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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde incorporating Def Pl att

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year NOV 44

Commanding Officer Brigadier JC COCKBURN, MBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ASTEN	1	1000 1045 1215 1430 1502 1700 2235	Bde was disposed as follows - 8 RS in woods 668138, 6 RSF in LIESEL 6614 and 2 GLAS H (under comd) in woods 667139. 6 KOSB (under comd 46 Bde) were in area SLOT 6713. The night was spent in patrolling fwd to find where the enemy were. 9 CAMERONIANS adv to rd square 6912. 6 KOSB and 7 SEAFORTH continued to adv down rd and reached HUTTEN 685124. Bde Comd and BM were summoned to Div HQ. 2 GLAS H moved to area HUTTEN 685124. 6 KOSB reverted to comd 44 Bde. Bde HQ moved to LIESEL 664145. O Gp at Bde HQ when orders were given for continuation of adv tomorrow. 44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 2 issued	Folio 3
LIESEL	2	0930 1200 1400	Zero for attack SOUTH astride rd with 6 RSF LEFT and 2 GLAS H (who came back under comd 44 Bde) RIGHT. This attack was successful and objectives were reached by 1100 hrs. Zero for 2nd phase of attack, 8 RS RIGHT and 6 KOSB LEFT. This attack was also successful - 8 RS reaching woods 695090 and 6 KOSB NEERKANT 698095 by 1600 hrs. 6 RSF moved fwd to BROEK 698099. 2 GLAS H reverted to under comd 46 Bde.	
	3	0920 1400	The str of the enemy in area MEIJEL was not known and some flail tks were sent fwd at 0800 hrs to try and beat through the mines known to be on the rd near HOF 705077. Flail tks were shot up by A Tk guns from wood 710076 and one was lost. It was apparent that the enemy intended to fight for MEIJEL, where he had a strong posn with open ground in front which was heavily mined. O Gp at Bde HQ where a plan for an attack on MEIJEL was decided. This was to take place on 4 Nov. The plan was for one sqn of 4 Tk GREN GDS to go round LEFT flank alone, screened by smoke, and dominate wood 7107. 6 RSF would then attack sp by 4 Tk GREN GDS and	

LIESEL		<p>Flails, and capture SCHANS 706083 and HOF 705077, followed by 6 KOSB into the wood at 7107 and 8 RS into MEIJEL. The difficulties about the op were (1) that the ground was boggy and had not been properly tested (2) that the extent of the minefeds was unknown and (3) that the enemy were able to fire into the LEFT flank and rear of the attack from the EAST bank of the canal at 7208 - 7109.</p> <p>1845 The op was postponed 24 hrs to help the counter bty org. 2000 <u>44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 3 issued</u> 2400 6 KOSB went fwd to get a firm base in the houses at the front edge of NEERKANT 699090. No enemy opposition.</p>	Folio 4
	4	<p>Patrolling overnight by 6 KOSB est the continued presence of the enemy in SCHANS 7008.</p> <p>1120 Small inf counter attack on LEFT of 6 KOSB repulsed. 1620 Another small inf counter attack on LEFT of 6 KOSB repulsed.</p>	
	5	<p>0730 Zero hr for attack. 0800 Tks moving round LEFT flank were bogged and could not proceed. 0815 Tks of 6 RSF held up on SL by mines and two coys of 6 RSF had to go on to SCHANS alone. 0910 6 RSF reported two pls from each fwd coy in SCHANS, but situation critical. 1003 Both coys now in SCHANS but pinned down by fire from three sides. 1030 Flail tks had achieved a certain amount of success but all had later been blown up. One tp of 4 Tk GREN GDS managed to get through to SCHANS but were destroyed by A Tk gunfire. The sqn which had gone round the LEFT was almost entirely bogged down. 1238 Message from Bde Comd to 6 RSF saying "Present op cancelled". During the remainder of the day RA kept up a continuous smoke screen and at dusk the two fwd coys of 6 RSF withdrew and also the crews of the sqn of 4 Tk GREN GDS, which had been bogged on the LEFT. In all, 19 tks were lost, but all but 6 were subsequently recovered and only 7 men out of the crews were cas. 1930 6 RSF withdrew to LIESEL and 8 RS and 6 KOSB remained at MOOSTDIJK 6908 and NEERKANT respectively.</p>	
LIESEL	6	<p>7 SEAFORTH came under comd 44 Bde and cleaned up area between NEERKANT and the canal 7010. 1730 6 RSF went into Div res and moved to posn covering ASTEN - MEIJEL rd at 658105.</p>	
	7	A quiet day except for ordinary shelling and mortaring.	
	8	<p>44 Bde today relieved by 227 Bde and went to ASTEN for rest. 7 SEAFORTH reverted to 46 Bde and went to DEURNE to rest. 2230 Relief completed. 21/12/G re Relief issued</p>	Folio 5

