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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 8 RS

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Apr 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
NEAR LOIKUM 1/100,000 Sheet P1	1st		Bn conc in gen area LOIKUM (Ref 1/100000 1854) Church parade took place during the morning otherwise nothing to report.	
	2nd		The day was spent in general on administration, Coys also carrying out short route march.	
	3rd		Location no change - situation normal. In course of the morning a lecture on 'Civil Control' was given to NCOs by a rep of Mil Govt. Mov instrs for 4th Apr were received during the afternoon and preparations made for the move.	A Walker Capt IO
	4th	0900	Harbour Party leave for GREVEN 9188 but during the latter part of the morning instrs were received that there would be no move today. Comd 44 Bde visits Bn HQ. Harbour party remained at new location.	
	5th	0800	Bn leave LOIKUM in TCVs and proceed via BOCHOLT to BOGHORST arriving approx 1330 hrs, where Coys were concentrated in areas near Bn HQ. Bn HQ was est at 765928 (1/100000 Sh P2).	See Appx D1
BOGHORST	6th	1300 1400 1415	During the day Coys carried out a comprehensive search of bn sector for arms and ammunition, a considerable quantity being collected. Order for move on 7th Apr received. CO attends Bde 'O' Gp at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde. Bn 'O' Gp at Bn HQ, orders issued for move on following day. Harbour party leave for ESSERN 6929. Remainder of day spent in preparation for move on 7th Apr.	A Walker Capt IO
	7th	0930  1730	Leave BOGHORST and proceed via OSNABRUCK to ESSERN. On passing through OSNABRUCK all ranks were struck by the terrific devastation caused by the RAF bombing. Bn arrives at ESSERN.	See Appx D2  A Walker Capt IO

			In conjunction with the other two bns in the Bde the bn was given the task of clearing OSTER WALD in gen area 6522 and 6523 and instrs were issued to Coys for this op on 8th Apr.	(1/100000 Sh N3)
ESSERN	8th		During the major portion of the day Coys were engaged in this wood clearing op which however proved fruitless though A Coy gave chase to a few Germans who managed to escape into the undergrowth. The operation was completed by 1530 hrs and Coys returned to ESSERN by march route.	A Walker Capt IO
	9th	1730	During the morning Coys carried out general administration. Warning order for move on following day received, followed during the night by new orders for move to LAHDE 8520.	
	10th	0800 1930	Harbour party leaves. CO & IO attend Bde 'O' Gp and on their return further details of move issued to Coy Comds. This move was as many of those recently carried out by the bn, being purely a non-tactical move from one location to another trying to catch up with the leading formations now 'swanning' out ahead against very little opposition. During the day the bn moved to LAHDE 8520, Bn HQ being est at 865197.	A Walker Capt IO
	11th	0530 0930 1600	Harbour party once again off. CO attends Bde 'O' Gp. Bn leaves LAHDE and proceed to ELZE 3544. Bn HQ est at 359452 with Coys conc in nearby farms. Most of the time was now spent in dealing with various problems such as collecting of arms and ammunition, rounding up German stragglers and suspects, house searches, etc.	See Appx E2 (1/100000 Sh N4) A Walker Capt IO
	12th	1000 0515	Situation unchanged. Harbour party standing by and Coy Comds visit command post to get general situation. Harbour party leave for CELLE 5850 but due to lack of accommodation rejoined the battalion later in the evening.	A Walker Capt IO
ELZE	13th	0530 2100 2230	Harbour party leaves for Celle to be followed by the battalion in TCVs at 1200 hrs, arriving in CELLE at approx 1500 hrs. CO and IO attend 'O' Gp at HQ 44 Bde and orders received for taking up of def posn to NE of UELZEN (1/100000 M5 8989) after its capture. Orders issued to Coy Comds at Bn 'O' Gp.	
CELLE	14th	0730 0930 1030	Bn ready to move but now orders changed to ½ hrs notice wef 0900 hrs. Major Douglass 2i/c visits Bde HQ to get latest information on operations. CO & IO to Bde for move with Bde 'O' Gp while Bn moved with main body of Bde Gp along main rd to UELZEN 8988.	A Walker Capt IO

