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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Delete heading not required)

Unit 194 (BR) FIELD AMBULANCE, RAMC.

Month and Year APRIL 1945.

Commanding Officer WM Oxley
Lieut.Colonel, RAMC.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BISLICH	1		Unit in same locations; ADS in BISLICH and "A" Coy CCP with Bde.	
	2		No change.	
	3	1000 1200	ADMS conference. Orders from ADMS to move with Bde tomorrow.	
	4		Orders to move to GRAVEN today: Later cancelled.	
	5	0830	Unit left BISLICH for BORGHORST.	
BORGHORST		1600	Arrived new location. M.R. 768921. Using Burgomaster's house for Officers' Mess. Later it turned out that he is a prominent Nazi: later arrested.	
	6	1245 1900	Conference at Bde. Div to capture NEUSTADT. 44 Bde in reserve. There will be a move to a conc area first. Recce party left at 1400 hours. Order to move at 2035 hours. Order cancelled. Therefrom on one hour's notice to move.	
BORGHORST LIENTELE	7	0845 1700	Left for new location. Arrived new location M.R. 644249. C.O. visited Bde.	
	8		Brigadier visited unit in morning and ADMS in afternoon.	
	9		Medical boards and equipment check.	
WINDHEIM	10	0945 1330 1900	Left for WINDHEIM. M.R. 869253. Arrived WINDHEIM. Conference with ADMS. Unit to move to NEUSTADT and establish light ADS there.	
	NEUSTADT	11	0600 0700 0900 0920 1030	Harbour party left for NEUSTADT. Main party less "A" Coy (with Bde) left. ADS established. No casualties. Bde "O" Group. "A" Coy comes under command of Bde for future Operations. ADMS arrived and took recce party to MELLENDORF. Intention to open ADS there. 6 MAC cars now attached to us.

NEUSTADT			On moving unit to MELLENDORF one sec of "B" Coy is to stay to man a filter post, where cas would be transferred from one pl MAC to another pl MAC and sort out cases.	
MELLENDORF		1430 1700 2100	H.Q. and 2 Secs "B" Coy left for MELLENDORF. Unit arrived MELLENDORF and opened ADS at M.R. 363410. Capt. Swan posted temporarily to 6 KOSB to relieve Capt. Thompson. "A" Coy arrived in HELLENDORF with Bde. Sec of "B" Coy stays at NEUSTADT until relieved by 11 Lt Fd Amb. 12 cas arrived mostly Gordons.	
MELLENDORF	12	1100 1600 1715 1700	No cas during the night and only a few in the morning. C.O. visited ADMS at FUHRBURG. Div now moving to CELLE. 153 Fd Amb opening ADS in CELLE. "A" Coy moves with Bde. Orders from ADMS to move one Coy to CELLE. "B" Coy (now complete) moved to CELLE. They are to take over and supervise a hospital filled with starved civilian ex prisoners, from a concentration camp in this area. 150 Canadian Ex POWs arrived at the ADS having been released from a working camp at HAMBUEHREN this afternoon. They were powdered and fed and given the whole of our supply of socks. They were mostly in poor shape, being half starved and many with sore feet. Some were evacuated through medical channels. Lt.Col. Bradshaw arrived from Corps and arranged their further evacuation.	
CELLE	13	0900 1345 1545	C.O. visited ADMS at CELLE. Unit ordered to move and harbour in CELLE. Movement arranged with Bde. Left and arrived CELLE 1545 hours. Harbouring in the Cavalry barracks with 193 Fd Amb until they moved out at 1700 hours for SCHELPLAH, on the road to UELZEN. At 1700 hours, Division moved on to ESCHHEDE. C.O. contacted the O.C. 21 Lt Fd Amb. He is unable to take over our "Eclipse" commitment until tomorrow.	
	14	0830 1500	Orders from ADMS to move one Coy to ESCHHEDE. With both Coys committed, this took some arranging but "B" Coy was taken off the Civil Hospital, packed up and sent off. There is now only one M.O. with "B" Coy and one with H.Q. with 2 i/c acting as "A" Coy Commander. 1500 Visited Div. They are now moving on to HOSSERINGEN. The route of evacuation is now difficult as the main road from the front SOUTH of UELZEN is mined in the region of SCHELPLAH and the diversion to the north through the forest is a bad road and unfit for serious casualties. Cas are therefore being held at HOLXEN by "B" Coy until road is clear.	

