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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Unit 15th (SCOTTISH) INF DIV SIGNALS
(incorporating L.A.D. attd)

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

Month and Year OCT 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
NEINSEL	1	0930	Church parade with reasonably large attendance. Corps Comd present.	DGH
		1400	O.C. 3 Coy 51 Div Sigs visits CO to discuss arrangements for 153 Bde who are relieving 44 Bde tonight	DGH
		1500	C.S.O. 8 Corps visits CO to discuss arrangements for the return of the Div to 8 Corps	DGH
		1710	153 Bde O.K. on R/T comd net only and in place beside 44 Bde and taken over their lines. L/T comms to 44 Bde by means of local from 153 Bde exchange	DGH
		1900	New line laid to Recce as Corps repaired quad pair formerly utilized. Now no line to 8 Hussars, instead direct line to Corps RA Sig Centre. Corps have also brought in line from 101 U.S. Div. C.O. holds conference with Signalmaster Main & Rear & wireless officers on future policy of Div HQ operating from buildings instead of from the debris.	DGH
	2345	44 Bde move off (under comd 8 Corps until Div arrives), maintaining comms, however, on Div R/T comd net only & otherwise on Corps nets	DGH	
NEINSEL	2	1000	Commencement of new system of checking A.B's 412 of vehs of sections in addition to monthly AB's 406. One section per week by Adjt	DGH
		1030	Adjt produces orders for frost precautions so that all will be ready as soon as required.	DGH
		1300	2-in-C leaves for new area (GEMERT 5730) to which Div is proceeding on the 4th to prepare line layout. Certain civil UG's are being utilized - details to follow. 2-in-C takes wireless set with him so that orders and changes of plan, if any, may reach him	DGH
		1400	O.C. 3 Coy as recce officer for Div HQ pays third visit to the new area with Gl.	DGH
		1600	C.S.O. 12 Corps visits C.O. to discuss arrangements for the changeover and is joined by OC 51 Div Sigs for same purpose	DGH

NEINSEL		1700	Direct line to Corps RA sig centre transferred from Main Div exchange to HQRA switchboard	
		1800	C.O. visits O.C. 51 Div Sigs at their HQ a short distance from here	DGH
		2000	It should have been mentioned that all formations and units of the Div are coming on to wireless silence as soon as they leave this area so that all Bde and its group are now off the air	DGH
NEINSEL	3	0800	- onwards. Lines personnel busy (a) under 2-in-C in new area fixing up details and ends for civil U.G. lines to be used between Div HQ-46 Div HQ-227 Div HQ-Recce and laying normal lines between Div HQ-44 and Main Div HQ-Rear Div HQ. All work completed by 1600 hrs, (b) putting finishing touches to arrangements between ourselves and 51 Div Sigs for tonight's handover (originally scheduled for 2359 hrs, when 15 Div pass under comd 8 Corps but brought forward to 1800 hrs)	DGH
		1800	Hand-over begins. Line to Rear Div and line from HQRA to 12 Corps RA Sig Centre not being strapped through to 51 Div until move of 15 Div tomorrow morning, so that we may have two lines between ourselves and 51 Div until we move off. Lines handed over - 2 to Sig Centre (now manned by 51 Div Sigs) one of which is delayed through going faulty at 1715 hrs. Corps line. Corps line from Div to 101 US Airborne Div still to be handed over as faulty. Line to 153 Bde. Line to 158 Bde not being handed over as they have laid their own. Two lines (one strapped through from 46 Bde - 153 Bde) 153 Bde - Sig Centre. 46 Bde, 227 Bde and Recce all to new area by 2000 hrs - Recce being the last.	DGH DGH
		1800	Wireless - Div Comd nets now closed. Rear lines to Corps remaining on 12 Corps nets until midnight and reopening on 8 Corps nets at 040110 hrs	DGH
		2359	15 Div comes under comd 8 Corps and closes rear links to 12 Corps	DGH
NEINSEL	4	0110	Rear links open to 8 Corps. All O.K. by 0135 hrs	DGH
		0945	Hand-over with 51 Div completed. All lines O.K.	DGH
		1000	Main Div HQ followed by Rear Div HQ move to GEMERT. Main to 577304, Rear to 577297, Main established by 1130 and Rear by 1230. All lines as scheduled yesterday ready and waiting, plus Corps lines leaving only line to 1 Mx to be completed. This is being done tomorrow, when a further PO pair will be available	DGH
GEMERT		1200	Rear lines to Corps close - to be reopened if lines fail when no wireless working. Division is in a rest period. All personnel of Div HQ very adequately housed in monastery at HQ and "make and mend" activities begin.	DGH

