

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 119th Light Anti Aircraft Regiment R.A.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year June 1944

Commanding Officer Lt Col J.F. Young RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Lancing	1		Training & preparing for impending operations.	
Sussex	2		Nothing to report	
	3		" " "	
	4		" " "	
	5		Special code word for wireless silence sent to Btys 2300 hrs.	
	6		Soon after midnight 5/6 large numbers of gliders and tp carrying a/c passed overhead towards French Coast. About 0130 hrs LO returns from ADGB and with message that operations had commenced. All gunsites notified of special recognition features of friendly a/c. At 1700 hrs C.O. briefed all officers on operations.	JY
	7		Nothing to report	
	8		" " "	
Lancing	10		Just before midnight 10/11 message received calling for LO to Sussex Dis on behalf OC SP Tp. B Tp 390 Bty moved off to Marshalling Area 1315 hrs 11 June.	
	11		Message recd calling for LO to Sussex Dis 1200 hrs 11 June. Orders received for G Tp & F Tp to move 0430 12th. RHQ BHQs 391 & 392 to move with ACDHI Tps at 0600 hrs 13th.	JY
	13		Moved to Marshalling Area 18th arrived evening	
	14		Still in Marshalling Area Weather fair	
	15		" " " " " "	
London Docks	16		Moved in two groups to Docks and embarked RHQ, 391 BHQ & A, C, D tp on MT 76 (S81) and 392 BHQ with I tp and a few extras on S.59. Sailed during night to SOUTHEND, waited for convoy which moved off 17th.	
	17		Weather perfect no excitement arrived off French Coast near COURSEULLES at 2100 hrs.	
	18		Weather deteriorated high seas cannot land Enemy bombing slight at night	

	19		" " " " "	
	20		" " " " "	JY
	21		" " " " "	
	22		" " " " "	
	23		Weather improved transferred to an LST and landed at approx 1800 hrs. Some vehicle casualties. German pilotless plane passed over in direction of German lines at 1740! RHQ established at St. Gabriel Esquay sur Seulles.	
France	24		Moved RHQ to Cully at 1435 hrs. Weather good. Much friendly a/c activity.	
	25		Still at Cully. 2i/c (Maj Murphy in charge of mixed party recceing & clearing path for Bty to move fwd. Weather uncertain.	
	26		Div committed to attack. One officer (Lt Neate) wounded by mortar while working with 2i/cs party. One OR killed & 3 wounded. Rained hard during evening & night 26/27. RHQ established Putot en Bessin 1630 hrs	JY
	27		Weather changeable. Some enemy air activity	
	28		Still at Putot en Bessin. One SP 40mm of G Tp received direct hit from mortar. 3 ORs killed, one wounded. B Tp disposed of 3 enemy snipers and captured another.	
Putot en Bessin	29		Heavy gunfire at 0300 presumed directed at SW flank. Heavy enemy counter attack in CHEUX area repulsed, fwd sub unit withdrawn into A TK posns.	
	30		Tps redeployed in former posns. Indications that enemy was to counter attack again. One ME 109 hit and believed to have crashed. Two tps 392 Bty moved fwd to protect air OP. Enemy conc S of ODON successfully engaged by Fd Arty with no interference by E/AC.	JY

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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 119 Laa Regt RA

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year July

Commanding Officer Lt Col J.F. Young RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BWEF	1		RHQ still at PUTOT EN BESSIN with tps deployed as before Weather very changeable.	
	2		Regt relieved by 116 Laa Regt. RHQ moved to rest area near Secqueville with Btys harboured nearby. Weather poor with rain. Some minor shelling.	FEL
	3		Still in rest. Quiet day. Rain followed by better weather in evening. Total battle casualties to date 1 offrs wounded. 4 ORs killed, 4 wounded Div Comd addressed all available tps at 1500 hrs with letters of congratulation from Army Comd & C in C 21 Army Gp.	
	4		Resting nothing to report.	
	5		" " "	
	6		" " "	
	7			
BWEF	8		Arty Tps move fwd with Div arty to area ST MAUVIEU Counter Mortar Scheme practiced. Single E/A over at night	
	9		C.O. prepared to move fwd with Tac HQ. No orders received by 1100 hrs	
	10		Tac HQ at St Mauvieu. Main HQ still at Secqueville. Weather poor	
	11		No change. Counter Mortar organisation working well. Eleven 1st line reinforcements arrived 1530. Btys almost complete. A Tp destroyed two ME 109s in Verson area	JY
	12		Weather improving nothing to report.	
	13		Nothing to report. Weather uncertain	
	14		RHQ moves to La Mare. Fair amount of hostile shelling. LT COOMBS wounded	
	15		RHQ moves back to St Mauvieu area	
St Mauvieu	16		RHQ still in St Mauvieu area. Weather improves.	
BLA	17		Nothing to report	
	18		RHQ moves at 1000 hrs to SOUTH of LE MESNIL PATRY	
	19		Cloudy, quieter in this sector.	

	20	Residue arrives from England. Weather dull, rain at 1700 hrs.	
	21	Nothing to report	
	22	" "	JY
	23	RHQ & Bty move u/c 15 Div in 30 Corps to BALLEROY	
	24	Nothing to report	
	25	" " "	
	26	" " "	
	27	Special deployment of A A Gps known as A/A islands.	
BLA	28	Nothing fresh to report	
	29	" " "	
	30	RHQ moves to area 2 miles NE CAUMONT	JY
	31	Nothing to report	

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WAR DIARY

or

Unit 119 Laa Regt RA

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Commanding Officer LT COL J.F. Young RA

Month and Year AUG 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BLA CAUMONT AREA	1.		Day opens with heavy mist after very quiet night. Trouble with enemy patrol near La Homme. Capt HOLDEN wounded, two ORs killed, two wounded. Total days casualties 3 killed nine wounded.	
	2.		R.H.Q. moves to new location just S of Sept Ventes Enemy shelling during night.	
	3.		Misty early, little activity up to 1000 hrs. Later nothing	
	4		RHQ & B ECH move to ST MARTIN DES BESACES	LPG
	5		Weather hazy still in situ. No activity. 54 ORs despatched to 38 RHU, authority 8 Corps TPM, & struck off strength	
	6		Nothing to report	
	7		Order received from 8 Corps that all 20mm Tps & one tp each Bty 40mm were to be despatched to UK via 38 RHU & struck off strength	
BLA ST MARTIN DES BESACES	8		RHQ moved to ST PIERRE TARENTEINE. Tps affected by Corps order harboured with respective Bty HQs at ST MARTIN DES BESACES	
	9		Nothing to report early, but evening orders received to delay departure of tps to UK by 48 hrs pending reconsideration concerning whether each bty should be left with 2 SP tps or one SP and one tractor drawn. Decision to be made at Army level.	LPG
	10		Nothing to report	
	11		Message from RA 15 (S) Div, timed 101730B, received about 1200 hrs ref departure of three 40mm & three 20mm tps, to the effect that the details of original order were in no way to be departed from. CO checked with HQRA who could only inform him that this latest order had been received from 8 Corps. CO ordered B D H tps (40mm) and X Y Z tps (20mm) to prepare to move forthwith, in accordance with original instructions, viz - to despatch tps to 38 RHU on 10 Aug 44. At 1850 intimation from RA 15 (S) Div that tps should NOT have been dispatched. LO from each bty sent off to harbour tps at earliest moment, but tps NOT contacted till	

			after reaching RHU, where eqpt had begun to be handed in. All further action frozen.	LPG
	12		Ref departure of tps, message from RA 15 (S) Div to effect that all action to be postponed from 12th to 13th August.	
	13		Ref departure of tps, message from RA 15 (S) Div that original programme to be restarted on 14 Aug. Capt FE Lywood [Adjnt] to HQ RA 15 (S) Div as Counter-Mortar Officer. Lieut LP Gerrish [Orderly Officer] takes over duties of Adjnt. Lieut A.S. Partridge [392 Bty Subaltern] takes over duties of Orderly Officer. Orders received, late evening, for move a.m. on 14 Aug to area Amaye-sur-Orne	
AMAYE-SUR-ORNE 9657	14		0600 hrs, the regt, in column with remainder of 15 (S) Div passes under comd 12 Corps. 1215 hrs Regt & bty A echs move off, joined on route by B echs, to area of AMAYE-SUR-ORNE arriving 1520 hrs. Sound of very heavy bombing to the South & SE heard during journey. Enemy air attacks seen and heard on areas SE and NE of location about 2400 hrs and intermittently till first light 15 Aug.	LPG
	15		Nothing to report till 2300 hrs when dog, attached to member of RHQ, ran out into middle of field round which Regt A ech was parked, and remained barking at something unknown; immediate investigation revealed nothing. 2345 hrs shots fired by sentry of 390 bty (at top of field) after challenging at movement in bushes. BSM & 4 OR patrolled immediate area, and during gunflash saw what might have been 4 figures crouched in long grass. CO organised systematic sweep across whole field; nothing found.	
	16		0100 hrs Regt A ech stood down. Approx 0130 hrs 3 anti personnel bombs in close vicinity of regt B ech. No damage or cas. C tp also report suspicious sounds in cornfield and woods adjoining site about midnight 16/17; nothing revealed by immediate investigation or later by day.	LPG
LE HUTRAY	17		1530 - 1700 A ech moves in small groups to area LE HUTRAY, 0054.	
FRESNEY-LE-VIEUX	18		1700 - 1800 A ech and B ech move to area FRESNEY-LE-VIEUX 0048	
LE HAMEL	19		1900 - 2000 A ech moves to LE HAMEL 0939	
	20		1600 - 1700 B ech moves to VILLERS-CANIVET 1040. 2345 - 0030 hrs 21 Aug, air attack, with flares, seen and heard a few miles to NW NORTH and NE of location	
	21		As a result of air attack on previous night, when one bn of the div had 7 men killed and 4 injured, local relaxation of restriction on night firing by LAA authorised by 12 Corps. Now allowed to fire by night within div area at seen & unseen	

			targets provided hostile act committed and master gun (controlled by officer) appointed for each defended area, other guns to fire only when master gun fires. Flares to be engaged at 40° angle of sight or over. G tp 366 bty and C tp 364 bty of 112 LAA regt (12 Corps LAA) come under comd, but C tp 364 bty subsequently ceased to be under comd, during the day.	LPG
	22		Ref revised rules for LAA night firing. C.O. lays down that when tp is deployed in normal manner, 3 points shall be fixed, in or around the VA, to which AA fire from all guns can be directed - bearing & elevation for each point being worked out beforehand for each gun; fire to be in bursts of 8 rounds fast single shot, and the master gun to give the lead to the others. When tp is deployed in 2 'islands', i.e. 2 sections, each of 3 closely-sited guns, an officer at each island to control the fire of one gun, and the remaining 2 guns to direct their fire accordingly.	LPG
	23		One tp 344 SL bty and a second tp 112 LAA Regt RA come under comd for operation GALLOP ☉ Op GALLOP to begin 0830 hrs 24th, LAA tps moving with bdes, fd regts & div HQ, and Regt A and B echs independently at H + 8 hrs 45 mins together with SL tp.	
FALAISE AREA	24		1735 hrs regt A & B echs move to area EAST of FALAISE, 172343 arriving 1950 hrs. C.O. forms tactical HQ consisting of C.O., I.O., 2 dvr-ops, batman, to be with and move with HQRA.	
BERNAY area	25		0745 hrs regt A and B echelons move EAST along given route to unspecified location. Ordered to harbour at 674741, arrived 1520 hrs. Ordered to move on to St Clair d'Arcey, left 1825 hrs, arrived (841766) 2020 hrs. CO and tac HQ rejoin A echelon. 2245-2315, enemy bombing attack visible several miles to the NORTH.	LPG
COMBON	26		1145 hrs A and B echelon move through BEAUMONT LE ROGER to COMBON, 0076.	
LOUVIERS area LOUVIERS area	27		1250 - 1430 hrs, A and B ech move through LE NEUBOURG to area of LE PARC, 1887, two miles WEST of LOUVIERS. Individual guns carry out ground shooting during evening and early part of the night at targets on right bank of R. SEINE. B tp / 344 SL bty, under comd, illuminate all night the area within loop of river SEINE at 3090. All guns and SLs operated from left bank. Both ops highly successful; complimented by Brig COLVILLE (OC 227 (H) Inf Bde) and Brig BOLTON (CRA 15 (S) Div)	
	28		Further ground shooting during the morning from left bank to targets on right bank of SEINE. 1750 hrs A ech moves to 247901, 1½ miles NE of LOUVIERS, followed at 1845 hrs by B ech, both echs moving in groups of 15 vehs, or less, to avoid impeding	LPG

			movement of bridging materials. At night B/344 SL tp illuminate axes of adv EAST from SEINE.	
LOUVIERS area	29		1200 hrs one offr (Lieut FLINN) and 8 ORs go back to 8 Corps Rest Centre for 3 days ☉ 1800 hrs, C/364 and G/366 tps of 112 LAA Regt cease to be under comd, as 67 med regt and fd regt of 4 Armd Bde (to which the tps were in sp) ceased to be under comd 15 (S) Div ☉ B/344 SL tp illuminate from 2200 hrs axes of adv EAST of R. SEINE and road from VENABLES 3186 to PT. ANDELY 3990	
MUIDS area	30		B/344 SL tp ceases to be under comd, and is placed under comd 4 Armd Bde ☉ 1215 hrs A and B echelons leave to cross R SEINE and take up new location at 3190 ☉ Much traffic congestion at start pt and at RE bridge across river ☉ R SEINE crossed at approx 1930 hrs and new location entered at 1955 hrs ☉ Weather dull and rainy, ideal for ops by ground-strafting fighter aircraft, but none seen operating against 12 Corps' densely-packed columns ☉ 15 (S) Inf Div believed passing into 21 Army Group reserve.	LPG
	31		Tps remain deployed in div area but bty comds withdraw tac HQs from bde HQs and rejoin regt A ech ☉ In view of improbability of any move in near future, CO orders time to be devoted to thorough maint of vehs, eqpt, clothing, etc.	

