

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 624 Field Park Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year June 44

Commanding Officer Major M.D. Wilkinson RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Storrington	June 1st		2i/c to GHQ 2nd Ech to discuss personnel deficiencies. Informed would not be made up until Assault Corps completed & that no ops excavators could be expected. Lt Lodge to E St ref spares & deficiencies for ME.	MDW
	June 2nd		4 mine detectors & various odd stores arrived	MDW
	3rd		Surplus clothing, 180 earth augers despatched. RE dump at Rowlands Castle visited & S.W.R. for tow ropes etc collected.	MDW
	4th		Workshops making 56 tow ropes for Div HQ	MDW
	5th		T.D.9 exchanged for D4 with 866 ME Park Coy. Spares for additional D4 ordered from War Office. Arrangements made to collect two sets Plastic Armour for D6 & D4	MDW
	6th		D day - news heard over wireless 0930 hrs. OC to HQRE 1430 to collect messages from Supreme Commander & C in C 21 Army Gp.	MDW
Storrington	June 7		OC to London to buy Jacks for Br equipment. Work started on armouring D6. Mech Equip adviser from 8 Corps visited & advised throwing away of PCU fitted to new D4. Spares for D6 arrived. 4 RAF bomb disposers perm att to unit.	MDW
	June 8		OC to London to buy outstanding stores. Armouring of bulldozers proceeded with.	MDW
	June 9		PCU returned to E. Stores, armouring of bulldozers completed. Mine Detectors collected. 4 op excavators arrived	MDW
	June 10th		Bulldozers & Tech Stores trucks reweighed.	MDW
	June 11th		Reloading completed. Awaiting orders to move.	MDW
	12		Still waiting.	MDW
	13		Weather foul until pm when cleared. Still waiting. 278 & 279 away	MDW
	14		Weather better. Still waiting. 20 Fd Coy away	MDW

	15		OC to District to see if any news available. Should have according to plan moved to-day. Appear to have missed boat.	MDW
	16		OC to District to receive orders for move	MDW
Emsworth	17		Coy moved to marshalling area A 2 - no casualties en route.	MDW
	18 -25		Waiting in Marshalling Area split into 7 LCT 4 craft loads	Appx B. MDW
	26		All craft loads called to Embarkation Area.	MDW
Cully	27	0900 1000 1400	OC's craft load (14 vehs) 2i/cs craft load (5 vehs) arrived. Dump taken over from HQRE. Lt Field's craft load (6 vehs) arrived ASM Brown's craft load (6 vehs) arrived with one in tow. Vehs under repair by evening. Various stores & equipment issued	MDW MDW MDW
	29	1130	One 15-cwt truck arrived in harbour area. Informed by dvr that other two vehs in Cpl Fairman's party were also disembarked but these have not yet arrived in unit harbour area.	MDW
	31	1900	Lieut Lodge's craft pty arrived in harbour area complete. Lieut Light's craft pty arrived, less one grillage lorry.	MDW
Cully	30	2359	Coy now complete, except for one grillage lorry. Stores Pl have been operating dump since arrival in this area. Workshop Pl not yet operating as Machinery Lorry arrived only this evening - will be operating tomorrow. Coy up to strength in personnel. In a small number of cases deficiencies in Tradesmen are covered by men of other trades. All inoculations and vaccinations completed.  M.D. Wilkinson Major RE	MDW

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**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 624 Field Park Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year July 44

Commanding Officer Major M.D. Wilkinson RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Cully (France)	July 1		Workshops Pl & Pet Pl now complete and in operation. Issue of stores continued.	MDW
	July 2		Division drawn into reserve. All attached vehs (bridging & stores vehs) left this unit. Ordered to construct showers for division.	MDW
	July 3		Orders re showers cancelled. Mobile Bath unit on way ☉ Given task of repairing road N of Secqueville en Bessin Div Comdr addressed all ranks 1700 hrs.	MDW
	July 4		Mobile Bath unit arrived & put under command ☉ 2500 baths given ☉ work on road commenced. Workshop Pl making sign boards.	MDW
	5		Mob Bath unit - 3000 ☉ all coy had shower. Work on road continued. Workshops still making signs.	MDW
	6		Mob Bath Unit 2500 ☉ work on road continued ☉ workshops making signs and stands for Provost.	MDW
	July 7th		Mob Bath Unit 3000 ☉ Workshops making signs, grave crosses and cow identity discs (sic) and stands for signs ☉ work on road continued.	MDW
	8		As above. Trial pit dug by D6 & D4 to give cover against shell & mortar splinters for Div HQ. Not a success	MDW
	9		Workshop Pl making signs, crosses, provost sign stands. Stores Pl making new entrance & exit to water point at Secqueville. Bridging continuing with road.	MDW
	10		Weather deteriorating. Stores continuing with entrance & exit to water point. Workshops on crosses. Bridging on road.	MDW
	11		Mech Equip to CARPIQUET area to dig in portions of new Div HQ area. Spr Westrop (op Ex) wounded by shellfire. Entrances to water point completed incl hardcore. Work continued on road. Workshops still making crosses and signs plus odd 'comforts' jobs for Div HQ.	MDW
Cully	July 12		Work continued on new Div HQ at CARPIQUET. Work on road continued. Workshops pl on crosses and odd jobs.	MDW

Cully	July 13		Stores Pl formed adv dump area St MAUVIEU. Mech Equip own - digging in Div HQ plus one to 279 ☉ 2 Armd D7's drawn from 25 M.E. Sec. Priority residues arrived.	MDW
ST MAUVIEU	July 14		Stores Pl moved to another area St Mauvieu and dump formed (approx 40 lorry loads on ground, 12 on wheels + 15 tippers + 6 empty Div RASC vehs). Remainder of coy moved up to new area	MDW
ST MAUVIEU	15th		Issue of stores continued. Mech Equip all issued to coys for Operation Green Line. 6 CONGERS drawn and being maintained	MDW
	16th		One arm D4 + 2 operators reported missing 0800 hrs. One sec Pioneers reported for duty. Congers being put in working order. D4 & operators reported safe 1500 hrs.	MDW
St Mauvieu	17		Issues of stores continued. 3 Bulldozers maintained & repaired. Petter engines of water supply equipt overhauled. New sec of Pioneers arrived to replace the other. Whole company out in evening stripping damaged houses in St Mauvieu to collect timber to provide overhead cover for inf in line. 2 lorry loads ready by 2200 hrs. 12 new S tanks arrived flown from England to meet urgent demand. 6 Congers ready less filling explosive. German bomb disposed of by RAF personnel - 50 Kg 55 Fuse.	MDW
	18		Div drawn back & relieved by 53 Div. All attached br vehs, tippers and Corps RASC vehs withdrawn. Pioneers withdrawn	MDW
	19		Coy resting. Further timber gathered from houses, workshops and stores continued with skeleton staff.	MDW
	20 -22		Rest period ☉ workshops & stores pl continued with skeleton staffs	MDW
St Mauvieu	22		Coy received orders to move next day to area S of Balleroy.	MDW
	23.		Coy moved to S of BALLEROY without incident leaving pty at St Mauvieu to guard stores which could not be lifted	MDW
BALLEROY	24		Convoy 22 vehs sent back to St Mauvieu to bring up remaining stores & congers. OC with CREME to recce veh washing sites.	MDW
	25		Two veh washing sites under constr by stores & br pls. Workshop pl constr showers, signs etc. REME inspection of all vehs.	MDW
	26		Veh washing sites completed.	MDW
	27		Shower bath (for Div RE) completed. Consignment stores collected Corps Fd Pk. ME all in use. 3 Lorry loads trees collected Forest de 'Cerisey' to rip down as no timber available thro' E channels	MDW
	28		Collection of stores continued ☉ construction large number notice boards ordered	MDW
	29		Collection of stores ☉ urgent constr of notice boards & duckboards (solid timbered) to provide overhead cover for inf against air bursts.	MDW