		1230 1600	CSO 8 Corps visits C.O. and stays to lunch C.O. and Adjt pay routine visits to 46 and 227 Bdes and final general maintenance of all kinds under way	DGH
GEMERT	5	1500	A quiet day of maintenance, recreation, and general repairs and preparations for forthcoming ops. 1 Mx line in by 1100 hrs. Cable section engaged today in reeling in cable in former areas. Lt Q.M. attends A/Q "Q" Conference at Main Div HQ	DGH DGH
GEMERT	6	1000 1000 1100 1200 1400 1630 1950	C.O. attends "O" Gp conference on forthcoming operations Adjt attends "A" Conference on general "A" matters. LT M. STEARS rejoins unit on return from U.K. Has been a month getting here from relanding in France. Apptd 2-in-C "A" Sec 3 SCOTS GDS of 6 GDS TK BDE come under comd 15 Div. Sig Offr visits C.O. and Adjt but not known yet to which Bde the Bn is going to be attached Instruction sent out to all concerned in the Division on wireless discipline (closing of nets when line comms exist) All officers attend Div Comd's address in HELMOND, followed by performance by the Massed Pipe Bands of the Division. The band was magnificent With assistance of civil U/G pair GEMERT-GELDROP, line through to 3 SCOTS GDS in RIEU, with 6 GDS TK BDE in parallel on it.	DGH DGH DGH DGH DGH DGH DGH
GEMERT	7	0930	C.O., 2-in-C and Adjt visit O.C. Sigs 3 (Br) Div beyond R MAAS as 15 Div are scheduled to take over from them in forthcoming ops. Line layout in that area begun and Recce party out but in afternoon "Holdfast on all movement" comes through and plans left in abeyance. Half cable section left in the area in case original plans proceeded with. This visit occupies most of the day. Remainder of unit still engaged on general admin of various kinds. Frost precautions come into effect tonight.	DGH
GEMERT	8	0930 1000 1100 1400	Church parade - exceptionally large attendance. C.O. reads lesson as usual. O.C. 1 Coy addresses all ranks 1 Coy and others on general matters, especially on conduct in GERMANY Skin inspection for all other ranks at Main Div HQ 12 Corps Officers' Shop visiting Div HQ for three days - in great demand. Adjt visits Rear Div HQ - routine check-up with O.C. Sigs Rear	DGH DGH DGH DGH
GEMERT	9	0900	Arrangements begun for line to HQRA who on sudden orders are moving this afternoon to 693394 to do a Corps Shoot or Shoots in sp 3 (Br) Div. This line completed at approx 1700 hrs - 14 miles of cable. Not possible to obtain any assistance in the shape of a civil pair in this case.	DGH

		1500 - 1800 1530	One Australian and one British Signals Major arrive - touring Sig Units of 8 Corps - prior to rejoining Australian forces and are shown around Main and Rear HQs by the Adjt and Signalmaster. HQRA move off and the two usual lines to them from Main Div board are extended to take in 97 A Tk Regt and 119 LAA Regt.	DGH DGH
	10		An uneventful day. Weather grim - rain continuous. Normal line maintenance. New line laid to 97 A Tk Regt after original goes faulty. Fault on long HQRA line at 1625 hrs not repaired until 2020 hrs.	DGH
GEMERT	11	0900 1200 1215 1600	Another quiet day. Maintenance and general marshalling of equipment O.C. Sigs 11 Armd Div visits C.O. and Adjt - ready to see us on our return to our own 8 Corps O.C. Recce Regt to see C.O. Arrangements concluded re the attachment of 1 Cipher Sgt to Recce Regt to work principally with the I.O. to relieve him of cipher duties. Cipher officer taking him out this afternoon. Also arrangements for O.C. 3 Coy and O.C. "N" Sec to sit tomorrow on Recce Regt trade-board of Drs-ops LT J.J. ADEY R. SIGNALS arrives on attachment this Unit for one month from 31 RHU. He will spend a fortnight in "C" Sec and a fortnight at one of the Bdes.	DGH DGH DGH DGH
GEMERT	12	1200 1630 1000	New basic freq lists from CSO 2 Army - such changes as are necessary worked out with O.C. "A" Sec Parade of all ranks available outside Main Div HQ to watch and cheer H.M. the King on his way from 8 Corps to Brussels Draft of 12 reinforcements arrives. Men have been on bath parades this afternoon and many also to ENSA Shows at Div HQ	DGH DGH DGH DGH
	13	0900 1100 1430 1530 1730	C.O. attends Div Comd's "R" Gp on forthcoming ops C.O. briefs 2-in-C on lines necessary in new area (WEERT 5897) and line sec with div signs etc obliterated proceeds to that area O.C. 3 Coy and party out on recce of Div HQ in a/m area C.O. attends Div "O" Gp on forthcoming ops Adjt attends A/Q conference on forthcoming ops, known by new general name of op "CONSTELLATION". The degree of secrecy attending the preparation for this op is outstanding	DGH DGH DGH DGH DGH
	14	0900	- Preparations in hand for forthcoming ops continue. Line layout well under way and all arrangements proceeding as normally. Bde recces out today which will enable "C" sec to finish off their lines	DGH

