

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. 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 1st Bn Middlesex Regt (D.C.O.)

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required).

Month and Year October 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col J.P. Hall

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
AARLE 549258	1st.		The Bn adopts revised methods for compilation of the War Diary. As far as possible 2 copies of op. orders, instructions etc are now set aside specifically for the War Diary but, in the case of documents received, whenever there is only one copy available it is retained for use with the War Diary Original. In view of this Bn's widely dispersed activities and continual changes of plan it is not found possible to rely on operational documents to "paint the picture" and the narrative merely an explanatory link between phrases.	
	3rd		4 Pl rejoins A Coy from 53 Div.	
	4th		Bn HQ when relief by 1/7th Bn of 51 Div is complete moves to rest area in AARLE and for 15 days normal administration is carried on from a pleasant orchard at 549258. Good use is made of this period by whole Bn especially the M.T. side. All vehicles are being overhauled and repainted where necessary.	
	6th		All officers of Bn attend lecture given by Div Comd at GEMERT.	APPX "D"
	16th	2150	1 Mx Operation Order No1 for OP SIRIUS issued	Folio (4)
	18th	1645 1800	Orders received for "B" Coy less one Pl to come under comd of "C" Coy 1 Mx who will be in sp of 227 Bde taking over from 51 (Div) on general line BEST 3626 - ODERNADE 4232. Orders received for a pl of "B" Coy to join 8 R.S. the following morning. 8 Pl comd is ordered to report to HQ 8RS GEMERT 5780 and his pl to R.V. there at 191200 hrs. Op SIRIUS cancelled on 17th. B Coy Comd attends conference at Bde HQ and orders & traces are issued for pending OP. Experiments carried out by B Coy with a view to laying a M.M.G. in half light by putting luminous paint on sights. So far it is not successful.	OP SIRIUS 44 Bde O.O. No1 APPX "E" Folio (5)
	19th		Owing to poor weather and much rain the entrance to Bn HQ is turned into a quagmire and we are forced to move to "HARD STANDINGS" in	

		0845	area of factory at 554257. All vehicles are on hard ground and troops who wish to be, are under cover.	
		0900	O.C. "C" Coy proceeds to recce area of BEST Bdge and contacts "D" Coy 1/7 MX & 51 Div RE.	
		0915	2 IC "D" Coy attends conference at Bn HQ and receives orders to send 2 pls to sp 227 Bde who are relieving 51 Div.	
		1100	12 & 15 pls are warned to move out with "B" Coy to a posn at 394286.	
		1330	O.C. B Coy proceeds to 227 Bde HQ where he is met by C.O. and given the following orders:-	
		1500	6 pl to sp 10 HLI - 7 Pl to sp 2 Gordons	
			"C" Coy move off under 2 IC via HELMOND - EINDHOVEN	
			"B" Coy move to 414288	
			"C" Coy arrive in area of ACHT 404226	
			9 Pl occupy BEST Bdge	
			During the take over the large amount of traffic over bridge brings down shell & mortar fire from enemy. 2 Cas are sustained to outgoing unit	
			The pl is acting in an inf role, its task being the immediate protection of the bdge.	
			Carriers are left on S. side of canal	
			10 pl are in similar posns at 380244 and carry out same role.	
			11 pl takes over from a pl 1/7 MX in BATA shoe factory with the primary task of supporting 9 CAMS in their posn just East of rly & BEST.	
		1700	6 Pl take up posn at 391294 - 7 pl are at 402311.	
			D.F task given to pls. Direct fire not possible owing to close nature of the country.	
		1800	Sitrep is received from Capt Livemore stating that he is responsible for enemy ground W. of BEST (occupied by 9 Cams) and has therefore taken up posn at 388259. D.F. task now given out.	
	20th	0900	12 & 15 pls move to 383268 and cover BEST-VLEUT Rd.	
			7 Pl carry out harassing shoots on call from 2 GORDONS.	APPX "E"
	21st	0630	"C" Coy Comd contacts Bty comd L.A.A. and arrangements are made for the Bty to assist in defence of bridge should necessity arise.	Folio (8)
	22nd	1200	10 & 11 Pls exchange posns & tasks.	
			O.C. visits right hand Coy of Princess Irene Regt. Dutch Bde and arranges linking up patrol between them and pls in BATA factory.	
	23rd	1115	Enemy observed digging in before 2 GORDONS posn.	
			7 Pl are called upon to bring fire to bear. Task is completed in 12 minutes - result uncertain.	
	24th	1000	O.C. "C" Coy attends Bde 'O' Group.	

