

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 190 Field Regt., R.A.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year JUNE 1944

Commanding Officer R.J. STREATFIELD Lt-Col., R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LANCING	5		Local defence digging exercises on area 6.	
"	7		Regtl tabloid sports on beach.	
"	8		Night defence scheme on area 6.	
"	9		Adv party left for Marshalling Area.	
"	13		Ordered to move to Marshalling Area.	
"	14		Moved to Marshalling Area.	
Camp S6	17		Moved to Embarkation Area and embarked at TILBURY.	
TILBURY	18		Sailed from TILBURY.	
FRANCE	22		Disembarked at Le HAMEL (Gold Beach) and moved to BRECY area.	
"	25		Moved to Gun Area 8871 (BRONAY).	
"	26		Operation EPSOM started. Regt fired a barrage of 400 rpg. Moved forward to le MESNIL PATRY area to support Operation EPSOM onto line of R. ODON.	
"	27		Battle continues.	
FRANCE	28		Lt.Col. R.J. STREATFIELD R.A. became acting C.R.A. when the C.R.A. became a casualty. Major T.P. KEENE R.A. became acting C.O. of Regt.	RJ Streatfield Lt.Col.R.A. Commanding, 190 Field Regt. R.A.
"	29		Major A.J. TAYLOR R.A. (B.C.529) killed in action by mortar fire. Buried in GRANVILLE SUR ODON Churchyard. Capt. A. FORSTER R.A. (Bty Capt 529) reported missing whilst occupying O.P. in GRANVILLE SUR ODON area.	RJ Streatfield Lt.Col.R.A. Commanding, 190 Field Regt. R.A.

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 190 FIELD REGT. R.A.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year JULY 1944

Commanding Officer Lt.Col R.J. STREATFIELD R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1st		Lt. Col RJ Streatfield returned to Regt. Brig. Bolton became CRA.	
	2nd		Occupied Gun Area SECQUEVILLE EN BESSIN 9173.	
	3rd		Divisional Commander addressed Regt on Operation Epsom.	
	4th		Under command 59 Div to fire barrage in support of 3 Canadian Division's attack on CARPIQUET. C.O. attended Divisional Commander's conference at Div.	
	5th		C.O. attended Divisional Commander's conference on lessons of 1st battle.	
	6th		CRA visited all Batteries. CO attended address by General Montgomery for all COs of Division.	
	8th		Move to new gun area at ST MAUVIEU 9268.	
	10th		Barrage in support of 43 Div for attack on ETTERVILLE and MALTOT.	
	11th		Capt. J. Hichens RA killed in action, also 2 other ranks.	
	13th		Regiment in same position but resting.	
	15th		Regiment support 15 (S) Div in attack on ESQUAY and EVRECY. Lt. PEF Heneage RA slightly wounded whilst acting as OP officer.	
	17th		Gun area shelled. 1 OR killed, 1 slightly wounded, 1 Gun Tractor destroyed. Gun area attacked by enemy aircraft at night. No casualties or damage.	
	22nd		CO went on recce to CAUMONT area.	R Streatfield
	23rd		Regt arrived area CORMOLIN.	
	26th		Regt fired in support of U.S. 2nd Div.	
	27th)	Quiet. Normal ranging by OPs.	
	28th)		
	30th		Op BLUECOAT started. 8 Corps attacked on SEPT VENTS and ST MARTIN DES BESACRES.	
	31st		Regt moved to new position at LA VACQUERIE to continue support.	R Streatfield

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WAR DIARY

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Unit 190th. FIELD REGIMENT. R.A.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Month and Year AUG 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col.R.J. STREATFIELD.R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1		Regiment in action at LA TIENTURIE and OPs on Pt 309. Lt. R. Sellars RA and 6 ORs slightly wounded at the OP.	
	2		Battle for BOIS du HOMME continues. OP's with 46 Bde and 6 Gds Armd Bde active throughout the day.	
	3.		Regt moved to new area SOUTH of ST MARTIN (679475). Regiment fired Propaganda Shoot into area of BENY BOCAGE. 15th Divisional Commander wounded.	
	4.		Regt fired Fire Plan in support of 44 Bde's attack on woods WEST of BENY BOCAGE.	
	5.		CO went on recce with 46 Bde Commander to area Pt 279 (765420).	
	6.		Regt moved by Btys to area of 721439 (LE COUR)	
	7.		Regt supports attacks by 46 Bde on to BOIS de MONTS and LASSY. Stiff opposition towards LASSY.	
	8.		46 Bde withdrew to defensive position in LA CAVERIE area. Regt fired several Immediate Retaliation tasks against mortars throughout the day in response to calls from 46 Bde. OPs with 46 Bde & 6 Gds Armd Bde were active throughout the day.	R Streatfield See Appendix 1.
	9.		Regt continued to engage Immediate Retaliation tasks in addition to normal shooting.	
	10.		Regt again engaged Immediate Retaliation Tasks. Moved to new area of MONTCHAMPS to support 3rd DIV's attack. 531 Bty detailed to provide 1 gun to go forward to-morrow to fire Red Smoke Indicator Targets for air attack.	
	11.		Red Smoke Indicator Tgts fired. Reported to be very successful. Div Comdr and CRA visited all Gun detachments of the Regt and congratulated them on their work.	
	12.		CO with 46 Bde at LA MASURE. Regt engaged many Immediate Retaliation tasks throughout the day with good effect. Red Smoke Indicator Tgts engaged by 1 Gun of 530 Bty.	
	13.		Regt fired a few Immediate Retaliation Tasks but on the whole everything was quiet. Regt of 11 Armd Div took over from this Regt	R Streatfield

		which moved, via VILLERS BOCAGE and VERNON to a harbour area with 46 Bde Group at FEUGUEROLLES SUR ORNE.	
	14.	CO2 & Regtl Recce Parties reced a position South of the FORET de CINGLAIS.	
	15.	CO2 and RSO went to meet the CRA at 53 Div HQ 1 mile South of BOIS HALBOUT.	
	16.	Regt moved to new harbour area in FORET de CINGLAIS. Regtl Recce parties reced a position 5 miles North of FALAIS.	
	17.	CO and Capt Dyas RA went to a Mortar discussion with the CRA to teach the 1st MIDDLESEX Artillery procedure to be used with their 4.2 inch mortars. Instructors sent to 1st MIDDLESEX to implement policy laid down at the discussion.	
	18.	100 Officers and OR's were taken by the CO on a Battlefield tour of ETTERVILLE and Pt 112. CO attended Div Comdrs conference at DIV.	R Streatfield
	19.	46 Bde Group take over from 158 Bde (53 Div). Regt moved into action at NORTON L'ABBAYE but did not fire.	
	20.	Falaise pocket beaten clear. Regt unable to shoot owing to involved position in the pocket. Lt. M. Rogers RA joined the Regt.	
	21.	Warning order from HQRA of move to concentration area. Capt Rostol (Div IO) lectured to all ranks on war situation with particular reference to the German 7th & 15th Armies.	
	22.	BM of 46 Bde recceing area for Regt to move to as present location is becoming Army/Road Head.	
	23.	Regt moved to concentration area at ST PIERRE DU BUS. 46 Bde Gp ordered to commence march towards the SEINE.	
	24.	Commenced Operation "GALLOP" and advanced along MOON route. Regt halted and "curled up" at 299277 (WEST of TRUN)	Appendix 2. Regtl Ops Order No2.
	25.	46 Bde Gp continued along SUN Route to harbour area 894745 in the FORET DE BEAUMONT.	R Streatfield
	26.	46 Bde Gp took up defensive position in the area around EMANVILLE. Regt in area of 985727.	
	27.	Regt went into action between LOUVIERS and the SEINE (261867) to support 15 Div's crossing of the SEINE.	
	28.	Regt supported 15 Div's crossing of the SEINE at HERQUEVILLE and MUIDS. Lt P. HENEAGE RA (wounded at Pt 112 see War Diary July 15th) returned to Regt.	
	29.	Regt crossed the SEINE at 0010 hrs and went into action in area of MUIDS with OP's forward overlooking LES ANDELYS and CUVERVILLE. Inf advanced against little opposition & Regt moved to new area of FRETTEVILLE.	

	30.		15 Div remain in reserve while 53 DIV passed through and continued the advance.	
	31.		Regt remained in same location. Between 2nd and 31st of this month the Regt sustained no casualties.	R Streatfield

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WAR DIARY

or

Unit 190 Field Regiment.R.A.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year SEPT 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col.R.J. STREATFIELD.R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1.		Regt carried out training Programmes (Small Arms, Mines, Signalling etc) at FRETTEVILLE. Regt entertained local civilians with a social.	
	2.		Training Programmes continued. The Divisional Concert Party entertained the Regt in the afternoon. Harbour parties left to go forward to the area of GOURNAY. Brigade Major of 46 Bde asked for Regtl 3-tonners to lift the infantry of the Bde during move to Gournay area.	
	3.		Regt left FRETTEVILLE and moved 20 miles to a harbour area in the Foret de Lyons (557153) near Les CARREAUX. 3 Prisoners taken in the wood by Recce Parties.	
	4.		Regt moved forward 20 miles to harbour area at FOUILLOY (748425).	
	5.		Regt moved 70 miles to HERLIN LE SEC (158088) (South of ST POL). 15 (S) Div are to advance to a mopping-up area COURTRAI-GHENT, with 44 Bde on left and LYSFORCE on the right. LYSFORCE to include 7 SEAFORTHS, RECCE & Supporting arms. We are to follow LYSFORCE.	
	6.		Regt left HERLIN LE SEC and moved 60 miles on AYR route (LENS SECLIN LILLE COURTRAI). Enemy held Bridges over LYS between GHENT & COURTRAI. Regt crossed into BELGIUM and deployed in area 9055 South of SWEVEGHEM. LYSFORCE are mopping up. Main task of 190 Fd Regt in DF tasks for COURTRAI.	
	7.		OP's with 46 Bde are active. Groups of the Enemy are being cleared up. Regt supports RSF (44 Bde) in their attack on DEERLYKE (915590) with OP's of 530 Bty with RSF. Operation continued through evening and night and was very successful.	
	8.		Regt continue to support 44 Bde who are moving along rd NE from COURTRAI. Regt moved to area N of DEERLYKE (Sq 9161) to continue support. Advance is going well. Regt moved to new area West of WAEREGHEM (956634) to continue to support 44 Bde.	
	9.		Regt resting at WAEREGHEM. Representatives of the Regt attended funeral of members of the BELGIAN WHITE ARMY.	R Streatfield

