

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 15 (S) Recce Regt, R.A.C.

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year June 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. J.A. Grant Peterkin

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Angmering	4		The Div Comdr, Maj. General G.H.A. MacMillan, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., visited the Regt and talked to each Sqn regarding forthcoming ops. He lunched with R.H.Q. Mess afterwards. During this period the whole Regt was employed feverishly waterproofing vehs, teams being run as under:- 'A' Vehs - Lieut P.C. Kerridge - (Cars). Lieut R.H. Fleet - (Carriers). 'B' Vehs - Lieut W.H. Rogers. By this date practically all stores were complete and the Regt could have moved at short notice.	
	5		At 2300 hrs a very large formation of Tp Carrying Aircraft passed over Angmering-on-Sea heading across the Channel with their lights on, followed by continual air activity all night.	
Angmering	6		The invasion of France started and the peacefulness of Angmering-on-Sea was not further disturbed until 1900 hrs, when what appeared to be a complete Airborne Division passed overhead.	
	7-10.		Final preparations made and vehs stowed for embarkation. Full loading trials held to discover whether it was possible to carry the mass of useful stores which it was proposed should be taken.	
	11		Lieut J.A. Isaac, Sgt Millroy, J., and Cpl Kay, J., left to join 227 Bde as the Regtl Advance Party.	
	16.		Orders received for the Regt to move to 'A' Marshalling Area near Portsmouth on 17 June.	
	17.		Regt, less 'B' Sqn left for the Marshalling Area, moving via Arundel, Chichester, Midhurst and Petersfield. All vehs, except 15-cwt W.T. G.S. which overturned, arrived safely at the Marshalling Area. Major K.C.C. Smith and 'B' Sqn (Major A. Gordon) remained in Angmering as Comdr Div Residues and Regtl Residues respectively. They moved to Worthing on 19 June.	

Denmead		<p>On arrival at the Marshalling area there was considerable chaos as no Ship Sheet had been sent by Movement Control, and all vehs had to be split up from Sqns and Tps into their Ship Loads, and it was not until midnight that the following Craft Loads were organised:-</p> <p>(a) L.S.T. 1107. O.C. Craft - Commanding Officer.  (b) L.S.T. 1108. " - Major H. Mills.  (c) L.S.T. 1109. " - Major L. Rowlands.  (d) L.S.T. 997. " - Lieut H.A. Green.  (e) L.S.T. 998. " - Capt. J.E.F. Lane.</p> <p>The Marshalling Camp was situated at Denmead, 4 miles south of Petersfield, where the vehs remained about a mile from the Camp, where everything was well organised by the Static Staff for the Regt.</p>	
	18.	<p>Early in the morning Embarkation Rations, lifebelts, vomit bags, etc., were drawn up and the Regt was ready to move forward by 1300 hrs, it being thought then that they would move probably that night.</p>	
Denmead	18-26.	<p>Owing to a break in the weather and a very strong gale, this period was spent in the Marshalling Area as practically all movement to France ceased. The Regt, split up into Craft Loads and thus rather disorganised, spent the time doing final preparations to the vehs and kit, letter writing, going to the cinemas and concerts and sleeping. As no move was envisaged by the end of the week, a short trg scheme was carried out on Saturday, with a considerable number of free fights developing between patrols, there being no casualties.</p> <p>The chief difficulty during this wait was to procure enough money for everyone.</p>	
	25	<p>At 2300 hrs the Camp Blower called for Serial 1107, and true to Movement Control form, having spent a week waiting, we were ordered to move in ¼ hr. This Craft Serial passed the S.P. at 0300 hrs on the 26th en route for the Embarkation Area at Gosport, where all vehs safely arrived. Serials 1108 and 1109 followed the next day. About 10 hrs were spent sitting in the streets of Gosport waiting to be called to the hards, orders for which were received at about 1900 hrs for the Regt to go forward at once, no previous notice having been given. Loading commenced at about 2200 hrs and was finished by about 0200 hrs no difficulty being experienced in loading the vehs.</p>	
	27.	<p>In spite of a gale warning and bad weather reports, the convoy left at 1000 hrs to cross, and duly ran into a first-class Channel gale, causing a considerable number of those on board to be very sick. The craft beached at about 1900 hrs that night on a falling tide and vehs commenced to disembark into about 4' of water. Owing to holes</p>	

Field.		<p>in the beaches the Beachmaster ordered unloading to cease till the following morning when the L.S.T. was re-beached and unloaded into about 1' 6" of water.</p> <p>No vehs drowned except one M.5. which went into a hole and the water came in over the back. All Serials disembarked on the beaches at Arromanches and moved forthwith to a Transit Area where first stages of de-waterproofing was completed and vehs re-stowed for battle. The a/Tk Bty did not arrive until 30 June.</p> <p>During this period the 15th (Scottish) Division was leading the fight in the Battle of the Odon, and unfortunately the Regt was not available to take its proper place.</p>	
Field.	30.	<p>The Regiment (less A/Tk Bty) moved forward in Divisional reserve to PUTOT EN BESSIN (9072), when early that morning, immediately on arrival, 'C' Sqn (Major H. Mills) was ordered forward to come under command of 44 Bde (Brigadier H.D.K. Money) to fill a gap on the Corps boundary (30/8 Corps) between 15 (S) and 49 Divs, acting more in the role of an Inf Coy than a Recce Sqn, taking up positions about 1 mile south of HOTE DE BOSQ. This position was in very thickly wooded country where vehs were of little or no value.</p> <p>At about 1335 hrs, R.H.Q. was shelled (25 shells of 10.5 c.m.) this being the first taste of battle which the Regt had had. No casualties were inflicted as a certain amount of digging had already been done. A considerably further amount of digging was done after this incident.</p>	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 15 (S) Reconnaissance Regiment, R.A.C.

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year July 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. J.A. Grant

Peterkin

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Field.	1		Regiment in Div reserve, PUTOT-EN-BESSIN. 'A' Sqn (Major Rowlands) went forward to "plug a hole" on right of 6 KOSB south of CHEUX, where they were deployed as infantry in very thick and close country. Only slight enemy activity in this area, though the enemy still insisted in making small counter attacks with tanks. A/Tk Tps went forward to join 'A' and 'C' Sqns in action. Their field of fire was normally 100 yds - hardly what they had trained for. The smell at CHEUX from dead cattle was starting to be evident in the warmer weather.	
	2.		160 Bde (53 Div) relieved 44 Inf Bde in the CHEUX sector. 'A' & 'C' Sqns relieved and returned to Regtl harbour at PUTOT, into which came at the same time, unfortunately, a battery of 155 c.m. guns.	
	3.		Maintenance at PUTOT. Div at rest after its most successful weeks actions in the "Scottish Corridor".	
	4-5.		Maintenance, baths, and cinemas. It is clear that tps are now learning how to look after themselves.	
Field.	6		Gen. Montgomery addressed all C.Os. of 15 (S) Division and gave a resume of what had been done and what he hoped would happen. Regiment still at rest.	
	7.		Regiment still resting. Inter-Tp basket ball competition won by 10 Troop, 'C' Sqn. CAEN bombed by 450 heavy bombers at 2200 hrs. Visible air support is a great moral raiser for the troops who do not understand what air support is when they can't see it.	
	8.		Regiment at rest. 'A' Sqn warned for independent role with 46 Bde.	
	9.		'A' Sqn moved up to area VERNON with 46 Bde to assist in 'mopping up' WEST of CAEN, CARPIQUET aerodrome having been taken by the Canadians. Remainder of Regiment at rest.	

Field.	10.	<p>'A' Sqn went forward on reconnaissance role in front of 46 Bde in direction Verson - Eterville - Maltot and to reach line of R. Odon. It was thought that this area was fairly clear and 4 Arm'd Bde moved up to behind Eterville in the early afternoon.</p> <p>The enemy was in fact in great strength on the reverse slopes behind Eterville and 3 Troop (Lieut Arundel) on trying to recce forward to Maltot met heavy 88 mm fire from hull down tanks on crossing Rd Caen - Eterville. Both leading cars (Lieut Arundel and Sgt Ireland) hit and burnt. All Sgt Ireland's crew escaped, but Lieut Arundel and his driver, Tpr Griffiths, were killed, though this was not confirmed for about 10 days.</p> <p>The carriers of this troop were brought back rather hurriedly and it is presumed that the Sqn Comdr went forward to take charge. It was afterwards discovered that his L.R.C. had received a direct hit from probably a 105 c.m. gun, and for 24 hrs he was missing.</p> <p>No. 2 Troop was in close contact with the Glasgow Highlanders in Eterville where they were under very heavy fire and unable to move forward or gain any further information regarding the strength of the enemy.</p> <p>As dark fell the Sqn rallied back and harboured just south of Verson under Capt Davies. The loss of the Sqn Comdr, Lieut Arundel, Lieut Rencher and other casualties both from enemy action and battle exhaustion had a very bad effect on this Sqn in its first days action, and an uncomfortable night was spent under moderate shell and mortar fire. They did, however, produce some valuable information for HQ 46 Bde even though they were sent out on false information as regards the strength of the enemy. Lieut Blair's troop, who must have proceeded forward very well, got into the outskirts of Louvigny and caused casualties to German infantry to the north of the village. The moral effect which a Troop Comdr can have on his troop was very clear on this day.</p> <p>The remainder of the Regiment less 'A' Sqn still at rest at Putot-en-Bessin.</p>	
Field.	11.	<p>'A' Sqn placed under the orders of 214 Bde (43 Div) and carried out useful Officer patrols up to the forward Bns (Pt. 112) where a major battle was starting. The Sqn, apart from these Officer patrols, was not further engaged and were ordered on the relief of 46 Bde that night to return to rejoin the Regiment at Putot.</p>	
	12-13 -14.	Regiment concentrated at Putot.	

Field.	15.	<p>Orders for a further exploitation by 15 (S) Division for the capture of the area EVRECY - ETERVILLE - GAVRUS being worked out. No role for the Regiment was available and it was therefore decided by the Div Comdr that a Traffic Control Organisation under the Commanding Officer would be set up to ensure smooth traffic over the crossings of the R. ODON, where there were very severe bottlenecks. The Control HQ with exit and entrance parties for 5 routes (Hereford, Dundee, Quarry (2) and Coal (1 &amp; 2)) were set up, Control HQ being in an orchard on the Verson Rd just above QUARRY route. The attack started on the evening of 14 July and considerable difficulty in passing through was experienced owing to the large number of tanks in the area and rearward traffic of other Divs. Enemy mortar fire in this area was particularly heavy.</p> <p>It was also decided for this action that all the carriers of 'A' Sqn (21) would be available for the Bdes to assist in the evacuation of casualties. They went forward and reported to the ADMS under Lieut Dalton and carried out a most useful if unorthodox role most successfully.</p>	
Field.	16.	<p>'C' Sqn south of CARPIQUET aerodrome had the role of following up left of 227 Bde with orders to attack and capture Pt. 120 behind EVRECY once 158 Bde (53 Div), who were under command 15 (S) Div, were to capture EVRECY and the high ground just beyond. They were to exploit success down to AUNAY SUR ORNE. This attack took place late in the evening and failed to achieve any success, though 'C' Sqn moved forward at first light and waited at BARON whilst a further attack was being laid on.</p> <p>Traffic Control Organisation still functioning, though little traffic and no blocks on roads, chiefly owing to the small number of individual running through the intensity of enemy mortar fire in this area.</p> <p>Heavy bombing attack by enemy aircraft on the Verson Rd at 2230 hrs, resulting in one route being blocked, but no casualties.</p>	
	17.	<p>'C' Sqn ordered back to their original harbour as it was clear that there was to be no recce beyond EVRECY which was very strongly held and no forward movement had been made by 158 Bde. There was considerable fog of war on this day and it was never clear as to whether the enemy was being driven back or not. Traffic control organisation still set up at Verson. Remainder of the Regt moved fwd from PUTOT-EN-BESSIN to fwd harbour just south of CHEUX. Bombing attack by enemy aircraft hit 'A' Sqn harbour</p>	

			this evening and destroyed 7 vehs, all of which were completely burnt out.	
	18.		Control of Traffic routes handed over to 53 Recce Regt and control HQ returned to the Regtl Harbour south of CHEUX at 907685. 'B' Sqn (Residue) disembarked on this day.	
Field.	19.		Regt at rest. Advance Party 'B' Sqn rejoined Regt.	
	20.		'B' Sqn joined Regt in Harbour.	
	21.		In order to help 46 Bde who were still in the line to rest, the 3 Assault Tps under Major MacDiarmid went forward to LE VALTRU under comd O.C. 7 Seaforths where they took over the fwd posts and carried out for 48 hrs an inf role patrolling and sniping. Very heavy rain made this task rather unpleasant for them.	
	23.		15 (S) Div ordered to relieve 5 U.S. Div south of BALLEROY. Peace-time trg for convoy driving showed its value, though other traffic severely interfered with the column. 'C' Sqn went straight fwd into the line in support of 44 Bde as the connecting link between the right of 15 Div and 2 U.S. Div, where they took over an area from the Americans in very thick country, bocage and orchards, giving a minimum field of fire. They learnt some interesting points from our American Allies. The Assault Tps under Major MacDiarmid closed up on the Regt that night.	
Field.	24		'C' Sqn plus a Tp of A/Tk guns and a Section of the Mortar Tp carried out patrols on the right of the Div in liaison with 2 U.S. Div who made a large scale attack on this day. The remainder of the Regt concentrated at BALLEROY.	
	25.		'C' Sqn still holding the right Div area under 46 Bde, who relieved 44 Bde early this morning. Orders received for the Regt to take over BRIQUESSARD from 61 Recce Regt (50 Div). Initial recces made.	
	26.		Regt still concentrated at rest under pleasant circumstances at BALLEROY. 'C' Sqn still with 46 Bde where control of No Mans' Land was being obtained after the 'laissez faire' attitude of our Allies. 15 Div patrols took control of No Mans' Land. Late in the evening at short notice the Regt moved 600 yards across a main road in order to please the A/Q and make it easier for an Armd fmn to concentrate.	
Field.	28.		'C' Sqn returned to harbour where orders for Operation BLUECOAT (Pt 309 & St. MARTIN DES BESACES) were received. This cancelled the Regiment taking over BRIQUESSARD WOOD where complete recces had been done down to Tp Comdrs.	

	29.		Final briefing for Operation BLUECOAT in which 'A' & 'B' Sqns were to move with the Regiments of 6 Gds Tank Bde who were to exploit forward as quickly as possible to take full advantage of attacks by heavy and medium bombers. 'C' Sqn to be ready to pass through on the right flank and "attack" ST MARTIN DES BESACES. The first real Recce job that the Regt had been given.	
Field.	30.		'A' & 'B' Sqns moved forward into inf and tank F.A.A. at 0500 hrs and after heavy successful bombing by aircraft moved fwd in support of 227 Bde. 'A' Sqn, who were <del>under command</del> in support 7 Seaforths (46 Bde) did much useful work in mopping up enemy pockets behind the Gds Tank Bde. Considerable difficulty was encountered with vehicles owing to the thick country and mines which had been laid on the tracks. In the middle of the morning Capt Fordyce (B Sqn) in an LRC was blown up, he being wounded by S.A. fire and the remainder of his crew being killed. The attack by 15 (S) Division was very successful and orders were recd that the 11 Armd Div would carry out the clearing of ST MARTIN DE BESACES as it was clear that there was considerable enemy opposition in this area. At 1500 hrs the Divisional Comdr gave orders to the Commanding Officer that the Regiment would be at very short notice to move through 15 (S) Division and to try and get to the high ground at LE BENY BOCAGE that night. As the Regiment was still back at BALLEROY it was clear that there would be very little time in daylight for this operation to take place. Final orders were received from the Army and Corps Comdrs at 1700 hrs, by which time the Regiment was moving forward to a temporary harbour just north of CAUMONT, where final orders were given for the Regt to move to HERVIEUX, from where 'C' Sqn was to lead the "Second Army Break-out". The situation was painted in such rosy terms that it was decided that night recce should be undertaken, and it was not until about 1 hr before dark that 'C' Sqn moved fwd on unreconnoitred tracks to pass through the fwd inf at Pt 309 where they could fan out to the South. ST MARTIN DE BESACES was still held and a gap of only 1 mile was available for us to pass through. 'A' & 'B' Sqns by this time had concentrated on the main axis and were prepared for follow 'C'. Considerable difficulty was at once met with by the fwd tps as the vehicles were inextricably bogged in the small tracks and lanes, and it became clear that no large scale fwd movement would be possible unless ST MARTIN was clear. An Officer patrol from 'B' Sqn, 2 H.C.R. under the regiment was sent forward to discover if a fresh way could be found as it was clear that 11 Armd Div were not	
Field.				



		seriously contemplating clearing ST MARTIN that night. Tanks were reported in ST MARTIN and though active patrols took place all night, no way through was discovered. In fact it was very strongly held by the enemy.	
Field.	31.	At first light scout tps of 'C' Sqn succeeded in getting over Pt 309 and down as far as VAUX MARTIN 6948 where they succeeded in dominating the high ground and moved forward to LA MANCELLIERE. A major attack was staged by 11 Armd Div at ST MARTIN DE BESACES, which was not cleared until about 1500 hrs, when infm was received that the Gds Armd Div would have complete priority on roads the next day in order that they might pass through to gain the high ground at LE BENY BOCAGE. 'C' Sqn, therefore returned to a harbour just north of ST MARTIN DE BESACES. 'A' & 'B' Sqns were at short notice to move, in their harbours just south of HERVIEUX, as soon as the roads were clear.	

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**WAR DIARY**

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Unit 15 (S) Reconnaissance Regiment.

