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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 15th (SCOTTISH) INF DIV SIGNALS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(incl LAD attd)

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year DEC 1944

Commanding Officer LT-COL F.C. SEELY R SIGNALS

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
PANNINGEN	1	0001	Change of frequency list to Inf List B. A smooth change all round. See Appx for last month (issued to all concerned 27/11/44). List "B" greatly preferable to List "A"	DGH
		0800	A day of fairly busy line activity. Position as per line diagram issued 1920 hrs this evening	DGH Appx
		1100	CSO 12 Corps visits CO - ordinary routine visit	DGH
		1430	CO and Adjt attend Div Comd's co-ordinating conference on forthcoming op "GUILDFORD".	DGH
		1600	Authority received for change of nomenclature of CO. No longer O.C. Div Signals but Commander, Royal Signals (C R Sigs) instead	DGH
		1600	Rear Div HQ moves down to this area also (768053). Comms ready for them practically complete. See again current line diagram	DGH
		2100	C.O.'s conference of section officers concerned re forthcoming programme of intense W/T activity (ordered by Corps) to prevent W/T ops and Cipher ops from becoming rusty	DGH
PANNINGEN	2	1000	CO and Adjt visit 44 Bde. CO meets new Brig and arranges several details for forthcoming op (loan of sets for manhandling, if necessary, line arrangements etc)	DGH
		1100	Line section extremely busy today on final layout of lines for op - Signal centre opens again - 2 lines 46 Tac, 44 Tac, 44 Sig Cen. Main Div - Tac 44. Main Div - Sig cen (2). Line laying very difficult today with tremendous traffic on the roads esp Vehs	DGH
		1400	LT J.W. FULLARTON is posted as Unit Signal Officer to 6 KOSB	DGH
		1700	Wireless OK throughout day - 49 Recce now moved away & off both wireless & line. 31 Tk Bde on R/T Comd net (in sp of 44 Bde in forthcoming op)	DGH
	3	0930	Church parade - reasonably good attendance in view of there being a battle in progress	DGH
		1000	C.O. and Adjt visit Signal Centre, 46 Bde and Tac HQ 44 Bde	DGH
PANNINGEN		1000	Everything functioning smoothly but a considerable number of - onwards / line faults throughout day. A certain amount of shelling on the lines but chief source of trouble being own	DGH

		1200	Vehs, especially the AVRE tanks carrying bridges. These pull down most everything. The answer is most difficult to find	DGH
		1200	CSO 12 Corps visits Comd & discusses progress of the op	DGH
		1800	Div R/T Comd net now has 31 Tk Bde and Tac HQ 12 Corps as extra outstns. 31 Tk Bde off the net again by evening	
			Line position as shown by line diagram issued as at 1200 hrs	DGH Appx J2
PANNINGEN	4	0800	Line section busy on modifications to layout, with 44 Bde moving up to SEVENUM, 46 Bde to former 44 loc at BERINGE prior to moving back to 227 Bde loc at ASTEN with 227 Bde scheduled for MAASBREE. A certain amount of assistance from both 8 and 12 Corps in providing quad for us to lay ourselves & for 44 Bde who have an extensive layout. As the div looks like being in this area for a considerable period, all lines are being most carefully built with as permanent cable as may be obtained (ie quad as much as possible)	DGH
		1000	Comd holds Coy Comds' conference on various matters, chiefly on tpt and future plans re training	DGH
		1200	A/CSO 8 Corps visits C.O. & Adjt and stays to lunch	DGH
		1400	C.O. holds orderly room - perhaps the largest since leaving England - 4 cases!	DGH
		1600	LT SCHREIBER absorbed in the Unit on 2nd Army Authy (2i/c "A" Sec but employed in "C" Sec). LT STEARS now surplus & posted to 40 RHU but remains attd this Unit for all purposes	DGH
	5	0800	Line Sec again out on line layout, with 44 Tac moving out & back to 44 Main. Direct line to 44 now, with Recce on 44 board	DGH
		1500	44 - SC and SC - 8 Royal Scots to keep 44 Bde.	
		1600	CO attends Div Comd's conference on training and future ops	DGH
			Lt-Col Lyall R. Signals, instructor at the Staff College, arrives on visit from 8 Corps for the night. Commences tour of layout after tea and takes in Rear Div first with O.C. Sigs Rear	DGH
PANNINGEN	6	0000	Lt-Col Lyall continues his visit and departs at 1000 hrs	DGH
		1200	CO and Adjt depart for HELMOND for much-needed bath & proceed to theatre show	DGH
			Line section engaged throughout day on normal work routine dets assisting both 44 & 227 Bdes. New quad laid Main Div - Signal Centre.	DGH
	7	0930	Adjt holds training conference with Signalmaster, Wireless officer and Cipher officer regarding procedure for W/T links under present semi-static conditions. See instruction issued subsequently	DGH Appx J3
		1100	Line sections out again - new quad being laid Sig Centre - 44 Bde. Arrangements completely for comms to Rear RASC in ZOMEREN	DGH

