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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

~~OF~~

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Unit HQ 46 (H) Inf Bde incorporating LAD and Def Pl attached.

Commanding Officer Brigadier RM VILLIERS, DSO.

Month and Year MARCH 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG	1/2		Bde continued to rest. Work was begun on maint of all vehs. Owing to the appalling conditions in Op VERITABLE much work was needed to put them right.	
	3		Div Comd, Maj-Gen CM BARBER, DSO inspected the Bde - each Bn in turn.	
	4/5		Rest period continued.	
	5		Issue of Mov Order No 26.	See Appx D-1.
720760	6		Bde moved to new area in accordance with Mov Order No 26.	
	7	1430	Units settled in. A/Bde Comd held a trg conference, which included discussions on assault boat trg and use of Buffaloes.	
	8		Bde Comd returned from leave and resumed comd. Recces were made to find sites where mock-up Buffaloes could be built to train drivers in driving onto and off Buffaloes.	
	9		BM and Sigs Offr recced a site for demonstration of use of Buffaloes in preparation for trg to be carried out by bns.	
	10		Bde Comd attended demonstration of Buffaloes at 269695.	
	11		Nothing to report. Bde Comd & BM attended conference Corps HQ for Ex BUFFALO.	See Appx D-2.
	12		Bde Comd visited units trg in driving on and off Cl 9 rafts at 5870 in preparation for Op TORCHLIGHT.	
	13		Issue of Adm Instr No 9.	See Appx G-1(TOP SECRET)
	14		Ex BUFFALO was carried out by the Div and Bde Comd, BM and DAA & QMG acted as umpires. The Ex was done by day purely as a drill.	
	15		Ex BUFFALO was carried out again, this time by night under battle conditions. Bde Comd, BM, DAA & QMG again attended as umpires and Bn Int Secs manned OPs on the EAST bank of the MEUSE to observe.	
	16		Ex BUFFALO ended. Issue of 46 (H) Inf Bde Outline Plan for Op TORCHLIGHT.	See Appx D-3.
720760	17)	Planning and trg continued for Op "TORCHLIGHT".	
	18)	Issue of Adm Instr No 10	See Appx G-2.

	19		Bde Comd had discussion with OC 44 RTR (DD Tks) to discuss co-op of tks with 7 SEAFORTH for Op "TORCHLIGHT".	
		1630	BM attended GOC's conference at Div HQ to discuss priorities of vehs over the R RHINE.	
	20	0900	Bde Comd held 'O' Gp conference for Op "TORCHLIGHT" around a model in planning room. During the rest of the day the Planning Room was used by Bn Comds to issue orders to and discuss problems with their Coy Comds. Issue of 46 (H) Inf Bde Mov Order No 27. Issue of 46 (H) Inf Bde Adm Order No 20	See Appx D-4. See Appx G-3.
026397	21		46 (H) Inf Bde moved by night to marshalling area. HQ at 026397.	
	22	1000 1430	Bde Comd and Sigs Offr reced site for Tac HQ at 088454. Bde Comd addsd all offr of the Bde and gave plan for Op "TORCHLIGHT". He later visited Div HQ with BM. Issue of instrs for mov of tps and vehs from present areas to far bank of R RHINE and Op Instr No 28.	See Appendices D-5 and D-6.
088456	23	1600 2100	Word was given for Op "TORCHLIGHT" to begin 24 hrs earlier on 24 Mar. RMV Tac HQ moved fwd to 088456. 51 (H) Div crossed RHINE on our left in area REES 0752 and all seemed to be going well. There was little resistance to initial landing.	
088456	24	0200 0930 1600	44 Bde and 227 Bde crossed the RHINE on Div front. 44 Bde made good progress and 7 SEAFORTH were able to cross to their FAA by 0725 hrs. 227 Bde were held up however by enemy in area SANDENHOF 1047 and along the Bund 1047 and 1147. 7 SEAFORTH were ordered to send one coy and two tps DD tks to clear the bund. This task was soon completed and 7 SEAFORTH were then ordered to capture area SANDENHOF 1047 and then to adv and capture MEHR. The coy in SANDENHOF to follow on. H hr would be 1300 hrs. By 1340 hrs 7 SEAFORTH had cleared SANDENHOF 1047 and were advancing towards MEHR by 1430 hrs. 7 SEAFORTH reported they had one coy in the centre of MEHR. By 1745 MEHR had been cleared and both 2 GLAS H and 9 CAMERONIANS had crossed the RHINE and had received orders from Bde Comd for future ops. Although 7 SEAFORTH had captured MEHR they were unable to cross the water obstacle in front owing to enemy resistance. Bde Comd ordered that 9 CAMERONIANS would adv to a line running from BRUCKSHOF 125500 to WISSHOF 119503 and 2 GLAS H would	

