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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 6 KOSB

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year MAR 45

Commanding Officer Maj AES JACKSON MC

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TURNHOUT	1		General administration ☉ All 'A' vehs were concentrated under OC Sp Coy for overhaul and 50% of coy Jeeps and 15 cwt trucks were similarly concentrated under MTO for 5 days overhaul.	JRPB CWPR
	2		A REME team visited the Bn to inspect all small arms and LMGs. Coys carried out trg e.g. route marches, drill, discussion on wood fighting. A Bn dance was held in the evening and cinema shows were given in the afternoon and evening.	JRPB CWPR
TURNHOUT	Sat 3		The CO held a Bn Parade in the morning at the Football Field CASTERLE STRAAT, this being a Rehearsal for the visit of the GOC 15(S) Div on 5 Mar. The Bn was formed up in hollow square and the general salute was given. Thereafter the Bn marched past in coln of threes. C & D Coys carried through a night attack exercise from 1900 - 2300 hrs. The whole Bn bathed during the day. Cinema and variety shows were given in the afternoon and evening. 76 men of each A & B Coys went off to BRUSSELS for 48 hrs leave.	AHE CWPR
-Do-	Sun 4		A Bn Memorial Service was held in the morning at which those of the Bn who had given their lives were specially remembered. The Chaplain conducted the service and preached the Sermon. The lesson was read by the Commanding Officer. The Bde Comd attended. In the afternoon the MASSED PIPES & DRUMS of the Div played in TILBURG. The Comd Offr and a party from Sp Coy attended.	AHE CWPR
TURNHOUT	Mon 5		The Div Comd addressed the Bn on the football field, after taking the General Salute. The Bn then marched past the GOC in coln of threes. The Div Comd expressed his appreciation of the work of the Bn in the recent ops and congratulated all ranks. In the afternoon the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Div played a programme & beat Retreat in the Market Square TURNHOUT. All available personnel attended and the Bde Comd took the salute. The Band was under the comd of CSM J LYALL HQ Coy.	

			A warning order was received for the move of the Bn to area DIEST 1667 on 6 Mar and harbour parties left at midday. Final orders were received in the evening for the move of the Bn at 1400 hrs 6 Mar. A Bde Offrs Dance was held in the evening in TURNHOUT. The Div Comd attended. A Bn ORs dance was also held.	AHE CWPR
ZELEM	Tues 6	II	Bn left TURNHOUT by MT at approx 1100 hrs and went through GHEEL and DIEST to the area of ZELEM (1:250,000 NW Europe Sheet 3 K165676), arriving at approx 1400 hrs. Harbour parties had had a very difficult task and coy areas were very scattered. All coys were however eventually accommodated either in schools or civilian billets. On arrival in the new area the Division came under comd 12 Corps. Weather - fine rain during the majority of the day.	JRPB CWPR
	7 Wed	I II	The remaining 50% of unit transport was called into the unit garage for overhaul. Coys settled into new billets and practised moving with smoke cover. Weather fair.	JRPB CWPR
	8 Thu		Information was received that special training for an assault crossing of a large river is to begin on 10 Mar. During the day Coys practised wood clearing. Two coys carried out a night exercise i.e. the advance from a river obstacle. Capt M.St.G. PALLOT joined the Bn.	JRPB CWPR
ZELEM	9 Fri	I	Training similar to yesterday. A further leave party went to Brussels for 48 hr leave. CO attended conference at Bde on forthcoming ops and trg.	JRPB CWPR
	10 Sat	I	Coys marched to a demonstration in the Bn area of the loading and capabilities of a 'BUFFALO' conducted by Capt HASLAM. Baths for A, B, Sp and HQ Coys. CO and Coy Comds attended a cloth model exercise at HQ 12 Corps. The object of the exercise was to show the drill for crossing a large river.	JRPB CWPR
ZELEM	11 Sun		A, B, D Coys carried out trg with stormboats in the morning. Coys held church services in addition to trg. A promotion conference was held in the morning. 13 Pl won an inter-pl Tug of War in the afternoon.	JRPB CWPR
	12 Mon		The CO IO and Coy Comds carried out reces in the area HOUTHUIZEN 5872 (OS 1/50000 France & Belgium Sheet 47) preparatory to "Exercise BUFFALO" which is to take place on 14 Mar. Capt Moffat and Coy 2i/cs carried out reces of marshalling areas preparatory to an operational crossing of the RHINE. On their return, however, they were ordered to recce another area on 13 Mar. The Pipe Band beat Retreat at ZELEM.	JRPB CWPR
ZELEM	13	1	Team from REME inspected all weapons. Recce parties recced marshalling and alternative marshalling areas for future ops under 2i/c. CO held an 'O' Gp at 1000 hrs to give out orders for exercise on River Crossing to be held on 14 Mar 45, after which CO visited all coys.	