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year August, 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. J.A. Grant Peterkin

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
B.L.A.	1		The Regiment situated just behind ST MARTIN DES BESACES, which contrary to expectations was strongly held by the enemy, who were only driven out after a full day's battle. This held up our reconnaissance forward and shortly afterwards the Gds Armd Div was given priority on all roads. 'B' Sqn in support of 46 Bde late this evening were given the task of clearing up the area GALET - LA MARCELLIERE which was held by pockets of the enemy. This was successfully carried out, though Lieut CAREY and 4 O.R's lost their lives in this action. Dust was the chief problem this day.	
	2.		Regiment moved forward about 1000 hrs to protect left flank of the Div, R.H.Q. moving to LA BRESSI, which was overlooked by the high feature of MONTAGNY. 'C' Sqn moved to left flank to link up with 43 Div who were advancing from Pt 361. 'A' & 'B' Sqns were in reserve. Area of R.H.Q. was repeatedly shelled all evening from MONTAGNY, the enemy having seen the tpt moving about.	
B.L.A.	3		'A' Sqn were placed under command Gds Armd Div and sent at 0700 hrs to help the Motor Grenadier Gds at St PIERRE VASCUTIN, where they spent a most unpleasant day under continuous artillery and mortar fire. They assisted in repelling many heavy counter attacks. They were relieved at 2000 hrs and returned to BRESSI. 'C' Sqn spent the day actively patrolling the left flank and had one or two good shoots; in one case 100 Germans were seen concentrating in an avenue of trees and were effectively dispersed by our artillery.	
	4		Good progress was made by 'C' Sqn on this day, and they occupied MONTAGNY, from where the enemy had withdrawn the previous night.	
	5		R.H.Q., 'B' & 'C' Sqns moved up and harboured near MONT CHARIVEL.	
B.L.A.	6		Battle of ESTRY. Based on false information regarding the strength of the enemy, the Regiment was ordered to reconnoitre the advance of the Div from MONTCHARIVEL area SOUTH on 3 routes to VASSY. It was soon discovered that ESTRY was very heavily held and that the main road South to LE THEIL was also held and mined and covered by tanks	

			and MGs. 'C' Sqn with 9 Troop got into ESTRY and discovered much information regarding the strength of the enemy, but it was soon obvious that a full scale major attack would have to be made to get past this town. 9 Tp under Lieut ROYLE withdrew and stood off and continued to harass the enemy and passed valuable information to the infantry who made little progress throughout the day. On the other route, 10 Tp under Lieut RIESCO moved down the road towards LE THEIL but found area 788390 heavily covered by fire, and in view of vehicle casualties were ordered to withdraw to LA CAVERIE. The leading infantry got no further on this day and the troops of 'C' Sqn were ordered to withdraw back to harbour at 1700 hrs. On the left flank 'B' Sqn tried to patrol down to LASSY but again they found that the enemy was in strength, and with the bad condition of tracks made little or no progress.	
B.L.A.	7.		'A' Sqn moved out to give left flank protection on the left of 46 Bde on the Bdy between 15 Div and 43 Div. They moved out to the AU CORNU X Rds with mortars under command and captured the high ground Pt 226 without incident. Considerable enemy movement was seen on the far slopes but no attack was made on them. The remainder of the Regiment remained concentrated at MONTCHARIVEL.	
	8		In view of the large area 'A' Sqn were keeping, the Assault Tps of 'B' & 'C' Sqns were placed under command 'A' Sqn who were actively patrolling this area on the left flank. The Mortar section had their first real opportunity this day to fire at the enemy.	
	9		The Regiment still in the MONTCHARIVEL area. 'B' Sqn took over the position on the left flank from 'A' Sqn, who returned to rest.	
B.L.A.	10		Situation still static. 'B' Sqn still holding left flank where they managed to get patrols down as far as the river line in front of them. Indications were received this day to make it possible that the enemy were starting to withdraw in this area, and orders were given for the "ESTRY operation" to be laid on again should the enemy retire. Late that afternoon a Sqn of the Inns of Court (30 Corps Armd Car Regt) were ordered up to relieve 'B' Sqn. The reactions of an Armd Car Regt taking over from an Inf Div were interesting, and it was agreed to leave mortars and A/Tk guns with them so as to strengthen them.	
	11		The Div resting waiting for the enemy to withdraw as it was now the policy not to rush the "ESTRY Operation" whilst the enemy were holding their strong positions. All Orders were issued for this advance should the enemy withdraw.	
	12.		Regiment still concentrated in harbour at MONTCHARIVEL. Orders rec'd at about 1800 hrs that the Div would move early next day to an area	

B.L.A.		between the R. ORNE and LEIZE (CAEN Sector). About 2 hrs later and about ½ hr before dark orders were received on the wireless for the Operation ESTRY to be put into operation, although it was clear that nothing could be done in the remaining few minutes of daylight. Troops prepared, and in certain cases moved out of harbour, but fortunately this order was then rescinded, particularly as once again the information on which the order was based proved later to be faulty. The Orders to move the following day to the CAEN Sector were re-issued.	
	13.	The Regiment moved at mid-day to AMAYE-SUR-ORNE, the route passing through much of the previous battle areas including VILLERS BOCAGE (which was completely flat), Pt 112, and the area of our previous battles round Verson. We returned to the real battle-field area where the stink of war still remained.	
	14.	An inactive day owing to the road situation, other formations having priority; the main relief being some excellent bathing in the ORNE.	
	15.	Same location. The day was memorable for the visit of the first Canteen, a good ENSA show, and insects.	
B.L.A.	16.	Maj.Gen C.M. BARBER, DSO, who took over the Division on 8 Aug when Gen MacMILLAN was wounded, visited the Regiment and spoke to each Sqn to introduce himself, not that this was necessary as he had previously commanded 46 Bde, and to say that he felt that perhaps the Regiment was not always given credit for the work that was done by Senior Commanders who normally visited the Inf Bdes after the Division had done well in battle.	
	17.	Same Location. Nothing to report.	
	18.	Regiment moved to LA FRESNIL LA BIEUX. By this time we were practically in Army Base Sub-area and it was getting a bit depressing to be so far behind the enemy.	
	19	Orders were received for the movement Eastwards once the FALAISE gap was finally cleaned up, but no time or date of move could be given.	
	20.	Still waiting to move and still getting further into the L of C area, the Army installations actually being set up in front of the Regiment.	
B.L.A.	21.	'A' Sqn were placed under command of the "Royals" (12 Corps Armd Car Regt) and moved to LE TREPREL where they waited to get a flying start for Exercise 'GALLOP' (the move Eastwards to the R. SEINE). A report was received via various channels by 'A' Sqn this afternoon that there were 40 enemy SW of FALAISE. This was investigated by O.C. 'A' Sqn and it turned out that the location was Tac HQ 2nd Army, the first enemy to be seen being the Army Commander driving in in his Jeep!	

	22.		Still waiting for orders to go. 'A' Sqn ceased to be under command of the "Royals" but remained at their forward location of LE TREPREL.	
	23.		Final preparations for the move. Regiment moved at 1800 hrs to LA HOUGETTE preparatory for an early move next day, the FALAISE GAP having been finally cleaned up.	
B.L.A.	24.		The Regiment moved off at first light on what was really route reconnaissance eastwards, passing through the FALAISE battle area where the destruction by our aircraft and armour was obvious. Each Sqn had under command large parties of Engineers with bulldozers, and progress was very slow owing to other traffic and the enemy vehicles demolished on the road. Forward Sqns reached the line LE SAP - BRENAI that night.	
	25.		The Regiment continued its movement the following day with the object of crossing the River EAST of LE BEAUMONT DE ROGER. No contact was made but considerable reconnaissance had to be done in order to find crossing places over the many streams and rivers where the bridges had been well demolished by the Germans. The Regiment reached the line of LE NEURBOURG - BARQUET.	
	26.		Reconnaissance for the crossing of the R. SEINE started. 'C' Sqn moved forward through LOUVIERS and reached the high ground WEST of the SEINE without incident and commenced to find out as much as they could regarding the river line. Patrols were sent to the left and right and a Patrol Report (Appx 'A') was sent to Division that night.	Appx A.
B.L.A.	27.		<p>The Regiment moved forward to just WEST of LOUVIERS and the active reconnaissance of the river line was undertaken. Though not expressly ordered, members of the Regiment were the first of the Division to cross this major obstacle. Patrols had for a long time reconnoitred the whole bank and shot up enemy on the far side, when a report was received that Lieut WHEELER and 2 N.C.O's had found a boat, crossed the SEINE and had reconnoitred PORT JOIE, which they found very nearly empty. On the right flank Lieut SHIRLEY had crossed in an Assault Boat to an island and from there to the far side, and had reconnoitred MUIDS, where it was proposed a Class 9 bridge be put down.</p> <p>Very full and accurate reports were sent in this day and a full Recce Patrol Report (Appx 'B') was made up and sent to the Div Comdr that night.</p> <p>As a result of these reports it was decided that a rush crossing should be made by 227 Bde that afternoon, much earlier than had at one time been anticipated. All the reports which these patrols had</p>	Appx B

B.L.A.		given were confirmed when this crossing was successfully made by 227 Bde. Very useful work had been done by the patrols of the Regiment, particularly 'C' Sqn, on these two days and they were largely responsible for the early crossing of the R. SEINE.	
	28.	<p>As a result of representations made, Armd Car patrols of 'A' &amp; 'C' Sqns were ferried across at first light next morning so that if there was little opposition as expected these patrols could get the maximum information for the infantry. These patrols, acting very boldly, reached a considerable way inland and were able to give very valuable information regarding the small posts of the enemy to the infantry, who were able to achieve their objectives without any difficulty.</p> <p>As soon as the bridges were built - Class 9 at MUIDS and Class 40 at St PIERRE, the remainder of 'A' &amp; 'B' Sqns were to cross the river and continue to patrol actively eastwards. These patrols produced a very great amount of valuable information this day. Serious opposition was met on the right by 'A' Sqn at LE THUIT, FRETTEVILLE and LES ANDELYS, whilst 'D' Sqn also on the left ran into various enemy pockets.</p>	
B.L.A.	29.	<p>Owing to the bridges taking longer than was expected, the Regiment harboured for the night 28/29 Aug just short of the river and moved across at 0530 hrs and joined up with the Armd Cars EAST of the SEINE, and 'A' &amp; 'B' Sqns continued on their task of reconnoitring in front of the Division, 'A' Sqn having crossed the bridge at MUIDS, the remainder of the Regiment crossing at St PIERRE VAUDRAY. On the right, 'A' Sqn found very considerable opposition at FRETTEVILLE and LE THUIT where they undertook a very successful action, destroying many of the enemy.</p> <p>Of the Scout Troops under Lieuts BLOUNT, KERRIDGE and DALTON, the former was responsible for the liberation of LES ANDELYS from which the enemy had evacuated that morning. On the left 'B' Sqn reached the line of the Army Bdy up to ECOUIS where they harboured for the night, having carried out their role very well. 'C' Sqn were released at mid-day when it was clear that a breakthrough was possible and moved between 'A' &amp; 'B' Sqns to get as far as SAUSSY where they came up against strong enemy posts and made contact with the left flank of 11 Armd Div, who were starting their run which took them to BRUSSELS. RHQ moved up to LE LANDE. That night we were informed, much to our disgust, that 53 Div were to pass through 15 (S) Div next day and that we were to clear the roads for them.</p>	
B.L.A.			

	30		53 Div passed through 15 (S) Div, and the only action we were allowed to take was to patrol to our flanks and mop up certain enemy pockets in the woods nearby where the MACQUIS were very active.	
B.L.A.	31.		The Regiment concentrated in the area ECOUIS - MUSSEGROS. A letter was received by the Commanding Officer from the Divisional Commander congratulating the Regiment on its work in the past few days, and a Special Order of the Day was published and is attached at Appx 'C'. It was thought that morning that we were likely to rest for 4 or 5 days, but at 1440 hrs orders were received for the Regiment to come under command of 53 Div for flank protection of 7 Armd Div who were advancing on AMIENS and ARRAS. The Commanding Officer received orders from G.O.C. 53 Div to move at first light next morning to FRY 5223.	Appx C.

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 15 Scottish Reconnaissance Regt

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. K.C.C. Smith

Month and Year Sep 44.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
B.L.A.	1		The Regiment under command 53 Div moved up at first light to the area of MARLERS. We arrived there about 1500 hrs having met no opposition on the way and having liaised with the Canadians who were on our left and who appeared to be doing very well.	
	2.		Regiment at rest in MARLERS Area and awaiting orders for the next phase, having reverted to the command of 15 (S) Div.	
	3.		5th Anniversary of outbreak of war. Regtl Church Service to commemorate this. Div Comd called and stayed to lunch. He warned us to be ready to move on or about 5 Sep. The Commanding Officer held a conference of Regtl Officers to discuss Regtl matters.	
	4.		The day was spent in briefing and preparing for the next battle, or rather chase. We were briefed for the flank protection of the Div in the advance to ROULERS in BELGIUM. The Commanding Officer attended a Div 'O' Gp at 1500 hrs.	
B.L.A.	5.		The Regiment moved up to the area of HOUVAIN. This was a peace move, the Regiment merely catching up the lag between ourselves and the Armour.	
	6.		The Regiment moved off at first light via ARRAS to BELLEGHEM, crossing the BELGIAN Frontier at about 1000 hrs. 'B' Sqn cleared an FAA for the inf in the area at BELLEGHEM. 'A' & 'C' Sqns recced out on the flanks, 'A' Sqn in the area of KIRKHOVE (0152) and 'C' Sqn at AVELGHEN (9750). 'A' & 'C' Sqns operated during the day and reached the general line COURTRAI - WAERGHEM - CRUYSHAUTEN. Pockets of enemy were encountered but no definite movement was discernible as the enemy appeared to be very disorganised and moving in all directions. Considerable execution was done, particularly by 'A' Sqn, who took a fairly large number of prisoners (about 130) and had a generally good day. Regtl locations as under:- R.H.Q. - BELLEGHEM (8751)      'A' Sqn - KIRKHOVE (0152) 'B' Sqn - BELLEGHEM (8751)      'C' Sqn - AVELGHEN (9750)	



B.L.A.	7	<p>Regt still in same locations. 'C' Sqn re-checked their area up the main COURTRAI Rd and met comparatively little opposition. 'A' Sqn, who were virtually operating with 4 Armd Bde had difficulty in moving northwards as the 4 Armd Bde were occupying most of the area and were in contact with fairly strong enemy forces. 'A' Sqn had a fairly successful day taking 40 prisoners and doing some execution among soft tpt.</p> <p>'B' Sqn operated in the area EAST &amp; WEST of COURTRAI and met fairly stiff opposition at DEERLYCK and HARLEBREKE, but managed to report on the crossing over the R. LYS. During the afternoon a severe gale was blowing and RHQ were forced under cover. During the evening 4 Armd Bde withdrew back to the line of the ESCAUT Canal into Armd Regtl blobs, 'A' Sqn operating with 44 R.T.R. in the defence of KIRKHOVE Br, 'C' Sqn with the Scots Greys at AVELGHEM Br. During the night a fairly stiff attack was put in on the KIRKHOVE Br and 'A' Sqn spent a restless night. The attack was driven off and from the questioning of PW it would appear that a large party of enemy, about 2,000 strong, had attempted to cross the ESCAUT Canal to get home to the "Fatherland". They were unable to do so.</p>	
B.L.A.	8	<p>The only Sqn allotted a specific task was 'B' Sqn, who were given the task of moving in front of 44 (L) Inf Bde on the centre line COURTRAI - GHENT (J.1980). 'B' Sqn were also given the task of protecting the right flank of the Bde. Leading troops crossed the S.P. X Rds HARLEBEKE at 0800 hrs. At 0900 hrs leading elements were still on the start line, and on enquiries being made it was discovered that the troops had encountered slight opposition which they had quickly mopped up, and were now embroiled in collecting PW. The rate of progress was not increased until it was firmly impressed upon the Tp Leaders that it was their job to reconnoitre and <u>NOT</u> to collect PW. 'B' Sqn patrols finally contacted 7 Armd Div in GHENT, who were greatly relieved to know that their left flank was covered. The troop of 'B' Sqn doing right flank protection met opposition at DEERLYKE which was finally cleared up, and by 1800 hrs the Sqn having done all that could usefully be done in this area, was ordered to concentrate at OYCKE (J. 0562). During the day the Sqn reported all Brs over the R. LYS between COURTRAI and DENTZE were blown, the enemy being seen on the NORTH Bank. 'C' Sqn had 3 Officer patrols out during the day and reconnoitred the area of VICHTE which was held. They operated in that area during the day and had a fairly successful day, capturing VICHTE themselves (!) and some 18 to 20 prisoners, and killing a fairly large number of enemy and shooting up a number of soft vehicles. 'A' Sqn were ordered to recce a Regtl</p>	

		harbour at OYCKE. The Regiment concentrated there in the evening and spent a quiet night.	
	9	A day of rest, maintenance being first priority. Church Services were held in the evening and a Regtl rep went to Div HQ at ORDENARDE to receive orders for a move to an area NORTH of BRUSSELS next day.	
B.L.A.	10.	The Regiment moved up to a new area BREENDONCK (J.6277) arriving there about 1500 hrs. The route was via ALOST and HAECHE. From 1600 hrs the village was "en fete" and a Dance was arranged for the Regt. During the evening the C.O. attended a conference at Div HQ. Information was extremely scanty, especially with regard to 30 Corps on our right and the position on the ALBERT Canal. The Regt was to send patrols into this area next day to obtain all available information. 'A' Sqn was to do this job with Armoured Cars. 'C' Sqn were to be prepared to provide 2 Officer patrols if required.	
	11 Sep.	'A' Sqn operated in the area of the ALBERT Canal from excl ANTWERP to incl HERENTHALS. A great deal of useful information was gained about the enemy and our own troops. A summary of patrol report is attached as Appendix 'A'.	
B.L.A.	12	'A' Sqn carried out the same task till relieved by a Bn of 227 Bde who were to move up during the day. The Regt moved up to a new harbour in the area of VEERLE, crossing the S.P. at 1105 hrs and arriving at 1455 hrs. Locations:- RHQ & 'A' Ech - VOORST 103791. 'A' Sqn - 105793. 'B' Sqn - 107791. 'C' Sqn - 105791. 'A' Sqn did well. Report having met no opposition of an aggressive nature. They only fired at some enemy at long range and despite "stooging" failed to draw any serious fire. Contact with flanks of 50 Div and 53 Div was established and the Sqn duly returned to harbour of 2100 hrs, having been relieved by 2 Bn Gordons. The C.O. attended a Div 'O' Gp at 2045 hrs. The Regtl tasks were as under:- 'C' Sqn to recce the area of the ALBERT Canal Bank from incl 121823 to the Class I Br. 'B' Sqn to similarly recce from incl KAPEL 0286 to the inter-Div Bdy. 'A' Sqn - maintenance.	
B.L.A.	13.	The day developed very differently from what was expected and the Regt did far more than on previous occasions when it has been possible to fully brief Sqns and patrols the night before. 'C' & 'B' Sqns moved out at 0715 hrs and it soon became obvious that the situation had considerably altered during the night and the enemy were in nothing like the strength they were supposed to be. At 0830	