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WAR DIARY

or

Unit 119 Laa Regt RA

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Month and Year September 1944

Commanding Officer LT COL J.F. Young RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LOUVIERS area LOUVIERS area	1 (ap prox)	1030 1100 1430 1800 2000	Regt A and B echelons remain at 317906, near MUIDS ☉ Orders received from RA by 'phone to increase amount of petrol carried in vehicle reserve in view of likelihood of long move shortly ☉ C.O. discusses with BCs and tp comds problems of ground-shooting with QF 40mm guns, using SP for demonstration Notification received that 15 (S) Div remains in 12 Corps and is to move towards R SOMME on 2 Sep 44 ☉ Postponement of move, later learned by CO at HQRA ☉ Decision taken by CO in conjunction with SCRA and Lieut QM to attach tps as follows for supplies, in view of future likelihood of lengthened comns ☉ A & C tps, 390 bty tac HQ, 3 REME personnel (in jeep), att to 181 Fd Regt (44 Bde group) ☉ E & F tps, 391 bty tac HQ, 3 REME personnel, att to 131 Fd Regt (227 Bde group) ☉ I tp & 392 bty tac HQ & 3 REME personnel, att 190 Fd Regt (46 Bde gp) w.e.f. drawing rations 3 Sep 44 for consumption 4 Sep 44 ☉ G tp (protecting Div HQ) remain based on regt B ech	Appx H Appx H
	2	1230 1400 1630 1920	Notification from HQRA of move tomorrow, NE; SP 406950, route via ECOUIS (4298) to dis P 471084 ☉ Regt to pass SP 1230 - 1300 hrs 3 Sep. 2IC and recce parties report to Div HQ to recce new area. Confirmation by phone from RA that NO aircraft are to be fired on during 3 Sep 44 (infm already received by BCs via bde HQs) Written message (ref above) that restriction on AA fire applies only to daylight hours of 3 Sep 44	Appx E
Area LYONS-LA-FORET	3	1130 1730 1845	Regt A and B echs left for new location ☉ Met by recce party at dis P 471084 at 1315 hrs ☉ arrived 1345 hrs at 524132 Message from HQRA prohibiting AA fire by day till further notice Orders received for move on 4 Sep	Appx E Appx E

Area LYONS- LA-FORET			During the day, bty comds each with small tac HQ attach themselves till further notice to HQs of inf bdes to which their tps are in sp:- viz OC 390 to 44 bde, OC 392 to 46 bde, and OC 391 bty to 227 bde	
(ap prox)	4	0920	CO called for interview with CRA ☉ Informed that on arrival in new location later same day, regiment is to be concentrated and guns and stores to be grounded, while load-carrying vehicles of regt are withdrawn to form supply-transport, and signal vehicles are withdrawn for traffic control duties ☉ CO arranges to give detailed orders at new location	
		1220	Regt A and B echelons moved along AYR route (see appendix E) until met by personnel of recce party and guided to harbour area at 622337 ☉ Tps and bty HQs, after moving with fd regts and inf bdes, also harboured at same location ☉ 2IC fwd to recce	
		1600	location in area HORNOY 8154 for regt to dump its guns and stores ☉ CO gives orders to BCs etc concerning provision of tpt as follows:- 1 ☉ For supply-tpt column, regt provides 23 3-tonners and 10 Tractors, LAA, for loadcarrying, each with driver and mate; also two 15-cwt trucks and one water-truck, each with driver and cook; also 3 motorcyclists ☉ Offr in charge, Capt BEATTIE [bty capt 391 bty] travelling in Jeep with batman and clerk ☉ In addition, one sjt, six bdrs, and 21 men for loading work ☉ Total, one officer and 106 OR, to report to RASC offr at 2130 hrs at RV 808541 near HORNOY 2 ☉ For traffic control, nine 15-cwt trucks fitted for wireless, each carrying an offr, 2 driver operators and a batman/cook ☉ Offr in charge, Lt Col YOUNG travelling in Jeep with Orderly Offr and driver operator ☉ In addition, one spare WT vehicle with dvr-op and batman, one water truck with driver and cook, one 15 cwt truck with driver and sjt for Q duties, one 15 cwt truck with driver-mech, instrument-mech, and electrician signals; and 3 motorcyclists ☉ Total, eleven offr and 40 OR, to be ready at present harbour area (8233) at 1800 hrs 3 ☉ All personnel to have 2 days res rations and the day's ration as issued	
		1700	Vehicles and personnel NOT concerned in traffic control org, move off to area HORNOY and harbour in grounds of CHATEAU DE SELINCOURT 810582 about 1915 hrs ☉ Vehs required for supply-transport are unloaded, and stores, amn, etc, placed in stables and outhouses.	
		2100	Sup-tpt vehicles under Capt BEATTIE leave for RV	

			Major A.T.W. MURPHY, second-in-command, is given powers of det comd in absence of commanding officer.	
SELINCOURT (AMIENS district)	5	1000 1145 1600 1915	OC det holds conference of all offr \odot Lays down period of 48 hrs intensive work on cleaning and maint of guns, vehs and all eqpt incl clothing, small arms etc; to be followed by a period of work in mornings and recreational training in afternoon CO and Orderly Officer arrive en route to new div location in area HAUTE COTE, 1204, approx 11 miles NORTH of DOULLENS \odot Accompanied by I.O.R.A. and by S.C.R.A. to finalize adm details \odot IORA & SCRA leave, 1215 hrs \odot CO and Orderly Offr leave, 1315 hrs \odot Lieut FLINN and 5 OR return from 8 Corps Rest Centre, having been delayed in returning through tpt difficulties \odot Remaining 3 OR, travelling independently to rejoin div in new area, could NOT be diverted to regt's harbour-area location \odot Call for help in fighting fire in village of AUMONT, 838592, caused by explosion of amn on passing Bren carrier of 6 KOSB \odot	See Appx. J
SELINCOURT	6	1200 1945	Maint of guns, vehs, weapons, eqpt, stores, continues. QM experiences difficulty in obtaining rations & supplies 2IC leaves to contact C.O. \odot Finds him moving with 15 (S) Div towards area ROULERS - THIELT - COURTRAI, but expected to harbour for the night, short of that area \odot 2IC returns \odot During the day, Entertainments Offr & Sports Offr make local contacts, to arrange welfare matters for the men \odot	(See Appx. J)
	7	0600 1700 1800	QM leaves to contact CO and 15 (S) Div, and to attempt to draw rations from div sup pt Regt football team plays a team from HORNOY & wins 3 - 1 Ration lorries return with supplies drawn from RASC 12 Corps	
SELINCOURT	8	0200 0800 2300	QM returns \odot Message from CO that regt vehs being used for sup-tpt may be expected to return tonight OC 391 Bty leaves to contact CO at div HQ \odot Meets him midway and both return to regt location approx 1730 hrs, followed by 3 bty HQ subalterns from traffic control party Tpt hitherto on sup-tpt duties returns to regt location \odot One truck and driver missing - believed to have lost his way 5 miles NORTH of ARRAS	
	9		Day spent in reloading stores etc on to tpt and preparation for move next day \odot Search for missing truck & driver unsuccessful \odot Restriction on AA firing (see appendix E)	
J 610755	10	0700	Regt moves by tps followed by regt & bty A ech followed by B ech, all at $\frac{1}{4}$ hour intervals; route - DOULLENS - ARRAS - LENS -	

area of MALINES			AUDENARDE - ALOST - ASSCHE - MERCHTEN - WOLVERTHEM - new area (see Appendix A) Enthusiastic welcome by local inhabitants, especially on BELGIAN side of border ◉ Temporary relaxation of ban on AA fire (see Appendix E) Remainder of traffic control party also moved and joined up with main body of regt at new location	
MALINES area	11	1300 1730 2000 2350	CO attends CRA's conference CO holds conference for BCs ◉ Ref move of div next day, orders 2 tps for defence of fd arty area, one tp for div HQ, 3 tps in support of bdes (one each) ◉ bty comds to recce for opportunities of ground-shooting in area of Albert Canal (I 08) ◉ 2IC to coordinate tps with fd arty LO called to HQRA to receive orders for move following day as follows: SP X rds 599665 at 0855 hrs, via VILVORDE, DIEGHEM, HAECHE to Dis P at AERSCHOT (J 9669) HQRA order recce parties to Div HQ by 0730 hrs tomorrow	
WESTERLOO area WESTERLOO area	12	0715 0830 1730 -	Recce parties leave ◉ Tps subsequently move with fd regts, bdes, HQs, etc, to which they are in support Regt A & B echs leave, and move, on route as ordered, to I 042798 near WESTERLOO Order received lifting ban on AA fire; transmitted to btys During the day, CO in charge of traffic control party (offr and wireless set at each) on Cl.40 bridge 045855 and Cl.9 bridge 073842 over Albert Canal	(see Appx E)
	13	1200 1945 2100 2200 - 2315	Gun of E tp stood by for groundshooting across Albert Canal, but no target presented itself OC 392 led a patrol across the canal into 3 villages, area 0189 - 0086 - no enemy encountered Orders received from HQRA for recce parties to RV at 0800 hrs tomorrow for move of regt with div HQ 5 enemy aircraft, and flares, engaged by A and I tps CO decides to leave B ech in situ when A ech moves, because supply pts will remain SOUTH of the canal - During the day A & I tps move across canal with fd regts to area of GHEEL, 0888, and E tp and 391 tac HQ with 227 bde group to area of MOLL, 1790 Orders received from HQRA to move tomorrow crossing SP [bridge 0485] head 1015 hrs, tail 1025 hrs, via X rds 080882 to dis P at rd junc 093860	
GHEEL area	14	0745	Recce parties left ◉ 0945 Regt A ech moved, via route ordered, to new location 100852, crossing Albert Canal 1015 hrs &	

			arriving 1040 hrs. During the day tps moved with fd regts, bdes, and div HQ and guns of C and G tps carried out groundshooting across the MEUSE-ESCAUT canal at targets on the NORTH bank ◉ Local inhabitants continue everywhere to be enthusiastic in their welcome and extremely generous with gifts of fruit, eggs, etc, which they insist on being accepted despite firmest refusals	
(ap GHEEL area	15 prox)	1830 2200	Tps remained deployed ◉ Guns of C and G tps sited singly or in 3s carried out groundshooting tasks with considerable success at targets on far (NORTH) bank of MEUSE-ESCAUT canal, incl harassing fire, observed fire on MG nests and OPs, and conc fire in support of inf attack ◉ E tp prepared to give directional fire in sp of 227 bde attack, night 15/16 ◉ Several tps reported unidentified plane, believed enemy jet-propelled, in area GHEEL - HERENTHALS flying EAST-WEST at 15-20,000 ft, estimated speed 600 mph. B ech, less certain vehs, joins A ech at 100852	
	16	1740 1815	Tps remain deployed ◉ Considerable groundshooting by A C E and G tps using both direct and indirect fire Officer called for by HQRA, to report at 1815 hrs with Jeep, 15 cwt, NCO and 5 men. Capt SARGEANT (390 bty capt), detailed for above assignment, briefed at HQRA (with reps from fd and A tk regts) for task of laying out fluorescent strips by 1200 hrs 17 Sep along line of main rd from LOMMEL (K 3095) - rly crossing (1791), thence line of rly - 0789 - thence cross country to HOOGBUUL (0187) ◉ Strips to be taken up by 1430 hrs ◉ 119 allotted right hand sector, up to rly crossing 1791 ◉ Purpose: indication of area to tactical air force on occasion of large-scale attack ◉ Forward gun positions to be warned to display yellow celanex strips from 1200 - 1430, 17 Sep 44.	
GHEEL area	17	0845 0900 1300 1700	Instructions received ref op 'GARDEN' limiting AA fire Party leaves under Capt SARGEANT to lay fluorescent panels as ordered - 1345 Waves of DAKOTA aircraft passed over location approaching from WEST and veering to NE ◉ each wave consisted of 30-45 aircraft, the last few waves towing HADRIAN (WACO) gliders ◉ very considerable fighter support, mostly LIGHTNINGS and MUSTANGS ◉ One DAKOTA crashed at 058886 and was burnt out ◉ E tps 391 bty mounted guard over wreckage 266565 Capt J.M.B. POOLEY, RAMC, leaves regt to go to 6 RSF, from whence 131304 Capt RJG HOGG RAMC comes to take his place.	(see appendix E)