		1400	(SWAN - 227 Bde - RASC and SWAN - RASC by means of 8 Corps quad) and a further line laid Div Sig Centre - 1 Det assisting 227 Bde in their new area HELDEN (7903) and RA det started on a new layout, which it is reckoned will take 45 miles of D8 double cable to complete. New A Tk Regt (102) (from 50 Div) in place of 97 - require four more frequencies as they have sets from Btys to Tps which 97 never had. Necessary adjustments made	DGH
PANNINGEN	8	0100	Change of frequency list from Inf Div List "B" to Inf Div List "C". Change goes very smoothly indeed	DGH
		0900	227 Bde move out of ASTEN and relieve 160 Bde of 53 Div in HELDEN (7903) and take over existing line. New quad laid to them in course of day and Bde lateral to 53 Div strapped through to Main 15 Div on third pair	DGH
		1415	46 Bde move out of BERINGEN into res in ASTEN and take over existing comms.	
		1700	New quad completed Signal Centre - 44 Bde - one pair still faulty	DGH
PANNINGEN	9	0900	15 (S) Div returns under comd 8 Corps - wireless through OK	DGH
		1000	Adjt and OC Sigs Rear attend A/Q conference, which lasts for 3½ hours and discusses many points - accommodation, welfare, surplus MT and leave to UK	DGH
		1400	Comd R Sigs conference of all officers at Main Div HQ and OC Sigs Rear & QM on welfare, Xmas, New Year arrangements & other matters	DGH
		1700	Certain line adjustments rearwards due to changeover back to 8 Corps - 12 Corps RA Sig Centre away. Now no lines to 12 Corps 1+1 on Main Div - Swan, with carrier strapped through direct to 8 Corps. Recce move today to LIEROP - now also obtainable through SWAN. Forward arrangements still building up - wireless now practically closed	DGH
	10	0930	Church parade at Main Div HQ with very good attendance and a most excellent service	DGH
		1200	CSO 8 Corps arrives on a social visit and stays to lunch and meets most of the Unit officers at Main Div HQ	DGH
		1700	Line secs both of this Unit and of Corps Sigs still heavily engaged on building up and effecting alterations to one line set-up. Now very nearly in shape	DGH
	11	0100	1st 24 hour period of training on the Div C/W net begins. Goes quite all right, except for the Bde resting back in the ASTEN	DGH

PANNINGEN		0100	- onwards / area, where there is considerable difficulty, especially with practice all-stns messages from other outstns. Decided that in future the resting Bde will not be included in the scheme.	DGH
		1430	Adjt attends Div Comd's conference on the forthcoming opening of leave to the UK	DGH
	12	1000	CO and Adjt pay routine visits to 44 and 227 Bdes, chiefly to see how they are getting on with their extensive line layouts - all going well	DGH
		1000	ASM LEEMING W WO i/c LAD today granted emergency commission as 2/LT in REME. CAPT WD TONER (OC A SEC) granted 14 days compassionate leave	DGH
		1700	Line layout now practically complete - hope to issue complete line diagram tomorrow	
		1700	Special Interference Section arrives - working on frequencies with Codes & Security sec for interferences of all kinds	DGH
PANNINGEN	13	0830	CO and 2 i/c leave for ZOMEREN to see presentation of medal ribbons by C-in-C and hear his address to recipients and senior offrs of the Div	DGH
		1200	Issued line diagram as at 1200 hrs. Line layout now completed with line lateral 44 Bde - 3 Mons - 159 Bde - 11 Armd Div. Speech excellent. Only forthcoming change now pending (to be completed tomorrow) is removal of 3rd quad pair, belonging to 8 Corps from 44 Bde and turning it into a direct line to 46 Bde in ASTEN (via Swan Sig Centre)	DGH Appx J4
		1800	Wireless on second day of intense CW activity on Div Comd net - position greatly eased by the exclusion of the resting Bde in ASTEN from the scheme	DGH
	14	1000	LT D.W. SOUTAR from 50 (N) Div Sigs attached this Unit FAP. An old and valued member of this Unit to welcome back	DGH
		1000	A day of normal routine - a direct line provided now (via Swan) to the resting Bde in ASTEN	DGH
PANNINGEN	15	1000	CO, Adjt, OC 2 Coy visit 131 and 181 Fd Regts. CO arranges for new direct line (half-phantom) 44 Bde - 181 Fd Regt	DGH
		1100	Capt KR CURRY Cipher Officer posted back to UK	DGH
		1200	Lt M STEARS posted 3 (Br) Inf Div 193 Fd Amb on by line to 44 Bde. 194 Fd Amb on to Main Div	DGH DGH
	16	1000	CO and Adjt - 2 i/c already there - proceed to 53 (W) Div HQ to see there C R Sigs with reference to 46 Bde who are taking over from 160 Bde tomorrow. 46 Bde are moving into HQ 53 (W) Div present locations so the situation is arranged without undue difficulty	DGH