227 Bde move order 17
APPX "E" Folio (6)

		<p>1100 O.C. "B" Coy visits 8 pl in area of DINTHER 4441, SE of HERTOGENBOSCH.</p> <p>1400 Infm received that Coy will revert to 44 Bde and O.C to attend O Group at that HQ. Enemy has pulled out. 8 RSF with 1 tank sqn & 1 Pl MMG are ordered to OIRSCHOT 3125. Coy HQ move to 383278. 7 Pl join KOSB & 8 pl join R.S. - 12 & 15 pls (D Coy) remain in posn in sp of 44 Bde.</p> <p>1630 2IC called to Bn HQ and received orders to send one Pl to sp each 44 & 46 Bdes.</p> <p>1730 12 Pl joins 44 Bde in posn just East of BEST. 14 Pl with 46 Bde off main BEST road just South of WILHELMINA Canal. Move order received from 46 Bde.</p> <p>2100 Coy Comd attends Bde O Group and receives orders for forthcoming op on 25th.</p> <p>2115 B Coy Comd attends O Gp and receives orders for the advance on TILBURG.</p>	<p>APPX "E" Folio (7)</p> <p>APPX 'E' Folio (9)</p> <p>APPX 'E' Folio (10)</p>
	25th	<p>0800 3 pl move with 2 Glas H forming advance guard.</p> <p>0900 A Coy less 3 pl and incl Hy Mortar Pl move at head of Bde column. Rapid advance delayed only by enemy demolitions.</p> <p>0930 D Coy HQ move from HELMOND area to 406224</p> <p>1000 13 pl in sp of KOSB and 44 Bde, move off with their marching column along the towpath of WILHELMINA Canal to the ultimate objective - Bridge 207277. This is reached after a difficult journey but without interference by the enemy. 14 Pl are kept in 46 Bde reserve and move off in the morning in Bde column with A Coy - The column being on the main axis BEST-OIRSCHOT-MOERGESTEL and harbour for the night at 229309. 12 & 15 pls are still in sp of 227 Bde who have come into Div reserve. In order to keep main axis clear this Bde Gp moves to its harbour area NOTEL - via URICKHOVEN.</p> <p>1230 Advance guard on Bridge MOERGESTEL 3 pl in action covering eastern approaches to town. 7 Seaforths are to pass through and take OIRSCHOT 4 Pl taken out of Bde column Mortar pl in action base plated posn 234334 firing in sp of 2 Glas H.</p> <p>1600 B Coy HQ move to MOTERWIJK just N. of OIRSCHOT. KOSB with 7 Pl under comd advance along N Side of WILHELMINA Canal from BEST 3726 to BIEST 2026. 7 Pl then takes up posns at 205276 covering N. Bank of canal towards TILBURG.</p>	

		2100	8 RS with 8 pl advance to OIRSCHOT 3125 without encountering enemy resistance and harbour at 217258 6 pl are in harbour with 'C' Coy 8 R.S.F. at SPOORDONK 288274. 44 Bde O.O. No 1 received.						
26th	0600	0800	1100	1145	1200	1630	1730	3 Pl A Coy ordered to F.A.A. at 225326 and move with 2 Glas H. 4 Pl sp 7 SEAFORTHS' assault and cross river at first light, firing on road N. from rly at 221431. Crossing of canal is successful and area W. of town of OOSTERWIJK is cleared as far as rly. 3 pl cross with 2 GH. 5 Pl in action in area 189318 firing N.W and covering crossing of River STROUM. 44 Bde Gp concs in area S & SE of VINKENBURG 2229, prior to crossing Class 40 Bdge at BIEST 2026 - HILVARENBEK 1924. This is crossed in the afternoon and "B" Coy HQ is est at 213263 with 6 & 7 pls at VOORT 2519 and 8 pl at HILVARENBEK. "C" Coy move to area MOERGESTEL Pls are under following comds:- 9 - 10 HLI - 10 - 2 GORDONS - 11 - 2 A&SH. 13 pl is ordered to move South of canal but owing to extensive minefields on Sth Bank, the Pl eventually cross in 44 Bde column. A Coy Comd moves 1 sec 4 Pl to face N. from rly line - D.F. fire tasks (as per trace) B pl harbour in area 180254	APPX "J" Folio (6)
27th	0830	1500	Co-ord conference at HILVARENBEK 1924. As a result of this conference, pls take up posns along canal. A Coy finding little opposition cross the canal B Coy overcome minor resistance and 6 Pl enter outskirts of TILBURG and take up def posn at 182311. TILBURG reported clear of enemy. Coys are ordered to harbour at night in their present locations.	APPX "E"					
28th	0700	Coys ordered to occupy TILBURG. In order to carry this out the heavy transport has to be ferried across the canal. All are enthusiastically welcomed by civil population. Whilst this operation was being carried out an attack is staged by the enemy with the suspected objectives of DEURNE 6520 - ASTEN 6113 and LIEROP 5615. In this attack he is not wholly successful although he does manage to cross the Canal de Deurne, recapture MEIJEL and LIESEL and advance along the ASTEN rd to approx 645100. It is in view of this attack that the division does a rapid turn around and almost immediately TILBURG is safely in our hands, the first units leave for the eastern side of the Salient.	Folio (11) APPX "E" Folio (12)						

