

WAR DIARY

In lieu of A.F. C 2118.

Month and Year January 1945

Unit:- 2nd Bn The Gordon Highlanders.

Commanding Officer:- Lt. Col. R.W.M. de Winton, D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Holland	1	0001 0420 0940	Bn still in defence position as per Trace, with Bn HQ at 853047 (Sh Tegelen 1/25000). 'Shoot' with 3" Mortar, MMG, 6-pr and small arms to let 'New Year' in across the River MAAS. No enemy reaction. Call from 10 HLI that 1 Sec (PIKE) had been over run on our right. 6-pr 'Shoot' from 'A' Coy area at houses on other side of river used by enemy. Good shooting. Several direct hits. Very quiet during the day, no movement of enemy seen. No shelling and no casualties.	
	2		Very quiet day. Enemy keeps well under cover during daylight. Spasmodic Spandau and rifle fire during the day. We retaliate with 3" Mortar. No shelling and no casualties.	
	3		Very little to report. No enemy movement, slight Spandau and rifle fire which we engage with 3" Mortar. Explosion on far side of river bank during the night but unable to say what it is. Sounds like a mine. No shelling, no casualties.	
	4	0115 1430	Call from Bde that enemy patrol had crossed in 2 A & SH area on our left and in Glasgow Hrs area on our right. Visibility during the morning very poor making observation impossible. Good shooting by 3" Mortars caused a loud explosion followed by a column of black smoke 100 ft high. Possibly hit an amn dump. No shelling and no casualties during the day.	
	5		One of 'C' Coy had accident with Schumine. Enemy MG and rifle fire more active during the day but he still keeps well under cover. Two enemy seen enter house and 3" Mortar quickly engage them scoring several direct hits through the roof. Friendly aircraft (Spitfire) makes crash landing in Bn area. Pilot safe having come down by parachute in our area. No shelling during the day.	

	6	1300	<p>Visibility very poor through thick ground mist, listening posts manned.</p> <p>Visibility improves and listening posts return and OPs fully manned. Spandau and rifle fire fairly active but still no enemy movement observed.</p> <p>Recce party from 10 HLI visit Bn area prior to taking over. No shelling.</p>	
Holland	7		Relief by 10 HLI started at noon and completed by 1900 hrs. No incidents. Bn moved back to rest area at Egchelhoek as relieved. Two casualties caused through accident with 36 Grenades.	
	8/11		Bn in rest area at EGCHELHOEK with 'D' Coy in HELDEN. Bn HQ established at 772038. Days spent reorganising, resting, with baths at Helden and entertainment at Helden and Helmond.	
	11		Recce party visit 2 A & SH area at Kessel prior to us taking over.	
	12		Bn take over 2 A & SH defensive area at KESSEL with Bn HQ established at 816013. Sheet Tegelen 1/25000. Disposition of Bn as per trace. Relief of 2 A & SH completed by 1930 hours. Very quiet night. No shelling and no casualties.	Appx 2 Appx 3
	13		Corps Commander visits the area. Major A.J. McKenzie visits the Bn after nearly 3 years absence. Slight enemy shelling and mortaring during the day and Gunner's OP hit. No casualties. Spandau fire and snipers very active and enemy movement observed. Retaliation with 3" Mortars very effective. Nothing to report during the night.	
	14		Slight enemy shelling and mortaring during the day. Very little enemy movement observed. Snipers and Spandau fire active but firing seems to be erratic. No casualties. House at 829996 occupied by enemy. Engaged by 3" Mortars. Very effective shooting, several hits through roof.	
	15		Very quiet day. Visibility rather poor through ground mist. No enemy movement during the day.	
	16	0430	Boat seen making its way towards CARP, engaged with small arms fire by posts at CARP and FILLET and returns to opposite bank. Engaged with 3" Mortars also. Visibility not very good during the day. More enemy movement seen but 3" Mortars soon send them scurrying to their 'slits'. Slight enemy shelling and mortaring during the day but no casualties. Capt McIntyre and CSM Duncan rejoin Bn from wounded list and posted to 'D' Coy.	
Holland	17		Snipers and Spandau fire very active although doing no damage. Very little movement observed. C.O. and I.O of No. 6 Commando	

		arrive at Bn HQ prior to taking over. Stayed at Command Post. Recce party left for 6 RSF area at BLERICK whom we are due to relieve. Change over postponed.	
	18	Little enemy movement during the day. Slight shelling and mortaring. Weather changing, beginning to thaw. Gunners have 'shoot' with 1 - 25-pr at Church Steeple in the village of REUVER. Very successful. Steeple demolished. 'D' Coy sniper kills one German opposite Kessel area.	
	19	Another quiet day. No enemy shelling. Visibility at times very poor due to spasmodic snow storms. OPs nothing to report during the day. 2-i/c and recce party leave for BLERICK area to recce 6 RSF positions.	
	20	Very quiet day. Snow storms during the day again making conditions rather hard for observation. No 6 Commando take over Bn area. 'C' Coy being the last Coy to be relieved. Bn proceeded direct, as relieved to BLERICK area to relieve 6 RSF. Bn in position without incident by 2400 hours. Bn HQ established at 894098 Sheet Tegelen 1/25000. Disposition of Bn as per trace with 'C' Sqn Recce under command. 'D' Coy sniper has good day, claims 2 Germans killed and 1 wounded, area opposite KESSEL.	Appx 4
	21	2-i/c and recce party leave to recce Bn rest area. Bn billeted in houses and cellars, resting during day and manning forward posts at night. OPs manned during the day. Very little movement during the day. No shelling and no casualties.	
	22	Very quiet day with little enemy movement to observe. Recce party from 12 Devons of 6th A/B Landing Bde arrived to see Bn layout prior to them taking over. Stayed the night with their respective groups. No shelling and no casualties.	
	23	Another very quiet day, slightly more enemy movement observed and our 3" Mortars used to good effect. Visit of Div Comd of 6 A/B Div who visited the OPs.	
	24	Still very quiet with no enemy shelling.	
	25	Very quiet during the day. No shelling. Relief of the Bn by 12 Devons of 6th A/B Landing Bde. Coys moved by march route as relieved to Staging Area at BOEKEND, Sheet Tegelen 1/25000. Bn settled in Staging Area by 2200 hrs and prepared for early move next morning to Rest Area.	
Holland	26	Bn moved from BOEKEND at 0900 hours as per Movement Order (Appx 5). The Commanding Officer leading the convoy. Arrived at new location area 9714 (Lunatic Asylum) at 1600 hours. Bn HQ established at 976153 Sheet 3 Antwerp 1/100000.	Appx 5

	27/28		Days spent resting and reorganising, with cinema shows in the Asylum and recreational transport into TURNHOUT in the evening.	
	29/31		Bn carry out training programme under Coy arrangements. Cinema shows and baths in the Asylum and recreational transport into TURNHOUT.	
	30		Major General G.H.A. McMillan, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. visited the Bn.	
	31		Bde Conference. Coy Comds attend.	