

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

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 7th Bn The Seaforth Highlanders

Month and Year OCTOBER, 1944

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. P.M. HUNT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	Oct 1		Bn holding dug in posns on WILHELMINA CANAL holding line of Rly-Canal to X Tracks BEST.	
	Oct 2	1200	Bn holding dug in posns on WILHELMINA CANAL. Div Comd visits Bn HQ.	
	Oct 3	1645 1815	Bn holding dug in posns on WILHELMINA CANAL. Bn leaves WILHELMINA CANAL posns - taken over by 2 Seaforth, 51st Div. Bn arrives at HELMOND trg area. Move by MT.	
	Oct 4	1000 1415	Bn at HELMOND trg area. Bde Comd visits Bn HQ and inspects billets. COs Conference.	
	Oct 5		Bn at HELMOND Trg area. Trg to incl:- Coys trg in wood clearing and street fighting. Juniors' ldrs cadre - Sec and Pl Battle Drills - Wireless Procedure. Use of grenades, PIAT and Sten for close combat fighting. Recreational trg periods.	
	Oct 6		Bn at HELMOND trg area.	
	Oct 7	0800	Bn at HELMOND trg area. CO leaves for recce area MOLENHOEK 7254.	
	Oct 8		Bn at HELMOND trg area.	
	Oct 9	1000 2200	Bn at HELMOND trg area. Div Comd visits Bn and spoke to the Bn and took the march past led by the Bn Pipe Band. All ranks Dance.	
	Oct 10		Bn at HELMOND trg area.	
	Oct 11		Bn at HELMOND trg area.	
	Oct 12		Bn at HELMOND trg area.	
	Oct 13		Bn at HELMOND trg area.	
	Oct 14		Bn at HELMOND trg area.	
	Oct 15		Bn at HELMOND trg area.	

			Bn on Ex 'COCKSHY' to exercise the tps in embussing and debussing from RAMS. and going into attack on RAMS supported by Tanks. Area GELDROF Ref. 5016.	
	Oct 17		Bn at HELMOND trg area. Bn Football team played 9 Cameronians. Won 6 - 2.	
	Oct 18		Bn at HELMOND trg area. All Ranks Dance 1930 hrs.	
	Oct 19		Bn at HELMPOND trg area. Snipers Cadre under Bde for four days. "I" Sec Course " " " " " "	
	Oct 20		Bn at HELMOND trg area.	
	Oct 21		Bn at HELMOND trg area.	
	Oct 22		Bn at HELMOND trg area. Bde Cloth Model Ex for CO, Coy Comds and Specialist Offrs.	
	Oct 23		Bn at HELMOND trg area. Cloth Model - Arty Inf Co-op W/T 18 set.	
	Oct 24	1430 1730 1930 2030 2300	Bn at HELMOND trg area. CO held 'O' Group. Bn leaves HELMOND. Bn arrives at ACHT Conc area. Move from HELMOND in TCVs. CO leaves for 'O' Gp at Bde. CO held 'O' Gp. Bde to adv tomorrow on axis BEST, OIRSCHOT, MOIRGESTEL. Bn embussed on RAMS.	
	Oct 25	0945 1245 1430 1730 2000 2200	Bn leaves ACHT. Advance to Contact. Marching personnel embussed in RAMS 389257 Sheet 5 HOLLAND 1/100000 - Advance through OIRSCHOT, SPOORDONK. Bn conc GROOT, HEIBLOEM 2727. Bn moves to OISTERWIJK 2334. Bn contacts enemy SOUTH of STREAM 230337. Enemy holding line NORTH of STREAM and in OISTERWIJK. Bridge on main axis blown but crossing possible on foot. Br over stream 234343 intact. Tanks engage targets in OISTERWIJK. Coys take up posns. 'C' Coy area X rds 231336 - 'A' Coy 235339 - 'D' Coy 226333 - Bn HQ 231330. Bde Comd's Conference. COs 'O' Gp. Two Bns attack to capture OISTERWIJK and establish limited Br head to line of rly as close protection for RES building bridge. Bn casualties: One O.R. wounded.	App 'A'
	Oct 26	0700	Attack on OISTERWIJK begins. 7 Seaforth to make limited Br Head over river SOUTH of OISTERWIJK - 'A' Coy RIGHT - 'D' Coy LEFT - 'C' Coy in RESERVE. 2 Glashow Hrs to go through 7 Seaforth over Rly and extend Br Head. Heavy enemy shelling and mortaring area of fwd posns.	

