

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit HQ 227 (H) INF BDE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Month and Year JUNE, 1944

Commanding Officer Brig JR Mackintosh-Walker, MC

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
STEYNING	2	1000	Gen Eisenhower, C in C, SHAEF, visited units of the fmn and spoke to the troops	
STEYNING	6	1400	Bde Comd addressed Offrs and Men of Bde HQ and gave a background talk on the forthcoming campaign	
STEYNING	7	1700	Staff Captain, G III, Sigs Offr and LO 1, comprising Bde HQ advance party, left for WORTHING and at 2200 hrs that night left for marshalling area at CANNING TOWN, LONDON, Camp T2.	
CANNING TOWN	10	0800	Advance party moved to Victoria Dock and boarded SS EMPIRE HEYWOOD, which sailed at 1300 hrs.	
STEYNING	11	0430	Bde Comd and Unit Advance Parties left for marshalling area prior to embarkation for FRANCE	
STEYNING	13	0430	Bde HQ left for marshalling area at WANSTEAD FLATS, LONDON, prior to embarkation for FRANCE. Bde HQ had now arrived off GRAY-SUR-MER	
WANSTEAD	14 & 15		Waterproofing of vehicles completed, but loading delayed owing to non-arrival of boat. During these two days the Staff Captain reced area for Bde gp in area VAUX-sur-SEULLES (8378) and Bde HQ established in orchard 832782. Meanwhile at 0815 hrs on June 15 the transport of the main body of Bde HQ left the camp at WANSTEAD for East India Docks and loading started at 1930 hrs. Troops in the Camp at WANSTEAD had an all night attack by 'Flying Bombs'	
WANSTEAD	16		Bde HQ personnel issued with lifebelts and emergency rations for voyage at 0700 hrs. They boarded buses for Docks at 1100 hrs. Loading of tpt completed 1830 hrs and troops went aboard SS MALAYAN PRINCE, which sailed at 2345 hrs.	
THAMES ESTUARY	17		SS MALAYAN PRINCE anchored off SOUTHEND waiting for convoy to form up and eventually sailed at 1930 hrs	
AT SEA	18		'Flying Bomb' flew over the ship at 0845 hrs, but the rest of the voyage was without incident and SS MALAYAN PRINCE anchored off COURSEULLES-SUR-MER at 2200 hrs. Two vehicles were off loaded until nuisance air raids brought operations to a stop. During the	

			day, the first troops of the Bde arrived at the Bde conc area near VAUX-SUR-SEULLES. They were the marching personnel of 10 HLI	
ANCHORED OFF COURSEULLES	19 20 21		Heavy seas prevented any unloading during these three days. Apart from shelling by both our warships and enemy shore btys with nuisance air raids at night it was a quiet period.	
ANCHORED OFF COURSEULLES	22		Sea still heavy, but the Bde Maj, BRASCO and two ORs went ashore at 1220 hrs. OC Ship then refused to allow any further personnel to disembark owing to the heavy swell. Bde Comd, who crossed in a LCM, also went ashore at night. Unloading restarted at 2100 hrs and continued until darkness in spite of air attacks.	
COURSEULLES	23		Unloading restarted at 0600 hrs, and first vehicle got ashore on 'N' Beach after a three feet wade at 1435 hrs. All the Bde HQ vehicles got safely ashore, and the Bde Gp, less 153 Fd Amb and 286 A Tk Bty RA, was concentrated at VAUX-SUR-SEULLES (8378) before night fall.	
VAUX-SUR- SEULLES	24		Bde Comd held 'O' Gp at 1430 hrs and explained Bde's part in future ops.	
VAUX	25	1430	GOC 15 (S) INF DIV attend Bde Comd's Briefing Conf for next day's ops.	Confirmatory Notes on Bde Comd's 'O' Gp att as Appx 'A'
CHEUX	26 27 28 29 30 Jul 1		<p style="text-align: center;">STORY OF BDE'S PART IN BATTLE FOR BRIDGE HEAD OVER THE RIVER ODON IS ATTACHED AS APPENDIX "E"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FOR JUNE 3,10,17 & 24 STRENGTH STATES/FOR BDE HQ, SIGS, LAD AND DEF PLATOON ARE ATTACHED AS APPX "F", "G", "H", "J"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">227 (H) INF BDE STANDING ORDERS FOR OPS ATTACHED AS APPX "K"</p>	Bde Move Order Nos.1 & 2 att as Appx 'B' & 'C' Adm Order No. 1 att as Appx 'D'

227 (H) INF BDE WAR DIARY FOR JUN 26 - 1 JUL

BATTLE FOR BRIDGEHEAD
OVER RIVER ODON

Monday, 26 June

Brigade group moved to concentration area near SECQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN (9274) and arrived there 90 minutes before H hour which was 0730 hours.

The attack opened with a barrage of 624 guns, and although the promised air support did not materialise owing to the weather, 44 Brigade gained their objective -- ST MAUVIEU (9268) -- by 1130 hours and 46 Brigade were on their objective -- CHEUX (9167) -- by midday.

10 HLI and 2 GORDONS moved up for the second phase of the battle at 1830 hours.

The attack by 10 HLI was held up for one hour owing to congestion in CHEUX, and it was finally decided to put off the attack until first light next day because they could not reach their Start Line or make contact with the supporting tanks.

Some of the Squadron of tanks that were to support the 2 GORDONS' attack were also unable to get through CHEUX, and the 2 GORDONS attacked with only a few tanks at 1900 hours. They suffered heavy casualties through sniping and mortar fire and lost touch with their two leading companies which reached COLLEVILLE.

Battalion Headquarters was held up 800 yards NORTH of COLLEVILLE (9265) and reorganised during the night.

Tuesday, 27 June

10 HLI's attack was due to start at 0630 hours, but they had more difficulty in contacting their tanks.

10 HLI reached the Start Line only to find it covered with fire from MGs and Mortars. They suffered casualties and were unable to get forward; they were attacked by four Mk VI tanks in orchard SW of CHEUX (9065). At 0900 hours the Adjutant reported that the right hand company was encircled by tanks and cut off, and that a Mk VI had penetrated to within 150 yards of Battalion Headquarters. Later reported that this tank was knocked out, as well as the other four.

10 HLI attempted to push on and reach a point 300 yards from their Start Line, but they suffered casualties and were forced to withdraw to the Start Line, where they remained pinned down for the rest of the day. A tank battle was proceeding on the right in area LE HAUT DU BOSQUE (9066).

2 A & SH passed through the 2 GORDONS with TOURVILLE (9364) as their objective. After skirmishing in TOURVILLE 2 A & SH got astride the main road with two companies and formed a firm base.

2 A & SH ordered by Brigade Commander to push on and capture bridge 935635. This was captured intact at 1630 hours.

2 A & SH then dug in while elements of 11 Armoured Division crossed the bridge and 2 GORDONS made a firm base at TOURVILLE.

Wednesday, 28 June

During the day, 2 GLAS H, who had taken over at COLLEVILLE, were attacked from the EAST. To clear up this situation 10 HLI put in an attack on MOUEN (9365) at 1945 hours supported by a squadron of tanks.

On the left flank their leading elements reached their objective -- the road-railway bridge EAST of MOUEN 940657. The right leading company, however, was held up by two dug in tanks. Snipers in the orchards and MG fire from the tanks caused casualties.

The tanks were engaged by our armour and one was destroyed. Later 10 HLI accounted for the second tank. 10 HLI could advance no further and dug in for the night in a position a few hundred yards from their start line.

Bde Tac Headquarters moved to TOURVILLE in the 2 GORDONS area.

Tuesday, 29 June

At first light 10 HLI were withdrawn to COLLEVILLE to enable 43 DIV to carry out a successful attack in a Southerly direction.

2 A & SH pushed out patrols fwd to secure the bridge on OBAN route (915623). This bridge was captured intact.

The Bn followed up and took up an all round defensive position to North and South of river on the outskirts of GAVRUS (9161).

Enemy counter attacks were reported with tanks and infantry against 7 SEAFORTH at LE VALTRU (9163) and 9 CAMERONIANS at GRAINVILLE-SUR-ODON (9064).

An armoured battle took place all afternoon South of River ODON. The bridge over the ODON was now held by 159 Inf Bde and 2 A & SH, who repulsed several counter attacks during the course of the afternoon and evening.

2 GORDONS also repelled several small counter attacks during the day. During one of these and when enemy tanks were reported in the rear, the Bde Comd, who had been a favourite target for snipers and mortars throughout the operation, looked at his watch and remarked "It's time for tea". Tea was then taken.

In the evening, the Brigade Commander received orders from the GOC to place 10 HLI and 2 GORDONS under command 46 Brigade. Tactical Headquarters moved to COLLEVILLE beside 46 Brigade Tactical Headquarters.

Friday, 30 June

At 0200 hours a long Slidex message was received ordering 227 (H) Infantry Brigade to move to area GAVRUS - MISSY (8962) and to be clear of road bridge over ODON by 0230 hours. Brigade Commander decided to move at 0700 hours. Led by a section of carriers from 2 GORDONS, Tactical Headquarters headed column to bridge 935635.

It was reported that a few enemy tanks were active on the Southern bank of the ODON overlooking the road and at 0930 hours the Brigade Commander was recalled to meet the GOC at COLLEVILLE.

At 0930 hours 2 GORDONS were heavily mortared in an orchard off the road TOURVILLE - TOURMAUVILLE (9362). They suffered heavy casualties, among whom was the Brigade Major, Major J.A. LOCHORE, who was killed by a mortar bomb when on foot seeking to deploy the GORDONS from the road in order to avoid casualties.

At 0300 hrs 29 Armoured Brigade had been withdrawn across the ODon and the GOC decided to concentrate 2 GORDONS and 10 HLI at TOURVILLE and in wood SOUTH of MONDRAINVILLE respectively.

Brigade Tactical Headquarters then returned to COLLEVILLE and Battalions took up their positions as ordered. It was then decided to withdraw 2 A & SH into reserve at COLLEVILLE, but 2 A & SH were out of communication with Brigade, their wireless vehicle having been hit and for 12 hours they were cut off.

During this time the 2 A & SH were frequently attacked by enemy infantry who did not press home the attack and were held. Two troops of tanks were sent by the Brigade Commander to the Bridge SOUTH of LE VALTRU to extricate them. By first light next morning the majority of the Battalion had been withdrawn safely to COLLEVILLE. During the night the Brigade Tactical Headquarters, 2 GORDONS and 10 HLI were heavily mortared.

Saturday, 1 July

Mortaring and shelling continued throughout this day, during which arrangements were made for the relief of the Brigade by 158 Infantry Brigade. The relief was completed by 0400 hours, 2 July, and the Brigade were concentrated in reserve area NORREY-EN-BESSIN (9270) and BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE (9272)

Total casualties for the whole action were 38 Officers and 661 Other Ranks, made up as follows:-

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Brigade Headquarters | - One Officer killed, one officer wounded and one other rank wounded. |
| 10 HLI | - Three Officers killed, eight Officers wounded and one Officer missing : 48 other ranks killed, 168 other ranks wounded, 17 missing. |
| 2 GORDONS | - Three Officers killed, seven wounded two missing, 46 other ranks killed, 175 wounded, 31 missing. |
| 2 A & SH | - One Officer killed, eleven wounded: 21 other ranks killed, 130 wounded and 24 missing. |

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit HQ 227 (Highland) Inf Bde

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Month and Year JULY 1944

Commanding Officer Brig JR Mackintosh-Walker, MC

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
le HAUTE du BRETTEVILLE	1		The Bde was relieved by 160 Inf Bde in the COLLEVILLE area and Bde HQ moved to reserve area at le HAUTE du BRETTEVILLE (922725)	
BRETTEVILLE	2		Relief of the Bde gp was completed at 0400 hrs, and Bde Comd, who had stayed at COLLEVILLE until the relief was completed, returned to Bde Headquarters at 0700 hrs.	
BRETTEVILLE	3	1030	GOC 15 (S) Inf Div visited Bde HQ and thanked and praised the Offrs and men for the part they played in the battle at CHEUX New Bde Major, Major HS Spens, A & SH, arrived.	
-do-	-	-	227 (H) Inf Bde Op Instr No. 1 issued	APPX 'A'
-do-	4 to 7		Bde HQ had quiet period with no incidents of note.	
-do-	8	-	Amendment No. 1 to 227 (H) Inf Bde Standing Orders for Ops issued	APPX 'B'
-do-	9	-	Amendment No. 2 to 227 (H) Inf Bde Standing Orders for Ops issued	APPX 'C'
-do-	10	1830	Bde HQ moved to 926740 (Ref Map CAEN 7F/1 1:50,000), South East of SECQUEVILLE-en-BESSIN (9274) to allow 12 Corps HQ to take over Bde HQ's previous location.	
	11	-	227 (H) Inf Bde Move Table for concentration of Bde Gp in area VERSON (9565) issued together with trace of unit areas	APPX 'D'
BRETTEVILLE	14	0900	Bde Comd held a briefing conference for Coy Comds on Operation "Greenline"	Appx E
-do- VERSON -do-	15	0030 0400 2145	227 (H) Inf Bde moved to concentration area at VERSON 227 (H) Inf Bde concentrated in area VERSON Preceded by a hy barrage, and aided by artificial "moonlight", the Glas H, who had been placed under comd of the Bde for this op, left the start line NW of Pt 112. Early in the battle, the leading Coys lost touch with Bn HQ and the smoke programme interfered with the direction of the attack. Comd of 2 Glas H asked for the smoke to stop and this was done.	

