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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt (D.C.O.)

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year February 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. A.N.W. Kidston

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
MOERGESTEL 226306	1st		Bn resting and occupying locations as follows :- Bn HQ and HQ Coy - MOERGESTEL 226306 A Coy - TILBURG 158312 B Coy - TILBURG 165316 C Coy - GOIRLE 150280 D Coy - RIEL 118285	46 Bde Outline Plan dtd 29 Jan 45 (E 10) 46 Bde Adm Instr No 9 dtd 31 Jan 45 (H 43) 46 Bde Op Order No 18 dtd 3 Feb 45 (E 7) 46 Bde Adm Order No 17 dtd 3 Feb 45 (H 44) 1 Mx Op Order No 6 dtd 3 Feb 45 (D 6) 1 Mx Op Order No 5 dtd 3 Feb 45 (D 4)
	4th		During this period general cleaning and maintenance of vehicles and weapons is carried out, as also are route marches, long carries and certain types of training varying according to Coy Requirements.	46 Bde Move Order No 22 (H46) 46 Bde Op Order No 19 dtd 4 Feb 45 (E 11)
	5th		A Coy proceed in Bde column to NIJMEGEN during the night and are accommodated in the Barracks. The move is secret and all Div signs are concealed.	1 Mx move Order No 4 dtd 5 Feb 45 (G 36) 46 Bde Adm Order No 18 dtd 5 Feb 45 (H 47)
	6th	1000	Bn HQ, HQ and D Coy after travelling through the night arrive at NIJMEGEN and harbour in a School at 715613.	"PEPPERPOT" Task Table & Trace A. (H 48) Combined Target Overprint Map (J 64)
	7th	1630 2230 1300	B Coy less main HQ leave TILBURG to take up posns prior to Op 'PEPPERPOT' Tac HQ B Coy is est at 743565 - 6 pl in an indirect posn at 751564 7 pl in a direct posn at 754568 - 8 pl in an indirect posn at 751564. Bn HQ forms Tac HQ and proceeds to Sanatorium at 730576.	46 Move Order No 23 Dtd 6 Feb 45 (H 45) 44 Bde Op Order No 5 dtd 5 Feb 45 (E 8)
	8th	0500	Arty barrage of 1,000 guns opens up.	

		<p>0530 Op 'PEPPERPOT' commences. The terrific barrage is at its peak when the sad news is brought that the C.O. Lt. Col. J.P. Hall has been killed and his driver 14339746 with him, when their jeep ran over some 75 Grenades. Major D.A. Phillips comes at once to Bn HQ and it is with increased determination to spare no effort that he and the Bn complete the 'PEPPERPOT' and commence Op 'VERITABLE'.</p> <p>0940 7 pl B Coy has an excellent view of 227 Bde moving to the SL and are able to give covering fire until 1015 hrs.</p> <p>1100 Tac HQ 44 Bde move fwd without informing B Coy with the result that B Coy are unable to move fwd to them.</p> <p>1500 O.C. B Coy goes to Bde to fix up final details of the pls joining their respective Bns for Op 'VERITABLE'. Again Bde fails to inform the Coy of the time for this and only 8 Pl manages to link up with their Bn.</p> <p>2300 O.C. B Coy visits Tac Bde HQ and is told that 6 and 7 pls are to join in at the back of the third Bn Gp. 3 Pl A Coy move with 2 GH to re-organise in HETSTEEG 796555 - 5 pl move fwd with 9 Cams to AUF DEM HOVEL 811544 - 4 pl move fwd in reserve to area of 771552.</p> <p>1600 46 Bde are on all objectives. Adv HQ A Coy remain in GROESBEEK and rear HQ in NIJMEGEN.</p>	
	9th	<p>A Coys pls remain in same posns - 44 Bde is attacking - Large nos of PsW are coming in - The supply situation is becoming acute owing to the bad state of the roads. B Coy are experiencing a very busy time and Lt Stubbs has quite an unpleasant sit in which his pl becomes involved.</p> <p>1130 10 Pl C Coy follows 2 Gordons and move via 46 Bde route to 825551 near GROESBEEK.</p> <p>0900 11 pl C Coy remain at Coy HQ whilst 9 pl move to HLI area at 812558 and prepare to fire over the flooded area to the North.</p> <p>1130 12 and 14 pls D Coy move to 801558 under comd of 227 Bde - Tac HQ plus 13 and 15 pls remain with 46 Bde.</p> <p>2200 227 Bde O Gp called to discuss the occupation of CLEVE - 15 Recce Regt has pushed fwd and the Bde is to clear the town between 0800 and 1000 hrs the following day - 2 A&SH are to lead, followed by 2 Gordons with 10 HLI in area 8354 - C Coy is to sp these Bns and to be used if necessary.</p>	46 Bde Op Instr No 25 dtd 9 Feb 45 (E9)
	10th	<p>1200 Tac HQ A Coy rejoins advanced HQ in GROESBEEK. B Coy Comd attends conference at Bde concerning the assault and clearing of CLEVE.</p>	

