

Subject:- War Diaries.

2E21/WD/23026

To:- Under Secretary of State,
The War Office (C.7).

2 Nov 44.

From:- GHQ 2nd Echelon (21 Army Group).

The OC 2 A & S.H reports that all records for Jun 44 have been destroyed by enemy action and that he cannot, therefore, compile a war diary for that month.

[signature] Capt S.C.
For D.A.G.,
GHQ 2nd Echelon,
(21 Army Group)

Oxford.
WB/AMO

Copy to:- OIC Inf Records, PERTH.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. 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 2 A&SH

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year JULY 1944

Commanding Officer Lt Col J.W. Tweedie

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
FIELD BRETTEVILLE	1 JUL		First day of reorganisation after Operation "EPSOM". The Comd Offr has written his own account of this battle for Regt Records. Much kit has been lost, some of it unnecessarily. But the chief deficiency was in automatic weapons and instruments. In the very dusty country such as NORMANDY automatic weapons soon become unserviceable unless MOST carefully covered and cleaned when not in use. Everybody felt extreme exhaustion now that the stress of contact with the enemy was past. The Bn was conc in area of a farm la HAUT de BRETTEVILLE - BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE (CALVADOS) MR CAEN 923728. The first job was to get the Unit re-equipped and since the Div had been given a high priority eqpt began to come in from QRD in great speed. RG eqpt and instruments took the longest to arrive. Much thought given to the subject of salvaging some of the unit tpt and eqpt left on battlefd at GAVRUS. But Bde Comd forbade this hitherto as enemy strength and activities in this area had not been sufficiently examined. Rfts continued to come in at a steady rate. Mostly from O&B.L.I and The King's Regt, as well as our own rfts. Bn strength for w/e 5 JUL is shown on att Appx "A" .	
	2		Visit to Unit by Div Comd, Maj-General G.H.A. MacMillan. He gave a short talk to the troops thanking them for their efforts & explaining the tactical setting to our battles and how 15 (S) Div had drawn, as per plan, most of the enemy armour. The Bde Comd did likewise.	
	3		The Comd Offr addressed the Bn after Church Parade, thanked the troops for their work, but also pointed out some of the most important lessons of the battle. (care of arms & eqpt: sleep when possible: importance of every man looking after himself)	
BRETTEVILLE	6		I.O. rendered a full written report to Bde HQ signed by witnesses, who allege to have seen enemy in BRITISH type steel helmets around our late posn at GAVRUS. Odd shells and rocket	

			bombs arrive in our bn area. One 88 mm shell hit roof of C Coy HQ building to-day. All tps sleep in slit trenches.	
BRETTEVILLE L'ORGUEILLEUSE	7	2000 2200	Reorg continuing and all <u>essentials</u> now completed. One EA [Me 109F] flew over Bn area at about 2000 but was in great difficulties through our lt AA fire. Every day since 18 JUN has been heavily overcast if not raining and ideal for low flying recce & gd attacks by EA. Large scale air attack by RAF Bomber Comd Lancasters on area CAEN-CARPIQUET-VERSON. Plainly visible to all bn. 350-450 British a/c took part. A great tonic as it is the first time we have seen any friendly a/c in strength.	
	8	2030	Still reorganising. No incidents save 4 rds solid shot from 88 mm guns which landed in bn area. Spent rounds.	
	9	1200	Col H. Clarke (GS01 Liaison) 15 (S) Inf Div came to HQ and gave two most valuable talks to assembled tps on the wide-view of the campaign. The greatest worry to date has been lack of infm from the situation on other sectors right down to ignorance about posns of other bns of the Div. The appetite of the tps for news is insatiable, but hitherto infm has been greatly neglected.	
BRETTEVILLE	10	1240 2030 1800	Preparations on foot for another battle. The Bn Order of Battle is as on right →. Major J. Kenneth is att to 10 HLI as 2IC (ex OC A Coy). Bn out on training in area NORREY-en-BESSIN. The Bde Comd arranged this as more practice in fighting in this close country is needed. The junior leaders fight the battles here and the newly promoted NCO's do need practice. One EA flew along line of rly at zero feet and fired on our tps. No casualties. CO and IO to Bde 'O' Gp to discuss Bde move to area VERSON. Forthcoming operations in area BARON - ESQUAY - EVRECY have now reached planning stage. 15 (S) Inf Div now under comd of 3012 Corps for ops. Bn moved out from buildings at le HAUT de BRETTEVILLE into open fields to make room for HQ 30 Corps.	<u>Coy Comds & Specialists</u> CO Lt-Col J.W. Tweedie 2IC Major DR Morgan ADJ. Capt AM FYFE I.O. Capt JDC Graham Sigs Capt DHE Lyon A Coy Major HC Robertson B Coy Lieut P Salmond C Coy Major RM McKenzie D Coy Major FGS Graham T.O. Capt TH Spenceley QM Capt J Kenny M.O. Lieut JT Anderson RAMC Sp Coy Capt LLE Moreton OC 3 Pl Capt W Sloan OC 4 Pl Capt WR Bruce OC 5 Pl Capt W Muirhead OC 6 Pl Lieut RHC Dunning RSM H Thompson
BRETTEVILLE	11	1445	Seven EA [Me 109F] flew over Bde area at about 1,500'. Two definitely destroyed.	

	12	0700 1710	CO and IO off to area BARON - pt 112 for Bde Recce for prepared night attack. Very bitter fighting all around the area and the recce party had no easy task. Very little could be seen of the future objectives. Many dead and burnt out tanks testify to the enemy resistance here. CO 5 Bn The Wiltshire Regt guided party around OPs but little infm was gained. Two salvoes of 6 shells each in area BRETTEVILLE. 88 mm at extreme range. Shellreps are always submitted without delay and do help our CB org with good results. A similar system is being arranged for counter mortar fire.	
BRETTEVILLE	13	0800 1430	CO & IO to Bde Comds Conference for forthcoming op. This will be known as Operation "GREENLINE". Conference attended by all sp arms - 3 Bns Tks, AVRE, "Crocodiles", SP Bty and all gunner and inf comds. Major Hugh Spens M.C. [A&SH] took up duties as BM 227 (H) Inf Bde vice Major J.A. Lochore [K/A 20 JUN]. 2IC, IO, Coy Comds, OC 5 & 6 Pls and Sqn Comds from 147 R.T.R. to BARON to recce for attack. 147 R.T.R. (Lt-Col C. BROWNE) is in sp 2 A&SH. Unable to see ground to objective owing to enemy vigilance, but routes to FUP reced. Map distribution is good now. The 1/50,000 proves quite inaccurate except for main rds. 1/25,000 is up to date and most reliable. All planning is done by air phs which are issued fairly generously in conjunction with 1/25,000 maps.	
BRETTEVILLE	12/13		During the nights 11/12 - 12/13 JUL recce patrols of one offr and two men have been going out from 2 Gordons & 2 A&SH to recce line of R. GUIGNE which lies between our FUP and final objective, to feature Ferme de Mondeville. But on neither occasion did the patrols succeed owing to enemy vigilance [21 & 22 S.S. PGR hold this ground]; our own arty DF fire holding them up, and enemy mortar fire on HQ 5 Welch Regt with whom patrols have been staying during daylight. Lt W.J.D. SWORD (C Coy) led 2 A&SH patrol on both occasions. This river appears no more than a ditch on air phs, but the banks may well be tk obstacles, and almost certainly will hold up towing Carriers of inf bns.	
BRETTEVILLE	14	0800	CO and IO to Bde Conference. Change of plan. 2 GLAS H will capture ESQUAY with one bn Churchills. 2 Gordons will then adv in conjunction with 44(L) Inf Bde to half way to final objective. 10 HLI with B Sqn 147 RTR will capture & hold EVRECY. 2 A&SH with A & C Sqn 147 RTR will then finally cross R. GUIGNE, attack & hold the feature Ferme de Mondeville. The R. GUIGNE still has not been reced.	

Bretteville		1415	Eight Me 109 F over BRETTEVILLE. Hy flak put up and two seen to crash.
		1500	CO, IO and Coy Comds to HQ 147 R.T.R. (Cully 911766) for Coy/Sqn Conference.
		1700	Party returned to HQ 2 Gordons for briefing by Bde Comd. Div Comd gave preliminary address.
		1850	More EA over bn area assisted by thick & low cloud.
		2230	Marching part of bn left rest area where we have been since 2 Jul for FAA at BAS de MOUEN (946653). A ¹ & A ² ech of tpt left after M. Pers. Unit shelled fairly heavily all night after reaching conc area. One shell landed less than 5x from RSM THOMPSON H, who was lying in the open. He sustained only a scratched face.
Bas de Mouen	15	0930	Final "O" Gp for Op "Greenline". Major Charles WILSON R.A. now Comd 495 Fd Bty in sp 2 A&SH vice Major Vyvyan CORNWALL wounded at GAVRUS. Final feeding, recces of tpt FAA and men rested.
BARON		2000	Whole Unit moved fwd on foot with tpt following to FAA in area BARON. Tps & tpt (F Ech) harboured in small area.
		2120	Hy enemy shelling of whole bn area commenced and continued until dawn growing heavier and more intense as the light faded. BARON proved later to be a former German Corps HQ and consequently No1 DF task. The arty & mortar fire was the heaviest yet experienced but caused few cas so long as tps remained dug in.
		2300	B & C Coys (Major H.C. Robertson and Major R.M. McKenzie) started to move fwd through BARON to Start Line behind 2 GORDONS. Objective of their attack was to be the main rd half way to the Ferme de Mondeville feature.
BARON	16	0130	Hy cas incurred through shelling and mortaring especially in B Coy. Lt P.S. SALMOND badly wounded and died soon after (B Coy). Capt W MUIRHEAD (5 Pl) and Capt Tony Marshall (FOO 495 Fd Bty RA) also badly wounded. Remainder of Bn moved fwd to Start Line. Meanwhile 2 GLAS H. sp by 107 R.T.R. had cleared and held ESQUAY and 2 Gordons had reached their first objective, but were held up on fwd slope by well sighted M.Gs on fixed lines. Not imagining this would be a long delay 2 A&SH moved onto the top of the high ground 400x S.W. of BARON church and waited. Artificial moonlight was laid on by S/Ls of 12 Corps to help tps in direction finding but in fact we were silhouetted.
		0500	10 HLI and B Sqn 147 R.T.R. moved into posn just ahead of 2 A&SH (lying down in the open) & just short of the Gordons (unable to adv owing to MG fire). The situation at dawn was therefore 227(H) Inf Bde and three Sqns of 147 R.T.R. bunched in an area about 800x x 300x in the open and with no cover.

BARON		0545	Dawn. Enemy shelling, mortaring and projector firing recommenced. Hy smoke put down by own guns to hide the appalling target we presented. The Churchill tank bn commenced to withdraw, but negotiation of a badly worked British minefd caused trouble. Brig. R. MacIntosh-Walker M.C. (Seaforths) Comd 227(H) Inf Bde was killed during the battle while at Tac HQ at BARON Calvary.	
		0530	Lt. Col. E.C. COLVILLE (2 Gordons) assumed comd 227(H) Inf Bde in his place.	
		1000	CO & IO to Bde HQ for 'O' Gp leaving Major J. Kenneth (A Coy) in comd of the Bn. Plan for next phase: 2 Glas H to hold ESQUAY - 2 Gordons pt 113 - 2 A&SH area Les VILAINS - TOURMAUVILLE Br originally captured by C Coy in June in Op "EPSOM". Bn withdrew under own 2" mortar smoke and was fully harboured in new area by 1700 hrs. Total casualties during the operation in which 2 A&SH had no contact with the enemy K/A 4, wounded 3 offr and 48, missing 16.	
		2300	Spasmodic shelling and mortaring all night. 2/Lieut N.A.C. DUNNING, brother of OC 6 Pl, killed in his slit trench by direct hit from arty shell.	
TOURMAUVILLE	17	2100	Spasmodic shelling all day. 2 A&SH relieved by 5 Welch and marched back to rest area (Le Haut du Bosq, SW Cheux). March without incident. In posn by 1200 hrs. Rest area proved to be a gun area and the noise was incessant.	C.O. Lt-Col J.W. Tweedie 2IC Major J. Kenneth Adjt A/Capt JDC Graham I.O. Lt A. Pierce OC A Coy Maj HC Robertson B Coy Maj A.M. Fyfe
		2330	About 12 twin engined GA flew over bn area dropping bombs, some very close. Large fire started of RA veh.	
	18		Refitting in Rest? Area. Capt C.W. TUNIS & Lt C.M. BROWN rejoined unit from RHU (2i/c A Coy and OC 5 Pl respectively). Both CANLOAN offr.	C Coy Maj LLE Moreton D Coy Maj FGS Graham Sp Coy Capt WR Bruce
	19	1000 2100	C.O.'s Conference. Bn Order of Battle rearranged as above. → First party to 8 Corps Rest Camp at St Aubin s/MER for three days holiday. Major Graham i/c party.	[Major DR Morgan to be Lt-Col Comd 10 HLI.]
Haut du Bosq	20-21		Remained in Rest Area. Occasional shelling and interference by EA. Tps got hold of an unknown drink in a house, which proved later to be brandy. Twenty cases of intoxication resulted.	
	22	2015	CO out all day with Bde "R" Gp recceing new posns for 15(S) Inf Div in the CAUMONT sector where we will relieve the U.S. Army. 227(H) Inf Bde will take over from 11 Inf Regt. V US Inf Div. 2 Pz.Div opposes. Recce Party of 2IC, one offr per coy and one nco per pl moved down to CAUMONT area to liaise with III Bn / 11 Inf Regt in area	

			la REPAS, one mile east of CAUMONT ☉ recess had to be done in darkness as movement on fwd slope in daylight is impossible. Bn 'O' Gp in Haut du Bosq 2300 hrs.	
	23	1030	227(H) Inf Bde moved off in TCVs (20 per bn) with A ¹ & A ² Echcs following. Order of March: 2 Gordons, Bde HQ, 10 HLI, 2 A&SH, 1 Mx B Coy. Bn arrived conc area la VITARDIERE 7262 by 1630 hrs. Everyone greatly affected by seeing undamaged houses & open green fields. Coy liaison with US Comds prior to take over. 2 A&SH took over from III Bn as under. A Coy (Capt TUNIS) - I Coy (Capt Williams) B Coy (Major A.M. Fyfe) - K Coy (Capt Altman) C Coy (Major Moreton) - A Coy/I Bn (Capt Cooper) D Coy (Major Graham) - L Coy (Capt Williams) Comd III Bn was Major BIRDSONG. 2130 Take over of US Coy posns commenced. Guides provided by US Army on scale of 1 per pl.	
la Repas	23	0900	Relief complete. One party of US troops pulling out had a skirmish with an enemy patrol but otherwise everything went smoothly. OP reps in fwd areas remained behind for an additional 24 hrs and all US signal cable was left for us but did not work satisfactorily on D5 phone.	
	24	2300	Bn org complete by daylight. Fwd tps of B&D Coys cannot move by day & feeding &c has to be done entirely by night. B Coy lost 3 men K/A during mortar bombardment in a.m. B Coy 2 Gordons moved in to close gap between C Coy and 43 Div bdy on our left.	
La Repas	25		Visit to bn by GOC 15(S) Inf Div. Recce Patrol sent out at 2330 hrs by Bn. Lt A.W. HADDOW (Canloan offr to "A" Coy). Task: To take one PW, as 21 Pz Div is thought to be conducting a relief. Patrol did not get very far owing to MG fire and lack of time.	
	26	1145	Div Counter Mortar policy started, under direction of an ACMO (Major 1 Mx) att Bde HQ. Action on enemy fire being received by arty, MMGs, 4.2" mortars & unit 3" mortars. Visit by BGS 30 Corps to visit RA Ops. More active patrolling to get PW, but without success. The enemy appears to have pulled back quite a long way & his mortar fire is considerably less now as a result of our CM policy.	
	27		Little activity by day. Considerable enemy tk movements across our flank by night.	Appx "C"
La Repas	28		CO and Adjnt to 153 Fd Amb for rest and CO had slight operation. Some hostile air activity only.	Major B.A. Pearson, att from 30 Corps HQ, reported for duty. Appx A/21C

	29		2 A&SH relieved by the 4th Dorsets. Relief complete by 2130 hrs except for men in extreme fwd areas. Same system used as for 2 A&SH / US Army relief. Bn pulled back to a farm two miles behind La Repas. Major J. Kenneth OC 2 A&SH. Final 'O' Gps & adjustments for Op "BLUECOAT".	See Appx A&B
Caumont	30	0700	Op "BLUECOAT" began 227(H) Inf Bde with in sp 6 Gds Army TK Bde moved fwd to attack ground SOUTH of CAUMONT. Attack preceded by main attack on enemy posns by several hundred RAF Halifax a/c. Stiff opposition encountered early in attack after 2 A&SH passed through 10 HLI & 2 Gordons, and some cas incl Lt DA McCallum D Coy were caused by enemy mines. Many PW taken (C Coy (Major LLE Moreton) took 79 alone). Bn objective LES LOGES captured and occupied by 1830 hrs. The Churchill tanks of 3 SGs who reached the objective 45 mins before the inf were attacked by Tigers or SP guns and lost 6 tks in 2 mins. Bn arrived and dug in with B & D Coys fwd. Total cas during operation in which we advanced through 3 enemy bn posns were 3 killed, 3 offrs and 18 wounded. The bn was thus exposed about 2 miles fwd of other tps & with open flanks. Counter attacks anticipated but not occurred.	
	31		Lt-Col. J.W. Tweedie rejoined and resumed comd of the bn. Fighting continues around & to our rear on 53 Div front but we were left in peace. British armour attacking hard on our right towards St MARTIN de BESACES.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2 A&SH

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Aug 44.