		-	Groundshooting during hrs of darkness along line of road running from Albert Canal at K 0792 to CASTERLE 0697, one gun on duty each hour, firing 50 rounds	
GHEEL area	18	0001 0130 - 1600 2130	Orders received ref restriction on amn expenditure hrs onwards, E tp guns came under MG fire each time they opened up on harassing fire task During the day groundshooting continued ☉ Subunits moved with bde groups when 227 bde relieved 44 bde in bridgehead at 0793 Ju 88 observed over I tp area 1091 ☉ No firing, in accordance with orders Harassing fire tasks during hours of darkness, as for previous night ☉	(see appendix H)
	18/19		One gun of tp damaged through firing with defect which caused side door of breech casing to open ☉ sent to unit wksps	
	19	0600 1430 -	Maj COPELAND, T.C. (97992), OC 392 bty, to 110 LAA Regt RA, 43 Inf Div to take up post as 2 IC in accordance with instructions from BRA, 2nd Army. - 1500 hrs considerable allied airborne force passed overhead from SW to NE ☉ DAKOTAS, some towing HADRIAN gliders; and STIRLINGS, some towing HORSIA gliders ☉ some fighter cover seen ☉ - During the day CO helps to evolve fire plan in sp of night attack, incorporating Bofors fire in ground role (Op CRABS)	(see Appx E).
GHEEL area	20	0005 0200 0930 0930 1215 1405	Message from HQRA prohibiting fire on 064926 and AART (0893) after H + 20 H hour for Op CRABS CO orders no further groundshooting on harassing fire tasks till further orders owing to amn shortage in 2nd line Infm received from HQRA that Maj COPELAND may return from 110 LAA to 119 LAA Regt RA under arrangement by 12 Corps. Permission given by HQRA to dismount E tp guard on crashed DAKOTA at 058886. CO receives orders from RA (by telephone) for future LAA tasks ☉ Detailed orders on visiting HQRA 1430 hrs ☉ Holds own O Gp (BCs 2IC Adjt QM) 1630 hrs as follows:- Three SP tps to accompany 15 (S) Div on advance tomorrow, mainly for use in ground role ☉ To be controlled and administered by Tac HQ consisting of C.O., Orderly Officer, one subaltern, 5 driver operators and batman (in Jeep, WT veh and spare), 3 signallers in WT veh (rear link to HQRA), 3 15 cwts (with BQMS, cook, 3 drivers, one gnr), water truck (with driver and electrician signals), and Jeep with fitter from REME and veh	

		1800	<p>mech REME ☉ Total 3 offrs & 19 ORs, to form up in RHQ lines (100852) at 0800 hrs 21 Sep 44</p> <p>Tpt for RASC duties to be organised under Capt BEATTIE and Lieut LIDDLE with clerk & batman in comd veh ☉ 21 3-ton lorries and 9 tractors LAA each with driver and mate, 2 15 cwt GS and one water truck, each with driver and cook, 3 MCs, and loading party of one sjt and 15 ORs ☉ Total 2 offrs and 87 ORs to form up at 115887 at 0800 hrs 21 Sep 44, & report 093860 at 1030 hrs.</p> <p>Tractor drawn tps to be relieved on present commitments by SP tps and to deploy at bridges 200928 (2 tps) and 193892 ☉ bty HQs to be established (with bty B ech) in neighbourhood of now SP tps ☉ RHQ to be est in area MOLL (1790)</p> <p>hrs onwards, tps, btys, and RHQ arrange dumping of stores under guard at new locations, to leave required load carrying vehs empty</p>	
GHEEL area	21	- <u>1030</u> 1210 1500 1700	<p>During the morning the org of RHQ & bty HQs into A and B ech ceases and bty HQs move off, each with their own B ech, to locations in the area of MOLL 1790</p> <p>Capt Beattie reports with load-carrying column, as detailed, to RASC offr at 093860.</p> <p>CO and tac HQ move off with three SP tps, previously harboured, in div column to area EINDHOVEN 4218</p> <p>RHQ (incl wksp) moves to 172910 arriving 1640</p> <p>Orders from 12 Corps via CO to redeploy one tractor-drawn tp at bridges (Cl 40 & Cl 9) at 308978 ☉ Other 2 tractor-drawn tps remain deployed at bridges 200928 and 193892</p>	
EINDHOVEN and MOLL	22	1200 1500	<p>CO and tac HQ perform traffic control duties in connection with bridge 389249</p> <p>OC 391 leaves, in response to message, to go fwd with tac bty HQ, to act as CO's rep at HQRA [CO & tac RHQ being on traffic control task] and to be ready to act as OP to Bofors firing in ground role</p>	
	23	2045 -	<p>Notification by DR from CO that restriction, imposed on AA fire at the time of first airborne landings 17 Sep, is now lifted</p> <p>CO & tac HQ continue traffic control duties ☉ load-carrying vehs continue to work as sup-tpt column</p>	
EINDHOVEN and MOLL areas	24 25 26) -))	<p>CO and tac HQ continue as traffic control; & load-carrying vehs as sup-tpt coln ☉ C E & G tps, fwd with main body of div carry out extensive groundshooting by day & night ☉ A F & I tps remain deployed area MOLL</p>	

EINDHOVEN - ZON area	27	1000 1130 1230 2100	CO returns to order A and I tps to take over ground defence of canal bridge at ZON (E 4425) under 2IC and 390 bty HQ, relieving inf coy there by 1600 Vehs used since 21 Sep for sup-tpt return to regt. - 1500 hrs RHQ, bty HQs and A F and I tps leave MOLL area for new area EINDHOVEN - ZON ⊙ RHQ A ech joins tac HQ, while RHQ B ech [incl wksps] remains with 391 & 392 bty HQs 1½ miles away Directional fire given in sp of attack by bn of 44 bde	
	28	1500	CRA visits LAA OP at factory 380240 to see effects of Bofors shooting at ground targets with indirect fire.	
ZON - ST OEDENRODE area	29	1445 1640	Inspector of Arty, with BRA CCRA & CRA visits LAA OP 380240 to see ground-shooting by Bofors ⊙ Expresses himself favourably impressed by results RHQ and 391 & 392 bty HQs leave for area 4329 arriving 1730 hrs ⊙ HQs (less 390) reconstituted into A and B echs, both sited in same area ⊙ 390 bty HQ with under comd A and I tps still remains in (ground) defence of ZON bridge (4425)	
	30	1100 1800	- 1130 hrs, LAA OP at 380240 shelled intermittently ⊙ One fatal DR casualty ⊙ Groundshooting continues Orders from RA ref relief by 51 (H) Div 1 to 2 Oct 44	See Appx E

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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 119 LAA Regt RA

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Commanding Officer LT COL J.F. Young RA

Month and Year Oct 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ZON - ST. OEDENRODE area	1	0713 1400 1730	and 0800 hrs, groundshooting on harassing fire tasks G2AA 12 Corps visited LAA OP at 380240 to see groundshooting (indirect fire) 390 bty HQ with A and I tps under comd, relieved of ground defence of ZON bridge 4425 by tps of 51 (H) Div, moved to harbour areas 5829-5830 ◉ C tp moved to same area at 1735 into harbour	
ST. OEDENRODE and GEMERT areas	2	0530 1000	2 guns of G tp engaged suspected mortar posn at 1200 yds range ◉ same target, engaged at 1400 hrs, flew white flag ◉ However, no sign of enemy coming out to surrender ◉ Signal was therefore ignored 390 bty resumed comd of C tp, and 392 bty of G tp	
ST. OEDENRODE and GEMERT areas	3	1030 1645 1700	Three Dutch (civilian) interpreters picked up from HQRA for att to regt ◉ 2 to rank as Lieuts, one as sjt ◉ All to be clothed, armed, rationed and paid by unit ◉ One (Lieut) to be att 390 bty and one RHQ ◉ sjt to be att B ech B ech moved to harbour area at GEMERT Orders to move remainder of regt tomorrow at 1115 hrs via NIJNSEL, LIESHOUT and BEEK to GEMERT area (E 5730)	
GEMERT area	4	1105	RHQ and bty A echs with E tp moved to harbour in GEMERT area ◉ F tp moved independently with 131 fd regt and G tp independently when relieved by tp of 51 (H) Div LAA	
	5	- 1505	Start of period of rest to be devoted to cleaning and maint of all eqpt incl clothing and personal eqpt, with as much as possible of recreational trg, baths, concerts, etc. Orders from HQRA to provide AA protection at HELMOND 5622 where div comd is to address all offr of div pm 6 Oct 44 ◉ CO detailed A and I tps, 2IC to coordinate	
	6	1000	C.O. discussed groundshooting with offr ◉ 1430 hrs C.O. spoke to dvr-ops on new arrangement for regimental wireless nets: all	

GEMERT area		1645	tps and bty HQs to be on one net to RHQ, and BC and tps to flick off on to bty when required, for fire orders, etc 1500 hrs A and I tps in action at HELMOND till last light GOC 15 (S) Div addressed all offr in HELMOND ☉ Massed pipe bands of div sounded retreat in grounds of HELMOND castle, after GOCs address	
	7	0745 1415 -	10 3-tonners, 4 tractors, 2 DRs reported to FMC to assist in dumping programme of fd arty GOC addressed regiment at RHQ ref discipline, turnout, etc Vehs used for dumping fd arty amn returned later same day when operation concerned was indefinitely postponed Lieut R.S. MADDOCK returned from 31 RHU ☉ Posted to I tp 392 bty as tp leader	
	8	1300	CO left to contact 43 div in NIJMEGEN area to find Maj COPELAND (392 bty) at 110 LAA Regt RA ☉ Found that Maj Copeland was not to return to 119 LAA as had been supposed hitherto, on infm of 15 Div ☉ CO reported to CRA	
GEMERT and OPLOO area	9	0815 1100 -	10 3-tonners, 4 tractors, 2 DRs reported to fd arty reps for moving of dumped 25 pdr amn to new gun area near OPLOO (E 7136) Orders from HQRA to redeploy four tps, partly for AA, partly for ground defence of new gun area & of HQRA in new location approx E 6939 For this op in sp of div arty, A & G tps under comd 390 bty; C and I tps remain harboured under comd 392 bty ☉ 391 and RHQ send fwd tac HQs, sited with E & A tps respectively	
	10	1130	G.O.C. comd 2nd Army at HQ 15 (S) Div to meet regt comds ☉ 2IC attended in place of CO absent on duty	
	11	-	Considerable intermittent shelling & mortaring of fwd tps	
	12	-	390 bty sends fwd tac HQ, sited with A tp	
	13	1245	Parties leave to recce locations in area WEERT 5897	
	14	0715 1000	3 gunners leave for 48 hrs BRUSSELS leave The 3 attached Dutch interpreters called to Town Hall EINDHOVEN for interview by Dutch authorities ☉ Only one allowed to remain with unit, the other two being required in other capacities.	
	15	1430	Groundshooting task begun but cancelled before completion	
	16	- 1415 2100	Two sections from fwd tps move to new posns when fd arty leapfrog fwd Major J.B. LIDDELL (166986) from 105 CRC to take up appointment of OC 392 bty (posted 11 Oct 44) (approx) 3 gunners return from 48 hrs BRUSSELS leave	

