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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Unit 7th Bn The Seaforth Highlanders.

Month and Year APRIL, 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt Col P.M. HUNT, D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1 Apr		Bn at WERTHERBRUCK 167553. Gen maint of vehs and eqpt. Clearing area of enemy mines and eqpt.	
	2 Apr		Bn at WERTHERBRUCK 167553. Gen maint of vehs and eqpt. Clearing area of enemy mines and eqpt. 46 Bde Mov Order No. 28 received.	see Appx E.8.
	3 Apr		Bn at WERTHERBRUCK 167553. Routine as above. 7 SEAFORTH Mov Order No. 29 issued.	see Appx D.3.
	4 Apr	0745 1040 1500 1830	Bn to move to area NORDWALDE. 46 (H) Inf Bde Mov Order No.29 received. Bn moves off in TCVs. A2 to stand fast. Bn in area NORDWALDE. Bn HQ 824888. COs Conference - now under 8 Corps.	see Appx E.9.
	5 Apr	1000 1120 1145 2100	COs 'O' Gp. Bn to adv entanked on Churchills of 4 Coldm Gds. Bn formed up ready to move off. 46 (H) Inf Bde Mov Order No.30 received. Bn entanked moves off. Bn stops off rd for night. Uneventful journey.	see Appx E.10.
	6 Apr	0830 1800	Bn entanked on Churchills of 4 Coldm Gds and continues journey. After a long and dusty journey Bn reached area 765197 N of FRIEDEWALDE. Bn to check up on area for hidden arms, or any pockets of enemy still hiding in woods. 46 (H) Inf Bde Mov Order No. 30 received.	see Appx E.11.
	7 Apr		Bn at 765197 area FRIEDEWALDE. Veh and eqpt maintenance - area searched for hidden enemy weapons.	
	8 Apr		Bn at 765197 area FRIEDEWALDE - routine as per 7 Apr.	
	9 Apr		Bn at 765197 area FRIEDEWALDE - routine as per 7 Apr. Mov Order from 46 Bde.	
	10 Apr	0900 1600 2000	Bn leaves area FRIEDEWALDE (Marching). 46 (H) Inf Bde Mov Order No. 31 Bn arrives at WIEDENSAHL 9421. Harboursing area for night. C.O. to Bde 'O' Gp. 7 Seaforth Op Instr No. 30 46 Bde Op Order No. 24	see Appx E.12. see Appx D.4. See Appx E.13.

	11 Apr	0800 1030 1630 1645 1940	CO moves with Bde 'O' Gp. Bn moves in Main body on TCVs Bn East of BISSENDORF 3738 Sh.N4 1/100,000 Bn concentrates wood near KL BURGWEDEL 4637 COs 'O' Group.	
	12 Apr	1330 1630 2030 2230	Bn conc in woods 4637 COs 'O' Gp - Enemy reported beyond River Aller and town of CELLE reported clear. Bn to adv on 227 Bde axis and enter CELLE. Bn in CELLE. Move by TCV. CO to Bde Comd's 'O' Gp. CO held 'O' Gp.	
	13 Apr	0830 1230 1235 1240 1520 1530 1630 1635 1640 1645 1650	Bn moved out of CELLE mounted on Churchills of Sqn 4 Coldm Gds. See 46 Bde Mov Table Recce reports pockets of enemy along route. 5 PW taken from woods 6160 Two escaped American Airmen picked up in woods. Had escaped from POW Camp. 2 PW taken from near Stackshorn 6665. Mines reported on rd at 660675 and being dealt with by Bn Pioneer Sec. Unterluss reported held by enemy and enemy infiltrating through woods. Carrier Pl on left flank moving towards Lutterloh 6773. Have killed 2 SS NCOs encountered enemy in woods SE Lutterloh 6772. Bn posn 700711 Tanks of Coldm Gds opening up on Unterluss where enemy seem willing to fight. Carriers now on main rd West of Unterluss - rd blocked. Carriers located about 20 enemy at 673729 are containing them. PW states Unterluss held by approx two Coys with a third at Lutterloh. 8 PW incl Major and Adjt taken. Major was Instructor at CELLE Gas School. Prisoners mostly SS. Small pockets of enemy armed with MMG and Bazooka encountered around Unterluss. These were overcome and the Bn less D Coy entered village. Spasmodic firing in and around village. Patrols of enemy mounted on cycles tried to infiltrate through paths in woods were being dealt with effectively. 'D' Coy ordered to stay at 700711 and keep route clear. PW for the day amounted to 7 Offrs; 50 ORs.	Appx No. E.14
	14 Apr	0830	Bn less D Coy resumes adv along left of axis. D Coy with one troop Fd Rgt and one Sec Carriers adv on Lutterloh. D Coy met stiff opposition on outskirts of Lutterloh	

