

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be
prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Oct 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col PR Lane-Joynt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
FRATERSHOEF	1st		Bn still in defensive posn as follows: Bn HQ - 391322, A Coy - area 391322, B Coy 388325, C Coy 388324, D Coy 389323.	
FRATERSHOEF		0600	During the early hours of the morning there was considerable enemy movement and activity in the vicinity of fwd coys though no attack developed. Two Germans who approached within 30 yds of a C Coy posn were both fired on and wounded, and had to be evacuated through the R.A.P. Patrols reported movement in woods at 385323 and also in vicinity of houses 386325. However by first light coys reported that except for noise of movement and digging during the night there was little else of importance to report.	A Walker Capt IO
		1030	Enemy shelling and mortaring of the Bn area continued infrequently causing little damage or casualties.	
		1130	Coy Comds in turn briefed on relief of Bn which was to take place on the night 1/2/Oct.	
		1230	Harbour party leaves for new area.	
			Reps of relieving unit (5BW) arrive and go round Bn area.	
FRATERSHOEF		1930	During the day there was little enemy activity except for mov of small enemy parties on the front.	A Walker Capt IO
			Relief of Bn by Coys begins and is carried through without incident and is complete by 2300 hrs.	
	2nd	0030	Coys arrive in TCVs at GEMERT for commencement of rest period.	
		0300	Veh party arrives at GEMERT. Bn HQ est at 578309 and Coys as follows: A Coy - 585309, B Coy - 582308, C Coy - 583307, D Coy - 586315, S Coy 584318.	

GEMERT			From 2nd to 19th Oct the Bn remained at GEMERT resting, reorganising and re-equipping where necessary. Training was also carried out as were recces for various ops which were expected to take place. Recreation and entertainments also occupied some time. A summary of events during the period is given below:-	A Walker Capt IO

	3rd	0930 1330	Address by Div Comd Maj Gen Barber to all ranks in the Bn followed by march past with pipe band, the salute being taken by the Div Comd. Football match versus HQ 44(L) Bde. Result: 8RS 4 HQ 44 Bde 2	
GEMERT	5th		Inter Bn football and tug of war competition concluded. The Bn won the tug-of-war competition but was defeated in final of football competition by 6RSF by 5 goals to 2.	A Walker Capt IO
	6th	1345 2000	CO attends Bde 'O' Gp on future ops. Bn 'O' Gp on intended relief of Suffolk Bn (8 Bde 3 Inf Div). During the day the Bn pipe band took part in the Retreat played by the massed pipe bands of 15(S) Div in the Castle Grounds HELMOND. The Div Comd, and Corps Comd Lt Gen Sir R. O'Connor were present.	
GEMERT	7th	0730	Bn recce parties set off for 8 Bde HQ at MOLENHOEK 7053 (Sheet 3 1/100000). A recce was carried out of Bn area at MOOK 7251 but during the morning orders were received that the operation was postponed and later cancelled, and the recce parties returned to the Bn.	A Walker Capt IO
	8th		Church parade at GEMERT.	
	9th	1000	CO holds promotion conference at Bn HQ.	
	10th		Visit of Army Commander Lt Gen MC Dempsey MC to HQ 44(L) Inf Bde. CO attends.	
GEMERT	12th	0900 1100 1700	Commanding Officer and reps from Coys proceed to sector of the front, for recce and attachment, held by 7 US Armd Div in area 6493 (ref 1/100000 Sh 4). This attachment was carried out with a view to future operations in the sector. The Commanding Officer returned to the unit on the evening of the 12th Oct but remainder were attached to 7 US Armd Div until 17th Oct when they rejoined the Bn on the cancellation of the operation. Major Douglass 2i/c, and Coy Comds with IO carry out recce for exercise "ANTEDOTE". HM King George VI accompanied by Field Marshall Sir BL Montgomery pass through GEMERT.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx D1
	13th		EXERCISE "ANTEDOTE". The exercise as described in 8RS Gen Instr No1 entailed the crossing of a canal by the other two Bns of the Bde to form a limited bridgehead followed by 8RS who were passed through to extend the initial bridgehead. The crossing took place on the canal area 527261 (ref 1/100000 Holland Sheet 5) at first light by the two forward Bns on a two Bn front and at 0730 hrs 8RS proceeded to cross on the right hand bn sector with C Coy followed by D Coy on the right crossing by KAPOK bridge constructed for and used by the right hand assault bn. A Coy crossed slightly east of	See Appx D1 A Walker Capt IO

