

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. and the Staff Manual respectively. 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 9 CAMERONIANS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year March 1945

Commanding Officer Lt Col E. Remington-Hobbs

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
|---------|------|------|--|--------------------------|
| TILBURG | 1 | | Bn engaged in training and re-equipping. | CNB |
| | 2 | | Bn engaged in training. | CNB |
| | 3 | | Bn engaged in training. | CNB |
| | 4 | | Bn engaged in training. | CNB |
| | 5 | | Bn engaged in training. | CNB |
| | | 1400 | C.O. at Bde HQ for conference on move to area ZOLDER 305722 for further specialist training on river crossing equipment. Recce party left for ZOLDER (BELGIUM). | CNB |
| | 6 | 1345 | Bn commenced moving off from TILBURG, order of march A.B.C.D Coys and arrived in area ZOLDER at 1930 hrs. | CNB |
| ZOLDER | 7 | | Bn engaged in adm and settling down in new area. | CNB |
| ZOLDER | 8 | | Training on river crossing, practice carrying storm boats and loading L.V.T. | CNB |
| ZOLDER | 9 | | Bn engaged in training, loading unloading STORM boats. Weapon training, route marches, rifle range practices. | CNB |
| ZOLDER | 10 | | Bn engaged in training. Loading and unloading storm boats. Weapon training, route marches, rifle range practices. | CNB |
| ZOLDER | 11 | | Bn engaged in training. M.T. section on use of CL 9 raft. Loading and unloading vehicles. Remainder loading and unloading storm boats, weapon training, route marches, rifle range practices. C.O. and coy comd briefed on Div Exercise on Wed 14 and night 16/17 MAR 45. This exercise was a Div Assault across River MAAS with 227 and 44 Bdes as assault Bde and 46(H) Inf Bde in reserve. 9 Cameronians to supply Coy comd as umpires for this Exercise. | CNB |
| ZOLDER | 12 | | Bn engaged in training, Weapon training, route marches, rifle range practices. | CNB |
| ZOLDER | 13 | | Bn engaged in training. Op TORCHLIGHT. 46 Inf Bde planning Notes No 1 received. 46(H) Inf Bde Adm Instr No 9 OP TORCHLIGHT received | APP E/1 CNB APP CNB |

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| ZOLDER | 14 | | C.O. and Coy Comds on 15(S) Div Exercise Bn engaged on training. | CNB |
| ZOLDER | 15 | | Bn engaged on training. Rifle practices. Adm instr No 9 issued | APP G/1 |
| ZOLDER | 16 | 0900 1900 | C.O. at 46(H) Bde 'O' Gp when outline plan given for OP. TORCHLIGHT. C.O. O Gp at Bn HQ. First stages required for River crossing (CLOTH MODEL) | CNB APP. E/2 CNB |
| ZOLDER | 17 | | C.O. and Coy comd on 15(S) Div Exercise: on river crossing. APP. 'A' to 46(H) Inf Bde Outline - Veh Priority list issued. | APP. E/3 CNB |
| ZOLDER | 18 | 0900 1900 | Coy comd at Bde HQ for briefing on OP. TORCHLIGHT. All Bn Officers at Briefing conference, OP. TORCHLIGHT, when general plan given out. | CNB CNB |
| ZOLDER | 19 | | OP TORCHLIGHT. 9 CAMERONIAN Adm instr No 5 issued Capt G L Allan recce to marshalling area for OP TORCHLIGHT. | APP G/2. CNB CNB |
| ZOLDER | 20 | | 9 CAMERONIAN O.O. No 4. OP TORCHLIGHT issued. 46(H) Inf Bde - Move Order No 27 received | APP. D/1. CNB App E/4. CNB |
| ZOLDER | 21 | 1730 | Bn left area ZOLDER for Marshalling area 923392 west of XANTEN and arrived in location at 0400 hrs 22 MAR 45. | CNB |
| 923392 | 21 | | OP. TORCHLIGHT. 46(H) Inf Bde OP Instr No 28 issued in conjunction with 46(H) Inf Bde outline plan dated 16 MAR 45 46(H) Inf Bde Adm Order No 20 received. 9 Cameronians Adm Order No 6 issued | APP E/5 CNB App. H/2 CNB APP G/3. CNB |
| 923392 | 22 | | Bn still in Marshalling Area. All Coys briefed on plan for crossing Rhine. OP Torchlight. 46(H) Inf Bde list of codewords OP TORCHLIGHT. 46(H) Inf Bde OP instr No 28 issued in conj. with 46(H) Inf Bde outline plan dated 16 MAR 45. 46(H) Inf Bde instr for move of tps and Vehs from present areas to far bank of R. Rhine. | CNB APP. E/6 CNB CNB APP E/7 CNB APP E/8. CNB |
| 923392 | 23 | 0010 | Bn resting for Op TORCHLIGHT. 9 CAMERONIANS. Mov Order No 7 (Marching tps) Message received from 46 Inf Bde that D day now 24 MAR 45. Bn commenced moving down Inf track for crossing of Rhine and arrived in Storm boat waiting area at 0315 hrs. | CNB APP D/3 CNB CNB |
| | 24 | 0400 | 227 Bde Sitrep, progress satisfactory, opposition not hy, 8 PW. 1062 GR. 9 CAMERONIANS NOT yet required to cross RHINE as 10 HLI and 2 A&SH had NOT yet cleared our F.A.A. C.O. went to Bde HQ and remained there to await orders. In the meantime all ranks to get as much rest as possible. | CNB CNB CNB |