	10.		Regt moved forward about 50 miles to harbour area at LIPPELOO 571771 (S of ANTWERP). An area was reced S of ALBERT CANAL near LIERRE (790870) but the Regiment did not occupy it.	
	11.		CO met CRA at WESTERLOO 030810 to get orders for the take over of Gun Posns from 124 Field Regt of 50 Div. CO2 and recce parties reced area and spent night at TONGELOO MONASTERY (020823)	
	12.		Regt moved 30 miles to TONGERLOO (via MALINES) and took over from 124 Field Regt. OP's situated N of Albert Canal at GHEEL (080886).	
	13.		GHEEL cleared of enemy and Regt moved forward to position N of GHEEL 083891. Infantry moved forward to ESCAUT CANAL. 529 OP's were with 9 Cams at area 0590. 531 OP's with 7 Seaf at area 0289. Lt. P. Spafford RA attached to 1st Middlesex to assist in training 4.2in Mortar Platoon.	
	14.		Regt fired concentrations in Support of 44 Bde who are crossing the ESCAUT Canal. OP's with 46 Bde active. Gun area shelled by 88 mm guns. Many failed to explode. 530 OP's join 2 GH who are coming under command of 44 Bde.	
	15.		Field Marshall Sir B.L. MONTGOMERY presented medals to 15 (Scottish) Div. CO & a party attended. The following members of the Regt received decorations:- Major. E.K. Monro. RA. MC. Capt. P. McD. Spafford RA. MC. Bdr. Moorin. DCM.	
	16.		Lt. AC SMITH RA and OP party sent to work with OP's of 178 Bty (181 Fd). This party suffered slight casualties during the day. Capt AC Hobson RA & Bdr Stables crawled out in front of own FDL's to engage enemy on canal bank. Bdr. Stables was wounded but shoot successful. Fire Plan fired in spt 44 Bde. OP's on 46 Bde front (on line of ESCAUT CANAL) active.	
	17.		No shooting between 1300 hrs & 1500 hrs to-day. Airborne assault passed over gun area during afternoon. Divisional Concert Party entertained Regt in evening.	
	18.		Regt prepared to fire short Counter Battery Programme in spt of 53 Div. 227 Bde take over Bridgehead from 44 Bde.	R Streatfield
	19.		Regt fire some C.B. shoots on orders from CBO. Regt received Fire Plan in spt HLI from 131 Fd Regt. 2nd Airborne force with many gliders passed over gun area.	
	20.		Regt fired Fire Plan for HLI (Op CRABS). The Objective was reached with little opposition. Regt fired Propaganda Shells. Regt move with 46 Bde Gp at 0800 hrs 21st.	

	21.		Regt moved to new Gun Area NW of EINDHOVEN (383213) 15(S) Div are to act as left flank protection for 30 Corps Axis. OP's active with 46 Bde who are crossing canal in area South half of 3825 (S of BEST).	
	22.		7 Seaf established over the Canal. Enemy in BEST (3726), there is heavy fighting. Capt P. Mangham RA killed in action during fighting for BEST. 1 of his OP Party wounded.	
	23.		Hard fighting in BEST area where 46 Bde are trying to get to line of Rey. Regt fired plan in spt of this operation. Progress by 46 Bde is steady.	
	24.		BEST area is still being cleared. Regt fired fire plan to spt 9 Cams who are attacking the Factory. TYPHOONS attacked factory during last 5 mins of Fire Plan. Regt fired Fire Plan in spt 9 Cams who are attacking level crossing at 371262. This was most effective.	
	25.		Regt has Fire Plan on call for 227 Bde. BEST area is still being cleared. Red Smoke Indicator Tgt on Factory very successful.	
	26.		BEST still being cleared. Indicator Tgts arranged for TYPHOONS who are to spt 46 Bde by attacking factory. Alternative Fire Plan arranged to be fired if TYPHOONS not available. TYPHOONS did not arrive and Alternative Fire Plan was fired. Regt moved to new area near Brick Factory 4024 (S of Canal).	
	27.		Fairly quiet on 46 Bde Front. Regt fired fire plan in spt of 227 & 44 Bdes.	
	28.		Regt still S of Canal. Very little activity.	
	29.		Regt moved through BEST to new area 413297 SW of ST OEDENRODE.	
	30.		Regt in same locn with OP in BEST area.	R Streatfield

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WAR DIARY

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Unit 190 FIELD REGT R.A.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Month and Year OCTOBER 1944

Commanding Officer LT.COL RJ STREATFIELD R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1		Regt in action at VERNHOUT 413297. Some Command Posts in Gliders, a mass of which are parked on our Gun Positions following the airborne invasion. They help the camouflage. A reconnaissance of a harbour area was carried out East of GEMERT (5730) as a possible rest area.	
	3		Advance parties sent off to BAKEL near GEMERT. Recce parties of 128 Fd Regt, 51 (H) Div arrive to take over our Gun area. 46 Bde relieved by Bde of 51 (H) Div.	
	4.		Regt move to Bakel for brief rest. Gun area occupied by 128 Fd Regt.	
	5.		Regt enjoy first proper rest period since arriving in France on June 22nd. Regtl signalling class started, 30 men under Lt. McNinch. Bty administrative inspections, stores checks and general overhaul. A good proportion of men to EINDHOVEN and HELMOND for cinemas, ENSA concerts and baths.	
	6		Major KEENE (2 i/c) went on reconnaissance of new gun area for possible future operations South of WIERT and 7051.	
	7		Regt indulge in recreational training, which included lecture by Dutch Liaison Officer on The Lot of an occupied country including warnings as to precautions to be taken on entering Germany. Guns and vehicles painted - a few officers and ORs on 48 hrs leave to BRUSSELS.	
	8		Rest period cut short by reconnaissance of gun area from which to support 3 Divs attack on OVERLOON. Area found at OPLOO 7236.	
	9		Regt move to OPLOO position and 300 rpg dumped on position. Div Arty now working under 8 Corps.	R Streatfield
	10		Regtl Signal Class ends. Regt in action waiting for D Day. Very wet and roads made impassable by Tanks of 6 Gds Armoured Bde.	
	11		Artillery from 3 Div, 11 Armd Div, and 8 AGRA in addition to our own now in area. Very little C.B. by enemy which is fortunate as the landscape is pretty badly congested.	
	12.		3 Div commences Operation CONSTELLATION. Regt assist by firing barrage with the object of getting infantry as far as OVERLOON.	

		Enemy has one of two fwd OPs in VENRAY CHURCH and a Forest fire observation tower. Enemy artillery fairly active chiefly in forward areas.	
	13	Continued to support the operation. Country very open and possible gun areas further fwd obviously in view. They were reced but not occupied.	
	14	Further barrage fired to get 3 Div as far as VENRAY. Enemy resistance strong and going extremely bad. The advance was slow but sure.	
	15	11 Armd Div broke out Eastward from OVERLOON and Regt again in support and later in day move fwd to OVERLOON area. Devastation more like NORMANDY and scale of effort similar - very little C.B. - very wet.	
	16	3 Br Div continue attack on VENRAY with 15 Div Arty still in support.	
	17	15 Scottish Div come under command 12 Corps. Regt comes out of action and withdraw to old harbour area at BAKEL prior to move Westward to support the drive to TILBURG.	
	18-19	Regt in harbour area resting. Recce in area of ZANDRANT (4443) East of S'HERTOGENBOSCH.	
	20	4 Coldstream Gds take over harbour area and Regt moves off into action in previously reced area. OPs of 529 Bty with 9 Cameronians at BEST. Remainder of 46 Bde still at HELMOND resting.	R Streatfield
	21	Capt. Spafford as rep to 53 Div Arty. Fire plan for Op PHEASANT arrives. Large dumping programme.	
	22	Fired timed programme of concentrations for 53 Div and 7 Armd Div advance on S'HERTOGENBOSCH. The tanks made so much noise getting to their F.A.As that a certain amount of hostile arty fire was experienced in the gun areas. One OR was wounded. A few mines encountered.	
	23	Regt fired in support of second stage of attack by 51 (H) Div, a night advance on SCHINDEL and BOXTEL. The night attack, good weather, and tank support appeared to give offensive a good start.	
	24	Regt moved round to the BEST area and harboured the night in the Brick Factory East of BEST (on the canal) from which they had operated a month previously.	
	25	46 Bde with 2 Scots Gds and 190 Field Regt in support carried out the drill book advance to contact battle. 2 GH formed advance Gd Battalion mounted on the Churchill Tanks of the Scots Guards. 530 Bty were placed close up in the order of march behind the vanguard company with the remainder of the Regt in rear of the main guard.	

		<p>Two OPs in Churchill Tanks. All OPs with Tanks and with Infantry were from the Regt and on the same frequency. This worked well and should now be the normal drill. The remaining Bns of the Bde were mounted in KANGAROOS. This pretty considerable force with its supporting arms was pieced together along the canal bank East of BEST and in BEST itself. It was well organised and all units passed the S.P. (0900 hrs) on time with very little delay or fuss. Maj Stephenson ordered his van guard Bty into action on first contact with the enemy half way between OIRSCHOT and MORGESTEL. This was the first rapid action done during the campaign and was carried out with creditable speed. The 2 i/c (Maj KEENE) travelling with the adv gd Bn R Group was quickly on the scene and on the orders of the C.O. (Lt. Col. R.J. STREATFIELD) travelling in the Bde R Gp deployed the remainder of the Regt. The whole Regt being ready to fire within ½ hour of the first deployment order. The road was now clear for the remainder of 2 G.H. who proceeded on their Churchills through the Gun position and decanted close up to the point of contact. The first enemy positions were soon overcome but a blown bridge slowed up the advance. The Scots Guards quickly put down 2 Scissors bridges which just spanned the gap and the leading infantry with carriers and tanks were soon in MOERGESTEL. The KANGAROOS with 7 Seaforths on board dashed through and proceeded on Northwest towards OLSTERWIJK through thick country and under fairly heavy enemy arty fire. They were followed speedily by 9 Cameronians who headed for the N.E. outskirts of TILBURG with a view to capturing the main Rd Bridge across the canal. During this period the Regt has been filtering forward by Tps giving continuous support finally settling for the night 24/25 just east of MOERGESTEL. It was a most satisfactory days work and seemed to go with a swing from start to finish. The Inf/Tank Co-op was particularly good and made the whole difference.</p>	R Streatfield
	26	<p>2 G.H. and 7 Seaforths attacked OISTERWIJK (2434) fairly strongly held and covered by strong enemy mortar and arty fire. Regt supported these attacks and by midday most of the village captured. 9 Cameronians had pushed on to Bridge area subjected to considerable enemy arty fire from the North.</p>	
	27	<p>44 Bde attack TILBURG from South and by afternoon town appeared to be free of Germans. 2 GH and 9 Cams ferried across in boats and Cl. V rafts. Occupation of town commenced. Regt moved fwd into MOERGESTEL area.</p>	
	28	<p>Regt marched into TILBURG and occupied position in Western outskirts to support the continued advance of 7 Armd Div north of the Canal on</p>	

		our right in LOON OP ZAND area. Division had popular reception but all too short stay.	R Streatfield
	29	Early move EAST via EINDHOVEN to ASTEN. Whole Division quickly moved across during day to fill a gap between 11 Armd Div and 7 American Armd Div following enemy advance North from MEIJEL to LIESEL & LOON.	
	30	Regt support 46 Bde drive South from LOON. Some AP Bombs dropped in wagon line area with casualties to the Regtl LAD (WO1 GINGER WO i/c LAD killed).	
	31	46 Bde continue drive to SLOT with 4 Coldstream Gds in support. Boggy country and foggy but attack went well and objectives gained. Tanks definitely very great morale effect to own Infantry and the close support of their guns most efficient and effective.	R Streatfield

