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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Unit 15th (SCOTTISH) INF DIV SIGNALS
(incl LAD attd)

Commanding Officer LT-COL F.C. SEELY R SIGNALS

Month and Year JAN 45

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
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| PANNINGEN | 1 | 1145 | Small sherry party in Sigs Mess to usher in the New Year, attended by GOC G1 A/Q etc etc - most of the senior officers of Div HQ | DGH |
| | | 1700 | A number of shells, larger than normal, fall in the PANNINGEN area - no damage, only faulty line being the alternative routing to 46 Bde | DGH |
| | | 1830 | Second sherry party in Sigs Mess for the more junior officers of Div HQ - both parties a great success and Comd & officers drink the health of Mess Cpl and Men's Cook at drinks afterwards | DGH |
| | 2 | 0830 | CO and OC Sigs Rear (OC 3 Coy) depart for Brussels on 48 hrs leave | DGH |
| | | 1000 | A busy morning, chiefly devoted to fixing up extra signal stores for 227 Bde and for the DUTCH Coy under comd 44 and for the Div school opening shortly beyond Brussels | DGH |
| | | 1500 | Draft of 9 men received to replace those posted the other day to Far East | DGH |
| PANNINGEN | 3 | 1800 | A normal day of busy routine with nothing outstanding to report | DGH |
| | 4 | 1000 | First case of its kind - Court of Inquiry sits to declare a Sgmn of Codes & Security "illegally absent" having failed to return from compassionate leave | DGH |
| | | 1200 | Line laid by "C" Sec to 6342 LWS (Light Warning Set) of RAF 46 Bde line faulty this morning - also attended to by both "C" Sec and 46 Bde linesmen | DGH |
| | | 1700 | CO and OC 3 Coy return from BRUSSELS | DGH |
| | 5 | 1100 | Routine morning with CO interviewing several people in the ordinary course of affairs, including LT CR WICKS posted to us from 12 Corps Sigs as Cipher officer. LT BROCK (att) leaves on the 7th. | DGH |
| | | 1445 | CO and Adjt pay routine visit to 44 Bde and 227 Bde remaining for tea at 44 Bde | DGH |

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| PANNINGEN | 6 | 1000 | Normal routine day - nothing to report | DGH |
| | | 1200 | Adjnt with Signalmaster and Codes offr leaves for HELMOND for bath etc | DGH |
| | | 1745 | Comd has interview with GOC | DGH |
| | 7 | 0945 | Church parade as normal | DGH |
| | | 1000 | ORD moving mostly from Rear Div to ASTEN - problem of comms not easy, especially with ORD - such a busy extension and taking the OFP with them. Recce shortly vacating LIEROP and coming further forward but this line of no value for ORD. Only solution is to make ORD and Rear RASC a party line and arrangements for this under way & completed by 1800 hrs | DGH |
| | | 1800 | | DGH |
| PANNINGEN | 8 | 1000 | Signal officer RECCE to see CO and Adj re forthcoming move of Recce Regt on Wednesday or Thursday of this week to STICHTING HEILBLOEN (717015). "C" sec start on this lengthy lay which will be carried on from new HQ Recce Regt to 46 Bde. 8 miles of quad specially authorized by CSO for this job. Line sec also engaged on cable recovery and receive rum ration at night | DGH |
| | | 1100 | CO with OC 1 Coy inspects all CVs at Main and Rear Div HQ | DGH |
| | | 1200 | Unit receives its first "weasel" - with LAD for inspection | DGH |
| | | 1400 | Signalmaster Rear on ORD problem again - possible alternative solution | DGH |
| | 9 | 0930 | - onwards. Adjnt engaged in taking Summary of Evidence in the case of Sgmn Fielding (damage to veh - refusal to accept CO's award) | DGH |
| | | 1000 | "C" cable again on Recce line - by the afternoon only 500 yds to do - held up by fresh supplies of quad cable not arriving until the evening | DGH |
| | | 1400 | Commanding Officer's orderly room | DGH |
| PANNINGEN | 10 | 0840 | CV1 and CV2 remain open after normal test call for move of Recce | DGH |
| | | 1030 | at 1030 hrs - comms OK. Recce move | DGH |
| | | 1250 | Recce in new location. Both pairs of new line through are terminated at present on Recce board (later to be taken on to 46 Bde). Contact between both pairs partially remedied. Line is UG from PANNINGEN - BERINGEN thence quad. | DGH |
| | | 1500 | 218 CA and 39 FS line cease as party line - both now through on separate UG lines | DGH |
| | | 1700 | ORD and RASC now on separate direct lines from SWAN (RASC on former Recce line (SWAN - UG HELMOND - UG LIEROP - D8 ZOMEREN BRIDGE - quad RASC) and ORD on former RASC stumped at ASTEN Speech OK on both circuits | DGH |
| | 2150 | Extreme Frost Warning received (14° of frost tonight). Necessary precautions taken - both for engines and for batteries - all | DGH | |