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LES LOGES	1		All quiet. Contact patrols to units on our left.	
	2		As for yesterday. Warning order to move to LA MARCELLIERE.	
LA MARCELLIERE	3		Bn take up defensive posn near the village as reserve bn to the Bde. The high ground in front of the village is held by the HLI on the left and the GORDONS on the right. A counter attack role on to either of the two fwd bns area is planned. Everything quiet & bn given opportunity for minor reorganisation, issue of NAAFI goods.	
LA MARCELLIERE	4		As for yesterday.	
MONTCHARIVEL	5		227(H) Bde left LA MARCELLIERE to attack in company with the SCOTS GUARDS several points to the SOUTH. 2 A&SH and part of 2 GORDONS were to travel on the tanks of the SCOTS GUARDS to a dispersal point at MONTCHARIVEL (745428). The objectives of 2 A&SH were to clear two villages - LA FORTE (37/14 SW 1/25000) MR. 758428 and LE HAUT 768428. In support 1 Sqn SCOTS GUARDS. No enemy were encountered and consolidation was effected at LE HAUT. Later in the afternoon word was received that 2 A&SH was req'd to deny the use of br 754407 on the MONTCHAMP - LA CAVERIE RD. to the enemy, MONTCHAMP being held by one enemy company. The bn pushed on to high ground vicinity L'Eponniere (754409) and as darkness fell took up positions on the fwd slope, commanding the br and road. The whole 24 hrs operation was done without encountering any enemy whatsoever, except for one boshe who gave himself up to Capt W.R. Bruce (sup coy comd) while he was asleep in the Comd post area.	
MONTCHARIVEL			Carrier containing several men and Lieut D.R. MURDOCH was blown up by a mine at x-rds in MONTCHARIVEL, after several vehs of ours and of the R.S.F. who had taken the town the night before had been over it. The driver was killed and Lt	

			MURDOCH, carrier pl comd, was wounded. His life was saved only by sandbags which were on the floor of the veh.	
L'EPONNIERE	6		227(H) Bde with S.L. of LA CAVERIE x-rds (768405) moved to attack along with the SCOTS GUARDS the following objectives:- 10 H.L.I. - THIEL (7635); 2 GORDONS - ESTRAY (7437) 2 A&SH CANTELOUP (7835). The Bn F.U.P. was LA CAVERIE x-rds, where considerable armour was established in vicinity for marry-up purposes. This was attacked at long range by two MK IV TIGER TANKS and there was considerable confusion as the 3 bns passed the x-rds - one recce car being demolished in clear view of the troops. A&SH proceeded to S.L. and attack began with VASSY Rd as axis (2 coys left, 2 right). Considerable MG fire was encountered and at one point extremely heavy mortaring which diminished as the troops pressed close to the enemy. Armour was considerably held up by a dug-in TIGER and an S.P. gun. The TIGER was successfully stalked by B Coy and drew off - the S.P however knocked out one CHURCHILL before drawing off. Tanks encountered mines on road and the attack was halted short of PT 208 where the Bn dug in about 350x from German posns.	
VASSY RD.	7	1300	On high ground astride LA CAVERIE - VASSY RD north of Point 208 the Bn tried to advance posns approx 100-150 yds. The attack was made with gunner, MMG and mortar sup. The objective was not attained and over a score of casualties were suffered including Maj AM Fyfe OC B Coy killed by MG fire who lay wounded for several hours under fire (died at the R.A.P.) With the object of evacuating the wounded who could not be reached by S.Bs because the area was under MG and mortar fire, Maj L.L.E. Moreton (Law Moreton) advanced alone towards the German lines carrying a red cross flag above his head. He was fired upon once as he approached the place where the wounded lay. A German captain then appeared & shouted at his men to hold their fire. Maj L.L.E. Moreton and the boshe officer shook hands and a truce of half-an-hour was agreed upon to remove all dead and wounded, a demarcation line being drawn and the boshe removing all casualties on their side. Thus several Argylls fell into German hands - the first known to be taken prisoner in the Bn. Firing was renewed after the truce, with the Bn holding its original positions. At 0700 hrs 3 arty privates of the 9th S.S. drove into our lines, apparently in error, in a light recce car, containing hot coffee evidently for an OP position.	
VASSY RD.				

VASSY RD.	8		Held positions as yesterday without incident. Occasional mortaring (MR. T772392 Flers 7F/5 1/50,000) Three deserters of Polish and Jugo Slav nationality were admitted to lines. They were recent reinforcements to the 21 Pz. They said there were many others wishing to come in. This subsequently proved correct. During night Aug 8/9 bn withdraws to posns vacated by Royal SCOTS on LA CAVERIE - ESTRAY RD MR T 765395.	
LA CAVERIE x-rds	9		Positions maintained as before. Patrols sent out to contact neighbouring units. 10 H.L.I. on right and 7 SEAFORTHS on left who were close to LA CAVERIE x-rds. Occasional casualties from mortaring. Much Boshe small arms fire at night mainly on fixed line. Two deserters admitted to lines.	
LA CAVERIE x-rds	10		One deserter. Contact patrolling. Heavy 25 pndr gunner support.	
	11		Twelve deserters - patrolling. Arty as before.	
	12		Patrolling. No deserters. Evidence of Bosche withdrawal: as a lack of SA fire at night. 1 casualty from mortar bomb.	
LA CAVERIE x-rds	13		Quiet day. No mortaring at all. During night 13/14 Bn withdrew on foot to area of LA MARTELLIERE (Ondefontaine 1/50,000 37/14 SW T 505465). This withdrawal was without incident as some 11th Armd Div troops were now occupying frm ahead of Bn front. Bn was relieved by 1st Herefordshire Regt. of 11 Armd Div.	
LA MARTELLIERE LA MARTELLIERE	14		In new position, bn occupied itself in resting and washing until 1400 hrs when it embussed for a return to the CAEN sector, which it had left some weeks ago. During the morning the Bn received news of the loss of its CO - Lt Col J.W. Tweedie who left to assume command of the 91st Bn (anti-tank). The Bn moved without a hitch under the temporary C.O. Maj J. Kenneth and arrived in its new area near MALTOT. These posns were well back from the fwd areas and the Bn rightly looked forward to a well deserved rest.	
MALTOT AREA	15		Bn rested, visited M.B.U. and watched an E.N.S.A. Show.	
nr. Maltot	16	1800	Bn rested today. Maj S.C.D. Fergusson arrived & was posted as O.C. Sup Coy. Pipes and drums played retreat & wore the kilt for the first time since we came to France. The pipes are a great morale booster and the Bn was pleased to see the kilt again.	

nr. Maltot	17	1800 1800	Bn rested again all day and there was swimming and bathing in the Orne River. Everybody now felt fit and ready once again. Pipes and drums played retreat with Pipe Major Angus Graham playing his new compositions for the first time, "Crossing the River Odon" and "Fifteenth Scottish Division". Lieut W.J.D. Sword became I.O. vice Lieut A.H. Pierce who went to B Coy as Pl Comd. Warning for move tomorrow not before 1100 hrs to 029475 in Barbery Area (40/14 S.W)	
Barbery	18	1650	Bn arrived in new location after a move of no incident.	
Barbery	19	1830 1900	Bn rested and trained. Coys did route marches and P.T. Warning order for a move in T.C.Vs for contact battle. Bn at 6 hrs notice to move from 0600 hrs tomorrow. Cinema show in Bn area.	
Barbery	20	2355	Move cancelled. No move for 48 hours. Bn area dive bombed by about 6 enemy bombers for 20 mins. The centre of the attack was the mortar pl area and the R.A.P. Seven men of the mortar pl were killed outright. Three offrs were wounded & seven men. The offrs wounded were Major J. Kenneth, the Commanding Officer; Capt Wm Sloan, mortar officer and Rev G.T. Jameson - Chaplain. The bombs dropped were A.P. except for the bomb which dropped in the mortar area. This was of heavier calibre. All the casualties were out of their slit trenches at the time of the bombing.	
Barbery	21		It rained all day and the Bn rested and kept as dry as possible in farm buildings. Maj S.C.D. Fergusson assumed command of the Battalion vice Maj Kenneth.	
Barbery	22	2100	Bn rested and dried out after yesterday's rain. Warning order for early move tomorrow.	
Barbery Barbery	23	0640 2000 2000	Bn moved this morning to a concentration area at FRESNE LA MERE 196359 (7F/6) Reinforcements arrived 1 Offr (2/Lieut A.S. Mull) and 17 ORs. Warning order for move towards the SEINE tomorrow morning. We heard that Capt Wm Sloan had died of his wounds. Lieut J.C. McColl took over command of C Coy vice Maj B. Pearson who again became 2i/c.	
Fresne La Mere	24		"H" hour for the move was postponed continually until by the afternoon it was considered that there would be no move that day at all. This was caused by confusion on the roads. Bridge had been blown and there was much battered German transport across the route.	

Fresne La Mere		1530	Order to move at 1740 hrs as far at least that night as TRUN 3129 / 3A&8 1/250,000). Order of march of the Bde 10 H.L.I., 2 Gordons, 2 A&SH.	
		2000	Bn concentrated in area BOURDON 4156 (7F/6) after a successful move without incident. The route was littered as we had been told with German transport. Although we had been warned of mines and booby traps none were encountered	
BOURDON	25	0900	Bn moved with the object of taking up a defensive position in the EMANVILLE area 0374 (map sheet 7 250,000).	
BOURDON		1700	Bn took up position at PETITE LONDE 0072 (8F/4) No enemy were encountered on route and the Bn was feted all the way by the French. The route took the Bn through a road 7 mls long where the most appalling destruction had been caused on enemy transport by the R.A.F. Dead Germans, dead horses and mangled transport were heaped up on the verges of the road. Again no mines or booby traps were encountered.	
PETITE LONDE	26	0005	Orders received for a move at 0430 hrs to a concentration area at LOUVIER 2289 (1/100,000 9F) preparatory to a crossing of the SEINE the following night.	
PETITE LONDE		0430	Bn moved out as arranged to forming up area but was stopped there.	
		0830	Order for a move to a concentration area at LE NEUBOURG (R 0283 [1/250,000 sheet 7]) were issued.	
		0930	Bn concentrated in new location.	
		1700	Bn moved to LOUVIERS. On arrival orders were given for capture of high ground area R 2589.	
		2200	This piece of high ground occupied by the Bn without incident. Members of the maquis guided the Bn to its objective. It was learned that General Von Kluge the night before had used a room in the farm in which our H.Q. was established.	
LOUVIER	27		The Bn rested in the area and made up for lost sleep as much as possible. Liaison was made with maquis about enemy in area. Bn moved at about 1800 hrs to an F.U.P. at R 2787 [1/250,000 sheet 7] for the crossing of the SEINE. The Bn was in reserve and 60 men were used for carrying boats for the initial crossing by 2 GORDONS and 10 H.L.I. The original plan was that 2 A&SH should cross after 2 GORDONS on the right but after the GORDONS had had trouble the Bn was switched to the left to follow on after H.L.I. The move took place about 2200 hrs. The	

Across the SEINE			crossing for us was without incident and went almost like an exercise. One man was killed outright and CAPT TUNIS (Can-loan) was wounded. The enemy were withdrawing from the house area across open ground and several casualties were inflicted on them. 17 Bosche were killed mostly by the only mortar which had by that time crossed the river and by the sniper corporal. 3 Bosche were taken prisoner. The Bn mopped up the area and a further 3 prisoners were taken. The whole advance was done without close support as even the A/TK guns had not yet got over the river. Although there had been no time for even Coy Comds to see the ground, and the speed and change of plan made adequate orders impossible, a defensive position was taken up without interference on the other side.	
Across the SEINE	28		This morning at about 0900 hrs a warning order was received for an advance through thick woods to the high ground at Chateau Buspins. No opposition was met in the woods, though signs of hurried enemy withdrawal were evident. No opposition was met on the objective either. Only when the Bn began to exploit over the crest did we meet the bosche. D Coy exploiting through the House were fired on by a Spandau.	
CHATEAU BUSPIN	29		This morning about 0200 hrs the remainder of the Bn transport arrived. During the day the Bn rested and reorganised.	
	30		The day was spent in resting, refitting and in reorganisation.	
CHATEAU BUSPIN	31		A & D Coys today cleared a wooded area over the SEINE between LERY 2696 and PORTE PINCHE 2993 (Sheet No 155 N.E). This area was reported to us by the maquis as being held in small numbers by the bosche. The maquis chief at LERY gave us the exact layout of the area and his men assisted in the sweep. No enemy were found but later 12 bosche gave themselves up to a carrier standing patrol which acted as a stop and which was left at PORTE PINCHE after the Coys withdrew again for the night.	

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

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn A&SH

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year September 1944

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Chateau de Buspins	1st Sept		Bn still at Chateau-de-Buspins. All coys are under cover except "C" Coy which was moved today to Daubeuf-pres-Vatteville in order that it may be under cover too. Daubeuf-pres-Vatteville is a little village about one mile north of the Bn position. Bn reorganising and maintaining weapons and vehs. Lt Col Morgan arrived tonight to take over command of the Bn. We were all very glad to have him back with us again.	
"	2nd Sept	2000	Very quiet day. Most of day spent on maintenance of vehs and weapons. Rain for most of the day and evening. We had a warning order to move. "O" group for move at 2300 hrs.	
Chateau de Buspins BERNAVILLE	3rd Sept	0130 0630 1330 1500 2000 2000	Bn moved to Long 8873 at 0130. Bn had under command 1 Tp 6 pdr ATK RA (286 ATK BTY) Bn stopped for tea and haversack ration just outside GOURNAY 6515. Bn arrived at BERNAVILLE where it had breakfast. Here there was a change of plan. "O" Group was called for move to area BERNAVILLE 0285 to take over from the North Staffords. Object to prevent any enemy from crossing road BERNAVILLE - GORGE from west and so escaping to Germany. Bn took up position in BERNAVILLE triangle Bn HQ orchard 032848, C Coy orchard 026848, D Coy field 0382 B Coy GORGES 0382. For this operation the Bn was under command 4th Armd Bde. Weather for this operation was dull and cloudy. Bn harbour party was away recceing an area for a 15 mile move which was cancelled and was not available for harbouring the Bn into its area. Harbouring was carried out efficiently off the map.	
BERNAVILLE	4th Sept	0630	Bn stood to for ½ hour.	

