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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn A. & S.Hrs

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Jan 45.

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan M.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HELDEN	1		The Bn was recovering from the effects of Hogmanay, when the offrs heard the New Year in as guests of the Sjts' Mess. The CO visited the coys where the men were feeding. The tinned turkey was good - what there was of it. The CO and IO went on a recce in the afternoon in the KESSEL area where we were going to take over on the following day. Many German fighters and fighter-bombers were over the Bn area and 5 were shot down by Div Ack Ack.	
do KESSEL	2		The 2ic left to comd the 9th Cameronians. The Bn relieved the HLI in the KESSEL area and the takeover was completed without incident. The night was quiet except for spandau fire. Major Goodwyn took over as 2ic and Capt Kempston took over comd of 'C' coy.	
do KESSEL	3		The day was fairly quiet and coys spent a certain amount of time getting used to new posns. During the night one carrier section reported 20 enemy moving towards Bn HQ and all Bn HQ stood to during the night. No further sign was seen of the Germans nor did they contact any of our other posts. It later turned out the 'Germans' were probably some bushes on the skyline.	
do	4		After the scare of the previous night it was decided to thicken up our front and 'D' coy moved from their reserve posn to the river bank two pls filling in the gap between 'B' coy and the carrier pl, the other pl from 'D' coy being used to thicken up 'A' coy. Two pls from reserve bn were used to protect rear areas. 'D' coy moved to new posns after dark and there were no incidents. The scout car caught fire and burned merrily for a couple of hours. The arty half-track towed it away from the house and later the LAD arrived and with their help the fire was put out. The scout car was a total loss.	
do	5		With the Bn in new dispositions no enemy attempt was made to patrol. Our mortars, MMG and 4.2 mortars engaged several targets during the day. 'B' coy had a 'hate' on a house on the opposite bank, PIATs and 2" mortars firing low angle being used. Direct hits	

KESSEL			were scored. Boats and canoes on the opposite bank were engaged by our LMGs and all were damaged and made unserviceable. Capt D.H. Lyon left for a Coy Comds course at Barnard Castle and Capt Marling took over as Adjt.	
do	6		Enemy patrols were reported to be active but no contact was made with our troops. The day was quiet up to about 1500 hrs when an 88mm shelled 'B' Coy. Several shells landed near 12 pl but there were no casualties. Enemy sniper put a shot through the window of the Int sec O.P. but neither of the observers was hurt. 15 reinforcements arrived and in order to get them used to the new conditions they took up posns around Bn HQ doing 15 hr stretches in slit trenches.	
do KESSEL	7		After a fairly quiet night the enemy was quite active during the day. Fwd OPs were sniped and KESSEL received attention from his mortars. There were no cas among our own troops, but one civilian was wounded. The Int. O.P. moved to the roof of the school and had quite a good field of view. Visibility was poor owing to mist most of the day.	
do	8		The enemy was very quiet during the night and only a few bursts of spandau fire broke the silence of the night. The little enemy movement that was seen during the day received attention from our arty, mortars and MMGs. One man of 'A' coy was badly wounded by one of our 3in mortar bombs which fell short.	
do	9		There was little activity on either side during the night and a very quiet day followed. Snow fell and by evening was about 3in deep. The Int. OP reported no movement at all in the fwd enemy areas.	
do	10		The CO spent the whole day at 'A' mess with the Div Comd. Conditions remained very quiet, enemy activity being nil. Weather very cold and the snow made the place very light at night. The batch of reinforcements stood the conditions very well.	
KESSEL	11		A mock crossing was made in 'B' coy area. One sec launched an assault boat from the slipway at Kessel. At the same time a motorcycle engine was started up and the enemy reacted by standing to. He occupied trenches on the river bank and our mortars inflicted cas. The enemy stood down at about 0430 hrs. At daylight many tracks were observed in the snow, showing that the enemy had been quite worried about the whole thing. Apart from this activity the remainder of the day was very quiet.	
HELDEN	12		The bn was relieved by 2 Gordons and the change-over was completed by 2230 hrs without any hitches. We took up the usual reserve posn at Helden and 'C' coy was left in the forward area to thicken up	

			the Gordon and HLI fronts, 2 pls going to the Gordons and 1 pl to HLI. While in reserve the bn supplied one coy each night to the forward bns.	
do	13		The bn spent most of the day on admin. Kit was checked as was the ammunition. Baths were available and entertainment in the evening. Weather still cold and more snow fell.	
do	14		Church services were held for all denominations. Many offr and men travelled to Eindhoven to a celebrity concert in which Dennis Noble was the star artist. Ensa shows were also given at WEERT.	
do	15		The bn spent the day on admin and training.	
do	16		The bn should have relieved the HLI but owing to change of plan were told not to move.	A
do	17		Still no word of a move and the day was spent in training.	
do	18		There was still no word of future plans. The IO visited the HLI at BAARLO to find out the local picture. The weather was very bad, with a strong wind and heavy rain, which made the roads dangerous.	
Do HELDEN	19		Recce parties visited new area and the 2ic and IO visited the new location. The slight thaw threatened to turn the roads very slushy, but a front later hardened them again.	
BLERWICK	20		The Bn moved to new location north of BLERWICK. Icy roads made the going very bad for the vehicles. The change over with the 6 KOSB took place without any incident and the bn was disposed as follows: Bn HQ at ANNA HOEVE (869134) 'D' coy in area 890142, 'C' coy in wood 893135, 'B' coy 889122 with 'A' coy in reserve in area of Bn HQ. The night was very cold and our listening posts reported no movement from the enemy side. Fwd coys were all living underground, but every effort was made to make the dugouts comfortable.	
BLERWICK	21		Weather still very cold and there was no activity day or night.	
do	22		Little change in conditions. Still no activity.	B
do	23		We heard that 6 A/B div were taking over our posn in a few days time. No activity on either side of the river.	C
do	24		Reps from 6 A/B div visited bn area. Just after midday Spitfires presumably with Boche pilots, shot up Bn HQ and transport, killing Pte F. Duke, Sp coy driver and wounding two A/B arty reps. One jeep was destroyed by fire. Our A.A. did not open fire and a great deal of transport was damaged in the area. The C.O. left for U.K. leave. Major Goodwyn, 2ic took over comd.	D
SEVENUM	25		Change over with 6 A/B took place at about 1300 hrs and continued until after dark. The bn conc for the night at SEVENUM (822145).	E

GOIRLE	26		Bn moved to new area at 0930 hrs. Roads were very bad and all m/cs were carried on 3 tonners. We arrived in GOIRLE (1527) at 1700 hrs. Coys were put in two schools, Bn HQ and Sp coy in houses.	F
GOIRLE	27		Day was spent in admin. Baths were available for the troops and in the evening there was a film show in a local cafe.	
do	28		Day spent as yesterday.	
do	29		Coys were on training, and a range was made available for their use. In the evening the Bn held a dance, with the Div Dance Band in attendance. The Dutch were very impressed by the display of Highland dancing, given by members of our Pipes and Drums.	
do	30		Coys on training, and in the evening there was a show given by the "Tam o' Shanthers", the Div concert party.	
do	31		Day spent in training, and in the evening there was a Bde dance with the Div Dance Band who also gave a cabaret show.	