GEMERT		1800	Sig Officer 3 (Tk) SG (under comd) visits Adjt re frequencies etc LT JW FULLARTON leaves today for three weeks to 3 (Br) Div Sigs	DGH DGH
	15	0930 1400	Church parade as last week - conducted on this occasion by RAF padre C.O. and Adjt proceed to HQRA, pick up OC 2 Coy and visit all three Fd Regts and Sig Secs. Very satisfactory reports all round	DGH DGH
GEMERT	16	0500 1400 1800	Signal office veh "J" Sec destroyed in fire - accident with Tilley lamp exploding and setting off phosphorous bombs for destruction of documents. Replaced by loan of TEV from Corps while new 3 ton G8 veh is obtained and fetched C.O. and Adjt pay routine visit to 46 and 227 Bdes - 227 area changed for forthcoming ops. This holding up line laying programme, also uncertainty as to Recce location - otherwise all going well. Div now on complete wireless silence A/CSO 8 Corps visits CO to inform him of wireless deception plan starting this evening to simulate 15 Div nets during this period of wireless silence up till H-1 hrs - whenever that may be. Date of commencement of ops still unknown. RA are <u>not</u> yet on wireless silence - but will come on same on move from their present area when role of 3 (Br) Div will terminate	DGH DGH DGH
GEMERT	17	0700 0800 1500 1800 2215	All plans changed - 15 Div going under comd 12 Corps again forthwith. 3 (Tk) SG cease to be under comd. Recce Regt return under comd - have been under 11 Armd Div for the past three days. Line programme stopped - O.C. 1 Coy returns and the Line Section now reeling up the lines they have laid in the WEERT area. Future plan as yet unknown - wireless silence continues. HQRA returns this location and come under wireless silence and take over 97 A Tk and 119 LAA lines again - splitting them for their two locals and thence out to the two regts. CSO 8 Corps visits CO in connection with the sudden switchover. He explains that 12 Corps have laid a quad up to a point in the 15 Div - 8 Corps line and are splitting it at 2200 hrs tonight, thus giving 12 Corps us and 8 Corps Line split as above takes place - nothing yet as regards Rear Div - Rear Corps line	DGH DGH DGH DGH DGH
	18	1600	Information that 227 Bde are moving tomorrow back into the BEST - ST OEDENRODE area and line is necessary. Arrangements for civil PTT pair (or perhaps two pairs) made with 8 Corps GEMERT - HELMOND - EINDHOVEN - BEST. OC 1 Coy laying tails to this etc tomorrow morning. Corps comms not yet properly arranged. At	DGH

		1800	present Corps line 15 DIV - 12 CORPS terminates at 8 Corps having been changed back from last night. Line section returns from reeling up in the WEERT area, having reeled up 24 miles. All Sigs personnel have been issued with new battle dresses etc in the last 48 hours.	DGH DGH
GEMERT	19	0800	Corps lines not OK. Main Div - Main 12 Corps with 1+1. Rear Div - Rear 8 Corps with 1+1 and carrier strapped through to Rear 12 Corps. This is a suitable arrangement, as 15 Div still being administered by 8 Corps up till 20th incl.	DGH
		0830	Lines to 227 Bde now under way. 2 PO pairs secured to ACHT (3922) only, leaving lengthy lay up to 408290, new loc 227 Bde, with second pair to Recce (389289) who have moved with Recce. This line to Recce will not be put through until tomorrow as OC 1 Coy only has 1 det available today, 1 det in reserve at this HQ and two on loan to Sigs 227 Bde to help them with their own very extensive Bde layout	DGH
		1000	Infm received from Corps - change of frequency list forthwith from Inf List "B" to Inf List "A". New list immediately issued	DGH
		1100	Wireless silence relaxed to 227 Bde only - netted on all nets on new frequencies and then closed.	DGH
GEMERT		2010	Line not yet through to 227 Bde. Wireless reopens - Command R/T up to them immediately and Command CW at 2030 hrs. Command "Q" following at 2200 hrs. All O.K.	DGH
	20	0710	Line through to 227 Bde. A very difficult night for the carrier section.	DGH
		0800	All wireless to 227 Bde closed again	
		1105	2nd line through to 227 Bde and 2nd line from 227 Bde to Recce. This now not being strapped through	DGH
		1400	Information received 6 GDS TK BDE now under comd 15 Div and moving into former location 227 Bde. Arrangements for line comms - already existing line to 6 GDS REAR teed in to their Main - a most suitable arrangement both from our point of view and theirs - line through to them by 1710 hrs	DGH
		1730	Codes and Secy Offr takes freqs, code-signs etc to 6 GDS, who arrived in their new location at approx 1700 hrs	DGH
GEMERT	21	1000	Changeover completed today of O.C. 3 Coy going to Rear Div as O.C. Signals Rear and O.C. H.Q. Coy up to Main, responsible, almost as Camp Comdt, for all the Admin at Main HQ with the RSM leaving Camp Comdt i/c Admin at Rear HQ	DGH