BERNAVILLE		0800	2 PWs were brought in from B Coy, one was a C.S.M., both were poor specimens.	
		0855	A mixed lot of prisoners were handed over to us by N Staffords. They included many units, air force, TODT organisation and four Mongols.	
		0905	Bn at 1 hours notice to move after 1000 hrs to ST POL (H/5i3 1/250,000).	
		1500	Move cancelled. No move for 48 hrs.	
		2300	Warning order to move to ST POL. Bn to be in position by 0630 hrs tomorrow.	
ST POL	5th Sept	0230	Bn moved to ST POL.	
		0630	Bn arrived ST POL where we were told that our duty was to garrison the town and guard rds heading eastward into the town. Bn attached to Bde for this purpose. Visit by Brig Siegmond [Sugden] of 158 Bde.	
		1500	Pipes and drums played in the main street of ST POL. The local population was quite pleased with the performance. Maquis capture dozens of German prisoners whom they handed over to us.	
ST POL		1700	March of collaborators (women with their heads shaved) through the town. During the night cable running through the town was cut by saboteurs in several places. There was no trouble in town so far as the Bn was concerned and we spent a quiet night.	
		1730		
	6th Sept	0300	Warning order to move to COURTRAI. No move before 1500 hrs.	
		0900	Bn came under command 227(H) Bde once again.	
		1130	No move before 2300 hrs. Went through a German barracks on the ARRAS road 2 miles from ST POL. Camouflaging taken to great length as far as building accurate dummy buildings of hessian over workshops etc. Trees were even planted along side slit trenches for concealment. War map in canteen showed situation up to date with nothing concealed.	
ST POL	7th Sept	1030	Move to COURTRAI 8557 on SKYE route.	
		1845	Stopped just outside COURTRAI at TOURCOING as enemy was reported from the COURTRAI area. Bn moved into hedgehog fmn at ST GENOIS 9248.	
		2040	Crossed the Belgian border at MOUSCRON.	
BOSSUIT		2100	Bn moved into hedgehog fmn at BOSSUIT 9547.	
		2350	"O" Group for move at 0730 hrs tomorrow to area Ghent to hold three bridges at 992692, 0172 and 046732. Tremendous ovation given to convoy as it passed through the towns. Everybody was heaped with pears, apples, plums, tomatoes, wine, coffee etc.	

			We were kissed, hugged and squeezed by everyone from 3 year old blondes to 90 year old bewhiskered men. DRs were brought to a standstill by enthusiastic crowds.	
BOSSIUJT	8	0730 0800 1700 1800 1900	Convoy ready to move off. Move postponed. No move before 1030 hrs. Tps under command: 1 Sqn Royals, 1 Pl 20 Fd Coy RE, 181 Fd Regt RA, MG Pl 1 Middlesex, 2 Tps 17 pdrs ATK 346 Bty RA. Bn arrived in location with Bn HQ at MACHELEN. Two GAF gave themselves up. Very stubborn, morale appeared to be high. Four more bosch gave themselves up. Weather cloudy with heavy rain showers. Convoy moved head to tail. GAF did not put in an appearance.	
MACHELEN	9	1800 1900	Pipes and Drums played in front of the war memorial at Machelen. Hundreds of people turned out to listen and cheer. As the playing finished about 20 prisoners were brought in by A Coy. The local population showed their disapproval of the bosche. Pipes and Drums played in DEYNZE. P/M Graham presented with a bouquet of flowers, with speech of welcome enclosed. Flowers were placed on local war memorial. Orders to move at 1200 hrs tomorrow to conc area NE of Brussels. O.C. B Coy Major Moreton was treated as town major and was feted by the populace. A dance was held for the troops and invitations to dinner came to him every minute of the day. He was received by the town dignitaries in the town hall where he was given a speech of welcome and lavished with champagne.	
MACHELEN	10	1000 1400 0200	No move until further orders. Bn on 2 hrs notice. No move before 0900 hrs. Bn on two hrs notice after 0900 hrs. Weather was bright but wind was cold. Another 30 PWs making a total of 56. Most of them were deserters and their morale was very low.	
MACHELEN	11	0900 1445 1700	Bn still on two hours notice. Bn moved to new location. Arrived at ST BRIXIUS RHODE 6067 (Sheet 44 Thermonde) with Bn HQ at Burgomasters farm. On arrival the Bn was told it would be in new area for four days before going into battle near Antwerp. Orders given out for maintenance on weapons and vehicles.	

ST BIXIUS- RHODE	12	1130 1400 1800	Warning order to move tomorrow. 50% of Bn went on recreational tpt to Brussels. Though the stay was short most of the lads enjoyed themselves. Remaining 50% of Bn went to Brussels and all agree that it is a great place.	
" MOLL	13	0830 1800 1930	Moved to new location. Recce move entirely up to area MOLL 1790. Reached the other side of the ALBERT CANAL where C Coy entanked on one sqn SHARPSHOOTERS. Crossed canal on a class 9 Bridge at STEELEN 073843. Objective to capture bridge at DONK 170952. Plan C Coy leading to attack on left A Coy to march and attack on right B & D Coys in depth. Reached objective. Bridge blown, came under fire. Accurate and heavy shell fire on road leading to canal. No casualties, except Capt McHattie 495 Bty who was FOO with C Coy who was slightly wounded. One 88mm gun was located in house over canal sighted to fire on X rds. Bn took up positions astride main axis. Bn HQ situated at ACHTERBOSCHE. Under command 131 Fd Regt, 1 Pl 4.2 Mor, 1 Pl MMG.	
DONK	14	1300	Patrolling in forenoon. Patrolling later stopped. No enemy seen on opposite side of canal bank. 88mm on the other side of canal however observed. No shelling or mortaring of our forces by the enemy. Thought likely that Bn would cross canal that night. It was never sure whether the crossing might after all be made in daylight. No definite orders all day. Bn at 3 hrs notice. Patrol from B Coy went out.	
DONK DONK	15	1510 1900	Still no definite news. Enemy 8 men strong fired on by A Coy. One man was either wounded or killed. Shelling of area took place especially C Coy factory area 170950. Gunners report bosche seen wearing equipment. This was confirmed by A Coy. Previous to this, Bosche had been seen with no equipment. At first it was thought that he was pulling out. An attempt to fell the factory chimney by the enemy with AP shot substantiated this. Their gunnery at this target was extremely accurate. Of about 15 rounds only one missed the target. The chimney remained standing. Warning order for BDE crossing of canal early tomorrow morning. Crossing to take place at 1594. Gordons to make crossing and remain as firm base. HLI to pass through with objective DESSCHEL 1696 and ourselves to face EAST between DESSCHEL and the canal. Discussion whether we should take	

			<p>place in crossing or not or whether Bde crossing even should take place not to be decided upon until 0200.</p> <p>This was about the 6th plan that had come down to us that day. Other plans included the crossing over at 44 Bde area, another which held up to about 1800 hrs was a diversion made by 20 men of the Bn swimming the river at our own area.</p>	
DONK	16	<p>0230 Orders to move came through.</p> <p>0610 Bn HQ moved to conc area with remainder of Bn in ACHTERBOSCHE 1692.</p> <p>0900 Gordons crossing held up by well dug in MGs. Brig calls off the crossing.</p> <p>1030 Returned to old location. Bn remained in posn and carried on as normal.</p> <p>1700 Orders to move to conc for one days rest preliminary to new op. Move to take place tomorrow morning.</p>		
DONK	17	<p>1030 Bn had moved out.</p> <p>1230 Bn in conc at the gun area near Gheel.</p> <p>1400 Airborne divs pass over our posns.</p> <p>1515 "O" Group for crossing of canal into 44 Bde area. Bn to come under 44 Bde and take over from RSF.</p> <p>1630 Recce party leaves for contact with opposite number in RSF.</p> <p>1815 Recce crosses canal, no difficulties encountered. KOSB & RSF in bridgehead found to be completely intermingled. No differentiation of areas. Recce take over made very difficult by this. Coy and Pl comds had to recce different areas with reps both of RSF and KOSB. Heavy shelling taking place all the time.</p> <p>1930 Enemy counter attack estimated one coy strength comes in while take over is going on.</p> <p>2000 Difficulty in getting back over the canal because the three boats were on the other side, only means of attracting boat mans attention was by shouting. Lack of proper comm between bank and bank.</p> <p>2330 Bn crosses and takes over from RSF. Take over was successfully completed without one casualty although shelling was taking place.</p>		
	18	<p>1630 Typhoons came over and bombed and machine gunned our forward tps. D Coy area was bombed and machine gunned. They appeared to have taken the road running in front of D Coy as the bomb line. Yellow smoke eventually stopped the bombardment. Luckily no one in these coys suffered casualties. One pioneer was killed by machine gunning.</p>		

		1845	Bosche counter-attack put in of Bn strength. Main thrust against C Coy from the north. Enemy as near as 50x from coy posn. Enemy of one Sec strength also penetrated into D Coy posn where they were pushed off by Lt McCall's pl using 2" mor HE. The enemy S.P. that was one of main troubles in the Bridgehead was used considerably apparently along the main axis road between C & D Coys.	
		2045	Counter attack successfully repulsed. Bn ably supported by gunners and 4.2 mortars and MGs wrote off many of the enemy. During the attack the following offrers were wounded. Maj HM Fyfe of C Coy, Lt A Pierce (Canadian) B Coy and 2nd Lt Yockney (D Coy).	
AART	19	AM	Misty, visibility only 50x up to 0900 hrs. No shelling and little mortaring. D Coy who saw enemy movement in slits 150x in front of their posns last night report no movement today. Slight shelling and mortaring in afternoon but not so heavy as yesterday.	
		1400	Maj LE Moreton OC B Coy was killed by shell splinter whilst visiting his platoon posns. 2/Lt A Mull wounded by same shell.	
		1830	Reinforcements arrived 3 offrers + 17 ORs. The offrers were Capt Reid, Lt McDonald (Canadian) and Lt Lawrie who was wounded at Gavrus in the Scottish Corridor advance CAEN sector. No counter attack this evening, the first free night without interference.	
		2315	HLI arrived to take up posns on our left. Major Kempston (Gordon Highlanders) takes over C Coy. Capt Shaw (car pl comd takes over B Coy). 2 offrers and 19 casualties. Lt McCall (D Coy) wounded by shell splinter.	
AART	20	AM	Shelling and mortaring increase	
		1000	Class 9 bridge started had to be abandoned at 1230 owing to shelling.	
		1630	Some transport taken across on raft.	
		1900	Orders for withdrawal over canal of Bde.	
		2000	First coy of H.L.I. move out.	
		2350	Last man leaves other side. Withdrawal a complete success. Enemy never in contact during whole operation. Only one difficult time when spandau opened up on right flank beside B Coys posn firing down the canal. B Coy had by that time withdrawn. Bn HQ with 2 Bren gnrs from C Coy acted as right flank protection.	

AART			Lt Reilly (Middlesex MMG Pl Comd) wounded. Major C Wilson (Bty Comd 495 Fd Bty 131 Fd Regt) wounded. Casualties 1 Killed 5 wounded 8 Killed 53 wounded	
GHEEL	21	0200 1430	Bn in posn in conc area original posn. Move to just south of Gheel. Men bathed, rested and got clean clothes. M.B.U. did good work right up to dark. It was considered that the Bde would be out of the line for about 4 days for a refit, but we had our minds prepared as usual for a move [at] short notice. We were also informed that 227 Bde was now under command 7th Armd Div.	
MEERVELDHOVEN	22	0730 1345 1653 1830 2358	Long reveille played by Pipes and Drums. Move to MEERVELDHOVEN (3814 Sheet 4) South of Eindhoven in Holland. Crossed into Holland north of LOMMEL over a class 40 br on the Escaut Canal. Bn in posn. Order to move north of Eindhoven. 227 Bde to come under direct command 2nd Army.	
MENSVOORT	23	0745 1515 1600	Moved to MENSVOORT 4123 B Coy and Car Pl sent on special job. Intention to protect bridge at ZON (442255 Sheet 4 1/100000) on 30 Corps axis. Airborne divs seen going overhead. Visit by Gen Barber 15(S) Div.	
MENSVOORT	24		Bn spent a quiet day. C of E and RC church parades. Brig orders men to get all rest possible. Very wet day.	
	25	0745 0800 0900 1030 1130 1400	Bn moved to conc area just north of Wilhelmina canal at 390253. Recce party look at ground from OP in boot factory. Ground very flat and open. Heathery with little scrub. Bn in posn NORTH of canal, along south side of wood. Gordons in attack on left flank. Object to clear ground from canal westward and northward to provide left flank protection and firm base for the attack by H.L.I. and ourselves on NAASTEBEST 371274. Two Gordon coys come under heavy and accurate fire from spandaus dug in on railway embankment on the advance forward. The Bn suffered heavy casualties from MGs and hand grenades. This last during close fighting which ensued. Later forward elements withdrawn and bn tries to work round to deal with opposition. Typhoons make one attack on enemy north of Gordon posns.	

N of WILHELMINA CANAL		1600	Gordons have suffered so many casualties and the ground is so open that further attempts to advance will only mean more casualties that Div withdraws them.	
		1830	Bn freezes in present area. 2000 hrs orders to move North	
		2000	tomorrow to F.U.P. on road at 386284 to H at 388284. Object to clear country northwards and wood South of LIEMDE 3632. Plan HLI on right, ourselves on left with Gordons in reserve.	
	26	0730	Bn moved to FUP.	
		1030	Fwd coys A left D right crossed SL. Little opposition, a few snipers on left, nothing on right. Country close and difficult for fwd tps to keep contact.	
		1200	Typhoon raid. Prisoners taken by forward coy.	
		1330	Fwd coys run into extremely difficult country, woods and undergrowth so thick that control becomes about impossible. Visibility cut down to a matter of one or two yards. Spandaus opened up on us. Major Robertson was killed at 6 yards range. Lt Dawson was also killed. Capt Shaw who took over when Major Robertson was killed was himself mortally wounded a few moments later. He died a short time later.	
VLEUT	27	1030	Brig EC Colville paid us a visit.	
		1130	Typhoon raid.	
		1400	Cpl Elliot and two other ranks of D Coy went out on patrol and brought in 43 prisoners.	
		1500	Typhoon raid. Contact patrol with HLI and BDE. Prisoners were mostly German, 2 were Mongols. Reinforcements: Capt J S Hale (A Coy) Capt E M Marling (D Coy) Capt Potter.	
VLEUT	29	1030	Visit by the Brig.	
		1300	Patrol from A Coy to wood in front of B Coy saw 3 Germans.	
		1600	Sgt Woolerton of B Coy with 9 ORs patrolled up main axis track 200x. Were fired on and came back. They were sniped first.	
		2030	Flare went up 200x in front of fwd posns. Enemy opened with spandau and rifle fire. Fire fight started and we brought down DF 25 pdr and 3" Mor.	
		0130	All quiet.	
VLEUT	30	1300	Patrol from car pl found enemy in U shaped wood.	
		2000) Contact patrols to 2 Gordons and from 10 HLI reported all	
		0400) clear. Capt Potter posted to 2 Gordons.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn A. & S. Hrs

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan M.C.

