

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. 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 278 Field Coy R.E.

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer Major J.G. OSLER R.E.

Month and Year June 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
STORRINGTON, Sussex	1		Preparations for move overseas continue - waterproofing of vehs commenced.	NHW
	11		Warning order for move to Marshalling Areas received.	NHW
	12		L.O. at SECO HQ receives movement orders.	NHW
WANSTEAD FLATS STORRINGTON HAYWARDS HEATH	13	0430 1200 1200 1630	Main Veh Party moves off to Marshalling Areas. " " " arrives Camp T7. " Rail & Rd Marching Party moves off to Marshalling Areas " " " " " arrives Camp J9	NHW
	13- 17		Main bodies in Marshalling Areas preparing for Embarkation.	NHW
TILBURY	17	0800	Main Vehicle Party moves to Embarkation area & embarks.	NHW
NEWHAVEN	18	0900	Main Marching Party moves to Embarkation area & embarks.	NHW
COURSEULLES- SUR-MER ST GABRIEL	19	0900	" " " disembarks & moves to Div Conc Area " " " take up location in harbour area.	NHW
	22		One OR Casualty (sick)	NHW
COURSEULLES	23	0800 2200	Disembarkation of Main Veh Party commences. OC with 6 vehs arrives Conc Area.	NHW NHW
ST GABRIEL	24	0830 1000 1200 2135	Three vehs arrive from Disembarkation Area. CRE's O Gp Orders for Ops. Coy ordered to move to F.A.A. in SECQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN. Remainder of Main Veh Party arrive in Conc Area.	NHW
SECQUEVILLE	25	0330 1630	Coy complete (less Residues) arrive SECQUEVILLE - dig in and off load and de-waterproof stores in preparation for operations. Coy placed in support 46 Bde. Bde Comd & Div Comd Final Briefing Conference.	NHW
PUTOT-EN- BESSIN	26	0400	Coy move forward under orders from 46 Bde to F.U.P. area South of PUTOT-EN-BESSIN. OC moves with the Bde Tac HQ. No 1 pl in reserve at BRONAY 895721 with task of maintaining Br over Rly or making diversion if required. No 2 Pl move up with 2nd Glasgow Highlanders with task of opening & maintaining route forward on	

PUTOT-EN-BESSIN		1200	line of adv. No 3 Pl move up in rear of 7 Seaforths for maintenance of route if required. Recce offr moves up with 9 Cameronians on right flank as observer for RE tasks if any. Coy HQ dug in at 905718.	NHW
		1800	During advance minefield located SOUTH of LE-MESNIL-PATRY, this being breached by "FLAILS" at 905693. Adv continued towards CHEUX.	
		1900	½ track vehicle receives direct hit - destroyed by fire. OR casualties: - killed 5, died of wounds 1, wounded 7. Coy HQ move forward on axis of adv.	
CHEUX	27	0025 0030 0230	Coy take up defensive position in area X rds 907680 Coy HQ established 907684 Route maintenance party commences clearing CHEUX.	NHW
CHEUX	28	0600  2200	Recce of route through CHEUX to South. Route flooded and heavy mortaring of villages causes difficulties of route clearance. 1 Pl moves forward with 7 Seaforths to Area LE VALTRU and take up defensive position at 910626. 2 Pl takes over route maintenance in CHEUX. 3 Pl moves up with 2 GH to area COLLVILLE. Recce offr moves off with own & second recce party to obtain infm of crossings at 915622 over R. ODON. These parties unable to reach river owing to enemy activity. OR Casualties:- 2 killed. 2 wounded	NHW
CHEUX  CHEUX	29	0600  0700 0800 1000 1400 1600  1800 2000  2300	OC moves off to contact 1 Pl & fwd Bn (7 Seaforths). Veh receives direct hit from enemy 88 mm at 899625. OC (Major J.G. Osler) killed. Bulldozer & Br Equipment taken fwd to Area COLLVILLE. 2 i/c assumes comd and moves fwd to COLLVILLE Meets CRE & Comd 46 Bde. CRE orders Coy to hand over tasks to 70 A Fd Coy R.E. (approx) Enemy counter attack on Le Valtru area - 1 pl although ordered to withdraw by OC unable to do so. No 1 Pl commence to withdraw VIA COLLVILLE Enemy counter attack with armour reported area Haut-du Bosque. Coy take up defensive position under Camp Comd 227 Bde as ordered by CRE. Stand-down ordered. Major J.G. Osler & 5 ORs killed, 8 ORs wounded.	NHW  NHW
	30	0800  1100	Route maintenance X roads. 906880 to 910660 taken over from 70 Fd Coy together with one Auto patrol vehicle & ten tipper lorries. 1 Pl return to Coy HQ. Location. 2 & 3 Pls rejoin Coy HQ in harbour area.	NHW W3008s & W3009

			J.N. Harrison Watson Capt RE	
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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 278 FIELD COMPANY RE

**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**

(Erase heading not required).

Month and Year JULY 1944

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
CHEUX	1 Jul		Coy moved to Le MESNIL PATRY 9071.	Weekly AFs
LE MESNIL PATRY	- 5 Jul		Employed on mine clearance and rd maintenance.	W3008 & W2009
"	4 Jul		T/Major C.R. Nicholls, RE posted to this unit from HQ 8 Corps - OC unit vice T/Major J.G. Osler RE.	
"	6 Jul		New equipment etc arrived. Coy still engaged on mine clearance and road making.	
"	7 Jul		1 Platoon - Rd repairs; 2 Platoon - Reserve; 3 Platoon - Mine lifting.	
"	8 Jul		Coy comes under comd 46 Bde. 2 m/cs and 1 ½-track veh arrive as replacements.	
"	9 Jul		2 Pl move forward at 2200 hrs.	
"	10 Jul		278 Fd Coy in sp 46 Bde for operation JUPITER. 2 Pl move to MOUEN 7365 and has one sec with each 2 Glas H 7 Seaforths for checking routes. 20 rfts arrived. 1 ½-track arrived.	
LE MESNIL PATRY	11 Jul	1700	OC moves forward to Bde and takes forward 1 Pl. 2 Pl check carriageways and verges from excl X-rds 967656 to level crossing 986665 and from 970653 to ROCRENIL 978657. Rd opened from X-rds 977662 to track junc 978657, fallen trees removed and brs classified. Bde HQ moves to new harbour NE of Verson 973658. 2 Pl moves with Bde HQ. 1 Pl returns to Coy. Mortaring and shelling during night.	
"	12 Jul		2 Pl returns to Coy. Casualties :- 1 killed, 3 wounded, 3 vehs badly damaged. 2 ½-tracks arrived.	
"	13 Jul		Complete coy resting in harbour area. Priority residue arrived A.M. 1 m/c and 1 winch lorry arrived.	
"	14 Jul	1200	Whole coy moved to St Mauvieu 9470.	
St Mauvieu	15 Jul		Coy in sp 46 Bde with pl 263 Fd Coy under comd for operation GREENLINE. One D4 and one D7 placed under comd.	

			1 & 3 pls move forward to take over crossings on R. ODON. 1 pl responsible for maintenance of routes DUNDEE and QUARRY I. 3 Pl responsible for maint of QUARRY II, CART I and CART II. Pl 263 Fd Coy employed on maint of actual crossings at CART I and CART II.	
"	16 Jul		Maint tasks continued and routes opened up as far as BARRON. 3 tippers and D7 employed under 3 pl filling in craters round GOURNAY 9563.	
"	17 Jul		CART I and CART II handed over to 43 Div. Coy takes over HEREFORD. 3 Pl withdraw into reserve.	
"	18 Jul		1 pl hand over routes and return to coy location. Total casualties for operations. Lt D.D. Murray wounded - returned to duty. 1 OR killed, 3 ORs wounded. 14 rfts arrive.	
ST MAUVIEU	19 Jul		Coy resting. 3 rfts arrive.	
"	20 Jul		2 Pl erecting Water Point at Collville and lifting British minefields.	
"	21 Jul		Non-Priority Residue arrive. Lifting of British Minefields contd.	
"	22 Jul		Infantry Pioneer Mines course commenced. 1 Light Recce car received.	
"	23 Jul		Coy move to new location. 688676. Engaged in route maintenance &	
688676	24 Jul		training. (23 & 24th)	
"	25 Jul		Training contd. Maintaining a Water Point and routes. 17 ORs rfts.	
"	26 Jul		Training & route maintenance.	
"	27 Jul		" " " " . A pl went to RE Bridging School at Bayeux.	
"	28 Jul		As for 27 Jul. A road screening operation was carried out in the evening.	
688676	29 Jul		OC 2 pl with recce party moves to 2 Glas H and recce offr moves to 9 Cam in preparation for operation BLUECOAT.	
"	30 Jul	0600  1300	278 Fd Coy in sp 46 Bde for operation BLUECOAT. OC moved to Bde HQ at 0600 hrs. 3 Pl positioned to move behind Bde HQ Gp ready for immediate tasks. Coy HQ and 1 & 2 pls ready to move in rear. Coy task - to open up routes used on third objective - rd from X-rds 714544 rd junc 707518. Bde HQ moves to 696594 followed by 3 pl. Plan for third phase is changed and 2 Glas H and 7 Seaforths advance on route X-rds 688548 - to LA MORICHESSE LES MARES. OC 2 pl carries out route recce on rds X-rds 688548 - X-rds 715544. Recce offr recces	

		1615	<p>route forward as far as 688540 and is then held up by heavy fighting ahead.</p> <p>Coy HQ move to 705607.</p> <p>In the evening Bde HQ moves forward to 694565.</p> <p>3 Pl moves to area SEPT VENTS 6957.</p>	
705607	31 Jul		<p>3 Pl checking verges on rd from X-rds 688548 to X-rds 682522, repairing road and erecting notice boards.</p> <p>1 Pl called forward to assist in route maintenance. Recce made of damage to route in quarry 6951 and deviations made.</p>	<p><u>C.R. Nicholls</u> Major</p>

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**WAR DIARY**  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**  
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Unit 278 FIELD COY RE

Month and Year AUGUST 1944

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
705607	1 Aug	1700	Work on rd maint continues, stepping up as tactical situation permits. Recces carried out for Water Point at 692567. Br at 692567 found to be prepared for demolition and charges rendered safe. Recce carried out to find route to free tanks of main rd CAUMONT - ST MARTIN DES BESACES. Coy HQ move to 697548	
697548	2 Aug		1 & 3 pls start work on construction of the track to run EAST of rd from X-rds 688548. 2 pl open route from rd junc 680518 to rd junc 702513, including the filling in of 6 large craters caused by our own bombing.	
"	3 Aug		Work on tank track continues.	
697548	4 Aug		Work on tank tracks completed. Maint continues. 2 Pl open Water point at 675494. All responsibility for tracks behind ST MARTIN DES BESACES handed over to 8 Corps Tps. Maint of main rd and tracks from ST MARTIN DES BESACES to LE TOURNEUR taken over from Gds Armd Div and carried out by 2 Pl.	CRN
"	5 Aug	1900 2100	1 Pl take over water point from 2 Pl OC informed operation DUNHILL takes place 0730 hrs, 6 Aug Fwd recce followed by Bde O Gp 2330 hrs to 0200 hrs.	
697548	6 Aug	0400 0500 0830 1000 1100	Lt Haig moves to 9 Cams as recce offr with task of recce br at 795421. Det 3 Pl consisting of two half-tracks carrying 12 ft trackway brs and one D4 move to 9 Cams FAA at LE HAMEL 7742. Lt Haig reaches br 795421; reports br partially demolished and two charges failed to fire. Charges removed. Det 3 Pl stands by to repair br. OC 3 Pl goes fwd to carry out detailed recce of br. Hy mortaring and shelling makes work impossible. Bde agree work NOT to be carried out until situation improves. Br at 795396 reported demolished. Div RE asked to have Sec Bailey from 624 Fd Pk at immediate readiness.	CRN

		1400	Battle stagnates, no work on br possible and later in the evening 46 Bde pulls back. 3 Pl construct deviation round MONTCHARIVEL 7442 to avoid burning buildings. Buildings demolished by 2 Pl.	
"	7 AUG		2 Pl take over maint of div maint route from CATHEOLES to MONTCHARIVEL. 3 Pl construct rd fwd to 7 Seaforths.	
"	8 AUG		2 Pl working on route maint. 3 Pl working on improvements to tracks in fwd positions.	
"	9 AUG		2 Pl working on route maint.	CRN
697548	10 AUG		Recces carried out for construction of tank tracks forward from MONTCHAMP to LA CAVERIE.	
"	11 AUG		Preparation for operation DUNHILL.	
"	12 AUG		RE party briefed and prepare to go out with inf patrols from 7 Seaforths and destroy three Churchills which had fallen into enemy hands. Patrol cancelled at last minute.	
"	13 AUG		Coy moves to ST MARTIN 903606 Temporary Water Point opened at 011611 Checking of suspected minefields. 4 ORs arrived.	
ST MARTIN	14 AUG		Clearance of mines in area. Belt of 'S' mines found alongside R ORNE running from 008614 to 010610. Water Point opened up and Stellar installed.	
"	15 AUG		Mine clearance continues. 46 Bde moves fwd but 278 Fd Coy reverts from in sp and remains in present location. Det 2 Pl sent fwd to check suspected minefields in new Bde area. Det from 1 Pl check Mob Bath Unit sites for mines.	CRN
ST MARTIN	16 Aug	1800	Coy moved to new location due East of St Laurent de Condé. One sec of No 1 Pl on Water Point maintenance at MR 011611. One sec of No 2 Pl sent forward to clear new harbour area. No 3 pl on Route Maintenance, 3 secs maintaining Div route between MR 990577 and 015573 - 015573 to 986525 on Sheet 7F/3 and 1 sec on mine clearance at MR 0061 Sheet 40/16 SW	
ST Laurent de Condé	17 Aug		Pls employed as follows:-  1 Pl 2 Secs proceeded to MR 953540 to clear site for Mobile Laundry Unit. They came in contact with 'S' Mines. 1 Sec still operating at Water Point MR 011611. 2 Pl 3 Secs under Lt Baron on Rd Maintenance from St Laurent de Condé (986524) to Bois Halbout (013468). Work completed. Cutting out and filling of shell holes to make possible two-way traffic.	