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| | | | engines being run for 20 mins every 4 hrs (all vehs are already filled with glycol mixture) | |
| PANNINGEN | 11 | 0900 | A day of normal routine. One CV (LP) exchange this day on Corps authority for one ACV (LP) from 11 Armd Div. To be used as a spare especially for a Bde HQ going forward into an exposed position in which case the Bde will make a temporary exchange with "A" Sec with one of its own CV's. | DGH |
| | | 1000 | | DGH |
| | | 1930 | The new G1 (LT-COL HAILEY) comes to the Sigs Mess for drinks before dinner | DGH |
| | 12 | 1000 | Comd attends GOC's conference on future events - changeovers in Bdes etc, additional tps coming under comd and the Div area considerably enlarged in the near future | DGH |
| | | 1400 | CSO 8 Corps visits Comd and remains for about 1½ hours, talking over routine matters and inspecting one or two of the CVs | DGH |
| | | 1800 | First of the Main Div HQ Officers PT classes - in the conference room. A great success - actually a dancing class and "strip the willow" was practiced on this occasion, with the aid of one of the SIGS pipers | DGH |
| | 13 | 1200 | Issued Line Diagram as at 1800 hrs | DGH Folio 21 |
| | | 1300 | Comd and OC 3 Coy leave for Corps on routine visit and to attend an evening function with 8 Corps Signals | DGH |
| PANNINGEN | 14 | 0915 | Church parade as normal. CO and Adjt, with 2in-c, busy on many matters of greater and lesser importance, prior to departure tomorrow of CO on leave | DGH |
| | | 1000 | Link working (CV6 (outstn) - CV5) to Div School at GENVAL nr Brussels, a distance of 78 miles. R5 both ways CW, speech not practicable - rod aerals only, naturally, results considered reasonably satisfactory | DGH |
| | | 1400 | Line Section out recceing new line to be laid to ASTEN - a lengthy lay forced upon us at last by the amount of lines already on the SWAN board and by the incoming fourth Bde already mentioned coming in to ASTEN shortly | DGH |
| PANNINGEN | 15 | 1000 | CO and Codes & Secy officer depart on UK leave. Major GF JOHNSON assumes comd of the Unit | DGH |
| | | 1000 | Adjt engaged on additional summary of evidence on the Fielding case | DGH |
| | | 1430 | CO has conference of those concerned on the subject of forthcoming changes in Bde dispositions and of 1 Cdo Bde coming u/c 15 (S) Div on 18 Jan. Arrangements satisfactorily concluded. | DGH |
| | 16 | 1000 | Line to ASTEN turns out to have been a good "spec" - 1 Cdo Bde, prior to coming u/c 15 Div concentrating in ASTEN at old 227 Bde HQ and we are able to connect them on without delay. ORD also | DGH |

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| | | 1000 | put in parallel on this line, but later in the day, 10 line exchange established in ASTEN with Div line terminating there and 1 CDO Bde and ORD as extensions | DGH |
| | | 1800 | Adjt engaged on Summary of Evidence in the case of a returned absentee from compassionate leave | DGH |
| PANNINGEN | 17 | 1215 | COL ASHLEY (47 Trg Div SIGS) and LT-COL COPELAND (MT3) arrive on visit to the Unit - leaving tomorrow morning. After lunch they proceed with A/CR Sigs and OC 3 Coy to 44 Bde and visit Rear Div HQ and Signal Office etc at Main Div HQ after tea | DGH |
| | | 1400 | | DGH |
| | | 1600 | Sig Offr (CAPT BEATTIE) 1 CDO Bde visits Adjt and many points in connection with their takeover settled (frequencies, codesigns etc). Proceeds after tea with OC 3 Coy to talk over a/m matters, particularly UC switchboards and telephones, which are proving the greatest difficulty in these handovers - they have none and no one has any to issue to them! ACSO meets QM to arrange matters on the 'Q' level | DGH |
| | 18 | 1000 | Adj again engaged on court-martial work & other returns - Hons & Awards etc. LT QM departs on leave | DGH |
| | | 1100 | A/CO and Adjt on burning problem of phones etc for 1 CDO Bde with more success today by a good combout from all corners of the division | DGH |
| | | 1800 | Ech allotment of leave received - very much reduced | DGH |
| PANNINGEN | 19 | 0900 | Final arrangements on the Sigs side made for the changeover of Bdes tomorrow and also for INNS OF COURT Regt of 11 Armd Div who are also coming under comd and going into ASTEN tomorrow - no problem now as they will take over the lines at present in use by 1 CDO Bde. Wireless silence forward tomorrow | DGH |
| | | 1000 | Line Sec engaged on two lines from our ASTEN switching centre (now known as "DIAMOND") partly UG (from LIEROP) to HELMOND for 44 and 46 Bde Wkshps. Completed by 1700 hrs | DGH |
| | | 1400 | Adjt commences clear-out of all secret files & institutes new filing system | DGH |
| | 20 | 0900 | Line sections engaged on completion of work in ASTEN area | DGH |
| | | 1100 | 44 Bde (less Tac HQ) move out - 227 Bde take over and 1 CDO Bde take over from 227 Bde. All lines taken and handed over satisfactorily. INNS OF COURT Regt move into 1 CDO location in ASTEN - lines OK there also and 'A' Sec rep proceeds there for wireless briefing | DGH |
| PANNINGEN | | 1230 | News of Div being relieved almost immediately by 6 Airborne Div and Div going back to TURNHOUT - HERENTHALS area for rest | DGH |