Month and Year Oct 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
VLEUT	1.		Everything quiet on our front. Patrol met no enemy. Contact patrols to 2 Gordons and 10 H.L.I. met no opposition. Capt E.S.L. Mason now I.O.	
do	2.		Another quiet day. Little mortar and arty fire on flanks. Car pl sent out patrol which met no opposition.	
do	3.		Bn was relieved by 2 sqns Derbyshire Yeo, Recce to 51st div from 1500 hrs to 1700 hrs. Relief took place without incident. Bn moved to harbour area thence to conc area by T.C.V. Conc at BAKEL 625247.	
BAKEL	4.		"D" day spent in general I.E. and checking of kits and stores. Baths and a film show at DEURNE. Rifle coys prepared to commence training on 5th Oct. Reinforcements - Capt W.B. Dobbs and O.R.s reported.	
do	5		Rifle coys commenced training - battle drill and firing of weapons. Specialist pls spent day on maintenance of vehs and stores. Baths and film show again available at DEURNE.	
do	6		Training continues. 1630 hrs all offr and NCOs attend lecture on our next operation by Comd 227 Bde. Lt. Toppin reported and posted to D coy. Football result. Argylls 2 153 Fd Amb 2.	
BAKEL	7		Training continues. 1630 all offr attended lecture by Div Comd in HELMOND. The Massed Pipes and Drums of the Div played in the grounds of HELMOND Castle. Ensa concert at GEMERT, film show at DEURNE. Rev C.F Ross joined Bn as C.F.	
do	8		Church parades for all denominations. Owing to lack of men and leaders, B coy was disbanded. Personnel of the coy were posted [to] rifle coys as reinforcements. 43 of B coy formed into a Battle Group under comd of Capt J.D.C. Graham, who relinquished his appointment of Adj. Capt D.H. Lyon appointed Adj. Lt G.C. Willis took over as Sigs offr. Capt Sword posted to C coy. C.Q.M.S. T. Dawson M.M. appointed T.O. vice Capt Spenceley, who took over comd H.Q. coy. Football:- Argylls 11 Bakel 0.	

do	9		Training continues as the operation which was planned is cancelled. Entertainment as usual.	
do	10		Training and entertainment as usual. Ensa conc at Div H.Q.	
do	11		Training. Lt Thompson joined and posted to A coy. Football: Argylls 1 HLI 2.	
BAKEL	12		Training as usual. Football: Gordons 1 Argylls 2	
do	13		The offrs and NCOs of the Bn attended a demonstration of tp carriers (Canadian 'Rams' with turrets removed) C.O. awarded M.C. for CAVRUS . "O" gp at which C.O. explained the general tactical and strategical situation of the present campaign and also discussed the A.T.C.V.	
do	14		Training as usual. Entertainments in the evening.	
do	15		Bn attended church parade. Bde comd also attended. B echelon moved to 606243.	
do	16		Offrs of the Bn saw a demonstration by 46 Bde on the use of armd carriers near GELDROP.	
do	17		Bn assembled at HELMOND to practise use of A.T.C.V.s. O.C. A coy, Maj Bruce took the wrong turning and the Bn arrived half an hour late. In the evening the Pipes and Drums of the 93rd, 91st and the 7th Bn assembled at GELDROP to beat Retreat. Many offrs and O.Rs of the Bn attended. Lt Col Tweedie took the salute. Offrs had tea in the offrs mess (except the M.O. who decided to meditate in his car outside).	
BAKEL	18		Training. C.O. and I.O. visited HQ 51 (H) div at 1445 hours. Later visited St ODENRODE and saw Brig. Sinclair D.S.O. Comd 153 Inf Bde with a view to taking over next day. The afternoon was wasted as both divs had a different version of the take over. Returned to BAKEL 1630 hrs. Football: Argylls 2 HLI 0	
do	19	0900	"O" gp. Recce gp report 1030 hrs. C.O. and I.O. visit 227 Bde and go to HQ 153 Bde with Bde Comd. Bde Comd and C.O. recce the area for the Bn BULT HOEF. The Bn arrived about 1530 hrs. There were no patrols on the night 19/20 by the bn. Bn location is in reserve to Bde gp.	
BULT HOEF	20		Quiet day. Lt W.C. Hulme joined from 1st Bn. 2 recce patrols night 21/22. Maj Ferguson, 2 i/c gives demonstration in comd post on how to play the Organs, mouth, 1, with great gusto!!	
do	22		Church parades. C.O.'s conference at Bde. Maj S.C.D. Ferguson left for B echelon en route for U.K. At 1400 hrs fighting patrol under Capt Graham. No casualties. Night 22/23 one recce patrol. No cas.	
BULT HOEF	23		Quiet day. C.O. attends Bde O gp in morning and gets detailed plan of future ops. Later attends confirmatory conference at 1730 hrs.	

KLEIN	24		C.O. went to Bde "O" gp 0900 hrs. The Bde plan was changed at very short notice and the Bde attacked without detailed support which had been laid on. The Bn passed its start point at 1230 hrs and reached its final objective at the rly line KLEIN 3628 at 1620 hrs. 2 PWs were taken and we had 3 cas from booby traps and mines.	
do	25		I.O. visits Bde and gets move order and timings. Bn moved to conc area on outskirts BOXTEL, on HEDEL - OIRSCHOT rd at 3126.	
MOERGSTEL	26		Bn moved by rd route to MOERGSTEL 225308 where it took up a defensive posn astride the main TILBURG rd. The C.O. attended O gp for the attack on TILBURG. The Bn was given the possible task of attacking from the East to help 7th Armd Div at LOON - OP - ZOND 1640.	
TILBURG	27		The bn moved South to attack TILBURG from the South by crossing the WILHELMINA CANAL at BIEST 2126, 44 Bde leading. The bn moved in Kangaroos at about 1000 hrs and after various hitches owing to brs not being able to stand the heavy weight of Churchills etc reached the outskirts of the city about 1900 hrs. This bn met no opposition. C Coy took 2 PsW during the night. Bn H.Q. was in a school with the coys in civilian billets.	
do	28		The bn started cleaning the Western edge of the town at approx 1030 hrs. No opposition was encountered. The C.O. on return route called in at Bde and was told that the Bn would stand by for move back to E. Holland. The bn returned to its original location shortly after 1200 hrs. The I.O. collected details of the move back to 8 Corps. The T.C.Vs arrived approx 1700 hrs and the bn moved in the dark to help the 7th U.S. Armd Div in the ASTEN - OMMEL area 619158.	
ASTEN area.	29		The CO and IO attended O gp at Bde and the bn was ordered to be prepared to take up a defensive posn behind the Americans to the East of the town on the ASTEN - LEISEL rd. This the bn did at approx 1300 hrs. 44 Bde moved through during the evening to relieve the Americans. 2 fighting patrols went to the area South of the bn and suffered no cas.	
do BROCK	30		The bn moved roughly to the area which had been covered by last night's patrols to area BROCK 6412 in order to cover the rear area of the wood and to cover the gap between the Gordons and 44 Bde. The bn sent out 2 fighting patrols and one standing patrol. One of the patrols caught 2 PsW asleep in a haystack.	
do	31		The CO attended a conference at Bde. D Coy is put under comd the 10 HLI to guard right flank of the Bde. The bn is regrouped slightly to make up for the loss of D Coy. Battle Gp found one standing patrol.	

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WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn A. & S. Hrs

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan M.C.

Month and Year Nov 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BROCK	1		At approx 0030 hrs the bn had a false alarm, owing to a dog setting off a trip flare. Brig. visited Comd Post 1000 hrs. CO visited Bde 1215 hrs. A and C coys were put at short notice to move at approx 1230 hrs. Maj Pearson (2i/c) was called to Bde and given orders for an attack on the right flank of the Div area with the two coys with under-comd 1 Sqn Scots Guards. O gp 1330. 2 coys move to attack under comd 2 i/c. Objective was high ground 650077. Attack achieved its object, cas being 4 killed and 14 wounded. Lt Hulme was wounded. At 1930 hrs the coys returned.	
do	2		Padre and MO went out to area of battle and found three of the dead. Battle Group under comd 10 HLI. Maj F.G. Graham left D coy to comd the Div club at TILBURG.	
Do BROCK	3		Layout same as previous day only as other Bdes had closed the threat between the Gordons and 44 Bde every effort was made to get the men under cover. At 1015 hrs the Bde Comd visited Comd post and the possibilities of going to India were discussed at great length. Reorganisation of bn took place in the afternoon. C coy Maj J.N. Goodwyn, D coy Maj Dobbs (promotion) Sp coy Maj McElwee, Carrier pl Lt K. Meek promoted to Capt.	
ASTEN	4		CO and IO visited Bde in the morning to see the form. CO then visited B/Gp and D coy. The bn moved out of the line during the afternoon to billets in ASTEN 6113 where it was tucked in by 1600 hrs.	
do	5		Quiet day for bn. Church parades for all denoms. CO went to Brussels for 48 hours.	
do	6		2 ic, I.O. and coy comds went to Bde HQ at 0900 hrs for a recce with Bde Comd for a new area S.W. of MEIJEL where it was found that the picture was somewhat confused. The U.S. army were in the middle of an op and Maj Pearson returned to Bde HQ and explained the posn. The Bde Comd agreed that night relief was impossible, owing to the number of mines. 2 ic and the IO returned in the afternoon for a	

			further recce. Shortly after dark enemy a/c dropped flares and bombs near the village.	
ASTEN	7		The 2ic took IO and coy comds to visit the area where the bn was going to take over from the 23 Armd US inf (7 US Armd Div). The 2ic attended a conference at Div HQ. The bn moved at 1530 hrs and arrived at dusk at OSPEL, where it debussed by the church. Mortar fire was directed on the village as the bn arrived. There were no cas. Bn HQ est at 661041. One RE att D coy injured by mine during take over.	
OSPEL	8		At 0200 hrs a sentry at the mortar pl posn fired on an enemy patrol approaching by way of a ditch at the side of the road. No cas. 2 shells were directed at comd post area but there were no cas. Bde Comd visited comd post at 0950 hrs. B/gp sent out a patrol at 2000 hrs to "sausage" wood on our front. Result was very good as Sjt Skinn followed an enemy patrol to their base. He also found an enemy pillbox which was unoccupied. A patrol sent out by D coy returned at 2330 with one walking wounded, who had stopped a piece of mortar shell. Contact patrols were also laid on from the RSF.	
OSPEL	9		Bde Comd visited comd post at 0950 hrs. A 6 pdr in C coy area fired into a house believed to be used as an OP. The house was set on fire. A coy supplied a fighting patrol to go to "sausage" wood and blow up pillbox. Div Comd visited comd post at 1100 hrs. A further fighting patrol was led by Sjt Skinn of B/Gp. Just on his objective an att RE stepped on a SCHU mine. While putting him on a blanket, another RE and an Argyll stepped on mines. The first cas lost one foot and died in hospital. The other RE lost both feet and the Argyll one foot.	
OSPEL	10		C coy area shelled and the RA OP hit. Capt Cyril Wiggin, RA, and ex-Cambridge blue, was killed. Enemy activity seen on right of the axis of advance.	
OSPEL	11		Lt Laurie took out a patrol in front of C coy where they met an enemy patrol. They exchanged grenades and one of the enemy went up on a mine. Enemy shelled C coy area causing one cas. Bde Maj & IO at comd post 1545 hrs.	
OSPEL	12		Odd shelling on C coy area all day. Sjt Skinn sent out on a recce patrol to "sausage" wood. Nothing to report. Evacuation of civilians from battle area began at 0810 hrs. Lt Oliver took patrol from C coy at 1200 hrs. Encountered mines, did not reach objective, and suffered one cas. Sjt Skinn's patrol came under MG fire and suffered 3 cas.	
do	13		GIII L 15 (S) Div visited the bn. Several shells landed in A and C coy areas. One direct hit on C coy HQ. No cas. The CO and adv party	

			of the Gordons arrived at 1330 hrs to take over. Takeover completed 2215 hrs, and the bn had a very grim and muddy move out, to eventually reach HELMOND at 0200 hrs 14th. Maj Pearson left to comd 6 RSF.	
HELMOND	14		The bn tidies up most of the day, and the Pipes and Drums played in the afternoon. The offr held a party in the Tilburg Hotel. Guests were Maj Cornwall and Capt Alexander. Maj E. Remington-Hobbs joined as 2ic.	
do	15		Bn placed at 2 hrs notice to move. Corps Comd arrived at 1230 hrs to visit the bn. Pipes and Drums played in Castle grounds, with the Pipes and Drums of the Scots Guards. Film shows for the troops.	
do	16		Bn placed at 4 hours to move. The CO attended O gp at Bde at 1500 hrs. Bn O gp at 1915 hrs. A coy told to be prepared to get astride br SOUTH of MEIJEL at 710040, while rest of bn is prepared to cover the line DONK 710058 to the br.	
DONK	17		Bn moved out of HELMOND led by A coy. Owing to the good adv of 51 div and 53 div it was hoped that the crossing of the double canal would be unnecessary. A coy got astride the br where a class 9 had been erected during the night. A coy heavily shelled during the day but no one was hit. Comd post area shelled and the house across the road was hit. During the night a terrific barrage was heard from the 51 div front, where a night attack was apparently in progress. Comd post was house at trck junc 709053.	
do	18		Bde Comd visited comd post. C coy moved to area KATSBERG 7216 without difficulty. 18 Tellermines were removed from track in C coy area. Fighting patrol sent out under Lt Oliver, and returned with nothing to report. Patrol were almost on objective when area was mortared so patrol returned. 1 pl D coy moved into C coy to fill gap.	
do	19		Op instructions 3 Nov arrived. Arty offr from 49 div called to get the local picture. Bde Comd visited comd post and discussed general picture and future ops. Patrol from A coy met only a few mines.	
772094	20		1015 hrs, the bn moved by march route to new location at 772094 and was not committed en route. The weather was foul and roads and tracks almost impassable. Bn O gp 2200 hrs.	
do	21		Quiet night. No move for bn before 1430 hrs. The Gordons made good progress and met no enemy but many mines. Bde Comd visited CO and discussed times for move. Moved at 1430 hrs to 784103. The enemy dropped a few shells over as we arrived and Nebelwerfers were active on our left all evening. One German deserter came in and was sent to Bde.	

do	22		Night patrols had nothing to report. We moved off at 0920 hrs and after a trip through pouring rain and thick mud arrived at 813126. No enemy. Spasmodic shelling. Weather is still our chief enemy and going extremely difficult. Our supply lines are becoming very frayed and only 3 ton, 4-wheeled drive can get through, even jeeps and carriers getting bogged.	
813126 to HORST	23		After a very quiet night the bn moved off to HORST and just walked into the place the enemy having left 24 hrs previously. The IO caused quite a stir by protecting himself from the rain with an umbrella. Riding in the C.O.'s carrier he looked somewhat like an Indian potentate riding in state. Remainder of time in HORST was spent without incident - except for a few shells in the evening. There were no cas to us. A 3 tonner at Bde HQ carrying 4in mortar was hit. Some mines in front of D coy were lifted by the Pioneer offr.	
do	24		Bn expects to remain in present location until a.m. tomorrow. Day spent in getting dry and cleaning up. Message of congratulation from Corps comd on good show put up by div. B/gp sent to guard a br which was being built by REs but owing to RE trucks being bogged down the job had to be scrapped. Many civilians gave useful infn re enemy.	
TIENRAIJ	25		Bn moved at 0930 hrs and met no opposition. Comd post at 855231. Enemy arty and mortar fire very active. Capt Sword and L/Cpl Strang wounded.	
do	26		Slight shelling in the early morning. Enemy reported in a school at BLITTERSWICK, which Recce dealt with. Civilians reported that enemy were in wood 861243.	
do	27		Ferry across MAAS in use by the enemy, but being shelled by our arty. Bde HQ moved to EIKELENBOSCH during the morning. BM 'phoned to say that all vehs had to be out of area before first light, except essential vehs. BROEKHUIZEN was reported to be strongly held by the enemy and the arty stonked it at night. Things quiet in our own area.	
TIENRAIJ ASTEN (6113)	28	0630	Bn started to move to rest area by march route and later by TCVs. Arrived ASTEN 1200 hrs. Rest of day spent "settling in". ENSA shows at HELMOND and DEURNE.	
do	29		Bn spent day on maintenance on weapons and vehs. Entertainment in evening. Pipes and Drums played in the village in the afternoon.	
do	30		Bn on training and maintenance. Entertainment as usual.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn A. & S. H.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Dec 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan M.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ASTEN	1		Bn carried out normal trg. Weather good. Many of the local municipal officers went to Comd Post for drinks after listening to Pipes and Drums of the Bn. B/Gp held a dance in the Town Hall which was a great success. Cinema and Ensa shows during the evening. R.S.M. Wilson lectured all Cpls and L/Cpls on their duties as N.C.Os.	(A) (B)
do	2		Bn carried out trg as per programme, assault crossing, etc. Entertainment as usual in the evening.	
do	3		Bn attended church parade, Pres and C of E service being conducted by Rev Ross, C.F., after which the Bn was given the rest of the day free.	
do	4		C.O. went to conference at Bde on future ops. Bn on trg. Weather dull and cold. Entertainments at Deurne and Helmond.	
do	5		Still carrying out normal trg. Weather very bad. Recce party visited new Bn area. Capt Reed lectured junior offr on loading, laying and firing Atk gun.	
do	6		Bn still on trg. Sigs trg for all offr on "18" sets. Weather fairly good.	
ASTEN	7		Bn still in rest area, and on normal trg. C.O. and 2ic held a kit inspection during the morning. Entertainments at Deurne in evening.	
HELDEN	8		Bn 'O' gp at 0900 hrs for move to new area at HELDEN (787043). Recce party moved ahead of Bn. Bn moved by T.C.Vs to new area at 1215 hrs and arrived at 1400 hrs. New posns - Bn H.Q. 772038, 'A' coy 773034, 'B/gp' 772037, 'C' coy HELDEN 787043, 'D' coy HUB 763037. The move and taking up posns were carried out without incident.	
do	9		Bn spent the day settling into its new posns. A little reorganisation took place but basically posns remained the same. C.O. and 2ic visited coy locations. Offrs' shop at div was open for all offr. I.O. and I. sjt visited 10 HLI and were able to see	

