

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. 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  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**  
(Erase heading not required)

Unit 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry

Month and Year January 45.

Commanding Officer Lt/Col. H.P. Mackley OBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Field	1st		Bn still in KESSEL. The enemy began the New Year by a wild firing of verey lights and tracers along the whole front at midnight. Between 0200 and 0400 hrs an enemy patrol apparently about 20 strong engaged the fwd sec position at 817998 and by attacking them from two sides by MG fire and grenades, succeeded in taking four of the section prisoners. The enemy was also engaged as it withdrew by the adjoining fwd post of the carrier Pl, but managed to evacuate under cover of mortar fire any cas incurred. The subsequent search of the area failed to reveal the method of crossing, but it is thought the enemy made use of the hrs of darkness before the moon rose. Activity during remainder of the day was slight. But good visibility enabled some further enemy posns to be determined. Warning orders issued for Bn to be prepared to hand over to 2 A&SH on following day. During the stay of the Bn in this sector, a large portion of the front was wired in spite of the frozen ground and the bright moonlight.	Cas: 4 W PW's: Nil RFT's: Nil
Field	2nd		Enemy activity slight. Hand over to 2 A&SH at 1400 hrs and coy's were relieved according to timings laid down. Reliefs being completed by 2300 hrs and Bn returned to rest area with A coy at EGCHEL 7703, B coy HUB 7603, C coy HELDEN 7803, D and S coy's EGCHELHOEK 7703. Bn HQ est 771038.	Cas: Nil PoW's: Nil Rfts: Nil
	3rd		Situation normal. Bn rested and carried out interior economy. C.O. and Coy Comdrs carried out recce of area for possible counter attack role. During the rest period one coy stood to daily in case of an emergency. In addition one Pl was supplied to each of the fwd Bn's to assist in patrolling.	Cas: Nil POW's: Nil Rfts: Nil
	4th		Situation normal. Xmas dinners were held under coy' arrangement on this and the following three days.	Cas: Nil POW's: Nil Rfts: Nil
	5th		Situation normal. Bn resting.	Cas: Nil POW's: Nil Rfts: Nil

	6th		Situation normal. Bn still resting. Bn "O" group. Bn to take over from 2 Gordons in area BAARLO 8504, on 7th Jan. Take over to commence from 1330 hrs and to be completed by 2300 hrs.	Cas: Nil POW's: Nil Rfts: Nil
	7th		Situation normal. Bn commenced relief of 2 Gordons. Bn HQ commenced at 1400 hrs. Rifle coy's at 1330 hrs. Take over completed by 2300 hrs. At 2000 hrs telephone cable between left hand post and Recce Regt was cut.	Cas: Nil POW's: Nil Rfts: 6 O.R.s
Field	8th		During the night a large amount of flares were seen to the north of the Bn front on the enemy side of the river. During the day enemy movt was only slight.	Cas: Nil POW's: Nil Rfts: Nil
	9th		Situation normal. Throughout the day very little enemy activity was observed.	Cas: Nil POW's: Nil Rfts: Nil
	10th		Situation normal. Very little enemy activity could be observed during the day as a thick mist was on and visibility was never more than 550 yds.	Cas: Nil POW's: Nil Rfts: Nil
	11th		Situation normal. Visibility was again poor owing to mist and enemy activity could not be observed. During the day, our arty engaged five enemy boats on the far bank of the river and hits were seen on a house nearby. No direct hits could be observed on the boats, but the accuracy of the arty fire seemed to indicate that these boats were put out of action. Search of buildings in bn area carried out in co-op with Dutch underground forces.	Nil Nil Nil Cas: POW's: Rfts See Appx D1
	12th		Situation normal. The visibility had improved somewhat and a small amount of enemy activity was observed. The enemy used a 37 mm AA gun in a ground role firing into the fwd edge of the village of BAARLO.	Nil Nil Nil Cas: POW's: Rfts
Field	13th		Situation normal. A large amount of enemy activity was heard in STEIJL 8705 which was engaged by arty and mortar but the houses restricted observation of results. A fair amount of MG fire was heard throughout the day. Corps Comd visited Bn at 1100 hrs and accompanied by the CO visited HQs of forward coys. During the day, the bn area was shelled and one person killed and four wounded.	Cas: Nil POW's: Nil Rfts: Nil
	14th		Situation normal. A large amount of MG and rifle fire was observed during the day but little enemy activity was observed.	Cas: 1K POW's: Nil 4W Rfts: 19 O.R.s
	15th		Situation normal. Visibility was very poor during the day and was down to 200 yds for most of the time. 1000 hrs Bn 'O' Gp. Bdes of the Division to be relieved in cycles. 227 Bde to be relieved by 1 Cdo Bde and to take over from 44 (L) Inf Bde in area of BLERICK on or about 19th Jan, date to be determined by arrival of 1 Cdo Bde. 44 Bde to go to rest and trg area near Brussels for a period of 14	See Appx D2

