

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 278 Fd.Coy.R.E.

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year April 45.

Commanding Officer Major C.R. Nicholls R.E.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
198562	1 April.		Weather:-Showery. Strength: - 7 & 247	
"	2 April.		Rest. Weather:-Rain to Fair. Strength:- 7 & 248. 15.00 hrs GOC Division visited Divisional RE.	
7096	3 April.		Weather:-Showery, Strength 7 & 248. 3 Pln. Orders for road maintenance cancelled. Coy moved at 15.00 hrs and arrived at 22.00 hrs at new location.	
829027	4 April.		Weather:-Showery. Strength:-7 & 248. Coy moved at 08.30 hrs to MESUM MR 829027 arriving at 10.45 hrs. One Sec of 3 Pln maintaining bridge from 20.00 hrs.	
"	5 April.		Weather:-Rain. Strength:- 7 & 248. 3 Pln. Recce Party move to bridge site at 960025 at 13.15 hrs No 4 Sec follows at 14.00 hrs. At 15.00 hrs HQ Sec moves to area 971040. Sections returned at 18.30 hrs after cutting timber and removing stone embankment. Remainder of Coy standing by waiting movement orders.	
"	6 April.		3 Pln. Pl Offr & Recce Party move to bridge site at 06.15 hrs Oxy-acetylene cutting plant commenced work on steel embankment D4 & D6 bulldozers arrived 07.00 hrs, Sections at 07.30 hrs. 2 Pln moved at 07.00 hrs in Bde convoy arriving KUTEN 791160 at 07.30 hrs, 7 April.	
829027	7 April.		Company less 2 Pln moved to KUTEN 791160 arriving 15.00 hrs. Major C.R. Nicholls relinquished command company and struck off strength w.e.f. 7 April 45, under WO MS 1/2731 of 3 April.	
791160	8 April.		2 Pln. Pln moved at 18.00 hrs to assist another Coy on bridging site. Work not commenced. Remainder of Coy conservancy.	
"	9 April.		2 Pln moved off to work on bridge at 06.00 hrs, bridge completed 15.00 hrs. 3 Pln. 2 Sections moved at 17.30 hrs for bridge maintenance on F.B.E. br 830180. Remainder of Coy Conservancy.	
"	10 April.		3 Pln. 2 Sections on bridge maintenance.	

		Remainder of Coy Conservancy and rest. Major C.N. Priestley t o s from 289 Fd Pk RE w.e.f. 10 April 45 and assumes command of unit.	
"	11 April.	Coy move off at 06.15 hrs in Div Convoy to Gr. BURGWEDEL, 4435. Sheet N4, arriving 18.30 hrs. Br Maint sections from 3 Pln joined convoy on route. 2 Pln. One Sec on rd maint in vicinity.	
4435.	12 April.	3 Pln moved off on Div Route maintenance 10.30 hrs, recalled 12.30 hrs. 2 Pln. Rd Maint section returned 10.00 hrs. Coy moved in Bde convoy at 14.30 hrs to WESTERCELLE, 588488 arriving 18.00 hrs.	
WESTERCELLE 588488	13 April.	1 Pln moved off in column with 2 Glas H at 08.15 hrs, arrived MR 826422 22.00 hrs. 3 Pln moved off in column with 7 Seaforths on left flank of main axis at 09.00 hrs, harboured on wood for night. Remainder of Coy moved in Bde convoy on left flank of main axis and bivouacked during night.	
Biv.Rd. Westercelle - Scharnhorst	14 April.	1 Pln. Moved at 09.00 hrs and arrived STADENSEN 900790 at approx 20.30 hrs. 3 Pln. Moved with 7 Seaforths to BANSEN 802839. Two sections build culvert at 808845. 2 Pln. Recce party recce enemy amn dump. Remainder of Coy move with Bde and bivouac for night at SCHARNHORST 715615.	
SCHARNHORST 715615	15 April.	1 Pln. At 04.15 hrs attack developed by enemy battle group supported with tanks and SP guns. Village fired, while leaving the billet burst of m.g. fire fatally wounds one man. Two more men sustained wounds. Platoon withdraw on foot and organised plan of defence. All transport and kit destroyed. Firing ceased 09.00 hrs and Pln regrouped. 2 men believed p.o.w. and six missing. Pln relieved at 14.00 hrs and rejoined Coy at 855745. 3 Pln. Moved off in column at 09.30 hrs-returned to Bde HQ 10.00 hrs and given task of clearing streets in STADENSEN 9079. Returned to harbour MR 878842. 2 Pln. Recce party proceeded on recce of Div route. Remainder of Coy moved to HOLDENSTEDT MR 878842 arriving at 19.30 hrs. Sustained air attack on route at X-roads 855745. 1 OR killed, and two trucks destroyed, other minor casualties.	- All Bn gp tpt lost when village caught fire!
878842	16 April.	2 Pln. One Section on Water Point. Remainder of Coy, Rest and Conservancy.	
"	17 April.	2 Pln. Road Maintenance.	

		Remainder of Coy, Rest and Conservancy.	
"	18 April.	2 Pln. Clearing routes through UELZEN 890890 directed by O.C. Recce Officer recceing routes through UELZEN. Remainder of Coy, Rest and Conservancy.	
878842	19 April	3 Pln. Rd Maint in UELZEN employing civilians. Remainder of Coy moved to ROBBEL 951009 arriving 17.00 hrs. Tactical sit confused and Coy stood to during hours of darkness. 3 Pln rejoined Coy at 18.00 hrs.	
ROBBEL 951009	20 April.	Coy moved to HOLZEN 9120 arriving approx 20.00 hrs.	
HOLZEN 9120	21 April.	Rest and Conservancy.	
"	22 April.	Rest.	
"	23 April.	Rest and Conservancy. 4 Drivers with transport loaned to 8 Corps.	
"	24 April.	Rest and Conservancy.	
"	25 April.	Testing of Weapons. Rest.	
"	26 April.	Coy moved off at 09.30 hrs to MR 805247 ADENDORF. Sheet L5, arriving at approx 11.30 hrs. 3 Pln. Recce Party proceed to br site MR 803285 at 12.00 hrs. Preparatory work begun by one sec, other sections collect timber for packing. 21.30 hrs. Remaining 3 Sections proceed to br site and return 01.00 hrs. 1 Pln. 18 men and 3 NCOs proceed to LUDERSHAUSEN, 814318 to unload Bailey stores for 3 Pln. 2 Pln. Two Sections proceed to task at 21.30 hrs which was culverting as preparatory work to the approaches to the ELBE. Night work as under enemy observation.	
ADENDORF 805247	27 April.	2 Pln. Sections returned 04.30 hrs, slept and continued with task at 21.30 hrs. 1 Pln. Working party returned 01.00 hrs. At 22.30 hrs work commenced on 50 yds corduroy approach to 70' D/S Bailey at 814317. 3 Pln. Work continues on br site. Construction commences 21.30 hrs, completed 03.30 hrs.	
"	28 April.	1 Pln. Working party returns 04.00 hrs. Pln loading fascines on tipper at 18.00 hrs. Recce party of 1 L/Sgt and 2 ORs joins 9 Cameronians for initial crossing of ELBE. 2 Pln. 19.30 hrs 1 NCO and 1 OR proceed to 9 Cameronians to carry out any recce on far bank of ELBE.	

		3 Pln. Two sections in half tracks to ARTLENBURG, 835345 for maintenance of LVT routes on near banks. 2 Bulldozers attached to pln.	
"	29 April.	2 Pln. One section and two half tracks to bank of ELBE to give assistance to recce party with Cameronians if required. Returned 07.30 hrs. 11.30 hrs OC in jeep with wireless crossed ELBE in LVT joining Bde Tac HQ at 861345. Coy moved to assembly area 892268 at 09.30 hrs. 2 Pln. Moved throughout the night waiting for Cl.9.FBE to open.	Weekly AFs W3008 & W3009
On the Move.	30 April.	3 Pln. Crossed river at 04.30 hrs by Cl.9 FBE bridge. Arrived harbour 06.45 hrs 886360 BUCHHORST. Remainder of Coy crossed Cl 9 FBE approx 15.00 hrs and arrived area 886360 BUCHHORST at 18.00 hrs.	CN Priestley Major RE OC 278 Fd Coy RE