

I N T E L L I G E N C E S U M M A R Y A N D W A R D I A R Y

Date - MARCH 1945.

181 FIELD REGIMENT R.A.
 Offr Commanding Lt Col R.B.W. Bethell
~~DSO RA., and~~
 Lt.Col. TP Keene RA.

PLACE	DATE	HOUR	SUMMARY	REMARKS
	1-5		Regt returns to TILBURG for rest and re-equipping.	
	6		Lt Col Bethell DSO R.A. posted to staff of SEAC. Regt moves from TILBURG to area of HASSELT.	
	7-19		Training in river assault crossing and ferrying of guns across a river obstacle. Planning for Operation Torchlight. On 11 Mar Lt Col T.P. Keene R.A. assumed command of the regt.	
	20-21		Regt moves to fwd harbour area S.E. of GOCH.	
	21		Preparing for ops.	
	22		Regt moves to gun area near VYNEN arriving in the dark. Guns not put in action.	
	23		Day spent preparing for Rhine crossing. Weather excellent. Occasional enemy shells coming over.	
	24		Regt commenced firing at 0025 hrs in sp of 44 Bde. Crossing made with little opposition. All three battalions established firmly by morning. Airborne tps began arriving at 1000 hrs. By afternoon RS and KOSB have linked up with 6 Airborne Div and 17 US Airborne Div.	
	25		By early morning the 44 Bde and the two Airborne Divs formed one solid bridgehead of considerable depth. The advance was to continue but fire support had to be provided by other units while the regt was crossing the Rhine. Damage to the bridge and trouble with the rafts made this a lengthy process. Recce parties were over in the morning but it was late afternoon before the complete regt was in action. During the interim period our OPs remained with their respective bns and support was given by a SP regt, which had crossed earlier in the day, and Medium guns still West of the Rhine.	
	26		The guns had been put in action well fwd in the bridgehead and were well able to cover the further advance towards the River Issel. Amn supply was difficult and most necessary as there was still only one field regiment across the Rhine.	
	27		A bridgehead was established across the River Issel, a deep salient was thrust into the rear areas of 7 Para Div and throughout the day repeated counter attacks were broken up by concentrations of fire. Very	

		large numbers of Germans were killed while trying to fight their way back from the West.	
	28	Stragglers continued to be roped in but by evening another formation had taken over the advance.	
	29 30	Guns brought out of action. OPs withdrawn and regt concentrates in present gun area. All ranks addressed by the C.R.A. who thanked them for the good work done in the past.	
	31	Remained in concentration area. Large numbers of German Army horses provided the main occupation.	