

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. 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 278 Field Company RE

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year NOV 44

Commanding Officer Major C.R. NICHOLLS RE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
591211	1 Nov		3 Pl - mine clearance behind bns pushing East to DEURNE CANAL, rd and verges checked from 672143 to 685148, no mines found.	
"	2 Nov		Secs stand by to prepare brs over DEURNE canal for demolition-parties not called out. 1 Pl clear road blocks in LIESEL. Coy moved at 1400 hrs to 562215, arriving at 1530 hrs.	
562215	3 Nov		1 & 3 pls employed on mine clearance in proposed gun area around LIESEL. 4 R Mines two T Mi 43 lifted. 2 Pl - maint of rd DEURNE- LIESEL. Coy moved at 1000 hrs and arrived at new location at 1230 hrs, VLIERDEN.	
VLIERDEN	4 Nov		2 Pl Rd maint.	
"	5 Nov		2 Pl Rd maint. 3 Pl Clearance of minefield near HEITRAK - 15 T Mi 42 lifted.	
"	6 Nov		1 Pl Clearance of mines on tracks for 6 RSF. 5 R Mines 12 Tellermines lifted. 2 Pl Rd Maint.	
"	7 Nov		1 Pl Improvements to tracks in area of 668112. 2 Pl Rd maint and checking of verges DEURNE- LIESEL.	
"	8 Nov		1 Pl Rd maint DEURNE - ZOMMEREN. 2 Pl Rd maint DEURNE- rd junc 683128 3 Pl Rd maint ASTEN-MEIJEL rd. Removal of booby traps from knocked out American tanks.	
	9 Nov		1 Pl Rd maint as on 8 Nov. 2 Pl " " " " " and stretches from 3 Pl.	
	10 Nov		1 pl Rd maint 2 pl Rd maint 3 Pl Rd maint.	
	11 Nov		All pls on rd maint. Lt Haig takes party out to destroy bombs and dud shells in area VLIERDEN.	
	12 Nov		All pls on rd maint. Route recces carried out.	

	13 Nov		All pls on rd maint. OC and Lt Allan carry out daylight recce of demolished br at HOOGEBRUG (708123). Crawl 800 yds to house at 707122 but unable to get full view. Report site probably obstructed.	
	14 Nov		All pls on rd maint. 3 Pl send out night recce party with 7 S to recce sites for assault crossing in area HOOGEBRUG. OC visits CRE at 1630 hrs to discuss future ops.	
	15 Nov <del>16 Nov</del>		1 Pl put in culvert br at 631123 to get guns into gun area. 2 & 3 pls on rd maint. <del>Route maint handed over to 7</del> OC carries out recce of HOOGEBRUG in Air OP and confirms site obstructed on near bank by wreckage. L/Sgt Heywood goes out on night patrol to obtain details of wreckage.	
	16 Nov		Route maint handed over to 7 Army Tps. 1 & 3 Pls minefield clearance in area MEIJEL. Many R mines Tellermines, S Mines and Schu mines lifted. One veh from 3 Pl blown up on mine. OC attends Bde O Gp 2030 - Op NUTCRACKER Coy O Gp 2230 Operation cancelled 2330.	
	17 Nov		1 & 3 pls continue minefield clearance area MEIJEL. More mines lifted. Cpl Livingstone casualty on Schu mine.	
	18 Nov		1 Pl check landing strip for Air OP at 672094. OC attends CRE O Gp 1230 hrs " " Bde O Gp 1430 hrs Coy O Gp 1700 hrs. Notice received at 1830 that op was cancelled but might take place 1200 hrs 19 Nov. 2 Pl send out night party to clear fallen trees off rd from rd junc 682128 to HOOGEBRUG. 2 GH give protection.	
	19 Nov	0900  0920	Message received to say that 9 Cams have crossed DEURNE canal, all previous plans cancelled and cl 9 & cl 40 brs required as early as possible. 1 Pl leave to construct cl 9 br. 3 Pl " " " cl 40 br. 2 Pl leave to maintain HOOGEBRUG rd. 3 Pl start demolishing wreckage on existing site. 1 Pl select site for cl 9 br immediately south of cl 40 and start checking for mines. Tellermines and R mines found. FBE eqpt arrives on site by 1200 hrs. Intermittent shelling of site.	