			<u>3 Pl</u> Whole pl on Div Route Maintenance and repair at previous Map Refs.	
"	18 Aug		Pls employed as under:-  <u>1 Pl</u> 2 Secs completed task of clearing 'S' mines and returned to harbour 1300 hrs. 1 Sec returned from duty at Water Point with Water Purification set. <u>2 Pl</u> Rd Maintenance St Laurent de Condé to Bois Halbout. <u>3 Pl</u> Still maintaining Div route between previously mentioned MRS.	CRN
St Laurent de Condé	19 Aug		No <u>2 Pl</u> employed on Rd Maintenance between St Laurent de Condé and Bois Halbout. No <u>3 Pl</u> Div Route Rd Maintenance between MR 998502 and Fresnay-le-Vieux.	
"	20 Aug		Coy moved to new location north of Bois du Roi MR 117390 by Pls. Coy employed as follows:-  No <u>1 Pl</u> Pl Sjt & 3 ORs clearing mines at MR 953540 and 1 Sec out at Water Point MR 065410. Remainder of Pl in harbour. No <u>2 Pl</u> Three secs on rd maintenance between St Laurent de Condé and Bois Halbout. No <u>3 Pl</u> Whole pl employed on Div Route maintenance between MRS 990577- 015573- 986525.	
Bois du Roi.	21 Aug		No <u>1 Pl</u> Two secs on rd maintenance between MRS 015467-032489 on 7F/3. One sec still maintaining Water Point. No <u>2 Pl</u> Two secs still employed on route maintenance between St Laurent-de-Condé and Bois Halbout. No <u>3 Pl</u> On Div Route Maintenance from 998502- 002489- 032489.	
"	22 Aug		No <u>1 Pl</u> One Sec on Water Point MR 065410. Three secs on rd maintenance from MRS 054443- 015467 on 7F/3. No <u>2 Pl</u> Two secs on rd maintenance between St Laurent de Condé and Bois Halbout. No <u>3 Pl</u> Employed on Div Route Maintenance between 998502- 002489- 032489.	CRN
Bois du Roi	23 Aug		No <u>1 Pl</u> Two secs checked Div HQ harbour for mines at MR 215350. <del>No <u>2 Pl</u> Two secs still employed on route maintenance between St Laurent de Condé and Bois Halbout.</del> No <u>2 Pl</u> Remained in Harbour Area No <u>3 Pl</u> Remained in Harbour Area Lt Haig sent to investigate mines with which 2 Glas H had had an accident.	
"	24 Aug		Coy moved to S of Falaise near village MR 170340.	

			<p>No 1 Pl One sec opened Water Point at MR 289570. Two secs attd to Div HQ for all purposes.</p> <p>No 2 Pl One sec employed on rd maint on Star diversion at MR 473635.</p>	
170340	25 Aug	0030	Coy ordered to move to area VIMOUTIERS at 0715 hrs	CRN
		0600	Two secs despatched to clear Div HQ of mines.	
		0700	Coy Comd visited by CRE who states that Coy will be responsible for opening a Class 40 br at BEAUMONT LE ROGER if brs found to be blown. Not known where br eqpt is to come from.	
		0715	Coy Comd and OC 2Pl move off to recce BEAUMONT LE ROGER. Coy moves off.	
170340		1200	Coy Comd and OC 2 Pl reach line of R. RISLE and contact 15(S) Div Recce Regt to obtain information on river line. All brs reported blown. 4 sites visited and OC finds that br at 926769 is intact but as river is split in two this still does not mean a through route. OC crosses river in BEAUMONT, receives two German prisoners from F.F.I. and decides to bridge at 925768. Contacts Pl Comd from 279 Fd Coy who agrees to break in on to the route by constructing a br at 922769.	
		1315	Message sent back on Recce Regt net asking for br eqpt and No 2 Pl to be sent forward. (This message reached CRE). OC details OC 2 Pl to do detailed recce and then RV with for br eqpt and bring it forward. OC leaves to find Coy.	
		1415	OC meets OC 624 Fd Pk and finds their Coy and br eqpt are already moving well fwd. Coy meanwhile has had to despatch sec from 3 Pl to maint br at 543748.	
		1645	Coy reaches harbour area at 882750.	
		1700	2 Pl arrive on site of proposed br site and start adv party work.	
		1800	Br eqpt arrives on site and work commences - 70 ft D.S. Bailey.	
		1815	3 Pl ordered to improve diversion round demolished br at 843748.	
		2330	Enemy aircraft bombing nearby and drop flares over br under construction.	
882750	26 AUG	0040	Br complete and open to traffic. 1 pl take over br maint.	
		1100	Coy moves to ECARDVILLE 975810.	
		1400	2 and 3 Pls start work on opening route from BEAUMONT LE ROGER to rd junc 937774. Work consists of filling craters and removing burnt out vehs.	
ECARDVILLE	27 AUG		<p>Coy moved to MR 2985, Sheet 9F/1.</p> <p>1 PL One Sec attd Div HQ, one Sec handed over 2 Pl's Class 40 br to Corps Tps.</p> <p>2 PL Moved up with Coy convoy.</p>	CRN

ECARDVILLE			<u>No 3 Pl</u> Clearing rds and mines from MR 2785- 313887. Four secs employed on this job.	
2985	28 AUG		<u>No 1 Pl</u> One sec attd to HQRE. Whole pl moved up with Bde at 2330 hrs. On rd and verge clearance (MR 326906). <u>No 2 Pl</u> One sec blowing up Tiger Tank. One sec filling crater. One sec checking verges for 1000 yds from 269872 to 267876. One officer killed (Lt F Baron). 2 ORs wounded. <u>No 3 Pl</u> Pl moved to harbour sq 3289.	
MUIDS	30 AUG	0400	<u>No 1 Pl</u> Left Bde and returned to unit location. Operated two close support rafts on R Seine at MUIDS. <u>No 2 Pl</u> Maintenance of Cl 9 br at MUIDS (MR 315881) <u>No 3 Pl</u> Maintenance of Cl 9 br at MUIDS (MR 315881). One pl 280 Fd Coy placed under comd and employed to assist in rafting and clearance of verges from MUIDS to LES ANDELYS.	
MUIDS	31 AUG		<u>No 1 Pl</u> close ferries and move to LES ANDELYS. 2 & 3 Pls still continue maint of class 9 Br.	Weekly Aps W3008 & W3009  <u>C.R. Nicholls</u> Major

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**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 278 Field Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year SEPT 1944

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
MUIDS	1 SEP	0800 1800	1 Pl take over maint of class 40 br at LES ANDELYS and hand it over again to 6 A Tps at 1900 hrs. 2 & 3 Pls hand over maint of Class 9 FBE br to 6 A Tps. Weather:- Fair.	Ref Map Series-FRANCE Scale :- 1 :50,000 Sheet :- 9F/1 Str :- 6 & 241
"	2 SEP		Coy moved to GOURNAY-EN-BRAY. 2 and 3 Pls employed on maint of route from LES ANDELYS to CAMPEAUX 3 Pl double up Bailey br at 577678. Lt Allan carried out rd recce as far as R. Somme. Weather-Fair	Ref Map Series:- FRANCE Scale :- 1:50,000 Sheet :- 9E/6 & 9F/1 Str :- 6 & 242
GOURNAY	3 SEP		Coy takes over rd maint from GOURNAY to POIX. <u>No 1 Pl</u> Mine clearing of verges and rds on BOTTLE route. One sec worked from Campeaux to Fuquieres, one sec from Fuquieres to Bazancourt, one sec from Fuquieres to near Gournay. The remaining sec kept up steady flow of hardcore from Gournay for improving the rd between Gournay and Bazancourt. <u>No 2 Pl</u> Employed on route maint between a/n villages. Weather - Sunny.	Ref Map Series:- FRANCE Scale :- 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 Sheet :- 9E/6, 9E/4, 4 Str :- 6 & 242
GOURNAY	4 Sep	0830	Coy moved to BELLOY-SUR-SOMME, nr PICQUIGNY (MR 983645) - arrived approx. 1400 hrs. 2 Pl moved at 0820 hrs on rd maint task as MR 9059 past Picquigny and harboured temporarily at MOLLIENS VIDAME; moved on to BELLOY-SUR-SOMME and arrived at approx 2000 hrs. Lt Haig's CSM with a sec from 1 Pl took 2 German prisoners in Belloy-sur-Somme. Suspected collaborator taken to HQ FFI at CONDE FOLIE. Weather - Fair. 3 Pl br maint of brs 9964 & 0859	Ref Map Series:- FRANCE Scale :- 1:250,000 Sheet :- 4 Str :- 6 & 242.
BELLOY-SUR-SOMME	5 SEP	0745	Coy moved to LIGNY SUR CONCHES 1001 and arrived at 1500 hrs approx. 3 Pl hand over br maint to 6 Army Tps at 0800 hrs. Weather:- Dull. (9964 and 0859)	Ref Map Series:- FRANCE Scale:- 1:250,000 Sheet:- 2 Str :- 6 & 240

LIGNY SUR CONCHES	6 SEP	1800	<p>Coy moves to BELLENGHEM 8552, nr COURTRAI. Originally move should have been to THIELT but enemy still in occupation. Coy hindered on move by cheering crowds.</p> <p>OC travelled independently. On reaching Bde was told that all brs in COURTRAI were blown but br at BISSEGHEM 830560 was intact. Asked to investigate. Found all brs in COURTRAI blown. On arrival at BISSEGHEM found Royals pulling back last tp over the river followed by enemy. OC asked for protection from Royals to do quick recce of br. Br classified as class 9. Some five minutes later enemy on far bank opened fire and at same time Royals received orders to prepare br for demolition. Only 20 lbs 808 available. OC organises demolitions party from Royals and placed charges under decking at top of first pier. Enemy watch the operation with interest from range of some 500 yds but apart from a burst of fire over the br do not interfere. Orders to fire demolition were <u>not</u> received.</p> <p>Recce parties from 2 Pl &amp; 3 Pl were sent out to get exact dimensional sketches of the demolished brs in COURTRAI.</p>	<p>Ref Map Series:-LILLE- GHENT</p> <p>Scale:- 1:250,000</p> <p>Sheet:- 2</p> <p>Str :- 6 &amp; 242</p>
BELLENGHEM (8552)	7 SEP		<p>Large number of recce parties formed to carry out br classification of brs on COURTRAI CANAL. Just before they were due to leave (1000 hrs) CRE arrived and stated that an emergency had arisen and coy must occupy def posn from canal junc 9547 to excl br 9253. Coy took up posns with right 1 Pl from incl br 952477 to incl rly br 945459, Centre 2 Pl from excl rly br to excl br 930510, left 3 Pl from incl br 930510 to excl br 9253 making contact with RSF on left. Coy was in final posn by 1200 hrs.</p> <p>No attack developed.</p> <p>227 Bde arrived in middle of night at br 952477 but after much discussion did NOT take over def.</p> <p>Weather :- Wet.</p>	<p>Ref Map Series:-LILLE- GHENT</p> <p>Scale:- 1:250,000</p> <p>Sheet:- 2</p> <p>Str :- 6 &amp; 241</p>
"	8 SEP		<p>Coy told to stand down from def at 1000 hrs and move to area OUDENARDE at 1230 hrs. Coy arrived at new location (MR 1057) nr Oudenarde at approx 1900 hrs.</p> <p>Weather :- Fair.</p>	<p>Ref Map Series:-LILLE- GHENT</p> <p>Scale:- 1:250,000</p> <p>Sheet:- 2</p> <p>Str :- 6 &amp; 241.</p>
OUDENARDE (1057)	9 SEP		<p>No 1 Pl - No 3 Sec left coy harbour during the evening and proceeded to MR 0251 to maintain br at KHERKOVE on River Scheldt.</p> <p>Two recce parties sent off at 1600 hrs on div route recce - protection party in half track provided to go with them.</p> <p>Weather :- Wet.</p>	<p>Ref Map Series:-LILLE- GHENT</p> <p>Scale:- 1:250,000</p> <p>Sheet:- 2</p> <p>Str :- 6 &amp; 239</p>

