

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

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 131st Fd Regt RA

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year June 1944

Commanding Officer Lt Col J.M. HAILEY R A

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
June 1st -	13th.		At ASHINGTON, this period was spent preparing for the attack across the channel. Waterproofing was completed, and final stocks of stores etc are collected and issued. For the last 8 days of the period the Regiment was at 6 hours notice to move. Orders finally came through on the afternoon of the 13th of June.	
Ashington	14th	0830	Regimental Column (Convoy No S.E. 3505) departs en route for Marshalling area.	
Romford Area	15th		In Marshalling area waiting for return of LST.	
Tilbury	17th	2200	First party consisting of half of Regiment (318 all ranks) embarked on USS LST 528. Personnel consisted of one troop 319 Bty, 495 Bty in toto, and RHQ. Comd Lt Col JM Hailey, R.A. Second Party embarked on USS LST 390 (294 all ranks). Personnel consisted of Major Stewart (comd) 320 Bty, and 319 Bty less one troop.	
Courseulles (Juno Beach)	22nd		Personnel on LST 390 disembarked and proceeded to location near St Audrieux.	
	23rd		" " " LST 528 " " " " " " "	
Audrieu	24/25	0300	Completion of move to forward area near Bronay. Preparation to support attack on Tourville, Mondrainville, and bombardment of Cheux	
	26th		Bombardment of Cheux. 320 'C' Troop OP reported missing.	
	27th		Move to new location near Cheux. Sgt McDowall killed in battle accident. Capts Clark and Henderson (319 Bty) evacuated with wounds in face	
	28th.		Return of Capt Peppiatt and 320 OP party, having escaped from capture. L/Bdr Malcolm evacuated suffering from Shellshock from British bombardment of Cheux	
	29th	1800-2200	Concentrations of regts and of Divisional Arty to repel counter attacks	

	30th		Stray tanks in front of gun position repelled by own armour. Captain Mundie and 319 OP party killed by mortar fire near Grainville. Maj Cornwell (495) evacuated suffering from shrapnel wounds.	
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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

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Unit 131st Field Regiment, R.A.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year JULY 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col.J.M.HAILEY, R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
CHEUX	2nd	1100	Location taken over by 53 (W) Inf Div. Regt moves to "rest" area, with guns in sp of Canadian attack on CARPIQUET. Location, SECQUEVILLE EN BESSIN.	
SECQUEVILLE	8th	1530	Move to sp new attack by Divisional Inf (2 Glas H) S.W. of CAEN. Regt at call of 2 GLAS H. (46 (H) Inf Bde) New location, ST MAUVIEU.	
ST MAUVIEU	9th.		Sporadic shelling, dumping of Amn.	
"	10th	0330-0630	Barrage to sp a/m attack. Rest of day, heavy shelling in concs and D.F. tasks, on call of OPs.	
"	14th.	1600.	Move to new location at MOUEN farm. Sp of attack on ESQUAY.	
MOUEN.	15th.	2030.	Heavy mortaring, and shelling of gun posn. Several O.R. casualties on 495 gun posn, and in 320 'B' Ech.	
"	16th.	0400 0900 2300)) Gun posn strafed by enemy planes. Focke-Wulf 190s, and) HENSCHERL 129's recognised. Captain A.I. Marshall, 495 Fd Bty, evacuated to CCS with shrapnel wounds.	
"	17th.	2300	Gun posn heavily bombed by about 40 planes. HEINKELs recognised. Casualties 4 killed, 15 injured, Lieut S.S. Brown, 495 Fd Bty, Missing, presumed dead. Heavy damage to vehicles.	
"	19th.	0930	Regt returns to "rest" near St MAUVIEU. Weather very poor, rain and mist.	
ST MAUVIEU	23rd.	1400	Move to new position at CORMOLAIN, north of CAUMONT. 15 (S) Div commences to take over from 2nd US Div. 131 Fd Regt commences takeover from 46 (US) Arty Bn.	
CORMOLAIN	25th.		Inf takeover completed during the day.	
"	28/29		46 (US) Arty Bn moves out in direction of St LO front.	
"	29th		Attack south of CAUMONT commences. 8th Corps at CAUMONT, 30th Corps on left, US Tps on right.	
CORMOLAIN	30th	1600	Regt moves to CAUMONT to sp adv units of 227 Bde. Posn strafed towards dark by enemy fighter bombers. No casualties.	