GEMERT			the KAPOK br by assault boat while B Coy in rear of A Coy were directed across the br to avoid delay as the two right hand Coys had crossed while some delay was taking place at the crossing by assault boats. On the other side of the canal the Coys deployed and then advanced on to other objectives when the exercise was terminated. The following points were brought out by the exercise (a) Careful tasking of approach of Coys to canal bank to avoid congestion at crossing places (b) Coys to get clear of crossing places on far bank as quickly as possible and avoid 'bunching' (c) Minimum time to be spent on deploying and move off to objectives.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
GEMERT	15th		Church parade.	
	16th		Training in Coys continues.	
	17th	1100 1400	Warning order received for move on 18th Oct, but this order was later cancelled. Return of party from attachment to 7 US Armd Div on cancellation of operation.	
	18th		Warning order received for move on 19th Oct, and preparations made for the move.	
VEGHEL	19th	0800 1330 1600	Bn recce party leaves GEMERT and proceeds to VEGHEL 4737 with a view to taking over def posn from 1/7 Queens (three Coys) and one coy 1/5 Queens, the Bn having been placed under command 7th Armoured Division. Bn leaves GEMERT by TCV and proceeds to VEGHEL, and take over begins. Bn now located as follows: Bn HQ 469397, A Coy 430415, B Coy 444422, C Coy 476376, D Coy 442429. CO and IO proceed to HQ 131 Inf Bde (7 Armd Div). During the evening of 19th and the night 19/20 vigorous inter-coy patrols were carried out but no enemy were encountered on the North East bank of the canal, though there was occasional enemy shelling of the Bn area and also MG fire from across the canal.	See also Appx D2 A Walker Capt IO
VEGHEL	20th 20/21		Location - no change. During the day enemy activity was again confined to occasional mortaring and shelling of fwd Coy areas. The few enemy observed on the other side of the canal by Coys and patrols being engaged by S.A. fire. The night again brought no new developments and patrols between Coy localities had nothing to report.	A Walker Capt IO
VEGHEL	21st	1115 1200- 1700	Comd 7 Armd Div visit Bn HQ and orders the Commanding Officer to conc the Bn in VEGHEL when released from its present role. Occasional mortaring & shelling throughout the day. A and D Coys withdrawn from line of canal in order to allow Typhoons to attack enemy in woods on south side.	A Walker Capt IO See also Appx D3

	21/22	1700	A & D Coys re-occupy fwd posns on canal. During the evening of 21st and early morning of 22nd our patrols were again active but the only enemy activity was occasional Spandau fire along canal banks not directed at any posn in particular and causing no casualties.	
VEGHEL	22nd		Location - no change. Little enemy activity was observed across the canal during the day but one German was killed by a Bn sniper during the afternoon. Patrol from A Coy which attempted to move to NW along canal fired on by enemy from MOLENWIEK 404425.	A Walker Capt IO
VEGHEL	23rd	0630 1050 1205 1530 1645 1700 1900	Situation normal - location no change. Visit to Bn HQ of Comd 15(S) Div. Orders given to CO that when Bn concentrates in VEGHEL, it once more comes under command 44(L) Inf Bde, with wireless silence. Contact made by D Coy with own tps (51 Div) advancing NW on south side of canal. As advance of 51(H) Inf Div continued on south side of canal, enemy activity became negligible. CO & OC B Coy proceed on recce with a view to B Coy relieving a sqn of 8H on evening of 23rd in area 4346 guarding the eastern exits from the woods. S Coy move to conc area in VEGHEL. D Coy move to conc area in VEGHEL. B Coy move by march route from present area & proceed to take over from sqn 8H. Situation otherwise quiet.	A Walker Capt IO
VEGHEL	24th	0930 1000 1315 1400 1900 2130 2330	Orders received from HQ 131 Bde for remainder of Bn to conc in VEGHEL. A Coy move to conc area in VEGHEL. Instrs sent to OC B Coy to move to DINTHER Church 439412 where TCVs would convey the Coy to VEGHEL. Bn HQ move to VEGHEL and conc under command 44(L) Inf Bde again. Bn HQ est at 478377 with Coys concentrated in vicinity. CO attends 'O' Gp at 44 Inf Bde and receives instrs for Bn to move to VLEUT 3928. Bn move by MT from present area via ST OEDENRODE 4232 and conc in area VLEUT. Bn 'O' Gp at Bn HQ 387283. CO issues orders for Bn advance to contact from BEST 3726 to OIRSCHOT 3125 via X tracks 373278 - AARLE 3526 - STRATEN 3326 - NOTEL 3226 on the following morning.	A Walker Capt IO See Appx D4 A Walker Capt IO
	25th	0645	'C' Coy as leading coy move over S.P. and proceed on axis as given above, the remainder of the Bn following in rear in adv to contact formation. Considerable enemy demolitions and mines were encountered in area of level crossing 364274 causing a few	

