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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 190 FIELD REGT R.A.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year OCTOBER 1944

Commanding Officer LT.COL RJ STREATFIELD R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1		Regt in action at VERNHOUT 413297. Some Command Posts in Gliders, a mass of which are parked on our Gun Positions following the airborne invasion. They help the camouflage. A reconnaissance of a harbour area was carried out East of GEMERT (5730) as a possible rest area.	
	3		Advance parties sent off to BAKEL near GEMERT. Recce parties of 128 Fd Regt, 51 (H) Div arrive to take over our Gun area. 46 Bde relieved by Bde of 51 (H) Div.	
	4.		Regt move to Bakel for brief rest. Gun area occupied by 128 Fd Regt.	
	5.		Regt enjoy first proper rest period since arriving in France on June 22nd. Regtl signalling class started, 30 men under Lt. McNinch. Bty administrative inspections, stores checks and general overhaul. A good proportion of men to EINDHOVEN and HELMOND for cinemas, ENSA concerts and baths.	
	6		Major KEENE (2 i/c) went on reconnaissance of new gun area for possible future operations South of WIERT and 7051.	
	7		Regt indulge in recreational training, which included lecture by Dutch Liaison Officer on The Lot of an occupied country including warnings as to precautions to be taken on entering Germany. Guns and vehicles painted - a few officers and ORs on 48 hrs leave to BRUSSELS.	
	8		Rest period cut short by reconnaissance of gun area from which to support 3 Divs attack on OVERLOON. Area found at OPLOO 7236.	
	9		Regt move to OPLOO position and 300 rpg dumped on position. Div Arty now working under 8 Corps.	R Streatfield
	10		Regtl Signal Class ends. Regt in action waiting for D Day. Very wet and roads made impassable by Tanks of 6 Gds Armoured Bde.	
	11		Artillery from 3 Div, 11 Armd Div, and 8 AGRA in addition to our own now in area. Very little C.B. by enemy which is fortunate as the landscape is pretty badly congested.	
	12.		3 Div commences Operation CONSTELLATION. Regt assist by firing barrage with the object of getting infantry as far as OVERLOON.	

		Enemy has one of two fwd OPs in VENRAY CHURCH and a Forest fire observation tower. Enemy artillery fairly active chiefly in forward areas.	
	13	Continued to support the operation. Country very open and possible gun areas further fwd obviously in view. They were reced but not occupied.	
	14	Further barrage fired to get 3 Div as far as VENRAY. Enemy resistance strong and going extremely bad. The advance was slow but sure.	
	15	11 Armd Div broke out Eastward from OVERLOON and Regt again in support and later in day move fwd to OVERLOON area. Devastation more like NORMANDY and scale of effort similar - very little C.B. - very wet.	
	16	3 Br Div continue attack on VENRAY with 15 Div Arty still in support.	
	17	15 Scottish Div come under command 12 Corps. Regt comes out of action and withdraw to old harbour area at BAKEL prior to move Westward to support the drive to TILBURG.	
	18-19	Regt in harbour area resting. Recce in area of ZANDRANT (4443) East of S'HERTOGENBOSCH.	
	20	4 Coldstream Gds take over harbour area and Regt moves off into action in previously reced area. OPs of 529 Bty with 9 Cameronians at BEST. Remainder of 46 Bde still at HELMOND resting.	R Streatfield
	21	Capt. Spafford as rep to 53 Div Arty. Fire plan for Op PHEASANT arrives. Large dumping programme.	
	22	Fired timed programme of concentrations for 53 Div and 7 Armd Div advance on S'HERTOGENBOSCH. The tanks made so much noise getting to their F.A.As that a certain amount of hostile arty fire was experienced in the gun areas. One OR was wounded. A few mines encountered.	
	23	Regt fired in support of second stage of attack by 51 (H) Div, a night advance on SCHINDEL and BOXTEL. The night attack, good weather, and tank support appeared to give offensive a good start.	
	24	Regt moved round to the BEST area and harboured the night in the Brick Factory East of BEST (on the canal) from which they had operated a month previously.	
	25	46 Bde with 2 Scots Gds and 190 Field Regt in support carried out the drill book advance to contact battle. 2 GH formed advance Gd Battalion mounted on the Churchill Tanks of the Scots Guards. 530 Bty were placed close up in the order of march behind the vanguard company with the remainder of the Regt in rear of the main guard.	

		<p>Two OPs in Churchill Tanks. All OPs with Tanks and with Infantry were from the Regt and on the same frequency. This worked well and should now be the normal drill. The remaining Bns of the Bde were mounted in KANGAROOS. This pretty considerable force with its supporting arms was pieced together along the canal bank East of BEST and in BEST itself. It was well organised and all units passed the S.P. (0900 hrs) on time with very little delay or fuss. Maj Stephenson ordered his van guard Bty into action on first contact with the enemy half way between OIRSCHOT and MORGESTEL. This was the first rapid action done during the campaign and was carried out with creditable speed. The 2 i/c (Maj KEENE) travelling with the adv gd Bn R Group was quickly on the scene and on the orders of the C.O. (Lt. Col. R.J. STREATFIELD) travelling in the Bde R Gp deployed the remainder of the Regt. The whole Regt being ready to fire within ½ hour of the first deployment order. The road was now clear for the remainder of 2 G.H. who proceeded on their Churchills through the Gun position and decanted close up to the point of contact. The first enemy positions were soon overcome but a blown bridge slowed up the advance. The Scots Guards quickly put down 2 Scissors bridges which just spanned the gap and the leading infantry with carriers and tanks were soon in MOERGESTEL. The KANGAROOS with 7 Seaforths on board dashed through and proceeded on Northwest towards OLSTERWIJK through thick country and under fairly heavy enemy arty fire. They were followed speedily by 9 Cameronians who headed for the N.E. outskirts of TILBURG with a view to capturing the main Rd Bridge across the canal. During this period the Regt has been filtering forward by Tps giving continuous support finally settling for the night 24/25 just east of MOERGESTEL. It was a most satisfactory days work and seemed to go with a swing from start to finish. The Inf/Tank Co-op was particularly good and made the whole difference.</p>	R Streatfield
	26	<p>2 G.H. and 7 Seaforths attacked OISTERWIJK (2434) fairly strongly held and covered by strong enemy mortar and arty fire. Regt supported these attacks and by midday most of the village captured. 9 Cameronians had pushed on to Bridge area subjected to considerable enemy arty fire from the North.</p>	
	27	<p>44 Bde attack TILBURG from South and by afternoon town appeared to be free of Germans. 2 GH and 9 Cams ferried across in boats and Cl. V rafts. Occupation of town commenced. Regt moved fwd into MOERGESTEL area.</p>	
	28	<p>Regt marched into TILBURG and occupied position in Western outskirts to support the continued advance of 7 Armd Div north of the Canal on</p>	

		our right in LOON OP ZAND area. Division had popular reception but all too short stay.	R Streatfield
	29	Early move EAST via EINDHOVEN to ASTEN. Whole Division quickly moved across during day to fill a gap between 11 Armd Div and 7 American Armd Div following enemy advance North from MEIJEL to LIESEL & LOON.	
	30	Regt support 46 Bde drive South from LOON. Some AP Bombs dropped in wagon line area with casualties to the Regtl LAD (WO1 GINGER WO i/c LAD killed).	
	31	46 Bde continue drive to SLOT with 4 Coldstream Gds in support. Boggy country and foggy but attack went well and objectives gained. Tanks definitely very great morale effect to own Infantry and the close support of their guns most efficient and effective.	R Streatfield