CAUMONT	31st.	1130	Move to take up new location at HERVIEUX. Some enemy air activity. Commanding Officer. Lieut Colonel, J.M. HAILEY, R.A. Second in Command. Major H.D. STEWART, T.D. R.A.	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HERVIEUX	2/8/44	1815	Move to follow Divisional Infantry - New location ST MARTIN DE BESACES	
ST MARTIN	3/8/44		Sp of attack southwards to ST PIERRE TARENTAINE	
ST MARTIN	5/8/44	1100	Move to St Pierre Tarentaine:- Sp given to attack in general directions of VIRE - VASSEY - ESTRY. Zone of fire 60 degrees R and L or Z/L	
St PIERRE	7/8/44		One gun of 'D' Tp under Lieut R.W. DEW, R.A. detached to fire Red smoke on Corps Front in connection with R.A.F. attacks. Sp given to attack on ESTRY and environs.	
ST PIERRE	9/8/44		Unit moves from St Pierre Tarentaine to location near ST CHARLES DE PERCY.	
St Charles.	14/8/44	1015	Move from St Charles de Percy towards CAEN front. Laagered for the night and following days at BULLY arriving 1845 hrs 14.8.44. Route:- Via CAUMONT and CARPIQUET	
BULLY	16/8/44	0930	Left Bully, and harboured for the night in FORET DE CINGLAIS, (Regt Area approx. Sq. 0253)	
CINGLAIS	19/8/44	1420	Move to FALAISE. Harboured for the night and following day at house 127364.	
Falaise	21/8/44		R.H.Q. moved up to Chateau 125369. Weather poor to fair.	
FALAISE	23/8/44	2000	Left Falaise en route for the SEINE. Harboured for night 23/24 at L'Abbaie, arriving 2330 hrs.	
L'ABBAIE	24/8/44	1020	Left L'Abbaie via FOUCHES and CROCY to TRUN. Long halts and delays en route. Laagered BOURDON, Map Ref 7/F/6 408564.	
BOURDON	25/8/44	0800	Headed Northeast from BOURDON. Laagered near AUTHIEUX at farm square 9972. Guns and Btys laagered in Regt position - not in action.	
AUTHIEUX	26/8/44	0500	Left Authieux in easterly direction, along EMANVILLE road. Laagered at La Haye de Compte, near LOUVIERS.	
LOUVIERS	27/8/44	1445	Moved to VIRONVAY, with guns in sp of assault crossing of SEINE at 1800 hrs	
VIRONVAY	28/8/44	2359	Commenced move to cross the SEINE. Actual crossing accomplished at ST PIERRE DE VAVRAY at 0200 hrs 29.8.44. Laagered for rest of night at HERQUEVILLE.	
HERQUEVILLE	29/8/44	1700	Moved to D'Aubert pres Vatteville.	

D'AUBERT	30/8/44		53 (W) Div moved up through 15 (S) Inf Div. Remained at D'Aubert in readiness to move north.	
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D'Aubert Pres Vatteville	1st	1310 1730	Remained at D'Aubert while awaiting an operational role. Finally a move was made at 0915 hrs 3rd Oct, as far as TRONQUAY, where the Regt harboured for the night, and where was held the service for the NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, September 3rd, 1944.	
TRONQUAY	5th	1035	Left TRONQUAY en route for GAILLEFONTAINE, arriving at 1315 hrs.	
GAILLEFONTAINE	6th	0930	Left GAILLEFONTAINE at 0930, and harboured for night at ROUGEFRAY arriving (head of coln) 1530 hrs	
ROUGEFRAY	7th	0900	Left ROUGEFRAY and crossed Franco-Belgian border at 2045 hrs. Harboured at KERKHOVE (2300 hrs)	
KERKHOVE	8th	1230	Left KERKHOVE and moved up to LA PINTE (near Ghent) arriving 1700 hrs. Guns now in action. The Regt remained at LA PINTE until 10th Oct, when orders were issued to go to the MOLL area. At WOLVERTHEM, near BRUSSELS, a two day harbouring was spent with guns out of action.	
WOLVERTHEM	12th	1015	Location changed to TONGERLOO, arriving 1500 hrs. Supplies were at this time drawn from the captured dump in BRUSSELS and were issued at a 'Regimental Party' two days later. While at TONGERLOO, on the 13th, a party under Lieut J.M. MacMillan, R.A. crossed the Albert Canal to bring back prisoners, taking 19 in all. One of these had been previously taken by members of Maj. Campbell's (320th Bty) O.P. Party.	
	13th	1700	A quick action on the road near MOLL (see Appx 'A') was the prelude to a harbouring of 4 days.	
MOLL	17th	0930	Moved to GHEEL in Regimental Column. Guns were in action from here for the feint attack across the canal made by the 15 (S) Infantry on 18-20th Oct. Finally orders were received to return to Moll under comd Brigade (227 (H) Inf Bde) prior to moving into Holland to rejoin the rest of the Division.	
GHEEL			At GHEEL a hit on 320 Gun Posn resulted in a small number of cas, incl one killed.	
MOLL	22nd	1330	Commitments taken over by 7 Armd Div. During this and the next few days there was considerable planning to make the Brigade independent. Until finally rejoining the Div on the 27th, the Regiment was always under immediate comd Bde, ready for such a contingency, although still	

