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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 153 (Br) Fd Amb

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year March 1945

Commanding Officer Lt Col CBR POLLOCK

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG	1	1800 1230 1500	Admitted Sick 1. Unit inspected & addressed by Maj General Barber G.O.C. 15 (S) Div. Capt R.H. Meara relieves Capt Sunderland 10 HLI who is proceeding on privilege leave to U.K.	
	2	1300	Capt DF Collihole proceeds on leave to U.K. Admitted Sick 3 Evacuated 3.	
	3		Admitted 1 Evacuated 1	
TILBURG	4	1445 1500	Divisional Church Memorial Service conducted by S.C.F. of Div in the Protestant Church, TILBURG. Capt Jones relieves Capt Meara as M.O. to 10 HLI Capt Meara proceeds to 4 FDS, BOURG LEOPOLD on psychiatrist course lasting a week.	
	5	1530 2130 1600	Unit moves to RECKHEIM 565603 between Maastricht & Maasyck, where it will take part in training with the 227 Bde Group. Unit arrives; billeted in school. Lt Col Pollock returns from U.K. leave.	
	6		Normal routine duties & training.	
	7		Large allocation of 48 hr. leave passes to Brussels	
	8		No change of location.	
	9	0900 1400	Capt Senior proceeded on leave to U.K. Twelve ORs medically boarded	
	10		Nil of note.	
	11	1045	Bde Commander (Brig E. Colville) visited Unit & addressed the men.	
	12		Nil of note	
	13	1000	Conference at 227 Bde HQ on Exercise "Buffalo". One Coy of the Fd Amb taking part in the daylight exercise across the R. MAAS to practice on opposed river crossing using L.VsT in the assault.	
	14		Exercise Buffalo Medical Boards on 5 O.Rs.	VIDE APPX "A"
	15	1000 1330	Conference at Bde HQ on Exercise Buffalo " " ADMS Office at Div HQ.	

		1600	'A' Coy proceeds on night Exercise Buffalo. To support the assault troops medically in an opposed river crossing the Fd Amb will send one M.O. and 13 ORs with each assaulting Battalion to travel in the second flight of the first wave i.e. normally landing 15 - 20 mins after the first troops. Equipment carried includes stretchers, blankets, splints, morphine syrettes, stoves, lights, signs etc vid - The first vehicles to come across will be the Jeeps & they are loaded according to the attached appendix. They are carried in Buffaloes when the ferry service begins. The remainder of the essential vehicles will be ferried over later on a Cl. 9 raft. The company 3 tonners will not be taken across until a bridge is built. The two exercises were most instructive & many points arose which were of great value in planning for any future show. Medical was given high priority in Buffalo ferry & on the Cl 9 raft.	
REKEM	16	0900 1800	'A' Coy returns from Exercise Buffalo. Admitted Sick - 3 Evacuated 3.	
	17	1600 1800	Unit visited by D.M.S. 21 Army Group (Maj-Gen E Phillips) Admitted B.C. 1 Sick 4 Evacuated 5.	
	18	1400 1800	Demonstration at 11 L.F.A. on the evacuation of casualties from an assault crossing of a river obstacle & the medical "set up" on the near bank. Address prior to the demonstration by DDMS 12 Corps. Ad. Sick 2 Evacuated 2.	
	19	1400 1800	Seven O.Rs medically boarded A S 7 Evac 7	
	20	1800 1930	Adm B.C. 1 Sick 8 Evac 9 HQ + 2 Secs of B Coy move to area HAMB 082310 to concentration area for troops not engaged in assault crossing of Rhine.	
	21	0630	H.Q. & 2 Secs B Coy arrive 082310 A Coy & 1 Sec B Coy remain REKEM	VIDE APPX "B" [OP TORCHLIGHT]
	22	1700	A Coy prepare to move to marshalling area in HOCHWALD FOREST with Brigade Group. HQ & B Coy remain unchanged A Coy moves in rear of Bde HQ and arrives at destination in	
	23	0330 1600	Hochwald. Fd Ambs personnel for the establishing of C.E.P. on the far bank of the Rhine attached to the two assaulting Bns. Maj D.I. McCallum & Capt J. Senior with thirteen ORs attached to 10 HLI on right and Capt E.M. Callander and 13 ORs attached to 2 A&SH on left. Lt Horsburgh with remainder of Coy attached to 2 Gordons who are in reserve & will cross in storm boats between the assaulting Bns commencing H + 30 mins.	VIDE APPX "C"