B.L.A.		<p>hrs the C.O. gave fresh instructions to 'A' &amp; 'B' Sqns. 'A' Sqn were to recce Brs 1193 and 0793 and the area between them. 'B' Sqn to recce the area between the two canals excl GHEEL and up to RETHY. 'A' Sqn patrols met no opposition until approaching the Brs. Both brs were blown and a considerable amount of opposition was encountered on the far bank of the canal, but comparatively little on this side.</p> <p>'B' Sqn met no opposition until approaching MOLL at about 1415 hrs, where a battle took place and lasted some considerable time. However, a by-pass was found by which the tanks and inf could go round to seize and hold the br at DONCK. A loud explosion had been heard by 'B' Sqn at 1530 hrs, which was, in fact, the blowing of the Br at DONCK. This infm was not confirmed until 1830 hrs. The Div Comd wanted the area between MOLL and GHEEL to be combed and the Canal searched for any likely bridging sites. 'C' Sqn was allotted this task at about 1400 hrs and reported that a certain amount of opposition was met on both sides of the canal although all the Brs were blown.</p> <p>Rep was sent to recce a Regtl harbour area in MEERHOUT 1484 and at 1530 hrs the C.O. decided it was advisable to get the whole Regt across the ALBERT Canal and therefore ordered the Regt to harbour in MEERHOUT that evening. All Sqns concentrated at dusk. Locations:- RHQ, 'B' Sqn, 'A' Echelon - 152858. 'C' &amp; 'A' Sqns - MEERHOUT.</p>	
B.L.A.	14.	<p>'B' Sqn were ordered to recce the Brs between the ALBERT Canal and the JUNCTION Canal on the Canal D'EMBRANCHEMENT. All Brs on this canal were reported to be blown. The C.O. attended Div 'O' Gp where it was stated that the 7 Armd Div were coming up on our left flank to the area SOUTH of HERENTHALS and that 15 Div were most anxious that no enemy should escape EAST from HERENTHALS before 7 Armd Div arrived. 'B' Sqn were ordered to do this job and to contact 7 Armd Div tomorrow, 15th. 'B' Sqn were also ordered to send a patrol to accompany an RE Recce Offr to examine the Br at 2594.</p>	
	15	<p>'C' Sqn were ordered to watch the area SOUTH of the JUNCTION Canal to prevent any infiltration between the DONCK Br and the 44 Bde B'head at 0792. They remained there during the day.</p> <p>'B' Sqn carried out the task of contacting 7 Armd Div and returned to harbour having completed the task of handing over to 7 Armd Div by 1500 hrs.</p> <p>Field Marshall Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, DSO, MC, visited Div HQ to present medal ribbons awarded in earlier battles. The Regt formed</p>	

			the Guard of Honour which was commanded by Capt L.T. FORD. The Div Comd complimented the Regt on the high standard of turn-out.	
B.L.A.	16		<p>A quiet day for the Regt, except 'C' Sqn who continued their task of watching the JUNCTION Canal from incl 117938 to 206960. Small parties of the enemy only were encountered and the Sqn remained on this task during the day.</p> <p>The Padre left us for 193 Fd. Amb. on temporary attachment.</p>	
	17		<p>Similar to the 16th with 'C' Sqn continuing with their task of watching the JUNCTION Canal. The Assault Tp of 'A' Sqn was placed under command of 'C' Sqn to assist them. 'B' Sqn provided an escort to RE Br building at 200928.</p>	
	18		<p>'C' Sqn were again allotted the task on the JUNCTION Canal. Higher authority were very worried about this area and a composite force - 6 Royal Scots, 'C' Coy 1 Mx (MGs), Pl 'D' Coy 1 Mx (Mortars) with considerable arty support was put under comd of the C.O. The enemy was fairly active in patrolling during the late afternoon and captured 2 men from 'C' Sqn.</p>	
	19.		<p>The C.O. remained in command of assault forces watching SOUTH bank of Canal. Nothing of interest happened.</p>	
B.L.A.	20		<p>Nothing of operational interest.</p> <p>Lieut. Colonel J.A. GRANT PETERKIN was posted to 43 Div as GSO 1, and Major K.C.C. SMITH assumed command of the Regt. Major P.T.I. MacDIARMID was appointed 2 i/c of Regt and various other internal alterations were made.</p> <p>The Regt was ordered to move up to HOLLAND (STEENSEL area) tomorrow.</p> <p>'B' Sqn were to remain and help 44 Bde in the MOLL area watching the SOUTH bank of the JUNCTION Canal.</p>	
B.L.A.	21		<p>The Regt arrived in HOLLAND and were harboured in the HEIKE area about 4000 yards WEST of EINDHOVEN. 'C' Sqn sent out Officer patrols to the line of the WILHELMINA Canal to contact U.S. Forces in the area of EINDHOVEN and SON (ZON). 'C' Sqn recced the brs SOUTH of BEST and OIRSCHOT. They contacted the 502 Parachute Inf Regt, U.S. Army, in the SON (ZON) and EINDHOVEN areas and tied up with them. The Regt, less one Sqn ('B' Sqn) under command 46 Bde Gp which was going to attempt an assault crossing of the WILHELMINA Canal tomorrow. Regtl re-organisation completed as under:-</p> <p>Major K.C.C. SMITH assumes command.  Major P.T.I. MacDIARMID to 2 i/c Regt.  Lieut G.R. BLOUNT to be Capt &amp; Adjt.  Capt W.B. LIDDELL to be 2 i/c 'C' Sqn  Capt L.T. FORD from 2 i/c 'C' Sqn to O.C. 'HQ' Sqn.</p>	

		Major G.A. GADDUM from O.C. 'HQ' Sqn to O.C. 'A' Sqn.	
	22	<p>46 Bde Gp were involved in the BEST area and were to inform the Regt when it was safe to cross the Class 9 Br and carry out tasks as follows:-</p> <p>'A' Sqn to move NORTH via BOXTEL and in the event of all well to carry straight on to HERTOGENBOSCH, 44 Bde following them up.</p> <p>'B' Sqn in support of 46 Bde, as soon as the situation allowed, to pass through 46 Bde and recce on their front to OIRSCHOT and then along the main Rd running NE and to the SOUTH of this road.</p> <p>'C' Sqn to recce the area between the main BEST - HERTOGENBOSCH Rd and the BEST - OIRSCHOT - TILBURG Rd.</p> <p>As there was only a Cl 9 Br, the 2 Staghounds of 'B' Sqn could not cross, and therefore they were ordered to move on 30 Corps Maintenance Route via SON (ZON) and St OEDENRODE and to join their Sqn by coming down the St OEDENRODE - BEST Rd.</p> <p>46 Bde were seriously involved in BEST and it was not until 1400 hrs that they considered it reasonable for 'A' Sqn to commence their advance Northwards across the Br. 'A' Sqn quickly made contact with the enemy who were holding strong posns across the main Rd about 4000 yds NORTH of BEST. They patrolled EAST and WEST but could find no way round and it soon became evident that it would require a considerable force to clear this posn up. The other two Sqns remained on the SOUTH side of the Canal and 'A' Sqn were drawn back at night. R.H.Q. was established at AACHT (3922) with the Sqns harboured on either side the main Rd.</p> <p>'B' Sqn Staghound patrol made very slow progress owing to considerable traffic congestion, but eventually contacted the Americans at St OEDENRODE and got very valuable information on the general situation on the St OEDENRODE - BEST Rd. It was clear that the enemy were in the general vicinity of this rd although they were not taking a particularly active part. This patrol withdrew back into St OEDENRODE for the night.</p>	
B.L.A.			
B.L.A.			
	23.	<p>The plan of the 22 Sep was to be put into operation in the event of it being feasible, but again 'A' Sqn were held up in a similar position to the day before, having crossed the Br at 0600 hrs. 44 Bde following up 'A' Sqn made abortive efforts all day to clear up the situation and allow 'A' Sqn to proceed.</p> <p>'B' Sqn's Staghound patrol repeated yesterday's performance.</p>	
	24	<p>'A' Sqn continued patrolling on the front of 44 Bde but could make no progress and were then ordered to commence patrolling down the main Rd BEST - St. OEDENRODE. 'C' Sqn were ordered to take over the</p>	

B.L.A.			close protection of the Cl 9 and Cl 40 Brs at BEST, so relieving the inf who were holding them.	
	25.		'A' Sqn continued to patrol in the bridge-head and moved up axis Rd BEST - DONDENDONK - St OEDENRODE. Enemy reported in fairly large numbers in the woods NORTH of Rd 3830 - 3930. 'B' Sqn ordered to recce to the Rly line NORTH of BEST to see if there had been any withdrawal by the enemy. If possible they were to try and recce the tracks to the WEST. The enemy were still covering the Rly so it was impossible for 'B' Sqn to make any progress.	
	26		R.H.Q. moved up to LE VEULT (25,000 Sheet 5 (Holland) 389284). 'A' Sqn reced the general area of large woods 3830 - 3930. 'B' Sqn moved up to St OEDENRODE and reced the area on the EAST of 'A' Sqn along the line of the R. DOMMEL towards LIEMPDE. 'C' Sqn remained in close protection of the Brs. In the evening 'A' Sqn were moved to the X Rds at BEST to take over their protection from 6 KOSB.	
B.L.A.	27		'A' Sqn relieved of BEST X Rds by 2 GORDONS and moved up to LE VEULT area to fill the gap between 2 GORDONS and 2 A & SH. 'B' Sqn continued recce role on right flank, working from their base at St OEDENRODE. 'C' Sqn relieved of Br protection by RE at 0800 hrs and rested until taking over from 'A' Sqn in LE VEULT area at 1600 hrs, when 'A' Sqn went into reserve SOUTH of the canal.	
	28		R.H.Q. same location. 'A' Sqn rest SOUTH of the bridge-head in AACHT area. 'B' Sqn continued patrolling on the right flank and they gained very valuable and accurate information. 44 Bde attacked in this area and gained a certain amount of ground. 'C' Sqn remained in LE VEULT area holding the gap. About 1730 hrs the Div were most anxious about enemy reported forming up in wood 3931. This was dealt with by Arty and after reced by 'B' Sqn patrol. Div were still most unhappy about the position but later the C.O. discovered it was adequately protected by 2 Searchlight detachments and crews on both sides the wood.	
B.L.A.	29		R.H.Q. static in same area. 'B' Sqn continue patrolling in St. OEDENRODE area until relieved by 'A' Sqn in the late afternoon. 'B' Sqn remained in this area. 'C' Sqn holding the gap in LE VEULT area.	
	30		R.H.Q. moved to St OEDENRODE. 'A' Sqn in support of 158 Bde carried out recce on EAST of R. DOMMEL. They gained valuable information during the day. They moved forward to 426328 where they acted as "long stop" to 158 Bde who were very spread out. 'B' Sqn resting in St. OEDENRODE area. 'C' Sqn in LE VEULT area.	

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

ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 15 Scottish Reconnaissance Regt

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Oct 44.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. K.C.C. Smith.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
B.L.A.	1		R.H.Q. located at St OEDENRODE. The Regt generally employed on the same task: 'A' Sqn patrolling on the EAST side of the R. DOMMEL for 158 Bde of 53 Div: 'B' Sqn resting: 'C' Sqn protecting 30 Corps C.L. in the LE VLEUT area. A Regt Harbour rep met the A.A. & Q.M.G. at BEEK for an allocation of a concentration area on the Div moving to 8 Corps. The Regt was allotted a harbour area on the NORTH side of HELMOND. During the day 'A' Sqn did some very good foot patrolling which gained valuable information for 158 Bde and towards evening their Sqn HQ and reserve Tp was moved to the Rd Junc NORTH of St OEDENRODE to act as a back stop to 158 Bde.	
	2.		Regt Harbour party moved to HELMOND. R.H.Q. remained static at St OEDENRODE. 'A' & 'C' Sqns also remained in the St OEDENRODE - VLEUT area doing the same jobs as yesterday. 'B' Sqn moved to the concentration area and were settled in by 1700 hrs.	
B.L.A.	3.		R.H.Q. remained at St OEDENRODE till 1600 hrs when they moved to concentration area at HELMOND (Ref HOLLAND 1/100,000 Sh 4, 560223). 'C' Sqn were relieved from protection of 30 Corps C.L. by 2 Derby Yeo, and moved to join 'B' Sqn and R.H.Q. in the concentration area. 'A' Sqn remained as back stop to 158 Bde till relieved the next day by elements of 51 (H) Div who were relieving 15 (S) Div in the Best - St OEDENRODE area.	
	4		'A' Sqn relieved and joined the rest of the Regt at HELMOND.	
	5		Regt static and at rest in HELMOND.	
	6		Regt static and at rest in HELMOND. In the afternoon the G.O.C., Maj.Gen. C.M. BARBER, DSO, addressed the Officers of the Div and in the evening the massed Pipes and Drums of the 15 (S) Division beat the retreat in the grounds of HELMOND Castle.	
	7		Regt at rest.	
	8		In the morning the Regt held a ceremonial Regt Church Parade. The Pipe Band of 2 Bn Gordon Highlanders marched us to Church and	

B.L.A.		Lieut.Colonel K.C.C. SMITH inspected the Regt and took the salute. At lunch time the C.O. was ordered to report to HQ 8 Corps at 1430 hrs as there was the possibility of the Regt coming under comd 11 Armd Div. The Regt was ordered to provide protection and to link up between the right of 11 Armd Div and the left of U.S. Forces (7 U.S. Armd Div) between the wood NORTH of DEURNE and the wood NORTH of MILLHEEZE. 'B' Sqn were allotted this task and ordered to be in posn by dark. They left HELMOND 1745 hrs with additional orders to patrol fwd to the line of the canal WEST of DEURNE the next day if possible. Regt came under comd 11 Armd Div w.e.f. this order.	
	9	The Regt less 'B' Sqn remained at rest in the HELMOND area. 'B' Sqn in posn as ordered on the rd DEURNE - RIPS. During the day they attempted to patrol fwd but regrettably the patrol was ambushed and Lieut GOODRICH was lost, believed PW and wounded.	
	10	Regt less 'B' Sqn at rest. 'B' Sqn remained out in posn until relieved by 'A' Sqn in the afternoon.	
B.L.A.	11	Regt at rest. 'A' Sqn in posn on Rd DEURNE - RIPS.	
	12	'A' Sqn in posn until relieved by 'C' Sqn in the afternoon. Remainder of Regt at rest in HELMOND.	
	13	Regt resting. 'C' Sqn doing protection and link between 11 Armd Div and 7 US Armd Div.	
	14	'C' Sqn remained on their job until relieved by 'B' Sqn in the afternoon. Remainder of Regt at rest in HELMOND.	
	15	'B' Sqn continued role in area DEURNE - RIPS. In the morning 11 Armd Div had indications that the enemy had withdrawn from the canal and 'B' Sqn were ordered at 1200 hrs to confirm this, by patrols up to the canal. By 1530 hrs they confirmed that there were no enemy on the line of the canal and drew back to their original posns at dusk. As a result of these patrols 11 Armd Div commenced building a Br at 690270 at 1630 hrs.	
B.L.A.	16	'C' Sqn were ordered to re-comb the area again and confirm that there were still no enemy on the line of the canal, and to link up with 7 US Armd Div. They remained on the canal all day and were called back to HELMOND at dusk. 'A' Sqn were placed under comd 46 Bde for future ops and carried out a rehearsal with that Inf Bde. 'B' Sqn and R.H.Q. remained at rest in HELMOND. 1 Tp 'B' Sqn were ordered at 1600 hrs to take up posns to prevent the C1 40 Br at 690270 from being blown up by saboteurs during the night. No incidents occurred during the night.	
	17	'B' Sqn Tp released from job on Br and returned to HELMOND at 1200 hrs.	



	18		<p>Regt reverted to comd 15 (S) Div. 46 Bde Op cancelled and 'A' Sqn reverted to comd Regt. At 2200 hrs C.O. went to 227 Bde HQ for 'O' Gp and Regt was put under comd of 227 Bde. 227 Bde Group to take over from 2 Bdes of 51 Inf Div and 2 Derby Yeo in area of BEST - St OEDENRODE.</p> <p>Regt was to leave HELMOND 1030 hrs 19 Oct and move up to relieve 2 Derby Yeo and 5 Coys of 5 Camerons in the area LE VLEUT - BEST.</p>	
B.L.A.	19		<p>Regt moved up without incident and take-over was completed by 1700 hrs.</p> <p>Locations as under:- (Ref HOLLAND Sh 18NW, 18 SW, 1/25,000).</p> <p>R.H.Q. - X Track 389284. 'A' Sqn - Area STEENEEG - X Tracks 372278. 'B' Sqn - took over the area which was held before by 2 A &amp; SH, nicknamed the "Box" (382293). These posns were within 100 yards of the enemy FDLs. 'C' Sqn - area of LE VLEUT. Regt was very thin on the ground, covering, in fact, what had been a Bde front previously. 10 HLI were on our RIGHT in the area DONDERDONK; 9 Cams on our LEFT in the BEST area.</p>	
	20		<p>A very quiet night. No change in locations. In the morning 'B' Sqn had trouble; a mortar stonk killing one OR and wounding 6 others, all from the same Assault Section. Sporadic mortar and arty fire during the day.</p>	
B.L.A.	21.		<p>A quiet night and a quiet day, with nothing to report but occasional shell and mortar fire. The A &amp; SH are to do patrols through our posns at night, and HLI and 9 Cams on our RIGHT and LEFT respectively.</p> <p>The Regt was too thin on the ground to provide any patrols.</p>	
	22		<p>A very quiet night except for our own arty which by the noise must have included quite a number of Medium guns.</p>	
	23		<p>A very quiet day with locations unchanged, and except for occasional shelling, mostly in the area of the BEST Br and X Rds there is nothing to report.</p>	
	24		<p>An extraordinarily quiet night. 'B' Sqn reported at about 0715 hrs that they believed the enemy had withdrawn from our front, there having been none of the usual coughing and noise of take-over, as was usual at this time in the morning. 'C' Sqn was ordered by the C.O. to patrol through 'B' Sqn and try and confirm this. In the meantime this infm was passed to 227 Bde HQ, who, on questioning their own Bns, were of the same opinion. 'C' Sqn moved up NORTH through 'B' Sqn and at the same time moved a patrol on the RIGHT flank so as to try and have a look at LIEMPDE from the EAST. As a result of the early infm from these patrols</p>	

B.L.A.		<p>the C.O. was convinced that the enemy had drawn back, at least from our immediate front. 'A' Sqn was ordered by him to move up the main BEST - BOXTEL Rd to VRILKHOVEN and at the same time to tap out WEST towards our old "friend" the Rly running from BEST to BOXTEL. 'C' Sqn was soon held up by the bad going, and a number of mines and Rd blocks across the tracks in the woods, but 'A' Sqn were able to reach VRILKHOVEN with little incidence apart from a rather large Rd block which was mined and booby-trapped. The Rd block, of approx 120 yds, consisted of felled trees which were mined and booby-trapped. 'A' Sqn were able to by-pass this block to the EAST and push fwd. As all infm now pointed to the fact that the enemy had now made a general withdrawal. 'C' Sqn, as they could not get on, were ordered to concentrate at VLEUT. 'A' Sqn were going well and so were ordered to contact 51 (H) Div, who were reported in the village of LIEMPDE, approaching the village from the WEST. 'A' Sqn contacted 51 (H) Div (5 Seaforths) in LIEMPDE. Another patrol reached the outskirts of BOXTEL</p>	
B.L.A.		<p>confirming the Br on the main Rd was blown and crossing the river by assault boat they managed to contact the Dutch Resistance who confirmed that BOXTEL was evacuated but that the Highland Div was still shelling it and had made no attempt to enter the town. This was all passed back to Corps who said they would put the matter in hand. 'B' Sqn, at 1000 hrs, were released from the "Box" and allowed to reform into a Reconnaissance Sqn, and were ready to move Westwards towards OIRSCHOT at 1130 hrs, but 227 Bde were not prepared to let them go until Inf had confirmed that NASTEBEST was clear of enemy. At 1300 hrs it was stressed that unless the Sqn was released forthwith little could be done that day as the hours of daylight were very short. By nightfall, 'B' Sqn had reached SPORDONK where they caught a few Germans napping. The Br was partly blown. This Br they held until relieved by a Unit of 44 Bde at approx 2000 hrs. The RE were ordered to repair the Br during the night ready for an early start next morning. 'B' Sqn concentrated and spent the night in SPORDONK.</p>	
B.L.A.		<p>'A' Sqn, having completed their job, concentrated in the BEST area for the night, and 'C' Sqn remained in the LE VEULT area with orders to be ready to patrol with one Tp along the line of the WILHELMINA Canal on the front of 44 Bde so as to approach TILBURG from the SOUTH. Generally this was a very good day, especially by 'B' Sqn who advanced some 9 or 10 miles and by 'A' Sqn who did some very quick work on the BEST - BOXTEL Rd.</p>	