CELLE		1800	Lieut. Davies sent to join "B" Coy, leaving H.Q. without a Medical Officer, apart from the C.O. This did not matter as there were no casualties to see. C.O. reced site for H.Q. to harbour in ESCHEDE	
ESCHEDE	15	0930 1630 1200 1750	Recce party sent to ESCHEDE. C.O. visited ADMS and forward Coys. "B" Coy had evacuated about 70 cases since yesterday afternoon. Main axis is now open down as far as WEYHAUSEN from where there is a short diversion through the wood to 193 Fd Amb ADS at SCHELPLAH. H.Q. moved to ESCHEDE. Arrived ESCHEDE.	
ESCHEDE	16		No change in position of Unit. Two M.Os. sent out to relieve RMO of KOSB and 190 Fd Rt RA. This leaves only two M.Os, excluding the C.O. in the unit, Major Reid and Capt. Ritchie having been posted to us about a week ago but still have not turned up.	
HOLDESNTEDT	17	0830 0900 1700	Visited "A" Coy in HOLDENSTEDT. Visited ADMS about an "Eclipse" job in UELZEN. "B" Coy will be used on this job, as post at HOLXEN has now closed down. "A" Coy moved CCP to HALLIGDORF. H.Q. moved in at HOLDENSTEDT. C.O. contacted Major Barefoot of 913 Det Mil Gov about hospitals in UELZEN. 44 Bde are now on the outskirts of UELZEN on the right of the river but 46 are still held up outside the town to left of river.	
HOLDENSTEDT	18	0730 1300 1800	C.O. visited CCP with 44 Bde, and got into the town to right of river. Found a camp with 170 French POWs in fairly good condition not requiring medical attention. Arrangements made to powder them and Mil Gov told of their whereabouts. Got into the town on left of river and found a Luftwaffe Hospital with about 270 patients. All German with sufficient staff to cope. Left a sec of "B" Coy in charge. Whole town now cleared. Found another German Hospital in Ebsdorfenstrasse with about 700 patients including 12 British. Arranged to evacuate the British at once. Another sec of "B" Coy left in charge. In the meantime Lieut. Harries had found a POW camp near a factory in the north of the town, the Zucker Farb., with 176 British, 11 U.S., 15 Belgian and French, 40 Dutch, 23 Italian. 130 British and U.S. sick and wounded evacuated same night through med channels. The condition of the others was fairly good although all showed signs of malnutrition. A civil hospital was found near this with	

HOLDENSTEDT			sufficient staff to cope. Major Reid reported for duty, to take over "A" Coy. Saw ADMS in evening and ordered to be prepared to move Unit in morning, and open light ADS in BEVENSEN as soon as cleared.	
EMENDORF BEVENSEN	19	0830 1025 1130 1400 1530	Ready to move. 2 i/c sent off to BEVENSEN as soon as cleared. Major Butcher arrived and agreed to take over the "Eclipse" commitment. Unit moved, less 2 secs of "B" Coy to area of Bde at EMMENDORF. Unit moved from EMMENDORF to BEVENSEN. Light ADS open in BEVENSEN. "A" Coy left with Bde. Capt. Senior from 153 Fd Amb is attached to us for this job.	
	20	1520	"A" Coy moved with Bde to LUNEBURG and opened CCP on Luftplatz. "B" Coy arrived in BEVENSEN from UELZEN.	
BEVENSEN	21		No change. Received Med. Admin. noted for "Op. ENTERPRISE".	
	22		ADMS visited "A" Coy. Capt. Ritchie reported for duty.	
LUNEBURG	23		Moved H.Q. up to LUNEBURG. "A" Coy location in LUNEBURG changed. Unit now all together.	
	24		No change.	
	25		Received message from Bde to bid for vehicles on Cl. 40 raft. Preliminary discussion with ADMS on Op. "ENTERPRISE". Vehicle phasing table made out for ADS.	
	26	1000	Conference with ADMS re Operation. Preparations for Op. "ENTERPRISE" begun.	
	27	1430	Preparations for Op. continued. Conference with DDMS Corps at 33 CCS in LUNEBURG.	
LUNEBURG	28		Preparations for Op. continued. Still in same location.	
	29		Operation "Enterprise". See Appendix.	
	30		Operation "Enterprise". See Appendix.	
				WM Oxley W.M. OXLEY, Lieut.Colonel, R.A.M.C., Commanding, 194 (Br) Field Ambulance.

