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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 4th BN. K.O.S.B.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Commanding Officer LT COL C.L. MELVILLE

Month and Year SEP. 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
AMERSHAM	1		Maps drawn for new Op. General principle was to create a formidable block of 1 Airborne Div, 82 + 101 U.S. Airborne Divs, Polish Para Bde and 52 Div in the area RENAIX, LESSINES and ATH.	See Appx 16
	4		Bn moved to new Conc Area at WOODHALL SPA, LINCS.	
WOODHALL SPA	5		Op postponed 48 hrs on account of bad weather. By this date the ops area was in Allied hands. "O" Gp. visited emplaning airfids at FOLKINGHAM, SALTBY, COTTESMORE.	
	6		Maps drawn on 1 Sep returned, new issue drawn. Bn allotment of DUTCH and GERMAN currency drawn.	
	7	0010	O.O. No 1 and O.O. No 2 issued Ops postponed 24 hrs.	See Appces 1 and 2
	8		GOC briefed all Coy Cmds in Div on most recent plans. Adjnt, OC HQ Coy, I.O. and Atk Pl Cmd briefed by C.O.	" Appx 19
	9		Unofficial visit by the G.O.C. I.O. collected 1/25,000 map cover of Ops area from Div HQ.	
	10		Bde Cmd took salute at Bn Church Parade March Past. Further change of ops plan.	
	11		Leave up to 72 hrs started. Bn allotment of maps broken down into Army Block Serial Gps.	
	12			
	17		Official news received of 1st Airborne Army landings in HOLLAND.	
	18		G.O.C.'s briefing Conference for all Coy Comds and equivalent in the Div. He described plans and units involved in Airborne Army - same units as mentioned above under 1 Sep. 52 Div has several possible roles:- a) To assist 1 Div in holding ARNHEM bridgehead. b) To advance against Germany with the British Second Army. c) To clean up resistance down the SCHELDT to ANTWERP and the Estuary. d) To mop up units of German 65 Corps who are defending reprisal weapon sites north of AMSTERDAM.	

			Likely landing place : an airfd at DEELEN - no flying dates given.	
WOODHALL SPA	19.		Received 190700 SITREP of 1 Airborne Corps Capt COUTTS, Lt McMILLAN and their loading parties warned to move to airfd p.m. 20 Sep. Bn Exercise : a) To practice modified man loads - based on lightened rucksack, with excess kit wrapped in bedrolls which are all overloaded on to Bn tpt. Found that 2 IN MOR teams in particular are still too heavily loaded. Decided to plan redistribution of amm. b) Practised carrying one full strength Rifle Coy on 12 Jeeps and Trailers.	See Appx. 3. Seep Appx 18 GWH
	20	2315	Move of a/m loading parties postponed 24 hrs. CO, 2i/c, Adjt summoned to Bde Conf.	GWH
	21	0200 1700 2045- 2315 2045	CO's 'O' Gp called : New op. Bn on 4 hrs notice to move to an airfd as and from 0400 hrs. Strength of force 30 offrs 431 O.R's - force to be glider borne. D Coy and remainder of Bn not affected to be cmd by Major RAE - probably following up in Dakotas at later date. CO, 2i/c to Div Comd Conf. CO held Coy Confs to coordinate changes in load manifests Op postponed 24 hrs.	GWH
	22	1000 1000 1400 1615 1700	All new load manifests recd by CO from Coys 210700 Sitrep recd. CO held further briefing Conf for Coy Cmd and equivalents : op to be known in Bn as YANK. Outline plan : 4 KOSB with similar force from 5 KOSB and skeleton Bde HQ, sp by modified Bty, Fd Arty, to land in gliders West of main NIJMEGEN - ARNHEM axis, and move up to southern bank of river near Arnhem to protect rear of 1st Airborne Div posns. Op cancelled. 211900 Sitrep recd.	See Appx 20 See Appx 4 See Appx 5 GWH
	23	1200 2000	221030 Sitrep recd. 230210 Sitrep recd.	" " 6 " " 7
	24	1315 2000	Warning order recd to move loading parties to airfd. Loading parties departed for FOLKINGHAM airfd : Capt COUTTS & ½ ATK PL, Lt McMILLAN & one pl D Coy, Lt Brebner (RAMC) and Bearer Sec.	GWH GWH
WOODHALL SPA	25	0900 1600	232230 Sitrep recd. 240729 Sitrep, 241600 Sitrep, 242300 Sitrep recd.	See Appx 8 See Appces 9,10,11. GWH
	26	1230	251200 Sitrep from Bde I.O. Draft of 44 O.R.'s posted from No 44 RHU - all Scottish Regts : many are 51 Div.	" " 12 GWH
	27	1130	261230 Sitrep recd.	See Appx 13.
	29	0930 1700	271200 Sitrep recd. Ref entry on 24 Sep., Loading Parties returned to unit locn.	" " 14 GWH

