

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 119 LAA Regt RA

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Commanding Officer Lt Col JF Young RA

Month and Year March 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
OISTERWIJK	1	0400	- 0700, A F & I tps arrived from GOCH - CLEVE area	
	2	-	Training and care & maint of eqpt continued ☉ Nothing to report	
	3		Nothing to report	
	4	a.m.	35 representatives sent to Div Church Parade at TILBURG	
	5	0900	Warning order received for move to MOLL - BOURG LEOPOLD - DIEST area ☉ Recce parties despatched 1130 hrs - Instructions received for probable conversion of two dets per troop to .5" MMG detachments instead of Bofors ☉ One officer, two det comds and two layers despatched for course on .5" MG eqpt at 21 Army Gp Practice Camp (AA) MIDDELKERKE near OSTEND	
MOLL - BERINGEN	6	0830	- 1900 RHQ, btys & B ech moved to new locations	
- ZONHOVEN -	7	-	Training and care & maint of eqpt continued	
DIEST area	8	-	Instructions received for 5 detachments to report to 21 Army Gp Practice Camp AA for trg as .5" MG dets ☉ Subsequently altered to 2 detachments only, to report on 14 Mar	
	9	-	Preliminary instructions received for exercise BUFFALO (assault river crossing) to be held in near future ☉ Training for this unit to include backing of vehicles on to mock-up rafts, etc	
	10	-	Nothing to report ☉ Capt Beattie (bty capt 391 bty) admitted to hospital	
	11	-	Nothing to report	
	12	p.m.	Two SP guns and two guns & tractors took part in loading trials with Class 9 rafts	
	13	a.m.	Two detachments despatched to 21 Army Group Practice Camp AA, for trg as .5" MG dets. - CO received during the day preliminary infm at HQRA regarding future operation ☉ Air photos received	
	14	0700	CO left with OC 391 bty for recce of area of future op, returning 1805 hrs	

	15	1000	- 1100 hrs, C.O. and OC 1 Mx discussed "pepperpots" to be fired in support of future op ☉ 1215 - 1245 hrs, C.O. discussed details of future op with OC 102 (NH) A Tk Regt.	
	16	1800	CO gave preliminary briefing to bty and tp comds on LAA tasks in future op, as follows:- 3 tps to take part, one in each of three "pepperpots"; 1½ tps to give directional aid for craft crossing river in darkness, 1½ tps to deploy in AA role over 3 AGRA area (Remainder of area being given AA defence by 100 AA Bde)	
	17	a.m. p.m.	2IC contacted LVT comd ref location of LVT crossing points and tp comds carried out detailed reces for pepperpots Warning order received for harbour parties to go to new area on 18 Mar	
	18	1000 1030	Harbour parties left for new area A 0738 CO held coordinating conference of reps from all units concerned in "pepperpots", to fix siting of weapons and amn dumps	
	19	1000 2000	CO infm by CRA of fresh tasks for "pepperpots" and increased allotment of weapons ☉ Fireplan accordingly extended and finalized, after discussion with OC 1 Mx Orders received from RA for move to new area by night 20/21 March	See Appx J
SONSBECK - XANTEN area	20	1800	approx - 0400, regt moved via MAESEYCK and VENLO to concentration area	
	21	1430 -	CO briefed all officers of the regt on plan and timings of future op Pepperpot fireplan extended, to include 9 guns 108 LAA Regt, but reduced, as to A tk gun tasks, owing to shortage of amn	
	22	1200 1700	A tp moved to lie up in future deployment area (u/c 3 AGRA) 0638 C, E & F tps moved (4 guns each) to lie up close to Pepperpot areas	
	23	0800 1400 - 1625	approx, 3 guns each of G and I tps moved to positions from which to give directional fire for LVTs crossing RHINE by night A tp and 3 guns of I tp deployed in 3 AGRA area ☉ Four guns each of C E & F tps deployed in Pepperpot areas - During the day btys established tac HQs fwd, one to control directional night-firing, and two (with 2IC) to control three pepperpots Message from RA that the operation is to take place tonight	
	24	0100	- 0145 & 0220 - 0330, pepperpot fireplan fired - 1347 rounds 40 mm HE expended, in support of 15 (S) Div assault crossing of RHINE	