<p>OUDENARDE (1057)</p>	<p>10 SEP</p>	<p>1300 1330  1700 1830</p>	<p>Coy moves to MR 5877 (LIPPELOO) OC meets Bde Comd and is told to produce two RE recce parties to recce line of Albert Canal with infantry escort. OC to meet Bde Comd for recce at LIERRE 7786 OC Carries out recce of canal with Bde Comd. RE recce parties from 1 Pl report to LIERRE and briefed. Sent to BOERCHEM (MR 8092) to see the ground. Weather :- Dull.</p>	<p>Map ref series:- as for 9 Sep. Str :- 6 &amp; 239.</p>
<p>LIPPELOO (5877)</p>	<p>11 SEP</p>	<p>0200  0700  0930  1330  1345</p>	<p>RE Recce parties recce ALBERT CANAL from incl canal junc 8791 to incl lock 7995. RE recce parties return and are questioned by Recce Offr (Lt Allan) OC attends O Gp at 46 Bde HQ and is told of complete change of plan. OC meets Bde Comd at WESTERLOO (MR 0381) and is informed that the coy is reverting to Comd CRE. OC meets CRE in WESTERLOO and visits cl 40 br at 0485 with OC 2 Pl. OC told that coy will take on maint of this br sometime 12 Sep. Weather : Sunny, Warm. No 1 Pl :- One sec sweeping for mines at MECHELIN (6977). Mines reported under paving of road. No mines found. Sec returned to coy harbour in the evening.</p>	<p>Map Ref Series: BRUSSELS -LIEGE  Scale: 1:250,000 Sheet: 3 Str :- 6 &amp; 239</p>
<p>LIPPELOO (5877)</p>	<p>12 SEP</p>	<p>1200  2200</p>	<p>Coy moves to WESTERLOO and arrives at new location (0381) at 1700 hrs. Ground very wet. No 1 Pl Nos 1 &amp; 4 Secs left harbour area to take up def posns on br over ALBERT CANAL (0485). No 3 Pl Br maint (cl 40 br) at 0485 and def posns at br. Weather :- Sunny.</p>	<p>Map Ref Series: Brussels -Liege.  Scale 1:250,000 Sheet 3. Str : 6 &amp; 239</p>
<p>WESTERLOO (0381)</p>	<p>13 SEP</p>		<p>No 1 Pl Two secs take up defensive posns on br 0485, to relieve Nos 1 &amp; 4 secs who returned to harbour area at 1800 hrs. No 2 Pl Maint cl 9 br over ALBERT CANAL 073842. At dusk enemy aircraft overhead but bombs dropped down river from br. No 3 Pl Cl 40 br maint and def of same at ALBERT CANAL 0485.</p>	<p>Map ref series as for 12th Str : 6 &amp; 239.</p>
<p>WESTERLOO (0381)</p>	<p>14 SEP</p>	<p> 0700  1900</p>	<p>Coy moves at 1800 hrs to MR 113883 nr GHEEL. Arrived approx 1930 hrs. No 1 Pl recce party left harbour to recce Albert Canal for possible br crossing N of VIERLE <del>7786</del>0579. Returned 1330 hrs. Pl told to stand by for constr of cl 9 shore loading raft on ESCAUT CANAL (079928) under comd 279 Fd Coy. OC and OC 1 Pl go fwd to do recce of site. One cl 9 raft constr. Second is reqd to assist in ferrying vehs into GHEEL bridgehead.</p>	<p>Ref map series :- As for 12th. Str : 6 &amp; 239</p>

WESTERLOO (0381)		2300	Pl leaves to construct raft. No 2 Pl handed over maint of cl 9 br to 280 Fd Coy. No 3 Pl handed over cl 40 br at 0800 hrs to 280 Fd Coy. Filled crater in rd at MR 108885 and built improvised br at 135892 over crater and demolished br. Weather : Wet.	
GHEEL (113883)	15 SEP	0030 0545 1200	No 1 Pl - constr of raft proceeds. Great noise of firing from far bank and a few indiscriminate shots overhead. Heavy spandau fire from three directions stops work on raft. OC orders pl to take up def posns. Def posn held until BM 44 Bde arrives and states that R Scots will take over. Pl is then withdrawn just as heavy mortar fire is brought down on canal bank. Pl unable to move for 30 mins. 1 Offr and 3 ORs wounded (Lt D.D. MURRAY). Counter attack put in across river by R Scots Fus and 1 Pl then assists 279 to form the two rafts into one larger raft. Pl reverts to comd coy at 1800 hrs. During this time 3 Pl complete improvised br at 2000 hrs, span 25'. Trees cut down and used as bank seats. Tel poles found on GHEEL sta used as rd bearers and local timber used as decking. Filling of crater completed (55 tipper loads of hard core). Weather :- am Warm pm wet.	Ref Map Series - same as for 12th. Str :- 5 & 235
GHEEL (113883)	16 SEP	0700 1000 1100 1600	3 Pl moves to MOLL (017092) and RV with one coy East Lancs Regt who are to give protection for crossing to be made over CANAL d'EMBRANAGEMENT VERS LE CAMP de BEVERLOO at 253947. (50,000 sheet 25 & 35). Inf reach STEVENSON and debus and take up def posn. The br site is overlooked by an enemy strongpoint at 247964 reported by civilians to contain two guns. RE recce carried out. No signs of interference from strong point and bridging starts. Cl 9 FBE 100 ft with trestle on near bank and half floating bay on far bank. Br complete. One sec from 3 Pl left to carry out maint. Coy put under comd of 44 Bde to maintain ferry over ESCAUT CANAL. 1 Pl takes over from pl of 279 Fd Coy at 1800 hrs. 4 Assault boat ferries are maintained and operated throughout the night under heavy enemy fire. Weather : Sunny.	Ref Map Series - as for 12th. Str : 5 & 235
"	17 SEP		2 Pl takes over assault boat ferries at 0800 hrs. At 1100 hrs OC is informed that one class 5 raft and one class 7 raft are to be constructed to allow relief of 44 Bde by 227 Bde. At 1500 hrs cl 5 lorry is moved close to site. Shelling which	Ref Map Series - as for 12th. Str 6 & 234

GHEEL (113883)			has been intermittent for most of the day now becomes very heavy and almost continuous. Bde Comd who is on the site rules that construction of raft is out of the question and states that 5 assault boat ferries is all that is required. These ferries are operated throughout the night. Five are sunk and cables of two are cut but KOSB are ferried across during the night. During the heavy shelling in the afternoon CSM was wounded and Pl Sgt 2 Pl evacuated suffering from blast. Weather: Sunny.	
"	18 SEP		2 Pl relieved by 3 Pl at 0800 hrs. 3 Pl operates for 24 hrs under very trying conditions and considerable shelling. 1 OR wounded. Weather- Wet.	Map ref series - as for 12th. Str 6 & 235.
"	19 SEP		3 Pl hand over ferries to 20 Fd Coy at 0800 hrs. Weather - Wet.	-do-
"	20 SEP		3 Pl on rd maint at GHEEL.	Str 6 & 234.
"	21 SEP	0830	Coy moves to MEERVELDHOVEN (392146). Arr 1600 hrs. Ground very unreliable. No 1 Pl - recce party left harbour at 1700 hrs for EINDHOVEN, where, in cooperation with the 7th Seaforths, they found a suitable site for rafting over WILHELMINA canal. Recce party returned at 2000 hrs. Work on cl 5 raft site started at 2300 hrs. Inf working party did not arrive until 0030. 20 ft steep banks were cut through and raft operating by 0340. Twenty five carriers crossed before FBE br opened. No 3 Pl with under comd two secs 2 Pl went out to build cl 9 FBE across WILHELMINA canal at 390251. Br eqpt arrived 0200 hrs. Br (100 ft FBE with two half floating bays) open at 0915 hrs 22 Sep. Five camouflnets have to be blown in banks to enable ramp down to be made. Intermittent sniping during night. Weather - Sunshine.	Map ref series - as for 12th. Str 6 & 234.
MEERVELDHOVEN (392146)	22 SEP		No 1 Pl - secs returned to harbour area without incident. Left harbour at 1800 hrs to assist 280 Fd Coy to construct Double Bailey Br. Work was completed by daylight 23rd. No 2 Pl - 1 & 4 secs 2 Pl attd 3 pl returned at 0800 hrs and relieved on maint FBE by 2 & 3 secs. 1 & 4 secs returned to br at 1200 hrs. Remainder of Pl went to Eindhoven and harboured there. One 3 ton truck crashed into ditch on way to EINDHOVEN. 1 OR injured. No 3 Pl - completed cl 9 br at 0915 hrs and returned to harbour area.	Ref Map Series - as for 12th. Str 6 & 234

			Weather - Wet.	
"	23 SEP		No 2 Pl - Maint of FBE. Relieved by 3 Pl at 1700 hrs. Weather - Wet.	-do-
"	24 SEP	0800	No 3 Pl - Handed over br maint of FBE to 279 Fd Coy. No 1 Pl - Opened Water Point at 2723. Weather - Wet.	-do- Str 6 & 233
MEERVELDHOVEN (392146)	25 SEP		No 1 Pl - operating Water Point. Weather - wet.	Ref map series as for 12th. Str 6 & 233
"	26 SEP		Whole coy in harbour. Weather - dry and cold.	-do-
"	27 SEP		Coy moved at 1300 hrs to MR 406235 Nr EINDHOVEN.	-do-
		0900	3 Pl took over maint of cl 40 br and cl 9 br on WILHELMINA Canal at 389250 and rd from br to X rds 378267. 2 Pl took over maintenance of two existing brs and one cl 40 br from 7 Armd Div at ST OEDENRODE 4332 and also some ¼ mile of damaged pave.	Str 6 & 232
		1000	3 Pl told to recce for class 9 Bailey Br over WILHELMINA Canal. Eqpt only available for 130 DS Br to be on WEST of and as close as possible to existing cl 40.	
		1200	Design of br completed. Design was 130 DS supported on DS Bailey piers without special parts. 20 ft SS each end joining piers to bank. CRE asked if extra eqpt could be made available. Meanwhile excavation proceeds.	
		1800	1 Pl told to take over 3 Pl's maint task and have one sec available to help 3 Pl as br is to be done by us.	
		1900	CRE orders br to be constructed. Work on piers started. One sec from 2 Pl and one sec from HQ withdrawn to help 3 Pl unloading br eqpt.	
406235		2100	Br eqpt arrives and unloading starts.	
		2300	Eqpt unloaded. Piers completed except for decking on top. Work stops until first light. Weather - cold and wet.	
"	28 "	0600	Work on piers resumed. Delay caused by finding grillage and preventor lorry did NOT contain 9"x4" timber but old sleepers instead. 9"x9" timber was found and design modified accordingly.	Str 6 & 238.
		1000	Building commenced.	
		1230	Piers complete, nose and 10 bays of br complete. Work held up by shelling.	
		1400	Work resumed and br launched undecked at 1430 hrs.	
		1600	Br decked down. Jacking started.	