	30	1000	281900 Sitrep recd.	" " 15 GWH
		Notes	<p>:- a) The following Appendices are fwd in connection with the various ops which have affected the Bn throughout the month.</p> <p>No. 16 - HQ Airborne Tps Planning Int. Summary No.1.</p> <p>17 - Bn Standing Orders for Airtn</p> <p>18 - Carriage of Kit and Eqpt.</p> <p>19 - Situation - Enemy Order of Battle as on 8 Sep 1944</p> <p>20 - "WACO" Operation - Aircraft Load Tables</p> <p>21 - " " - Amn Statement</p> <p>b) Appendices are fwd <u>only</u> with Original War Diary.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C.L. Melville Lt. Col. 3 Oct. 44.</p>	GWH

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WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year OCTOBER 1944

Commanding Officer LT COL C.L. MELVILLE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
WOODHALL SPA	2	0900 1200	291900 Sitrep recd. Int Report 30 Sep " 301900 Sitrep, and Int. Report to 011000 recd)) See Appces 1,2,3 & 4.) GWH
	3	0900	301200 Sitrep recd late.	See Appx 5.
	3 to 6		Div Skeleton Ex HALFALOAF - to practice the efficiency of signal commn whilst on Airtn basis. Maj RAE and I.O. represented Bn HQ.	GWH
	7	1300 1700 2245	All leave cancelled - personnel on leave recalled. 071000 Sitrep recd Cipher message : Bn on 6 hours' notice to move wef 090100 to a Marshalling Area. Coys ordered to be loaded up by 081830 - on 3 hrs' notice from 082359	See Appx 6. GWH
	8	2130	C.O. attended Bde Cmd 'O' Gp.	GWH
	9	0900 1000 1630	071200 Sitrep and Intrep recd C.O.'s "O" Gp - Fresh op being prepared. Div NOT now airtptd, but concentrating for a sea assault, destination and role unknown. Kit and order of "Fly-in" remains same as for Airtn role. 155 Bde likely to move 10 Oct. Op known as Exercise WHOLEMEAL Bn notified no move before 110600	See Appces 7 & 8 GWH
	10	1430 1745 1800 1930	C.O. attended Bde "O" Gp. 2nd Army Order of Battle, 155 Bde Gp Int Summary No.2 recd C.O.'s "O" Gp : Outline Div plan now seems to be that units move to Marshalling Area in four echelons :- I Personnel II Jeep & Trailer III Carriers IV 3-Tonners. On disembarking on Continent, Div will conc to allow units reorganise whilst small dets will be sent fwd into battle zones to build up picture of present type fighting etc. Destination still unknown. II Ech prepare to move as from 110600 under Lt ALEXANDER ; I Ech probably pm 13 or am 14 Oct. I.O. issued Ops Maps to Coys	See Appces 9 & 10 GWH
	11	1045 1630	081200 & 091200 Sitreps recd Complete Bn placed on 12 hrs notice to move as from 1545 hrs.	See Appces 11 & 12 GWH
	12		101200 Sitrep recd : 52 Div passes from cmd FAA to cmd 21 Army Gp.	GWH - Appx 13
WOODHALL	13	1030	C.O.'s 'O' Gp : further admin details thrashed out : Bn changing to	