		0155	- 0215 Directional fire given by 3 guns each of G & I tps to guide 6 crossings of R RHINE [3 on 44 (L) bde front and 3 on 227 (H) bde front]	
		1000	British & USA Airborne divisions passed overhead, followed up by supplies at intervals during the day	
		a.m.	Tac HQs of 392 bty & 2IC, and guns of G & I tps returned to harbour having completed their functions	
MARIENBAUM - BISLICH - SONSBECK area	25	a.m.	A, F & I tps joined 181, 131 and 190 Fd Regts ready to cross R RHINE with them and to be in sp ☉ A tp crossed a.m. with 181 Fd Regt ☉ I tp deployed in 190 Fd Regt area, as not likely to cross before 26 Mar 45	
		1200	CO received orders to send three tps [less 40 mm eqpts, vehs and drivers] to hold rd juncs at 158415, 159416, 158426, 160425 and 161419, in infantry role, to protect bridge building operations in 1341 area from possible interference from any enemy still at large in woods 1742 - 1843 ☉ C E & G tps under comd 2IC took up positions, as ordered, before last light, having crossed river in Buffaloes (LVTs)	
		1430	- 1700 RHQ, 391 and 392 bty HQs and B ech moved by small groups to MARIENBAUM - WARDT area	
		p.m.	Single enemy aircraft overhead on several occasions after dark attacking probably gun area and bridging ☉ One Ju 188 engaged by F and I tps about 2000 hrs - no claims ☉ I tp also engaged approx 2300 hrs.	
	26.	0115	Orders received from RA for move of 60 vehs of regt across R RHINE, 1100 - 1130 ☉ But timings subsequently put back, and cancelled for the day ☉ Bty HQs and SP tps vehs nevertheless harboured at RHQ location in preparation for move ☉ Recce parties crossed river to recce new area, 1147	
		1200	C E & G tps released from infantry role	
		1630	2IC established tac HQ with HQRA at BERGEN	
Near REE	27	1000	CO took tac HQ across R RHINE	
		1400	- 1540 RHQ, bty HQs, tpt of SP tps, B ech and REME moved by small groups to cross by Class 9 bridge at 090470 and harbour in fields 1½ miles beyond	
		2130	- 2200 hrs, personnel of C E & G tps who had been employed in infantry role rejoined tpt at regt harbour location ☉ E and G tps moved off in preparation for groundshooting against woods at 1352 in support of attack early 28 Mar ☉ One gun of C tp also taken forward for possible use in ground role in sp 44 (L) Bde	
	28	0815	E & G tps commenced ground firing in support of attacks by 46 (H) bde a.m. and by 227 (H) bde p.m. to clear woods in area 1352	See Appx J

		1015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Approx 2600 rounds expended, and all infantry objectives gained</li> <li>- 1200, one gun of C tp fired approx 60 rounds HE and SAP at church tower at 196537, scoring about 30 hits ⊙ Inf of 44 (L) bde who had been held up, subsequently advanced 3000 yds</li> </ul>	
		1100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1500 RHQ, B ech and Wksps moved in small groups to LOH area, joined there subsequently by 390 &amp; 391 bty HQs</li> </ul>	
		1730	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recce parties left for harbour area, 1748, into which the regt is to move 29 Mar 45, when div has passed into Corps reserve</li> </ul>	
BISLICHER WALD	29	1400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1600, C E &amp; G tps, all bty HQs, RHQ, B ech &amp; Wksps moved to harbour area 1748 ⊙ A tp remained deployed in area and F and I tps subsequently moved to same approx area with 131 and 190 fd regts respectively, F tp to harbour and I tp remaining deployed</li> </ul>	
	30	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regt credited with one Me 262 damaged (Category II), and a share in one Me 262 destroyed, on 21 Feb 45</li> <li>- Day devoted to maint of all eqpt, especially vehicles, in preparation for possible long move shortly</li> </ul>	
	31	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cleaning &amp; maint of eqpt</li> </ul>	