		1845	Br complete and maint taken over by 1 Pl. 2 Pl continue with rd repair. Weather - dry and cold.	
"	29 SEP		No 1 Pl - one sec on drains for piers on cl 9 B Br. - two secs still maintaining both cl 9 & 40 B Brs and removing FBE at MR 3925. - one sec still on Water Point at 2723. No 2 Pl - br maint at MR 425318. Rd repairs completed. No 3 Pl - improvements to piers of cl 9 BB. Class 9 & class 40 brs received intermittent shelling. Weather - cold and dry.	-do-
406235	30 SEP		1 Pl completing drainage of piers and sorting FBE. 2 Pl br maint 3 Pl checking and sorting spares for Bailey Br.  Cl 9 & Cl 40 brs received intermittent shelling. Weather - showery.	str 6 & 231  Weekly W3008s & W3009s  C.R. Nicholls Major RE OC 278 Field Coy 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 278 Field Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year OCTOBER 1944

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
4225	1 Oct		<p>No 1 Pl- Two secs maintaining cl 9 &amp; cl 40 brs (Bailey) at 3824. Enemy shellfire. One sec in harbour and then proceeded to 551279 as adv party for new coy harbour but were forestalled by 12 Corps &amp; returned to coy location.</p> <p>No 2 Pl- Pl harbour at 425318. One sec maintaining br at 427319. One sec on rd repair. One NCO &amp; 8 men dug eight gullies in the approach to the br &amp; also repaired a section of the roadway in the same place. Light shelling round br - no damage.</p> <p>No 3 Pl- In harbour - 3923.</p>	<p>Map Series:- BRUSSELS-LIEGE Scale: 1: 250,000 Str : 6 &amp; 234</p>
"	2 Oct	0800 1000 1400	<p>No 1 Pl- One sec left as adv party for new coy harbour. Two secs returned from maint of cl 9 &amp; 40 Bailey brs at 3824 after handing over to 51 Div. Pl left harbour to location of cl 9 &amp; 40 Bailey brs to take up def posns previously held by 279 Fd Coy. Changeover completed by 1500 hrs.</p> <p>No 2 Pl- One sec digging gullies on right hand side of approach to br at 427319. One sec building up under timber approaches to br. One sec maintaining br and far bank approaches. Brs handed over to 51 Div at 1030 hrs. Arrived at coy location at 1330 hrs. Pl left harbour at 1430 hrs to take up def posns at 380240 on the Wilhelmina Canal.</p> <p>No 3 Pl- In harbour at 398226. At 1600 hrs took over def posns on Wilhelmina Canal from 279 Fd Coy at 380244. Light shelling.</p>	-do-
4225	3 Oct	1545	<p>9 Men left harbour area from HQ pl to make 2 Pl up to strength and thereby relieve a sec on the def posn at 380240. Returned to harbour at 1430 hrs as coy was due to move.</p> <p>Coy moved to 5422 arriving at 1815 hrs.</p> <p>Above-mentioned def responsibility handed over to 5 Seafortths (51 Div) at 1400 hrs and all pls returned to coy HQ.</p>	<p>Map ref series - as for 1st Oct</p>

5422	4 Oct		Recces for close support raft trg area. Suitable site found at 5526. Preparation for Pioneer trg carried out. Nos 1,2 & 3 Pls in harbour area.	-do-
"	5 Oct		Trg for rfts in Bailey. Trg in close support raft. Pioneer offrs and men on mine trg. No 1 Pl erected a close support raft for instruction of pl	-do-
"	6 Oct		Pioneer offrs and men on instruction in elementary demolitions. Trg for rfts in Bailey br. No 2 Pl - One sec collected Class 5 raft from MILL MR 6444 and unloaded them at coy site at HELMOND 551266 No 3 Pl - Trg on Close Support Raft. Work by night and day.	Map ref series- BRUSSELS-LIEGE & WALCHEREN-AMSTERDAM. Scale 1:250,000.
5422	7 Oct		Pioneer offrs and men completed their course by having instrn on Cl 5 Assault Boat Anti-Tank Raft. Trg for rfts in Bailey Br. No 1 Pl - 3 men from each sec on instrn in the operation of the Storm Boat. No 2 Pl - All secs building Close Support Raft at HELMOND from 0800 hrs to 1630 hrs. Night work on Close Support Raft from 2230 hrs to 0100 hrs. No 3 Pl - Instrn on building and operating Cl 5 F.B.E. Raft, Watermanship and Storm Boats.	-do-
"	8 Oct		Address by Div Commander.	
"	9 Oct		Coy given the task of constructing a class 15 br at 545624 Task given to 1 Pl. Recce carried out. Site was on site of existing demolished drawbridge. Two spans blown, two piers damaged, one span particularly damaged and drawbridge tower particularly damaged & blocking approach to br. Project worked out, submitted to and approved by CRE. Outline plan. (a) Demolish drawbridge tower. (b) Construct two R.S.J. spans each 6 girders 30'x15"x12" (c) Pack up damaged span & re-lay pave. Lt Niven joins Coy and takes comd 2 pl.	
"	10 Oct		1 Pl successfully demolished obstruction on br site at 545624 (Sheet 5 S'HERTOGENBOSCH Scale 1:100,000). Details of work involved :- Amount of Explosives used 40 slabs of Guncotton 16 Guncotton Primers 15 Detonators, Electric 100 yds Plastic Cordtex 1 Reel wire, electric	

		<p>The above was placed in 6 separate charges. Top and bottom of 2 struts supporting main girders and counterweight.</p> <p>Two charges were placed at the bases of the main Girders on the first pier.</p> <p>The charge was blown successfully dropping structure into canal clear of main waterway and not obstructing building of br.</p> <p>No 2 Pl Training in close sp raft.</p>	
"	11 Oct	<p>No 1 Pl Work proceeding on construction of br at 545264. By 2200 hrs grillage and piers complete and first bay girders in position.</p> <p>No 2 Pl 3 NCOs &amp; 16 men went out at 1300 hrs to assist No 1 Pl on work as given above and returned to coy location at 1700 hrs. 18 rfts arrived.</p>	
"	12 Oct	<p>No 1 Pl Work almost completed on construction of br at 545264.</p> <p>Method of construction :-</p> <p>Existing brick piers were built up with timber to make solid seating. One abutment was re-built with timber crib pier.</p> <p>Girders 15"x12" (12 in all) were used.</p> <p>Centre span launched first from existing section of br then girders were launched from abutment to pier.</p> <p>Structure was decked down with 9"x5" timber held down to girders with 12" bolts through the ribands, decking and a plate fixed to underside of top flange of girders.</p> <p>Working party returned to coy harbour at 1800 hrs.</p> <p>Br open to traffic at 1800 hrs - footwalk still to be completed, and wearing surface to be added.</p> <p>No 3 Pl Moved to rafting site at 1330 hrs. Loaded Close Sp Rafting material and Cl 5 rafting material. Returned to harbour at 1915 hrs.</p>	
	13 Oct	<p>Recce party of 1 Sjt and 1 offr left harbour at 1700 hrs and arrived at ELL (6394) at 1830 hrs approx. Object of recce was to find places on WESSEM CANAL for possible assault crossings.</p> <p>Major Wood of 279 Fd Coy RE contacted at ELL and information obtained from him of certain sectors of the canal.</p> <p>No 1 Pl Cl 24 br completed and open to traffic at 545264. Three secs returned to coy harbour at 1200 hrs. One sec completed the laying of wearing surface and returned to Coy harbour at 1500 hrs. Construction of br :- Br is of composite design, e.g. timber decking, steel girders, over existing br site. Two spans, one of 30 ft and one of 35 ft. Width 11 ft with footwalks at each side.</p>	

			<p>No 2 Pl Secs reorganised due to new reinforcements and this pl can now have 4 secs.</p> <p>No 3 Pl Veh maintenance.</p>	
	14 Oct		<p>Recce party in harbour at ELL awaiting information re crossings of WESSEM CANAL.</p> <p>1700-1930 hrs. Party recced canal bank and passed their information to Div I.O. and then returned to harbour at ELL for further instructions.</p> <p>OC attended CRE's O gp on Op SYRIUS.</p> <p>No 2 Pl with under comd 4 secs from 1 Pl train with 150' Kapok br by day and by night.</p>	
	15 Oct		<p>Recce party still at ELL.</p> <p>OC attends conferences at HQRE and 46 Bde.</p> <p>No 3 Pl moved to Kapok br site at 0900 hrs, and returned to coy harbour at 1300 hrs.</p>	
	16 Oct		<p>Recce party still awaiting further instructions at ELL.</p> <p>OC attends conferences on SIRIUS at HQRE, 46 Bde and 44 Bde.</p> <p>No 2 Pl - At 0930 hrs 3 three ton lorries containing Kapok Assault Equipment arrived. Checked by pls. End laths of footwalks painted white to enable positions of Kapok floats to be seen in dark.</p> <p>No 3 Pl - No 3 Sec moved off at 0830 hrs for secret rehearsal for OP SIRIUS and returned at 1500 hrs.</p>	
	17 Oct		<p>Major Wood of 279 Fd Coy RE informed recce party at ELL that the operation was cancelled and to return to coy harbour.</p> <p>Recce party arrived at coy harbour at 2015 hrs.</p> <p>All preparation for OP SIRIUS cancelled.</p>	
	18 Oct		Training in mines.	
	19 Oct		)	
	20 Oct		) Coy refitting and reorganising.	
	21 Oct		)	
	22 Oct	1400 1700	<p>OC attends cloth model exercise on operation ERIC.</p> <p>OC attends CRE's O Gp.</p>	
	23 Oct		OC visits HQRE and 46 Bde to tie up final details of OP ERIC.	
	24 Oct	1200 1500	<p>2 Pl carry out training in rd clearance for OP ERIC.</p> <p>1, 3 Pl &amp; HQ cutting brushwood and making fascines for Op ERIC.</p> <p>OP ERIC in its original form is cancelled. Coy warned to be prepared to move in the afternoon.</p> <p>Coy moves to ACHT (3923) arriving 1900 hrs.</p>	

			OC moves independently and visits HQRE. Coy told to prepare to construct cl 40 br at 286275 on night 24/25 and this is subsequently cancelled. OC attends 46 Bde O Gp.	
	25 Oct	0330 0600 0745 0815 0930 1230 1430 1900 2100	Coy O Gp Lt Niven and recce party move off to join Recce Regt. 3 Pl move off to join 2 GH. OC moves to join Bde O Gp Coy moves off 3 Pl arrives at demolished br at 233305. One scissors br put down and br eqpt called for. Br eqpt arrives. Div comd states second scissors br to be put down and bailey to be erected later. Scissors br lifted and Cl 40 Bailey br at 234305 commenced. 40' SS completed at 2200 hrs. OC attends Bde O Gp and orders up pl of Bailey. Lt Niven goes fwd to try to get to br at 231339 - unable to do so. Coy harbour for night area 283274.	Op Instrn No 1
283274	26 Oct	0500  0830  0900  1000  1030  1100	1 Pl with under comd one pl Bailey moves fwd to F.A.A. 225323 ready to construct Cl 40 br at 231339. Order to br to be given by OC 7 S. Recce party able to get down to look at br site. Reinforced concrete br demolished leaving tangled mass of concrete and reinforced beam sticking up some three feet above bank seat level. Both abutments blown. OC visits site. Decides to build 50' D.S. obstruction to be reduced to 20" above bankseat level and br to have 20 ft range at each end and baseplates packed up 1 ft above bankseat height. Two trees felled as rd block to be removed. OC reports situation to Bde comd. OC again visits br site. Site under fairly persistent mortaring and shelling. 4 ORs wounded (L/Cpl Mackie dies subsequently). OC orders work on unloading to stop and all available personnel kept under cover except party working on clearing concrete obstruction who are to work during lulls. OC reports situation to Bde comd and Div comd who is visiting Bde. Div comd states undue casualties NOT to be accepted - br is not urgent. Lt Haig despatched to classify SUISE Br 239343 - reported cl 40 and intact. Offr unable to get down to site. Sgt Caulfield despatched to classify ROODE Br 234343. Answer cl 9.	

	(	1200 Bde state that they must have cl 40 br into OISTERWYCK within an 1000 Coy moves to MOERGESTEL ) hour. CRE present and states impossible to complete Bailey by that time. Suggests Scissors br at ROODE site. Scissors br ordered up and small RE party link up with it. Tks report site unsuitable for br. Bde lose interest in cl 40 br. 1330 Lt Haig gets down to SUISE br - classification - certain cl 24 probable cl 30 - and possible cl 40. 1630 1 Pl complete clearance of concrete obstruction on br site. <del>1700 9 Cams report brs at 188318.</del> Lt Niven despatched to recce br site 178326. Unable to get right down to br and gets involved in enemy counter attack. Reports br demolished - probable span 90'. Rly br over rd at 184328 demolished and forms serious obstacle. 1700 9 Cams report brs at 188318 collapsing. Lt Haig despatched to investigate. Reports br 188318 cl 40 and OK, br at 189320 only capable carrying cl 9. 1800 3 Pl relieve 1 Pl on br site. 1900 No shelling on site and br vehs brought down and unloading commenced. 2140 Br complete.	
MOERGESTEL	27 Oct	1000 OC asks Bde Comd if br ops likely. Bde Comd states NOT today but possibility of cl 40 at TILBURG on 30th. 1045 OC despatches Lt Allan to do recce of demolished br at 178326. 1030 Bde comd asks for one lorry load assault boats to be sent to each 9 Cam & 7 Seaforths. 1100 Bde comd asks for some form of rafting to get jeeps over to 9 Cams & 7 S. OC goes to 9 Cams to see if ATK gun rafts are available with assault boats. None available so two class 5 rafts ordered up and 1 Pl told to stand by to construct and operate them. OC goes fwd to meet Lt Allan and see demolished rly br at 183325. This is a much more serious obstacle than originally reported and is expected to take 2-3 days to clear. CRE is informed at once as it may affect entire br plans. OC 2 Pl warned to stand by with recce party and adv party to br at 177186 and to start work as soon as tactical situation permits. 1300 Coy told to take over rd maint from OIRSCHOTT- MORGESTEL- OISTERWYCK and MORGESTEL-BIEK incl 4 brs on the route. 1315 Coy told no br eqpt on wheels and will have to load own eqpt.	