		<p>At 2300 hrs LE BON REPOS, the first objective, was taken. At 2335 hrs 2 Glas H reported everything going to plan and at 2359 hrs ESQUAY was captured. Glas H then withdrew from ESQUAY according to plan and consolidated on the high ground on the East side of LE BON REPOS.</p> <p>At about 2320 hrs 2 Gordons and 2 A & SH moved forward and 2 Gordons made contact with units of 44 (L) Inf Bde.</p> <p>Bde Tac HQ, which has been established at 1900 hrs in a field north of the Calvary at BARON, came under heavy mortar fire from 2130 hrs onwards, and at 0100 hrs four mortar bombs dropped on and around the White Scout car. Both wireless sets were knocked out and the Bde Comd was killed.</p>	
VERSON	16	<p>Infm of this was passed over the wireless through RA channels by OC 131 Fd Regt, RA, who took over comd of the Bde until the arrival of OC 2 Gordons, Lt Col EC Colville, who had been authorised by the GOC to take comd of the Bde.</p> <p>The death of Brig JR Macintosh-Walker was a great loss. His demeanour and presence forward in the battles were an inspiration to the troops under his comd. He was buried by two of his staff officers under mortar fire in the churchyard at BARON 942625 at 1400 hrs.</p> <p>The acting Bde Comd, Lt Col EC Colville moved Bde Tac HQ to 44 (L) Inf Bde HQ and a LO with wireless set went there and contact with Units was restored.</p> <p>In the meantime 2 Gordons had taken their objective and were instructed to dig in.</p> <p>Every effort was made to arrange timings for further advance of 2 A & SH and HLI, but they proved unsuccessful owing to the inability of the tanks and infantry to tie up.</p> <p>The Bde Comd then ordered all four Bns to dig in where they were and to form a firm base.</p> <p>Many further attempts were made to plan and execute further attacks by 2 A & SH and 10 HLI, but they proved unsuccessful. HLI</p>	

VERSON			<p>remained dug in supporting 2 Glas H to the SE of BARON and A & SH remained dug in in the area LES VILAINS.</p> <p>Throughout the day, 2 Glas H were counter attacked repeatedly especially from the area of the rd LE BON REPOS - EVRECY. Although tanks supported the German attacks they were all repelled.</p> <p>In the later stages the Germans employed as many as six tanks, and the Gordons, thanks to some good shooting by 131 Fd Regt RA, destroyed five Mk IVs.</p> <p>During the night, a small force of German bombers attacked the forward areas and one stick of bombs fell in the Bde HQ area, but there were no casualties.</p>	
VERSON	17		<p>The position remained unchanged throughout the day until the night when the Bde gp, excl 2 Gordons, was relieved by 160 Bde at 2100 hrs. 227 Bde then moved to reserve areas around LE HAUTE DU BOSQUE.</p> <p>At about 0645 hrs the Bde Sig Offr, Captain N MacLean, with three signalmen, left Bde HQ to visit Bns with signal equipment. He left 2 Glas H about 0730 hrs and has not been heard of since. On investigation no sign could be found of the party or jeep in which they were travelling and it is thought that they took the wrong turning and drove into the enemy line.</p>	
CHEUX	18 -	23	<p>Authority was received from 21 Army Group for the promotion and appointment of Lt Col EC Colville to comd 227 (H) Inf Bde, and several other changes were made in the Staff. Captain I MacPherson-Rait (HLI) was appointed Staff Captain in place of Capt RD Spence (HAC) and Captain C Alexander (A & SH) was appointed IO in place of Captain JN Watkins (Seaforth).</p> <p>The Bde remained in the reserve area until 23 July when they moved to the CAUMONT Sector (see att Move Order Appx "F") to relieve the 11 Regt of the 2 American Division.</p>	
CAUMONT	24		<p>The relief was completed by 2359 hrs, and the Bde dispositions were as follows:-</p> <p>10 HLI = CAUMONT</p> <p>2 A & SH = LE REPAS</p> <p>2 Gordons = In area Pt 172 North of CAUMONT with a counter-attack role on CAUMONT.</p> <p>Bde HQ = Situated in the Gordons area.</p>	

CAUMONT	25 - 28	<p>The period from 25 - 28 Jul was devoted to patrolling on this front to find out the enemy dispositions and to keep them under complete subjection.</p> <p>This was the first time the Bde had had the opportunity of patrolling on a large scale, and changes in routine procedure and handling of patrols were effected as experience was gained.</p> <p>Most outstanding lesson learned was the inability to move large patrols through "Bocage" country. Patrol strength of one officer and three ORs was most suitable</p> <p>Due to vigorous patrolling and the arrival of deserters through our lines it was learned that the 326 Inf Div had relieved 2 Pz Div on 22 and 23 July.</p> <p>Shelling and mortaring during this period was intermittent and there were few casualties.</p>	
CAUMONT	28	<p>-</p> <p>To take full advantage of the American successes in the ST LO Sector preparations were made for an attack by 15 (S) Inf Div on the CAUMONT Sector.</p> <p>44 (L) Inf Bde relieved 227 (H) Inf Bde, who moved into concentration areas on the night 28/29 July.</p> <p>On the night 29/30 July the Bde moved into assembly areas for the attack on the morning of 30 July.</p> <p>At approximately 1900 hrs 29 July LUTAIN WOOD was attacked by rocket firing Typhoons.</p> <p>The operation was carried out as laid down in attached Confirmatory Notes (Appx "G")</p> <p><u>PHASE I</u>:- 9 Cameronians on the right encountered a minefield between LE BOURG and SEPT VENTS which delayed the armour but did not prevent the infantry reaching their objective.</p> <p>On the left LUTAIN WOOD was the strongest enemy locality encountered during the op, but Phase I was completed by 1030 hrs.</p> <p><u>PHASE II</u>:- On the right 10 HLI dropped behind their tanks on the move forward; married up again, and soon reached their objective.</p>	

		<p>2 A & SH on the left were far behind their tanks as the going was slow due to mopping up South of LA FORTERIE which took some time. Phase II was completed by 1500 hrs.</p> <p><u>PHASE III</u>:- This was carried out by 46 (H) Inf Bde and was completed by 1830 hrs.</p> <p>During the night 30/31 Jul all Bns were subjected to heavy mortar fire and 2 Gordons were still clearing LUTAIN WOOD.</p>	
CAUMONT	31	<p>Bde HQ moved to LA TEINTURIER (6955) at 1700 hrs. Due to the fact that 43 Inf Div on the left could make little progress, 6 RSF, of 44 (L) Inf Bde were put under comd of the Bde and took up positions South East of LUTAIN WOOD to protect the left flank of the Bde.</p> <p>The task of 15 (S) Inf Div, especially 227 Bde, now was to protect the left flank of 8 Corps while 11 Armd Div and the Guards Armd Div passed through to exploit the breach already made by 15 (S) Inf Div</p> <p>Strength States for Bde HQ, LAD and Def Pl are attached as Appx "H"</p>	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit HQ 227 (H) Inf Bde

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year AUGUST, 1944

Commanding Officer Brig EC Colville, DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LA TEINTURIERE	1	-	The attached copies of a congratulatory message from the C-in-C to GOC 15 (S) Inf Div and an Order of the Day by GOC 8 Corps summarise the achievements of the Division on 30 and 31 Jul. 227 (H) Inf Bde played a leading part in this op.	Appx "A"
-DO-	2	-	The Division was ordered to sp the advance of the Gds Armd Div to VASSEY (7832). The Bde Gp moved on tks and unit tpt to take over the high ground Pt 238 (6848) to Pt 244 (6947) from 32 Gds Inf Bde. Bde HQ moved to orchard 685497.	APPX "B"
ST MARTIN DES BESACES	3		On our left flank the enemy held the area of MONTAMY 7346 until driven out by 43 Inf Div on 4 Aug, and Nebelwerfer were active from this area.	
-- DO --	4		Thunderbolt aircraft with Allied markings dropped two bombs in 2 Gordons area. There were no casualties.	
-- DO --	5		<p>The Gds Armd Div was pinched out by 43 Inf Div and 15 (S) Inf Div. 15 (S) Inf Div was ordered to continue the advance to VASSEY.</p> <p>The Bde Gp, with 3 Scots Gds and one sqn 4 Coldstream Gds under comd, was ordered to secure ESTRY (7437), LE THEIL (7635) and LA ROCQUE (7733).</p> <p>The Bde passed through 44 (L) Inf Bde, then holding the ridge South of the rd CATHCOLLES (7044) - MONTCHAUVET (7243).</p> <p>The leading Bn, 2 A & S H, lost one vehicle on a mine at X rds MONTCHAUVET, and all Bns encountered mortar fire on the rd East of the village.</p> <p>Little opposition was expected, but the enemy were holding our objectives in strength.</p> <p>2 A & S H lifted further mines at x rds LA CAVERIE (7743) and South of the x rds encountered hvy fire from MGs and SP guns. They withdrew to a posn along the rd East of the village of MONTCHARIVEL (777415).</p> <p>On entering ESTRY 2 Gordons encountered mines and heavy opposition from snipers, MG positions and dug in tks. They withdrew to allow a</p>	

			concentration to be put down and 10 HLI were diverted from their objective --- LE THEIL --- to assist them. In this second attack casualties were heavy and the Bde halted on the line X rds ESTRY 746378 to Pt 208 (776414), 2 A & S H left and 2 Gordons right. Bde HQ was est at 762438 (near MONTCHARIVEL).	
MONTCHARIVEL	6		Except that 2 A & S H moved up to consolidate their position on Pt 208 at AU CORNU (776414), the Bde Gp remained in these positions. Meanwhile, 44 (L) Inf Bde prepared for future op on ESTRY.	
MONTCHARIVEL	7		Attempting to improve their position by pushing two coys forward, 2 A & S H suffered cas from dug in tks and MGs. All three Bns were heavily mortared and shelled throughout the day. During the day, the Bde Comd received a personal message from Comd 8 Corps congratulating him on the fine fight the Bde was putting up. - An enemy vehicle carrying containers of hot coffee motored into the 2 A & S H area and was captured.	Appx 'C'
-- DO --	8	-	Two German Mk IV Specials drove onto the x rds at AU CORNU in the 2 A & S H area and were knocked out by A Tk guns firing at a range of 1200 yards. During the night, 2 A & S H were relieved by 8 Royal Scots.	
-- DO --	9		Bde HQ moved to the West of MONTCHARIVEL at 7543 during the morning, and later in the day 10 HLI and 2 Gordons were relieved by 6 RSF and 6 KOSB. The Bde Gp was then given a counter attack role on AU CORNU and ESTRY.	APPX "D"
-- DO --	10 -	13	This period was devoted entirely to patrolling, and aided by many Polish deserters, a clear picture of the enemy defences and strength was built up before the Division was relieved by 11 Armd Div.	
-- DO --	14		The Bde moved to a reserve area at MALTOT (South of CAEN), where they remained until AUG 17 when they moved to Divisional conc area at BOIS HALBOUT (0146).	APPX "E"
BOIS HALBOUT	18		The Bde Comd attended a Divisional conference in the evening to discuss future plans, trg and adm.	
-- DO --	19		Seven enemy planes attacked 2 A & S H area and dropped HE and AP bombs. During this 20 minutes attack, which started at 0005 hrs, seven ORs were killed and 18 wounded, including the A/CO, Maj J Kenneth and Padre.	
BOIS HALBOUT	20		The Bde Gp was ordered to prepare to advance EAST to secure the high ground in area Pt 240 4662 to Pt 240 4664, as a preliminary to securing the crossings over the Rivers VIE and TOUQUES. Due to the rapid advance of the Polish Armd Div and Canadians, this Op was cancelled.	APPX 'F'

BOIS HALBOUT	21 -	23	The Bde Gp remained in the BOIS HALBOUT area until Aug 23, when they moved to conc area at PERTHVILLE NERS 2033 preparatory to a further adv to the line NEUBORG R0283 - EMANVILLE R0374.	APPX "G"
PERTHVILLE NERS	24		The Bde Gp then moved to NEUPHE SUR DIVES 3329 prior to advancing to EMANVILLE.	
NEUPHE SUR DIVES	25		Continuing the advance the Bde Gp reached EMANVILLE at 2000 hrs, and prepared to move up to the R SEINE on the next day.	
EMANVILLE	26		The Bde Gp pushed on to the SEINE and were concentrated around LOUVIERS R2299 by 1800 hrs ----- the 95 miles advance from PERTHVILLE NERS having been completed without a major incident. The Bde took up positions at LOUVIERS as follows:- Bde HQ 215885 10 HLI LOUVIERS 2188 2 Gordons LOUVIERS 2188 (with one coy on the high ground 2 A & S H 1988. over the River EURE at 2489)	
LOUVIER	27		During the morning, the Comd 12 Corps flew to Bde HQ and informed the Bde Comd that the Bde must cross the R SEINE by evening. The Bde Comd held a hurried 'O' Gp, gave his plan, and The operation began at 1430 hrs --- less than three hours after the Corps Comd's visit --- in the area of ST PIERRE 2791 and VENABLES 3387. 10 HLI started to cross in DUKWS in the ST PIERRE area and had completed the crossing by 1700 hrs. The only opposition they encountered was light MG fire and they lost only two ORs killed and ten wounded in reaching their objective, HERQUEVILLE (2993). 2 Gordons attempted to cross in assault boats in the area of VENABLES 3387, but they met heavy MG fire. In addition many of the boats capsized due to engine trouble, and only ten men of the leading coy reached the opposite bank they lost 25 killed, including 'D' Coy Commander, Major Tindall, and 25 wounded. Only ten men of the leading Coy reached the opposite bank and they were immediately taken prisoner. 10 HLI were then ordered to send a Platoon to intercept this column and release the prisoners. This was accomplished very quickly and without a fight. It was then decided that 2 Gordons should cross on 10 HLI's bridgehead. This was carried out without incident and 2 Gordons gained their objective LA ROQUETTE 3593 MUIDS 3491 without further loss.	