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WAR DIARY

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Unit 190 Field Regt. R.A.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Month and Year NOVEMBER 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. RJ STREATFIELD R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HOLLAND	1		The Regiment was still in action in area of ASTEN and supporting 46 Bde with 6 K.O.S.B. under command in operation to clear area between main road LIESEL to HEITRAK eastwards to Helena Canal. The operation was a success. Very late in afternoon CO2 and recce parties rushed off and in half light reced a new gun area at Rinkveld 6414 which the Regt occupied in dark, the first night occupation since we crossed the Seine.	
	2		46 Bde continued to advance South of Heittrak 6910 encountering heavy mortaring and shelling. Again very late in the afternoon CO2 and recce parties were ordered forward to a new area 6712 which was reported heavily mined. The area was found to be poor and mined as reported and Lt. G.A. Smith was blown up in his Jeep and killed approaching the area from the West. His CPOA was evacuated with severe head injuries. These were the Regts first mine casualties. The new area was pronounced impossible by CO2 and after considerable talk with HQRA it was abandoned.	
	3		The most important event today was the conflagration in 530 Bty Command Post which was in a building shared with the cookhouse of 8 R.S. The CO2 also visited 6411 and neighbouring area in search of a possible new area to support further operation on MEIJEL.	
	4.		In the morning CO2 and recce parties moved to area 6411 and the Regt moved at midday. The gun area was well away from the road and the long tracks were already badly rutted when we occupied. We supplied a shellrep OP of two officers to take flash bearings and pass reports on the shellrep frequency to C.B.O.	
HOLLAND	5		Smoke was the order today. The first screen was fired as part of a normal fire plan in support of 44 Bde and 4 Tank Coldstream Guards who were attacking south of Heittrak. Owing to the extremely boggy country the tanks got stuck very early on and we continued to fire smoke all day whilst recovery went on. We expended some 4000 rounds of smoke altogether.	R Streatfield

	6		We again fired smoke in support of the 7 Seaforths who gained their objectives at NEERKANT 7009 without much opposition. Mines were the chief delay. Dinner time in the evening at RHQ was considerably interrupted by a brief aerial attack with a few bombs which removed half of the roof and subsequently drenched the Assistant Adjutant.	
	7		Things were fairly static and batteries carried out troop shoots on enemy positions with considerable success. We are told that one Bty at a time would be allowed to withdraw to ASTEN area for two days rest. Capt. DYAS of 529 Bty takes over Adjutant whilst Capt BRETT was away at BRUSSELS.	
	8		531 Bty went out of action to rest at ASTEN. Very little happened and a large number of entertainments were given to batteries. The C.O. arranged an Admin Inspection of Batteries during their rest period.	
	9		More entertainments and Baths were allotted to the Regiment and the Divisional Education officer talked to a selected audience on "The Far East".	
	10		529 went out to rest and 531 returned. The area South of ASTEN became restricted and numbers of civilians were passed to POW cage. The RSM took over the responsibility of the roads in the Regimental area and reced a new way-out to a hard road.	
	11		Road maintenance, entertainments, and baths continued and 200 rds per gun were dumped in preparation for further ops.	R Streatfield
HOLLAND	12		530 went out to rest and 529 returned. Troop shoots were continued otherwise things were very quiet.	
	13		Continued rain and entertainment transport rendered the roads in the gun area almost impassable and traffic was cut to a minimum. A bulldozer gave invaluable assistance but things were still very bad. For the first time in the history of the Regiment a battery refused some vacancies for entertainment.	
	14		Today we fired a deception Fire Plan together with a fair amount of infantry small arms and mortar fire as a prelude to the 12 Corps attack on our right. The Boche seemed to swallow the bait though his reactions were not as vigorous as expected. At 1600 hrs we heard in the distance the terrific barrage which announced the 12 Corps attack to BERINGE.	
	15		530 Bty returned from rest and the rest programme was completed. Patrols from 227 Bde pushed down to MEIJEL and beyond finding no opposition but many mines and booby traps. Lieut. C.R. ASHWORTH arrived from 31 R.H.U. and took over duties as Assistant Adjutant.	
	16		Infantry patrols pushed further South. CO2 and recce parties prepared a new area at 6910 Heikant - a good area though 530 Bty's	

		area was a known German DF Task. First proper frost during the night. V2 rockets launched due East were observed from RHQ in the evening as on several other nights.	
	17	A few hostile mortar targets were fired and a rum ration issued. 529/530 had a most successful afternoon dance at HELMOND.	
HOLLAND	18	In the morning the C.R.A. walked around the Gun Positions. We were warned of move to new area probably on 19th. An OP was attached to B Sqn Recce who would be acting as right flank OP. CO2 went to orders at 46 Bde and had an order group on return. Infantry plans formed and cancelled with remarkable rapidity.	R Streatfield
	19	9 Cams crossed double canal at HOOGEBRUG Bridge and patrolled towards Helenaveen. Regt moved in the morning to the area already prepared at Heittrak.	
	20	Cams push on to Helenaveen meeting most difficulties in the shape of mines (Schu and AP) and boggy country. The C.O. gave orders to the effect that the 2 G.H. were to go through to SEVENUM. A suggested new gun area was 7312.	
	21	CO2 visited the suggested area but found it impracticable. He then proceeded to a more Southern area and had to fix 7708 as final area. Recce parties hurried forward but only 530 Bty moved that afternoon. It was obvious that we would have great trouble with the roads in the area which were very bad before we moved in.	
	22	Rest of the regt moved to new area. The infantry pushed on well in very bad conditions and deliberate fire plans were formed and cancelled as their need disappeared.	
	23	H.Q.R.A. wanted us to move forward as we were rapidly getting out of range. C.O.2 set out to recce the route out but found an impassable part. The proposed new gun area 8014 was reced by proxy by Major Ginn OC 531 Bty and pronounced good. Move was however cancelled as alternative routes were found equally impracticable.	
	24	The Regiment was completely mud bound and fired nothing all day being out of range. CO2 and recce parties struggled through and reced new area 8219 near HORST. This area was extensively mined, but nevertheless good gun area.	R Streatfield
HOLLAND	25	The Regt left its mud bound position and took six hours to get to its new area 8219 leaving a few breakdowns on the way.	
	26	Today the Regt shot its first round at Germany. The C.R.A. in person directed an U Tgt and our first rounds landed on German soil at 1200 hrs. Very little opposition was being met by infantry and recce and CO2 reced a new area at 8519 Melderslo in anticipation of a new move. Later in the day full preparation of the new position was	

		carried out. We received a fire plan in support of 9 Cams and 3 Tank Scots Guards against Lottum 9019.	
	27	9 Cams operation carried out with little opposition and the Fire Plan was cancelled. We were warned of move over to present 49 Div area and later this was confirmed. We were to take over complete from 143 Field Regt in area 8408 near Maasbree.	
	28	C.O.2 and recce parties left in morning for new area. We took over Gun Pit for Gun Pit from 143 Field Regt. The area was quite good though RHQ appeared to be quite a likely H.F. Task. The Regt moved in the afternoon and was ready in time for tea. Our infantry also started to move down, 46 Bde taking over from 56 and 146 Bdes of 49 Div.	
	29	A fairly quiet day. In the afternoon an HF fire plan was fired on selected enemy posts in and around Blerick the suburb of Venlo on the West of the Maas. The RAF raided 531 battery with propaganda leaflets but the Gunners unfortunately couldn't read German.	
HOLLAND	30	<p>The Gun position was shelled in the morning and 531 Bty had slight vehicle casualties. More HF was fired in the afternoon and the evening was marked by the arrival of the Regimental Christmas Card (Copy attached as Appx). 8 Corps Comdr Lt.Gen Sir Richard O'Connor came to say Goodbye to all Senior Officers on having to take up his duties in India. Information received that Capt. AC HOBSON Tp Comdr D Tp 530 Bty and Capt. JFB O'SHEA Tp Comdr A Tp 529 Bty have been awarded the M.C. for conspicuous gallantry during the operations on the Dutch/Belgian frontier. This now makes 4 MCs in the Regt.</p> <p>It is food for thought whether we do not move too many <u>Regts</u> of Artillery fwd when the enemy is weak and the ground bad for deployment and full of mines. The fire power of one Regiment instead of three would often have met the case and caused less harm to bad tracks, eased the supply problem and rested the guns and gunners. I feel it is a point that should be noted.</p>	<p>R Streatfield</p> <p>R Streatfield</p>

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 190th Field Regiment. R.A.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year December 1944.

Commanding Officer R.J. STREATFIELD. Lt.Col.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HOLLAND	1		Regiment were in action at MAASBREE 8408. There was very little activity on the front where the 2 G.H. patrolled to probe the German defences of BLERICK. Registration was carried out by OP's and a few selected Mike Tgts on prominent points on both sides of the MAAS kept the Huns' interest alive.	
	2.		Preparations for Op "GUILDFORD", the capture of BLERICK which is the suburb of VENLO on the West of the MAAS, started in earnest. The large trace and overprint of the Fire Plan were received. In the afternoon harassing fire was put down on likely points for enemy movement. The enemy retaliated in kind and a few casualties were incurred on the gun positions though no one was killed.	
	3.		Operation "GUILDFORD" was carried out by 44 (L) Inf Bde with 7 SEA under command and supported by 31 Armd Bde, flails and crocodiles and the Artillery of 15 Div, 53 Div, 8 Agra, 3 AGRA and 59 AGRA. The attack was preceded by an intense Counter Battery programme which silenced several troublesome German batteries for a time, though the programme had to have a repeat later in the morning as enemy fire became more intense. The initial bombardment was thickened and considerably enhanced by the Canadian Rocket Projector or Mattress a super Moaning Minnie. The operation was a model one and a great success. At H hr a barrage supported the first attack by 31 Armd Bde with flails in front to clear lanes through the thick minefields. The wide anti tank ditch was soon bridged and the first two battalions 8 RS & 6 RSF riding in Kangaroos entered BLERICK with little opposition. The 6 KOSB & 7 Sea followed up, also in kangaroos and the clearing of the suburb continued all day, and at nightfall BLERICK was entirely in our hands. The co-operation of Infantry and armour was highly successful throughout the day, and the intense Artillery fire did much to prevent casualties among the infantry from enemy DF fire. Over 250 prisoners were taken. 5500 tons of amn were fired by the supporting Artillery. The success of the day was saddened by the	

HOLLAND			death of Maj. S.M. GINN, BC 531 Bty who was killed by a shell splinter whilst sitting in the Seaforth's HQ after the attack was finished.	R Streatfield
	4.		We fired little today. The CO2 went to recce a rest area in and around ASTEN in prospect of the regiment's moving out along with 46 Bde. Later in the day we received definite orders to move out to rest on the 5th. The period of rest was to be approximately 7 days. During the evening RHQ was rudely shelled and suffered a few minor casualties.	
	5.		The regiment moved out to rest and established itself with two Batteries on the Northern and Eastern outskirts of ASTEN respectively and RHQ and one battery at HEUSDEN, one mile south of ASTEN. It appeared that each Bde Group would come out to rest for a week at a time and the Divisional front on the MAAS would be held by 2 Bdes each with two Bns in the line.	
	6.		Btys started the rest period with intensive cleaning up and maintenance, the intention being to complete all the outstanding work in the first few days. In the morning the CO2 attended a conference at HQRA about future plans. RA regiments were to rest one at a time with their brigade and CO2 was to recce a new gun area about 8107 SW of MAASBREE.	
	7.		CO2 & Sur Offr reced the proposed new area and found the tracks deeply rutted and thick with mud whilst the fields were covered in water. They contacted CO2 of 181 Field Regt and looked at other areas. On return the CO2 presented his adverse report to HQRA and was given a free hand to choose his own area. In the evening the CO returned from BRUSSELS bringing Major GMD WINGATE to join regt in place of Maj GINN.	
	8.		CO2 and Sur Offr did a further recce and finally decided on the area 8372 with two btys up and one back, and an harassing fire position in our old gun area at ROOTH. Meanwhile the regiment continued its maintenance and received several allotments for baths and shows.	
	9.		CPO's carried out the detailed recce of the new positions and survey was done.	
HOLLAND	10&11		A large bathing programme was completed and large numbers of men were sent to shows and cinemas at ASTEN, HELMOND, and DEURNE where they were constantly and repeatedly entertained by The Lady in the Dark, and Fanny by Gaslight.	R Streatfield
	12.		531 Battery moved from their mud bound rest area to the area of the Factory in ASTEN where they had more and better accommodation for the men. Entertainments continued as before.	