		<p>1330 OC speaks to HQRE stating tasks allotted are beyond sources at his disposal and asks for priorities.  Priorities given 1) Rafting  2) Rd maint  3) Cl 40 br and clearing obstruction.  3 Pl told to take over rd maint and hold small party in res.</p> <p>1400 Bde very anxious about class 5 rafts and send down priority flags to take them fwd.</p> <p>1500 Bde states rafts of little importance. Cl 40 br priority I.</p> <p>1530 OC meets CRE to try to sort out priorities. CRE agrees to load br eqpt and to take over rd maint responsibilities.</p> <p>1600 Situation clears.  1 Pl to hand over class 5 raft to pioneers and return to coy to assist 2 Pl with cl 40 br.  2 Pl to construct cl 40 br.  3 Pl to clear demolished rly br.</p> <p>1700 OC visits cl 40 br site and agrees with OC 2 Pl br to be DD 120 ft sunk flush. Obstruction on existing pier to be removed. Excavations start at once.  Demolished rly br presents a serious problem. Two 200 ft Platt truss rly brs cut and dropped across rd and abutments blown in. Extra equipment asked for:  Two D8s with hyster winch  One explosive lorry  Four oxy acetylene cutters  REME rec vehicle.</p> <p>2000 Two Grillage and accessory lorries at cl 40 br site.  All excavation completed by 2359 and work stopped short first light. Bde asked to supply working party of 30 to help unloading br eqpt.</p>	
	28 Oct	<p>1000 Grillage near side complete.  Work delayed by concrete on far side and by twisted girder on central pier obstructing launching plans. Girder cut by acetylene cutter and winched away.</p> <p>1500 Building commences</p> <p>1730 Nose and D.S. completed by 1 Pl. 3 Pl stand by to double up. During this period 3 Pl have made good progress with clearing obstructions. 6 separate demolitions carried out and considerable amount of acetylene cutting completed.  Upper half on NE truss removed and dragged clear and half SE truss removed. Dragging operations delayed by failure of one D7</p>	

		1740	to arrive and cable party on the other one. AVRE rec veh arrived and gave assistance instead.	
		2200	CRE arrives at site and says Div is under orders to move. Coy to be prepared to drop tasks at very short notice. Work on clearance of obstruction to be stopped now. Br to be doubled up and launched as soon as possible.	
			Br doubled up and launched and handed over to 12 Corps Tps for completion.	
			Clearance of obstruction handed over to 12 Corps Tps.	
	29 Oct	1230	Coy moves with Bde to area LEENDE. Plans change en route and Bde moves to take up def posn in area DEURNE which is reached at 1640.	
		1730	OC decides Coy is too far forward and moves it back to area 605210.	
		1900	Air raids in vicinity.	
		2100	Air raids in vicinity. Lt Thomas and Sgt Davidson leave for tour of duty as instructors at Br School.	
605210	30 Oct		1 Pl on rd maint HELMOND - DEURNE. Lt Jones joins coy and takes over comd of 3 Pl.	
"	31 Oct		Sudden call from Bde to clear mines in 9 Cam & 7S area. 2 Pl sent out to deal with 7S and Lt Haig sent to 9 Cam. 2 Pl find that 7S have already lifted the mines in their area. Lt Haig unable to reach 9 Cam. 2 Pl told to send down sec to help 9 Cam. OC visits 9 Cam and finds they have done most of the clearance but marking still required. 2 Pl hand over signs to 9 Cam.	
		1800	OC attends Bde O Gp. Bde Comd wants rd from rd junc 667147 to rd junc 676152 checked by night and rd from rd junc 672143 to 683147 checked as soon as tactical situation permits.	Weekly W3008s & W3009s.
		2130	2 Pl start first of above tasks. Complete by 0100 hrs. No mines found and no casualties.	
			C.R. Nicholls Major RE OC 278 Field Coy RE	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 278 Field Company RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year NOV 44

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
591211	1 Nov		3 Pl - mine clearance behind bns pushing East to DEURNE CANAL, rd and verges checked from 672143 to 685148, no mines found.	
"	2 Nov		Secs stand by to prepare brs over DEURNE canal for demolition-parties not called out. 1 Pl clear road blocks in LIESEL. Coy moved at 1400 hrs to 562215, arriving at 1530 hrs.	
562215	3 Nov		1 & 3 pls employed on mine clearance in proposed gun area around LIESEL. 4 R Mines two T Mi 43 lifted. 2 Pl - maint of rd DEURNE- LIESEL. Coy moved at 1000 hrs and arrived at new location at 1230 hrs, VLIERDEN.	
VLIERDEN	4 Nov		2 Pl Rd maint.	
"	5 Nov		2 Pl Rd maint. 3 Pl Clearance of minefield near HEITRAK - 15 T Mi 42 lifted.	
"	6 Nov		1 Pl Clearance of mines on tracks for 6 RSF. 5 R Mines 12 Tellermines lifted. 2 Pl Rd Maint.	
"	7 Nov		1 Pl Improvements to tracks in area of 668112. 2 Pl Rd maint and checking of verges DEURNE- LIESEL.	
"	8 Nov		1 Pl Rd maint DEURNE - ZOMMEREN. 2 Pl Rd maint DEURNE- rd junc 683128 3 Pl Rd maint ASTEN-MEIJEL rd. Removal of booby traps from knocked out American tanks.	
	9 Nov		1 Pl Rd maint as on 8 Nov. 2 Pl " " " " " and stretches from 3 Pl.	
	10 Nov		1 pl Rd maint 2 pl Rd maint 3 Pl Rd maint.	
	11 Nov		All pls on rd maint. Lt Haig takes party out to destroy bombs and dud shells in area VLIERDEN.	
	12 Nov		All pls on rd maint. Route recces carried out.	

	13 Nov		All pls on rd maint. OC and Lt Allan carry out daylight recce of demolished br at HOOGEBRUG (708123). Crawl 800 yds to house at 707122 but unable to get full view. Report site probably obstructed.	
	14 Nov		All pls on rd maint. 3 Pl send out night recce party with 7 S to recce sites for assault crossing in area HOOGEBRUG. OC visits CRE at 1630 hrs to discuss future ops.	
	15 Nov <del>16 Nov</del>		1 Pl put in culvert br at 631123 to get guns into gun area. 2 & 3 pls on rd maint. <del>Route maint handed over to 7</del> OC carries out recce of HOOGEBRUG in Air OP and confirms site obstructed on near bank by wreckage. L/Sgt Heywood goes out on night patrol to obtain details of wreckage.	
	16 Nov		Route maint handed over to 7 Army Tps. 1 & 3 Pls minefield clearance in area MEIJEL. Many R mines Tellermines, S Mines and Schu mines lifted. One veh from 3 Pl blown up on mine. OC attends Bde O Gp 2030 - Op NUTCRACKER Coy O Gp 2230 Operation cancelled 2330.	
	17 Nov		1 & 3 pls continue minefield clearance area MEIJEL. More mines lifted. Cpl Livingstone casualty on Schu mine.	
	18 Nov		1 Pl check landing strip for Air OP at 672094. OC attends CRE O Gp 1230 hrs " " Bde O Gp 1430 hrs Coy O Gp 1700 hrs. Notice received at 1830 that op was cancelled but might take place 1200 hrs 19 Nov. 2 Pl send out night party to clear fallen trees off rd from rd junc 682128 to HOOGEBRUG. 2 GH give protection.	
	19 Nov	0900  0920	Message received to say that 9 Cams have crossed DEURNE canal, all previous plans cancelled and cl 9 & cl 40 brs required as early as possible. 1 Pl leave to construct cl 9 br. 3 Pl " " " cl 40 br. 2 Pl leave to maintain HOOGEBRUG rd. 3 Pl start demolishing wreckage on existing site. 1 Pl select site for cl 9 br immediately south of cl 40 and start checking for mines. Tellermines and R mines found. FBE eqpt arrives on site by 1200 hrs. Intermittent shelling of site.	

		1600	Wreckage from cl 40 site cleared and mines cleared from cl 9 site.	
		2140	FBE complete. 60 ft two trestles. Maint taken over by HQ Pl.	
		2300	Excavation for cl 40 br complete. Building starts at 2300 hrs.	
	20 Nov		Coy moves at 1000 hrs to 708122 and arrive at 1300 hrs. 2 Pl send mine clearance party fwd with 9 Cams. Cl 40 br completed 0900 hrs. 60 D.S. with level 10 ft ramps. HQ pl supervise inf working party on maint of bde axis from rd junc 682128-HOOGEBRUG fwd. Bde O Gp 1600 hrs Coy O Gp 1700 hrs OC visits CRE to ask for assistance. One pl 279 placed under comd. 2 Pl send out night mine clearance party to clear from 730116 fwd to canal.	
708122	21 Nov	1030	3 Pl to construct cl 9 br at 736116 2 Pl " " cl 40 br " " Pl 279 to deal with cl 9 approach on far bank. 3 Pl arrive on site at 0830. Inf cross at 0900. OC arrives on site at 0845. Existing alignment blocked by wreckage, possible site for cl 9 immediately south. Decided to put up cl 9 Bailey.	
		1400	Div comd arrives on site and says he must have cl 40 br by night as well. Recce fwd to discover alternative site and it is impossible to get wreckage cleared in time. Decided to double up end of cl 9 50 SS without endposts and make it cl 40. Cl 40 br complete. Clearance of wreckage for final cl 40 br in hand. Pl 279 employed on opening up route fwd. 1 Pl dump 16 lorry loads of Sommerfeld track and PBS for work on track at 738115.	
	22 Nov		One pl 279 Fd Coy under comd. 2 Pl and pl 279 work on Sommerfeld track. Heavy rain all day and ground in appalling state. Track laid from 736117 to 743118 (800 yds) 1 Pl do night work on same track and lay further 300 yds.	
	23 Nov		Work on track continues. 900 yds completed in heavy rain. 2 Pl on track laying. 3 Pl on track laying and on arrival of pl from 279 Fd Coy later in the day 3 Pl take over track maint which is already bearing a fairly heavy commitment.	

			Coy HQ and 1 Pl move to 742108	
	24 Nov		<p>Work on track continues.  1 Pl laying  One Pl 279 Fd Coy laying  2 Pl &amp; 3 Pl on track maintenance. Work continues until 1830 by which time another 1200 yds have been done. Now making track complete from 736117 to 762125.</p> <p>2030 OC told to report to Bde at once. OC given outline plans for new adv through HORST. OC told to go to CRE.</p> <p>2200 OC sees CRE and is told to construct cl 40 brs tomorrow at 844183 and 843177. Br at 844183 to have first priority. Div br pl to be at DEURNE at 0830 hrs to be picked up on way through. Br eqpt for second br to follow later. OC arranges for local protection of br party by 7 S.</p> <p>2330 OCs O Gp.  1 Pl to construct cl 40 br at 844183. To move DEURNE - AMERIKA - HORST and pick up br eqpt on route.  2 Pl to do adv party work for cl 40 br at 843177 to proceed there by route SKYE. 2 &amp; 3 Pls join Coy HQ at 742108</p>	
794144	25 Nov		<p>Coy moves to 794144.</p> <p>0730 1 Pl leave for cl 40 site at 844183. Get bogged on the way and lose one sec. Then held up by traffic and do not reach br site until 1200 hrs.</p> <p>0900 3 Pl leave for cl 40 site at 843177 and reach site at 1130.</p> <p>1330 Protection party from 7S cross stream. Shelling on br site - Lt Niven and 1 OR wounded.</p> <p>1500 Adv party work starts on both sites.</p> <p>1600 Eqpt arrives at site 844183 and unloading starts.</p> <p>1700 Adv party work completed on both sites. Sec from 2 Pl put under comd 1 Pl to finish unloading.</p> <p>1800 Building starts at site 844183.  OC attends Bde O Gp at 1815 hrs</p> <p>1915 OC sees CRE</p> <p>2000 OCs O Gp</p> <p>2030 Br complete. 10' DS with 10 ft ramp at either end. HQ pl takes over br maint.</p> <p>2300 Bailey pl and half FBE pl put under comd for further ops.</p>	
	26 Nov	0730	Lt Haig reports to 2 Glas H to move with them and report on obstruction ahead.	
		0730	2 Pl report to site 843177 and meet covering party from 2 GH.	
		0800	2 GH cross and unloading stores starts.	