194 Field Ambulance.

Operation 'ENTERPRISE'

29 Apr 45.

"Crossing the Elbe"

Ref. 1:25000 sheets

2528, 2529

2628, 2629

The role of the 15 Sc Div in this operation was to establish a bridgehead across the Elbe at Artlenburg 8334, and with the attached Commandos at Lauenburg 8734 and enlarge this bridgehead to Dalldorf - Lutau - Piependorf - to river at 788385.

44 L Bde was to establish the initial bridgehead.

After the advance from Uelzen 194 Field Ambulance was concentrated in Luneburg 7920, in 44 Bde area: Div HQ being at Scharnebeck 8525.

On 26th Apr, a conference was held at ADMS office at which the method of employing the medical units was arranged.

Role of 194 Fd. Amb.

Bde were crossing the river at Artlenburg in LVTs and the field ambulance would establish two CEPs on the far bank in the neighbourhood of the LVT ferries and evacuate casualties to the corresponding CDPs established by 14 Lt Fd Amb in Artlenburg. Later these posts would be combined into a CCP in the region of Schnarkenbeck from which casualties would be evacuated by LVT and storm-boat, until the arrival of the ADS, when the CCP would follow up behind Bde and establish CCP when and where necessary.

The ADS with an FSU and FTU attached would cross by the Cl. 40 raft, probably in the evening of D day and set up with an ASC in region of Schnarkenbeck.

A battalion of the A & S H, were to be attached to 44 Bde for the assault. The Bde plan was to cross with two assault battalions, passing through the other two to enlarge the bridgehead. The 8 RS on the left and the 6 RSF on the right, were the assaulting bns.

In view of the hilly nature of the country and the bad exits from the river it was decided to increase the number of SBs by attaching 8 from the Fd Amb to each Bn and to use two Officers and 20 ORs of the Fd Amb to establish each CEP. This meant using the whole of A Coy and two secs of B Coy.

To build up into a CCP vehicles would be phased over the river as follows:-

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--------------|
| 1. Four stretcher jeeps | | LVT ferry. |
| 2. 4 X 3 tonners | | Cl. 40 raft. |
| 6 X 2 str amb | | " " |
| 2 X 15 cwts | | " " |
| 1 scout car | | " " |

It was expected that the above would be over by about H plus 10.

The vehicle phasing table for the build up of the ADS was:-

<u>Serial</u>	<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
1	2 x 3 tonners 1 x 15 cwt	ADS.
2.	1 x 3 tonner 1 x 4 str amb 1 water truck	cooks ADS
3.	2 x 3 tonners 2 amb jeeps	FSU ADS
4.	1 x 3 tonner 1 x 4 str amb 1 x 2 str amb	FTU ADS ADS
5.	2 x 4 str amb 1 x 2 str amb	ADS "

These vehicles would enable an ADS and ASC to open up on the evening of D day.

193 Fd Amb were to take over an ADS on 10 DUKWs and open up in Lauenburg on the afternoon of D day, evacuation would then be as follows:-

Continue by storm boat and LVT ferry to Artlenburg and or by ambulance to 193 and then by DUKW, across the river and back to the CCS at Luneburg. Either or both methods would be used as necessary. If during the night evacuation stopped then cases would be retained by both the ADSs and urgent surgery carried out at the ASC.

The further development of the use of the Fd Amb on the far bank could not be formulated at this juncture but would be considered as the occasion arose.

On the 27th, there was a conference at 33 CCS at which the DDMS Corps outlined the Corps plan.

28th. D-1. 33 FSU and 21 FTU joined this unit with transport. The parties of 8 SBs with one NCO in each party joined their bns.