			1 op excav injured, one sick, now only 4 left instead of 8.	
CAUMONT	30		Move to CAUMONT area ☉ complete dump 150 tons moved with 6 RASC lorries ☉ 2 additional arm D7's collected. Move took 12 hrs due to large number of trips necessary & 'bank holiday' condition of roads.	MDW
	31		Issue of stores continued. Notice board production continued. 6 Congers handed over to 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy RE.  M.D. Wilkinson Major	

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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 624 Field Park Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year Aug 44

Commanding Officer Major M.D. Wilkinson RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
CAUMONT	1st		Issue stores continued ☉ considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting mech equip operators' blankets and kit carried to their harbour area. Especially on small machinery (ie D6 & D4) there is NOT room for 2 operators kit and blankets ☉ they frequently work with different pls & units during one day and have not time to send back for their kit before moving on ☉ it is recommended that a small trailer (about size of a small handcart) be provided for each D6 & D4 so that when they are working for long periods away from their transporter they can take kit, blankets, rations, maintenance equip etc with them. This unit has captured a small German horse drawn trailer which is proving ideal. There is room to carry it on the transporter when the mech equip is travelling on the transporter.	
HERVIEU	2		Coy moved complete with 150 tons stores from dump to area HERVIEU starting 1600 hrs and all being in by 2200 hrs. Loading pty 30 men & 20 RASC lorries provided. New design for tank track notice boards brought out ☉ experience shows nothing less than 4' x 4' timber or 6' x 3' CGI is any good for size. The former takes an immense amount of timber and the latter is very slow to paint. Recommended large size notice boards (Provost type) be made an ord issue. These require tripod (like blackboard easel) each leg made out of 1½ angle iron pickets welded together, the three legs being wired together with snake lashing of 14 gauge wire. Large scale production of these tripods started but painters a serious bottleneck.	
	3		Painting new design signs ☉ very unsatisfactory as CGI difficult and slow to paint ☉ issue stores carried on	
	4		Orders received to move following day first light. 30 load stores returned to Corps Fd Pk. 15 loads sent fwd with CSM to form adv pty. RAF disposed of U.S. A/P bomb dropped Gordons during afternoon. Home made Div RE shower bath erected.	

Le Tourneur	5		Coy moved during morning in 2's & 3's as roads very congested. RAF disposed 2 U.S. A/P bombs one at Main, one at rear div. Air strip completed. Jar air O.P. opposite coy locn.	
	6		Issue of stores continued ☉ ME much in demand. 1½ pls Bailey Br from Br Coy RASC under command. RE 15 (S) Div Op Instr No 5 received 0730 hrs.	
	7		Issue stores and ME continued up to 2200 hrs. Otherwise quiet day. Making and painting signs as usual. Could do with at least 3 more painters permanently as painters are bottleneck in this. 50 sheets 22 gauge sheet metal 6' x 3' arrived from Corps for experimenting as signs (see my suggestion on 2nd Aug). These require stiffening - experiments in hand.	
	8		Experiments successful with 2 battens down back. Started on production. Other types notices continued in production	
	9		Production signs etc continued ☉ semi rest period - coy shower in full blast for 4 days now bathing other coys ☉ ME, Stellar trailers and Petter pumps overhauled and repaired	
	10		1½ pls Bailey, FBE & 2 Arm D7's all reverted from under command this unit ☉ Production of signs continued. Estimated signs made since arrival 6' x 3' - 100, 4' x 4' 300, 2'-3" x 2'-3" 500. Miscellaneous smaller signs 500. Since most of these were made of timber, the value of the circular saw has been enormous. It has seldom worked for less than 8 hours a day.	
	11		Painting signs, repairing ME & Stellers, & generally getting ready for next move fwd expected soon.	
	12		Received warning order to move near future as Div leaving 8 Corps & joining 12 Corps. Returned certain stores & packed up	
	13		Move postponed one day - rested coy.	
AVENAY	14		Coy moved to AVENAY. 8 lorries sent back to lift remainder of dump	
	15		2 secs FBE under command for br over ORNE built by 279. 2 - 500 lbs and one 1000 lbs (British) bombs removed by RAF	
	16		Resting, visit by Div Commander	
	17		OC reced new area near FRESNAY LE VIEUX. Half dump moved out in evening with adv pty under CSM. RAF disposed 4 Allied Bombs (one - 1000 lb British 3 - 500 lb British & American)	
FRESNAY LE VIEUX	18		Coy moved new location arriving 1400 hrs ☉ digging in not possible due to rock at depth 6" ☉ however long way from front so not worried	
	19		One 500 lb bomb (Brit) removed by RAF. RE 15 (S) Div Op Instr No 8 issued for next operations. One pl Bailey under command	

VILLERS-CANIVET	20		OC reced new area 0600 hrs, coy started moving 0900 hrs and all in incl extra 10 loads. 6 extra lorries from Div RASC, 4 Cl II angledozers and 2 tptrs. 4 Landing Stage units and 2 centre panel units under command. Operation postponed 48 hours.	
	21		Very heavy rain from midnight till late afternoon.	
	22		Received orders to make 20 brackets for assault boats, new General's caravan from a TCV (unfortunately the general is very tall), new G.3 I's office ⊙ fixed up details and ordered stores, received RE Op Instr No 10 allotting stores etc.	
	23		Issued br equip and stores to coys as follows: to 279 Fd Coy, 26 Br Pl, 1 Arm D7, 1 Arm D6, 5 stores vehs, 4 Landing Stage Units & 2 Centre Panel Units FBE, to 20 Fd Coy, 1 Pl Bailey, 2 unarmd TD 18's, 4 stores vehs. Drew 6 more RASC lorries and was able to become fully mobile in one shift. Work proceeding on signs brackets & caravans	
FALAISE	24		H hour for Op GALLOP 0830. Coy moved to 4 miles E of FALAISE. 10 Assault Boat lorries under command plus 45 Seagull engines. Difficulty in keeping ME on move as one transporter did not turn up, one was bogged and one was lost.	
GRANDCHAIN	25		Coy moved 0750 destination being unknown. OC ahead & moved 278 Fd Coy. Bridging equip (incl refilled 26 Br Pl and new pl from Br Coy picked up en route) & rest of coy in priority convoy to GRANDCHAIN. One pl Bailey immediately sent fwd 2 secs each to 278 279 fd coys ⊙ new Bailey pl drawn & 2 secs FBE night 25/26 ⊙ own Br pl in reserve	
ECANDEVILLE	26		Coy moved 1200 hrs to ECANDEVILLE ⊙ 26 Br Pl moved 0700 hrs to LOUVIERS with pl 20 Fd Coy ⊙ additional 8 Panels 4 Decking 2 Accessory from att br veh sent fwd 1800 hrs to same location. Mech equip collected & reissued	
QUATREMARE	27		Empty br vehs returned ⊙ 26 Br Pl made up from remaining loads of att 147 Br Coy vehicles ⊙ this pl returned to GRANDCHAIN and new pl 147 Br Coy drawn in lieu. Coy moved to QUATREMARE	
	28		Att Br Pl returned to 147 Br Coy. Empty Assault boat vehs returned 85 Can Br Coy. ME collected in	
	29		Weather broken - heavy rain. Maintenance of equipt whilst waiting to move across SEINE.	
HEUDEBOUVILLE	30		Informed not to move across until div relieved of responsibility of maintaining crossings. Coy moved to HEUDEBOUVILLE afternoon. Attached ME returned to 6 ME SEC	