			and were held up on open ground in front of village. However 2 platoons pushed into area of houses and killed and wounded quite a few and took 9 PW. Coy withdrew at last light to village of Unterluss and took up posns there preparatory to joining the Bn on the 15th. Bn less D Coy at Kl Sustedt 8485 Sh.M5 1/100,000 doing left flank protection. P.W. for day 5 Offrs; 15 ORs.	
	15 Apr	1500 1600	Under comd of 227 Bde CO to Bde Comd 227 Bde. Bn to remain at Kl. Sustedt and patrol forward to Hausen and woods to left. DF Tasks arranged with Shell Drake. Enemy patrol of five men came out of woods to West of posn. 4 of them were shot up and killed - the leader a S/Major was wounded and taken prisoner. A Coy sent fighting patrol to main rd Hausen. No enemy bumped. A quiet night. Enemy seems to have pulled back. 46 Bde Mov Order received.	see Appx No. E.15.
	16 Apr	2200	Under comd 46 (H) Inf Bde. CO to Bde Conference. New Op pending. Bn at Kl. Sustedt 8485 left flank protection. Quiet day. General maintenance of vehs and eqpt. COs 'O' Gp. 46 Bde Op Order No. 25 received.	see Appx No. E.16.
	17 Apr	0830 0930 1430 1500 1700	Bn at Kl. Sustedt. Bn to adv and capture Uelsen. Marching tps leave Kl. Sustedt for conc area. 15 (S) Div Recce take over. Bn tpt move to conc area 882858. Bn conc area 882858 for day. COs 'O' Gp. Coy Comds on recce of FUP and SL. Plans cancelled. Bn to stay in conc area until further orders issued. 9 Cams and 2 G.H. to adv. 9 Cams to take Veirson, village in front of Uelsen. 46 (H) Inf Bde Adm Order No. 21 received.	see Appx No. H.24
	18 Apr	0300 0445 0545 0600	COs 'O' Gp. 46 Bde to clear and capture Uelsen. Two Bns up - Right 2 G.H. Left 7 Seaforth. Bn moves fwd to FUP. Bn moves through 9 Cams to start clearing town. With 'C' Coy on the right and A Coy Left, house clearing started and soon PW start coming in. To thoroughly clear all houses meant that progress was slow but Coys kept working fwd and by 0730 hrs A & C Coys were on the first objectives.	

		1400	<p>B Coy right and D Coy left passed through on to 2nd Phase and from house to house and block to block a thorough search was made.</p> <p>By mid-day most of the town was cleared and 140 PW taken incl 3 Offrs.</p> <p>Bn consolidating in Uelzen with HQ at 898895.</p>	
19 Apr		1800 2130	<p>Bn left Uelzen for Bevenson which had been previously entered by 15 (S) Div Recce. Bn HQ area 908019.</p> <p>46 (H) Inf Bde Op Instr No. 30 received.</p> <p>46 (H) Inf Bde Mov Order " 32 "</p> <p>7 Seaforth Mov Order issued</p> <p>CO to Bde 'O' Gp.</p> <p>COs 'O' Gp.</p>	<p>See Appx E.17</p> <p>" " E.18</p> <p>" " D.5</p>
20 Apr		1800	<p>Bn in Bevenson 908019 prepares to move. Marching personnel to be carried on Bde vehs. Bde to adv on right of Div axis to River Elbe and recce and clear areas along axis of any enemy. A Coy on Sp Coys vehs and C Coy carried by 531 Bty RA and SP Troop, 288 A/tk.</p> <p>To keep out of view of far bank of R Elbe. To est OPs overlooking East side of River. Bn arrives at KARZE. C & A Coys deploy in village. D & B Coys go on to GARZE. Bn HQ 962285. Some enemy shelling of GARZE, otherwise area quiet.</p> <p>Bde Comd visits Bn HQ.</p>	
21 Apr		1045 1400	<p>Bn at KARZE 962285 and GARZE 976275.</p> <p>Bde Comd visits Bn HQ.</p> <p>Bn moves to area HITTBERGEN 905314; C Coy WENDEWISCH 9332; D & B Coys same area.</p>	
22 Apr		1515	<p>Bn at HITTBERGEN 905314.</p> <p>Bn O.P. at 924340 on bank of R. Elbe.</p> <p>Standing Patrol in 925340 to lie up and report all enemy or mov seen on far side of R. Elbe. To go out at 0415 hrs and return by 2100 hrs. Civilians to be evacuated from area and area searched daily.</p> <p>Div Comd visits Bn HQ.</p>	
23 Apr			<p>Bn at HITTBERGEN 905314. O.P. at 925340 reported considerable enemy mov of vehs and tps on the East to West rd on far side of Elbe. Slit trenches appear to be manned at regular intervals. LANZE 9136 seems to be some sort of an HQ as mov in and out of vehs has been observed regularly. Gun posns probably SP type noted at 899380 - 925383 - 960348 also N of LANZE.</p> <p>Standing Patrol to River Bank at Barforde from 1st light to last light.</p>	

