occupy HOHENHORN less "C" Coy who would remain in WORTH until relieved by a Coy of 2 GORDONS. If HOHENHORN was occupied Bn attack would be staged for next day. 1730 hrs- Patrols reported enemy in occupation of HOHENHORN with apparently arty or Mortar support from the north. On orders of Bde no attack was to be made on the village before next day. 2000 hrs-CO attended Bde "O" Group. Div would move fwd next day on three Bde front (Right 44 Bde : Centre 46 Bde : Left 227 Bde) to clear Forest of SACHSENWALD 7552, after handing over GEESTHACHT sector to 53 Div. 227 Bde to advance to area immediately to east of BERGEDORF with Right HLI followed by 2 GORDONS and left 2 A&SH. Objectives Right HLI-to take HOHENHORN 7545 adv quickly through wood 7345 and take KROPPELSHAGEN-FAHRENDORF 7146 exploiting to wood 7467 and continuing if unopposed to NEU-BORNSSEN 6946; 2 GORDONS to follow up and give assistance on flanks if required. Left 2 A&SH - to take ESCHEBURG 7144 and BORNSSEN 6945. Each leading Bn to be supported by Half Sqn 4 COLDM GDS tks. 2245 hrs-Bn "O" Group. CO gave out orders for next days operation. Phase 1-Attack on HOHENHORN. Attack to be made on 2 axes with "B" Coy and tp COLDM GDS tks on right and "C" Coy plus tp COLDM GDS tks on left. H-Hour 0800. Attack to be supported by Fd and Med arty concs on HOHENHORN and area to the North of it. Mortar Pl to smoke poss enemy gun to the North of HOHENHORN. Inf to move</p>	<p>Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil</p> <p>Cas:- NIL PW:- NIL Reinf: 9 ORs</p>

		<p>deployed on either side of tks. Phase 2-Subsequent Advance: After capture of HOHENHORN by "B" and "C" Coys, "D" and "A" Coys would pass through and continue advance preceded by 2 tps of the Recce Regt. Order of March- 2 tps of Recce Regt: "D" Coy on Tks: "A" Coy: "B" Coy : Tac HQ : "C" Coy : "S" Coy : Pl REs : MMG Pl : Rear HQ. "D" and "A" Coys to deploy right and left of rd respectively on reaching wood and search to a depth of 200 yds while "B" Coy escorted tks. On reaching far edge of wood Recce to take over lead.</p>	
	2nd	<p>0800 hrs- "B" and "C" Coys began adv and met Small Arms opposition and 20mm AA gun on the outskirts of the village. Coys and tks deployed and attacked these posns. Approx 40 PW were taken from a unit of Marines. 1045 hrs-HOHENHORN reported clear and Recce passed through followed by "D" and "A" Coys. 1230 hrs-Recce report slight opposition at edge of wood 7345. "A" and "D" Coys supported by tanks soon overcame this opposition and took a large number of PW. 1400 hrs-Leading Coys reached far edge of wood and halted while Recce took over adv. Slight enemy opposition was encountered but "A" and "D" Coys were able to adv and enter KROPPELSHAGEN-FAHRENDORF taking more PW. At exit from village tks were delayed by AA gun at 712468 which was covering the rd. By 1540 hrs this had been eliminated by tk and arty fire and the Bn was firmly est in the village. 1630 hrs- "A" and "D" Coys cont on main axis towards NEU-BORNSSEN while "B" Coy plus tp of tks gave flank protection by advancing on parallel side rd to south. 1715 hrs-"A" and "D" Coys held up by AA Gun half a mile beyond village. Tks and infantry were deployed to deal with this gun. 1740 hrs-"B" Coy reached 704463 against some opposition and began clearing houses in this area. By 1800 hrs "A" and "D" Coys had been able to adv to just short of X-rds 700465 but were held up here by enemy snipers and Bazooka parties. Enemy snipers also became very active in "B" Coy area and on the flanks of "A" and "D" Coys, making movt very difficult. CO asked Bde Comdr whether 2 GORDONS could assist by clearing wood on our right flank. This became unnecessary however as at 2015 hrs opposition slackened and Coys were able to adv to their final objectives. 2100 hrs-"A" and "D" Coys were est in tight perimeter around Tac HQ and tks in NEU-BORNSSEN 694467 with "B" Coy at X-rds 700465. Rear HQ remained in KROPPELSHAGEN-FAHRENDORF along with "S" Coy. CO was told that from First Light tomorrow a truce would be in force in the Bde area to allow negotiations to proceed with a member of the Staff of the German Army Group North. CO would be prepared to meet and receive any such rep at our FDLs at 0700 hrs on 3rd May.</p>	<p>Cas:- 3 ORs Killed 1 Offr 10 ORs Wounded P.W.:- 162</p>