			taking part in fire plans for the Div Inf. Regt moved to STIJNSEL and harboured there for the night.	
STIJNSEL	23rd	0900	Commenced move to ACHT, near EINDHOVEN.	
ACHT	27th	1000	Moved to position at VLEUT, with guns in sp of attack on BEST and northeasterly drive to clear pockets of resistance.	
VLEUT	29th	1430	Moved posn to NIJNSEL, 4,000 yards further east. Remained there until relieved by 51 (H) Div in early OCT.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Nijnsell	1st		Continued sp was given to the consolidation of the line at BEST. No spectacular results were reported.	
	4th	1500	Commitments and posn taken over by units of 51st (H) Inf Div. Div moved into "rest" area near Gemert, for maintenance and reinforcements. 54 reinforcements were received from R.H.U. on the 5th Oct.	
Gemert	7th		Recce of posns at Cuijk, on the MAAS, was carried out but the position was never occupied. Instead, the RA of the Division was ordered to the Oploo-Overloon area to sp the 3rd Inf Div attack to VENRAIJ. This move was accomplished on the 9th, arriving at the gun posn at approx 1430 hrs. The posns taken over had been evacuated the previous day by units of 11th Armd Div.	
Oploo	9th		The period 9-11th was occupied by local skirmishing and a general "teeing up" for Op. Constellation. The attack of 3rd British Div continued with average success over the next few days. In the last days of the ops at OPLOO-OVERLOON several recces were made. A posn was chosen to cover the possible move forward of the guns to range beyond VENRAIJ, and in addition orders were received to recce a posn near WEERT on the American left flank. These posns were never occupied.	(See Appx -original only)
Oploo	17th	1030	The regiment moved back to its previous posns at GEMERT, taking over from a unit of the "Buffs" who had been in occupation. The course of the next few days was spent in maintenance and awaiting ops role.	
Gemert	21st	0815	Location was changed to NISTELRODE (4847) to sp the attack of the 53 (W) Div and its sp armoured Bde (7th) on s'Hertogenbosch. Actual location was at De VENHOF, a small hamlet near LOESBROEK.	
NISTELRODE	22nd	1420	Commencement of move to sp 227 Bde on left flank of 51st (H) Div in the attack forward from Best towards TILBURG. Position was reached about 1730 hrs, ROUTE via:- DINTHER - VEGHEL - ST OEDENRODE	
Nijnsel	25th	0700	Location advanced towards Best. The Regiment was halted at NASTEBEEST and went into firing posns, but the same afternoon (1530 hrs) was pulled out without firing and advanced towards OIRSCHOT. Final positions were at 264275 where the enemy were engaged in the attack on TILBURG.	

OIRSCHOT	26th		Shelling on 495 "B" Ech posn at 0800 hrs resulted in 3 killed and 4 wounded (one slightly)	
	27th	1030	Regiment moved forward to 244305 and laagered at MOESTERGHOUT, with orders to be ready to move at short notice. Move finally took place at 0830 hrs the following morning, and the Regiment proceeded via TILBURG to a position at 1634. At 1500 hrs on the same day, orders were received to proceed to ASTEN area. During the advance, GAF planes bombed HELMOND in advance of the recce columns. No casualties resulted in the Regiment. The new location was finally occupied at 2130 hrs, and sp was given while tps of the 227 (H) Inf Bde, and later the other Bdes of the Division were moving up. An average of 5000 rds per day were expended during the period until the end of the month.	

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November 44

131 Fd Regt RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ASTEN	1st		The infantry advance was very slow through the obstacles of carefully prepared minefields. Heavy Amn expenditure supported their attacks on strong points and positions.	See Appx "A"
	2nd		One carrier of 320 was mined with some casualties incl 1 killed.	
	3rd		Until the move to HENSDON area (6409) little of note occurred, save a huge amn expenditure. Later during the month guns were withdrawn to workshops in small quantities with suspect barrels, due largely to the wear and tear of firing large quantities of supercharge over the first half of this month. In turn, too, in the order 319, 495, 320 Fd Btys, sub units were detached for a period of 48 hrs "rest"	
	8th	1000 hrs	Regiment moved to area 6409. 319 drew back into rest area at 633169.	
HENSDON	9th		Civilians were evacuated from Divisional area to avoid espionage and casualties.	
	10th	1200 hrs	319 Fd Bty rejoined Regt from "rest" and 495th Fd Bty pulled out into OMMEL area for 48 hrs. One OP offr was killed by shellburst in the morning (Capt WIGGINS, 495 Fd Bty RA)	
	11th		For the next 8 days the Regt remained near Asten, firing considerable quantities of shells at long ranges. 320th Fd Bty were taken out of action at 1200 hrs 12th Nov, but remained in the Regimental area. 495th Fd Bty returned to action at the same time, from the rest area near OMMEL. Finally recce parties with mineclearing groups went forward to clear a new area on the 18th Nov.	
	18th Nov.		A tp was detached and moved independently to 703072, going into action from there the following morning.	
	19th		Engineers were still clearing possible Bty posns. "B" Tp moved up beside "A" Tp, and remainder of regt prepared to follow in small groups. One casualty was injured at OP of 495 Bty. 320th Bty reported that over 50 Teller and S mines were found in their Bty posn, and some were removed, all this without a single mine casualty.	

