

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 HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year JUNE 1944

Commanding Officer Brigadier HDK MONEY DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BEACH HOTEL WORTHING	2	0915  1430	All members of Bde HQ attended a small demonstration given by the BM of Ground/Air Recognition Sigs All ranks watched demonstration circus of American and British aircraft which flew round WORTHING	
	6	0200 0300  0940 1400 2000	Many aircraft heard crossing over. Report from 6 KOSB that a glider has fallen into the sea off the coast. Reported to SUSSEX Dist Official announcement from BBC that the invasion of FRANCE has begun Maps, pamphlets etc of FRANCE issued to bns A whole Airborne Div passed over WORTHING	
	7	1200  2130	LO went to SECO Movements and returned with the orders for adv party to move tonight Adv party moved. They went to Marshalling area at CANNING TOWN, LONDON DOCKS. Adv party consisted of Bde Comd, SC, Bde IO, Sigs Offr, G III, Lt WEBSTER and dvrs etc. Adv party subsequently left the THAMES on 11 Jun and landed in NORMANDY on 13 Jun near COURSEUILLES-SUR-MER	
	8		Main body still at WORTHING	
MARSHALLING AREA, LONDON DOCKS	11	1000 1400	LO went to SECO Movements to receive orders for move of Bde HQ Bde HQ and 8 RS moved off to Marshalling area in LONDON DOCKS	
	12	1600	Vehs started loading on ships	
AT SEA	13	1630 2045	All personnel embarked Ship sailed	
	14	2130	Convoy forming at Mouth of THAMES and later sailed	
NORMANDY	16		Convoy arrived off NORMANDY beaches	
BRECY, NORMANDY	17	2115	Bde HQ came on shore and moved up to BRECY where the adv party were met Bde Comd and BM went to Div HQ for a conference - plan divulged of taking over from 51 Div by this Bde EAST of R ORNE, with a view to breaking out EAST of CAEN	
	18	0800	Bde Comd, BM, SC and Sigs Offr spent day doing recce in 51 Div area	

BRECY, NORMANDY		1000 2000 2100	Bde IO puts COs into the picture at Bde HQ. They later met the Bde Comd at RANVILLE, EAST OF R ORNE, for recces. All returned to Bde H.Q. Bde Comd and BM went to a conference at Div, at which the whole plan was cancelled.	
	19	2100	Very wet day. Bde Comd and BM went to a conference at Div HQ - new plan for 8 Corps to attack WEST of CAEN through the Cdns - Op "EPSOM".	
	20		Bde Comd, Bde IO etc made recce of ground for the attack near BRETTEVILLE-L'ORGUEILLEUSE with the Queens Own Rifles of CANADA. Went up to fwd oot at NORREY-EN-BESSIN.	
	21		Attack postponed owing to bad weather which is holding up the landing. Recces on the Cdn's front continued.	
	22	0915	(O) Gp at Bde HQ. Bde Comd later visited Cdn OPs at NORREY-EN-BESSIN. Preparation for Op EPSOM continued.	
	23	1715	BM went to conference at Div HQ.	
	24	2230	Another day of preparation for Op EPSOM. Bde HQ moved to assembly area in SECQUEVILLE-EN-BESSIN, along with Bde Gp.	Appx "A"
SECQUEVILLE- EN-BESSIN	25		The morning was spent in briefing conferences and preparation for Op EPSOM. Bns moved up to FUP near NORREY-EN-BESSIN.	Appx "B"
SECQUEVILLE- EN-BESSIN	26	0600 0730 1103 1700 1635	Tac Bde HQ moved up to fwd posn in a farm near NORREY-EN-BESSIN held by Cdns. <u>Op EPSOM began.</u> 8 RS and 6 RSF with tks of 9 R Tks moved fwd behind a barrage to capture LA GAULE and ST MAUVIEU. 46 Bde on the RIGHT going for LE HAUT DU BOSQ and CHEUX. 8 RS taken all objectives. 6 RSF had some tough village fighting in ST MAUVIEU and a lot of trouble with snipers. They had captured most of their objectives by 1600 hrs but suffered by casualties in rifle coys. 6 KOSB moved up to relieve 6 RSF and captured the rest of their objective - BOULIESSE-LE-PERRON. Tac Bde HQ moved up on to the battlefield, where it remained all night. Four or five young GERMANS of the 12 SS Pz Div "HITLERJUGEND" were found by Bde HQ hiding in the undergrowth during this period. They were all 18-19 years of age and very scared. Bde relieved overnight by 130 Inf Bde of 43 Div and conc in Div Res in area LE MESNIL PATRY. Main Bde HQ moved and joined Tac Bde HQ there.	Appx "C"
LE MESNIL PATRY	27		44 Bde had a quiet day in res while 227 Bde pushed on and crossed the R ODON.	

	28	1010 1430  1930	6 KOSB moved up to relieve 10 HLI at LE HAUT DU BOSQ. 'O' Gp at Bde HQ - 8 RS to go off on RIGHT flank and do a drive SOUTH to clear the enemy from the pocket of ground between 15 Div and 49 Div - from CAEN - FONTENAY rd SOUTH to western outskirts of GRANVILLE-SUR-ODON, where they were to link up with 9 CAMERONIANS. Zero hr for 8 RS attack - 1930 hrs. 8 RS met opposition and did not complete their task before dark.	
LE MESNIL PATRY	29	0700  1000 1030  1315 1545 1647 1802  1805  2130 2315	8 RS began attack to get their objective but again made slow progress. Tac HQ moved fwd to posn on lateral rd FONTENAY - CAEN. 8 RS "A" and "C" Coys on objective - "B" and "D" Coys thought to be on objective. 8 RS were then counter-attacked and pushed back. 8 RS counter-attacked successfully. 8 RS finally reported firmly in posn on objective. 6 RSF moved up to take over from 8 RS. Counter-attack developed on 8 RS and 6 RSF. This counter-attack over-ran 8 RS and 6 RSF fwd coys and the situation became difficult for a time. Bde Tac HQ moved up to LE HAUT DU BOSQ but withdrew again to the lateral rd one mile back as the counter-attack developed. This counter-attack was eventually contained and bns remained in original posns. Bde Tac HQ returned to LE HAUT DU BOSQ. 6 KOSB relieved 6 RSF and 8 RS and the latter two bns took up posns behind.	
	30	1100 1450	Bde organised itself in def posn in front of LE HAUT DU BOSQ. Main Bde HQ moved to LE HAUT DU BOSQ. No further enemy developments took place on this front today.  Up to date Bde HQ had suffered no cas.  Weekly Str Returns att.	Appx "D"

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**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 44 (L) Inf Bde

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year JUL 1944

Commanding Officer Brigadier HDK MONEY, DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LE HAUT DU BOSQ	1	0703 1500 1915	Bde was holding a def posn in front of LE HAUT DU BOSQ, with 6 KOSB in front and 6 RSF and 8 RS behind. 6 KOSB reported being attacked by inf and tks. This attack also came in on 49 Div on the right (70 Inf Bde). Confused fighting continued intermittently all day. 6 KOSB reported right hand posn partly knocked out. A Tk guns knocked out. Opposition chiefly tks. Counter-attack organised by Bde Comd, by one coy 6 RSF, supported by two sqns 7 R Tks, one sqn 3 C of L YEO, two SP A Tk Btys, collected from the neighbourhood, restored 6 KOSB posn before nightfall. The counter-attack had been done by 19 SS Pz Gren Regt of 9 SS Pz Div.	
	2		Relief of 44 Bde by 71 Bde of 53 Div. 44 Bde moved back to rest area at ST CROIX GRAND TONNE on CAEN-BAYEUX rd.	
ST CROIX GRAND TONNE	3	1215	Talk by GOC 15 (S) Div to all ranks Bde HQ - and later to bns. Appx 'C' to OO No 2 issued.	Appx 'A'
	4	1030	Bde Comd and BM went to conference at Div HQ on lessons from recent battle. OO No 3 issued.	Appx 'B'
	5	1430	Bde Comd and BM went to Div and heard Gen MONTGOMERY talking to COs.	
	6		Op Instr No 1 issued.	Appx 'C'
	7	1000 1230 2330	Bde Gp put at 3 hrs notice to move - 'O' Gp at 15 mins notice. Bde 'O' Gp - 44 Bde to relieve 130 Bde in TOURVILLE area. Bde took over - Bde HQ at TOURVILLE. Under comd 43 Div.	
TOURVILLE	8	0600 1100	Hand-over complete. Bde came under comd 53 Div. Bde in def posn - 8 RS at TOURMAUVILLE, 6 RSF at BARON, 6 KOSB at TOURVILLE.	Appx 'D'
	9		Quiet day in contact with the enemy. 44 Bde were to be relieved by 159 Bde but this was cancelled.	Appx 'E'
	10		43 Div on the left put in the attack to capture ESQUAY and pt 112. This resulted in a good deal of mor, shell-fire etc falling on 44	

			Bde posns. LO 2 spent the day at HQ of 129 Bde passing infm on the progress of the attack.	
TOURVILLE	11	0045 2100  2200	8 RS relieved by 5 WELCH, who came under comd 44 Bde. 44 Bde HQ, 6 RSF and 6 KOSB relieved by 160 Bde of 53 Div and returned to area ST CROIX GRAND TONNE. GOC 15 (S) Div arrived at Bde HQ just before the move and stated that the Div were to come under 12 Corps and do an attack across the ODON to capture GAVRUS, BOUGY, EVRECY, and the high ground beyond.	Appx 'F'
ST CROIX GRAND TONNE	12	0200 2100	Relief completed. 'O' Gp at Div HQ.	
	13	1000	Bde 'O' Gp at Bde HQ. Day spent in preparation for forthcoming attack.	
	14	0900 1800	Bde 'O' Gp at Bde HQ. Briefing conference at Bde HQ, attended by GOC 15 (S) Div and all Bde Coy Comds. Bns moved down to FAA in TOURVILLE area by night.	
BRIDGE over ODON near TOURMAUVILLE	15	0600 2215 2245	Bde HQ moved to new HQ at the br over the ODON between TOURVILLE and TOURMAUVILLE. <u>Op "GREENLINE"</u> began with attack on ESQUAY by 2 Glas H. 6 KOSB attack on pt 113 began, preceded by arty and with the help of artificial mov light.	Appx 'G'.
BRIDGE over ODON near TOURMAUVILLE.	16	0045  0135 0255 0530  1018  1215 1600 1700 1945 2015	6 KOSB with little opposition got their first objective. The night was confused and 227 Bde HQ on the left became disorganised, Brigadier JR MACKINTOSH-WALKER, MC, being killed. Zero for 2nd objective attack. 6 KOSB reported 2nd objective captured, but they had difficulty in establishing contact with 2 GORDONS of 227 Bde on their left. 8 RS began Phase "DUNBAR" of Op "GREENLINE" - the capture of GAVRUS and BOUGY, supported by 34 Tk Bde. At Bde HQ there was a good deal of shelling and mortaring and one bomb landed near the Sigs office, wounding several members of Bde HQ, incl Capt GIROTTI and Lt STEARS, Sigs Offrs. Phase "DUNBAR" complete - GAVRUS and BOUGY captured. COs of 8 RS and 6 KOSB both wounded and evac. 6 KOSB posn was made difficult by failure of attempt to capture ESQUAY on left. 6 RSF moved up to GAVRUS - 8 RS at BOUGY. Counter-attack by inf and tks against 8 RS beaten off. 6 KOSB est contact with 2 GORDONS on their left. Counter-attack by inf on 6 KOSB beaten off. Counter-attack by inf on 6 KOSB again repulsed.	

