

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
 Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1.
 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 6 RSF

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Nov 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
SLOT	1 Nov		Quiet morning. Troops rested and washed. CO held conference. Orders to move received in afternoon. Bn to SLOT before nightfall. Considerable enemy shelling in the late afternoon and night. CO gave orders out for next day's attack.	
MEITIEL BROEK	2 Nov	1630	RSF with Glasgow Highlanders on right carried out first phase of advance of 44 Brigade down the road towards MEITIEL. No opposition and no casualties in this phase. Bn moved forward in rear of forward Bns, RS and KOSB who had advanced in face of some slight opposition. Bn occupied BROEK area overnight. Very heavy shelling and mortaring but only one casualty during the night.	Appx 'A'
BROEK	3 Nov		Bn remained in position BROEK area, being occasionally shelled. Local patrols sent out. CO gave orders for attack next day on villages SCHANS and HOF as part of the Brigade attack, but postponement order came through before orders finished. Fairly quiet night. Motor pool shelled. Some casualties.	
BROEK	4 Nov	1700	Bn remained in BROEK area making preparations for attack as above next day. CO held co-ordinating conference 1700 hrs. Fairly quiet night.	
MEIJEL	5 Nov	0745	B and D Coys crossed start line 0745 hrs with two troops tanks in support in first phase of Brigade attack on MEIJEL. Tanks struck minefield immediately and suffered heavy casualties from mines and anti tank guns. Two carriers of 6 RSF on wounded and evacuation duties also blown up. B and D Coys pressed forward attack without the tank support and reached near edge of objective, but suffered heavy casualties. Intense mortar, shell and MG fire. Took 20/30 prisoners. Brigade cancelled second phase of attack involving A, C, D Coys. B and D Coys remained in occupation of part of objective SCHANS throughout the day until orders received from Brigade that they might be withdrawn. Withdrawal successfully accomplished by CO. Bn harboured for	Appx 'B'

			night in and South of LIESEL less A Coy which remained under command KOSB for night. Bn temporarily under command 46 Brigade.	
ASTEN	6 Nov	1600	6 RSF moved into Div reserve taking up covering positions astride road ASTEN - MEIJEL relieving part of 227 Brigade. All sub units in position by 1600 hrs including A Coy released from KOSB. CO held conference at which special commendation of Div Commander for the SCHANS action was read. Maj HWP HARRISON joined the Bn on posting from 4/5th RSF and assumed appointment of 2 IC. Lieut TAK SAVAGE joined the Bn on posting from 33 RHU and assumed appointment of 2 IC Carrier Platoon.	Appx 'C'
ASTEN	7 Nov		Colonel in Chief of the Regiment Lord TRENCHARD visited the unit and met various officers and men at 'A' echelon and Bn HQ. CO lunched with him at Div HQ. Quiet day. No enemy contact.	
ASTEN	8 Nov		Quiet day. No contact.	
ASTEN	9 Nov		Quiet day. Three officers joined the Bn. T/Capt MACBETH ex R IR F attached "HQ" Coy T/Capt MURPHY ex R IR F posted to "D" Coy Lieut SULLIVAN ex R IR F posted to "S" Coy, 2 IC Anti Tank Contact patrols sent out to flanking units. Coys engaged in rest and adm and baths. Small parties sent in to entertainments at HELMOND.	
ASTEN	10 Nov	1100 1400	Quiet day. CO held conference of Coy Comds and QM at 1100 hrs to discuss re-organisation on a three Coy basis. It was decided to split up C Coy and to allot one platoon each to A, B, D Coys. G1098 stores of C Coy to be held by QM in readiness for a return to four Coys when authorised. Demonstration. At 1400 hrs Coy Comds and Specialist Comds attended a demonstration of LVT 2's and LVT 4's at Div.	
ASTEN	11 Nov		Quiet day. Four officers and 44 other ranks joined the Bn. They were posted as follows:- WS/Lieut WL TAIT "A" Coy 2/Lt SW TATNELL "A" Coy WS/Lieut CJ GERRARD "B" Coy WS/Lieut JM WILLIAMSON "D" Coy 22 other ranks to "B" Coy, 14 other ranks to "D" Coy. The remaining 8 as specialists or batmen.	
ASTEN	12 Nov		Quiet day. Maj HWP HARRISON represented the CO at a conference of COs at Bde HQ to discuss tank co-operation and intercomm with infantry.	
ASTEN	13 Nov	1800 1400	Bn relieved by 10 HLI and moved to ASTEN for 48 hr rest period. Relief completed without incident by 1800 hrs. Maj HWP HARRISON representing CO attended conference at Bde 1400 hrs.	
ASTEN	14 Nov		Bn resting. Baths, washing and general administration.	