B.L.A.		<p>Unfortunately Major G.A. GADDUM was wounded during the afternoon when he stepped on an A.P. mine, and has since been reported as "died of wounds". Very few enemy were seen during the day and only 7 PW were taken. The main problems were Rd blocks, which were mined and booby-trapped, and the tracks, some of which were almost impassable while others were mined. (Infm about mines and definite locality of one mine-field where a carrier of 'A' Sqn had been blown up was pointed out to the Inf by the C.O. when he heard they were going by that route the next day. It is regretted that the Inf took no notice of this infm, and, of course, blew up one of their carriers alongside 'A' Sqn's).</p>	
B.L.A.	25	<p>'B' Sqn advanced on the front of 46 Bde to the outskirts of TILBURG. They had one brush with the enemy and they succeeded in killing some 10 - 15 Germans. Progress was slow owing to Br demolitions which were extensive. Contact was made with the enemy just short of MOERGESTEL and an Inf and Tank attack was planned. However, as this was forming up the enemy withdrew and the tanks went fwd and threw a Br across the stream which enabled our patrols to proceed. No other contact was made with the enemy until reaching the WILHELMINA Canal, it being quite clear from reports sent back that TILBURG could only be lightly held at this stage.</p> <p>Extensive patrolling was carried out to find what Brs were intact. 'B' Sqn managed to seize a Br at 189322 intact which would enable a raid to be carried out on the main Rly Br at 177327. 9 Cams took over from 'B' Sqn and were to put in an attack on the Rly Br to try and seize it during the night. The patrol from 'C' Sqn moving along the canal bank found progress almost impossible [owing] to slit trenches and very bad going. Every effort was made to by-pass, but by 1200 hrs it was found no further progress could be made and the patrol withdrawn.</p> <p>Locations:-  'A' &amp; 'C' Sqns, R.H.Q. - LE VEULT Area.  'B' Sqn - MOERGESTEL.</p>	
	26	<p>R.H.Q. moved to OIRSCHOT, being est by 0930 hrs. 'B' Sqn remained in area MOERGESTEL, being turned out of their covered accommodation to enable HQ 227 Bde to go in. 'C' Sqn were moved up to OIRSCHOT, arriving approx 1100 hrs. 'C' Sqn were ordered to carry out Offr patrols SOUTH of the WILHELMINA Canal, crossing the BIEST Br, with the job of contacting 4 Armd Bde and carrying out a full route recce of the rds in the area. Owing to traffic congestion these patrols did not get across the BIEST Br before</p>	

B.L.A.		<p>approx 1400 hrs, thus being left with very little daylight to complete their recce. However, some very valuable infm was obtained. 'A' Sqn was moved into OIRSCHOT during the afternoon, and it was decided as 'C' Sqn might be required to carry out further recces, to move them to the area BIEST and their location at OIRSCHOT allotted to the Tps of 'B' Sqn who had been turned out by 227 Bde HQ.</p>	
	27	<p>The Inf of the Div moved into TILBURG with virtually no opposition and the Regt was now squeezed out, and without a role. Locations were as under:- R.H.Q. - OIRSCHOT. 'A' Sqn - OIRSCHOT. 'C' Sqn Area of BIEST. 'B' Sqn - Sqn HQ and 1 Tp at OIRSCHOT; remainder at MOERGESTEL.</p>	
B.L.A.	28	<p>C.O. appreciated we should either be used for role WEST of TILBURG towards BREDA or moved back again to the area of the German counter-attack SE of HELMOND, and this being so, tried to find out from Div. It appeared clear there were two possible roles for the Regt. 1. To move to TILBURG and operate Westwards. (2) The whole Div to be called back to assist 8 Corps in stemming the German counter-attack against U.S. Armd Div. Strong representations were made to allow the Regt to remain in situ. Div HQ, however, moved that the Regt must move and concentrate at HILVARENBEEK. This meant one day's valuable maintenance was lost. A rep was ordered to report to Div HQ at 2130 hrs to receive instrs which were to the effect that the Div would move across to the general area of HELMOND to stop the counter-attack.</p>	
	29	<p>The Regt moved to HELMOND, arriving at 1415 hrs, and was billeted in the town. 'B' Sqn harbour area received a direct hit from a bomb during the night which made a crater 20' deep and 40' wide across, only 2 minor casualties but a tremendous mess.</p>	
B.L.A.	30	<p>The Regt was given the task of acting as long stop to the Inf Bdes to endeavour to prevent infiltration. This was done by placing 'A' Sqn to the NORTH operating from OMMEL; 'C' Sqn to the SOUTH operating from HEUSDEN. As very little was known about the enemy, active patrolling was ordered. 'A' Sqn wanted to move NORTH to SOUTH across 11 Armd Div front, but as 15/19 Hussars were in posn of obs with excellent covering fire posns it was decided that 15/19 Hussars would get better infm than ourselves over this type of country and the fire of the tanks would not be masked, therefore limited patrolling only was possible. Two cars were knocked out by an A/Tk weapon in LIESEL but the crews escaped without injury. 'C' Sqn managed to gain very valuable</p>	

		<p>infm both of the enemy and of the ground, and in particular Lieut MORRIS put up a very good performance on the RIGHT of the Glasgow Highlanders where he greatly assisted in breaking up a very nasty German counter-attack. 'B' Sqn were detailed to provide two Offr patrols to contact and gain as much infm from U.S. Armd Div. The Sqn itself moved to the SOUTH end of ZOMEREN at approx 1400 hrs and remained in reserve. Locations for the night:- R.H.Q. - ZOMEREN 598107. 'A' Sqn - OMMEL 6115. 'B' Sqn - ZOMEREN 605086. 'C' Sqn - HEUSDEN 6212.</p>	
B.L.A.	31	<p>'A' Sqn carried out liaison patrols with 11 Armd Div. 'C' Sqn limited patrols on 227 Bde front. 'B' Sqn ordered to carry out RIGHT Flank protection to 227 Bde and to liaise with 7 U.S. Armd Div. 'A' Sqn were later pulled into res in the ZOMEREN Area. 'C' Sqn had a quiet day and remained in HEUSDEN.</p> <p>A Tp of 'B' Sqn had a most interesting party at the school 635069 which had been re-occupied by the Germans. This "battle" was entirely organised by the Tp Leader on the spot, and close co-operation with 7 US Armd Div. While the Americans were not prepared to do anything on their own to turn out the enemy, they were perfectly willing to give us all the assistance they could. The Tp was loaned two SP guns by the Americans and these guns brought to within 200 yds of the buildings around the school, and proceeded to deal with these buildings, while the Tp mopped up as the rabbits bolted. PW stated that the party consisted of 22 Germans, of which 13 were killed and 7 taken prisoner. Identification 6 Para LEHR Regt HERMANN. It was clear from study of the map that these buildings were vital to the Div as right flank protection, and in spite of the fact that they were in 7 US Armd Div area, as the Americans were not prepared to hold the buildings, 'B' Sqn were ordered to leave a troop in the area to hold these buildings at all costs.</p>	
B.L.A.			

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

ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 15(S) Recce Regt.

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year NOV 1944

Commanding Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
B.L.A.	1		<p>Locations : RHQ ZOMEREN (Holland Sh 26 NE 1/25,000, MR 598107)            'A' Sqn Concentrated for night OMMEL 6115            'B' Sqn School NIEWWE PAROCHIE            'C' Sqn HEUSDEN 6212</p> <p>In the morning 'A' Sqn relieved 'B' Sqn in the NIEWWE PAROCHIE area, and took over the posn at the sch, on the bdy between 15 (S) Div and 7 US Armd Div. One tp held this posn and the remainder of the Sqn was available for patrolling if necessary. 'B' Sqn moved up to the area S of HEUSDEN and remained at rest the whole day. 'C' Sqn were to patrol down the LIESEL - MEIJEL Axis in front of 46 Bde. During the day a call was made on 'A' Sqn for patrols who were to patrol in the area S of the HLI posn, one Tp of 'B' Sqn was put under comd 'A' Sqn to assist them in this patrolling. Patrolling was carried out in this area and in front of 44 Bde psns from WEST to EAST, that is towards LIESEL - MOOSDIJK rd. Generally infm was good; a number of mines and mined areas being discovered and enemy posns pin-pointed at a number of places. A posn of about pl strength discovered at Pt 283 (6507) yesterday, was again investigated prior to an attack by 2 A &amp; SH. During the day the patrol of 'A' Sqn spotted a Panther and acted as OP while Med arty stonked it. A definite hit is not claimed but no further movement was seen from the tank. 'C' Sqn carried out their task in front of 46 Bde, pinpointing two 75mm guns and various inf posns. Mines were also discovered, mostly in the verges and on the tracks leading to the main rd. Later in the afternoon 'A' Sqn reported that their posn at the sch on the inter-allied bdy was engaged by some enemy NBWs and SP guns. A request to Div for arty sup was refused on the grounds that the enemy were over Div bdy. However, a rep was sent to contact the US fmn on our right who were very helpful and used their guns to good effect. At about 1800 hrs 227 Bde enquired if we were holding the posn in the woods S of the HLI (which we had held</p>	

		last night). As the Argylls had attacked during the day towards the pimple (Pt 283) it had not been considered necessary for the Regt to hold the wood posn, but as an insurance 'B' Sqn took over these posns in the dark.	
	2	RHQ static at same locn. 'A' Sqn continued patrolling in the area S of the HLI and 227 Bde and maintained their posn at the Sch. This was found to be very useful as a means of liaison between ourselves and the Americans. Generally the day was quiet except for intermittent shelling. 'A' Sqns patrols visited the pimple attacked by the Argylls yesterday and found no enemy in that area. 'C' Sqn patrolled on the axis LIESEL - MEIJEL and pin-pointed several more enemy posns S of MOOSDIJK. During the day Comd of this Bde wanted further patrols and it was necessary to put in 'B' Sqn who had been in reserve in the area of HEUSDEN.	
	3	RHQ static same locn. 'A' Sqn had a very quiet day, still holding their posn at the Sqn and patrolling in the area of the pimple to ensure no enemy infiltrated. 'B' Sqn were ordered to patrol in front of 44 Bde during their adv towards MEIJEL. In point of fact very little progress was made as the Inf were virtually in contact before the adv started. However, we were able to flush several 75mm A.Tk guns which were on the E of the DEURNE Canal which could certainly not have been discovered unless B Sqn did this patrol. C Sqn patrolled along the main axis HEUSDEN - MEIJEL and discovered several minefields and one specially good foot patrol by Lt. ROYLE who discovered a crater and sent back accurate infm despite very hy enemy shelling. B Sqn were placed under comd 46 Bde for flank protection to the Div during the attack on MEIJEL, which is to take place tomorrow.	
	4	The Div attack was postponed for 24 hrs so B Sqn were not needed today. A and C Sqns both remained in their last locns and generally a very quiet and restful day.	
	5.	B Sqn under comd 46 Bde, took up their posns as left flank protection in the area E of LIESEL, facing the canal. The Div attack fizzled out as the majority of tanks were bogged at the commencement of the attack. RHQ, A and C Sqns remained static in same locns.	
	6	A quiet day. B Sqn remained on left flank protection role under comd 46 Bde. The Regt to arrange our own reliefs of this Sqn in conjunction with 46 Bde. Regt relief plan is: 1 Sqn to be under 46 Bde comd for flank protection role; 1 Sqn in res in the area of HEUSDEN for any immediate tasks and 1 Sqn to rest in HELMOND.	

			This is to take effect tomorrow 7 NOV. Regt harbour rep arranged accm in HELMOND.	
	7		C Sqn relieved B Sqn and came under comd 46 Bde in the bog area E of LIESEL. They had a very quiet day and had nothing to report. B Sqn moved to HELMOND and took over the rest area. A Sqn in reserve in the HEUSDEN area, but kept their commitments of a standing patrol at the Sch on the inter-allied bdy. RHQ static same locn.	
	8		A quiet day: all Sqns in same locns. During the afternoon A Sqn were relieved of their commitments of the Sch and RHQ moved into ZOMEREN itself (593116) to allow elements of 51 (H) Div to take over on our rt in the general area as occupied by 7 US Div.	
	9		A quiet day. A Sqn relieved C Sqn at 1100 hrs. C Sqn to rest in HELMOND. B Sqn into res at HEUSDEN. In the afternoon the Sch suddenly assumed importance in the minds of the staff and a tp was sent back there for the night.	
	10		A Sqn left flank protection under comd 46 Bde. C Sqn at rest in HELMOND. B Sqn in reserve at HEUSDEN, retaining post at the Sch. RHQ were static in same locn.	
	11		B Sqn relieved A Sqn and A Sqn moved to HELMOND. C Sqn to HEUSDEN.	
	12		B Sqn left flank protection of Div. During the night they reported an enemy patrol that approached their posn. This was fired at and withdrew. They had nothing else to report except a slight increase in shelling in their general area. Remainder of Regt no change.	
	13		B Sqn left flank protection. A, C and RHQ static in same locns. A warning order was received from Div that a Sqn might be needed for an unspecified role on the morning of the 15th.	
	14		C Sqn relieved B Sqn who moved to HELMOND. A Sqn to HEUSDEN. OC A Sqn attended Div O Gp for role tomorrow with 7 Seaforths.	
	15		C Sqn in the bog on left flank protection. B Sqn at rest in HELMOND. A Sqns task was cancelled almost as soon as the orders were given and they remained in Regt res at HEUSDEN.	
	16		Locns unchanged. Nothing to report.	
	17		A Sqn relieved C Sqn who moved to HELMOND.	
	18		A Sqn patrolled as ordered by 46 Bde and reached the canal banks at 707128 and made contact with small enemy outposts in that area. They had nothing further to report. During the time the Sqns were resting in HELMOND a small percentage was also sent from RHQ and HQ Sqn.	



19		<p>In view of pending ops C Sqn were recalled from HELMOND and ordered to harbour by dark in the MEIJEL area. One of their tps was to be ready to move in the morning under comd of B Sqn over the Canal de DEURNE. The whole of the MEIJEL area was very heavily mined and C Sqn lost two vehs whilst moving into a fwd post where they were to relieve the RSF to enable the Inf to be in posn to follow B Sqn in the morning. No personnel cas. A RHQ harbour rep reced MEIJEL for a likely area for RHQ to move up to. A Sqn patrolled to the canal again for 46 Bde to confirm if possible whether the enemy had moved back from the canal to HELENAVEEN. A Sqn patrol did not make contact with the enemy. Plan for 20 NOV: 227 Bde are to cross the Canal and move up to BERINGEN. 49 Recce holding BERINGEN for the night. Regt task: B Sqn with under comd one tp C Sqn to patrol up the main BERINGEN - SEVENUM axis under 227 Bde, also to patrol northwards towards HELENAVEEN. C Sqn to move over the Canal as soon as practicable after B Sqn and harbour as a Regt res in the BERINGE area. A Sqn to precede 46 Bde when the necessary bridging has been made and HELENAVEEN cleared.</p>	
20		<p>RHQ moved to MEIJEL (709075) and A Ech and HQ Sqn moved to HEITRACK (694108). B Sqn moved over the Canal at first light, and reached the outskirts of HELENAVEEN by midday. They made several small contacts in the woods S of this village but the mines and bad going made movement difficult. In the centre they reced up the main Div axis which was in fact a track across peat. They made best progress possible under very difficult going conditions discovering much valuable infm regarding mines and craters etc., on the route, and also pin-pointing several enemy posns on the centre line and also on the rt flank. By last light the Sqn was half way to SEVENUM and the Inf of 227 Bde moved up and took over from them. The Sqn then drew to the BERINGEN area. C Sqn had moved over the canal as ordered and remained in res all day. B Sqn to be relieved by C Sqn in the morning. On A Sqns front 46 Bde made very slow progress because of bad going and A Sqn did not move at all remaining in the LIESEL area.</p>	
21		<p>C Sqn moved out on the main axis at first light and during a day of very good patrolling obtained excellent infm despite the very bad weather and fearful going. By night they had reached BROEK (8011) on the outskirts of VOORSTE STEEG. They made contact in BROEK with SP guns and in the general area they found a fair number of mines. The bridge on the outskirts of VOORSTE STEEG was found to be blown. The proposed Div axis (SKYE route) was fast</p>	

		<p>becoming a quagmire. A Sqn got over the canal at HELENAVEEN at midday and obtained much useful infm regarding the approaches to SEVENUM from the WEST. They encountered one A.Tk gun but again their main difficulties were mines and the bad going on the tracks. This Sqn was withdrawn by 46 Bde to their old area of LIESEL for the night. C Sqn were ordered to remain in the area of BROEK in the open for the night as the rds were so bad that it was not practicable to return to BERINGEN. The main infm of the day was of only slight resistance but mines, craters, and mud in plenty.</p>	
	22	<p>A Sqn less one tp reverted to comd of the Regt. The one tp did patrols in the area of AMERIKA on the line of the VENLO - HELMOND rly for 46 Bde. Remainder of the Sqn remained at LIESEL. B Sqn remained as Regt res at BERINGEN. RHQ moved over the canal and HQ were established BERINGEN (754058) C Sqn. This was a grand day for this Sqn. By 1000 hrs they were in SEVENUM and reported the town clear apart from demolitions (the Church steeple blown across the rd) and general mining of all the exits from the town towards the R. MAAS. By midday they had reached the rly crossing N of the town at 819157 and reported craters and slight enemy opposition from the area of the rly stn. This was successfully dealt with. At 1200 hrs Div ordered a patrol to investigate HORST (8318) and HEGELSOM. By 1600 hrs the Sqn had completed this and reported both towns clear. A grand day by C Sqn of quick adv, but of mines, demolitions and again, only slight enemy opposition. Nine weasels had been obtained before this op started which we found invaluable for supplying the Sqns. By nightfall today all the Inf were trying to borrow these from us.</p>	
	23	<p>The Regt was given four priority tasks for today by the GOC which were to be carried out by C Sqn. First, to report on the village of KASTENRAIJ. Secondly, TEN RAIJ. Thirdly, BROCK, and fourthly the Woods just S of BROCK. Despite very hy mining especially on the northern exits of HORST, and demolitions and rd blocks, C Sqn reported the first priority, KASTENRAIJ, clear by 1215 hrs. This enabled the inf of the 3 Div to march down the rd and occupy this village. The third and fourth priorities of BROCK and the woods to the south, were reported clear by 1100 hrs, and on the second priority TENRAIJ they made contact at 1500 hrs with MGs dug-in along the line of the rly. This patrol carried out foot recce about 500 yards from the village itself and reported all that was necessary to Div by 1500 hrs, namely that the village was held; and reported the pinpoints of several enemy posns. Another very</p>	

		good day by C Sqn, who had obtained a vast amount of extraordinarily accurate infm, especially regarding mines, craters, rd blocks, and demolitions.	
	24	C Sqn were again ordered to patrol to TENRAIJ and to confirm that the enemy was still there. Patrols progressed well despite hy mining and demolitions and without any assistance from sappers or of scissors tk-br, both of which were requested. They made contact about 1,500 yds from TENRAIJ itself which disclosed that the enemy had seeped fwd standing patrols about 1,000 yds during the night. By 1400 hrs the Corps Comd told the Regt that C Sqn patrols could withdraw as they had got all the infm he desired. Patrols withdrew having done another very good job.	
	25	RHQ moved up to VOORST STEEG (805128) and HQ established there. This was a day of local patrolling by C Sqn mostly on behalf of the inf who had not the experience to really patrol on their own behalf. Our own inf took over in TENRAIJ and the towns of HORST and SEVENUM pushing up behind C Sqn along the line of the rly running into BLERICK. The MAAS pocket has shrunk considerably during the last few days largely due to C Sqn who have done terrific work and is now only a small strip along the river bank with pockets in the riverside villages and in the town of BLERICK which is the western suburb of VENLO. During the day the remainder of the Regt moved up, A Sqn to HORST and B Sqn to ULFERHOEK (825153). Plan for tomorrow. C Sqn in front of 227 Bde to recce the villages of WANSSUM - BLITTERWIJK - BROEK HUIZENVORST, and A Sqn in front of 46 Bde to make a firm base N of GRUBBENVORST and patrol N to BROEKHUIZEL, and flush the hun N so as to leave 49 Div clear to deal with BLERICK.	
	26	By 1030 hrs C Sqn has reached all three of their objectives and had reported all the infm necessary. A Sqn recced out in front of 46 Bde and by midday the MAAS pocket on our front was only a very narrow strip which consisted of a few strongpoints along the river bank. The Div Inf moved up and took over from the Sqns ready to finish the Hun off during the course of the next day. The Sqns returned to their harbour areas for the night. 49 Div closed in preparatory for their attack on BLERICK.	
	27	The Regt had no op role today. C Sqn started a much and well deserved rest. Locns. RHQ - VOORST STEEG, A Sqn - HORST, B Sqn - ULFERHOEK, C Sqn - HORST.	
	28	No change from yesterday.	

