

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Feb 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
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| TILBURG 1/25000 Sheet 2A&3A 1733 | 1st | 1300 | Training and general administration continues. A Coy on range in morning. Bn proceeds by Coys to area 183285 to watch demonstration of attack on pillbox strongpoint by Crocodiles and Avre. Weather now very mild and snow almost entirely gone. D Coy dance in the evening. | |
| | 2nd | | All Coys did training with Crocodiles, Avre and Kangaroos. | See Appx E1 & 2 |
| | 3rd | | Administration and interior economy. Bn played KOSB at football and lost 3-5. Officers dance in evening. | CGR Mair Capt A/IO |
| TILBURG | 4 | 1030 1400 | The Corps Commander (Lt Gen Horrocks) addressed all officers on future operations. Bde cloth model on future operations attended by CO, IO, SO and Coy Commanders. Lt Col Pearson returned from UK leave and assumes command of the Bn. | |
| | 5 | | General training. B and D Coys on the range. B Coy held dance in the evening. | |
| | 6th | | Bn moves to NIJMEGEN during afternoon & evening leaving B Ech (Oi/c Capt Cox) in Div Adm Gp at GOIRLE. | See Appx E3, D1, D2 |
| NEAR NIJMEGEN | 7th | | Day spent in Liaison and final tying up with supporting arms (Kangaroos, Avres, Flails & 4 Tk Gren Gds) for op 'Veritable'. | A Walker Capt IO See Appx E1 & 2 |
| | 8th | 1030 1630 2340 | CO and SO (acting IO) attend Bde 'R' Gp. CO & SO/IO enter Germany on recce for first time but OC B Coy (Major D Drummond) having crossed the border in Germany at 1625 hrs proceeding on recce to FRASSELT 8153 with OC Breaching Force was first member of the bn to enter enemy territory. Bn cross S.P. and spend night in Kangaroos on road. Owing to change of plans bn role did not materialise. CO and IO/SO spend night at Bde HQ 783553. Rain had fallen all day and mud made going very bad. | A Walker Capt IO |
| | 9th | 0730 | Bn move on PEARL BLACK route to KRANENBERG 8056 in Kangaroos where CO & IO/SO rejoined the Bn. Bn then moved through 2 Gordons at | |

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| | | | NUTTERDEN 8455 A Coy patrol bringing in 20 PW of 84 Inf Div. B & C Coys occupied ESPERANCE 8655 followed by D & A Coys. Approx 70 PW taken without much opposition. Final posns Bn HQ BOMSHOF 847555, A Coy 866548, B Coy 868554, C Coy 869550, D Coy 869546. Weather wet & cold, roads extremely bad. | A Walker Capt IO |
| | 10th | 1700 | Plan to attack CLEVE cancelled & plan to mop up from SW evolved. SL road 885544 to 881548. Zero 0700 hrs. D & A Coys leading with B & C following. D Coy move towards SL but the attack was cancelled through congestion with own tps in area (43 Div). Bn HQ moved to REICHSWALD FOREST 862548. Weather still very wet. | |
| | 11th | 0900 1100 1900 | Mopping up operation cancelled. IO/SO & Coy Comds RV at HQ 129 Bde (43 Div) preparatory to Bn occupying area held by 4th & 5th WILTS & mopping up in that area. Bn in position & located as follows: Bn HQ 889552, A Coy 884548, B Coy 888554, C Coy 891554, D Coy 883550. hrs approx. Reps from 1st Bn CANADIAN SCOTTISH (Royal Scots affiliated Bn) of 3 CDN DIV arrived preparatory to taking over positions. Rain at night. | A Walker Capt IO |
| | 12th | | Relief by Canadians did not take place but bn moved to area BARRACKS 8855 for rest, being in CORPS reserve at approx 2130 hrs. Bn HQ est at 889556. Bn at one hours notice to move in sp of 43 Div on receipt of code-word 'NUTS'. Weather mild by day but wet at night. | A Walker Capt IO |
| | 13th | 1000 | CO & IO/SO to 43 Div HQ. Bn to recce counter-attack routes etc on posn held by 1 WORCS. CO, Coy Comds, A Tk Pl Comd & IO/SO recce posns area WISMANNSGUT 9052 returning at 1330 hrs, to be informed that plan is cancelled. Order received for Bn to be at 1 hrs notice to move in sp of 53(W) Div to be followed later by order 'No move tonight'. Weather fine. | |
| CLEVE 8955 | 14th | 0800 | Bn at 1 hrs' notice to join 43 Div, which was later changed to 3 hrs notice and finally "No move today". IO rejoined unit from UK leave. | A Walker Capt IO |
| CLEVE 8955 Germany 1/50000 Sh 6 | 15th | 0930 | CO & IO attend Bde 'O' Gp at HQ 44 Inf Bde. Orders received for attack on X rds 960462. On his return to the bn CO holds 'O' Gp and issues orders for this operation. However, a message was then received from Bde to effect that this operation was cancelled & there would be no move today. Weather dull but dry. | |
| | 16th | 1000 | Location - no change. CO attends 'O' Gp at HQ 44 Inf Bde & receives orders for attack on high ground NE of GOCH in area 9245-9344. | A Walker Capt IO |