			<p>The Bn was visited by Maj Gen CM BARBER DSO Div Comd who praised the Bn for its work in the recent fighting. He personally visited all Coy areas and spoke to many of the Fusiliers. In the absence of the CO Maj HARRISON attended a conference at Bde outlining the coming ops.</p> <p>Bn received instructions to relieve the 6 KOSB at NEERKANT.</p>	Appx 'D'
NEERKANT	15 Nov		<p>The Bn was visited by Lt Gen O'CONNOR the Corps Comd who visited Bn HQ, 'A' and 'D' Coys.</p> <p>In the afternoon the Bn took over from 6 KOSB at NEERKANT. Instructions were received to occupy HOF with one coy. This task was successfully carried out by 'B' Coy. No enemy were encountered.</p> <p>The CO of the Bn, Lt Col I MACKENZIE returned to the Bn from 48 hrs leave in Brussels.</p> <p>Maj HM GOW left the Bn to establish 44(L) Inf Bde Tactical School at HELMOND.</p> <p>Maj GOW assumed the appointment of Commandant of the School and Lieuts MACLACHLAN and LOGAN also left to act as instructors. Maj HL MACKINNON assumed command of 'D' Coy in the temporary absence of Maj HM GOW.</p>	Appx 'E'
HOF	16 Nov		<p>'D' Coy took over SCHANS from 8 RS.</p> <p>'A' Coy occupied the SE corner of the WOOD at the EAST of HOF. The Carrier Pl reced an area in the NE corner of the WOODS. Bn HQ moved to HOF. The Pnr Pl did excellent work in mine clearance. The WOOD area was found to be extensively mined and SCHUMINES were much in evidence. During the night 16/17 Nov there was some enemy shelling but no casualties were sustained.</p>	
HOF	17 Nov		<p>Two standing patrols were sent out to the DEURNE CANAL BANK at first light. One from 'D' Coy was driven in by spandau fire from the canal banks.</p> <p>One from 'A' Coy was successful in establishing itself unobserved about 100 yards from the bank and remained there maintaining observation of the canal.</p> <p>A patrol of snipers under Sjt PERRY worked up the canal but was unable to observe beyond the canal owing to the trees and shrub.</p>	
HOF	18 Nov		<p>'A' Coy standing patrol was maintained during the night and reps from CROCODILE and FLAIL tank units and the REs were escorted by a protective patrol from the Bn to recce the CANAL BANK. The bank was found to be thickly mined with A/P mines, nevertheless the recce was completed, but unfortunately Sgt BARNES of the Westminster Dragoons who was the flail tank rep was killed by a 'S' mine.</p>	