			German territory for the first time, the first men in the Bn to do so during the present operation. HLI report posn to be very quiet.	
HELDEN	10		Only R.C. church parade at 1000 hrs, conducted by Father O'Brien. C.O. and I.O. visited 10 HLI to get local picture. HLI posns have been fairly quiet and enemy activity has been limited. Adjnt attended a welfare meeting at Bde. Offrs Mess meeting in the afternoon.	(C)
do	11		Large part of Bn was employed on rd maintenance. I.O. and I. sjt visited 2 Gordons and got a report on fwd posns. Weather cold and dull. Training instruction on future trg sent out, trg to commence on Dec 13th. Brigadier visited comd post at about 1600 hrs, and the B.M and Bde I.O. came at about 1700 hrs.	(See appendix 1)
do	12		Two patrols, Lt Hughes and 20 also 2/Lt Hutton and 20 men went to HLI area on the river MAAS as the previous night they recd some cas from a patrol which followed one of their own contact patrols in. The offrs went on a recce in the afternoon to the HLI area and later went by transport to the HLI to remain until nightfall. Major F.G.S. Graham visited Comd Post as the Red Lion Club had closed down and he was on his way to Div H.Q.	
HELDEN	13		The Bn remained in reserve and cont with trg and road making. The C.O., Major MacElwee and C.S.M. Davies (C coy) went to ZOMERON to receive their medals from the C-in-C. CSM Davies' medal had not been approved by the King so the C-in-C was unable to present it on this occasion. The 2ic went to the speech given by the C-in-C after the presentation. 2ic gave a lecture to all offrs on various aspects of the attack on a pillbox. Bde Comd also attended this discussion. The patrols of the previous night encountered nothing.	(D)
do	14		The CO went to lunch at Bde HQ and to meet the new Corps Comd who had visited the OPs. Two patrols to HLI area, one under Sjt Duffin and one under Lt. Wilson. Junior offrs received instruction on the handling of a 6-pdr.	
do	15		Bn carried on with training. A discussion was held on House and Street fighting. No patrolling in the evening.	(E)
do	16		Normal trg. Two patrols from 'C' coy each of one and ten went on a fighting patrol to HLI. One under Lt V.L. MacDonald and one under Sjt Andres. Nothing was reported. I.O. gave lecture on "Int within the Inf Bn". Lt Colonel H.A. Campbell visited bn & stayed the night.	
do	17		Moderator of the Church of Scotland took service in HELDEN Hall and afterwards visited the Bn. Definite increase of enemy aerial activity during the day. In the evening entertainment - piano	

			recital in HELMOND by Pousinoff. Snipers section reconstituted under Sjt Mitchell.	
do	18		Int demonstration held in 'A' coy area at 0930 hrs despite enemy air activity. Two patrols sent to Gordons one under Lt Hutton and the other under Sjt Drummond. Nothing reported. Capt Rosdel, Div I.O. gave lecture on history of German Army since D day.	
do	19		Int. demonstration put off owing to fog. CO and IO visited the HLI area to get latest information. 'O' gp at 1230 hrs. Coy comds visited HLI to get picture for take-over.	
BAARLO (8505) 1/250,000, Sheet 4 602	20		Change-over day with the HLI. Rather foggy, which enabled the move to take place mainly in daylight. One pl of HLI remained with 'C' coy. No patrols during night.	
do	21		Quiet day. One patrol of HLI went to D coy fwd pl as striking force should anything happen. There was only a false alarm. Pte Bradley of 'C' coy was killed by a sentry when he failed to answer a challenge.	
do	22		At approx 0615 hrs just before dawn the enemy must have got across to the Ferry house and set a time fuse to blow the house up. At 0900 hrs the CO attended a conference at Bde on the policy of defending the river Maas. Div Comd and Lt Col Mackenzie visited Comd Post. Landing reported on either side of the Bn front but little was heard on our front. Two ambushes were set by HLI pl, but nothing was netted.	
Do BAARLO	23		During the night 22/23 arty engaged several targets and sirens were sounded by enemy in the village of BELFIELD opposite. Sjt Johnstone of Car pl was accidentally killed while cleaning a Sten gun. Pte Stevens, Sigs pl, was wounded in the hand while playing with a .38 pistol. Weather - thick fog with a slight frost. Bde Comd visited Comd Post.	
do	24	0740	Sjt Paynter, of HLI patrol reported in and recorded movement of vehs, and tracks, spandau fire and sound of explosion. 3in mortars engaged targets in area 875045 and fired 60 rounds. 6pdr fired 15 rounds at water tower 876054. No hits recorded. Gun area reported SOS signal seen in Bn area and after several hectic minutes in which the telephone wires grew hot, the signal proved to be flares dropped from a/c. 'D' coy reported singing behind BELFIELD church. An arty stonk put a stop to it. Arty also engaged a train moving towards TEGELEN.	
do	25		Early morning patrols reported no activity. Expected enemy activity did not materialise and the Bn spent a quiet day. Every man received a parcel from the Commanding Officer.	

BAARLO	26		Another quiet day for the Bn. In the evening we laid on the usual arty fire on enemy posns. Weather fine.	
do	27		Except for spasmodic spandau fire, there was no enemy activity and the standing patrol and ambush patrol had nothing to report.	
do	28		Recce party from the relieving bn (Gordons) visited comd post, and their respective coy areas. In the evening, sounds of enemy activity on the opposite bank received attention from our arty and mortars. Weather still fine.	(F)
do	29		Little activity during the night. Two B/Gp patrols rendered nil report. At 1300 hrs the Bns began change over, a thick mist making this much easier, and there were no incidents. We moved to reserve area at EGCHELHOEK with H.Q. at 771038, B/Gp 775038, 'C' coy at HELDEN 790049, 'A' coy 773035, 'D' coy HUB 763057. After today B/Gp ceases to exist and 'B' coy is being reformed under Major W.L. McElwee, M.C. with Capt J.D.C. Graham 2ic, and CSM Dean.	
EGCHELHOEK	30		Baths and change of clothing for all troops. Day was spent in cleaning up. Entertainment in the evening - film at HELDEN.	(G)
do	31		Bn spent the day in the traditional manner, although festivities were curtailed owing to our role of counter-attack force. Just after midnight the enemy heralded the New Year with M.G. fire and many Verrey lights, but he put nothing down on the Bde front.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn A. & S.Hrs

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Jan 45.

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan M.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HELDEN	1		The Bn was recovering from the effects of Hogmanay, when the offrs heard the New Year in as guests of the Sjts' Mess. The CO visited the coys where the men were feeding. The tinned turkey was good - what there was of it. The CO and IO went on a recce in the afternoon in the KESSEL area where we were going to take over on the following day. Many German fighters and fighter-bombers were over the Bn area and 5 were shot down by Div Ack Ack.	
do KESSEL	2		The 2ic left to comd the 9th Cameronians. The Bn relieved the HLI in the KESSEL area and the takeover was completed without incident. The night was quiet except for spandau fire. Major Goodwyn took over as 2ic and Capt Kempston took over comd of 'C' coy.	
do KESSEL	3		The day was fairly quiet and coys spent a certain amount of time getting used to new posns. During the night one carrier section reported 20 enemy moving towards Bn HQ and all Bn HQ stood to during the night. No further sign was seen of the Germans nor did they contact any of our other posts. It later turned out the 'Germans' were probably some bushes on the skyline.	
do	4		After the scare of the previous night it was decided to thicken up our front and 'D' coy moved from their reserve posn to the river bank two pls filling in the gap between 'B' coy and the carrier pl, the other pl from 'D' coy being used to thicken up 'A' coy. Two pls from reserve bn were used to protect rear areas. 'D' coy moved to new posns after dark and there were no incidents. The scout car caught fire and burned merrily for a couple of hours. The arty half-track towed it away from the house and later the LAD arrived and with their help the fire was put out. The scout car was a total loss.	
do	5		With the Bn in new dispositions no enemy attempt was made to patrol. Our mortars, MMG and 4.2 mortars engaged several targets during the day. 'B' coy had a 'hate' on a house on the opposite bank, PIATs and 2" mortars firing low angle being used. Direct hits	

KESSEL			were scored. Boats and canoes on the opposite bank were engaged by our LMGs and all were damaged and made unserviceable. Capt D.H. Lyon left for a Coy Comds course at Barnard Castle and Capt Marling took over as Adjt.	
do	6		Enemy patrols were reported to be active but no contact was made with our troops. The day was quiet up to about 1500 hrs when an 88mm shelled 'B' Coy. Several shells landed near 12 pl but there were no casualties. Enemy sniper put a shot through the window of the Int sec O.P. but neither of the observers was hurt. 15 reinforcements arrived and in order to get them used to the new conditions they took up posns around Bn HQ doing 15 hr stretches in slit trenches.	
do KESSEL	7		After a fairly quiet night the enemy was quite active during the day. Fwd OPs were sniped and KESSEL received attention from his mortars. There were no cas among our own troops, but one civilian was wounded. The Int. O.P. moved to the roof of the school and had quite a good field of view. Visibility was poor owing to mist most of the day.	
do	8		The enemy was very quiet during the night and only a few bursts of spandau fire broke the silence of the night. The little enemy movement that was seen during the day received attention from our arty, mortars and MMGs. One man of 'A' coy was badly wounded by one of our 3in mortar bombs which fell short.	
do	9		There was little activity on either side during the night and a very quiet day followed. Snow fell and by evening was about 3in deep. The Int. OP reported no movement at all in the fwd enemy areas.	
do	10		The CO spent the whole day at 'A' mess with the Div Comd. Conditions remained very quiet, enemy activity being nil. Weather very cold and the snow made the place very light at night. The batch of reinforcements stood the conditions very well.	
KESSEL	11		A mock crossing was made in 'B' coy area. One sec launched an assault boat from the slipway at Kessel. At the same time a motorcycle engine was started up and the enemy reacted by standing to. He occupied trenches on the river bank and our mortars inflicted cas. The enemy stood down at about 0430 hrs. At daylight many tracks were observed in the snow, showing that the enemy had been quite worried about the whole thing. Apart from this activity the remainder of the day was very quiet.	
HELDEN	12		The bn was relieved by 2 Gordons and the change-over was completed by 2230 hrs without any hitches. We took up the usual reserve posn at Helden and 'C' coy was left in the forward area to thicken up	

			the Gordon and HLI fronts, 2 pls going to the Gordons and 1 pl to HLI. While in reserve the bn supplied one coy each night to the forward bns.	
do	13		The bn spent most of the day on admin. Kit was checked as was the ammunition. Baths were available and entertainment in the evening. Weather still cold and more snow fell.	
do	14		Church services were held for all denominations. Many offr and men travelled to Eindhoven to a celebrity concert in which Dennis Noble was the star artist. Ensa shows were also given at WEERT.	
do	15		The bn spent the day on admin and training.	
do	16		The bn should have relieved the HLI but owing to change of plan were told not to move.	A
do	17		Still no word of a move and the day was spent in training.	
do	18		There was still no word of future plans. The IO visited the HLI at BAARLO to find out the local picture. The weather was very bad, with a strong wind and heavy rain, which made the roads dangerous.	
Do HELDEN	19		Recce parties visited new area and the 2ic and IO visited the new location. The slight thaw threatened to turn the roads very slushy, but a front later hardened them again.	
BLERWICK	20		The Bn moved to new location north of BLERWICK. Icy roads made the going very bad for the vehicles. The change over with the 6 KOSB took place without any incident and the bn was disposed as follows: Bn HQ at ANNA HOEVE (869134) 'D' coy in area 890142, 'C' coy in wood 893135, 'B' coy 889122 with 'A' coy in reserve in area of Bn HQ. The night was very cold and our listening posts reported no movement from the enemy side. Fwd coys were all living underground, but every effort was made to make the dugouts comfortable.	
BLERWICK	21		Weather still very cold and there was no activity day or night.	
do	22		Little change in conditions. Still no activity.	B
do	23		We heard that 6 A/B div were taking over our posn in a few days time. No activity on either side of the river.	C
do	24		Reps from 6 A/B div visited bn area. Just after midday Spitfires presumably with Boche pilots, shot up Bn HQ and transport, killing Pte F. Duke, Sp coy driver and wounding two A/B arty reps. One jeep was destroyed by fire. Our A.A. did not open fire and a great deal of transport was damaged in the area. The C.O. left for U.K. leave. Major Goodwyn, 2ic took over comd.	D
SEVENUM	25		Change over with 6 A/B took place at about 1300 hrs and continued until after dark. The bn conc for the night at SEVENUM (822145).	E

GOIRLE	26		Bn moved to new area at 0930 hrs. Roads were very bad and all m/cs were carried on 3 tonners. We arrived in GOIRLE (1527) at 1700 hrs. Coys were put in two schools, Bn HQ and Sp coy in houses.	F
GOIRLE	27		Day was spent in admin. Baths were available for the troops and in the evening there was a film show in a local cafe.	
do	28		Day spent as yesterday.	
do	29		Coys were on training, and a range was made available for their use. In the evening the Bn held a dance, with the Div Dance Band in attendance. The Dutch were very impressed by the display of Highland dancing, given by members of our Pipes and Drums.	
do	30		Coys on training, and in the evening there was a show given by the "Tam o' Shanthers", the Div concert party.	
do	31		Day spent in training, and in the evening there was a Bde dance with the Div Dance Band who also gave a cabaret show.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn A. & S.H.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year FEB 45