		2050	Army Comd congratulates all ranks of 44 Bde on "a splendid performance".	
	17	1915 2200	Attack by 158 Bde on EVRECY failed. Attack by inf on 6 KOSB repulsed. 158 Bde again attacked EVRECY and again failed.	
SCHOOL at MONDRAINVILLE	18	0615 1530 1800	Small counter-attack by inf on 6 KOSB beaten off. Bde HQ moved to School at MONDRAINVILLE which was anticipated to be a quieter area. 6 RSF, who had been heavily mortared and shelled at GAVRUS moved NORTH of R ODON.	
	19	1700	44 Bde relieved today by 71 Bde and went to rest area near HAUT DU BOSQ. Bde HQ received by shelling incl a direct hit on Offrs' Mess in the School. One slight cas only - narrow escape of mess staff. Capt BLACK and Lt E KNOTT joined Bde HQ as Sigs Offrs vice Capt GIROTTI and Lt STEARS wounded.	Appx 'H'
FIELD WEST of HAUT DU BOSQ	20	0332 0410 0700 1415	Relief of 6 KOSB completed. Relief of 8 RS completed. Relief of Bde HQ completed. GOC 15 (S) Div addsd personnel of Bde HQ and read to them special message given to him by Gen MONTGOMERY. Lt J MURRAY, KOSB, joined Bde HQ as Camp Comd.	
FIELD WEST of HAUT DU BOSQ	21	2000 2200	6 KOSB, being shelled in their location, were moved further NORTH. Bde Comd and Bde IO went to Div 'O' Gp Conference, where the plan was divulged for 15 (S) Div to take over from 5 US Div in area CAUMONT.	
	22	1900	Bde Comd and recce party went to BALLEROY and then made recce of new area. 44 Bde is to take over from 10 US Regt just WEST of CAUMONT. 'O' Gp at Div HQ.	
SALLEN	23		44 Bde Gp moved to CAUMONT area and began to take over from 10 US Regt (Mov Order No 2).	Appx 'I'
	24	0800	Relief complete. The new area was very much quieter and less affected by the war than the ODON sector.	
	25		Normal activity - patrolling at night.	
	26	1920	Relief of 44 Bde by 46 Bde (Mov Order No 3). 6 KOSB relief complete.	Appx 'J'
Near CAUMONT	27	0245 0305	8 RS relief complete. 6 RSF relief complete. Bde moved back to rest area NORTH of CAUMONT.	Appx 'K'

			Capt GIROTTI returned and took over as Bde Sigs Offr. Capt BLACK returned to Div Sigs.	
	28	1800 2130	Bde to move back to SALLEN to relieve 46 Bde. 'O' Gp at Div HQ for Op "BLUECOAT"	
SALLEN	29	0500 1000 1400 1800	Relief complete. 'O' Gp Bde HQ. Patrols sent out by bns to keep contact with enemy who showed signs of withdrawing. Brigadier HDK MONEY, DSO, received appointment in ENGLAND and left Bde after comd for more than 3 years. Brigadier JC COCKBURN, MBE, took over.	
	30	0655	Op "BLUECOAT" began - attack by 227 Bde followed by 46 Bde on the high ground EAST of ST MARTIN DES BAGACES. Div supported by 6 Gds Tk Bde - 44 Bde initially in res. After successful fighting all day, by 2300 hrs 46 Bde were on their objectives.	Appx 'L'
AUBIGNY SOUTH of CAUMONT	31	0400	44 Bde moved up behind 227 Bde in res near AUBIGNY, SOUTH of CAUMONT. 6 RSF were under comd 227 Bde as left flank protection. During the rest of the day, 11 Armd and Gd Armd went through and 15 Div formed left flank screen, 8 RS and 4 GREN Gds in the evening pushed up on the left of 46 Bde as flank protections in area BOIS DU HOMME.  Weekly str returns att.	

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**WAR DIARY**

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Unit HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

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Month and Year Aug 44

Commanding Officer Brigadier JC COCKBURN, MBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
AUBIGNY SOUTH of CAUMONT	1	0330  1735	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 2 issued.</u> 44 (L) Inf Bde were in def posns on LEFT of main thrust giving flank protection. There were some confused enemy counter attacks area BOIS DU HOMME during the morning, but these were all broken up by arty. 6 KOSB (on MINDEN DAY) made an attack towards BOIS DU HOMME to fill the gap between 8 RS and 7 SEAFORTH through which the enemy were infiltrating. This attack was successful. 18 PsW from 125 Pz GR of 21 Pz Div were taken. Strong enemy forces were thought to be in BOIS DU HOMME woods preparing counter attack.	Appx 1.
	2	1645	A quiet day consolidating posns. Contact was est with 43 Div on LEFT. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Instr No 2 issued.</u> <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 1 issued.</u>	Appx 2 Appx 3
	3	0815  1600 2130	Bde Gp at one hrs notice to move after 1000 hrs. Bde Comd and Bde IO went fwd to Gds Armd Div HQ and made recce. 7 SEAFORTH came under comd 44 (L) Inf Bde and moved fwd behind Gds Armd Div. Bde Gp and Bde HQ moved up to area LE TOURNEUR. 6 RSF with one sqn 4 TK GREN GDS attacked and captured MONT CHAUVET.	
LE TOURNEUR	4	0630  1254 1700	8 RS, 6 KOSB and 1 WG attacked hill feature EAST of LE BENY BOCAGE which was holding up Gds Armd Div and cleared it. 44 (L) inf Bde were under comd Gds Armd Div. 1 WG ordered to occupy MONTCHAMP and return to comd of 32 Gds Bde. 1 WG attack against MONTCHAMP met hy resistance and did not succeed.	
	5	1300	Bde Gp at 4 hrs notice to move, but did not move today. 46 (H) Inf Bde passed through.	
LE HAUT	6		46 (H) Inf Bde attacked on LEFT but were unsuccessful and 44 (L) Inf Bde in the afternoon moved up to area EAST of MONTCHAUVET. 46	



EAST of MONTCHAUVET			(H) Inf Bde moved back to area CAVERIE and LE CORNU and 227 (H) Inf Bde failed to capture ESTRY. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Instr No 3 issued.</u> <u>Outline of Ops by 8 Corps issued.</u>	Appx 4 Appx 5
	7	0330	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 3 issued.</u> 44 (L) Inf Bde moved to posns covering the gap between MONTCHAMP and ESTRY. Bde HQ moved to top of hill above MONTCHAMP and later to MONTCHARIVEL. Series of 'O' Gps held today to plan attack on ESTRY.	Appx 6
	8	1200	6 RSF on LEFT and 6 KOSB on RIGHT with tks of 4 GREN GDS attacked ESTRY. Tks were held up by difficult ground and 6 RSF inf were pinned down by MG fire and could not make progress. 6 KOSB made progress on to objective but were then forced to withdraw by hy MG and mor fire. 8 RS on LEFT were relieved by 2 A & SH and conc behind 6 RSF and 6 KOSB.	
	9	0255 1330 2100	8 RS reported in new posn. 6 RSF and 6 KOSB were holding on at ESTRY. Counter attack by inf and tks on 6 KOSB repulsed by arty. Further counter attack on 6 KOSB beaten off. Bde HQ moved to a farm near MONTCHAMP, NORTH of ESTRY, where it was shelled during the night by a SP gun from ESTRY.	
Farm near MONTCHAMP	10		It was thought that the enemy might be withdrawing from ESTRY but patrols est they were still there.	
Farm near MONTCHAMP	11	1315 2035	No change - enemy still in ESTRY. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 4 issued and Amendment No 1.</u> A sqn of TYPHOON rocket-firing fighters attacked LE THIEL, just behind ESTRY.	Appx 7
	12	1200	Still no enemy withdrawal from ESTRY. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 1 issued.</u> 8 RS overnight relieved 6 RSF and 6 KOSB.	Appx 8
	13	0345 1610	Relief by 8 RS complete. There were indications throughout the day that enemy were withdrawing. 8 RS reported a patrol had got right through ESTRY and found no enemy. A carrier patrol from 8 RS later reached LE THIEL, SOUTH of ESTRY. During the night 44 (L) Inf Bde was relieved by 159 Bde of 11 Armd Div, and moved to a conc area near ST PIERRE TARENTAINE.	
	14	0215 0420 1300	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 4 issued.</u> Hand over complete. Bde HQ moved to a field at ST PIERRE TARENTAINE. Bde moved away from the CAUMONT sector of the front and came back under comd of 12 Corps. The move was via MONTAMY - JURQUES - VILLERS BOCAGE - NOYERS - Verson - AMAYE-SUR-ODON, past the old ODON battlefields.	Appx 9

AMAYE-SUR- ODON	15	1130	GOC 15 (S) Inf Div visited units in the Bde.	
	16		A quiet day at same location.	
	17	1300 2300	WARNING ORDER - Div to be prepared to move NOT before 0600 hrs, 18 Aug, to area FRESNEY - BOIS HALBOUT. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 5 issued.	Appx 10
BOIS HALBOUT	18	0900	Bde moved to new location via THURY HARCOURT.	
	19		No move. Bde resting.	
	20		Still no move.	
	21	)	No move.	
	22	)		
	23	0030 1400 1500	44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Instr No 6 issued. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 7 issued - Op "GALLOP". Also Amendment No 1 Bde Gp moved through FALAISE to area DAMBLAINVILLE.	Appx 11 Appx 12
DAMBLAINVILLE	24		Bde Gp prepared to move EAST from DAMBLAINVILLE but did not get under way until 1500 hrs. Moved via ST FOI DE MONTGOMERY - VIMOUTIERS to short of ORBEC. Bde HQ spent the night in a field beside the rd some miles from ORBEC.	
ORBEC - LE NEUBOURG rd	25	0200 0630	44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 8 issued. Bde Gp continued the adv via ORBEC - BERNAY - BEAUMONT-LE-ROGER - LE NEUBOURG. Some trouble was occasioned by brs blown at BEAUMONT-LE-ROGER, but after a pause the adv was continued. Bde HQ reached LE NEUBOURG about 0100 hrs.	Appx 13
LE NEUBOURG	26	2320	Bde remained here all day in def posns. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 9 issued.	Appx 14
LE NEUBOURG	27	2330	Bde moved today to area LOUVIERS preparatory to crossing the R SEINE, but the situation was fluid and 227 (H) Inf Bde crossed the SEINE about 1830 hrs. 6 RSF crossed the R SEINE and est brhead.	
LOUVIERS	28	0150 0650 1000 1200 2300	6 RSF reported all bn across and est. Bde HQ moved to roadside above the R SEINE. 8 RS all over the river. 6 KOSB all over the river. Ferrying of tpt over the river went on hard all day. 6 RSF attacked and captured SENNEVILLE.	
Roadside above R SEINE	29	1315	6 KOSB and 8 RS pushed NORTH and est wider br head incl LA LONDE - VATTEVILLE - BACQUEVILLE - HERQUEVILLE. Bde HQ crossed the R SEINE and est at VATTEVILLE.	