HENSDON	20th		Regt moved forward to area near Hof (7007) but 320 Bty was detached and crossed Deurne Canal. After brief harbouring this Bty went on to Beringen.	
HOF ACHTERSTEEG	21st		"B" Ech moved up to old gun position at 7007, while Regt went on to area 7709, arriving at approx 1530 hrs. The tracks were becoming almost impassable. 320th Bty moved forward from Beringen to join remainder of Regiment. For three days weather conditions made transport difficulties worse. Several recces were made of possible new areas, but final move was made to HORST, (NW OF VENLO) for sp of attack on the Blerick bridge seating.	
	24th		Recce parties moved away at 0900 hrs, followed by remainder of Regt at 1300 hrs. Route via BERINGEN - MEYEL - LEISEL - AMERIKA - HORST. Area in 8218. RHQ moved into HORST itself on the following morning, being fully established at 0945 hrs. The village of HORST received desultory shelling from enemy guns. Occasional M targets were fired on barges on the MAAS and on sparse enemy who were being compressed into the MAAS pocket. At 0900 hrs on 25th Nov, 1944, exactly 5 months after the first shot was fired in NORMANDY, the C.O. fired a token round on to GERMAN soil.	
	28th		The CRA fired a token "U" Tgt on German soil at a range of 13000 yds. At 2200 hrs AMERIKA was bombed by a small force of enemy planes. "F" troop 119 LAA, attached 131 Fd Regt, claimed one hit.	
HORST	29th	0900	Recce parties moved forward to new posn approx 2 miles WEST of VENLO (8714). Rest of Regt followed at 1030 hrs over appalling tracks, which after a brief improvement, steadily worsened in the bad weather at the beginning of December. Posn was taken over from 49 Div, and Regt was in action by 1430. Most of the 49 Div targets were later cancelled. Activity from this side was practically nil, though an enormous array of arty was massed. Security probably forbade the revealing of gun posns. Some sporadic shelling, not always inaccurate, was experienced from enemy posns on both sides of the river. No cas were reported.	
OUDE BERKTER	30th		Activity nil. Very quiet.	

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year December 1944

Commanding Officer Lt. Colonel, J.M. HAILEY, R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
OUDE BERKTER (Map Ref Sq. 8720)	1st		The Regiment remained at this position for several days to support the attack on Blerick and Venlo West. Sporadic enemy shelling of the wooded area around the Regimental Position was experienced, but no veh cas and no damage of any consequence was reported, though some civilian buildings occupied by subunits were hit. The arty concentration in this area was as great as any previously experienced. Much needed intakes were received during the period.	
	2nd 3rd		This day saw plans for Operation "GUILDFORD" worked out. This final attack to clear the western bank of the MAAS commenced as far as we were concerned with the order to fire at approx 0645 hrs. At 0745 hrs began a barrage of 800 yard lifts. As well as the actual fire plan considerable "M" and "U" targets were engaged. Prisoner reports the following day asserted that the barrage was very effective.	
	4th		On the 4th a notable weather factor was a high wind, occasionally reaching a velocity of 60 mph, and giving a met corr of 1000 yds. The day was inactive following the success of yesterdays attacks.	
	5th		Recce parties were held at short notice to move. Little activity was experienced or engaged. Desultory shelling by guns sit across the MAAS was often heard, but no damage was reported.	
MAASBREE	7th		Gun groups, and Tac RHQ moved to a new position south of MAASBREE and went into a defensive role. Line was to be held by two brigades while the third went to Rest near ASTEN. Gun position was wooded, but marshy, fairly widespread, and tracks in a very poor condition.	
	11th		Until this day there had been very little activity of any sort save administrative. Today one of C troops guns was firing over open sights at Belfield Church. In addition to the normal positions for the guns, a "Harassing fire Position" had been reced, and was occupied in turn by each	

		of the batteries. This was in addition to the normal "2 up and 1 reserve" relief system on which the Battalions relieved each other, and which system naturally effected the O.P.s. The Map Ref of this forward position was 822045. A number of German planes were seen over the area on occasion, varying from Jet propelled fighters to medium bombers. Some bombing of the neighbourhood was noted in the days immediately preceding 16th December, and an O.P. line was out of action due to enemy planes on the 16th.	
MAASBREE	21st	Visibility on these days was often limited to 100 yds due to mist and bad weather.	
	24th	Recce parties were ordered to stand by in preparation for a possible move to a posn north east of HELDEN in view of the fact that 25 Field Regt had moved back into sp of the Div Arty, and that reports were received of concentrations of mortars within range of this position. The recce was carried out, and the move was possible on Christmas Day, survey having been completed in the new area by 1600 hrs 24 Dec 44. This move, however, was not necessary, and the Regt remains in the same position as before.	
	25th	<p>Christmas Day was "Very Quiet". All sorts of disturbing rumours failed to materialise, and the Germans observed some at least of the spirit of Peace and Goodwill. The amn expenditure for Xmas day was only 2 R.P.G. from the Regiment. On the 26th two missiles landed in the Regimental Area about 1200 hrs, one being a near miss on 320 Bty Comd Post at the forward position. These were examined and found to be bombs released from a great height. No important damage was reported.</p> <p>Comparative and Standard calibration of all guns was carried out during the month in an attempt to tighten up the standard of gunnery. There had been a drop in the efficiency of "M" and more so, of "U" tgts. Much of this was due to the spread of the Regt over a large area, and the constant detachment of one subunit in the H.F. Position. A great improvement was reported as a result of the calibration and a firing exercise "EXERCISE BOLTON"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>Comd Offr:- Lieut Colonel J.M. Hailey, D.S.O., R.A. 2 i/c :- Major H.D. Stewart, T.D., R.A.</p>	

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WAR DIARY for JANUARY 1945

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~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

Unit:- 131st Field Regiment, R.A.