At 1900 hrs, A and B Coy parties for the CEPs left with their transport for the marshalling area (see MAP). The remainder of the field ambulance stayed in Luneburg waiting to be called forward to the marshalling area.

On the 29th, D day at 0200 hrs, the operation started. The two CEP parties landed at varying times between 0215 hrs and 0245 hrs, dealt with casualties on the river bank and both CEPs were established by 0300 hrs. The actual landing was fairly quiet but shortly after the right CEP had established in a factory at 843349 shells came over and hit the factory.

This resulted in several casualties including five of the field ambulance personnel. Evacuation was carried out well although the river bank was under continuous mortar and shell fire.

The left CEP was established at 838352 and casualties evacuated satisfactorily from the bank and the cliff top.

At 0230 hrs, Tac Bde HQ was visited and it was learnt that the landing had gone well though the RS on the left had encountered considerable mortar fire.

At 0330 hrs, the right CDP was visited: they had no casualties up to date. Then the left CDP was visited: they had 25 cas from the RS, mostly resulting from mortar fire.

At 0350 hrs, the RAP of the 11 RTR was visited and it was arranged that the supply of 50 stretchers and 100 blankets previously arranged and already loaded on the MOs buffalo should be sent over at 0500 hrs. Actually it got over later and delivered to both CEPs at 0615 hrs.

At 0530 hrs, both CDPs were visited and casualties were seen coming in. There did not appear to have been any delay in getting them over the river. Total cas now 65, including about 10 PWs. At 0600 hrs, the CO met the ADMS in Artlenburg and reported on the position. Our four jeeps had not yet gone across. There did not appear to be any real urgency for the jeeps yet, and it was decided to wait a bit before agitating for them. At Crossing Control it was learnt that there was considerable delay in all 44 Bde vehicles.

At 0630 hrs, visited A Coy Commander in the marshalling area.

At 0830 hrs, CC was again visited and as the jeeps had still not gone over and priority was being given to 227 Bde, it was impressed on the officer in charge that it was now an immediate priority. The jeeps were over the river within half an hour.

The CDPs were again visited at 1000 hrs. Total casualties now 97, including 25 PWs. Shelling was still going on in the crossing area though not intense.

At 1430 hrs, the CCP was visited at 838352 and a site found for the ADS, though it was not big enough to house an ASC as well, there was nothing suitable in Schnarkenbeck and shelling was still going on. Casualties were now very light.

At 1530 hrs, the DADMS was visited and the situation discussed. None of the company vehicles save the jeeps had gone across. This was due to marked delay in building the Cl. 40 raft because of the shell fire, and priority was still being given to 227 Bde. However the CCP could continue to function as it was for some time. It was expected that the rest of their transport would cross about 2230 hrs.

At 1730 hrs, the CCP was again visited. The cross roads just to the north of the CCP were being heavily shelled. Casualties were still very light, and it was considered that it would be impracticable to open up an ASC here until

later. Evacuation was going well by storm-boat and LVT, and would continue by storm boat during the night.

At 2100 hrs, ADMS was visited and he agreed to send over the ADS in the morning.

At 1800 hrs, the ADS moved into the marshalling area.

On 30th at 0015 hrs, the ADMS visited the CO in the marshalling area and explained the new plan, which was to get 44 Bde transport over the C1.9 bridge in a block, including all field ambulance vehicles. This was tied up with Bde.

An officer was sent to the CCP with instructions to send a rep to the C1.9 bde to conduct company transport to their location and to follow up the Bde.

The ADS crossed the bridge at 0400 hrs and reached Juliusburg 8439 at 0730 hrs. Recce party was sent off to Gulzow 8342, and ADS followed up. Meanwhile the CCP was opened in Gulzow and dealt with all casualties, sending them back to the DUKW point at 193 Fd Amb location at Lauenburg. Casualties still not heavy.

1st May. The CCP moved with Bde up to Schwarzenbek 8248. The ADS took over the CCP site and opened up. Casualties coming in all day. Evacuation still proceeding to 193 Fd Amb and thence by DUKW to the DUKW CDP and thence to 33 CCS in Luneburg.