VATTEVILLE	30		Bde remained in posns and 7 Armd Div and 53 Div went through to the NORTH. Many prisoners - stragglers - were rounded up from woods and fields.	
	31	1430	8 RS and 6 RSF drove through Forest of BACQUEVILLE to clear it of GERMANS, but did not find any.  <u>Casualty Returns attached.</u>	

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**WAR DIARY**

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Unit 44 (L) Inf Bde

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year SEP 1944

Commanding Officer Brigadier JC COCKBURN, MBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
VATTEVILLE nr R SEINE	1	1008 1820	Warning Order for Bde to move on 2 Sep to area SW of AMIENS. This warning order was cancelled.	
	2	1645	No move today. There was difficulty in getting TCVs. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 10 issued.	Appx 1.
	3	0900 2100	Bde HQ with Bde Gp moved 25 miles NORTH to LA FEUILLIE where the night was spent. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 11 issued.	Appx 2.
LA FEUILLIE	4	0930 2205	Bde HQ with Bde Gp moved another 30 miles to area SW of AMIENS - Bde HQ at CRIQUERIE. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 12 issued.	Appx 3.
CRIQUERIE	5	1020	Bde HQ with Bde Gp moved across the SOMME by the following route GOURCHELLES - HORNOY - AUMONT - AIRAINES - LONGPRE - LONG - AILLY - AUXI - LIGNY - FILLIEVRES - ST POL, where the night was spent. Many abandoned German guns and smashed vehs etc were seen on the rd and round ST POL were seen many flying bomb sites.	
ST POL	6	0330 0930 2200 2330	44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 13 issued. Bde HQ with Bde Gp in Contact Battle fmn adv to BELGIUM. Route:- DIVION - CAMBLIGNEUL - HERSIN - VERMELLES - WINGLES - AMMEULLIN - LILLE - HALLUIN. The whole adv today was a triumphal procession through cheering crowds, and enthusiastic scenes took place when the Belgian border was crossed. Contact with the enemy was made at MENIN and LAUWE. 6 KOSB were sent into a brhead across the canal at LAUWE and remainder of Bde took up def posns - Bde HQ in a chateau near HALLUIN. Bde Comd with Bde IO went to 'O' Gp at Div HQ near TOURCOING. 'O' Gp at Bde HQ.	Appx 4.
HALLUIN	7	1915	Bde hold the line of the canal on both sides of COURTRAI and a lot of shelling was directed at enemy attempting to withdraw Northwards and NE. 6 RSF crossed the canal EAST of COURTRAI and captured DEERLYCK, cutting the enemy's escape route. 75 prisoners were taken.	

	8	0810	Bde HQ moved to outskirts of COURTRAI. 8 RS moved NORTH across canal to HARLEBEKE and 6 KOSB pushed through up the rd to DEYNZE. Bde all est in new areas by evening.	
COURTRAI	9	1000 2300	Bde HQ moved to banks of canal EAST of COURTRAI and later to a farm NE of HARLEBEKE. No other moves today. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 14 issued.	Appx 5.
nr HARLEBEKE	10	0800	Bde HQ and Bde Gp moved today to area MALINES via KERKHOVE - RENAIX - NEDERBRAKEL - NINOVE - ASSCHE - BRUSSEGHEM - WOLVERTREM.	
nr MALINES	11	2245	A quiet day. 44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 15 issued.	Appx 6.
	12	0800	Bde HQ and Bde Gp moved to area WESTERLOO on the ALBERT CANAL via PUTTE - HEYSTOP-DEN-BERG - BOISSCHOT - WESTMEERBEEK and took over from 151 Bde of 50 Div in brhead between ALBERT CANAL and MEUSE - ESCAUT CANAL in area of GHEEL. Bde HQ moved into area SOUTH of ALBERT CANAL.	
nr ALBERT CANAL	13	0440 0800 1700 2200	8 RS patrol reported no enemy now in GHEEL. 8 RS moved two coys into GHEEL. During the day it was gradually established that the enemy were withdrawing NORTH of the MEUSE - ESCAULT canal blowing the brs. Bde HQ moved to a field SOUTH of GHEEL and NORTH of the ALBERT CANAL. 6 KOSB tried to cross the canal NORTH of GHEEL and managed to get a sec over. They failed to get any more tps over and were pinned down by fire.	
NORTH of ALBERT CANAL	14	0600 1130 2300	8 RS crossed the MEUSE - ESCAULT canal NORTH of GHEEL in area of AART. The crossing was done in rubber boats and by 0800 hrs all four rifle coys were over. 6 KOSB had to withdraw from their posns SOUTH of the canal owing to flooding. The situation on 8 RS front gradually deteriorated throughout the day and very hy fire on the crossing prevented RES completing a br. Rafts, however, were got working and some carriers and A Tk guns got across in the evening. 8 RS reported they were being counter-attacked and that two tks had broken in. Situation was confused.	
NORTH of ALBERT CANAL	15	0240 0745 1000 1230 1625	8 RS reported two fwd coys depleted and driven back into bn area. 8 RS reported situation critical and being counter-attacked from all directions. 181 Fd Regt reported that 8 RS were still in the village of AART and that the enemy had drawn off and were shelling the village. 6 RSF started to cross canal to assist 8 RS. By 1430 6 RSF were all over and situation was easier. Eight Typhoons strafed enemy bty which was giving trouble.	

		1742	6 RSF reported they were being counter-attacked. Two counter attacks came in and were repulsed but 6 RSF had to withdraw slightly.	
		1930	6 KOSB crossed canal and fanned out to LEFT of brhead. A further counter attack came in before dark.	
		2100	Bde HQ moved through GHEEL to a small field a mile from the canal and on the outskirts of GHEEL. Restriction on amn expenditure by ARTY and Mors hindered the Bde in this op.	
NORTH of GHEEL	16	0315	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 2 issued.</u>	Appx 7.
		0730	An enemy counter-attack which came in on the brhead delayed the op described in the above OO.	
		0930	6 KOSB and 6 RSF reported they were unable to form up and after Bde Comd had visited them the attack was called off. Hy shelling by the enemy continued all day.	
		2000	A hy counter attack began to form up EAST of the brhead - estimated str - one bn of inf. The attack was smashed by hy arty and mor fire and enemy drew off after suffering hy cas.	
	17		8 RS were withdrawn overnight and by 0900 were all out of the brhead.	
		1230	For 2 hrs a grandstand view was obtained of the aircraft passing over to HOLLAND. This was the landings of the British, American and Polish airborne forces in areas ARNHEM - EINDHOVEN etc. This wonderful sight had a considerable tonic effect on the tps in the brhead. 2 American airmen baled out near Bde HQ and were rescued.	
	18	0245	2 A&SH of 227 Bde were all over canal and took over from 6 RSF, who began to cross the canal at 0730 hrs. Relief was complete by 1100 hrs without cas. 6 RSF remained in area GHEEL and 8 RS moved to MOLL to take over a further stretch of the canal.	Appx 8.
		0245	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 5 issued.</u>	
		1800	6 KOSB and 2 A&SH still in brhead, were counter attacked but the attack was broken up by arty. It was made by one inf bn supported by 2 tks.	
		2200	2 GORDONS of 227 Bde began to cross canal to relieve 6 KOSB.	
NORTH of GHEEL	19	0040	2 GORDONS completely across without cas.	Appx 9.
		0340	6 KOSB recrossed canal and comd of brhead passed from 44 Bde to 227 Bde.	
		1000	Bde HQ moved to School in MOLL along with 6 RSF and took over comd of sector of canal NORTH of MOLL. This was comparatively quiet.	
		2345	<u>Warning Order for possible Ops 20 Sep issued.</u> This op did not take place.	

MOLL	20	1326	Warning Order from Div that 7 Armd Div will take over from 44 Bde on 21 Sep. BM went to HQ 131 Bde to arrange relief.	
	21	0845 0900 1600	44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 6 issued. 131 Bde took over responsibility for 44 Bde's sector. 44 Bde Gp started to move to EINDHOVEN in HOLLAND. It was very slow owing to congestion on the rds and a temporary halt was made overnight near WESTERHOVEN.	Appx 10.
nr WESTERHOVEN HOLLAND	22	1400  2015	After delay all morning due to traffic congestion, Div issued orders at 1316 to 44 Bde to move. Bde Gp moved into harbour areas in EINDHOVEN. 6 KOSB were placed under comd 46 Bde and pushed over the WILHELMINA Canal into area BEST. 44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 7 issued.	Appx 11.
EINDHOVEN	23		The attempt to adv in contact fmn towards BOXTEL was unsuccessful and Recce were held up NORTH of BEST. 6 RSF went through and captured DEVLEUT but 46 Bde made very slow progress in their attack on BEST.	
	24	0730	8 RS crossed br and pushed up main rd NORTH of BEST but were held up. Little progress was made today.	
	25		Little activity except patrols today.	
	26	0630 1030 1030	6 RSF made a small attack on an enemy posn NORTH of DE VLEUT which was successful. 72 prisoners were taken. Bde HQ moved to DE VLEUT, about one mile from the enemy. 227 Bde started attack on RIGHT of 6 RSF to clear woods NORTH of DE VLEUT. This attack was successful.	
DE VLEUT	27	0730  2130	6 KOSB moved to the RIGHT of 6 RSF and attacked SOUTH of R DOMMEL. This was initially successful, but later one coy was held up and suffered cas. 6 RSF went through 6 KOSB and captured the objective which had held up 6 KOSB.	
	28	0630  1630	8 RS went through 6 RSF and captured FRATERSHOEF to the NORTH. Over 40 prisoners were taken. A counter attack on 8 RS was broken up completely by arty and Mor fire.	
	29	1000	Bde HQ moved to castle at ST OEDENRODE. There was a slight adjustment of posns by bns, but no major move and little activity all day.	
ST OEDENRODE Castle	30		A quiet day until 1800 when hy shelling developed on bn areas and there was a report of a counter-attack between 8 RS and 6 RSF. Very hy arty concs were fired by the Div arty. No counter attack	

		<p>developed, and it was not established if in fact one had been intended.</p> <p>Lt IA MUNRO, RSF, relinquished his appointment as LO at Bde HQ after a year to return to 6 RSF as Int Offr. His place at Bde HQ was taken by Lt B PRESTON, 6 RSF.</p> <p>Cas returns att.</p>	
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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde & Def Pl

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year OCT 1944

Commanding Officer Brigadier JC COCKBURN, MBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ST ODENRODE HOLLAND	1	1958 2045 2230 2308	The Bde was holding the area some four miles WEST of ST ODENRODE, with the remainder of 15 (S) Div on its LEFT. Preparations were made today for relief by 153 Bde of 51 (H) Div. 'C' Coy 1 MX relief reported complete. 6 KOSB relief reported complete. 6 RSF relief complete. 8 RS relief reported complete.	
	2	0050	Bde HQ handed over to 153 Bde HQ and moved to GEMERT, with 8 RS and 6 RSF in GEMERT and 6 KOSB at BOEKEL (E53). Orders were that the Bde should rest for five days. This was the first real rest the Bde had had since NORMANDY, having been in contact with the enemy for 27 days and previously on the move across FRANCE, BELGIUM and HOLLAND. Trg with assault boats across canals was to be given priority.	
GEMERT	3		Bde resting.	
	4		Bde resting. Assault boat trg carried out.	
	5		Bde resting. Assault boat trg carried out.	
	6	0900 1430 1800	Bde Comd and BM attended Div 'A' Conference at Div HQ, which developed into a Div 'O' Gp at 1000 hrs. Div Comd addressed all offrs of the Div at HELMOND. This was followed by a Massed Pipes and Drums display by the Div bands through the streets of HELMOND to HELMOND CASTLE, where the Burgomaster and local worthies were received by GOC 15 (S) Div. Lt Gen Sir RICHARD O'CONNOR, Comd 8 Corps, also attended. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Table No 1 issued - Op "GATWICK" (later cancelled).</u>	Folio 3
GEMERT	7	1345	At the Div 'O' Gp a plan was divulged for an attack by 15 (S) Div and 3 (BRIT) Div SE into GERMANY in area REICHSWALD FOREST. Bde 'R' Gps went off this morning to recce the area and the Bde Gp was to have moved up this evening. G1 15 Div rang up to say NO move of 44 Bde today.	

