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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn A. & S.H.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year May 1945

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan, M.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Geesthacht 7540	1		Negotiations were made for the surrender of Geesthacht by Bde H.Q. using as a medium the civilian telephone which was still working. A truce was arranged between 1400 hrs and 1700 hrs. Following behind a Bn of the Welch Div, 2nd Bn A.&S.H. moved into positions in the area 767415 without incident. It was reported that the town contained large quantities explosives for V weapons also large poison gas stores. Every man in the Bn. carried his respirator in view of this fact. The town was full of civilians evacuated from the Hamburg area. Bde 'O' gp was at 2000 hrs and so Bn 'O' Gp was held at a very late hour. In the early hours of the morning a party of Germans came through our lines carrying white flags and were sent back to Bde.	
Bornsen 6945	2		The Bn moved along the main axis from Geesthacht to Hamburg. We moved off at 0900 hrs with Bornsen as our objective. The clearing of this area was very difficult as the road ran along the foot of a cliff and there were many deep gullies. The arty were short of amn and so could not give us the support we had become accustomed to. The main enemy opposition came from 20mm Flak guns firing in a ground role. Throughout the day white flag parties passed through our lines and eventually arrangements were made for Fd Marshall Busch to come through our lines next morning at 0900 hrs. The purpose of this meeting was to arrange the surrender of all the forces under the command of Fd Marshall Busch i.e. all the German forces operating in N.W. Germany. After a few clashes the Bn eventually arrived at Bornsen. During this action Sjt Elliot of D Coy was killed and three carriers were brewed up by bazookas, fortunately there were no more serious casualties.	
Rothensbek 7556	3		The C.O. and the I.O. went onto the main rd to meet the Fd Marshall in order to escort him back to the Div Comd. However a staff officer came to say that the matter had been taken a good deal higher as Admiral Doenitz was on his way to see Fd Marshall Montgomery. Meantime the E-Lancs from 53 Div who should have	

Ahrensburg 6567			relieved us moved towards Bergedorf 6546 for the surrender of which negotiations were being carried on. The Bn moved on all available tpt i.e. guns, S.Ps, tanks etc to Rothensbek. The Bn moved by route march to Ahrensburg and eventually arrived after some elements had travelled by a somewhat devious route. It was here that the news came through that the whole of the forces under the command of Fd Marshall Busch had surrendered unconditionally to Fd Marshall Montgomery. The Bn celebrated 21 Army Group's victory in a way that was fitting to the occasion.	
"	5		After a somewhat late start the Bn started to clean up. Pipes and Drums of the Bn beat retreat outside Comd Post.	
"	6		Bde church parade at 1100 hrs. The whole Bde Gp assembled at Bde H.Q 670662 where the service was conducted by the Padre from the 10 H.L.I. Afterwards the Bde Comd gave a short address congratulating the Bde Group on the very fine performance it had put up during the 11 months it had been in action.	
"	7		Normal day, nothing to report.	
"	8		V.E. Day. The C.O. spoke to the Bn, congratulating them on the fine performance they had put up during the last 11 months of action. He warned the Bn of things to come and the standard of turnout expected of it. The parade was also a rehearsal for the Div Comds inspection and	APPENDIX "J"
"	9		The Div Comd inspected the Bn at 1100 hrs. In his address he gave a short history of the activities of the Div since its arrival on the beaches in Normandy. He also warned the Bn that he expected a very high standard of turnout in the Div. He also pointed out that our C.O. and another one were the only C.O.s to survive the full campaign. Afterwards the Bn marched past with the Pipes and Drums playing. 12 Corps made a free issue of beer to the assault tps who made the original crossing of the Rhine and so the Bn received its share.	
	10		IO visited the 3rd Tk Bn of the Scots Guards. Some coys went swimming and H.Q. had an organised run.	
	11		Normal day. There was a film show in the town at night. IO went to Bde to collect details of move. C.O. and O.C. Sp Coy went to dinner at the 2nd Gordons.	
"	12		Harbour parties departed for both the final and intermediate locations. The harbour party for the final location was turned back shortly after it had started out, as it was found that it was a little previous. The 2I.C remained in Travemunde forming a holding party to ensure that all the best accommodation was not taken over by R.A.F. or Navy. A Coy moved to Bad Oldesloe to take over some	APPENDIX C

