

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 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year June 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col R DELACOMBE MBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
WORTHING	1st	0700 1200	Situation normal - location no change. Bn HQ located at WELLINGTON HO, MILTON ST (Ref O.S 1" to 1 mile Sheet 133 577215) On the evening of 31st May 44 CSM Robertson of C Coy died in WORTHING HOSPITAL as a result of an injury sustained on training on the afternoon of 31 May. Bn snipers carry out range firing practice at STEYNING range. Capt Walker IO attends IO's conference at Bde and a discussion with Photo Interpretation officer 15(S) Div.	
	2nd	1430	A large percentage of the Bn watch an air circus which was composed of different allied & enemy a/c. This demonstration was very instructive from an aircraft recognition point of view.	A Walker Capt IO
	3rd		The Commanding Officer carried out an adm inspection of the Bn. Situation normal.	
	4th	1000	A Communion service for CofS personnel was held in CHRISTS CHURCH WORTHING.	
	5th	0700 1730	Bn snipers carried out firing practice on the beach. Lecture by SO to offr and WOs on Air to Ground signals.	
	6th	0815	Commanding Officer holds promotion conference and discusses final points in preparation for move to marshalling area.	A Walker Capt IO
	7th	2100	Major DAD Eykyn 2i/c and Sgt Laing I Sgt leave unit as advance party for move overseas. Commanding Officer and Rifle Coy Comds visit 7 R Tanks.	
	8th		Award of MBE to Capt (QM) CR Mackay announced in London Gazette. Col The Viscount Elibank visits the Bn and sees various aspects of trg and final preparations for move to marshalling area. All vehs are loaded and undergo road test.	
	9th	1700	Commanding Officers conference. Draft of 12 ORs arrive from 52 RHU.	A Walker Capt IO

		It is announced in 21 Army Gp Gen Routine Orders that the Commander in Chief's certificate for good service has been awarded to the following members of the Bn: 3056642 Sgt Fraser JW HQ Coy 3057022 Sgt Scott JT S Coy	A Walker Capt IO
	10th	Preparations for move complete. Unit standing by for move instructions.	
	11th	0900 Adj proceeds to HQ West Sussex District to receive orders for move to Marshalling Area. Bn prepare to move. 1040 Commanding Officers 'O' Gp. Instructions issued for move. 1300 Road and rail parties parade prior to move off at 1330 hrs. Rail party consisting of marching personnel of the Bn entrain at WORTHING STA under comd of Major MH Cooke OC 'B' Coy and proceed to Marshalling Area near UCKFIELD, EAST SUSSEX (27 officers & 503 ORs). Veh party composed of Bn tpt (8 offr & 270 ORs) leave WORTHING and proceed to Embarkation Area via DORKING and LONDON situated approx two miles EAST of WEST INDIA DOCKS. Veh party arrives in this area at 2000 hrs. Rail party arrives in their marshalling area at 1700 hrs. Bn residue under command of Capt WQ Ballantyne D Coy remain in WORTHING.	A Walker Capt IO
	12th	<u>VEH PARTY</u> Veh party remain in embarkation area, complete final stages of waterproofing and are issued with extra kit and rations for the sea passage and subsequent landing. During the morning the vehicles proceed to West India Dock and loading commences. Veh party is split into two parties, one part travelling in the "PARK BENJAMIN" a US built ship and the other party in "BRADFORD CITY" a 7500 ton SUNDERLAND built ship. <u>MARCHING PERSONNEL (RAIL PARTY)</u> 1430 Marching party leave camp and proceed to a camp near WEST FIRLE where special rations and kit etc is issued. This party remain in camp and carry out normal trg until 1600 hrs 15 June.	A Walker Capt IO
	13th	<u>VEH PARTY</u> Loading of vehs on ship continues. <u>MARCHING PERSONNEL</u> Carry out trg in camp. 2100 Adv party which had set off on 7th Jan disembarked from the SAM HOUSTON II and proceed to assembly area near St Croix sur Mer.	A Walker Capt IO
	14th	0700 <u>VEH PARTY</u> Personnel for PARK BENJAMIN leave camp and proceed to docks. 1030 PARK BENJAMIN leaves West India Dock on first stage of journey. 1200 2nd portion of veh party arrive at docks. 1600 All personnel for BRADFORD CITY embark. 1725 BRADFORD CITY moves out of docks and sea voyage commences.	

			<u>Advance PARTY</u> move from assembly area to location approx 2 miles south of CREULLY (9080 Sheet 7F/1). Bn HQ at BRECY Chateau 882780 Sheet 7F/1.	A Walker Capt IO
	15th	0300	<u>VEH PARTY</u> Proceed in convoy through Straits of Dover and along south coast proceeding WEST. There was no enemy interference and ships arrived off the beachhead at 2000 hrs. <u>MARCHING PERSONNEL</u>	
		1600	Leave camp and embus for embarkation area, where embarkation took place in three ships and was completed by 1830 hrs. Ship loads were made up as follows - A Coy HQ Coy and S Coy - B Coy and half C Coy - D Coy and remainder of C Coy. Port of embarkation - NEWHAVEN.	
		1845	Ships leave harbour.	
		1030	<u>ADV PARTY</u> Move to 44 Bde conc area in village of BRECY approx 3 miles SW of CREULLY.	A Walker Capt IO
OFF THE BEACHHEAD	16th	1215	Unloading of vehs from ship begins. 1st 4CT from BRADFORD CITY beaches on 'J' Beach and vehs wade ashore through approx 3ft 6" water. The party consisted of the Commanding Officer, IO, OC Carrier Pl and a number of tracked vehs. The party proceed to an assembly area a few miles inland and first stage of de-waterproofing commences. A few other of the Bn adm vehs also arrived in marshalling area and after de-waterproofing the small unit convoy moved off to conc area at BRECY where they were met by the adv party and guided into the unit conc area, arriving in this area at 1500 hrs. Throughout the afternoon the build up of the Bn in the conc area continues as the ships are unloaded offshore. <u>MARCHING PARTY</u>	A Walker Capt IO
		1200	Arrive off beachhead.	
		1715	Coys disembark at 'M' beach and proceed to assembly area. After short halt and readjustment of equipment, Coys proceed to unit conc area first Coy arriving at approx 2100 hrs.	A Walker Capt IO
	17th		Bn HQ established at CHATEAU DE BRECY (SH 7F1 882780) and Coys located in adjoining orchards.	Note Conc complete by 1800 hrs 18 June. With the exception of one man sick in the marshalling area, all personnel, vehs, arms & eqpt arrive complete without loss.
		1900	Build up continues but unit vehs not all unloaded from ships. Address by Bde Comd, Brig HDK Money DSO, to all offrs and NCOs in gardens in rear of Bn HQ.	
	18th	1130	8RS Adm Instr No. 1 issued (see diary letter B1 attached) Commanding Officer and IO set off on recce of defensive position at HEROUVILLE (1272) with a view to the Bn taking over this part of the front from the unit at present holding this posn. After returning about 1900 hrs the Commanding Officer holds an 'O' Gp at the Bn HQ at	A Walker Capt IO

			2015 hrs and issues instrs for move. All instrs however are cancelled later in the evening. RC and combined CofS and CofE Church Parades are held during the morning in the Bn area. An RE officer gives a demonstration to all officers and NCOs on two new types of German mines at Bn HQ at 1130 hrs.	
	19th	1000	Commanding Officer attends Bde Comd's conference at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde.	A Walker Capt IO
	20th	0915 1000 1100 1900 1800	Commanding Officer and Capt Walker Bn IO attend Briefing Conference at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde. CO holds preliminary 'O' Gp. CO and IO RV at BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE (SHEET 7F/1 M.R 9272) for Bde Comds 'O' Gp. After the 'O' Gp a recce is carried out for an operation which will take place in the near future, and at 1400 hrs the Bde Comd holds a coordinating conference at the above RV. The CO and IO return to the unit location at 1730 hrs. CO holds Bn 'O' Gp. Unit harbour party leaves for new area During the day S & C Coys carry out a route march and HQ & A Coy hold a baths parade in the RIVER SEULLE.	A Walker Capt IO
	21st		The day is mostly spent in recce by Coy Comds and Pl Comds of the forward areas in connection with future ops. The Commanding Officer and IO attend briefing conferences by Bde Comd.	
	22nd	0900 1700	CO and IO attend Bde Comd's conference at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde. B Coy carry out short route march. During the morning the CO and IO visit HQ 46(H) Inf Bde to liaise on forthcoming ops, and also the Bn assembly area at 918754 near SECQUEVILLE where the Bn will move prior to the forthcoming op to be known as Operation EPSOM. (EPSOM) The Commanding Officer holds briefing conference of all offr and NCOs on an earth model on operation 'EPSOM'. Reps of B Sqn 9 R Tanks, 2 GH (46(H) Inf Bde), 6 KOSB and 159 A Tk Bty taking part in the op also attend.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
	23rd	0900 1015 1500 1800	CO & IO attend Bde Comds conference at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde. D Coy were briefed by OC D Coy on sand model. Due to a change in the Bde plan affecting the Bn, the Commanding Officer briefed all offr and NCOs on the sand model again. Commanding Officer proceeds to HQ 8 Corps for a briefing conference.	
	24th	1100 1900	CO's admin conference at Bn HQ. Briefing of Coys continues during the day. Mov Order No. 1 issued. Veh advance party leaves for F.A.A.	See diary letter B2 A Walker Capt IO

	27th	1930	<p><u>Total Casualties</u>:- 3 offr and 107 ORs</p> <p>The Bn remain on their objectives until the evening when reps of a bn* from 129 Bde begin taking over with a view to the bn being relieved. Relief is carried out in stages during the night of 26/27 June and by 0730 hrs on 27th June the bn had moved back to a posn at 916695 approx one mile in rear of the fwd area. During the day general maintenance was carried out and tps in general having a well earned rest although still under occasional arty fire from the enemy. CO and IO attend Bde 'O' Gp.</p>	<p>* 5 WILTS</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
	28th	0830 0930 1530 1630 1700 2050	<p>Area to East of Bn posn shelled.</p> <p>3 offr and 96 ORs arrive as reinforcements and are distributed to Coys.</p> <p>CO & IO attend Bde O Gp.</p> <p>CO holds Bn 'O' Gp on return and issues orders for an attack which the Bn was to carry out that evening.</p> <p>Bn ready to move and set off for SL on rd Fontenay-le-Pesnel 8766 - CARPIQUET 9668 (Sheet 7F3) from X tracks 891677 to 905679.</p> <p>Commencement of advance D Coy held posn on the SL as a firm base with A Coy right B Coy centre and C Coy left. The advance was supported by 7 R Tks less one Sqn and Q Bty 21 A TK Regt (Sp 17 pdr guns).</p> <p>The final objective was the line of the rly from 897642 to 908645. Zero hour was at 1915 hrs. The advance which was to clear up any enemy snipers and isolated posts in the area progressed favourably without much opposition and it was only at 2050 hrs that enemy opposition was encountered in any strength and the leading Coys paused on the general line 898652 to 904647 as the light was beginning to fail and there was insufficient time for staging an attack after carrying out proper recce. The Coys took up a def posn for the evening & dug in and Bn HQ was est at 899654.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p><u>Coy Comds</u></p> <p>A Coy - Major Logan</p> <p>B Coy - Major Cooke</p> <p>C Coy - Major Douglass</p> <p>D Coy - Major Cadzow</p> <p>S Coy - Capt DB Hume</p> <p>HQ Coy - Capt WS Cox</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
	29th	0500 0700 1003	<p>CO holds 'O' Gp and issues orders for attack on to the rly line.</p> <p>A and B Coys begin attack by expanding their posn and clearing the enemy from some hedgerows on their immediate front. Strong enemy opposition was encountered incl tks and a tk battle took place in area 901646 between our own and enemy tks. This caused some delay to the second phase of the attack which involved C & D Coys advancing to the rly line.</p> <p>After arty concentrations on the enemy posns C and D Coys advanced, C Coy capturing area 907646 and D Coy orchard 899643. Enemy MG fire and mortar fire was particularly heavy at this stage and caused some casualties to our tps.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>

		<p>C Coy secured the objective and reorganised but D Coy were forced under heavy enemy pressure to withdraw to a line of trees approx 300 yds from their objective and take up a posn there in front of B Coy in area of orchard 903648. The battle continued in intensity with no great change in posns but an attack by the depleted D Coy reinforced by a pl from B Coy succeeded once more in gaining the orchard and holding it. By this time, due to the casualties sustained, the Bn was relieved in the fwd area by the 6RSF and took up a close def posn in area around Bn HQ 899654, immediately in rear of 6RSF. Throughout the day the enemy exerted pressure along the front probing with tks and inf but all counter attacks were held. During the operations on 28th & 29th June the following casualties were sustained by the Bn.</p> <p>Killed:- 19 Wounded:- 113 Missing:- 20 Coy casualties were as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Killed</th> <th>Wounded</th> <th>Missing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A Coy</td> <td>2</td> <td>19</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B "</td> <td>8</td> <td>30</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C "</td> <td>5</td> <td>11</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D "</td> <td>1</td> <td>40</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HQ "</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S "</td> <td>2</td> <td>7</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Killed	Wounded	Missing	A Coy	2	19	-	B "	8	30	4	C "	5	11	3	D "	1	40	13	HQ "	1	6	-	S "	2	7	-	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
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	30th	<p>During the morning the Bn moved to area 902658 approx 500-600 yds in rear of original posn. Bn HQ was est at 902659.</p> <p>1100 CO & IO attend Bde 'O' Gp.</p> <p>1400 CO & IO carry out recce of defensive posn on the SW edge of LE HAUT du BOSQ in area 903655.</p> <p>1530 CO holds 'O' Gp and issues orders for occupation of the above defensive posn. By early evening all Coys were in posn dug in with C & D Coys in area 902658 and A & B Coys area 907653. Bn HQ was est at posn 904658. Enemy shelling & mortar fire continued spasmodically during the day.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>																												

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WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year July 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col R DELACOMBE MBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices								
	July 1st	0700	<p>A counter attack was made by the enemy on the Rt fwd Coy of the Bn in front but did not materialise into anything more than a local action and was repelled by the fwd tps with the support of the tanks. Further local attacks developed in the fwd area later in the day but no penetration was achieved and the Bn was not engaged in any fighting. Enemy mortar activity still continued.</p> <p>During the day the CO of the 1st Oxf and Bucks Regt and reps carried out a recce of the Bn area with a view to his unit relieving the Bn on the following day.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer (8RS) held a short 'O' Gp and issued instrs on the relief due to take place on the following day and the move to the rear RV.</p>	<p>Casualties 1st July</p> <table> <tr> <td>Offrs</td> <td>ORs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Killed</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wounded</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Missing</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>	Offrs	ORs	Killed	1	Wounded	3	Missing	-
Offrs	ORs											
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	2nd	0900 1040	<p>Bn preparing for hand over to relieving Bn.</p> <p>(approx) Marching personnel of Coys assemble in Rear RV in orchard 903664 after being relieved by incoming sub-units.</p> <p>By 1530 hrs veh and marching parties had arrived in rear area east of ST CROIX GRAND TONNE (8874) in area 888742, where a period of rest and reorganisation is begun.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>								
	3rd	1245	<p>Bn still concentrated in rest area carrying out maintenance and necessary repairs to vehs and eqpt.</p> <p>Short address by the Div Comd, Major General GHA MacMillan DSO MC, on the previous week's operations to all ranks.</p> <p>Two officers and 121 ORs arrived in the Bn as reinforcements and were distributed as necessary throughout the Coys according to their qualifications and Coy requirements.</p> <p>Most of the day was spent as a day of rest and recuperation after the week's operations, which gave little chance for rest or sleep.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>								
	4th	0915 1030	<p>Talks by Bde Comd to all offrs and NCOs at Bn HQ, on the recent operations.</p> <p>CO attends conference at 15(S) Div HQ. During the day general maintenance was continued and stores and kit checked & cleaned.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>								

		0430	Bn stands-to till 0530 hrs in def posns. During the day enemy activity was on a small scale and except for individual movement reported by our OP's and occasional mortaring the enemy remained passive. Our own tps made themselves completely acquainted with the new Bn layout improving posns where possible. The morale of the opposing tps must have been very low as several deserters gave themselves up to our fwd tps.	Missing - - AW A Walker Capt IO
		2200	Major Mould, Worcester Regt, reported for duty as OC D Coy. During the night 8/9th two patrols were sent out, one each by B and C Coys approx 800 yds ahead of our FDLs but though enemy mov could be heard no actual contact was made.	A Walker Capt IO
	9th		During the day there was little to report except for isolated enemy targets which were observed and engaged by our arty and mor fire. The CO of the 1st/5th Welch Regt carried out a recce of the Bn area with a view to his unit taking over the bn sector.	
	10th		During the day there was little enemy activity on the front. Reps of the relieving unit arrived during the evening in preparation for the change-over.	Casualties 10 July ORs:- 1 killed 1 wounded AW
	11th		During the night 10/11 July the Bn was relieved from its posn in the bridgehead over the R. Odon and proceeded back to the rest area at ST CROIX GRAND TONNE (SH 7F/1 8874). During the day rest and reorganisation was carried out.	A Walker Capt IO
	12th		The Bn remained in the rest area. A recce is carried out by the CO & IO in the area of MONDRAINVILLE 9264 and TOURVILLE 9364 with Bde recce party and planning for an operation for breaking out of the bridgehead over the RIVER ODON is carried out.	
	13th	1000 1500	CO and IO attend Bde 'O' Gp. Bn 'O' Gp. Recce party from Bn sets out to recce FAA in area MONDRAINVILLE - TOURVILLE for forthcoming operation. Regarding this op the CO liaises with affiliated Tk bn. During the day the priority residue of the bn arrived and joined the bn in the rest area.	A Walker Capt IO
	14th	2100 2300	During the morning and afternoon briefing of the bn took place by the CO. Each Coy also being briefed by the CO on the scale sand model of the area of the forthcoming op. Due to a slight change another recce party sets off to recce a new FAA in the same gen area as before. OO No. 1 and Mov Order No. 1 for Op "GREENLINE" issued. Marching party of Bn leave for FAA. Veh party leave rest area for FAA.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx C1 and C2 att.
	15th	0100	Arrive FAA. Bn HQ est 927648.	