ASTEN	9		Day resting at ASTEN.	
	10		44 Bde returned to NEERKANT and MOOSTDIJK, relieving 227 Bde. There was a slight readjustment of posns. 6 RSF remained in Div res. Bde HQ returned to LIESEL.	
LIESEL	11		Nothing to report today.	
	12		Nothing to report today except patrol activity.	
	13	0910 1505 2000	6 KOSB reported that the windmill in MEIJEL 773063 had disappeared, having been blown up by the Germans. This was an indication that the enemy might be intending to withdraw from MEIJEL. A civilian woman came through from MEIJEL with the infm that the enemy had gone overnight. 10 HLI relieved 6 RSF who went back to rest in ASTEN. A patrol from 6 KOSB returned after spending 24 hrs behind the enemy lines in MEIJEL. They reported that the enemy had gone.	
	14	0800 2100	6 KOSB sent standing patrol via HOF to MEIJEL which was occupied by 1200 hrs. The whole area was heavily mined. Maj AES JACKSON, BM, relinquished his appointment on appointment as 2IC 6 KOSB. Capt RC GLENNY, G III, became acting BM temporarily until new BM arrived. 44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 8 issued	Folio 6
	15	0200 1200 1400	8 RS occupied SCHANS without incident. 6 KOSB est in MEIJEL, with 10 HLI of 227 Bde in the RIGHT hand sec of the town. 6 RSF relieved 6 KOSB in MEIJEL and 6 KOSB went to rest for 48 hrs in ASTEN.	
LIESEL	16		6 RSF moved coys fwd towards canal and started cleaning up the area which was infested with mines. 51 Div and 49 Div on the RIGHT launched attack across the WEERT canal and by today had reached the DERIVATION Canal which ran SOUTH from MEIJEL to the R MAAS. 15 Div was ordered to consider the possibility of crossing the DEURNE double canal EAST of MEIJEL in the event of the enemy NOT withdrawing from there after 51 Div had crossed the DERIVATION Canal. Much time was given to planning this op (which actually never took place).	
	17	1900	Patrolling by bns est that the enemy were still on the other side of the double canal. 6 KOSB relieved 8 RS who went to ASTEN for 48 hrs rest. Today 51 Div crossed the DERIVATION Canal and est a brhead. Bde Tac School opened at HELMOND under comd Maj HM GOW, 6 RSF.	
	18	0830	51 Div tks entered BERINGE and began to move back towards the double canal and 44 Bde. This was later postponed 24 hrs.	

			Capt AM STURROCK, SC, became DAA & QMG and promoted to Maj - an alteration to WE.	
	19	0900 1347 1800 2300	51 Div started moving back towards MEIJEL and the enemy were found to have gone. 227 Bde linked up with 51 Div. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 9 issued</u> 6 KOSB patrol crossed double canal and found no enemy. 6 RSF conc in MEIJEL, 6 KOSB in NEERKANT and 8 RS in ASTEN ready to move EAST over br built over double canal.	Folio 7
	20	1302 1600 1600 1900	227 Bde crossed canal and pushed EAST, 46 Bde pushed towards HELENAVEEN and 15 (S) Recce fanned out. 6 RSF ordered to move at once across br and clear lateral rd from BERINGE to HELENAVEEN. 8 RS moved from ASTEN to MEIJEL. 6 RSF pushed rapidly NORTH and reached outskirts of HELENAVEEN thus helping 9 CAMERONIANS who were making a frontal attack on HELENAVEEN. 6 RSF came under comd 46 Bde for attack on HELENAVEEN.	
	21	0800 1730	6 RSF pushed NORTH and cleared HELENAVEEN, linking up with 46 Bde. They then withdrew to woods 7409 and 46 Bde continued EASTWARDS. 6 RSF reverted to comd 44 Bde.	
LIESEL	22	0025	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 1 issued</u> It was intended that 44 Bde should follow up behind 227 Bde but this was cancelled owing to the extremely bad state of the rds and 44 Bde remained in previous areas.	Folio 8
	23		100 men from 44 Bde assisted RES at HELENAVEEN Br.	
	24		<u>Assistance to RES continued.</u>	
	25	1000	Conference of COs at 8 RS HQ on "trg of pnrs". Assistance to RES on rds continued.	
	26		Assistance to RES continued. Brig JC COCKBURN, MBE, relinquished comd 44 (L) Inf Bde and was succeeded by Brig The Hon HCHT CUMMING-BRUCE, SEAFORTH, who has latterly been comd 1 GORDONS.	
	27	1100 1300 1900	Bde Comd and Bde IO met GOC 15 (S) Div at Div HQ at SEVENUM and a plan was explained for 44 Bde to relieve 56 Bde of 49 Div outside BLERICK opposite VENLO on 28 Dec prior to attack on BLERICK. Bde Comd and Bde IO went to HQ 56 Bde and discussed lay-out with Bde Comd 56 Bde. Stand still order for relief of 56 Bde from Div HQ. 56 Bde are to go out of the line, but they will be relieved by 49 Recce Regt and 44 Bde will stay back and be ready to attack BLERICK. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 6 issued</u>	Folio 9

	28	0900 1130 1430	Bde Comd met GOC 15 (S) Div at HQ 147 Bde at BERINGE, where there was a conference on the forthcoming attack. The plan had already been made by 49 Div and 44 Bde was to take it over. Bde Comd held COs conference at 6 RSF HQ and explained the plan. Bde HQ moved to BERINGE 753059. Planning continued for Op "GUILDFORD" which was to be carried out in conjunction with Brig I KNIGHT, 31 Tk Bde, with Flails, Crocodiles, AVREs and Kangaroos.	
BERINGE	29		Planning for Op "GUILDFORD" continued. Bns began practising with Kangaroos.	
	30	1430	Planning for Op "GUILDFORD" continued. A cloth model discussion on the op was held at Bde HQ, attended by offrs down to coy comds of all arms taking part, as well as GOC 15 (S) Div.	