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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Sep 44.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. De Winton

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
FRANCE	1	Sep	on. Pipes and Drums played at Le Thuits in the evening. Report of Major R.M.M. Tindall's death received. Casualties during our recent action in crossing the Seine are Major Tindall, Capt Spence, Lt. Aitken and 37 O.Rs killed. Lt. Lamont and 46 wounded. 3 O.Rs missing.	RWM de Winton
	2	Sep	Notification received re move forward. Recce party left at 1500 hrs. Div Comd visited new "B" Coy today. The following officers and O.Rs have been awarded the decorations as shown below :- Major R.M.M. Tindall - M.C. Major A.W. Parish - M.C. 2886857 Sjt J. Atherton - M.M. 2886747 Sjt C. Harris - M.M. 2888214 L/Cpl A. McConnell - M.M. 2927095 Pte J. McLean - M.M. "O" Group held at 1845 and arrangements made for bn to move to Le Tronquay 4610.	RWM de Winton
FRANCE	3	Sep	Transport left area of Le Thuit at 1115 hrs and arrived at Le Tronquay at 1235 hrs. A,B, and C Coys marched to area of 400004 where they were picked up by unit transport sent back from Le Tronquay after being unloaded. Bn was complete in new conc area by 1930 hrs. Pipes and Drums played in the village during the evening. Orders for move on 4 Sep received.	RWM de Winton
	4	Sep	"O" Group held at 0900 hrs. Bn moved at 1150 hrs and arrived in area of BOIS DES PUIITS 6437 (Aumala Sheet 9E/2) at 1400 hrs. Concentration area for the bn prior to move forward on 5 Sep. Troops moved to the above area in unit transport and the vehicles returned to collect their store loads and rejoined the Bn at 1830 hrs.	RWM de Winton
	5	Sep	Bn ordered to move to area FILLIEVRES 0305 ST POL Sheet 72 FRANCE and BELGIUM. 1/50,000. Vehicles moved off at 1035 hrs	

			and reached destination without incident at 1740 hrs. Troops were due to leave at 1400 hrs but T.C.Vs did not arrive.	RWM de Winton
FRANCE	6	Sep	Bn still in FILLIEVRES. Troops did not arrive during night or this morning but are expected later in day. Bde "O" Group at 0900 hrs. Orders for Bde, with supporting arms, to move to occupy COURTRAI 8556 (Sheet 53 FRANCE and BELGIUM 1/50,000) issued: timings delayed due to troops being late in arriving at FILLIEVRES. 2 GORDONS ordered to lead the advance. T.C.Vs did not turn up so move did not materialise.	RWM de Winton
	7	Sep	Rained all day. T.C.Vs did not arrive till 1630 hrs. Bn left on its own for COURTRAI as Bde had left early in the day. Column moved at 0030 hrs 7-8 Sept.	RWM de Winton
BELGIUM	8	Sep	At 0930 hrs Bn crossed the FRANCO-BELGIUM border at Toufflers 8239 and proceeded to St. Genois 9148 where it arrived at 1030. Bn left St. Genois at 1400 and moved up in rear of 227 with task of clearing Nazareth of enemy and occupying village. This was completed without opposition and the Bn moved in to occupy NAZARETH 0970 (Sheet 7 1/100,000 TOURNAI) in all round defensive posns. Bde also came into this area. Patrols during late evening took two prisoners.	RWM de Winton
BELGIUM	9	Sep	Patrolling of areas round NAZARETH carried out during day. Pipes and Drums played at 1800 to a large assembly of the people of the town and GOC 15 (S) Div. Nothing extra of note to report.	RWM de Winton
	10	Sep	Bn still at NAZARETH. Were at two hours to move all day but nothing resulted and bn remained at the village during the night.	RWM de Winton