			Clearing of area 9132 - 9232 - 9231 to be carried out by A & D Coys. All civs to be cleared out.	
	24 Apr	1115 1415	Bn at HITTBERGEN - 905314. Bde Comd visits Bn HQ. Bde Comd and CO visit Barforde on edge of R Elbe. During past 24 hrs considerable enemy and civ activity observed on our front moving East and West along the rd LAUENBURG - BOIZENBURG. Enemy posn - Pl Str in area between 968347 and 947387. Enemy seem to be unaware of our posn. Standing patrols on River.	
	25 Apr	1045 1615	Bn at HITTBERGEN 905314. Bde Comd's 'O' Gp. Op Enterprise - 46 (H) Inf Bde Outline Plan for crossing R. Elbe. Bde Comd visits Bn HQ. 46 (H) Inf Bde Outline Admin Plan. Two 6 Pdr A/Tk guns were positioned on Bund along River at Barforde. At 0700 hrs a staff car travelling on far bank was hit, also MMG joined in the sniping of enemy vehs and tps on far bank. D Coy relieved C Coy in Wendewish 9332.	see Appx No. E.19 see Appx No. H.25
	26 Apr	0730	Bn at HITTBERGEN. Mov opposite our front has reduced considerably after being shot up by MMG and 6 Pdrs. Even so a light car was knocked off the rd this morning and a petrol truck and trailer burned up from direct hits by 6 Pdr gun. Early this morning two Offrs and 3 ORs crossed the ELBE at Boisenburg by ferry and delivered themselves complete with car to our B Coy. They had come by car from BERLIN which they reported was being completely overrun by the Russians. Sent to Bde HQ. O.P. Enterprise - 46 (H) Inf Bde Veh Priority Tables received.	see Appx No. E.20
	27 Apr	1715	Bn at HITTBERGEN 905314. Recce Regt to relieve C & D Coys. OP to be manned until dusk then to be discontinued. COs 'O' Gp. Bn under comd 1 Commando Bde. 46 (H) Inf Bde Op Order No. 26	see Appx No. E.21
	28 Apr	1030 1500 2315	Bn at HITTBERGEN 905314. 46 (H) Inf Bde Order (Adm) No. 22 Bn preparing for crossing Elbe - Recce Sqn takes over Coy posns. 1 Commando Bde O.O. No. 1 received. C.O. to 1 Commando Bde HQ. See 7 Seaforth O.O. No. 33 Co-ordinating Conference Bn HQ. Bn ready to move fwd to River. 1 Commando Bde OO Marshalling & Control Instr Bn moves fwd to Boat Waiting Area at Bund 856339.	see Appx No. H 26. see Appx No. E 22 see Appx No. D 6. see Appx No. E 23

	29 Apr	0100 0320 0345 0500 0600 0730 0800 1730 1830	<p>Bn in Waiting Area Bund 856339.</p> <p>Leading tps start crossing Elbe in Buffaloes.</p> <p>Bn across Elbe - Bn organised on bank of R. Elbe. Some enemy shells were landing near but no cas. No. 6 Commando had route taped and Bn followed route to 878357 thence to objectives. D Coy to High Ground contour 60-876365 - B Coy to Contour 58-875359 - A Coy houses at Main Rd and X rds 877357 - C Coy res area Quarry 874357. No opposition was met so far and coys were on objectives before first light.</p> <p>All Coys in posn and dug-in. Enemy SP guns sent over some shells but there were no casualties.</p> <p>Patrols out fwd report enemy pulled back to area Basedow.</p> <p>A Coy knock out half-track with PIAT.</p> <p>D Coy knock out M/C and car which came into their area - occupants killed-2 Offrs. 9 Cams pass through Bn area enroute to Basedow 8939. Essential vehs coming over by ferry now and assembling in Bn area. Enemy shells passing overhead seem to be landing area where br is being built. Enemy aircraft coming in quite often to bomb and strafe river crossings and br site.</p> <p>Bn prepares to move fwd to new location.</p> <p>Bn in new location Wood 878373. No cas. Total PW for day - 54.</p>	
	30 Apr	0330 0530 0715 0800 1000 1245 1330 1500 1540	<p>COs 'O' Gp.</p> <p>Bn moving along main rd towards Basedow.</p> <p>Enemy reported in woods 906410 and area 905399 about 100 strong.</p> <p>Bn halted along main axis.</p> <p>Tac HQ and RAP move up to Farm Bldgs at 894397. Enemy shelled area frequently causing cas.</p> <p>Bn to clear woods on left of rd 8940. 'C' Coy to clear left of wood. 'A' Coy to clear right. 'D' Coy to take over posns of A Coy 9 Cams. B Coy in res.</p> <p>A & C Coys meet opposition in woods from MMG and Bazooka. A Coy under heavy MMG fire from right corner of wood. Shelldrake bringing down fire. C Coy reach far edge of wood and come under cross fire from top left corner. Our tanks going round top left side of wood to clear enemy. PW coming in. Enemy being cleared from North edge of wood where they are well dug in.</p> <p>Both Coys near far edge of wood and enemy almost completely cleared. Many dead and wounded enemy.</p> <p>Wood cleared. A & C Coys reorganising on objective.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Total P.W. 73 Own cas 2 Offrs, 15 ORs.</p>	

		1700	Bn posns HQ 885385; Tac HQ 895398; A & C Coys Wood 8940; B Coy 890398; D Coy 893396.	
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