827168		0830 0930 1130 1400 1800	3 Pl move fwd with D4, culverting & FBE prepared to open up route fwd. Coy moves to 827168. Lt Haig gives preliminary reports on craters on road ahead. Craters at 855163, 864150 and 886151. CRE asks for 5 tippers. Filling of craters commenced. Rd from BROEK - NIEUWE CALIFORNIE to 886151 now passable to one way traffic.	
	27 Nov		3 pl continues work on craters, making route two way up to 886151. Work on crater at 886151 is not possible owing to heavy shelling. A night patrol was sent out to clear roads at this site which obstructed work. Verges checked for mines from BROEK to 864150. 1 Pl send sec to 9 Cams to clear mines in HOMBERG. 2 Pl send mine clearance parties for Air O.P. Sqn, Div HQ and Pro & put 20 ft ramps on br at 843177. Lt Haig does route recce for 7S.	
	28 Nov		1 Pl send two secs to 7S for mine clearance. 17 R mines lifted between 908199-908196. 2 Pl add wearing surface to brs at 844183 and 843177.	
823090	29 Nov		Coy hands over all responsibility in HORST area to 11 Armd Div and moves to KORTHEIDE 823090. 3 Pl clearing mines in METRIK area. 8 R mines and 4 Schu mines lifted. L/Cpl Bedford injured by Schu mine.	
"	30 Nov		1 Pl mine clearance - track from ROTH (8408) to 850105. 20 T mi 35 lifted. 2 Pl rd maint SEVENUM-MAASBREE-BERINGE.  C.R. Nicholls Major RE OC 278 Field Company RE	Weekly AFS W3008 & W3009

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 278 Field Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year DEC 1944

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
823080	1 Dec		<p><u>1 Pl</u> 3 Secs to 850092 (Tegelen Sht 1:25,000) to continue previous day's job of sweeping and opening route from 46 Bde HQ to 2 GH at 865123.</p> <p><u>2 Pl</u> Rd Maint 816137 - 7606. 1800 hrs- fill 15 tipper lorries and return at 2200 hrs. <u>3 pl</u> 1 Sec on mine clearance at 817088 and 1 sec on mine clearance at 883077, prior to filling in crater at same spot.</p> <p><u>3 Pl</u> Night clearance of rd from BOEKEND to X rds 876086. 9 Cams provide protective party. No mines found.</p> <p>1 Pl fill in crater at 862088 by night. 15 tipper loads put into crater.</p>	
	2 Dec		<p><u>1 Pl</u> 1 Sec to 848086 at 1600 hrs to pack up under transoms of existing Bailey Br. Returned at 1830 hrs.</p> <p><u>2 Pl</u> Rd maint 810137-7606 during morning. p.m. - to 865095 build SS Bailey Br 30 ft span (no ramps reqd). Returned at 2215 hrs.</p> <p><u>3 Pl</u> 2 Secs at 835084 clearing mines. 1 OR casualty with Schu mine. 1 Sec rd maint at MAASBREE. 1 Sec filling tippers at HQRE with hardcore.</p> <p>Fill in crater at 862088 by night. This makes the route two way for wheels.</p>	
	3 Dec		<p><u>1 Pl</u> Att 20 Fd Coy RE. Proceeded to 864093 to lay 350 yds Corduroy Rd. Shellfire all day. Task completed 2100 hrs.</p> <p>1 Sec at 865095 on br maint. Light shelling and mortar fire.</p> <p>1 Sec mine clearance at 8709.</p>	
	4 Dec		<p>1 Sec br maint at 865095. 2 Secs rd maint on rd leading to Coy harbour. 1 Sec rd maint at MAASBREE.</p>	
	5 Dec		<p>1 Sec repairing rd at 775048, entrance to ADOS Rear Div.</p> <p>1 Sec on br maint at 865095. Heavy shelling. 3 secs on rd maint at 834078.</p>	

	6 Dec		Adv party to ASTEN (617138) to hold billets for coy. 2 Secs to 869095 to repair Bailey Br - 1 panel & 1 transom damaged by tank. Job completed by 1300 hrs. Pl rd maint MAASBREE to RUTH in morning. 1 Sec br maint at 847086.	
617138	7 Dec		Coy moved at 1115 hrs to ASTEN and arrived at 1400 hrs. 1 Sec on br maint at 847086 - handed over 1000 hrs.	
	8 Dec		2 Pls checking tools and eqpt.	
	9 Dec		Recce of local resources.	
	10 Dec		" " " "	
	11 Dec		Completion of recce of local resources ( <del>attd</del> ). Material measured for blackouts in billet area.	
	12 Dec		Completion of black-outs.	
	13 Dec		1 Sec clearing mines for civilians in ZOMEREN. Presentation of MM to L/Sgt HARDCASTLE by Field Marshall Montgomery. Lt Niven returned from hosp.	
	14 Dec		1 pl to 639138 - rd maint. 3 rfts received.	
	15 Dec		1 Sec clearing area of mines along ASTEN-MEIJEL Rd for burial of cows. 2 Pl rd maint as above.	
	16 Dec		1 Pl on rd maint ASTEN - MEIJEL & ASTEN -LIESEL.	
712966 (HEIJTHUIZEN)	17 Dec		Moved at 1015 hrs and arrived at 712966 at 1230 hrs. Vigorous enemy air activity.	
	18 Dec		Nil	
	19 Dec		Pl Offr & HQ Sgt recce for harbour in new area. 1 NCO sent on course to UK. 1 Pl clearing minefield at 712966 (Sheet 27/37). 72 R Mis found.	
	20 Dec		1 sec rd maint 728993. 2 secs completing mine clearance at 712966. 1 sec on rd maint 722045.	
	21 Dec		1 sec mine clearing round wrecked Spitfire off Mollard track at 760988. Pl Offr & HQ Sgt returned.	
	22 Dec		Nil.	
	23 Dec		NCOs reced all tracks, rds, bridges, for mines & condition in area 732974-729992-755014-796989-773964. 1 sec on mine clearance at 738115 - one casualty with Schu mine. 1 Sec on rd maint through HEIJTHUIZEN. 2 NCOs on rd recce in area HEIJTHUIZEN-ROGGEL-MEER HAILLEN along rly to 206843. Each pl has section prepared for any eventuality through the night.	
	24 Dec		Def posns in harbour area inspected and improved.	
	25 Dec		1 Pl digging def posns area 713957. 3 Pl " " " " 723954.	



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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 278 Field Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year JAN 1945

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
713968	1 Jan		NCOs visited HELMOND to see training films. Training on Bren and PIAT. Coy defence positions inspected and alterations made. Weather Frosty.	Map Series France & Belg Scale: 1:25,000 Sheet 37 NE Strength 5 & 240
"	2 Jan		Firing PIAT and Bren. 2 Pl officer on recce for work at Div Battle School 3 Pl disarming and blowing R. mines. NCOs to br MR 744960 Sheet 37 NE to recce for proposed demolitions.	do
"	3 Jan		3 Pl constructing snow plough Training Bde personnel in mines. 1 pl under command 20 Fd Coy. 2 Secs to MR 646947 KELPEN Br N to clear wreckage of demolished bridge prior to erecting Cl.40 Bailey Br. Map Sheet 4 Scale 1:100,000. L Sec 1 Pl to MR 724998 Sheet 37 NE 1:25,000 to clear wrecked br from stream. 1 Sec 1 Pl to MR 675954 Sheet 4 1:100,000 to Blow br out of stream.	do
713968	4 Jan		Two Secs 1 Pl under comd 20 Fd Coy for work on KELPEN Br. Debris still being cleared at MR 646947. Rubble cleared from stream at MR 745985 to give free waterway. 2 Pl to Div Battle School for works. 3 Pl at work on culvert at MR 763014	Map Series France & Belg Scale 1:25,000 Sheet 37 NE Strength 6 & 239 Weather Frosty.
do	5 Jan		3 Pl complete culvert at MR 763014 Cl 40 approaches being improved. 1 Offr to PAD course at EINDHOVEN. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Map Series same as for 4 Jan. Strength 6 & 240 Weather Frosty.
do	6 Jan		3 Pl recce party retaping br at LINGENHOF 760945 and general repair. Mine training for Bde personnel.	do Weather frosty slight thaw late afternoon
do	7 Jan		OC and OC 3 Pl recce blown culvert at MR 796989. Gap found to be 40', depth 11', depth of water 18". Design for repair was to use two 36" culverts and two 18" culverts. Fill with layer of brushwood then earth and finish with layer of flexboards.	Map series same as for 6 Jan Strength 6 & 238

		Demolition is under enemy observation and work will have to be by night or in fog and silent. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Weather Thaw. Frost and snow at night.
do	8 Jan	3 Pl on snow clearing.	do Weather freezing & snow
do	9 Jan	1 Pl at br MR 646947. 2 Pl at Div Battle School. 3 Pl disarmed and marked dump of R. mines and Nbk39 in NEER 779978 Sheet 4 1:100,000. 1 Sec blew dump later. Culverting and flexboard ordered for filling in blown culvert at 796989. 3 Pl cutting brushwood for filling in on top of culverting.	do
do	10 Jan	Two parties out with snow plough. 3 Pl send out party by night to demolition at 796989. Culverting and brushwood successfully put in position. Order received that task must be completed by night of 14 Jan. 2 Pl at Div Battle School 1 Pl at br MR 646947.	do Weather sunny.
do	11 Jan	1 Pl at br MR 646947. 3 Pl send out night party to fill in at culverting site. Ground found to be so hard that no soil could be shovelled in.	Do Weather Slight thaw in afternoon.
do	12 Jan	Alternative route reced to culverting task 796989 unsuccessful. Foggy day made work at culverting site 796989 possible. Petrol was carried down poured over debris and set on fire. This thawed the ground sufficiently for spoil to be filled in. Task 75% complete and passable for Cl 9 vehicles but no surfacing on. Trees obstructing road were cleared. 1 Offr to SME Ripon. 1 Pl at br MR 646947.	Map series same as for 11 Jan. Strength 6 & 239 Weather Freezing.
Do	13 Jan	Intermittent fog and further filling at 796989 possible. 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do Strength 6 & 240
Do	14 Jan	Task at 796989 completed and trees cleared to make it two way. 1 Pl on Bailey Crib Pier at MR 646947. 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do Weather Snow & Thaw.
Do	15 Jan	1 Pl on br at MR 646947 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do Weather Freezing
Do	16 Jan	CSM returned to unit. 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do Strength 6 & 241
Do	17 Jan	2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do
Do.	18 Jan	2 snow ploughs working. Some enemy explosives 3000 lbs ammonal and dynamite found in area 7798 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do Strength 6 & 242 Weather Snow
Do	19 Jan	1 Pl on br MR 646947. 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do

		Destruction of 3000 lbs explosives at 7798 commenced. One primer was placed in each 50 lbs box and fired. Explosives burned harmlessly and did not explode.	Strength 6 & 243 Weather Freezing, thaw late afternoon.
Do	20 Jan	2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do. Strength 6 & 244
Do	21 Jan	2 Pl at Div Battle School. Remains of enemy explosive at 7798 burned.	Do. Weather Rain
Do.	22 Jan	Party left Coy HQ to recce harbour area at TILBURG. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Do Strength 6 & 245
Do.	23 Jan	1 Pl at MR 646947. RED LION Br construction commenced of 290 ft of Bailey Br built in conjunction with 279 & 20 Fd Coys. First 70ft of bridge of double/single constr followed by 150ft of triple/double which was actual work performed by this unit. The last 70ft of br consisted of double/single assembly. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Do Weather Sunny
Do	24 Jan	RED LION br MR 646947 completed 1800 hrs today. Offr returned from TILBURG recce party. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Do Weather Rain
155317	25 Jan	Coy moved at approx 1000 hrs through HELMOND, EINDHOVEN and BEST and arrived at TILBURG at approx 1700 hrs. 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Map Series Holland Scale 1:100,000 Sheet No.5 Strength 6 & 246 Weather WET
Do	26 Jan	Stores checked, Mine detectors examined. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Do Weather Snow
Do	27 Jan	Instr on Bangalore torpedo. Checking of eqpt continues. OC attends CRE's O Gp and Bde O Gp for OPERATION VENERABLE	Do Strength 6 & 249
Do	28 Jan	Water Sterilising tablets, 24 hr packs etc inspected. OC attends Bde O Gp. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Do Strength 6 & 255
Do	29 Jan	G1098 inspected. OC attends CRE's O Gp and Bde O Gp. 2 Pl at Div Battle School.	Do Strength 6 & 249
Do	30 Jan	Stores and eqpt cleaned and checked. 2 PL at Div Battle School	Do. Weather Rain.
Do	31 Jan	Kit to be sorted for inspection. OC visits all COs to tie up details for OP VENERABLE. 2 Pl at Div Battle School	Do.
		<u>C.R. Nicholls</u>	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 278 Fd Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year FEBRUARY 1945

