

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 279, Fd.Coy.RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Jan.45

Commanding Officer Maj.PT.Wood.DSO MC RE

| Place            | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | References to Appendices                                    |
|------------------|------|------|---|---|
| Sevenum Holland. | 1    |      | Coy still in hutted camp in middle of a peat bog, the former reformatory has been made comfortable, brick fireplaces and ovens ensure adequate heating & cooking.   |   |
|                  | 2    |      | Lt. P.A. Watkinson & Spr. Cowan injured in eyes when a prodded SCHU mine exploded. Lt. C.E. Scanlon to hospital with jaundice. Lt. Haines in hospital with tonsillitis. Corduroy road to BLERICK sanded, 2 of the 3 40' Bailey Bridges built for the attack on BLERICK dismantled. Transomes had to be jacked up to free them from the frozen ground. |   |
|                  | 4    |      | Party attended training films and VIPER demonstration.  |   |
|                  | 5    |      | Lt. Haines returned from hospital. Corduroy road to BLERICK still being sanded.   |   |
|                  | 6    |      | Coy checking G.1098 stores overhauling M.T. & generally making use of slack period.   |   |
|                  | 7    |      | CofE service well attended by majority of Coy.  |   |
|                  | 8    |      | Enemy laid anti-tyre mines near jerrican bridge, sample sent to CRE.  |   |
|                  | 9    |      | 3 Tonner & snow plough covered our Sects of rd, but snow is mostly frozen and plough will not do much good.   | JP Blockley Capt. R.E.<br>For O.C. 279th Field Company R.E. |
|                  | 10   |      | 4 nissen huts taken to HELMOND for 46 Bde REME unit.  |   |
|                  | 11   |      | Erection of Nissens begins, 20 men from 2 Pln & 3 Pln billeted in HELMOND for this work.  |   |
|                  | 13   |      | Two huts complete, remainder of coy to baths.   |   |
|                  | 14   |      | Br on road East of SEVENUM dismantled. Culverts are to replace it so making a two way crossing. Permission obtained from parish priest to remove rubble from SEVENUM church for culvert job.  |   |
|                  | 15   |      | Hutting at HELMOND complete, party returns.   |   |
|                  | 17   |      | SEVENUM culvert job giving trouble as swift stream washes away fill. Decided that 7 culverts in parallel reqd. C.E. visited job and agreed to supply extra ARMCO. Major P.T. Wood acting C.R.E. while Col. Miller on leave.   |   |

|                   |     |      |  |  |
|-------------------|-----|------|--|--|
|                   | 18  |      | SEVENUM culvert - concrete block demolished with explosives, weather - turning to gale.  | JP Blockley Capt. R.E.<br>For O.C. 279th Field<br>Company R.E. |
|                   | 19  |      | Thaw precaution - gale with snow. O.C. R.O.1 R.O.2 to site RED LION BRIDGE on recce.   |  |
|                   | 20  | 1000 | O.C. Lt. Haines. Lt. Herbert to H.Q.R.E. for instn by Capt. Nicolay R.E. re Cl. 40 br to be built. Weather clear, Sky - our heavies over.  |  |
|                   | 21  |      | Lt. Haines off to recce new area near TURNOUT<br>Lt. du Vivier off on U.K. leave.  | Appx. (1)  |
|                   | 22  |      | Word received that plan altered and Div to move to TILBURG area.<br>Lt. Haines proceeds to recce new harbour area.   |  |
|                   | 23. |      | SEVENUM culvert job 90% complete, pipes laid and covered with brick rubble. Austin snow plough handed over to 249 Fd Coy RE whose advance party has been with us for 2 days under Capt. Clive.<br>Lt. Herbert and 84 men proceeded under comd of 20 Fd Coy RE to build treble double Bailey for RED LION Bridge. | Appx (2)   |
|                   | 24  |      | O.C. to TILBURG to see new accommodation. Coy billeted in private houses. Tpt in large factory with cookhouses also in factory.  | JP Blockley Capt. R.E.<br>For O.C. 279th Field<br>Company R.E. |
|                   | 25  | 0945 | Coy moves out of hutted camp SEVENUM via EINDHOVEN - BEST for TILBURG.   |  |
| TILBURG<br>175315 | 26  |      | Recce for W.P. at 244343. Start on making blackout for Rear Div.   |  |
|                   | 27  |      | W.P. est but frost so severe that STELLA could not be kept going and water froze in S tank.  |  |
|                   | 28  |      | W.P. dismantled. Blackouts & glass for Rear Div 70%. Some minor plumbing done for mobile Bath Unit.  |  |
|                   | 29  |      | Gas Eqpt checked. Blackouts for Rear Div finished.   |  |
|                   | 31  |      | Thaw. 3 dully pillboxes built & trenches dug for K.O.S.B. for use in demonstration of Pillbox assaulting. Sjt. Tapp began short course for 8 R.S. pioneers.  | JP Blockley Capt. R.E.<br>For O.C. 279th Field<br>Company R.E. |