	29		There was regrouping on a Corps level; 15 Div to deal with BLERICK and NOT 49 Div. The Regt was given commitment of one Sqn who were to act as left flank protection to the attack on BLERICK and to dominate the W bank of the MAAS by observation. The Sqn area was S of GRUBBENVORST with posns along the wood (8193) and the rly line running N from VENLO. B Sqn took over this commitment and were in posn by the early afternoon. Sqn HQ was established at 869124. RHQ, A and C Sqns remained in same locns.	
	30.		RHQ, C and A Sqns in same locns. B Sqn in posn S of GRUBBENVORST. They had nothing to report during today except occasional arty and NBW fire.	

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 15 Scottish Reconnaissance Regt

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year December, 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. K.C.C. Smith

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
B.L.A.	1		'B' Sqn in the line holding from excl GRUBBENVORST to 8112, with Sqn HQ at 869134. RHQ located at VOORSTE STEEG 805129. A quiet day apart from some NBW and Arty fire.	
B.L.A.	2		<p>Situation unchanged. 'C' Sqn preparing to take part as Gap and Traffic Control for Operation "GUILDFORD" (44 (L) Inf Bde attack on BLERICK). The Regiment is running the Control layout which was worked out on Exercise "BLACKCOCK" in ENGLAND last year. There are to be 6 lanes, one for wheels, one for tracks, and one spare on each of the two main routes fwd, and we are having three control points on each lane, an entrance party, a mid-way party and an exit party. Officers are to be in charge of the entrance and exit parties on each lane and Sqn HQ are to be Regulating HQ. It was represented that to enable this task to be carried out satisfactorily, better protection than an Armd Car or Carrier would be required. Four Churchill Tanks were therefore lent to us, much against the wishes of the Tk Bn Comd concerned.</p> <p>'B' Sqn in the fwd area were in the centre of a dummy FUP, but despite the carrying out of deception on a fairly large scale, incl the noise of tanks, and activity to simulate the forming up of inf and arty, they did not suffer any real enemy "stonking" during the day.</p>	
	3		Situation unchanged. 'C' Sqn Gap Control party worked very smoothly and to the satisfaction of all concerned, the G.O.C. sending a congratulatory message thanking Major MILLS, his Officers and ORs for a good job of work. 'C' Sqn party suffered no casualties in spite of exceptionally heavy shelling, which proved the value of the Churchills. 'B' Sqn had a very quiet day with nothing to report.	
	4		Situation unchanged.	
	5		'A' Sqn relieved 'B' Sqn. 'A' Sqn made their HQ at 869134. 'B' Sqn returned to rest, establishing their HQ at 834182.	
	6		Situation unchanged.	

B.L.A.	7	Regt Harbour rep sent to LIEROP 573156 to recce a suitable harbour area for RHQ, 'A' Echelon and for the two Sqns not committed to the role on the banks of the R. MAAS.
	8	Harbour area at LIEROP confirmed.
	9	'A' Sqn relieved by 'C' Sqn, to come under comd 44 (L) Inf Bde. RHQ and 'A' Echelon moved to new location, passing S.P. at 1000 hrs; locations as under:- 'A' Sqn - 834182. 'B' Sqn - 824153. 'C' " - 869133 RHQ - 573156.
	10	'A' Sqn moved to LIEROP. The accn is very poor, billets being in barns and the attics of the farms, but the advantage of being near a centre of entertainment at HELMOND, and well out of range of enemy shell-fire out-weigh this.
	11-12.	Situation unchanged.
B.L.A.	13	Situation unchanged. Field Marshall Sir Bernard L. MONTGOMERY visited the Div to present medal ribbons to recipients of awards granted to date. He presented medal ribbons to 5 Officers and 7 ORs of the Regiment and afterwards spoke to the assembled recipients of the Div on the War in general, and later to the Comds and 2 i/c's of the Bns and Regts in the Div on the War in more detail.
	14	'B' Sqn relieved 'C' Sqn. 'C' Sqn moved to LIEROP.
	15-19.	Situation unchanged.
	20	'A' Sqn relieved 'B' Sqn and came under comd 44 (L) Inf Bde. 'B' Sqn returned to LIEROP. Over the last 7 days there has been a certain amount of enemy patrol activity on our front. The Sqn is, in fact, holding the line opposite two of the seven most likely crossing places on the Div front.
	21	Situation unchanged. During the night one of their posts was ambushed by a fairly strong enemy patrol and 9 ORs reported missing. The post ambushed were in houses and would appear to have been taken more or less by surprise.
B.L.A.	22	Regt commitment is changed. The area of GRUBBENVORST is now to be held by an Inf Bn and the Regt commitment is to be the village of HOUT BLERICK, which is to be taken over today. 'A' Sqn was relieved from the commitment at GRUBBENVORST by 6 RSF and 'C' Sqn took over the new posns in the village of HOUT BELRICK from 6 KOSB. RHQ & 'B' Sqn remain at LIEROP.
	23-27	'C' Sqn in the area of HOUT BLERICK under comd 44 (L) Inf Bde. During this period they had nothing to report except for the cold and damp. Remainder of the Regt at rest and maintenance in LIEROP.

			'A', 'B' & 'HQ' Sqns each in turn were able to organise a Christmas Dinner, 'A' & 'B' Sqns holding theirs in HELMOND.	
	28		'B' Sqn relieved 'C' Sqn. 'C' Sqn to LIEROP.	
	29-30.		Situation unchanged. 'C' Sqn Christmas Dinner in HELMOND on 30 Dec.	
B.L.A.	31.		<p>Regt has one Sqn committed in the line. i.e. 'B' Sqn under comd 44 (L) Inf Bde at HOUT BLERICK. Two Sabre Sqns are resting; 'A' &amp; 'C' Sqns in the village of LIEROP; RHQ &amp; 'A' Echelon static and located at LIEROP 573156. 'B' Echelon has remained the whole month in the Div RASC area at ZOMEREN 598107.</p> <p>The following courses were run during the month:-</p> <p><u>Wireless Cadre.</u> Commenced 11 Dec. Finishes 7 Jan 45.</p> <p><u>Gunnery Cadre.</u> No. 1. 11 - 24 Dec. No. 2. Commenced 27 Dec. Finishes 4 Jan 45.</p> <p><u>NCOs Cadre.</u> No. 1. 11 - 13 Dec. No. 2. 16 - 18 Dec. No. 3. 19 - 21 Dec. No. 4. 27 - 30 Dec. No. 5. Commenced 30 Dec. Finishes 2 Jan 45.</p>	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Unit 15 Scottish Reconnaissance Regt.  
(incl L.A.D. att)

Month and Year January, 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. K.C.C. Smith

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
B.L.A.	1		Regiment deployed and located as under:- RHQ & 'A' Echelon - static and located at LIEROP 573156. 'A' & 'C' Sqns - resting in village of LIEROP. 'B' Sqn under comd 44 (L) Inf Bde and in the line at HOUT BLERICK. 'B' Echelon static in Div RASC Area at ZOMEREN 598107. L.A.D. with 'A' Echelon at LIEROP. 'B' Sqn have nothing to report from the line except a very quiet day, but with the remainder of the Regiment saw the enemy air activity which took place over the whole Div area, and, in fact, over the whole of the Western Front. No casualties or damage were suffered by the Regiment and no hits were claimed on enemy aircraft.	
	2		Locations as yesterday. Nothing to report.	
	3		'A' Sqn relieved 'B' Sqn at HOUT BLERICK, 'B' Sqn returning to rest at LIEROP. The remainder of the Regiment - locations unchanged and nothing to report.	
B.L.A.	4		Locations unchanged. During the day thaw set in and road conditions worsened considerably. Road Thaw Precautions were taken into effect during the day, Class 5 traffic being the only type of traffic allowed on the roads.	
	5		No change from yesterday.	
	6		No change from yesterday.	
	7		Operationally, no change. A Regimental Church Parade was held in the morning, and the Regiment was inspected by Major General C.M. BARBER, DSO, GOC 15 (S) Inf Div.	
	8		Regiment given a further commitment in that one Sabre Sqn was to be in mobile reserve to the Div and was to be located under comd of the Bde Group in the ROGCEL area. The tasks of this Sqn were:- (i) To recce the advance of the counter-attack force. (ii) To be available as a mobile column in the event of the enemy attempting to cross the MAAS in any strength.	



B.L.A.	9		'A' Sqn relieved by 'C' Sqn at HOUT BLERICK. Nothing further to report.	
	10		In view of the commitment of two Sqns, RHQ moved up from LIEROP to the area of DE HEIBLOEM. The Res Sqn ('A' Sqn) moved up to the same area. Locations now as under:- RHQ, 'A' Echelon, LAD - Hutted Camp, DE HEIBLOEM. 'A' Sqn resting - Monastery at DE HEIBLOEM. 'B' Sqn - Counter attack role at ROGDEL. 'C' Sqn in the line at HOUT BLERICK.	
	11-14.		Nothing to report.	
	15.		'B' Sqn relieved 'C' Sqn at HOUT BLERICK. 'A' Sqn took over Counter attack role and 'C' Sqn returned to rest and maintenance.	
	16-19.		Locations unchanged. Nothing to report.	
B.L.A.	20		During the day orders came in for elements of the Div to be relieved by 6 Airborne Division. Harbour party from 6 Airborne Div arrived at Regimental location in the afternoon. Otherwise no change and nothing to report.	
	21		'B' Sqn were relieved by 'A' Sqn of the commitment at HOUT BLERICK. Regiment was relieved of the counter-attack reserve. 'B' & 'C' Sqns therefore remained at rest in existing locations. Regimental Harbour parties were sent to new location of BOISCHOT (Ref BELGIUM Sheet 4, 1/100.000) 923766.	
	22		Regiment, less 'A' Sqn who remained in the line at HOUT BLERICK, moved to new location BOISCHOT. Locations as under:- RHQ, 'A' Echelon, LAD - BOISCHOT. 'B' Sqn - Chateau 934775. 'C' Sqn - GOOR 916748. 'A' Sqn under comd 44 (L) Inf Bde in line at HOUT BLERICK. 'B' Echelon - Div RASC Area at ZOMEREN.	
	23-25		No move. Regiment still located at BOISCHOT.	
B.L.A.	26		Orders were received at 2000 hrs last night for the Regiment to move to new location near TILBURG 191305. Regimental Harbour parties had already reconnoitred the area and the Regiment moved off at 0900 hrs along icy roads and, initially, in quite thick fog. Move was completed by 1400 hrs, with no serious vehicle casualties on the route. Regiment located as under:- 'A' Sqn having been relieved of commitment at HOUT BLERICK yesterday moved up under Div control to R.V. with the Regiment at TILBURG. Regiment now located as under:- RHQ, 'B' & 'C' Sqns, L.A.D. - Monastery 193306. 'A' & 'B' Echelons - 199308. 'A' Sqn billeted on the SOUTH edge of TILBURG in civilian billets	

			The whole Regiment to spend the next days in maintenance, rest, and preparing for future operations.	
B.L.A.	27-30.		Nothing to report, the Regiment remaining at rest. Slight enemy activity in the way of V.1 weapons on TILBURG. No casualties suffered by the Regiment; otherwise a quiet and uneventful period.	
	31		Regimental Wireless Scheme "Exercise SNOGGER" was held and brought out several points, which were righted. Locations unchanged, as under:- RHQ, 'B' & 'C' Sqns, LAD - Monastery 193306. 'A' & 'B' Echelons - 199308. 'A' Sqn billeted on the SOUTH edge of TILBURG in civilian billets	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 15 Scottish Reconnaissance Regt.

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year February, 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. K.C.C. Smith

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
B.L.A.	1		Regiment located as under:- RHQ, 'B' & 'C' Sqns, LAD - Monastery, TILBURG (191305). 'A' Sqn billeted in TILBURG. 'A' & 'B' Echelons - 192304. A further wireless exercise was held today - Ex SNOGGER II. The points noted yesterday were brought out and righted.	
	2		Regt static and in same locations. Regt Harbour party sent to NIJMEGEN to recce conc area for Op VERITABLE.	
	3-5.		Regt static.	
	6		Regt moved up to conc area for Op VERITABLE. Time past SP 1900 hrs; time of arrival at NIJMEGEN - 'B' Sqn 0300 hrs, 'C' Sqn 0345 hrs, RHQ 0345 hrs, 'A' Sqn 0600 hrs.	
	7		Regt static. Maintenance and preparation for Op VERITABLE. 'C' Sqn Gap Control party join 46 & 227 Bdes at 2300 hrs ready to move off with Bde columns at 0400 hrs on 8 Feb. Full details of this Gap control organisation and how it worked, with lessons, is given at Appx 'A'.	
B.L.A.	8		Regt (less 'C' Sqn gap control party) static in NIJMEGEN. Op "VERITABLE" started. Tanks of Regt:- (i) Regt to endeavour to pass through inf and recce advance of two mobile columns - (a) Axis CLEVE - CALCAR, (b) Axis CLEVE - UDEM. (ii) Regt to recce route between CLEVE and the REICHSWALD FOREST to allow 2 HCR to pass through and recce towards GOCH - "flood the country with Armd Cars".	
	9		Regt static in NIJMEGEN, waiting for off! (a) 'B' Sqn allotted task of passing through inf and reconnoitring route through or around CLEVE and to carry on if possible as far as the rly line, and then if possible to push on towards UDEM. (b) 'A' Sqn are to be ready to pass through CLEVE and push towards CALCAR. (c) 'C' Sqn, as the majority of officers and senior NCOs were on Gap Control and it will take them some little time to re-organise once released, in reserve.	

B.L.A.		<p>The going was deplorable and the tracks cut up badly, which resulted in the attack proceeding slower than was anticipated. 'B' Sqn ordered to send an offr patrol to recce routes NIJMEGEN - KRANENBURG. Reports were as follows:-</p> <p>Northern route through WYLER under 2'6" of water - Southern route fair but very heavy traffic.</p> <p>At 1445 hrs Regt was given orders by GOC to move off, the Southern Route to be cleared for Regt's move. Order of march - 'B' Sqn, RHQ, 'A' Sqn, 'C' Sqn. 'A' Echelon to remain at NIJMEGEN.</p> <p>The Northern route was not a practicable proposition as it was 2'6" under water, and the accidents through vehs going off the road straight into flooded country-side would be considerable, and the C.O. decided the risk was not worth taking. The Southern route was still heavily congested with traffic moving in every possible direction, and this seriously delayed the fwd mov of the Regt and resulted in the leading patrol of 'B' Sqn arriving at the X Rds in NUTTERDEN at 1715 hrs. The light was beginning to fail and 'B' Sqn were ordered to push on with the greatest possible speed to make the most of what little daylight was left. Pushing SOUTH from NUTTERDEN 'B' Sqn patrols ran into tks and buffaloes returning, having placed the inf on their objectives. This made fwd mov of our patrols impossible and by 1800 hrs little or no progress had been made, and it was then dark. Div HQ were asked what was required of the Regt during the night, and we were ordered to continue in the dark in an endeavour to find routes through CLEVE and to move as far as the rly line. Mov light, i.e. searchlights, were in the area and gave a little assistance. 'B' Sqn carried on all night and gained some most valuable infm, but, of course, infm could not be guaranteed as accurate. During the night several recce parties from 43 Div called in at RHQ. These recce parties appeared to be under the impression that CLEVE was in our hands and it was merely a matter of motoring through and signposting routes without any form of protection whatsoever. The majority of these recce parties were persuaded that there were large quantities of the enemy still in the area. At approx 2330 hrs a Bn Gp of 43 Div moved up to CLEVE area with a patrol of 'B' Sqn in front of them. This Bn Gp made quite good progress, meeting a certain amount of enemy opposition, but unfortunately at about 0130 hrs they halted and made no further mov during the night, although it did not appear to our patrols that there was anything to justify their stopping. It is considered that had this Bn Gp carried on energetically, giving 'B' Sqn patrols adequate sp, it would have been possible to have been est on the rly</p>	
B.L.A.			
B.L.A.			