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
155317	1 Feb		OC at Bde O Gp. Water ster equip & Emerg rations checked. 2 Pl att to 15(S) Div Battle School for works. Div att to 30 Corps for next op.	
"	2 Feb		Inspection of personal kit. Arrangements made for return of 2 Pl. Orders recd for disposal of all surplus kit & stores.	
"	3 Feb		OC at O Gp at HQRE, then on to Bde to tie up points on preliminary moves prior to Op 'VERITABLE'. 2 Pl rejoined unit at 1230 hrs.	
"	4 Feb		Coy moves to NIJMEGEN, arriving there at 2100 hrs.	
NIJMEGEN	5 Feb		Pl offrers O Gp giving rough outline of Op 'VERITABLE' and possible tasks.	
"	6 Feb		2 & 3 Pls on rd maint in & around NIJMEGEN on routes to be used in advance.	
"	7 Feb		Outline of Op 'VERITABLE' given to offrers (copy enclosed). Copy of unit tasks on 'D' day & Arty fire plan given to offrers (copy enclosed). Pls briefed on preliminary tasks of the op. No 3 pl at 624 Fd Pk to load culverting for first possible task. 2 Secs of No 1 and the whole of No 2 Pl moved off in the evening to join 2 GH.	APP 2 APP 3
"	8 Feb	1230 1545	Two secs of No 1 pl att 9 Cams for initial adv - to keep routes open in fwd area & check for mines. 0630 hrs - 2 secs of 1 Pl & 2 Pl moved off with 2 GH for mine checking and clearance. 2 Pl one cas caused by Schu mi. Coy HQ & 3 Pl moved from Nijmegen to 725586 where they remained on the rd throughout the night. No 3 sec of 3 Pl att 7 Seaforths. No 1 Pl opened AYR route (see op order) 790548- 795548 and clearing commenced. Cleared for tracks but impassable for wheels by 1830 hrs. No 2 Pl cleared GROESBECK lateral rd within Bde boundary by 1745 hrs.	

749560	9 Feb	<p>All secs 1 Pl returned to their harbour area 746569 after 24 hrs work.</p> <p>All secs 2 Pl in harbour area 755552 in the morning. In the afternoon 2 secs of 2 Pl on rd maint in and around Groesbeck, 756553-756556.</p> <p>HQ Pl &amp; 3 Pl moved to harbour area 749560 at 1000 hrs and arrived there at 1230 hrs.</p> <p>Three secs of 3 Pl standing by for att to columns (see 278 Op instr No 2). Sec of 3 Pl att 7 Seaforths rejoined their pl as op cancelled. OC informed to carry on with plans in original Op Order as all objectives had been taken.</p> <p>Alterations in columns recd.</p> <p>2030 hrs. Sec comdrs briefed on possible tasks and final objective of flying columns.</p>	APP 4
"	10 Feb	<p>Udem column cancelled at 1100 hrs.</p> <p>2 secs of 3 Pl moved off at 2200 hrs to respective RVs for Calcar &amp; Emmerich columns.</p> <p>No 1 Pl making rly track at 801557 suitable for wheels.</p> <p>Mines in tracks lifted.</p> <p>No 2 Pl to clear rly track up to 772552-792558-796555 and make track suitable for wheels. Returned at 2200 hrs</p> <p>No 1 Pl returned to harbour area at 2330 hrs.</p>	
	11 Feb	<p>No 1 Pl making rly track at 801557 passable for wheels.</p> <p>No 2 Pl making rly track 772552-792558-796555 passable for wheels.</p> <p>No 3 Pl - 2 secs on rd maint in and around GROESBECK and returned to harbour at 1630 hrs. 2 Secs called out at 1800 hrs to fill in rly track from Groesbeck to Kranenburg. Returned to harbour at 2130 hrs. 2 secs of 3 Pl to go with Calcar &amp; Emmerich flying column.</p>	
	12 Feb	<p>No 1 Pl still making track passable for wheels at 801557.</p> <p>No 2 Pl on rd maint at 757553.</p> <p>2 secs 3 Pl on rd maint in Groesbeck area.</p> <p>1 sec 3 Pl returned from RV of Emmerich column as op was cancelled.</p> <p>Rly at Kranenburg flooded to 2 ft plus.</p>	
	13 Feb	<p>No 1 pl resting.</p> <p>No 2 Pl resting.</p> <p>2 secs of 3 Pl on rd maint in Groesbeck. 1 Sec of No 3 Pl returned at 1200 hrs from RV for Calcar flying column. Op cancelled.</p>	

891555	14 Feb	45	Coy left harbour at 0630 hrs & proceeded to Cleve through the Reichswald Forest and arrived Cleve MR 904558 at 1200 hrs. Due to serious flooding and risk of being isolated coy moved again at 1700 hrs to higher ground at MR 891555 arriving at 1830 hrs. Enemy jet planes active in the evening. 1 sec of 2 Pl on br maint at 901557 (sheet 4202) throughout the night.	
	15 Feb		1 Pl on rd maint in Cleve. Very much brick and rubble in rds. Pl returned at 1900 hrs. 2 Pl on rd maint in Cleve. Returned at 1900 hrs. Sec returned from br maint at 901557. 3 Pl on rd maint on Cleve-Goch rd. Returned to harbour at 1800 hrs.	
	16 Feb		1 Pl - rd maint in Cleve. 2 Pl - in harbour cleaning tools. 3 Pl - rd maint in Cleve. 1 Coy of 8 RS att.	
	17 Feb		1 Pl - rd maint in Cleve 2 Pl - rd maint at 890548-894545. 3 Pl - resting.	
	18 Feb		1 Pl - stand by to assist 279 Fd Coy. 2 Pl - rd maint 890548-894545. 1 sec sent to fwd infantry to blow up dump of enemy ammunition. Recalled 1200 hrs and whole pl to stand by to assist 279 Fd Coy RE. 3 Pl - 1 sec of 3 Pl moved off to construct water point at 0900 Hrs. Remainder of pl cleaning tools. Shells dropping in immediate vicinity of coy location.	
	19 Feb		1 & 2 Pls standing by. Water point being maintained by 3 Pl. OC at Bde O Gp. More shelling.	
	20 Feb		Nos 1 & 2 Pls stand down. Water point being maintained by 3 Pl.	
	21 Feb		1 Pl - painting trucks and checking tools. 2 Pl - resting. 3 Pl - Water point being maintained. 1 sec to be att to 7 Seaforths for next op. Pl comds and sec comds given outline of next op and possible tasks - see 278 Fd Coy RE Op Instr No 4. 46 Bde Op Order enclosed.	APP 5 APP 6
	22 Feb		Coy HQ moved off at 1400 hrs to MR 840480 arriving there at 1700 hrs. No 1 Pl moved with coy HQ. 3 secs & Pl Comd of 2 Pl att 3 Pl for rd maint task in GOCH. Remainder of pl in coy convoy.	

			One sec of 3 Pl att 9 Cams for mine clearance. Proceeded on Kangaroos to SP. Op then cancelled. Returned to Coy Harbour area at 1800 hrs. 1 sec still maintaining water pt.	
840480	23 Feb		No 1 Pl left harbour at 0830 hrs and proceeded to MR 934433 - task removing by explosives existing demolished br. Explosive used was General Wade expl charges - very effective. Site was ready for bridging by 1700 hrs. Pl returned to harbour at 1730 hrs. No 2 Pl proceeded to 934433 to build Bailey Br at 1630 hrs. 1 sec of 3 Pl at water point. 3 secs att 2 pl for bridging. 2 Pl returned at 2130 hrs.	
	24 Feb		1 Pl in harbour area. 2 Pl proceed to 934433 to continue br task. 3 Pl cmd and recce party proceed to br site at 0500 hrs to fell trees for making br and returned at 1600 hrs. 2 secs returned at 1130 hrs and 1 sec at 1630 hrs. One sec at water point. 2 Pl returned to harbour at 2300 hrs - br completed. Recce party sent to Tilburg. Given billets in s'HERTOGENBOSCH	
	26 Feb		1 Pl left harbour to 934433 to make existing D/S br into T/S Cl 40. This was completed by 1600 hrs. Nos 2 & 3 Pls moved with coy HQ to 921446 (South of GOCH), arriving at 2000 hrs. Pls dug in. Water pt closed.	
921446	26 Feb		1 Pl - rd maint at 936436 2 Pl - " " " 937439 3 Pl - to br site at 934433 at 0800 hrs. Task - making one way rd from tower to br. Returned to harbour at 1800 hrs.	
	27 Feb		1 Pl rd maint 936436 2 Pl rd maint 937439 3 Pl same task as on 26 Feb.	
	28 Feb	0900	hrs. Coy proceeded to s'HERTOGENBOSCH (318462) arriving at 1400 hrs. Whole coy billeted in school.  N. Harrison Watson Capt RE for OC 278 Fd Coy RE	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 278 Field Coy RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year MARCH 1945

Commanding Officer Major CR Nicholls RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
S'HERTOGEN	1 Mar	45	Conservancy - kit checking & cleaning	
-BOSCH	2 "		"	
	3 "		" Leave (48 hrs) to Brussels commenced.	
	4 "		" OC at Bde O Gp.	
	5 "		Preparations for move.	
HEUSDEN	6 "		Coy left s'Hertogenbosch at 1140 hrs for HEUSDEN (332754) arriving at 1830 hrs.	
	7 "		Rest period.	
	8 "		Rest period.	
	9 "		Rest period.	
	10 "		Rest period.	
	11 "		Arrangements for rafting exercise. OC receives instrs at Bde.	
	12 "		Dvrs practicing driving off ramps on to rafts.	
	13 "		Route marches	
	14 "		Equipment checking	
	15 "		" "	
	16 "		OC attends Bde O Gp	
	17 "		Lt Murray att 11 AGRE. Preparatory work and trg for RHINE crossing.	
	18 "		Lt Murray still with 11 AGRE as L.O.	
	19 "		CSM goes to new harbour with pl harbour parties. Lt NIVEN of 2 Pl handed over to Lt Whalley.	
	20 "		OC at Bde O Gp - final details for Rhine crossing. Lt Murray still att 11 AGRE. Offrs O Gp. 24 hr packs & WS Outfits made up to scale.	
	21 "		Coy moves at 1930 hrs and arrived new locn at 0300 22 Mar.	
	22 "		Strict camouflage, no fires or unnecessary movement permitted. CSM went to marshalling area night 22/23 Mar i/c RE Reception & Infm Post on East Bank. Lt Allan att fwd Inf Bn 44 Bde for crossing as Coy L.O.	

	23 Mar		Pl marching parties left harbour area for marshalling area arriving there at 0300 hrs (MR 126408). Tpt left behind serially numbered to be called fwd by Bank Control Officer through 46 Bde.	
045440	24 Mar		2 Pls moved fwd to S.B. crossing point, arrived east of the Rhine at 1500 hrs and moved to MR 127475. 1 sec swept rd MEHR to 127475 and then to 142477. 3 secs culverting rd 134494 and returned to 127475 at 2300 hrs. CSM established RE Rally point and stores dump at MR 129488. Serial numbers of tpt gps called fwd during the day. Coy HQ moved to VEH waiting area at 1000 hrs arriving MR 045440 at 1100 hrs. Enemy aircraft active.	
	25 Mar		Pl crossed river during night 24/25th and proceeded to MR 127474. 1 sec moved to MR 142477 and swept for mines up to 139493. 1 sec on mine clearance from Haffen X rds to 130500 - unable to complete task owing to SA fire. 2 secs on mine clearance Haffen-Mehr area and returned at 1600 hrs - moderate enemy shelling. 1 sec on br recce - material not available and returned to harbour at 2350 hrs. 2 secs completed culverting 145494. Coy HQ proceeded to Marshalling Area 127408 and held there for 1 hr. Then proceeded to Rhine bank and crossed river at 2100 hrs. Enemy aircraft active. HQ moved to Coy Harbour area MR 127475. Lt Allan rejoined coy.	
127474	26 Mar		A pl moved to br site at 134493 at 0930 hrs. D7 cleared bank & rd of obstacles and trees. 70 ft SS Bailey Br built. Pl returned to harbour at 1700 hrs. 1 sec on rd maint at 114475. 1 sec maint 098474, 1 sec rd maint at 155475. Rd maint parties returned to harbour area at 1900 hrs. Lt Murray rejoined coy from 11 AGRE.	
	27 Mar		A pl moved off at 0830 hrs to 147495 - filling in craters and moving trees from rd. 2 UXBs blown. Returned to harbour at 1600 hrs. 1 sec Bridge maint at 098474. 3 secs on rd maint 159498 and area - returned at 1900 hrs.	
	28 Mar		Coy warned to prepare to move. Sec on Br maint at 098474, relieved by another unit. 3 secs on rd maint 159498 & area. 1 sec rd maint 121476 to 139494. All coy in harbour area at 1900 hrs. Coy moved off 2200 hrs to new harbour area MR 163487 and arrived there at 2245 hrs.	
163487	29 Mar		2 Pls out on bridging task. Task cancelled and pls returned to harbour area. Recce offrs att to 15 Recce Regt as LOs for future rd maint.	