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| CLEVE 8955 | | 1400 | Recce party sets off for harbour area near HAU 9152 but returned shortly afterwards when due to number of tps in the area it was found impossible to harbour any more tps in that area. CO holds 'O' Gp for capture of high ground NE of Goch. This operation was also cancelled due to good progress of fwd tps of 43 Div in this area. Weather dry but foggy. | |
| CLEVE 8955 | 17th | 1430 2015 | Location no change - Bn prepared for move fwd to harbour area. CO attends Bde 'O' Gp and receives orders for attack on GOCH 9143. Recce party standing by at 10 mins notice wef 1430 hrs. Final orders received 'no move today'. CO holds 'O' Gp at Bn HQ for attack on GOCH on following day. | A Walker Capt IO |
| PFALZDORF 4691 | 18th | 0830 0930 | Bn preparing to move. CO, IO & Coy Comds go fwd and carry out recce at pt 918453. Bn move to FAA in area PFALZDORF 4691. CO receives instrs to proceed to Bde HQ as soon as possible. Orders received at Bde for accelerated plan of attack on GOCH. Bn to provide one coy in Kangaroos as armd recce force on axis CARTER. Orders passed by CO to OC A Coy to carry out the op. Coy complete in Kangaroos and with two tps tks in sp ready to move 1315 hrs. Tac Bn HQ and Kangaroos move in rear of A Coy and est at 925453. Remainder of Bn await further back in area 920463. | A Walker Capt IO See Appx E4 |
| NEAR GOCH 9043 | | 1330 1415 | A Coy proceed on CARTER but are held up at A tk ditch which was impassable and AVRE bridge was sent fwd. Some difficulty was met with in getting br into position & Kangaroos could not cross ditch due to collapse of br. 20 PW were however taken at this stage. Orders received from 44 Bde HQ that operation would not take place as planned. A Coy to remain in posn at ditch. Tac Bn HQ move to 919455 in rear of B Coy (leading Coy) & C Coy on axis HIKER. Zero hour 1500 hrs. Armd Breaching force preceded B Coy on 'HIKER' who after experiencing considerable difficulties with br of A tk ditch, debussed from Kangaroos & attacked forwards and established themselves in area factory 911445. C Coy were then ordered to proceed fwd to area 909443. Difficulty was again experienced at the A tk ditch due to the heavy going & Kangaroos becoming bogged. After crossing the ditch and making towards their obj, this Coy was counter-attacked and for the remainder of the evening there was no comm with the Coy, contact again being made at first light. Visibility was very poor now that darkness had fallen and a thick fog nullified any effect of artificial moonlight. D Coy were then passed through on foot and established themselves with B Coy in a tight defensive posn for remainder of the night. Tac | A Walker Capt IO See Appx E4 |
| GOCH 9043 | | | | A Walker Capt IO |