MUIDS 3491			2 A & S H crossed at ST PIERRE in the early morning of 28 AUG without incident and quickly reached their objective, the wood at VATTEVILLE 3495.	
LOUVIERS	29		227 (H) Inf Bde Headquarters moved across the SEINE in the morning and was est in the MUIDS area 3491. The Bns remained in the same positions, and during the day 44 (L) Inf Bde and 46 (H) Inf Bde extended the bridge head.	
MUIDS	30 -	31	<p>The Bde Gp remained in these positions while 53 (W) Div and 4 Armd Bde passed through the br head.</p> <p>On 29 Aug notification was received that the Bde Comd, Brig EC Colville had been awarded the DSO for the leading part he played in the battle at Verson on Jul 16. for his conduct when commanding 2 Gordons in the fighting around CHEUX during June, 44.</p> <p>227 (H) Inf Bde HQ Strength returns are attached at Appx 'H'</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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Unit HQ 227 (H) INF BDE

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year SEPT 1944

Commanding Officer Brig EC Colville, DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
MUIDS	1		At short notice_2 A & S H were placed under comd 53 (W) Inf Div and ordered to take over a bridgehead on the SOMME.	APPX "D" Folio 1
MUIDS	3		At 1100 hrs the Bde Gp, less 2 A & S H, moved to area LE TRONQUAY (5115), where they harboured for the night.	
LE TRONQUAY	4		The Bde moved to CRIQUIERS (6338)	
LE CRIQUIERS	5		The Bde Gp, less 2 Gordons marching personnel, crossed the R SOMME to BOUBERS-sur-CONCHE (0603), where 2 A & S H rejoined the Bde. A small party from Bde HQ stayed behind to make arrangements for TCVs to lift 2 Gordons.	
BOUBERS	7		<p>The Bde was now given the task of occupying COURTRAI (8558) and taking up defensive positions around the town.</p> <p>The shortage of TCVs made it impossible for 2 Gordons to be brought forward and 2 Glas H were placed under comd for this op, but at the last minute 2 Glas H were taken away to rejoin their own Bde, 46 (H) Inf Bde.</p> <p>When the Bde Gp reached a point four miles from MENIN, it was learned that the enemy were holding COURTRAI in strength. Consequently, the Bde was ordered to harbour for the night in an area East of COURTRAI.</p> <p>The Bde crossed the BELGIAN Frontier at 2100 hrs at MOUSCRON and harboured for the night in the BOSSUYT area (9547).</p> <p>The troops received a tremendous welcome from the civilians in the move fwd, but the enthusiasm shown by the people when the Bde column moved through TOURCOING and MOUSCRON was unparalleled.</p> <p>At times it was impossible for the convoy to move. The road was blocked by crowds of people who insisted on shaking hands with the troops and decorating the vehicles with flags and flowers.</p>	APPX "D" Folio 2
BOSSUYT	8		The role of 15 (S) Inf Div now was to stop any enemy movement from West to East by holding the COURTRAI - GHENT road. 227 (H) Inf Bde then started to advance to contact in the general direction GHENT,	

			<p>with 2 A & S H leading, followed by 10 HLI with 2 Gordons coming up direct from BOUBERS.</p> <p>No enemy opposition was encountered, and after an uneventful advance the Bde Gp concentrated in area South of GHENT as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Bde HQ - NAZARETH 0972 10 HLI - LA PINT 1474 2 Gordons - NAZARETH 0972 2 A & S H - MACHELEN 0271</p>	
NAZARETH	11		<p>After three uneventful days in this area, the Bde Gp was ordered forward to the HOMBEEK area (6874), North of BRUSSELS, where the Div concentrated for ops in the ALBERT CANAL area.</p>	
HOMBEEK	12		<p>The men were given a holiday, and many of them were able to spend a few hours in BRUSSELS.</p>	
HOMBEEK	13		<p>The Bde left to take over the bridge head established by 50 Div over the ALBERT CANAL at STEELEN (0786).</p> <p>During the move forward, however, the C-in-C, Fd Marshall Montgomery visited the Div Comd and gave a change of plan the news that the enemy was withdrawing from the ALBERT CANAL.</p> <p>This necessitated a change of plan, and 227 (H) Inf Bde was now ordered to push forward to the ESCAUT CANAL, with 10 HLI to occupy MOLL 1791 and 2 A & S H to push through to the ESCAUT Canal At DONK 1695.</p> <p>This was completed by last light with little opposition, and the Bde concentrated as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">BDE HQ - MEERHOUT (1485) 10 HLI - MOLL (1792) 2 Gordons - MEERHOUT (1485) 2 A & S H - DONK (1695)</p>	
MEERHOUT	15		<p>The Bde Comd, Brig EC Colville, DSO, and other Offrs and Men of the Bde attended investiture held at HQ 15 (S) Inf Div, where he was presented with the DSO by Field Marshall Montgomery.</p> <p>During this time, 44 (L) Inf Bde had established a bridge head over the ESCAUT Canal, North of GHEEL (0888), and it was decided that 227 (H) Inf Bde should establish a second bridge head over the canal in the area West of DONK.</p> <p>The Bde Comd ordered 2 Gordons to cross first, and the crossing was to be done by means of barges and planks. 10 HLI were to follow and secure DESSCHEL (1697). 2 A & S H would then cross and take up posns to the right of DESSCHEL, and 2 Gordons would occupy posns to the left of DESSCHEL.</p>	
MEERHOUT				

MEERHOUT		-	<p>During the planning air photos revealed many errors on the map, and the position chosen for the bridge head actually entailed the crossing of two canals.</p> <p>However, the first Canal was blocked with barges and it was thought that it would not prove difficult to cross this first obstacle. At 2300 hrs it was finally decided that the op would start before first light 16 Sept.</p>	
MEERHOUT	16		<p>2 Gordons started to move forward at 0130 hrs and 227 Bde Tac HQ moved to the College at MOLL (1690) at 0300 hrs.</p> <p>C Coy, 2 Gordons leading Coy, began to cross the first Canal at 0315 hrs. Bargees, who were living on the barges, assisted the leading troops by placing sacks on the boats, and the leading Coy, together with a dismounted section from the Carrier Platoon, reached the 'Island' without incident. B and D Coys also reached the 'Island' without mishap, but dawn was now beginning to break and as the leading coy moved down to the lock, where they were going to cross the Canal by planks, they were seen and fired on by a MG post. This post was quickly silenced by Bren, mortar and PIAT fire, but the alarm had now been raised and the enemy brought down heavy fire, including 88s and mortars, on to the 'Island'.</p> <p>It was now daylight, and 2 Gordons were pinned to the ground by the weight of the enemy fire.</p> <p>At 1200 hrs it was decided to abandon the operation and 2 Gordons pulled back into ACHTERBOSCH (1592), leaving C Coy on the 'Island' to guard the southern bank of the canal.</p> <p>Despite the fierce enemy fire put down on them, the 2 Gordons casualties were light, four being killed, including one officer, and 12 wounded.</p> <p>It was now decided that 227 (H) Inf Bde should move to the area of GHEEL (0888) and extend 44 (L) Inf Bde's bridge head.</p> <p>Consequently, 10 HLI were moved to GHEEL at 1600 hrs and given the task of taping areas and start lines for an attack by 2 Gordons and 2 A & S H to widen 44 Bde's bridge head on the night 17/18 Sept.</p>	
MOLL	17		<p>C Coy, 2 Gordons, was withdrawn from the 'Island' during the night, and 227 (H) Inf Bde, less 10 HLI, moved to the area North of GHEEL with dispositions as follows:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bde HQ - 099903 10 HLI - 0888 2 Gordons - 0989</p>	APPX "D" Folio 3

		2 A & S H - 0789	
		<p>There was another change of plan, however, and 227 (H) Inf Bde were ordered to relieve 44 (L) Inf Bde in the bridge head during the nights 17/18 and 18/19 Sept.</p> <p>On completion of the relieve 227 Bde was to take offensive action and attempt to burst out of the bridge head while 44 (L) Inf Bde and 46 (H) Inf Bde covered the canal line.</p> <p>This change of plan was due to 15 (S) Inf Div being given the task of guarding the left flank of 53 (W) Inf Div.</p> <p>Although the enemy had the exact range of the crossing with his guns and mortars and frequently put down a concentration on the crossing, the first relief, 2 A & S H taking over from 8 RS, was completed without incident.</p>	
GHEEL	18	<p>It was now decided that 2 Gordons would relieve 6 KOSBs in the bridge head to-night, and 10 HLI withdrawn into reserve in the GHEEL area.</p> <p>7 Seaforth, from 46 (H) Inf Bde, took over the task of guarding the Southern bank of the Canal from 10 HLI.</p> <p>The relief of 10 HLI by 7 Seaforth was completed by 1830 hrs. Due to heavy enemy artillery action, the relief of 6 KOSB by 2 Gordons was delayed from 2100 to 2000 hrs, but eventually the relief was completed by 0100 hrs without mishap.</p> <p>At last light, the enemy launched a counter attack of approx one Bn strength with two tanks against 2 A & S H. The full weight of this attack fell on one platoon, but they fought magnificently and after reaching a point 50 yards from our forward positions the enemy fell back in disorder.</p>	
GHEEL	19	<p>After a day of constant shelling of the bridgehead the enemy launched another counter attack at last light, but this was not as strong and determined as the previous night and was quickly broken up.</p> <p>It was now decided that 10 HLI would relieve 6 RSF in the bridgehead to-night and this was carried out without incident.</p>	
GHEEL	20	<p>As the bridgehead had now served its purpose by containing large numbers of enemy troops and preventing any large scale enemy movement Eastwards towards the British Second Army 'Corridor' from EINDHOVEN to NIJMEGEN, it was decided to evacuate the bridgehead.</p> <p>The task of watching the Canal line was given to 7 Armd Div and 227 (H) Inf Bde was placed under comd of 7 Armd Div.</p>	

			It was arranged to evacuate the bridgehead during the night, and due to good planning this particularly tricky operation, which started at 2215 hours, was completed by midnight without the loss of a single man.	
GHEEL	21		<p>The Bde now concentrated in and to the South of GHEEL, except 10 HLI who were given the task of watching the Canal crossing and preventing any enemy infiltration across the Canal.</p> <p>The Bde was now dispositioned as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Bde HQ - 101865 10 HLI - 084939 2 Gordons - 091892 2 A & S H - 092859</p>	
GHEEL	22		<p>The Bde, less 10 HLI, rejoined 15 (S) Inf Div, and was ordered to concentrate in area WILHELMINA CANAL (3825) prior to attacking BEST (3726).</p> <p>10 HLI remained under comd of 7 Armd Div.</p> <p>The Bde moved at 1330 hrs, and after crossing the DUTCH Frontier in BORKEL area (3799) at 1700 hrs, harboured for the night at VELDHOVEN (3714), as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Bde HQ - 375144 2 Gordons - 373148 2 A & S H - 379146</p>	APPX "D" Folio 4
VELDHOVEN	23		<p>The Bde moved at 0930 hrs to area of WILHELMINA CANAL (3825), and concentrated North of EINDHOVEN as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Bde HQ - 418201 2 Gordons - 423204 2 A & S H - 405223</p> <p>At 1500 hrs the Army Comd, Lt Gen Dempsey, visited Bde HQ and informed the Bde Comd that 227 (H) Inf Bde was being placed under Army comd and would be used in ops in conjunction with either 15 (S) Inf Div or 50 (N) Div.</p> <p>10 HLI left 7 Armd Div and rejoined the Bde w.e.f. 1800 hrs. They arrived at EINDHOVEN at 2200 hrs and were located at 421198.</p>	APPX "D" Folio 5
EINDHOVEN	24		<p>Plans were made and re-made during the day until finally at 1700 hrs it was decided that 227 (H) Inf Bde would rejoin 15 (S) Inf Div and carry out mopping up operations in the area of BEST (3726), West and North of the Railway.</p> <p>The Bde Comd held an O Gp at 2100 hrs and gave his plan, as detailed in 227 (H) Inf Bde Op Instr No. 6</p>	APPX "D" Folio 6

EINDHOVEN	25		<p>Prior to the attack Bde HQ moved fwd to ACHT 393232.</p> <p>2 Gordons began the attack at 1000 hrs, and although they encountered heavy mortar and MG fire from well sited weapon pits, they got two coys astride the railway line.</p> <p>At this juncture the Divisional Comd visited Bde HQ and informed the Bde Comd that another change in plan had been made, and 227 (H) Inf Bde were now to advance towards LIEMDE (3632)</p> <p>2 Gordons, who had suffered heavy casualties, were told to halt and return.</p> <p>The advance on LIEMDE was to be made by 10 HLI on the right and 2 A & S H on the left.</p>	APPX 'D' Folios 7 & 8
<p>ACHT</p> <p>ACHT</p>	26		<p>Starting at 0700 hrs, good progress was made by both 10 HLI and 2 A & S H until they reached the woods north and West of DONDERDONK (3930).</p> <p>The enemy had strong dug in positions along the wood and air support was asked for to enable the advance to proceed.</p> <p>Rocket firing Typhoons attacked the wood, and although more than 80 prisoners were taken the enemy held the woods too strongly for the advance to continue.</p> <p>The Bde then took up defensive positions as shown on the attached trace with Bde HQ at 395289.</p>	
DE VLEUT	27 -	30	<p>During the next four days vigorous patrolling was carried out by the Bde, and in addition to taking many prisoners a detailed enemy order of battle was built up.</p> <p>During Sept 28 a propaganda effort, backed up by rocket firing Typhoons, was tried against the enemy from 10 HLI area.</p> <p>This was successful, and brought many deserters and PW. One patrol from 2 A & S H consisting of two men brought in 40 PW.</p> <p>All PW during interrogation said that they were tired of fighting and were only waiting for a chance to surrender.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the enemy mortars and arty were active but caused few casualties.</p> <p>During the afternoon of 29 Sept, enemy arty and mortars got the range of Bde HQ and the HQ was moved to 407292.</p>	