		1620	Standfast order given. Recce parties returned to GEMERT and the whole project was finally cancelled.	
		1700	Comd 8 Corps spoke to Bn Comds and 2sIC at Bde HQ.	
	8		Bde again resting at GEMERT.	
		1400	6 KOSB gave demonstration of "Fighting Patrol" at BOEKEL.	
	9	1240	Bn Trg Programmes called for.	
	10	1000	General DEMPSEY, Comd SECOND ARMY, visited Bde HQ and saw Comds of Bde Gp.	
		1800	Bde Comd attended discussion and 'O' Gp at Div HQ.	
		2030	COs conference held at Bde HQ. A plan was explained for making a crossing over the canal SOUTH of WEERT by 15 (S) Div. 44 Bde were to make the brhead near MILLERT K6496. This area of the front was held by 7 US Armd Div and recce parties from bns were to be sent off immediately to live with 7 US Armd Div and patrol the area.	
	11		Recce parties went to 7 US Armd Div. Bde Comd went round area of crossing, with BM and Bde IO. Patrolling of the canal bank was carried out by bns at night. Some excellent infm was obtained.	
	12		Recce of MILLERT still going on.	
		2200	Bde canal-crossing exercise carried out near GEMERT, to give bns practice in handling assault boats and Kapok bridging.	
GEMERT	13	1000	COs conference, when plan for MILLERT canal-crossing was discussed. Patrol activity on canal in MILLERT area continued.	
	14	0930	Another COs conference held at Bde HQ.	
	15	1100	Bde Comd attended GOC's conference at Div HQ.	
		1800	COs attended conference at Bde HQ - again planning the MILLERT op.	
	16	0800	Sig office at Bde HQ was destroyed by fire started accidentally.	
		1630	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde OO No.1 issued - Op "SIRIUS" (later cancelled)</u> Preparations for the MILLERT op were in full swing today but at 2002 hrs message was received from Div HQ to say that this op had been indefinitely postponed and that all preparations would cease immediately, including the return of recce parties to bns. This was disappointing after so much work had been done, and so much excellent infm had been obtained by patrolling.	Folio 4
	17	1510	Orders received from Div ordering a move for Bde Gp tomorrow to take over the line NW of VEGHEL from 131 Bde of 7 Armd Div. This order was later cancelled and instead 8 RS were ordered to move to area VEGHEL and come under comd 131 Bde - remainder of 44 Bde remaining in GEMERT area.	
	18		Nothing to report.	
	19	1340	8 RS moved to VEGHEL, coming under comd 131 Bde.	

	20	1430	Bde Comd attended Div Comd's conference at Div HQ on forthcoming ops.	
	21		Nothing to report.	
GEMERT	22		Nothing to report.	
	23	1000	Bde Comd and BM attended conference with GOC at 227 Bde HQ, at which orders were given for the move of the Bde Gp tomorrow into area BEST - ST ODENRODE preparatory to attacking westwards towards TILBURG, under comd 12 Corps.	
	24	1100 1730 2115	Div 'O' Gp at Div HQ, attended by Bde Comd and BM. 6 RSF and 6 KOSB were ordered to conc area BEST. Bns moved immediately and Bde HQ followed to area VLEUT. 6 RSF moved fwd through BEST and reached OIRSCHOT by 1800 hrs, riding on tks of 4 GREN GDS, who were in sp. 'O' Gp at Bde HQ giving orders for tomorrow.	
VLEUT nr BEST	25	0600 0800 0850 1300 1500 1730 2030	6 KOSB started pushing along NORTH of canal through OIRSCHOT and on to BIEST. 8 RS started pushing along tracks NORTH of main rd to OIRSCHOT. 46 Bde, with KANGAROOS, pushed along BEST - OIRSCHOT rd towards MOORGESTEL, which they reached by midday. Bde HQ moved to farm near OIRSCHOT 326262. 6 KOSB patrol contacted 2 GLAS H of 46 Bde at MOORGESTEL. Bde Comd and BM went to Div 'O' Gp at Div HQ when orders for tomorrow were given out. 44 (L) Inf Bde OO No. 1 issued - Op "ERIC".	Folio 5
nr OIRSCHOT	26	0715 1300 1500	44 Bde Gp started moving to conc area between MOORGESTEL and BIEST (on canal). 44 Bde HQ est at 226277. The br at BIEST was ready and the Bde Gp was to have passed over to the SOUTH in order to attack TILBURG from the SOUTH, but Bde recce parties met mines and the mov was postponed. Bde Gp was est SOUTH of canal in area HILVARENBEK - BIEST. Bde HQ at 213263.	
nr OIRSCHOT	26	1900 2300	Bde Comd and Bde IO went to Div 'O' Gp at OIRSCHOT. Bde 'O' Gp at which orders were given for the attack on TILBURG.	
nr HILVARENBEK	27	0900 1305 1400 1430	Bde HQ moved to hutted camp in woods SOUTH of TILBURG. The attack on TILBURG began at 1100 hrs with 6 RSF pushing through the woods on the RIGHT beside the Canal. This phase went slowly. ZERO for Phase II - attack by 6 RSF RIGHT and 6 KOSB LEFT on TILBURG itself. 6 KOSB reached first objective. 6 RSF reported they had broken into TILBURG and were pushing into the centre of the city.	

		1500	6 KOSB reached their final objectives and the city of TILBURG was considered to have been liberated. The excitement and joy of the citizens was immense and the men of the Bde were mobbed.	
		1600	8 RS followed 6 RSF into the city.	
		1730	Bde Comd and Bde IO entered the city and received a stirring welcome.	
			44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 5 issued.	Folio 6
Outside TILBURG	28	0900	Bde Comd drove through TILBURG.	
		1100	Bde HQ moved into TILBURG to a large ho at 172323. The rest of the day was given over to liberation scenes in the streets of TILBURG, which were as exciting as any in FRANCE and BELGIUM. Pipe band of 6 RSF contributed to the gaiety and there was singing and dancing in the streets which went on until a late hr. This was perhaps the most gratifying day 44 Bde has experienced since the landing in NORMANDY, as the battle for TILBURG was won by 15 (S) Div only and mainly by 44 Bde, who were the first BRITISH tps to enter the city.	
		1620	Warning Order from Div that Bde Gp might be required to move overnight.	
		1820	Warning Order issued to Bde Gp to prepare to move at 0230 hrs. The situation in area MEIJEL - LIESEL, EAST of HELMOND, was serious as 9 PZ Div and 15 PZ GREN Div, had crossed the MEIJEL - DEURNE Canal and had driven in through elements of 7 US Armd Div.	
Outside TILBURG		2400	Adv parties left to recce area DEURNE.	
TILBURG moving to DEURNE	29	0300	Bde Gp moved from TILBURG.	
		0800	Bde Gp began to arrive at DEURNE. The situation was still more menacing, as the GERMAN tks were driving up the rd beyond LIESEL within five miles of DEURNE, with nothing to stop them but 1 E YORKS of 3 Div and 15/19 HUSSARS of 11 Armd Div. 44 Bde drove straight into def posn covering DEURNE.	
		1100	All bns were in posn. The situation was precarious in view of shortage of sp arms, who were still on rd from TILBURG. The enemy tks got within three miles of DEURNE but did NOT press fwd and gradually the situation eased, as more of 15 (S) Div arrived.	
		1300	6 KOSB moved fwd two miles SOUTH of DEURNE to a def posn covering rd in wood 6516.	
		1500	GOC 15 (S) Div ordered 44 Bde less 6 KOSB but with 2 GLAS H under comd to relieve CCB of 7 US Armd in area LIESEL astride rd LIESEL - ASTEN, while 46 Bde took over posn covering DEURNE.	
		1600	Bde Comd visited CCB 7 US Armd Div nr ASTEN and found that the situation was very confused, as the enemy appeared to be in behind the US CCB in area LIESEL and it was impossible to relieve them. 44 Bde accordingly took up def posn in woods WEST of LIESEL astride rd	

		1755	LIESEL - ASTEN with 2 GLAS H on RIGHT, 6 RSF on LEFT and 8 RS behind. CCB 7 US Armd came out after dark as best they could. Bde HQ moved to ASTEN 610130. This was a lively night with hy shelling and mortaring of bns. Enemy were holding LIESEL and pushing WEST.	
ASTEN	30	0930 1100 1120 1300 1545 1700 1740 2050	Enemy in area SLOT appeared to be attempting to push WEST into the big wood held by 2 GLAS H. 6 RSF reported one of their coys had infiltrated into western end of LIESEL, but enemy still held centre of village. 2 GLAS H reported enemy infiltration attacks into wood 668138. These attacks continued all day and at one time enemy were reported to have infiltrated almost through the wood. Two coys of 8 RS were moved up behind 2 GLAS H as additional def in the wood. 46 Bde started pushing SOUTH towards LIESEL and linked up with 6 RSF NORTH of LIESEL. The enemy were still in LIESEL but the threat to DEURNE seemed definitely to have been checked. 6 RSF started pushing EAST into LIESEL. 2 GLAS H completed clearing of the wood in their area. Counter-attack by enemy from EAST of LIESEL was dispersed by arty. 2 GLAS H beat off counter-attack. The enemy were still in LIESEL tonight.	
	31	0815 0900 1015 1545 1545	2 GLAS H carried out wood clearing op SOUTH from their posns sp by sqn of 4 Tk GREN GDS. 46 Bde adv SOUTH to clear LIESEL. On LEFT of rd they were successful, but on RIGHT, progress was slow, LIESEL only being cleared by 1500 hrs. 8 RS ordered to occupy SOUTH area of large wood 665122. 8 RS moved to carry out this order and got into posn all right. 6 KOSB moved down rd and captured SLOT. They destroyed two GERMAN Mk IV tks at 674137. The enemy threat was now removed and he was already removing 9 PZ Div and 15 PZ GREN Div, replacing them by Para Regt HUBNER, which had been holding the line in this area for weeks.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde incorporating Def Pl att

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year NOV 44

Commanding Officer Brigadier JC COCKBURN, MBE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ASTEN	1	1000 1045 1215 1430 1502 1700 2235	Bde was disposed as follows - 8 RS in woods 668138, 6 RSF in LIESEL 6614 and 2 GLAS H (under comd) in woods 667139. 6 KOSB (under comd 46 Bde) were in area SLOT 6713. The night was spent in patrolling fwd to find where the enemy were. 9 CAMERONIANS adv to rd square 6912. 6 KOSB and 7 SEAFORTH continued to adv down rd and reached HUTTEN 685124. Bde Comd and BM were summoned to Div HQ. 2 GLAS H moved to area HUTTEN 685124. 6 KOSB reverted to comd 44 Bde. Bde HQ moved to LIESEL 664145. O Gp at Bde HQ when orders were given for continuation of adv tomorrow. 44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 2 issued	Folio 3
LIESEL	2	0930 1200 1400	Zero for attack SOUTH astride rd with 6 RSF LEFT and 2 GLAS H (who came back under comd 44 Bde) RIGHT. This attack was successful and objectives were reached by 1100 hrs. Zero for 2nd phase of attack, 8 RS RIGHT and 6 KOSB LEFT. This attack was also successful - 8 RS reaching woods 695090 and 6 KOSB NEERKANT 698095 by 1600 hrs. 6 RSF moved fwd to BROEK 698099. 2 GLAS H reverted to under comd 46 Bde.	
	3	0920 1400	The str of the enemy in area MEIJEL was not known and some flail tks were sent fwd at 0800 hrs to try and beat through the mines known to be on the rd near HOF 705077. Flail tks were shot up by A Tk guns from wood 710076 and one was lost. It was apparent that the enemy intended to fight for MEIJEL, where he had a strong posn with open ground in front which was heavily mined. O Gp at Bde HQ where a plan for an attack on MEIJEL was decided. This was to take place on 4 Nov. The plan was for one sqn of 4 Tk GREN GDS to go round LEFT flank alone, screened by smoke, and dominate wood 7107. 6 RSF would then attack sp by 4 Tk GREN GDS and	