GEMERT area	17	1115	Regt and bty tac HQs and A,E,F and G tps return from OPLOO area to harbour in GEMERT area ⊙ C tp reverts to under comd 390 bty, G tp to 392 bty	
	18	-	Nothing to report ⊙ All tps in harbour carrying out maint	
	19	1000	2IC attended orders gp at HQRA: the regt to deploy 9 guns in AA role and 15 guns in islands of 3 guns for ground defence, in new arty area centred round 4544: also one tp for AA defence of bridge over canal at 389249: deployment to begin 20 Oct 44	
GEMERT, DINTHER and BEST areas	20	- 1130	A and I tps deployed in arty area, E tp at canal bridge ⊙ 391 bty sent forward tac HQ - 0330 approx, E tp gun posns heavily shelled intermittently, esp posns NORTH of bridge at 389253 ⊙ 2 fatal cas (1 sjt, 1 gnr), 2 wounded (1 gnr, 1 dvr-mech) ⊙ fatal cas occurred during attempt to evacuate one of the wounded	
GEMERT, DINTHER ST. OEDENRODE and BEST areas	21	0600	E tp posns again shelled ⊙ Fresh posns subsequently dug a few hundred yards to the NORTH. RHQ, 390 and 392 btys sent fwd tac HQs ⊙ C and F tps deployed in arty area, G tp harboured near future deployment area	
	22	-	G tp deployed in ground role in DONDERDONCK area ⊙ Extensive and successful indirect groundshooting by E tp guns	
	23	-	Nothing to report	
	24	1600 2330	Rep called to rear div HQ, received orders for A and B echs to move, at unspecified time next day to approx area 4022 Orders from div HQ to move past SP 578300 at 1100 hrs.	
ACHT area OIRSCHOT - ACHT area	25	1040 1640	Tac HQ, A ech and B ech moved to 400226 arriving 1245 ⊙ CO reorganized echeloning of regt as follows ⊙ A ech to consist of RHQ (less QM MO and Padre and their vehicles) and 3 bty HQ subalterns each with batman and jeep ⊙ Duties of subalterns, to keep contact with tps and with own bty tac HQ (at bde HQs), and to take turn with Adjnt & RHQ subaltern in manning wireless by night ⊙ B ech to consist of bty HQs (less BCs with their tac HQs, and less bty HQ subalterns), QM MO and Padre A ech left, arriving 313245 at 1730 hrs	
	26	0715 1000	2IC and Lieut Newton (with driver) left for 48 hrs BRUSSELS leave hrs onwards, B ech moved up in small groups to area 340257	
HILVARENBEEK - OIRSCHOT areas	27	1010 1205	A ech moved in two groups to HILVARENBEEK 1924 - 1235 Successful groundshooting by C tp guns, in support of 44 (L) Inf Bde attack on TILBURG, firing as a tp of 5 guns	
	28	0900	B ech moved to DIESEN 2222	

TILBURG - DIESSSEN		1500 1530 1800 2215	F tp and 391 bty tac HQ moved with 227 bde gp to go under comd 8 Corps ⊙ E tp placed under operational comd 392 bty A ech moved to TILBURG 158332 ⊙ 5 tps [in secs] for AA defence of TILBURG Maj MURPHY (2IC) and Lieut NEWTON (C tp) returned from 48 hrs BRUSSELS leave I.O. called to RA, received orders to send off recce party at 0500 hrs to GELDROP 4816 ⊙ Main Body to pass Start Pt in HILVARENBEK (1923) at 1600 hrs, thence via MIDDELBEERS, VESSEM and EINDHOVEN	
HELMOND (5521)	29	- 1515 1910	48 hrs leave for ORs, at the rate of 2 or 3 every 2-3 days, commenced again. A ech left location, joined by E tp at outskirts of TILBURG and by B ech at DIESSSEN ⊙ Arrived HELMOND area 1830 hrs ⊙ Other tps moved with units to whom they were in sp - 1930 Tps engaged enemy aircraft which dropped bombs and flares in HELMOND area ⊙ One bomb which fell in B ech location set fire to amn lorry, caused leg wounds to one DR and damaged several vehicles	
LIEROP - ZOMEREN	30	1415	A ech moved to ZOMEREN, and 1500 hrs B ech (less wksps) to LIEROP and VLERKEN	
	31	1500 2200	- 1600 hrs, groundshooting on harassing fire tasks and:- - 0500 hrs, harassing fire programme in conjunction with fd arty 14 out of 18 NCOs and men, hitherto attached to HQRA for counter-mortar duties, now posted to 15 (S) Div as from 2 Sep 44	See Appx J

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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 119 LAA Regt RA

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year November 1944

Commanding Officer Lt Col JF Young RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ZOMEREN - LIEROP - ASTEN area	1	-	Fwd tps carried out groundshooting tasks during the day in sp of fwd Bde's attack, and, in conjunction with field arty, an extensive harassing fire programme by night, 2200-0500 hrs	See Appx J
	2	-	Tps remained deployed and in some cases moved forward, but owing to advances by fwd inf and restriction of arty fire on certain areas, no groundshooting targets within range	
	3	-	C tp in redeploying one sec of 3 guns in fwd area, found new posn to be in minefield ⊙ The sec located and lifted 47 Tellermines and reported to RE coy who swept and checked area	
	4	1520	CO received orders by phone from CRA to fire in ground role in fire plan in sp of div attack next day	See Appx J
ZOMEREN - LIEROP - ASTEN area	5	0730	C tp guns carried out task in above fire plan ⊙ Attack was held up and Task 16 was continued, fire being kept up intermittently until darkness about 1800 hrs, approx 1800 rounds expended	
	6	1940	Flares and bombs dropped in ASTEN - ZOMEREN area ⊙ Aircraft engaged by all troops ⊙ Three flares shot down, no planes ⊙ Aircraft not seen, believed 3 Ju 188s	
	7	1200	- 1700 hrs C tp groundshooting ⊙ Nothing further to report	
	8	1200	C and E tps harboured for 48 hrs rest ⊙ 2 tps at a time to be at rest for 48 hrs during next six days in accordance with div arrangements to have each bde rested for 48 hrs in that time	
	9		Nothing to report	
	10	1200	C and E tps relieved A and F tps who harboured for rest	
	11		Nothing to report	
ZOMEREN - LIEROP - ASTEN area	12	1200 -	A & F tps returned to previous tasks ⊙ C and E tps relieved G and I tps which harboured for rest 3 tps of 121 LAA Regt (8 Corps tps) came under comd for operational purposes only. These 3 tps were deployed in gun areas and, together with the 3 tps of 119 LAA Regt engaged on task of AA protection of div arty, were linked by WT to a GL Mk II linked in turn to 151 AAOR ⊙ Duty officer at the GL to order	

			the appropriate one of sixteen prearranged barrages to be fired, according to the course of the plane as plotted by the GL ☉ Duty officer at GL provided alternately by 119 and 121 LAA Regts.	
	13	1000	CO attended CRA's O group to receive infm concerning future ops ☉ In consequence, ordered G tp to recce posns protecting arty in 6414 area for occupation following day ☉ E tp when relieved by I tp on 14 Nov to be held in harbour ready for groundshooting task, if necessary, in sp 227 bde.	
	14	1200	I tp returned to previous task relieving E tp to harbour, as above ☉ G tp deployed area 6414	
ZOMEREN -	15	-	G tp incorporated into barrage-fireplan, making 7 tps in all	
LIEROP - ASTEN area	16	1600	Harassing fire task detailed by CRA allotted to one gun of G tp; to fire 60 rounds per hour, 1900-2200 and 0500-0700 hrs, along line of double canal from 719090 to 729073 ☉ Gun positioned at 693112	
		1905	Harassing fire programme cancelled [enemy pulled out]	
	17	1400 1530	(approx) E tp deployed round C1 9 bridge 710039 Accident to jeep of A tp in area 6908 ☉ Schu-mine blew wheel off jeep, and after replacement of wheel, another Schu-mine injured seriously Gnrs Burren and Hugill ☉ While the casualties were being carried on stretchers into an ambulance, a third mine exploded injuring Lieut MARSDEN and killing a medical orderly of 181 Field Regt RA, who was giving assistance ☉ Gnrs Burren and Hugill evacuated, Lieut Marsden remained at duty, with injury to hand	
ZOMEREN - LIEROP - ASTEN area	18	- -	Lieut Marsden, injured previous day, evacuated for minor operation on injured hand ☉ Expected to return shortly Lieut RS Maddock posted to 20 LAA Regt via 46 RHU to fill captain vacancy	
	19	1910	Orders from RA to move A ech at 1100 hrs tomorrow via ZOMEREN br and ASTEN to DEURNE area	
	20	1030 1100	Water trucks of I tp blown up by mine, no casualties RHQ A ech moved to VREKWIJK area, arriving 1145 hrs	
DEURNE - HELENAVEEN - BERINGEN area	21	1000 -	Regt and bty B echelons moved to DEURNE area The 3 tps of 121 LAA Regt ceased to be under operational command, and tps of 119 LAA Regt ceased to be linked to GL	
	22	-	Bad weather making movement difficult, except on main rds	
	23	-	Movement increasingly difficult, especially in HELENAVEEN area and in fd arty area (approx 7708).	

DEURNE -	24	1830	Permission from RA to take part of RHQ to HORST area on 25 Nov when Div HQ and HQRA move there	
HORST area	25	1100	Operational half of RHQ moved to 804175 arriving at 1355 hrs ☉ Joined by remainder of RHQ about 1630 hrs	
		1545	1555, 1730 hrs and subsequently, launching of rocket-bombs (V2) visible from vapour trails & flash, bearing 64° magnetic.	
HORST area	26	1400 1400 2215	B ech moved up to join RHQ in area 8071 - 1630 hrs, guns of I tp successfully engaged targets on EAST side of R. MAAS Small no. of enemy fighter bombers flew over area, machine-gunned roads and dropped few bombs ☉ All tps engaged with harassing fire ☉ No hits recorded	
	27	1400	- 1600 hrs, guns of E and G tps engaged enemy OPs on EAST bank of MAAS ☉ Hits observed ☉ Retaliatory enemy fire caused no casualties to own tps	
HORST area	28	1400	Enemy OPs on EAST bank of MAAS successfully engaged by guns of G tp ☉ Operation curtailed when steady rain caused prematures in area held by own tps	
PANNINGEN area	29	1100 1400 -	Regt A ech moved to PANNINGEN, arriving 1230 hrs Bty B echs moved to DE HEIBLOEM 7101 15 (S) Div, including 119 LAA Regt RA, passed from 8 Corps to under comd 12 Corps	
	30	1215 1500 -	CO attended at HQ 15 (S) Div when Gen O'CONNOR, hitherto comd 8 Corps, bade farewell to senior officers of 15 (S) Div Regt B ech moved to DE HEIBLOEM 7101 Henceforth A ech (viz:- G and A branches of RHQ, plus LO from each bty) to be known as RHQ ☉ The bty HQ's (less BCs and their tac HQs) to be known as (bty) A ech ☉ The remainder of the regt, less tp F groups (viz:- Q vehs of regt, btys & tps) under Lieut QM, to be known as B ech	

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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 119 LAA Regt RA

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year December 1944

Commanding Officer Lt Col JF Young RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
PANNINGEN area	1	1300 1400 1500	(approx) E tp deployed round Div HQ, Panningen, 7704 1 sjt and 11 OR joined from 97 A tk regt (being disbanded) Future tasks allotted by CRA (1) neutralization of enemy OPs (towers, churches, etc) on EAST bank of R MAAS, to begin 2 Dec, (2) harassing fire tasks on likely enemy supply routes leading towards EAST bank of R MAAS, to begin at H hour (0745) 3 Dec ☉ For first task, one med gun (59 AGRA) and 129/86 (SP) A tk bty (12 Corps tps) placed in support	
	2	0930 1000 1100 1230 -	W/Lt SHAW (and batman) joined from 97 A tk regt, to take up appointment as tp subn (and batman-driver) in I tp 392 bty. The 11 OR, who joined on 1 Dec, returned to 97 A tk regt on orders from higher authy, in view of alteration in arrangements for posting personnel for training as infantry. hrs approx, engagement of enemy OPs commenced ☉ Also registration with aid of Air OP on future harassing fire targets, but soon abandoned owing to bad weather approx, supporting med gun missed route, in looking for gun posn, and fell into enemy hands, in spite of warning delivered by own fwd tps. One gun of super heavy regt placed in support to deal with very strong tower at 876054, probable enemy OP ☉ Subsequently fired and scored 7 or 8 hits causing damage and fire Regt groundshooting fireplan composed and issued	See Appx J.
	3	0745 1150	Groundshooting programme fired [subsequently extended for further 2 hours, and later extended until amn expended] in sp of 44 Bde attack on BLERICK area 8908-8909 Retaliatory enemy shellfire caused casualties (DC, L sjt & 4 ORs) at E tp groundshooting position After amn expended, groundshooting guns withdrew to previous AA positions ☉ Approx 5000 rds had been fired, and most successful results observed	