SPA		1800	W.E. of normal Inf Div, but retains mountain kit and airborne tpt. I.O. drew maps to cover move from Port of Disembarkation to Div Conc Area. No move for Bn before 16 Oct.	GWH
	14	0700-	1st G.H. and 7/9 R.S. moved to their respective Marshalling Areas.	GWH
	16	1400	Warning Movement Order & timings recd. C.O. held Advance Conf for 'O' Gp	
TRANSIT CAMP SOUTHAMPTON	17	0330	Main Body Personnel Ech (HQ, SP, B & C Coys) entrained at WOODHALL SPA.	
		1355	" " " " arrived FAREHAM and proceeded to Transit Camp	A/17.
		0750	Remainder " " (A and D Coys) entrained WOODHALL SPA	
		1700	" " " " arrived FAREHAM, thence to Transit Camp A/17.	GWH
	18	0730	Bn moved in TCV's from Transit Camp to SOUTHAMPTON DOCKS, arriving there 0830 hrs.	
		1030	Bn embarked on LSI(H) The LADY OF MANN, along with 241 Coy RE and 355 Lt AA R.A.	
		1200	Ship sailed and made way down to Convoy RV.	
		2045	Convoy sailed for OSTEND ; weather gale force 9 / fairly rough seas ; sickness remarkably limited.	GWH
	19	1030	Dropped anchor 3 miles out from OSTEND to await favourable tide.	
		1430	Seas too heavy to enter harbour which is rendered difficult by sunken German block ships.	
		1600	Convoy turned about and made for sheltered ENGLISH waters.	
		2100	Cast anchor off RAMSGATE where convoy waited during night.	GWH
OSTEND	20	0815	Convoy sailed once more for OSTEND ; sea very much calmer.	
		1430	Bn commenced disembarking, met by guides from 7/9 R.S. ; Bn marched to No 60 Transit Camp, an ex-German barracks ; C.O. & I.O. meantime recd orders for Conc Area by Acting GI Div.	
		1600	Bn Adv Party under 2i/c left for Conc Area.	GWH
VIVE ST ELOI	21	0845	Bn left Transit Camp in TCV's, except small Rear Party under Sgt Gray, Mor Pl who were left in charge of Bn cycles and handcarts.	
		1205	Main Body arrived Conc Area, met by Adv Party in VIVE ST ELOI (H9665)	
		1200	Tps billeted mainly with civilians. Task of settling in rendered easy by the wonderful hospitality of the townspeople. Local language Flemish, but intercourse by use of French and English.	
			Owing to the fact that a few collaborators and disguised Germans still in area, certain routine security measures taken :- (1) All ranks carry personal wpns charged at all times, (2) No soldier permitted to walk anywhere alone, (3) Double sentries posted on all HQ's by night, (4) One pl, strength 1 offr 30 O.R.'s detailed daily as Bn Inlying Picquet, (5) All ranks to be in billets by 2230 hrs.	GWH
	22	1700	SP Coy moved from unsatisfactory billets to VIVE ST BAVON (H9170)	GWH
	24	0900	Coy Cmds & Spec Pl Cmds inspected Atlantic Wall at OSTEND.	

		1500	Jeep and 3 tonner Ech under LT CARTNER arrived VIVE ST ELOI. Ech embarked TILBURY on 22 Oct and sailed in L.S.T.2, beaching near OSTEND on 23 Oct - completely off-loaded by 2300 hrs. Ech staged at 60 Transit Camp 23/24 Oct, and arrived VIVE ST ELOI 1500 hrs.	
		2325	Stray shot fired near area M.T. Compound - no damage done - local opinion holds that shot fired by collaborator or German probably from area ZULTE	GWH
	25	1500	C.O. left Bn HQ to meet Cmd 1st Canadian Army at GHENT.	
	26	0900	Bn recce party under 2i/c to KLEIT - took over billets from 6 H.L.I.	
		0900	C.O. gave O Gp prelim briefing on imminent Op - INFATUATE I. 2/Lt J. DUHAMEL, late Belgian Army and Underground Army became attached to Bn HQ - to be employed for interpreting duties and liaison with civil population.	GWH
	27	0800	Move to KLEIT (J.0296) of Bn Adv Party.	
		1230	" " " " Main Body, arriving 1600 hrs.	
		0800	C.O., I.O. to Tac Bde HQ at BRUGES - present at following Confs. a) Bde Cmd & Cmd 4 Commando - Commando plan outlined and tied up with proposed 155 plan. b) Bde Cmd, BM, C.O., I.O. : details 4 KOSB plan discussed. c) As in b, + Cmd R.N. Gp : L.C.A. plan decided upon.	GWH
KLEIT	28	1300	C.O. & I.O. to HQ 4 Commando at DE HAAN (C.7307). Further details mutual sp discussed. Met Capt A. THORBURN, ex I.O. of this Bn, who will be leading Commando Tp Cmd in coming operation.	
		1600	C.O. & I.O. to Bde Tac HQ. C.O. outlined Bn plan - details of Sp Arms agreed upon.	GWH
		1830	C.O.'s O Gp - Bn plan outlined to Coy Comds for attack on FLUSHING - issue of 1/10,000 Town Plans - sector objectives given. Broad outline of Op : Combined Op against FLUSHING launched from BRESKENS - Commando touch down 0545 hrs 1 Nov and seize the Southern part of town as bridgehead - 4 KOSB pass through and capture northern half. Bombing plan : 500 Hy Bombers on town during 48 hour period up to H-15. Arty : 282 pieces incl Fd, Med, Hy and Super Hy take over from H-15, thence as called upon. Sp Arms : 241 Fd Coy R.E., 452 Mtn Bty R.A., 4 Pl (4.2 Mor) A Coy 7 Manch, 2 Bearer Secs 155 Fd Amb.	GWH
	29	1100	C.O. briefed all offr. I.O. visited Sp Arms to obtain numbers for Adv Parties.	
		1500	4.2 Mor Pl Cmd visited HQ - details of Mor sp decided.	
		1530	Additional Bearer Sec under Lt JONES arrived from 155 Fd Amb.	
		1600	Four F.O.O. parties arrived from 110 and 61 Fd Regts.	
		1550	O.C. 452 Mtn Bty visited HQ - Adv parties, F.O.O.'s, possible targets arranged.	