	13.		Recce parties from 181 arrived to study the regiments layout in the rest area. The present plan was that they would come out to rest on the 16th when 46 Bde relieved 44 Bde in the line. To-day Field Marshall Sir B.L. MONTGOMERY presented decorations to officers and men of 15 (S) Div. The CO & a small party attended. MC's were presented to Capt JFB O'SHEA Tp Comdr of "A" Tp & Capt AC HOBSON Tp Comdr "D" Tp.	
	14.		Today Capt. J.H. BRADLEY late of "C" tp took over the duties of Adjut from Capt The Hon LGB BRETT who retired to the calm of "B" tp. Entertainments contd and included a mobile cinema.	
	15.		An uneventful day until after dinner when an LO from 46 Bde brought the news to the CO of the change of plans. 46 Bde is to take over from 158 Bde of 53 (W) Div in the area HANSSUM and BUGGENUM on the MAAS. The CO went on a recce with Brigadier VILLIERS of 46 Bde to the new area and CO2 went to a CRA's Order Gp in the expectation of orders for a recce of a new gun area. No orders were received about this from the CRA. On the CO's return we learned that we were to occupy an area about 7598 next to the area of 83 Field Regt of 53(W) Div. We would use the present 83 Field area as a harassing fire position. Probable move on 17 Dec. CO2, CPO's & Sur Offr carried out the detailed recce of the gun position 7598 and liaised with 83 Field who were still in action. A most important event today was the ballot for leave in the U.K. which is to start on 1st Jan. A sad feature of the day was the despatch of 29 OR's from the regiment to Infantry. All were A1 and under 25. The CO said good bye to them before they left for England and new training.	
	16			
HOLLAND	17.		The regiment left its rest area at ASTEN and occupied its new positions just outside ROGGEEL. 529 occupied the harassing fire position. Each battery would do this in turn, the remaining two being at rest apart from urgent calls. On occupation RHQ suffered unduly, first being shelled as they entered the new position and then being bombed by 3 Stukas as they were moving to a new RHQ area. Two casualties, one fatal, resulted from the bombing.	R Streatfield
	18.		530 Bty was rudely awakened by a bomb dropped by a British plane at 0530 in the morning. No damage was caused by this accident. In the morning CO2 and Sur Offr reced a possible alternative area in 7398 in case we got shelled excessively in our present position.	
	19.		530 relieved 529 in the harassing fire position. Very little shooting was carried out owing to poor visibility. Firing was chiefly at hostile mortars. The Regiment received a draft of 32 men	

		from 124 Field Regt one of 50 Div's regiments which were returning home as skeleton training units.	
	20.	Little activity on the front. Seventeen men from disbanded regiments in 59 AGRA joined the regiment and also Capt G. THOMPSON late of 185 Field Regt who took over C troop of 530 Battery.	
	21.	During the day 531 bty relieved 530 bty in the harassing fire position. The chief activity continued to be fire against hostile mortars which were fairly active all day.	
	22.	Brigadier BOLTON the CRA today presented Certificates of good service from Field Marshall Sir B.L. MONTGOMERY to members of the regiment. The recipients were :- <u>For Gallantry</u> - Sgt WOOD AI Sigs 530 Bty. Sgt DUNSBURY AI Sigs 531 Bty. <u>For Continued Good Service</u> - Capt. V. BORRELLI. RAMC. Unit MO. RMQS. MOORE.	
HOLLAND	23.	529 Bty returned to the harassing fire position. Today an exercise "SHAMPOO" was carried out in conjunction with the infantry, the chief object being to test the communications by which the infantry could call for fire quickly and control it, if need be, in an emergency. We had our first really hard & white frost.	R Streatfield
	24.	529 bty celebrated their Christmas today. Poor visibility hampered observed shooting, but several hostile mortars were engaged.	
	25.	Christmas day was cold, clear and quiet. A mutual desire to be left alone seemed to exist in the troops on both sides of the MAAS.	
	26.	Frost continued and visibility was very poor, hampering most observed shooting. CO2 & CPO's carried out the detailed recce of a gun area in 7102 which would be used as a rear position if the enemy made an attack in strength over the MAAS.	
	27.	Today was the second anniversary of the formation of the regiment. Circumstances unfortunately prevented any general celebration. Visibility still bad.	
	28.	531 Bty went to the harassing fire position. It was still freezing hard and road surfaces were very dangerous. Transport consequently was kept to a minimum. Shooting was still chiefly against hostile mortars.	
	29.	Another quiet day with very poor visibility. Subsidiary OP's were established in the infantry areas as additional eyes and to be manned by senior NCO's. In the evening as many officers as possible attended a regimental dinner party in celebration of the second anniversary.	

	30.		Another quiet day with little shooting apart from hostile mortar tasks.	
	31.		A wonderful day for visibility, and remarkable for two shoots; firstly a Victor Tgt on some Russian guns and secondly an Uncle Tgt by the CRA. In the latter the regiment distinguished itself by producing the best result on the ground. Today was also distinguished by the fact that we dispatched our first party on home leave.	R Streatfield

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 190 Field Regiment.R.A.

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Jan 45.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col.R.J.STREATFIELD.RA.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HOLLAND	1.		The regiment was still in action near ROGDEL 7598. The New Year was ushered in by harassing fire from the Regt as the clock struck twelve. The more alert outposts on the MAAS stated the noise of Boche carousing ceased abruptly on receipt of this unwelcomed gift. During the day the CCRA, Brig. A.G. Matthews of 8 Corps visited the Div Arty. The CCRA came to the Regt in the afternoon and toured the bty areas, inspecting gun posns and meeting offr & men, in particular those who had recently come from 50 Div & 59 AGRA. Afterwards he was entertained to tea at RHQ.	
	2.		530 occupied the new Harassing Fire position at 744969. Shooting was still restricted to hostile mortar and battery tasks, with a very few observed tgts. Today the CO visited 31 RHU at Bourg Leopold in search of possible additions to the regt and returned with a new BSM and Maj EDC Campbell late BMRA of 55 Div. It was the CO's policy now that UK leave had started to have a few offr and NCO's surplus to WE who could fill up the places of personnel on leave.	
	3.		Overnight and during the day a thaw set in which cleared the roads of their icy cover. In the morning the CO had a conference with Sjts who had occupied forward OPs on the MAAS, discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each position and putting right anything that had gone wrong so far. As a rule forward OPs in forward infantry localities should never be occupied unless the observer is accompanied by the relieving infantry section.	
	4.		A quiet day with little shooting. A small party of Offrs & NCO's visited the Mines Museum at Bourg Leopold where there are good facilities for all sorts of mine training.	
	5.		The great work of today was the organising of the "42 CLUB" a regtl rest centre to be established in Heijthuisen 7196 near the CO's Tac HQ where Lt. Herbert the IO could keep watchful eye on it. The interpreter found a suitable place and a small staff was selected. The capacity of the club was 12 and the period of rest 24 hrs to be	

			extended probably to 48 hrs as things settled down. In the evening the CO went to HQRA for a discussion on Fire Plans.	R Streatfield
HOLLAND	6.		The cold returned and snow threatened. The 42 Club was opened in the evening when the first batch from 529 & 531 btys visited it. Its varied amenities include table tennis, darts, a wireless set, a gramophone and a piano.	
	7.		A very quiet day with scarcely any firing. The CRA paid a brief visit prior to his going on leave, to devolve certain responsibilities on the CO during his absence.	
	8.		To-day it snowed heavily. In the morning 529 bty relieved 530 bty in the harassing fire position. Major JHM Stephenson of 530 bty departed on a "Half-track" course to RHYL. Owing to the small number of offrs now left in 530 (2 being on courses, 2 in hospital and one on leave) Maj Campbell took over BC temporarily. In the afternoon the Div I.O. Capt Rosdol gave a talk on the current situation.	
	9.		A very quiet day with only a little hostile mortar shooting. In the evening there was an offrs conference at RHQ. The subjects under discussion were the line communication layout, the local defence scheme and the infantry dispositions and patrols. The first was found to be uncommonly complex and a more simple layout was evolved. Flaws in our own local defence were brought to light and a more comprehensive and foolproof plan was made.	
	10.		During the day RHQ moved from the Brunhold area to Ophoven 754980 where accommodation was better both for vehs and men. Another "Shampoo" exercise practising infantry control of artillery fire was carried out. A further simplification of line layout was made afterwards to avoid repetitions of certain errors which occurred in the passage of orders from infantry to gunners OPs. It was decided that in a fairly static position it is always better to employ an exchange at the main OP of a battery rather than have three or four "tees in".	
	11.		A very quiet day with only a little hostile mortar fire.	
HOLLAND	12.		Another quiet day marked by a short period of thaw in the middle of the day. Capt JFB O'Shea MC, Tp Comdr "A" Tp departed for England on a Photographic Interpretation course. Lt. Herbert started a fortnight's Regt signalling course for beginners and potential signallers.	R Streatfield
	13.		Chief events of the day were the practise of working out and firing Quick Barrage and Oboe smoke screen carried out by the CO. Visibility was poor. The results undoubtedly mystified the Hun.	
	14.		An uneventful day.	