	3rd		News was received that truce would continue as negotiations were going on at a high level for the surrender of the German armies in NW Germany and DENMARK. Meanwhile the Bde would be relieved by a Bde of 53 Div who were to occupy HAMBURG. 0915 hrs- CO of a Bn of SWB arrived to work out details of relief of the Bn. Relief to commence 1130 hrs and be completed by 1300 hrs. 1200 hrs- Bn "O" Group. It was made known that BERGEDORF and HAMBURG had surrendered and that large scale negotiations for complete surrender were in progress. 15 Div would conc for next 48 hrs in area North of SACHSENWALD. 227 Bde to move in afternoon to area WITZHAVE 7255-ROTHENBEK 7556. Route:- KROPPELSHAGEN-FAHRENDHORF-FRIEDRICHSRUH - ROTHENBEK. Method of Movt-"D" and "A" Coys carried on tks: "B" Coy carried on 20 Carriers of "S" Coy : "C" Coy carried on rest of "S" Coy and A Ech vehs. 1500 hrs Bn coln moved off. 1800 hrs-Bn arrived in Billets in WITZHAVE. Bn HQ est at 724557. 2130 hrs-Orders issued for Bn to proceed next day to Bde area at AHRENSBURG 6567. Move to be made by March route. Tpt to move independently at 1000 hrs preceded by Recce parties.	Cas:- NIL PW: 72 Reinf: Nil
	4th		0900 hrs- Marching Coln left for AHRENSBURG. 1500 hrs-Bn arrived in billets in AHRENSBURG. Bn HQ est at 660678.	
	5th		0800 hrs-Hostilities ceased and surrender of all German troops in NW Germany and DENMARK became effective.	
	6th		1100 Bn attended Bde Group Church Service (See Appendix G1). 1815 hrs-CO held Conference attended by Coy Cmdrs, Adjt,. I.O., and Q.M. The following points were given out:- (a) <u>Immediate Future</u> -Surrender of numerous enemy fmns north and NW of HAMBURG still to be accepted. Small bodies of PW would be evacuated in the normal way. Large bodies would be disarmed and remain static. All displaced persons would be directed to HAMBURG. No other movt of civilians to be allowed. (b) <u>Later Moves</u> -Div would later move, probably to following areas. 44 Bde-KIEL : 46 Bde-CUXHAVEN : 227 Bde-LUBECK (2 A&SH-TRAVEMUNDE) (c) <u>Long Term Policy</u> -Bn will probably be in LUBECK for three months. Drive to be made on turnout, drill and discipline. Numerous Welfare amenities already been started in LUBECK and would be increased later.	Appx G1.
	7th		Final surrender of all German Forces in Europe completed.	
	8th		1600 hrs- CO held Bn parade and March past as rehearsal for the Parade before the Div Comdr next day.	
	9th		1100 hrs- Bn paraded and was inspected by Div Comdr who gave a short address, thanking all ranks for the support they had given	