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| GOCH | | 2230 | Bn HQ remained in same location though earlier in the evening the CO & IO carried out a recce of the A tk ditch in area of the br, finding the track for Kangaroos almost impassable. CO & IO proceed to HQ 6KOSB at 923447 where CO had talk with Bde Comdr. | A Walker Capt IO |
| GOCH | 19th | 0500 | A Coy on orders from CO move from present position at A tk ditch and est themselves in area 913441 being unable to cross the rly line due to heavy enemy fire. With the sp of the tks which had gone fwd shortly after first light Coys were now able to carry out some mopping up in their areas and a total of 300 prisoners were taken. | A Walker Capt IO |
| GOCH 9043 | | 0900 | Tac Bn HQ moved along CARTER route & est itself at 915441 while Coys on orders from CO carried out a systematic clearing of area allotted to the Bn. This was completed by approx 1730 hrs & Bn HQ moved & established itself at 909443, the remainder of the Bn HQ now having joined. Bn now disposed as follows: Bn HQ - 909443 A Coy - area factory 908439, B Coy - 906443, C Coy 907437, D Coy 910442. Enemy shelling and mortaring, which had been intense during the opening stages of the battle had now decreased considerably and was confined to harassing fire. | A Walker Capt IO |
| | 20th | | Location no change - situation normal. Occasional enemy shelling of area. Reorganisation & checking of kit where possible is carried out. | |
| | 21st | | Another day with no important changes. Bn remains in Goch which now had almost become a 'back' area. CO visits HQ 44(L) Inf Bde to see Corps Commander. | A Walker Capt IO |
| GOCH 9043 | 22nd | 1645 2015 | CO and IO proceed to Bde and then on recce of area 9442 (at present held by 6RSF) as bn would be carrying out attack from this area on following day. CO attends Bde 'O' Gp and receives orders for attack on area 9441-9440, as left hand bn of Bde. Bn 'O' Gp & orders issued to Coy Comds. | See Appx E5 |
| | 23rd | 0615 0900 1000 1000 | Bn ready to move. Move by march route to F.A.A. in gen area 942441. Leading Coys leave FAA. Tac Bn HQ moves to 943426. D Coy followed by C Coy leave FUP in wood 943417 with in sp two tps tks. D Coy directed on wood 946411 and houses 909411 and C Coy following in sp. Despite opposition & heavy DF fire from enemy arty & mortars objective was gained completing Phase I of Bn plan. | A Walker Capt IO See Appx E5 |

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| | | 1100 | Phase II commenced after short delay. B Coy on right with C Coy on left having followed in rear of D Coy. Communications now became very bad & it was difficult to keep in touch with the fwd coys though this was possible through the LO of Tk Sqn in sp & arty FOO. | A Walker Capt IO |
| | | 1400 | Phase II complete with Coys now disposed as follows: A Coy area 947403, B Coy 945400, C Coy 948402, D Coy to area 947404 having been relieved by A & D Coys 6RSF placed under command of the Bn & located as follows: A Coy - 949411, D Coy 945411. 8RS Carrier Pl dismounted occupied area 947407 while sqn 15 Recce Regt under comd occupied for a short while posn in area 948412 but were withdrawn later in afternoon when RSF Coys & Carrier Pl were est in posn. | 947404 947407 |
| | | 1600 | Tac Bn HQ moved to 942413. | A Walker Capt IO |
| | | 1700 | Coys firmly est in posn. CO visits Coys. Heavy shelling & mortaring of Bn area. This continued throughout the night though no counter-attack developed. A number of SP guns were abandoned by the enemy during this operation and approx 90 PW were taken. Fwd Coys had patrols out during the night. Our own mortars and arty were very active. | |
| | 24th | | Enemy arty & mortar activity continues. Comd 44 Bde visits Bn HQ & fwd Coys. There was little enemy activity apart from arty & mortar during the day, though snipers were active in B Coy area. | A Walker Capt IO |
| | | 1700 | CO & IO of 5 E Yorks arrive on recce with a view to that unit taking over Bn area on 25th Feb. Bn harbour party returns to A Ech. There was no contact with enemy during the night though shelling & mortaring continued. | See Appx E6 |
| | 25th | | Situation normal - little to report overnight with no change in Coy locations. Reps from relieving Bn arrive. Relief is carried out by stages during the afternoon and evening and is completed by 2245 hours. Bn now conc in former FAA in area 944444. | A Walker Capt IO See Appx E6 |
| | 26th | 0830 | Bn moves by TCVs to VUGHT (MR 3243 1/250000, 2A & 3A NW Europe) arriving at approx 1230 hours. Bn conc in SS barracks on south side of town (3242). Orders received for move on following day to area TURNHOUT and harbour party sent off. | A Walker Capt IO |
| VUGHT | 27th | 1030 | Bn leave VUGHT in TCVs and proceed via TILBURG to rest area at VOSSELAER 0206 near TURNHOUT in Belgium (Ref 1/250000 NW Europe Sheet 3) arriving in VOSSELAER at approx 1330 hrs. | |

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| | | | Remainder of day spent in settling in and general cleaning up. Bn HQ est at 015055. | |
| NEAR TURNHOUT 0607 (NW Europe 1/250000 Sh 3) | 28th | 1015 | CO attends conference at HQ 44 Inf Bde in TURNHOUT on gen points regarding adm, trg, recreation etc. | A Walker Capt IO |
| | | 1400 | CO's conference at Bn HQ to discuss pts arising from Bde conference. 106 reinforcements join Bn from RHU. | |
| | | 1800 | CO's promotion conference at Bn HQ for Coy Comds. Adm & recreation continue. | |
| | | | | A Walker Capt IO 8RS |