

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 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