			12 and 14 pls D Coy move to 853558 west of NUTTERDEN and later in the day to 883560 just east of CLEVE - 13 and 15 pls move to 848546 behind the NE corner of the REICHSWALD Forest.	
	11th	0730 1500 1530 1700	A Coy Comd Recces MATERBORN Feature with the Brigadier. 4 and 5 pls A Coy are called up and go into action by 1500 hrs - 5 pl are in the area of DRESSERBURG 8755 and 4 pl at 870543 - 3 pl are unable to go up owing to the appalling state of the roads. Advance HQ A Coy move to N edge of the REICHSWALD Forest at 855555. C Coy informed by 227 Bde that at 0900 hrs 2 Gordons will clear rd NUTTERDEN - CLEVE followed by 10 HLI - 10 pl C Coy advance along route in 2 Gordons Colmn - 9 pl are halted at 863800. 11 pl C Coy move from present posn and harbour at 863572. C Coy Tac HQ move to 863572. 10 pl is in posn at 888568. B Coy pls remain concentrated in NUTTERDEN.	
	12th	1000	46 Bde are now in reserve and A Coy Pls conc in area 8555 and 888556 - Advance HQ move to CLEVE 8956 with the role of re-occupation of the MATERBORN Feature in the event of an enemy attack, also counter attack role through REICHSWALD Forest in the event of 53 Div being attacked. B Coy locations unchanged pls are out of action. C Coy endeavour to bring up rear Coy HQ. 12 and 14 pls D Coy conc at 227 Bde HQ at 862572 nr DONSBRUGGEN. Tac HQ D Coy move with 46 Bde to 854556 E of NUTTERDEN.	Sitrep (J 72)
	14th	1600 1930 2100	Capt J.B. Redman takes over Comd of A Coy from Major A.R. Waller on leave. 2 GH and 9 Cams with 7 Seaforths in reserve are to attack from BEDBURG 9352 in S.E. direction - 5 pl A Coy are to re-organise with 9 Cams in area 943514 - 3 and 4 pls are in harbour for the night - Advance Coy HQ is est at 918537. B Coy spend the day in maintenance. O.C. C Coy attends Bde O Gp for the attack on high ground S.E. of CALCAR. The plan is dependent on the progress made by 46 Bde. O.C. D Coy attends conference at 46 Bde to decide details for tomorrows Op in which 13 and 15 pls are to take part.	46 Bde Op Order No 20 dtd 13 Feb 45 (E12) 46 Bde Op Order No 21 dtd 14 Feb 45 (E13)
	15th		7 Seaforths attack down CLEVE road to capture MOYLAND 968517 and 9 Cams attack to capture high ground at 9551 - 3 and 5 pls give right flank rear protection to 9 Cams from area 9452. 4 pls task was to re-organise with 7 Seaforths but owing to stiff opposition 7 Seaforths only reach area of 955525 - 4 pl remain in harbour for the night. 3 pl fire DF tasks in front of 7 Seaforths	

