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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Unit 15th (SCOTTISH) INF DIV SIGNALS
(incl LAD attd)

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

Month and Year MAR 45

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BOXTTEL	1	0900	Tps again employed on maintenance both of vehicles and tech equipment. Baths for the men and various types of entertainment. The first of large leave parties for BRUSSELS 48 hrs leave sets out today (2 offrs and 20 ORs per day from Sigs at Main & Rear Div HQ for 4 days)	DGH
	2	1030	QM holds large scale clothing exchange for Sigs personnel at Main and Rear	DGH
		1100	CSO 1 Corps visits CO and discusses several matters re officers etc	DGH
		1200	Capt Fyfe CSO's Branch 1 Cdn Army visits CO re exchanges of officers	DGH
		1900	CO leaves for 227 Bde HQ to attend evening function there	DGH
	3	1030	GOC addresses all ranks Main and Rear Div HQ. CO commands the parade. GOC thanks all ranks for their work in recent ops and compliments the parades on excellent turnout and appearance. Signals specifically mentioned for their good work	DGH
BOXTTEL	4	1030	CO and Adjt attend normal Church Parade	DGH
		1330	Sigs detachment (CAPT J. ORR i/c) leave for TILBURG to attend ceremonial church parade there and to see the massed pipe bands of the Division play Retreat afterwards	DGH
		1430	CO and Adjt leave for TILBURG and see the pipe bands as mentioned	DGH
		2345	Word received of impending move of the Division to MOLL area starting tomorrow with 227 Bde - a "Q" move apparently, ill-received on all sides!	DGH
	5	1000	CO leaves for 2nd Army and for 12 Corps - the Div returning to 2nd Army and coming under 12 Corps on arrival in new area - to arrange about line comms etc and it is through him that Div HQ is changed from MOLL area to ZONHOVEN (3368)	DGH
		1600	Adjt despatches all available "C" section personnel to new area to start the new line layout	DGH

BOXTEL		2200	On return of CO, CO and Adjt re-allot vacancies for Brussels leave continuing in spite of the move but requiring alterations to suit	DGH
ZONHOVEN	6	1030 1115 1200	CO and Adjt leave for new area Main and Rear Div leave, arriving ZONHOVEN approx 1500 hrs CO and Adjt arrive new Div HQ and are engaged in arranging through HASSELT repeater stn - HASSELT military and the Belgian PO for line to 44 Bde - a formidable lay otherwise. Proceed with Belgian lineman to make necessary strappings etc most satisfactorily. 44 line through approx 1700 hrs, 46 line (field cable) at approx 1830 hrs, together with 2 lines to Rear Div approx 1 mile away. Corps quad also through. 1 pair to Main Div and one to Rear Div. 227 Bde obtained from Corps by means of Corps line and Main Corps board Div moved out of BOXTEL on wireless silence and is remaining so until further orders	DGH DGH DGH DGH DGH
ZONHOVEN	7	0900 1100 1400 1500	Line section, under OC 1 Coy, fully engaged on extending and building up line layout - adjustments on 46 Bde and lines for 131 Fd Regt, Recce, 1 Mx, ORD - out BOURG LEOPOLD and MOLL way - arranged via HASSELT and B.L locals CO and OC 2 Coy depart on 48 hours BRUSSELS leave. Div Recce party out in effort to find better HQ - so far without success - not desirable from Sigs viewpoint Adjt leaves for 12 Corps and sees CSO in connection with certain points in connection with forthcoming ops (46, 52, 68 sets etc - waterproofing of Sigs eqpt frequencies etc)	DGH DGH DGH DGH
ZONHOVEN	8	0900 1225 1400 1235 1410 1800	Line Section out on direct line for 131 Fd Regt and Recce. Completed by the afternoon - Mx from Recce and ORD and 102 A/TK Regt from 131 Fd Regt OC Sigs 4 Armd Bde calls in for assistance in lines to his Signal Centre in HELCHTEREN - we have two pairs not in use to there so he is given those and after lunch he and Major Johnson go out to arrange CSO 2nd Army arrives on visit of general interest and stays to lunch CSO 21 Army Group arrives - A/CR Sigs out - he and CSO 2nd Army spend approx an hour discussing general topics Slight readjustment in Corps lines - main div - Main Corps Rear Corps - Rear Div one pair each - Main Div - Main Corps with one plus one	DGH DGH DGH DGH DGH DGH
	9	0845	New frequency lists as amended by certain changes in the basic lists produced and despatched as required	DGH