			<p>A sniper OP maintained observation on the CANAL bank and beyond from the roof of a house.</p> <p>The Bn snipers again reached the canal bank, claimed two enemy killed and two wounded. Two snipers were slightly wounded by an 'S' mine. The REs reported that they had cleared over 500 Schumines and 100 tellermines from the area of the wood.</p>	
HOF	19 Nov		<p>'A' Coy standing patrol reported no activity during the night 18/19 Nov. The CO received orders for a crossing of the CANAL the following day, the task of the Bn being to drive NORTH and clear the enemy from the HELENAVEEN bridge to allow 46 (H) Bde to cross there. The Bn was under comd of 46 (H) Bde for this operation. Two pioneers were wounded by an 'S' mine. Capt IA MUNRO the IO was wounded by an 'S' mine and was evacuated.</p>	<p>Appx 'F'</p> <p>Appx 'G'</p>
	20 Nov	1400	<p>Bn under comd of 46 (H) Bde prepared to move over the CANALS East of MEIJEL with the task of turning North and clearing to HELENAVEEN thereby enabling 46 Bde to cross and push on to SEVENUM.</p> <p>Bn moved off at 1400 hrs. Order of march 'B' Coy, Adv Bn HQ, Carrier Pl, Pnr Pl, 'A' Coy, MO, Mor Pl, 'D' Coy, Rear Bn HQ. By dusk the Bn had established itself on the road running North from BERINGEN to HELENAVEEN.</p> <p>'A' Coy which had pushed on through 'B' Coy met some resistance at the North end of the Wood to the East of the Canal and it was decided to stay put until dawn when patrols were to push into HELENAVEEN. 'A' Coy carrier blew up on a mine the driver being unfortunately killed.</p> <p>Rear Bn HQ moved up and formed Adv Bn HQ about one mile North of HELENAVEEN.</p>	
GRASHOEK	21 Nov		<p>The night 20/21 was uneventful except for the loss of 'A' Coy jeep on a mine, and at dawn the patrols found HELENAVEEN unoccupied. Bn HQ moved up to GRASHOEK and the three rifle coys established themselves West of the Wood whilst 46 and 227 Bdes pushed on to SEVENUM now reported by civilians clear of enemy. About 300 refugees passed through the Bn lines and were evacuated through BERINGEN.</p>	
GRASHOEK	22 Nov		<p>Quiet day. Bn still under comd 46 (H) Bde.</p>	
GRASHOEK	23 Nov		<p>Quiet day. Bn reverted to 44 (L) Bde. Troops resting.</p>	
GRASHOEK	24 Nov		<p>Quiet day. Troops resting.</p>	
GRASHOEK	25 Nov		<p>Quiet day. Troops resting.</p>	
GRASHOEK	26 Nov		<p>Brigadier COCKBURN MBE called to say goodbye on handing over comd to Brigadier The Hon HCHT Cumming Bruce DSO.</p>	

GRASHOEK	27 Nov		<p>Quiet day. Coys had baths. 2" Mor practice shooting was carried out. A proportion of men were sent in to entertainments. 'B' Coy supplied 50 men to assist the RES.</p> <p>Maj HARRISON 2 IC attended Welfare Conference at Rear Div HQ.</p> <p>Maj AND HUNTER MC joined the Bn and assumed comd of 'A' Coy.</p>	
GRASHOEK	28 Nov		<p>The Bde Comd, Brigadier HCHT CUMMING BRUCE DSO arrived at Bn HQ and held a conference of the three Bn COs ref pending operations. Coys continued training on 2" Mor and rifle and Bren shooting.</p>	
GRASHOEK	29 Nov		<p>CO attended planning conference at Bde ref forthcoming operations. A list of awards was announced as follows:-</p> <p><u>DSO</u> Lt Col I Mackenzie CO MAJ AMM BUCHER '</p> <p><u>MC</u> Capt IA MUNRO IO</p> <p><u>DCM</u> Fus J MURRAY ex 'S' Coy</p> <p><u>MM</u> Sjt G BANNERMAN ex 'A' Coy</p> <p>L/Sjt A CURRAN 'D' Coy</p> <p>A/Sjt W BEAGAN 'A' Coy</p> <p>Cpl J McCARTHY 'A' Coy</p> <p>Cpl F MCHUGH 'D' Coy</p> <p>A/Cpl R GARDINER ex 'B' Coy</p> <p>Fus T THOMSON ex 'C' Coy</p>	
GRASHOEK	30 Nov	<p>0930</p> <p>1130</p> <p>1430</p>	<p>CO held conference of Coy Comds KANGAROO Comd, MTO and QM at 0930 hrs. He outlined the operation under consideration.</p> <p>At 1130 hrs the CO and 2 IC went to Bde HQ to meet Lieut Gen O'CONNOR who was visiting Bde to say goodbye on relinquishing comd of 8 Corps.</p> <p>At 1430 hrs CO, 2IC, Adjut and Coy Comds attended cloth model at Bde HQ whilst Bde Comd outlined his plans for op.</p>	<p>I Mackenzie Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers</p>