	31		<p>Coy at normal work. Collected assault boats from R Seine and decking from demolished German brs and transported to Cl 40 Bailey Pontoon site</p> <p>Coy at full strength and with additional captured tpt, 1 - 15 cwt, 2 3 tonners, 1 6 tonner, 2 trailers.</p> <p>M.D. Wilkinson Major RE</p>	
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**WAR DIARY**

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Unit 624 Field Park Coy RE

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Month and Year Sep 44

Commanding Officer Major M.D. Wilkinson

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HEUDEBOUVILLE	1		12 RASC Br vehs returned to RASC. Collected assault boats from R SEINE and decking from demolished German br transported to BAILEY PONTOON site.	
LORLEAN	2		Coy moved afternoon across BAILEY PONTOON br at LES ANDELYS to LORLEAN. Now leading unit in div by about 20 miles with no other tps near. <del>6 RASC stores vehs sent to RASC to transport</del> 4 tippers returned to 265 Corps Fd Pk RE. Strong armistice rumours due to message received on NO account to open fire on enemy aircraft to-morrow. Enemy vehs acquired by coy during last 4 days stood journey successfully.	
	3		Days work got in on General's caravan. OC obtained permission to move ahead of Div following day instead of short move	
LE QUESNOY SUR AIRAINES	4		Coy moved at 0600 hrs being in harbour by 1130 hrs. Work continued by workshops - remainder having rest.	
FREVENT	5		Coy moved to FREVENT arriving mid-day.	
NECHIN (BELGIUM)	Sept 6		Coy moved off 1230 hrs and travelled all day finally harbouring NECHIN just over frontier. Tremendous cheering crowds all way impeded progress. Distance approx 80 miles, no breakdowns	
	7		Composite pl under Lt Lodge under command 278 Fd Coy to guard bridge over canal at BOSSUYT in case of enemy break through	
AUDENARDE	8		Pl returned. Coy moved to AUDENARDE area	
	9		Remained AUDENARDE, bathed coy, work continued on General's caravan	
BREENDONCK	10		Moved to S of BREENDONCK	
	11		Remained BREENDONCK. Div Concert Party for Div RE, party allowed into BRUSSELS in liberty truck. Pay & NAAFI rations for first time for long period	
WOLFSDONCK	12	1400	Coy moved to WOLFSDONCK. On arrival proved to be totally unsuitable and inadequate area.	

WESTERLOO		1800	Coy moved to WESTERLOO along verges of main rd running E from WESTERLOO. Told by CRE likely to remain several days. One FBE pl under command 2100 hrs.	
	13	0900 2000	One Bailey pl, one Assault pl under command. Baths erected, workshops LAD & stores all at proper work 2 secs FBE issued 20, 2 secs FBE 1 close support raft, 3 loads assault boats 279, 2 loads assault boats 227 Bde, 1 46 Bde, 1 44 Bde	
	14		1 Bailey sec less 1 Panel lorry to 279 Fd Coy. 2 Armd D7's under command & issued to 279, 20 Fd Coy 2 D4's to 263 Fd Coy (Corps Tps). Some FBE dumped at new site Albert Canal. Coles crane damaged, 1 Assault Boat lorry damaged & dvr killed.	
GHEEL	15		Coy moved 3 miles SE GHEEL across ALBERT CANAL. One Pontoon Pl, one FBE pl came under command.	
GHEEL	16		Issue of Br equipment, collection of spares from old sites in order to overcome shortage. Three separate columns prepared & despatched up to 0300 hrs 17. Far the busiest day so far for all concerned since we landed.	
	17		Collecting & sorting out br & re-issuing incl One Bailey Pl, One FBE pl & ½ Assault pl to 53 DIV. Refilling assault boats. Repair of assault boats & Cl 5 rafts & re-issue. One extra FBE pl under command.  Watched airborne tps passing overhead for 1½ hrs at lunch time on way to Rhine. Attached tps in morning brought numbers up to over 500. However exodus of br equip in afternoon reduced this to about 320. Fd Pk Coy working under these conditions definitely requires better communications, telephones or wireless to br col essential. All captured enemy vehs less trailers returned under protest to 2 Army.	
GHEEL	18 - 19		Issue of br equip & stores continued. Collection of assault boats & repair. Repair to Cl 5 rafts. Refilling br equipment from salvaged parts	
	20		General's caravan finished & delivered. Issue of br equipment continued. Night 20/21 recovery of all possible FBE & assault boats from GHEEL bridgehead. Pontoon Pl to Corps Fd Pk.	
EINDHOVEN	21	0300 1100 2300	All odd loads FBE, all damaged assault boats, 4 loads stores to Corps Fd Pk ready for move. Coy moved to EINDHOVEN area with following equipt. 2 secs FBE, 1 pl Bailey, ½ Assault Pl. Further equipment arrived in new location 1 Pl Bailey, ½ pl FBE	
	22 - 27		Coy issued br equipment to 53 Div, 7 Armd Div & own Div + 12 Corps tps. On 25th Major Christie RASC arrived to assist in	

		controlling br equipt. On this only br under our control is 26 Br Pl plus 2 secs Bailey Pl and one sec FBE pl. Workshops employed on maintenance work on equipt & assault boats plus work on G3(I)'s office truck. All members of coy to either cinema shows or ENSA concerts in EINDHOVEN. Coy living mainly on German rations. Amount of work eased night 25th on being relieved of control of br equipt. Up to then all ranks working all day & most of night for 5 days on end.	
	27-30	Workshops continued on notice boards, caravans & repair of equipt stores on issue of stores. All coy attended cinema or ENSA shows in EINDHOVEN.  M.D. Wilkinson Major RE	

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**WAR DIARY**

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Unit 624 FIELD PARK COY RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

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Month and Year OCTOBER 1944

Commanding Officer Major M.D. Wilkinson RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
EINDHOVEN	OCT 1		All attached Br Equip and ME reverted to Corps Fd Pk Coy RE OC on recce for new area	
GERWEN	OCT 2		Coy moved to GERWEN. All ranks under cover in schools, barns etc. 5 Tippers returned to 265 Corps Fd Pk Coy. Division now under 8 Corps.	
	OCT 4-8		Period of overhaul of equipt. Cleaning up of men, vehs & equipment. All water supply stores called in Attached RASC vehs returned to RASC	
	9-13		Buying & preparing stores for 2 RSJ & timber bridges erected by 278 & 279 Fd Coys. This greatly assisted by DUTCH interpreter acquired on 6 Oct - a Mr EYKELESTAM from EINDHOVEN. Permanently attached to unit & lives with officers.	
	14-16		Preparing br equipt & stores & ME for new operation in WEERT area.	
GERWEN	17		Operation at WEERT cancelled. Under command 12 Corps All attached stores & equipt returned to 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy.	
	18-21		Coy continued on normal works overhauling of equipt etc + fair number of entertainments etc	
	22-23		Preparing for next operation ☉ collecting stores etc completing work in hand. 2 armd D7's & 12 Div RASC lorries attached.	
	24	0900 2100	Coy making & delivering fascines for AVRE Sqn Coy received orders to move early 25. Br Pl sent fwd to ACHT to r.v. with 279 Fd Coy	
EINDHOVEN	25	0730	Coy moved to N. outskirts EINDHOVEN. Empty br vehs (4) sent back to reload. Remainder to 278 Fd Coy. Following came under command ½ FBE pl + part assault pl, 1 Pontoon Pl. Workshops pl to EINDHOVEN to load BAILEY PL which reached us 1800 hrs.	
BEST		1630	Coy moved to BEST. Lt LODGE + a Divisional RASC pl to BOURG LEOPOLD to load another BAILEY PL. Lt Meredith joined as OC Br Pl.	