	15.		531 bty occupied the harassing fire position and 529 returned to their old position at Brunhold. In the evening there was an officers' conference at which the regtl procedure in Quick barrage and Mike tgts was reviewed and discussed.	
	16.		In the early hours it was intended that the 9 CAMS would send their first fighting patrol over the MAAS. Everything was carefully practised and a fire plan was laid on in case of accidents. 61 Med Regt were to participate in this as well as ourselves. Unfortunately the assault boat was damaged and the patrol was called off. During the day the CO, CO2 and other offrs attended 2 lectures at Division on the organisation and tactical handling of 79 Armoured Division which is equipped with specialised weapons such as Crocodiles, Kangaroos, Flails and Buffaloes.	
	17.		During the day the CO went to a demonstration of the T97 V.T.fuze at Lommel ranges. This fuze is new to Field Gunnery, having originally been produced for A/A work. It is a "Proximity Fuze" exploding on coming within approximately 30 feet of a solid object. Their action produces a most effective air burst under most conditions though this fuze is liable to explode too soon in bad weather.	
	18.		In the early morning it was hoped to send the patrol from the 9 Cams over the MAAS. A repeat performance of the previous show was arranged, but the attempt was finally given up when the flares of an allied air raid illuminated the scene too much. The day that followed was quiet.	
HOLLAND	19.		An original item in the day's limited shooting was the firing of some propaganda shells over the MAAS. Our OP's were unfortunately unable to observe any reactions. A feature of the day was the show produced by Capt PMC Whitten of 531 Bty in a hall at Roggel. He scoured the regt for talent and two performances of a first rate variety show were given. The latent talent brought to light on this occasion was quite surprisingly good and it is hoped that there will be many more similar efforts.	R Streatfield
	20.		This was a very quiet day. The CO Lt.Col. R.J. Streatfield departed on UK Leave and Major T.P. Keene second-in-command assumed command of the Regt.	
	21.		A recce party consisting of one rep per bty and RHQ with Major Wingate of 531 bty in charge set out to recce a supposed rest area in the vicinity of LIERRE in Belgium. In the evening Maj Wingate returned to the regt to report on the excellence of the area to the CO.	
	22.		Plans for rest area were changed and Major Wingate departed to get new orders at Herenthals and to warn recce party of the change. At	

			the regt there was little happening though visibility was better than normal.	
	23.		Recce party moved from Lierre to Tilburg to receive a new area in the town itself. It was not a good area but it was considered the regt could squeeze in. On the MAAS the infantry of the Division was relieved by the 6th Airborne Div and it was expected that our regiment would be relieved by the 4th RHA. Lt. JJ McNinch of 531 Bty left the regiment to go on an Air OP Course in England.	
	24.		The Division less 190 Field regiment moved to the Tilburg area. The regt sent harbour parties to help the recce party in the new area. It was not expected that the 4th RHA would relieve them until the 27th January.	
	25.		At midday the regiment was suddenly ordered to move and the 13 RHA of 11 Armd Div appeared to take over from it. With great speed everyone packed up and by tea time the whole regiment was on the road. A hazardous journey on very slippery roads was accomplished with only one small accident and the regt was comfortably installed in Tilburg soon after nine o'clock at night.	
HOLLAND	26.		The day was spent chiefly in sorting out the new areas and generally settling down and cleaning up after the move. The troops were delighted to be in civilian billets after so many months in barns and dugouts. It was hoped that everyone would get a substantial rest and clean up.	R Streatfield
	27.&	28.	Two quiet days with nothing outstanding to report. By now everyone was well and comfortably settled in. The people of Tilburg certainly showed their delight at entertaining their liberators.	
	29.		We had our first regimental church parade in a church since we started the campaign.	
	30.		The only feature of the day was an Officers' Dance held in Tilburg. Officers of the regiment competed hard to produce the finest specimens of Dutch beauty.	
	31.		The month ended very quietly. A most remarkable fact is that throughout the month the regt received no casualties from enemy action. <u>CO's opinions</u> Counter Mortar is still in its teething stages. This month gave ample opportunity for testing it. At present it has too many masters and lacks good communications. The Results are slow and uncontrolled. My suggestions are that this most important weapon should be handled on a Div level. The Div CMO should have under his command (call it a Bty) 2 Radar dets, 2 Four Pen Recorders Dets and	

		<p>3 ACMO Detachments with a small line party. There should be two wireless nets, i.e., a Fwd Link and a Rear Link. The object being to speed up Retaliation on active enemy positions, especially the Mobile Nebelwerfer. Good communications are the essence of this problem coupled with unified control of these main means of detection.</p> <p>The past month is still noteworthy for the exceedingly slow procedure of getting personnel back to the Regt who have been wounded, sick, on courses or compassionate leave. The lack of a sense of urgency on the part of RHU staffs is quite deplorable, there is no doubt this laxity hampers the efficiency of the war effort and causes grave discontent.</p>	R Streatfield
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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 190 Field Regiment.R.A.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year February 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col.R.J.STREATFIELD. R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1		The regiment was still in its rest area in Tilburg. It was felt that something big was imminent but no one knew what it was or where it was going to take place apart from Major T.P. KEENE acting CO who had already attended conferences at HQRA. To-day the CO - Lt.Col. R.J. Streatfield returned to the Regt from UK leave.	15 Div Int Sum on OP Veritable received Folio 4.
	2.		Major Campbell acting BC of 530 Bty visited the prospective gun area for the forthcoming operation to arrange details for ammunition dumping.	
	3.		The CO attended a conference at Div HQ and the CO2 and CPOs visited the gun area in square 7357, 7457 a little way SE of NIJMEGEN. The greatest care had to be exercised to conceal the division to which they belonged so that the maximum surprise could be effected at the start of operations.	46 Bde O.O. No 18 received Folio 5
	4.		All Officers of the Division attended a briefing conference at the ENSA cinema Tilburg where they were addressed by 30 Corps Commander Lt.Gen Horrocks and the Div Comdr Maj Gen. Barber. The object of Operation Veritable was to clear the area to the west of the Rhine. 1st Canadian Army substantially reinforced by troops from British 2nd Army would draw the bulk of the enemy forces and then the American 9th Army would be unleashed over the ROER River to sweep up and catch the enemy in the rear. 15th Division was one of the divisions taking part in the initial assault. After the conference the CO gave detailed orders in the RHQ Officers Mess. In the afternoon Recce parties departed to prepare the Gun area.	46 Bde O.O. No 19 received Folio 6.
	5.		During the day preparations were completed for the regiment's move. All Div signs were covered up. At nine o'clock at night they left Tilburg and proceeded via s'Hertogenbosch and Grave to the gun area.	15 Div Op Instr No5 received Folio 7
	6.		Early in the morning the regiment arrived near the gun area but did not occupy immediately, they lay up in the woods behind the gun area. After four o'clock in the afternoon digging was started. The	

		gun area was very wet and muddy subsequent to the unexpected thaw and the outlook for future operations was very sticky.	
	7.	Digging continued and in the afternoon the guns moved into position. The CO's tactical headquarters joined 46 Bde who were to make the initial attack on the following day. A rear echelon was established at Goirle near Tilburg to despatch and receive members of the Regt going & returning from UK Leave.	
	8.	Operation Veritable began with an immense Counter battery programme which started 0515 in the morning. The actual attack which was on a five divisional front started at 10 o'clock with a monumental barrage. The leading troops of the division were supported by tanks of the 6 Gds Tank Bde and flail tanks of 79 Armd Div which cleared paths through the minefield. The divisional attack was made North of the Reichswald Forest in the direction of Cleeve. Going was extremely bad in waterlogged country and the tanks and flails had the greatest difficulty in making progress. However the infantry kept well up to the barrage and by the end of the afternoon 46 Bde had occupied Frasselt. In the course of the day, a day which probably contained more firing than any other since we landed, the shooting was remarkably accurate and the CO congratulated all ranks on their efforts. In the afternoon the CO's half-track was unfortunately blown up on a mine whilst Brigade HQ was moving fwd; happily no one was injured though certain members of the party were somewhat upset. Also in the afternoon recce parties set out to prepare a new gun area 7655 to the East of Groesbeek. In the evening 44 Bde passed through 46 Bde in continuation of the advance.	
	9.	Early in the morning fresh orders were received for recce parties who had spent the night in the new area. Then followed a quick succession of changes to plan until finally the CO, was given a fairly free hand. Eventually an area was reced east of the village of Cranenburg in square 8155. The regt moved into the new area early in the afternoon. During the day 46 Bde pushed well on and secured the Materborn feature S.W. of Cleve.	
	10.	Heavy rain was now considerably hampering operations and the gun area was slowly becoming inundated. Several troops were forced to move or to amend their layouts and the RHQ office was completely drowned. During the day 43 Div passed through to capture the northern half of Cleve. Enemy resistance was now becoming considerably stiffer as he recovered from his initial surprise and brought up fresh reserves. Meanwhile arrangements were being made to despatch "Jock" columns from 46 Bde to Emmerich and Calcar. Each	

		column would contain one battalion of infantry, a battery of artillery and a squadron of Churchill tanks.	
	11.	The Jock column due to go to Emmerich was cancelled owing to the increase of opposition. Units of 44 Bde & 227 Bde were occupied in clearing the rest of "Cleve". Meanwhile the regiment was slowly disappearing in the rising floods at Cranenburg.	
	12.	During the morning a new area was recced at Donsbruggen 8656 and the regiment moved to it in the afternoon. It was a joy after the floods, the ground was reasonably high and digging was good. The Calcar column set out; it consisted of the Seaforths and a squadron of the 4th Tank Coldstream Guards. Unluckily Capt. P.MacD. Spafford MC, Troop Comdr of "E" Tp was killed when a shell hit his tank. Progress of the column was not as good as had been hoped.	
	13.	The remainder of 46 Bde were committed in the battle towards Calcar and they advanced as far as Hasselt. The rest of the division was being held as reserve and counter attack forces. In the afternoon a new gun area was recced in the western part of Cleve 8855.	
	14.	Early in the morning the regiment moved to its new area and was greeted by a sharp attack by jet propelled planes who dropped a number of bombs in the Cleve area; no casualties were caused. During the day the 9 Cams and the 2 G.H. had some very stiff fighting in the woods west of Moyland. Several fire plans were fired in support of these operations as well as many incidental mike, uncle and victor targets. Again in the afternoon recce parties went to a new area south of Cleve at Bedburg 9254.	
	15.	Another early move was made to the new area. There was a great deal of firing throughout the day to support some of the heaviest fighting since the operation began. Late at night a large Fire plan was fired in support of the 10 HLI who attacked south of the woods west of Moyland.	
	16.	Heavy fighting continued in the woods west of Moyland. Several counter attacks of about company strength were made, but they made no progress, being broken up by heavy artillery fire. One of the chief factors holding up our troops was the marked increase in enemy gun and mortar fire.	"On Call" Tgt list in support 7 Cdn Inf Bde received. Folio 8.
	17.	Most of the firing today was in support of the Canadians in their attempt to capture the "shoe" wood S.W. of Moyland. Opposition was very heavy and little progress was made. In the afternoon recce parties prepared a new position just north of the State Forest of Cleve 9250. The object of the proposed move was to support a 44 Bde attack on the North of Goch.	46 Bde O.O. No 22 received Folio 9. Fire plan in support 4 Cdn Inf Bde received Folio 10