		1400	The day was mostly spent in lying up in the FAA & in final tying up of details of attack. Recce party for FUP sets out returning at 1500.	
16th	0300 0530		Bn leaves FAA & moves to FUP between LES VILAINS 930625 and R. ODON. Zero hour for attack. The attack is planned in three phases: (a) D Coy (Major Mould) objective gen area gully 924622 (b) A Coy (Major Gullett) objective GAVRUS 9161 (c) C Coy (Major Douglass MBE) objective BOUGY 9161, B Coy being in reserve. The attack progressed favourably against varying opposition, a considerable number of prisoners being taken and by 1017 hrs all objectives had been gained and Coys consolidated. At the commencement of the attack the Commanding Officer Lt Col R Delacombe MBE was wounded by splinters from a mortar bomb and had to be evacuated through the medical channels. Major Layne-Joynt 2i/c then took over command. The number of casualties suffered by the Bn in the attack was comparatively small but on the objectives casualties were sustained through hy enemy arty and mortar fire. For the remainder of the day Coys continued to improve their defensive posns and were now reorganised as follows: A Coy area - wood 916612, B Coy area 906613, C Coy area BOUGY 912610 and D Coy orchard 914614. Bn HQ was est at BOUGY CHATEAU 913614. Attempts to infiltrate by the enemy were all repelled.	A Walker Capt IO Casualties 16th July Offrs ORs Killed 2 20 Wounded 4 91 Missing - 2 AW A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
17th			An order of the day from Lt Col Delacombe was given out to the Bn. A Coy of the 6RSF were put under comd of the bn to hold the gap between C and B Coys in area 909611 as the Bn was fairly "thin" on the ground in this area. Again during the day the enemy tried infiltration but without success and our own Coys maintained inter-coy patrols which gave warning of enemy intentions. The enemy was however now much more passive due to the hy defeat of the previous day but continued with mortar and arty fire in the bn area.	See Appx C3 Casualties 17th July Offrs ORs Killed - - Wounded 1 10 Missing - - AW A Walker Capt IO
18th	1900		The odd German prisoner continued to be brought in or give himself up but otherwise there was no great activity on the bn front. D Coy made local attack in area wood 909611 to clear up enemy in it but encountered very hy M/G fire and not having tk sp or arty sp due to close proximity of our tps the attack was called to a halt before completion and D Coy returned to their original posn. Reps of the Royal Welsh Regiment visited Bn with a view to taking over.	Casualties 18th July <u>ORs</u> Killed 4 Wounded 7 Missing - AW A Walker Capt IO
19th			Patrol activity continued during the day and enemy spotted opposite the fwd coy posns were engaged by 3" mor or arty fire. Otherwise, there was nothing of importance to report.	Casualties 19th July <u>ORs</u> Killed 2

				Wounded 10 AW
HAUT DE BOSQ	20th		During the night 19/20 the Bn was relieved and proceeded to a rest area at HAUT de BOSQ in gen area ORCHARD 905665. Once again the task of reorganising and re-equipping where necessary was begun. Advantage was also taken of Mobile Bath facilities & a number of vacancies at the Corps rest camp were given to the Bn. This was a most welcome rest period for all.	A Walker Capt IO
	21st		Bn remains in rest area. Major Chalmers S.L.I. arrives to take over 2i/c of the Bn on Major Lane-Joynt assuming command of the Bn.	
	22nd		Bn still in rest area. CO and SO carry out recce of def area at LA VACQUERIE 6659 (Sh 6F/4) with a view to taking over this sector of the front from the U.S. troops then in occupation.	A Walker Capt IO
	23rd	0830 0930 1345 1455	Recce party leave for new area. Harbour party leave to recce conc area for bn prior to moving fwd to take over. Marching personnel of Bn leave by TCV and proceed via AUDRIEU (7F/1 8671) JERUSALEM 8172 - LA BELLE 7669 - LA BUTTE (6F/2 7469) - ST HONORINE DE DUCY 7365 - to conc area in VILDAY 693633. Veh party leave for conc area by above route. During the evening preparations for the take over during the night were completed.	A Walker Capt IO
LA VACQUERIE	24th		During the night 23/24 the bn took over the LA VACQUERIE sector and by morning was est as follows: Bn HQ 662598 A Coy 656594 B Coy 664587 C Coy 670590 D Coy 672592. During the day there was little enemy activity on the ground except for mortaring and shelling in fwd Coy areas. A slight readjustment of Coy posns took place on orders from Bde and C Coy now occupied LA VACQUERIE 668597. A tp of 15(S) Div recce took up posn between A & B Coy in area 662592 & another tp area 668589.	<u>Casualties 24th July</u> 1 OR wounded AW A Walker Capt IO
LA VACQUERIE	25th	1015 1340	Coys settled in def posn with inter Coy patrols established. Patrols into the enemy lines were also carried out and valuable information obtained during night 24/25th. Div Comd Major Gen GHA MacMillan DSO MC accompanied by Comd 44 Bde visit Bn. CO & IO attend conf at HQ 44 Bde. They were accompanied on their return by reps of 2 Glas H of 46 (H) Bde who carried out a recce with a view to taking over the sector. Enemy activity was again on a small scale.	A Walker Capt IO
LA VACQUERIE	26th		During the night 25/26th there was a considerable number of patrols sent out when contact was made on a number of occasions. Enemy activity was also marked along the FDLs of fwd Coys.	

LA VACQUERIE		0630	An attack by US forces on the sector on right of the Bn posn commenced and considerable fire sp was given to it by our sp arms in engaging enemy targets. This attack gained considerable ground but after enemy counter-attacks was temporarily held up but later pushed fwd again. During the evening and the night of 26/27th the bn sector was taken over by 2 Glas H and the bn proceeded to a rear area near LA MULOTIERE 713636.	A Walker Capt IO
	27th		Bn remains in rest area. One other rank was killed & 3 wounded by enemy shelling of the area in the early morning. Rest and reorganisation & cleaning up was the general order of the day.	Casualties 27th July ORs Killed 2 Wounded 2 Missing - AW
	28th		No change in Bn location. During the day the CO & IO carry out recces for counter attack roles to be done if necessary by the bn in area LA VACQUERIE 6659, CAUMONT 7059 and LA REPAS 7259. Baths, cinema & concert were popular with those privileged to attend but at 2000 hrs a sudden change of plan necessitated the Bn preparing to move back to the LA VACQUERIE area as soon as possible and by 2130 hrs the Bn was again on the move.	A Walker Capt IO
LA VACQUERIE	29th		During the night 28/29th the Bn once more took over the def posn around LA VACQUERIE, but enemy activity was again negligible during the day due to the US troops on our right flank now being slightly fwd of the bn posn.	Casualties 29th July 1 OR killed AW A Walker Capt IO
	30th		No change in bn location. Inter coy patrols continue as before but there was nothing of importance to report. During the day the remaining Bdes of the Div put in an attack south from CAUMONT and it appeared that in face of this threat the enemy were withdrawing on our front, even mortar & arty activity having considerably decreased.	
	31st		Following the success of the ops south of CAUMONT the bn move during the early hours of the morning through CAUMONT and then south. Some hours were spent in a conc area at 693558 during which time the CO & IO attended a Bde Comds conference on possible sp roles for the Bde. Instrs were finally given for an attack with tk sp on a high feature in area 709532 to fill a gap between 227 Bde on the left on pt 226 (711536) and 46 Bde in area pt 309 (694512). After Coy Comds recce and liaison with the tk bn cooperating (4 GREN GDS) the attack was finally tied up and commenced at 1845 hrs. The bn advanced on its objective from the west with two Coys up, A on right & B Coy on left. D Coy followed in rear of A Coy and C Coy	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO

		<p>followed B Coy. Limited sp was given by the tks who had failed to tie up with the left Coy on the S.L. However, no enemy opposition was encountered as the enemy apparently had withdrawn when his flanks had been threatened. Coys were thus able to establish themselves on their objectives and reorganise as follows: B Coy area X tracks 711532, A Coy area 709528, C Coy 707534, D Coy 705530. Bn HQ was est area 705535.</p> <p>Some enemy activity was apparent to the East of the fwd coy posns and there was occasional mortaring and shelling of the bn posn. Otherwise there was little of importance to report.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt Col PR Lane-Joynt

Month and Year Aug 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
REF MAP 6F/4 1/50,000	1st	- 1800	Bn HQ located 705535 A Coy 709528 B Coy area X tracks 711532 C Coy 707534 D Coy 705530. During the day there was little enemy activity on the Bn front and no enemy were encountered by inter-coy patrols. Attack to clear ground & wooded country between Bn and nearest troops on right in area 6951 was made by 6 KOSB. Attack met some opposition from enemy tks & inf but was successful & contact was later est by our Rt fwd Coy with this unit. Enemy concs reported in BOIS DU HOMME 7151 shelled by our arty. During the early evening C Coy (RS) was moved into posn behind 6 KOSB in area 702527 to thicken up defence of this sector in view of poss enemy counter-attack. Later in the evening this Coy returned to the original posn when posn had been firmly secured by 6 KOSB.	A Walker Capt
	2nd		Due to adv of other Br units on left flank enemy activity ceased entirely except for occasional long range shelling, and there was little to report. A number of rfts arrived for the bn (67 ORs from 6 Border Regt / 9 ORs from 32 RHU). C Coy was given task of clearing any isolated enemy from wood in front of bn posn at 7152 but after patrols had reported wood clear & contact made with friends on left the op was not carried through. Recce parties set off to recce FAA in area 680465.	A Walker Capt
	3rd	1600	The Bn remains in area 705535 but Coys were conc near Bn HQ in view of an impending move. Bn leaves present area & moves to FAA area 680465. CO and IO attend 44 Bde O Gp at HQ Gds Armd Div area 678455 for operation to take place on morning of 4th Aug, 44 Bde being under command for this op.	
	4th	0245 0630	Bn move to FUP area Pt 266 (694424) prior to attack arriving in FUP at 0500 hrs. Attack commences. SL line of stream from Le Desert 7043 to 705430. Objective was high ground to the east to pt 283 (738420). The attack was preceded by arty fire but no enemy were encountered on the	A Walker Capt

		1030	objective, having cleared off as soon as our arty opened fire that morning. All objectives gained. Coys est as follows: A Coy area 736422, B Coy area 731422, C Coy area 733420, D Coy area 737419, Bn HQ area 734422. Enemy activity was again confined to shelling of high ground. A few stragglers were rounded up during the day. A Pl of A Coy acted as covering fire to the south west of MONTCHARIVEL 7442, whilst other troops of the Bde occupied the	<u>Casualties</u> 4 ORs wounded AW
		2030	village. Inter Coy patrols were established & later in the day a carrier patrol was sent to recce routes to the east for a possible move.	A Walker Capt
	5th		During the day the Bn remained in posn, with little of note to report.	
	6th	1330	The Bn was now under orders for a quick move and by early afternoon were prepared for an immediate move. Harbour party sets off to recce conc area 771418 followed a short time later by the Bn. Arriving in this area a temporary def posn was taken up by Coys in view of poss enemy counter attack from area LASSY.	Sheet 7F/3 <u>Casualties</u> 1 OR wounded A Walker Capt
	7th		During early morning recce parties were sent fwd to new def posn and bn moved fwd to area of village 7639. B and D Coys occupied posns on SE of road at 764394 and 766395 respectively, A and C Coys having def posns in areas NW of rd at 364395 and 765396 respectively. The enemy remains very passive and no direct contact was made though this was to be expected as the Bn was slightly in rear of the line of the FDLs from ESTRY 7437 (Sheet 6F/6) and Pt 208 (772390 Sheet 7F/5). During the late evening and morning of the 8th Aug patrols were sent out to contact neighbouring units & also two recce patrols. Contact with units on the flanks was made but recce patrols did not encounter enemy.	A Walker Capt
	8th		During the day the only incident of note was the approach of 3 enemy tks and SP guns to X rds 769405 (7F/3) where two were knocked out by A tk guns of the unit on our left rear, on the NW side of the cross roads. Later in the day reps of the 2 A&SH carried out a recce of the Bn posns with a view to taking over during the night 8/9 Aug.	<u>Casualties</u> 2 ORs wounded A Walker Capt
	9th	0200	Bn leaves present location and proceed to area 735394 and begin taking over from 3rd Bn Irish Guards. The take over was effected without incident and after readjustment of posns the Bn was disposed as follows: Bn HQ area orchard 735394 (Sh 6F/6), A Coy - 734395, B Coy - 736395, C Coy - 733391 & D Coy 738392. In this posn the Bn came into Bde reserve.	<u>Casualties</u> 1 OR wounded

	10th		Bn located as for 9th Sept - Little enemy activity except for occasional mor or arty fire. Recces for counter attack role carried out.	<u>Casualties</u> 2 ORs wounded A Walker Capt
	11th		Located as above. An opportunity for reorganisation & cleaning up was taken due to passive enemy resistance in fwd area of the Bde.	<u>Casualties</u> 1 OR wounded
	12th	2100	During the day recces were carried out by Coys as the Bn was being called on to relieve the two fwd bns of the Bde. Enemy mortaring of area continued. Standing patrol of one pl strength continued by night at 750381 on left of 6RSF. 5 OR Rfts from 32 RHU join Bn. Change over with 6 KOSB & 6 RSF takes place & continued until completion with little reaction from the enemy. Bn HQ located 743385 with B Coy in res area 745385 and other Rifle Coys as follows: C Coy area 741375 A Coy 745378 D Coy 747379.	A Walker Capt
ESTRY 6F/6 7437	13th	1415 1830 2300	Considerable slackening of enemy activity was noticed on the Bn front suggesting signs of an enemy withdrawal. During the afternoon vigorous patrolling was carried out by Coys all information pointing to the fact that the enemy were pulling out from that sector. Recce party of 4 KSLI arrive to take over Bn sector. Carrier patrol sent out beyond Estry to south. Road found blocked and mined. REs protected by B Coy were given the job in the late evening of clearing the village of Booby traps and mines. 4 KSLI in process of taking over sector.	<u>Casualties</u> 3 wounded A Walker Capt
	14th	0200- 0430 1930	Bn moves back from rear RV at 723400 (Sheet 6F/4 1/50000) to CATHEOLES 7044 to rest area. During the day however instrs were issued for move back to the eastern sector of the bridgehead area and at 1600 hrs the Bn moved off to AMAYE-SUR-ORNE (Sh 7F/3 1/50000) via VILLERS BOCAGE (see Appx A attached) and eventually arrive in rest area LES IFS 966571.	
	15th		Bn in rest area at LES IFS 966571. Reorganisation and re-equipping where necessary takes place. Coys allowed mobile baths. 5 Rfts from 32 RHU join Bn.	
	16th		Bn still conc in rest area as on 15th Aug. Rest and reorganisation continues.	A Walker Capt
LES IFS 966571 Sheet 7F/3	17th		Bn still located at LES IFS 966571. Visit to Bn of Div Comd Maj Gen Barber and address by Div Comd to all ranks. Brigadier Cockburn MBE Comd 44(L) Inf Bde accompanied the Div Comd.	
Sheet 7F/3 1/50000	18th		Bn moves to area CHATEAU 999454 near CESNY BOIS HALBOUT by march route. Coys conc as follows A Coy 999453 B Coy 997453 C Coy 998450 D Coy 000453. Bn HQ est at Chateau 999454. Commanding Officer attends conference at Div HQ.	

	19th		Bn located as for 18th Sept. Trg was carried out by Coys with short route marches.	A Walker Capt
	19th to 22nd		Advantage was taken of the prolonged period of rest in bringing the bn up to full fighting efficiency again. During this period there was little else to report except for the appearance for the first time since the Bn's arrival in France of a Mobile Canteen, and also an "Officers Mobile Shop". Situation otherwise normal - nothing to report	A Walker Capt
	23rd		Following the complete collapse of the German forces in Normandy there commenced a period of mobile ops which entailed moves of some considerable distances in an effort to keep pace with the German retreat. The Bn left present location on the morning of the 23rd and proceeded by TCV via FALAISE to DAMBLAINVILLE (SH 3A&8 1/250000 2138) where the night 23/24 was spent in harbour. 13 Rfts from 32 RHU join Bn.	
	24th		Leave DAMBLAINVILLE and proceed by TCV to MEULLES 5868 (Sheet 7 1/250000) and harbour.	
1/250000 Sheet 7 LE NEUBOURG	25th	0930 2130	Depart for LE NEUBOURG 0283 via ORBEC 6573 and BERNAY 7979. Bn HQ est 031841 and Coys disposed as follows: A Coy area 0487 B Coy 0484 C Coy 0683 D Coy 0386 (FRANCE SHEET 8F/2 1:50000) in defensive posns to the N and NE of LE NEUBOURG. Enemy still continuing hasty withdrawal and bn not engaged in any fighting. Situation normal - nothing to report.	
	26th	0630	Coys relieved by 6RSF and 6KOSB and withdraw to posns A Coy area rly station 031829, B Coy area C Coy area 032828, D Coy area 030826. In these positions it was possible to carry out maintenance and reorganisation to a great extent with no interference from the enemy whose main purpose appeared to be to get back over the RIVER SEINE with all possible speed. Situation normal.	A Walker Capt
LE NEUBOURG	27th	0900 1730 2200 2300	Bn moves from LE NEUBOURG by MT to area west of LOUVIERS 2289 (1/50000 Sheet 9F/1) and by 1130 hrs is est as follows: Bn HQ - 203893, A Coy 202892, B Coy 204890, C Coy - 200892, D Coy 204891, S Coy 201891. CO and IO attend Bde O Gp and afterwards carry out a recce for a crossing of the RIVER SEINE in the area of PORTEJOIE 290920 night 27th/28th Aug 44. Bn O Gp at Bn HQ and orders for river crossing issued. Bn leaves present area by march route and proceed to FAA in area 2794. Veh party move in rear of Bn to veh park in area 268922. Tac Bn HQ was est at 290921 in PORTEJOIE next to 44 Bde regulating point.	A Walker Capt

1/50000 Sh 9F/1	28th	0300	<p>After the assault Bn (6RSF) has crossed with some MG opposition from the enemy the Bn which had been called fwd from the FAA began the crossing. Some difficulty was encountered at the most southerly crossing at pt 289918 due to enemy interference from further up river. D Coy however eventually managed to cross without mishap at this crossing while C, B, HQ and A Coys crossed at pt 291921. Crossings were made by assault boats in each case. Enemy resistance became negligible due to 6RSF having est their limited bridgehead on the east bank and the crossing was uneventful except for occasional indirect enemy MG fire, and completed by first light. After a short pause in the RSF bridgehead while mopping up of some snipers took place at 0730 hrs the Bn moved out of the Bridgehead along the east bank of the river and adopted a defensive posn on rt of 6RSF in area 285912, disposed as follows: Bn HQ 285912, A Coy 286913, B Coy 286912, C Coy 284911 and D Coy 284912. No contact was made with the enemy who had withdrawn from the area at 0600 hrs that morning. During the afternoon and evening the build up of the bn in the bridgehead continued as vehs were ferried across by raft at PORTEJOIE. Later in the day on the completion of a Cl 40 RE br at 272906 the complete veh party that remained on the west bank was able to join the Bn.</p> <p>CO and IO attend Bde O Gp when instructions are issued for an adv to contact the enemy on the following day.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt</p> <p>A Walker Capt</p> <p>A Walker Capt</p>
NEAR HERQUEVILLE 2991	29th	0700	<p>Bn leaves present location and moves fwd in adv to contact formation with A Coy as vanguard Coy via DAUBEUF 325942 - VATTEVILLE 3295 - LE LONDE 3396. Our fwd tps reached the limit of their adv at X rds 350966 with very little opposition, a few prisoners being taken. The bn then adopted a def posn in area LE LONDE with Coys disposed as follows: A Coy south of rd in area 346965, B Coy N of rd in area 346966, C Coy area 331960, D Coy area 331965. Bn HQ was est at 332964. Contact patrols were carried out with units on rt and left and during night 29/30 two patrols were sent to AMFREVILLE 3498 and returned with the infm that the enemy appeared to have withdrawn from the village.</p>	<p>1/50000 Sheet 9F/1</p> <p>A Walker Capt</p>
LE LONDE	30th		<p>Enemy activity throughout the area was confined to a few rds shellfire which caused no damage and on account of the very bad weather and the tactical situation permitting, a relaxation of the state of alertness was ordered and Coys were able to make use of the available cover in the vicinity of each Coy area. As a precaution a pl of B Coy was moved out to occupy a posn at pt 159 337973 but shortly after the posn had been occupied permission was given by higher authority to withdraw it as the situation to the North had</p>	<p>A Walker Capt</p>

			gone so well in our favour and the enemy had completely withdrawn from the area.	
LE LONDE	31st	1030 1430	<p>Bn remains in present area carrying out maint and reorganisation. A Bde O Gp took place at Bde HQ to discuss plan for dealing with pockets of enemy believed hiding in woods immediately South of the FLEURY SUR ANDELLE 3704 - PONT ST PIERRE 3101 rd.</p> <p>The Bn were given the task of adv North from BACQUEVILLE 380989 (Sheet 9F/1) and clearing woods in a gen line through the BOIS DE BONNEMARE 3501 NW to main rd. The wood clearing presented many difficulties with regard to control and eventually after a very slow advance and trying to keep contact with 6KOSB on right in the FORET DE BACQUEVILLE 3701 the leading Coys finally gained the road on the North end of the wood without encountering any enemy. By this time darkness was beginning to fall and the second stage of the op, that of sweeping through the BOIS de DOUVILLE 3200, was cancelled and the Bn returned to LE LONDE at 2230 hrs. 12 Rfts join Bn from 32 RHU.</p>	<p>Sheet 9E/5 1/50000</p> <p>Walker Capt</p> <p>A Walker Capt</p>