	30 Mar		3 secs moved off at 0800 hrs to 158498 to surface sunken crater. 2 Platoons resting.	
198562	31 Mar	45	Coy moved off at 0900 hrs to 198562 arriving there at 1400 hrs.  N. Harrison Watson Capt RE for OC 278 Fd Coy RE	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 278 Fd.Coy.R.E.

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year April 45.

Commanding Officer Major C.R. Nicholls R.E.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
198562	1 April.		Weather:-Showery. Strength: - 7 & 247	
"	2 April.		Rest. Weather:-Rain to Fair. Strength:- 7 & 248. 15.00 hrs GOC Division visited Divisional RE.	
7096	3 April.		Weather:-Showery, Strength 7 & 248. 3 Pln. Orders for road maintenance cancelled. Coy moved at 15.00 hrs and arrived at 22.00 hrs at new location.	
829027	4 April.		Weather:-Showery. Strength:-7 & 248. Coy moved at 08.30 hrs to MESUM MR 829027 arriving at 10.45 hrs. One Sec of 3 Pln maintaining bridge from 20.00 hrs.	
"	5 April.		Weather:-Rain. Strength:- 7 & 248. 3 Pln. Recce Party move to bridge site at 960025 at 13.15 hrs No 4 Sec follows at 14.00 hrs. At 15.00 hrs HQ Sec moves to area 971040. Sections returned at 18.30 hrs after cutting timber and removing stone embankment. Remainder of Coy standing by waiting movement orders.	
"	6 April.		3 Pln. Pl Offr & Recce Party move to bridge site at 06.15 hrs Oxy-acetylene cutting plant commenced work on steel embankment D4 & D6 bulldozers arrived 07.00 hrs, Sections at 07.30 hrs. 2 Pln moved at 07.00 hrs in Bde convoy arriving KUTEN 791160 at 07.30 hrs, 7 April.	
829027	7 April.		Company less 2 Pln moved to KUTEN 791160 arriving 15.00 hrs. Major C.R. Nicholls relinquished command company and struck off strength w.e.f. 7 April 45, under WO MS 1/2731 of 3 April.	
791160	8 April.		2 Pln. Pln moved at 18.00 hrs to assist another Coy on bridging site. Work not commenced. Remainder of Coy conservancy.	
"	9 April.		2 Pln moved off to work on bridge at 06.00 hrs, bridge completed 15.00 hrs. 3 Pln. 2 Sections moved at 17.30 hrs for bridge maintenance on F.B.E. br 830180. Remainder of Coy Conservancy.	
"	10 April.		3 Pln. 2 Sections on bridge maintenance.	

		Remainder of Coy Conservancy and rest. Major C.N. Priestley t o s from 289 Fd Pk Coy RE w.e.f. 10 April 45 and assumes command of unit.	
"	11 April.	Coy move off at 06.15 hrs in Div Convoy to Gr. BURGWEDEL, 4435. Sheet N4, arriving 18.30 hrs. Br Maint sections from 3 Pln joined convoy on route. 2 Pln. One Sec on rd maint in vicinity.	
4435.	12 April.	3 Pln moved off on Div Route maintenance 10.30 hrs, recalled 12.30 hrs. 2 Pln. Rd Maint section returned 10.00 hrs. Coy moved in Bde convoy at 14.30 hrs to WESTERCELLE, 588488 arriving 18.00 hrs.	
WESTERCELLE 588488	13 April.	1 Pln moved off in column with 2 Glas H at 08.15 hrs, arrived MR 826422, 22.00 hrs. 3 Pln moved off in column with 7 Seaforths on left flank of main axis at 09.00 hrs, harboured on wood for night. Remainder of Coy moved in Bde convoy on left flank of main axis and bivouacked during night.	
Biv.Rd. Westercelle - Scharnhorst	14 April.	1 Pln. Moved at 09.00 hrs and arrived STADENSEN 900790 at approx 20.30 hrs. 3 Pln. Moved with 7 Seaforths to BANSEN 802839. Two sections build culvert at 808845. 2 Pln. Recce party recce enemy amn dump. Remainder of Coy move with Bde and bivouac for night at SCHARNHORST 715615.	
SCHARNHORST 715615	15 April.	1 Pln. At 04.15 hrs attack developed by enemy battle group supported with tanks and SP guns. Village fired, while leaving the billet burst of m.g. fire fatally wounds one man. Two more men sustained wounds. Platoon withdraw on foot and organised plan of defence. All transport and kit destroyed. Firing ceased 09.00 hrs and Pln regrouped. 2 men believed p.o.w. and six missing. Pln relieved at 14.00 hrs and rejoined Coy at 855745. 3 Pln. Moved off in column at 09.30 hrs-returned to Bde HQ 10.00 hrs and given task of clearing streets in STADENSEN 9079. Returned to harbour MR 878842. 2 Pln. Recce party proceeded on recce of Div route. Remainder of Coy moved to HOLDENSTEDT MR 878842 arriving at 19.30 hrs. Sustained air attack on route at X-roads 855745. 1 OR killed, and two trucks destroyed, other minor casualties.	- All Bn gp tpt lost when village caught fire!
878842	16 April.	2 Pln. One Section on Water Point. Remainder of Coy, Rest and Conservancy.	
"	17 April.	2 Pln. Road Maintenance.	

		Remainder of Coy, Rest and Conservancy.	
"	18 April.	2 Pln. Clearing routes through UELZEN 890890 directed by O.C. Recce Officer recceing routes through UELZEN. Remainder of Coy, Rest and Conservancy.	
878842	19 April	3 Pln. Rd Maint in UELZEN employing civilians. Remainder of Coy moved to ROBBEL 951009 arriving 17.00 hrs. Tactical sit confused and Coy stood to during hours of darkness. 3 Pln rejoined Coy at 18.00 hrs.	
ROBBEL 951009	20 April.	Coy moved to HOLZEN 9120 arriving approx 20.00 hrs.	
HOLZEN 9120	21 April.	Rest and Conservancy.	
"	22 April.	Rest.	
"	23 April.	Rest and Conservancy. 4 Drivers with transport loaned to 8 Corps.	
"	24 April.	Rest and Conservancy.	
"	25 April.	Testing of Weapons. Rest.	
"	26 April.	Coy moved off at 09.30 hrs to MR 805247 ADENDORF. Sheet L5, arriving at approx 11.30 hrs. 3 Pln. Recce Party proceed to br site MR 803285 at 12.00 hrs. Preparatory work begun by one sec, other sections collect timber for packing. 21.30 hrs. Remaining 3 Sections proceed to br site and return 01.00 hrs. 1 Pln. 18 men and 3 NCOs proceed to LUDERSHAUSEN, 814318 to unload Bailey stores for 3 Pln. 2 Pln. Two Sections proceed to task at 21.30 hrs which was culverting as preparatory work to the approaches to the ELBE. Night work as under enemy observation.	
ADENDORF 805247	27 April.	2 Pln. Sections returned 04.30 hrs, slept and continued with task at 21.30 hrs. 1 Pln. Working party returned 01.00 hrs. At 22.30 hrs work commenced on 50 yds corduroy approach to 70' D/S Bailey at 814317. 3 Pln. Work continues on br site. Construction commences 21.30 hrs, completed 03.30 hrs.	
"	28 April.	1 Pln. Working party returns 04.00 hrs. Pln loading fascines on tipper at 18.00 hrs. Recce party of 1 L/Sgt and 2 ORs joins 9 Cameronians for initial crossing of ELBE. 2 Pln. 19.30 hrs 1 NCO and 1 OR proceed to 9 Cameronians to carry out any recce on far bank of ELBE.	

		3 Pln. Two sections in half tracks to ARTLENBURG, 835345 for maintenance of LVT routes on near banks. 2 Bulldozers attached to pln.	
"	29 April.	2 Pln. One section and two half tracks to bank of ELBE to give assistance to recce party with Cameronians if required. Returned 07.30 hrs. 11.30 hrs OC in jeep with wireless crossed ELBE in LVT joining Bde Tac HQ at 861345. Coy moved to assembly area 892268 at 09.30 hrs. 2 Pln. Moved throughout the night waiting for Cl.9.FBE to open.	Weekly AFs W3008 & W3009
On the Move.	30 April.	3 Pln. Crossed river at 04.30 hrs by Cl.9 FBE bridge. Arrived harbour 06.45 hrs 886360 BUCHHORST. Remainder of Coy crossed Cl 9 FBE approx 15.00 hrs and arrived area 886360 BUCHHORST at 18.00 hrs.	CN Priestley Major RE OC 278 Fd Coy RE

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 278 FIELD COMPANY R.E.

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year MAY 1945.

Commanding Officer Major C.N. PRIESTLEY RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BUCHHORST 886360	1 May		2 Pln. Constructing Class 40 S/S bridge over 40ft gap. Work commenced 03.00 hrs. Sections returned 08.15 hrs. 1 Pln. Sections assisting 2 Pl.	
"	2 May		Coy Convoy moved at 0700 hrs to DASSENDORF, MR 753470, halt at GULZOW at 1330 hrs where recce party from 3 Pln recce roads with 9 Cams. Recce party clears road block by using German labour.	
DASSENDORF 753470	3 May		Coy moved in Convoy departing 1000 hrs arriving TRITTAU 770605 at 13.00 hrs.	
TRITTAU 770605	4 May		Coy moved in Coy Convoy to Rly station at MR 760665 arriving at 16.00 hrs. News received through BBC that hostilities would cease in NW Germany, Denmark and Holland at 08.00 hrs 5 May.	
"	5 May		Conservancy on vehicles and equipment.	
"	6 May		Conservancy on vehicles and equipment.	
"	7 May		Company proceeded by Convoy to KIEL MR 559397, sheet J4 to occupy as part of 46 (H) Inf Bde arriving 14.00 hrs. Major C.N. Priestley proceeded on privilege leave. Capt N Harrison-Watson assumes command.	
KIEL 559397	8 May		VE Day. 1 pln removing explosives in Kiel Canal Area. Equipment and equipment brasses cleaned, general conservancy and vehicle maint.	
KIEL 559397	9 May		Painting of M.T.	
"	10 May		Work on M.T. continues. Parties conducted on tours of dock area.	
"	11 May		Vehicle maint and sports.	
"	12 May		Painting of M.T. Conservancy and ABCA discussions.	
"	13 May		Sports and Conservancy.	
"	14 May		3 Pln. 3 Sections supervise German POW on road clearance, relieved by Corps Troops 13.00 hrs. Remainder of Coy, sports and normal duties.	
"	15 May		3 Pln. One Section on Water Point at 632386 for POW Camp. Remainder of Coy, sports and conservancy.	

"	16 May		Normal duties. One Section of 3 Pln on Water Point.	
"	17 May		2 Pln takes over Water Point from 3 Pln. Sports and Normal duties.	
"	18 May		2 Pln at water point. 1 Pln clearing concrete obstructions in dock area.	
"	19 May		2 Pln at water point. 1 Pln continues clearance work in dock area.	
KIEL 559397	20 May		2 Pln Maint water point. 1 Pln continues works in dock area. OC rejoins Coy from privilege leave and resumes command.	
"	21 May		1 Pln. Clearance works in dock area. 2 Pln. Maint water point. 3 Pln. Guarding bullion at site of demolished bank.	
"	22 May		1 Pln clearance works in dock area. 2 Pln maint water point.	
"	23 May		1 Pln clearing concrete in dock area using compressors. 3 Pln, one section relieves 2 Pln at water point.	
"	24 May		1 Pln continues on works. 3 Pln maint of water point.	
"	25 May		1 Pln continues works. 3 pln maint of water point.	
"	26 May		As above. Sports afternoon.	
"	27 May		Sports and Normal duties.	
"	28 May		1 Pln continues concrete clearance in docks. 3 Pln maint of water point.	
"	29 May		As above.	Weekly W3008s & W3009s
"	30 May		As above. Sports in afternoon.	
"	31 May		1 pln continues work in dock area. 3 Pln maint of water point.	CN Priestley Major RE OC 278 Field Coy RE