	26		Lt Lodge + Bailey pl arrived 0400 hrs. Unloaded & dumped. Other Bailey pl - ½ to 278 ½ to 279. Autopatrol arrived. Empty BAILEY PL reloaded from dumped equipt.	
	27		Recced & built Cl 9 130 ft D.S. Bailey Br at OIRSCHOT Recce pty arrived 0830, Adv & Main Pty 1000 hrs, Br Equip 1100 hrs. Br completed & opened 2100 hrs. OC injured	
DIESSEN	28		Wearing surface put on br & approaches improved. OC out of hospital. Coy moved 1400 hrs to DIESSEN. OC recced TILBURG for RSJs & wearing surface. Warning order to move back HELMOND area received late at night	
STIPHOUT	29		Coy moved to STIPHOUT having got rid of attached ME, Bailey Pl and odd BAILEY stores	
	30		Resting. Coy bathed.	
	31		26 Br Pl used on Bridge across canal E of HELMOND and refilled from 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy RE at MILL. Weather very poor. Present location down long track which is rapidly breaking up. Trying to move Coy to HELMOND.  M.D. Wilkinson Major RE OC 624 Field Park Coy RE	

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**WAR DIARY**

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Unit 624 Field Park Coy RE

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Month and Year Nov 44

Commanding Officer Major M.D. Wilkinson RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
STIPHOUT	Nov 1		Coy at normal works. OC recce for new billets in HELMOND area as rd to billets breaking up.	
HELMOND	Nov 2		Move to HELMOND. All men under cover and workshops in proper workshops. Large scale sign production undertaken especially mine marking signs.	
	3		Part of br pl used for br over canal. Refilled. D6 out to 279.	
	4-7		Coy at normal works, maintenance etc. Billets made more habitable by building of brick fireplaces	
	7-13		Following works done. A mess caravan completed, CRA's new caravan started, made blowers for disclosing schu mines to work off compressor, made small spiked roller to detonate schu mine, signs and furniture for Div Club. Decorator to paint murals at Div club. Purchasing & supplying large quantity timber, nails etc to various units	
ASTEN	Nov 14		Move to ASTEN. Drew 30 tons Defence stores & with further 30 tons miscellaneous stores formed dump. Demonstration of anti-schu mine devices ⊙ compressor blower and roller fairly successful. New improved roller started on	
	Nov 15-16		Following came under command - 1 Bailey Pl, 1 Ass Pl, 1 Tipper Pl, 2 D7's, 1 Autopatrol. 4 Congers fetched & delivered to 222 Ass Sqn. Mobile Bailey parts fetched & delivered to 222 Ass Sqn.	
	17		Excavator to fill Tippers under command, ½ FBE pl under command. Ladders constructed for infantry.	
	18-22		40 RASC lorries attached for carriage of Sommerfeld Track and PBS & delivery to 278 & 20 Fd Coy. Loading & unloading proceeded thro' 24 hrs each day.	
	22		Congers & explosives returned to 508 Corps Fd Pk. RASC drivers got some sleep as roadmaking & carriage of S Track suspended for night	
	Nov 23-24		Collection & delivery of S TRACK continued and issue of tippers to coys	

	25		2 att Bailey pls fwd 2200 hrs ☉ coy warned to be prepared to move next day	
	26		Unable to find area to move to due to swamps. Third Bailey pl sent fwd. 20 RASC vehs returned to their coy	
	27		Area reced BERRINGE ☉ coy received orders move at 0730 28 Nov whether new area found or not to let infantry rest in our billets	
BERRINGE	28		Coy moved to BERRINGE. All br equip less FBE reverted from under command	
	29		2 secs tippers sent back. Order for 500 minefield signs on 7'-6" stakes received - to be ready by Dec 3	
BERRINGE	30		2 new secs tippers arrived. Started reclaiming unused Sommerfeld Track.	
<u>GENERAL</u>			<p>During the month coy received one reinforcements and lost no men. Strength 4 off. 112 ORs</p> <p>During the month 24 men proceeded on leave to BRUSSELS and 6 men to Div Rest Camp at TILBURG</p> <p>Strength of 26 Br Pl    1 off 41 ORs  LAD                    -        12 ORs</p> <p>During the month total ration strength was seldom less than 190 &amp; usually about 230. Strong representations have been made about the grossly inadequate scale of cooks, cookers &amp; cooking apparatus for both the basic fd pk &amp; the br pl. The br pl is actually supposed to cook for 42 people when detached with nothing more than 2 camp kettles (no frying pans, no containers, etc) on 3 No3 cookers. Although the LAD is permanently attached it is not counted against our WE for scaling in regard to cooks, and as we have almost invariably a minimum of 20 - 40 other men attached the situation is further aggravated.</p> <p>Further, the LAD recovery vehicle a Chevrolet Light recovery proved to be useless for 50% of its work and a Heavy Recovery Vehicle Scammel is being obtained.</p> <p>Additional tentage for workshop pl was also obtained but an Aldershot shelter is really required so that vehs may be got under cover as one of our permanent tasks is building in vehs for commanders etc.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">M.D. Wilkinson Major RE</p>	



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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 624 Fd. Pk. Coy.

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year Dec 44

Commanding Officer Major M.D. Wilkinson RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BERINGEN	Dec 1		Two Order Groups at H.Q.R.E. re Op GUILDFORD. Advance Dump site recced by O.C. 500 signs completed at 2130 hrs. 1000 hrs Coys fetched from 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy, other stores from 265 Corps Fd Pk Coy RE. O.C. told to take over 20 FD COY on departure of Maj Gillington to Staff College, & to take over before operation begins	WA
	Dec 2		O.C. handed over to Capt Archibald. Advanced dump of Mech Eqpt, Tippers, Sommerfeld TR, Culverting & Sandbags near Rooth. Advanced dump under periodic shell fire from VENLO.	WA
	Dec 3	1030 1145 1800	Two vehs, loaded with culverting & mine warfare stores destroyed by shell fire Mine warfare veh repaired, culverting veh replaced from Coy Pool Personnel returned from Adv Dump to Coy locn	WA
BERINGEN	Dec 4		Bailey Pl & ½ F.B.E. Pl left command. All Mech Eqpt less Autopatrol from 12 Corps returned to 6 M.E. Sec.	WA WA
	Dec 5		One Sec Tippers returned to 265 Corps Fd Pk Coy.	WA
	Dec 6	1400 2345	26 Bailey Br Pl placed under command 279 Fd Coy. Eqpt unloaded during darkness at Map Ref 889122 Map Sheet Q1 ESSEN. 26 Bailey Br Pl returned empty to Coy locn.	WA
	Dec 7		26 Bailey Br Pl reloaded at Army Dump in HELMOND. Large majority of Coy personnel employed in making road for Stores Dump & in repairing billets	WA
	Dec 8		Coy still employed on roads & repair of billets Annual dose of anti-typhus inoculation completed. First consignment of stores for repair of damaged houses fetched from 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy.	WA
BERINGEN	Dec 9	0900	Two secs tippers returned to 265 Corps Fd Pk Coy. First allotment of stores for repair of buildings collected from 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy.	WA