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Sept 1944

Commanding Officer Lt Col PR Lane-Joynt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LE LONDE	1	1000	Bn still located at LE LONDE (1/50000 Sh 9F/1 map ref 332964). Orders received for move of harbour party to new area but later cancelled. During the day Coys attended Mobile Bath Unit and continued with general reorganisation and administration. 31 Reinforcements arrive in Battalion.	
	2nd	1500	Administration in general continues. Harbour party leaves for new location.	
LA FEUILLIE	3rd	0700	Bn leaves Le Londe and moves in TCVs to LA FEUILLIE (Sheet 9E/6 1/50000 map ref. 5015). Bn HQ est at 505152 with Coys as follows in non-tactical locations: A Coy 502153, B Coy 501154, C Coy 500155, D Coy 499155, S Coy 499156. Situation normal, nothing to report. Administration continued.	A Walker Capt
	4th	0900	Bn leaves LA FEUILLIE and moves to area CRIQUIERS (1/50000 Sheet 9E/4 6537) in two parties, first veh party arriving at 1200 hrs followed by embussed tps who arrived at approx 1600 hrs. In the location Bn was still conc in non-tactical posns and ready for further move forward when ordered.	See Appx E1
	5th	0900 2100	Veh party leave CRIQUIERS and proceed to OEUF (Sheet 1/250000 NW Europe map ref. 0710) arriving at 1700 hrs. Some stray enemy were reported in wood 0610 to the west of the village and personnel of Rifle Coys not yet having arrived, personnel from HQ & S Coys who had travelled with veh party carried out the op of clearing this wood but no enemy were located. Rifle Coys arrive at OEUF.	See appendix E2 A Walker Capt
OEUF HALLUIN Sheet 7 1/100000	6th	0800	Bn departs from OEUF in accordance with Move table att as Appx E3. No opposition was encountered until leading tps of the Bde reached HALLUIN (1/100000 Sheet 7 Belgium & NE France) when it was found canal br between HALLUIN and MENIN had been blown and enemy were occupying posns on the north bank of the canal. It was then decided to move the Bde to area WEVELGHEM 7954 where a small bridgehead was held over the river. The Bn in this operation was given the task of	See appendix E3 A Walker Capt

Belgium & France LAUWE 7953			making a firm base at the river br 798545 and then of taking up a def posn on southern outskirts of LAUWE 7953 with a view to being prepared to carry out any necessary counter-attack in the WEVELGHEM Bridgehead. 'B' Coy took up posn on south bank of river at br 798545 and remainder of Bn was disposed as follows: Bn HQ - 794528, A Coy - 797527, C Coy - 797524, D Coy - 793524.	A Walker Capt
1/100000 Sheet 7 (Belgium & NE France) COURTRAI SH 53 8557	7th	0500 0900 2100 2300	By midnight 6/7 Bn was complete in posn but shortly afterwards orders were received for the Bn to move to COURTRAI 8557 and take over the defence of nodal point from 7 Seaforths of 46 Bde. Main body of Bn leave LAUWE for COURTRAI. Change-over complete and Bn now disposed as follows: Bn HQ - GRAND HOTEL 854568, A Coy area brs 843570 and 847572, B Coy - area br 861576, C Coy - area brs 853572 and 855573, D Coy and S Coy 857565. During the day there was little enemy activity from north bank of canal where Belgian resistance forces were active and brought in approx 120 prisoners. Reps of 4 RWF (53 Div) arrive with a view to their Bn taking over Bn area in COURTRAI. Bn leaves Courtrai and spends night 7/8 Sept on south-east outskirts of the town at MOORINEGOOD 867562 preparatory to advancing to contact enemy on morning of 8th Sept.	Sh 53 1/50000 France & Belgium A Walker Capt
Sheet 7 1/100000 Belgium & NE France Sheet 7 1/100000 France & Belgium HARLEBEKE 8859	8th	0830	Bn leaves present location and proceeds in advance to contact formation to North East on road COURTRAI - DEYNZE 0573. The enemy were still in full retreat and no opposition was encountered by the time HARLEBEKE 8859 was reached though approx 60 enemy PW were taken with little opposition in scattered localities. Here the Bn took up a defensive position guarding the River LYS on the north west of HARLEBEKE and the remaining Bns of the Bde were passed through to continue the advance. Bn now disposed as follows: Bn HQ est at 885590, A Coy 906613, B Coy area 875586, C Coy 887600, D Coy DEERLYCK 9159. Enemy continued withdrawing to the east on the North side of RIVER LYS but despite danger of his encirclement by British tps further to NE, did not attempt any break through our def line of RIVER LYS. Any attempt at breaking out could hardly be expected in view of enemy's demolition of most bridges over the river.	A Walker Capt A Walker Capt
	9th		Bn remains at HARLEBEKE. Situation normal - nothing to report.	
1/250000 Sheet 2 and 3 NW Europe	10th	0830	Bn leaves HARLEBEKE and proceeds by TCV to MALINES 7175 (NW Europe 1/250000 Sheet 3) via VICHTE 9557 - KERKHOVE 0152 - RENAIX 0846 - NEDERBRAKEL 2052 - NINOVE 3856 - X rds 4755 - ASSCHE 5263 - WOLVERTHEM 5967 - MALINES.	A Walker Capt

MALINES 7174 1/50000 Sheet 45		1530 1900	Bn est at MALINES as follows: Bn HQ & HQ Coy 715748, A Coy 714756, B Coy 719755, C Coy 724748, D Coy 720741. The task of the Bn in this location was solely defence of nodal brs and there was no contact with the enemy. Situation normal - nothing to report. During the evening the CO and Coy recce parties went fwd to OOLEN 9886 (1/50000 Sheet 24 & 34) with a view to carrying out a recce for possible canal crossing in area immediately west of HERENTHALS 9790 but owing to wrong information from higher authority it was found impossible to carry out this recce as the enemy were holding HERENTHALS in strength and also had posns to the west on the south bank of canal.	A Walker Capt
	11th	0730 1800	CO and IO carry out recce of area held by D.L.I. of 50 Div in area 0685 (Sheet 25 & 35 1/50000) with a view to Bn taking over this position. Pipe band of Bn play retreat in MAIN SQUARE, MALINES. The retreat was watched by a very large number of spectators who displayed a very keen interest in the performance.	A Walker Capt
Sheet 25 & 35 1/50000 France & Belgium	12th	0715 0800 1430 1830	CO and IO start off for Bde 'O' Gp at 085831, followed about one hour later by Coy Comds and Coy recce parties. After Bde 'O' Gp, CO, IO and Coy Comds & recce parties are taken fwd to D.L.I. Bn area to prepare for change over. Bn main body leaves MALINES and proceeds to F.A.A. at ZAMMEL at 048814. Bn leaves present area and proceeds by Class 9 bridge at 070844 to new Bn area. Bn HQ est at 067858 and Coys in conc areas immediately to west of DLI posns with a view to taking over. By 2100 hrs C and D Coys had taken over. A & B Coys were unable to take over until dark due to exposed positions but by 2300 hrs the Bn was complete in new positions and patrols had been sent fwd to GHEEL to try and contact enemy. Enemy activity during the day had been confined to shelling and mortaring of the fwd area.	A Walker Capt
GHEEL	13th	0500 1530 1545	Patrols during the night into GHEEL reported enemy had evacuated the town and at 0800 hrs the Bn moved fwd to occupy it, Bn HQ being established at 083883. During this complete operation approx 100 enemy prisoners were taken. Bde 'O' Gp took place at Bn HQ. Bn 'O' Gp. Bn at immediate notice to move.	A Walker Capt

GHEEL		1630 1830	<p>Bn leaves GHEEL and proceeds North on the TURNHOUT - GHEEL road to area 078909 where Bn HQ is est with coys disposed astride the main road slightly further NORTH.</p> <p>CO and IO with 2i/c and OC 177 Fd Bty and later with OC Coys carry out recce of canal for assault crossing during night 13/14th Sept. Despite the short time available and lack of time for proper recce by lower comds the Bn was ordered to cross the canal at first light on 14th Sept and at 2400 hrs 13 Sept CO issued orders for assault crossing of the canal at first light.</p>	A Walker Capt
<p>GHEEL</p> <p>AART 0793</p> <p>AART (GHEEL BRIDGEHEAD)</p> <p>GHEEL BRIDGEHEAD</p>	14th	0530 0630	<p>During the early hours of the morning the assault boat lorries were brought up into the woods at 070923 and assault boats offloaded. Coys also moved up into the area preparatory to the crossing.</p> <p>Leading Coys begin crossing. B Coy on right at point 069926 and A Coy on left at pt 065925. Considerable enemy MG and rifle fire was encountered but despite this the initial crossing was successfully accomplished by these Coys and B Coy after reorganising on far bank advanced to North of AART village to point 074934 with a view to engaging enemy posns in the village from the rear. Again despite enemy opposition the Coy gained its objective.</p> <p>D Coy crossed the canal immediately in rear of B Coy at the same pt and after slight pause for reorganising attacked eastwards toward the village, while Tac Bn HQ crossed at pt 065925 in rear of A Coy and with A Coy advanced behind D Coy to the village.</p> <p>C Coy in the meantime were left in posn on south bank of canal in woods at 075927 to assist the operation with covering fire.</p> <p>D Coy gained their objectives in the west end of the village and 'A' Coy were passed through to attack the eastern half of the village and exploit beyond gen line of lock at 079928. Opposition however was now very strong and A Coy were unable to extend the bridgehead as ordered. 'C' Coy were therefore ordered to cross the river and assist A Coy and the two coys were finally able to push back the enemy and also clear area of lock 079928 where it was proposed building a bridge, the bridges all having been previously blown by the Germans. However this was not accomplished without severe casualties and during the day coys had to withstand fierce and repeated enemy counter-attacks.</p> <p>Enemy shelling and mortaring of the bridgehead area was particularly heavy and on account of this and also the area of the lock coming under S.A. fire from enemy MGs the RE were unable to construct a bridge and all communication with the south bank of the canal was by assault boat under very hazardous conditions, making the supply of food and ammunition a very serious problem.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt</p> <p>A Walker Capt</p> <p>A Walker Capt</p> <p>A Walker Capt</p>

GHEEL BRIDGEHEAD			Despite all the enemy efforts however by last light except for slight loss of ground on the eastern outskirts of the village the bridgehead remained intact. Since the assault crossing this morning approx 70 PWs were taken. The Bn was now disposed as follows: Tac Bn HQ:- 075930, A and C Coys gen area rd junc 076931 to lock 079928, B Coy 073933, D Coy - 073928.	A Walker Capt
GHEEL BRIDGEHEAD	15th	0200	During the early hours of the evening after dark, enemy infiltration and counter-attacks were resumed and some penetration of the bridgehead was achieved, A and C Coys being engaged in fierce fighting during which time A and C Coys were overrun and also two secs of carriers on that flank. This caused the almost complete collapse of the eastern flank of the bridgehead and positions had to be readjusted as follows: B Coy were withdrawn from their present position and took up posn in area 076930 while remaining personnel of A & C Coys amounting each to approx one platoon strong took up posns at 074929 and 078928 respectively.	A Walker Capt
GHEEL BRIDGEHEAD		0600	Further enemy attempts to reach the crossing site at 075927 were held and the bridgehead remained firm though considerably depleted in numbers. Enemy shelling of the area again became very heavy with the defeat of his counter-attacks and he was making considerable use of roving S.P. guns and also AA 20mm guns. Further enemy counter-attacks developed during the morning but with excellent arty support all attacks were repulsed.	A Walker Capt
GHEEL BRIDGEHEAD		1500 2000	6 RSF cross canal and ease the pressure on this Bn by attacking through the village and eastern outskirts followed at 1930 hrs by 6 KOSB who occupied areas 073930 and 076932 and by dusk the bridgehead had again resumed its initial proportions.	A Walker Capt
	15/16		During the night no enemy attacks developed and the posns were unchanged by first light on the 16th.	
GHEEL BRIDGEHEAD	16th		During the day enemy activity continues though on a slightly reduced scale, but later increased again and the Bn was engaged in repelling these attacks. Our own arty was very active engaging enemy mors & SP guns shelling the Bridgehead area. During the afternoon orders were received for the Bn to be taken out of the Bridgehead and reorganise during the night 16/17th but due to enemy attempts at infiltration again on request by the COs of the other two Bns in the bridgehead the Bn did not start to come out of the bridgehead until 0700 hrs 17 Sept. This operation had again to be carried out by assault boat as it had been found impossible to construct a bridge due to enemy shelling but by 0900 hrs the evacuation of the Bn from the	A Walker Capt
	17th			

GHEEL 1/50000 Sh 25 & 35		0900 2100	bridgehead was complete and Coys had come back to reorganise in GHEEL 0888 with Bn HQ est at 074877. During the day much needed reorganisation and administration was carried out. Orders received for Bn to be ready to move at 0815 hrs 18th Sept.	A Walker Capt
GHEEL MOLL 1790 Sheet 25/35 1/50000	18th	0915	Bn leaves GHEEL and proceeds to area NORTH of MOLL 1790. Bn HQ est at 169914 with Coys as follows: A Coy 160925, B Coy 172932, C Coy 170930, D Coy 153925, S Coy 175925. In this locality Bn was under command 15(S) Div Recce Regt and in reserve behind 15(S) Div Recce Regt who were holding posns on south bank of the JUNCTION CANAL.	A Walker Capt
SHEET 25/35 1/50000	19th	0800 1315	Bn still in same locations. Situation normal - nothing to report. Bn begins to take over positions on canal from Recce Regt and is finally disposed as follows:- Bn HQ - 157925, A Coy area 158934 with pl on canal bank at 157947, B Coy - area X rds 160926, C Coy area 169941 with pl at 170949, D Coy area 148935 with pl at 143943. C Coy finally moved complete into a def posn around factory bldgs at 168947 while fwd platoons of coys were withdrawn at dark and patrols were sent fwd by each Coy to canal bank. Lateral contact was also made between coys and also with neighbouring formation. Enemy activity limited to occasional shelling. Situation otherwise normal.	A Walker Capt
Sheet 25/35 1/50000	20th	1930	Bn still in same location. Enemy movement and activity still continues on north side of canal and engaged by our arty. Inter coy patrols continue with nothing of importance to report. Carrier patrol reports contact and skirmish with small party of enemy in area of woods 1292. Enemy withdrew and on a search being made could not be contacted.	A Walker Capt
Sheet 1/100000	21st	1030 1330 1630	No change in Bn positions. OC of relieving unit 8H arrives and discusses relief with CO. Bn ready to move having conc in coy areas, but move postponed for two hours at least. Bn moves off from ACHTERBOSCH 1692 en route for HOLLAND. Route via MOLL - X rds 3494 / SH 26/36 1/50000) - canal crossing 353961. Harbours for night 21st/22nd at BROEKHOVEN 3609.	A Walker Capt
Belgium & NE France Sh 7 EINDHOVEN (HOLLAND)	22nd	0900 1100 1400	CO and IO attend Bde O Gp at RIETHOVEN 3608. Bn 'O' Gp at Bn HQ. Bn moves to EINDHOVEN 4218 via STEENSEL 3411 - VELDHOVEN 3713 - MEERVELDHOVEN 3815. Bn HQ est at 421198. Coys located as follows in localities: A Coy 422198, B Coy 421198, C Coy 423197, D Coy 422197. Tactical situation permitted of Coys being under cover in local schools but def posns were dug in Coy areas in case of necessity for same.	

EINDHOVEN	23rd	0800	Bn ready and standing by to advance Northwards on road to BEST (1/100000 Sheet 5) 3726 in rear of 6RSF. This move was delayed however but the Bn left EINDHOVEN during the afternoon and proceeded to area a few miles NW of EINDHOVEN and harboured for the night. Bn HQ was est at windmill 403229 and Coys disposed as follows: A Coy 393233, B Coy 392232, C Coy 394230, D Coy 399235. Situation normal - nothing to report.	A Walker Capt
		2015	CO and IO attend Bde O Gp. Orders received for advance on morning of 24th Sept.	
		2200	Bn 'O' Gp - CO issues orders for advance to contact at 0700 hrs 24th Sept.	
BEST (1/100000) Sheet 5 3726	24th	0700	Preceded by a troop of 15(S) Div Recce Regt the Bn advanced North on main EINDHOVEN - S'HERTOGENBOSH road. Coy objectives were as follows: A Coy 375279, B Coy 373279. B Coy led the advance and gained their objective with no opposition and A Coy then occupied posns on right of B Coy. C and D Coy were then brought up into posns on the left flank in areas 365277 and 366275 respectively. Bn HQ was established at 377272. Vigorous patrolling by fwd Coys located enemy posns in southern edge of woods 369286 to 365283 with other posns at 375286 and also in area of railway line at 363277.	A Walker Capt
BEST		1100	A Coy advance on right to take enemy posns at 369286 but in face of hy opposition from MG fire to the front and rt flank were forced to consolidate at 372285.	A Walker Capt
		1400	Enemy counter attacks on a small scale were directed at left fwd coy posns but with sp of arty these were repulsed.	
		1445	On instrs from 44 Bde for Bn to form a tight defensive locality in area of X rds 372279, A & B Coys were left in posn but C & D Coys were to move to areas 368281 and 373282 respectively.	A Walker Capt
BEST		1630	A Coy disengage and move to original posn on the right of 'B' Coy.	
		1700	Bn HQ move to area 279276 in rear of A Coy. Patrol activity continued and enemy positions located were engaged by arty and mortar fire. Enemy arty activity in the Bn area also increased in particular in area of X rds 372279. During the night Coys carried out vigorous patrolling all along the front, and contact patrols with own tps on right and in rear were maintained.	A Walker Capt
BEST 1/100000 Sheet 5	25th	0845	CO & IO attend 'O' Gp at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde.	
		0930	CO holds Bn 'O' Gp at Bn HQ and orders issued for attack by C & D Coys on enemy posns at 369286.	
		1045	Coys move to SL in front of A & B Coy posns.	

BEST 1/100000 Sheet 5		1100	D Coy on rt encounter by enemy MG fire from front and rt flank and despite arty assistance were unable to gain objective. Enemy mortar and arty fire continued and it appeared the enemy were holding the southern edge of the wood in considerable strength. The enemy MG from rt flank was also directed on rt flank of D Coy axis of advance making fwd movement impossible without hy casualties. On account of this it was decided to postpone the operation and C & D Coys resumed their def posn recently vacated.	A Walker Capt
		1400	Enemy activity continued on the front and was engaged by our arty & mortars. Enemy shelling at frequent intervals continued. Night patrols continued.	
	26th		Contact still being made with enemy in known localities and recce patrols pushing fwd fired on by enemy MGs. Own arty active. 4 PWS taken - situation otherwise normal.	
BEST 1/100000 Sheet 5	27th		Patrols during night 26/27 report enemy still in posn on rt in front of D Coy but appeared to have pulled back slightly on left in area of woods 365285. Reps of 2 Gordons arrive with a view to their Bn relieving 8RS, and carry out recce of area. Unit harbour party leaves for new area.	A Walker Capt
		0930	Relief of Bn by 2 Gordons begins and is completed by 1130 hrs. Bn on relief moves by march route to harbour area in woods 3930, Bn HQ being est at 393303. Coys take up local defence of area as follows: D Coy 392303, C Coy 393303, B Coy 394304, A Coy 397305.	
		1930 2100	CO and IO proceed to 'O' Gp at HQ 44 Inf Bde. Bn 'O' Gp at Bn HQ. Orders issued for attack on morning of 28th Sept.	
Sheet 5 1/100000	28th	0430	Bn leave present area and proceed by march route to FAA at 401317 in preparation for attack on FRATERSHOEF 389325.	A Walker Capt
		0530	A Coy cross start line at track junc 394321 and attack houses at 391322. Objective gained with little opposition and Coy consolidates.	
		0655	B and C Coys pass through A Coy and attack, objectives houses 389325 to houses 387325 with B Coy right, C Coy left. Opposition on right very light but considerable MG fire was encountered by C Coy but coy objectives gained and consolidated. Bn HQ est in area of A Coy at houses 391322 while D Coy were passed through to take up posn on left flank at 388321. Carrier secs were utilized to complete the perimeter defence of bn area. Approx 70 PW taken during bn attack. Prisoners of very varied selection and ERSATZ units. During the day there was considerable shelling of Bn	

FRATERSHOEF 390323 1/100000 Sheet 5			our posns difficult to escape detection and was very much appreciated by fwd troops. A Walker Capt IO, 8th Bn The Royal Scots	A Walker Capt
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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 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Oct 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col PR Lane-Joynt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
FRATERSHOEF	1st		Bn still in defensive posn as follows: Bn HQ - 391322, A Coy - area 391322, B Coy 388325, C Coy 388324, D Coy 389323.	
FRATERSHOEF		0600	During the early hours of the morning there was considerable enemy movement and activity in the vicinity of fwd coys though no attack developed. Two Germans who approached within 30 yds of a C Coy posn were both fired on and wounded, and had to be evacuated through the R.A.P. Patrols reported movement in woods at 385323 and also in vicinity of houses 386325. However by first light coys reported that except for noise of movement and digging during the night there was little else of importance to report.	A Walker Capt IO
		1030	Enemy shelling and mortaring of the Bn area continued infrequently causing little damage or casualties.	
		1130	Coy Comds in turn briefed on relief of Bn which was to take place on the night 1/2/Oct.	
		1230	Harbour party leaves for new area.	
			Reps of relieving unit (5BW) arrive and go round Bn area.	
FRATERSHOEF		1930	During the day there was little enemy activity except for mov of small enemy parties on the front.	A Walker Capt IO
			Relief of Bn by Coys begins and is carried through without incident and is complete by 2300 hrs.	
	2nd	0030	Coys arrived in TCVs at GEMERT for commencement of rest period.	
		0300	Veh party arrives at GEMERT. Bn HQ est at 578309 and Coys as follows: A Coy - 585309, B Coy - 582308, C Coy - 583307, D Coy - 586315, S Coy 584318.	
GEMERT			----- From 2nd to 19th Oct the Bn remained at GEMERT resting, reorganising and re-equipping where necessary. Training was also carried out as were recces for various ops which were expected to take place. Recreation and entertainments also occupied some time. A summary of events during the period is given below:-	A Walker Capt IO