		1800	"C" Coy leave TILBURG and arrive ASTEN 1930 hrs.	
	29th	0045 0700 0730 1500	"B" Coy receive order to move to DEURNE 6520 Coy arrive at new location. Rep from Bde visits O.C. 'B' Coy with information that the enemy has broken through at LIESEL and is advancing on this axis towards DEURNE. The following def posns are then taken:- 7 Pl flank protection role with KOSB at 685178 6 Pl in def localities of 6 RSF 8 Pl in def localities of 8 RS both at 896418 6 & 8 pls move with their respective Bns to area ACHTERBOSCH - RINKVELT, 6 pl remaining conc. 3 pl A Coy (with 2 GH) come under comd vice 7 pl during the night. "C" Coy take up posns in def of ASTEN and relieve US forces during night. 9 & 11 pls being astride rd 623128 - 2 A&SH area - 10 pl in reserve.	
	30th	0900 1000 1100 1300 1400	4 Pl move with 7 Seaforths on main axis to area N. of LOON 6615 under heavy shelling & mortar fire. Pl in action 1 section W of rd 665155 firing Sth. 1 sec on 30.7 contour at 669154. This section is under direct observation from the enemy and all movement is fired on by 3 Spandau posts and light mortars. All movement necessitates a crawl of approx 400 yds to the gun posns. 3 Pl take up posns at 665137 and in doing this are continually under shell fire resulting in 11 casualties. This means that the pl Comd is only able to place one sec into action. 13 Pl move to 652137 E of RINKVELD in sp of 6 R.S.F. 3 Pl Comd whilst on recce observes enemy forming up for counter attack on SLOT 6713. Enemy counter attacks & both sections of pl suffer serious casualties. L/Sgt Percy's section is firing carrier action covering gap between right & left fwd Coys. Enemy advances through gap and come under heavy fire from L/Sgt Percy's carrier. In spite of this they reach a point approx 100 yds from section. Immediately they take cover and one of the S.P. begins to fire at Section, killing L/Sgt Percy & injuring 2 ORs in carrier. The attack is successfully beaten off. 8 Pl take up posns at 655139 and 6 pl at 653137 preparing to engage harassing targets in area of SLOT. 15 Pl joins 12 pl at 636108 just S.E. of HEUSDEN. All day long these pls are engaged in counter Mortar work and expend 480 bombs.	

	31st	<p>6 & 8 pls remain in present posns to sp by harassing fire the clearing of wood at 6512 to the Southern edge. 11 pl move up in sp of 2 A&SH to area 640123 - 10 pl being heavily shelled - 1 gun K.O. - 1 casualty.</p> <p>0830 7 Seaforths attack LIESEL 6614 with 4 Pl in sp from 669154. 9 Cams attack South with objective LOONSCHE BAAN 6714 - 6814. 7 Pl "B" Coy in sp and firing on L. flank 5 Pl in action at 675151 7 Pl move fwd with 6 KOSB who attack SLOT Objective not achieved until dark.</p> <p>1830 O.C. "A" Coy attends O Gp at HQ 46 Bde</p>	<p>APPX "E" Folio (13)</p> <p>APPX "E" Folio (14)</p>
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