ZONHOVEN		1130	Adjnt, after consultation with GSO II produces new schedule of tng programmes for Div wrls nets - periods of activity followed by periods of wrls silence to commence tomorrow	DGH
		1300	Line Diagram as @ 1200 hrs issued	DGH Appx
		1400	LT GOS SCHREIBER posted (as surplus to est - negotiations being on first to absorb LT DW SOUTAR at present att) to 68 Med Regt Sig Sec.	
		1600	CR Sigs and OC 2 Coy return from BRUSSELS leave	DGH
	10	0845	CR Sigs, OC 1 & 2 Coys leave for 12 Corps to attend Div Comd co-ord conference in the Model Room there	DGH
		1300	A/m party return and arrangements under way for forthcoming exercise "BUFFALO" (one by day and one by night) prior to actual assault crossing of the RHINE. 104 Beach Sub Area, to be followed shortly by one squadron of the ROYALS, under comd 15 (S) Div for Bank Control both for the exercises and the actual op	DGH
		1800	A great quantity of stores received this day - the remainder of the WSC 52 sets, the 46 sets for the Div and 12 SCR 300 sets - distribution of this last not yet settled	DGH
		2100	CR Sigs in contact with OC Sigs 104 Beach Sub Area - CR Sigs and Adjnt to visit tomorrow	DGH
ZONHOVEN	11	1030	CR Sigs and Adjnt leave to meet OC 104 Beach Sub-Area Sigs in location of the Div HQ for exercise "BUFFALO" and carry out recce with him and discuss many points of Bank Group comms	DGH
		1430	CR Sigs and Adjnt visit CSO's Branch 12 Corps in connection with above	DGH
		1700	LT FELLOWS posted (attached surplus) to the Unit	DGH
		1700	- onwards. Busy on op orders etc for forthcoming exercise "BUFFALO"	DGH Appx
	12	1245	CSO 12 Corps arrives for lunch and for discussion with CR Sigs and BM 11 AGRE on comms for forthcoming op "TORCHLIGHT"	DGH
		1600	CSO departs and CO and Adjnt busy on problems of the rather unexpected responsibility of 29 Fd Coys and 9 CsRE comms	DGH
		2300	CR Sigs and Adjnt visit 11 AGRE for conference with CAGRE and BM	DGH
	13	0930	Adjnt away all day with OC "A" Sec on frequency conference at 12 Corps and CR Sigs with conferences and planning re Bank Gp & AGRE comms	DGH
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ZONHOVEN	14	0100	CR Sigs and Adjnt extremely busy with the long-distance preparations for op "TORCHLIGHT" - letters to be written for extra sets, weasels and diverse equipment and the draughtsman busier than ever before with trial diagrams - own Div problems of comms not yet touched upon	DGH