	3rd	0930 1330	Address by Div Comd Maj Gen Barber to all ranks in the Bn followed by march past with pipe band, the salute being taken by the Div Comd. Football match versus HQ 44(L) Bde. Result: 8RS 4 HQ 44 Bde 2	
GEMERT	5th		Inter Bn football and tug of war competition concluded. The Bn won the tug-of-war competition but was defeated in final of football competition by 6RSF by 5 goals to 2.	A Walker Capt IO
	6th	1345 2000	CO attends Bde 'O' Gp on future ops. Bn 'O' Gp on intended relief of Suffolk Bn (8 Bde 3 Inf Div). During the day the Bn pipe band took part in the Retreat played by the massed pipe bands of 15(S) Div in the Castle Grounds HELMOND. The Div Comd, and Corps Comd Lt Gen Sir R. O'Connor were present.	
GEMERT	7th	0730	Bn recce parties set off for 8 Bde HQ at MOLENHOEK 7053 (Sheet 3 1/100000). A recce was carried out of Bn area at MOOK 7251 but during the morning orders were received that the operation was postponed and later cancelled, and the recce parties returned to the Bn.	A Walker Capt IO
	8th		Church parade at GEMERT.	
	9th	1000	CO holds promotion conference at Bn HQ.	
	10th		Visit of Army Commander Lt Gen MC Dempsey MC to HQ 44(L) Inf Bde. CO attends.	
GEMERT	12th	0900 1100 1700	Commanding Officer and reps from Coys proceed to sector of the front, for recce and attachment, held by 7 US Armd Div in area 6493 (ref 1/100000 Sh 4). This attachment was carried out with a view to future operations in the sector. The Commanding Officer returned to the unit on the evening of the 12th Oct but remainder were attached to 7 US Armd Div until 17th Oct when they rejoined the Bn on the cancellation of the operation. Major Douglass 2i/c, and Coy Comds with IO carry out recce for exercise "ANTEDOTE". HM King George VI accompanied by Field Marshall Sir BL Montgomery pass through GEMERT.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx D1
	13th		EXERCISE "ANTEDOTE". The exercise as described in 8RS Gen Instr No1 entailed the crossing of a canal by the other two Bns of the Bde to form a limited bridgehead followed by 8RS who were passed through to extend the initial bridgehead. The crossing took place on the canal area 527261 (ref 1/100000 Holland Sheet 5) at first light by the two forward Bns on a two Bn front and at 0730 hrs 8RS proceeded to cross on the right hand bn sector with C Coy followed by D Coy on the right crossing by KAPOK bridge constructed for and used by the right hand assault bn. A Coy crossed slightly east of	See Appx D1 A Walker Capt IO

GEMERT			the KAPOK br by assault boat while B Coy in rear of A Coy were directed across the br to avoid delay as the two right hand Coys had crossed while some delay was taking place at the crossing by assault boats. On the other side of the canal the Coys deployed and then advanced on to other objectives when the exercise was terminated. The following points were brought out by the exercise (a) Careful tasking of approach of Coys to canal bank to avoid congestion at crossing places (b) Coys to get clear of crossing places on far bank as quickly as possible and avoid 'bunching' (c) Minimum time to be spent on deploying and move off to objectives.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
GEMERT	15th		Church parade.	
	16th		Training in Coys continues.	
	17th	1100 1400	Warning order received for move on 18th Oct, but this order was later cancelled. Return of party from attachment to 7 US Armd Div on cancellation of operation.	
	18th		Warning order received for move on 19th Oct, and preparations made for the move.	
VEGHEL	19th	0800 1330 1600	Bn recce party leaves GEMERT and proceeds to VEGHEL 4737 with a view to taking over def posn from 1/7 Queens (three Coys) and one coy 1/5 Queens, the Bn having been placed under command 7th Armoured Division. Bn leaves GEMERT by TCV and proceeds to VEGHEL, and take over begins. Bn now located as follows: Bn HQ 469397, A Coy 430415, B Coy 444422, C Coy 476376, D Coy 442429. CO and IO proceed to HQ 131 Inf Bde (7 Armd Div). During the evening of 19th and the night 19/20 vigorous inter-coy patrols were carried out but no enemy were encountered on the North East bank of the canal, though there was occasional enemy shelling of the Bn area and also MG fire from across the canal.	See also Appx D2 A Walker Capt IO
VEGHEL	20th 20/21		Location - no change. During the day enemy activity was again confined to occasional mortaring and shelling of fwd Coy areas. The few enemy observed on the other side of the canal by Coys and patrols being engaged by S.A. fire. The night again brought no new developments and patrols between Coy localities had nothing to report.	A Walker Capt IO
VEGHEL	21st	1115 1200- 1700	Comd 7 Armd Div visit Bn HQ and orders the Commanding Officer to conc the Bn in VEGHEL when released from its present role. Occasional mortaring & shelling throughout the day. A and D Coys withdrawn from line of canal in order to allow Typhoons to attack enemy in woods on south side.	A Walker Capt IO See also Appx D3

	21/22	1700	A & D Coys re-occupy fwd posns on canal. During the evening of 21st and early morning of 22nd our patrols were again active but the only enemy activity was occasional Spandau fire along canal banks not directed at any posn in particular and causing no casualties.	
VEGHEL	22nd		Location - no change. Little enemy activity was observed across the canal during the day but one German was killed by a Bn sniper during the afternoon. Patrol from A Coy which attempted to move to NW along canal fired on by enemy from MOLENWIEK 404425.	A Walker Capt IO
VEGHEL	23rd	0630 1050 1205 1530 1645 1700 1900	Situation normal - location no change. Visit to Bn HQ of Comd 15(S) Div. Orders given to CO that when Bn concentrates in VEGHEL, it once more comes under command 44(L) Inf Bde, with wireless silence. Contact made by D Coy with own tps (51 Div) advancing NW on south side of canal. As advance of 51(H) Inf Div continued on south side of canal, enemy activity became negligible. CO & OC B Coy proceed on recce with a view to B Coy relieving a sqn of 8H on evening of 23rd in area 4346 guarding the eastern exits from the woods. S Coy move to conc area in VEGHEL. D Coy move to conc area in VEGHEL. B Coy move by march route from present area & proceed to take over from sqn 8H. Situation otherwise quiet.	A Walker Capt IO
VEGHEL	24th	0930 1000 1315 1400 1900 2130 2330	Orders received from HQ 131 Bde for remainder of Bn to conc in VEGHEL. A Coy move to conc area in VEGHEL. Instrs sent to OC B Coy to move to DINTHER Church 439412 where TCVs would convey the Coy to VEGHEL. Bn HQ move to VEGHEL and conc under command 44(L) Inf Bde again. Bn HQ est at 478377 with Coys concentrated in vicinity. CO attends 'O' Gp at 44 Inf Bde and receives instrs for Bn to move to VLEUT 3928. Bn move by MT from present area via ST OEDENRODE 4232 and conc in area VLEUT. Bn 'O' Gp at Bn HQ 387283. CO issues orders for Bn advance to contact from BEST 3726 to OIRSCHOT 3125 via X tracks 373278 - AARLE 3526 - STRATEN 3326 - NOTEL 3226 on the following morning.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx D4 A Walker Capt IO
	25th	0645	'C' Coy as leading coy move over S.P. and proceed on axis as given above, the remainder of the Bn following in rear in adv to contact formation. Considerable enemy demolitions and mines were	

TILBURG		1930	Bn receives orders to be prepared to move at 0200 hrs 29 Oct to eastern sector of the 2nd Army front with remainder of 44 Bde and preparations are made for the move.	
NEAR DEURNE	29th	0215 0900 1200 1400 1600 1700 2000	Bn leaves TILBURG in TCVs, head of coln passing S.P. at HILVARENBEEK at 0310 hrs. Route via EINDHOVEN, GELDROP, HELMOND arriving at 0730 hrs in conc area on southern exit of DEURNE 6520 (ref 1/100000 Belgium & NE France Sheet 4). Bn HQ est at 643190. Bn occupies def posn A Coy 644182, B Coy 648182, C Coy 650184, D 645187. CO and IO to Bde HQ. CO & IO meet Comd 44 Bde at ASTEN CHURCH 6113. Bn moves by march route to conc area 625130. Commanding Officer gives out Orders. Bn to recce area RINKVELD as possible def posn (644139). Confirmatory orders from Bde re def posn. Bn occupies def posn, Bn HQ est at 645138, A Coy 641136, B Coy 650136, C Coy 648138, D Coy 644138. 7 US Armd Div commence withdrawal through the Bn.	A Walker Capt IO
NEAR LIESEL 6614	30th	0300 1200 1200	A Coy patrols contact 2 A&SH at 625134. Bn moves fwd to take over posns from 6 RSF who are moving fwd to occupy LIESEL 6614. Posns occupied as follows: Bn HQ 656138, C Coy 658140, D Coy 657138. A & B Coys under comd 2 Glas H to stem enemy infiltration in wood 6612. A & B Coys remain under comd 2 Glas H during night with posns A 658133, B 660133. Contact made by patrol with 2 Glas H & 6 RSF during the night. Patrol contacting 6 RSF missed the RSF Coy at 665145 and walked into enemy lines. They took two prisoners. On their return journey they were shot at by enemy MG, one of the PW being killed and one wounded. One of our patrol was wounded. There was some enemy shellfire during the day.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
NEAR LIESEL	31st	1200 1445 2100	Situation normal during the morning. A & B Coys still under comd 2 Glas H. Bn 'O' Gp at Bn HQ. 8RS incl A & B Coys with in sp One Sqn 4 TK GREN GDS occupy promontory of wood 6612. No enemy encountered but during the operation there is intense fire from enemy arty, mortars, and nebelwerfers. This op cost the Bn in casualties 4 offr and 48 ORs killed and wounded. Locations: Bn HQ 663125, A Coy 663123, B Coy 666123, C Coy 665120, D Coy 668120. Patrol from C Coy finds suspected enemy post at 664117 had been evacuated, and posn occupied.	A Walker Capt IO

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Nov 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col PR Lane-Joynt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
NEAR LIESEL 6614	1st	- 1700	Bn located as follows: Bn HQ 663125, A Coy 663123, B Coy 666123, C Coy 665120, D Coy 668120. Situation unchanged. Enemy shelling not so heavy as on previous day. CO and IO attend Bde 'O' Gp. Patrolling during the night did not make contact with the enemy.	
	2nd	0930 1045 1200	Bn leaves for F.U.P. for attack on MOOSTDIJK 6908. Leading carrier blown up on 'R' mine killing two signallers, wounding OC Carrier Pl and 3 ORs. Bn arrives in F.U.P. 675132. Bn cross S.L. with one sqn 4 Tk Gren Gds in sp. Very few enemy encountered during this advance but considerable number of mines and hy shelling and mortaring. All Coys in posn by 1600 hrs. Bn HQ 696095, A Coy 697089, B Coy 688094, C Coy 694286, D Coy 690092.	See Appx E1 A Walker Capt IO
MOOSTDIJK	3rd	- 1430	Situation normal except for heavy enemy shelling and mortaring. CO attends Bde 'O' Gp. Patrols during night find no enemy to west of Bn area, but est an enemy post at 695082.	
MOOSTDIJK	4th	0600	No change in locations. Slightly less enemy arty activity than before. Patrols to west and south find nothing except one enemy post at 693078. One patrol however from A Coy failed to return and is presumed to have been ambushed and captured.	X It was announced on RADIO ARNHEM on 8th Dec that these men were POW. A Walker Capt IO
	5th		Situation comparatively quiet, little enemy activity seen on bn front though enemy was very active on the front of bn on left, and attack by 6 KOSB & 6 RSF was postponed after tks in sp had encountered enemy minefields and also got bogged in the extremely soft & marshy ground. Only slight enemy mor & arty activity during the day.	See Appx E2

MOOSTDIJK	5/6		Patrols again probed fwd from our FDLs during the night for a considerable distance but encountered no enemy on our immediate front though on the left the enemy was still active.	A Walker Capt IO
	6th		Enemy activity during the day was negligible except for occasional shelling and mortaring. During the night 6/7th our patrols were again active in front but it appeared that the enemy had pulled back on this flank, leaving behind mines and booby traps.	
MOOSTDIJK	7th		Situation unchanged - Bn on left report SCHANS still occupied by the enemy. Owing to the quiet situation it was found possible to allow a limited number to attend the Mobile Baths and also a Mobile Film Show.	A Walker Capt IO
	8th	- 1900	A very quiet day with nothing of importance to report. Recce parties of the 10 HLI made a tour of bn area during the early afternoon as the bn was being relieved on the evening of the 8th Nov for a 48 hrs rest period in ASTEN. Bn concentrated in ASTEN 6113 after relief having been carried out by Coys.	See Appx E3
ASTEN	9th	0800	Bn located in ASTEN. The day was spent in cleaning up of equipment etc and reorganisation as necessary. Limited numbers from Coys also attended local Army Film Shows. Coys were also able to attend the Mobile Bath Unit.	A Walker Capt IO
NEERKANT	10th	- 1430 1800	Bn still located in ASTEN - Administration continues. Bn recce party consisting of CO, IO, Coy and Pl Comds leave for recce of def posn at present occupied by 2 Gordons in area NEERKANT 698094. Coys leave ASTEN in TCVs for LIESEL 670144 where they debussed and marched to NEERKANT and proceeded to take over from 2 Gordon H. The take over was completed by 2100 hrs without incident with Coys located as follows: A Coy 698097, B Coy 708088, C Coy 702093, D Coy 707095, Bn HQ was est at 700092.	See Appx E4 A Walker Capt IO
NEERKANT	11th	0800 1100	Situation normal - nothing of importance to report during the night. Some enemy shelling and mortaring of Bn area. Bn HQ changes location to 698094 and A Coy to 698095. Some enemy activity seen on east bank of DEURNE CANAL. Owing to the open nature of the ground B and D Coys movements in fwd areas had to be restricted, being under observation from the east side of the canal. During the night a 'B' Coy recce patrol reached SCHANS at 709082 without encountering any enemy.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx E5
	12th	0800	Situation normal - occasional shelling during the night. Our own arty was extremely active.	

NEERKANT			The day was uneventful with little enemy activity. The greatest danger was from scattered mines particularly in B Coy area and some casualties were incurred. Bn Pioneer Pl swept safe lanes in the Coy area to prevent further accidents. Night recce patrol reached 711079 and 714081 without incident.	A Walker Capt IO
	13th	0700 1000 1415	CO visits Coys to say goodbye on his leaving the Bn. Enemy movement seen on far bank of canal. Little enemy activity apart from shelling and mortaring during the day. The Commanding Officer departs. Major JAH Douglass MBE 2i/c assumes command pending arrival of new Commanding Officer.	See Appx J1
NEERKANT	14th	0200- 0600 1100 1900	Recce patrol reaches 718077 without encountering any enemy. New Commanding Officer, Lt Col BA Pearson arrives from 2 A&SH. On instructions from 44 Bde to occupy SCHANS, the Commanding Officer issues orders to OC C Coy to carry out this operation. In view of the danger from mines, assistance was to be given to C Coy by the Pioneer Pl. OC S Coy, Pioneer Pl Comd & SO attended this 'O' Gp. A Coy takes over from D Coy during the early evening, the change-over being complete by 1930 hrs. D Coy now occupy A Coy's posns.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx E6
NEERKANT		1000	C Coy preparing for move to B Coy area preparatory to moving fwd to SCHANS.	A Walker Capt IO
	15th	0005 0115	Carrier Pl in posn formerly occupied by C Coy. C Coy report arrival in SCHANS without incident and by 0225 hrs have completed the occupation of the village. Mines were encountered by a standing patrol in area 713082 causing one casualty. Pioneer Pl did excellent work in mine clearing. Enemy activity on this part of the front apart from shelling and mortaring was negligible but units on the right conforming in the general move fwd found the enemy active in the MEIJEL area and HELDENSCHEDIJK 7206.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx E7 for move of flanking unit
NEERKANT	16th		During the night 15/16 an enemy patrol was reported in front of B Coy but contact was not made with it, but our own recce patrol which reached 720078 reported no enemy in the area. Except for occasional enemy sniping from across the canal on B Coy area there was little to report. Infrequent shelling continued without causing damage. The Commanding Officer accompanied by OC 6RSF visit C Coy area and SCHELM 704086 and arrange for C Coy 8RS to move back into SCHELM and SCHANS to be occupied by a coy of 6RSF who were now in area HOF	A Walker Capt IO

			7007. This operation was carried out in the early evening without incident.	
NEERKANT	17th	1600	<p>During the night 16/17th a recce patrol from B Coy reached the canal in area 719089 and established the presence of the enemy on the far bank.</p> <p>During the afternoon reps of 6KOSB arrived with a view to their bn taking over from 8RS in the early evening.</p> <p>Relief begins and is carried through by Coys without incident and is completed by 1930 hrs. Coys on their relief embussed in M.T. at rd junc 693102 and proceed independently to rest area in ASTEN.</p> <p>Owing to the unlikelihood of receiving sufficient reinforcements to make the bn up to full strength, orders had been received from HQ 44 Bde to the effect that the bn would have to be reorganised on a three Rifle Coy basis. This change over was carried out in accordance with details in Appx G1. The other bns in the Bde were already organised on this basis.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>See Appx G1</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
ASTEN	18th	- 1500 1800	<p>Bn in rest area at ASTEN, Bn HQ 620133. The day was devoted to administration, cleaning up and checking of stores. Opportunity was also given for Coys to attend Mobile Bath Unit, and vacancies were allotted at Army Film Unit shows in ASTEN & HELMOND.</p> <p>CO & IO attend 'O' Gp at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde.</p> <p>CO holds short 'O' Gp and gives out projected operations in which the Bn would take part. Some administrative problems in the bn were also discussed.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
ASTEN ASTEN	19th	1130 -1215 1215	<p>Church service in Presbyterian Church ASTEN.</p> <p>During the morning the Corps Commander Lt Gen Sir R O'Connor KCB DSO MC paid a short visit to the bn, and spoke to a number of the officers and men on an informal tour of HQ & B Coys.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer speaks to all available Offrs and ORs in the bn, the first opportunity he had had of doing so since assuming command.</p> <p>Bn Harbour party leaves for HOF 7007 but returns on information being received that bn would remain at ASTEN, night 19/20th Nov.</p> <p>One liberty truck per Coy proceeded to EINDHOVEN.</p> <p>In the evening the Commanding Officer held a conference of Coy Commanders on general points of organisation and administration.</p>	<p>See Appx E8 para 17</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
	20th	1600 1730	<p>Bn still located in ASTEN.</p> <p>Bn recce party proceeds to MEIJEL.</p> <p>Bn leaves ASTEN by TCV and proceeds to conc area in MEIJEL.</p> <p>Bn conc in MEIJEL as follows: Bn HQ 714067, A Coy 713065, B Coy 713066, C Coy 713066, S Coy 715065.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>