		1200	CO presides over the draw of the ballot for UK leave, which passes off most smoothly	DGH
		1415	CO attends Div Comd's conference on future plans & trg	DGH
		1600	CO and Adjt pay second visit to 53 Div in connection with the a/m takeover	
PANNINGEN	17	0945	Church Parade conducted by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland. A most beautiful service and the Moderator's words most moving	DGH
		1000	46 (H) Bde move to HEYTHUIZEN area (7903) arriving about midday and are immediately through by line - 1 quad pair direct and 1 46 Bde - 3 AGRA - HQRA 15 Div - 15 Div	DGH
		1730	Adjt attends A/Q conference at Rear Div HQ on forthcoming move and plans	DGH
	18	0030	Adjt issues leave roster together with vacancies for Jan 1945	DGH
		1000	CO and 2 i/c leave for 30 Corps and HQ Canadian Army to discuss forthcoming move of the Div into their area. They are away all day	
		1100	44 Bde lines, damaged by Carriers, through again OK Lateral to 11 Armd Div under way - lateral from 44 Bde now changing to unit of 3 (Br) Div. Line laid for 11 Armd Div to 227	DGH
		1200	RA det	
		1200	Lt FC BROCK attached as interim Cipher officer in place of Capt Curry, pending arrival of permanent replacement	DGH
PANNINGEN	19	1000	Certain changes in the rearward line layout - 8 Corps taking over former 12 Corps lines - 12 Corps Sig Centre at WEERT becomes 8 Corps Sig Centre "GOOSE" to which we have former 12 Corps quad, giving one line to "GOOSE" and the other strapped through as lateral to 11 Armd Div	DGH
		1200	Issued line diagram as at 1800 hrs today	DGH Appx J5
		1400	An afternoon of normal routine - CO has small orderly room and interviews etc. Wireless day on CW net - practice traffic now excluded from this scheme on orders from Corps. OC Sigs Rear away today on Div Recce party to new area	DGH
	20	1000	Line Section engaged on new lateral 44 Bde - 185 Bde (3 (Br) Div) to replace present - UG pair SEVENUM - HORST utilized for this purpose and through by 1400 hrs. 520 CA det (making third) now 15 Div responsibility for comms - put on party line with 218 det & 39 FS	DGH
		1600	CO decides for the present to cut out "wireless days" altogether	DGH
PANNINGEN	21	0900	C-in-C's certificates for outstanding good service to LT (QM) J.A. SHIELDS, SGT D. UNSTEAD ("A" Sec), CSM C. ANDERSON (HQ 1	DGH