	10 Dec		First allotment of Defence Stores collected from 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy. Main items were Sandbags, Barbed Wire, Screw & Wood Pickets, Trench Boards, Camouflage Nets & Garnished Wire Netting. Autopatrol returned to 265 Corps Fd Pk Coy.	WA
	11 Dec		Issue of defence stores, & stores for repair of buildings commenced. 2 no D7 Angledozer Armd returned to 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy. All available personnel employed on road making & drainage of dump 1 no Cl V Raft arrived from 106 Br Coy R.A.S.C. & 3 no Cl III Rafts. 66 ft KAPOK collected from 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy. Autopatrol collected from 25 Mech Eqpt Sec.	WA
BERINGEN	Dec 12		Continuation of normal work & repair of billets.	WA
	Dec 13		As for Dec 12. A/O.C. to lecture & medal presentation by Field Marshall Montgomery	WA
	Dec 14		Experimental work on TROMBONE cooker commenced. C.R.E. ordered 2 no hand operated snow ploughs to be constructed.	WA
BERINGEN	Dec 15		100 no hand operated snow ploughs ordered by C.R.E. to be made	
"	Dec 16		3 charges each of a 5 gal oil drum filled with explosive & sealed against moisture discovered in road beside Coy Office. Immediate steps were taken to remove these.	WA
"	Dec 19		Cl V Raft returned to 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy. Billet Recce Party sent to recce area GROBBENDONCK - ANTWERP Sheet 3, 9092. Suitable accn found & party returned same evening	WA
	Dec 20		Adv Party warned to stand by, but no movement orders received.	
	Dec 22		100 no hand operated snow ploughs completed. 20 no issued to each Field Coy & H.Q.R.E.	WA
BERINGEN	23 Dec		C.R.E. ordered 400 hand operated snow ploughs to be made for use by Inf Units. Also ordered two Assault Boats Mk II to be modified to accommodate 4 oarsmen & a cox.	WA
	24 Dec		26 Br Pl vehs unloaded & used for General Tpt duties.	WA
	25 Dec		Coy holiday	
	26 Dec		O.C. 48 hrs leave in Brussels. LT S.H. LIGHT took over command of Coy.	WA
	27 Dec		Large quantities of defence stores collected from 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy. These comprised Concertina Wire, Screw Pickets, Wood Pickets, Barbed Wire, Sandbags, etc. Modified Assault Boats tested in canal & found to be impracticable using paddles in lieu of oars.	WA

	28 Dec		Search of district made for oars suitable for modified Ass Boats - none could be found. C.R.E. asked to obtain F.B.E. oars which would be modified. Weather - foggy.	WA
BERINGEN	29 Dec		O.C. returned from Brussels. Defence stores being issued continually to Inf Bns. Weather - frosty with slight thaw in evening.	
BERINGEN	30 Dec		<p>C.R.E. ordered one snow plough, to be towed behind a 3 ton 4 x 4 lorry, to be constructed. Design made out &amp; work commenced. One 3 ton 4 x 4 lorry with snow plough permanently attached in front collected from 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy.</p> <p>C.R.E. issued instructions that all R.E. personnel proceeding on leave should report previous evening to this Unit, have all docs etc checked &amp; be despatched following morning in 624 Fd Pk Coy tpt to DIV Check Point.</p> <p>First Leave Party for U.K. arrived.</p> <p>Weather - frosty.</p> <p>Machinery lorry broke down. When stripped it was found that armature bearing on generator was faulty. Temp repairs carried out by reversing bearing, &amp; new bearings indented for. Armature etc thoroughly overhauled.</p> <p>278 Fd Coy experimenting with Bosch Sign Light. They hope to replace carbon arc by an electric bulb. 4 no 70 volt 250 Watt lamps obtained from PHILIPS EINDHOVEN &amp; issued to 278 FD COY.</p>	<p>WA</p> <p>WA</p>
	31 Dec		<p>First leave party to U.K. despatched.</p> <p>Repairs on machy lorry continued. Welder with cutting apparatus sent to 20 FD COY, who are removing a demolished Girder Bridge. Large type Oxy-acetylene cutter received. This was obtained as it was found that type issued was not powerful enough for the cutting of large girders on demolished bridges</p> <p>Weather - frosty.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">W.E. Archibald Capt</p>	WA

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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 624 Field Park Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Commanding Officer CAPT W.E. ARCHIBALD

Month and Year Jan 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BERINGEN	1		C.R.E. visited Coy to watch tests carried out on Mk II Assault Boats converted to accommodate 4 no oarsmen & 1 no cox. Was satisfied with test & ordered 1 no additional Mk II & 2 no Mk III Ass Boats to be converted. Weather - Frosty.	
"	2		Large quantity of hardcore, cement, timber, poles etc collected from 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy for use of 20 FD COY who are building a Bailey Br on timber piles.	
"	3		Snow plough to be towed behind 3 ton 4 x 4 lorry completed. Weather - thaw setting in.	
"	4		Maj J.B. Kelsall new O.C. arrived. Thaw precautions imposed on roads. Stores unable to be collected or issued	
	5		CREME inspected vehicles on charge.	
"	6		Concrete Mixer 10/7 delivered to KELPEN br site 647947 for use by 20 Fd Coy.	
BERINGEN	8		Received orders to make mobile shower bath for each Bde.	
"	10		Padre's Hour commenced also Church Service.	
"	13		OC visited DCRE EINDHOVEN and local firms to obtain timber.	
"	14		D4 and D6 A/dozers sent out to 279 Fd Coy.	
"	15		Misc craft incl rowing boats, FB w/proprn unit, storm boat w/Evinrude motor and Asst Boats delivered to 20 Fd Coy at OBBACHT 6272 for trg inf parties in watermanship on R MAAS.	
"	17		4 Bailey Crib Sets Type "A" collected and delivered to KELPEN Br Site. One 3 ton 4 x 4 winch lorry and one 180 galls water trailer collected from 8 Corps Veh Park for 26 Br Pl - these authorised by Amdt 3 to W.E. II/196/1	
BERINGEN				
"	18		2½ ton roller received from 508 Corps Fd Pk Coy and sent to 279 Fd Coy.	

"	21		Recce Party to new location near HERENTHALS 9790 - subsequently directed to TILBURG 1632 area and reconnoitred MOERGESTEL 2230 on 23 Jan.	
"	24		Coy moved to MOERGESTEL	
MOERGESTEL	26		Remainder of stores arrived from BERINGEN - move now complete.	
	28		One Sec Br Pl used by 30 Corps Tps RE. O.C. attended conference at H.Q.R.E. and was briefed for Operation VERITABLE - work required construction of 500 tripods with gap marking signs and notice boards.	
MOERGESTEL	29		Sec of Br Pl refilled. Design for gap marking tripod approved.	
	30		Copy of Stores Demand for VERITABLE received - whole stores lift will require 27, 3 ton lorries	
	31		Special Int Summary for VERITABLE received Admin Instructions for VERITABLE received - new locn in Assembly Area is MARIENBOOM HOTEL, NIJMEGEN 720601  JB Kelsall Maj R.E.	

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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 624 Field Park Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year Feb 45

Commanding Officer Maj J.B. KELSALL, RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
MOERGESTEL	1		O.C. reced new location at NIJMEGEN - MARIENBOOM HOTEL M.R. 720601 - very short of space 15 sq ft per man - adequate veh standings and Stores Dump - no Workshop facilities - they will have to remain at MOERGESTEL and complete work in hand for ops.	
"	2		CSM and 2 men sent to new locn to start making place habitable. 4 Armd D7 A/Dozers arrived on tptrs. Preliminary Movement Instructions received. Adv Party 3 Feb Main Body night 4/5	
MOERGESTEL	3		Adv Party of 1 NCO and 3 ORs sent off. O.C. and 2i/c visited new locn and tied up details. Release for first lot of stores for VERITABLE received. Will be collected when first 6 RASC 3 ton lorries arrive tomorrow. Collection from 1 Cdn Army Dump TILBURG - L.O. sent tonight to arrange details of collection.	
	4	1030 1230 1800	Offrs attended talk in TILBURG at which G.O.C. 30 Corps and GOC 15 (S) Div gave the picture of the op "VERITABLE" Conference at HQ RE attended by O.C. Main Body left MOERGESTEL at 1800 hrs for new locn. Route OISTERWIJK 2234 - S'HERTOGENBOSCH 3246 - HEESCH 4751 - OSS 4754 - HERPEN 5554 - RAVESTEIN 5657 - WIJCHEN 6158 - BEUNINGEN 6464 - NIJMEGEN 7062. Side lights only to S'HERTOGENBOSCH after there only differential lights. Rds well sign posted but surface badly broken up in many places. This made going very difficult. Whole convoy of 55 vehicles arrived at destination by 050100 hrs less 3 vehicles and Mech Eqpt. Latter consisted of 2 Armd D7s A/Dozers with Hyster winches on 20 ton Albion semi-trailer tptrs and 1 D6 w A/dozer and 1 D4 w A/dozer and Hyster winch each on 18 ton Carrimore Trailer towed by Mack 6 x 6 tractor. Classn of trains first two Cl 39, third Cl 37 and fourth Cl 34. These were refused	