MEIJEL	21st	0800 1630 2300	There was nothing to report during the night and the bn remains in conc area during the day awaiting orders. Pioneer Pl at instant readiness to go and assist 227 Bde, proceeding later in the evening and being att 227 Bde for 48 hrs. Orders received from 44 Inf Bde:- Bn at 2 hrs notice to move wef 0800 hrs 22nd Nov. Harbour party to be ready to move at 0700 hrs.	See Appx E9
MEIJEL	22nd	0730 0915 1500 1930	Harbour party leaves. Officer representatives from Coys come to Bn HQ for short conference on the impending move and tactical situation. Harbour party returns to Bn. Owing to the nature of the ground and the heavy rains of the last few days it was found almost impossible to move transport in fwd areas and orders were received that the bn would remain in present location. Orders received from 44 Inf Bde to the effect that there would be no move tomorrow but that work parties would be required for roads.	A Walker Capt IO
MEIJEL	23rd	0730 0900	Composite party from the bn of one offr and 50 ORs proceed to HELENAVEEN to assist RE in carrying out maintenance work. During the day Coys carry out maintenance work on the LIESEL - MEIJEL road. CO, Adj & SO visit 44(L) Inf Bde Tactical School at HELMOND during the afternoon.	A Walker Capt IO
	24th		Location no change. Bn continues to find work party for RE and also to carry out administration.	
	25th	1000	Comd 44(L) Inf Bde holds Training Conference for COs at HQ 8RS. Work party assists RE in rd & br maintenance.	
MEIJEL	26th	0930 1000 1130	Work party of one officer and 50 ORs proceed to HELENAVEEN. Church service held in MEIJEL for CofS and CofE personnel. Comd 44(L) Inf Bde, Brigadier H.C.H.T. CUMMING-BRUCE DSO who had taken over from Brigadier COCKBURN visits Bn HQ. Administration and training continues.	A Walker Capt IO
MEIJEL	27th	0800 0900 1400 1430 1630	Work party proceeds to HELENAVEEN. All Coys proceed on route march, returning by 1300 hrs. Instrs received from 44 Bde for Commanding Officer to proceed immediately to HQ 56 Inf Bde with a view to the bn taking over from 2 ESSEX in area 8811 on the following day. Recce parties to follow as soon as possible. CO and IO proceed to HQ 56 Inf Bde at 864132 and thence to HQ 2 ESSEX 876121, and carry out a recce of bn area. Bn Recce party leaves for 2 ESSEX, and meet CO at HQ 56 Inf Bde when instrs are given to Coy representatives regarding respective areas to be taken over.	A Walker Capt IO

		1935	CO and IO return to MEIJEL, when Commanding Officer is informed that take-over from 2 ESSEX has been postponed. Recce parties to remain night at 2 ESSEX.	
MEIJEL	28th	1100 1200 1430 1730	RE assistance continues to be provided. CO proceeds to HQ 6RSF for conference held by Comd 44 Bde. Bn recce party returns from 2 ESSEX. Lt Carr and 2 ORs of A Coy leave for 4 Lincs to carry out patrol in area 8808 acting as covering party for recce party from R.A.C. but returns at 1630 hrs as patrol was being carried out by bn holding that sector. Commanding Officer's conference at Bn HQ on future ops.	A Walker Capt IO
MEIJEL	29th	1430 1800	Administration and training continues. CO proceeds to Bde planning conference for OPERATION 'GUILDFORD'. All Coys inspect A.P.C. ("Kangaroos") of 'A' Sqn 49 Armoured Personnel Carrying Regt with which the Bn was to operate in the forthcoming operation for the capture of BLERICK 8909 on the west bank of the RIVER MAAS opposite VENLO (this operation was known as operation 'GUILDFORD'). Commanding Officer's Conference for Coy Comds on OPERATION "GUILDFORD", and a rehearsal to be carried out on the morning of 30th Nov, to practise those taking part in the co-operation with "KANGAROOS".	A Walker Capt IO
MEIJEL	30th	0845 0915 1100	CO, 2i/c and Coy Comds proceed to area 6210 where practice was to take place and arrange final details on deployment of Coys etc. Bn less dets of S Coy mounted on KANGAROOS proceed to area 6210 where a rehearsal on forming up, advance and deployment and "de-tanking" is carried out according to the bn plan for OP "GUILDFORD". After the rehearsal the bn returned to MEIJEL in the KANGAROOS. CO proceeds to HQ 44 Bde for farewell address by Comd 8 Corps, Lt Gen R O'Connor KCB DSO MC. Planning for OP 'GUILDFORD' continues. In the evening a St Andrew's night was held at Bn HQ attended by all officers.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Dec 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
MEIJEL 7167	1st	- 1430	Bn still concentrated at MEIJEL with Bn HQ at 714067. Planning for op 'GUILDFORD' continues. CO, 2i/c, IO, SO, Rifle Coy Comds and Adj attend sand-model discussion at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde on operation "GUILDFORD".	
MEIJEL	2nd	1530 2000 2330	Final details for operation tied up. Commanding Officer's 'O' Gp at Bn HQ and final orders issued for Bn attack on BLERICK. Reps from sp arms present. Instructions received from 44 Bde that should armour fail to carry out first phase of op due to state of the ground the inf were to be prepared to carry out the attack without the sp of the armour. Such a plan involving the use of Bangalore torpedoes to blast the wire was fixed by the CO, and the Coys informed of the possible change. Message received from 44 Bde that op would take place and that Phase I (the armoured battle) would be attempted despite ground conditions, followed by Phase II. As much loading of essential stores in Kangaroos as was possible was carried out by Coys during the evening.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
NEAR BLERICK (8908)	3rd	0630 0930	Coys move off in Kangaroos from MEIJEL via BERINGEN 7505 - PANNINGEN 7704 - MAASBREE 8207 and by 0755 hrs had halted with head of coln at 845085 awaiting instrs from 44 Bde to move fwd to FUP in area 875087. Each R Coy had been allotted 11 Kangaroos with 5 to Tac Bn HQ. No 'F' echelon vehs accompanied the coln in view of the extremely bad state of the ground. Instructions received from 44 Bde that flails and AVREs had been successful in breaching the wire and minefields and throwing a bridge over the A tk ditch on bn sector in lanes 1, 2 & 3 and the bn had to move fwd for commencement of Phase II. The Commanding Officer held brief 'O' Gp of Rifle Coy Comds on receipt of this instr and ordered B Coy to move off followed by A Coy, B Coy to proceed via Lane 2 to their 1st objective (Houses 893092 Codename - PENGUIN) while A Coy were to move to their objective (area 895086 ALBATROSS and MALLARD) by Lane 1.	See Appx E1 (only incl in original copy of Diary) A Walker Capt IO See Trace att to Appx E1 See Trace att to Appx E1

NEAR BLERICK 8908		0940	B and A Coys move off in APCs and move through FUP area 875087 into respective lanes.	A Walker Capt IO
		0955	B and A reported through lanes and over A tk ditch, moving towards objectives.	
BLERICK 8908		1000	Wireless communication now becoming difficult. Bn HQ and C Coy move up towards FUP and halt with head of coln at 868088. Ground opposition to B and A Coys advance in the initial stages was not very heavy though shelling and mortaring increased as the attack progressed. Having 'debussed' from the APCs between the A tk ditch and their objective A Coy by 1030 hrs had established themselves on ALBATROSS and shortly afterwards reached 'MALLARD'. B Coy 'debussing' about 200 yds short of PENGUIN had cleared this objective by 1045 hrs and were now moving through ALBATROSS to BLACKCOCK, opposition however now increasing.	A Walker Capt IO
		1115	C Coy on orders from CO move fwd and advance through lane 1. Some delay however was caused through some APCs becoming bogged having taken the wrong turning off into the lane. The move fwd was resumed after a 15 min delay and at approximately 1150 hrs C Coy crossed the A tk ditch on Lane 1 and proceeded to 'debus' just short of PENGUIN. Bn HQ followed immediately in rear of C Coy. B Coy by now had cleared up enemy opposition to the east of the left hand sector of BLACKCOCK and were moving towards the river. C Coy encountering little opposition move down towards the river on the right of B Coy.	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK		1300	Tac Bn HQ est at 894091 with Coys as follows: A Coy HQ 894087 with pls at 894087, 894085, 896087, B Coy HQ 898089 with pls at 898089, 900091 and 902090, C Coy HQ 897088, pls at 896088, 899086 and 897085. General mopping up in the sectors allotted to Coys continued, and some more enemy were rounded up from the numerous cellars in the town.	A Walker Capt IO
		1750	CO 6KOSB arrives at Bn HQ with instrs from Comd 44 Bde for relief of Bn in the early morning of 4th Dec.	
		2030	Frequent heavy shelling and mortaring of the Bn area continued. 2i/c arrives at 894085 with Coy carriers but in view of the relief no F ech tpt was now required and the carriers returned with the 2i/c after the Commanding Officer had arranged the details of the relief.	
		2330	L.O. arrives from 44 Bde with details of relief.	
BLERICK	4th	0400	Visit of acting BM 44 Bde to Bn HQ to confirm details of relief. There was again some enemy shelling during the night.	A Walker Capt IO

		2145	<p>Later in the day at a short conference OsC B & S Coy and officers of HQ Coy were informed of the various points arising from the Bde conference that morning.</p> <p>Contact patrol from C Coy proceeded to level crossing at 892113 to meet patrol from 6RSF but due to non-arrival of RSF patrol no contact was made.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH 8408	8th	0300 1000	<p>Patrol investigating houses at 885073 where enemy posn was suspected found houses unoccupied and no trace of any enemy in the locality.</p> <p>B Coy leave present area to take over from 'C' Coy and relief is completed by 1230 hrs.</p> <p>'C' Coy returns to locality vacated by B Coy.</p> <p>During the day apart from occasional shelling in fwd area there was nothing of importance to report. The first two enemy a/c to be seen for some considerable time flew over the Bn area at 4000 ft late in the afternoon. Patrol made contact with 6RSF at level crossing 892113 at 2230 hrs. 25 reinforcements from 10 BW arrive.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH	9th	1125 1530 2000	<p>Major Gen Barber DSO MC Comd 15(S) Div visits Bn HQ.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer visited fwd Coys during the morning.</p> <p>Comd 44 Bde, 2i/c 6KOSB & OC B Coy 6KOSB visit Bn HQ to discuss with CO the occupation of BERCKT CLOISTER 868062. It was decided to occupy this area with a platoon of A Coy (8RS), A Coy being warned to have one pl standing by to proceed and occupy the posn.</p> <p>12 Pl B Coy proceed to occupy area houses 889123 reces having been carried out earlier in the day.</p> <p>There was again occasional enemy mortar and arty activity during the day.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH	10th	0800 1000	<p>9 Pl A Coy leave present area by MT and proceed to BAARLO 8505 and carry out occupation of area 868061.</p> <p>'S' mines were located in area 12 Pl B Coy causing one fatal casualty and Pioneer Pl carried out mine clearance of this area.</p> <p>Situation otherwise quiet with some occasional mortaring fwd of B Coy.</p> <p>A draft of 2 officers & 100 ORs arrived from 7 Green Howards. In view of the strength of the Bn, arrangements for the reforming of D Coy were made.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
	11th	1200	<p>No change in location - situation very quiet.</p> <p>Comds 44 & 46 Bde visit Bn HQ to arrange details of relief of Bn on 16th Dec.</p>	
ROOTH	12th	1300	<p>Another quiet day with little to report. Commanding Officer visits fwd Coys during the morning.</p> <p>CO & IO 9 Cameronians visit Bn HQ to discuss details of forthcoming relief.</p>	A Walker Capt IO

			The rehabilitation of D Coy continues at 'A' echelon. During the period when bn was in Bde reserve opportunity was provided for baths, entertainments etc, a small proportion being allowed away on each occasion.	
ROOTH	13th	1100	Location no change. There was little of importance to report during the day. CO and 2i/c leave to attend presentation by CinC of awards to officers and ORs of the division. The following officer & other ranks of the Bn were decorated: Lt JR Stobo (B Coy) MC Sgt D Douglas (Sigs Sgt) MM Sgt R Laing (Int Sgt) MM Cpl C Moore (B Coy) MM Other awards gained by members of the Bn were: Lt Col Lane-Joynt DSO Major MH Cooke (wounded 31 Oct) MC During the early afternoon a change over between B & C Coys was carried out being completed by 1430 hrs. Situation otherwise normal apart from increase in enemy shelling in BOEKEND area.	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH	14th	1030	Corps Commander visits bn accompanied by Comds 15(S) Div and 44(L) Inf Bde. During the day enemy activity was again confined to a further increase of shelling and mortaring, mostly in the gen area immediately east of BOEKEND 8709. A number of vapour trails left by V2's were observed during the day, bearings being taken on the points of origin and reported.	A Walker Capt IO
	15th		Situation unchanged with little to report, followed by a very quiet night.	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH	16th	1200	CO returns from Div HQ. Enemy activity was again confined to occasional shelling and mortaring in the fwd areas. Situation normal.	
ROOTH	17th	0945 1830	Commanding Officer leaves to visit HQ 44(L) Inf Bde. During the day there was considerable enemy air activity with some jet propelled a/c but no offensive action was carried out by them in the Bn area. Occasional enemy shelling continued. CO holds short conference on forthcoming change-over with 6RSF, recce parties having been sent off during the afternoon to stay with 6RSF and become acquainted with the local situation prior to arrival of the Bn.	A Walker Capt IO
	18th		The day was generally quiet with preparation being completed for change-over. D Coy took over C Coy posn in area 8811. Immediately	

BLERICK 8909			<p>after last light Bn moved by march route by Coys through BOEKEND and WIELDER 8710 and began take-over from 6RSF.</p> <p>Bn HQ moved to 894097 while Coys were located as follows: A Coy HQ - 892102 with pls as follows: 893103, 894106 and 892105.</p> <p>B Coy - HQ at 900095, Pl areas 897098 - 902097 - 903099, 902095 - 905095.</p> <p>C Coy - HQ at 898092, pl areas 900094, 899092 and 902091.</p> <p>D Coy - as for previous C Coy posns.</p> <p>Carrier Pl in ground role - 902103.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	19th	1045 1130	<p>There was little enemy activity during the day apart from very infrequent shelling.</p> <p>Comd 44 Bde visits Bn HQ & makes a tour of C Coy area.</p> <p>Comd 11 Armd Div visits Bn HQ to find out details of local situation in view of probable relief which however never took place.</p> <p>There was no enemy activity on this side of the river during the night, and reports were only received of occasional spandau & rifle fire from east bank of river.</p> <p>A considerable amount of work was done by Coys in improving the defences by sandbagging, wiring and laying of trip flares. This work more or less continued during the whole time the bn occupied this sector.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	20th	1430	<p>The day was again uneventful apart from occasional shelling & mortaring, with an enemy 'leaflet' raid on the BLERICK area.</p> <p>During the afternoon the A tk pl carried out a successful shoot against tower 905087, believed an enemy O.P., scoring 11 direct hits out of 13 rounds fired.</p> <p>D Coy relieved a tp of 15(S) Div Recce Regt in gen area 890122 and are now disposed as follows: HQ 889123, pls 891123 (moves at night to 893124), 885117, 890114. Relief was complete by 1830 hrs.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	21st		<p>During the early hours of the morning a strong enemy patrol overran post of neighbouring unit at 894129 and D Coy were ordered to send a pl along rly to Recce Regt posn at 893135 and contact this posn.</p> <p>Patrol returned to Coy position at 0730 hrs without having made contact with the enemy.</p> <p>During the day there was little of importance to report.</p> <p>There was little enemy activity during the night also.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	22nd		<p>Instrs received that Bn would take over area North of Blerick from 'A' Sqn 15 Recce Regt by evening.</p> <p>CO and OsC B & C Coy carry out recce of the area during the morning. Preparations were completed by the afternoon for the relief, and on relief of fwd Coys by Coys of 6KOSB the bn move to the northern sector of the Bde front and took over from A Sqn 15 Div Recce Regt.</p>	A Walker Capt IO

NEAR BLERICK			<p>The relief was somewhat delayed by hy mortaring and shelling which continued most of the day. The relief was otherwise carried through without any other interference & Coys were complete in new location by 2400 hrs.</p> <p>The Bn was now disposed as follows: Bn HQ 869133 *(A Coy - HQ & pls by day 867133 & by night HQ 869133 & pls areas 871134, 867133 and 868132). B Coy - HQ - 892135 & pl areas 892135, 894137 & 893133. C Coy - HQ - 891142 & pl areas 891142, 896139 & 897143. D Coy - HQ - 889122 & pl areas 891122, 890114 & 892124. Carrier Pl & A tk pl occupied in a ground role areas 893129 & 868148 respectively. The night was very quiet apart from some rifle fire from across the river.</p>	A Walker Capt IO * Not relieved in BLERICK until 23rd Dec.
NEAR BLERICK	23rd	1430	<p>Situation normal - Comd 44 Bde visits Bn HQ at 0945 hrs. There was considerable shelling of the area during the day & our arty was also active.</p> <p>CO attends conference at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde at SEVENUM 8114. During the night there was some enemy patrol activity in the neighbourhood of GROOTRAII 896121 and fire was exchanged between patrol & D Coy listening post. Patrol withdrew & was not again located.</p> <p>A Coy arrived in posns (already given) on their relief in BLERICK where they had been u/c 6KOSB for the previous 24 hrs. Arty & mortar activity on both sides was considerable during the night.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
NEAR BLERICK	24th	0800	<p>Situation normal after 'noisy' night. Little was observed of the enemy during the day though what movement that was seen was engaged by our arty & mors.</p> <p>There was also occasional arty & mortar fire in the bn area. There was little activity during Christmas Eve though the church bells of VELDEN 9014 were heard ringing during the evening presumably with no military importance.</p> <p>Five civilians crossed the river during the morning & were evacuated.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
NEAR BLERICK	25th		<p>Christmas day brought one of the quietest so far in the sector. Comd 44 Inf Bde visited Bn & went round Coys with the Commanding Officer.</p> <p>It had been anticipated that the Germans would perhaps try some form of large scale raid on Xmas day as all reports from civilians pointed to this. However after considerable work, the defences had been greatly improved & in a state of complete readiness, the bn</p>	A Walker Capt IO

			awaited a possible attack across the river. This however never materialised & Xmas passed with little to report.	
NEAR	26th		The day was again quiet & except for the usual exchange of arty fire there was little to report.	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK	27th	1230	Another quiet day with preparation being made for relief of Bn by 6RSF. Recce parties of 6RSF arrive. Take over was carried through during the afternoon & evening without incident and bn move back to reserve area as follows: Bn HQ 850092, A Coy 875099 with pl at WIELDER 882105 & a pl by night at 875087, B Coy - 847090, C Coy - 838085, D Coy - SEVENUM 8111, S Coy - SEVENUM 8114. The A tk pl in a ground role occupied posns at 847076 as local protection to gen area. There was nothing to report during the night.	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH 8408	28th	1030	Period of administration & rest where possible begins. Visit of Comds 15(S) Div & 44 Inf Bde to Bn HQ. While the bn was 'in the line' there had been no opportunity to celebrate Xmas & have Coy Xmas dinners. This was now possible & today Coy Xmas dinners were held by B & C Coys in MAASBREE 8208 & by D Coy in SEVENUM 8114. The CO, Adj & RSM attended.	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH	29th		Location no change - situation normal. Xmas dinners held by HQ & A Coys at MAASBREE & by S Coy in SEVENUM. B Coy move to SEVENUM & A Coy occupy B Coy area in the late morning. Dutch Coy under command of Bn moves to area vacated by A Coy in BOEKEND - WIELDER area 8710, with posns as follows: HQ - 882105 & pls at 886115, 887110, WIELDER & BOEKEND 875099 (by day only) moving at night to 877086. During the night there was nothing to report.	A Walker Capt IO
	30th		Situation normal - location no change. Administration continues. 2i/c 6KOSB visits Bn to discuss with CO changeover with 6KOSB on evening of 1 Jan 45. 'Scotsman' Press Correspondent arrives to stay for few days with Bn.	See Appx G1
	31st	0945 1200	Another quiet day with nothing to report. CO visits Dutch Coy & 6KOSB in BLERICK to discuss details of relief. Church parade in MAASBREE.	See Appx G2 A Walker Capt IO

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Jan 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ROOTH 8408 BLERICK 8909	1st		<p>Situation normal - location no change. Bn HQ est 850092. Preparations being made for move of Bn into BLERICK to relieve 6KOSB. During the morning there was considerable enemy air activity in the area, over 30 enemy a/c being seen. One FW 190 was destroyed above bn area by Spitfire. Pilot picked up by neighbouring unit. Bn moved into BLERICK in the late afternoon, Bn HQ est at 895090 at 1800 hrs and all Coys being complete in new areas by 1945 hrs. Bn disposition now as follows: Bn HQ 895090, A Coy HQ 898092 with pls at 900093, 902091, 900088. B Coy HQ 900095 & pl areas 898098-902103, 902097-903099, 902095-905095. C Coy HQ - 897089 & pl areas 897092, 896088 & 897088. D Coy - HQ 893083 & pl areas 894082, 892080 & 897085. Carrier Pl in ground role 898087 & A tk pl in ground role at 893103. Apart from occasional shelling there was nothing to report during the evening or night.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	2nd		<p>The day was very quiet with nothing of importance to report. During the night however there was some enemy patrol activity in area 891077 & also in area 899098. This latter patrol challenged Pl Comd & Runner of B Coy in English then fired on them, runner being killed and Pl Comd wounded. Patrol then disappeared towards river.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	3rd	0830	<p>There was nothing else to report during the night & D Coy cleared area houses 891079 at first light without finding any trace of enemy patrol of previous night. Permission asked by & granted to OC D Coy to occupy area of 889081 & 891077 by pl. This op was carried out at last light & other posns now adjusted as follows: Pl of D Coy in area 897085 move to area 889081 & 891077. Carrier Pl move one sec to area 897085. Sec 'C' Coy by night occupy posn area 896085.</p>	A Walker Capt IO