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Commanding Officer:- Lt-Col J.M. Hailey, DSO RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAASBREE 8307	Jan 1		Almost at the stroke of midnight, both our own infantry and the enemy proceeded to see the new year in with a storm of mortar bombs, very lights and fireworks. Later in the day several enemy aircraft, mostly FW 190s, flew over the regt area at zero feet. These were engaged by LAA troop in sp of this unit. A direct hit was observed on the nose of one a/c and several others were also claimed.	
	3		Front continued to be fairly quiet. Enemy mov was observed and engaged by arty. Cyclists and HD tpt were engaged and scattered.	
	6		Hy traffic was heard in the area 8705 and engaged. At 1600 hours one gun (believed LAA) shelled 320 Bty OP with 2 GORDONS; only one rd hit the OP doing no damage and the gun was engaged and stopped.	
	10		Lt-Col JM Hailey relinquished command of the regiment to take up appointment as GSO I 15 (S) Div. Lt-Col HD Stewart TD RA took over comd of the regt, with Major JA Oliver MC RA as 2IC	
	11		Heavy snowfalls and severe frosts have been prevalent. It was necessary several times to fire rounds on known enemy localities in order to warm the guns.	
	12		Satisfactory shoot carried out on hostile guns on the river bank with the aid of SR Tp.	
	13		A few propaganda shells were fired into the regt area, containing leaflets calculated to cause dissent between British and US troops. The leaflets met with derision - troops being more interested in the "pin-up" picture than in the printed blurb on the reverse.	
	15		Lt CE Montague fired on outside his OP, spent bullet passing between his arm and ribs without touching him.	
	16		Slight desultory enemy shelling, incl some airburst over area at about 1930 hours. No damage or cas. Retaliatory fire put down on BELFELD area from fwd bty.	
	23		The harassing fire bty position at 822045 was abandoned, as so many rounds had been fired from the main gun area as to render the fwd position valueless. Throughout the month, until this day, numerous HF,	

			DF, CB CM tasks, observed and unobserved, were fired, but there has been very little activity among the enemy.	
GOIRLE 1428	24		Regt left defensive location at 8307 (MAASBREE area) and went to rest area at GOIRLE, near TILBURG (map ref 148280). All troops accommodated in billets in the village. The regt remained in rest area for the remainder of the month.	
	31 J		T.E.W.T. at Bde HQ attended by CO, 2IC, and Bty Comds. Commanding Officer:- Lt-Col H.D. Stewart, T.D., R.A. Second-in-Command:- Major J.A. Oliver, M.C., R.A.	

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WAR DIARY for FEBRUARY 1945.

or

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

Unit:- 131 Field Regiment, R.A.

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Commanding Officer:- Lt-Col JND Tyler, OBE MC RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GOIRLE Holland 1428	Feb 1		Regiment still in rest area. Flying bombs have been seen for the first time, passing overhead.	See Appx
Nr. NIJMEGEN	5. 6	2200	Regiment left GOIRLE en route for assembly area near NIJMEGEN (7458) for operation VERITABLE. Security was very strict, travelling only by night without lights, and as we were still on the road when dawn broke all Divisional signs had to be painted out, covered up, and Bonnets hidden in the vehicles. The remainder of the day was devoted to preparations for the battle and rest. Vehicles were "frozen" owing to the bad state of the roads which were deplorable, and also to help security.	
	8		The operation began for us with a large-scale counter-battery programme opening at 0515 hours. This was followed at 0915 hours by a barrage from one thousand guns, ours playing their share; this lasted until 1503. First objectives were gained early in the afternoon. The Regiment moved up in order to keep in range, over filthy roads to location near KAMP 768558. Only the consistent drive of the Second-in-Command Major J.A. Oliver, M.C., got the guns into action at all as the whole area was liquid mud, having been "no-man's land" for several months.	
Nr. KAMP 768558	9		The 2 GORDONS started off at 0400 hours, supported by our guns, for their objective - to breach the SIEGFRIED LINE, which was accomplished by about 1000 hours. The weather is abominable, very wet and the roads are little better than rivers of mud.	
	10		This was an easier day from the firing aspect, although in no way easier as regards weather which continued to be very wet. Four members of Major Campbell's crew were killed in the evening when the house in which they were sheltering received a direct hit from a heavy shell.	
NUTTERDEN 850553	11		INTO GERMANY ! We moved forward at 0230 hours through KRANENBURG to a position approximately one mile south-east of NUTTERDEN. 319 Bty's Comd Post occupied a "bunker" of the famous (?) Siegfried Line - a luxurious place of steel and concrete. There was very little firing to-day, but an endless stream of traffic passed by, all going forward into Germany.	