LIESEL		<p>Flails, and capture SCHANS 706083 and HOF 705077, followed by 6 KOSB into the wood at 7107 and 8 RS into MEIJEL. The difficulties about the op were (1) that the ground was boggy and had not been properly tested (2) that the extent of the minefeds was unknown and (3) that the enemy were able to fire into the LEFT flank and rear of the attack from the EAST bank of the canal at 7208 - 7109.</p> <p>1845 The op was postponed 24 hrs to help the counter bty org.  2000 <u>44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 3 issued</u>  2400 6 KOSB went fwd to get a firm base in the houses at the front edge of NEERKANT 699090. No enemy opposition.</p>	Folio 4
	4	<p>Patrolling overnight by 6 KOSB est the continued presence of the enemy in SCHANS 7008.</p> <p>1120 Small inf counter attack on LEFT of 6 KOSB repulsed.  1620 Another small inf counter attack on LEFT of 6 KOSB repulsed.</p>	
	5	<p>0730 Zero hr for attack.  0800 Tks moving round LEFT flank were bogged and could not proceed.  0815 Tks of 6 RSF held up on SL by mines and two coys of 6 RSF had to go on to SCHANS alone.  0910 6 RSF reported two pls from each fwd coy in SCHANS, but situation critical.  1003 Both coys now in SCHANS but pinned down by fire from three sides.  1030 Flail tks had achieved a certain amount of success but all had later been blown up. One tp of 4 Tk GREN GDS managed to get through to SCHANS but were destroyed by A Tk gunfire. The sqn which had gone round the LEFT was almost entirely bogged down.  1238 Message from Bde Comd to 6 RSF saying "Present op cancelled". During the remainder of the day RA kept up a continuous smoke screen and at dusk the two fwd coys of 6 RSF withdrew and also the crews of the sqn of 4 Tk GREN GDS, which had been bogged on the LEFT. In all, 19 tks were lost, but all but 6 were subsequently recovered and only 7 men out of the crews were cas.  1930 6 RSF withdrew to LIESEL and 8 RS and 6 KOSB remained at MOOSTDIJK 6908 and NEERKANT respectively.</p>	
LIESEL	6	<p>7 SEAFORTH came under comd 44 Bde and cleaned up area between NEERKANT and the canal 7010.  1730 6 RSF went into Div res and moved to posn covering ASTEN - MEIJEL rd at 658105.</p>	
	7	A quiet day except for ordinary shelling and mortaring.	
	8	<p>44 Bde today relieved by 227 Bde and went to ASTEN for rest. 7 SEAFORTH reverted to 46 Bde and went to DEURNE to rest.  2230 Relief completed.  21/12/G re Relief issued</p>	Folio 5

ASTEN	9		Day resting at ASTEN.	
	10		44 Bde returned to NEERKANT and MOOSTDIJK, relieving 227 Bde. There was a slight readjustment of posns. 6 RSF remained in Div res. Bde HQ returned to LIESEL.	
LIESEL	11		Nothing to report today.	
	12		Nothing to report today except patrol activity.	
	13	0910 1505 2000	6 KOSB reported that the windmill in MEIJEL 773063 had disappeared, having been blown up by the Germans. This was an indication that the enemy might be intending to withdraw from MEIJEL. A civilian woman came through from MEIJEL with the infm that the enemy had gone overnight. 10 HLI relieved 6 RSF who went back to rest in ASTEN. A patrol from 6 KOSB returned after spending 24 hrs behind the enemy lines in MEIJEL. They reported that the enemy had gone.	
	14	0800 2100	6 KOSB sent standing patrol via HOF to MEIJEL which was occupied by 1200 hrs. The whole area was heavily mined. Maj AES JACKSON, BM, relinquished his appointment on appointment as 2IC 6 KOSB. Capt RC GLENNY, G III, became acting BM temporarily until new BM arrived. 44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 8 issued	Folio 6
	15	0200 1200 1400	8 RS occupied SCHANS without incident. 6 KOSB est in MEIJEL, with 10 HLI of 227 Bde in the RIGHT hand sec of the town. 6 RSF relieved 6 KOSB in MEIJEL and 6 KOSB went to rest for 48 hrs in ASTEN.	
LIESEL	16		6 RSF moved coys fwd towards canal and started cleaning up the area which was infested with mines. 51 Div and 49 Div on the RIGHT launched attack across the WEERT canal and by today had reached the DERIVATION Canal which ran SOUTH from MEIJEL to the R MAAS. 15 Div was ordered to consider the possibility of crossing the DEURNE double canal EAST of MEIJEL in the event of the enemy NOT withdrawing from there after 51 Div had crossed the DERIVATION Canal. Much time was given to planning this op (which actually never took place).	
	17	1900	Patrolling by bns est that the enemy were still on the other side of the double canal. 6 KOSB relieved 8 RS who went to ASTEN for 48 hrs rest. Today 51 Div crossed the DERIVATION Canal and est a brhead. Bde Tac School opened at HELMOND under comd Maj HM GOW, 6 RSF.	
	18	0830	51 Div tks entered BERINGE and began to move back towards the double canal and 44 Bde. This was later postponed 24 hrs.	



			Capt AM STURROCK, SC, became DAA & QMG and promoted to Maj - an alteration to WE.	
	19	0900 1347 1800 2300	51 Div started moving back towards MEIJEL and the enemy were found to have gone. 227 Bde linked up with 51 Div. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 9 issued</u> 6 KOSB patrol crossed double canal and found no enemy. 6 RSF conc in MEIJEL, 6 KOSB in NEERKANT and 8 RS in ASTEN ready to move EAST over br built over double canal.	Folio 7
	20	1302 1600 1600 1900	227 Bde crossed canal and pushed EAST, 46 Bde pushed towards HELENAVEEN and 15 (S) Recce fanned out. 6 RSF ordered to move at once across br and clear lateral rd from BERINGE to HELENAVEEN. 8 RS moved from ASTEN to MEIJEL. 6 RSF pushed rapidly NORTH and reached outskirts of HELENAVEEN thus helping 9 CAMERONIANS who were making a frontal attack on HELENAVEEN. 6 RSF came under comd 46 Bde for attack on HELENAVEEN.	
	21	0800 1730	6 RSF pushed NORTH and cleared HELENAVEEN, linking up with 46 Bde. They then withdrew to woods 7409 and 46 Bde continued EASTWARDS. 6 RSF reverted to comd 44 Bde.	
LIESEL	22	0025	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 1 issued</u> It was intended that 44 Bde should follow up behind 227 Bde but this was cancelled owing to the extremely bad state of the rds and 44 Bde remained in previous areas.	Folio 8
	23		100 men from 44 Bde assisted RES at HELENAVEEN Br.	
	24		<u>Assistance to RES continued.</u>	
	25	1000	Conference of COs at 8 RS HQ on "trg of pnrs". Assistance to RES on rds continued.	
	26		Assistance to RES continued. Brig JC COCKBURN, MBE, relinquished comd 44 (L) Inf Bde and was succeeded by Brig The Hon HCHT CUMMING-BRUCE, SEAFORTH, who has latterly been comd 1 GORDONS.	
	27	1100 1300 1900	Bde Comd and Bde IO met GOC 15 (S) Div at Div HQ at SEVENUM and a plan was explained for 44 Bde to relieve 56 Bde of 49 Div outside BLERICK opposite VENLO on 28 Dec prior to attack on BLERICK. Bde Comd and Bde IO went to HQ 56 Bde and discussed lay-out with Bde Comd 56 Bde. Stand still order for relief of 56 Bde from Div HQ. 56 Bde are to go out of the line, but they will be relieved by 49 Recce Regt and 44 Bde will stay back and be ready to attack BLERICK. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 6 issued</u>	Folio 9

	28	0900 1130 1430	Bde Comd met GOC 15 (S) Div at HQ 147 Bde at BERINGE, where there was a conference on the forthcoming attack. The plan had already been made by 49 Div and 44 Bde was to take it over. Bde Comd held COs conference at 6 RSF HQ and explained the plan. Bde HQ moved to BERINGE 753059. Planning continued for Op "GUILDFORD" which was to be carried out in conjunction with Brig I KNIGHT, 31 Tk Bde, with Flails, Crocodiles, AVRES and Kangaroos.	
BERINGE	29		Planning for Op "GUILDFORD" continued. Bns began practising with Kangaroos.	
	30	1430	Planning for Op "GUILDFORD" continued. A cloth model discussion on the op was held at Bde HQ, attended by offrs down to coy comds of all arms taking part, as well as GOC 15 (S) Div.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde incorporating Def Pl att

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year DEC 44

Commanding Officer Brig the Hon HCHT CUMMING-BRUCE DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BERINGE	1	2115	Preparations for the attack on BLERICK continued. 44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 1 issued - orders for the attack on BLERICK. With 44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 7.	Folio 4 Folio 9
	2	1400	Bde Tac HQ moved to Rooth for the battle - Main HQ remaining back at BERINGE. It was joined there by Tac HQ of 31 Tk Bde, whose comd Brig I. KNIGHT, was to fight the first part of the battle. The day was very wet and doubts arose as to whether the battle could go on or not, owing to the mud. Brig KNIGHT expressed doubts of the ability of the Flails and AVRES to get through without being bogged.	
Tac Rooth Main BERINGE	3	0400  0745  0850 0900 0905 0910 0915 0920 0932	Comd 12 Corps finally decided that the battle would proceed as planned and, if the armour failed to negotiate the mud, the inf would have to carry on as best they could. 0745 hrs was to be 'H' hr for the first part of the op. 31 Tk Bde reported five Flails bogged en route to FUP. Details of the op are very fully given in CV1 Logs att. It was very slow to start with and great apprehension was felt about the armour getting bogged for an hour. Brs were called fwd on 1 and 2 Lanes. Brs were down on 1 and 2 Lanes. Flails were over the brs on 1 and 2 lanes. Bde Comd ordered 6 RSF to rear edge of FUP. 31 Tk Bde reported brs on lanes 5 and 6 in place. Bde Comd ordered 8 RS fwd on lanes 1 and 2. Bde Comd ordered 6 RSF fwd on lane 6. The adv went very smoothly and by 1100 hrs 8 RS were in the town. Their Kangaroos came back according to plan to lift 6 KOSB.	
Tac Rooth Main BERINGE		1225 1231	6 KOSB moved fwd in Kangaroos and drove right into the town. 7 SEAFORTH moved fwd on LEFT in KANGAROOS sent back by 6 RSF. The whole op went very smoothly thereafter and BLERICK was firmly in our hands by 1500 hrs. Mopping up continued.	