	4th	2340	<p>Situation normal - occasional shelling & mortaring of Bn area during day while our own arty & mors were very active, engaged enemy seen moving on far side of river during the day.</p> <p>One gun of A tk pl moved into posn at 904096 in order to be able to engage area of br if necessary.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	5th	0800	<p>During the night there was nothing to report.</p> <p>Considerable mov of small parties of enemy were seen from time to time in gen area of main rd & cemetery (899076 & 901073) & were engaged by arty & mor fire.</p> <p>Enemy arty & mor activity was on a reduced scale.</p> <p>During the night there was occasional Spandau & rifle fire from East bank of river while our own Coys carried out harassing shoots throughout the night.</p>	
BLERICK 8909	6th		<p>There were reports of enemy mov in area on rt of D Coy during the early morning but no patrol was seen.</p> <p>Enemy were also reported by Sqn Recce Regt in area 883069.</p> <p>The day was again fairly quiet with nothing to report.</p> <p>Apart from the usual Spandau & rifle fire from enemy & our own harassing shoots there was little to report on immediate front of bn</p>	A Walker Capt IO
	7th	0020	<p>but Sqn of Recce Regt at HOUT BLERICK 8807 (under comd 8RS) reported engagement with enemy patrol at 877074 which made off when fired upon.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK		0800	<p>Situation normal - location no change. Very quiet day with nothing to report.</p>	
		2200	<p>Recce Regt Sqn report engagement with enemy patrol in area X tracks 878072. Otherwise quiet night.</p>	
BLERICK	8th	0700	<p>Report from arty that during the night enemy patrol had laid some mines (tyre busters) across main road in area 872088 damaging tyres of arty veh which came up the road. This was probably carried out by patrol reported by Recce Regt during the night.</p> <p>Isolated enemy movement during the day engaged with SA, mortars & arty fire.</p> <p>Enemy activity negligible, followed by a very quiet night.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
	9th	0800	<p>Situation normal - nothing to report. Quiet day on whole of bn sector.</p>	
	10th	0055	<p>Patrol reported in area of 902103 but made off when challenged. No further developments.</p> <p>Enemy mortaring & shelling of area increased during the day. Our own arty was very active while Coys again carried out harassing shoots during the night 10/11 Jan.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK	11th	0800	<p>Location no change - night passed without incident. Quiet day on the whole.</p>	

		2200	Enemy patrol reported by Recce Regt in area 879065 but was lost to view when 'artificial moonlight' was extinguished and could not be traced by time request for "moonlight" to be continued was put into effect. Exchange of MG & rifle fire continued occasionally across river during the night.	
BLERICK	12th	0350 0800 1815	Patrol in area 894106 engaged by A tk pl listening post and then made off east towards river. Nothing further to report during night. Situation normal. Preparations made during the day for relief of bn by 6RSF on evening of 12 Jan. Change-over commenced immediately after last light and was completed by 2100 hrs. Bn HQ move to MAASBREE 827080 with Coy as follows: A Coy - SEVENUM 802143 B Coy HQ 880105 with pls at 885116, 887110 & 882104-876087. C Coy 837085, D Coy 847090 & Dutch Coy under command 810147 (VOORSTE HEES), Carr Pl (1 off + 20) occupied DUBBROEK 847076 while remainder carrier pl and S Coy were in area 806142.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
MAASBREE 8207	13th - 20th		The bn was now in Bde reserve and it was possible to carry out a certain amount of administration & general cleaning up of arms, eqpt etc. In addition, a proportion of Coys was able to attend cinema shows & concert parties. On 18th Jany, Coy Comds carried out a recce of area at present occupied by 2A&SH in HELDEN 7903 - EGCHELHOEK 7703 with a view to the bn taking over this area. Situation otherwise normal.	A Walker Capt IO
MAASBREE	20th		Final preparations carried out by Coys for move to new area. During the latter part of the morning Coys moved by march route to new areas as follows: A Coy EGCHELHOEK 772038 B Coy HELDEN 790037 C Coy HELDEN 789040 D Coy EGCHEL 773032 1130 Comd 44(L) Inf Bde visits Bn HQ. 1400 Reps from 10 HLI arrive in Bn area & proceed to take over areas vacated by Coys. 1500 Bn HQ closes at 827080 and moves to EGCHELHOEK 771038. 1600 Bn complete in new area. 1630 Comd 44 Bde visits Bn HQ with DAA & QMG. The Commanding Officer visited Coys in their new locations and also visited HQ 1 Commando Bde during the early evening as the Bn was now under command of this formation for the time being.	See Appendix E1 & 3 A Walker Capt IO
EGCHELHOEK				

EGCHELHOEK		2330	<p>C Coy as duty company sent one pl to No 45 RM Commando 873044 at last light while two pls reported to No 6 Commando at 835013, as an anti-patrol precaution.</p> <p>B Coy carried out the duty of Mobile Coy should the necessity for such a force have arisen. The above operational roles were to be carried out by Coys in turn every 24 hrs.</p> <p>Instructions received to send complete Bn harbour party to GRAMMONT (Map ref 2848 Sheet 2 1/250000) leaving at 0930 hrs on 21st. Orders had been received earlier in the evening that only a skeleton harbour party to be sent.</p>	<p>See Appx E2</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
EGCHELHOEK	21st	<p>0930 Harbour party leave for GRAMMONT area.</p> <p>1030 Commanding Officer visits HQ 15(S) Div at PANNINGEN 775048.</p> <p>1200 Instrs received that Bn was now to proceed to area south of HERENTHALS (9791 Sh 3) and that new harbour party would be required. Our Commanding Officer returns from 15(S) Div HQ. It was decided to send OC 'C' Coy (Major McIntyre) off as early as possible to carry out recce of the area & remain there until arrival of Bn, probable date of move being 22nd Jan.</p> <p>1245 Recce party from relieving Bn (12 Para Bn) arrive.</p> <p>1400 CO leaves for conference at HQ 15(S) Div.</p> <p>1430 Major McIntyre leaves to recce area.</p> <p>1630 CO returns from 15(S) Div with orders for Bn to take over area at present held by 45 RM Commando by morning of 22nd Jan.</p> <p>1700 CO, 2i/c & IO leave for HQ 1 Commando Bde to arrange details of relief.</p> <p>1815 CO holds 'O' Group for Comds of A, B & C Coys at HQ B Coy.</p> <p>1915 'O' Group at Bn HQ & orders issued to remaining Coy Comds & reps for move & relief.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>	
BAARLO 8504				
BAARLO	22nd	<p>0200 During the night relief of 45 RM Commando was carried out by the Bn, Coys proceeding independently to new area in tpt and taking over according to timetable as laid down by the Commanding Officer in his orders.</p> <p>0600 Bn HQ leaves present location and moves to 853047.</p> <p>0900 Relief complete and Bn now disposed as follows: Bn HQ 853043. A Coy - HQ 860050 with pls at 867061, 860047 and 859050 with sec at 867048. B Coy - HQ 847043 with pls at 855031 by day and two pls area Coy HQ and at night pls at 855031, 848032, 860027. C Coy - HQ at 854048, two pls area BONG 8405 and one at 863037 by day, and by night one pl at 863037, pl at 863044 and pl at 865048. D Coy - HQ at 843025, pls by day 843023, 847026 and 846024, by night one pl 843023 to 847015, one pl 847026, one pl 847022 to 852018.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>	

BAARLO			Carrier Pl occupied ground role in area X rds 859057 with two secs by night at 871057 and 872052. The day was very quiet with negligible enemy activity though our own sp arms engaged enemy movement during the day. Reps from 12 Para bn visited Coys in evening after dark to become acquainted with general layout in view of their taking over area on evening of 23rd Jan. 1430 Bn comes under direct command of 15(S) Div.	A Walker Capt IO
BAARLO	23rd		Another quiet day with preparations being made for hand-over to 12 Para Bn. Relief began at last light and after being relieved Coys moved in tpt to NEERKANT 6909 (Sheet 27 SW/East). Relief was complete by 2000 hrs.	A Walker Capt IO
NEERKANT MEIJEL	24th		Bn spent night 23/24th at MEIJEL and on the morning of 24th Jan moved by tpt to rest area in TILBURG (Sheet 5 1/100000 1532) arriving at 1600 hrs where column was met by harbour party redirected from GRAMMONT and guided to rest area. Bn HQ was est at 179322.	See Appx E4
TILBURG	25th		Bn located in rest area in TILBURG. Situation normal nothing to report.	A Walker Capt IO
TILBURG 1/50000 Sheet 2A&3A 1733	26th		Administration & general cleaning up of arms, eqpt, transport etc continues.	
	27th	1700	Another day of administration and general cleaning up. Men were allowed out after lunch. CO attended conference at Bde HQ on future operations. C Coy held a successful dance in the evening.	
Tilburg	28th	1030 1200 1400	A rest day. Church service by Padre in Garrison Theatre. Coys marched down under own arrangements. CO's conference for Coy Commanders on future operations and training. CO and 2i/c made recce of trg area. HQ Coy held dance in the evening.	CGR Mair Capt A/IO
	29th		Normal training starts in Coys - drill, P.T., weapon training etc. Sgts Mess Dance in the evening.	
	30th	1100	Training continues. C and D Coys on range. CO attended conference at HQ 30 Corps at BOXTEL 3385 (Holland 1/100,000 Sheet 5) on future operations.	
	31st	1430	Training continues. S Coy on range. C.O. attends further conference at Bde HQ on future operations.	CGR Mair Capt

			Cold spell breaks. Rapid thaw.	A/IO
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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Feb 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG 1/25000 Sheet 2A&3A 1733	1st	1300	Training and general administration continues. A Coy on range in morning. Bn proceeds by Coys to area 183285 to watch demonstration of attack on pillbox strongpoint by Crocodiles and Avre. Weather now very mild and snow almost entirely gone. D Coy dance in the evening.	
	2nd		All Coys did training with Crocodiles, Avre and Kangaroos.	See Appx E1 & 2
	3rd		Administration and interior economy. Bn played KOSB at football and lost 3-5. Officers dance in evening.	CGR Mair Capt A/IO
TILBURG	4	1030 1400	The Corps Commander (Lt Gen Horrocks) addressed all officers on future operations. Bde cloth model on future operations attended by CO, IO, SO and Coy Commanders. Lt Col Pearson returned from UK leave and assumes command of the Bn.	
	5		General training. B and D Coys on the range. B Coy held dance in the evening.	
	6th		Bn moves to NIJMEGEN during afternoon & evening leaving B Ech (Oi/c Capt Cox) in Div Adm Gp at GOIRLE.	See Appx E3, D1, D2
NEAR NIJMEGEN	7th		Day spent in Liaison and final tying up with supporting arms (Kangaroos, Avres, Flails & 4 Tk Gren Gds) for op 'Veritable'.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx E1 & 2
	8th	1030 1630 2340	CO and SO (acting IO) attend Bde 'R' Gp. CO & SO/IO enter Germany on recce for first time but OC B Coy (Major D Drummond) having crossed the border in Germany at 1625 hrs proceeding on recce to FRASSELT 8153 with OC Breaching Force was first member of the bn to enter enemy territory. Bn cross S.P. and spend night in Kangaroos on road. Owing to change of plans bn role did not materialise. CO and IO/SO spend night at Bde HQ 783553. Rain had fallen all day and mud made going very bad.	A Walker Capt IO
	9th	0730	Bn move on PEARL BLACK route to KRANENBERG 8056 in Kangaroos where CO & IO/SO rejoined the Bn. Bn then moved through 2 Gordons at	

			NUTTERDEN 8455 A Coy patrol bringing in 20 PW of 84 Inf Div. B & C Coys occupied ESPERANCE 8655 followed by D & A Coys. Approx 70 PW taken without much opposition. Final posns Bn HQ BOMSHOF 847555, A Coy 866548, B Coy 868554, C Coy 869550, D Coy 869546. Weather wet & cold, roads extremely bad.	A Walker Capt IO
	10th	1700	Plan to attack CLEVE cancelled & plan to mop up from SW evolved. SL road 885544 to 881548. Zero 0700 hrs. D & A Coys leading with B & C following. D Coy move towards SL but the attack was cancelled through congestion with own tps in area (43 Div). Bn HQ moved to REICHSWALD FOREST 862548. Weather still very wet.	
	11th	0900 1100 1900	Mopping up operation cancelled. IO/SO & Coy Comds RV at HQ 129 Bde (43 Div) preparatory to Bn occupying area held by 4th & 5th WILTS & mopping up in that area. Bn in position & located as follows: Bn HQ 889552, A Coy 884548, B Coy 888554, C Coy 891554, D Coy 883550. hrs approx. Reps from 1st Bn CANADIAN SCOTTISH (Royal Scots affiliated Bn) of 3 CDN DIV arrived preparatory to taking over positions. Rain at night.	A Walker Capt IO
	12th		Relief by Canadians did not take place but bn moved to area BARRACKS 8855 for rest, being in CORPS reserve at approx 2130 hrs. Bn HQ est at 889556. Bn at one hours notice to move in sp of 43 Div on receipt of code-word 'NUTS'. Weather mild by day but wet at night.	A Walker Capt IO
	13th	1000	CO & IO/SO to 43 Div HQ. Bn to recce counter-attack routes etc on posn held by 1 WORCS. CO, Coy Comds, A Tk Pl Comd & IO/SO recce posns area WISMANNSGUT 9052 returning at 1330 hrs, to be informed that plan is cancelled. Order received for Bn to be at 1 hrs notice to move in sp of 53(W) Div to be followed later by order 'No move tonight'. Weather fine.	
CLEVE 8955	14th	0800	Bn at 1 hrs' notice to join 43 Div, which was later changed to 3 hrs notice and finally "No move today". IO rejoined unit from UK leave.	A Walker Capt IO
CLEVE 8955 Germany 1/50000 Sh 6	15th	0930	CO & IO attend Bde 'O' Gp at HQ 44 Inf Bde. Orders received for attack on X rds 960462. On his return to the bn CO holds 'O' Gp and issues orders for this operation. However, a message was then received from Bde to effect that this operation was cancelled & there would be no move today. Weather dull but dry.	
	16th	1000	Location - no change. CO attends 'O' Gp at HQ 44 Inf Bde & receives orders for attack on high ground NE of GOCH in area 9245-9344.	A Walker Capt IO

CLEVE 8955		1400	Recce party sets off for harbour area near HAU 9152 but returned shortly afterwards when due to number of tps in the area it was found impossible to harbour any more tps in that area. CO holds 'O' Gp for capture of high ground NE of Goch. This operation was also cancelled due to good progress of fwd tps of 43 Div in this area. Weather dry but foggy.	
CLEVE 8955	17th	1430 2015	Location no change - Bn prepared for move fwd to harbour area. CO attends Bde 'O' Gp and receives orders for attack on GOCH 9143. Recce party standing by at 10 mins notice wef 1430 hrs. Final orders received 'no move today'. CO holds 'O' Gp at Bn HQ for attack on GOCH on following day.	A Walker Capt IO
PFALZDORF 4691	18th	0830 0930	Bn preparing to move. CO, IO & Coy Comds go fwd and carry out recce at pt 918453. Bn move to FAA in area PFALZDORF 4691. CO receives instrs to proceed to Bde HQ as soon as possible. Orders received at Bde for accelerated plan of attack on GOCH. Bn to provide one coy in Kangaroos as armd recce force on axis CARTER. Orders passed by CO to OC A Coy to carry out the op. Coy complete in Kangaroos and with two tps tks in sp ready to move 1315 hrs. Tac Bn HQ and Kangaroos move in rear of A Coy and est at 925453. Remainder of Bn await further back in area 920463.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx E4
NEAR GOCH 9043		1330 1415	A Coy proceed on CARTER but are held up at A tk ditch which was impassable and AVRE bridge was sent fwd. Some difficulty was met with in getting br into position & Kangaroos could not cross ditch due to collapse of br. 20 PW were however taken at this stage. Orders received from 44 Bde HQ that operation would not take place as planned. A Coy to remain in posn at ditch. Tac Bn HQ move to 919455 in rear of B Coy (leading Coy) & C Coy on axis HIKER. Zero hour 1500 hrs. Armd Breaching force preceded B Coy on 'HIKER' who after experiencing considerable difficulties with br of A tk ditch, debussed from Kangaroos & attacked forwards and established themselves in area factory 911445. C Coy were then ordered to proceed fwd to area 909443. Difficulty was again experienced at the A tk ditch due to the heavy going & Kangaroos becoming bogged. After crossing the ditch and making towards their obj, this Coy was counter-attacked and for the remainder of the evening there was no comn with the Coy, contact again being made at first light. Visibility was very poor now that darkness had fallen and a thick fog nullified any effect of artificial moonlight. D Coy were then passed through on foot and established themselves with B Coy in a tight defensive posn for remainder of the night. Tac	A Walker Capt IO See Appx E4
GOCH 9043				A Walker Capt IO

GOCH		2230	Bn HQ remained in same location though earlier in the evening the CO & IO carried out a recce of the A tk ditch in area of the br, finding the track for Kangaroos almost impassable. CO & IO proceed to HQ 6KOSB at 923447 where CO had talk with Bde Comdr.	A Walker Capt IO
GOCH	19th	0500	A Coy on orders from CO move from present position at A tk ditch and est themselves in area 913441 being unable to cross the rly line due to heavy enemy fire. With the sp of the tks which had gone fwd shortly after first light Coys were now able to carry out some mopping up in their areas and a total of 300 prisoners were taken.	A Walker Capt IO
GOCH 9043		0900	Tac Bn HQ moved along CARTER route & est itself at 915441 while Coys on orders from CO carried out a systematic clearing of area allotted to the Bn. This was completed by approx 1730 hrs & Bn HQ moved & established itself at 909443, the remainder of the Bn HQ now having joined. Bn now disposed as follows: Bn HQ - 909443 A Coy - area factory 908439, B Coy - 906443, C Coy 907437, D Coy 910442. Enemy shelling and mortaring, which had been intense during the opening stages of the battle had now decreased considerably and was confined to harassing fire.	A Walker Capt IO
	20th		Location no change - situation normal. Occasional enemy shelling of area. Reorganisation & checking of kit where possible is carried out.	
	21st		Another day with no important changes. Bn remains in Goch which now had almost become a 'back' area. CO visits HQ 44(L) Inf Bde to see Corps Commander.	A Walker Capt IO
GOCH 9043	22nd	1645	CO and IO proceed to Bde and then on recce of area 9442 (at present held by 6RSF) as bn would be carrying out attack from this area on following day. CO attends Bde 'O' Gp and receives orders for attack on area 9441-9440, as left hand bn of Bde.	See Appx E5
		2015	Bn 'O' Gp & orders issued to Coy Comds.	
	23rd	0615	Bn ready to move. Move by march route to F.A.A. in gen area 942441.	
		0900	Leading Coys leave FAA. Tac Bn HQ moves to 943426.	
		1000	D Coy followed by C Coy leave FUP in wood 943417 with in sp two tps tks.	A Walker Capt IO
		1000	D Coy directed on wood 946411 and houses 909411 and C Coy following in sp. Despite opposition & heavy DF fire from enemy arty & mortars objective was gained completing Phase I of Bn plan.	See Appx E5

		1100	Phase II commenced after short delay. B Coy on right with C Coy on left having followed in rear of D Coy. Communications now became very bad & it was difficult to keep in touch with the fwd coys though this was possible through the LO of Tk Sqn in sp & arty FOO.	A Walker Capt IO
		1400	Phase II complete with Coys now disposed as follows: A Coy area 947403, B Coy 945400, C Coy 948402, D Coy to area 947404 having been relieved by A & D Coys 6RSF placed under command of the Bn & located as follows: A Coy - 949411, D Coy 945411. 8RS Carrier Pl dismounted occupied area 947407 while sqn 15 Recce Regt under comd occupied for a short while posn in area 948412 but were withdrawn later in afternoon when RSF Coys & Carrier Pl were est in posn.	947404 947407
		1600	Tac Bn HQ moved to 942413.	A Walker Capt IO
		1700	Coys firmly est in posn. CO visits Coys. Heavy shelling & mortaring of Bn area. This continued throughout the night though no counter-attack developed. A number of SP guns were abandoned by the enemy during this operation and approx 90 PW were taken. Fwd Coys had patrols out during the night. Our own mortars and arty were very active.	
	24th		Enemy arty & mortar activity continues. Comd 44 Bde visits Bn HQ & fwd Coys. There was little enemy activity apart from arty & mortar during the day, though snipers were active in B Coy area.	A Walker Capt IO
		1700	CO & IO of 5 E Yorks arrive on recce with a view to that unit taking over Bn area on 25th Feb. Bn harbour party returns to A Ech. There was no contact with enemy during the night though shelling & mortaring continued.	See Appx E6
	25th		Situation normal - little to report overnight with no change in Coy locations. Reps from relieving Bn arrive. Relief is carried out by stages during the afternoon and evening and is completed by 2245 hours. Bn now conc in former FAA in area 944444.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx E6
	26th	0830	Bn moves by TCVs to VUGHT (MR 3243 1/250000, 2A & 3A NW Europe) arriving at approx 1230 hours. Bn conc in SS barracks on south side of town (3242). Orders received for move on following day to area TURNHOUT and harbour party sent off.	A Walker Capt IO
VUGHT	27th	1030	Bn leave VUGHT in TCVs and proceed via TILBURG to rest area at VOSSELAER 0206 near TURNHOUT in Belgium (Ref 1/250000 NW Europe Sheet 3) arriving in VOSSELAER at approx 1330 hrs.	