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| | | | <p>period. Secrecy extreme but former plan of ops under 30 Corps appears to be a certainty. Div will be under 1st Cdn Army in rest area. Recce parties laid on for tomorrow - all quite smoothly as per previous arrangements when this plan was in the air before</p> <p>1530 Adjt, OC 3 Coy and OC HQ Coy attend A/Q conference on above at Rear Div HQ. A/CO sees Col etc</p> <p>1700 Adv party 6 Airborne Div arrives - 3 offrs & 9 ORs. CAPT BLACK (OC HQ COY) returns from leave.</p> <p>1800 All arrangements in order for tomorrow and all & sundry of those "in the picture" are heartily delighted at the prospect of leaving PANNINGEN</p> | DGH DGH DGH |
| PANNINGEN | 21 | <p>0930 A/CR Sigs leaves for Corps, new Div area etc</p> <p>0930 Line Sec of 6 Airborne and ours out together recceing for taking & handing over lines</p> <p>1200 Issued Line Diagram as @ 1200 hrs</p> <p>1300 Information received that 1 CDO Bde leaving again tomorrow & being relieved by 8 RS, 4 KSLI and INNS OF COURT (both 11 Armd Div) all directly under comd 15 (S) Div. Arrangements made for netting of 4 KSLI and 8 RS. Adjt arranges for DIAMOND switch to close wef first light 22nd and to proceed to HELDEN to take over lines from 1 CDO Bde</p> <p>1700 CV6 moved from Div School to Report Centre at new Div HQ at HERENTHALS and reports to OC Div Recce Party (Major HOUSTON). After some little difficulty comms established R3 each way</p> <p>1800 Tremendous arguments over swbds and teles to be handed over to incoming Div - finally settled but not easily</p> <p>2000 A/CR Sigs returns and has left half of line section in new area but most lines already in existence (51 (H) Div)</p> | DGH DGH DGH Appx Folio 22 DGH DGH DGH DGH | |
| PANNINGEN | 22 | <p>0830 Adjt attends A/Q conference at Rear Div HQ - Div now moving to TILBURG and not to HERENTHALS</p> <p>0915 Spare F&F switchboard takes over lines from 1 CDO Bde in HELDEN smoothly giving lines to the 2 bns in the line, 8 RS & INNS OF COURT, and other Helden subscribers</p> <p>0920 Recce move out and pair in quad strapped through direct to 46 Bde</p> <p>1010 1 CDO Bde move out</p> <p>1035 All stns satisfactorily netted, including 8 RS for the first time on Div Comd R/T net</p> <p>1115 A/CR Sigs leaves for 30 Corps & TILBURG on liaison with CSO and on recce</p> | DGH DGH DGH DGH DGH DGH | |