Commanding Officer Lt/Col D.R. Morgan, M.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
GOIRLE 148278	1		The acting CO went on a recce for op VERITABLE, In the meantime the bn continued trg with "funnies".	
do	2		All coys except C coy had their photographs taken. The Bde comd addressed all coy comds in the model room at Div HQ and gave the bde outline plan for op "VERITABLE". In the evening the officers held a dance at 120 Wilhelmina Park, Tilburg. The party was upset by getting tied up with a large tank convoy which retarded the collection of the ladies and the officers. Capt T.H. Spenceley, in a moment of highland enthusiasm, ended up on the floor with his kilt about his ears when trying to foxtrot too fast for his "tender years".	
do	3		More planning and trg with funnies. A demonstration was given by the A.V.R.E. to coys.	
do	4		All officers were addressed in the Tilburg cinema by 30 Corps comd, Gen. Horrocks, and given the main outline plan for op VERITABLE. The lecture was given excellently and everyone felt in quite high spirits at the end and one felt that everything possible had been done to ensure the success of the op. Owing to the continuous rain most of the day the bn did little outdoor trg. Capt J.D.C. Graham returned from U.K. leave and took over comd of "D" coy with the rank of Major. "C" coy had their photograph taken.	
do	5		The bn prepared to move to the conc area for op VERITABLE. The bn was put at 3 hours notice to move from 1200 hours. The bn moved to NIJMEGEN 7162, at about 1600 hours. Roads were very full of traffic and the going was very slow. The bn arrived at its billets at about 0200 hours on the Tuesday morning.	
NIJMEGEN	6		Reveille 1100 hours, breakfast 1200 hours. The day was spent in preparation for the coming battle. Everyone was full of expectation and one felt as though it was "D" day all over again. The 2ic and coy comds went on a recce to the forward edge of the woods at 7457 and even further forward to 753568 where all had a good view of the	

		coming battlefield. The Reichswald Forest seemed as though it was very much overlooking the advance of the div but the reason for these impressions was no doubt because we had all been in Holland and had not seen hilly country for so long.	
do	7	Frantic last minute rush to sort out the final details. Admin "O" gp at 1030 hours. The C.O. returned from U.K. leave but remained at Div HQ as the Div comd thought that as the 2ic Major Goodwyn had planned phase 1 he should remain in comd of the bn for this phase of the battle. Final "O" gp at 1800 hours. The security of the op was admirable, except that until the briefing of officers on 4th Feb, the only officers who were allowed to be briefed were the CO and the 2ic. For future ops of this kind it is essential that the IO should be in on it at a very early date in order that the specialist work such as study of photographs etc can be done before the frantic rush and issue of maps and photos is made. The issue of maps for the op was on a very good scale. PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM C IN C.	See APPENDIX J
do	8	Reveille was at 0300 hours and the bn moved off in tanks to FAA at 0500 hours where the troops had breakfast. Remounting their tanks the bn was filmed by Gaumont-British as they moved down to the FUP. The barrage was terrific and the thunder of the guns unbroken. Bofors and MMGs fired "pepperpot" tasks. Leading coys detanked and deployed and negotiated the first obstacle - our own minefield which lay on our side of the start-line. The tanks had some bad luck. The Scots Guards tanks got through alright but the Flails, Crocodiles and AVREs on which so many hopes had been built, were delayed first crossing a stream and then a series of boggy patches, and they were never able to catch up with the battle. What was worse, all the carriers stuck in the narrow gap in the minefield, already churned up by the Churchills, so that when the tanks and infantry moved forward at 0930 hours they went without any of the Sapper or Pioneer stores necessary for gapping the minefield or expected wire obstacles. Until the barrage halted for half-an-hour on the German frontier, all went more or less according to plan. On the right "B" coy was held up for a time by a thickly-sown A.P. minefield and for a short time fell behind the barrage. It was here that Sjt Page lost a foot in a gallant attempt to lead his platoon through and the coy lost in all one killed and six wounded before a gap was found. On the left "A" coy successfully passed the minefield but ran into some heavy enemy DF which killed Lt Hutton and wounded the coy comd, Major Bruce and several others. CSM Green very coolly and gallantly rallied the coy however and brought them	

KRAMENBURG		<p>through to the first objective, for which he was awarded an immediate DCM, the ribbon of which Field Marshal Montgomery pinned on to him a fortnight later. Moving on to German soil, "B" coy took the lead and captured some eighty PsW in what was intended to be the strong point of ELSENHOF, suffering only one casualty - a chance splinter from our own barrage. "C" coy mopping up behind then took as many PsW but had a rougher time from the enemy's DF. On the left the HLI went forward to attack and capture KRAMENBURG. The tanks were in a bad way due to the mud and only the Squadron Leader's tank went with the HLI through Kramenburg. On the last leg through Kramenburg station and along the railway to the final objectives, enemy resistance stiffened and all coys had to fight their way in, though without heavy casualties. "B" coy were again lucky in being able to slip in close behind the barrage while "D" and "C" coys cleared a number of MG posts on the right. The HLI worked forward through Kramenburg behind them. By about 1700 hours the Cameronians on our right had cleared the high ground and life became more peaceful around Kramenburg. There was no sign of a counter-attack. Instead a steady trickle of Germans with white flags came in to our forward platoons. Towards last light four game tanks got up to "D" coys forward position. The CO who had followed the bn throughout the attack on foot had already come up to the station and taken over comd from Major Goodwyn, and by darkness the bn was securely dug-in for its first night on German soil.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Addendum</u></p> <p>On its way down to the FAA the Bn nearly lost its breakfast as the 3 atk guns towed by Lloyds stuck in the mud and it was only when the bty Comd's half-track (Warspite) saved the situation by towing them out. It seemed fantastic that the operation should have been jeopardised by the lack of foresight in making up the tracks to the FAA.</p>	
KRAMENBURG 8056	9	<p>The bn remained at its positions at KRAMENBURG 8056. Bn HQ at factory 806557, "A" coy local defence Bn HQ, "B" 813554, "C" 810548, "D" 813550. 44 Bde passed through the bn and breached the Siegfried Line with few cas. Quite a large number of PsW came out from the building in front of our forward coys. For the two days, 8th and 9th the bn took about 250 PsW. The bn was in high spirits as everyone seemed proud that their job had been well and truly done. The Padre went out [and] buried the dead. All known dead were accounted for. Pte of coy was reported missing on the previous day. Today he was found by the REs in a slight hollow in</p>	

			the minefield with a foot off. He was still alive and the doctors said that there was every chance that he would recover which was amazing seeing that the night in question was exceptionally cold.	
MATTERBORN 867548	10		The bn was ordered to take over from 44 Bde on the MATTERBORN feature. This they did in daylight, after a somewhat halty start as 43 Div were on the main axis to CLEEVE. The bn halted temporarily at NUTTERDEN prior to moving through the wood to the Matterborn feature. It was an interesting feature in that there was an enemy gun park in front of our coy posns. The regular pattern of our own arty shells was remarkable and the guns had been left intact with the exception in some places where the breach blocks had been removed. Some of the bn lived in dugouts which were very comfortable. Each had bunks and electric light, a stove and wooden flooring. Our own arty seemed to have forgotten that there is such a thing as crest clearance after being in Holland for so long, as they landed many shells unpleasantly close on the ridge in front of "C" coy.	
DONSBRUGGEN 869573	11		The bn moved to DONSBRUGGEN after having cleared the western edge of the wood STAATSFORST TIERGARTEN, that is the wood West of track junc 872562 to track junc 878572. The op was uneventful. The bn was then billeted in DONSBRUGGEN in what was left of the houses. A2 echelon, which had remained by the station in Kranenberg woke up in the morning to find the river had flooded them out. The vehs were moved on to the platforms, and it took about three days to tow them all out. This was done with the aid of a German tracked veh of a new pattern.	
do	12		The day was spent in cleaning up. The bn remained in the same location.	
do	13		The bn was at 2 hours notice to move to CALCAR 0050. Stand down came at 1700 hours.	
do	14		The bn was at 30 minutes notice to move to capture CALCAR. After standing to most of the day the op was cancelled as the opposition was too great and the flanking troops had not made enough progress. In addition the sector was being taken over by the 2nd Canadian Corps.	
do	15		No move. Coys did P.T.	
do	16		No move. Planning and preparations for attack on the West corner of GOCH 9042.	
DONSBRUGGEN	17		Bn prepared to attack and capture N.W. end of GOCH 9043. The bn was told to stand down as 43 div had made unexpected progress and were on what was to have been our start-line.	

do	18	Church parades were held. Bn was at two hours notice to move from 1300 hours. The op was put off as 44 Bde were making good progress in GOCH. Instead we were due to pass through 5 DCLI (43 Div) in Kangaroos and take BUCHOLT 9543.	
Near CLEVE 929495	19	Reveille 0530 hours. Owing to a last minute change in plan the op was postponed until the following day. The bn moved instead to a conc area 929495. The CO and IO went on a recce to the SCHULE 945453 and on the way back shells were falling about 100 - 200 yards away. A final conference was held at Bde to tie up the Bde plan. The bn did not operate with the Scots Guards as they were still with the Canadians. Instead we had the 5 Coldstream Guards.	
BUCHOLT 9533	20	The bn moved off to pass the start-line at 1030 hours the objective being BUCHOLT 9533 which was captured in the early afternoon and our total bag of PsW was 194. In this attack the bn was mounted on Kangaroos, and proved to be very effective. There were two interesting features of this battle. The first being direction. In spite of the fact that coy comds were given the opportunity to see the ground it was found very difficult to keep direction in the mist and smoke and some cas were caused through the Kangaroos firing wildly as a result. The second point being that it appears that the funnies seemed to be frightened of taking risks of war. They did not appear to realise that they were there to help the infantry and to get them fwd. This seems to be the universal moan of these specialists. They do not realise that there is no such thing as a battle to suit their own book tactics and whatever they do the infantry still have to go on with or without them, cas or no cas.	
do	21	Enemy activity was confined to shelling and mortaring which was exceptionally heavy on the fwd coy areas, particularly A and B coys. There was a marked increase in air activity by German jet propelled planes as they flew right across the battle front on several occasions. During the night while some [of] our bombers were returning from a raid on the Rhine, a bomber dropped a stick of bombs right across the fwd coys, again too close to the unfortunate A coy, luckily causing no cas.	
do	22	Shelling and mortaring by the enemy was again very heavy. A Nb.W was active on our front. A P.W. stated that it was fired mounted on a veh and after firing a few salvos moved back. A great deal of trouble was taken to evacuate civilians from the area of Bn HQ and the fwd coy areas. C coy lost its ammunition carrier when it received a direct hit.	

do	23		There was still heavy shelling and mortaring which was due to the activity of the rest of our div which was attacking through the forest to our right. News came through that we were to be relieved that night by the Coldstream Guards (the inf of the Guards Armoured Div). Harbour parties were sent to recce a conc for the night at 9244. The relief was due to be carried out about 2230 hours but they arrived very late and it was not completed before the early hours of the morning. "D" coy went under comd of 2nd Gordons to act as counter-attack coy.	
	24		Div would not release the bn for a rest until the evening as the div could not be relieved until it had reached its final objective which was approx 975410 to wood in bend of river at 943395. Two harbour parties were sent off (1) to Louvaine, which was later cancelled and (2) to Tilburg. The bn was not required to help 44 Bde but was doubled-up with the Lincolns (3 British Div) which was relieving the rest of the div.	
TILBURG	25		The bn moved in TCVs to new area in TILBURG. They arrived at approx 1400 hours and were concentrated in the area 177325. Most of the troops were billeted in civilian billets and the people were delighted to meet their liberators once again.	
do	26		Reveille 1100 hours and first meal at 1200 hours. The rest of the day was spent in cleaning up. Entertainments were laid on for the evening.	
	27		Troops received pay, exchange of clothing. Day spent in general admin.	
	28		A rehearsal was held for the General's inspection. Turnout was good. The officers held a dance in the evening. A surplus of ladies made it rather embarrassing for the IO, which was aggravated in no small measure when Capt Brown arrived with half-a-dozen Canadian nurses who had come from TURNHOUT.	

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. 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

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Unit 2nd Bn A. & S.H.

Commanding Officer Lt/Col D.R. Morgan, M.C.

Month and Year Mar 45.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG	1	1130	Bn paraded for General's inspection. General Barber inspected the bn and then addressed them. He thanked them for the splendid work they had done in some very fierce battles and passed on messages of congratulations from both Corps and Army comds. After the address the bn marched past and the General took the salute. The weather was very bad and the rain did its best to spoil the occasion. Brussels leave started and 60 men per day were sent for 48 hours leave.	
do	2		The morning was spent in training and the afternoon in sports.	
do	3		Bn on training. Weather very bad, and rain fell all day.	
do	4		Church parades were held for all denominations, the Pipes and Drums playing the Presbyterians to church. Later in the day came the order to move.	
RECKHEIM 5760	5		Harbour party left at 0800 hours, and the bn packed very hastily and prepared to move, which started at 1415 hours and the bn arrived in RECKHEIM (5760) at about 1915 hours.	
RECKHEIM	6		Bn spent day preparing for training, which was to include crossing water obstacles. Trg areas were reced and a 30 yard range was fixed up. Major Goodwyn left to be A/Q Control Commission and Major McElwee took over 2ic.	
do	7		Coys carried out trg and Major A.C.S. Troup joined the bn and took comd of "A" coy. CO and IO returned from Brussels leave.	
	8		Bn continued trg in good weather.	
do	9		Trg went on as usual, and in the evening the bn did exercise "Imagination" (see Appendix) MT drivers attended a rafting demonstration.	(J2)
do	10		Coys continued trg. Weather quite good.	
do	11		Church parades were held and after lunch coys went on with trg. The CO and IO visited Corps HQ to see a model for the next operation.	
do	12		Coys still trg. Weather fine.	

do	13		Coy comds went on a recce for the exercise to be held tomorrow.	
do	14		Div exercise. (see appendix) As far as the bn was concerned the exercise went as planned. The only Buffalo which did not make the far side easily was the Comd's. It took from 1300 - 1600 hours to reach the other side. Bn conference was held at 2030 hours when all points were thrashed out.	
do	15		During the morning the bn prepared for a night exercise - a repeat of the previous day's. The troops left for the conc area at 1600 hours and waited there for H hour which was 0400 hours on the 16th.	
do	16		The exercise went off moderately well as a whole. "C" coy unfortunately took about 1¼ hours to reach their objective. The CO's carrier crossed in twenty minutes this time, but later when it reached the FAA for vehicles it refused to start and had to be towed back. The bn arrived back in RECKHEIM at about 1000 hours.	
do	17		The CO briefed all coy comds at Bn HQ at 1000 hours and later they went to Corps HQ to see the model for the forthcoming op.	
do	18		Quiet day. Church parades for Pres and C of E.	
	19		Pl comds were briefed for forthcoming op and spent a considerable amount of time in the planning room looking at photographs and maps. A model from 21st Army Group of the crossing place was available for the morning and the CO briefed key personnel on it. Coys continued training in good weather. Capt Kempston went to Bde to take part in a deception plan for the forthcoming op.	
	20		Harbour party left for conc area. CO, 2ic, coy comds Sigs Offr and IO went on a recce to conc area and studied the crossing place with the sqdn comd of the Buffaloes. Bn received 4 Weasels for use on ops.	
	21		The 21st Army Gp model was again available and pl sjts were briefed. CO received a Dingo scout car to replace his carrier but was later allowed to retain both.	
056447	22		Bn packed and moved to conc area at 056447. Tracks left early in the morning to travel by a more devious route. Wheels moved at 1630 hrs and arrived at conc area early next day. The move was organised and although there was a huge volume of traffic on the road there was a minimum of delay.	
	23		Bn arrived at conc area at about 0200 hours and was situated in N.E. corner of the HOCHWOLD FOREST 056447. Everyone bedded down and reveille was 1030 hrs. CO held his final O gp. Coys spent day making final arrangements for the RHINE crossing. The plan was so big that one felt that it couldn't go wrong.	

	24	<p>The bn moved to the LVT pre-loading area just after midnight. As usual the Buffalo No 31 which was supposed to carry the CO's carrier refused to work and several anxious minutes were spent while a replacement vehicle was found. The move down to the river was uneventful as far as enemy reaction was concerned. The route was lit and the concentration and pepperpot barrage was terrific. A, B, and D coys were due to cross and land together as far as possible, A coy loading at 092472, B coy at 093470 and D coy going up the creek to 093475. The R.M. Commandos had patrolled the previous night to the mouth of the creek in order to find out what the landing places were like. They reported that there was an obstacle across the entrance. When the time came it was found that the only place for getting ashore was on the west of the creek at 092472 and that there was no obstruction across the creek entrance. One platoon of D coy did in fact land on the east point of the creek at 093473. The third platoon landed with the rest of the bn. On our previous recce from the west side of the river the banks looked perfect but it was found that they were very muddy and very sticky and not at all good for the heavy landing craft. It was only after great effort and towing by individual Buffaloes that vehs were got ashore. The second flights which consisted of the reserve coy, Bn HQ and the essential sp arms vehs was due to enter the river about 20 minutes after the leading coys flights. In the meantime, A and B coys were pushing inland and reached their initial objective without trouble. (A coy 089484 B coy 093483 to 097483). D coy initially were less successful. They had the bad luck to lose, wounded, Major J.D.C. Graham just before landing and one of their pls was put ashore in the wrong place and as a result went astray. Capt Toppin with the remaining two pls quickly found the houses and woods at HUBSCH 0947 were strongly held (approx 50 men) and were too big an objective for his small force. The reserve coy (C coy under Major F.G. Graham) duly landed and like everyone else trekked around the creek and sent its fighting patrol of Lt Davidson's pl up the bund running parallel to the river. The pl went as far as its objectives which was just past the sluice gates at 104466. It met with no opposition but failed to contact the HLI as arranged. On the return journey they received some trouble and suffered cas from the spandau posts which had come to life after the barrage. It rejoined C coy which was concentrated behind the bund at HUBSCH in the area 094475. During the remaining period of darkness both C and D coys reorganised and were joined by their sp arms and by the D coy missing pl. There was some very close and</p>	Appendix "E"
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	25	<p>bitter fighting during which there were several cas among which we lost Lt Stewart killed. By first light D coy completed the clearing of HUBSCH. Bn HQ after the initial wait while it collected the rest of its bits and pieces from other craft moved up the west side of the creek and temporarily est itself at 092478 since the original selected comd post was in the centre of the confused fighting at HUBSCH. It now seemed unlikely to the CO that the right hand coy would be able to take their first objectives before first light and he attempted to stop A and B coys from leaving their first objectives so as to keep the bn conc until the situation had cleared up on the right. Before the W/T message got through however A and B coys had already moved towards their final objectives and a 2500 yards gap had opened between the two halves of the bn. To bridge this and to avoid losing W/T contact comd post was moved to the buildings at 093484. First light, however, found the Bn with its HQ somewhat isolated with A and B coys in possession of their final objectives except for HOVERHOF 107503 and with C and D coys consolidated at HUBSCH. D coy on trying to push on to their second objective came under heavy fire both from the farm houses on their objective and from the bund which Lt Davidson's patrol had cleared earlier. Presumably the enemy had returned into the cellars of the houses during the bombardment and had come out and reoccupied their slits before it got light. At about this time C coy of the 2 Gordons arrived; they had suffered hy cas coming down the river in storm boats from the reoccupied German posns in the bund. Major F.G. Graham went up to see the CO at about 0630 hrs and was told that he must clear the LOHR area at all costs as this was a vital prelim to the starting of the ferrying and rafting. He was given, under comd, besides his own coy D coy A&SH, C coy 2 Gordons, one pl MMG and two dets of 3" mortars. A fire plan was arranged for the sp arms. During this attack it was not possible to sp it with arty or smoke because of the A/Borne landing which was due to take place at 1000 hrs. H hr was 0815 hrs. The plan was to send 2nd Lt Drummond's pl to clean the bund if possible as far as the sluice gates 104467. It was from there it was to cover the main attack of D coy into the nearest houses. This pl did the most gallant work and cleared as far as ordered but suffered fairly hy cas and then ran out of amn. Lt Drummond therefore decided to pull back to a posn on the bund from which he could keep the part of the bund cleared, under fire and so prevent the enemy from reoccupying their posns. The rest of D coy under Capt Toppin succeeded in occupying HAGENSHOF farm 103475, but were pinned down by hy fire from the farm immediately</p>	
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in front of it, SISWICKHOF 104472. This was cleared by a pl of C coy of the 2 Gordons. Major F.G. Graham sent a further patrol from his own coy along the bund and it was at last reported finally clear at about 1200 hrs. The final objective was cleared at 1300 hrs by which time we had been joined by some DD tanks who, however, arrived too late for the battle. To return to our other coys. When A and B coys first landed they met some SA fire and B coy passed through a Schu minefield. One man lost a foot in it. The opposition was soon dealt with in the beach area and about 10 PsW were taken. The objectives of the first phase of the attack were as follows:
B coy:- AUF DEM GRINDT 0948 - Houses 093483.
A coy:- The bund and a small shack at 093483 - a large grass covered mound at approx 090487. What this mound consisted of was not known but at the worst it was thought to be possibly a big concrete emplacement. Limitations of the speed of the adv were imposed by the arty fire plan, no move being allowed from the startline - the line running due east and west across the northern end of the creek at 090477 - until the arty had lifted. During the attack, opposition was met with in the mound on the left of A coy where the enemy was well dug in, in slit trenches.

SECOND PHASE

Objectives:- B Coy. Houses at 104495, 105495, 104498.

A Coy:- (a) LOCKERHOF 106499, (b) farm at 104500, (c) the group of houses at HOPERHOF 106503.

B coys objective and A coys (a) objective could be attacked at H + 60 (H hr being at 0200 hrs), but it was found that no move forward of these preliminary objectives of A coy was possible until H +90. The plan for A coy was to pass 8 pl through 9 pl and attack LOCKERHOF from the West at the same time as B coy was putting in its attack from the South. 7 pl at H + 90 was to capture the farm at 104500 and on its success 9 pl with 7 pl as reserve was to attack the group of houses at LOVERHOF, coy HQ taking over the occupation and protection of the farm at 104500. Unfortunately it did not plan out quite so easily. 8 pl failed to make its objective and lost touch through the wireless not working. As a result 7 pl was directed on to its final objective and 9 pl was directed on to the objective of 8 pl. At 0500 hrs the missing 8 pl arrived and was ordered to its final objective at HOVERHOF 107503. By this time it was approaching dawn and as they approached, 3 German MG posts upset the plan. One section had been sent round to the right to give covering fire and was caught in the open less than 10 yards

		<p>from the enemy MG post, and instead of rushing it, went to ground with the result that two men were killed and three taken prisoner. The rest of the pl was ordered to withdraw to the farm at 104500 where 7 pl and coy HQ were already established, in order that a new recce could be made. It was then seen when it became light that HOVERHOF was a strongpoint which would require a coy attack together with a full fire plan. It was also decided that the coy would carry out its task of left flank protection equally well from its present posns. It was therefore decided to hold those posns for the rest of the day. A coy comd in searching the buildings near his HQ put 7 men in the bag himself. The day of the 24th was spent in the above mentioned posns. Any movement by own men brought mortar and SA fire. One man was killed by a direct hit of a mortar bomb. Later in the day the Coy comd decided that the layout was too cramped and as soon as it was dark the coy was altered slightly. 8 pl and coy HQ was moved back to WOYERHOF. B coy in the meantime had collected nearly 100 PsW since taking up their final posns, as just before dawn on D day they reported a counter-attack forming up. The area was well and truly stonked by arty and they all came running in, inc 3 offr. At midday on the 25th of March 12 pl of B coy was relieved by a pl of the 2 Gordons and in the evening, the 2 Gordons put in an attack on HOVERHOF. This attack gained the first farm, but no further progress was made. The coy of the 2 Gordons withdrew at dark and took over the posns occupied by A coy 2 A & SH. This relief was completed by 2230 hrs 25 Mar. It was a wonderful sight to see the two A/B divs going over at approx 1000 hrs on D day the 24th Mar. From the comd post it was possible to see two Dakotas and one Halifax come down in flames. Two wounded pilots from one 'plane were rescued and sent back by the MO. On Sunday 25th, the Bn less A coy moved under comd of 46 Bde. The IO went and reced the route to BERGEN 157470 in the morning. The Bn had their first hot meal at HUBSCH as they came by. They were then lifted by 3 tonners to the RV at rd junc 157470. Capt Toppin collapsed while the Bn was waiting to form up and was evacuated through medical channels. The Bn's task was to pass through the 3 Bde and clear the wood East of the lake LANGE REUNE, with the Glasgow Hrs. The right flank of the Bn was to be screened by smoke. When the Bn reached the rd junc 153478 the word was passed round that the enemy were counter-attacking which stopped the Bn from getting on to its startline. As a result we never really caught up with the barrage. Our task was to clear the right hand part of the wood and clear South to North. The wood was very tough going and we eventually reached the track</p>	
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139494		<p>junc 139494 as it was almost dark. D coy had fallen back, C coy and Bn HQ went to the wood at 143497 and B coy went to farms at 139497. D coy arrived eventually and went to the area of 139493. The RA vehs, CO's carrier and MO jeeps eventually came up. There was some very confused and wild firing on both sides while the Bn dug in. B coy had two counter-attacks during the night. One as they moved in. It was stopped at point-blank range. The second one took place just before dawn and the house around which they were est was burnt down. C coy had a small counter-attack as soon as they got into the wood and were digging in, but it did not materialise. The rest of 46 Bde attacked either side of us and came to the North towards HALDERN WOOD to clear the East of the main road to the East of us. It was there that the Bn had a real taste of what it is to be shelled by our own guns. We had about 15 minutes solid. It appeared that our wood had been included in the fire plan and it took some time to stop but not before it had had time to lift and come back again on us. By the grace of God no one was hurt. The Bn then conc in the wood. A coy moved up in the morning as it had been released during the previous night by the 2 Gordons.</p>	
do	26	The Bn remained in the same location as the previous day.	
do	27	There was no enemy activity in front of us as 46 Bde were well est. We returned to the comd of 227 Bde in the morning and were told that we would attack and clear the wood at 1352 having taken over from 9 Cams who were on our left. This was later cancelled as we were told that we were under comd of 46 Bde and would help to clear the woods at 1452. The CO and IO attended an "O" gp at 46 Bde HQ at 1900 hrs. It was very late before they returned to the Bn, and there was no move for the Bn before 0700 hrs the following morning.	
154503	28	<p>The Bn moved at 0745 hrs to a FAA at 154503 preparatory to clearing the woods in the area of 1552. The op was in 3 phases.</p> <p><u>Phase 1.</u> 7 Seaforths to clear the enemy from wood at 162514 to wood 160515, - DICKHOF 155516 and as far West as CLASENHO 146516, the attack going in from East to West. <u>Phase 2.</u> A two Bn attack Northwards, right 6 HLI (52 Div) and left 2 A. & S. Hrs.</p> <p><u>Startline</u> for us in area of buildings 152515.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> 1st objective, line of track 158528 - cross tracks at 158527 - West edge of wood 143525. 2nd objective, N.E. corner of wood at 156531 - ring contour 149532 thence line of road as far as road junc 140532. <u>Bdys.</u> dividing line, incl 2 A & S. Hrs - tracks 155514 - cross tracks 152519 - crosstracks 150527 - incl 6 HLI ring contour 149532. <u>Left</u> 2 A. & S. Hrs bdy track junc 149515 - 143525 - 139532.</p>	

		<p><u>Phase 1</u> took place and went according to plan. Our Y hr was 1100 hrs.</p> <p><u>Phase 2</u> started after a very shaky beginning as the startline was hard to find. No enemy were encountered so after the Bn's first objective had been reached the message came from 46 Bde that the fire plan had been cancelled. The Bn moved up nearly to its final objective and Bn HQ moved up the centre track and had just passed the cross tracks at 148526 when we received a nasty stonk, again from our own arty this time killing one man and wounding 5 ORs, including 1 Royal Corps of Sigs operator and Cpl Monk of our signals pl. The CO did all that was possible to get it stopped. It was most unpleasant and lasted for about 20 minutes. It appeared that from the beginning the arty plan had been made up before the inf plan. In the first place it was decided against having a barrage and there were to be a series of concs up the wood. A major catastrophe was averted by Major Cornwall, our gunner officer, who was given the arty fire plan about an hour before the battle was due to begin. He found that the arty were due to stonk the startline at the time the Bn was there forming up. He reported to the CO that he could not be responsible for the safety of the inf. It was later discovered that when the fire plan was cancelled the 4.2in mortars had not been informed and they were due to stonk the final objectives at the time the fwd coys were arriving there. This was avoided by mere chance. It is probable that the many channels through which the infm had to pass caused a time lag and the inf moved before the Gunners realised it. An inquiry was immediately ordered by the CRA but so far no explanation has been given except that it was the 25 pdrs from the div which did the damage. The Bn's final posns were as follows:- A coy - 144532, B coy - 140533, C coy - 143538, D coy - 144533 Bn HQ - 145528. By this time the battle had moved ahead and we were left in peace.</p>	
145528 140543	29	No move during the morning and it was not until late afternoon that we were given permission to move to a built-up area. The move took place about 1600 hrs and the Bn was disposed as follows:- A coy - 141549, B coy - 142546, C coy - 143544, D coy - 143545, Sp coy - 141543. Bn HQ - 140543.	
do	30	Day was spent cleaning up kit and on maintenance of vehs.	
do	31	No move. Day spent as yesterday. Weather good.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn A. & S. Hrs

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year April 45.

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan, M.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ALTENBURG 104543	1		Easter Sunday. Padre held service for C. of E and Pres, while the R.C. had their service in H.Q. coy barn. Remainder of day spent in usual routine.	
do	2		Coys training and resting. Weather very good. No word of move. We are now miles behind the line.	
do	3		No change.	
AUSTUM 886964	4		Move to new conc area at 886964. The move was carried out without any major difficulty. The CO was ill and was taken to hospital by the MO. His face was very swollen the reason for which was not known at the time. In spite of the very busy roads it was not until we were within a few miles of Austum that there was any difficulty owing to traffic jams and double banking that took place. Locations were as follows :- Bn HQ farm 886964, A coy 890965 B coy 883963, C coy 888963, D coy 886962. We expected to move to another conc area West of OSNABRUCK next day. The 2ic and IO went to Bde to a conference. The other two bns of the Bde were to clear the woods due West of OSNABRUCK. We were to lend them our carriers in order to help them complete their task.	
Do GASTE 1507	5		The bn was prepared to move at 1030 hrs but owing to the TCVs being very late we did not move until 1430 hrs. The weather was very bad and it rained most of the way. We eventually arrived at GASTE 1507. Dispositions as follows:- Bn HQ, A and B coys in factory at 153077, Sp coy in farm at 153070, D and C coys in houses at 150069. No move was expected on the following day.	
	6		Bde O gp at 1130 hrs. Sp coy and bn HQ move in the afternoon to a new conc area at BOHNHORST 7228. The rest of the bn was due as soon as the TCVs could pick them up the following day. The Pnr pl was "at home" in the factory as there was vast quantities of wood.	
do	7		Personnel of HQ and Sp coys were organised into search parties to clear the farms North and South of the village. No enemy were encountered, although a few suspected civilians were evacuated	

			through the P.W. cage. A,B,C and D coys arrived about 1600 hours and were billeted in the village.	
do	8		Church parades for all denominations. A quiet day and the Bn had baths and film shows. Some of the men went into the nearby forest to hunt roe deer. The snipers bagged one.	
do	9		The RSM gave a lecture to NCOs of the Bn on non-fraternization. 4 PsW were taken by the carrier pl from MINDEN FOREST. One PW was also taken on the information of a Russian worker who saw the PW throw his uniform away. Information also came through of a move the following day. The Pipes and Drums played in the evening for the first time on German soil in this war.	
do	10		The move was due at 1500 hrs to WUNSDORF near STEINHUDAR MEER 145295, NW of HANOVER. The 2ic and IO went ahead of the bn in order to meet the Bde comd at x-rds 117258 for an O gp. It was here that we crossed the river WESER and passed through the bridgehead made by the 6 A/B div. The intention was that we should pass through them and make for CELLE, 227 Bde leading with 46 Bde on our right, slightly to the rear.	
GARSSEN 6254	11		The bn moved at 0930 hrs to adv to contact towards CELLE. The recce were stopped short of CELLE by some very stubborn resistance and cratering of the road. One br East of NEUSTADT 1736 collapsed and a detour had to be made for the bde. The vehs were sandwiched together and it was only with great difficulty that we harboured the bn in the wood at 4846. We were given the task of clearing the woods either side of the road from 451451 to 481462. We were the rear bn of the bde during this time. It was found that the main br crossing the river ALLER at 589506 had been blown but the 10 HLI had got some men across and had formed an inf bridgehead. The bn further South at 621483 was found to be intact by the Gordons and they formed a small bridgehead. We, with a sqn of tks, were to pass through them and make our own way to GARSSEN 6254. Unfortunately the second br at 621483 collapsed and we had to wait until a class 40 was put across it in order that the tks could get across. The other brs further on were found to be so weak as to make it impossible to get tks across. By the evening the bn was conc in the village of GARSSEN. The 2ic and IO went to bde in the evening for an O gp, Bde HQ having crossed in the town by a class 40 br.	
do	12		The bn passed the bde SP at 0915 hrs en route for UELZEN. The enemy were very clever in the way they had cratered the road and most of the day was spent trying to find a way round. The tks of the HLI found a roundabout route from which eventually they made their way to HOLDENSTADT 8387 during the night 12/13 via HOLXEN 8583. The	

