

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

Unit 131st Field Regiment, R.A.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year December 1944

Commanding Officer Lt. Colonel, J.M. HAILEY, R.A.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
OUDE BERKTER (Map Ref Sq. 8720)	1st		The Regiment remained at this position for several days to support the attack on Blerick and Venlo West. Sporadic enemy shelling of the wooded area around the Regimental Position was experienced, but no veh cas and no damage of any consequence was reported, though some civilian buildings occupied by subunits were hit. The arty concentration in this area was as great as any previously experienced. Much needed intakes were received during the period.	
	2nd 3rd		This day saw plans for Operation "GUILDFORD" worked out. This final attack to clear the western bank of the MAAS commenced as far as we were concerned with the order to fire at approx 0645 hrs. At 0745 hrs began a barrage of 800 yard lifts. As well as the actual fire plan considerable "M" and "U" targets were engaged. Prisoner reports the following day asserted that the barrage was very effective.	
	4th		On the 4th a notable weather factor was a high wind, occasionally reaching a velocity of 60 mph, and giving a met corr of 1000 yds. The day was inactive following the success of yesterdays attacks.	
	5th		Recce parties were held at short notice to move. Little activity was experienced or engaged. Desultory shelling by guns sit across the MAAS was often heard, but no damage was reported.	
MAASBREE	7th		Gun groups, and Tac RHQ moved to a new position south of MAASBREE and went into a defensive role. Line was to be held by two brigades while the third went to Rest near ASTEN. Gun position was wooded, but marshy, fairly widespread, and tracks in a very poor condition.	
	11th		Until this day there had been very little activity of any sort save administrative. Today one of C troops guns was firing over open sights at Belfield Church. In addition to the normal positions for the guns, a "Harassing fire Position" had been reced, and was occupied in turn by each	

		of the batteries. This was in addition to the normal "2 up and 1 reserve" relief system on which the Battalions relieved each other, and which system naturally effected the O.P.s. The Map Ref of this forward position was 822045. A number of German planes were seen over the area on occasion, varying from Jet propelled fighters to medium bombers. Some bombing of the neighbourhood was noted in the days immediately preceding 16th December, and an O.P. line was out of action due to enemy planes on the 16th.	
MAASBREE	21st	Visibility on these days was often limited to 100 yds due to mist and bad weather.	
	24th	Recce parties were ordered to stand by in preparation for a possible move to a posn north east of HELDEN in view of the fact that 25 Field Regt had moved back into sp of the Div Arty, and that reports were received of concentrations of mortars within range of this position. The recce was carried out, and the move was possible on Christmas Day, survey having been completed in the new area by 1600 hrs 24 Dec 44. This move, however, was not necessary, and the Regt remains in the same position as before.	
	25th	<p>Christmas Day was "Very Quiet". All sorts of disturbing rumours failed to materialise, and the Germans observed some at least of the spirit of Peace and Goodwill. The amn expenditure for Xmas day was only 2 R.P.G. from the Regiment. On the 26th two missiles landed in the Regimental Area about 1200 hrs, one being a near miss on 320 Bty Comd Post at the forward position. These were examined and found to be bombs released from a great height. No important damage was reported.</p> <p>Comparative and Standard calibration of all guns was carried out during the month in an attempt to tighten up the standard of gunnery. There had been a drop in the efficiency of "M" and more so, of "U" tgts. Much of this was due to the spread of the Regt over a large area, and the constant detachment of one subunit in the H.F. Position. A great improvement was reported as a result of the calibration and a firing exercise "EXERCISE BOLTON"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>Comd Offr:- Lieut Colonel J.M. Hailey, D.S.O., R.A. 2 i/c :- Major H.D. Stewart, T.D., R.A.</p>	