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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2ND BN. THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year MAY 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. RWM de Winton D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HAMWARDE	1	0900 2000 2100 2300	"B" Coy with tp of tanks cleared woods area 77.42 and brought back 43 prisoners. During the afternoon 2 A & S.H. with a unit of 53 Div moved into GEESTHACHT which had been surrendered by the Burgomaster to the Comd, 227 (H) Inf Bde. Bde 'O' Gp. The Bde to adv due EAST with 10 H.L.I. right, 2 A & S.H. left 2 Gordons in reserve. Bn 'O' Gp. News of Hitler's death.	
KROPPELSHAGEN FAHRENDORF	2	1000 1030 1515 1800	Bn left HAMWARDE 78.43 Bde Comd temporarily handed over Comd of the Bde to Lt.Col R.W.M. de WINTON D.S.O., whilst he conferred with a member of F.M. BUSCH's staff apropos the surrender of the enemy forces in N.W. Germany. Bn arrived at KROPPELSHAGEN FAHRENDORF 71,46 without incident. Bn HQ 713,464. News of the surrender in ITALY.	Sheet 1/100,000 L.4
KASSEBURG	3	0700 P.M.	Local truce in the HAMBURG Sector came into effect. Bn moved to KASSEBURG 77.55 without incident. Rifle coys marched. Bn HQ 778,557.	
GROS HANS DORF	4	 2100	Bn moved to GROS HANS DORF 68,66. C.O. marched with rifle coys. Bn HQ 688,668. Announcement of the surrender of all the German forces in N.W. Europe.	
	6	1100	Church Service at AHRESNBURG in the open air, attended by the entire Bde. Bde Comd addressed the gathering after the service.	
	8		V.E. Day. Excellent weather.	
	9	1200	Div Comd inspected the Bn and outlined its great record since landing in Normandy in 1944. He stated that the Bn had lost altogether 64 officers and 1127 ORs in casualties during the	

			whole campaign. Of those who attended this parade there were 8 officers and 314 ORs who had landed originally with the Bn in JUNE and JULY 1944.	
GROS HANSDORF	10		Weather continued very good and many of the Bn bathed in a local swimming pool.	
	11		The Bn took over several PW Cages from the Mx Regt. "B" Coy took over a cage at BARGTEHEIDE 66,73. "A" Coy cages at BARGTEHEIDE and KREMERBURG 66,69. "D" Coy and A/Tk Pl cages in and near AHRESNBURG and Mortar Pl took over the Div PW Cage. "C" and HQ Coys remained in GROS HANSDORF. P.R.I opened an O.Rs Club - Canteen in GROS HANSDORF. Bde Comd, 227 (H) Inf Bde, CRA 15 (S) Div, C.O. and 2 I.C. 2 A & S.H. invited to dinner at Bn HQ Officers Mess.	
	12		"B" Coys PW Cage moved to BUNNINGSTEDT.	
	14		Recces of REINFELD 8185, where it was believed the Bn would be moving, were carried out, but in the evening the place was changed to LUBECK.	
	15		C.O. left Bn to go on a Hygiene Course at Mytchet Bks, ALDERSHOT, followed by leave. Major Henderson carried out recce of LUBECK.	
GROS HANSDORF	16		Further recces in LUBECK. Bn relieved of responsibility for PW Cages on their being taken over by 8 (German) Para Div. Coys returned to GROS HANSDORF.	
	17	1800	Bn 'O' Gp ref LUBECK, etc.	
	18		Pte SPENCER of the Sigs Pl drowned while bathing in the local swimming pool. Although several arrests have been made the Bn experienced little trouble with the civil population in GROS HANSDORF.	
	19	0800-1145	Bn moved to LUBECK where it took over from 6 SEAFORTHS of 5 Div and became responsible for the guarding of several V.Ps including the DRAGERWERKS, Red Cross Food Dumps, Sugar Barge, Amn Train, the Rly Sta and an Ord Dump. Check points were also est on 3 road and one Rly bridge. Major Hutchinson rejoined the Bn. Coys were located as follows:- "A" - 933,898 "B" - 940,875 "C" - 938,913 "D" - 936,914 Bn HQ in the Labour Exchange 934,904 with Sp Coy opposite.	Movement Order Appx "A" O.O. Appx "B"
LUBECK	21		Funeral of Pte Spencer.	
	25		Bde Comd inspected the Bn informally. Veh check carried out in Bde area.	Appx "C"

			"B" Coy moved to the DRAGERWERKS where it took over from the Mortar Pl.	
	26		Further veh check. Corps Comd visited the Bn.	
	27		Riot between Russians and Poles in one of the many D.P. camps in the Bn area, prevented from becoming serious by a show of strength by the inlying picquet (one Pl "D" Coy and a Carrier Section)	
	28	p.m.	Div Comd carried out an informal inspection of the Bn.	
	29		Check of German Red Cross personnel.	