W A R D I A R Y

FOR THE MONTH OF

Fmn: HQ 227 (H) INF BDE

Comd: Brig EC Colville, DSO

O C T O B E R 1944

DATE	PLACE	I N F O R M A T I O N	Ref To Appx
1 - 4	VLEUT	227 (H) Inf Bde was relieved by units of 51 (H) Inf Div during this period and by 4 OCT was concentrated in the reserve area of BAKEL (6125) - MILHEEZE (6424) - DEURNE (6520). The relief was completed without incident and on the afternoon of 3 Oct Bde HQ moved to BAKEL (612248).	Appx D Folios 1 & 2
4 - 18	BAKEL	<p>The Bde Comd directed that during rest period Bns should concentrate on house clearing and that in view of the number of personnel from other arms being transferred to the infantry a permanent Bde training wing should be started by Maj GH Hutcheson (2 Gordons). In addition, Bns also carried out training with armd troop carriers.</p> <p>Although termed a "rest" area, the ground in front of the Bde area was only thinly held by units of 11 Armd Div and 7 US Armd Div, and on the night 7/8 Oct enemy patrols laid mines on the main road between MILHEEZE (10 HLI area) and DEURNE (2 Gordons area) at 652227 and on several tracks North East of MILHEEZE. Following this incident Bns were ordered to send out patrols along the road during darkness. On 8 Oct, however, more US units moved into the area they were discontinued.</p> <p>Lt Gen Sir Richard O'Connor, Comd 8 Corps, visited Bde HQ during the afternoon of 7 Oct and Lt.Gen Sir Miles Dempsey, Comd Second Army, during the morning of 10 Oct. Senior officers of the Bde were introduced on both occasions.</p> <p>Two operations were planned for the Bde during this period, but were cancelled at the last minute. Finally on 18 Oct it was decided that the Bde would return to the ST OEDENRODE (4232) - BEST (3926) area and relieve two Bdes of 51 (H) Inf Div.</p>	Appx D Folio 3
19	BAKEL	<p>In addition to the usual Bde Gping, 15 (S) Recce Regt and 9 Cameronians were placed under comd of the Bde.</p> <p>The Bde moved during the morning and the relief was completed by first light 20 Oct.</p> <p>The Bde HQ moved into its previous location at VLEUT (403289) and the remainder of the Gp was disposed as shown on the attached trace.</p>	Appx J Folio 1

20 - 24	VLEUT	<p>A vigorous patrolling policy was adopted and together with previous patrol results provided an excellent enemy picture. The attached enemy defence plan was produced by Bde HQ on 22 Oct.</p> <p>On 22 Oct 51 (H) Inf Div launched an attack on the enemy positions to the North East of the Bde front, and it was decided that when 51 Div captured ESCH (3037) and BOXTEL (3234), 227 Bde would clear the wooded area of LIEMPDE (3632) to the line of the BOXTEL - BEST railway.</p> <p>For this operation, 6 RSF, 6 KOSB and 6 Gds Tk Bde, less 3 SG, were also placed under comd of the Bde.</p> <p>So successful was the advance of 51 Div that it was thought the enemy may have been forced to pull back on the Bde front. Patrols during the night 23/24 Oct, however, stated that the enemy was still in position. Further patrols were sent out at first light and they found that the enemy had vacated his FDLs. Civilian reports also stated that the enemy was withdrawing on the Bde front, and at 1200 hrs it was decided to put the operation into motion but with only the normal three Bn gping.</p> <p>The advance met with only isolated pockets of resistance, and although mines and booby traps caused some trouble and a few casualties all Bns were dug in along the line of the BEST - BOXTEL railway by last light.</p> <p>During the afternoon, civilians entering BEST from the NAASTEBEST area stated that the enemy was also withdrawing from this sector in the direction of OIRSCHOT. Later in the day, three deserters walked into the 9 Cameronians lines. They said they were part of a rear guard left at OIRSCHOT and had walked all the way to BEST without seeing a German.</p> <p>Recce patrols were immediately sent along the BEST - OIRSCHOT road, and after overcoming trouble with mines reached OIRSCHOT which they reported clear.</p>	<p>Appx J Folio 2</p> <p>Appx D Folio 8</p>
25	VLEUT	<p>Continuing the advance the Bde moved into the area around OIRSCHOT (3125) and on 26 Oct pushed forward again to the area of MORGESTEL (2330) where the Bde concentrated prior to attacking TILBURG.</p>	Appx D 9 & 10
27	MORGESTEL	<p>Moving behind 44 (L) Inf Bde, 227 (H) Inf Bde were to clear the West half of TILBURG as shown on attached Op Instr No. 11</p> <p>44 Bde met with fierce resistance on the Southern outskirts of the Town, but after breaking through this crust they advanced quickly and entered the Town at 1430 hrs. The advance of 227 Bde was held up by bad traffic congestion and a broken bridge. However, the Bde Comd went forward to push the column on and 2 Gordons entered the Town on armd troop carriers soon after 1700 hrs, closely followed by 10 HLI and 2 A & S H. Although a few snipers had been left in the town, the greatest obstacle to the Bns advance was provided by the cheering crowds blocking the roads.</p> <p>Due to heavy traffic, Bde HQ did not move into TILBURG until the following morning.</p>	Appx D Folio 11

28	TILBURG	<p>Soon after arriving in TILBURG, the Bde was placed under two hours notice to move to the ASTEN (6113) Sector, where 7 US Armd Div was being hard pressed by fierce enemy attacks over the DEURNE Canal.</p> <p>The Bde eventually left for ASTEN at 1700 hrs and arrived in the ASTEN area at 2300 hrs.</p> <p>The position on the arrival of the Bde was that the enemy had built three bridges across the DEURNE Canal and had succeeded in getting tanks and SP guns across and driven the Americans out of MEIJEL (7106).</p>	
29	ASTEN	<p>During the morning the enemy retook the villages of SLOT (6613), LIESEL (6614) and advanced six miles up the MEIJEL - ASTEN road.</p> <p>The American Comd decided that he would use two of the Bde's Bns to counter attack along the ASTEN - MEIJEL road in an attempt to restore the situation. This decision, however, was overridden and It was decided that with the arrival of 15 (S) Inf Div in the area during the day, the Division would take over the whole sector from the Americans.</p> <p>This relief was started during the night 29/30 Oct and despite two nuisance raids by enemy bombers was successfully completed before first light. The Bde was disposed as shown on attached trace</p>	Appx J Folio 3
30	ASTEN	<p>When the enemy continued his advance at first light, he met with such fierce resistance that he quickly withdrew leaving many dead and wounded, and during the day lost one officer and 43 ORs as prisoners.</p> <p>From that time, the enemy lost the initiative, and with strong arty support and active patrolling the Bde dominated the front.</p>	

W A R D I A R YUNIT: HQ 227 (H) Inf Bde

FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1944

Comd: Brig EC Colville, DSO

DATE	PLACE	I N F O R M A T I O N	Ref To Appx
1	ASTEN	2 A & S H carried out a raid on an enemy post at 649077. Bad going made Tk support ineffectve and the enemy put down such a fierce concentration of mortar and arty fire that it was decided to return. One tk had to be left but this was recovered the next day. Lt Gen Sir R O'Connor, Comd 8 Corps, visited Bde HQ.	
2	ASTEN	During the morning 10 HLI and 2 Gordons made local attacks to conform with the advance made by 44 and 46 Bdes. Apart from mines and booby traps both Bns advanced unopposed and took their lines forward a mile.	
3 - 5	ASTEN	Apart from occasional shelling, the next three days were very quiet on the Bde front, and on 4 Nov 2 A & S H were withdrawn to rest at ASTEN.	
6	ASTEN	During the morning the Bde Comd visited tps of 7 US Armd Div at NEDERWEERT, where it was proposed that 227 Bde would take over from Combat Comd 'A'. 6 RSF took over from 10 HLI and 2 Gordons, who were withdrawn to rest at ASTEN and HELMOND. During the night six enemy aircraft strafed the Bde area. There was no damage or cas and two flares which failed to ignite dropped on Bde HQ.	
7	ASTEN	2 A & S H moved to area PLAT VELD (6804) during the afternoon and came under comd 152 Inf Bde, of 51 Inf Div, w.e.f. 0600 hrs 8 Nov; 51 Div having relieved 7 US Armd Div.	
8	ASTEN	The Bde relieved 44 Bde. Bde HQ moved to LIESEL at 1500 hrs, and the relief was completed without incident. Great difficulty was caused by the vast numbers of Schu mines laid throughout the area. Even the enemy experienced trouble with his own mines, and several of them were blown up by their own mines.	
9	LIESEL	During the day the Div Comd and the Bde Comd visited Bns, including 2 A & S H.	
10	LIESEL	44 Bde relieved the Bde, Bde HQ returning to ASTEN, 10 HLI to ASTEN and 2 Gordons to HELMOND.	
11 - 13	ASTEN	The next three days were very quiet, and on 13 Nov 2 Gordons relieved 2 A & S H at PLAT VELD.	
14	ASTEN	During the night civilians reported that the enemy was withdrawing, and plans were made for 10 HLI to advance into MEIJEL (7106) at first light. A patrol of pl strength was sent into the town immediately.	

15	ASTEN	<p>10 HLI moved into MEIJEL at first light and they entered the town without meeting any opposition. Extensive mining and booby traps made progress very slow and caused a few cas.</p> <p>Bde HQ moved to HEUSDEN (636105) during the afternoon.</p>	
16	HEUSDEN	<p>Apart from active patrolling there was little to report during the day.</p> <p>Lt Gen Sir R O'Connor, Comd 8 Corps, visited Bde HQ.</p>	
17	HEUSDEN	<p>2 Gordons returned to rest at HELMOND and 2 A & S H moved from HELMOND to LANGSTRAAT 710041, just South of the HLI, with one coy across the NORD Canal protecting the bridge at 710041.</p> <p>Throughout this period the Bde had dominated the enemy by vigorous patrolling and secured a clear picture of the enemy's dispositions.</p>	
18	HEUSDEN	<p>During the day, 10 HLI and 2 A & S H edged forward towards the canal. 10 HLI moved one coy to the canal at 727066 and 2 A & S H pushed a coy forward to a feature dominating the canal at 720048.</p>	
19	HEUSDEN	<p>During the night there were indications that the enemy was pulling out from the Canal line and one coy 10 HLI crossed the canal without being opposed. They made contact with 5 Seaforth, of 51 Inf Div, who had advanced along the road from BERINGEN 7406 without encountering any enemy but they reported mines and rd blocks.</p> <p>Class 40 br was started immediately and by night 10 HLI were concentrated in BERINGEN.</p>	
20	HEUSDEN	<p>The Bde Gp, less 10 HLI, moved across the Canal, with 2 Gordons leading. 2 Gordons advanced to a point about three miles North of BERINGEN, where they harboured for the night, with 2 A & S H immediately behind them. During the day's operations 2 Gordons took 41 PW.</p> <p>2 Gordons sent out patrols but they contacted the enemy in str and withdrew.</p> <p>Bde HQ moved to North of BERINGEN at 752062.</p>	
21	BERINGEN	<p>Two coys from 2 A & S H attempted to outflank the enemy opposition reported by 2 Gordons patrol, but ran into mines, and as 2 Gordons were not making good progress along the main axis 2 A & S H recalled their two coys and followed immediately behind the Gordons.</p> <p>Blown br at 764085 held up the advance and it was decided that the two Bns should concentrate in this area for the night.</p>	
22	BERINGEN	<p>The Bde moved forward in general direction of SEVENUM 8113. Little opposition was met, but in addition to the mines and road blocks, the operation was made very hazardous by the bad weather, continuous rain having made the roads and tracks little better than quagmires. Despite the extremely bad conditions by last light 2 Gordons had occupied VOORSTEEG 8013 with 10 HLI and 2 A & S H in the area of VOORST 8112 and 8113.</p>	