Field		<p>days. After period of rest and trg finished 44 Bde to relieve 227 Bde and 227 Bde to go to rest and trg area for 14 days. On completion of rest 227 Bde to relieve 46 Bde in area North of ROERMOND. In area BLERICK Bn as reserve will take over from 8 RS in area MAASBREE and SEVENUM. A&amp;SH &amp; GORDONS to take over from 6 KOSB and 6 RSF respectively in fwd positions. Bn split into 2 forces SEVENUM FORCE and MAASBREE force. Bn.HQ to be in MAASBREE. SEVENUM force to consist of "D" and "B" Coys under Comd of OC "B" Coy. "A" and "C" Coys in MAASBREE. Advance party to go to MAASBREE on 16th. Take over of BAARLO area by 45 CDO to be completed by 2100 hrs. "A" and "C" Coys to MAASBREE by March route, "B" and "D" coys to SEVENUM embussed. Bn to take over same posns as 8 RS.</p> <p><u>ROLE IN BRUSSELS TRG AREA</u> Cadres for junior NCOs will be run by RSM. Weapon firing esp PIAT to be practised : A drill parade each day and strict attention to be paid to the turnout and discipline: During period two night exercises will be carried out on coy level with practice on ATTACK and CONSOLIDATION. Discussions will be held on Infantry and tank co-operation when passing through fixed defences such as the SIEGFRIED LINE. Discussions concerning raids across river MAAS which is projected after return from rest and trg period. Entertainments, baths etc will be laid on.</p>	<p>CAS: Nil POW's: Nil RFTS: Nil</p>
	16th	Enemy activity and MG fire only slight throughout the day.	<p>CAS: Nil POW's: Nil RFTS: Nil</p>
	17th	Except for spasmodic bursts of MG fire the day was fairly quiet.	<p>CAS: Nil POW's: Nil RFTS: 8 O.R.s</p>
	18th	During the night MG fire and verrey lights were observed but after 1000 hrs no signs of enemy activity were seen or heard and no MG fire or shelling recorded.	<p>CAS: Nil POW's: Nil RFTS: Nil</p>
Field	19th	<p>During the night a very large amount of flashes were seen on the enemy side of the river and loud explosions heard. From daylight onwards all was quiet and nothing was seen or heard of the enemy. Visibility was good throughout the day. 1800 hrs Bn 'O' Gp. For final plans for change over with 45 Cdo and 44 Bde and role in new area. On 20th Jan Bn will be relieved by 45 Cdo Debussing pt rd junc at BONG 44053, coys to provide guides. Relief to be done in two phases, 20th MAASBREE force consisting of "A" and "C" and Bn HQ to move to MAASBREE on completion of hand over to 45 Cdo. "B" and "D" Coys to conc in area BONG 8405 for night 20/21st and proceed to SEVENUM on morning of 21st. Signal pl to take over from 8 RS Sigs at 1230 hrs, "S" Coy to move under pl arrangements, Bn HQ to move at 1400 hrs to arrive MAASBREE by 1430 hrs. Coys to start take over of rear posns at 1430 hrs. Tpt to be at check pt by 1500 hrs. Role</p>	<p>See Appx E1 &amp; H1</p>