	4	1030 1245	G tp came out of action to harbour at B ech, and I tp to conc round 190 Fd Regt who had conc, since 46 bde gp (to whom they were in sp) were going back to rest area and 1810 hrs, shelling of C tp caused total of 3 cas	
	5	1200 - 1315	I tp came out of action to harbour with 190 Fd Regt near ASTEN Lieut MARSDEN (A tp subaltern) rejoined 2 Me 109s engaged by F, A and C tps ☉ No claims	
	6	1100 1630 -	CO attended CRA's conference and received orders for regt during the division's stay in the area (see RA 15 (S) Div Op Instr No 17) CO holds O Gp to give BCs orders in accordance with those received from CRA ☉ btys to spend two weeks (each) in the line, and one week back, changing over at the same times as the brigades to which they are respectively affiliated ☉ Whilst in the line, one tp per bty to give LAA protection to fd arty area of bde gp, one tp AA protection of div HQ, and one tp in readiness for any groundshooting (esp. HF) which may be required ☉ Whilst at rest out of the line, the first 3 days to be devoted to energetic cleaning, care, and maint of vehs guns & eqpt of all kinds; the last 4 days to be spent in training [gun-drill, aircraft recognition, etc] in mornings and organised recreation after midday ☉ System of regt echelons to be modified so that B ech, under Lt QM, consists of RHQ 'Q' staff and vehicles, and BQMS with minimum 'Q' vehs and personnel from each bty; remainder of bty HQ to find accn in respective bde areas (when in the line) as near as possible to RHQ ☉ Accn for bty at rest to be found in PANNINGEN area, and for B ech also - Posting order received for 307087 Lieut A MACPHERSON, but officer not joined	See Appx J (of ORIGINAL only)
	7	-	Recces carried out in accordance with orders cited above	
	8	a.m. p.m.	390 bty HQ moved to 784062 and B ech to 757057 Line laid to 390 bty HQ and to E tp (at which also 391 bty tac HQ) and wireless closed down at 2215 hrs	
	9	a.m.	391 bty HQ moved to 786043, and 392 bty (less I tp) moved to 798078 ☉ C tp ceased firing in area MAASBREE and harboured at EGCHHELBOEK, prepared to send forward guns for HF tasks when required	
	10	a.m.	OC 391 recced OP at 843023, at instance of OC 131 Fd Regt	
	11	1630	Shell hit building occupied by RHQ officers' mess and batmen's sleeping quarters at PANNINGEN ☉ One gnr wounded seriously and evacuated	

			391 bty OP manned from before first light till after dark, and to continue to be so manned until further notice	
	12	0955	Two Me 109s in area 8307, at approx 2000 ft, engaged by all guns of A and F tps ☉ 3 hits claimed and one plane last seen diving and emitting smoke ☉ CO subsequently ordered every gun to be manned with minimum det from 0800-1100 hrs daily as planes during morning believed spotting for likely arty targets (normally only one gun per sec is manned with minimum det, and remaining guns in sec have air sentry on gun and det at close call)	
	13	-	391 bty OP ceased to be resourced	
	14	-	Div Comd agreed to policy of leaving LAA (in ground role) to deal with enemy OPs, saving 25 pr amn	(See Appx J)
	15	1000	CRA's O gp, attended by CO 119 ☉ Reserve bde gp to deploy shortly in area held by flanking bde of 53 div ☉ LAA tp to accompany (190) fd regt to new deployment area, leaving only one LAA tp at rest, one harboured but ready to send guns fwd to groundshooting positions, remainder deployed in AA role - 140 rounds fired in ground role at OPs on EAST bank of R. MAAS - One gun attached to B Sqn of 15 (S) Recce Regt for engagement of enemy OPs in area VELDEN 9014	
	16	1430	- 1630 hrs 144 rounds fired in ground role, particularly successful against VELDEN church (47 hits out of 51 rounds)	
	17	0800 1000 1100 1100	2 bdrs, 2 L bdrs, 27 ORs left regt, posted to 46 RHU for training as infantry - all A1, aged 20-25 (or volunteers below 32), to be replaced by lower category personnel onwards, considerable enemy air activity, Me 109s and 262s (jet propelled) in twos and threes flew over div area intermittently throughout the day, sometimes at zero feet ☉ Me 163s also believed seen, but enemy aircraft were mainly Me 262s ☉ Small number of bombs dropped ☉ Approx 1500 rounds expended and several hits claimed I tp deployed in AA def of 190 Fd Regt, area 7698 - 1600 hrs, 236 rounds fired in ground role, included registration by air OP on road targets, and 61 hits on BELFELD church, as well as many on other likely enemy OPs - In view of increased air activity, CO ordered the period during which all guns deployed are manned by minimum manning det (hitherto 0800 - 1100 hrs), to be extended to include all hours of daylight	

	18	0930 1200 - -	hrs onwards, considerable air activity but less than on 17 Dec ⊙ Me 262s (usually in small groups) were the main target, approx 700 rounds being fired, several hits claimed C tp deployed to increase AA def of PANNINGEN area During the day 237 rounds were fired in ground role; 76 hits scored on church at BELFELD, and nearby house set on fire; other enemy OPs and MG posts also engaged, and casualties caused Capt HOGG (Regt MO) left, posted to 31 FDS, replaced by 226544 Capt WALKER, W.A.	
	19	- 0930 - 1500	Groundshooting cancelled owing to misty conditions making observation impossible C tp deployed one sec 7102 (later, 7294) in defence of guns of 59 med regt engaged in calibration ⊙ Sec remained on this task till midday 20 Dec A tp officially credited with one Me 109 category 2 at 1000 hrs on 17 Dec Arrival of 18 gnr rfts, ex-116 LAA Regt ⊙ Few duty gunners (which was main requirement), mainly drivers, motorcyclists, storemen, etc	
	20	- 1100 1130	Capt Walker (Regt MO) left, posted to 162 Fd Amb replaced by Capt Willbush [attached pending arrival of 306068 Lieut Hicks AC posted from 153 Fd Amb. Tps reverted to normal state of manning - one gun per sec, only, manned after 1100 hrs daily - 1330 hrs, E tp fired 50 rounds at road and rly targets in VENLO ⊙ Results not observed because of mist	
	21	1400 1600	B ech, forced to move owing to arrival of HQ 8 AGRA, joined 390 bty HQ at 793078 Five rfts arrived from 31 RHU, all either of rank or of trade such as to be surplus to regt WE.	
	22	- 2030	General concern owing to boldness of enemy patrols and raiding parties on WEST side of R MAAS ⊙ Defence plan for whole of PANNINGEN area coordinated at higher level ⊙ RHQ given a sector of village perimeter on which to dig [and, in emergency, to man] defence posns ⊙ Area of responsibility also allotted to scattered secs, bty & tp HQs ⊙ Work of digging was begun p.m. Maj HOOS and Lieut HOWARD injured when their jeep collided with bren carrier in SEVENUM area ⊙ Both officers evacuated through 23 FDS ⊙ Replaced by Capt Sargeant and Lieut Goodman who, with det of G tp, att themselves to 181 Fd Regt for possible ground tasks	

	23	1015 1700	CRA 15 (S) Div presented C-in-C's certificates [for good conduct] to RSM Carr and Sjt Standen at a representative parade of all ranks from all sub-units - 2300 hrs RHQ and tps in immediate vicinity of PANNINGEN sent out patrols intermittently to round up civilians not in possession of passes authorising them to be out after curfew ☉ Civilians handed over to FSP	
	24	1000 1300 2215 -	- 1100 and 1530 - 1630 Groundshooting at targets on EAST side of R MAAS ☉ 100 rounds fired Orders from RA to maintain increased state of vigilance for 48 hr period commencing 1600 hrs today, in view of possibility of enemy across R MAAS GOC, CRA and other offrs of Div HQ visited offrs mess and remained till 2330 hrs - During the day Lt Partridge left the theatre to attend photo interpretation course at School of Mil Int, Matlock	
	25	-	Excellent Christmas dinner enjoyed by all troops and HQs ☉ Civilians everywhere helped to give extra cheer by providing hospitality, etc ☉ Nothing further to report	
	26	1415	All guns put on the alert when report was received of 300 enemy fighters approaching area ☉ Fighters did not appear	
	27	0905	Two Me 262s, flying over area, at extreme range, engaged by C E & F tps without any hits being claimed	
	28	1030	CRA requested one section for demonstration of ground firing for CCRA 8 Corps on 1 Jan 45 ☉ Also directed two sections to be available as mobile reserve, with 102 A tk Regt, in case of enemy attack across R. MAAS	
	29	-	Intermittent shelling of PANNINGEN - HELDEN area during afternoon and evening	
	30	1100 1300 1600 1300	Trial demonstration [for CRA] of groundshooting with sec of 3 guns (ground and air OPs) in preparation for demonstration before CCRA, arranged for 1 Jan 45 Three shells [122mm] fell behind buildings occupied by RHQ in PANNINGEN ☉ One OR cas evacuated RHQ moved to join B ech at 793078 One gun in ground role silenced enemy mortar, and engaged tpt (by sound bearing) during the day.	
	31	-	Groundshooting during the day by one gun	

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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 119 LAA Regt RA

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year January 1945

Commanding Officer Lt Col JF Young RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
PANNINGEN area	1	- 0920 1130	During the first 20 mins of the New Year, considerable activity along the front - fd arty & AA arty fire, flares, small arms & MG fire, low-flying planes, etc. - 1000 hrs, considerable enemy air activity over the div area, mostly low-flying recce, but also low-level bombing and ground-strafting ⊙ Me 109s, FW 190s, and jet-propelled aircraft were engaged by all tps ⊙ Six planes (Me 109s and FW 190s) were claimed shot down by the regt during the morning, and the CO later received congratulations, on behalf of the regt, from the GOC and from other units of the div A successful demonstration was given for CCRA 8 Corps - a sec of three guns engaging operational ground targets, as a section, and controlled by Air OP ⊙ CCRA met 2IC, BCs, QM and RSM before the demonstration	
	2	1500 1530	63401 T/Maj SUGDEN arrived to take up appointment as OC 390 bty, bringing batman, driver and jeep. 20 rounds expended in ground role at target EAST of R. MAAS	
	3) -	Slight thaw giving rise to mist which cut down groundshooting	
	4) - 0700	activities Thaw precautions caused limitation of all except light (and priority) transport ⊙ Restrictions relaxed later in the day (approx 1800 hrs)	
	5	1500	18 rounds expended in ground role at target EAST of R. MAAS	
	6	1430	17 rounds fired at ground target EAST of R. MAAS	
	7	1000 1300 1600	onwards, CREME 15 (S) Div carried out inspection of vehicles of the regiment - 1415 hrs, groundshooting at targets EAST of R. MAAS ⊙ Direct hits included two on house, which caught fire and burned out Enemy SP gun engaged and hit by one 40 mm groundshooting	
	8	1340	Enemy strongpoint engaged ⊙ Buildings hit, but not set on fire	
	9	-	Nothing to report	

