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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Unit HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde incorporating Def Pl att

Month and Year FEB 1945

Commanding Officer Brig Hon HCHT CUMMING-BRUCE DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG	1		44 Bde was in TILBURG preparing for Op "VERITABLE".	
	2	1100 1430	Conference on Op "VERITABLE" held at Bde HQ and attended by all COs of units incl sp arms and "funnies". 44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Outline Plan issued	Folio 15
	3		Planning for Op "VERITABLE" continued. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 13</u> issued <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 14</u> issued	Folio 16 Folio 17
	4	1100 1400	Lt Gen HORROCKS Comd 30 Corps spoke to all offr of the Div at TILBURG on Op "VERITABLE". Bde Comd held Cloth Model discussion at Bde HQ on Op "VERITABLE", attended by offr down to pl comds.	
	5	0700	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 5</u> issued Planning for Op "VERITABLE" continued. <u>Addendum No 1 to OO No 5</u> issued.	Folio 4 Folio 5
	6	1900	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 1</u> issued. Bde moved by night to conc area in NIJMEGEN, going by S'HERTOGENBOSCH - OSS - RAVENSTEIN br. NIJMEGEN was reached about 0330 hrs.	Folio 6
NIJMEGEN	7	1000 1115 2400	The day was spent making last minute preparations for the battle. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 15</u> issued and <u>Addendum No 1</u> thereto. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Instr No 1</u> issued. <u>Confirmatory Notes to Conference held 1000 hrs</u> issued RAF bombers passed over and made a hy attack on CLEVE and GOCH, the fires of which were visible from NIJMEGEN. The weather was bad and showed no signs of any improvements.	Folio 18 Folio 7 Folio 8
	8	0530	<u>Op "VERITABLE"</u> began with a huge arty barrage which went on till 1030 when 227 Bde and 46 Bde advanced. 44 Bde was in res to push through and carry out the 2nd phase - the breaking of the Siegfried Line proper by night. The battle went successfully and by evening 46 Bde had got all their objectives.	

NIJMEGEN			<p>44 Bde waited all day in KANGAROOS, hoping to get through in the evening. The rain, however, began at 1700 hrs and the rds quickly became impassable.</p> <p>Brig and Bde IO spent the day mostly at 46 Bde HQ following up the battle. Bde HQ followed up slowly and by 1800 hrs was est in a very wet and muddy place fwd of GROESBEEK.</p> <p>The evening and early part of the night was occupied in trying to get the armour and the bns up to the SL - a hopeless task.</p>	
nr GROESBEEK 780556	9	<p>0100 Zero hr was to have been now but had to be put off, as only 6 KOSB and a few tks had reached SL.</p> <p>0040 2 GORDONS started down the main rd from KRANENBURG (under comd 44 Bde).</p> <p>0300 Armour finally managed to start. The enemy were luckily very disorganised and no difficulty was experienced in crossing the A Tk ditch and capturing SCHOTTHEIDE. One br and one fascine crossing were est.</p> <p>0600 6 KOSB - the only bn on the SL - started the attack and soon crossed the ditch, cleared the enemy posns and then pushed on to capture HINTSBERG and WOLFSBERG features by 0900 hrs, with 10 offr and 230 OR prisoners.</p> <p>0900 2 GORDONS meantime captured NUTTERDEN.</p> <p>1030 8 RS moved through KRANENBURG down main rd behind 2 GORDONS and branched right at X rds short of NUTTERDEN.</p> <p>1400 8 RS and 6 KOSB pushed through together on to the MATERBORN feature overlooking CLEVE. There was little opposition, though CLEVE was still occupied.</p> <p>1500 Bde HQ moved up to NUTTERDEN.</p> <p>2020 8 RS made contact with 53 Div at 864543 and 865538.</p> <p>The plan that night was for 227 Bde to pass through 44 Bde at first lt 10 Feb and clear CLEVE. However, one bde of 43 Div was put through by night and became involved in hy fighting in CLEVE which had not been cleared. 15 (S) Recce Regt had previously been into CLEVE and reported few Germans there.</p>		
NUTTERDEN	10	<p>1745 6 RSF cleared area of watch tower and later the STERNBERG feature. They were there shelled by our own med guns.</p>	Folio 9	
NUTTERDEN	11	1100	8 RS and 6 KOSB entered CLEVE and relieved bns of 129 Bde.	