		0900 1000 1200	and 5 pl in front of 9 Cams. 10 HLI under comd 46 Bde carries out a night attack on right of 9 Cams and reaches objective 964496. 9 pl C Coy joins 10 HLI on road E of CLEVE D Coy Tac HQ join Bn HQ and move to location at DONSBURGGEN 866571 - 13 and 15 pls conc in this area also. Owing to 46 Bde meeting considerable opposition the plan is changed and 10 HLI is placed under Comd 46 Bde - 9 pl C Coy remains with them and moves to 925530 - arrangements are made for A Coy to administer 9 pl who remain in same location for the night.	
	16th	0800 0900	B Coy Main HQ joins Tac HQ in CLEVE. 9 pl C Coy takes up a posn at 948509 with a DF task in front of HLI. D Coy Tac HQ move to 916537 - 13 and 15 pls remain in sp of 46 Bde and carry out various harassing shoots by day and night on targets around MOYLAND on call from 9 Cams and 7 Seaforth. A total of 413 bombs are expended during the day.	
	17th	1930	The attack on MOYLAND does not take place as the woods have not been cleared. O.C. B Coy called to Bn HQ for Gp. O.C. C Coy attends O Gp on Op 'PEPPERPOT'. 15 pl D Coy move to 941526 in order to sp 46 Bdes attack to capture MOYLAND.	46 Bde Op Order No 22 dtd 17 Feb 45 (E14) Sitrep. (I 61) Sitrep. (J 76) Sitrep.
	18th	0600 1500 0545	Tac HQ and Pls of B Coy move up into reced posns and Tac HQ is est at 926471. H-Hour for 44 Bdes attack. B Coy engage targets on the south side of the R Niers 9143 and 9243 from H -2 hours to H Hour. C Coy Tac HQ with 10 and 11 pls move to 912462. 12 and 14 pls D Coy conc under comd 44 Bde and are to sp them on their assault on GOCH. They therefore take up posns as follows:- just north of the town - 12 pl at PFALZDORF 912465 and 14 pl at 936464.	Sitrep. (J 77) Trace A Coy MMG Tasks (J 92)
	19th	0700 0900	46 Bde relieved by Cdn Bde at first light and conc in CLEVE. A Coy HQ and pls harbour at 891551. B Coy Main HQ move up to join Tac. O.C. C Coy carries out various reces. Lt Col A.N.W. Kidston takes over comd of the Bn. C Coy carries out recce prior to the attack on BUCKHOLT 9543. D Coy Tac HQ move to 92148 S of the CLEVE Forest and the remainder of Coy HQ join later. On the completion of the relief of 46 Bde by the Cdns, 13 and 15 pls come out of action and rest at 916534, Tac HQs previous location. 14 pl continue in sp of 6 KOSB who are clearing the remaining part of GOCH on the N side of the R. NIERS.	1 Mx Fire Plan Op 'THISTLE' (H 42) Sitrep. Sitrep. (J 79)

		1800	12 pl move to 942451 in preparation for their role in an attack by 227 Bde which takes place tomorrow.	1 Mx Fire Plan Op 'THISTLE' (H 50)
	20th	1020 1300	A Coy remain in same locations and concentrate on maintenance. Op 'THISTLE' 10 and 11 pls C Coy in action. For this op Lt F. Dawson O.C. 14 pl D Coy is sent to 2 A&SH to act as FOO Lt Dawson leaves D Coy HQ to recce for a suitable OP. A shell explodes in front of his carrier wounding him in the side. Later he died whilst on his way to hospital. The operation achieves all its intentions and is successful.	Sitrep Sitrep (J 80)
	21st	1030 1200 1330 1900 1800 2200	A Coy Comd recces area 9343 -9443 to decide posns for pls supporting 46 Bdes attack on GOCH the following day. 227 Bde give orders for 9 pl C Coy to come under comd 2 Gordons and cover Bridge at 941421. These orders are now cancelled and 9 pl comes under comd 6 RSF and takes up a posn at 918429. 10 and 11 pls C Coy are to engage area on right flank of RSF approx at 934422. This is also cancelled as patrols of 51 Div are in the area. 12 and 14 pls D Coy remain in the same posns covering the front held by 227 Bde. These pls move fwd to a temporary posn at 941442 to engage 2 targets in sp of 6 RSF. An aerial attack is made on 12 and 14 pls and one bomb falls on the mortar line killing Cpl Johl and Pte Carter. 13 pl D Coy cease to be under comd 46 Bde and conc in area of Coy HQ at 924479.	46 Bde Op Order No 23 (E 15)
	22nd	1030 1400 1500	3 and 4 pls A Coy take up posns at first light as follows :- 3 pl at 939435 to give right flanking protection to the attack - 4 pl at 947427 to sp the attack which is to be made by 9 Cams on right and 7 Sea on left with 2 GH in reserve. 5 pl A Coy forms up with 9 Cams for re-org task. The plan is changed slightly and only a limited advance is to be attempted owing to heavy opposition on the enemys part - 4 pl is given an additional task to re-org from original posn in which they were to sp attack - 5 pl remains in reserve - Very heavy shelling and mortaring all day - Lieut R.W.B. Lloyd killed during the action. Advance A Coy HQ is est at 934454. B Coy carries out map shoot. 10 and 11 pls C Coy fire on wood at 966437 and Arty FOO reports that the enemy has been effectively silenced.	A Coy Trace DF Tasks (J 93) (E17) 44 Bde Op Order No 7 B Coy Fire Direction Chart. (H42A) Sitrep

		1800	12 and 14 pls D Coy return from their temporary posns of yesterday to their original location at 943451 - 15 pl leave the rest location and take up a posn at 940432 in order to sp 46 Bde attack to command WEEZE - UDEM rd. This objective is cancelled and more limited objectives chosen. 200 bombs are expended. The pl is under heavy fire and sustains 5 casualties. 15 pl pulls back to 938439.	
	23rd	2100	A coys locations remain the same. 44 Bde attack through 46 Bde and reach all their objectives. B Coy takes part in the action. 10 and 11 pls C Coy continue to fire in sp of 2 A&SH and 10 HLI. 12 and 14 pls D Coy remain in the same posns but orders are received for 14 pl to sp the attack by 53 (W) Div on the right tomorrow. They therefore set a mortar line at 938429 but do not occupy this. Orders are next given for 13 and 15 pls to sp an attack by 44 Bde to command the WEEZE - UDEM Rd. 13 pl therefore leave Coy HQ and takes up a posn at 947435 - 15 pl moves to 939429. They fire 272 bombs during the attack and sustain 2 casualties. Main HQ D Coy remain in same location and a Tac HQ is formed at 44 Bde from 0900 - 1730 hrs. Capt J P Livemore reports to 160 Bde 53 (W) Div as LO for the Bn in preparation for the attack tomorrow.	Sitrep. (J67)
	24th		53 Div attack down the GOCH - WEEZE Rd on the right flanks of 46 Bde - 3 and 5 pls A Coy sp this attack from 940418. 7 pl B Coy carry out some good work with MMG and LMG Fire 14 pl D Coy occupy posn of yesterdays making where they carry out tasks in Sp of 53 Div until 1700 hrs. It is reported that fire from this pl broke up at least one enemy counter attack during the day. A Recce party visits 12 pl to arrange take over. This party is from 2nd Bn Middlesex. The relief is completed and 12 pl conc at Coy HQ by 0130 hrs on the 25th. 13 and 15 pls remain at the same locations.	46 Bde Op Instr No 27 (E18) 46 Bde Adm Order No 20 Sitrep (J65)
	25th		Bde of 3 Div relieve 46 Bde and A Coy conc in area 926453 B Coys pls conc in area of Tac HQ. C Coy move to BOXTEL. D Coys pls conc at Coy HQ for the night.	46 Bde Op Instr No 2 (E19) Sitrep (J69)
	26th		The relief of the Bn by 53 (W) Div is now completed and we move to BOXTEL for a well earned rest. Bn HQ 327367 - A Coy 324351 - B Coy 225351 - C Coy and D Coy - 331352.	1 Mx Move Order No5(G37) 1 Mx Training Instr(G38) 1 Mx Training Instr No 2 (G39)