		0800	Tac Div HQ leaves on day exercise "BUFFALO" with wrls group as shown in Appx L1 to Sig Instr. Through OK and remains through for the period of the exercise	DGH
		0930	CR Sigs and OC 3 Coy leave for the exercise as spectators chiefly from Bank Gp comms point of view - reasonably successful - certain dubious things such as faulty telephones here and there and shifting of TRs etc at last moment after lines had long been completed	DGH
		1600	Exercise ends - CR Sigs returns followed by Tac Div HQ personnel	DGH
		1700	CR Sigs & Adjt resume preparations for op	DGH
ZONHOVEN	15	1430	CR Sigs attends conference on previous ex "BUFFALO"	DGH
		1600	Tac Div HQ leaves for night ex "BUFFALO" - Div comd net through OK	DGH
		1800	Another day of intensive prep for op - all concerned with Bank Gp and AGRE comms	DGH
		2100	CR Sigs and OC 3 Coy leave for night ex "BUFFALO"	DGH
		2300	Adj makes up maps in planning room and prepares trace for OC Sigs 104 Beach Sub Area Sigs	DGH
ZONHOVEN	16	0300	CR Sigs and OC 3 Coy return from night ex "BUFFALO"	DGH
		0900	Tac Div HQ returns from exercise - wireless etc having all worked well throughout	DGH
		1000	Adj busy with QM on numerous problems re stores etc, collection of for op	DGH
		1500	CR Sigs has conference with OC Beach Group Sigs, CSO's rep and Sig Offr 100 AA Bde on problems of Bank Gp tfc & River Defence comms. OC Beach Gp Sigs visited with provisional line and wireless diagrams, line trace, location trace and location statement	DGH
		1600	Adj visits 11 AGRE to find out further RE locations in new area, also detailed allotment of Fd Coys to the 9 CsRE under comd	DGH
		1900	Div now on wireless silence (complete) up till 18 Mar incl.	DGH
	17	1030	CR Sigs conference of all officers of the Unit to discuss points, chiefly admin problems of forthcoming op. First conference of its kind held for many months and a number of important matters dealt with and settled. Conference lasts until lunch-time	DGH
		1400	CR Sigs briefs 2 i/c for op "TORCHLIGHT" preparatory to most of "C" Sec moving to op area tomorrow to commence Div line layout	DGH
		1500	Large dets of 52 (L) Recce Regt arrive for use by 11 AGRE in the op and are despatched to their various locations. The officer accompanying will be CAGRE Sig Offr	DGH
		1900	CR Sigs attends GOC's second co-ordinating conference	DGH

ZONHOVEN	18	0815	CR Sigs and OC 1 Coy leave for 12 Corps for discussion with CSO and CR Sigs 53 (W) Div	DGH
		1030	Adjnt, OC Sigs Rear and QM attend A/Q Conf Main Div HQ on maint etc for op.	DGH
		1100	"R" Force personnel here for recording of CV1 net as on recent ex "BUFFALO" for cover plan for op	DGH
		1700	CR Sigs and Adjnt visit CR Sigs 51 (H) Div to tie up points for op, chiefly lateral comms both wrls and line	DGH
	19	1000	Codes & Security and Cipher Officer briefed as much as necessary for forthcoming op and detailed to write our own paras for op order for op "TORCHLIGHT" - most of the day taken up with preparations for this	DGH
		1600	CAPT (TMO) E. PEARCE arrives to take over from LT (TMO) J POLLARD who together with LT A. YOUNG of "K" Sec are posted under the "PICKFORD" scheme. LT POLLARD is a volunteer. LT FELLOWS will now be absorbed in the unit and posted to "K" Sec	DGH
ZONHOVEN	20	0900	CR Sigs leaves for new area, to remain there until the Div comes up and taking in CSO's conference at 1430 hrs at Corps en route - Corps being already in their new location	DGH
		0900	- onwards. A day of preparation for tomorrow's move back into Germany and Adjnt engaged on op instr. Certain formations moving today, necessary line adjustments made, and wireless tng periods continue	DGH
	21	2100	Main Div HQ followed by Rear Div HQ moves to BECKMANNSHOF (070387) and Rear Div HQ to ROM WARITURM (060362) arriving at approx 0515 hrs. Whole Div together with tps under comd, which now incl 4 Armd Bde, on wireless silence until further orders	DGH
BECKMANNSHOF	22	0530	Lines to following - 1 quad to Main 12 Corps, 2 quads to Rear Div, 1 pair to 46 Bde, 1 Mx, 4 Armd Bde, RA Sig Centre and lateral to Div 51 Div. This long move went extremely smoothly and the tps in excellent heart on returning to GERMANY	DGH
BECKMANNSHOF		0600	A day full of activity - still wrls silence but lines section together with 104 Beach Sub-Area Sigs under full pressure. Sig Centre out to location Tac Div HQ and lines by nightfall approximate to line diagram (see below)	DGH
		0900	Lts Pollard & Young leave - LT FELLOWS to "K" sec in place of LT YOUNG	DGH
		2100	CR Sigs and Adjnt visit Bank Control HQ and inspect progress - have conference with OC "B" Sqn Royals whose sets provide the Bank Gp wrls	DGH
		2300	Issued 15 (S) Div Signals Op Instr No. 1 (op TORCHLIGHT)	DGH Appx
	23	1000	CR Sigs attends GOC co-ordinating conference	DGH