18.		The regt moved by btys to the new area, RHQ remaining in its old location. The 44 Bde operation was successful and the Northern part of Goch was occupied. During the evening the Canadians began to relieve 46 Bde west of Moyland.	Fire Plan in support 44 Bde Folio 11
19.		In the early hours the regiment fired a Fire plan in support of 51 (H) Div who were operating from the west towards Goch. The relief of 46 Bde was completed in the morning and they retired to rest at Cleve. At midday recce parties were ordered forward to the area 9247 near the village of Pfalzdorf. The regiment moved in later in the day.	Fire Plan in support 4 Cdn Inf Bde Folio 12
20.		Today 227 Bde with 2 GH under command planned to clear the woods east of Goch and North of the railway from Goch to Uden. The operation was highly successful and many prisoners were taken. A fire plan of large size supported the operation, and later in the day we fired a further programme in support of 51(H) Div.	Fire plan in support 227 Folio 13
21.		Throughout the day we fired a great deal on enemy batteries which were harassing the infantry. Two very probable OPs in the direction of Oden received much attention both from ourselves, 17 pounder A/Tk guns and later aircraft. In the evening the CO gave orders for the biblical 46 Bde operation due on the next day, and during this the gun area was shaken by a few erratic bombs dropped possibly by one of our own planes. In the night we supported a 227 Bde attempt to establish a base south of the railway.	46 Bde O.O. 23 Folio 14
22.		The large fire plan for the 46 Bde attack was cancelled at the last minute owing to the failure of 227 Bde to establish their base. A complete new plan was evolved and a few more limited operations were arranged and carried out in the afternoon.	Fire plan for 46 Bde Folio 15
23.		Today we supported 44 Bde who passed through 46 Bde to carry out an operation very similar to that originally planned for 46 Bde the day before. In the evening we received the monumental fire plan prepared for the 53(W) Divs attack down the Weeze on the following day.	Fire Plan for 44 Bde Folio 16
24.		In the early hours the prebombardment for 53 Div started and this was followed by a counter battery programme and a deception plan. The actual attack did not go very well and throughout the day fire plans of varying size were fired in an attempt to maintain the momentum of the attack. In the evening we received orders to dispatch parties to recce a rest area in the Tilburg district. It was not known when the regiment would move out to rest.	
25.		Most of our firing was still in support of 53 Div who were pushing on the Weeze. The recce party under the CO2 at Tilburg found that the area allotted to the regiment was the same as that occupied in our previous rest period before Operation Veritable.	

	26.		3(Br) Div completed the take over from 15 Div and the Divisional Artillery was left in a purely AGRA role. In the morning a fire plan was fired in support of the Canadian attack towards Calcar and Udem. A considerable amount of fire was directed against hostile batteries and mortars.	
	27.		The never ceasing inrush of fireplans gave the regiment no chance to think of pulling out and it was not until the evening that we heard we would move on the next day, we were by now out of range and consequently scarcely a useful element in the winning of battles.	
	28.		A quiet day from the regiment's stand point. Eventually they pulled out of their position at 2000 hrs and the end of the month found them approximately at s'Hertogenbosch on their way to a very well deserved rest at Tilburg. Probably the most outstanding feature of the operations we participated in during the month was the gigantic scale of fire support provided for the infantry. Even the Normandy concentrations were out shadowed and our regt fired approximately 7500 rounds per gun in the month. One failing however was the short notice at which many programmes were received from other formations, it did not give Command Posts staffs sufficient time to complete cross checks by H hour - all have certainly earned their rest.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 190 Field Regiment.R.A.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Mar 45.

Commanding Officer R.J.STREATFIELD. Lt.Col. R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1.		Very early in the morning the regt arrived at Tilburg where the rest of the division had already been for some days to rest and re-equip after the strenuous battle West of the Rhine. The area occupied was the same as the one we had during our previous rest period in early Feb. Everyone settled in very quickly and comfortably, and the first day was spent chiefly in washing German mud off the guns and vehs.	
	2.		General maintenance continued all day and the drudgery was relieved by the rumour that a large allotment of Brussels leave was impending. We also heard that the Regt had been chosen to produce a guard of honour for the visit of Field Marshall Sir BL Montgomery to the Division on Sunday 4 Mar. The guard would consist of 4 Offrs and 50 men. Maj Wingate of 531 Bty was in charge of the guard and the RSM arranged to drill them. The visit was to coincide with a Divisional Church Parade in Tilburg.	
	3.		Our first large allotment of Brussels leave began. In the following fortnight we had been given sufficient vacancies to send the whole regt. We heard that the Divisional Commander intended to visit the regt on Tuesday 6 Mar. The CO gave notice of a regtl MT inspection during the next week.	
	4.		Preparations for the CO's inspection proceeded apace. The Divisional Church parade took place in a drizzle and we sent a small contingent. The visit of the Field Marshall however was cancelled and all the hard work put in by our chosen guard of honour was wasted. Meanwhile the CO, at Brussels learned that his 2 i/c Maj TP Keene had just been made Lt.Col. The new 2 i/c Maj SG Cole RA late of the War Office was in Brussels and met the CO there. It was hoped that Col Keene would receive the command of 181 Fd Regt one of our brother regts in 15 Division. Lt. W.I. MacDonald RA joined the regt.	
	5.		The CO with Maj Cole rejoined the regt in Tilburg and learned that we had to move to a new area near Bourg-Leopold. The object of the	

		move was to bring the Division into 12 Corps with whom we were to work in the forthcoming operation.	
	6.	The regt moved to the area Corspel - Pael a few miles south west of Bourg Leopold in Belgium. Recce parties were not far ahead of the main body and were a little pressed to get areas sorted out in time. As it was a Battery was rather far flung and the subsequent line communications resembled rather a transatlantic telephone system. The move was carried out with considerable difficulty owing to the large number of people in Brussels, but it was nevertheless accomplished successfully.	
	7.	In the new area Btys settled down quickly to prepare for the CO's inspection of MT which was to take place early in the next week. Today was a perfect spring day and the first of the many we were to get for our next operation. 2/Lt. E.A. Boylan RA joined the Regt.	
	8.	Today the CO learned for the first time about operation Plunder, the crossing of the Rhine, at a conference with the Brig 46 Bde. At the regt the work of maintenance continued and substantial parties went to Brussels.	
	9.	Today the chief work at Btys and RHQ was the construction of mock rafts, on and off which drivers could practice driving. It was expected that if a bridge over the Rhine could not be constructed quick enough we might have to be ferried over the river on rafts.	
	10.	An uneventful day. Lt. PA Whitcombe RA posted to 2 FOU. Lt. RG Forde RA posted to Airborne.	
	11.	There was a Regtl church parade at RHQ in Corspel. We collected Lt.Col. TP Keene on his return from UK leave and delivered him to his new regt 181 Fd.	
	12.	Today the CO started his MT inspection. In the morning he inspected 531 Bty and in the afternoon 530 Bty. He was very pleased with very high standard of maintenance and turnout of vehs.	
	13.	The CO continued his inspection, doing RHQ and 529 Bty. Again he was very satisfied with what he saw.	
	14.	The CO2 and RSO went forward to the gun area for the next operation 0746, just north Xanten, with them went Lt. Rae of 529 Bty who was to act as amn offr in the preliminary dumping. The gun area was very open and very close to the Rhine. On a clear day large stretches of it would be open to view from the other side, and it was very difficult to find six suitable troop posns. After completing the recce, a harbour area for dumping parties was found near the village of Wetten 9931. Also during the day a composite troop from the regt took part in Ex "Buffalo" which was a practice for the Rhine crossing, on the Maas South west of Venlo.	Ref App 1,2,3. Ref App 4,5,6.

	15.		The CO & CO2 went to HQRA to discuss the selected gun area with the CRA. They also discussed the scheme for amn dumping. In the evening the regt was entertained by a Ensa party in the school at Corspel.	
	16.		Dumping parties departed for their harbour area, Capt Taylor of 531 Bty was in charge and each Bty sent one offr. Dumping wasn't to start until the next night. Also small holding parties were sent to establish firm our claim to what buildings there were in the gun areas.	
	17.		Today the CO2, RSO & Bty reps reced a regtl lying up area near the village of Wetten where the dumping parties were already. In the evening there was a Regtl Offr's dinner when Lt.Col. Keene the late CO2 was entertained as chief guest.	
	18.		A quiet day with very little happening at the regt.	
	19.		Advance parties from Btys & RHQ went up to the harbour area at Wetten to prepare the way for the regt. In the afternoon and evening the Div Concert Party the TOS gave shows at Corspel.	
	20.		In the morning the CO went to a cloth model exercise at 46 Bde HQ. During the day we packed up and in the afternoon we left Belgium for our next adventure - the crossing of the Rhine. Our route lay through Venlo where we saw a great deal of damage done during our earlier battle in Dec. We arrived in our harbour area in the late evening.	
	21.		In the morning the CO gave orders to all officers on the forthcoming operation. The Rhine crossing as a whole was known as operation "Plunder" and the actual 15 Div part was known as "Torchlight". The Div was to attack on a 2 Bde front 44 Bde right and 227 Bde left with 46 Bde passing through some hours afterwards. The attack was to be substantially supported by the managerie of 79 Armd Div and the swimming tanks of 4 Armd Bde. There would also be the usual immense artillery preparation and support. There was however no initial barrage.	Ref Apps 7,8,9.
	22.		During the day the survey of the gun posns was completed and lines laid. The Regt moved up during the night but did not come into action. Minimum vehs were left on the position.	
	23.		Preparations for the various fire plans were done during the day, and it was not until the afternoon that batteries were able to start digging gun pits. The guns went into action as soon as it was dark. In the evening the CO with his party joined 46 Bde for the battle. At nine o'clock in the evening we heard the roar of guns as 51 Div attacked on our left, but we ourselves did not fire in their support.	

24.		<p>At 35 mins past midnight we started firing on the prebombardment plan. At 0200 hrs 44 & 227 Bdes launched their assault across the river and soon est bridgeheads on the East bank. At first the 227 bridgehead was kept restricted but 44 Bde soon expanded theirs and the first battalion of 46 Bde - 7 Seaforths soon followed over. By morning things had eased considerably, at 1000 hrs the airborne forces came in and after this resistance slackened considerably and in the afternoon 44 Bde joined up with the Airborne. Throughout the day there was a great deal of firing on prearranged tasks except during the period of the Airborne Ops when nothing was allowed to fire. Just prior to the landings we fired an Anti flak programme using the VT fuze for the 1st time to give more effective air bursts.</p>	
25.		<p>Early in the morning the Seaforths were attacked by some determined Germans who succeeded in infiltrating in one company area. Capt Whitton of 531 Bty had a very narrow escape and had to abandon his carrier. Later in the morning when the situation was restored he was fortunate enough to regain everything intact. Throughout the day 46 Bde was chiefly concerned in clearing the wooded areas around the lake in sq 1348. We had to fire many of the prearranged tgts to help them in this work, which was very slow and tedious. In the evening orders came for recce parties to go next day to the area of Overkamp 1247.</p>	
26.		<p>The recce parties departed early to recce the gun area. It was not expected that the regt would move over the river chiefly because of the amn supply on the far side and the fact that we were required to give continuous support to 46 Bde who were still engaged in wood clearing. The new gun area was quite good though all the accommodation was severely damaged by shelling. During the day the regt fired several small fire plans to support the clearing operations of 46 Bde in 1449 and 1549.</p>	
27.		<p>The regt expected to move over the river today, but as it was still in range of the area to be cleared by 46 Bde it was considered better to keep it off the roads. However in the afternoon B tp of 529 Bty moved over to fire any smoke tasks which might be required. Considerable difficulty was now being found with communications. We had no line forward and at times interference on the air prevented direct communication with OPs. Consequently an elaborate system of step up sets had to be maintained. Operations during the day were very similar to those of the previous day. Enemy resistance was patchy.</p>	