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| | | 1800 | Line traces, diagrams etc handed over to senior rep of adv party of 6 Airborne Div | |
| PANNINGEN | 23 | 0900 | A day of final adjustments and arrangements - 6 Airborne take over lines at 1100 hrs - situation somewhat complicated by the fact of us moving tomorrow and comd not actually passing until 250001B hrs but 6 Airborne agree to take Rear lines for us | DGH |
| | | 0900 | - onwards / except for CCRA line which we are doing - armd car remaining also to hold Div Comd net until changeover - Col remaining behind - net now consisting of 227 Bde, 3 Para Bde and 5 Para Bde both of whom are now under comd 15 Div (satisfactorily netted at 1300 hrs - 1½ hrs before actually coming under comd). We are leaving small party behind for various duties under OC HQ Coy with lines section also leaving half behind until following day | DGH |
| | | 1400 | A/CR Sigs conference with 6 Airborne reps for final details | DGH |
| | | 1500 | A/CR Sigs departs for new area | DGH |
| | | 1800 | Still arguments on vexed question of exchanges and telephones but reasonably satisfactorily settled. A good handover in general | DGH |
| nr TILBURG | 24 | 0945 | Main Div HQ followed by Rear Div HQ leaves PANNINGEN and moves to the SEMINARY (235380) near TILBURG with Rear Div HQ in the CONVENT at SPARENDEAL (283405) arriving at approx 1600 hrs. Now under 30 CORPS, 1st CDN ARMY | DGH |
| | | 1700 | Corps quad through - 1 pr through to Rear Div - Div lines quad to OISTERWIJK (2334) thence UG into TILBURG for 44, 46 Bdes. Only 46 Bde in so far, but arrangements well in hand for all subscribers. Wireless silence on for Div - change to List "A" wef 0100 hrs tomorrow. New list produced tonight - netting times to follow | DGH |
| nr TILBURG | 25 | 0900 | Issued 30 Corps freqs to all concerned | DGH |
| | | 1000 | CV5 nets on Corps R/T Comd net at 10 mins notice - R5 right away and first stations to come up and group. Rest of wireless nets still silent. Line sections busy on completing line layout - line through to 227 Bde as soon as they arrive and line also completed this afternoon to HQRASC - other subscribers not yet arrived at locations | DGH |
| | | 1240 | Rear party arrives from PANNINGEN - all handed over there most satisfactorily | DGH |
| | | 1430 | A/CR Sigs and Codes Offr go to Corps on routine visit re wireless arrangements, link-signs, codes (now 1 CDN Army) etc | DGH |
| nr TILBURG | 27 | 1000 | A/CR Sigs attends planning conference at HQ 30 Corps, returning at lunch time | DGH |

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| | | 1200 | Issued line diagram as @ 1600 hrs - line layout now exactly as per this diagram | DGH Appx Folio 23 |
| | | 1400 | Adjt and Signalmaster leave for Tilburg for much-needed bath | DGH |
| | | 1800 | Adjt and Sgt Morris (orderly room Sgt) briefed for op "VERITABLE" by A/CR Sigs | DGH |
| | 28 | 0945 | Church Parade as normally | DGH |
| | | 1500 | All 15 Div nets down to but excl 18 & 38 set nets open and net on Inf List "A" in connection with op "TURBINATE II" - as per 4000/G(Ops) issued by "G" for Sigs dated 26/1/45 - all comms satisfactorily established despite Corps confusion who appear incapable of deciding whether they are on Corps List "A" or "B" - some Corps nets on A and others on B. Certain nets find increasing interference as evening comes (CV1, CV8, CV7), Adjt attempting to clear | DGH Appx Folio 24 |
| nr TILBURG | 29 | 0900 | Wireless position much more satisfactory this morning but decided to put Div Comd R/T on to alternative freq on next period | DGH |
| | | 1100 | All wireless nets close | DGH |
| | | 1600 | OC Sigs 6 GDS TK BDE (coming under comd 15 Div) to see A/CR Sigs and Adjt - Bde moving into TILBURG tomorrow - arrangements made for line for them by tomorrow night | DGH |
| | 30 | 0930 | A/CR Sigs leaves for Corps to discuss line layout in assembly area for forthcoming ops | DGH |
| | | 1045 | Adjt and Codes Offr depart for Corps for frequency allotment and callsign conferences respectively | DGH |
| | | 1140 | A/CR Sigs returns | DGH |
| | | 1610 | Adjt and Codes Offr return - several amendments to be made in freq allotment in order to assist the move | DGH |
| | | | Appalling clashes with other fmns in the ops | |
| | | 1620 | CR Sigs and Codes Offr return from leave. CR Sigs reassumes comd | DGH |
| nr TILBURG | 31 | 0800 | Wireless state OK all round - Div R/T comd net now on alt freq of 2128 Kc/s - better than 2372 Kc/s on this occasion | DGH |
| | | 1000 | CR Sigs and 2 i/c leave for Corps to see CSO on line matters | DGH |
| | | 1030 | Unit receives 3 weasels (two allotted "C" and one to "D" Sec) but one has to go straight to wkshps | DGH |
| | | 1125 | Unit receives 2 C52 wireless sets - for CCRA and Corps Comd nets - and two of the 9 sets are to be handed over to 3 (Br) Div Sigs | DGH |
| | | 1600 | Wireless det of "R" Force arrives - to take over from us by degrees, the Rear R/T link to Corps - part of the "TURBINATE II" deception plan | DGH |

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| | | 1700 | CO of No5 Special Wireless Sec ("R" Force) calls to see CO re the above and the forthcoming recording of certain of the Div nets | DGH |
| | | 2030 | CR Sigs and 2 i/c leave for GOC's party in TILBURG | DGH |
| | | | David G Heilbron Capt R. Signals Adjutant | |