			entry to a Cl 40 bridge at RAVESTEIN for purely psychological reasons as the Clns were marked on the vehicles.	
NIJMEGEN	5		Missing vehicles arrived. Collection of stores and organisation of Dump began. O.C. briefed all officers for VERITABLE	
"	6		Stores collection contd. Issues made to Fd Coys for loading on AVRE sledges and Kangaroos. 12 RASC 3 ton 4 x 4 arrived - total now 18. 2 Armd D7s w/Adozers arrived. 6 Sherdozers arrived and sent out to Fd Coys. All special stores being made by Wksp Pl collected incl sand sprayer, gap marking signs, tripods, notice boards etc. All culverting being made up into 10' lengths.	
NIJMEGEN	7		During day Fd Coys drew their stores allotments. Two loads culverting sent to 20 and 278 Fd Coys. They retain vehs - leaves 16. H.Q. RE 15 (S) Div Op Order No 4 received. O.C. spoke to all O.Rs and briefed them. C in C's and Army Cmd's personal messages read out. Received 18 tippers loaded with ballast. Sent out straight away to 20 Fd Coy for urgent work. Were out all night. 20 working nos. with shovels sent from Br Pl to load hardcore. O.C. attended final conference at HQ RE at 1700 hrs. We are to send fwd 11 lorry loads of stores to an adv dump on night 8/9 Feb. To consist of:- 5 logs, 2 culverting, 1 flexboards & logs, 3 chespale - all RASC. Also one Mine Warfare Stores lorry.	
"	8	1045 0830	Wireless net opened 0800 hrs. Div Res of Tools lorry ordered up to HQ RE. Lorry left at 1120. Tippers 18 all returned and were re-sorted. Six went to 278 Fd Coy. Br Pl returned to billets.	
NIJMEGEN	9	0130 0730 1500 1430 1600	Received orders to send out vehs for Adv Dump at first light. To be at KRANENBURG STA 803558. All vehs already loaded. Convoy for Adv Dump left. Arrived destination safely. Fd Stores sent out 6 men to mark Tank Track "EGG" under supervision of F.E.2. This required for move through of tracks of 43 Div at 1800 hrs. O.C. at Adv Dump - mine warfare stores only items being issued so far - these will be replenished tomorrow. O.C. met A/CRE at HQ RE and agreed to send out Br Pl to work on rly from level Xing at KRANENBURG 801558 towards GROESBEEK. Work	

		1715 1730	is to fill northern pair of rails with ballast so that rly can be used for tracks. 20 Fd Coy collected 6 loaded tippers. Br Pl left for KRANENBURG - personnel only.	
"	10	1700 1730 1800	Br Pl returned having worked almost continuously Wksp Pl arrived from MOERGESTEL O.C. attended CRE's conference.	
"	11	2130 2345	Warned that 26 Br Pl will be required tonight. 2i/c returned to say Br Pl reqd to report to 20 Fd Coy at KRANENBURG as soon as possible.	
NIJMEGEN	12	0400  1200 1300	Br Pl arrived 20 Fd Coy after difficult journey on flooded roads. OC visited HQ RE after travelling in 4 x 4 winch lorry along rds flooded up to 2ft deep. Adv Dump returned to this locn, having been flooded out of KRANENBURG Sta.	
"	13	0930 1100 2200	OC visited SO RE 30 Corps and got latest battle picture - now out of touch with HQRE except by wireless through 278 Fd Coy. 6 tippers despatched to 278 Fd Coy. Part of Br Pl returned remainder came in later.	
"	14		Br Pl refilled from Army Dump.	
"	15	1400	Warning order to move received. OC with Adv Party left for HQ RE in CLEVE. Locn reced at DONSBRUGGEN E8757.	
DONSBRUGGEN	16	0830	Coy arrived after difficult journey through REICHSWALD FOREST and outskirts of CLEVE. Enemy shelling entrances to and exit from REICHSWALD. Accommodation good on whole.	
"	17		Stores Pl went back to NIJMEGEN to collect and dispose of remainder of Dump. D4 A/dozer and 3 loads of culverting sent to 279 Fd Coy.	
"	18		Stores Pl collecting Sommerfeld Track from Army Dump NIJMEGEN. Br Pl collected a 15 cwt truck for completion of vehicle establishment. Following eqpt from 86 Cdn Br Coy arrived under cmd 2 Secs FBE, 4 Asst Boat Units, 2 Cl 5 Rafts, 2 Kapok Units.	
DONSBRUGGEN	21		O.C. and 2i/c did recce for new locn but no suitable site found.	
"	22	1200  1600	LO from HQ RE arrived to say Coy must move. O.C. and 2i/c reced again and found harbour area in fields at E907459 North of GOCH. CRE said Coy move at once.	



		1930	Coy completed move - all men bivouac - no billets available.	
E907459	23		Lt Lodge Oi/c Fd Stores Pl posted to 20 Fd Coy. Lt Meredith at present Oi/c 26 Br Pl will take over Fd Stores and new officer Lt Thompson will be Oi/c 26 Br Pl. Small amount of br eqpt sent out to 278 Fd Coy for br at E923432.	
E907459	24	1400 1730	Wksp Pl ordered to stand by to move to LOUVAIN as Adv Pty. Wksp Pl ordered out to assist 278 Fd Coy with br at E932423. Br completed Wksp Pl returned. Ordered to send Adv Party to TILBURG tomorrow. Coy to move following day.	
"	25	0530  2130	Adv Pty left. Rep 3 Br Div RE arrived to arrange hand over of Dump stores, Mech Eqpt, tippers and attd br. Orders received to move tomorrow at 1630. OC visited CRE - move cancelled. 278, 279 Fd Coys, HQ RE and this Unit remain present locns to carry out rd work for 3 Br Div - approx 48 hrs work. This Coy reqd to supply rubble on 6 tippers and baulks and planks on Br Pl vehicles. In absence of Fd Pk Coy of 3 Br Div this Coy issuing stores and Mech Eqpt to Fd Coys of 3 Br Div.	
"	26	1330	Wksp Pl providing rubble and loading tippers. Br Pl collecting and carrying timber for rd u/con by 278 Fd Coy. Rep from 15 Fd Pk Coy, 3 Br Div arrived and took over stores etc.	
"	27		Wksp Pl again working for 278 Fd Coy. Br Pl completed delivery of timber. 15 Fd Pk Coy arrived. Orders received to move at 0910 tomorrow to s'HERTOGENBOSCH	
E907459	28	0910 1245	Coy moved off for s'HERTOGENBOSCH Arrived new location. Accommodation in large Tech School - quite good. Vehs parked in streets. Great difficulty in keeping local civilians from pilfering.	
				JB Kelsall Maj R.E.