			<p>Opposition to the advance by another Bde of the division had stiffened considerably in front of UELZEN and the main road leading up to the town from the south being blocked and impassable and having been bypassed to the NW, the bn was ordered by the Bde Comd to clear the main road from WEYHAUSEN 7869 - BREITENHEES 8574 to HOLDENSTEDT 8784.</p> <p>This op commenced at 1215 hrs and the rd being impassable for vehicles or carriers the initial clearing was carried out by a process of leap frogging the Rifle Coys through each other.</p> <p>Opposition to the adv was negligible though quite a number of PSW were collected in by Coys, who cleared up what opposition or road blocks were encountered on the way.</p> <p>The Carrier pl had meanwhile succeeded in finding a way through the woods to circumvent the demolitions on the road and moving out ahead contacted a detachment of 2A&amp;SH of 227 Bde at HOLDENSTEDT (8784). By 1900 hrs that evening the remainder of the Bn had arrived in HOLDENSTEDT and taken up an all-round def posn with the exception of 'B' Coy who remained the night at BREITENHEES 8574. Bn HQ was est at 877839.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
HOLDENSTEDT	15th		<p>Ops in front of UELZEN having come to a stand-still it was intended that the Bde should bypass UELZEN on the east and as a preliminary during the morning the bn moved to area BORNE 8883 and the Carrier pl carried out offensive patrolling occupying WRESTEDT 9082.</p> <p>Contact was made with the enemy in WRESTEDT and to the east towards the railway. This however was cleared up by the Carrier pl who were later reinforced in the village by A Coy. Later in the day with German resistance in the immediate vicinity crumbling the bn moved fwd and took over from 6RSF in NIENDORF II. Coys took up a perimeter defence of the village with C Coy fwd at area X tracks 917864.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
NIENDORF II	16th	1900	<p>During the night patrolling was carried out, enemy being encountered in area rd junc 927857 and casualties inflicted on them. The patrol was led by Lt J Stobo MC. During the early morning C Coy moved up and occupied this area and were later joined by B Coy.</p> <p>Bn HQ was est at 906852.</p> <p>The enemy were still strongly defending UELZEN and to further its outflanking to the east the Bn was ordered to attack and capture GR LIEDERN 9388.</p> <p>The attack was planned to be carried out with artificial moonlight and tk sp at 0200 hrs 17th Apr, and during the 16th detailed recces were carried out by Comds. In the late evening the Bn moved up to the FAA in area 930869 where the assaulting Coys, D Coy on the left</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>See Appx E3</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>

			and A Coy on the right, "married up" with the tks. Tac Bn HQ moved up in rear of start line to 930869.	
	17th	0200	Following our arty programme, D and A Coys cross SL and move fwd due Northwards to objective with axis of adv on other side of track leading into village from the south. B and C Coys remained dug in in rear of SL. Both assault Coys made good progress against minor opposition which was quickly overcome and got firmly est on their objectives, D Coy in area 928885 and A Coy area 932883. C Coy meanwhile were ordered to follow up quickly and est themselves in North end of village in area 932885 to be followed by B Coy taking up a posn centrally in south end of village. By first light the Bn was firmly est in the village with Tac Bn HQ at 929884, and the process of final mopping up and house searching being carried out. During the day patrolling revealed the presence of the enemy in OLDENSTADT 9190 some demolitions being set off on rd from GR LIEDERN to OLDENSTADT when our carrier patrols were observed. Ground opposition however was negligible and the problem was to circumvent the natural and artificial obstacles in the way.	A Walker Capt IO  A Walker Capt IO  See Appx E4
OLDENSTADT	18th	1700	Despite the rd craters, the Carrier Pl were able to find a route across country into OLDENSTADT and rounding up the Germans then pushed northwards through RIPDORF in direction of MOLZEN and MASENDORF. Resistance was negligible and A & D Coys were ordered to move fwd and occupy the two villages respectively, Bn HQ and remaining two Coys being est in OLDENSTADT, B & C Coys on NE and NW outskirts respectively and Bn HQ at 920900. Comd 44 Bde visited Bn HQ during the evening with orders for Bn to conc on 19th Apr, all German resistance in the neighbourhood having been overcome through link-up with formations on rt and left.	A Walker Capt IO  A Walker Capt IO
HEITBRACK	19th	0700 0800 1215	Carrier Pl move off to HEITBRACK 9296 to ensure that village is clear preparatory to move in of bn. A & D Coys leave present location for HEITBRACK, followed later in the morning by B and C Coys. Bn HQ leave OLDENSTADT and move to HEITBRACK, being est at 920967. During the morning Comd 44 Bde visited Bn HQ and offered his congratulations to the Commanding Officer on the announcement of his being awarded the D.S.O.	See Appx E5  A Walker Capt IO
	20th	0930	Harbour party leave for VASTORF 880150. Bn move by march route during the day from HEITBRACK to VASTORF - VOLKSTORF area. Bn HQ est at 879152. Night 20/21 spent in this harbour area.	See Appx E6
LUNEBURG	21st	0930 1400	Harbour party leave for LUNEBURG 7820. Coys move by march route from VASTORF to LUNEBURG.	