		1600	Wreckage from cl 40 site cleared and mines cleared from cl 9 site.	
		2140	FBE complete. 60 ft two trestles. Maint taken over by HQ Pl.	
		2300	Excavation for cl 40 br complete. Building starts at 2300 hrs.	
	20 Nov		Coy moves at 1000 hrs to 708122 and arrive at 1300 hrs. 2 Pl send mine clearance party fwd with 9 Cams. Cl 40 br completed 0900 hrs. 60 D.S. with level 10 ft ramps. HQ pl supervise inf working party on maint of bde axis from rd junc 682128-HOOGEBRUG fwd. Bde O Gp 1600 hrs Coy O Gp 1700 hrs OC visits CRE to ask for assistance. One pl 279 placed under comd. 2 Pl send out night mine clearance party to clear from 730116 fwd to canal.	
708122	21 Nov	1030	3 Pl to construct cl 9 br at 736116 2 Pl " " cl 40 br " " Pl 279 to deal with cl 9 approach on far bank. 3 Pl arrive on site at 0830. Inf cross at 0900. OC arrives on site at 0845. Existing alignment blocked by wreckage, possible site for cl 9 immediately south. Decided to put up cl 9 Bailey.	
		1400	Div comd arrives on site and says he must have cl 40 br by night as well. Recce fwd to discover alternative site and it is impossible to get wreckage cleared in time. Decided to double up end of cl 9 50 SS without endposts and make it cl 40. Cl 40 br complete. Clearance of wreckage for final cl 40 br in hand. Pl 279 employed on opening up route fwd. 1 Pl dump 16 lorry loads of Sommerfeld track and PBS for work on track at 738115.	
	22 Nov		One pl 279 Fd Coy under comd. 2 Pl and pl 279 work on Sommerfeld track. Heavy rain all day and ground in appalling state. Track laid from 736117 to 743118 (800 yds) 1 Pl do night work on same track and lay further 300 yds.	
	23 Nov		Work on track continues. 900 yds completed in heavy rain. 2 Pl on track laying. 3 Pl on track laying and on arrival of pl from 279 Fd Coy later in the day 3 Pl take over track maint which is already bearing a fairly heavy commitment.	

			Coy HQ and 1 Pl move to 742108	
	24 Nov		<p>Work on track continues.  1 Pl laying  One Pl 279 Fd Coy laying  2 Pl &amp; 3 Pl on track maintenance. Work continues until 1830 by which time another 1200 yds have been done. Now making track complete from 736117 to 762125.</p> <p>2030 OC told to report to Bde at once. OC given outline plans for new adv through HORST. OC told to go to CRE.</p> <p>2200 OC sees CRE and is told to construct cl 40 brs tomorrow at 844183 and 843177. Br at 844183 to have first priority. Div br pl to be at DEURNE at 0830 hrs to be picked up on way through. Br eqpt for second br to follow later. OC arranges for local protection of br party by 7 S.</p> <p>2330 OCs O Gp.  1 Pl to construct cl 40 br at 844183. To move DEURNE - AMERIKA - HORST and pick up br eqpt on route.  2 Pl to do adv party work for cl 40 br at 843177 to proceed there by route SKYE. 2 &amp; 3 Pls join Coy HQ at 742108</p>	
794144	25 Nov		<p>Coy moves to 794144.</p> <p>0730 1 Pl leave for cl 40 site at 844183. Get bogged on the way and lose one sec. Then held up by traffic and do not reach br site until 1200 hrs.</p> <p>0900 3 Pl leave for cl 40 site at 843177 and reach site at 1130.</p> <p>1330 Protection party from 7S cross stream. Shelling on br site - Lt Niven and 1 OR wounded.</p> <p>1500 Adv party work starts on both sites.</p> <p>1600 Eqpt arrives at site 844183 and unloading starts.</p> <p>1700 Adv party work completed on both sites. Sec from 2 Pl put under comd 1 Pl to finish unloading.</p> <p>1800 Building starts at site 844183.  OC attends Bde O Gp at 1815 hrs</p> <p>1915 OC sees CRE</p> <p>2000 OCs O Gp</p> <p>2030 Br complete. 10' DS with 10 ft ramp at either end. HQ pl takes over br maint.</p> <p>2300 Bailey pl and half FBE pl put under comd for further ops.</p>	
	26 Nov	0730	Lt Haig reports to 2 Glas H to move with them and report on obstruction ahead.	
		0730	2 Pl report to site 843177 and meet covering party from 2 GH.	
		0800	2 GH cross and unloading stores starts.	

827168		0830 3 Pl move fwd with D4, culverting & FBE prepared to open up route fwd. 0930 Coy moves to 827168. 1130 Lt Haig gives preliminary reports on craters on road ahead. Craters at 855163, 864150 and 886151. CRE asks for 5 tippers. 1400 Filling of craters commenced. 1800 Rd from BROEK - NIEUWE CALIFORNIE to 886151 now passable to one way traffic.	
	27 Nov	3 pl continues work on craters, making route two way up to 886151. Work on crater at 886151 is not possible owing to heavy shelling. A night patrol was sent out to clear roads at this site which obstructed work. Verges checked for mines from BROEK to 864150. 1 Pl send sec to 9 Cams to clear mines in HOMBERG. 2 Pl send mine clearance parties for Air O.P. Sqn, Div HQ and Pro & put 20 ft ramps on br at 843177. Lt Haig does route recce for 7S.	
	28 Nov	1 Pl send two secs to 7S for mine clearance. 17 R mines lifted between 908199-908196. 2 Pl add wearing surface to brs at 844183 and 843177.	
823090	29 Nov	Coy hands over all responsibility in HORST area to 11 Armd Div and moves to KORTHEIDE 823090. 3 Pl clearing mines in METRIK area. 8 R mines and 4 Schu mines lifted. L/Cpl Bedford injured by Schu mine.	
"	30 Nov	1 Pl mine clearance - track from ROTH (8408) to 850105. 20 T mi 35 lifted. 2 Pl rd maint SEVENUM-MAASBREE-BERINGE.  C.R. Nicholls Major RE OC 278 Field Company RE	Weekly AFS W3008 & W3009