	11-12	Sep	Bn moved by road at 1245 to village NW of HUMBEEK called NIEUWENRODE 6270. Took up a general defensive posn and settled there for the night. B Coy ordered to move off to guard a lock over the Albert Canal and deny it to the enemy. During morning of 12th Sep Bn got orders to follow up to support "B" Coy. Bn left at 1500 hrs and arrived in the village of ZOERLE PARWYS 9981 Sheet 3¼ ins where it remained the night after sending "D" Coy forward to assist "B" Coy.	RWM de Winton
BELGIUM	13	Sep	Bn moved forward to area of school at OOLEN where plans were made to go over canal and occupy area west and on the lock. This was not considered necessary by higher authority and the bn less "B" Coy which remained to protect the lock were moved to area of MEERHOUT where it took up an all round defensive posn in defence of 227 Bde HQ.	RWM de Winton

	14	Sep	Capt Hogg posted to "D" Coy as 2 IC. Lieut Thompson takes over IO. Presentation of medal ribbons to Major Parish by Field Marshal Montgomery. 2 officers and 20 men present as spectators.	RWM de Winton
	15	Sep	Recce to find suitable crossing of canal by RUPOL WOOD Map Ref. Sq. 1494 (Map Sheet 25&35. TURNHOUT-GHEEL). Recce fired on by MG and one rifle shot. Bde 'O' Gp 1400 hrs. Bn ordered to cross canal by night. A & S.H to pass through. 1900 hrs Recce Party returns, IO & recce commander report to Bde HQ, maps did not show backwater which was discovered by recce & also Air Photos received at 1900 hrs causing further complication - crossing due to start at 2200 hrs but postponed for confirmation of possibility of crossing.	RWM de Winton
BELGIUM	16	Sep	Bn warned to move at 0200 hrs - "C" Coy provided Assault Platoon, comd Lt. Lamont - (dress: sandbags over boots, no eqpt) led by Taping Party from "I" Section who laid 3 mile of tape, followed by "PLANKING PARTY" consisting of one pl of "A" Coy, comd by Sjt Binnie. Arrived at Canal Bank at 0600 hrs. Crossed Backwater by Barges and Planks. Helped across by Bargees who warned us of a sniper and made a carpet of sacks across the Barges to minimise the echo from the Barges. Assault Pl fired on by sniper on crossing the Backwater. (IO made hasty retreat). Platoon held at lock by MG firing on fixed line and were unable to proceed. - Dawn was breaking - remainder of "C" Coy, "B" Coy & "D" Coy crossed the barges with Carrier Pl on foot, all pinned down on island between Breakwater and Canal. "A" Coy attempted to cross by assault boats W. of the lock but pinned by MG and rifle from far bank - A Tk gun used to fire into lock hut on far bank which was being used as a Strong Point - CO visited fwd coys and realised impossibility of crossing. Decided to leave "A" Coy under command of Major Dukes with one sec of carriers in support, remainder of Bn returned to 156921 (Sheet 25&35) 1 ins., at 1400 hrs. Lt Brownlee-Lamont K. killed attempting to cross lock. Major Follett and Capt McIntyre wounded - 2 O.Rs killed, 18 wounded. CSM Grey wounded attempting boat crossing. R.A. Trace attached	RWM de Winton Appendix I
BELGIUM	17	Sep	Early hours of morning "A" Coy report lock gates were opened by enemy. 0700 "A" Coy relieved by Recce Regt. Bn moved to KIEVERMONT in square 1088 (Sheet 25-35 1 ins) where Bn conc for one night. CO and IO recce to KOSB at 076927 where RSF and KOSB held small Bridge Head over L'Escaut Canal, NORTH of	

			GHEEL. Heavy counter attack during the visit. 1330 hrs Airborne Div passed overhead in NW direction. Saw 5 shot down on return journey. Issue of German rations to Bn. Lt Patrick rejoined Bn and posted to "C" Coy.	RWM de Winton