		1630	<p>Bde Comd, DAA &amp; QMG, Bde IO, Comd 181 Fd Regt and Comd 279 Fd Coy went into BLERICK in a Kangaroo and found things under control. The lanes by this time were almost impassable owing to hy rain which continued most of the day, and undoubtedly the op would have been impossible 12 hours later.</p> <p>Total cas in the Bde were under 50, in spite of hy enemy mortaring and shelling. 2 offr and 225 prisoners were taken and much material captured.</p> <p>8 RS and 7 SEAFORTH came out of BLERICK during the night, the former to area ROOTH and the latter to rest under comd 46 (H) Inf Bde.</p> <p>6 KOSB took over area of BLERICK occupied by 8 RS and 6 RSF area occupied by 7 SEAFORTH. 9 CAMERONIANS coy at HOUT BLERICK came under comd 8 RS.</p>	
	4	0815 0830 1200	<p>6 KOSB reported relief complete.</p> <p>7 SEAFORTH reported relief complete.</p> <p>8 RS coy relieved 9 CAMERONIANS coy at HOUT BLERICK and 9 CAMERONIANS coy rejoined its unit.</p> <p>The battle field was gradually cleared up - damaged tks, Kangaroos etc taken away.</p>	
	5	1500	<p>Tac Bde HQ moved to SEVENUM 819141 where it was joined by the rest of Bde HQ. 44 (L) Inf Bde became responsible for def of an area of the WEST bank of R MAAS between 873057 and excl GRUBBENVORST 897144. One sqn 15 (S) Recce Regt came under comd and took up posn NORTH of BLERICK, with 6 RSF on Northern part of BLERICK and 6 KOSB in Southern part. One pl 8 RS was in HOUT BLERICK and remainder of 8 RS area ROOTH in res.</p>	
SEVENUM	8		6 KOSB Coy took over HOUT BLERICK from 8 RS pl.	
	9		<p>8 RS pl moved to area 889123 to bolster up Recce Sqn.</p> <p>8 RS pl also moved to BERCKT cloister 869063 and came under comd 10 HLI.</p>	
	11	1450	<p>8 RS pl at BERCKT cloister came under comd 6 KOSB.</p> <p>6 RSF area was attacked in error by BRITISH 'Typhoon' planes.</p>	
	13	0430	44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No. 1 issued. (This never took place).	Folio 5
	14	1030	Lt Gen BARKER, Comd 8 Corps, visited Bde HQ and met Bde Comd, Comd 181 Fd Regt and Comd 8 RS. He then went to BLERICK, met Comds 6 RSF and 6 KOSB and visited OPs in 6 RSF area.	
	16	1415	<p>Bde Comd attended Div Comd's conference at Div HQ, when future events were discussed. 44 Bde were to be relieved by Christmas and, after a rest, take over from 227 Bde. (This never happened).</p> <p>There was some enemy patrol activity during the night in area of 6 KOSB and Recce Sqn.</p>	

	18		8 RS and 6 RSF changed places.	
	19	0030	44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 9 issued.	Folio 10
	21	0405	Infm received from "A" Recce Sqn that post had been overrun. There was some confusion and doubt as to what actually occurred, but it was eventually discovered that a GERMAN fighting patrol had crossed the river, rushed the post and captured nine men. One coy 6 RSF moved to area Recce Sqn for night. Enemy patrol activity continued.	
	22		Bde front was re-organised - Recce Sqn took over HOUT BLERICK area and 8 RS moved into area NORTH of BLERICK vacated by Recce Sqn. 227 Bde took over pl posn at BERCKT CLOISTER and 6 KOSB took over all BLERICK. This evening there was a good deal of confusion and shooting during the hand-over, owing to reports of GERMAN patrols in Recce Sqn area. It was never clearly established exactly what happened, but it was later thought that NOT more than one recce patrol actually crossed the river and that it went back when fired on.	
	23	1100 1500	Enemy activity continued. This was the period when the GERMAN offensive in the ARDENNES was at its height and they were showing activity all along the front. It was considered that a raid or small attack was possible anywhere on the front, especially over the Christmas period. Conference at Div HQ attended by Bde Comd. Warning was given for especial vigilance over Christmas. Bde Comd held conference for COs at Bde HQ and gave orders for special stand-to measures over Christmas period.	
	24		No. 6 DUTCH Patriot Coy came under comd 6 RSF and took up posn behind HOUT BLERICK.	
	25		<u>Christmas Day</u> . There was little festivity owing to the special vigilance order. Bde Comd went round bns. At Bde HQ there was a Football Match Officers V Sergeants followed by Christmas dinner and a concert. Despite anticipated GERMAN activity over Christmas everything was very quiet and NO special activity was noticed.	
	27	2100	6 RSF relieved 8 RS who came back into res. 44 (L) Inf Bde OO No. 2 issued.	Folio 6
	28	1300	Bde Comd visited 8 RS Christmas dinners. Notes on employment of res bn issued.	Folio 7
	31		Bde Comd and Bde IO went on BLA leave.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde incorporating Def Pl att

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year January 1945

Commanding Officer Brig the Hon HCHT CUMMING-BRUCE DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
SEVENUM	1	1800	The Bde was still on the Banks of the MAAS when 1945 opened, holding the BLERICK sector, with 6 KOSB RIGHT, 6 RSF LEFT, and 8 RS in res. Today there was a great display of enemy air activity all over the WESTERN front, incl our sector. Full report is in CV1 log. Twelve DUTCHMEN crossed the MAAS today. 8 RS and 6 KOSB changed places.	
	2	1035	Two GERMAN deserters from a detention bks crossed the MAAS and gave themselves up to 6 RSF. A quiet day.	
	3		There was some enemy activity in 8 RS area during the night.	
	4	)		
	5	)	Normal activity.	
	6	)		
	7	)		
	8		6 KOSB relieved 6 RSF. There was some enemy activity on the rd near HOUT BLERICK.	
	9	)		
	10	)	Normal activity.	
	11	)		
	12		Bde IO returned from BLA leave.	
SEVENUM	13		No abnormal op activity. Maj JT BANNATYNE, CAMERONS, arrived to take up appointment as BM, which had been unoccupied since 14 November 1944. Capt RC GLENNY, GSO 3, went on BLA leave.	
	14		Nothing to report. News was received today of impending relief of 44 (L) Inf Bde by 227 (H) Inf Bde, 44 Bde proceeding to BELGIUM for 10 days rest. Bde Comd returned from BLA leave.	
	15		Bn Comds of 227 Bde visited Bn Comds 44 Bde and did recce of areas.	
	16	1900	44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No. 10 issued.	Folio 1

	17 18	) )	Preparation made for relief. 8 RS were not to go to BELGIUM but were to remain as res bn under comd of 15 (S) Inf Div in area HELDEN and later to go to area ASTEN.	
	19	0825 1500 2310	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde OO No. 3</u> issued. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 11</u> issued. New distribution list issued. Enemy patrol swam across R MAAS in 6 KOSB area and were shot up by 6 KOSB post. One GERMAN was killed and one captured in the morning. They were soldiers who had had a great deal of patrolling experience on the RUSSIAN front and had been specially picked for this hazardous patrol - the temperature being around zero.	Folio 4 " 4 " 5
SEVENUM	20	1500 1900 2200	Relief of 44 Bde by 227 Bde. 227 Bde HQ came early and only skeleton HQ 44 Bde remained overnight. 8 RS (res bn) moved to area HELDEN and left comd 44 Bde. 6 KOSB reported relief complete. 6 RSF relief complete. Bde HQ, 6 RSF and 6 KOSB remained overnight in area SEVENUM - MAASBREE.	
	21	0600	Bde convoy began moving to GRAMMONT in BELGIUM via MAASBREE - PANNINGEN - WEERT - BOURG LEOPOLD - LOUVAIN - BRUSSELS by-pass, arriving about 1600 hrs. Bde HQ was set up in a chateau at GRAMMONT. The weather was arctic, with a foot of snow and 20 degrees of frost. The journey proved difficult owing to the weather and several slight mishaps occurred, including the capsizing of Bde HQ Clerks Truck. Several of the occupants were slightly injured.	
GRAMMONT	22	)	Rest period at GRAMMONT. The severe weather continued.	
	23	)		
	24	1500 1805	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No. 12</u> issued. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde OO No. 4</u> issued.	Folio 5 " 6
	25		Orders came from Div with complete change of plan. Operation "VERITABLE" was now planned to take place about 8 February. 15 Div was to conc in TILBURG including 44 Bde and be relieved immediately from the R MAAS.	
	26		DAA & QMG and recce parties went off to TILBURG to recce new area.	
GRAMMONT	27		Bde HQ, 6 RSF and 6 KOSB moved to TILBURG, via ALOST - TERMONDE - ANTWERP - BREDA arriving about 2100 hrs. The town was very full of tps and difficulty was experienced in finding a suitable HQ. It was eventually est in a School, the bns being in civilian billets. 8 RS returned to comd 44 Bde.	
TILBURG	28		Bn trg with "funnies" began.	

	29		Planning began for operation "VERITABLE".	
	30		Maj AM STURROCK, KOSB, SC and DAA & QMG of 44 Bde since July 1942, went to 15 Div HQ as DAAG. He was succeeded as DAA & QMG by Capt R HUTCHINSON, GORDONS.	
	31		Planning for operation "VERITABLE" continued.	



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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Unit HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde incorporating Def Pl att

Month and Year FEB 1945

Commanding Officer Brig Hon HCHT CUMMING-BRUCE DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG	1		44 Bde was in TILBURG preparing for Op "VERITABLE".	
	2	1100 1430	Conference on Op "VERITABLE" held at Bde HQ and attended by all COs of units incl sp arms and "funnies". 44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Outline Plan issued	Folio 15
	3		Planning for Op "VERITABLE" continued. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 13</u> issued <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 14</u> issued	Folio 16 Folio 17
	4	1100 1400	Lt Gen HORROCKS Comd 30 Corps spoke to all offr of the Div at TILBURG on Op "VERITABLE". Bde Comd held Cloth Model discussion at Bde HQ on Op "VERITABLE", attended by offr down to pl comds.	
	5	0700	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 5</u> issued Planning for Op "VERITABLE" continued. <u>Addendum No 1 to OO No 5</u> issued.	Folio 4 Folio 5
	6	1900	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Order No 1</u> issued. Bde moved by night to conc area in NIJMEGEN, going by S'HERTOGENBOSCH - OSS - RAVENSTEIN br. NIJMEGEN was reached about 0330 hrs.	Folio 6
NIJMEGEN	7	1000 1115 2400	The day was spent making last minute preparations for the battle. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 15</u> issued and <u>Addendum No 1</u> thereto. <u>44 (L) Inf Bde Mov Instr No 1</u> issued. <u>Confirmatory Notes to Conference held 1000 hrs</u> issued RAF bombers passed over and made a hy attack on CLEVE and GOCH, the fires of which were visible from NIJMEGEN. The weather was bad and showed no signs of any improvements.	Folio 18 Folio 7 Folio 8
	8	0530	<u>Op "VERITABLE"</u> began with a huge arty barrage which went on till 1030 when 227 Bde and 46 Bde advanced. 44 Bde was in res to push through and carry out the 2nd phase - the breaking of the Siegfried Line proper by night. The battle went successfully and by evening 46 Bde had got all their objectives.	

NIJMEGEN			<p>44 Bde waited all day in KANGAROOS, hoping to get through in the evening. The rain, however, began at 1700 hrs and the rds quickly became impassable.</p> <p>Brig and Bde IO spent the day mostly at 46 Bde HQ following up the battle. Bde HQ followed up slowly and by 1800 hrs was est in a very wet and muddy place fwd of GROESBEEK.</p> <p>The evening and early part of the night was occupied in trying to get the armour and the bns up to the SL - a hopeless task.</p>	
nr GROESBEEK 780556	9	<p>0100 Zero hr was to have been now but had to be put off, as only 6 KOSB and a few tks had reached SL.</p> <p>0040 2 GORDONS started down the main rd from KRANENBURG (under comd 44 Bde).</p> <p>0300 Armour finally managed to start. The enemy were luckily very disorganised and no difficulty was experienced in crossing the A Tk ditch and capturing SCHOTTHEIDE. One br and one fascine crossing were est.</p> <p>0600 6 KOSB - the only bn on the SL - started the attack and soon crossed the ditch, cleared the enemy posns and then pushed on to capture HINTSBERG and WOLFSBERG features by 0900 hrs, with 10 offr and 230 OR prisoners.</p> <p>0900 2 GORDONS meantime captured NUTTERDEN.</p> <p>1030 8 RS moved through KRANENBURG down main rd behind 2 GORDONS and branched right at X rds short of NUTTERDEN.</p> <p>1400 8 RS and 6 KOSB pushed through together on to the MATERBORN feature overlooking CLEVE. There was little opposition, though CLEVE was still occupied.</p> <p>1500 Bde HQ moved up to NUTTERDEN.</p> <p>2020 8 RS made contact with 53 Div at 864543 and 865538.</p> <p>The plan that night was for 227 Bde to pass through 44 Bde at first lt 10 Feb and clear CLEVE. However, one bde of 43 Div was put through by night and became involved in hy fighting in CLEVE which had not been cleared. 15 (S) Recce Regt had previously been into CLEVE and reported few Germans there.</p>		
NUTTERDEN	10	<p>1745 6 RSF cleared area of watch tower and later the STERNBERG feature. They were there shelled by our own med guns.</p>	Folio 9	
NUTTERDEN	11	1100	8 RS and 6 KOSB entered CLEVE and relieved bns of 129 Bde.	