		<p>Bde HQ was est at VOORSTE-STEEG 803129.</p> <p>Despite the difficult going, few vehicles were lost and the advance of the Bde was highly praised by the Corps Comd.</p> <p>During the night and early morning 88 SP guns shelled the Bde HQ area, but there was no damage or cas.</p>	
23	VOORSTE-STEEG	<p>The Bde HQ advanced to capture HORST 8218. 10 HLI led the advance and apart from mines, rd blocks and craters entered the town shortly before mid-day without encountering any opposition. By 1500 hrs the Bde was concentrated in HORST.</p> <p>Continuous rain had made the main axis impassable and 131 Fd Regt RA was unable to advance in sp of the Bde.</p> <p>This was felt very keenly at night when the Bde HQ was twice shelled by SP guns, setting an amn truck on fire and wounding three ORs.</p>	
24	HORST	<p>Bns spent the day patrolling, and the shelling of the town decreased. The Corps Comd, Lt Gen Sir Richard O'Connor, visited Bde HQ during the morning.</p> <p>Although the rds to HORST were still difficult to hy traffic 131 Fd Regt were able to move forward and arrived at HORST during the afternoon.</p> <p>During the day, First Lt John B Hoggs, Jun, American Air Force pilot, who had been shot down six weeks previously and had evaded capture by acting as a deaf mute, came into Bde HQ, and was able to supply infm about the local defences.</p>	
25	HORST	<p>The Bde Gp continued the advance to TEINRAIJ 8523. Apart from mines, rd blocks and hy shelling, opposition on the ground was light and by the afternoon 2 Gordons had occupied SWOLGEN 8722, 2 A & S H TIENRAIJ and 10 HLI EIKELENBOSCH 8521, with Bde HQ north of HORST at 828188.</p>	
26	HORST	<p>The HLI and Gordons edged forward again, the HLI reaching the outskirts of BLITTERSWIJK 8727 on the West Bank of the River MAAS and the Gordons reached DE HEI 8922 and the outskirts of BROEKHUIZENVOORT 9023. 2 A & S H remained in the area of TIENRAIJ except for one coy which was moved onto the feature at GUN 8724.</p>	
27	HORST	<p>During the night 10 HLI moved into BLITTERSWIJK which they occupied after a sharp fight.</p> <p>2 Gordons sent a fighting patrol into BROEKHUIZEN, but were held up by mines. 2 Gordons, however, had already occupied posns overlooking the river and the Bn OP did good work in directing arty fire on the ferry.</p> <p>During the morning Bde HQ moved to EIKELENBOSCH 855213.</p>	
28	EIKELENBOSCH	<p>Plans for the relief of the Bde were now put into operation. By 2345 hrs the relief of 10 HLI by RUR of 3 Inf Div had been completed, and Bde HQ, 10 HLI and 2 A & S H moved to rest at ASTEN.</p>	
29	ASTEN	<p>2 Gordons were relieved by 159 Inf Bde, of 11 Armd Div, and also moved to ASTEN to rest.</p>	

30	ASTEN	<p>Lt Gen Sir Richard O'Connor, comd 8 Corps, visited Bde HQ at 1100 hrs to say farewell to senior offrs of the Bde on relinquishing his comd as Corps Comd.</p> <p>Great praise is due to 20 Fd Coy RE for their magnificent work during the month in clearing countless minefields and maintaining roads in very bad conditions.</p>	
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W A R D I A R Y

FOR THE MONTH OF

Unit: HQ 227 (H) Inf Bde

Comd Offr: Brig EC Colville, DSO

D E C E M B E R 4 4

Between December 1-8 the Brigade, concentrated in ASTEN (6213), continued training. Brigade and Divisional conferences were held to discuss the policy of holding a line of the River MAAS (See Folio 1, Appx D).

On December 3 the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Brigade played in the town square and the Burgomaster had tea at Brigade HQ.

On December 7 the Brigade relieved Bns of 158 and 160 Bdes, of 53 Div, on a line from the Derivation Canal (7998) to North of BAARLO (8705), which was later extended on the left as far as 875080.

Throughout the month two Bns were in the line; one Bn in reserve at EGCHER (772037) and Bde HQ at HELDEN (793037). Reliefs were carried out as shown in Folio 6 Appx D.

The problem of observing the entire river line and covering it by fire was not an easy one and on a few occasions enemy patrols crossed the river.

On the night 11/12 Dec, 10 HLI had two skirmishes with the enemy. First a section going to its night position was ambushed at 861029. One member of the patrol was wounded and one enemy was taken prisoner, but was too seriously wounded to be interrogated. Later another patrol bumped the enemy on the road leading due east from BAARLO. One man of 10 HLI was killed and one wounded.

Three enemy patrols were seen during the night 17/18 Dec; a small one at 852024 and three enemy at wood 841015 were seen by 10 HLI and a strong patrol of 14 at 806980 by 2 Gordons. In each case the patrols were engaged by small arms fire and followed up by a fighting patrol, but no contact was made. Patrol which crossed at 806980 immediately went back across the river in a motor boat and were engaged by mortars.

On the night 21/22 a rubber boat with a crew of three crossed at 836008 and was shot up by a Gordons post. One of the crew swam to the river bank and was taken prisoner. Soon afterwards three enemy, who had been lying up all day on the West bank, came down to the river bank expecting to be taken back across the river and were captured. Much useful information was obtained from these prisoners of 7 and 15 coys of Para Regt HARDEGG (See Folio 16 Appx F).

By day excellent OPs were established by Inf and RA and a great deal of information was obtained (See Folios 1-15 Appx F).

In general, the enemy had every advantage in establishing OPs as the ground on the East bank overlooks that on the West, but he took little advantage of this, and it is interesting to note that the prisoners taken by 2 Gordons were

sent on recce because it was thought that there were few troops in this sector as very little movement had been observed.

An exercise to test communications and observation from OPs was held on 23 Dec (See Folios 1-3 Appx J)

The Comd-in-Chief, Field Marshall Sir Bernard L Montgomery, KCB, DSO, presented medal ribbons to men of the Division at ZOMERON School (591112) on 13 Dec, when seven officers, including Lt Col RWM de Winton, CO of 2 Gordons, and seven ORs of the Brigade received awards.

After the presentation, the Bde Comd, BM and DAA and QMG attended an address given by the C-in-C to senior officers.

At Christmas the best was made of difficult circumstances and each Bn in turn had a good dinner when out of the line. Messages of good wishes were received from the Divisional and Corps Commanders (See Folio 4 Appx J).

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Delete heading not required).

Unit Headquarters 227 (H) Inf Bde

Month and Year JANUARY 1945

Commanding Officer Brig EC Colville, DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HELDEN	1	-	<p>The enemy opened the New Year with a well planned raid on 10 HLI outpost on the bank of the R MAAS at 828999. Starting at 0230 hrs a box barrage was put down around the post and then the position was attacked by at least 12 enemy. Four HLI men were missing after the raid, presumably PW.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer visited the area at 0030 hrs when all was quiet. At 0230 hrs the outpost reported being fired on from the West bank of the river. Section of the rear platoon was immediately ordered forward by the Coy Comd, but on approaching the post they came under fire from each flank of the position and were pinned down. The reserve platoon of 2 A & S H, under comd 10 HLI, were then sent forward but on reaching the post found no trace of the enemy except a stick grenade.</p> <p>No one was seen to cross or recross the river in the vicinity of the outpost although this part of the river was under observation the whole time. It was thought that the enemy must have been lying up on the West bank of the river.</p> <p>During the morning there was considerable enemy air activity over the Div Front and of the 30 enemy planes seen five were shot down and two more damaged by AA fire.</p> <p>At 1715 hrs the enemy put down 50 shells in 15 minutes on the HELDEN (7804) area. No damage or casualties were caused by the shelling except 2 Gordons had one three-ton vehicle damaged.</p>	
HELDEN	2-20	-	<p>Then followed a quiet period, with heavy snow storms proving the worst enemy.</p> <p>As the Bde area had not been thoroughly searched by the units previously in this sector, it was arranged that members of the Interior Military Forces of the Netherlands should be given this task, and on 9 Jan they swept the woods in the area but found no trace of the enemy.</p>	APPX 'J' Folio 5

This spell of quietness was enlivened by a mock crossing of the river staged by 2 A & S H, who launched a boat from the slipway in KESSEL (8200) at 2057 hrs on 11 Jan. There was only slight reaction from enemy guns and mortars, but the enemy appeared to 'Stand To' all night and there was considerable MG fire.

Comd 8 Corps, Lt Gen EH Barker, CB, CBE, DSO, MC, visited the Bde area on 14 Jan and went round Coy areas. He also visited several OPs. One OP in the Kessel area was hit by mortar bombs half an hour before the Corps Comd arrived there. Lt Gen Barker had lunch at Bde HQ before leaving the area.

Later in the day the Bde Comd left for HQ 15 (S) Inf Div to take over comd of the Division while the Div Comd was absent on leave. Lt Col HP Mackley, OBE, OC 10 HLI, arrived at Bde HQ to assume comd of the Bde.

COs Conference was held at Bde HQ at 1000 hrs 15 Jan to discuss the relief of the Bde by 1 SS Bde and plans for training.

A small party of RAF pilots and air gunners paid a two-day visit to the fwd bns, 10 HLI and 2 Gordons, from 16-17 Jan to see how the infantry live in the line. On their return they gave a very appreciative account of their visit.

On 17 Jan Brig EC Colville, DSO left for leave to ENGLAND.

The Bde was relieved by 1 SS Bde on 20 Jan, 6 Cdo relieving 10 HLI at BAARLO (8604) and 45 (Marine) Cdo relieving 2 Gordons at KESSEL. The relief was completed without incident, and the Bde then moved to the SEVENUM (8114) area to relieve 44 (L) Inf Bde. 2 Gordons relieved 6 RSF in BLERICK (9009) and 2 A & S H relieved 6 KOSB North of BLERICK in area (8912), 10 HLI being in reserve at MAASBREE (8207).

During the Bde's stay in the BAARLO- KESSEL sector, a fairly comprehensive picture of the enemy 'layout' on the East bank of the River was built up due to the excellent reports from OPs.

The Bde spent only six days in the BLERICK Sector before being relieved by 6 Air Landing Bde of 6 Airborne Division on 26 Jan.

APPX 'J' Folio 1

APPX 'J' Folio 7

		<p>On 24 Jan six Spitfires (believed to be enemy) and two FW 190s attacked tpt in the area of 2 A & S H Comd Post and also along the SEVENUM - BLERICK rlyw causing damage and casualties. 2 A & S H had one driver killed and two Jeeps and one 15-cwt truck damaged, and 6 Air Landing Bde had two men wounded and two Jeeps and three 3-ton vehicles shot up.</p> <p>10 HLI were relieved by 6 Armd Recce on 24 Jan and moved to rest area at MERXPLAS (9910) in BELGIUM.</p> <p>Bde HQ moved to GOIRLE (1427), south of TILBURG, but Bde Tac HQ did not leave SEVENUM until 26 Jan, when 2 Gordons and 2 A & S H were relieved. 2 Gordons moved to area NW of MERXPLAS at 9715 and 2 A & S H moved to GOIRLE (1427)</p> <p>The Div now came under comd 30 Corps and on 29 Jan Lt Gen BG Horrocks, CB, DSO, MC, Comd 30 Corps, visited Bde HQ, where he met the Bde Comd, Brig EC Colville, DSO, who had returned from leave during the day, Bn Comds and also Coy Comds.</p> <p>The Div Comd attended the Bde discussion and cloth model exercise on the "Assault against Fortified Enemy Defence Positions" held on 31 Jan.</p>	APPX 'J' Folio 4.
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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Delete heading not required).

Unit HQ 227 (H) INF BDE

Month and Year FEBRUARY 1945

Commanding Officer Brig EC Colville, DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
GOIRLE	1		<p>Planning for OP "Veritable", which had started soon after the Bde's arrival at GOIRLE (1527), was in full progress, and an outline of events at the end of January was as follows:-</p> <p><u>Jan 28</u> The Acting Bde Comd, Lt Col HP Mackley, OBE, 10 HLI, carried out a recce from OPs in the KAMP (7656) and GROSSBEEK (7555) area and selected FAA and Start Line.</p> <p><u>Jan 29</u> The Acting Bde Comd gave outline plan to Comds of Bns and Sp Arms. The Bde Comd returned from leave in the evening</p> <p><u>Jan 30</u> The Bde Comd and Lt Col Mackley went to the OPs North West of GROSSBEEK</p> <p><u>Jan 31</u> A cloth model discussion on "The Attack on a Strongly Fortified Position" was held, followed by the Bde Comd's first "O" Group</p> <p>During this period, conc areas in NIJMEGEN (7082) and routes forward to the FAA were recced. Routes presented a serious problem as the roads were very narrow and tree-lined and a complete thaw at the end of January, made the going, which had previously been extremely hard, very soft. In addition, another problem arose over the many minefields between the FAA and Start Line; but Cdn troops on the ground undertook to lift these prior to "D" Day.</p>	Exact details of time and place of these conferences are shown in Appx "D", Folios 1 & 5
GOIRLE	2		The Bde Comd's Briefing Conference took place at Main Div HQ at 1400 hrs, after which Bn Comds' Briefing Conferences were held. An excellent model was used.	
GOIRLE	3		Unit recce parties moved to NIJMEGEN	

GOIRLE	4		All Officers of the Div attended briefing by Corps Comd and Div Comd in TILBURG (1632) at 1100 hrs	
GOIRLE	5		The Bde Gp moved from GOIRLE to NIJMEGEN in accordance with Movement Order No. 19. In several places the bottom fell out of the road, and the last vehicles did not get in until after first light on 6 Feb	Appx "D", Folio 12
NIJMEGEN	6		The Bde Comd held his final "O" Gp at 1000 hrs and then made recce with Bn Comds	
NIJMEGEN	7		<p>The weather continued to be wet and it was questionable whether the operation could be carried out with full tank & "Funny" support; but after trials had been carried out, the plan remained unchanged. However, it was decided that the inf and their "F" vehicles should move in front of the tanks and "Funnies" from the conc area to the FAA to reduce the possibility of a bogged vehicle delaying the whole column</p> <p>While Coy and Platoon Comds were making their recces, there was slight activity by enemy aircraft in the GROSSBEEK area.</p> <p>At 1830 hrs Tac Bde HQ moved down SKYE Route to HUIZE RHATIA (752566) and arrived in time to see the bombing of CLEVE (8955) and EMMERICH (9660). By 2359 hrs the Defence Platoon was dug in and the Comd Post established in a cellar. This HQ, which was shared with a Bn HQ of the Cdn HLI, was surrounded by MGs Mortars and A Tk guns employed on "Pepper Potting" and was 600 yards in front of the gun area</p>	
NIJMEGEN	8		<p>The Fire Plan was carried out as in Op Order No. 5, and there was only very slight enemy reaction. The noise was deafening and most reassuring.</p> <p>Despite all difficulties Bns reached their FAAs on time and 2 A & S H crossed the Start Line early and were well up behind the barrage having crossed our own A Tk minefield west of the KAMP-WYLER road.</p> <p>All Flails were bogged and first casualties were suffered getting through the enemy A Per and A Tk minefields East of this road; but the tanks had soon made a way for the inf</p> <p>The going was extremely bad, our Bde axis, SKYE Route, almost non-existent, and several vehicles were bogged. In spite of the going and the water-filled A Tk ditch West of the town, 10 HLI entered KRANENBURG (8056) as planned. Fewer demolitions had been carried out than was expected and the tanks entered the town via the main road.</p> <p>Both Bns reached their objectives on time. There was heavy mortar fire and shelling from the high ground in the REICHSWALD area.</p>	Appx "D", Folio 9