		1000	COY), SGT R.W. BROWN ("J" Sec (posthumous)), CPW G.E. SPARKS ("N" Sec). The CO is going to present these formally on Xmas day	DGH
		1100	Cpl Wilkes ("A" Sec) returns from DAD course at 2nd Army School at EINDHOVEN, having obtained Q1 and OC 1 Coy institutes a unit course of ten days (2 more in the afternoon)	DGH
		1400	Adjt inspects cookhouse, ration stores etc	DGH
			Normal routine afternoon - NTR	DGH
PANNINGEN	22	1000	CO and Adjt visit CSO's branch 8 Corps and lunch in 8 Corps Sigs Mess. Complete trace of all 15 Div lines in present area handed to A/CSO	DGH
		1600	On returning, several changes in rearward lines found - 3 AGRA pair - 8 AGRA instead and lines to "GOOSE". 11 Armd Div had to go through their board. 46 Bde alternative routing gone - temporarily at least	DGH
		1720	46 Bde late for daily test call on R/T net - necessary action taken	DGH
	23	1100	Comd attends Div Comd's conference on training etc. Schools to continue under Bde arrangements	DGH
		1400	46 Bde lay line 46 Bde - 61 Med Regt, thus restoring alternative routing (15 Div - 8 AGRA - 61 Med - 46 Bde)	DGH
		1500	O.C. Line Sqn 8 Corps arrives from 8 Corps on way to see OC 44 Bde Sigs re undergrounds SEVENUM - BLERICK	DGH
	24	0930	Church Parade with excellent carol-singing by all present and the Christmas spirit is now considerably in evidence	DGH
		1700	A number of shells fall in the village - no casualties, but direct line to 46 and party line to CA and RS Secs put out - speech OK on alternative routing to 46 but C/W net opened to them for message clearing	DGH
		2030	Unit carol-singing party tours officers' messes and sing excellently	DGH
PANNINGEN	25	0800	WO & Sgts take tea to ORs in bed - usual Christmas morning. Ringing fault on 46 Bde rather damps the ardour of "C" Sec	DGH
		1130	Unit carol-singers perform at church service of 1 Mx	DGH
		1300	CO, 2i/c, Adjt visit men's dinner at Rear Div HQ	DGH
		1330	Men's dinner - after visit by officers to WO's & Sgts Mess - a very good show. GOC visits and presents C-in-C's certificates as previously mentioned	DGH
		1800	Men attend performance of "A Christmas Carol" performed by the monks of the monastery	DGH
		2000	Officers Mess Christmas dinner	DGH
		2030	Housey-Housey etc in the men's recreation room - all the Xmas arrangements have really gone very well	DGH

PANNINGEN	26	1400	CO and Adjt pay routine visit to 46 Bde	DGH
		1800	CO and Adjt attend performance of a nativity play and "A Christmas Carol" by monks of the local monastery	DGH
		2100	CO and Adjt attend performance of Div HQ officers pantomime in which CAPT ORR plays part of heroine - most amusing	DGH
			Otherwise a quiet day - a certain amount of trouble on the Corps line with the carrier and on the 46 Bde line, but nothing serious. Ominous note struck in the evening by receiving word that the Unit has to provide 8 OWLs and 1 Dvr/Mech for R Sigs draft for Far East	DGH DGH
	27	1045	CO and Adjt attend talk by GSO1 to all ranks bringing them up to date with the feats of the Division from Normandy up to the present position	DGH
		1430	CSO 2nd Army (Brig KNOWLES late CSO 8 Corps) visits CO	DGH
		1730	CO and Adjt attend film show in Men's mess - an excellent show, but Mess Hall freezing cold - OC HQ Coy not yet obtained stoves	DGH
	28	0900	A day of ordinary routine. Nothing outstanding to report. Fault (contact) on 44 Bde quad in afternoon, otherwise NTR	DGH
PANNINGEN	29	1000	Routine morning - issued instructions regarding the recommencement of "wireless days" starting tomorrow on the Corps nets and on the Div nets after New Year	DGH
		1300	Issued Line Diagram as at 1400 hrs	DGH J6
		1530	CO and Adjt attend the second of three children's parties being run at Div HQ for the children of the village. Great success	DGH
	30	1045	CO addresses draft of 9 ORs under order for the Far East	DGH
		1100	CO and Adjt depart for LIEROP to inspect Recce Regt Sig Sec and Recce Sigs Training Cadre	DGH
		1500	CAPT TONER returns from compassionate leave	DGH
		1600	Linesmen out on 46 Bde and Rear Div lines damaged by three shells falling quite near Div HQ. All OK again in approx 1½ hrs - new piece required to be laid in 46 Bde line	DGH
	31.	0945	Church Parade as normal - good attendance	DGH
		1900	CO and Adjt to Sigs "C" Mess at Rear Div HQ for Hogmanay celebration	DGH
David G Heilbron Capt R. Signals Adjt 15th (Scottish) Inf Div Signals				