		in MAASBREE area - SEVFORCE Under Comd. of OC "B" coy, supported by 2 secs of mortars, Tp of LAA, 4.2 mortar Pl 1 med and 1 Fd Regt. Task to guard rd SEVENUM-BLERICK. MAASFORCE "C" coy PL at JERRICAN Bridge 847086, coy's in area ROOTH 8408. A&C coy's to be mobile coy each alternate day. If emergency arises, "S" coy less 2 secs Mortars to move down and assist MAASFORCE. Mobile coy to be prepared to move to any part of Bde area followed later by rest of Bn.	Cas: Nil POW's: Nil Rfts 22 O.R.s
	20th	Situation normal. Enemy activity almost negligible. 1230 hrs Sig Pl took over, 1400 hrs Bn HQ moved to MAASBREE arriving 1430 hrs. HQ established at 827081. A and C Coys commenced at 1430 hrs, B and D Coys at 1500 hrs. Take over completed by 2300 hrs.	Cas 1 W POW's Nil Rfts Nil
	21st	Situation normal. B and D Coys moved to area SEVENUM at 0800 hrs.	Cas-Nil POWs-Nil Rfts-Nil
	22nd	Situation normal. Bn in res at MAASBREE and SEVENUM.	Cas-Nil POWs-Nil Rfts Nil
	23rd	Bn handed over to Armed Recce Bn of 6 Airborne Div. Warning Order given for Bn to move to rest area for a period of trg. 1900- Bn 'O' Group. Final details given for hand over.	(See Appendix E2,3,4 ) H2 )
	24th	Bn moved off 1030 hrs, embussed by route:- MAASBREE : PANNINGEN : MEIJEL : LIESEL : ASTEN : HELMOND : EINDHOVEN : VELDHOVEN : ARENDONCK : TURNHOUT : MERKSPLAS. Bn arrived at 1830 hrs. Bn HQ est at 999106.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: 2 O.R.s (See Appendix E4)
	25th	Bn given 3 days for reorganisation after which trg was to be begun with particular ref to the breaching of fixed defs, in co-operation with tanks.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil (See Appendix J1 & 2)
	26th	General rest and re-organisation.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil
	27th	General rest and re-organisation.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: 4 O.R.
	28th	First Details issued to CO for Operation "VERITABLE".	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil (See Appendix E6,7,8)
	29th	CO visited 30 Corps HQ for Bde Comds briefing and carried out preliminary Recce for future operation.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil (See Appendix E5)
	30th	Discussion by Officers and Pl Comdrs on Storming of Fixed Defs such as the SIEGFRIED LINE in co-operation with tanks and R.E. specialist equipment.	Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: Nil

	31st		<p>1000 hrs. Representatives from Bn attended. Bde Discussion on above subject. Lt.Col. H.P. Mackley, OBE. relinquished command of Bn and was succeeded by Lt.Col. R.A. Bramwell-Davis.</p> <p>R Bramwell-Davis Lt. Col. Commanding 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry, (City of Glasgow Regiment)</p>	<p>Cas: Nil PW: Nil Reinf: 3 O.R.s</p>
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Unit 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry

Month and Year January 1945

Commanding Officer Lt/Col. H.P. Mackley OBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			ADMINISTRATION	
	6th		WS/Lt JACKSON G. CDN/520 posted to WE of 10th HLI and T.O.S. this unit w.e.f. 6th Jan 45 from 34 RHU	
	13th		2/Lt WILSON A. (Number not yet known) Granted Immediate Emergency Commission and T.O.S. WE 10th HLI w.e.f. 13th Jan 45	
	14th		276868 WS/Lt KERR J.A. admitted to hospital and struck off strength of this unit w.e.f. 14th Jan 45.	
	"		CDN/467 S/Capt. R.A. McCABE admitted to hospital and struck off strength of this unit w.e.f. 14th Jan 45.	
	17th		176939 T/Major HAY J.S. posted to WE of 10th HLI from 34 RHU and taken on strength of this unit w.e.f. 17th Jan 45.	
<p>R Bramwell-Davis Lt. Col. C Comdg. 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regt)</p>				