			Remainder of day spent in settling in and general cleaning up. Bn HQ est at 015055.	
NEAR TURNHOUT 0607 (NW Europe 1/250000 Sh 3)	28th	1015	CO attends conference at HQ 44 Inf Bde in TURNHOUT on gen points regarding adm, trg, recreation etc.	A Walker Capt IO
		1400	CO's conference at Bn HQ to discuss pts arising from Bde conference. 106 reinforcements join Bn from RHU.	
		1800	CO's promotion conference at Bn HQ for Coy Comds. Adm & recreation continue.	
				A Walker Capt IO 8RS

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Mar 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
VOSELAER 1/250,000 Sheet 3 0206	1st		Bn conc in rest area. Administration and interior economy continue. 2 offrs & 168 ORs proceed on 48 hrs leave to BRUSSELS. Baths for whole bn in TURNHOUT during morning & afternoon. Small percentage also attend cinema show. Weather - rain in morning, remainder of day fine.	
	2nd		Bn remain in rest area. General administration continues.	
VOSELAER 1/250,000 SH 3 0206	3rd		Location, no change - a Rehearsal took place for the visit & inspection of the G.O.C. 15(S) Division, Major Gen CM Barber DSO on 5th Mar.	A Walker Capt IO
	4th		Church Service in the morning otherwise nothing to report.	
VOSELAER	5th	1215	Orders were received for move of bn to HAELEN near DIEST on 6th Mar and preliminary arrangements made accordingly. Visit and inspection of bn by Maj Gen CM Barber DSO GO Commanding 15(S) Div during which the General spoke to all ranks on the achievements in the recent fighting near CLEVE and GOCH. After the inspection the General took the salute at the march past of the bn led by the Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson. In the afternoon members of the bn pipe band took part in Retreat played by the massed pipe bands of the Division in the Main Square, TURNHOUT. A Bde Officers Dance held in the evening in TURNHOUT was attended by a considerable number of the officers of the Bn.	A Walker Capt IO
HAELEN	6th	1000	Bn leave present area and move to HAELEN 1564. Remainder of day spent in settling down in new area.	See Appx D1 A Walker Capt IO
	7th		Administration continues. Coys able to carry out limited trg programmes.	
	8th		Location - no change, nothing to report.	
	9th		In view of future role of the Bn, trg with Buffaloes now took place, companies practising getting in and out of the craft and loading of vehicles, on a Buffalo specially allotted to the Bn for this	A Walker Capt IO

HAELEN			purpose. Vehicle drivers were also practised on a mock-up Class 9 raft.	
	10th		Situation unchanged - trg continues.	
	11th	1700	Trg continues. CO attends Bde conference at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde.	
HAELEN	12th	1700	Ref operation 'TORCHLIGHT'. Major JAH Douglass MBE, 2i/c & reps from Coys carry out a recce of bn marshalling area. Ref EXERCISE "BUFFALO". Commanding Officer, Coy Comds & IO carry out a recce in Exercise area and arrange details with affiliated sqn of 11 R TKs and rep of Bank Control etc. Commanding Officer again attends Bde conference.	See Appx E5 D3, D4 See Appx E1,2,3,4 and D2 A Walker Capt IO
	13th		Location - no change. Trg continues. Preparations being made for move out on 14th Mar on EXERCISE BUFFALO.	
	14th	0700	Bn move by TCV to Marshalling area HOUTHUIZEN 5872 for EX BUFFALO. The operation was carried out during the early afternoon the sequence of ops being as laid down in Trace 'P' to 44 Bde Exercise instr No3. After the crossing Coys were disposed on their objectives as follows: A Coy 625696, B Coy 624691, C Coy 620692, D Coy 621687 with Bn HQ at 621691. Bn returned to rest area at conclusion of exercise except for all tracked vehs which returned to Marshalling area at HOUTHUIZEN remaining there night 14/15th for repeat of exercise to take place on night 15/16th Mar.	See Appx E1,2,3&4 D2 A Walker Capt IO See Appx E4
HAELEN		2100	Commanding Officer holds conference at Bn HQ with Coy Comds to discuss points arising from the exercise.	A Walker Capt IO
HAELEN	15th	0900	CO attends conference at HQ 44 Bde. During the late afternoon the Bn again moved to Marshalling Area at HOUTHUIZEN preparatory to carrying out night Exercise 'BUFFALO'. The exercise was purely a repetition by night of the events of the day exercise on the 14th apart from some minor changes. Zero hour for the river crossing was 0400 hrs. Benefitting from the daylight rehearsal, the exercise was carried through without any major hitch, though minor problems did arise through Buffaloes becoming bogged prior to reaching the river. Vehicles were transported over the river either by Buffalo or Class 9 raft. The exercise was brought to a premature close at 0630 hrs and by 0930 hrs the bn was back in rest area apart from the tracked vehs following later in a separate convoy.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
HAELEN	16th		Location no change - situation normal. CO proceeds on recce for operation TORCHLIGHT.	Ref Appx D3,4,

			Training continues.	E5.
	17th		Planning for OP TORCHLIGHT was now at an advanced stage and during the morning Coy Comds briefed their sec comds on a model of the area of operations. Trg continues.	
	18th		Nothing to report. Bn attends Church Service in the morning.	
	19th		Location no change - nothing to report.	A Walker Capt IO
HAELEN	20th		Commanding Officer, Coy Comds & IO with Capt Wall OC Carrier Pl (acting as ULO) carried out a recce during the day at XANTEN 1141 and LUTTINGEN 1142 visiting OPs of 7/9 The Royal Scots and viewing that part of the RHINE where the crossing was to be made and also studying Coy objectives on the east bank of the river. This was the first time that the 8th Bn and 7/9th Bn Royal Scots had come in contact with each other during the war. Coys continued trg.	
HAELEN	21st		Preparations were now almost complete for Op 'TORCHLIGHT' and during the day mov instrs were received from Bn HQ for move of all tracked vehs to marshalling area on early morning of 22nd Mar. Commanding Officer holds conference of Coy Comds on gen points regarding the move & Op "TORCHLIGHT".	A Walker Capt IO
NEAR XANTEN	22nd	0645 1400 1900	S Coy leave HAELEN and move to Marshalling area at 072408 west of XANTEN 1141. CO, Coy Comds, Adj & IO leave for Marshalling area. Main body under 2i/c leave HAELEN and proceed by TCV to Marshalling area, arriving at approx 0600 hrs on 23rd Mar. Bn HQ was est at NEU BIESENHOF 077411, Coys being concentrated in nearby farms.	Appx D3,4. Ref 1/25000 Germany 4304 A Walker Capt IO
NEAR XANTEN	23rd	1430 1800 2200 2345	The morning was spent resting after the long journey from HAELEN while in the afternoon all loading of the Buffaloes with 'preloaded' vehs was completed and Coys made final preparations for the crossing, and liaison with BUFFALO troops. CO & IO attend final Bde 'O' Gp before the operation. CO holds 'O' Gp at Bn HQ. Coys move to BUFFALO loading area track in woods at 073408, all BUFFALOES being drawn up in line ahead on the track facing NE and Coys 'embussing' in order A,B,C,D,Bn HQ (exact loading as per Appx D5). Column moves off down LVT track towards river, zero hour being fixed for 0200 hrs 24 Mar. At LVT dispersal point A Coy move by left lane, B Coy in centre, & C Coy on the right lane.	A Walker Capt IO
	24th	0200	LVTs with assault Coys enter river and make for east bank.	A Walker Capt IO

ON THE RHINE			On reaching the bank Coys "debussed" and after short pause for reorganisation made off for objectives as follows: A Coy - RONDUIT 132442, B Coy - areas 137441 - 135445, C Coy - area track juncs 136435. Although enemy shelling and mortaring was on a fairly light scale at this stage there was considerable opposition from numerous spandaus. D Coy and Bn HQ crossed shortly after the assault Coys, D Coy being directed at area 135439 and also providing a pl to relieve 'B' Coy pl in area 137441 to enable B Coy to extend fwd to occupy area 134447.	
BISLICH			A and B Coys had gained their primary objectives comparatively quickly despite stubborn opposition but isolated spandaus continued to cause trouble and had to be mopped up. C Coy encountered stiff opposition on the way to their objective and some fierce fighting took place but their objective was gained and the process of clearing up began. Coys sent out small patrols within their area to round up all the enemy lying up in the cellars of the numerous houses.	A Walker Capt IO
BISLICH			Coys were now disposed as follows: A Coy - RONDUIT 132442 - HQ 131445 B Coy - 136443 - 134447 C Coy - 137435 D Coy - 135438 - 137440 Bn HQ was est at 135434	A Walker Capt IO
	0945		The enemy were still in occupation of VISSEL 137453 and JOCKERN 144450 and an attack by B Coy on the former followed by D Coy on the latter was staged with tk sp. These attacks were successfully completed as the airborne tps arrived and began dropping a few miles inland. Following on the arrival of the airborne troops enemy resistance in the neighbourhood quickly crumbled and Coys were able to complete the mopping up in their areas.	
BISLICH	1000		Bn HQ move to area GOSSENHOF 134447 and at 1430 hrs approx A Coy moved to JOCKERN 144450 in rear of D Coy. Later in the afternoon C Coy moved up to occupy area 135444.	A Walker Capt IO
	1230		Orders were received for early move on the morning of the 25th and CO held 'O' Gp at 2000 hrs at Bn HQ regarding the move.	See Appx E8
	2115		CO returns to Bde for fresh instrs regarding move. Following upon the Airborne Operations on the morning of 24th Mar and the advance of the bn from the initial bridgehead at BISLICH 1343, a patrol of the Carrier Pl moving along main road from VISSEL 1345 to br 154470 made first contact at this point with tps of 3 Para Bde of 6 Airborne Div, at 1515 hrs.	A Walker Capt IO

			<p>short, the Coy held firm and the enemy attacks died down. During this period there had been intermittent enemy shelling and mortar fire and in addition, enemy SP guns had been active from the North of the objectives.</p> <p>Tac Bn HQ remained in area autobahn at 197512.</p> <p>Enemy resistance lessened with the approach of the dawn and Coys were now firmly est in their localities.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
	27th		<p>During the day a considerable amount of enemy mov was seen which appeared to be a general withdrawal to the North-East. This was continually engaged by our arty with good results. Enemy shelling of the area continued intermittently during the day.</p>	
NEAR LOIKUM 1853 1/25000 SH 4205	28th	0030 0400 1000 1100	<p>Carrier Pl patrol sent forward to area HAVELINGSKATH 189528 and on reporting it clear B Coy move fwd and occupy the area, their area being taken over by C Coy 6KOSB.</p> <p>Major General BARBER DSO Comdg 15(S) Div and Comd 44 Inf Bde visit Bn HQ.</p> <p>C Coy released from 6RSF where they had been occupying a posn in the woods at 207502 and conc in area 202505.</p> <p>With the progress of events on the left and right flanks the bn now found itself in a "rear" area with the situation very quiet.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
	29th		<p>During the morning D Coy moved to rest area west of LOIKUM at 184539 and were followed in the afternoon by the remainder of the Bn which was now conc as follows:</p> <p>Bn HQ - 180542, A Coy 173547, B Coy 176546, C Coy 174546, D Coy 184539, S Coy 184545.</p> <p>A period of administration and reorganisation now commenced.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
NEAR LOIKUM 1853	30th	1100	<p>Church service held by Padre in village church attended by all available personnel.</p> <p>The GOC 15(S) Div, Major General CM Barber DSO visited the bn during the latter part of the morning.</p> <p>Rest and reorganisation continues.</p>	
	31st		<p>Coys were given the opportunity of attending the Mobile Bath Unit during the morning in LOIKUM.</p> <p>Situation quiet - nothing to report.</p>	A Walker Capt IO

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Apr 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
NEAR LOIKUM 1/100,000 Sheet P1	1st		Bn conc in gen area LOIKUM (Ref 1/100000 1854) Church parade took place during the morning otherwise nothing to report.	
	2nd		The day was spent in general on administration, Coys also carrying out short route march.	
	3rd		Location no change - situation normal. In course of the morning a lecture on 'Civil Control' was given to NCOs by a rep of Mil Govt. Mov instrs for 4th Apr were received during the afternoon and preparations made for the move.	A Walker Capt IO
	4th	0900	Harbour Party leave for GREVEN 9188 but during the latter part of the morning instrs were received that there would be no move today. Comd 44 Bde visits Bn HQ. Harbour party remained at new location.	
	5th	0800	Bn leave LOIKUM in TCVs and proceed via BOCHOLT to BOGHORST arriving approx 1330 hrs, where Coys were concentrated in areas near Bn HQ. Bn HQ was est at 765928 (1/100000 Sh P2).	See Appx D1
BOGHORST	6th	1300 1400 1415	During the day Coys carried out a comprehensive search of bn sector for arms and ammunition, a considerable quantity being collected. Order for move on 7th Apr received. CO attends Bde 'O' Gp at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde. Bn 'O' Gp at Bn HQ, orders issued for move on following day. Harbour party leave for ESSERN 6929. Remainder of day spent in preparation for move on 7th Apr.	A Walker Capt IO
	7th	0930 1730	Leave BOGHORST and proceed via OSNABRUCK to ESSERN. On passing through OSNABRUCK all ranks were struck by the terrific devastation caused by the RAF bombing. Bn arrives at ESSERN.	See Appx D2 A Walker Capt IO

			In conjunction with the other two bns in the Bde the bn was given the task of clearing OSTER WALD in gen area 6522 and 6523 and instrs were issued to Coys for this op on 8th Apr.	(1/100000 Sh N3)
ESSERN	8th		During the major portion of the day Coys were engaged in this wood clearing op which however proved fruitless though A Coy gave chase to a few Germans who managed to escape into the undergrowth. The operation was completed by 1530 hrs and Coys returned to ESSERN by march route.	A Walker Capt IO
	9th	1730	During the morning Coys carried out general administration. Warning order for move on following day received, followed during the night by new orders for move to LAHDE 8520.	
	10th	0800 1930	Harbour party leaves. CO & IO attend Bde 'O' Gp and on their return further details of move issued to Coy Comds. This move was as many of those recently carried out by the bn, being purely a non-tactical move from one location to another trying to catch up with the leading formations now 'swanning' out ahead against very little opposition. During the day the bn moved to LAHDE 8520, Bn HQ being est at 865197.	A Walker Capt IO
	11th	0530 0930 1600	Harbour party once again off. CO attends Bde 'O' Gp. Bn leaves LAHDE and proceed to ELZE 3544. Bn HQ est at 359452 with Coys conc in nearby farms. Most of the time was now spent in dealing with various problems such as collecting of arms and ammunition, rounding up German stragglers and suspects, house searches, etc.	See Appx E2 (1/100000 Sh N4) A Walker Capt IO
	12th	1000 0515	Situation unchanged. Harbour party standing by and Coy Comds visit command post to get general situation. Harbour party leave for CELLE 5850 but due to lack of accommodation rejoined the battalion later in the evening.	A Walker Capt IO
ELZE	13th	0530 2100 2230	Harbour party leaves for Celle to be followed by the battalion in TCVs at 1200 hrs, arriving in CELLE at approx 1500 hrs. CO and IO attend 'O' Gp at HQ 44 Bde and orders received for taking up of def posn to NE of UELZEN (1/100000 M5 8989) after its capture. Orders issued to Coy Comds at Bn 'O' Gp.	
CELLE	14th	0730 0930 1030	Bn ready to move but now orders changed to ½ hrs notice wef 0900 hrs. Major Douglass 2i/c visits Bde HQ to get latest information on operations. CO & IO to Bde for move with Bde 'O' Gp while Bn moved with main body of Bde Gp along main rd to UELZEN 8988.	A Walker Capt IO

			<p>Opposition to the advance by another Bde of the division had stiffened considerably in front of UELZEN and the main road leading up to the town from the south being blocked and impassable and having been bypassed to the NW, the bn was ordered by the Bde Comd to clear the main road from WEYHAUSEN 7869 - BREITENHEES 8574 to HOLDENSTEDT 8784.</p> <p>This op commenced at 1215 hrs and the rd being impassable for vehicles or carriers the initial clearing was carried out by a process of leap frogging the Rifle Coys through each other.</p> <p>Opposition to the adv was negligible though quite a number of PSW were collected in by Coys, who cleared up what opposition or road blocks were encountered on the way.</p> <p>The Carrier pl had meanwhile succeeded in finding a way through the woods to circumvent the demolitions on the road and moving out ahead contacted a detachment of 2A&SH of 227 Bde at HOLDENSTEDT (8784). By 1900 hrs that evening the remainder of the Bn had arrived in HOLDENSTEDT and taken up an all-round def posn with the exception of 'B' Coy who remained the night at BREITENHEES 8574. Bn HQ was est at 877839.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
HOLDENSTEDT	15th		<p>Ops in front of UELZEN having come to a stand-still it was intended that the Bde should bypass UELZEN on the east and as a preliminary during the morning the bn moved to area BORNE 8883 and the Carrier pl carried out offensive patrolling occupying WRESTEDT 9082.</p> <p>Contact was made with the enemy in WRESTEDT and to the east towards the railway. This however was cleared up by the Carrier pl who were later reinforced in the village by A Coy. Later in the day with German resistance in the immediate vicinity crumbling the bn moved fwd and took over from 6RSF in NIENDORF II. Coys took up a perimeter defence of the village with C Coy fwd at area X tracks 917864.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
NIENDORF II	16th	1900	<p>During the night patrolling was carried out, enemy being encountered in area rd junc 927857 and casualties inflicted on them. The patrol was led by Lt J Stobo MC. During the early morning C Coy moved up and occupied this area and were later joined by B Coy.</p> <p>Bn HQ was est at 906852.</p> <p>The enemy were still strongly defending UELZEN and to further its outflanking to the east the Bn was ordered to attack and capture GR LIEDERN 9388.</p> <p>The attack was planned to be carried out with artificial moonlight and tk sp at 0200 hrs 17th Apr, and during the 16th detailed recces were carried out by Comds. In the late evening the Bn moved up to the FAA in area 930869 where the assaulting Coys, D Coy on the left</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>See Appx E3</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>

			and A Coy on the right, "married up" with the tks. Tac Bn HQ moved up in rear of start line to 930869.	
	17th	0200	Following our arty programme, D and A Coys cross SL and move fwd due Northwards to objective with axis of adv on other side of track leading into village from the south. B and C Coys remained dug in in rear of SL. Both assault Coys made good progress against minor opposition which was quickly overcome and got firmly est on their objectives, D Coy in area 928885 and A Coy area 932883. C Coy meanwhile were ordered to follow up quickly and est themselves in North end of village in area 932885 to be followed by B Coy taking up a posn centrally in south end of village. By first light the Bn was firmly est in the village with Tac Bn HQ at 929884, and the process of final mopping up and house searching being carried out. During the day patrolling revealed the presence of the enemy in OLDENSTADT 9190 some demolitions being set off on rd from GR LIEDERN to OLDENSTADT when our carrier patrols were observed. Ground opposition however was negligible and the problem was to circumvent the natural and artificial obstacles in the way.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO See Appx E4
OLDENSTADT	18th	1700	Despite the rd craters, the Carrier Pl were able to find a route across country into OLDENSTADT and rounding up the Germans then pushed northwards through RIPDORF in direction of MOLZEN and MASENDORF. Resistance was negligible and A & D Coys were ordered to move fwd and occupy the two villages respectively, Bn HQ and remaining two Coys being est in OLDENSTADT, B & C Coys on NE and NW outskirts respectively and Bn HQ at 920900. Comd 44 Bde visited Bn HQ during the evening with orders for Bn to conc on 19th Apr, all German resistance in the neighbourhood having been overcome through link-up with formations on rt and left.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
HEITBRACK	19th	0700 0800 1215	Carrier Pl move off to HEITBRACK 9296 to ensure that village is clear preparatory to move in of bn. A & D Coys leave present location for HEITBRACK, followed later in the morning by B and C Coys. Bn HQ leave OLDENSTADT and move to HEITBRACK, being est at 920967. During the morning Comd 44 Bde visited Bn HQ and offered his congratulations to the Commanding Officer on the announcement of his being awarded the D.S.O.	See Appx E5 A Walker Capt IO
	20th	0930	Harbour party leave for VASTORF 880150. Bn move by march route during the day from HEITBRACK to VASTORF - VOLKSTORF area. Bn HQ est at 879152. Night 20/21 spent in this harbour area.	See Appx E6
LUNEBURG	21st	0930 1400	Harbour party leave for LUNEBURG 7820. Coys move by march route from VASTORF to LUNEBURG.	