		him in the many battles since Normandy. After the address the Bn Marched Past.	
	10th	1830 hrs- CO held Conference attended by Coy Comdrs, Adjt., I,O., and Q.M. Warning was given that the Bn would move to LUBECK probably in about 10 days time, taking over from units of 5 Div who were at present occupying the town. Meanwhile the Bn would move on 13th May to an immediate conc area to allow Div HQ to move into AHRENSBURG. A few further details of the reorganisation of the Bn on peacetime lines were discussed. It was decided to disband A2 and B Ech on 11th May and to centralise as much as possible of the Bn tpt in charge of MTO. It was explained that the policy with regard to enemy fmns was to leave them for admin purposes under their own Comd, until they had completed all the clearing up that was required, after which they would be evacuated to selected PW areas.	
	12th	Orders issued for Bn to move next day to area ZARPEN 8389-BADENDORF 8789. Recce parties visited new area during the Day. (See Appendix D1).	Appx D.1.
	13th	0900 hrs-Tracked veh coln left for new location-1000 hrs. Remainder of Bn coln left. 1130 hrs-Bn arrived in new area. Bn HQ est at 834901. 1500 hrs CO and IO attended a Conference at Bde HQ on the disposal of PWX and DPs. Immediate action would be:- (a) To collect all stray German PW. (b) To gather together all Russian PWX and DPs in readiness for their evacuation to the Russian area in the first week in June. Bns were allotted areas in which to carry out these tasks by making detailed searches of these areas and maintaining control posts on main rds. 1730 hrs-CO gave Coy Comdrs instrs for carrying out plan outlined above.	
	14th	Coys began collection of German PW and Russian DPs. 1900 hrs- Lt. Col. RA Bramwell-Davis returned from Hospital and resumed Comd of Bn.	
	15th, 16th and 17th.	Coys continued collection and disposal of German PW and Russian DPs. Recces were made for future accn in LUBECK.	
	18th	Orders issued for Bn to move to LUBECK next day. (See Appendix D2) 1730 hrs-CO held first of a series of weekly Conferences for Coy Comdrs to discuss administrative points. 1830 hrs-Bn Adv Party left for LUBECK. Total figures for the collection of German PW over the 5 previous days was 897.	Appx D2
	19th	0900 hrs-Tracked vehs left for LUBECK. 1000 hrs. Remainder of Bn coln left arriving at 1130 hrs. The Bn took over from 2 NORTHAMPTONS and One Coy of the 2 RSF. Bn HQ est at 956921 with	

		Coys as follows:- "HQ" Coy 957923: "S" Coy 957933: "A" Coy 971878: "B" Coy 006918: "C" Coy 954909: "D" Coy 947903. Coys took over VP guards in their areas. (See Appendix D.2.).	Appx D2 & D3
	20th	Bn Op Instr No. 1 issued, giving details of guards and other commitments in the Bn area. (See Appendix D.3.).	Appx D.3.
	23rd	CO held Conference of Coy Comdrs, Q.M. etc to discuss admin points (See Appendix G2&3).	Appx G2 & 3
	24th	Bde Comdr visited Bn and inspected all Coy areas.	
	25th	On orders from Bde, Bn est Check Points to check all movt of German vehs, and impound all those being used without authority.	
	26th	Check of German vehs continued.	
	28th	Div Comdr visited Bn to inspect general area.	
	29th	"A" Coy moved to accn in area 957914 as a first step towards centralising the Bn in NE part of LUBECK. On orders from Bde, the Bn carried out a check of all RED CROSS personnel in the area, and arrested those illegally wearing RED CROSS insignia. (See Appendix D4). R Bramwell-Davis Lt. Col. Commanding, 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry, (City of Glasgow Regt.)	Appx D.4.

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Unit 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry

Month and Year MAY 1945

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. RA Bramwell-Davis DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			ADMINISTRATION	
	3rd		WS/Lt A. HEALEY HLI posted to WE 10 HLI from 33 RHU and TOS this unit w.e.f. 3rd May 45.	
	5th		155494 T/Capt PA SMEETON (HLI) posted to 32 RHU and SOS this unit w.e.f. 26th April 45. Remains attached to this unit. 143409 T/Capt RC STRUTHERS. Awarded French Decoration: Croix de Guerre with Gilt Star.	
	12th		33622 WS/Lt.Col. RA BRAMWELL-DAVIS DSO awarded bar to DSO. 336653 A/Capt DD FARMER awarded The Military Cross. 3328034 L/Sgt SCANLON T. awarded The Military Medal.	
	14th		33622 WS/Lt.Col. RA BRAMWELL-DAVIS DSO posted to WE 10HLI and resumes Command of Bn w.e.f. 14th May 45. 58192 WS/Major FBB NOBLE OBE Appointed CO for period 17th April to 13th May 45 (incl). Granted Temporary Rank of Lt.Col. for period of Appointment.	
	25th		CDN/223 A/Capt IF MACMILLAN (Canloan) posted to 4 CITR, Whitley Camp, Aldershot and SOS this unit w.e.f. 25th May 45. Relinquishes Rank of A/Capt. CDN/515 WS/Lt DH STRUCK MC appointed to A/Capt w.e.f. 25th May 45.	
	31st		315725 WS/Lt GG HUTCHINSON posted to WE 10 HLI from 39 RHU and TOS this unit w.e.f. 27th May 45. CDN/616 WS/Lt SS DREW (Canloan) posted to WE 10 HLI from 38 RHU and TOS this unit w.e.f. 31st May 45.	
			R Bramwell-Davis Lt.Col. Commanding 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry.	