			dawn of 12/13 Apr found the HLI on the outskirts of UELZEN confronted by a LAA unit firing 20mm guns at short range. The CO rejoined us at midday very much refreshed and rested.	
877847	13		The bn took up the following posns: Bn HQ 877847, A coy 893868, B coy 884857, C coy 877844, D coy 888862. The bn role was to guard the right flank of the bde adv until the div could be deployed to either outflank or attack the town frontally.	
HOLDENSTADT 8784	14		At 0030 hrs night 14/15 A and C coys moved across the GERDAU river at 898865. It was held up for a considerable time as the REs failed to recce the route down to the river through the woods and it was only through the efforts of our pnr officer, Lt H. Dunning that the boating was got to the right place; the coys did not get the best sp from the arty as they were very late in crossing and getting on to their final objectives just short of HALLIGDORF 9186. The going was very bad as the ground was marshy. Cpl Miller, of A coy, was killed during this attack. Communication was very bad during the night. The object of the attack was to protect the right flank of the adv into UELZEN and to make 44 bde's adv to the right easier. The bn moved into res in the evening when it was superseded by the adv of 44 Bde on the right.	
do	15		Open-air church parade. The bn was very tired and in need of a good rest under cover.	
do	16		Bn resting. Film shows and baths laid on for troops. There was an increase of enemy air activity and one or two bombs dropped unpleasantly near.	
do	17		Orders for the move through UELZEN and the move North were issued by Bde. The bn was to leave at 0900 hrs on the 18th.	
do	18		The move was postponed until 1200 hrs because UELZEN had not been cleared as 46 Bde had not reached the North end of the town. The next order was to be ready to move at 1530 hrs and later 1800 hrs. Finally no move for the day was ordered.	
HITTBERGEN 9031	19		Reveille 0330 hrs. We crossed the SL (rly br 888871) at 0600 hrs. The start was livened up by the strafing of the col by enemy a/c but there were no cas to men or vehs. Our objective was VOLKSTORF 8816 and we reached it at 0900 hrs. We had just settled in when we [were] ordered to move nearer the river ELBE where the 11th Armoured div were fighting for a br. After a slight change of plan half-way we eventually reached HITTBERGEN 9031 at 1700 hrs. The village was heavily stonked and just before we relieved the KSLI the br was blown completely. The bn was situated as follows: Comd Post nr church 904314, A coy astride br 895315, B coy 2 pls astride rd at 890318 with 1 pl around comd post; C coy 885325, D coy	

			888327, Sp coy 902315. The CO and IO visited C coy in the evening and were heavily stonked as they were going down the main road from B coy to C coy. The enemy were very active with their AA weapons firing in a ground role. D coy had 4 cas as a result.	
do	20		The bn remained very much the same all day. A patrol was sent in the early hours to clear the bund at SOSSENDORF 8932. All civilians were cleared out of the area to South of the NEETZE canal and many days after we were still collecting civilians out of houses and woods in the bn area. Several civilians came across the river either by boat or swimming. In the evening A coy moved to HOHNSTORF 8733 which was found to be nearly deserted.	SEE APPENDIX E1
do	21		There was a recce in the bn area for the suitability of rds and tracks for the usage of various vehs. Throughout the following nights we had many visitors in the form of assault REs, naval commandos etc. Two Dutch Fire-women were passed back through PW channels. They had been found living in the woods near Echen 8630 for several days. Planning started for the forthcoming Elbe crossing.	SEE APPENDIX E2
	22		An Int OP was est at Sassendorf 897327. More civilians were cleared from the Bn area.	
	23		CO and IO visited Bde for an O gp. Maps and photos were issued for the forthcoming op. After dark the Bde comd visited the fwd coys with the CO.	SEE APPENDIX E3 & 4
	24		A quiet day with nothing to report.	SEE APPENDIX E5
Bardowick 7726	25		Very quiet day. B coy changed round with A coy at night. There was a flap while the CO and IO were at an O gp at 44 Bde HQ. The Corps comd had asked if it was possible in view of the Russian adv to cross the Elbe that night which immediately set things in a spin. It was later found that the operation had been adv two days. The adv parties of the 9th Cameronians arrived in the afternoon. The bn moved to a conc area in BARDOWICK 7726, Bn HQ, Sp coy and A coy moving in the afternoon and evening and the rest of the bn shortly after midnight.	SEE APPENDIX E6
do	26		There were frantic last minute preparations for the operation Enterprise.	SEE APPENDIX E7
do	27		Massed Pipes and Drums took place in the Cavalry Barracks at LUNEBERG at 1800 hrs.	SEE APPENDIX E8
BRETlingen 8029	28		All pl and coy comds went on a recce to ARTLENBERG 8334 at 0200 hrs in order to have a look at the other bank. They went up into the village in darkness by vehs and walked back in daylight. The bn moved to a forward assembly area in Bretlingen 8029. Shortly after dark the bn moved forward on foot to Artlenberg until such time as	

			we were required to load into our Buffalos. The barrage was terrific and started just before midnight.	
Factory at 790397	29		<p>The rough plan was that 44 Bde should make the initial br hd, with 8 RS on the left and 6 RSF on the right. 2 A & S H would take over the posns as soon as we could be got across on the returning Buffalos. The 6 KOSB were to take Schnakenbek by passing through the 6 RSF and going via rd junc 853349. The change over was to take place coy by coy with the 6 RSF. The coys were at 839351, 841352, 841351 and 842349. Bn HQ in the factory at 839350. At about 0300 hrs the bn started to cross. The first hitch was that the COs carrier got ditched in the dark and it took a good three-quarters of an hour to get it out. The CO in the meantime went over with bn HQ and used the RA net as the comd net to Bde. Just as bn HQ was getting into the quarry the enemy put down a very accurate DF task which caught a lot of people in the open. Nine Eight men were killed including Lt Davidson and three serjeants. 50-60 men wounded. It was most unfortunate that it should have happened at that moment as everyone had just arrived and had not time to dig in. The relief took place uneventfully, B and C coys moved up the main rd with B coy astride it at 842357 and C coy farther East at 845346. A coy then took over the protection of the left flank of the br hd from the 8 RS at approx 837353. Bn HQ in the meantime remained under the protection of the cliff at 839351. Throughout the morning the enemy shelled the bridge from a very long range and very accurately which was very distressing for the men crossing in storm-boats. The shelling impeded the rafting and br building for a considerable time. The 2 Gordons and 10 HLI had crossed, the Gordons making for Tesperhude 7937 and the HLI going for the high ground in the area 813391. We then followed up behind the HLI and conc in the area 827375 until about 1700 hrs when we were moved to a forward assembly area at 815384, preparatory to the attack on Grunhof and exploiting to Grunjager at 783399. We passed the start line which was the fwd edge of the wood at 2200 hrs in pouring rain, the RA putting down a hy stonk. Grunhof was found to be practically deserted. The area NW of Grunhof was found to be a built-up factory area with a metal fence all round. Bn HQ and B coy could not get through the gate at 795389 so had to go back and follow C coy who were going up the main rd to the right. C coy had suffered one fatal cas from the wood on the right which was found to be quite thick. Bn HQ then moved into the factory area at 790397 and collected Sp and B coys round it for defence. A coy reached</p>	

			Grunjager at 783399, C coy remained for the night at the west end of the wood at 791398, D coy in the area 782397.	
783394	30		At dawn B coy sent a pl to relieve a coy of the Gordons in the area of Krumme 778387. This was later stepped up to be the complete coy. C coy then moved round Bn HQ. Bn HQ and C coy later moved into the factory at approx 783394 in which posns we remained all day. The adv parties of a bn of 53 Div arrived in the evening. The night was spent more or less resting. The relief by the Welch bn did not in fact take place owing to the surrender negotiations which were in the process of taking place in the town.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn A. & S.H.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year May 1945

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan, M.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Geesthacht 7540	1		Negotiations were made for the surrender of Geesthacht by Bde H.Q. using as a medium the civilian telephone which was still working. A truce was arranged between 1400 hrs and 1700 hrs. Following behind a Bn of the Welch Div, 2nd Bn A.&S.H. moved into positions in the area 767415 without incident. It was reported that the town contained large quantities explosives for V weapons also large poison gas stores. Every man in the Bn. carried his respirator in view of this fact. The town was full of civilians evacuated from the Hamburg area. Bde 'O' gp was at 2000 hrs and so Bn 'O' Gp was held at a very late hour. In the early hours of the morning a party of Germans came through our lines carrying white flags and were sent back to Bde.	
Bornsen 6945	2		The Bn moved along the main axis from Geesthacht to Hamburg. We moved off at 0900 hrs with Bornsen as our objective. The clearing of this area was very difficult as the road ran along the foot of a cliff and there were many deep gullies. The arty were short of amn and so could not give us the support we had become accustomed to. The main enemy opposition came from 20mm Flak guns firing in a ground role. Throughout the day white flag parties passed through our lines and eventually arrangements were made for Fd Marshall Busch to come through our lines next morning at 0900 hrs. The purpose of this meeting was to arrange the surrender of all the forces under the command of Fd Marshall Busch i.e. all the German forces operating in N.W. Germany. After a few clashes the Bn eventually arrived at Bornsen. During this action Sjt Elliot of D Coy was killed and three carriers were brewed up by bazookas, fortunately there were no more serious casualties.	
Rothensbek 7556	3		The C.O. and the I.O. went onto the main rd to meet the Fd Marshall in order to escort him back to the Div Comd. However a staff officer came to say that the matter had been taken a good deal higher as Admiral Doenitz was on his way to see Fd Marshall Montgomery. Meantime the E-Lancs from 53 Div who should have	

Ahrensburg 6567			relieved us moved towards Bergedorf 6546 for the surrender of which negotiations were being carried on. The Bn moved on all available tpt i.e. guns, S.Ps, tanks etc to Rothensbek. The Bn moved by route march to Ahrensburg and eventually arrived after some elements had travelled by a somewhat devious route. It was here that the news came through that the whole of the forces under the command of Fd Marshall Busch had surrendered unconditionally to Fd Marshall Montgomery. The Bn celebrated 21 Army Group's victory in a way that was fitting to the occasion.	
"	5		After a somewhat late start the Bn started to clean up. Pipes and Drums of the Bn beat retreat outside Comd Post.	
"	6		Bde church parade at 1100 hrs. The whole Bde Gp assembled at Bde H.Q 670662 where the service was conducted by the Padre from the 10 H.L.I. Afterwards the Bde Comd gave a short address congratulating the Bde Group on the very fine performance it had put up during the 11 months it had been in action.	
"	7		Normal day, nothing to report.	
"	8		V.E. Day. The C.O. spoke to the Bn, congratulating them on the fine performance they had put up during the last 11 months of action. He warned the Bn of things to come and the standard of turnout expected of it. The parade was also a rehearsal for the Div Comds inspection and	APPENDIX "J"
"	9		The Div Comd inspected the Bn at 1100 hrs. In his address he gave a short history of the activities of the Div since its arrival on the beaches in Normandy. He also warned the Bn that he expected a very high standard of turnout in the Div. He also pointed out that our C.O. and another one were the only C.O.s to survive the full campaign. Afterwards the Bn marched past with the Pipes and Drums playing. 12 Corps made a free issue of beer to the assault tps who made the original crossing of the Rhine and so the Bn received its share.	
	10		IO visited the 3rd Tk Bn of the Scots Guards. Some coys went swimming and H.Q. had an organised run.	
	11		Normal day. There was a film show in the town at night. IO went to Bde to collect details of move. C.O. and O.C. Sp Coy went to dinner at the 2nd Gordons.	
"	12		Harbour parties departed for both the final and intermediate locations. The harbour party for the final location was turned back shortly after it had started out, as it was found that it was a little previous. The 2I.C remained in Travemunde forming a holding party to ensure that all the best accommodation was not taken over by R.A.F. or Navy. A Coy moved to Bad Oldesloe to take over some	APPENDIX C

			guard duties in the town. The B.M. and one L.O. were accommodated at Bn HQ as Bde HQ had moved the day before.	
Schulenburg 781785	13		The Bn moved at 1045 hrs to the intermediate location, Bn H.Q. 781785, A Bad Oldesloe 7482, B Rethwischdorf 7879, C Politz 7478, D Mettewarde 7883, Sp Westerau 8179. C.O. and I.O. went to Bde 'O' Gp and the Bn was given the task of clearing all members of the German Armed forces out of a certain area. They were also to try and assess the number of Russians in the area so that arrangements could be made to transport them back to Russia. The C.O. addressed all offrs at Bn H.Q. at 2100 hrs. He told them of various mess rules and the standard he expected to be maintained in the Bn. Afterwards he gave orders to the Coy Comds for the clearing up of the area as ordered by Bde.	
	14		Normal day, weather was very hot and shirt sleeves were the order. We were told that the move to final area would be on the 16th.	
	15		'O' Gp at 0930 for the move on the 16th. Just before 'O' Gp started news came through that the move was postponed until the 17th or 18th, this was later altered to the 20th. The C.O. left at 1400 hrs for his course in England at the S.M.E. Ripon.	
	16		Nothing to report.	
	17		Bn will move to final location tomorrow. Most of the day was spent packing up as we were to make an early start next day.	
Travemunde 0601	18		Bn moved off at 0730 hrs and arrived at Travemunde at about 0900 hrs. H.Q. Coy could not take over their new billets as the Cheshires (5 Div) who we were taking over from had not moved out, and it was not until 1400 hrs that H.Q. could take over. The rest of the day was spent getting everything unpacked and organised. This is the first time we have been able to settle down properly since landing in Normandy. Final dispositions as follows: Bn H.Q. 068023, 'A' Coy 917874, 'B' Coy 022924, 'C' Coy 067020, 'D' Coy 083003, 'H.Q.' Coy 068024, 'SP' Coy 007938.	
"	19		Today was spent getting organised and quite a few changes were made.	
	20		Church Parades for Pres, C of E and R.C.	
Travemunde	21		We have 100 German P.Ws. attached to us as a working party. 60 work in H.Q. D & C areas, 30 in Sp Coy and 10 in B Coy areas. The canteen "Stirling Castle" was officially opened this afternoon. We were entertained in the canteen by the famous dance band singer Dorothy Carless and another guest singer. They gave an excellent concert for 75 minutes. Later Miss Carless and her party were entertained to tea in the offrs mess. Today history was made when retreat was delayed in order to enable Miss Carless and her party	

			to hear it played. So far as is known this is the only occasion during the history of the Regt that retreat has been delayed.	
"	22		Nothing of importance to report. The Bn is providing a large number of guards for bridges, dumps, factories etc. Some coys are doing night on and night off.	
"	23		Bn started sending parties to Lubeck for recreation.	
Travemunde	24		Another uneventful day.	
"	25		A very busy day of preparation for the Brigs inspection which takes place tomorrow.	
"	26		The Brigs inspection started later than was expected as there was a conference at Bde which held things up. The inspection started with Bn H.Q. at 1445 hrs, then the remainder of the Bn less 'A' Coy. The Bde Comd was very pleased with the turnout of the Bn. The Transport worked very hard to transform a piece of waste ground into a veh park that would have made Blackpool envious.	
"	27		Normal church parades for Pres, C of E and R.C.	
"	28		Normal working day. A party of offr and sjts from the Scots Guards were entertained at the offr and sjts messes.	
"	29		There was nothing of importance to report today.	
"	30		The Bn is well settled down now and things are running smoothly. Guards are still very numerous.	
	31		Nothing to report. We are having glorious weather.	