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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 624 Field Park Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year Mar 45

Commanding Officer Maj J.B. KELSALL, RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
S'HERTOGEN BOSCH	1	1345 1600	<p>Coy in rest area. Work to be done incl checking of all plant, eqpt and vehicles and necessary repairs, checking of individuals kit and making good, bringing inoculations etc up to date. Baths for all.</p> <p>Propn of unit get afternoon off with tpt to TILBURG or other places within 30 mile radius.</p> <p>Br Pl refilled 3 Panel &amp; 2 Decking - complete now.</p> <p>OC visited CRE - received orders re GOCs parade on 7 Mar - we must find parade ground and erect flag pole also get made a RE flag with Div sign.</p> <p>Vacancies for Brussels leave received 1 or 2 offrs and 52 ORs every 4 days.</p> <p>Now under 1st Cdn Army for RE stores etc.</p>	
S'HERTOGEN BOSCH	2	1630	<p>CRE called - we are to collect Storm Boats and Mk III Asst Boats for trg of Inf Bdes.</p> <p>Br Pl offloaded 6 vehs to provide recvy tpt for recreational journeys etc.</p>	
"	3	1000	<p>Stores Pl left for Army Dump at TILBURG to collect Boats and deliver to Bdes. Evinrude motors will be held here until required for actual use.</p>	
"	4	2315	<p>First leave party left for BRUSSELS - 1 offr and 52 O.Rs - greatly depleted Unit's working capacity.</p> <p>CRE called to say we would be moving on 6 Mar to DIEST area K16. Storm boats etc to be collected from Bdes and taken. Means using 6 Br vehs and returning for br eqpt. Will also have to allow for leave personnel returning from BRUSSELS pm 6 mar.</p>	
S'HERTOGEN BOSCH	5	0830 1000 1200 2345	<p>Stores Pl collecting in Storm Boats etc. Other Pls loading up.</p> <p>Ordered to send Adv Pty to HQ 2 A Tps near LOMMEL K39.</p> <p>Adv Pty left.</p> <p>Orders for move received. Pass S.P. at 1330 tomorrow.</p>	

"	6	1830	Coy arrived at new locn HEPPEN K2583. Delayed 2 hours at Dis Pt through not knowing exact locn. Rep had to go to Div HQ to find this. Rear Pty left with 2i/c.	
HEPPEN	7	0800 0900	Storm Bts etc off-loaded and vehs returned to s'HERTOGENBOSCH to collect their normal br loads and other stores. Welding set (elec) left for 18 GHQ Tps Engrs - to be there 2 days.	
"	10		Storm Boats and engines reissued to Bdes. Preliminary instructions for Exercise "BUFFALO" received.	
"	11		Ordered to provide 2 offr & 2 Sgts as umpires for Ex "BUFFALO".	
"	12		Ordered to make 20 Storm Boat sledges. Stores available from 265 Corps Fd Pk Coy (12 Corps). Sledges to be completed by 20 Mar.	
"	13		O.C. and others briefed at EELEN K6176. Visited sites for Exercise "BUFFALO".	
HEPPEN	14		O.C. and other umpires attended exercise "BUFFALO". Asst crossing by 2 Bdes of R MAAS in LVTs and Storm Boats, Cl 9 and Cl 50/60 rafts. Dutch Interpreter sent out to obtain stores for Storm Boats sledges - many items not available from 12 Corps e.g. sheet metal, bolts etc. All were requisitioned from LOUVAIN or BRUSSELS.	
"	15		Wksp machinery lorry not available. Timber for sledges cut by local contract. Umpires went out for night version of BUFFALO.	
"	16		O.C. out all day - visited 508 Fd Pk Coy to obtain timber for sledges.	
"	17		OC and 2i/c reced new location near SONSBECK A0635 - very congested but found a possible site - on return asked Div to confirm and were told we had been given wrong locn.	
"	18		Oi/c Br Pl left early with small Adv party for new locn area A0164. Oi/c Stores Pl left to collect 14 RASC lorries and then load stores at WEERT K5997 and take them to new locn. Work on sledges progressing well. Collected 7 weasels for Fd Coys & HQ RE. Coy will move on 21 Mar.	
HEPPEN	19		Stores Pl collecting Storm Boats and engines from Bdes and delivering to 12 Corps Dump.	

			20 Storm Boat sledges completed - also navigation signs for Rhine ferries. Move to new locn now 21 Mar - new locn will be near KEVELAER A0033	
"	20		Coy packing up & preparing for move.	
"	21		Move at 220040 - O.C. went on ahead.	
ALT WETTEN A0033	22	0730  1630	Coy arrived in new locn, after tiring journey. Two accidents Ramp Lorry of Br Pl and compressors of Stores Pl both complete write-offs. Large programme of stores collection from 12 Corps Dump nearby. Received 18 more RASC lorries - total of 24 now. OC attended CRE's "O" Gp.	<del>See Appx "A"</del> JBK
"	23	1200  1400	Stores continued collection & preparation. OC attended CRE's "O" Gp - received detailed instrs re sending fwd of stores vehs etc to far bank of RHINE. 40 RASC lorries arrived for loading with Br Eqpt from 12 Corps Dump as follows - 30 Bailey, 3 Asst Boats, 2 Kapok, 5 LSUs (FBE eqpt). 26 Br Pl organising this - completed by 2000 hrs.	<del>See Appx "B"</del> JBK
"	24	0200 0600 0730 1300 1330	Op TORCHLIGHT commenced. Ordered to send fwd first 10 stores vehs. Stores vehs left. Next 5 stores vehs to go fwd. Vehs left.	
	25	0130	Ordered to send up a LSU to meet rep 20 Coy at Cl 9 FBE Br at 0600 - left at 0400. Ordered to collect replacement veh for 26 Br Pl.	
MEHR 191248	26	0200	Recd order to move across R RHINE. Head of col to pass Cl 9 Bailey Pontoon br at M.R. A0846 at 0845 hrs. New locn in area A1248. Large propn of Dump Stores to remain also Mack 6 x 6 tractors with Carrimore trailers, latter too heavy. Collected in stores and lorries sent across river previously. CRE called and gave verbal orders - Div Br Pl to 278 Fd Coy and Bailey Pl on 30 RASC lorries to 20 Fd Coy - also reallocation of Mech Eqpt.	
"	27	2230	Br Pl returned - RASC Bailey lorries as emptied returned to Div Maint Area. CRE called and gave allotment of stores & eqpt to 20 Fd Coy for tomorrow's task. Wksp Pl erected Water Point.	
"	28		Div Br Pl refilled. All surplus br eqpt dumped at Corps Dump and empty vehs returned.	

		1700	Recd orders to move to area 1648 - to be clear by 2359 tonight. OC did recce - found locn in area but approaches sand & earth tracks in fair condition.	
		2130	Coy complete in new locn - Mech Eqpt had returned.	
A1648	29		OC visited CRE - latter agreed to our returning all bulk stores and br eqpt still on RASC vehs - to retain 6 of latter only. Water Point closed - had issued 34000 galls water in 2½ days.	
	30	0800	Br Pl went out to 12 Corps Tps to build a br at BOCHOLT A26. O.C. visited 265 Corps Fd Pk Coy (12 Corps) and arranged to return surplus stores & br eqpt. Also to return refill Div Br Pl. CRE said we could look for a locn with Coy accom under cover and if found move there. Locn found at A199571.	
	31		Coy moved to new locn.	
			31 Mar 45	JB Kelsall Maj R.E.