		1730 1800- 2230	C.O.'s 'O' Gp - further details mostly admin discussed. C.O., I.O., S.O. worked out exact details of LCA loads and flights. [2000 hrs. Bde Int Smy No 3 recd - no copy available for records]	GWH
	30	0900 1730 2145	'O' Gp visited BRESKENS - recced area for conc night 31/10. Visibility poor so very little of FLUSHING seen. C.O. & I.O. to Bde Tac HQ - Canadians into WALCHEREN with objective EAST part of FLUSHING - if successful, bombing programme off - but 4 Commando & 4 KOSB carry out original plan. C.O.'s 'O' Gp - Admin orders for move 1000 hrs 31 Nov.	[Bde Admin Instrs recd - no copy available] GWH
	31	0045	Order from Bde to move 0900 hrs to BRESKENS [Remaining entries will be incl in War Diary for NOV.] C.L. Melville Lt. Col.	

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Commanding Officer LT COL C.L. MELVILLE

Month and Year NOVEMBER 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
KLEIT BRESKENS	OCT 31	0800 1200 1500 2000	Bn, less L.O.B's, moved up to BRESKENS from KLEIT to conc for assault on FLUSHING. L.O.B. consisted in general of either OC or 2i/c in each Rifle Coy ; O.C. HQ Coy ; complete ATK Pl ; Bn 2i/c ; senior rep from each Specialist Pl or Sec. Bn arrived Breskens, accommodated in two or three large municipal buildings - whole town in ruins. "O" Gp - final plans for the morrow's assault discussed. No 4 Commando landing first to take South half of town ; followed by 4 KOSB who were to pass through and seize the Northern half - time allowed approx 12 hrs, i.e. before darkness 1 Nov. Air spt from 500 "Heavies" now doubtful on account of bad weather. G.O.C. visited HQ during Conf, and wished all ranks good fortune. Bn resting. C.O. 4 Cdo visited HQ and tied up last few details of liaison and mutual spt. Informed us that his leading Troop was commanded by Capt A. THORBURN, an ex-Int Offr of 4 KOSB.	
	NOV 1	0500 0630 0755 0805 approx 0810 0820 0825 0900 1000	Arty bombardment of shore line and Southern half of FLUSHING - 282 pieces firing incl Heavy, Med, Fd guns and Rocket guns. Commandos report that beachhead firmly established and held. C and B Coys touching down on UNCLE beach ; little enemy opposition. Capt J.L. BENNETT seriously wounded in spine by small arms fire coming from area of BELLAMY PARK. Second Flight (Bn HQ, A & D Coys) sailing into range of MG 42, Mortars and enemy Airburst. Enemy fire thickened up on beach, and was intense as Second Flight touched down. Both R/T links to Bde lost on muddy beach, also Bn Control Set which was completely torn by shrapnel. C.O. & I.O. at Cdo HQ - informed that Cdo had set up blocks in areas DOVER, BEXHILL and Block 46, but the town by no means cleared. C.O. & I.O. rejoined HQ, moving up through Cdo posns to establish permanent HQ in an Air Raid Shelter in GRAVE STRAAT (112241) C Coy held up on Start Line on the BEXHILL X Rds by 20mm and Hy MG fire from heavy pillbox firing directly along GOOSJE BUSKEN STRAAT,	All codenames or Street names mentioned in this document will be easily found on the Town Map of Flushing attached as an Appx - with ref also to Trace 'A' attd to 155 Bde O.O. No1.