			<p>SKYE Route was quite impassable and Bde Tac HQ moved up to KRANENBURG at 1800 hrs on 46 Bde axis, AYR, and were established at 801558 by 2000 hrs.</p>	
KRANENBURG	9		<p>2 Gordons moved forward from KAMP during the night via the WYLER-KRANENBURG road which had not been cleared and encountered many obstacles.</p> <p>Under comd 44 Bde they breached the SIEGFRIED LINE at first light, taking up positions in the NUTTERDEN (8455) area</p> <p>During the afternoon 10 HLI moved forward and took up positions at 846552 on the right of 2 Gordons.</p> <p>At about 2015 hrs a heavy gun scored a direct hit on 2 Gordons Comd Post. The Sp Coy Comd, Signal Offr and nine ORs were killed, the Int Offr and two ORs wounded.</p> <p>Main Bde HQ joined Tac HQ in the evening.</p>	
KRANENBURG	10		<p>There were many changes of plan, but finally the Bde was ordered to clear the roads to allow 43 Div to pass through, as little opposition was expected in CLEVE.</p> <p>In the afternoon 2 Gordons took up positions just West of the TIERGARTEN at 854559 and 2 A & S H relieved two Bns of 44 Bde on the MATERBORN feature, area 870546, to allow them to assist in the clearing of CLEVE.</p> <p>Tac Bde HQ left at 0830 hrs for NUTTERDEN and took over 2 Gordons HQ at 838557. Main Bde HQ joined at 1500 hrs.</p>	
NUTTERDEN	11		<p>10 HLI followed by 2 Gordons moved down the DONSRUGGEN-CLEVE road and by last light were engaged in clearing the North of the town, where 2 Gordons succeeded in gaining a bridgehead over the canal at 901557.</p> <p>Bde HQ moved to DONSRUGGEN and was established at 856573.</p>	
DONSRUGGEN	12		<p>The Bde was now pinched out of the battle. 10 HLI and 2 Gordons remained in CLEVE and 2 A & S H moved to DONSRUGGEN.</p> <p>The Bde stayed in this area until February 19, during which time several operations were planned; but did not take place.</p> <p>The floods which had hitherto been contained by the road and railway embankments on our left flank began to spread and it was only with difficulty that the Bde A2 Ech vehicles were extricated from KRANENBURG.</p> <p>The road at this point became passable only to DUKWS and "Weasels", which were engaged in bringing up supplies and evacuating casualties and prisoners.</p>	
DONSRUGGEN	14		<p>Several jet propelled aircraft flew over the area and bombed CLEVE</p>	
DONSRUGGEN	15		<p>Field Marshal Montgomery visited Bde HQ at 1230 hrs.</p>	

			<p>10 HLI were placed under comd 46 Bde and advanced down the road to CALCAR, and by first light were within a mile of MOYLAND (9651) and had taken 80 prisoners. Thereafter the Bn captured the high ground South West of the village against very heavy opposition and beat off counter attacks supported by SPs.</p>	
DONSBRUGGEN	19		<p>The Bde Group, less 10 HLI, moved to PFALZDORF (9147), and Bde HQ was established at 917473.</p> <p>The Bde column was shelled when travelling through CLEVE, but there were no casualties.</p> <p>10 HLI were relieved at night and went to rest area in CLEVE.</p> <p>2 Glas H were placed under command of the Bde.</p> <p>An operation was planned and an "O" Group held at 1400 hrs for the capture of BUCHHOLT (9543), SCHLOSS CALBECK (9443) and the high ground in between.</p> <p>2 A & S H, on the left, were to capture BUCHHOLT, 2 Gordons SCHLOSS CALDBECK and 2 Glas H, on a narrow front, were to push through in the centre. The Start Line was approximately the line of the GOCH-CALCAR road.</p> <p>The tanks of the Coldstream Gds were placed in support for this operation and Kangaroos were allotted to the Bde.</p> <p>At the same time, 4 Som LI, in order to conform with the Bde's attack, were to secure HALVENBOOM (9645).</p>	
PFALZDORF	20		<p>The first Bn, 2 A & S H, crossed the Start Line at 1100 hrs and secured their objective by 1300 hrs. 2 Gordons were on their objective by 1530 hrs and 2 Glas H by 1700 hrs.</p> <p>4 Som LI, of 214 Bde, 43 Div, conformed by capturing HALVENBOOM by 1330 hrs.</p> <p>Initially, enemy opposition was fairly light, except from snipers, and almost 300 prisoners were taken, but all Bns, particularly 2 Gordons, encountered heavy and concentrated arty and mortar fire once on their objectives.</p> <p>In addition there were a few casualties from mines of all types.</p> <p>During the night SCHLOSS CALBECK was subjected to particularly heavy arty fire; one shelrep sent at midnight reported 200 shells.</p>	
PFALZDORF	21		<p>6 RSF came under command of the Bde and were ordered to make a bridgehead and clear the woods South of the bridge at 941421. The attack went in at 2000 hrs and by 2030 hrs had reached their objective. Fierce counter attacks were immediately launched against them and it was decided to withdraw into a tight bridgehead</p> <p>Bde Tac HQ was established at 933445.</p> <p>During the night enemy aircraft bombed the area and several sticks fell close to Bde HQ.</p>	

PFALZDORF	22	<p>10 HLI reverted to under command of the Bde and relieved 2 Glas H, who reverted under command 46 Bde.</p> <p>46 Bde attacked through the Bde, and one coy of 2 Gordons with tk sp attacked along the railway to capture the area of the farms SCHLUBECKSHOF and PLEESENHOF (9442). The coy was counter-attacked immediately after reaching its objective and another coy with tank support had to be put in to restore the situation</p>	
PFALZDORF	23	<p>During the night the Coldstream Guards, of 5 Gds Bde, Gds Armd Div, relieved 2 A & S H.</p> <p>10 HLI sent out a fighting patrol to the farm of HERRING-SCHENHOF (9643), where they patrol secured captured 12 prisoners.</p>	
PFALZDORF	24	<p>9 Inf Bde, of 3 Brit Div, moved into the area to relieve the Bde, less 2 A & S H.</p> <p>At 2130 hrs fire broke out in the farm at Bde HQ. The farm was burned out, but there were no casualties and all vehicles parked in the area were quickly driven to safety.</p>	
PFALZDORF	25	<p>The relief of the Bns was completed by 0600 hrs, and Bde HQ moved at 0730 hrs to rest in TILBURG, where they arrived at 1500 hrs.</p> <p>Throughout Op 'Veritable' over 1000 prisoners were taken by the Bde. The magnificent sp of 3 Scots Guards played a great part in this achievement.</p>	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 227 (H) INF BDE

Month and Year MARCH 1945

Commanding Officer Brig EC Colville, DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG	1	-	The Div Comd visited the Bde and addressed each Bn in turn congratulating them on the good work done on Op 'Veritable'. He had lunch at Bde HQ Bde HQ held an officers' dance in the Liedertaffel and afterwards many letters proclaimed it a success.	Appx B, Folio 1
TILBURG	4	-	A Divisional Memorial Service was held after which the Massed Pipes and Drums played Retreat.	
TILBURG	5	-	The Bde Gp left TILBURG and under comd 12 Corps concentrated in the following areas:- Bde HQ REKUM 5760, 10 HLI DAALRIMBY 5562, 2 Gordons EYSDEN 5767 2 A & S H 5760	Appx D, Folio 2
REKUM	6	-	Training instructions were issued and planning started for Exercise 'BUFFALO' and Op 'TORCHLIGHT'.	
REKUM	10	-	GOC held a cloth model discussion at HQ 12 Corps on Exercise Buffalo after which Bde reps reced the exercise marshalling areas.	
REKUM	12	-	Reps went to the Op marshalling area to recce routes, etc. The Bde Comd went to two points at 095460 and 104460 to look at the river banks and first Bde objectives. Going was good and the Bunds and banks were not as difficult to negotiate as first reports had suggested.	Appx D, Folio 8
REKUM	13	-	Final arrangements were made for exercise Buffalo.	
REKUM	14	-	Exercise Buffalo took place. The exercise was not tactical and was designed to practice staffs and bank unit personnel and accustom Bns to working with LVTs. H hour was 1230 and the first wave of the assault was excellent, but the second wave was too far behind and it was decided that they should go almost one behind the other. The ferrying of vehs was far too slow and this situation was not improved when LVTs, drifting down stream, broke the ferry cables. Air Marshal Tedder, Gen Dempsey and Gen Ritchie watched the exercise.	

REKUM	15	-	<p>Exercise Buffalo was repeated, but this time H hour was at 0400 on the 16th. The movement lights were too far back and as the morning was very foggy the assault took place in total darkness. With the exception of one LVT which lost direction and landed on the near bank, driving was excellent, and the first wave had all landed by 0404 hrs.</p> <p>Move of the reserve Bn was very slow as the shear pins in many of the storm boats broke after the first coy had been landed. Movement of vehs was speeded up considerably.</p> <p>The Corps Comd visited Tac Bde HQ during the exercise after which the Bde Comd attended a co-ordinating conference on Op Torchlight.</p>	
REKUM	17	-	Detailed recce of the op marshalling area was carried out	Appx D, Folio 8
REKUM	21	-	Bde Comd, Bde Maj and Tac Bde HQ moved to marshalling area and established at 057448	
REKUM	22	-	<p>The Bde Gp moved to the marshalling area in accordance with Move Order No. 21.</p> <p>Final co-ordinating conference was held at Tac Bde HQ</p>	Appx D, Folio 21
MARIENBAUM	23	-	During the evening and night, control organisations were set up and Tac Bde HQ was established at 088449 at 2000 hrs.	
	24	-	<p>At 0200 hrs the first LVTs went into the water and thereafter one wave followed another very quickly. There were almost no casualties in crossing the river itself. 2 A & S H after clearing HUBSCH 0947 pushed north along the bund and were soon in the area 100494. 10 HLI met stiff opposition and when daylight came were caught on the very open ground between WOLFFSKATH 1146 and OVERKAMP 1147. Bn HQ was in contact for some time to the right of WOLFFSKATH and were fortunate in being able to make their way back to the cover of the bund.</p> <p>The central area of the bund 1046 and the farm buildings 1047 were still occupied by the enemy at daylight and one coy of 2 Gordons was placed under comd of 2 A & S H and had cleared this area by 1200 hrs.</p> <p>At last light 10 HLI were in OVERKAMP, REE 1147 and the outskirts of MEHR 1248.</p> <p>During the night 2 Gordons relieved 2 A & S H who were placed under command 46 Bde. 46 Bde had pushed through on the right to occupy MEHR and HAFFEN.</p> <p>Enemy on the Bde front were fanatical paratroops and they put up very stubborn resistance.</p>	
	25	-	Tac Bde HQ crossed the river at 1800 hrs and was established at 116476 by 1830 hrs.	

REE	26	-	<p>During the day 2 Gordons pushed North along the bund in area of WAYERHOF 106498 and on their left contacted patrols of 1 Gordons of 51 Div.</p> <p>During the night the Bde was ordered to relieve 9 Cameronians and 7 Seaforth of 46 Bde, and (with two Bns under comd) to take over the area between the Rhine at 0949 to the wood at 1349.</p> <p>10 HLI took over positions in MEHR and HAFFEN with posts at WISSHOF 120504 and surrounding farms. 2 Gordons re-adjusted their positions to maintain contact with them.</p>	
REE	27	-	Bde positions remained unchanged but both Bns patrolled forward to the area of the wood 1352	
REE	28	-	<p>Prior to clearing the large wood South East of HALDERN 1253 227 Bde concentrated in the area of 137494 to 147495, and 9 Cameronians came under comd in place of 2 A & S H who remained under comd 46 Bde.</p> <p>At 0900 hrs 46 Bde started to clear the wooded areas in squares 1552, 1452 and 1453. They met little opposition and took 70 PWs, mainly of 22 Para Regt.</p> <p>Bde HQ moved to 144496 by 1100 hrs. Bde Comd with OC 131 Fd Regt visited CRA for arty co-ordinating conference at 0900 hrs.</p> <p>H hour was decided for 1400 hrs. The weather did not permit Typhoons to attack the wood prior to the attack.</p> <p>The Bde attacked with 2 Gordons on the left and 10 HLI on the right. Little or no opposition was encountered, but heavy mining and booby traps were found on most of the roads, particularly at the north end of the wood.</p> <p>Few PWs were taken on our front, and one when interrogated said they had been told to hold out in that area to the last but had withdrawn. SP bays, searchlights and a vacated Bde HQ were found.</p> <p>The Bde took up positions on the North and West sides of the wood. There was no contact with the enemy. Bns were ordered to take as much rest as possible and to hold the line with minimum troops.</p>	
	29	-	<p>2 A & S H reverted under command of the Bde and 9 Cameronians returned to 46 Bde.</p> <p>Bde conference was held at 1000 hrs to confirm discuss policy of rest while in this area.</p>	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 227 (H) Inf Bde

Month and Year APRIL 1945

Commanding Officer Brig EC Colville, DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HALDERN	1	-	The Bde Gp was resting in the HALDERN (1253) area	
HALDERN	2	-	Bde Comd and OC 2 Gordons attended the funeral of Maj Gen TG Rennie, GOC 51 (H) Inf Bde.	
HALDERN	3	-	The Bde Gp was ordered to move to concentration area south of the DORTMUND-EMS Canal opposite IBBUREN (9010) with the intention of relieving 155 Inf Bde in their bridgehead. Harbour parties under DAAQMG left in the morning and the Bde Comd left at midday to contact 52 (L) Inf Div at HEEK (6595). However, there was a change of plan. 15 Div was to come under comd 8 Corps with the general intention of following 11 Armd Div and clearing up behind them. Bde Gp was to concentrate in the area GREVEN (9188) but meanwhile the Bde Comd and harbour parties established themselves at HEEK for the night, and the Bde Gp moved there the following morning.	
HEEK	4	-	The Bde Gp harbour parties left HEEK at 0400 hrs for the GREVEN (9188) area, but a further change of plan involved concentrating in the EMSDETTEN (8597) area and to the South of the town. The Bde Gp left at approx 0900 hrs and arrived in the EMSDETTEN area at 1700 hrs. The plan for the following day was the clearing of the woods between LENGERICH (0898) and OSNABRUCK on a two Bn front, 10 HLI right and 2 Gordons left.	
EMSDETTEN	5	-	Bns moved off on TCVs at 0700 hrs. 2 A & S H were left with the residue of the two clearing Bns to be picked up when TCVs became available. Only a few enemy stragglers were encountered and at the end of the day the Bde Gp concentrated in the area of NAHRENDORF (0613) when Bde HQ at 086105. - 2 Gordons found a French Sjt who showed them where a few Germans were intending to hold out with arms and ammunition hidden in a house and where the local Gauleiter lived. Both parties were rounded up successfully.	