			guard duties in the town. The B.M. and one L.O. were accommodated at Bn HQ as Bde HQ had moved the day before.	
Schulenburg 781785	13		The Bn moved at 1045 hrs to the intermediate location, Bn H.Q. 781785, A Bad Oldesloe 7482, B Rethwischdorf 7879, C Politz 7478, D Mettewarde 7883, Sp Westerau 8179. C.O. and I.O. went to Bde 'O' Gp and the Bn was given the task of clearing all members of the German Armed forces out of a certain area. They were also to try and assess the number of Russians in the area so that arrangements could be made to transport them back to Russia. The C.O. addressed all offrs at Bn H.Q. at 2100 hrs. He told them of various mess rules and the standard he expected to be maintained in the Bn. Afterwards he gave orders to the Coy Comds for the clearing up of the area as ordered by Bde.	
	14		Normal day, weather was very hot and shirt sleeves were the order. We were told that the move to final area would be on the 16th.	
	15		'O' Gp at 0930 for the move on the 16th. Just before 'O' Gp started news came through that the move was postponed until the 17th or 18th, this was later altered to the 20th. The C.O. left at 1400 hrs for his course in England at the S.M.E. Ripon.	
	16		Nothing to report.	
	17		Bn will move to final location tomorrow. Most of the day was spent packing up as we were to make an early start next day.	
Travemunde 0601	18		Bn moved off at 0730 hrs and arrived at Travemunde at about 0900 hrs. H.Q. Coy could not take over their new billets as the Cheshires (5 Div) who we were taking over from had not moved out, and it was not until 1400 hrs that H.Q. could take over. The rest of the day was spent getting everything unpacked and organised. This is the first time we have been able to settle down properly since landing in Normandy. Final dispositions as follows: Bn H.Q. 068023, 'A' Coy 917874, 'B' Coy 022924, 'C' Coy 067020, 'D' Coy 083003, 'H.Q.' Coy 068024, 'SP' Coy 007938.	
"	19		Today was spent getting organised and quite a few changes were made.	
	20		Church Parades for Pres, C of E and R.C.	
Travemunde	21		We have 100 German P.Ws. attached to us as a working party. 60 work in H.Q. D & C areas, 30 in Sp Coy and 10 in B Coy areas. The canteen "Stirling Castle" was officially opened this afternoon. We were entertained in the canteen by the famous dance band singer Dorothy Carless and another guest singer. They gave an excellent concert for 75 minutes. Later Miss Carless and her party were entertained to tea in the offrs mess. Today history was made when retreat was delayed in order to enable Miss Carless and her party	

			to hear it played. So far as is known this is the only occasion during the history of the Regt that retreat has been delayed.	
"	22		Nothing of importance to report. The Bn is providing a large number of guards for bridges, dumps, factories etc. Some coys are doing night on and night off.	
"	23		Bn started sending parties to Lubeck for recreation.	
Travemunde	24		Another uneventful day.	
"	25		A very busy day of preparation for the Brigs inspection which takes place tomorrow.	
"	26		The Brigs inspection started later than was expected as there was a conference at Bde which held things up. The inspection started with Bn H.Q. at 1445 hrs, then the remainder of the Bn less 'A' Coy. The Bde Comd was very pleased with the turnout of the Bn. The Transport worked very hard to transform a piece of waste ground into a veh park that would have made Blackpool envious.	
"	27		Normal church parades for Pres, C of E and R.C.	
"	28		Normal working day. A party of offr and sjts from the Scots Guards were entertained at the offr and sjts messes.	
"	29		There was nothing of importance to report today.	
"	30		The Bn is well settled down now and things are running smoothly. Guards are still very numerous.	
	31		Nothing to report. We are having glorious weather.	