	10	1000 1400 2135	Groundshooting gun, hitherto deployed with 181 Fd Regt, withdrawn to harbour when 181 Fd Regt were relieved by 25 Fd Regt B ech moved to PANNINGEN Extreme frost warning received and passed on ☉ Minimum temperatures of 5 - 10 degrees Fahrenheit expected	
	11	-	Frost continued throughout day - slow thaw predicted for 12 Jan	
	12	1015 -	One gun fired 16 rounds into TEGELEN to test gun which had had minor defect repaired by unit wksps Slight thaw only in afternoon; low temperatures again by night	
	13	-	Nothing to report	
	14	1415 2130	CO held conference of BCs to lay down training programme for coming 6 weeks ☉ Policy-training on det and sec basis to bring rfts up to standard and to train reserve Nos 1 and layers ☉ Training and inter-det competitions to include gunnery, aircraft recognition and modelmaking, mechanism, general military knowledge Extreme frost warning received and passed on ☉ Thaw predicted for following day	
	15	-	Thaw did not materialize, but night slightly less cold than 14/15	
	16	1930	hrs, 2020 hrs & 2135 hrs, concs of enemy shellfire in close vicinity of RHQ location, probably aimed at nearby med regt ☉ No cas in this unit	
	17	-	Training periods, decided on 14 Jan, now functioning	
	18	-	Wind rose considerably ☉ Gale warning issued during evening and departure of UK leave party a.m. 19th cancelled	
	19	- 1100 1600	Wind often at gale force until dropping during afternoon Lt-Col Ackland arrived from School of AA Arty, Manorbier, to spend 24 hrs with the regt to find out latest trends in tactical handling of LAA 214250 Lt HE CRANE joined regt on attachment from 31 RHU ☉ Attached to E tp 391 bty	
	20	1830	Recce parties ordered to leave Div HQ at 0830 hrs 21 Jan for HERENTHALS - LIERRE area	
	21	1645	Orders from HQRA to move a.m. 22 Jan to area SOUTH of ANTWERP, leaving behind 3 tps deployed with fd arty, to follow later	
PANNINGEN and GHEEL -	22	0915	Regt less 3 tps left PANNINGEN area for WAVRE ST CATHERINE (J 7579) but were halted short of HERENTHALS by officers who had gone fwd to contact recce party in new area ☉ Owing to change of div plan, future area now being TILBURG (E 13), regt	

HERENTHALS areas			harboured in villages between HERENTHALS (J 99) and GHEEL (K 08) ⊙ Accommodated in small groups mostly in civilians' houses, great kindness shown by the inhabitants	
	23	a.m.	Reconnaissance of TILBURG and HILVARENBEK (E 1924) areas for concentration of regt by btys	
	24	0930	A and F tps ceased firing and moved to TILBURG area ⊙ On information (subsequently found to be false) that I tp were moving also, permission was obtained for 392 bty HQ & G tp to move into TILBURG, which they did 1500-1700 hrs	
	25	- 2015	I tp moved to TILBURG area, arriving 2030 hrs Orders received to move remainder of regt to TILBURG area a.m. 26th in small groups	
TILBURG area	26	1010	Regt (less 3 tps) left GHEEL area for TILBURG - HILVARENEBEK - DIESEN area; all in new locations by 1530 hrs	
	27	1000	C.O. attended conference at RA on future ops, followed by recce, lasting till last light.	
	28	-	Wireless working period 281500A-291100A for deception regarding future op	
	29	-	Confirmation from 8 Corps of 5½ out of the 6 category 1 claims made by the regt in respect of aircraft shot down on 1 Jan 45	
	30	-	Nothing to report	
	31	0600	Wireless working period till 012200A for purpose of confusing enemy intercept with regard to future op	

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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 Feb 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG -	1	1000	214250 Lt H.E. CRANE left to rejoin his present unit, 31 RHU.	
HILVARENBEEK and DIESSEN area	2	1130 1900	260309 Rev J.P. MARSDEN, Ch Cl IV left unit for attachment to HQ Second Army tps, to be replaced by 266827 Rev L.R. EARNSHAW from HQ 8 Corps. BCs briefed for forthcoming op by 2IC (CO being on UK leave).	
	3	0900	2IC and reps carried out recce of future regt area and fd gun area to which the regt is to give LAA protection in future op.	
	4	1030	All officers attended a briefing by GOC 30 Corps and GOC 15 (S) Div given to all officers of the div in TILBURG	
	5	1600	Three tps affiliated to Fd arty joined fd regts and moved with them to harbour in new deployment area early on 6 Feb ◉ Small regt residue formed to adm leave parties etc and guard unessential stores left at GOIRLE on Div Adm Gp for duration of op.	
NIJMEGEN area	6.	1845	The regt, less 3 tps, moved from HILVARENBEEK - TILBURG area in div column via S'HERTOGENBOSCH and RAVESTEIN to NIJMEGEN area ◉ Many delays on latter part of journey where route went cross-country on minor tracks ◉ Arrived in new area approx 0545 hrs, tps to harbour close to future deployment positions Information received (via RA) of the award of BEM to 6350326 Sjt KEMPSTON, for gallantry in FRANCE	
	7	-	Day of preparation for attack following day ◉ OC 392 bty in charge of 7 traffic-control WT trucks for use on gaps in minefield and anti-tank ditch ◉ One tp LAA (C tp) to take part in "PEPPERPOT", a mass of MMGs, Bofors, A tk guns, tanks, mortars, designed to neutralize selected areas of enemy FDLs for approx 5 hours before the attack ◉ Remaining five tps of this regt to deploy over fd arty areas of 15 (S) Div and of Guards Armd Div, the LAA regt of the latter being entirely committed in a ground role in the Pepperpot	

		2235	CRA 15 Div rang up with infm that 94 LAA Regt (Gds Armd Div) would not now take part in Pepperpot ☉ As many guns as possible of 119 LAA Regt would therefore fire Pepperpot tasks ☉ OC 119 LAA Regt conferred with OC 1 Mx (OC Pepperpot), ordered (1) E tp to take on tasks with one sec from present position (2) G tp to move immediately by night to new posn from which the majority of the pepperpot targets could be engaged (3) A and F tps to take on certain tasks at extreme ground range from present positions [N.B. Not possible for tractor-towed guns to move and redeploy by night under such difficult conditions] ☉ C tp to make no alteration in Pepperpot tasks already allotted to the tp	
	8	0530 1200 1300 1730	- 1015 Pepperpot tasks fired as ordered ☉ Later report by eyewitness in fwd OP stated that LAA fire appeared extremely effective and set ablaze one or more houses ☉ Approx 13500 rounds fired OC 392 reported to div HQ with LOs in jeeps fitted with WT, for traffic control duties Lieut PARTRIDGE returned from course and leave in UK having reported to 44 RHU (in UK) on <u>19</u> Jan 45 Four SP guns of C tp moved fwd with 44 (L) Inf Bde to support tanks with directional fire through gaps in minefield, but not able to reach destination owing to roads being blocked and whole area badly bogged ☉ Went into action in area BOERSTEEG where considerable numbers of AFVs were bogged down	
	9	1830 2200 -	Traffic control posts were stood down, but to be held in readiness for employment again soon ☉ Complimented on their work - 2230 Single enemy bombers flew over NIJMEGEN area, dropping flares and a few bombs probably aimed at moving tpt columns ☉ Damage not known ☉ Engaged by A, E, F, G and I tps firing approx 450 rounds ☉ No claims - During the day 1/LT HEYBROCK, attached as interpreter since 3 Oct, left to take up another appointment, and was replaced by FRANS VAN DRIEL, holding rank of sjt	
	10	1500	The 4 SP guns of C tp, deployed at BOERSTEEG, returned to original deployment position at 7457 & all tp harboured	
	11	1000 1430 2300	2IC and I.O. left to establish tac HQ with HQRA in their new location at NUTTERDEN 8455 (first entry into Germany) C tp moved into quarters in NIJMEGEN Orders received from tac HQ to warn C and G tps to stand by for possible move on 12 Feb and for Adjt to take fwd RHQ office vehs to join tac HQ.	

	12	1255	Orders from RA by RT to cancel all today's proposed moves, timings for which were being brought back by 2IC in a "WEASEL". Reason for cancellation, flooding over 3 ft deep between WYLER and KRANENBURG preventing any vehs smaller than 3-ton trucks from getting through ⊙ C E & G tps (all SP) to be prepared for possible move 13 Feb if conditions permit	
	13	1400 -	E tp, to obtain shelter and some degree of comfort for the men, allowed to move from former fd gun area [now unoccupied] to SE outskirts of NIJMEGEN, keeping one section deployed No move fwd for SP tps	
	14	1030 2130 2255	Again, warning order from RA for move of SP tps Orders received for SP tps to leave NIJMEGEN at 0600 hrs on 15th and travel via MOOK and HEKKENS to CLEVE area Orders received from Rear Div HQ for move of remainder of regt [less residue still in GOIRLE] not before 151800A Increased air activity during the day, owing to better weather ⊙ Small number of Me 262s engaged at 0830 & at 1630 hrs	
NIJMEGEN and CLEVE area	15	0600 1515 2340	Three SP tps moved to deploy around div fd arty fwd of CLEVE Orders received, no move before 161800A for remainder of regt, but 119 to be responsible for move of entire RA group still in NIJMEGEN area [incl 102 A tk regt less three btys, elements of 131, 181, 86 fd regts], in the absence of any rep of HQRA - 0100 hrs, two guns of G tp gave directional fire for attack by 46 bde	
	16	0700	- 0730 hrs, two guns groundshooting at wood 9650 RHQ, bty HQs, A, F & I tps moved by night to CLEVE area arriving 0230 - 0330 hrs at new locations	
	17	1000	OC 119 LAA ordered to be in charge of two 'pepperpots', of LAA MMGs & mortars, to fire in support of 15 (S) Div attack on GOCH early 19 Feb ⊙ Timing subsequently put fwd to p.m. 18th	See Appx J
	18	1300 2145	Pepperpots, incl C & E tps LAA firing in ground role, engaged targets as arranged ⊙ C tp engaged further targets after H hr and remained in situ when E tp returned to redeploy as part of LAA defence of CLEVE ⊙ Approx 8,000 rounds of 40 mm fired CO called to HQRA to arrange 'pepperpot' in sp of 227 bde attack p.m. 19th, to incl LAA, A tk & MMGs ⊙ Attack subsequently postponed to a.m. 20th	
	19	0800	E tp/391 bty moved into fwd area, ready for 'pepperpot' groundshooting ⊙ C tp engaged ground targets, during the day, from their 'pepperpot' location	

CLEVE - BEDBURG area		1515	WO II Morton, sjt-major of F tp/391 bty, killed by shellfire while travelling through CLEVE (the town & environs being constantly under intermittent shellfire)	
		1530	- 1700 RHQ moved in two sections to join Div HQ in area BEDBURG	
CLEVE - GOCH area	20	1030	C & E tps fired in 'pepperpot' commanded by OC 119 LAA Regt	See Appx J
	21	-	Increased air activity (fine weather) ⊙ Raids by small groups of Me 262s at 1130 - 1145 and 1720 - 1745 hrs ⊙ Several small bombs dropped - no cas to this unit ⊙ Several hits claimed - one aircraft claimed destroyed and one severely damaged ⊙ Also, one Ju 188 engaged by moonlight at 2100 hrs - no claims ⊙ Approx 2500 rounds expended in all - CO 119 in charge of 'pepperpot' of LAA, MMG & A tk, to fire in sp 46 (H) bde attack on 22 Feb ⊙ A tk subsequently cancelled, as amn not available	See Appx J
	22	1400	'Pepperpot' fired, but in modified form, as decision had been made to reduce the depth of 46 (H) bde's attack in view of increased local enemy strength ⊙ Approx 2000 rounds 40mm HE expended ⊙ G & E tps (both SP) remained in situ after firing, available for tasks in sp of 44 (L) bde attack 23 Feb ⊙ 3 guns F tp (non-SP) which had fired in ground role from 931431 returned to original positions in fd arty area 9346	
	23	0930 1600 1825	- 1010 hrs, E & G tps fired 750 rds at area targets in sp of 44 (L) bde attack 10 rfts arrived, including 8 much-needed trained gun-numbers C tp HQ shelled ⊙ Water truck damaged but no cas	
	24	0545 1800 1845	- 0645 hrs, G & E tps fired 1675 rounds at ground targets area 930390 in sp of attack by 53 (W) Div Orders received for move on 25 Feb, less 4 tps, to area TILBURG ⊙ Three non-SP tps to remain deployed with div fd arty and to come out of action with them later, one tp (SP) to remain deployed round div HQ F tp HQ shelled ⊙ 3 gun tyres and 1 MC badly damaged ⊙ No cas	
	25	1000	Regt less 4 tps left BEDBURG for move to TILBURG area, passing SP in GOCH 1105 hrs ⊙ Some shelling in GOCH area - no cas to this unit ⊙ Arrived in harbour locations in OISTERWIJK (2334) and surrounding area approx 1615 hrs	
	26	- -	C tp left GOCH area, when Div HQ moved, and arrived to harbour in OISTERWIJK approx 1615 hrs Remainder of the regt (less 3 tps still deployed with fd arty) began rest period to be devoted to thorough cleaning and maintenance of vehicles, equipment, etc	

	27	0900	RHQ occupied location vacated the previous evening by 92 LAA Regt (3 Brit Div), and btys and B ech adjusted their layout in the village and surroundings of OISTERWIJK	
	28	-	A F & I tps warned for move not before 2000 hrs, from GOCH - CLEVE area to OISTERWIJK, when div fd arty pulls out	