BELGIUM	18	Sep	Crossing postponed from daylight to night. 0700 hrs CO and Coy Comds visited Bridge Head - recce liaison with A & S.H who had taken over prev night from RSF. 1100 hrs Major Kempton joined Bn from London Scottish. CQMS WILKINSON posted to "A" Coy as acting CSM. 1200 hrs 3 carriers sent to A. & S.H to assist in evacuation of wounded. 2000 hrs First Group consisting of Bn HQ crossed canal by Assault Boats, remainder of Bn C,A,B,D, Support, at hourly intervals. (Bn held up one hour owing to counter attack). Bde LO's controlled timing of crossing. Take over complete by 0400 hrs with little interference - Code word for completion "NUTS" (Bn exchange of A Tk guns).	RWM de Winton
BELGIUM	19	Sep	Major Kempton posted to A & S.H. Lt Griffiths and Lt McDonald joined Bn, posted to A and D Coys. Bn HQ established at MR 076928 (Sheet 25-35: 1 ins to 1 mile). Bn well dug in and holding posn taken over from KOSB. Heavy shelling and mortaring encountered during the day. Notified that 10 HLI would pass through Bn positions at night. At 2245 hrs first coy HLI reported over the Canal, interference by Long Range Sniper, second Coy of HLI reported over at 2325 hrs. 20 Fd Coy RE were in charge of the ferrying across the Canal during the day and night. The Central crossing was observed as journeys nearly always resulted in shelling. Joint Command Post shared with 2 A & S.H in cellar of house on NORTH bank. The two Bns were so closely inter-locked and so essential to prevent enemy infiltration if bridgehead to be kept intact, that this close liaison essential. Casualties: 4 O.R's.	RWM de Winton
	20	Sep	All HLI Coys reported in position at 0235 hrs. HLI Carrier Pl reported they had lost contact with their "B" Coy and that their Officer was missing. CO instructed Capt Grendan to take them under his command and sent a party out to make contact between them. Bde Comdr calls for Bde 'O' Gp at 0915 hrs R.V. at Red House in Wood South Side of L'Escout Canal (MR 075925 Sheet 25-35 1" to 1 mile). The bridgehead was to be abandoned and the Division were to follow up the	

BELGIUM			<p>successful crossing of the Canal further EAST on the main 2nd Army Axis.</p> <p>The crossing started at 2000 hrs and all three bns were cleared of the NORTH bank by about 2400 hrs. HLI withdrew through the Bn first and thereafter the withdrawal carried out by Serials, the A & S.H conforming. "B" Coy was the last to leave. The Carrier Pl took up positions on South bank to cover the crossing and flanks should the enemy follow up.</p> <p>Casualties:- 1 O.R killed 20 wounded.</p>	RWM de Winton
HOLLAND	21	Sep	<p>0100 hrs Bn established in area KIEVERMONT (MR Sq 1088 Sheet 25-35 1" to 1 mile) with Bn HQ at MR 105890.</p> <p>Spent quiet day reorganising etc.</p> <p>Bn visited Mobile Baths.</p>	RWM de Winton
	22	Sep	<p>0700 hrs Harbour party under Command of Major Henderson left KIEVERMONT to recce new Bn positions at VELDHOVEN in HOLLAND (MR Sq 3714). Bn moved at 1330 hrs and arrived new location 1800 hrs. Orders for the Bn to move early on the morning of the 23rd Sep were received at Midnight.</p>	RWM de Winton
HOLLAND	23	Sep	<p>Harbour party under Command Major Henderson left VELDHOVEN at 0730 hrs to recce new Bn conc area SOUTH of WILHELMINA Canal. This area under enemy mortar and shell fire. Orders received from Bde to return and a new area allotted to the Bn on the outskirts of EINDHOVEN (MR 408228 Sheet 18 S.W 1/25000). Bn arrived new location at 1130 hrs and Bn HQ established at (MR 409229 Sheet 18 S.W 1/25000).</p> <p>The GOC 15 (S) Division visited and spoke to all ranks of the Bn at 1730 hrs. The Commanding Officer spoke to all ranks and informed them of his intention to disband "B" Coy and reform 3 strong Coys A,C & D, to take effect from 23rd Sept. Bn was billeted in houses in the "Garden City" occupied by employees of Phillips Electric Coy. All ranks were made to feel very much at home and great kindness shown.</p>	RWM de Winton