		<p>0705 Major RWG Robertson McIsaac, OC 'D' Coy, wounded as Coy moves fwd - Died of wounds same day.</p> <p>0710 Lieut AEM Dickie, 'C' Coy, wounded.</p> <p>0725 Both 'A' and 'D' Coys across stream. Start house clearing in town.</p> <p>0735 Coys contacted each other in town. Lieut WA Gunn killed by shelling.</p> <p>0750 'C' Coy - Reserve Coy moving up and crosses stream.</p> <p>0805 'A' Coy on objective and digging in.</p> <p>0810 Lieut H. Holden, Bn Medical Offr, wounded.</p> <p>0815 'D' Coy consolidates on objective.</p> <p>0830 Tac HQ cross river to area CHURCH 232342.</p> <p>0835 All Coys across and in posn. Digging in.</p> <p>0840 Carrier Pl on extreme right to engage any threat from right flank.</p> <p>0900 2 G.H. passing through area. Enemy shelling and mortaring area.</p> <p>0900 Bde Comd visits Bn HQ.</p> <p>1100 Bn HQ estd 232342.</p> <p>1215 Local Comd of FFI of Netherland contacts HQ. Sent to Bde HQ.</p> <p>1230 Bde Comd at Bn HQ. Coy posns 'A' Coy area 232344 - 'C' Coy area 226338 - 'D' Coy area 226341 - Carrier Pl 235344. P.O.W. taken 44. <u>Bn Casualties:-</u> 1 Offr Killed, 2 Officers Wounded. 3 ORs Killed, 35 ORs Wounded.</p> <p>1235 All Bn 'F' Vehs across stream.</p>	
	Oct 27	<p>Bn in OISTERWIJK.</p> <p>1030 'A' Coy moves fwd to line of track 227348 - 'D' Coy to DONBER STEEG line of Track 224346. Bde Comd visits Bn HQ.</p> <p>1100 COs 'O' Group. Enemy reported withdrawing towards River MAAS. Bde ordered to close up on WILHELMINA CANAL. 7 Seaforth to HEIKANT - 2 G.H. to area WOOD 1834. 7 Seaforth to adv on HEIKANT 1636 then close on Canal line incl Br 163345 to incl Br 173339 and join up with 9 Cameronians. Coys to adv mounted on tanks of 2 Scots Gds to debus short of HEIKANT. Carrier Pl well ahead to act as screen.</p> <p>1230 Bn moves off on tanks.</p> <p>1445 Bn enters HEIKANT. No opposition met. All Coys in posn.</p> <p>1705 CO orders Coys to cross Canal into TILBURG.</p> <p>1730 Coys cross WILHELMINA CANAL on Assault Boats. Bn Pnrs build raft for ferrying of vehs.</p>	