		<p>line at first light. Without this Bn Gp following up it was not a fair risk of war to ask the patrols to push on alone, particularly as the opposition was beginning to stiffen.</p> <p>During the night 'B' Sqn patrols collected some 2 Offrs and 50 OR POW who had no idea of what the sit was and thought that they were arriving to reinforce the fwd defs of the SIEGFRIED line.</p> <p>The Regt, less 'B' Sqn, harboured in the area of NUTTERDEN for the night.</p>	
B.L.A.	10	<p>Sitrep at 0730 hrs, based on infm obtained by 'B' Sqn, was as follows:- "In CLEVE there only appeared to be a few disorganised enemy, but no definite conclusion should be drawn until it is lighter. The Bn Gp of 43 Div is now on the outskirts of CLEVE where they are static, and have been there for some hours without being fired at".</p> <p>At 0810 hrs 'A' Sqn was ordered to move off and pass through CLEVE and recce towards CALCAR, but at 0900 hrs 'B' Sqn reported confused fighting had broken out in the centre of CLEVE, and 'A' Sqn was stopped. During the day 'B' Sqn continued to patrol in the area on their original task of trying to get out to the SOUTH. Some pockets of enemy were encountered and some SP guns located. One Scout Car was knocked out.</p> <p>During the day 'C' Sqn Gap Control party came in by bits and pieces, having been very badly bogged down. They should have joined us as the Regt passed through KRANENBURG the evening before.</p>	
B.L.A.	11	<p>'A' Sqn relieved 'B' Sqn and continued patrolling, but found the sit was very much the same as the day before, and it would appear to be an inf task to soften up the enemy before there was any hope of us getting out, and therefore at 1200 hrs 'A' Sqn was drawn in to NUTTERDEN again.</p> <p>At 1700 hrs Div HQ ordered the Regt to send a Sqn forthwith to CLEVE and try to push out onto the CALCAR Rd as CLEVE was now firmly in our hands. 'A' Sqn was allotted this task and managed to get tps away in ¼ hr despite the fact that they had been stood down. 'A' Sqn managed to get patrols through the fwd inf in CLEVE and very shortly came under fire. As it was getting dark it was quite impossible to carry out any further recce, so 'A' Sqn was withdrawn.</p> <p>Orders were issued during the evening for a mobile column, with the Regt, less one Sqn, leading to push out in the direction of CALCAR.</p>	
B.L.A.	12	<p>At 0730 hrs 'A' Sqn moved out from CLEVE across an improvised Cl 12 br and proceeded to fan out on the far side. The Cl 40 br was not ready before 1030 hrs and so no tanks or inf in Kangaroos could pass</p>	

B.L.A.		<p>before this hour. The Regt, less one Sqn ('B' Sqn) was under comd 7 Seafortths, who were mounted in Kangaroos, with a Sqn of tks also under comd Seafortths. By 1100 hrs it was clear that the enemy were holding in some strength on the outskirts of CLEVE and that it was an inf and tk battle and not a Reconnaissance Sqn's job. On the infm given by 'A' Sqn the Force Comd decided to push his van-guard straight through and destroy the enemy which we had encountered. At approx 1230 hrs the van-guard passed through CLEVE onto the CALCAR Rd. The inf with tk sup fought their way fwd, 'A' Sqn patrols passing through whenever there was a pause, but it is becoming perfectly clear that the enemy was going to fight all the way back, and therefore our patrols were withdrawn back along the main axis to the outskirts of CLEVE. As it was getting dusk the inf reached HASSELT and had a confused battle there, and eventually withdrew to the WEST side of QUALBERG for the night. Our patrols naturally withdrew at dark.</p> <p>The Regt was now concentrated at CLEVE except for 'B' Sqn who were still in the NUTTERDEN area.</p>	
B.L.A.	13	<p>'C' Sqn relieved 'A' Sqn and carried out similar patrols. They found that the enemy had pulled back along the whole front. Mines were located at 938534 on the outskirts of HASSELT, but these were by-passed and HASSELT reached at 1100 hrs and found to be clear. A carrier tp was left to hold HASSELT until relieved by the inf. A patrol pushed fwd, but contacted enemy inf in the wood 948531. Enemy were also encountered on the southern outskirts of ROSENDALL 9452. Very hy and accurate fire was brought down on these patrols and it was necessary for them to withdraw. A further patrol was endeavouring to make for HURSBERDEN but could get no further than Rd Junc 940557, where it came under fire from SP Guns. A patrol working northwards from HASSELT could only reach the line of the rly where it also came under fire. It was quite obvious that the enemy was still prepared to fight hard.</p>	
	14	<p>'C' Sqn were ordered to repeat the patrols of the previous day to check up whether there had been any alteration during the night. Considerable flooding was found both on the CLEVE - CALCAR Rd and on the CLEVE - KELLEN rd. 'C' Sqn endeavoured to find some way round the floods keeping to the NORTH of CLEVE - CALCAR Rd as the inf were fighting SOUTH of it. They found it quite impossible; even the rly CLEVE - CALCAR was flooded to anything up to 6'. Efforts were made to test the depth of water by use of Recce boats. 'A' Sqn were moved up to BEDBURG sanatorium in case there should be a break to the SOUTH. 'B' Sqn moved up from NUTTERDEN in place of 'A' Sqn.</p>	

	15-18		<p>Locations:- RHQ, 'B' &amp; 'C' Sqns - CLEVE.  'A' Sqn - BEDBURG.  'A' Echelon, LAD, - NIJMEGEN. 'B' Echelon - GOIRLE.</p> <p>On 16 Feb 'A' Echelon were ordered up from NIJMEGEN to NUTTERDEN, but flooding was so bad that only 3-tonners could get through, and therefore 'A' Echelon was split and small vehs returned to NIJMEGEN eventually joining up on 18 Feb 45.</p>	
	19		<p>RHQ moved to BEDBURG to be close to Div HQ. 'A' Sqn were ordered to send patrols to discover the sit in GOCH and to see if there was any possibility of pushing through the town with our patrols. The fighting, however, in GOCH was still extremely hy and it was quite out of the question for any patrols to get through.</p>	
	20		<p>'A' Sqn were again ordered to send contact patrols to GOCH, but again the sit was found to be quite unsuitable for us.</p>	
B.L.A.	21		<p>The Regt was ordered to find out the posn at the Southern end of the wood 9542, which was reported to be clear of enemy by an inf patrol. 'B' Sqn were ordered to move up from CLEVE to PFALZDORF and given the job of finding out the posn at the bottom end of this wood and to est themselves there to prevent infiltration through the wood, so giving left flank protection to our inf attacking southwards. All the tracks in the area were found to be almost impassable, having been badly churned up by the tks. A tp of carriers was pushed through the inf at BUCHOLT and soon came under considerable arty and mortar fire from UDEM. This tp pushed on and came under S.A. fire from the houses in area 958431. As a result of hy Besa fire and setting a haystack on fire they collected from these houses 30 POW, incl the crew of a Panther tank. It was clearly quite impossible to get a mounted patrol down to the bottom of the wood, and therefore it was decided to get down a dismounted party during the night. The Assault Tp of 'C' Sqn was placed under comd 'B' Sqn. At about 0300 hrs 'B' Sqn was est at the X Tracks 957424.</p>	
B.L.A.	22		<p>At first light 'B' Sqn pushed out dismounted patrols to discover the exact posn at the bottom of the wood. These patrols soon ran into trouble, encountering mines and coming under fairly hy spandau fire. An SP gun also opened fire, bursting the rounds in the trees. 'C' Sqn Assault Tp Leader, who was in comd of the party decided it was not on to stay at the X Tracks and withdrew his whole party back level with the inf coys in the area 951428.</p> <p>This wood was under very hy shell-fire all day and personnel were not properly organised for a protracted stay in slit trenches. 'A' Sqn Assault Tp was therefore placed under comd 'B' Sqn to enable reliefs to take place and troops to be rested and re-organised out</p>	

			of range of this hy shelling. 'C' Sqn were moved up from CLEVE to PFALZDORF and later into GOCH, 'B' Sqn having moved across to the farm at 944445 the previous evening.	
B.L.A.	23		The inf were ordered to relieve us in the posns in the wood. Again the shelling was very hy all morning and it was not possible to commence this relief until approx 1400 hrs. During the morning 'B' Sqn filtered back by troops to GOCH, where they harboured. 'C' Sqn were ordered to send out carrier patrols to give left flank protection to 44 Bde during their attack to the SOUTH. They were in posn at 1030 hrs and were relieved by inf at 1800 hrs. They were under very hy shell fire all day, losing 1 killed and 3 wounded; 5 vehs ditched or burnt out. The going was quite impossible owing to softness of the ground, which had been cut up by tks.	
	24		Harbour parties sent to LOUVAIN. Shortly after they had left fresh orders came for harbour parties to proceed to TILBURG. Locns:- RHQ, 'A' Sqn - BEDBURG. 'B' & 'C' Sqns - GOCH. 'A' Echelon, LAD, - CLEVE.	
	25		Regt crossed SP at GOCH at 0740 hrs and reached TILBURG 1200 hrs. The Regt was accommodated in civilian billets in the town.	
	26-28		TILBURG. Maintenance and re-organisation.	



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**WAR DIARY**  
or  
**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**  
(Delete heading not required)

Unit 15th Scottish Reconnaissance Regt.  
and L.A.D. att

Month and Year March, 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. K.C.C. Smith

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
B.L.A.	1		Ref Maps 1/100,000, Sheets P.1., Q.1. Regt concentrated and accommodated in TILBURG, HOLLAND. Maintenance and re-organisation.	
	2-4.		Maintenance and re-organisation.	
	5		Regt Harbour rep sent to BOURG LEOPOLD.	
	6		Regt & LAD arrived in BOURG LEOPOLD, and were accommodated in barracks. T.P.M. received to say that change over from HUMBER to DAIMLER Armd Cars was to take place forthwith.	
	7-10.		Re-organising. DAIMLER Armd Cars collected from Second Army Vehicle Park and HUMBERS handed in.	
B.L.A.	11		In view of the change over from HUMBER to DAIMLER Armd Cars, Regt D & M and Gunnery Cadres were arranged. Attached as Appx 'A' is programme and layout of gunnery & D & M courses, also a statement of the instructors lent to the Regiment by other Units. No arrangements for any training were made by Higher Authority, but all had to be made by mutual arrangement with Units concerned, which entailed motoring some 500 miles.	
	12-20.		Maintenance, re-organisation and Cadres (D & M and Gunnery).	
	21		Regt left BOURG LEOPOLD at 2300 hrs for concentration area for Operation "TORCHLIGHT" (the RHINE crossing), arriving at WINNEKDONK, GERMANY, (MR ) in the early hours of the morning 22 Mar 45.	
	22		Regt concentrated at WINNEKDONK and briefed for Operation "TORCHLIGHT". In the initial stages of the crossing each Sqn to supply six half-tracks for the towing of storm-boats and bridging materials. In addition six carriers were to be supplied to tpt Mil Government personnel over the RHINE. Two carriers to be supplied to RASC to act as wireless link to RASC Dump on EAST bank of RHINE. 'C' Sqn were to supply five officer patrols to recce the immediate vicinities of the bridge-head, to be passed over the RHINE as and when the situation warranted.	

B.L.A.	23		The Assault Crossing of the RHINE started at 2130 hrs by Commandos, followed by the 51st (Highland) Division and our own Division at 0200 hrs on 24 Mar 45.	
	24		'C' Sqn patrols called forward to marshalling area at 1500 hrs to cross the RHINE, but remained in the area until the early hours of 25 Mar 45, except for one carrier patrol which crossed the river at approximately 1500 hrs and proceeded to patrol to contact the Airborne Division.	
	25		Officer patrols of 'C' Sqn moved over the RHINE and began to reconnoitre in front of 44 Bde. RHQ, 'A' & 'B' Sqns moved to Marshalling area STAR ready to move across the RHINE when called forward, leaving WINNEKDONK at 2300 hrs.	
B.L.A.	26.		Regt began to move across Cl 9 br at 0600 hrs, RHQ crossing at 0700 hrs, and concentrated in the area 103472. 'A' and 'B' Sqns concentrated. 'C' Sqn under comd 44 Bde. In the late afternoon 'B' Sqn in support of 227 Bde to secure the left flank and link with 51 (H) Division at REES.	
	27		RHQ and 'A' Echelon same area. 'C' Sqn under comd 44 (L) Bde reconnoitring the approaches to BOCHOLT. During the afternoon 'A' Sqn were sent out to hold a gap between 44 and 46 Bdes, 'B' Sqn remained in support of 227 Bde on the left flank. RHQ moved in the evening to the village of HABERN.	
	28		'C' Sqn remained under comd of 44 Bde, and the Regiment, less one Sqn, were made responsible for the whole of the left flank as from 1800 hrs, as 227 Bde were withdrawn to take part in the operation to clear HALDERN tomorrow. 'A' Sqn were moved back from the gap between 44 and 46 Bdes to assist in flank protection.	
B.L.A.	29		'C' Sqn still under comd 44 Bde. 'A' & 'B' Sqns on the left flank. 'B' Sqn were ordered to carry out a shoot to assist 227 Bde to get on to their objective. It was obvious to us from observation that the enemy had withdrawn from the general area, and during the advance of 227 Bde towards their first objective, other British tps were observed advancing from the WEST towards HALDERN (227 Bdes final objective). This was checked up and it was found that HALDERN was already in possession of troops of 3rd Br Division. This information was immediately passed back to Divisional HQ and a disaster averted as the 15 (S) Inf Div had been ordered to capture HALDERN at all costs and they had no knowledge of 3rd Div being in possession.	
	30		The Regt was ordered to concentrate and moved up to 150486, except for 'C' Sqn who remained in the area of HAMMENKELN.	
	31		Regt located as under. RHQ, 'A' Echelon, LAD - 150486.	

			'A' & 'B' Sqns - 150486. 'C' Sqn & 'B' Echelon - HAMMENKELN.	
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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 15th Scottish Reconnaissance Regt.

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year April, 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. K.C.C. Smith

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
B.L.A.	1		Regt static ALLERN 1549. Maintenance and interior economy.	
	2		As above. Received warning order of a possible move.	
	3		The Regt moved. Harbour parties found the route ordered was impassable, and there was a delay of about 2½ hrs while the Regt got onto a new route. Regt harboured at school at WINTERSWIJK (HOLLAND) 3176.	
	4		Regt moved at 0530 hrs. Route BOCHOLT - BERKEN - OSTERWIJK - ALTENBURG - 8795 (between MUNSTER and RHEINE). Arrived 1200 hrs. Regt placed under comd 6 Airborne Div and moved off again at 1600 hrs to harbour in their area. Route GREVEN - LENGERICH - IBURG. Harboured area MUNDROP 2703 at 2100 hrs. The Commanding Officer went ahead to contact 6 Airborne Div.	
	5		Regt moved via BISSENDORF - RABBER - OLDENDORF at 0800 hrs and came up with 6 Airborne Div at 0900 hrs. 'A' Sqn was given the task of reconnoitring across the EMS - WESER Canal towards the R. WESER supported by elements of 6 Gds Tk Bde. Opposition was light. The speed with which the Airborne moved compared with an ordinary Div was most illuminating. This force kept up something like an average of 15 m.p.h. including stops to brush aside resistance. RHQ moved across the EMS - WESER Canal to harbour area SOUTH of DESTEL 6219 at 1800 hrs.	
	6		Regt concentrated in area WEGHOLM 7621 ready to move across R. WESER next day.	
	7		Task. The Regt was to adv on a 2-Sqn front covering elements of 6 Airborne Div. On the right 'C' Sqn was to protect the right flank of the spearhead of 6 Airborne Div (5 Para Bde), and on the left 'B' Sqn to (a) route recce on the one centre line of 5 Para Bde, (b) recce along the SOUTH side of the STEINHADERMEER ZEE, and (c) one Tp to push ahead and try to seize and hold the crossings over the R. LEINE at BORDENAY and at NEUSTADT. 'C' Sqn to contact the AMERICANS on their right.	

The original route chosen by 6 Airborne Div was a circuitous one mainly through woods and along cross-country tracks, as far as possible avoiding the main rds. 'B' Sqn moved out at approx 0500 hrs to contact elements of the Airborne B'head Tps (6 Air Landing Bde) and then they moved in a NE direction towards the town of WINDHEIM 8725. The town was held and covered by mines across the rd. The situation was a bit confused and after a certain amount of shooting to get a 'B' Echelon of the Airborne out of trouble which had gone astray, the Sqn withdrew into the B'head again.

At 0700 hrs 'A' Sqn was ordered to take over WINDHEIM, and 'B' Sqn pushed out of the B'head on the Airborne main centre line in a due Easterly direction. At ROSENHAGEN, the centre patrol contacted bazookas and 50 or 60 enemy. The leading Airborne inf (12 Para Regt), tank-borne, was quickly on the scene and there was considerable shooting before the village was cleared up. At 0730 hrs 'C' Sqn reported the village at 9120 held.

As soon as ROSENHAGEN was cleared, 'B' Sqn pushed on, one tp recceing the main rd to the NORTH. The selected centre line, owing to the bad nature of the tracks, was found unsuitable. The Sqn stuck to the metal rds to avoid being bogged; the Airborne Tps followed up.

On the request of 11 Armd Div 'A' Sqn cleared WINDHEIM and the next village to the EAST, and at 1035 hrs reported the village of DOHREN 8926. At 1130 hrs they reported ROSENHARD 9223 and NEWCLICK 9126 clear, also the classification of the brs - Cl 40 at 919280 and Cl 12 at 910238. 11 Armd Div then passed though 'A' Sqn but would not move until these villages had been cleared.

When ROSENHAGEN had been cleared 'B' Sqn went forward, meeting little opposition until HAGENSBURG 080272, where 2 Tps got inside the village and could not get out on the far side. 12 Para Regt with its tanks cleared up the village and 'B' Sqn pushed on.

'C' Sqn was moving up against opposition of varying strength, but mostly small arms, and an occasional bazooka. Each village had to be cleared 'A' Sqn were ordered to clear NEWKINK 985273.