		1900 2100	227 Bde came round NORTH rd via DONSRUGGEN into CLEVE and cleared Northern part of town. Instrs were received from 15 Div that Cdn 9 Bde were to relieve 44 Bde in morning. 44 Bde were to conc NORTH of CLEVE.	
	12		The relief by 9 Cdn Bde did not take place, they relieving 227 Bde in place of 44 Bde. 44 Bde gradually came into res in CLEVE, 43 Div pushing SE, and 46 Bde EAST along the rd to MOYLAND and CALCAR.	
	13	1200 1312 2100 2205	44 Bde came under comd 43 Div as "back-stop" in case of counter attack by 116 Pz Div and 15 Pz Gr Div, who had appeared on the front. Bns remained in posns in CLEVE. Bde HQ moved to CLEVE. 44 Bde reverted from comd 43 Div and came into sp of 53 Div who were in REICHSWALD FOREST. 44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 16 issued. Op in sp of 53 Div definitely off. 44 Bde ordered to get maximum rest tomorrow.	Folio 19
CLEVE	14	0830 1015 1123	44 Bde put at one hrs notice to move as from 1200 hrs in sp of 43 Div. Above cancelled. Bns told no move today and probably not till 1200 hrs tomorrow.	
	15	0930 1900 2035	'O' Gp held at Bde HQ. This was planning an op towards UDEM which never came off. Bde Comd attended 'O' Gp at Div HQ, at which he was told to prepare for an attack on GOCH. Bns told no move before 1400 hrs 16 Feb and unlikely to move at all 16 Feb. 44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 17 issued.	Folio 20
CLEVE	16	1000 2330	'O' Gp conference at Bde HQ re attack on GOCH. An attempt was made to move the Bde but as suitable areas could NOT be found, bns remained as they were. Bns told no move tomorrow before 1430 hrs. Recce parties at one hr's notice from 0900 hrs.	
	17	1650 1845 2235	Bns told no move before 0630 hrs 18 Feb. Probable Bde task - capture of GOCH. 43 Div reached the escarpment overlooking GOCH and 44 Bde were ordered to capture the town. 44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 6 issued. 44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 18 issued.	Folio 10 Folio 21
	18	1115 1200	Bde HQ moved to place near CLEVE FOREST 932479. The Bde followed down the rd. 8 RS ordered to carry out recce in force towards GOCH. The coy which did so met opposition on the A tk ditch.	

		1500	Assault on GOCH began. 8 RS RIGHT, 6 KOSB LEFT. As before, plans were for AVsRE to bridge the ditch and allow Kangaroos to pass over.	
		1627	Br over ditch in 8 RS front collapsed.	
		1640	On LEFT (6 KOSB front) two brs failed and one fouled the rd.	
		1730	8 RS had three coys in the town.	
		2300	6 KOSB attack on the ditch began and one coy got over in Kangaroos. By 0500 hrs 6 KOSB were finally est in the town. During the night, 51 Div also attacked GOCH, and by 0500 hrs 5 BLACK WATCH were well est in the town.	
nr CLEVE FOREST 932479	19	0650	6 RSF began to move into the town.	
			All three bns began clearing the town at daylight.	
		1030	6 RSF contacted visually 51 Div across the river.	
		1100	1 HLI of 53 Div on RIGHT crossed A tk ditch and contacted 8 RS.	
		1800	Town NORTH of the river considered clear. Great use had been made of Crocodiles and Wasps. Over 600 PW were taken by 44 Bde.	
	20		Situation clear - hy shelling. 51 Div still fighting in Southern part of town.	
		1100	Bde Comd and Bde IO crossed the river and visited HQ of 5 BW, where Bde Comd 153 Bde and Bn Comds were seen.	
	21		51 Div continued op to clear southern part of GOCH.	
		1100	6 RSF came under comd 227 Bde and moved NE to take part in a battle at SCHLOSS KALBECK. They were relieved in GOCH by 2 MONS of 160 Bde. They carried out an op this evening and had some very hard fighting during the night.	
		1945	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 1 issued.</u>	Folio 11
nr GOCH 935446	22	1500	Bde HQ moved nearer GOCH - 935446.	
			The plan was for 44 Bde with 6 KOSB RIGHT, 8 RS LEFT, to attack southwards through the woods SOUTH of SCHLOSS KALBECK and est itself on some important high ground overlooking WEEZE.	
			160 Bde took over in GOCH and 8 RS and 6 KOSB moved - up to woods.	
		2244	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 19 issued.</u>	Folio 22
		2300	<u>44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 7 issued.</u>	Folio 12
	23	1000	ZERO for attack. The attack was a great success and by 1500 hrs all objectives had been taken, along with eight SP guns and 150 PW. Main opposition was from shelling, which was hy. By last light all coys were firm.	
nr GOCH 935446	24	0600	160 Bde began an attack SOUTH from GOCH towards WEEZE, on RIGHT flank of 6 KOSB. The ground was under clear observation by 6 KOSB across the R NIEERS and they were able to give fire sp to 160 Bde throughout the day.	

		1100	Bde recce parties reported to TOWN MAJOR, TILBURG. 15 Div was to be relieved by 3 (BRIT) Div and to go to area TILBURG.	
		1937	44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 20 issued	Folio 23
	25	0255	44 (L) Inf Bde Op Instr No 2 issued. (This was later cancelled). 8 Bde of 3 Div began to arrive and relieved 44 Bde throughout the day. 44 Bde spent the night in the woods near GOCH.	Folio 13
		1530	44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 8 issued.	Folio 14
	26	0100	Comd of sector passed to Comd 8 Bde. Relief completed without incident.	
		0600	44 Bde moved to area VUGHT - S'HERTOGENBOSCH. Bde HQ to a house at VUGHT. This was NOT found to be a suitable rest area and recce was made of TURNHOUT.	
VUGHT	27		44 Bde moved on to rest billets in area TURNHOUT in BELGIUM. 6 RSF, 6 KOSB, and Bde HQ in TURNHOUT - 8 RS in VOSSELAER, a few miles out. Remainder of Div was in TILBURG, Div HQ in BOXTEL.	
TURNHOUT	28		Rest at TURNHOUT. Large numbers of bde went to BRUSSELS for 48 hrs leave. Gen refit and reequipment.	

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**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde incorporating Def Pl att

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year MAR 45

Commanding Officer Brig the Hon HCHT CUMMING-BRUCE DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TURNHOUT	1		44 Bde was resting at TURNHOUT after Operation "VERITABLE", with Bde HQ 6 RSF and 6 KOSB at TURNHOUT, and 8 RS at VOSSELAER, just outside TURNHOUT. There is little to report for the first few days. 15 (S) Inf Div had many vacancies on BRUSSELS leave and large numbers of the Bde spent 48 hrs there.	
	5	1500 2000	Divisional Pipers and Drums gave a performance in the Square at TURNHOUT, which was rather spoiled by rain. There was a big Bde party at TURNHOUT, attended by officers of Bde HQ, all battalions, and many guests.	
	6	1200	Bde moved to area HAELEN - HERK-LA-VILLE, just EAST of DIEST. First warning was given that 15 (S) Inf Div was to be an assaulting Division in the crossing of the RHINE and the move was designed to afford trg facilities on the R MAAS, between MAESYCK and MAASTRICHT. Bde HQ set up in a hutted camp at HAELEN.	
HAELEN, nr DIEST	8	0930 1430	Conferences on future trg held at Bde HQ - attended by Bde Comd, Bde IO, GSO 3, Bn COs and Comd 279 Fd Coy. Trg with river crossing eqpt was discussed. Bde Comd and Bde IO visited 11 R Tks (who were to be our Buffalo Bn for the RHINE crossing), and 33 Armd Bde HQ near EYSDEN re trg.	
	9		Buffalo and Storm boat trg began in bns.	
	10	1000 1830	Bde Comd, BM and GSO 3 attended conference at 12 Corps HQ. Conference at Bde HQ for COs on RHINE crossing (Operation TORCHLIGHT).	
	12		BM, Bde IO and DAA & QMG with bn recce parties carried out all day recce in XANTEN area for Operation "TORCHLIGHT".	
	14		Exercise "BUFFALO I" - river crossing exercise on R MAAS near EYSDEN and lasted all day. Bde IO spent night with 155 Bde HQ near XANTEN carrying out recce of RHINE crossing area.	

	15	1900	Exercise "BUFFALO II" - night repeat of Exercise "BUFFALO I". Bde Gp conc in area EYSDEN.	
	16	0300	Exercise really began and ended about 0800 hrs. It was followed by a conference.	
	17	1900	Bde Comd flew to XANTEN area in Air OP and carried out recce, with Bde IO, Comd of 8 RS and Comd of 6 RSF, Comd 11 R Tks and CRE 15 (K) AGRE. Bde Comd attended conference at Div HQ.	
	18		Nothing to report.	
	19		GSO 3 and Sig Offr carried out recces for Crossing Control and Bde Tac HQ, Bde Main HQ, Marshalling Area HQ etc in XANTEN area. Bde IO went to stay with 155 Bde HQ until 44 Bde HQ moved up.	
	20	1800	Preparation for move continued. 44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 9 issued with Addendum No 1	Folio 4
nr XANTEN	21		Bde HQ filtered up during afternoon to Marshalling Area behind XANTEN. 44 (L) Inf Bde Adm Order No 24 issued.	Folio 9
	22	1800	Preparations for Operation "TORCHLIGHT" continued. Notes on Operation "TORCHLIGHT" issued.	Folio 5
		2100	Bns moved up during the evening to their new areas, in the Marshalling Area. Intelligence summary issued.	Folio 6
	23	1400 1646 1800 2100 2200 2230	Bde final co-ordinating conference held at Bde HQ. Message from Div that operation was definitely on. The weather was set fair, with settled outlook. Bde Tac HQ established at LUTTINGEN 116427 for the battle. There was great activity by War Correspondents, Film Cameramen and BBC commentators. (The crossing of the RHINE is very fully described in the CV1 Log and in more general terms in the "Story of the Brigade Crossing" which is attached. Details are not given here). 51 (H) Div began to cross at REES. 1 Commando Bde began to cross at WESEL. Heavy bombers raided WESEL, which was clearly visible from Bde Tac HQ.	
LUTTINGEN 116427	24	0200 0310 0420 0700	44 (L) Inf Bde and 227 (H) Inf Bde crossed the RHINE. Progress was steady and all first objectives were captured by 0305 hrs. 6 KOSB ordered to cross. 6 KOSB all across. Bde Comd and Bde IO crossed RHINE and saw Bn Comds. Progress was still good.	