OIRSCHOT		1200 2315	casualties and damage. Pioneer Pl however ably cleared a way and the advance continued. No enemy opposition was encountered the enemy having withdrawn to the North towards S'HERTOGENBOSCH. Bn arrive at OIRSCHOT and is disposed as follows: Bn HQ - 318258, A Coy 317257, B Coy 317256, C Coy 316260, D Coy 318262. Bn 'O' Gp for move to HEUVELSTRAAT 2128.	A Walker Capt IO
HEUVELSTRAAT	26th	0710 0715 1130 1130 1630 1730 2100	Veh party leave OIRSCHOT and proceed to HEUVELSTRAAT via MOERGESTEL 2230 to areas reced by harbour party which had left about one hour before. Marching personnel of Bn leave OIRSCHOT and proceed via north bank of WILHELMINA Canal to HEUVELSTRAAT. Bn conc in HEUVELSTRAAT and at 45 mins notice to move. Harbour party leaves for HILVARENBEK 1924 but considerable number of enemy mines and demolitions caused delay in the area of BIEST 2026 and Pioneers and REs assistance was necessary before progress with the reces could be made. Marching personnel leave HEUVELSTRAAT and proceed via BIEST to HILVARENBEK 1924. Veh party leaves present area for HILVARENBEK. CO and IO attend 'O' Gp at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde and orders received for the Bde attack on TILBURG on 27th Oct. The Bn was placed in reserve for this operation, the attack to be carried out by 6RSF and 6KOSB. Bn still conc at HILVARENBEK.	A Walker Capt IO
HILVARENBEK				A Walker Capt IO
	27th	1000 1300 1700	Marching personnel leave HILVARENBEK and proceed via VOORT 192256 - BIEST 207267 to reserve area at 193285 where they were dispersed in the woods in coy areas. Veh party leaves present area and proceeds by main road via BIEST to reserve area. The Commanding Officer remained at TAC HQ 44 Bde throughout the attack by the other two Bns in the Bde, and returned to the bn at 1630 hrs preparatory to the bn moving forward into TILBURG 1632 now that the other bns had overcome all opposition in the southern half of the town and other troops were occupying the northern half having attacked from the east side. Bn moves fwd into southern outskirts of TILBURG and Bn HQ is established at 182312 with Coys disposed in nearby factory's buildings, the Bn having no tactical role.	A Walker Capt IO
TILBURG	28th		Bn remains at TILBURG and the opportunity is taken during the day of cleaning up stores and equipment.	A Walker Capt IO
TILBURG		1930	Bn receives orders to be prepared to move at 0200 hrs 29 Oct to eastern sector of the 2nd Army front with remainder of 44 Bde and preparations are made for the move.	

NEAR DEURNE	29th	0215 0900 1200 1400 1600 1700 2000	<p>Bn leaves TILBURG in TCVs, head of coln passing S.P. at HILVARENBEEK at 0310 hrs. Route via EINDHOVEN, GELDROP, HELMOND arriving at 0730 hrs in conc area on southern exit of DEURNE 6520 (ref 1/100000 Belgium & NE France Sheet 4). Bn HQ est at 643190.</p> <p>Bn occupies def posn A Coy 644182, B Coy 648182, C Coy 650184, D 645187.</p> <p>CO and IO to Bde HQ.</p> <p>CO & IO meet Comd 44 Bde at ASTEN CHURCH 6113. Bn moves by march route to conc area 625130.</p> <p>Commanding Officer gives out Orders. Bn to recce area RINKVELD as possible def posn (644139).</p> <p>Confirmatory orders from Bde re def posn. Bn occupies def posn, Bn HQ est at 645138, A Coy 641136, B Coy 650136, C Coy 648138, D Coy 644138.</p> <p>7 US Armd Div commence withdrawal through the Bn.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
NEAR LIESEL 6614	30th	0300 1200 1200	<p>A Coy patrols contact 2 A&SH at 625134.</p> <p>Bn moves fwd to take over posns from 6 RSF who are moving fwd to occupy LIESEL 6614. Posns occupied as follows: Bn HQ 656138, C Coy 658140, D Coy 657138.</p> <p>A & B Coys under comd 2 Glas H to stem enemy infiltration in wood 6612. A & B Coys remain under comd 2 Glas H during night with posns A 658133, B 660133.</p> <p>Contact made by patrol with 2 Glas H & 6 RSF during the night. Patrol contacting 6 RSF missed the RSF Coy at 665145 and walked into enemy lines. They took two prisoners. On their return journey they were shot at by enemy MG, one of the PW being killed and one wounded. One of our patrol was wounded. There was some enemy shellfire during the day.</p>	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
NEAR LIESEL	31st	1200 1445 2100	<p>Situation normal during the morning. A & B Coys still under comd 2 Glas H.</p> <p>Bn 'O' Gp at Bn HQ.</p> <p>8RS incl A & B Coys with in sp One Sqn 4 TK GREN GDS occupy promontory of wood 6612. No enemy encountered but during the operation there is intense fire from enemy arty, mortars, and nebelwerfers. This op cost the Bn in casualties 4 offr and 48 ORs killed and wounded. Locations: Bn HQ 663125, A Coy 663123, B Coy 666123, C Coy 665120, D Coy 668120.</p> <p>Patrol from C Coy finds suspected enemy post at 664117 had been evacuated, and posn occupied.</p>	A Walker Capt IO