			Bn concentrated in CAVALRY BARRACKS LUNEBURG.	A Walker Capt IO
LUNEBURG	22nd		A period of rest, reorganisation and administration begins. Commanding Officer attends Bde conference.	
	23rd		Situation unchanged - nothing to report.	
	24th		The Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command proceed to Div HQ for address by Comd 8 Corps. The Div having been given the task of the assault crossing of the Elbe, this had been delegated to 44(L) Inf Bde and planning for that operation now began.	A Walker Capt IO
LUNEBURG	25th		During the day the Commanding Officer had the opportunity of going up in an air O.P. and studying that part of the River ELBE across which the Bn was to operate, viz area ARTLENBURG 8334 - SCHNAKENBEK 8434 (1/100000 Sh L5). Planning for the operation continued. The Adj held a Bn drill parade in the morning while an inter-Bn football match against 6KOSB took place in the afternoon, the result being two goals each.	
LUNEBURG	26th	0930 1430	Commanding Officer attends conference at HQ 44 Bde and discusses further details of the op. CO holds Bn 'O' Gp since orders had been received that it was possible that the crossing would take place on night 26/27th Apr. These orders had however been misinterpreted at a higher formation and were cancelled later in the afternoon, the crossing being scheduled for night 28/29th Apr.	A Walker Capt IO
LUNEBURG	27th	0400	CO, Coy Comds, IO and pl comds carry out a dawn recce of RIVER ELBE at ARTLENBURG, studying the crossing places and objectives on the far bank. This close-up recce proved invaluable when the time for the actual crossing took place. Planning had now been practically completed and preparations for move to assembly area on 28th were being made. During the evening a dinner was held in the Officers Mess at Bn HQ attended by senior officers of the battalion, guests including the Comd 15(S) Div, Comd 44(L) Bde and Comds 6RSF and 6KOSB, together with certain members of the staffs of Div and Bde HQ.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
LUNEBURG	28th	1000 1700	COs conference and final 'O' Gp for the operation which was called operation ENTERPRISE. Coys complete preparations for move to Marshalling area. A & B Coys move up in unit tpt to marshalling area in woods at 825285 followed by C,D Coys and Bn HQ (Tac) at 1900 hrs. Fortunately the weather was very good and no discomforture was suffered sitting in the woods till the time for moving off to join the Buffaloes. Certain priority vehs were preloaded immediately on arrival in marshalling area.	See Appx E1,H1 and D6 See Appx D3. See Appx D3 (Gp1)
ON THE ELBE				

		2315	Coys move to join Buffaloes in Buffalo Marshalling area and "embus" on arrival.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx D4
ON THE ELBE	29th	0015	Coys leave Marshalling area in LVTs and proceed down taped LVT track towards river, approx 3 miles away. Tac Bn HQ followed the leading coys, B & A who were making the initial assault.	A Walker Capt IO
		0200	Assault Coys, B Coy on left & A Coy on right, enter river in LVTs at pt 835347 and make for opposite bank. Tac Bn was est behind ho on river bank at pt where LVTs entered river. The assault Coys gained the opposite bank successfully despite some S.A. fire and some mortar and arty D.F. fire. The opposition in the immediate neighbourhood was quickly overcome and these coys began moving off the river bank to their objectives at 837353 and 838352 respectively.	
		0215	In the meantime the follow up Coys, C on left & D on right, crossed the river with Tac Bn HQ and started pushing out towards their objectives (areas 835353 and 836354 respectively) after a slight pause on the river bank for reorganisation. Tac Bn HQ was est near river bank at 838351. Opposition was mostly confined to arty and mortar DF which was falling fairly consistently near the crossing places. A considerable number of PsW however were being taken by Coys as the bridgehead gradually expanded and our coys all being est on their objectives, Phase II, the enlargement of the bridgehead was started.	
ON THE ELBE			Coys were now moved by stages to new posns as follows: B Coy area 839360, C Coy area 830356 - 832358, D Coy area X rds 834363, and A Coy 835359. Bn HQ was est at 837354. Coys being firm in these positions Carrier pl was given the task of patrolling forward. At this stage enemy arty fire was extremely heavy, especially on the one route leading out of the off loading point on the river bank. Ground opposition being negligible orders were received to push forward and at 1415 hrs the Commanding Officer held an 'O' Gp at "FORTH" (MR 835363) and issued orders for a further adv. C and A Coys were ordered to occupy area "EARN" (BULTEN MR 8338), while meantime the Carrier pl which had reported the posn clear pushed on and occupied KRUKOW, carrying out offensive patrolling throughout that area.	A Walker Capt IO
KRUKOW 8239			Permission was obtained from Bde for the Bn to occupy KRUKOW 8239 and on arrival of B and D Coys at BULTEN they were ordered fwd into the village, being followed shortly afterwards by A & C Coys. By 1830 hrs the Bn was disposed as follows: Bn HQ 827394, A Coy area 830397, B Coy 836394, C Coy 836397 and D Coy 835393.	See Appx D2 A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO

			The Bn remained in this area during the night, with the state of alertness considerably relaxed due to the non-existence of any enemy resistance.	
	30th	0800	<p>B and D Coys move fwd and take over PIEPENDORF 818409, but orders were received for a further advance and the bn proceeded by march route along road to KOLLOW 8144 with a view to eventually occupying SCHWARZENBECK 8248.</p> <p>There were numerous reports from the Tp Recce Regt in sp, of enemy opposition etc on the way but after numerous delays the adv finally speeded up and the town of SCHWARZENBECK reached without incident, in the late afternoon.</p> <p>Bn HQ was est 823488 with Coys located A Coy 819486, B Coy 819495, C Coy 818487, D Coy 816493.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year May 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
SCHWARZENBECK 8249	1st	2100 2230	Location no change - Bn disposed as follows: Bn HQ 823488, A Coy 819486, B Coy 819495, C Coy 818487, D Coy 816493. Coys carried out local patrolling fwd of coy localities. Comd 15(S) Div, Maj Gen CM Barber DSO visited Bn HQ. There was some intermittent enemy shelling of the area, which however did not cause any damage. CO & IO attend 'O' Gp at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde for clearing of woods in area SACHSEN WALD, to the north-west of the town. Commanding Officer holds 'O' Gp at Bn HQ and issues order for clearing of sector of the wood allocated to the Bn.	A Walker Capt IO
	2nd	0730 0745	Bn with tk sqn Coldm Gds in sp ready to move off for SCHWARZENBECK. B Coy mounted on the tks move fwd along main road to GRANDE 7657 as adv guard coy. Remainder of bn followed in rear by march route tactically disposed. On reaching X rds 788522, it was found that the road ahead was blocked by a crater and B Coy were ordered to make a detour to the east of the woods via X tracks 808528 and 793543, reaching their obj, X rds 780538 without opposition but collecting in a considerable number of enemy PSW. A, C & D Coys meanwhile were disposed along track to the west from X rds 788522 and in extended order proceeded to carry out a drive through the woods to the North with final objective main rd from X rds 780538 to 751527. Opposition was again negligible though considerable numbers of enemy stragglers were rounded up. A total of 240 PW were taken during the operation. Some short but sharp enemy shelling of X rds 780538 took place, causing some casualties. The Carrier pl meanwhile reported GRANDE and KUDDEWORDE 7657 clear and in the late afternoon the bn moved fwd and concentrated in KUDDEWORDE 7657 with Bn HQ at 764572, Coys being disposed for perimeter defence of the village. The Carrier pl continued to patrol fwd into neighbouring village rounding up approx 240 PSW.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO

			The night 2/3 May was spent in this location, orders being received by LO from 44(L) Bde late that night for move to RAUSDORF 7258.	A Walker Capt IO
GRANDE - KUDDEWORDE 7657	3rd	0900	The Carrier Pl having been sent on ahead to report on the village the remainder of the Bn followed by march route to RAUSDORF. Orders were received to push on to PAPENDORF 6960 and the CO and Coy Comds carried out a recce of this area for Coy positions prior to the arrival of the Bn, the village having already been cleared by the Carrier Platoon. By midday the Coys had commenced to occupy their def posns but on orders from Bde to the effect that all enemy tps in the HAMBURG garrison area had laid down their arms, the Bn concentrated in the village and was finally disposed with Bn HQ at BRAAK 665603 together with S and D Coys, the remaining three rifle coys spending the night at PAPENDORF.	A Walker Capt IO
PAPENDORF				
BARGTEHEIDE	4th	0900 1000	Veh column leaves BRAAK for conc area in BARGTEHEIDE 6673. Rifle Coys leave BRAAK and proceed by march route to BARGTEHEIDE. Bn HQ was established at 665733 with Coys conc nearby, in the western end of the village. During the evening it was announced the GERMANS had surrendered unconditionally on all Second Army Fronts, hostilities to cease at 0800 hrs 5 May.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx G1
BARGTEHEIDE	5th	0800	An informal Bn parade took place in front of the Command Post to commemorate the end of hostilities. The pipers played the Fall in and after the Cease Fire had been sounded by the bugler, the Commanding Officer addressed all ranks informing them officially of the end of hostilities and congratulating them on the completion of a long and arduous task, since the initial landing in Normandy. He also spoke of the tremendous amount of work which was still to be done in winning the peace, now that we had won the war in Europe. The biggest problem was now the rounding up and dispatch to the PW cage of the hundreds of Germans, on foot, in carts, and in tpt who were now streaming down the roads. Another problem was the feeding etc of the innumerable DPs in the various camps. The Bn was responsible for a Russian PWX camp at JERSBEK 6474 having approx 1700 PWX and the task was given to D Coy, the complete company moving from BARGTEHEIDE to JERSBEK to facilitate the task.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
BARGTEHEIDE				
	6th		With no further tactical role, the Bn now busied itself with admin matters and an increase in sport and recreation. The Bn remained at BARGTEHEIDE until the 14th May and a summary of events until then is given below.	

BARGTEHEIDE	8th		Comd 15(S) Div visits Bn HQ. Pte Nelson, C Coy, takes part in VE Day broadcast after 9pm news from the BBC studio at LUNEBURG.	A Walker Capt IO
	9th		Instrs having been received for a move in the near future to area BAD BRAMSTEDT, the CO, SO and OC HQ Coy carry out recce of this area.	
	11th		On account of the innumerable problems in the BAD BRAMSTEDT area regarding German PsW, allied PWX and DPs, A Coy moved to this area ahead of the Bn, the Coy being located in BAD BRAMSTEDT with Coy HQ at 419943. Recce parties for HQ Coy and Bn HQ move to new area.	A Walker Capt IO
	12th		CO and IO recce new Bn area.	
	13th		Bn attend Bde drumhead service at BARGTEHEIDE, Comd 15(S) Div also attending. B Coy move to new area from BARGTEHEIDE and are est at WAHLSTEDT in NAVAL ARSENAL with Coy HQ at 624980.	
KREIS SEGEBURG BAD BRAMSTEDT	14th		Remainder of Bn move to new area according to Appx A to 8RS S/7 of 13 May. Bn HQ est at 419930 with HQ Coy A Coy area BAD BRAMSTEDT HQ at 419943 B Coy area WAHLSTEDT 6298 HQ at 624980 C Coy area BOOSTEDT 5004 HQ at 507042 D Coy area RICKLING 5904 HQ at 598037 S Coy area GROSSENASPE 4600 HQ at 470005	See Appx G2 A Walker Capt IO
BAD BRAMSTEDT	15th 15- 31st		The Commanding Officer proceeds on Gas Course to UK and Major Douglass MBE, 2i/c takes over Command. Coys were now busily engaged in making a census of all DPs PWXs etc in Coy areas. A coy area of responsibility covered many square miles when it is considered that to travel round the bn area entailed a journey of almost 50 miles. There were numerous DP camps, munition dumps etc throughout the area needing administered or guarding while the rounding up of enemy stragglers and mounting of check points had to be continued. A considerable increase in the sporting activities of coys took place with numerous inter-coy football matches.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx G3 A Walker Capt IO

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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson DSO

Month and Year June 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BAD BRAMSTEDT	1st		Locations no change - Bn remains in BAD BRAMSTEDT area disposed as follows Bn HQ 419930 with HQ Coy. A Coy area BAD BRAMSTEDT with Coy HQ 419943 B Coy area WAHLSTEDT, HQ at 624980. C Coy area BOOSTEDT 5004, HQ at 507042. D Coy area RICKLING 5904, HQ at 598037 S Coy area GROSSENASPE 4600, HQ at 470005. Nothing of importance to report - Normal occupational tasks and administration continues.	
BAD BRAMSTEDT	7th		Commanding Officer returns from leave and re-assumes command of the Bn. OC HQ Coy (Capt WS Cox) and 2i/c (Major JAH Douglass) proceed to SCHWERIN, MECKLENBURG to carry out a recce of the area to which the Bn would be moving within a few days.	A Walker Capt
	8th		Commanding Officer, 2i/c and IO carry out recce of new area at SCHWERIN. S and A Coy hold Coy sports during the afternoon. HQ Coy Concert Party give a concert to a representative number from Coys in the evening.	
BAD BRAMSTEDT	10th		Advance party of Bn leave for new area. Bn preparing for move on following day.	A Walker Capt IO
SCHWERIN 1/100,000	11th	0830	Bn leaves BAD BRAMSTEDT and moves to SCHWERIN. Bn HQ est at SCHWERIN 437651 A Coy at PLATE 4957 - BANZKOW 5154 with Coy HQ at PLATE 498571. B Coy - Coy HQ at 438640 and Coy Conc in immediate vicinity. C Coy - Coy HQ at 435637 with Coy Conc in immediate vicinity. D Coy - Coy HQ at 477627 with two pls area MUESS 4862 one platoon 492622. S Coy HQ in Ordnance Dump at 463582 with pls disposed in adjoining dumps in BUCHHOLZ FOREST. The bn was now responsible for manning	See Appx. G1, G2 A Walker Capt

SH L6. MR. 4365			frontier posts along the STOR Kanaal, the demarcation line between the British and Russian zones of occupation. This task was carried out by D Coy who manned a frontier post at 492622 while A Coy were responsible for frontier posts at PLATE (499575 and 501573) and BANZKOW (514542). In addition Coys carried out a census of the areas allotted with regard to PWX and DPs. Considerable quantities of enemy arms and eqpt scattered about the area were centralised and disposed of. General administration continues.	A Walker Capt IO
SCHWERIN	14th		During the afternoon a Bde rehearsal parade for the visit of the Comd 2nd Army on the 16th took place.	
	16th	1130 1215	Bn marches on parade, at parade ground in front of MUSEUM, SCHWERIN for inspection of 44 (L) Bde by Lt General Dempsey KCB DSO MC Commander 2nd Army. After the inspection the Army Commander delivered a farewell address on the dissolution of 2nd Army as a fd force.	A Walker Capt IO
SCHWERIN	19th		Information having been received that the present area would be handed over to Russian control in the near future, the CO & IO carry out a recce of stop lines to be manned during the period of the change over to prevent civilian movement from the area to the west. OC C Coy carried out a recce of the second Stop Line for which his Coy was to be responsible.	See Appx. G3.
SCHWERIN	20th		D Coy provide ceremonial guard of one officer and 50 ORs at their frontier post for visit of Russian General to the British zone of occupation as the guest of Maj Gen Barber DSO Comd 15 (S) Div.	A Walker Capt IO
	21st		C Coy hold Coy Sports during the afternoon.	
SCHWERIN	24th		An event of almost international importance took place during the afternoon when a Russian football eleven on the invitation of Major Cadzow MC came over to play a D Coy eleven at football. A number of Red Army officers and men were present including the Div General, the Russians also bringing their band. Our own battalion was there in strength, complete with pipe band, while in addition there was a good representation from the staff of Bde & Div HQ. After a most enjoyable game D Coy won by 10 goals to 6. After the match the Russian team and officers were entertained to tea by D Coy.	See Appx J1 A Walker Capt IO
	25th		Due to demands war made on the bn for drafts for SEAC the CO held a Coy Commanders' conference to discuss the situation.	A Walker Capt IO
SCHWERIN	30th	0930	Orders having been received that the Russians would take over the area wef 1st July, the Commanding Officer attends Conference at HQ	

		<p>44 Bde and a warning order is issued to Coys to be prepared to move on the 1st July.</p> <p>1030 CO's conference for Coy Comds at Bn HQ to discuss the move.</p> <p>1200 Zero hour for Op "COMMA". Stop lines manned.</p> <p>During the afternoon Coy adv parties left independently for BAD BRAMSTEDT area to which the bn was returning.</p>	<p>See Appx. G3.</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
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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 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson DSO

Month and Year July 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
SCHWERIN Ref 1/100,000 Sh. L6 4365 BAD BRAMSTEDT	1st	0800 0900 1530	Russians cross demarcation line and take over VPs in area. Bn leaves SCHWERIN in TCVs and proceeds to area BAD BRAMSTEDT (Ref 1/100000 Sh K4, 4194) area originally occupied by the bn. Posts which had been manned for OP 'COMMA' were withdrawn by 1000 hrs. Bn arrives area BAD BRAMSTEDT. Coys proceed to areas originally occupied except B Coy now located in BAD BRAMSTEDT. Bn now disposed as follows. Bn HQ - BAD BRAMSTEDT - 419927 HQ Coy - BAD BRAMSTEDT - 419928 A Coy - BAD BRAMSTEDT - HQ at 419943 B Coy - BAD BRAMSTEDT - HQ at 413943 C Coy - BOOSTEDT - HQ at 507043 D Coy - RICKLING - HQ at 602033. S Coy - GROSSENASPE - HQ at 470005.	A Walker Capt IO
	2nd		Coys settling in in new areas. General administration and reorganisation takes place. Census of Coy areas with Ref to DP/PWX Camps commenced, and normal occupational duties continue.	
	4th	0915	CO attends Mil Gov Conference at BAD SEGEBURG.	
	5th- 12th		Nothing of importance to report	
	7th		CO carried out admin inspection of HQ Coy.	
BAD BRAMSTEDT	13th/ 14th		Bn sports held at BAD BRAMSTEDT. The weather was excellent and competition between Coys very keen. Preliminary heats were run off on 1st day, main events being carried through on 14th. S Coy won the inter-Coy competition. Div Comd Maj Gen CM Barber DSO attended and presented the prizes at the conclusion of the sports.	A Walker Capt IO
	15/ 22nd		Nothing to report.	
	23rd		CO's conference for Coy Comds	
	26th		Commanding Officer's admin inspection of D Coy.	

	27th		B Coy play S Coy 6 KOSB in final of Bde Basket Ball Competition and win by 22 pts to 8.	
	29th		Farewell Church parade attended by all Coys. Address given by SCF 15 (S) Div who was giving up appointment on return to civilian life (Rev AW Sawyer C.F.)	A Walker Capt IO
BAD BRAMSTEDT	30th		COs conference for Coy Comds Inspection of vehs in Bn by CREME 15 (S) Div	
	31st		Lt Gen EH Barker CB, DSO, MC visits the bn and carries out a general admin inspection of HQ and S Coys.	A Walker Capt IO