		1100	Recce party out for new location - in ST OEDENRODE (4131) area. Recce now i/c suitable "G" offr if available with O.C. "A" Sec -	DGH
		1200	if "G" offr not available O.C. 3 Coy will be i/c as before	DGH
		1645	3 new vehs acquired today to increase number of dets in "C" sec. "M" Sec are supplying 2 fitters to drive, third one from "A" Sec Lines faulty to 227 Bde. R/T comd net open and immediately through - before other nets opened. Lines OK again	DGH
GEMERT	22	0600	All wireless nets open - all net O.K. (except for Recce u/c 227 Bde) and close except links to Corps, RASC and Med nets which remain open	DGH
		0930	Church parade as usual	DGH
		1000	Personnel on bath parades - OC HQ Coy and 2 ORs on 48 hrs leave to BRUSSELS. These vacancies are occurring quite frequently now.	DGH
		1400	C.O. and Adjt pay routine visits to 227 Bde and Recce, in the line, returning by way of ACHT exchange where one of the "C" Sec maintenance dets are based on the two long 227 Bde lines	DGH
	23		A quiet day, with much preparation going on though for future ops.	DGH
		1100	Party attends lecture by War Office rep on the demobilisation plans	DGH
		1500	Line Diagram issued as @ 1500 hrs	DGH Appx J.2
ST OEDENRODE	24	1100	CO and Adjt attend "O" Gp on forthcoming ops, which are being greatly hastened due to the German movement along this line	DGH
		1300	"C" Sec engaged on full layout since early in the morning All wireless nets open - only listening unless operationally required	DGH
		1530	Main Div HQ moves to ST OEDENRODE (419315) arriving approx 1700 hrs	DGH
		1700	Rear Div staying GEMERT overnight - direct line to Main Div and all the former Corps lines on Rear Div. All new Main lines to all Bdes & Recce & laterals between from Sig Centre. 2 lines to Sig Centre - half phantom on one metallic pair. 3 lines Sig Centre - 227 - 2 SC - 6 GDS. 1 pair new Corps line on to RA Sig Centre - strapped straight through to HQRA. Extremely good & quick work by the line section today and all lines working well & holding up. All wireless OK.	DGH
	25	0800	All lines held up throughout the night, but from now on Bdes are peeling off and moving on to next area. "C" Section away on new line programme with OC 1 Coy on wireless to Comd C/W net. Spare CV out on TC duties. Div Recce party out.	DGH
		0945	Rear Div on the move to tempy harbour area near ACHT	DGH

