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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Unit 6th Bn The Royal Scots Fusiliers

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie

Month and Year December 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
MEIJEL	1 Dec		All offrs, WO's and NCOs down to pl Sjt attended briefing conferences by Commanding Officer.	
"	2 Dec		Quiet day. Training with KANGAROOS.	
BLERICK	3 Dec	0600 0730 1015 1800	Bn coln moved off at 0600 hrs. Bn was transported in KANGAROOS (RAM tank chassis with no turret) as armoured transporters. Flail tanks, flame throwing tanks (CROCODILES) and bridging tanks moved up to the A Tk ditch surrounding BLERICK by 0730 hrs. At 1015 hrs Bn received word to advance and cross A Tk ditch. Most KANGAROOS were bogged but the Bn reached the town and occupied their sectors. 28 prisoners were taken. Bn casualties were one killed and eight wounded. "F" Echelon under 2 IC and MTO moved up at 1800 hrs.	
"	4 Dec		Bn improved positions after fairly quiet night with intermittent shelling. Another 22 prisoners came in.	
"	5 Dec		Bn improved positions and checked area. There was some periodical shelling by the enemy. Some of it from heavy guns. No casualties. Awards as follows were announced. MC - Major HM Gow MC - Major MHC Hughes-Young MM - Cpl A Davison MM - L/Cpl F Bell MM - Fus J Earnshaw Gen Ritchie, Comd 12 Corps, accompanied by the Div Comd and Bde Comd called at Bn HQ at 1030 hrs. At about 2200 hrs "B" Coy called up to say a civilian had swam the MAAS and was at their HQ. He was sent to Bn HQ and interviewed by Lieut Baymaker the Dutch LO from Bde. He gave much interesting information and stated that about 400 German troops had refused to patrol the river banks and had been taken away in consequence.	

BLERICK	6 Dec		Periodic shelling by enemy. No casualties. Coys occupied with improvement of positions and areas.	
"	7 Dec	2205 2000	Day opened with a heavy attack by the enemy on Bn HQ area. No casualties. Very little shelling during day. Bde Comd called in during morning. Plans were made to shoot up enemy bank with 3" mortar, smoke and HE, also flares in order to tempt him to disclose himself. Shoot was made at 2205 hrs. Several hits were made across the water with the PIAT. About 2000 hrs another Dutchman came in having swam the MAAS from VENLO. He did not have so much information as the previous man on the 5th.	
"	8 Dec		CO went to Div to lunch with Div Comd. Spasmodic shelling by the enemy was reported at scattered parts. No casualties. 53 reinforcements who had joined the Bn the previous day were posted to Coys. The A Tk pl carried out a very successful shoot against the suspected enemy OP at the top of a factory tower on the opposite bank. Twenty three AP and HE hits were recorded out of twenty-four shots fired. A recce patrol went down to the river bank at dusk and pinpointed three enemy positions.	
"	9 Dec	2100	Reasonably quiet day. Bde Comd called. CO returned from Div. Coys improved positions. At about 2100 hrs flares were put up from "A" Coy area and three PIATs were fired at a battery at the factory over the river. 3" mortars supported with HE and smoke.	
"	10 Dec		CO inspected Coy areas and pl posts. Div Comd called at Bn HQ and went forward to "A" Coy OP overlooking river MAAS and VENLO. Big increase in shelling and mortaring of Bn area. No casualties reported.	
BLERICK	11 Dec		Quiet day	
"	12 Dec		Little to report. Quiet day. A Tk guns of Bn and 3" mortars carried out offensive shoots across the MAAS.	
"	13 Dec		The CO, Lt Col I Mackenzie DSO Maj HM Gow MC L/Sjt P Rees DCM L/Sjt A Curran MM Sjt W Beagan MM Cpl J McCarthy MM Cpl F Bell MM	

		<p>The above mentioned attended an investiture held by Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery KCB DSO at ZOMEREN. After the ceremony the C-in-C addressed the recipients and spectators. He then addressed the senior officers of the Div down to 2ICs of the Bns.</p> <p>In the Bn area there was an increase in mortaring and shelling, two hits being recorded on the Bn OP in "A" Coy. "A" Coy area generally came in for a good deal of mortaring and 88 shelling. There were no casualties. A tk guns and mortars of the Bn continued their aggressive policy and took on a number of targets across the MAAS.</p>	
"	14 Dec	<p>Lt Gen GH Barker DSO the new Corps Comd visited Bn HQ accompanied by the Bde Comd. He visited "A" Coy OP and studied the enemy side of the Maas. He also fired a specially laid 6 pdr A Tk gun and registered a hit on BRODIES TOWER across the MAAS. The CO fired a captured 75 mm gun and it was estimated to be the first shot actually fired into Germany by this Bn. Range about 7000 yards.</p> <p>During the night three civilians swam the river MAAS from VENLO. They were all youngsters and had stripped and then greased themselves beforehand. Shelling and mortaring of the area was quite heavy but no casualties were sustained. Offensive shooting was carried out with all Bn weapons.</p>	
"	15 Dec	<p>Enemy mortar and shell fire fell in the Bn area at intervals during the day. No casualties were sustained although two 88 shells struck the Mortar Pl HQ. Coys spent the day in improving their positions.</p>	
"	16 Dec	<p>Quiet day. Less shelling. Bde Comd called. Capt GC TURNER rejoined Bn after having been away wounded since June 29th. Capt KJ BURNETT rejoined Bn after having been away wounded since 8 Sep 44. Bde IO IAN ROBERTSON R. Scots arrived to spend night at Bn HQ.</p>	
"	17 Dec	<p>During the night 16/17 there were several bouts of enemy shelling. An enemy aircraft was also heard overhead and some bombs were dropped, but not in the area of the town. The CO and 2 IC attended a conference at Bde. Arrangements were completed for relief by 8 RS. Offensive action by fire from all weapons was carried out on enemy positions across the MAAS in VENLO.</p>	
MAASBREE	18 Dec	<p>Battalion was relieved from BLERICK by 8 RS. Relief was carried out at last light without incident or casualties. Relief completed and Bn installed in new area by 2200 hrs.</p>	

"	19 Dec		CO inspected new drafts from Green Howards and Royal Irish Fusiliers. Admin by Coys. 2 IC left with Bde party to recce probable rest area.	
"	20 Dec		Re-organisation of fourth company was completed, thus putting Bn back on a fourth Company basis. "B" Ech moved to Bn Area at MAASBREE - ROOTH.	
"	21 Dec		CO made recce for counter-attack role for a company held at short notice. "A" Coy moved out to a fwd location for the night.	
"	22 Dec		Quiet day. Bn in reserve and resting.	
"	23 Dec		-do-	
"	24 Dec		-do-	
MAASBREE	25 Dec		"A" "B" and "S" Coys held Xmas dinners in a barn. They were a great success. Xmas fare was plentiful. CO visited all dinners.	
"	26 Dec		"C" "D" and "HQ" Coys held Xmas dinners. Bde Comd and CO visited dinners. Div Comd called with seasons greetings.	
"	27 Dec		Recces carried out for relief of 8 RS.	
	28 Dec		Relief of 8 RS carried out without incident.	
	29 Dec		Quiet day. Coys settling in and improving positions.	
	30 Dec		Quiet day. Coys settling in and improving positions.	I Mackenzie Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers