

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. and the Staff Manual respectively. 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 7th Bn The Seaforth Highlanders

Commanding Officer P.M. HUNT, Lt.Col.

Month and Year February 1945.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	Feb 1		Bn at TILBURG, HOLLAND. Bn training - Assault on strongly defended localities. Getting personnel and equipment fit to fight offensive battles under hard conditions.	
	Feb 2		Bn at TILBURG. Training as above.	
	Feb 3		Bn at TILBURG. Training as above. Bde Op Order No.18 for Op "Veritable" issued.	See Appendix 'E' No.7.
	Feb 4	0930 1600 2345	Bn at TILBURG. Adv Parties leave for Conc Area. Bn leaves TILBURG for NIJMEGEN embussed in TCVs. Bn at NIJMEGEN Barracks 716612. Bde Op Order No.19 - Op "LAYTON" attached with traces.	See Appendix 'D' No.3. See Appendix 'D' No.4. See Appendix 'E' No.10. See Appendix 'E' No.8.
	Feb 5		Bn at NIJMEGEN Barracks (Conc Area) preparing for battle.	
	Feb 6		Bn at NIJMEGEN Barracks (Conc Area) preparing for battle. Amendment to Op "Veritable" No.18. - Amend No.1.	See Appendix 'E' No.9.
	Feb 7		Bn at NIJMEGEN Barracks (Conc Area) preparing for battle. 46 (H) Inf Bde Mov Order No.23, dated 6 Feb 45.	See Appendix 'E' No.11.
	Feb 8	0900 1145 1315 1330	CO's 'O' Group. Bn Bde Reserve. Marching troops leave NIJMEGEN for assembly Area. Order of March 'B' Coy, 'D' Coy, 'C' Coy & 'A' Coy. 'F' Ech leaves NIJMEGEN. Marching troops in Marshalling Area 765553, Sheet 12 NW. Owing to conditions of roads vehs unable to join Bn. Bn to stay put in Marshalling Area until the morning.	
	Feb 9	0520 0900 1430	Marching troops move off to area Gr DRULL 799548, Tac HQ & 'D' Coy 799548, 'A' Coy 800546, 'B' Coy 805544, 'C' Coy 803543. 'F' Ech move to GROSBEEK Rd Junc 757553 to await orders for move via 227 Bde Axis to Join Bn. Rd found impassable owing to mud, mines and flooding. Bn to stay put. 43 Div passing through. All roads to be kept clear from 1800 hrs onwards.	
	Feb 10	0900	Bn area Gr DRULL. Bde OO No 25 "CALCAR" received. No move likely before evening.	

		1130	'F' Ech to move to area FRASSELT.	
		2300	'F' Ech moves to FRASSELT.	
	Feb 11	0300	'F' Ech reaches area North of FRASSELT.	See Appendix 'E' No.12.
		0700	Bn moving to MATTERBORN to take over from KOSB, 44 Bde. Position only temporary previous to move to CALCAR.	
		1030	M.T. Colm to move via TUTHEES 8254. Bn Marching Troops mounted on tanks to join colm.	
		1400	Bn arrives MATTERBORN feature.	
		1530	Take over from KOSB, 44 Bde, completed. Bn HQ 867548, 'A' Coy, 870550, 'B' Coy 865546, 'C' Coy 871546 & 'D' Coy 875552.	
		1630	'D' Coy sent out patrols and enemy contacted.	
		1800	Brig Comd visits Bn HQ. 'C' Coy patrols fwd of area MATTERBORN	
		2030	first light.	
		2330	CO to Brig Comd Conference Warning Order - Bn to move to Kangaroo Park at 0800, 12 Feb and move to main CLEVE Road by 1000 hrs 12 Feb.	
	Feb 12	0700	Bn move to main rd and await orders to move. 46 Bde to seize and hold CALCAR. 7 Seaforth, Sqd Coldstream Gds, Sqn 15 (S) Div Recce, R.E. Pl & Recce Sec, 1 Pl S.P. Tks. Infantry to entank in Kangaroos. Delay was caused just after start by tank being put out of commission by mine.	See attached narrative by Major Binsted O.C. 'B' Coy. Appx J.35
		0900/	Recce reports groups of enemy in factory 907552 and at level	
		1200	crossing 913547. Report clearing enemy from factory.	
		1400	'B' Coy (Vanguard Coy) contact Recce at crossing. 'B' Coy debuss from Kangaroos and attack area 500 yds beyond crossing. The houses in area were held in considerable strength and every house had to be cleared. Four Kangaroos were knocked-out by Bazooka fire. Enemy shelling and mortaring of area became heavy but 'B' Coy after a sticky time got the area cleared, killing 25 and capturing 65 P of W and wounding quite a few. 'B' Coy cas - 2 Officers and 23 ORs. Capt R.L. MacKinnon, 2 i/c 'B' Coy killed. 'D' Coy passed through 'B' Coy and in their Kangaroos reached HASSELT. Here they found the enemy in strength and were under heavy mortar and shell fire with the enemy determined to fight on this axis. Coys were withdrawn to more tactically held positions in area crossing. Bn HQ in factory 907552, 'A' Coy area houses 920544 - 'B' Coy area crossing 913547 - 'C' Coy 918543 - 'D' Coy 915546. Area North of Bn layout was flooded and the water was rising steadily making the left flank impassable to vehs. Total POW for day was 85 with 25 killed and many wounded. Own cas 3 Officers and 29 ORs.	

			C.O. to Bde 'O' Group. Lt.Col. P.M. Hunt left for U.K. leave. Major Gilmour takes over command of Bn. Major Harvey 2 i/c Bn. LIEUT E.C. TISDALL 'D' Coy KILLED.	
	Feb 13	1000 1130 1630 1845 2330 2359	Bn to move on CLEVE - CALCAR Axis and occupy HASSELT and there relieve Recce Sqd. Order of March 'A', 'D', 'C' Bn HQ & 'B' Coy. Rd from 936535 - 934537 - 938534 mined. Cross rds HASSELT mined. COs Recce party goes forward. Coys start marching on HASSELT. Slight enemy shelling and mortaring of area around HASSELT. Enemy S.P. gun located at 949552. Arty dealing with it. All Coys reported in position. Bn HQ 928539, 'A' Coy 937539, 'B' Coy 937537, C 940535, 'D' Coy 943537. C.O. to Brig Comdr's 'O' Group. C.O. held 'O' Group on Op for 14th Feb. Patrols arranged for night 13/14 Feb.	See Appendix 'E' No.13.
	Feb 14	0100 0400 0600 0720 0730 0800 1225 1330 1415 2215	Fighting Patrol from 'C' Coy. Task to go to area 955533 & woods 953527. To use harassing fire and try to draw enemy fire and locate enemy positions. Patrol from 'C' Coy got to within 300 yds of woods but could not get further because of flooding which extends to within 70 yds of main road. Drew small arms fire from wood 953527. 'D' Coy Recce and Fighting Patrol to find out if enemy still in wood 953527. 'D' Coy Patrol report having found no enemy in woods. 'A' Coy Patrol report being fired at from wood 939531. Patrol reached houses ROSENDAHL 944527. Ops cancelled meantime due to floods. CO with Brig Comdr. Bn leaves HASSELT for BEDBURG. Floods have now completely cut off HASSELT - CLEVE Road. Bn at BEDBURG 926528. CO to Bde 'O' Group. Bn to attack MOYLAND astride main axis at 0930 hrs 15 Feb. 9 Cams to capture RING CONTOUR in long wood 9631.	See Appendix No.14.
	Feb 15	0030 0910 0930 0950	CO holds 'O' Group Forward Coys in F.U.P. ROSENDAHL 9452. 'A' Coy Right - 'D' Coy Left. Leading Coys and Tanks start forward. Tanks held up by mines 953526. Inf going on. Pioneer Sec to clear mines.	See Appendix No.15.

		1015 'A' Coy under Spandau fire on their left. Being dealt with by 'D' Coy. 1020 'A' Coy report Houses cleared 955521 on 1st Objective. 1045 'D' Coy just short of Wood 959522 - not starting 2nd Phase until mines are cleared. 1120 'A' Coy now 956521. 'D' Coy withdrawn to wood 953526. Enemy in wood 959524 (Coy Strength). Tanks not able to go fwd until mines cleared. 1215 'B' Coy to go through 'D' Coy and capture wood 959522. 1300 'D' Coy counter attacked. Attack driven off. 6 POW taken and MMG captured. MAJOR D.L. HENDERSON, O.C. 'D' COY KILLED. 1350 'C' Coy to put in attack supported by tanks. Road now clear of mines. 1430 'C' Coy not meeting with much success. Heavy shelling and MG fire from enemy. 1515 'C' Coy ordered to go fwd to wood 959522. 1605 'C' Coy in wood 959522 and are pressing on to clear same to forward edge. 1700 9 Cams attacking RING CONTOUR 963514. 1800 Bn in position astride Rd and Track Junc 959521. Floods still rising on left of axis. 2100 Patrols to keep contact with the enemy during the night. Patrol to MOYLAND to find out in what strength the enemy hold MOYLAND (Patrol from Carrier Pl). 'B' Coy Patrol to area HOUSES 963519. All Patrols came under enemy MG fire and small mortar fire from posns around SCHLOSS 9651.	
	Feb 16	0800 Bn positions: Bn HQ 945528, 'A' Coy 956521, 'B' Coy 948528, 'C' Coy 958521, 'D' Coy 953527, Carrier Section 955525. 1030 Div Comd visits Bn HQ. 1130 Snipers report enemy 949528 crawling in ditch (Claim one killed). 1130 9 Cams counter attacked on Ring Contour. 1200 'D' Coy report enemy at 959525. 1500 Enemy posts located 959523 and MG Post 960518 and 959526. 1540 Snipers fired on by spandau from wood 959523. MMG Post at 960518. 1800 CO's 'O' Group. 'B' Coy to put in Night Attack on woods and main road 959523. Start 0130 hrs, 17 Feb. 46 Bde Op Order No.22 attached.	
	Feb 17	0130 'B' Coy start fwd on Night Attack on wood 959523. 0200 'B' Coy attacking wood from the Right through 'A' Coy.	

		<p>0245 Attack successful. 'B' Coy consolidate and are patrolling forward. R.E. party clearing mines on main road.</p> <p>0430 Road now clear of mines. 'B' Coy ask permission to carry on to area Houses and Wood 963519.</p> <p>0500 'B' Coy Patrol reports area wood 962518 clear of enemy.</p> <p>0545 'B' Coy given permission to go fwd.</p> <p>0720 'B' Coy in area Wood and Houses 963519 and in contact with enemy only 150 yards away. Enemy surprised. Coy under MMG and Mortar Fire. MMG fire from area SCHLOSS 965519.</p> <p>0740 Carrier Section to move up to 'B' Coy and came under Comd. Enemy MMG and Spandau firing from many posns around area SCHLOSS. SCHLOSS probable HQ. 'B' Coy has platoon in area Houses 963519 facing enemy posns in Wood 964519. Pl will be relieved to-night.</p> <p>1600 Activity on Right. Counter attack on 9 Cams area.</p> <p>1700 CO orders 'C' Coy to relieve 'B' Coy at dusk.</p> <p>1920 'C' Coy relieving 'B' Coy.</p> <p>2030 'C' Coy take over 'B' Coy's posns except fwd Pl in Houses 963519.</p> <p>2100 Enemy Spandau Posts at 960524 - 964521 - 963522 - 965523. Being engaged by Arty. Enemy harassing fire along main Rd and in fwd Coy posns.</p>	
	Feb 18	<p>0030 'C' Coy Recce Patrol to 960524. Enemy post cleared.</p> <p>0100 'C' Coy Section occupy 960524.</p> <p>0400 Patrol from 'A' Coy along lake to wood 963518. Contacted small enemy party on edge of wood.</p> <p>0745 Small arms fire on left of 'D' Coy's posn. Fwd Pl taking up better posn for daylight.</p> <p>1130 'C' Coy report enemy trying to establish Spandau Post at X tracks 960524. 'C' Coy's fwd section surprise enemy post and take 7 PoW.</p> <p>1200 'C' Coy area heavily shelled and mortared. DF task brought down.</p> <p>1230 'B' Coy sent Patrol to contact 'C' Coy's left hand posn and clear enemy from posns at 960524. Enemy shelling and mortaring Bn area steadily throughout day.</p> <p>1515 Brig Comd visits Bn HQ.</p> <p>1800 Orders for relief of Bn given out. Recce Parties from incoming unit go over area.</p> <p>2330 Relief starts. 'D' Coy move out.</p>	See Appendix E No.17.
	Feb 19	<p>0050 'A' Coy relieved.</p> <p>0110 'B' Coy relieved.</p> <p>0125 'C' Coy relieved.</p> <p>0245 Relief completed by Bn MAISON NEAVE - 5 Cadn Inf Bde.</p>	

			Bn marches to area 887556 near CLEVE. Veh and Equipment checking and overhauling. Bathing and changes of clothing.	
	Feb 20	1030	Bn at area 887556. Near CLEVE. Div Comd visits Bn HQ. Veh and equipment maintenance.	
	Feb 21	1500	Bn area 887556. Near CLEVE. CO to Bde Comdr's 'O' Group. Bn prepares to move tomorrow A.M. CO holds 'O' Group.	See Appendix E No. 18. See Appendix D No. 5.
	Feb 22	1300 1500 1510 1610 1615 1645 1820 1830 1900 2100 2205 2300	Bn moves to F.U.P. area woods and cross tracks 939438 and await orders to Advance. R Scots Fus in square wood 940420. Still strong enemy opposition there. Bn area being shelled intermittently. New Orders issued as R.S.F. have not occupied completely square wood. 9 Cams to go through R.S.F. and secure preliminary ops. 7 Seaforth to carry out Phase 1 of original orders. H Hour 1615 hrs. Enemy reported in strength wood 940413. 9 Cams successful on their objective, having cleared wood to track junc 944416. Enemy reported area 948418. Orders to stick to objective no matter what happens on our Right. Bn on move fwd. Bn objectives: 'A' Coy Sausage Wood 947415, 'D' Coy SCHROERSHOF 947419 - 'C' Coy Reserve and to follow up and occupy area 946417 - 'B' Coy to wood 951415. 'A' Coy reported on Objective with little opposition except heavy shelling and mortaring. 'D' Coy in SCHROERSHOF clearing buildings. 'C' Coy to combine with 'D' Coy in area woods South of Canal and buildings SCHROERSHOF. Left flank secure with floods. 'A' Coy secure in woods 946415. 'B' Coy clearing triangular woods 949415. 'B' Coy report enemy Patrol in Triangular Wood. Enemy surprised and prisoners taken. LIEUT E.E. YOUNG 'B' COY KILLED. 'B' Coy report clearing enemy from wood. Three enemy killed and six PoW.	See Appendix D No. 6.
	Feb 23	0035 0130	Large numbers of enemy reported area 949411. Arty and 4.2" Mortar & MMG engage. 13 PoW incl one Lieut from 7 Para Regt taken area triangular wood.	

		0340	Coys report all quiet now after heavy enemy stonking of fwd posns.	
		0800	An enemy counter attack launched against 'B' Coy's posn, about 50 strong. This was driven off after about 20 minutes, the enemy suffering some cas. Attack was preceded by heavy shell and mortar fire.	
		0930	44 Bde attacking through 46 Bde. 9 Cams are to be in reserve. If 9 Cams are used 7 Seaforth to occupy bridgehead. Bn positions: Bn HQ (Main) 937439 - Tac HQ Tks Junc 943426 - 'A' Coy area 947415 - 'B' Coy area 951415 - 'C' Coy area 946417, 'D' Coy area 948419.	
		1300	44 Bde reported having reached 939412.	
		1640	44 Bde in wood 9440. Houses 949411 and wood 930413 cleared.	
		1730	Contact made between 'B' Coy and 44 Bde posn in Houses 949411. During the day communications were made difficult owing to enemy shelling and mortaring in the woods, but towards night and with the advance of 44 Bde to our South it lessened considerably. Occasionally SP guns fired from our left flank but these were counter-fired on by our Arty.	
	Feb 24	0700	Hot meals were taken fwd to Coys for first time. Also an issue of self heating soup.	See Appendix E No. 19.
		0945	All unessential vehs to be returned to 'B' Ech.	
		1000	Bn to be relieved tomorrow. Harbour and Guide Parties to be sent to R.V.	
		1730	Harbour Party leaves. Enemy shelling of Bn area much less today. Shells seem to be larger calibre and coming from good distance. Otherwise all quiet.	
	Feb 25		Recce Parties from 1st Bn Suffolks, 3(Br) Div look over Coy areas. Bn relieved by 1 Bn Suffolks. Relief completed by 2100 hrs. Bn concentrate area woods and houses 938438. Relief took place without incident. Enemy shelling had died down and area was comparatively quiet.	
	Feb 26	1300	Bn leaves conc area. M.T. Move.	See Appendix E No. 20.
		1830	Bn arrives back in TILBURG. Bn HQ 158315.	
	Feb 27		Bn at TILBURG (158315). Maintenance on Vehs and Equipment. Checking stores, etc.	
	Feb 28		Bn at TILBURG (158315). Maintenance on Vehs and Equipment. Checking stores, etc.	