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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"> ⊙ Approx 2600 rounds expended, and all infantry objectives gained - 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 	
		1100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1500 RHQ, B ech and Wksps moved in small groups to LOH area, joined there subsequently by 390 & 391 bty HQs 	
		1730	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recce parties left for harbour area, 1748, into which the regt is to move 29 Mar 45, when div has passed into Corps reserve 	
BISLICHER WALD	29	1400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1600, C E & G tps, all bty HQs, RHQ, B ech & 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 	
	30	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regt credited with one Me 262 damaged (Category II), and a share in one Me 262 destroyed, on 21 Feb 45 - Day devoted to maint of all eqpt, especially vehicles, in preparation for possible long move shortly 	
	31	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleaning & maint of eqpt 	

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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 119 LAA Regt RA

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year April 1945

Commanding Officer Lt Col JF Young RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BISLICHER WALD	1	1130	CRA 15 (S) Inf Div addressed the regt, to congratulate them on past achievements and to exhort them to an equally high standard when the fighting is over and the more tedious task of clearing up is still to be done.	
	2	1030	GOC 15(S) Inf Div, accompanied by CRA, visited the regt, inspected the men on parade and the 18 SP guns of the regt, which were lined up on the parade ground ☉ He congratulated the regt on their turnout and past exploits [in both ground and AA role] and warned against the far-reaching dangers of fraternization	
	3	1800 1500 2240	Regt recce parties left for WINTERSWIJK area (approx) I tp moved with 190 Fd Regt in 46 (H) Bde Group to harbour area south of WINTERSWIJK Move to WINTERSWIJK area cancelled owing to div coming under comd 8 Corps ☉ Move to GREVEN area now probable for 4 Apr	
BURGSTEINFURT - GREVEN area	4	a.m. 1500	A & F tps moved with fd regts in 44 (L) & 227 (H) Bde Gps to BURGSTEINFURT - GREVEN area ☉ I tp also moved, with 46 (H) Bde Gp. Remainder of regt moved to harbour west of GREVEN arriving approx 2200 hrs	
GREVEN - TECKLENBURG area	5	a.m. p.m. -	F and I tps deployed by sections to give protection in combined AA and infantry role at bridges over RIVER EMS at 929948 and 911886 and over DORTMUND-EMS Canal at 960027 and 978892 ☉ In action before 1200 hrs ☉ One sec C tp added later at 960027 A tp moved with 181 Fd Regt, and remainder of regt moved to harbour near TECKLENBURG Instructions received from Div HQ that future standard layout will be that Div HQ is surrounded by HQ A tk regt and one bty, HQ LAA Regt and one bty, HQ Recce Regt and one sqn, and HQ Sp Bn and D Coy [or one pl, if remainder committed] ☉ Rep of 119 LAA	

GREVEN			Regt [2IC] to sub-allot areas and coordinate defence arrangements	
LAVELSLOH and TECKLENBURG areas	6	1100	RHQ, 391 & 392 bty HQs, E & G tps B ech & Wksps moved to LAVELSLOH area arriving approx 1830 hrs ◉ E & G tps took up posns around & in defence of Div HQ area in conjunction with A Tk Regt & Sp Bn	
GREVEN - LAVELSLOH - PETERSHAGEN areas	7	0115 - 1200 1800 2100	Orders received from 8 Corps via RA 15 (S) Div to deploy 2 tps at first light in AA role over bridges across RIVER WESER at PETERSHAGEN ◉ E & G tps detailed During the early morning C tp moved up to new area and took over ground defence task from E tp, and A tp moved up to remain harboured with 181 Fd Regt On orders from division, Regt & bty HQs carried out local house-to-house search for arms & military personnel, while 2IC organised clearing of woods 2-3 miles SE of LAVELSLOH (FOREST MINDEN), in conjunction with tanks & SP guns of 102 A tk Regt, and rounded up eleven prisoners hrs approx, E & G tps [deployed at bridges at PETERSHAGEN] placed under comd 6 Airborne Div, ready to be moved fwd to newly-won bridges over RIVER LEINE hrs approx [last light] F and I tps relieved of tasks on bridges over RIVER EMS and DORTMUND-EMS Canal	
LAVELSLOH and NEUSTADT areas	8	a.m. 1000 1415 2000	E & G tps moved to RIVER LEINE and deployed at bridges at BORDENAU [intact] and NEUSTADT [blown, and under reconstruction] - 1345 hrs, 390 bty HQ, F and I tps moved up to LAVELSLOH area and deployed in AA and ground defence respectively A tp provided party to reflush woods of FOREST MINDEN into which small numbers of enemy were suspected to have filtered back ◉ Task not completed owing to orders from RA to have RHQ and one complete bty [390 bty] at short notice to move under comd 6 Airborne div (1515 hrs) ◉ LO despatched to HQ 6 Airborne Div, returned 2130 hrs with orders for move next day Small numbers of enemy fighters engaged by E & G tps at bridges over RIVER LEINE ◉ One FW 190 claimed destroyed by E tp - plane seen to crash in flames	
LAVELSLOH - STEINHUDE - NEUSTADT areas	9	0800 0830 2000	A & C tps moved fwd to take over AA defence of bridge at BORDENAU relieving E tp to deploy with G tp at bridge at NEUSTADT Regt HQ, 390 & 391 bty HQs, and a wksp det moved to STEINHUDE area - 2100, small numbers of enemy fighters engaged in area of bridges over RIVER LEINE ◉ No claims [extreme range]	

ALTENHAGEN - STEINHUDE - NEUSTADT areas	10	a.m. 2000	392 bty HQ, F & I tps moved fwd with HQ 15 (S) Div to ALTENHAGEN & tps deployed in AA role ☉ B ech and remainder of wksp to follow next day - 2045, small numbers of enemy fighters engaged over and in rear of bridge areas, incl jet propelled ☉ G tp claim one fighter destroyed ☉ Pilot seen to bale out	
NEUSTADT - CELLE area	11	0730 a.m. 1615 1900 2030 2100	F & I tps deployed at bridge at NEUSTADT, releasing E & G tps to advance with the leading elements of the division along northern axis in sp 227 (H) Bde and southern axis in sp 46 (H) Bde respectively. B ech and remainder of Wksp moved fwd to STEINHUDE RHQ, all bty HQs, B ech and Wksp moved to FUHRBERG approx, F & I tps relieved at NEUSTADT by bty of 121 LAA Regt [8 Corps tps] but remained in action till after last light ☉ [Hoping for usual dusk targets] C tp claim hits on Ju 88 claimed destroyed by F tp jointly with tps of 121 LAA Regt. A & C tps claim one Ju 188 [or 88] destroyed - seen to crash	
CELLE area	12	a.m.	RHQ, bty HQs, B ech & Wksp moved into CELLE; and all tps moved to CELLE and surrounding area to deploy in defence of bridges and tp concs	
	13	0730 1200 1500 2200	F & I tps redeployed in AA defence of Class 40 bridge across R. ALLER in CELLE E tp moved fwd in sp 227 (H) bde [leading bde, advancing NE], and regt less E, F & I tps and 392 tac HQ, crossed R. ALLER to harbour just NORTH of river ☉ Wksp left in CELLE Regt [less dets mentioned] moved fwd to ESCHUDE where A, C & G tps deployed in primarily ground defence role of div HQ area - 2300, enemy recce plane heard ☉ Engaged by A tp after commission of hostile act [MG fire]; no claims	
CELLE - UELZEN area	14	a.m. 1540 1950 2030 -	E tp (in sp 227 (H) Bde) deployed in AA defence of 61 Med Regt Regt & bty HQs, A, C & G tps, & B ech moved to HOSSERINGEN On arriving in new area, A C & G tps did a "crash-action" to engage jet-propelled enemy fighter plane on recce - 2100, small numbers of enemy fighters engaged During the day, I tp collected 15 PW in assisting to flush woods NORTH of CELLE	
	15	0700 0730	A tp spotted one offr & 4 OR enemy in vicinity, captured two and wounded one who escaped with remainder and evaded subsequent search - 1030, intermittent engagements by A C E & G tps of single enemy fighter planes, apparently on recce	

		0900	- 1000, E tp engaged enemy OP situated in UELZEN, firing 37 rounds & scoring 34 hits, of which 12 went into windows of the building concerned	
		1545	Regt & bty HQs, A, C & G tps moved to HAMERSTORF ◉ Joined by Wksp	
		1700	- 1830, engagements mostly of single jet-propelled fighters over HAMERSTORF area by A, C & G tps, G tp claiming two hits on a Messerschmitt 262, and A tp claiming a hit on an ARADO 234 ◉ Fighters also engaged over HOLDENSTEDT area by E tp, who destroyed one FW 190 [wreckage later found] ◉ I tp claim hit on FW 190 in CELLE area	
		-	Copy received of Supplement to London Gazette dated 20 Mar 45, notifying 'Mention in Dispatches' awarded to Maj. ATW MURPHY (2IC) and WOII KEMP [I tp sjt-major]	
UELZEN area	16	0730	F and I tps, having been released from commitment at bridge in CELLE, redeployed in 131 and 190 Fd Regt areas respectively ◉ Layout coordinated with that of E tp to give adequate protection to bde HQs in HOLDENSTEDT	
		1945	- 2030, spasmodic engagements in HAMERSTORF and HOLDENSTEDT areas, I tp claiming a hit which knocked a piece of structure from a FW 190	
		-	Notification received of award of Croix de Guerre with gilt star to Capt. L.J. DIMOND (OC G tp) and Croix de Guerre with silver star to WOII KEMP (Sjt-Major, I tp), French decorations awarded for gallantry WEST of the SEINE	
	17	1130	CO attended conference at HQRA to receive orders for support of div attack on UELZEN early 18 Apr ◉	
		1230	Returned to give orders for one gun of A tp to give directional fire along axis of 44 (L) Bde attack on Eastern side of town, and for 3 guns of I tp to fire, during first phase of 46 (H) bde attack on WESTERN half of town, to deny enemy the use of roads leading from centre of town to enemy FDLs	
		1630	I tp guns registered on targets by means of Air OP	
		1730	Timings for 46 (H) Bde attack brought fwd to p.m. 17 Apr and fireplan as such [incl LAA task] abandoned	
	18	0400	- 0445, one gun of A tp gave directional fire in support of 44 (L) Bde attack on Eastern half of UELZEN	
		1915	CO held O Gp and gave orders as follows:- 390 bty to move at once to deploy by first light in AA defence of approaches exits and bridges of UELZEN ◉ 391 and 392 btys to harbour in area of regt HQ, ready at half an hour's notice to move under comd 11	

		2130 2135	Armd Div, if necessary, to provide AA defence of bridge at LAUENBURG if captured intact Redispositions completed, as ordered by CO. Single enemy plane machine-gunned road in regt HQ area ◉ Engaged by G and I tps ◉ No claims	
LUNEBURG area	19	0630 0830 1000 1530 - 2255	Enemy fighters attacked without success 227 (H) Bde column moving just NORTH from UELZEN ◉ 390 bty, deployed in the town, shot down one FW 190 F & I tps moved to rejoin 131 & 190 Fd Regts moving with 227 and 46 (H) Bdes respectively Regt HQ, 391 & 392 bty HQs, B ech & Wksp moved through UELZEN to BARUM, guns of E & G tps being dispersed down the div column for move & deploying in div HQ area on arrival E tp moved to sp 227 (H) Bde, deploying at canal bridge 8427; G tp readjusted deployment to take in complete div HQ area - 390 bty left at UELZEN till morning in order to provide mil sp for Mil Govt, preventing looting rioting etc, till 5 Div take over town Orders from RA to move remainder of regt through LUNEBURG to SCHARNEBECK area 0900 hrs 20 Apr 45	
	20	0700 0840 - 2020 -	390 bty were relieved of task in UELZEN ◉ A tp moved fwd with 181 Fd Regt, and C tp took over AA protection of canal br 8028, from which E tp had been taken to deploy with 131 Fd Regt while F tp had left 131 Fd Regt to defend canal br at 8826 RHQ, bty HQs, B ech & Wksps moved to SCHARNEBECK, G tp guns being dispersed along the div column for movement and deploying in div HQ area on arrival - I tp moved with 190 Fd Regt in sp 46 (H) Bde ◉ During afternoon, groundshoot was begun against enemy strong-point, but called off after only 2 rounds had been fired since supporting tanks broke through on to objective 2020 Two FW 190, apparently on recce, engaged by C & E tps in BRIETLINGEN area ◉ One plane shot down, pilot baled out and was captured [injured] & evacuated - During the afternoon, woods in SCHARNEBECK area were flushed by HQ personnel ◉ 2 German soldiers taken, and one civilian with underground hoard of food and supplies [incl wireless], believed Obersturmbannfuhrer of SA, handed over to FSP	
	21	1530 1500	F tp ceased firing at canal bridge and redeployed in div HQ area, in addition to G tp - 1700, further flushing of woods in SCHARNEBECK area brought to light considerable quantity of explosives [enemy] apparently	

			hidden for later use by saboteurs or guerrillas, and 4 suspects of whom one proved to be soldier in disguise - I tp also took 5 prisoners during the day, and moved with 190 Fd Regt	
	22	1515	A tp engaged two Me 109s and claim damage to one	
	23	0930 1400 -	CO attended CRA's O Gp to receive preliminary briefing on proposed future op across R. ELBE CO briefed bty & tp comds on general plan of proposed future op, and detailed areas to be reced by night 23/24 Apr for possible ground-shooting positions close to R. ELBE to support assault crossing of river - After dark tp comds carried out recces as detailed	
	24	1300 1400 2130	Eight 3-tonners reported to amn pt to assist in RA dumping programme for future op ◉ Expected to be required for latter half of each day for several days to come Tp Comds reported to CO on results of previous night's recces CO left to recce in river bank area with OC G tp returning at 2300 hrs having made preliminary survey of 'pepperpot' areas	
	25	-	Five enemy aircraft destroyed and two damaged [category II] during period 8 - 5 Apr - officially credited to the regt.	
	26	0900 1700 2125 - 2130	CO visited CRA with plans for 'pepperpots' ◉ Informed op possibly brought forward to night 26/27 Apr ◉ Fixed details with BCs on return and presented finished plan to CRA at 1400 hrs ◉ Informed them that op would NOT be night 26/27 Rep of 11 R Tks called on C.O. to ask for directional fire for 'buffaloes' [LVTs] carrying assaulting infantry across R. ELBE for future op ◉ Firing on three lines arranged E tp engaged Ju 88 at 3000 ft and A & C tps engaged a FW 190 ◉ Small number of rounds fired ◉ No claims - During the day, unit tpt again assisted in RA dumping programme, and after dark bty capt 392 bty supervised dumping of 5000 rounds of 40 mm HE for pepperpot on right of div front. I tp shot down one FW 190 which crashed at 970277	
	27	- 1600	During the day, unit tpt gave further assistance in RA dumping programme, and, after dark, bty capt 390 bty supervised dumping of 5000 rounds of 40 mm HE for pepperpot on left of div front CO attended CCRA's conference at HQRA; and, 2245 hrs, received from CRA details of tasks for pepperpots.	
	28	a.m. 1400	Fireplan for LAA and A tk of pepperpots prepared by this unit; Fireplan for mortars and MMG of 'pepperpots' prepared by 1 Mx Final conference of bty & tp comds to arrange last details and distribute fireplans	See Appx J See Appx J

		1730	onwards, tps began to move fwd as far as possible, but not so as to come under observation, and after last light moved right fwd to take up and dig in groundshooting positions	
	29	0100 1230 1300 1315 p.m.	Pepperpot was fired in accordance with timed programme, and directional fire given to guide the buffaloes [LVTs] across river for initial assault ☉ Harassing fire on railway bridge at 899350 was continued until 0530 hrs, with the result that the bridge, although extensively mined for demolition, was captured intact - 1430, E & F tps fired in ground role in support of 227 (H) Bde's exploitation to NW from bridgehead across river - 1330 hrs, considerable enemy air activity over area of river crossings ☉ Own fighters also up in force but enemy aircraft were engaged at this period and also about 1645 hrs In view of increased enemy air activity, CO raised the state of readiness to 4-man manning on every gun till further notice, and ordered C & G tps to deploy respectively on route protection of main axis SOUTH of river and on Class 9 bridging site at LAUENBURG E tp deployed in div HQ area, and A, F & I tps rejoined 181, 131 & 190 Fd Regts respectively, crossing the river with their fd regts during the night 29/30	
	30	0645 1400 2000	, 1015 & 1400 hrs, scattered enemy fighters were engaged, one Me 109 being claimed Cat. 2 by C tp RHQ, 390 & 392 bty HQs moved with div HQ to JULIUSBURG where I tp adjusted layout to cover div HQ area ☉ 391 bty joined its tac HQ at AVENDORF, and B ech and Wksp moved to LUDERSHAUSEN - 2100, enemy fighters in considerable numbers attacked area of Class 9 bridge at LAUENBURG ☉ Several bombs were dropped, without damage to bridge ☉ F & G tps each claim one fighter shot down ☉ AA fire caused remainder of aircraft to take evasive action	

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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 119th Light Anti Aircraft Regiment R.A.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year May 1945

Commanding Officer Lt Col JF Young RA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LAUENBURG area	1	0445 1000 1050 2115	G tp, released from bridge protection task at LAUENBURG, moved to JULIUSBURG to continue with I tp in AA protection of Div HQ area The increased state of readiness on the guns [brought into force 29 Apr 45] was reduced to normal manning Enemy fighter, engaged by A, F, G & I tps, shot down over Div HQ and accredited to I tp - 2130, C, G & I tps engaged enemy fighter-bombers which had dropped bombs to the south of div area, probably in vicinity of river bridges	
	2	0500 1100 1600 1710 1740 2130 2145 2150	391 Bty HQ, B ech & wksp crossed R ELBE to join regt HQ; and C & E tps crossed with them to go in sp 44 (L) and 227 (H) Bdes respectively - 1145, F tp carried out groundshooting task in sp 227 (H) Bde, engaged 2 strongpoints in edge of wood ☉ Fires were started and subsequently infantry, who had previously been held up by the strongpoints, were able to march in Regt HQ, bty HQs, B ech & wksp moved with div HQ to BRUNSTORF, guns of G & I tps being dispersed along the length of the div column on the move FW 190 engaged by A and C tps) Ju 88 engaged by G and I tps) Me 109 engaged by I tp) no claims Ju 88 engaged by A and C tps) FW 190 engaged by G tp)	
	3	- 1600	Information received of award of D.S.O. to Commanding Officer Regt HQ, bty HQs, B ech and Wksp moved with div HQ to GRANDE, with guns of G & I tp moving dispersed in div column	
KREIS STORMARN	4	1500 1630	Regt HQ, bty HQs, B ech and Wksp moved with div HQ to HAMMOOR, guns of G & I tps moving dispersed in div column C tp engaged single Me 109 - no claims	

		2050	News received via BBC of enemy's agreement to cease hostilities on all Second Army fronts w.e.f. 0800 hrs 5 May 45	
	5	0325 -	Official notification, by phone from RA, of cessation of hostilities at 0800 hrs on all Second Army fronts Notification received from RA 8 Corps of official confirmation of this regt's claims of one FW 190 destroyed on 19 Apr 45, one FW 190 destroyed on 20 Apr 45, and one Me 109 damaged (Category II) on 22 Apr 45	
	6	0945 1400	CO gave orders for each tp to harbour its guns under a double sentry at one tp location CO attended CRA's O Group on further activities of the div and the div arty	
	7	1400 1500	CO held conference of bty & tp comds, bty capts, QM, Padre, MO & EME, to give details of future moves of div and div arty in the coming 3 weeks approx, and to discuss programme for succeeding period of static occupation, during which the regt would be responsible for policing, enforcing mil govt, etc, in part of HAMBURG ☉ Training, education & recreation discussed, and committees appointed for the various activities projected During the above conference, infm was received via BBC that all German forces in NW Europe had surrendered unconditionally	
	8	-	Day celebrated as VE day. Padre held Thanksgiving Services at RHQ and troop locations. Recreation during the afternoon. All listened to Prime Minister's speech at 1500 hrs and HM the King at 2100 hrs	
	9	1730	CO attended address by GOC at Div HQ, receiving fresh details of future tasks	
	10	p.m.	Bty HQ subalterns, hitherto retained at Regt HQ as LOs returned to their respective bty HQs	
	11	1050 p.m.	C tp, hitherto conc in 2 islands, concentrated at new tp HQ Orders received to conc regt in HAMMOOR, probably 14 May; move to final location not likely for further 30 days	
	12	0930	CO attended conference at HQRA on implementing of Army Education Scheme within the div arty	
	13	- - 2030	Thanksgiving Sunday, for cessation of hostilities in Europe Btys and tps carried out recce in village of HAMMOOR into which regt was under orders to conc on 14 May B ech moved into fresh accn in HAMMOOR	
	14	a.m. 1430	The regt, less C and F tps, moved into conc in HAMMOOR expecting to remain for approx 30 days RA and HQ of 15 (S) Div having left HAMMOOR, CO 119 LAA Regt became local comd of village and area	

		1730	CO held conference on details of future trg, incl education	
	15	a.m. -	C and F tps moved into conc in HAMMOOR Day spent in interior economy in newly taken-over accn, and beginning to set up semi-permanent installations [guard room, PW cage, etc.]	
	16	0940 1100 p.m.	Fresh orders received from RA to take over new area, approximately a triangle incl LASBECK DORF (S 7374) - incl FORST HAHNHEIDE (S 7862-8161) - excl BERGEDORF (S 6546) CO held conference, dividing area into three parts, allotting northern sector to 392 bty, central sector to 391 bty and southern sector to 390 bty. CO explained details of duties, incl rounding up of German PW, and of itinerant Russians, listing of static Russian PW, PWX & DPs to enable future collection to be carried out at 24 hrs notice, collection of arms and amn, location of dumps of foodstuffs, maintenance of order, and enforcement of regulations by means of frequent and irregular mobile and static patrols Subunit comds carried out reces of new area	
	17	1300	- 1500, all btys and tps moved from HAMMOOR to new areas. B ech moved into fresh accn in HAMMOOR	
	18	-	Occupation duties commenced. Static and mobile patrols organized to carry out duties as laid down	
	19	-	Duties as above, and in addition all available load-carrying tpt given over for the day to assist in moving 227 (H) Bde	
	20	- 2100	Occupation duties. Load-carrying tpt used for moving PW. Notification of move to take over part of KREIS LAUENBURG probably 24 May	
	21	- 1400	Part of unit tpt utilised to convey German PW northwards 2 IC carried out preliminary recce of new area	
	22	0830 1730	2IC and subunit comds carried out detailed recce of area to be occupied, approx as follows:- inclusive RATZEBURG (T 0071) - excl FORST RHENE (T 1273) - incl BERNSTORFF (T 1365) - incl TECHIN (T 1358) - excl GUDOW (T 0155) - excl MOLLN (S 9563); N and NE sector to 392 bty, West and Central sector to 390 bty, South and Eastern sector to 391 bty. Orders from RA to provide one subaltern, 2 bdrs on MCs, 4 dvr-mechs & 14 dvr-1C to go to NIJMEGEN, leaving 23 May with parties from other regts of div arty; pick up in NIJMEGEN a total of 59 3-tonners, and return to work as sup and tpt platoons under HQ RASC 15 (S) Div, while RASC coy vehicles and personnel are away transporting large numbers of German PW being released for harvesting.	

	23	p.m.	Adv parties despatched to take over accn in new area, and guards to relieve existing guards [of 15 Inf Bde] on VPs in area. 2IC also went to new area to take over duties of Town Major at RATZEBURG.	
RATZEBURG area	24	1100	- 1430, regt moved to RATZEBURG area, taking over area from 15 Bde of 5 Brit Div. Tasks included establishing of check posts to prevent westward movement of unauthorized personnel [especially displaced persons], and control of camp containing 1300-1400 German PW, in addition to routine occupation duties	
	25	1800 -	Duty tp (F tp) mounted guard at CRA's mess, KOGEL, 040647, from 1200 hrs 26 May; this guard to be one of the normal commitments of the duty tp. F tp guard complimented by CRA. E tp moved during the day to the peninsula of STINTENBURG in the SCHAAL SEE, and tp areas of responsibility were adjusted accordingly	
	26	0915 1100 1700	CO held conference of BCs to discuss local welfare amenities, including running of regimental canteen and rest rooms, to open tonight at 1900 and succeeding evenings at 1800 hrs CO attended conference at HQRA on government org of the Kreis, operational role and probable increased future area of responsibility for each regt. CO held conference of bty and tp comds with agenda as for CRA's conference at 1100 hrs.	
	27	2245	LT (QM) T BAKER (260551) accidentally wounded in the head by revolver bullet, and evacuated through 34 CCS	
	28	-	Occupation duties continued. Nothing to report	
	29	0930	C.O. attended CRA's bi-weekly Mil Gov conference	
	30	-) Occupation duties continued. Nothing to report	
	31	-)	