		1700	Five Jeeps, five ambulance cars (4 x 4) & three 15 cwt trucks sent to their allotted areas in the vehicle waiting area; jeeps will be transported across the Rhine by L.V.T. ferry & the remainder by Cl. 9 rafts.	
	24	0015 0030 0215 0220 0225 0530 1000 1500 1800 2100	<p>L.Vs.T. loaded</p> <p>L.Vs.T. move off. An intense artillery barrage from approx 2401 hours brought down on area on E bank of Rhine about to be assaulted.</p> <p>Word received that all L.Vs.T. of initial flight are across</p> <p>L.Vs.T. of second flight enter Rhine</p> <p>Across river; landed too far upstream. Met by heavy spandau fire. L.Vs.T. move downstream & land without incident on bank on HLI front, unable to land as planned on 2 A&SH front so alternative landing place selected.</p> <p>C.E.P. established on both sides of the front in face of heavy small arms fire, mortars & artillery. In view of strength of opposition L.V.T. ferry not functioning. Approx 60 casualties on right & 40 on left awaiting evacuation across the river.</p> <p>L.Vs.T. commence evacuation of cas on right in spite of enemy fire. Cas cleared from this side by 0600. On 2 A&SH front evac was completed before 1000 hrs.</p> <p>By this time the 'Bund' was clear of enemy spandau nests & snipers & the L.V.T. ferrying of vehicles proceeded smoothly. Aircraft & gliders carrying 6th (Br) Airborne and 17th American Airborne Div passed low overhead. Enemy artillery silenced almost immediately. C.E.Ps now established at WOLFFSKATH 120480 on the right and at 092477 on left.</p> <p>Evacuation has been L.V.T. to C.D.Ps of 11th L.F.A. & thence to ADS of 52 Div.</p> <p>As L.Vs.T. are now stopping their ferry service cas are evacuated by amb car from CEP to storm boat ferry & thence by ferry to CDP of 11 L.F.A.</p> <p>HQ & B Coy remain in situ.</p> <p>Cl 9 bridge completed 300 yds upstream from WOLFFSKATH 120460, but broken in early hours of morning of 25th by excessive weight of traffic sinking the pontoon.</p> <p>Two M.Os brought up to CEPs, Capt C.M.F. Walters to relieve Capt Senior & Capt E.J. Jones to relieve Capt Callander.</p> <p>By this time Sects I & III were complete in personnel & tpt (less 3 ton lorries) at WOLFFSKATH & Sect II at 092477.</p>	

		2359	227 Bde had taken objectives of HAFFEN (1149) & MEHR 1248 but enemy resistance still strong in area 1050. Contact has been made with 51 (H) Div on left & with 44 Bde on left.	
	25	1700 1300	No2 Section of A Coy establish CCP at HUBSCH 096474 No1 " " " " " " OVERKAMP 123476 No3 " " " " " " WOLFFSKATH Bailey Bridge (Cl 12) being built across Rhine from 085468 to 093473 Evac still by storm boat from CCPs.	
	26	1300 1500 1800	Maj McCallum returns to join ADS & B Coy at HAMB Verbal message from ADMS 15 (S) Div - Prepare to move ADS & B Coy on 27th. No1 Section of A Coy remain at OVERKAMP Nos 2 & 3 Sections move to 154484.	
	27		No change in location. General news indicates that Allied forces in the West have overrun the Rhine obstacle for over 100 miles of its length & are supporting this success with armoured formations.	
	28	1100 1640 1800	HQ & B Coy move forward across Rhine & join two secs of A Coy at 154484 Unit complete at 154484 ADS opens	
	29	1800	No change of location Admitted to ADS BC 16 Sick 14 P.W. 3 Evac 27	
	30	1800	No change of location Admitted BC 3 Sick 23 P.W. 1 Evac 29	
	31	1800	No change of location Admitted BC 6 Sick 19 Transferred BC 2 Evac 25	