	28.		Again the Regt stayed west of the Rhine to support the final clearing ops. Several fire plans were fired and a few other tgts engaged. Enemy resistance ceased in the late afternoon and the day ended with the regt out of range. In the evening we heard that we had to send forward harbour parties over the river the next morning. The regt would move sometime during the day.	
	29.		Harbour parties left early and learned at RA that it was the intention to rest the Division for a few days before resuming the chase which was now well on the way. Our harbour area was in sqs 1747, 1748 but on arriving we found nothing except a few houses already occupied, wet woods, ploughed fields, mines and 12 Corps Rear HQ. So, given a comparative free hand by HQRA the CO2 found a far more comfortable area in 1948, 2048 just west of the village of Hamminkeln. The Regt arrived in the area at 8 o'clock in the evening.	
	30.		The day was spent in cleaning and maintenance. Everything badly needed these after the operation which had been one of the most intensive ones we have ever performed. Rarely were the guns quiet for longer than an hour even during the nights and all command post staffs and gun detachments were worn out. Today Maj Wingate of 531 Bty left the regiment to become 2 i/c of 133 Fd Regt of 53 Div. Capt Dyas Bty Capt of 529 Bty took over the Bty.	
	31.		Maintenance continued in the morning. In the afternoon the CRA visited the regt and addressed all ranks. He congratulated them on the fine work they had done during operation Torchlight. His visit was followed by shows by a Mobile Cinema in a barn at RHQ.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 190 Field Regiment.R.A.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer R.J. Streatfield.R.A.

Month and Year Apr 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1.		The beginning of the month found the regt at HAMMINKELN still resting after taking part in the assault over the Rhine. We were expecting soon to resume the chase, clearing up behind the 12 Corps spearhead, 7 Armd Division.	
	2.		In the morning Maj Gen Barber GOC the Div visited the regt and addressed all ranks. He spoke some very timely and pertinent words on the subjects of looting and fraternisation. He congratulated everyone on the most successful operation just accomplished and hoped for like success in the difficult tasks still ahead of us.	
	3.		Today we came under command 46 Bde group and moved on our first stage to catch up the ever faster battle. It was a short move of about 25 miles and we harboured the night just south of GR. BURLO in a group of up to date farms 3565.	
	4.		Early in the morning we moved again, this time to an area near the village of BORGHORST 7992, a march of some 55 miles. Provisional orders for the next day were that the Division in Bde Groups would clear up the wooded area just East of the DORTMUND - EMS canal. We learned that the Division now came under Command 8 Corps and we were amused to find that Corps HQ was plumb in the middle of the area we were due to clear.	
	5.		We did not embark on our first plan, the new object for the division was to advance as far as the Weser, clearing all the small side roads on the way.	
	6.		We started off early in the morning and made fine progress until we reached the Dortmund-Ems canal where an incredible traffic jam began. After hours of patient waiting the harbour parties managed to get through and after a wild chase south of OSNABRUCK arrived at the harbour area, which was just NW of Minden in the village of FRIEDEWALDE 7618, with a few minutes of light left to do the recce. This was successfully accomplished and it but remained for the main party to arrive.	

7.		About 0200 hrs the first elements of the regt arrived and they continued to do so until it became light. The march was quite the worst ever experienced, the 90 miles having taken 16 hours. The rest of the day things were taken rather quietly by most people.	
8.		A quiet day with nothing unusual to report.	
9.		Today we learned that our next task as a division would be a long advance to contact battle via CELLE and UELZEN to the Elbe. We were to start next day. In the evening we had a regtl sing song and 46 Bde held a short course in the disposal of wines and spirits.	
10.		Today was a short move over the Weser to a concentration area prior to the start of our advance to contact battle. The regt harboured in the village of RADERHORST 9220.	
11.		We set out on our chase with the 4 Tank Coldstream Guards in support of the Bde Gp. All went well until we were a few miles short of Celle when opposition was met at the road and rail crossings in 5638. The regt came into action round the village of Engensen 5036 and fired a little in support of the infantry and tanks.	
12.		The regt moved up early a few miles to the village of Ramlingen 5338 to support the continuation of the clearing operations. In the morning 227 Bde entered Celle and in the afternoon opposition ceased. 46 Bde moved into the south of the town and harboured the night. Some grim sights were seen in a small concentration camp in the town, which brought home to many people what we were fighting against. An abortive recce was made by the CO2 & RSO of an area over the Aller river west of Celle.	
13.		Early we started on the next phase, the advance to Uelzen. 46 Bde covered both flanks of the Div axis with the 9 Cams and 2 Glas H on the right and 7 Sea on the left. 531 Bty accompanied the 7 Sea in an independent role. The 2 Glasgow Highlanders were in the van on the right supported by the Coldstream Guards. The advance was hindered by weak bridges and bad tracks and the regt did two quick actions to clear up small pockets. In the evening we went into action round the village of Eidengen 7657. During the day the CO Lt.Col. Streatfield left the regt to go on a CO's Gunnery Course at Larkhill. Major GS Cole took over command of the regt during his absence.	
14.		Advance continued and in the middle of the morning the regt deployed in sq 8262. There was little trouble however and the advance soon continued. By night the group on the right reached the village of Stadensen 9079. The group less 9 Cams harboured the night here with the guns out of action.	
15.		At 0330 hrs the guards woke the sleeping regt to the accompaniment of a continuous volley of warlike noises. It was soon apparent that	

		<p>there was enemy very close and reports spoke of tanks at both ends of the village. For two hours things were completely disorganised and individual efforts and initiative were responsible in preventing what might have developed into a very nasty situation. Early in the battle several houses were set alight and soon a large part of the village was aflame. Heaps of German amm were soon exploding and several amm trucks of the infantry added to the din and chaos. Terrific work was done in preventing our vehs catching alight and at 0600 hrs when RHQ was forced to evacuate all its vehs were recovered intact. RHQ withdrew a little to the west of the village and dug itself deep in a field. After some time our calls for fire on both wireless nets were answered by 531 Bty on the left of the division and by 181 Fd Regt. Meanwhile 529 and 530 Btys had both got several guns into action in anti tank roles and had knocked out several enemy vehs. Major Stephenson of 530 Bty in particular showed great courage in knocking out 2 enemy half-tracks with a Piat. By 0900 hrs we had got both btys into action and 530 OPs joined the Glas H and assisted in chasing the Germans to the next village of Nettlekamp. The position was considerably relieved when the Cams arrived and by 1500 hrs the situation was completely restored. The final count revealed that the Group had destroyed 12 enemy SP guns and 15 half-tracks. It appeared that the attacking force was a battle group from the new Panzer Div Clausewitz whose aim was to disrupt 8 Corps axis. Losses in the Regt were 1 man killed 6 injured and 1-3 ton lorry destroyed. Later in the afternoon we learned that the Bde was being relieved by 6A/B Div and that the regt was to move into action at Borne 8883 south of Uelzen. Recce parties went off to prepare the area, which was already occupied by a battalion of infantry and a squadron of tanks. 531 Bty were to rejoin the regt in this area. They had had a most interesting time on the left flank supporting the Seaforths.</p>	
	16.	<p>The Regt arrived very early in the morning. It appeared that 46 Bde was to take over from 227 Bde opposite Uelzen and do a frontal assault in a few days time. There was a little firing on observed tgts in and around Uelzen.</p>	
	17.	<p>During the day we learned that Lt. K. Ohlson of 531 Bty had been awarded the MC for gallantry in the operations West of the Rhine. Gnr Bennington of 530 Bty also received the MM. The day was reasonably quiet and in the evening 46 Bde began to patrol into Uelzen. The situation in the town by night was very fluid with some nasty pockets to crack.</p>	

	18.		Progress into the town continued at first light and after a slow start the operation went well and the whole town was cleared by afternoon; many prisoners were taken. Future plans for the division involved an advance to the Elbe clearing up pockets on the way.	
	19.		In the morning harbour parties left for the village of Kleine Hesebeck about ten miles N of Uelzen. In this area the Bde group was concentrating. The Regt arrived in the area in the afternoon but did not go into action. In the evening there was a brief scare when 2 Hitler Youths were captured and found carrying arms. At first popular report had it that we were to be brewed up again, but further interrogation discovered that the only aim of the two boys was to get home to mother.	
	20.		The Bde formed up in Bevensen and set out on its road to the Elbe. The Cams led and progress was steady until a little opposition was met N of Dahlenburg 0114. A regtl area was quickly reced at Dahlem 0116 and 529 Bty did a quick action. Owing to the opposition it was decided to switch the bulk of the Bde up another route further to the west. After a short time however it was decided to send the Seaforths alone on the right with 531 Bty in support, and 530 Bty would join 529 at Dahlem. No sooner were they established there than recce parties were again rushed off to recce a further area in the village of Rosenthal 9328 a few miles south of the Elbe. This recce complete, orders were changed and once more they dashed back to the village of NEETZE 9322 where 529 & 530 eventually arrived as night drew on having leap frogged their way up. It was rather appropriate that RHQ finally ended the day by being established in a circus with bears, elephants and a monkey complete. 531 Bty spent the night in the Seaforths area further North.	
	21.		Early in the morning the Regt occupied the Rosenthal area where accommodation was good though the ground rather wet. We had OPs out with the Cameronians and the Seaforths; the Glasgow Highlanders were in reserve. The day was spent in clearing the few pockets this side of the river on our front.	
	22.		The thing of greatest interest today was the passage of trains up and down across our front on the far side of the River. The Air OP had several good shots at them. It was considered probable that we would remain in this location for several days prior to our move to the Divisional gun area to support the crossing of the Elbe by our Division.	
	23.		Another fairly quiet day. Recce parties did a provisional recce of the next gun area near the village of Bratlingen 8129. The area was not good being chiefly in view from the other bank of the Elbe.	See Appx 11