	12		There was little firing to-day until the afternoon when some M targets were engaged.	
	13		Fire-plan in support of 43 Div began shortly after 0900 hours. The range was high and the guns were firing supercharge. There was little activity for the rest of the day.	
CLEVE 896554	14		Moved at 0530 hours to new position in support of attack by 46 Bde which began at 1000 hours. Just before arriving at the gun area, some German Jet-propelled aircraft dropped bombs near the column but no damage was sustained by us. Guns were in action by 1000 hours and targets followed in rapid succession. More German "J-Ps" appeared in the afternoon and bombs fell near part of the Regiment - but no damage.	
	15		A quieter day again from the gunners point of view. The infantry seem to be meeting rather tougher opposition now, but they continue to press forward. An attack was made by 10 HLI at 2300 hours to capture the high ground over-looking CALCAR.	
CLEVE 896554	16	0300	Counter-attack by Germans on H.L.I. front was driven off in an hour. In a second attempt they over-ran a forward company but the position was eventually restored. The guns were busy during the time in question. Opposition seems to be growing stiffer, but prisoners are streaming back. At about 1800 hours a very heavy barrage opened up on our right - we thought this would be 43 Div doing their bit again. Our own guns were limited to HF tasks during the night.	
936492	17		The Divisional Commander came round the gun area this afternoon. There was no firing to-day, and the regiment moved forward at 1800 hours and was in action again by 2100.	
	18	0100	A smoke-screen to be fired in sp of 3 Cdn Div was cancelled, but the gunners had a busy day. The infantry (8th Royal Scots) were in the outskirts of GOCH by about 1500 hours. A German counterattack mounted at 1700 hours was driven off by infantry with some artillery support.	
	19		There was a good deal of enemy mortar activity. Fire-plans and targets were engaged frequently. GOCH was captured by the combined efforts of our own 15th Div and the 51 Div. What a collection of Jocks there must have been in the town !	
	20		Targets were engaged beyond GOCH.	
939464	21		Moved forward at 0930 hours. Shortly after our arrival in this area, shells fell just beyond the area, the nearest being some hundred yards or so from the RHQ Office truck.	
	22		Lt-Col J.N.D. Tyler, OBE, MC RA joined the Regiment as Commanding Officer.	

	23	0700	Germans staged a counter-attack and gained a little ground. Many targets have been fired and three smoke screens produced for the attack by 44 Inf Bde.	
	24	2000	The opposition is very tough now, and there has been a great deal of firing. Fire-plan fired in support of 53rd (Welsh) Division. Capt HH Goldsborough RA (attached from RHU) was wounded and evacuated, at the OP. The gun area was shelled, damaging one gun and killing a Gunner. Several others were wounded. Bearing on these shells was 135 degrees.	
	25		Another small fireplan engaged in sp of 53 (W) Div. Another fireplan was received at about 1930 hours in support of 3rd Cdn Div.	
	26	0345	CB programme preceding a fireplan in support of 3 Cdn Div whose objectives to-day were towards UDEM. The attack appeared to go well.	
	27	0300	Two barrages worked out in support of 3 (Br) Div. First was abandoned as being unsafe. Apart from this there was little firing to-day.	
	28		No firing. Regiment moved out at 2100 hours for rest in TILBURG, arriving there at 0500 hours 1 March. We have received congratulatory messages from the Div Comd and CRA (see appx) and messages were also received by the Div Comd from the Corps Commander and GOC 1 Cdn Army. They all carried the praise "Well done the Fifteenth Scottish". C.O., Lt-Col J.N.D. Tyler, OBE, MC, RA 2 IC Major H.D. Stewart, T.D., R.A.	

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WAR DIARY OF 131 FIELD REGIMENT, R.A.

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

MARCH, 1945.

(Erase heading not required)

Commanding Officer:- Lt-Col J.N.D. Tyler, OBE, MC, RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TILBURG HOLLAND E 1834	1 - 3		Regiment remained in TILBURG. Cleaning and maintenance occupied the mornings, but as far as possible troops were free afternoons and evenings.	
	4		A Regimental Church Parade was held. This was well attended but rain spoiled the Ceremonial march-past afterwards. Representatives from the Regiment attended a Special Memorial Service held under Divisional auspices.	
	5		Expected to move to-day, but did not.	
MOLL, BELGIUM K 1791	6		Moved at 1300 hours. Whole Regiment was accommodated together in former German barracks. Place was absolutely filthy and a great deal of cleaning had to be done.	
	7		During the period 1 - 14 March, efforts were successfully made to give every officer and man a 48-hour leave in BRUSSELS - a fact which was greatly pleasing to all concerned.	
	8-10		Cleaning and Maintenance became the order of the day. Efforts were also made to clean the barracks.	
	11		C.O. inspected Regimental Area, also guns and vehicles. A Regimental Church Parade was held at 0915 hours.	
	12-13		Continued maintenance and rest. Football matches were arranged with local teams.	
	14-15		More maintenance and rest. Detachments from the Regiment went on Exercise "BUFFALO" - practising rafting guns and vehicles across the R MAAS, in preparation for forthcoming operations.	
	16		Major HD Stewart, the 2IC, went on a recce to a secret destination. The regiment was entertained by the all-Belgian/Dutch ENSA show "Army Troupers" - an excellent show; we could use many more like it.	
	17		Guns of the Regiment were calibrated against the Theatre standard guns at LOMMEL Ranges.	
	18-19		More rest.	
WINNEKENDONK GERMANY	20 21		Moved at 1630 hours to this location, arriving at about 0300 hours 21 March. Preparations for battle went on.	See Appx