OIRSCHOT		1400	Main Div HQ moves to OIRSCHOT (314257) with Rear Div also in OIRSCHOT at 320267, Main arriving approx 1515, Rear 30 mins later	DGH
		1700	Lines to Rear Div and to all Bdes except 46 Bde	DGH
		1730	C.O. and Adjt attend Div Comd's "O" Group	DGH
		1835	Line through to 46 Bde - this is the important line tonight as with 46 Bde as the only Bde forward. Linesmen's post est midway on the line. No lines from Corps as yet.	DGH
		2105	Corps line in O.K. to Main Div but not able to do anything for Rear	DGH
	26		Signal Centre now est at MEERGESTEL (2330) since last night and all Bde lines (except, of course, 6 GDS) from there.	DGH
		0800	Bdes on the move again with one line sec full out coping. New Bde locations not too difficult to link up from Sig Centre	DGH
		1100	CSO visits C.O. and discusses several points - chiefly, however, the line situation and the Corps difficulties at the present time. All wireless O.K. throughout the day	DGH
		1400	C.O. and Adjt visit all three Bdes, finding out future plans etc	DGH
OIRSCHOT	27	0915	Main Div HQ moves to HILVARENBEK (195240) arriving approx 1030 but Rear HQ remaining in OIRSCHOT until tomorrow. Signal centre remaining in present location to cope with Rear Div and 6 GDS who have moved up quite near and are themselves laying in to the Sig Centre but chiefly with 46 Bde, where new HQ on the outskirts of TILBURG means a very long line.	DGH
		1200	TILBURG captured by 15th (Scottish) Div	DGH
HILVARENBEK		1800	After a day, like so many others at present, of changed intentions on the part of the Bdes, apart from the above lines, Main Div has Sig Centre line, line to 44 and 227 Bdes (with lateral between), 141 RAC (crocodiles under comd), and lateral to 4 Armd Bde. Signal Centre also has 131 Fd and 181 Fd. Not been possible to do more than one SC line - considerable delays unavoidable. No Corps line as yet. Rear Div have old Corps line. Recce and 1 Mx Wireless O.K. throughout day, some slight interference on R/T Comd net from some "Q" stuff of 7 Armd Div. Corps Comd R/T net nothing great at present, not a very good frequency	DGH DGH
	28	0900	OC 1 Coy proceeds to TILBURG to investigate civil comms but exchange etc demolished	DGH
		1300	Main Div HQ moves into WILHELMINA PARK, TILBURG, followed by Rear Div HQ to 168320. Some purely local short extensions laid -	DGH

TILBURG		1500 1700	all Bdes within easy reach of Main Div HQ. Rear Div helped out by Corps lines (which arrive at approx 1800 hrs) CSO 12 Corps visits CO. Information received that the Div is moving back on to the 8 Corps front East of Helmond at first light in the morning to counteract German thrust against 7 U.S. Armd Div. 44 and 227 Bdes already away, followed by 6 GDS TK BDE.	DGH DGH
HELMOND	29	0600 1030 1100 1900	Main and Rear Div HQ's move out of TILBURG to HELMOND arriving approx 1030 hrs. Corps nets (except to Rear Corps as the Div is being administered by 12 Corps up till 31 Oct) net satisfactorily to 8 Corps. Main Div at 565215 and Rear Div 545211 CSO 8 Corps visits C.O. followed by 8 Corps lines officers. Most helpful with line assistance but O.C. 1 Coy on ahead in the morning has much of it arranged already. Wireless excellent throughout a day of rather feverish line activity - the evening finds lines to all Bdes (44 through 227) including 6 Gds Tk Bde, line to 11 Armd Div, 7 U.S. Armd Div, two lines to Rear Div, Recce, line to Main Corps and to Rear Corps Air raid over HELMOND. Slight casualties at Rear Div HQ, only rather serious casualty among Sigs personnel being 1 cipher sgt evacuated with cuts from anti-personnel bombs. This will refresh in the minds of all ranks the still very necessary slit-trench being dug on arrival in a new location.	DGH DGH DGH
HELMOND ZOMEREN	30	0900 1130 1300	OC 1 Coy and usual train of line section personnel leave for 7 U.S. Armd Div area, which 15 (S) Div is today taking over. To ascertain line-layout and commence new Div lines. Main Div HQ moves to ZOMEREN (598108) arriving at approx 1245 hrs, followed in the afternoon by Rear Div HQ to 586120. Wireless excellent throughout the move. On arrival here, a complete HSSU FCP is found to be working, having been handed on to us, as it were, by 7 U.S. Armd Div, who left without even giving them the day's routines. Signal Centre established at ASTEN (6113) and together with that and 8 Corps "SWAN" Signal Centre in DEURNE (6419) today's line layout makes good progress. At the end of the day there is a most comprehensive layout to everyone except 1 Middlesex and nothing to Rear Corps. One line only to Main Corps - lateral to 7 US Armd Div, but not to 11 Armd Div as expected. Some of the officers in the HQ buildings for first time - extensions both telephone and W/T satisfactory	DGH DGH DGH

ZOMEREN	31	0800	O.C. "C" Sec (LT RADWAY) sick - section temporarily under comd LT STEARS and engaged today on further consolidation of yesterday's line layout (sec line diagram issued as at 1500 hrs today). Line to 1 Mx, further line to Signal Centre and extensions to 46 Bde who moved forward in the course of the day	DGH
		1000	"R" group officer to see Wireless officer and codes offr to discuss characteristics of the various Div wireless nets for their deception work	Appx J.3 DGH
		1230	C.S.O. 8 Corps visits C.O.	DGH
		1600	O.C. 8 Corps Signals visits C.O. and Adjt and stays to tea with Adjt and Signalmaster.	DGH
			David G Heilbron Capt R. Signals Adjt	