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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 624 FD PK COY

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year APRIL 1945

Commanding Officer Maj J.B. KELSALL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BOCHOLT	1		O.C. Coy departed on U.K. leave 31 MAR. CAPT W.E. ARCHIBALD assumed command. Coy carried out maint on all eqpt.	
"	2		DIV R.E. inspected by G.O.C. 15 (S) DIV.	
"	3		Movement orders received - Coy packed up.	
"	4		Move cancelled.	
GREVIN	5		Coy moved to A851893 near GREVIN.	
"	6		All G1098 Bulldozers & two oxy-acetylene cutting teams attached to 278 Fd Coy for work on Br site at 960027 over DORTMUND-EMS CANAL. Bulldozers dammed & completed track across canal. 6 no attached tippers despatched to R.E. 8 Corps.	
HILLE	7		Coy moved to Map ref W685180 near HILLE	
"	8		Cl III Armd bulldozer & Coles Crane despatched to 279 Fd Coy. Cl IV " " despatched to 278 Fd Coy for work on Brs over R. WESER. Three German Trailers (3 ton) found & repair work carried out - now useful load carriers. 6 no R.A.S.C. lorries returned to C.R.A.S.C.	
"	9		Wearing surface for 400 ft Bailey Br obtained, cut, & delivered to 279 Fd Coy. Maintenance on Unit eqpt carried out.	
"	10		Br Pl & G1098 Mech Eqpt joined 20 Fd Coy & moved to WUNSTORF (W1527). Orders to prepare for move received by Coy.	
WUNSTORF	11	0600	Coy moved to WUNSTORF (W1527) 1 no Cl II Armd Tractor attached to Coy.	
WUNSTORF		1330	Cl II Armd Tractor despatched to 20 Fd Coy. 5 no Decking, 6 no Panel, 2 no Ramp, 2 no Accessory, 8 no Bow Pontoon, 3 no Centre Pontoon, & 6 no Floating Bay Units, 4 no Landing Stage Units, 2 no L.S. Centre Panel Unit, 2 no Asst Rafting Units attached to Coy. Br op in view - crossing of R. ALLER in area W5850 17 no Mk III & 7 no Mk II Assault Boats collected from crossing site at W9132. Large number of bullet holes in canvas repaired.	

			Carrimore Trailer carrying bulldozer hit by mortar shell - Trailer rendered u/s.	
FUHRBERG	12		Moved to FUHRBERG X4343	
"	13		O.C. returned from leave. Coy moved to SCHARNHORST X7262	
SCHARNHORST	14		Recd one Cl II one Cl III one Cl IV dozers and two 10 RB excavators - all issued to 279 Coy and 100 Fd Coy of 8 Corps Tps. Many prisoners taken from nearby woods and many came in voluntarily. Greatly embarrassed by numerous freed Poles Russians and other nationalities.	
SCHARNHORST	15		Moved to near RABER X8079. Br Pl returned and empties sent away to refill. D4 dozer with Mack Tractor & Carrimore trailer destroyed by enemy action while attd to 278 Coy at STADENSEN X9079. All personnel escaped but lost all kit. Wksp Pl repaired partially demolished Br near RABER. Coy located on extreme left flank of Div - nothing on West of us - listening posts occupied at night.	
RABER	16		Br on vehs of 90 Coy RASC returned to this Coy - now hold equiv of RASC Pl. Wksp Pl assisted 278 Coy in building Water Point.	
"	17	1200	Wksp Pl took over op of Water Pt. OC attended CRE's "O" Gp - reallocation of Br Eqpt and other resources - this effective by evening.	
"	18		Standing by to move.	
"	19		Moved to EPPENSEN X8898 - good locn in large farms Wksp Pl set up Water Pt at BUNSTORF X9199 - pt in last area dismantled.	
EPPENSEN	20		Moved to near SCHARNBECK S8626 - no covered accom - Coy bivouacked.	
"	21		Wksp Pl off-loaded and started to work normally. Fd Stores & Br Pl carrying out check and maint of eqpt. 6 attd RASC lorries ordered away during night.	
"	22		Coy almost back to normal employment. Off-loaded 6 Br Pl vehs for gen use. 2 3 ton lorries left to take leave party to GENNEP - they will be away at least 4 days. CRE called in evening - we are to start making small fascines (2 man load) for crater filling in fwd areas.	
"	23		3 Br Pl vehs called away for 3 days to help produce a composite Pl for RASC - we are now completely immobile.	

"	24		Coy employed on maint & repair of vehs & eqpt. Also making small fascines for crater-filling, timber dogs, cutting wearing surface and 5ft pickets and making up culverting.	
"	26	2000	OC attends CRE's "O" Gp - outlines plan for crossing Elbe. A fwd Mech Eqpt Park established at this locn for 11 AGRE. No less than 18 dozers of all types arrive here and are sent out. Incl are 4 Clark Cl V airborne dozers - very small and doubtful if they are of much value but they can be carried in L.V.Ts. Even so if they arrive on enemy bank of a river early in an asst their noise will make them conspicuous and there is no protection for the operator.	
	27		Nine vehs of Br Pl had dumped loads fwd during night for br to be built by 278 Fd Coy tonight. Br Pl now refills.	
"	28	0900	CRE's "O" Gp. Final orders received. We are to load 9 RASC lorries with stores for op ENTERPRISE due to start at 0200 hrs tomorrow. All Mech Eqpt now disposed of except own three and two attached.	
"	29	1000	Five dozers sent fwd to cross ELBE by Cl 40 rafts at ARTLENBURG S8334. Last one crossed at 1745 after spending day under shell-fire & bombing. Considerable enemy air activity all day. Br Pl and 15 cwts from Store Pl left at 2000 hrs to cross by Cl 9 br. Remainder of Coy require Cl 40 on account of trailers.	
"	30	2100	Br Pl still in Marshalling Area - do not cross till 1200 hrs today. Find locn in LAUENBURG S8835 to which Coy will move tonight. We are to cross Cl 40 br at 2300 hrs. Much enemy air activity - several are shot down. A Spitfire makes a forced landing through engine trouble near us. Pilot OK and we take him to LUNEBURG. Move cancelled as we are about to move off. 11 Armd Div have been given full use of br.  JB Kelsall Maj RE.	



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 624 Fd Pk Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year May 45

Commanding Officer Maj J.B. KELSALL RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
SCHARNEBECK S8525	1		Standing by all day to move.	
"	2	0300	Coy left for GULZOW S8342 via Cl 40 br over ELBE. Great deal of traffic congestion - arrived locn 1030.	
GULZOW	4	0800 2100	Coy moved to OTJENDORF S7268. Wireless stated all resistance ceased on this front.	
OTJENDORF	7		Inf Maj arrived from 5 Br Div & stated he had to put 3000 P.W. in this area - not a pleasant prospect and we must move. O.C., Br Pl offr and 18 ORs attend parade at LUBECK where Corps Cmd addresses all RE who took part in Elbe crossing.	
"	8		A new C.S.M. arrives for this Coy. This is VE day and the Coy has to move. We find a good locn at BARGFELD-STEGER	
BARGFELD	9	1700	O.C. attends a conference at which Div Cmd sets out his policy for occupation.	
"	13		Started recce for new permanent locn for Coy. We must have a good workshop and carpenters shop, also a stores dump. A suitable place found at BAD SEGEBERG, a very good metal workshop with lathes, forge, welding gear, drill, cutters and tinsmiths' tools. There is also a good carpenter's shop with adequate machinery.	
"	14		Detailed recce of new locn carried out. We decide it is the place. Wksp Pl to move on Wed 16 May and rest of Coy on 17 May. Only drawback Wksp Pl is a mile from rest of Coy and will have to be detached.	
BARGFELD	15		Visit HQRE - CRE has large order for manufacture of camp structures for 8 Corps. We shall have to carry out this programme.	
	16		Wksp Pl move to BAD SEGEBERG S6997.	
	17		Rest of Coy " " " "	
BAD SEGEBERG	21		Stores Pl start collecting into the Dump hutting and other desirable stores.	

			Wksp Pl still getting organised and putting new machines in.	
"	25		OC informed by CRE that he is being posted back to HQ 8 Corps as SORE (Tng).	
"	28		CE 2 Army and CE 8 Corps call to look at Wksp Pl. Production of Camp structures has just started today.	
"	30		Posting order for new OC received.  31 May 45	JB Kelsall Maj RE.