			Bn concentrated in CAVALRY BARRACKS LUNEBURG.	A Walker Capt IO
LUNEBURG	22nd		A period of rest, reorganisation and administration begins. Commanding Officer attends Bde conference.	
	23rd		Situation unchanged - nothing to report.	
	24th		The Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command proceed to Div HQ for address by Comd 8 Corps. The Div having been given the task of the assault crossing of the Elbe, this had been delegated to 44(L) Inf Bde and planning for that operation now began.	A Walker Capt IO
LUNEBURG	25th		During the day the Commanding Officer had the opportunity of going up in an air O.P. and studying that part of the River ELBE across which the Bn was to operate, viz area ARTLENBURG 8334 - SCHNAKENBEK 8434 (1/100000 Sh L5). Planning for the operation continued. The Adj held a Bn drill parade in the morning while an inter-Bn football match against 6KOSB took place in the afternoon, the result being two goals each.	
LUNEBURG	26th	0930 1430	Commanding Officer attends conference at HQ 44 Bde and discusses further details of the op. CO holds Bn 'O' Gp since orders had been received that it was possible that the crossing would take place on night 26/27th Apr. These orders had however been misinterpreted at a higher formation and were cancelled later in the afternoon, the crossing being scheduled for night 28/29th Apr.	A Walker Capt IO
LUNEBURG	27th	0400	CO, Coy Comds, IO and pl comds carry out a dawn recce of RIVER ELBE at ARTLENBURG, studying the crossing places and objectives on the far bank. This close-up recce proved invaluable when the time for the actual crossing took place. Planning had now been practically completed and preparations for move to assembly area on 28th were being made. During the evening a dinner was held in the Officers Mess at Bn HQ attended by senior officers of the battalion, guests including the Comd 15(S) Div, Comd 44(L) Bde and Comds 6RSF and 6KOSB, together with certain members of the staffs of Div and Bde HQ.	A Walker Capt IO  A Walker Capt IO
LUNEBURG	28th	1000 1700	COs conference and final 'O' Gp for the operation which was called operation ENTERPRISE. Coys complete preparations for move to Marshalling area. A & B Coys move up in unit tpt to marshalling area in woods at 825285 followed by C,D Coys and Bn HQ (Tac) at 1900 hrs. Fortunately the weather was very good and no discomfiture was suffered sitting in the woods till the time for moving off to join the Buffaloes. Certain priority vehs were preloaded immediately on arrival in marshalling area.	See Appx E1,H1 and D6  See Appx D3.  See Appx D3 (Gp1)
ON THE ELBE				

		2315	Coys move to join Buffaloes in Buffalo Marshalling area and "embus" on arrival.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx D4
ON THE ELBE	29th	0015	Coys leave Marshalling area in LVTs and proceed down taped LVT track towards river, approx 3 miles away. Tac Bn HQ followed the leading coys, B & A who were making the initial assault.	A Walker Capt IO
		0200	Assault Coys, B Coy on left & A Coy on right, enter river in LVTs at pt 835347 and make for opposite bank. Tac Bn was est behind ho on river bank at pt where LVTs entered river. The assault Coys gained the opposite bank successfully despite some S.A. fire and some mortar and arty D.F. fire. The opposition in the immediate neighbourhood was quickly overcome and these coys began moving off the river bank to their objectives at 837353 and 838352 respectively.	
		0215	In the meantime the follow up Coys, C on left & D on right, crossed the river with Tac Bn HQ and started pushing out towards their objectives (areas 835353 and 836354 respectively) after a slight pause on the river bank for reorganisation. Tac Bn HQ was est near river bank at 838351. Opposition was mostly confined to arty and mortar DF which was falling fairly consistently near the crossing places. A considerable number of PsW however were being taken by Coys as the bridgehead gradually expanded and our coys all being est on their objectives, Phase II, the enlargement of the bridgehead was started.	
ON THE ELBE			Coys were now moved by stages to new posns as follows: B Coy area 839360, C Coy area 830356 - 832358, D Coy area X rds 834363, and A Coy 835359. Bn HQ was est at 837354. Coys being firm in these positions Carrier pl was given the task of patrolling forward. At this stage enemy arty fire was extremely heavy, especially on the one route leading out of the off loading point on the river bank. Ground opposition being negligible orders were received to push forward and at 1415 hrs the Commanding Officer held an 'O' Gp at "FORTH" (MR 835363) and issued orders for a further adv. C and A Coys were ordered to occupy area "EARN" (BULTEN MR 8338), while meantime the Carrier pl which had reported the posn clear pushed on and occupied KRUKOW, carrying out offensive patrolling throughout that area.	A Walker Capt IO
KRUKOW 8239			Permission was obtained from Bde for the Bn to occupy KRUKOW 8239 and on arrival of B and D Coys at BULTEN they were ordered fwd into the village, being followed shortly afterwards by A & C Coys. By 1830 hrs the Bn was disposed as follows: Bn HQ 827394, A Coy area 830397, B Coy 836394, C Coy 836397 and D Coy 835393.	See Appx D2 A Walker Capt IO  A Walker Capt IO

			The Bn remained in this area during the night, with the state of alertness considerably relaxed due to the non-existence of any enemy resistance.	
	30th	0800	<p>B and D Coys move fwd and take over PIEPENDORF 818409, but orders were received for a further advance and the bn proceeded by march route along road to KOLLOW 8144 with a view to eventually occupying SCHWARZENBECK 8248.</p> <p>There were numerous reports from the Tp Recce Regt in sp, of enemy opposition etc on the way but after numerous delays the adv finally speeded up and the town of SCHWARZENBECK reached without incident, in the late afternoon.</p> <p>Bn HQ was est 823488 with Coys located A Coy 819486, B Coy 819495, C Coy 818487, D Coy 816493.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>