		1900 2100	227 Bde came round NORTH rd via DONSRUGGEN into CLEVE and cleared Northern part of town. Instrs were received from 15 Div that Cdn 9 Bde were to relieve 44 Bde in morning. 44 Bde were to conc NORTH of CLEVE.	
	12		The relief by 9 Cdn Bde did not take place, they relieving 227 Bde in place of 44 Bde. 44 Bde gradually came into res in CLEVE, 43 Div pushing SE, and 46 Bde EAST along the rd to MOYLAND and CALCAR.	
	13	1200 1312 2100 2205	44 Bde came under comd 43 Div as "back-stop" in case of counter attack by 116 Pz Div and 15 Pz Gr Div, who had appeared on the front. Bns remained in posns in CLEVE. Bde HQ moved to CLEVE. 44 Bde reverted from comd 43 Div and came into sp of 53 Div who were in REICHSWALD FOREST. 44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 16 issued. Op in sp of 53 Div definitely off. 44 Bde ordered to get maximum rest tomorrow.	Folio 19
CLEVE	14	0830 1015 1123	44 Bde put at one hrs notice to move as from 1200 hrs in sp of 43 Div. Above cancelled. Bns told no move today and probably not till 1200 hrs tomorrow.	
	15	0930 1900 2035	'O' Gp held at Bde HQ. This was planning an op towards UDEM which never came off. Bde Comd attended 'O' Gp at Div HQ, at which he was told to prepare for an attack on GOCH. Bns told no move before 1400 hrs 16 Feb and unlikely to move at all 16 Feb. 44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 17 issued.	Folio 20
CLEVE	16	1000 2330	'O' Gp conference at Bde HQ re attack on GOCH. An attempt was made to move the Bde but as suitable areas could NOT be found, bns remained as they were. Bns told no move tomorrow before 1430 hrs. Recce parties at one hr's notice from 0900 hrs.	
	17	1650 1845 2235	Bns told no move before 0630 hrs 18 Feb. Probable Bde task - capture of GOCH. 43 Div reached the escarpment overlooking GOCH and 44 Bde were ordered to capture the town. 44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 6 issued. 44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 18 issued.	Folio 10 Folio 21
	18	1115 1200	Bde HQ moved to place near CLEVE FOREST 932479. The Bde followed down the rd. 8 RS ordered to carry out recce in force towards GOCH. The coy which did so met opposition on the A tk ditch.	

		1500	Assault on GOCH began. 8 RS RIGHT, 6 KOSB LEFT. As before, plans were for AVsRE to bridge the ditch and allow Kangaroos to pass over.	
		1627	Br over ditch in 8 RS front collapsed.	
		1640	On LEFT (6 KOSB front) two brs failed and one fouled the rd.	
		1730	8 RS had three coys in the town.	
		2300	6 KOSB attack on the ditch began and one coy got over in Kangaroos. By 0500 hrs 6 KOSB were finally est in the town.	
			During the night, 51 Div also attacked GOCH, and by 0500 hrs 5 BLACK WATCH were well est in the town.	
nr CLEVE FOREST 932479	19	0650	6 RSF began to move into the town.	
			All three bns began clearing the town at daylight.	
		1030	6 RSF contacted visually 51 Div across the river.	
		1100	1 HLI of 53 Div on RIGHT crossed A tk ditch and contacted 8 RS.	
		1800	Town NORTH of the river considered clear. Great use had been made of Crocodiles and Wasps. Over 600 PW were taken by 44 Bde.	
	20		Situation clear - hy shelling. 51 Div still fighting in Southern part of town.	
		1100	Bde Comd and Bde IO crossed the river and visited HQ of 5 BW, where Bde Comd 153 Bde and Bn Comds were seen.	
	21		51 Div continued op to clear southern part of GOCH.	
		1100	6 RSF came under comd 227 Bde and moved NE to take part in a battle at SCHLOSS KALBECK. They were relieved in GOCH by 2 MONS of 160 Bde. They carried out an op this evening and had some very hard fighting during the night.	
		1945	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 1 issued.</u>	Folio 11
nr GOCH 935446	22	1500	Bde HQ moved nearer GOCH - 935446.	
			The plan was for 44 Bde with 6 KOSB RIGHT, 8 RS LEFT, to attack southwards through the woods SOUTH of SCHLOSS KALBECK and est itself on some important high ground overlooking WEEZE.	
			160 Bde took over in GOCH and 8 RS and 6 KOSB moved - up to woods.	
		2244	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 19 issued.</u>	Folio 22
		2300	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 7 issued.</u>	Folio 12
	23	1000	ZERO for attack. The attack was a great success and by 1500 hrs all objectives had been taken, along with eight SP guns and 150 PW. Main opposition was from shelling, which was hy. By last light all coys were firm.	
nr GOCH 935446	24	0600	160 Bde began an attack SOUTH from GOCH towards WEEZE, on RIGHT flank of 6 KOSB. The ground was under clear observation by 6 KOSB across the R NIEERS and they were able to give fire sp to 160 Bde throughout the day.	

		1100	Bde recce parties reported to TOWN MAJOR, TILBURG. 15 Div was to be relieved by 3 (BRIT) Div and to go to area TILBURG.	
		1937	44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 20 issued	Folio 23
	25	0255	44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 2 issued. (This was later cancelled). 8 Bde of 3 Div began to arrive and relieved 44 Bde throughout the day. 44 Bde spent the night in the woods near GOCH.	Folio 13
		1530	44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 8 issued.	Folio 14
	26	0100	Comd of sector passed to Comd 8 Bde. Relief completed without incident.	
		0600	44 Bde moved to area VUGHT - S'HERTOGENBOSCH. Bde HQ to a house at VUGHT. This was NOT found to be a suitable rest area and recce was made of TURNHOUT.	
VUGHT	27		44 Bde moved on to rest billets in area TURNHOUT in BELGIUM. 6 RSF, 6 KOSB, and Bde HQ in TURNHOUT - 8 RS in VOSSELAER, a few miles out. Remainder of Div was in TILBURG, Div HQ in BOXTEL.	
TURNHOUT	28		Rest at TURNHOUT. Large numbers of bde went to BRUSSELS for 48 hrs leave. Gen refit and reequipment.	