NAHRENDORF	6	-	Bde Comd attended an 'O' Gp at Div HQ at 1030 hrs and received orders for the Bde Gp to concentrate in the area BOHNHORST 7326 and WAKMSEN 7529. All Bde Gp vehicles and supporting arms moved at 1800 hrs, but marching personnel had to wait the arrival of TCVs from 46 Bde the following morning. Bde HQ was est that night in BOHNHORST at 760290.	
BOHNHORST	7-9	-	The Bde Gp remained in the Bohnhorst area for the next three days and during this period cleared all the woods in the area taking many prisoners.	
BOHNHORST	10	-	The Bde Gp left Bohnhorst to concentrate in the area WUNSDORF (1527) prior to continuing the advance to the ELBE. Bde HQ arrived at 1800 hrs but the arrival of the Bns was delayed due to bad roads.	
WUNSDORF	11	-	Bde Gp left at 0700 hrs to advance to CELLE (5951). Opposition was very patchy, but 20 Fd Coy RE had one bulldozer knocked out by bazooka fire when filling in a crater. By last light leading troops of 10 HLI were less than two miles from CELLE, but it was decided to wait until the following morning before going into the town. The column spent the night on the road.	
	12	-	By first light 10 HLI entered the town and although all bridges in the town were blown, 10 HLI managed to get two coys over the railway bridge which was passable to foot traffic. - 2 Gordons then rushed a coy to the southern outskirts of the town to seize a light wooden bridge which had been reported intact. This was accomplished and, although the bridge eventually collapsed, most of the Bn had reached the far bank of the river. 2 A & S H also got across the river successfully and pushed out two or three miles from Celle before nightfall. The REs worked hard on building a class 40 bridge in the centre of the town and completed it by 2000 hrs. Bde HQ crossed at 2005 hrs and was est on the East bank.	
CELLE	13 and	14	SEE SPECIAL ACCOUNT ATTACHED	
HOLDENSTEDT	15		At 0300 hrs the Bde attack on UELZEN began. 10 HLI, left, were to take the suburbs of VEERSSEN (8888) and the wood to the south of it at 8887. 2 Gordons, right, moving on the main HOLDESNSTEDT - UELZEN road were to clear as much of the town as possible and seize the bridge over the river ILMENAU, while two coys of 2 A & S H crossed the river in the area 899869 and secure the high ground on the East bank overlooking the town. The opposition was strong and fanatical troops, some of which had recently come from DENMARK, supported by SP guns, and almost all armed with bazookas, put up very stubborn resistance.	

			<p>10 HLI soon reached their objectives, but there were still many pockets of enemy to be mopped up and at least two SP guns in the area.</p> <p>The leading tank with 2 Gordons was hit by a bazooka on the edge of the town, where there was a strong point near the main road, and while the tank was burning, it was impossible to move forward without being silhouetted.</p> <p>2 A & S H had great difficulty in getting their boats through the woods West of the river and the crossing was considerably delayed. By first light, however, the coys were dug in at 904875 and 904873.</p> <p>At first light the Bde Comd visited OC 2 Gordons and spoke to OC 10 HLI. At 0730 hrs the GOC came to see the Bde Comd and it was decided that the Bde should consolidate and not attempt to go further.</p>	
HOLDENSTEDT	16		<p>The Bns remained in position and sent recce parties to prepare billets for the Bns coming out during the night. The Bde was relieved that night by 46 Bde and the relief took place without incident. The Bns then concentrated as follows: 10 HLI and 2 A & S H in HOLDENSTEDT and 2 Gordons at BORNE 8883.</p> <p>During the afternoon Capt. N. McLean, who was Bde Signal Officer until being captured at BARON in Normandy in July, visited Bde HQ for tea after his camp near BRUNSWICK had been overrun by the Americans.</p>	
HOLDENSTEDT	17		<p>44 Bde after capturing several villages to the East of Uelzen reached the town East of the river. During the evening and night 46 Bde cleared the town from which the enemy had withdrawn as 11 Armd Div and 6 AB Div had almost linked up on the main road to the North of it.</p>	
HOLDENSTEDT	18		<p>At first light the Bde Gp, with 2 A & S H leading, advanced through Uelzen, and moving via BIENENBUTTEL (8408), had by mid-day reached the area of VASTORF (8815). As 2 A & S H leading vehicles were moving out of Uelzen they were strafed by enemy aircraft, but had no casualties. The Gp prepared to harbour in VASTORF, but GSO 1 brought orders for the concentration of the Gp in the area SCHARNEBECK (8525) from which all bridges over the NEETZE Canal were to be guarded. By 1600 hrs the Bde Gp was in this area and had contacted units of 29 Armd Bde. 2 A & S H pushed on to HITTBERGEN (9031) and 2 Gordons to LUDERSBERG (9828).</p>	
SCHARNEBECK	19	-	<p>The Bde Comd met the Div Comd at HQ 1 Cdo Bde at 0930 hrs. 2 Gordons moved to BARUM (7831), 10 HLI to LUDERSHAUSEN (8131) and</p>	

			<p>Bde HQ to BRIETLINGEN (8029). It was not possible to move fighting vehicles forward of Barum and Ludershausen as the bridges over the many small streams and "Sees" were blown. Sappers worked hard under intermittent fire from 88 mms to build the bridge at 823323. However, coys of 2 Gordons pushed on to BUTLINGEN (7834) and a coy of 10 HLI to farm buildings 8233, where they made contact with an enemy patrol from ARTLENBURG (8334), where the enemy was still defending a bridgehead. An attack by 10 HLI, supported by artillery, started at midnight and by first light the following morning Artlenburg and AVONDORF (8135) had been cleared and approximately 150 prisoners taken. 2 A & S H patrolled into HOHNSTORF (8733).</p>	
BRIETLINGEN	20	-	<p>Bns established OPs and manned them until April 28, during which time a picture of the enemy defences was obtained which was later of value to 44 and 1 Cdo Bdes. In addition several line crossers provided an enemy order of battle.</p> <p>The entire Bde area was very flat and exposed, particularly as it was overlooked by high ground along the North bank of the Elbe. For three days there was intermittent shelling in the forward villages, but this had stopped almost completely by the 25th.</p>	
BRIETLINGEN	27	-	<p>The Bde Comd attended final co-ordinating conference at Div for operation ENTERPRISE (crossing of the Elbe)</p>	
BRIETLINGEN	28	-	<p>Bde Comd held his final conference at Bde HQ at 1000 hrs and at 1100 hrs briefed all officers of the Bde.</p> <p>Bde Tac HQ left at 2200 hrs for AVONDORF (8135), and was established close to the river without incident.</p>	
AVONDORF	29	-	<p>At 0200 hrs Operation Enterprise started, and 44 Bde very quickly established a bridgehead at 8335. Opposition was fairly light and shelling was moderate due to the fact that the enemy began to withdraw his guns into reserve positions immediately the operation began. 44 Bde soon made contact with 1 Cdo Bde who crossed West of LAUENBURG (8734), and at 0930 hrs 10 HLI started to cross and were followed by 2 Gordons.</p> <p>The operation went exactly as planned (see Appx 'D', Folio 4) and approximately 900 prisoners were taken.</p> <p>Immediately the enemy had readjusted his gun positions, the bottle neck at 840350 was constantly shelled and there were several casualties. 2 A & S H, while under comd 44 Bde but not committed, were particularly unlucky, receiving several direct hits while concentrated in the quarry at 831354.</p> <p>Very stiff opposition was met by 2 Gordons in TESPERHUDE (8037), but by last light all Bns had consolidated on their objectives ---</p>	

AVONDORF			<p>- 10 HLI holding HASENTHAL (7940) and the high ground to the West, 2 Gordons in Tesperhude and the railway buildings at 7837 and leading troops of 2 A & S H holding the line of the track running South from GRUNJAGER (7839).</p> <p>LO 2, who was control duty near the crossing site, was almost buried when a bomb exploded ten yards away from his trench wrecking his jeep. There was constant air activity over the bridgehead.</p> <p>- 2 Gordons captured two swimmers ("Frogmen") who were making a recce of the bridge sites.</p>	
AVONDORF	30	-	<p>Bde Tac HQ moved across the river via the Class 9 bridge at LAUENBURG (8734) and by 1100 hrs were established in GRUNHOF (803382). Main Bde HQ moved across the Class 40 bridge at ARTLENBURG (8334) and joined Tac HQ at 1900 hrs.</p> <p>The Bde Comd crossed the river at 0800 hrs and visited Bns</p> <p>In the afternoon 2 Gordons were ordered to move to HAMWARDE (7843). 10 HLI patrolled into this village from WIERSHOP (8041) and had reported opposition, but a sudden display of white flags was investigated and the village was occupied by 2 Gordons without a fight. 2 A & S H then readjusted their positions to fill in the gap created by the move of 2 Gordons. 10 HLI had to maintain a guard on a large camp for Russian workers at 794400.</p> <p>Shelling of the bridgehead still continued to be heavy and 2 Gordons were unlucky in losing all their cooking utensils when the cooks trucks were hit during the afternoon. However, the DAAQMG quickly mustered a complete set of cooking stores from units in the Bde Gp and 2 Gordons were able to have a cooked meal that night.</p>	

The Advance of 227 (H) Inf Bde Gp from Celle to Uelzen

13/14 Apr 45

By midnight of April 12th 1945 227 (H) Inf Bde Group were firmly in occupation of Celle on the R ALLER, and a Class 40 bridge had been completed in the centre of the town.

The Brigadier at an 'O' Group earlier in the evening had issued orders for the advance to be continued with all speed to Uelzen, the leading battalion to leave Celle at 0800 hrs on Friday 13th April. Refuelling and replenishment of supplies went on during the night and at 0800 hrs 10 HLI left the town with their coys riding on the Churchills of 3 Scots Guards. Following them came the Brigadier's Tac HQ with the COs of 2 GORDONS, 2 A & S H, 3 SG, 131 Fd Regt RA and 20 Fd Coy RE, and the remainder of the Brigade Group extending along 7 miles of road.

The advance continued without incident until 10 HLI were within a few miles of ESCHÉDE, 10 miles NORTH EAST of Celle, where a blown bridge caused a halt while recce parties were sent out to find an alternative route. Within half an hour the column was on the move again by a route which made a detour to the South East returning into ESCHÉDE from the South. During the whole of this time small parties of prisoners, mainly youths from disorganised GAF units, were brought in and sent marching down the column to the rear.

Friday the 13th seemed to be living up to form however and a few miles further on 10 HLI were brought to a halt by a 20 foot wide crater across the road in a swampy area where a detour was impossible. To add to the difficulty two SP guns and some small arms were covering the crater, causing some delay until they were dealt with. The SP guns retired down the road, and it was thought that they were covering a mobile demolition group operating from one to two miles ahead of our leading troops.

When the opposition had been silenced, the Scots Guards laid a tank bridge over the crater and the advance was resumed, but only for a mile or so. When the leading tanks of 10 HLI were a mile short of the village of Weyhausen they reported yet another crater, the largest yet, which would in the opinion of the OC 20 Fd Coy require a 40 foot Bailey bridge. This crater was too under small arms and bazooka fire, and one RA halftrack was hit by a bazooka, but only slightly damaged. After some time a time-bomb exploded in the road near the crater, destroying one RE Vehicle and causing eleven casualties to the RE recce party which had come forward up the column. Further investigation showed eight more of these time-bombs, so the area was taped off and a deviation to the North was reced.

It was now 1800 hrs and the rate of advance had averaged two miles an hour, when the column set off again through a thick forest to the North of the main road to try to re-enter the main road at Weyhausen. Just as it was beginning to grow dark and the HLI were approaching the village from the North the inevitable happened - another huge crater was reported. In addition, during the previous two hours, ominous explosions had been heard further along the main road, indicating that more craters lay ahead.