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| | 0900 | Message received from Bde to 7 SEAFORTH giving tasks (1) to contact coy 10 HLI. (2) clear BUND between 10 HLI and 2 A&SH using 1 tp 44 RTR, to commence as soon as possible. The reason for this task was that enemy had been pushed back to HAFFEN and MEHR but there were still isolated enemy posts along bank of RHINE which were engaging and damaging Storm Boats when crossing. To counter this two tanks were brought up on WEST bank of RHINE and engaged targets, which made enemy surrender. | CNB |
| | 0930 | All arty fire stopped as first wave of AIRBORNE passed overhead. This continued until 1100 hrs. Enemy A.A. was obs. but seemed to be of a light nature. 3 A/C were obs. to crash. | CNB |
| | 1055 | 7 Seaforth reported task 1 complete, a number of enemy gave themselves up. | CNB |
| | 1130 | Sitrep received from Bde giving locations of 51(H) DIV, their progress very good having gained Brhead up to 3 miles in DEPTH. C.O. still at Bde HQ awaiting orders to move, this still being delayed by the fact that our F.A.A. had NOT been cleared. | CNB |
| | 1305 | Message to 7 SEAFORTH. 10 HLI no further FWD than F.A.A. 9 CAMERONIANS © You must do WOOD 1449 as soon as possible there, plan (a) capture MEHR (b) group BR 1349 (c) exploit and capture WOOD. | |
| | 1345 | C.O. received orders to move immediately and cross RHINE by STORM boats. To cross and move to REE. Bn commenced moving and arrived in area of RHINE bank 104456. | CNB |
| | 1430 | A Coy commenced crossing Rhine followed by BN HQ B.C & D Coys. The crossing was entirely unopposed and NO casualties sustained. The Bn then commenced moving to F.A.A. when leading Coy ('A') received infm that they would now go to original F.A.A. in OVERKAMP but at this pt enemy were still holding. | CNB |
| | 1510 | Brig R.M.L. Villiers D.S.O. visited Bn and gave C.O. orders to occupy area HAFFEN. Plan D Coy to move off first and capture area 120493. A Coy to capture 124496, C & B to occupy area 118500, 125500. To commence as soon as possible. D coy occupied HAFFEN area at 1750 and pushed one Pl to area 118500. Almost at same time A Coy captured area 125500. C & B Coys then commenced moving up to attack 118004 and 125500 but it was getting dark by this time and they were both held up by spandau fire across open ground. The C.O then gave orders for B & C Coy to remain in present locations until first light. 2 GH in meantime had endeavoured to reach BRUKSHOF 128499 but when on the obj they had to withdraw. | CNB |
| | 2015 | Enemy attempting to infiltrate into 7 SEAFORTH locality. | CNB |