BECKMANNSHOF		1400	GSO 1 briefs all ranks Main Div HQ for op - H hour for 15 Div being 0200A hrs tomorrow morning - wireless netting at H-3	DGH
		1700	Tac Div HQ moves out to present site of Sig Centre which now becomes Tac HQ board - OC "A" Sec i/c Sigs personnel at Tac Div HQ	DGH
		1900	Another day of rather desperate activity in the line world especially on the part of Bank Gp Sigs, who, having asked for 14 clear days to complete his line layout, has had to do it in 4 - some of it will NOT be finished by H hour. These 4 days not unhampered, as smoke necessary for daylight line-laying and the programme altered about extremely inconveniently several times	DGH DGH
		2045	CR Sigs leaves for Bank Control and other fwd areas	
		2300	Wireless opens - CV1 OK all round immediately (44, 46, 227, 4 Armd, Recce, 1 Mx, Tac Div HQ & LO at 51 Div) also all links to Corps - trouble on CV2 - set goes faulty. Bdes not up (except 4 Armd & Recce Regt) but 19 set opens and Bdes called up. CV7 OK except 153 which is being relayed through 193 - CV8 OK except for 46 who were late on the air - CV15 OK except 399 Coy who were late on the draw - by 2359 all culprits dealt with and all comms OK - R5 all round - distances very reasonable. All stns on CV1 net (with 52 sets) are crystal-controlled, also links to Corps	
BECKMANNSHOF	24	0220	CR Sigs returns from marshalling area Bank Gp etc - OC 1 Coy with 3 cable dets now located at Bank Group Fwd Sig Centre in preparation for laying two quads across RHINE commencing 0600 hrs	DGH
		0300	15 Div now in full attack over the RHINE and all going extremely well - all comms working splendidly	DGH
		1000	Airborne attack goes in and almost immediately Bdes make contact with the SCR 300 sets, which then justify themselves straight away.	DGH
		1800	A day throughout which all comms wellnigh perfect and very few line faults - CR Sigs and Adj proceed to river bank to watch progress of fwd quads over river - Sigs now have their own stormboat allotted - one quad already laid - operation excellent right back to Main Div - and the second in progress	
		1900	44 Bde HQ already across & line comms established via Right Crossing Control	DGH
BECKMANNSHOF		2200	In view of moves tomorrow of both Tac and Main Div HQs over river, necessary tonight to issue Op Instr No 2.	DGH Appx
	25	1000	CSO 12 Corps visits CR Sigs principally to discuss handover to Corps of Bank Control at 1600 hrs today	DGH