		1900	Coys across WILHELMINA CANAL into TILBURG - 'A' Coy 161338 - 'C' Coy 168339 - 'D' Coy 167333 - Bn HQ 171335. 8 P.O.W. taken. <u>Bn Casualties:</u> 1 OR wounded.	
	Oct 28	0845 1015 1200	Bn at TILBURG. CO held 'O' Gp. Bn moves to W. TILBURG. 'A' Coy area of HUSSELL 148343 - 'C' Coy area astride Rd Junc 147335 - 'D' Coy area BIJLANER Street 154334. Bn HQ School 156337. Bde Comd visits Bn HQ. P.O.W. taken 2. <u>Bn Casualties:</u> 1 OR drowned when raft capsized.	
	Oct 29	1000 1225 1700	Bn at TILBURG 156337. Bn Church Parade with 15 (S) Inf Div Massed Pipe Bands. Recce Party under 2 i/c to DEURNE to meet Bde Comd. Bn leaves TILBURG (M.T. Move). Bn arrives Area DEURNE (6520) took over posns from 6 R.S.F. Bn HQ 642187 - 'A' Coy area 641181 - 'C' Coy area 048183 - 'D' Coy VLOEIEIND 635184 Carrier Pl. 643183 - Mortar Pl 639185. Bn dug-in Defensive posns.	
	Oct 30	1100 1150 1230 1440 2100	Bn in Def Posn (6520). Bn moves fwd to new posn along rd DEURNE - LEISEL to new posn at LOON. Capt LM Smith killed by shell. Bn posns - Bn HQ 664158 - 'A' Coy 664153 - 'C' Coy 668154 - 'D' Coy 664153. Bde Comd visits Bn HQ. Bn Dug in in defensive posns. COs 'O' Gp. Bde to launch limited attack - two Bns up: one in res. RIGHT 7 Seaforth - LEFT 9 CAMS - KOSB res. In sp- one sqn Cold Gds - One Pl MMG - one Tp A/Tk RA - Four Fd Regts - One Med Regt - one Pl 4.2" Mortars. 7 Seaforth to capture and hold SOUTH half of LIESEL.	
	Oct 31	0830 0840 0850 0925	Bn formed up for attack on LIESEL - two Coys up - 'A' Coy RIGHT - 'C' Coy LEFT - 'D' Coy RESERVE, Carriers to be called when required. Bn goes into attack under fairly heavy enemy shelling and mortaring. Weather bad - visibility 80-100 yds. 'A' Coy clearing houses along road into LIESEL - progressing slowly. 9 Cams report nearing obj on our left.	

		0930	'C' Coy find little opposition on left and are on obj. Enemy shelling and mortaring posn. 'A' Coy's right pl in centre of LIESEL near Church clearing houses.	
		0940	Still in area Church. Street fighting - advancing from house to house.	
		0945	Left flank under hy mortar and shell fire.	
		0950	Tac HQ under shell fire. Rd blocked by wrecked vehs and felled trees. Area of rd block mined (Box Mines).	
		1000	'A' Coy progressing slowly - visibility very poor and every house has to be searched from top to bottom.	
		1005	Cross fire on 'A' Coys front holding up tps, but fwd tps nearing obj.	
		1020	'C' Coy report enemy cleared from their front. Coy consolidating - digging in.	
		1022	'A' Coy moving up on to obj - hy enemy mortaring.	
		1025	Rd block cleared - Bn Pnrs cleared rd and verges of mines (Box Type).	
		1030	Mines reported in 'C' Coys posn and on rds leading to centre of LIESEL.	
		1100	'A' Coy being shelled but making good progress.	
		1130	'D' Coy moving up on COs orders.	
		1200	'A' Coy consolidating on gd captured.	
		1230	'D' Coy clearing houses SOUTH and WEST of 'A' Coy. During the whole of the morning the enemy shelled and mortared LIESEL consistently. Progress was slow as every house and cellar had to be searched. Enemy MG posts were well concealed and covered. This made progress on the right slow, but cas were light and prisoners were taken incl 1 Offr and 37 other ranks. At 1530 hrs the Coys were consolidating having cleared the village of enemy. By 1610 hrs the coys were digging in and posns were Bn HQ 667147 - 'A' Coy area 669144 - 'C' Coy area 673145 - 'D' Coy 671142.	
		1830	CO attends Conference at Bde HQ. During the night 18 more POW were brought in making a total of 1 Offr & 55 ORs. Bn casualties: 2 Offrs wounded. 7 ORs Killed - 18 ORs Wounded.	