

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 20 FIELD COY RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required).

Month and Year Dec 1944.

Commanding Officer Major J.H. Gillington

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ASTEN	1.	1400-1700	LT. LANE D.S.O. and LT. ODGERS H.G. joined Coy at ASTEN. 3 pl & 2 pl provided working party of 30 men to load timber at 642 Fd Fd for corduroy road.	JG JG
ASTEN	2.	1400	Coy moved to new location near VOORST to conc with 44 Bde for assault on BLERICK.	JG
VOORST	3.	0800 to 2110 1200 1100 1700	2 pl with no 2 pl 278 Coy constructed 260 yds of corduroy road thus completing lateral road between TAY and OBAN routes.  1 pl reconstructed and reset 30' S/S Bailey on TAY route originally laid by 279 Coy and displaced by tank.  3 pl opened OBAN routes. No mines found on road. Anti tank ditch at 886086 (W of BLERICK) filled in by fascines, and levelled by bulldozing with 2 armd D7s. 1 NCO wounded by shellfire.	JG  JG JG
VOORST	4	0930	1 pl opened TAY route. Anti tank ditch filled in by hand. Route opened at 1600 hrs, suitable for tanks. MAJOR M.D. WILKINSON took over command of Coy succeeding MAJOR J.H. GILLINGTON, who left theatre of ops to attend course at Staff College CAMBERLEY. Date of change over of command backdated to 3 Dec. Authority CE 8 Corps.	JG JG
VOORST	5	day	2 pl started lifting reported minefield at 8414 NW of BLERICK. Minefield composed of 2 rows of S mines 35 fitted with 2 way adapter joined up with continuous trip wires between mines (15x spacing), 4 rows mixed T. mines, approx 1 in 5 booby trapped. Mines marked and uncovered prior to blowing in situ.	JG
VOORST	6.	day	2 pl blew up 50 of mines in field, as above.	JG
VOORST	7.	day	1 pl blew up a further 50 mines. One special booby-trapped mine found. 3 T. 35 mines on top of each other. The uppermost mine had no explosive filling, but was fitted with a fuse and pull igniter screwed to its underside. A short wire joined the top mine to the ordinary T mine underneath. The third mine was similarly connected to the second mine.	JG  JG



			mines in each row, total 90, approx density 2 per yd front i.e. 1 yd between mines 1 yd between rows. Type mines laid A/per MK 5 No 1 Br. M.R. 862030 (3½ miles S.W. of VENLO) on W bank of MAAS. Time taken 1¼ hrs in wiring single strand home side.	
ONDER	17	night	2 secs 1 pl laid another A/per minefield to cover another likely crossing point ½ mile N of the minefield laid on 16 Dec. This minefield consisted of 2 rows, 35 mines in first row and 34 in second, total 69 mines laid 1 yd between rows and 1 yd between mines. MK5 nol Br A/per mines again used. Time taken 3 hours incl laying single strand plain wire on home side. M.R. 867035 (3 miles S.W of VENLO) on W bank of MAAS.	JG
ONDER		day	ONDER Road reconstruction continued (50 yds completed during day). 3 pl completed corduroy road for 131 Fd Regt R.A. (total 300 yds laid). 3 pl maintained water point. 1 sapper of 1 pl killed when standing on an inverted buried S mine.	JG
ONDER	18.		ONDER Road reconstruction continued. Water point maintained.	
ONDER	19		ditto same as for 19	
"	20.		Same as for 18 and 19.	
"	21.		ditto.	
"	22.		ditto.	
"	23.		ONDER Road reconstruction continued, 2000 yds now completed. Water point maintained. RAF personnel attached to this unit returned to their parent squadron. During ten days have been trained in the lifting of SCHU mines, Teller mines, 'S' mines & R mines and have themselves cleared 5 enemy minefields previously reported and taped. These minefields consisted of Tellers; Tellers and Schu; 'R' and Schu; 'R', 'S' and Schu. No injuries sustained by RAF personnel. Training of 10 civilians commenced in the detection and removal of mines. Were given lectures in the morning and course postponed for Christmas. Course not likely to continue until ground "thaws-out".	JG JG
ONDER	24.		Onder road reconstruction continued. Water point maintained.	
ONDER	25		Christmas day. Skeleton crew on water point. No work done on ONDER road.	JG
ONDER	25/26	0300	LT PACKER and NCO carried out a night patrol with infantry to determine if caves near lock gates were occupied by enemy. Returned at 0730 hrs to report that nothing was found. Did similar patrol on the night of 26/27 Dec and discovered a concrete air raid shelter capable of accommodating 15 to 20 men near lock gate opposite BELFELD on river MAAS.	JG
ONDER	26		ONDER road reconstruction continued. Water point maintained.	JG

	27.		ditto also. Preliminary recce carried out for construction of a permanent class 40 Bailey bridge at KELPEN. K.647948.	JG
ONDER	28.		Water point and ONDER road maintained. RAF personnel (1 Officer & 10 ORs) from 5023 Airfield Construction Squadron commenced training on enemy mines. Little could be done apart from lectures because of frozen ground.	JG
ONDER	29.		ONDER Rd reconstruction completed 2 miles (as far as required). Potholing and patching commenced. Water Point maintained. Training RAF personnel continued.	JG
ONDER	30		2 pl began removal of demolished bridge at KELPEN 647947. Bridge very thoroughly demolished by enemy. Estimated 3 weeks preparation on site before new bridge can be started. ONDER Road maintenance continued. Water Point maintained. RAF training programme postponed - ground too hard.	JG JG
ONDER	31.		RAF personnel returned to unit. ONDER rd maintenance continued. Water point maintained. Work on KELPEN Bridge continued. LT. D.J.O. LANE RE admitted to hospital on 19 Dec with anxiety neurosis.	
ONDER	15		Capt E.F. NICOLAY RE attached to this unit from 40 R.H.U. (authority C.E. 8 Corps) for experience in a Field Unit.  Strength on 31 Dec Officers - 6 (incl LT CAMPBELL on course at SME) ORs 238.	