0033	22		Preparations continued all day, and at night the guns and essential Command Post and HQ staffs moved forward to the gun area near VYNEN.	
VYNEN 0747	23		Day passed quietly. Some German shelling could be seen and heard, but nothing came very close. The Germans shelled VYNEN church at regular intervals of about an hour, and with considerable accuracy.	
	24		Our artillery programme opened at 0025 hours. Ops crossed the river RHINE in "BUFFALOs" and storm boats with the assaulting infantry, OC 495 Bty being marooned in mid-stream with "navigational trouble" due to his amphibian breaking down, for an uncomfortably long time. Major J.A. OLIVER, M.C., R.A., OC 319 Fd Bty, was killed, together with three of his OP party, while walking with the infantry. The Regiment has lost a first-class Bty Commander, who was expert at his work and popular with all ranks.	
1847	25-28		For the next four days, the Regiment remained in action at VYNEN, supporting the troops on the far bank of the RHINE.	
Nr. HAMMINKELN GERMANY 1847	29		After a quiet day, the Regiment crossed the RHINE to harbour about two miles west of HAMMINKELN.	
	30		A quiet day. Maintenance and cleaning of vehicles and equipment went on in readiness for the next task.	
	31		The C.R.A., Brigadier L. Bolton, came to address the Regiment, thanking all ranks for their good work during Operation TORCHLIGHT.	

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WAR DIARY OF 131 FIELD REGIMENT, R.A.

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

for

(Erase heading not required)

A P R I L 1 9 4 5

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Nr. HAMMINKELN 181477	1		Rest and maintenance continues.	
	2.		Maj-Gen C.M. Barber, DSO, Commander 15th (Scottish) Infantry Division, visited the Regiment and expressed his thanks and congratulations to all ranks for their part in Operation TORCHLIGHT.	
	3.		Recce parties were ordered away, but the Regiment was now switched from 12 Corps to 8 Corps and they were recalled.	
HEMBERGEN 9194	4		Moved to the area around the village of HEMBERGEN and harboured for the night.	
HORNE 1505	5		Moved on again to HORNE, about 6 Km south-west of OSNABRUCK and harboured.	
BRUNING- HORSTEDT 7825	6		On the march - sixty miles to BRUNING HORSTEDT, near LAVERSLOH. We were impressed by the damage done to OSNABRUCK which we passed through. On arrival in the harbour area, prisoners began to come and a total of fourteen were sent to the cage.	
	7		A further eight prisoners were taken. The Regiment is carrying out a check of all civilians in the area and a search is being made for arms, ammunition and weapons.	
	8-9) 10)		Two days spent on rest and maintenance, in readiness to continue the advance.	
WUNSDORF 1526	11		Moved to this location via LATHDE, MUNSCHAGEN, WOLPINGHAUSEN and SACHSENHAGEN. The move took little time for no enemy were met, and we reached WUNSDORF just at dark. A few enemy jets came over and dropped one or two bombs not far away.	
CELLE 5949			Moved advance to contact with 227 (H) Inf Bde, via NEUSTADT, OTTERHAGEN, SCHARREL, METEL, ABBENSEN, NEGENBORN, BRELINGEN, MELLENDORF and FUHRBERG to CELLE. Move was very slow with long halts while infantry cleared areas on either side of the road. An exceptionally long halt occurred at FUHRBERG. The guns went into action on the southern suburbs of CELLE. RHQ carried out some house-clearing and "liberated" a small camp of Italian PW consisting of four Officers and fourteen ORs. In the early	

			evening, the Regiment moved on through CELLE crossing the River ALLER by a Cl 40 bridge erected by engineers of 15 (S) Div and 6 Airborne. We harboured for the night on the northern outskirts of the town in a barracks formerly occupied by a German CW School.	
	13		The advance to contact continued, with the Regiment advancing in support of 227 (H) Inf Bde and 3 Tk Bn Scots Guards, in the direction of UELZEN. Progress was desperately slow owing to an enemy party of engineers who kept just ahead of our recce elements and cratered and mined the road as they went. We spent the night on the roadside.	
HOLDENSTEDT	14		The German engineer party who were hindering progress yesterday having been rounded up, we moved off at 0400 hours and advanced rapidly to HOLDENSTEDT, just south-west of UELZEN. 319 Battery who were leading battery of the regiment, and in support of 10 HLI were ambushed as they occupied a quick-action position and were heavily engaged by 20-mm SP guns and MG fire from the woods. One SP was knocked out by a direct hit from 319's guns, and the other withdrew. It was believed to have been severely damaged. Casualties in the battery were heavy - 1 OR killed and fourteen wounded. Two more were taken prisoner and two are missing, believed prisoners. The Battery Commander's half-track OP vehicle was also hit and set on fire, Major Clark himself being wounded. RHQ and the remaining two batteries arrived soon after, while the village was being shelled by enemy guns. The firing ceased very soon after we arrived. A small fire plan was arranged and fired in support of the attack on UELZEN.	
	15		Fire in support of 227 Bde continued. At about 2330 hours, RHQ area received three shells from a mobile SP gun, and there was considerable enemy air activity, jet-propelled aircraft as well as the older ME 109 and FW 190s being seen.	
	16		Continued firing in support of infantry. A sub-unit engaged several red-smoke targets for the Typhoons and after their attack, some propaganda shells were fired inviting the Boche to give in now, or be treated to a further dose of rockets from the Typhoons. The results were not as good as they might have been!	
	17		This was a quieter day. Notification has been received that Captain M.E. PEPPIATT and Bdr A. STEEL have been awarded the Croix de Guerre for services in France.	
	18		Another quiet day.	
892366	19		Advanced on with 227 Inf Bde to a location between LUDERSBURG and SCHARNEBECK, about 6 Km from the R ELBE. UELZEN was badly damaged and many buildings were still burning when we passed through. The great heat could be felt inside the vehicles - quite welcome on a cold morning.	