LUTTINGEN 116427		1000  1450  1510 1535 1545  1800  2200 2230  2300	<p>The airborne landing of 6 BRIT Airborne Div and 17 US Airborne Div was made a few miles in front, the aircraft passing directly over the heads of 44 Bde. Enemy opposition began to collapse, as the Airborne forces dropped in their gun areas. Steady progress continued and many prisoners were taken.</p> <p>6 KOSB reported they had linked up with 17 US Airborne Div near DIERSFORDT at 1400 hrs.</p> <p>6 RSF reported they had contacted US Para Bn.</p> <p>8 RS reported the bridge (which was their final objective) intact and they had contacted 6 BRIT Airborne Div.</p> <p>Bde Comd and Comd 8 RS drove up to HQ of 3 Para Bde and were given a rousing reception by the parachutists.</p> <p>6 KOSB ordered to conc near BERGEN with a view to operating NE tomorrow.</p> <p>Bde HQ crossed RHINE and established at BISLICH.</p> <p>Bde Comd held 'O' Gp at Bde HQ.</p> <p>Total prisoners taken on 24 Mar - 1000.</p> <p>44 (L) Inf Bde OO No 10 issued.</p>	Folio 7
BISLICH	25	0850	<p>There was some delay at first lt owing to non-arrival of Recce.</p> <p>6 KOSB moved off. Their route was NE through 6 Airborne Div and their objective a bridge over R ISSEL. The remainder of the Bde followed them. There was a lot of contact with the enemy throughout the day and 6 KOSB pushed on nearly to the autobahn. Bde HQ moved first to BERGEN and later to house in woods at 167477.</p> <p>In the evening there was a halt while 8 RS moved up to take over on the autobahn while 6 KOSB went fwd by night to attack the bridge at 204530. Their attack was unsuccessful, the bridge being destroyed.</p>	
Woods 167477	26	0600  1630  1645 1815	<p>A heavy counter attack developed on 6 KOSB as they were preparing to attack the bridge and the situation was confused for a time.</p> <p>Bde Comd left to visit 6 KOSB and found the situation confused but clearing itself up. 3/4 CLY arrived to help, being under command.</p> <p>6 RSF after relief by 2 KRRC, moved up to attack the ISSEL bridge.</p> <p>6 RSF attack went in across R ISSEL and three coys were established in the bridgehead by dark - 360 PW being taken.</p> <p>Bde HQ established at 199499.</p> <p>Bde Comd's <u>Operation Instruction</u> issued.</p> <p>The problem during the night was to get the br built at 204530. This was eventually accomplished by the 3-ton bridging lorries running the gauntlet up the main rd parallel to the R ISSEL, and the bridge was built by first lt.</p> <p>8 RS were also counter-attacked all night but held their ground.</p>	Folio 8



nr HAMMINKELN 199499	27	1730	<p>The 3/4 CLY were taken away this morning from command. This was a tense day, as counter attacks were perpetually threatened and tank sp was NOT available.</p> <p>Preparations were made for 53 Div to come through and adv NORTH towards BOCHOLT.</p> <p>A heavy counter attack came in on 6 RSF bridgehead. Some penetration of the woods in the area 205534 was made, but this was later cleared. Two coys of 6 KOSB went into bridgehead under comd 6 RSF.</p> <p>The counter attack eventually collapsed and 158 Bde attacked through 44 Bde at 2400 hrs. By morning the advance was well to the NORTH and the battle was over.</p> <p>Total number of PW taken during the Operation was 2000.</p>	
	28		Various readjustments of coys were made.	
	29 30 31	) ) )	The battle quickly receded from the Bde and the Bde enjoyed some rest and a general clean up. Bde HQ remained at the same location.	

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 44 (L) Inf Bde

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year APR 45

Commanding Officer Brig HCHT CUMMING-BRUCE DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
nr HAMMINKELN 199499	1) 2) 3)		Bde resting	
	4	0010  1430	Recce and harbour parties ordered to RV at rd & rly crossing at GREVEN 904886 at 1300 hrs. H hr for move of main bodies finally fixed at 0715 hrs 5 Apr. Move order issued.	See Folio 4
BOGHORST 7792	5	1530  2310	Conc of Bde Gp in BOGHORST completed. All units had first class billets in this town which had scarcely been touched by the war. Orders from Div for Bde Comd to meet Div Comd at Div at 1000 hrs 6 Apr. LO to be brought.	
	6	0930 1130 1225 1330	Bde Comd went to Div taking BM and LO with him. All recce parties warned to be ready to move at 1230 hrs. All vehs of Bde Gp less Bde HQ ready to move NOT before 1800 hrs. COs for O Gp NOT before 1200 hrs. O Gp summoned for 1245 hrs and bns warned to meet TCVs at 0030 hrs 7 Apr. Fd Marshall Montgomery visited the Bde Comd in the Offrs' Mess.	
MEISTER- STRASSE 6326	7		Conc of the Bde Gp completed in area of LAVESLOH 6825 with Bde HQ at MEISTERSTRASSE 635262.	
	8	0200  1340 1410	Gen clearing of all the woods in the area was commenced by all 3 bns and some PW taken. Warning Order: No move before midnight 9 Apr. 6 KOSB ordered to find gd of one coy for amn dump in the OSTER WALD.	
	9		IO spent fruitless morning with sec of def pl searching houses as a result of infm from Russian PWX. Bns did coy trg and a little wood clearing. 1745 Warning order sent to Bde Gp of probable early move on 10 Apr.	

WINDHEIM 8626	10	1415 1800 1945	The Bde Gp conc in the area EAST of R WESER was completed with Bde HQ at WINDHEIM 8626. Bde Comd went to 'O' Gp at Div. No move before 1100 hrs 11 Apr.	
HELLENDORF	11	1600 1720	Bde moved off in rear of 227 and 46 Bdes who were continuing the adv on CELLE against fairly hy opposition in way of demolitions and defended rd blocks. Bde HQ est at HELLENDORF 350428 with bns in the neighbouring villages of OGENBOSTEL, ELZE, GAILHOF.	
	12	1206	Progress on 46 & 227 Bdes fronts very slow and move of the whole Bde Gp was cancelled with exception of 6 KOSB who cleared through the woods on the left of 227 Bde axis and bivouaced for night in woods NW of CELLE. Tps were warned NOT to approach nearer than 4000 yds to the br at WINSEN 4756 as Germans were treating for surrender of area WEST of R ORTZE.	
CELLE 5849	13	1100 1650 2100	Bde Gp moved into CELLE 5849 and were put at one hr's notice to move behind 46 and 227 Bdes who were continuing the adv towards UELZEN. Bde Gp were infm that there would be no move before 0730 hrs next day. O Gp met at Bde HQ for planning next day's move.	
SUDERBURG 8381	14	0920 1030 1605 1800	Bde Gp ordered to move as soon as possible with 181 Fd Regt leading. Leading bns to clear main axis and following bns to clear diversion. 227 Bde were reported to be fighting on the outskirts of UELZEN. Bde Gp moved off with O Gp at head of coln. Bde HQ was est in SUDERBURG 8381 with 6 RSF in same village and 6 KOSB in RABER 8079. 8 RS were still held up by lack of BD squads in their clearing of the main axis. 6 RSF were put under comd of 227 Bde and the bn moved off to harbour in the area NORTH of HOLDENSTEDT. 8 RS had now cleared the axis and were moving up to conc in HOLDENSTEDT. Bde Gp were then warned for an op to outflank UELZEN from the EAST supported by two sqns of 4 COLDM GDS.	
SUDERBURG	15	0635 1107 1200	6 KOSB moved fwd to conc in area of HOLDENSTEDT having been previously warned that they would probably not op before 0900 hrs. Bde HQ followed at 1010. Leading tps of 8 RS reached BORNE and pushed to NIENDORF and WRESTEDT, meeting little opposition. 6 RSF moving up to HALLINGDORF against scattered opposition. Two coys finally est there.	

SUDERBURG	15	1355	6 KOSB were ordered fwd to NIENDORF and thence to carry on to HAMBROCK, where they met some opposition but finally were in possession at 1900 hrs. One coy relieved a coy of 2 A & SH in the woods to the WEST of this village.	
NIENDORF	16	2200	Active patrolling and extension of posns was carried out during the night, and by morning all posns were firm. The 6 Air Ldg Bde began a further outflanking mov on our right and made good progress. Two coys 6 RSF moved on to MEHRE against slight opposition and were completely est there by midnight.	
	17	0200 1000 2220	8 RS commenced an attack on GR LIEDERN and the village was completely taken 3 hrs later. Patrolling was at once commenced in the direction of OLDENSTADT to the NORTH. Bde Comd & BM went to O Gp at Div. 6 KOSB carriers pushed into the eastern outskirts of UELZEN. They were followed by a coy. That was the beginning of a gradual infiltration which preceded the next night's attack and brought two coys 6 RSF and two coys 6 KOSB half way through UELZEN by 2100 hrs. Meanwhile tps of the Airborne Div were making steady progress round on right flank and had reached MASENDORF due NORTH of UELZEN by 1800 hrs. 6 KOSB pushed a patrol across the River ILMENAU into UELZEN and formed a slight bridgehead there. OO No 10 issued.	See Folio 5.
	18		During the night 6 RSF and 6 KOSB completed the occupation of the eastern half of UELZEN, taking a large number of PW. Mopping up began at first lt and when completed the bns sat down to await the arrival of 46 Bde on the west half of the town. A number of BRIT-FRENCH PWX were liberated. 8 RS carriers found OLDENSTADT clear and it was occupied by two coys. Further patrols were made to the NORTH clearing RIPDORF & the surrounding country. Op Instr No 4 issued.	See Folio 6.
MASENDORF	19		Bde Gp moved fwd to conc in the area of MASENDORF.	
ROHSTORF	20	1430	Bde Comd & IO went fwd to Div which was in SCHARNEBECK six miles EAST of LUNEBURG, while Bde HQ and 3 bns moved to area of ROHSTORF 9015. First Outline Plan for ELBE crossing issued.	See Folio 9
LUNEBURG	21		Bde moved to conc in eastern outskirts of LUNEBURG.	
	22 to 25		Resting and cleaning up were the main occupations of the Bde. Planning for Op "ENTERPRISE" was carried on by staffs and a conference for COs was held at Bde at 1830 hrs 24 Apr. Naval recce parties arrived with the Bde and did good work in recce of the river.	

			Adm Order No 25 issued.	See Folio 11
	26 & 27		Little to report. Planning and recces for the op continued. OO No 12 issued. Adm Order No 26 issued.	See Folio 10 See Folio 12
	28	1500 1800 2130	Corps Comd visited the Bde Comd. Massed pipe bands of the Div beat retreat in the Cavalry Bks LUNEBURG. Bde Tac HQ moved up to ARTLENBURG and est alongside Crossing Control.	
ARTLENBURG	29 & 30	0200	8 RS and 6 RSF began the aslt on the ELBE. (The crossing of the ELBE is very fully described in CV1 Logs and in "The Story of the Brigade Crossing", copy of which is att. Details are not given here).	See Folio 25

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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit HQ 44 (L) Inf Bde incorporating Def Pl att

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year May 1945

Commanding Officer Brig HCHT CUMMING-BRUCE, DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
GULZOW	1		11 Armd Div passed through the Bde during the night and at first light broke out northwards towards LUBECK and the BALTIC, without much opposition. 6 KOSB captured BRUNSTORF and Bde HQ moved to SCHWARZENBEK 8249.	
SCHWARZENBEK 8249	2		Bns cleared the SACHSENWALD, taking many prisoners, incl the Prince and Princess von BISMARCK and members of the Swedish and Swiss Consulates from HAMBURG. The night was spent in the area of this wood.	
	3	1232 1525	The Bde moved on to some high ground overlooking HAMBURG. Div HQ passed word that all Germans in HAMBURG had surrendered. Bde HQ moved to RAUSDORF 720582.	
RAUSDORF 720582	4		Bde moved NORTH, Bde HQ to TREMS 703754, with a view to sweeping NORTH into SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.	
TREMS 703754	5	1430	No move for 48 hrs. Various rumours about the surrender began to fly about and it was later announced that all the German tps in NW EUROPE had surrendered.	
	8		VE day. The war over. It was announced that the Bde was to take over KREIS SEGEBERG.	
	13		Bde HQ moved to MUSSEN 734032, with 8 RS at BAD BRAMSTEDT 4193, 6 RSF at BAD SEGEBERG 6996 and 6 KOSB at ORSDORF 4985.	
MUSSEN 734032	19	1700	Band of the Royal Scots played at Bde HQ.	
	21	0930	SEGEBERG Kreis conference at 625 Mil Gov Det at BAD SEGEBERG, attended by Bde Comd, Bde IO, COs of bns, Comd 194 Fd Amb and Comd 625 Mil Gov Det.	
	28	0930	SEGEBERG Kreis conference, with same present as above.	