The Brigadier went forward to see the CO of 10 HLI and at 2100 hrs ordered as much of the column as possible to move up and park in a ride in the forest which fortunately could accommodate three lines of vehicles and was nearly a mile long, and with the vehicles nose to tail in this ride, petrol and food was brought up.

Orders were given out that at 0100 hrs the column would resume the advance along a track running North East through the forest almost parallel with the main road two miles away.

The night was black, but searchlights had been brought up to the edge of the forest, and gave invaluable light on an enterprise which without them would have been extremely difficult. As it was, the column set off at 0100 hrs, and having left Friday the 13th behind, very quickly proceeded to leave the forest behind too. The leading vehicles kept up a cracking speed and the rest of the column kept pace, along a track which in daylight would have been considered third class. The vehicles rumbled through the forest with branches whipping the faces of the vehicles commanders as they peered forward through the thick cloud of dust to try to catch a glimpse of the vehicles in front.

By now the light of the searchlights was left behind and with no vehicle showing any lights the fact that the column kept up and lost very few vehicles points to a very high standard of driving in all the drivers taking part.

The HLI "had their whips out" now, and tore straight through the villages of Hesserungen, Suderburg and Holxen, shooting up one enemy staff car and various other vehicles en route. The majority of the enemy in these villages however were still in their beds as the tanks rumbled through, and were too confused and bewildered to do anything but surrender when the dawn came.

At 0530 hrs on the 14th 10 HLI had reached the southern outskirts of Uelzen and had bumped into stiff opposition, and the tanks in Brigade Tac HQ were having a short encounter with a small party of enemy in Holdenstedt, two miles to the South. Further to the south in the villages along the route dazed prisoners were being collected by the unit which happened to be on the spot. In one instance a party of three from the Field Regt collected instead of the eggs they went out for, several dozen prisoners. The total bag for the whole night was approximately eight hundred.

The opposition in the south and south western outskirts of Uelzen was strong and 2 GORDONS and 2 A & S H were brought forward to attack. Some ground was gained and the 2 A & S H made some progress to the North East, crossing a stream and establishing two coy positions on our right flank. As all three battalions by now were very tired, having been on the move in all for four days, with only two short night rests, the positions gained were consolidated, and eventually the Brigade Group was relieved by 46 (H) Inf Bde for a well earned rest.

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

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required).

Unit HQ 227 (H) Inf Bde

Month and Year MAY, 1945

Commanding Officer Brig EC Colville, DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
GRUNHOF			<p>On May Day the projected 8 Corps bridgehead had been secured, had in many places been expanded, and from it the 11th Armoured Division had broken out towards the Baltic.</p> <p>The Bde occupied the following positions:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">10 HLI - WORTH (7744) 2 Gordons - HAMWARDE (7843) 2 A & S H - Area 7839 Bde HQ - GRUNHOF (7938)</p> <p>When Bde HQ arrived in GRUNHOF on 30 April, the telephone system was still operating and the Dutch interpreter answered calls from both GEESTHACHT (7540) and HAMBURG.</p> <p>At mid-day General Barker, GOC 8 Corps, came to see the Bde Comd and discuss the further enlargement of the bridgehead and before he left suggested that negotiations be opened on the 'phone with the Burgomaster of GEESTHACHT, whose number was soon acquired from the local authorities.</p> <p>At 1500 hrs the interpreter passed the following message:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"It is not the wish of the Allied Military Commander of this District to destroy GEESTHACHT, but this will be inevitable unless the town is surrendered by 2000 hrs to-night. A similar warning was given to the German Commander of LAUENBURG. It was unheeded and the town is now utterly destroyed and many soldiers and civilians have been killed or wounded. You must contact your local military commander at once and I shall ring up in one hour for your answer."</p> <p>When the interpreter rang up one hour later, he was informed by the Chief of Police that the Burgomaster was still at the Military</p>	

		<p>Commander's HQ, and asked if we would ring back in three quarters of an hour.</p> <p>The Burgomaster had still not returned three quarters of an hour later, so the Chief of Police was informed that if a decision had not been reached in 15 minutes time, negotiations would be broken off.</p> <p>At the end of the 15 minutes, the interpreter rang again, and this time the Burgomaster had returned. He said he was sorry that although the civilians and soldiers were agreeable, the Military Commander would not agree to the surrender of the town. The Burgomaster, however, pleaded that we should spare the town as it was full of hospitals and evacuees, and asked if he could come and talk the matter over.</p> <p>This ended the negotiations and the telephone system was then put out of order.</p> <p>Meanwhile, during the afternoon a civilian in GRUNHOF had given the information that there was 170,000 tons of V2 explosive stored in GEESTHACHT.</p>	
GRUNHOF	1	<p>At 0300 hrs a Major, Lieut and the manager of the explosive factory at GEESTHACHT came through 2 A & S H lines carrying a white flag and were brought to Bde HQ</p> <p>On arrival at Bde HQ they said they had come to make arrangements for the surrender of their town. The Bde Comd informed them of his terms which included the withdrawal of all German troops from the town by 1200 hrs and the provision of police to guide our troops into the area.</p> <p>The Germans were then conducted back to their own lines, and a further meeting was arranged to take place at the x roads at 778390 at 1000 hrs to confirm the terms.</p> <p>At 1000 hrs the German officers together with the Burgomaster returned, and it was agreed that the police of GEESTHACHT would guide our troops into the area at 1400 hrs.</p>	
GRUNHOF			

		<p>2 A & S H and 1/5 Welch, of 159 Bde, who were under comd the Bde, entered the area without incident, and occupied the high ground to the North of the town.</p> <p>In the evening the town was bombed by enemy planes but no damage or casualties were caused.</p> <p>An outline "O" Gp held at 1930 hrs is as follows:-</p> <p>15 (S) Inf Div was to protect the left flank of the 11th Armoured Division.</p> <p>227 Bde, supported by one sqn Coldm Gds and two tps 15 Recce Regt, would advance at 0800 hrs tomorrow on two axis. 10 HLI, 2 Gordons and Bde HQ right, 2 A & S H left.</p> <p>On the right, the leading Bn, 10 HLI, would clear HOHENHORN (7445), KROPPELSHAGEN (7147) and occupy the area NEU BORSEN (6946). On the left 2 A & S H would clear the buildings in square 7344, ESCHBURG (7144) and occupy BORNSEN (6945).</p>	
GRUNHOF	2	<p>10 HLI met stiff opposition in HOHENHORN (7445), which was defended by Marine troops supported by 20 mm SPs. Approx 150 PW were taken and the Bn pushed through the wood west of the village on a narrow front and cleared FAHRENDORF (7146) and KROPPELSHAGEN of Wehrmacht troops.</p> <p>2 Gordons then swept through the wood on a wide front.</p> <p>Meanwhile 2 A & S H were making good progress along their axis when at 1100 hrs a German Major, who had conducted the surrender of GEESTHACHT, and a Lieut came through their lines, and the Bde Comd went to 2 A & S H Bn HQ to meet them.</p> <p>They said they had come to make arrangements for their Commander to meet our Commander.</p> <p>A meeting place was arranged, and they returned early in the afternoon with a Colonel who told the Bde Comd that he had come to make arrangements for Field Marshal Busch, C-in-C North Germany, to meet our Commander. The Colonel also asked if "Cease Fire" could not be put into force on this sector, but the Bde Comd told him that our advance would continue.</p>	

		<p>The Divisional Commander then came forward and took the Colonel back to Corps HQ, where arrangements were made to receive Field Marshal Busch through the lines of 2 A & S H at 0700 hrs the following morning.</p> <p>Throughout OC 2 A & S H was in the unenviable position of trying to fight a battle.</p> <p>Meanwhile the Bde Gp had made good progress and by 1800 hrs Bde HQ was at 715467, 10 HLI west of KROPPELSRAGEN and 2 Gordons in FAHRENDORF, with 2 A & S H at BORNSSEN (6945).</p> <p>Two carriers of 2 A & S H were hit by bazookas on their final objective.</p> <p>At 2030 hrs the Burgomaster and Chief of Police of BERGEDORF (6447) came through the 2 A & S H lines and were sent to Bde HQ, where they told the Bde Comd that they wished to surrender the area of BERGEDORF. The Bde Comd, however, insisted that the ground to be surrendered should include all the country to the North of BERGEDORF up to and including the Autobahn. They said they could not do this as the area North of BERGEDORF was not under their control, but they agreed to go back and return with a military representative to arrange for the surrender of this area.</p>	
FAHRENDORF	3	<p>They returned through 2 A & S H lines at 0330 hrs but without a military representative. They explained to the Bde Comd that they had not been able to contact the military governor due to communications having broken down. They guaranteed that there would be no opposition in their area, and thought that it was unlikely there would be any fighting in the area to the North of the town.</p> <p>The Bde Comd then said he would order his troops not to fire on BERGEDORF, and that a local "No Firing" order was in force until 0700 hrs due to the expected arrival of Field Marshal Busch.</p> <p>The Burgomaster and Chief of Police remained at Bde HQ</p> <p>The expected arrival Field Marshal Busch through the lines of 2 A & S H at 0700 hrs did not materialise. Instead a German Major presented himself and said that Admiral Doenitz's representatives had gone direct to 21 Army Gp HQ.</p>	

			During the afternoon, 10 HLI moved to WITZHAVE (7255), 2 Gordons and Bde HQ to KASSEBURG (7856) and 2 A & S H to ROTHENBEK (7655). This was carried out without incident.	
KASSEBURG	4		<p>The Bde continued the advance, and, meeting no opposition, reached AHRENSBURG (6567) by 1600 hrs. Bde HQ was est at 667663, with 10 HLI and 2 A & S H in AHRENSBURG and 2 Gordons at Gr HANSDORF (6866).</p> <p>At 2200 hrs the news was received that the German Army facing 21 Army Gp had surrendered unconditionally and that all fighting in North West Germany and Holland would cease at 0800 hrs 5 May.</p>	
AHRENSBURG	5		Fighting ceased on 21 Army Gp Front at 0800 hrs.	
AHRENSBURG	6		<p>Bde Church Parade with Pipe Bands was held on the lawn in the grounds of the Officers' Mess.</p> <p>The Bde Comd thanked all Supporting Arms, particularly 131 Fd Regt, RA, for their magnificent co-operation with the Bde.</p>	
AHRENSBURG	7		News was received that the whole of the German Army had surrendered unconditionally and fighting would cease at 0001 hrs 8 May.	
AHRENSBURG	8		Fighting ceased at 0001 hrs, and the day was officially announced as VE Day.	
AHRENSBURG	10		The Divisional Commander addressed the Officers and Men of Bde HQ and thanked them for all the work they had done.	
AHRENSBURG	12		<p>Bde HQ moved to new area of VINZIER (687837) at 1500 hrs and was est by 1800 hrs.</p> <p>The Officers' Mess at NUTSCHAU (7084) was in the house of General Baade, Commander of the 90 PG Div, and many interesting diaries were found.</p>	APPX "D" Folio 2
VINZIER	13		<p>10 HLI and 2 A & S H moved to their new areas of ZARPEN (8389) and BADOLDESLOE (7487).</p> <p>10 HLI were est as follows:-</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">BN HQ - Zarpen (833902) A Coy - Renhorst (8090) B Coy - Zarpen (8289) C & D Coys - Badendorf (8789)</p> <p>2 A & S H were est as follows:-</p>	

			<p>Bn HQ - 775780 A Coy - Bad Oldesloe 7482 B Coy - Rethwischdorf 7681 C Coy - Politz 7479 D Coy - Meddewade 7882</p> <p>2 Gordons remained at Gr Hansdorf, and maintained guards on PW Camps in the area.</p> <p>The Bde Comd held a conference with Bn COs to discuss the rounding up of all German soldiers still wandering about the area and also the collection and disposal of Displaced Persons, who were mostly Russians.</p> <p>In order to facilitate this task two Russian officers from PWX Camp at BAD OLDESLOE were attached to Bde HQ.</p> <p>Copy of the message addressed to the Bde Comd when they left on 19 May is attached.</p>	<p>APPX "D" Folio 1</p> <p>APPX "J" Folio 9</p>
VINZIER	14		2 A & S H reported that a 13-year-old boy had been killed by a German booby-trap ---- a pair of motor cycling goggles connected to an explosive charge ---- at POLITZ 751792	
VINZIER	15		The Bde Major addressed the men of Bde HQ and gave them an outline of occupation duties and conditions, and stressed the strict need for non-fraternisation.	
VINZIER	16		Bn Adjutants and RSMS met at Bde HQ to decide on a general policy for guard mounting.	
VINZIER	17		Order for the Bde's move to LUBECK issued	APPX "D" FOLIO 3
VINZIER	18		2 Gordons moved to LUBECK and 2 A & S H to TRAVEMUNDE	
VINZIER	19		Bde HQ left at 1230 hrs for LUBECK and arrived at approx 1400 hrs 10 HLI also moved to LUBECK	APPX "J" FOLIO 10
LUBECK	24-26		<p>The Bde Comd inspected the Guard and Billets in the Bn areas during the three days</p> <p>General Barker, Comd 8 Corps, visited the Bde area on 26 May, and arrived by plane at approx 1000 hrs</p>	
LUBECK	28		In response to a proclamation in the local Press sheet, more than 3,000 German soldiers who had been discharged after 1 April paraded in the BUNIAMSHOF (9489). Thereafter, approx 1,000 were temporarily discharged on medical grounds and another 1,000 temporarily released to carry on essential employment.	

			NOTE: The innumerable DP problems, etc, following the Bde's arrival in LUBECK will be dealt with in the June War Diary.	
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