

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. 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

Unit 279 Fd. Coy. R.E.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Apr. 45

Commanding Officer Maj. Carver R.E.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1		Coy living in 3 farms on EAST side of R. IJSSEL. Whole Coy did an hour's drill in preparation for G.O.C. Inspection tomorrow. Maj. Carver arrived as new O.C.	
	2		Div R.E. paraded for G.O.C. Inspection, address, and march past to pipe band. Mtce party on our water point 203530.	
	3		Roads maintained round HAMMINKELN. Timber culvert at 217497 started but abandoned on receiving order to move. Rd blocks removed in HAMMINKELN - DINGDEN.	
	4		Standing by to move all day but didn't.	
735917	5	0530 1145	Moved off in Div Convoy. Arrived. Took over houses and a cafe.	
	6		Short informal visit from C. in C. All ready to move on in evening but move postponed.	
878242 646245	7		Moved again. Long halt in middle of day. OC to see RE 11 Armd Div who were attempting to bridge R. WESER at STOLZENAU. Enemy fire too heavy. Coy to be ready to assist 11 Armd Div if required. 11 Armd Div in fact had another attempt by themselves but fire was too heavy and the site was abandoned.	JP Blockley Capt. R.E. For O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.
878242 878242	8		OC & Lt. Du Vivier made recce of new site at SCHLUSSELBERG. Good site good approaches straightforward job. Lt. Du Vivier reced tank track on both sides of river. Coy moved to 878242. Plan made to bridge at 916233. Lt. Boardman bridge commander. Br to be 2 x 110' T.S. landing bays 2 x 40' E.F.B. 2 x 40' F.B. Pln 278 Coy & Pl 20 Coy u/cmd. Pl 278 to build far L.B. Vehicles to go round by bridge 10 miles upstream. Pl 20 Coy to finish slightly damaged EFB at SHOLTENAN and bring it up to new site. Telephone communications - civilian - with far bank destroyed. 11 Armd Div RE suspected civilians of having called down fire on their site by telephone. Work began 1800 and continued till last light 2200.	JP Blockley Capt. R.E. For O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.
	9		Work continued from first light. Bridge opened 1705 hrs. No snags.	

	10		Salvage carried out at 11 Armd Div site. 222 Fd Coy put down wearing surface.	
904363	11		Moving all day.	
436431	12		Moved on in morning. Work on main road into CELLE. Strengthening and widening culverts 450450 523472. Level crossing in CELLE improved. 1 Pl assisting 20 Fd Coy with T.S. Bailey in CELLE.	
ESCHEDE	13		1 Pl rejoined. Moved twice during day.	
ESCHEDE	14		Time bombs on main road caused long delay. B.D. eventually arrived but could do no more than blow them up. They exploded at intervals through the day. 1 & 3 Pls working with bulldozers widening diversion through woods. 2 Pl built 60' D.S. 785705. Coy moved again in evening.	JP Blockley Capt. R.E. For O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.
825810	15		3 Pl continued work on track 750697 - 7667150.	
	16		Work on tracks as yesterday. Autopatrol assisted. Practice stand to.	
	17		Pls concentrated for attack on VELZEN. 44 Bde to do right hook. Eng. tasks to recce and work on secondary roads entering town from EAST. Attack went well. KOSB with Lt. Du Vivier rushed and captured main bridge in VELZEN.	
912862	18		1 Pl building cl 5 at 918902 with 10" poles between existing damaged R.S.Js. 2 Pl strengthened culvert 916902 and bridged 8' gap with timbers 915903.	JP Blockley Capt. R.E. For O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.
902955	19		Moved on.	
891209	20		Moved on to WENDHAUSEN. Bde preparing for assault crossing over R. Elbe.	
	21		All officers on recce of approaches to South bank of ELBE for possible LVT tracks. Lt. Haines made a series of thorough reconnaissances down to the banks in very open country. Water point opened 927227.	
	22		Lt. Du Vivier designed Cl 40 timber bridge to be built at 780322 - BARUM.	App A.
	23		Approaches for new bridge cleared. All materials located.	
	24		All wreckage removed from BARUM bridge site, bankseats 100% and 50%. 4 trestle bents built.	
	25		Trestle bents all built. One pier ready for placing.	
	26		Difficulty experienced in placing piers owing to uneven bottom.	
	27		All piers placed.	
	28		Coy moved into marshalling area for ELBE crossing. Plan similar to RHINE crossing so no rehearsing had been done. Coy plan was for Lt. Haines & Lt. Du Vivier to cross with assaulting infantry in	JP Blockley Capt. R.E. For O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.

			buffaloes each with a section and for the rest of 1 & 2 Plns to be ready to cross for work. 3 Pln reserve and for any work on home bank. Task - to open up beach exits. At ARTLENBERG the point of assault there were two narrow roads leading up steep cuttings in 100 ft cliffs above the ferry site. 3 Pln completed BARUM bridge.	
	29	0200	Assault by 44(L) Bde across R. Elbe. Both beach exits found blocked but cleared by energetic action by Lt. Haines with our own sappers and German prisoners. Fire fairly heavy at times. 3 casualties. During the day 1 & 2 Pls worked on the roads leading up from the beach.	JP Blockley Capt. R.E. For O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.
845358	30	1500 1700	Most of Coy vehicles crossed by Bailey Bridge. Heavy stonk right among 1 & 2 Pl trucks. Two Sprs wounded. 10 trucks burned out. Our biggest loss of the campaign. Coy established in SCHNAKENBECK.	JP Blockley Capt. R.E. For O.C. 279th Field Company R.E.