			assemble behind them ready to pass through and adv NW and attempt the crossing of the obstacle. Owing to enemy resistance it was not possible to carry out this plan.	
088456	25	0630 0945 2100 2130	<p>During the night 7 SEAFORTH reported enemy counter-attacks and were infm by Bde Comd that it was essential they should hold the line from 131487 to 127494. If necessary 2 GLAS H would assist them in this task.</p> <p>Bde Comd and 'R' Gp went fwd to meet three Bn Comds but delay in crossing R RHINE prevented their arrival till 0900 hrs.</p> <p>2 A & SH put under comd 46 Bde and Bde Comd gave out verbal orders for 2 GLAS H and 2 A & SH to move by march route round SOUTH of LANGE RENNE 1348. 2 GLAS H were to obtain footing in Southern edge of wood 1448, then 2 A & SH on the RIGHT and 2 GLAS H on the LEFT were to clear wood Northwards. When 2 GLAS H had reached EAST end of br 134494 7 SEAFORTH were to clear wood WEST of br. 9 CAMERONIANS were ordered to capture BRUCKSHOF - WISSHOF 1250 as soon as possible after dark.</p> <p>Wood 1448 had been cleared by 2 GLAS H and 2 A & SH and 7 SEAFORTH had made contact with 2 GLAS H at br 134494 and cleared wood WEST of it. Approx 150 PW were taken during this op.</p> <p>9 CAMERONIANS reported objective taken - about 65 PW. Reorg took place after objectives had been cleared and final disposns for night were - 2 A & SH 144495, 2 GLAS H 145486, 7 SEAFORTH area br 134494 and 9 CAMERONIANS conc in area 109494 10 HLI having taken over their responsibilities in the BRUCKSHOF - WISSHOF area. Bde HQ had moved across the river to 119476.</p>	
119476	26	0130 0900 1600	<p>Orders were given for 2 GLAS H and 2 A & SH to exploit Eastwards at first light so as to clear rd running NORTH and SOUTH EAST of wood 1448. At the same time 7 SEAFORTH were to adv Northwards, EAST of BELLINGHOVER MEER 1349. 2 GLAS H completed their part successfully by 0800 hrs and took about 50 PW. 2 A & SH were unable to move to X rds 1449 and coy of 7 SEAFORTH was held up soon after starting.</p> <p>Bde Comd ordered 7 SEAFORTH to clear X rds 1449 and at the same time to attack Northwards sp by A Sqn RTR (Crocodiles). This op was not started till 1400 hrs and by 1550 hrs the bn was on its objective.</p> <p>9 CAMERONIANS advanced through 7 SEAFORTH to capture the CLASENHO 146515 feature and by 1722 hrs they reported having one coy on the left-hand objective in the area 142513. Another coy was attacking CLASENHO but was held up by stiff enemy resistance and no further progress was made that day.</p>	

		1945	Orders were received for 2 GLAS H to move during the night to the area 1749 preparatory to clearing Northwards to line 174520 - 168517 - 160516. 2 A & SH would remain in present area in Div res and get as much rest as possible. 7 SEAFORTH were to move to the area 160503 to cover the gap between 9 CAMERONIANS and 2 GLAS H.	See Appx D-7
152498	27	1120	2 GLAS H had completed their conc in the new area during the early morning and patrols moved fwd at 0900 hrs. Bde HQ moved to 152498.	See Notes at Appx D-8
152498		2000	By the end of the day 2 GLAS H were held up on the line 174519 - 170518 - 166517 - 157504. 9 CAMERONIANS had been unable to clear the CLASENHO feature and an 'O' Gp was called for 2000 hrs at Bde HQ. Bde Comd held 'O' Gp at 152498 and gave out orders for the following day. 2 A & SH and 6 HLI were now under comd 46 Bde and 9 CAMERONIANS under comd 227 Bde. 7 SEAFORTH were to clear the enemy from the CLASENHO feature working from EAST to WEST through 2 GLAS H. 6 HLI and 2 A & SH would then adv NORTH up to the line from 151534 - 137534 and clear that wooded area.	
	28	0830	7 SEAFORTH began their attack and reached their objectives without a cas. They took about 50 PW. It appears that enemy had left fwd tps and withdrawn all res. It was the first day that German paratps had given up without firing a round. They were dazed by the weight of arty, tired out after four days fighting, and dispirited to find that their res had withdrawn. 2 A & SH and 6 HLI also reached their objectives without opposition and 2 GLAS H cleared the wooded area 163526. By 1500 hrs patrols had reached as far fwd as 154544 reporting the whole area clear of enemy. Bde Comd then made a recce and gave orders for bns to take over following areas : 2 GLAS H 165529, 6 HLI 155538, 2 A & SH 145530, 7 SEAFORTH 153519.	
	29	0001	2 A & SH were infm that they would revert to under comd 227 (H) Inf Bde at 1000 hrs. This would not involve a move.	
		1000	9 CAMERONIANS reverted to under comd 46 (H) Inf Bde and took over from 6 HLI.	
	30)		As far as possible all tps were put under cover and ordered to	
	31)		get maximum rest. No move was likely for the next few days.	