	24.		In the morning the final preparation and survey of the new gun area was carried out. Apart from that everything was very quiet and the only shooting was that aimed at deer and hares.	
	25.		A very quiet day. In the evening 531 bty fired propaganda shell at Lauenburg and Boizenburg. There was however an unfortunate number of prematures which did no damage luckily though the pamphlets were wasted.	
	26.		During the day a large drive of the area was organised to clear out any civilians who still remained within the forbidden area south of the Elbe.	
	27.		Preparations were completed for our move to the gun area for the crossing. Now the crossing was to be carried out by 44 Bde on the left and the 1st Commando Bde with 7 Seaforths under command on the right. Not much opposition was expected.	
	28.		At midnight we left Rosenthal and we soon arrived at Brietlingen and settled in for the night. B Echelons had previously moved to an area south of Luneburg. The fire plan and CB plan were received and issued out in the morning. Arty support was divided into 3 Groups and we were under command the 5th Div Gp. Calls for fire from this group were to be controlled first by the CO of the 1st Mountain Regt supporting the Commandos and finally by our CO. At 2350 hrs the CB programme "COSSACK" began.	See Appxs 12 & 13.
	29.		At 0200 hrs the attack over the Elbe was launched supported by 11 Fd, 4 Med and 1 Hy regts. All went well and quicker than plan and the first objectives were soon taken. Soon after first light recce parties left to prepare an advance position on the banks of the Elbe 8533. It was a poor area with little cover and very wet. The regt moved in later in the morning welcomed by a certain amount of strafing from enemy planes. Air activity was greater than we had seen in the whole campaign and throughout the day there were repeated attacks on the bridging sites. In the afternoon we had a warning that the regiment might move across the river that night. More definite orders came later and recce parties left to find a harbour area in the village of KRUKOW 8339. According to our maps this had not yet been cleared and the recce parties arriving there as dusk approached entered the village with all circumspection. All was well however and, recce completed, the arrival of the regt was awaited.	
	30.		After a horrible night march over the river the regt did not arrive until first light. After a few hours sleep and breakfast we moved forward into action in 8240 with RHQ in Piependorf 8140. It was a good gun area, but a poor one for accn. Meanwhile our OPs were still	

			with our infantry on the East of the bridgehead and meeting more opposition than anyone else. And so the month ended. During its 30 days we had covered about 300 miles and come very close to the end of the war in Europe.	
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WAR DIARY

or

Unit 190 Field Regiment.R.A.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year May 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. R.J.Streatfield. R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
GERMANY	1.		We were in action in square 8240. The opposition which had to a certain extent hindered the initial operations had now practically ceased and there was very little firing to do. We did fire one small fire plan to help the 6 KOSB of 44 Bde into the village of BRUNSTORF 7847. In the evening Major G.S. Cole, acting CO, gave orders for future Ops. 46 Bde was being relieved that night by a Bde of 5 Division and the next day was to take part in the clearing by 15 Div of the large SACHSENWALD. To support this we were to occupy an area round the village of WORTH 7744. A recce of the area was done that evening. During the day Capt The Hon L.G.B. Brett RA left the regiment to take up a staff appointment at HQ 8 Corps.	
	2.		At 0600 the regiment moved forward to WORTH and were in action when operations started at 0800 hrs. Things progressed very favourably with little opposition apart from small isolated posts and SP guns. Before midday the acting CO2 Capt J.H. Bradley and the RSO reced a new area in the village of DASSENDORF 7547. Recce parties joined them there and during the preparation of the gun areas they were harassed by a most persistent gun. Sgt Summers of F Tp was wounded in the arm. The regiment moved up to the new area at 1700 hrs. The infantry operations continued until dusk when the whole Forest was cleared. Plans for next day were that we should move up to the general area of TRITTAU 7760 with the Bde Group. The move would be semi tactical and the guns would occupy an area 7754 to cope with any trouble en route. 529 Bty would stay behind in the old area in the beginning to support the 9 Cameronians who were staying back as initial flank protection.	
	3.		Recce parties left at 0800 hrs to prepare the new position and the two batteries and RHQ moved up via SCHWARZENBEK 8248 arriving in the area at 1000 hrs. As was anticipated there was no firing to do and about 1100 hrs recce parties went forward to the TRITTAU area. This new area was at first prepared as a gun position, but before the recce was complete we were ordered to go into harbour only. Very	

GERMANY		<p>comfortable billets were obtained and it was hoped that our stay would be of several days duration.</p> <p>We later learned that we were to move again the next day with the Bde group and the regimental area was west of the village of SCHONBERG 7767. In the evening Lt.Col. R.J. Streatfield DSO RA rejoined the regiment, returning from his course at Larkhill.</p>	
	4.	<p>The new area was reced in the morning and the regiment moved in about 1100 hrs. 531 Bty was deployed in action on the west of the area and at about maximum range would have been able to reach Divisional Headquarters. In the evening we heard on the wireless that all German forces in North West Germany had unconditionally surrendered to 21st Army Group. The cease fire was to take effect from 0800 hrs on the 5th May. The news was received almost quietly by most men, but as the evening wore on the wonderful realisation gradually sunk in and the day ended on a note of rather riotous jubilation.</p>	
	5.	<p>At 0800 hrs the cease fire was given and we were ordered that no further advances would be made until further orders. The day was generally treated as a whole holiday. What our future would be no one could envisage.</p>	
	6.	<p>Everyone started a great maintenance drive as we expected to be in the present location for several days. In the afternoon the CO went to an "O" Group at HQRA and heard that it was likely that the regiment would move with 46 Bde to occupy the KIEL area.</p>	
	7.	<p>The CO held an all officers conference to explain the decisions of the "O" Group. Now that hostilities were at an end we were to pay utmost attention to immaculate turnout and endeavour in any way to impress the Germans without fraternising with them. To this end it was proposed to start an officers' marching drill class to refresh our memories.</p>	
	8.	<p>Today was Victory in Europe day; on the whole it was not such a boisterous day as May 4th. An O Group at 46 Bde was held in the afternoon. It was still not certain if we would proceed to KIEL with the Bde group.</p>	
	9.	<p>A rather more disconcerting rumour was heard today; it was suggested by HQRA that the regiment might be required to establish a large camp for SS prisoners. Anyway we would not be going to Kiel with 46 Bde.</p>	
GERMANY	10.	<p>A quiet day. We were still rounding up large numbers of soldiers who were attempting to get to their homes. So far there had been no instances of violence.</p>	

	11.		The LAD started a six-monthly inspection scheme to cover all vehs in the regt. In the large wood factory opposite RHQ the carpenters of the regt started to construct the "UBIQUE" THEATRE, for regtl concerts, film shows and other entertainments.	
	12.		Batteries and RHQ had by now each organised Rest camps in the area of the lakes about 3 miles away from the Regtl area. Boats had appeared as if from nowhere and everyone was taking full advantage of the hot weather to get in as much bathing as possible. In the evening the Divisional Concert Party the TAM O'SHANTERS gave a performance in the Theatre which had been completed that afternoon.	
	13.		A regtl church parade was held in the theatre in the morning.	
	14.		In the morning Brigadier L. Bolton DSO, CRA of the Division made a working inspection of the regiment. The Batteries were engaged in all types of training and maintenance and the CRA was very satisfied with all he saw. In the afternoon the CO2 started his Marching Drill class for Officers and Senior NCO's. This course was to last a week with four hours a day.	
	15.		The regiment was given a new area of responsibility which involved the moving of some of the Batteries. Also we learned that we would have to establish a large camp for the reception of 15,000 SS troops in transit. This would be located somewhere near the Elbe between GEESTACHT and BERGERDORF. Today Major JHM Stephenson BC of 530 was awarded the MC for his gallantry at the Stadensen "affair" of April.	
	16.		530 Bty moved into the village of LUTJENSEE, two miles west of their old area. The CO, with the CRA went to recce a site for the P.O.W. camp, near the village of ALTENGAMME 6940. 531 Bty would be responsible for the establishment of the camp.	
GERMANY	17.		A further recce was done by the CO and Major Dyas of 531 Bty to fix the site and choose an area for the battery.	
	18.		Today a further development was that we were to take over the large Concentration camp and Brickworks 6640, now filled with Russian, Displaced Persons, for our prisoners. The whole regiment would be required to run the camp and the first arrivals were expected about May 26th. The marching drill class ended in the afternoon, the CO coming to the "Passout" Parade. Capt. JFB O'Shea went to HQ 8 Corps on a Staff attachment.	
	19.		CO and CO2 went in the new area to look over the camp and recce an area for RHQ. The Camp consisted of a concentration camp, an SS Barracks and a Brickworks. The Concentration camp and the Brickworks would be used for prisoners and run by 530 and 529 Btys respectively. 531 Bty would be the General Admin Battery. R.H.Qs	

		area was fixed in the village of CURSLACK 6542. It was proposed to move the regiment about 26th of May.	
	20.	Further recces were carried out in the new area.	
	21.	Today we sent a draft of thirty men on a Pickfords posting to S.E.A. Comd. Capt Thompson and Lt. H. Crossman both of C Troop also left the regiment having volunteered to serve in the same Command. 531 Bty moved from the SCHONBERG area to its new area in NEUENGAMME. The object of the move was to complete the takeover of the camps from the Battery of 67 Medium Regt RA who were previously administering them and to prepare them for the reception of the SS. The Camps already had considerable defences in the shape of watch towers, electrified fences and alarm systems, but considerable work was needed to make the system satisfactory and foolproof. The Signal Offr undertook the task of repairing the electric fence and of repairing and improving the lighting arrangements in the camps. Fortunately the electricity supply from Hamburg was reasonably good and it was not necessary to use the emergency generators in the camp.	
GERMANY	22.	In the SCHONBERG area we were responsible for making lists of all foreigners not wishing to be repatriated immediately. Sweeps of the area were carried out by the two batteries remaining and several suspicious characters and numerous German soldiers were secured. Apart from these activities all were preparing for the move to the new area which was to take place on the 25th.	
	23.	We received an intake of 33 OR's as replacements for the Pickfords personnel dispatched 2 days before. We now knew that the regiment would be used for purely occupational duties and that we would have to hand in our Gunner eqpt sometime shortly.	
	24.	Final packing up took place and the general area tidied up in preparation for the move. One troop of 529 moved off in advance and so too did the Q Echelon.	
	25.	The day was chiefly spent in moving to the new area. The move was accomplished without incident and everyone was soon comfortably established again. No time was wasted in starting work on the two camps. Work was however hampered by the fact that a large number of Russians, displaced persons were still on the camps.	
	26.	Final preparations for the intake of the first SS on the 27th were completed and in the evening there was a trial of all the lighting systems in the camps. We had attached to us to act as escorts when the SS were moved away from us, two troops of 15 (S) Recce Regt and "C" Coy of 7 Seaforths.	

	27.		Today we received five train loads of SS from the US Ninth Army area. The first train load which consisted almost entirely of Lithuanian and Latvian SS were sent away immediately under escort to a 2nd Army P.O.W. Cage. They numbered about 2800. The other four trains yielded 8150. Considerable organisation was required to march the prisoners from the station of HOLTENKLINKE 6645 to the camp, a march of 3 to 4 miles. Everyone showed remarkable zeal in policing the route and the whole operation was completed without major incident. The last train load arrived after dark but large numbers of veh headlights were used to illuminate the scene and nothing untoward happened.	
GERMANY	28.		One train arrived today with 2580 SS on board. They were treated in a similar manner as those on the day before. So far there had been no trouble in the Camp. One very unfortunate incident was that Sgt Stone of 530 Bty accidentally touched the electrified fence and was killed by the shock.	
	29.		The Seaforths and Recce escort took away 2500 today to the 2nd Army P.O.W. cage. There was no further intake. In the afternoon the 8 Corps Comd Lt.Gen. E.H. Barker CB, CBE, DSO, MC visited the camps.	
	30.		In the morning the Divisional Commander Maj.Gen. Barber visited the camps. A road party of 540 prisoners arrived in the afternoon and also an unexpected train load of 1500. The total of prisoners now in the camp was 10,460.	
	31.		On the whole a quiet day. Another unexpected party turned up in the afternoon in some 20 of their own trucks. They numbered about 450. The camps were now running well and the prisoners were being used extensively to make them cleaner, particular attention being paid to the drains which had always been badly choked.	