On the aerodrome on the outskirts of WUNSDORF 1556, 'B' Sqn again ran into trouble. They initially shot up several Germans, but some 20-mm and rather heavier A.A. guns opened up on them. At this point the tank-borne paratroops cut straight across from this rd to a parallel rd which led up the side of the river to BORDENAY Br. There was then a mad helter-skelter for the Br at BORDENAY, and after considerable firing the leading tks and the Armd Cars crossed in a bunch. The enemy were observed pulling out at the back of the

		<p>village in half a dozen lorries. A small B'head was quickly formed by the paratroops, and the charges drawn out of the Br. 'B' Sqn sent a patrol NORTH to try and take the NEUSTADT Br from the EAST, but, owing to the delay likely to be caused by clearing of BORDENAY village itself and by a certain amount of shelling of this area, the patrol was diverted to move up the Western bank. When it got approx 1 mile off the Br it was fired on. A foot patrol was sent fwd to see if the Br was blown. This patrol reported there was no indication of it being blown, but that the Br surroundings appeared held. That night 'B' Sqn harboured in the BORDENAY B'head at about 2000 hrs.</p> <p>'C' Sqn's progress was slow, having no tank and inf support. There were repeated diversions because of non-existent or very bad tracks. 'C' Sqn finally ended up with their fwd tps in the area 923283 - 922184. 3 Para Bde were ordered to move up behind 'C' Sqn at 1500 hrs.</p> <p>'A' Sqn continued their clearing ops on the Northern flank, and cleared MUNCHENHAGEN where they spent the night. RHQ remained for the night in an S.S. Camp at 865215.</p>	
	8	<p>'C' Sqn continued their adv towards the LEINE at RECKLINGEN, supported by 3 Para Bde and tanks: 'B' Sqn at rest in the BORDENAY B'head. RHQ moved at 0700 hrs to KLEIN HEIBORNE.</p> <p>The Regt received orders (a) to patrol to a depth of approx 2000 yds to the EAST of the BORDENAY and NEUSTADT B'heads, and also between them: (b) to patrol SOUTH to the RECKLINGEN Br and find out if this br was intact, and if so to hold it until the arrival of 'C' Sqn with 3 Para Bde - estimated time 3 hours.</p> <p>These tasks were allotted to 'B' Sqn. The patrols sent up in a circular route to NEUSTADT and out 1000 yds from there, and then back to the BORDENAY B'head, reported all clear except for one area directly in front of the BORDENAY B'head, which was an A.A. site with guns and inf.</p> <p>Meanwhile one Carrier Tp and the Assault Tp with one A/Tk gun were despatched at 0900 hrs to the Br at RECKLINGEN 202272. At about 1030 hrs the Tp Comd reported the Br intact. German Engineer personnel were found completing preparations to blow the Br but they were seized and forced to cut the wire, and draw the charges. At about 1130 hrs there was a certain amount of shelling of the Br area of RECKLINGEN. 'B' Sqn called for a medium stonk on the wood due EAST of RECKLINGEN.</p> <p>At about 1240 hrs 'C' Sqn's leading elements were on the outskirts of LUTTHE, some 3 miles WEST of the RECKLINGEN Br. Civilians reported three tks carrying inf in this village.</p>	

		<p>At 1315 hrs the shelling started again on the RECKLINGEN Br area, and there appeared to be movement from the wood towards the village of RECKLINGEN of an SP gun. Shortly after 'B' Sqn reported three enemy tks carrying inf and some half-tracks moving towards the village, and asked for support.</p> <p>By 1400 hrs 'C' Sqn was definitely held up outside LUTTHE, and the inf and tks had taken over the job of clearing the village.</p> <p>At approx 1415 hrs the enemy attacked 'B' Sqn in some strength from the EAST of RECKLINGEN with tks carrying inf and more inf in half-tracks. 'B' Sqn succeeded in shooting the majority of inf, but in spite of firing all their PIAT amn could not stop the tks, who played havoc with the vehs. The A/Tk gun was placed to face WEST as tks were known to be in LUTTHE. When the tks attacked from the EAST it was impossible to re-position the gun. This battle continued for approx 1 hr, when 3 Para Bde supported by tks appeared and the enemy withdrew, but continued to shell the area. 3 Para Bde in fact ran cross country for the last 2 miles to help us out. Total casualties suffered by 'B' Sqn were:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Personnel - 2 wounded, 4 missing. Vehicles - 7 Carriers, 3 half-tracks.</p> <p>'C' Sqn were ordered to contact AMERICAN tps who were clearing the wood 2025.</p> <p>At 1635 hrs further infm was called for of the NEUSTADT B'head area. 'A' Sqn was allotted the task of reconnoitring EAST in front of the NEUSTADT B'head and to contact 11 Armd Div.</p> <p>'C' Sqn reported that owing to the Brs on the AMERICAN front all being blown the AMERICAN forces were switching NORTH and going over the RECKLINGEN Br.</p> <p>'A' Sqn found about 12 enemy in the houses in the village of SUTTORF. The Br at 2551 was blown, and contact was made with 11 Armd Div. Troops of 'A' Sqn not on patrol were moved up to KLEIN HEINDORN. 'B' Sqn were also pulled back to this area. The Regt was concentrated by dusk in area KLEIN HEINDORN.</p>	
	9	<p>No task was given to 6 Airborne Div.</p> <p>At 1500 hrs 'A' Sqn were given the task of a limited recce to the NE of the BORDENAY B'head. They repeatedly ran into 11 Armd Div and also into AMERICAN patrols. By 1640 hrs they were in the outskirts of the village of NIGGENBORNE and had not contacted any enemy. 'A' Sqn was withdrawn to the previous nights harbour.</p>	

Tasks. The Regt had to recce the limited adv of 6 Airborne Div who were increasing their b'head to take in the high ground due NORTH of HANOVER in the area BISSENDORF - ELZE - WEITZE. In addition the Regt was to keep contact with the AMERICANS on their right and to recce on a limited scale towards the town of CELLE. 'A' Sqn was on the left and 'C' Sqn on the right. Contact with the AMERICANS to be established by 'C' Sqn. RHQ were to follow up behind, eventually getting into an area around SCHERENDOSTEL. 'B' Sqn in reserve in the area of NIGGENBORNE.

To begin with the going was slow, largely owing to poor visibility caused by mist. On the left 'A' Sqn reported one village after another clear and there were no signs of the enemy, and finally reached FUHRBERG without a shot being fired. By this time they collected some 6 Offr and 90 OR PW. They est their HQ in this area and from here on their adv was slowed up owing to a Br at 482462 being blown, and there being thick woods on either side ~~so that~~ it was impossible to loop. It was at this point that they met their first active enemy opposition in the form of two or three bazooka teams, which they shot up. The bazooka teams disappeared into the woods. These teams were obviously making for FUHRBERG but had been forestalled.

'C' Sqn on the right flank had had rather the worse of the going because of poor tracks which continually petered out into fields and woods, but there was not much opposition, and AMERICANS were contacted. A Royal Tiger Tank was discovered abandoned at one point, and attempts were made by the Sqn to get this tk back to our lines, but the AMERICANS who were taking NO chances, blew it up.

'C' Sqn, in addition to advancing EAST, had been tapping SOUTH, and their first contact was gained at the village in 3553. There was the usual crop of civilian reports and Ex PW reports of little groups of enemy lying up in the woods, but in many cases these were found to be wrong. Civilians reported that the area of UNTERLUSS was a gun testing area and there were large stocks of amn dumped there. 'C' Sqn again reported a contact in the area just NORTH of 366305, and here a rd block was found to be manned by about 30 inf and a Q.F. gun of a light calibre. After taking 15 POW 'C' Sqn withdrew this patrol to a position of observation, the rd block being obviously manned by a fairly determined force. The AMERICANS took over this area and 'C' Sqn concentrated behind 'A' Sqn in the area of FUHRBERG. It was clear that opposition was light to the EAST, but that the Northern approaches to HANOVER were held.



			<p>This was the last day that the Regt was to work with 6 Airborne Div. The Regt were to continue the next day with 15 Div.</p>	
	11		<p>The Regt reverted to comd 15 (S) Div who had come up from the RHINE. Tasks for the Regt were to recce the adv of 15 Div to CELLE. The Div object was to get 227 Bde into CELLE from the WEST supported by 'A' Sqn on the main rd FUHRBERG - CELLE, while 46 Bde were to move along SOUTH of CELLE on a centre line to be reced by 'B' Sqn, with the object of coming into CELLE from the SOUTH and EAST. The Div had elements of 6 Gds Tk Bde in support and were starting approx 60 miles behind our present locns. 'A' Sqn left to push out due EAST. 'B' Sqn centre axis of adv BISSENDORF - Gr. BURGROEDEL - RAMLINGEN - EHLERSHAUSEN. 'C' Sqn to tap SOUTH towards HANOVER and thus protect the right flank of the Div. It was estimated that the Div would be in a posn to give close support to the Regt by 0930 - 1000 hrs.</p> <p>By 0820 hrs 'A' Sqn had contacted the enemy in the area X Rds 483463 where they had reported demolitions the night before, and considered that that area would have to be cleared up by the inf before the Engineers could get properly to work. They had tapped out to the NORTH but had found the rds bad and the woods thick and impassable, while on the SOUTH of their centre line they had a little more success, but contacted enemy in the wood at 501460. They were finally held up by a blown Br in the area 4714 covered by enemy fire.</p> <p>227 Bde had reached 'A' Sqn by this time (about 1300 hrs) and the Sqn reported that the tks were piling up in the bottle-neck. At this point 'A' Sqn were ordered to hand over to the inf, and to re-organise and prepare to tap due EAST, NE and SE and get all possible infm on the ground, and possible diversions, as it was obvious that this area was rather enclosed and lacked facilities for switching troops. By 1330 hrs the inf had taken over from 'A' Sqn and were proceeding to clear the area. From here on there was little that 'A' Sqn could do - it was mainly an inf and tk battle to clear either side of the rd and clear the demolitions.</p> <p>'B' Sqn moved off, and after a short delay they reported clear as far as 5337. Then there was a very rapid advance with little further infm until at 1021 hrs they reported contact, two cars being knocked out by bazooka fire at approx 560390 in the area about 400 yds short of the station at EHLERSHAUSEN. There appeared to be a considerable number of enemy in the station area covering all approaches. Loops on either flank gained more contacts. The enemy started infiltrating through the woods round the fwd troop, who withdrew and observed.</p>	

		<p>'B' Sqn then made a firm base at RAMLINGEN and watched for enemy movement round the flanks to the SOUTH. Their route report showed that although the rds were quite first-class main rds, some of the Brs were only Cl 12 (RE classification), but it was thought by the Sqn that, in fact, they would take tks. The enemy that 'B' Sqn had contacted were identified as S.S. and estimated at over 100, with bazookas, small arms and possibly some guns. 'B' Sqn remained in observation until the recce parties of 46 Bde arrived at approx 1630 hrs in the afternoon followed by the main body at about 1700 - 1800 hrs.</p> <p>'C' Sqn tapped SOUTH and contacted the AMERICANS, who did not appear to be going to adv that day. They also found some enemy back in the area of the rd block 366305. They took 9 POW and handed them over to the AMERICANS. An SP or A/Tk gun was reported at 577382. This was reported to be one of the pair which had been causing trouble to 'B' Sqn. 'C' Sqn thus came up behind 'B' Sqn. They had managed to get further SOUTH and formed a firm base for 'B' Sqn in the village due WEST of RAMLINGEN. Here 'C' Sqn remained for the rest of the day, less 2 patrols under comd 'B' Sqn watching 'B' Sqn's SE flank. By night-fall RHQ and 'A' Sqn locns were unchanged. 'B' Sqn were at RAMLINGEN with 'C' Sqn in the village due WEST of RAMLINGEN.</p>	
	12	<p>During the night the Div had been clearing the enemy located by the Regt and were still fighting in CELLE. 'B' Sqn sent patrols from RAMLINGEN NORTH towards the town and were everywhere held up by blown Brs. 'A' Sqn were ordered to patrol NORTH and NE to CELLE. They were considerably hampered by bad going and close country, also by the Div traffic moving into CELLE. They contacted a bazooka and spandau at 488509 - one car knocked out. The remainder of the day was uneventful and consisted of moves to the EAST and NE of CELLE as and when the Brs over the rivers were completed. The Regt was concentrated as follows by dark:- 'A' Sqn - CELLE 5951. 'B' Sqn - 600512. 'C' Sqn - 611511. RHQ approx 621522.</p>	
	13	<p>The regtl task for 13 Apr was to recce on a wide front ahead of the Div to UELZEN 8989. The Regt was deployed 3 Sqns up: 'A' Sqn on the left with centre line SHEWEN 5856 - Track Junc 6061 - RABER 6463 - Track junc 685680 - UNTERLUSS 7374 - HOSSERINGEN 8077 - BAHNSEN 8084: in the centre 'B' Sqn on the main rd through ESCHEDA 6962 - WEYHAUSEN 7969 - UELZEN: on the right 'C' Sqn approx centre line OHE 6656 - HOFER 7656 - BEADENBOSTEL 7052 - LUTTERN 7355 - ELDIGAN 859631 - BOKEL 8971 - NETTELKAMP. All Sqns had elements of the Div and 6 Gds Tk Bde behind them.</p>	

		<p>Throughout the day all Sqns were handicapped by demolitions and thick wooded country.</p> <p>On the left 'A' Sqn proceeded with only minor opposition until they reached the area of UNTERLUSS where considerable opposition was met. At UNTERLUSS 'A' Sqn reported a large enclosure of girls at 686681 and a large enclosed Ordnance dump in the area 592567. At UNTERLUSS the estimated strength of the enemy was a minimum of a company and it required inf and tks to deal with them. By the time the inf had cleared UNTERLUSS it was getting dark and 'A' Sqn remained there for the night.</p> <p>'B' Sqn proceeded without hindrance as far as the pond at 667601 where they came across a crater. They tried flanking left over the rly and were greeted by a couple of shots from an SP Gun. After a certain amount of delay they flanked right and continued up through ESCHEDE as far as Br 709646 where they were again shot at by an SP, and simultaneously the Br blew up under their noses. It was at this point that the aged Field Marshal Von MACKENSEN was found. After the tks and inf had cleared this opposition the adv continued to the next crater at 770686. On the way there was a short battle at SCHELPLAH. Up to date the inf had been somewhat skeptical of the Sqn reports of the enemy, and getting impatient they pushed on ahead merely to draw fire on themselves. At this crater there was a considerable delay and eventually a way was found round the left flank to X Tracks 771709, up to HESSERINGEN and then back to the centre line again, but this again was opposed in the area of the X Tracks because the enemy retreating from 'A' Sqn's area of UNTERLUSS ran into 'B' Sqn and 227 Bde as they were coming down to WEYHAUSEN, which was held both by inf and arty.</p> <p>'C' Sqn on the right made their first contact of the day at rd block 660560, but this they speedily cleared and the adv continued, the chief impediment being bad sandy tracks. In the area 801622 - 681614, 'C' Sqn reported an Armd Car and Volkswagen with some men on it, and the main impression that this was a mobile rear-guard to hold up the adv. By 2100 hrs they had reached ENDGERHOLST 7461.</p> <p>'B' Sqn were located for the night at SCHELPLAH and RHQ at ESCHEDE 6962.</p>	
	14	<p>The centre line had been by-passed during the night by 227 Bde, as in the area of the crater at 770686 several unexploded time-bombs had been found. The main rd to UELZEN was therefore impassable. Everything had to go around forest tracks behind 227 Bde. 'A' and 'C' Sqns were employed continuing up their previous centre lines. 'A' Sqn's further task was to recce due NORTH when they reached the</p>	

		<p>area of the rly line by GRAULINGEN 8182 and HAMERSTORF 8383. 'C' Sqn were to continue up to NETTELKAMP and if possible to get round the right flank of UELZEN. 227 Bde had got up during the night to approx HOLDENSTEDT 8783 where they were held up by considerable opposition assumed to be the outer defences of the UELZEN Garrison.</p> <p>At 0815 hrs 'A' Sqn were ordered to recce the following routes:- 7275 - 7877 - DREILINGEN 7683 - BAHNSEN 8084 - BARGFELD - then the main rd back to LINTZEL 6990.</p> <p>'C' Sqn made their first contact at 1130 hrs at 695631 and were bazookad by Hitler Youth. Thereafter they reported periodical small contacts with bazooka teams and odd parties on the ground, but they pushed on. By 1610 hrs they reported the village of BOKEL clear and had collected 170 PW. They appeared to have caught these people completely by surprise. Later in the evening a released PW reported that the village of NETTELKAMP 920799 was held by S.S. Troops and that one tk and 6 half-tracks had left the village heading NORTH to the village of WRESTEDT 7092. 'C' Sqn followed up to this village and found WRESTEDT clear. They were ordered to concentrate for the night and selected the village of NETTELKAMP.</p> <p>'B' Sqn were brought up to give left flank protection to the Div between RABER 8079 incl to UNTERLUSS 7874 inclusive.</p> <p>'A' Sqn patrolled NORTH without any operational contacts and by the evening had their HQ at BAHNSEN 8084.</p>	
	15	<p>By first light the Div was containing the Garrison of UELZEN and preparations were being made to clear the town. 'C' Sqn were supposed to be in NETTELKAMP with the Glasgow Highlanders at STADENSEN 9079. No contact on the air could be gained with 'C' Sqn by first light, and rather alarming reports had been telephoned through from one of the Bdes that they had picked up a Sgt survivor who stated that the Sqn had been counter-attacked in the night and the Sqn wiped out. 'B' Sqn were thereupon ordered to send an Officer patrol out at once to try and find out the situation. Their route was to be SUDERBURG 8381 - X Tracks 867804 - STADENSEN - NETTELKAMP. A liaison officer arrived at about 1020 hrs from STADENSEN who stated that the Glasgow Highlanders have also been counter-attacked during the night and there had been considerable confusion. Some of their pls had been overrun, but that the situation was under control. He stated that NETTELKAMP was believed to be in enemy hands. Meanwhile contact had been gained at last with 'C' Sqn who confirmed that there had been a heavy counter-attack starting at about midnight and continuing until dawn. After holding out until dawn the village was evacuated.</p>	

The counter attack was put in with tks, SPs and half-tracks. The attackers must have either been drugged or drunk, as many of them took crazy risks, howled and screamed like Red Indian tribesmen. The attack was led by inf in rubber boats who had very detailed information of our posns, followed by half-tracks with 20mm cannon who came down the centre of the main street, and supported by SP guns which circled the village and fired into it. Part of this enemy force must have been detached to NETTELKAMP while the remainder of the force went on to the 2nd G.H. at STADENSEN. The strength of the force can be gauged from the fact that one member of the Sqn counted no less than 3 Mk IV Tks, 8 SPs and 29 half-tracks going through the village to STADENSEN. It was obvious that the local inhabitants had given detailed locns of all the tps to the Germans, because as soon as the men left their billets to take up action stations on the alarm being given, Spandaus opened up on all exits, and almost at once SPs started shelling the buildings that were occupied by our men and set them alight. This meant that it was impossible for the men to get to their vehs, as these had been parked tactically around the houses that we had occupied.

The 'B' Sqn patrol, after observing for some time from the edge of the woods in area 833802, pushed fwd into the village of NETTELKAMP with some inf carriers. Here they found considerable chaos, and 60 enemy gave themselves up from a school-house cellar without a shot being fired, in spite of having large quantities of weapons and bazookas still at their disposal. It is admitted that the village had been heavily shelled by our own guns, but even allowing for this it seems difficult to account for this docility in the demons of the night before - possibly the drug(?) had worn off. 6 half-tracks were also found abandoned in the village. The only opposition to the 'B' Sqn patrol and the inf carriers was a certain amount of shelling from the area of the woods about 9380 - 9480. 'C' Sqn casualties in this operation were:-

Personnel:- Killed - 5. Wounded - 14. Missing - 39.

Vehicles:- Carriers - 8. Armd Cars - 4. Half-tracks - 1.

'A' Sqn's orders were to recce NORTH and EAST of the rd HOLDENSTEDT 8884 - UELZEN. They began in the village of WRESTEDT reporting that it was bigger than on the map and that it would take some time to clear. Released PW reported that the enemy and possibly tks were in STEDERDORF 9283. The inf took on the job of clearing these villages and 'A' Sqn pushed NORTH towards NIENDORF.