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| | | 2017 | 2 GH received message from Brig. 7 Seaforth to occupy BATTLEAXE via BAZOOKA or by SOUTH. 2 GH to occupy BAYONET if possible. 9 CAMERONIAN patrols if successful will conc 130522 and take on BLUNDERBUSS. | CNB |
| | | 2030 | 7 SEAFORTH report enemy still infiltrating, number of PW taken. | CNB |
| | | 0330 | 7 SEAFORTH situation deteriorating, strong enemy counter attack again on right fwd coy which is surrounded and few men left. They are coming up main axis and our coy comd estimates strength of enemy approx 100 trying to form 200 yds in front of my location for counter attack. Arty assistance impossible due to our chaps being right among enemy. Many wounded. At first light the enemy withdrew from this area and 7 SEAFORTH regained all obj. During previous days attack 'A' Coy 2 killed, Major Shearer Wounded, 'B' Coy 2 killed, Major S. Bingley wounded, since died of wounds and 8 OR wounded. C Coy 1 killed, 1 off and 9 OR wounded. 'D' Coy 7 wounded, 4 missing. | CNB CNB CNB |
| HAFFEN | 25 | 0500 | Spandau post located at 123501, 125499, 128498, 127495. | CNB |
| | | 0710 | A & C Coy asked permission to bring arty on road running to this front, as a number of enemy posts had been identified there. | CNB |
| | | 0946 | A&SH under comd 46 Inf Bde for next OP. | |
| | | 1200 | 7 SEAFORTH 25 P.W. taken in area 128493. 20 coy 7 PARA DIV. | CNB |
| | | 1420 | C Coy being counter attacked from their front by 20-30 enemy. 2 GLAS H and A&SH attack going well Wood being cleared. | CNB |
| | | 1630 | Plan laid on for attack by D and B Coys onto original obj. This attack would commence at last light and would have considerable arty sup on targets and M.M.G. fire. H hour approx 1930 hrs. | CNB |
| | | 2000 | H hour for D & B Coy attack. | CNB |
| | | 2040 | D Coy on obj. after considerable small arms fire fight. Total P.W taken 57. Casualties for day 5 killed 15 wounded. | |
| | | 2045 | B Coy on obj. Lieut O.B. Gordon 'A' Coy to patrol fwd to 130518 to contact enemy, to return as soon as possible. | CNB |
| | | 2310 | Bn to be relieved tonight by 10 HLI and to come under comd 227 Bde for future Ops, that is clearing WOOD or Area 140510. 7 SEAFORTH to capture line of Road. | CNB CNB CNB |
| HAFFEN | 26 | | 46(H) Inf Bde Op Instr No 29 Casualties for day. | APP E/9 |