		2	Instructions issued, Bn to move to concentration area for EXERCISE at 0630 hrs 14th Mar. Weather - good	AJMB CWPR
ZELEM	14	I	Bn took part in river crossing Exercise "Buffalo" to practise coys in crossing a river obstacle by day. Bn moved in TCVs from present location at 0630 hrs to marshalling area at HOUTHUIZEN 5972. Coys moved fwd to Storm Boat waiting area at 1200 hrs and crossed the R MAAS at AREA 6168. Vehs crossed river on ferries. Coys carried out an exercise on landing on captured given objectives. On completion coys embussed and returned to unit location at 1700 hrs. At end of EXERCISE CO held a conference for Coy Commanders to discuss the operation.	AJMB CWPR
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR
ZELEM	15	I	CO attended a conference at Bde at 0900 hrs. Bn moved in TCVs to marshalling area to carry out Ex. 'BUFFALO' by night, arriving at 1645 hrs. Zero hour for crossing to be 0400 hrs. Coy had a hot meal in marshalling area and then rested.	AJMB CWPR
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR
EX HOUTHUIZEN PM ZELEM	16	I	Coys crossed river in storm boats shortly after 0500 and assembled on far bank of R MAAS for attack. Coys passed through RSF and captured objectives by 0730 hrs. Bn then embussed & returned to marshalling area for hot meal before returning to unit locn.	AJMB CWPR
		II	Weather - misty in morning	AJMB CWPR
ZELEM	17	I	The day was generally observed as a holiday. Entertainment was organised and the following performances given: Div Concert Party 2 shows at HAELEN ☉ pictures at DIEST Cinema ☉ 1 truck per coy to LOUVAIN ☉ HQ Coy organised a football competition. CO was called to Bde at 1700 hrs.	AJMB CWPR
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR
ZELEM	18	I	Church Services were held in Coys areas in the morning. Bn played RSF at football winning 5 goals to 1. The remainder of the day was spent in general admin.	AJMB CWPR
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR
ZELEM	19	I	All coys carried out coy attack exercises & pln training. Baths for Bn during the day. Signal Officer organised a signal exercise to train officers in the use of 46 set & signal procedure. CO held a cloth model exercise for all officers down to Pl Comds and gave out outline orders for Operation "Torchlight". Harbour parties went off to marshalling area. Lt MILNE took part in wireless deception exercise at Bde HQ.	AJMB CWPR
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR

ZELEM	20	I	CO, IO & Coy Comds went fwd to Zanten area on a recce to look at ground on east bank of R RHINE from OPs manned by 52(L) Inf Div. All Coys carried out a fifteen mile route march. An officers dinner was held at Bn HQ for all officers down to Captain and at D Coy location for all subalterns. The Burgomaster of ZELEM attended the senior officers dinner.	
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR
ZELEM	21	I	The CO spoke to all coys during morning. Coys fired all weapons and made final arrangements for move to the marshalling area, and Op 'Torchlight'. Bn Op & Adm Orders issued. Church service for RCs was held in the Cloisters ZELEM by the RC Padre.	
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR
ZELEM	22	I	All Bn tracked vehicles moved to conc area 0730hrs. CO held a conf for Rifle Coy Comds at 1000. Coy Comds then proceeded to marshalling area independently. Main body moved in TCVs at 1730 hrs.	
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR
BISKES (064399)	23	I	Column arrived in the marshalling area at 0640 hrs, coys in bivouac area, wood 065405. Troops received hot meal and then rested. CO went to co-ordinating conference at Bde at 1400 hrs. IO took reps from coys to see route to Storm Boat Waiting Area in daylight. Coy Comds briefed coys during the afternoon. CO held a co-ord conference at 1600 hrs. Transport, to cross Rhine, marshalled by serials at 2300 hrs.	
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR
BISLICH 140435	24	I	Zero hour for RHINE crossing 0200 hrs. The 8RS & 6RSF having crossed & successfully captured objectives, 6KOSB crossed at approx 0330 and advanced towards objectives, which were secured before first light, prisoners being taken. Bn HQ was estd in BISLICH 140435. The airborne dropped in front of our line at 1000 hrs and we contacted them on the 300 set, they say everything is going well and that they captured all their objectives. C & D Coys ordered to contact them at 157457 & 175436. D Coy patrol could not get as far as junc pt as they came under heavy fire from 156457 & wood 163453. 'C' Coy were able to link up with airborne. Warning Order Bn to conc for possible advance to NE. Slidex message received at 1800 Bn to conc in BERGEN prior to advancing towards Bridge at 203529. Bn conc in BERGEN by 1900 hrs. The Commanding Officer went to see Brig for details. 'O' Group for Coy Comds ordered for 0530 hrs.	
BERGEN 140460		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR

BERGEN	25	I	0530 hrs, CO gave out his orders for advance to contact. Recce party to swan out in front and report various lines clear, main body to advance as follows: 2 secs Carriers, A & B Coys carried on tanks of 4 Armd Bde (who are in support), Tac Bn HQ, C & D Coys on foot. Also in support, one demolition party 279 Fd Coy RE & SP Bty of Anti-Tank guns. Bn were able to advance as far as 179503 but found it was not possible to use axis of road 176505 - 193513 during daylight. Coys took up posns in area 179503. CO gave out orders to Coy Comds at 1800 hrs for night advance towards Bridge 203529. Bn moved fwd at 2100 and D & C soon captured objective at 200514 and 201518 respectively. Bn HQ estd at 199509. A & B Coys reached objectives at 205519 & 202523 at 2245 against light opposition.	
199509		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR
199509	26	I	By 0100 Coys were beginning to come up against stiffer opposition and inf & SP guns reported in area of wood 200527. 'C' Coy ordered to move forward to deal with this. C Coy captured first part of obj. but before they could dig in they were counter attacked by a Bn from the North. Situation became confused for a period but C Coy fought very fiercely until they had fired their last round, then they retaliated with the bayonet and anything else which could be used to kill. By 0730 hrs the enemy were in retreat. The CO re-organised the Bn and gave coys their respective tasks. Coys were re-located as follows: A 205520, B 203524, C 200523, D 203502. A platoon from B Coy commanded by Lieut ALLARD went to area 200521 and captured 2 officers & 122 ORs who surrendered without a fight. During the night patrols were sent out by the Carrier Pl to main rd 203528 - 206520 to ensure that it is clear of enemy, so that REs can construct a bridge over R ISSEL after the 6RSF have gained a bridgehead.	
		II	Weather - rain	AJMB CWPR
199509	27	I	A Coy sent out a patrol to wood at 210523 to see if there were any enemy there; 3 PW taken. Coys were used to repair roads in fwd areas, as they were by now in a bad condition owing to the rain & tanks. At 1730 hrs, A & D Coys were placed at 30 mins notice to move to the assistance of 6RSF who had been counter attacked. These coys moved to area wood 205532 to build up 6RSF during the night, after the counter attack had been held.	
		II	Weather - fair	AJMB CWPR
199509	28	I	53 Div having moved up on our right, it was necessary to change coy areas. By 0700 B Coy had moved to area 202527 and C Coy to area of houses at 195525. D & A Coys to come back under command and take up position to the rear of B & C Coys. The Carrier Pl patrolled as far as	

			the 18 Grid line without meeting any opposition, but discovered 18 Boche hiding in a cellar. At 2055 Bde informed us that we had no longer any operational commitments and coys were to have maximum rest & best billets available.	
		II	Weather - fair	AJMB CWPR
199509	29	I	The day was spent in salvaging kit & equipt, and in the collection of enemy arms and equipment. A Ech Transport joined coys in coy areas.	
			Weather - fair	AJMB CWPR
199509	30	I	The Padre held church services for all coys during the morning. 1400 hrs the Commanding Officer held a promotion conf. The day was spent in general maint & clearing up the battle area.	
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR
199509	31	I	The day was spent in training. In the morning baths were allotted to A, B, and D Coys. In the afternoon one hour was devoted to discussions on current affairs.	
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR