

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

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 20 Field Coy RE

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Month and Year Jan 1945

Commanding Officer Major M.D. WILKINSON

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ONDER	1.		Road maintenance ONDER rd continued. Water point maintained. Removal of debris from demolished bridge at KELPEN continued.	JG
"	2.		do.	
"	1/2.	night	LT PARKER and 1 Sgt mined (A/per) and booby trapped an air raid shelter on W. bank of MAAS. 2 'R' mines fitted with 2 pull igniters each and trip wires were laid in front of each of the two entrances. The bottom step in one entrance and the next to bottom in the second entrance was covered by 6 schu mines. 3 separate schu mines were laid under the straw in the lobby of the shelter. Work done under cover of fighting patrol of infantry.	JG
"	3,4,5 & 6.		Road maintenance ONDER road continued. Water point maintained. Work on KELPEN bridge site continued.	JG
ONDER	7.		1 pl relieved 2 pl on KELPEN bridge site. Work continuing there. All stores available for concreting foundation for Bailey crib pier. Water point closed in Bde area because the dyke from which the supply was drawn was gradually drying up. ONDER Road maintenance continued, but work could not be done because the ground was frozen to a depth of approx 18 ins.	JG Freezing hard
ONDER	8.		LT H.G. ODGERS promoted to A/Capt and posted to 8 GHQ tps ENGRS wef 8 Jan, authority C.E. 21 A. Gp. message Ref No RE 20 dated 3 Jan 45. ONDER Road maintenance continued. Removal of debris from KELPEN Bridge continued. ditto for 9, 10, 11, 12 Jan.	JG Snow fell on 8 and 9. 10 coldest day yet experienced.
ONDER	11		2 Secs of 3 pl moved to BEERG on river MEUSE to prepare site for training crews from the 3 Bns of 227 Bde in watermanship, particularly rowing and paddling MK 2 and MK 3 assault boats in a fast flowing river. Duration of course for inf expected to be 7 days.	JG JG

		am.	LT M.J.A. CAMPBELL RE rejoined unit after completing course at Ripon.	JG
ONDER	13.		2/LT G.M. HUNTER (331693) joined unit on being posted from HQRE 7 GHQ tps Engineers wef 9 Jan 45. 2 pl started erection of 3 (plus) NISSEN huts for 227 Bde in reserve Bn area. Work on KELPEN Bridge continued (anticipated construction will start in 7 days time on foundations for Bailey Piers of new proposed bridge). ONDER road maintenance continued	JG Warmer weather Ground thawing at midday
ONDER	14.		Onder Road maintenance completed. Sanding roads in Bde area as necessary. Work on Nissen huts for 227 Bde continued, also work on buildings for 153 Fd Amb and ADOS (15) (S) Div. Same for 15, 16, 17 Jan	JG
ONDER	17		Started concreting for foundation W side of KELPEN Bridge. Half concreted. Completed on morning of 18 Jan.	JG
	18		Same as for previous days. Lt Hunter attended 1 days P.A.D. course	JG
	19		ditto	
	20.		Started concreting for foundation E side for Bailey pier. The pier on the W side (Bailey) $\frac{3}{4}$ completed. 3 pl returned to Coy harbour on completion of first course for infantry in watermanship. 2 pl went to same site (S of Roermond) to prepare for second inf course due to start on 22 Jan.	JG Thaw precautions in force wef JG 0600 hrs on 20.
ONDER SWARTBROEK	21.	1330	Coy handed over RE tasks in Div area to 6 A/B Div RE and moved to SWARTBROEK (4 miles E of WEERT on ROERMOND Rd) to concentrate company to build superstructure of bridge to be called RED LION BRIDGE. Concreting of E foundation completed, also pier on W side completed.	JG
"	22.		All available men in coy prepared site for launching bridge. Pier on E side constructed.	
"	23.		45 Bridging vehicles arrived at 1200 hrs. Offloading began at 1230 hrs by 1 pl followed at 1300 by all company. By 1700 hrs all vehicles had been offloaded and construction on bridge began. At 2100 40ft DS launching nose & 70ft DS & T.S. span had been completed. A composite coy from 278 and 279 Fd Coys made up of 65 men from each coy took over construction for 150 T.D. main span. This was completed at 0500 hrs on 24. By 0800 hrs 70 DS, TS span had been added and the whole bridge was launched by both composite coy and 20 Coy by 0900 hrs. It took a further 24 hrs to jack up, remove the rollers and jack down after breaking the spans.	Very cold day. 15 degrees frost Bright moon at night.
SWARTBROEK	24.			JG

	25.		By 1500 hrs the bridge was decked down, wearing surface added and the ends of the ramps made good with tarmac surfacing. The bridge was then opened to traffic. Length 294 ft with 2 ten ft ramps.	JG
SWARTBROEK	26.	1000	Coy moved to new location at POPPEL. 12 KM S of TILBURG (in Belgium) to div rest area. Came under 30 Corps in 1st Canadian Army. Most of the units in the div had arrived one or two days previously.	JG Snow fell to depth of 3 inches during convoy run.
POPPEL	27		Capt NICHOLAY F.E. ceased to be attached to this unit from 40 RHU on posting to 7 GHQ tps (84 Coy). Company engaged on maintaining vehicles and conservancy.	JG
POPPEL	28		Lt HUNTER finished his course with 24 sappers engaged in training infantry in watermanship and handed over all the stores to 6 A/B sappers. He returned with party to unit on 29th.	JG
POPPEL	29,30 & 31		Cleaning and maintaining vehicles and G1098 stores. Strength on 31 Jan 1945. 6 Officers 235 ORs. Nil Off 3 Sgts & 46 ORs granted and proceeded on Priv leave during month.	Thaw set in on 30th. JG