		1100	CR Sigs leaves for Bank Control and to assist OC 1 Coy laying his lines in fwd areas and across river - managing to ferry weasels and jeeps over now	DGH
		1200	157 Bde of 52 (L) Div comes under comd 15 Div - netted on R/T and C/W Comd nets at 1230 hrs precisely - comms R/5 each way	DGH
		1430	15 (S) Div Main moves up and joins Tac HQ which ceases to exist to BONGERTSHOF (091428) arriving at approx 1600 hrs - line	DGH
		1800	layout suitably adjusted and lines shortly through across the river to 46 Tac and 227 Tac HQs. Recce party has already been out across the RHINE this afternoon and Main Div is crossing tomorrow morning	DGH
BONGERTSHOF	26	1000	Main Div HQ all ready for move across RHINE but move delayed due to timings over the bridges until 1200 hrs approx when Div HQ moves out and arrives at new location (BERGEN 140460) at approx 1545 hrs	DGH
BERGEN		1600	Signal centre in position prior to arrival of Div to take on lines and lines through shortly - 2 to Rear Div, 46, 227 Bdes - lateral between 46 & 227 and Recce from 227. No lines being laid to either 4 Armd or 157 Bdes as these are both passing from comd tomorrow, but parties out on 44 Bde line, which is a very considerable lay, especially in view of the congested state of the roads	
		2300	The above also caused a good deal of trouble with line faults. Wireless no trouble throughout day - except for a very temporary breakdown of CV8 - CV13 took comd of the group until CV8 on the air again	DGH
BERGEN	27	0900	- onwards. A day of build-up on lines, exceedingly hampered by road congestion but apart from 44 Bde, not through until late evening, all fms through as per schedule - Sig Centre established in 46/227 area. Two bns under Div comd at various times of day (2 A&SH & 6 HLI of 52 Div) but 2 A&SH revert to own 227 Bde and 6 HLI go to 46 Bde	DGH
		1230	CSO 12 Corps visits and stays for lunch	DGH
		1500	157 Bde pass from comd - 4 Armd Bde having already done so at 0600 hrs	
		1600	Owing to traffic direct line to 44 Bde has had to be abandoned and new line laid from Sig Centre	
		2100	Lorries from QM dept at Rear Div arrive with stores, cable etc having taken 6 hours for the journey	DGH
	28	0100	Div Comd R/T net freq changes to 2064 Kc/s (former 46 Bde comd) & 46 to borrowed freq of 2544 Kc/s (original Main of 2260 Kc/s being recalled	DGH

BERGEN		0900	A morning of little interest - building up of line layout first from Sig Centre - line through now from Main Div HQ - RASC FWD DUMP	DGH
		1430	CR Sigs and Adjt pay routine to all three Bdes - 44, 46 & 227 Bdes and do not return until 1800 hrs approx	DGH
	29	0100	All borrowed freqs for op (except 2544 Kc/s acquired yesterday when this first began) returned and Div now back on normal Inf List "A" - not convenient as our own freqs seem to have the whole world also working on them at present - hence the necessity for keeping the borrowed 2544 - given to 46 Bde and the 46 Bde freq of 2064 Kc/s now used for Div Comd R/T net	DGH
		1000	Main Div HQ moves to area HALSHORSER (182501) and Rear Div HQ moves across RHINE to VISSEL (137453) both arriving new location approx 1130 hrs. Sig Centre remains firm and line layout most satisfactorily built up throughout day around this. Wireless very little in use at present - present op virtually over	DGH
HALSHORSER	30	0900	- onwards. A very much quieter day generally - line maintenance, set maintenance and make and mend	DGH
		1200	Issued line diagram as at 1200 hrs	DGH Appx
		1500	Last of borrowed freqs (2544 Kc/s mentioned yesterday) withdrawn by Corps. 46 Bde given former Div Comd freq in lieu	DGH
		1730	GSO 1 addresses all ranks Main Div HQ on the progress of the last battle and events to date	DGH
	31	1000	Another reasonably quiet day of maintenance etc	DGH
		1200	CR Sigs 52 (L) Div arrives and stays for lunch - that is our first real meeting with our original parent unit since the war began - only too few left now in either unit to whom the association means anything at all	DGH
		1500	CR Sigs and Adjt proceed on tour around Div area inspecting the building, maintenance etc of the line layout	DGH
			David G Heilbron Capt R. Signals Adjutant 15th (Scottish) Inf Div Signals	