			There was some good hostile airburst shelling of SCAHRNEBECK as we passed through, but we had no damage or casualties.	
BRIETTLINGEN 8029	20		Moved forward a little distance to BRIETTLINGEN. Here we uncovered the local representative of N.S.K.K., (the Nazi Transport Corps) and RHQ installed itself very comfortably in his house.	
	21		Fire plan in support of 10 HLI for their attack on ARTLENBURG which was successful.	
	22-26		Remained in this location, with very little firing. OPs were busy however, collecting information from the far bank of the ELBE. There was some slight shelling of OP areas, but we had no damage or casualties. Owing to the control of ammunition for the build-up prior to the ELBE crossing, the OPs were unable to deal with the Boche as they would have liked. Such shooting as we could do was excellent, and we knocked out several cars, including one which rolled down a bank in best Hollywood style. We also engaged a train which was seen, but the engine withdrew hastily, leaving its trucks behind. The enemy was very careless in his movements and a great deal of activity could be seen.	
LUDERSHAUSEN 808319	27		Moved forward to LUDERSHAUSEN to support 227 Bde in Operation ENTERPRISE (See Appendix). Guns area and RHQ was in full view of the far side of the ELBE and every tree and building was utilised to conceal gun positions and vehicle parks.	
	28		Final preparations made for Operation ENTERPRISE. We received details of recognition signals between our own troops and the Russians. Marshal ROKOSSOVSKY reported within 50 miles of us and still advancing.	
LUDERSHAUSEN	29		Battle opened at 0200 hours and went well. Major GTC CAMPBELL, M.C., BC of 320 Fd Bty was badly wounded at the OP and was evacuated. Orders were received in the afternoon to move forward to a position on the bank of the ELBE, but these were subsequently cancelled, as we should be crossing the river at once.	
GULZOW 829419			We crossed the ELBE this morning, after waiting all night for the orders. The Regiment has now completed its "hat-trick" of river crossings, having shared in the assault crossings of the three major rivers - SEINE, RHINE and ELBE. <u>Commanding Officer</u> Lieutenant-Colonel J.N.D. Tyler, OBE, MC RA <u>Second-in-Command</u> Major H.D. Stewart, T.D., R.A.	

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WAR DIARY OF 131 FIELD REGIMENT R.A.

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~ for MAY 1945.
(Erase heading not required)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>HAMWARDE</u> 788431	1.		Following up ELBE crossing, regiment moved to HAMWARDE.	
<u>HOHENHORN</u> 749458	2.		Further move to HOHENHORN. 1 Officer and 4 OR PW taken.	
745585	3.		Moved again to location at 745585 (2 Km from TRITTAU).	
<u>AHRENSBURG</u> 65668	4.		Moved to and harboured in village of Ahrensburg.	
	5.		Day spent on maintenance and cleaning.	
	6.		Church parade for 227 Bde Group. At conclusion of service the Brigade Commander, Brig. E.C. COLVILLE paid high tribute to the supporting arms and services especially the gunners. Rain spoiled the parade. 4 PW taken.	
	8.		V.E. Day. C.O. addressed all ranks of the Regiment, thanking them for their good work, and outlined the future activities of the unit.	
	9/14		Administration and maintenance went on. Regt was called upon to supply various guards for VPs and PW cage.	
	15.		Werewolf "scare". Parties from RHQ and 320 Bty carried out raids and numerous German military personnel dressed in civilian clothes were arrested.	
	18.		Regiment took over Military Government commitments in Kreis STORMANN. Batteries were widely dispersed,--- 319 at HOISBUTTEL 609690, 320 at SCHMALENBECK 684644, 495 at WILLINGHAUSEN 638548.	
	19/25		Numerous German military personnel and displaced persons of all nationalities sorted out.	
<u>KASTORF</u> 8877	24.		15 Div Arty becomes responsible for Kreis LAUENBURG less part south of rly SCHANHEIDE 9641- AUMUHLE 7151. Regiment moved to locations as follows:-- RHQ KARSTORF 8776. 319--SANDESNEBEN 8269. 320--BUCKHOLZ 9875. 495--BELENDORF 9370.	
	24/31		Time devoted to organising new area, recreational training etc. Recreation hampered by lack of sports equipment and welfare goods, but efforts are being made to obtain these.	

			C.O. Lieut Col. J.N.D. Tyler. OBE. MC. RA. 2/IC. Major. H.D. Stewart. TD. RA.	
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