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| | | 1300 | 'O' Gp at Bn HQ when plan given for attack on area 1451. Coy obj as follows A. 140506 B. 147510 C 140503 D 147508. Order of march C,D A.B. Coys with in sup 1 tp crocodiles. H hr to be notified by Bde but NOT before 1500 hrs. | CNB |
| | | 1315 | Message from Bde 7 SEAFORTH attack postponed 30 mins, obj 1 coy at 143504, 1 coy 153498, 1 coy at 160498, that is, H hour 1400 hrs. | CNB CNB |
| | | 1400 | Bn moved off from HAFFEN route VIA MEHR to attack area 1451. | |
| | | | 7 SEAFORTH attack commenced, progress satisfactory. | |
| | | 1500 | C Coy now located at 139496 behind coy of 7 SEAFORTH awaiting them gaining obj to carry on with their task. | CNB |
| | | 1545 | All Coys of 7 SEAFORTH now on obj. 9 CAMERONIAN. H hour 1630. | CNB |
| | | 1645 | Both Coy have crossed SL and both on obj by 1715 hrs. No enemy opposition. A and B coys now moving fwd to their obj. | CNB |
| | | 1830 | All coys now on obj and patrols sent fwd to try and contact enemy. These patrols report no enemy encountered within 600 yards of coy localities. | CNB |
| 140497 | 27 | 0230 | All coy comd to report Bn HQ at 0800 for 'O' Gp. | CNB |
| | | 0800 | Coy comd at Bn 'O' Gp. D coy to occupy area 138514, A Coy to attack area 146514, B Coy to attack area 148515, C Coy to occupy area 144510. | CNB |
| | | 1038 | D Coy report on new locality. A & B coys crossed S.L and progress satisfactory until at 1114 hrs they were held up by S.P gun firing from area 147515. This held up progress of A and B coys. The attack was stopped at this point and 'O' Gp at Bn HQ at 1430 hrs. | CNB |
| | | 1430 | 'O' Gp. Plan given out for 'A' Coy taking B Coys obj and 'C' Coy passing through to capture B Coy obj. H hour 1715. Sup from Arty, 4.2 Mortars, tp CROCS and tp of S.P. guns. But it is still doubtful if they will manage in time to be of assistance. | CNB |
| | | 1843 | Op now commencing, enemy tank located 148515, being engaged with 5.2 guns and Valentines. | CNB |
| | | 2014 | A Coy reported on obj, houses on fire due to crocs, enemy tank completely destroyed. 2 A&SH will relieve 9 CAMERONIANS night 27/28 MAR in position gained by 9 CAMERONIANS during present OP. ☉ Detailed arrangements to be made mutually between comds concerned ☉ Bde HQ will order relief to start on infm received from 9 CAMERONIANS. 9 CAMERONIANS will move on relief to present 2 A&SH area in area 150495, prepared to move early 28 MAR to Bde res position. | CNB CNB |
| | | 1929 | You come under comd 227 Bde 2000 hrs tonight, movement order cancelled. | CNB |
| | | 2212 | A Coy report 20 enemy at 152515, engaged with ARTY fire. | CNB |

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| | | 2330 | C.O. ordered 'O' Gp to RV at B Coy HQ where plan given for attack by 227 Bde on day 28 MAR 45. Two Bn attack 2 GORDONS left 10 HLI right. to clear wood 1352. 2 A&SH under comd 46 bde also 6 HLI to attack and clear area up to main road 132533-158530 to take place at same time as 227 Bde. | CNB |
| 140497 | 28 | 1010 1250 1820 | 7 SEAFORTH have reached 151515 & 151517 & 155513, 156514. H hour for 227 Bde attack 1400 hrs. 227 Inf Bde attack commenced duly at 1400 hrs. The advance reached all obj and no enemy opposition encountered, although a number of mines were met, but with no cas. The attack was finished and all Bn on final obj. This also incl 46 Inf Bde. Warning order received, be prepared to take over from 6 HLI. 46 Inf Bde. To be completed by 1000 hrs 29 MAR 45. 'O' Gp for this move, order of march A, C, Bn HQ, Sup, B and D Coys to occupy posn as shown on att Map | CNB APP J/1 CNB |
| | 29 | 0800 | Bn commenced moving to relieve 6 HLI. Bn relief complete by 1100 hrs. Position at first tactical but Brig R.M.L. Villiers DSO visited Bn in afternoon and ordered maximum rest for all ranks, as the adv had completely passed 15(S) Div. | CNB |
| | 30 | | Bn now engaged in generally cleaning, resting and re-organising. Casualties for Rhine crossing 15 Killed 61 wounded 7 missing | CNB |
| | 31 | | Bn resting and re-organizing | |