HOLLAND	24	Sep	<p>Bn still in position on the outskirts of EINDHOVEN.</p> <p>Church Service arranged for 1030 hrs in the Hospital Courtyard but had to be cancelled owing to heavy rain. A voluntary Service was held at 1215 hrs in "A" Coy area. Bn prepared to move at 1700 hrs but this order was later cancelled until 0730 hrs 25th Sep.</p> <p>The Pipe Band played Retreat at 1800 hrs in the Bn area.</p> <p>Letter of congratulation to the Bn received by C.O. attached.</p>	Appendix II RWM de Winton
	25	Sep	<p>Bn moved at 0730 hrs to Area of BEST (MR 386257 Sheet 18 S.W. 1/25,000). 2 Gordons to clear area from Main Road at 386255 to</p>	

HOLLAND			<p>incl WOOD 364250. "H" hour 1000 hrs. Attacked with C and D Coys forward, A Coy in reserve. Heavy M.G. fire met from Rly embankment and attack was held up. Bn later withdrawn to area 385257 and an attack by Typhoons on enemy MG positions dug in on rly embankment was made.</p> <p>20 PW were taken. Bn stayed night 25/26 in this area. Major Duff was wounded but remained on duty. Casualties:- Capt R.G. Hogg and Lt G.E. Beaton were killed. Major G.H. Hutchinson, Lt G.C. McDonald, Lt T.A.S. Johnson were wounded. Lt D.R. Fairlie reported missing. O.R's 9 Killed, 47 wounded and 55 missing. The object of the attack was for the Bn to secure a firm line North of the Canal and West of the railway to allow 10HLI and 2 A & S.H to form up for their attack on NAASTENBEST on the left of 44 Bde.</p> <p>During the attack some of the enemy flying white flags gave themselves up to the Bn. 54 were counted to leave the wood, but owing to many being killed by their own people only 22 returned to the PW Cage - during this action "Cat & Nine Tails" were found in enemy NCO slit trenches. The Bn were held up from very accurate and conc MG fire from the factory in BEST, and all the Platoon who managed to cross the railway were trapped, few managing to get back.</p>	RWM de Winton
HOLLAND	26	Sep	<p>After a very uncomfortable night, the Bn moved at 0800 hrs in pouring rain to area (Sq 3928) with Bn HQ at 394286 (Sheet 18 S.W 1/25000) to defend Bde HQ and as Reserve Bde while the HLI & A. & S.H advancing N. to widen the existing Line of Communication (North to Bridgehead over the Rhine). Contact made with reserve Coy of Airborne American Tps. At 1700 hrs the Bn moved to hold defensive position in area Sq. 3828 to fill a gap on the left of the Bde. Bn HQ in house Map Ref 386284 (Sheet 18 S.W. OIRSCHOT 1/25,000). Patrol sent out at 1030 hrs and 0230 hrs to contact Bde HQ Patrol.</p> <p>Casualties - One man missing, three men rejoined having previously been reported missing on Sep 25th.</p>	RWM de Winton
	27	Sep	<p>Bn ordered to move to relieve 8 R.S. in area 372277 (Sheet 18 S.W. 1/25000) moved at 0830 hrs. Bn relieved by Recce Regt. Relief of 8 R.S completed by 1000 hrs. Some enemy shelling and mortaring during the day.</p> <p>1100 hrs. Typhoon attack positions in WOOD (MR Sq 3629) and a propaganda broadcast was made to the enemy. At 1300 hrs the Typhoons again attacked their positions and 50 prisoners gave themselves up to the A. & S.H. Owing to the Brigade being on a</p>	