		<p>One of 'A' Sqn's patrols got as far NORTH as HALLIGDORF 9186 where they contacted and withdrew. The enemy appeared to be all along the main rd between ESTERHOLZ and UELZEN. There seems little further that 'A' Sqn could do as the inf appeared to be permanently in contact and it was a pure inf task.</p>	
	16.	<p>Little happened until late in the evening. 'B' Sqn's task and locn same as before. 'A' Sqn located same as before: 'C' Sqn &amp; RHQ at SUDERBURG. Most of the day was spent in re-organising and sorting out veh casualties, etc. However, late in the afternoon 'B' Sqn were ordered to patrol on the Northern flank round the Western edge of the UELZENER Forest to contact the enemy and also make any contact possible with the advancing 11 Armd Div. 'B' Sqn moved up to HOLTHUSEN 8188. They found that the edges of the forest were held, but that the roads round the outside were not held except at BARNSEN 8290 and BOLSEN 8389. 'A' Sqn moved up to HANSEN 8587. That evening 11 Armd Div cleared both these villages and drove the enemy back into the forest.</p>	
	17	<p>Sqns were in the same area. 'A' Sqn verified 'B' Sqn's patrols of the day before and in addition verified 'B' Sqn's patrol through the UELZENER Forest up to Track junc 871911 and found no organised enemy resistance. RHQ moved up to Kl SUSTEDT 8585 in the evening. Otherwise the day was uneventful.</p> <p>Contact was made with 2nd S.A.S. Regt at BOHLSSEN, about 6 km WEST of UELZEN. As this force, (FRANK FORCE) was an independent command under Lieut. Colonel B.M. FRANKS, DSO, MC, it was decided that he should work in support of the Regt for mutual advantage during further operations.</p>	
	18	<p>The task for today was for the Regt to find the form NORTH and NE of UELZEN <del>and if possible</del> to get as far NORTH as possible. 'A' Sqn were employed on this task. They again reced the UELZENER Forest from SOUTH to NORTH and from WEST to EAST to the outskirts of the town itself. They reported the only enemy were those being chased out of the town itself by the advancing inf, and that these were in great disorder. They then went on NORTH to WESTERWEYHE 8793, KIRCHWEYHE 8397, and then up the main rd with the ultimate objective BEVENSEN 9002. 'A' Sqn's only opposition came from a few Spandaus in the area of EMMENDORF 9095, otherwise they continued up the rd and found great confusion amongst the enemy who were obviously trying to pull out as best they could. It appeared as if the village of BARUM was a collecting post for them as they kept coming in and the patrols there got a good bag. In the area of EMMENDORF 11 Armd Div personnel coming down from the NORTH met 'A' Sqn. From here they</p>	

		<p>motored on to BEVENSEN which they found to be clear. The remainder of the Regt was ordered to concentrate in BEVENSEN. Sqns were moving into BEVENSEN when the Germans attacked from the air, there were no casualties or damage.</p>	
19		<p>The Regtl task was to recce fwd on two main routes towards the R. ELBE with 'B' Sqn on the right, 'C' Sqn on the left. 'A' Sqn to remain in reserve and bound up with Regtl Echelons behind Tac RHQ. The SAS remained with 'B' &amp; 'C' Sqns for this role.</p> <p>'C' Sqn on the left reported the villages of SECKLENDORF 9205 and EDDLESTORF 9309 clear by about 0930 hrs, and progressed very rapidly up the centre line through BAVENDORF, THOMASBURG and NEETZE without meeting any real opposition. A number of PW were taken, and a large PW camp of both AMERICANS and BRITISH was discovered just WEST of BAVENDORF 9415. 11 Armd Div on our left took over the responsibility of this camp. The Sqn continued to tap out from NEETZE towards the R. ELBE but on approaching the banks contact was made on the approaches to the small town of BLACKEDE 985248. It was clear that fairly strong outpost posns were established on rds running into the town. 'C' Sqn set up their HQ at NEETZE and remained in posn of observation on the rds running into BLACKEDE.</p> <p>RHQ bounded up 'C' Sqn centre line and set up temporary HQ at BAVENDORF about midday. A small party of HITLER JUGEND wearing Volksturm arm-bands attempted to stalk RHQ in the hopes of using the Panzerfaust with which they were equipped. They were spotted, fired on, and one PW taken, who on interrogation stated that they were in fact a small recce party which had been sent out to find any infm about the British posns, etc, and if they could, of course, to brew up HQs. Nothing further was seen of the remainder of this party during that day.</p> <p>'B' Sqn on the right met far more opposition, on all the rds running into the large forest of GOHRDE. They made contacts in the following villages: STOITZE 0401, HIMBERGEN 0004, and Gr. THORNDORF 9807. That, in conjunction with civilian reports of enemy mov, made it clear that the Germans were using the forest as some sort of a collecting place for his remnants prior to getting them across the ELBE. In the late afternoon orders from Div HQ were received to the effect that the Regt was to protect the right flank of the Div from incl GARZE to incl BAVENDORF, a distance of some 14 miles. To do this the Regt was deployed as follows: 'A' Sqn, RHQ, and HQ SAS at NEETZE. 'C' Sqn at THOMASBURG, and 'B' Sqn BAVENDORF. The main difficulty was the disposal of PW which had been collected during the day, being some 10 miles ahead of the Inf who were in BEVENSEN</p>	

		<p>9002. However, we sent them down the rd under their own steam, walking towards the inf.</p> <p>The Div plan for tomorrow was for 46 Bde to adv up on the right flank along the general centre line of 'B' Sqn's axis and to seize the town of BLACKEDE. 227 Bde on the left to close up to the ELBE in the area of AHRENSBURG. The Regt spent a quiet night with nothing to report.</p>	
	20	<p>'B' Sqn were pushed out to recce the adv of 46 Bde and made contact as we thought on the main approaches into BLACKEDE from the SOUTH. 46 Bde making a plan for a 7 phase attack to reach the same posns as our fwd patrols. 'A' Sqn patrolled out from NEETZE and made contact again in the same sort of area as 'C' Sqn had yesterday on the approaches to BLACKEDE from the WEST and NW. The remainder of the day was quite uneventful, and apart from standing patrols in the approaches to BLACKEDE the Regt concentrated as follows:- 'A' &amp; 'B' Sqns, RHQ, Echelons &amp; LAD at NEETZE. 'C' Sqn THOMASBURG 9519.</p>	
	21	<p>Regt static. Nothing to report.</p>	
	22	<p>Locns unchanged. Nothing to report.</p>	
	23	<p>Command of the Regt devolved on Major P.T.I. MACDIARMID, MC, Lieut. Colonel K.C.C. SMITH going to the UK on a course and Privilege Leave.</p>	
	24-27.	<p>Locns unchanged. Nothing to report.</p>	
	28	<p>In conjunction with the Div plan for crossing the ELBE, the Regt was ordered to take over the area of 46 Bde on the ELBE bank. In view of the fact that there had been practically no enemy activity, 'A' Sqn were given this commitment, and took up their posns along the line of the ELBE. At about 2100 hrs in the evening a further force was asked for to relieve 227 Bde at TEPSE. A small mixed force from 'HQ' Sqn and the residue 'B' Sqn were sent up under Capt GRAY, MC. A quiet night with nothing to report.</p>	
	29	<p>During the night the Div made the assault crossing of the ELBE. 'C' Sqn Tac HQ and two patrols were standing by ready to cross the ELBE and recce from the B'head as soon as called fwd by Div. By mid-afternoon 'C' Sqn Tac HQ and patrols were across. They had a very unpleasant time in the marshalling area and crossing, due to enemy aircraft, and shelling. Both veh and personnel casualties were caused through enemy air activity. The Regt with under comd 2 Sqns 2nd SAS Regt were given the task of reconnoitring out from the B'head next day, and the Regt was allotted timing to cross the Cl 9 Br at first light on the 30th. Nothing further to report.</p>	
	30	<p>Regt with under comd 2 Sqns 2nd SAS Regt crossed the ELBE Br at 0630 hrs without incident and met up with 'C' Sqn and proceeded to</p>	



recce. 'C' Sqn on the centre line KOLLOW - SCHWARZENBECK. 'A' Sqn on the left - centre line HAMWADE - WORTH 7545. RHQ est at JULIUSBURG.

'C' Sqn progressed very well and by 0930 hrs were sitting in SCHWARZENBECK, having taken a fairly large number of PW. 'A' Sqn on the left made contact in HAMWADE and were generally held up in that area. 'C' Sqn held the southern half of SCHWARZENBECK and made contact with various enemy troops, incl S.S., in the Northern part of this town, on the left in BRUNSTORF 7847 and on the right in the small village 843480. Due to some fast talking on the part of a Troop Comd of 'C' Sqn and the I.O. of the SAS, negotiations were made for the surrender of some 1800 S.S. troops in the general area. These negotiations dragged out during the whole day and did not in fact come to fruition, but quite a large number of S.S. troops and offrs did surrender, although in fact the major part did not. By evening the Regt was relieved by 2 Inf Bns of 44 Bde in SCHWARZENBECK and an Inf Bn of 227 Bde came up to help. 'A' Sqn on the left flank. The Regt concentrated - RHQ & 'C' Sqn in KOLLOW, 'A' Sqn in HAMWADE, with the task of protecting the Div centre line up to SCHWARZENBECK during the night.

During the day some four to five hundred PW were taken. The Regt by night-fall was located as under:-

RHQ, 'A' Echelon & 'C' Sqn - KOLLOW 814445.

'B' Sqn (Residue Sqn) & LAD - NEETZE.

'B' Echelon in the Div Adm area BAVENDORF.

Orders were received that night for patrolling NORTH and NW from the Corps B'head tomorrow.

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

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Unit 15th Scottish Reconnaissance Regt  
incl LAD att.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. K.C.C. Smith

Month and Year MAY 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
B.L.A.	1		<p>Regt located as under -            RHQ KOLLOW 814445 with C Sqn and A Ech            A Sqn HAMWADE            B Sqn (Residue Sqn) and LAD NEETZE            B Ech in Div Adm Area BAVENDORF.</p> <p>The main task today was to patrol outside the perimeter of the Corps brhead and to seize, if possible, the village of BRUNSDORF and to patrol out westwards from HAMWADE towards HAMBURG. C Sqn patrolled northward and finally took the village of BRUNSDORF at approx 1800 hrs, where they were relieved by 6 KOSB.</p> <p>A Sqn with under comd two patrols SAS patrolled westwards from HAMWADE and made contact in the general area of the woods some 5 miles further on. They had to withdraw for the night as the inf had not come up but remained static during the day.</p>	
	2		<p>Local patrolling from the brhead westwards to HAMBURG and northwards on the main axis towards LUBECK. Very little to report during the day except on the western side where A Sqn was approached by German Officers with the initial surrender of forces within the small town of BERGDORF. In point of fact this finally developed through various channels to the complete surrender of the German Armies in the NW of GERMANY.</p> <p>Otherwise this was a fairly uneventful day.</p>	
	3		<p>Ordered today to push on if possible to cut the HAMBURG - LUBECK Autobahn in the areas of BARGTEHEIDE 6673 and AHRENSBURG 6667, when we would be followed up by 44 Bde on the rt and 44 Bde on the left. Sqns set out at first light with two tps SAS in support; A Sqn on the rt and C Sqn on the left. By 1000 hrs A Sqn had cleared the general area in which the Bde was going to lie up, that is, TRITTAU, LUTJENSEE, C Sqn on the left had cleared up as far as PAPENDORF and LAGELAKE 6858. A Sqn made rapid progress on the rt and cut the Autobahn at HAMMOR at about 1130 hrs. They had a certain amount of trouble with a fair number of stragglers and one or two organised</p>	

		<p>posts of SS who appeared to be holding the general line of the Autobahn.</p> <p>C Sqn on the left, having cleared PAPENDORF and area were going to continue on to their objective when they were approached by a German Staff Officer with a Stop Line which he said had been arranged by Treaty and which briefly was a line drawn round the outskirts of the suburbs of HAMBURG. This was referred to Div for their guidance and after some delay it was finally found that this was in fact the initial surrender of HAMBURG. C Sqn were therefore unable to progress any further. A Sqn continued on the rt and captured BARGTEHEIDE, and C Sqn then side-stepped behind A Sqn so as not to interfere with the demarcation line and continued and captured AHRENSBURG. Up until about 1600 hrs the Regt had taken some 5 - 600 PW. About this time the Commander 2nd SAS Regt was called to Corps, and he and the CO motored up the Autobahn as far as LUBECK, and were able to report the whole line of the Autobahn clear. The remainder of the day was spent with the Sqns patrolling in a westerly and northwesterly direction from firm bases at BARGTEHEIDE and AHRENSBURG.</p> <p>No enemy were found within 7 to 10 miles from these firm bases. Contact was made with 11 Armd Div at BAD ODESLOE. The Regt harboured for the night, A Sqn BARGTEHEIDE, C Sqn AHRENSBURG, RHQ and HQ 2 SAS, A Ech at GROSS HANS DORF. Orders were received from Div to hold BARGTEHEIDE and AHRENSBURG for the night.</p> <p>At about 1900 hrs a flying patrol was sent to FRIEDRISK SRAH 730512 to guard documents of importance to the Allies which were located in the Schloss at this town, which was being used by the SWEDISH and NORWEGIAN Legations.</p>	
	4	<p>Regt remained in situ until Bdes took over from us at BARGTEHEIDE and AHRENSBURG, when the Regt less B Sqn, A Ech and LAD, were moved to ELMENHORST 669776. Regt spent a quiet day on maintenance, until at about midnight Comd 2 SAS, who had harboured his Regt at BORSTAL some 2 miles from ELMENHORST, came in to state that one of his jeeps had been ambushed in the area HEIDERFELD 6489. The Burgomaster of that village had come down by bicycle to tell him that a number of SS Tps had set up in the village and ambushed his jeep, and were remaining in the village. OC 2 SAS Regt requested assistance for an early strike tomorrow morning before the "cease fire" came into effect at 0800 hrs. Arrangements to this effect were made.</p>	
	5	<p>The striking force under the CO of 4 car patrols with mortars and A/Tk guns, and 2 Sqns SAS, Rvd at LEEZEN 6588 at 0530 hrs. Patrols pushed into HEIDERFELD and met no opposition, but a jeep was found</p>	

		<p>abandoned and shot up. On enquiries locally it was confirmed that about 60 SS had been in the village the night before when the driver and co-driver of the jeep had been very badly wounded, if not killed. The remaining two occupants of the jeep were slightly wounded. The enemy had withdrawn from the village about 2 hours before we arrived. Patrols then pushed on through TODESFELD 6091 to BARK 6193 where they caught up with about 10 SS who were taken prisoner. They stated that the main force had withdrawn into the forest at SEGEBURG with strong posts in the villages of WITTENBORN 6395 WANSTEDT 6398. As the Armistice came into effect whilst we were clearing up the 10 SS in BARK it was decided that no further action could be taken and the force returned to LEEZEN. The remainder of the day was uneventful.</p>									
	6	Nothing to report.									
	7	<p>Locns as above. One Sqn required for force consisting of 46 Bde Gp who were to go and occupy KIEL. A Sqn were put under comd 46 Bde Gp and proceeded with them to KIEL. The occupation was entirely uneventful; the Sqn seized and held the various brs in the harbour area required of them without any opposition at all. Sqn HQ was est in KIEL.</p> <p>B Sqn (Residue Sqn) and the LAD were brought up from KOLLOW and were harboured at NERITZE 6880.</p>									
	8	<p>A further Sqn was required to form a stop on the brs over the KIEL CANAL to control the remainder of the German Armies from DENMARK who were coming South towards HAMBURG to surrender. C Sqn were sent out on this and seized and held without opposition the line of the KIEL CANAL from BRUNSBUTEL 5290 - br 0416, where they formed crossing patrols on all crossing places between these two points.</p> <p>Locns of the Regt for the night -</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>RHQ, A Ech, LAD</td> <td>ELMENHORST 6777</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A Sqn</td> <td>KIEL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B Sqn</td> <td>NERITZE 6880</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Sqn</td> <td>BRUNSBUTEL 5290</td> </tr> </table>	RHQ, A Ech, LAD	ELMENHORST 6777	A Sqn	KIEL	B Sqn	NERITZE 6880	C Sqn	BRUNSBUTEL 5290	
RHQ, A Ech, LAD	ELMENHORST 6777										
A Sqn	KIEL										
B Sqn	NERITZE 6880										
C Sqn	BRUNSBUTEL 5290										
	9	<p>No change in locns. During the day the CO was called to Div for an O Gp when it was stated that by arrangements with 8 Corps a GERMAN Force was to attempt to clear the forest of SEGEBURG of the SS who were still holding out in that area. Steps were required to ensure that the main axis BAD SEGEBURG 6896 - NEUMUNSTER 4711 was not interfered with, and the residue Sqn was put out to do this! They took up posns on the morning of the 10th.</p>									

	10		Locns - "A" Sqn - KIEL. "B" Sqn - stops in the Wehrmacht - SS battle on the main SEGEBURG - NEUMUNSTER Rd. RHQ, A Ech and LAD - ELMENHORST. "C" Sqn - BRUNSBUTEL.	
	11		Nothing to report. B Ech joined RHQ at ELMENHORST.	
	12-13		Nothing to report.	
	14		C Sqn relieved from commitment on KIEL CANAL and returned to previous locn at ELMENHORST.	
	15		B Sqn relieved from commitment on axis BAD SEGEBURG - NEUMUNSTER and returned to NERITZE. A Sqn remained at KIEL. RHQ, A Ech, B Ech and LAD at ELMENHORST. Warning Order received from Div that the Regt would be required to take over a PW staging camp commitment on the BALTIC Coast, probably on 16 or 17 MAY. Orders to this effect were confirmed that evening.	
	16.		Lt. Col. K.C.C. SMITH returned from UK and re-assumed comd of the Regt, Major P.T.I. MacDIARMID reverting to 2 i/c. Regt less A Sqn moved to TIMMENDORFER STRAND 9905 preparatory to taking over PW Staging Camp Commitments in that area. Recces were made and camps set up in the large woods 9806 - 9905. Final arrangements were made to meet the PW who were supposed to arrive in US PW Tpt.	
	17		Locns - RHQ, B & C Sqns, A & B Ech and LAD - TIMMENDORFER STRAND A Sqn - KIEL The IO was sent to a co-ordinating conference at LUBECK and arrived back at RHQ at approx 1600 hrs with two LOs from the American 8 Div (18 Corps) with the infm that the PW were not now arriving by rd, but would, in fact, arrive by train. A complete re-shuffle of the staging area was therefore necessary and arrangements had to be made to receive PW from the trains and take them into the staging camp and then continue as before, marching to NEUSTADT. It was quite apparent that as the train had to be on to NEUSTADT to complete the circuit that it would be very much easier to detrain, if possible, in NEUSTADT and hand the German PW straight to the German control instead of staging them in TIMMENDORFER and continue to march them up the already overcrowded rd, overcrowding being caused by a very considerable number of DPs in the general area. Arrangements to second the motion with US 80 Corps to bring this about.	
	18		The first batch of 23,000 PW arrived by train without major incident and were staged for the night in the prepared camps. Permission was obtained during the day to change the plan and to detrain at NEUSTADT and hand PW straight to German Control without staging. Recces and arrangements were accordingly made for this. It was decided that the staging camp would be emptied as follows -	

		3,000 - 19 MAY. 10,000 - 20 MAY. 10,000 - 21 MAY. A Sqn were relieved of commitment at KIEL and reverted to comd of the Regt. They were located at NIENDORF 0401.	
	19	Detraining commenced at NEUSTADT 0116. The vehs of the German PW arrived by rd and had to be passed by us into the German area.	
	20-23	Regt continued with PW commitment at NEUSTADT.	
	24	Two Sqns ordered to take over from RA in the northern part of KREIS STORMAN in the towns of BAD ODESLOE and REINFELD 8185. A and C Sqns were ordered for this task and moved that day.	
	25	Regt located as under - RHQ, A and B Echs, LAD - TIMMENDORFER STRAND A Sqn - BAD ODESLOE - commitment of VPs and DPs. B Sqn - TIMMENDORFER STRAND C Sqn - REINFELD - commitment, control of DPs in that area.	
	26-27	As above with extra commitment of C Sqn producing 3 tps of Armd Cars to escort SS PW to Second Army SS Camp.	
	28-30	Nothing to report.	
	31	Nothing to report. Locns of Regt as under - RHQ, A and B Echs, LAD, B Sqn - TIMMENDORFER STRAND. A Sqn - BAD ODESLOE C Sqn - REINFELD.	