		and Hy MG fire from posn near Emergency Power Station (108245). C Coy and 2 Carr Secs consequently occupied the buildings on the South corner of BEXHILL X Rds, from which location of fire and further recce could be carried out.	
	1015	C.O. & I.O. moved fwd with B Coy up WAL STRAAT twds BEXHILL X Rds ; B Coy also checked by accurate single shot and automatic fire impossible to locate - later confirmed to be coming from corner of BADHUIS STRAAT (106244). Coy moved west out of WAL STRAAT and so up through buildings twds C Coy.	
	1045	Pl of 4.2 Mors touched down - L.C.A. carrying amn recd direct hit and became with its load a total loss.	
	1050	Smoked on both flanks by Carr Secs, one pl C Coy advanced under heavy fire across BEXHILL X Rds into buildings on north side. This entirely successful, since enemy fired high into protective smoke. Whole Coy then filtered across by same means.	
	1110	Bn 3" Mors conc on enemy posn at Pt 46 (108245)	
	1114	Med and Hy Arty shelled the town East of SCHELDE STRAAT and North of DEKEN STRAAT.	
	1130	Information recd from Cdo: PW taken up to now are either Navy personnel or 1019 Inf Regt, 70 Div ; Div Cmd General DASER has his HQ at MIDDELBURG where there are some 2000 troops. 2nd Bn, 1019 Inf Regt had its HQ at ARNEMUIDEN, and part of Bn reported to have entered Flushing on 31 Oct. Various of the factory buildings in shipyard reported prepared for demolition ; this never confirmed. Local police report presence of 3000 civilians in town. Civilians surprisingly quick in appearing between periods of shelling and other fire - impossible to control them to any great extent - however the necessity did not arise, since they disciplined themselves admirably. It was found very early that information and assistance from the Underground Army was erratic both in veracity and usefulness, though their help increased throughout the action.	
	1300	Reserve 22 set arrived from Bde ; direct contact re-established ; contact previously made through Cdo channels. General plan modified : 4 Cdo and 4 KOSB to hold and clear South half of town ; 5 KOSB to pass through and undertake original 4 KOSB task. Bn layout : C Coy and one pl B Coy occupying area SCHOOL - Block 9 ; remainder B Coy + Carriers occupying block on South corner BEXHILL X Rds ; D Coy in conjunction with French Tp, 4 Cdo, overlooking strong German pillbox posn near block 58 from buildings at junction of BOULEVARD and GOOSJE BUSKEN STRAAT ; A Coy in reserve round junction of GRAVE and EMMA STRAATS ; Bn HQ unchanged ; Mors in area Bn HQ.	

		<p>All three fwd Coys out of wireless contact ; comms by runner rendered slow by unlocated snipers. This sniping, and resistance by isolated MG's, extremely difficult to combat owing to Germans' superior knowledge of ground, and the ease with which these small bodies could conceal themselves and change posn.</p> <p>1317 5th Bn KOSB embarking at BRESKENS to reinforce in FLUSHING.</p> <p>1435 TYPHOON aircraft recceing for strike on PICCADILLY.</p> <p>1445 Typhoons blasting PICCADILLY with considerable success.</p> <p>1500 Leading tps 5 KOSB landing on UNCLE beach.</p> <p>1510 C.O. 5 KOSB visited HQ and recd latest infm. 5 KOSB conc between HQ & beach.</p> <p>1515 C Coy captured German QM and cook along with rations ; employed them for next ten hours as Coy cooks.</p> <p>1630 A Coy moved up into Shipbuilding Yard - able to make visual and vocal contact across X Rds with B Coy, but any movement out of gates discouraged by prompt MG fire.</p> <p>1645 R.E. Recce Party Offr reported that assault on pillbox (block 58) impossible for Infantry since nearest approach was a small window 50 yds from one of the 20 mm guns inside it - flamethrowers the answer but none available.</p> <p>1700 D Coy withdrawn into SPUI STRAAT to clear way for Arty and Air attack on block 58. Meanwhile they are to clear towards TOWER, block 65.</p> <p>1930- C.O., I.O. & O.C. Carriers visited A and B Coys - met O.C. C Coy at 2130 B Coy HQ, where latest infm given & orders for night. Posn 58 still very much intact ; small arms fire active and accurate from Dock area, blocks 51 and 23. Still impossible to locate these posns accurately. Steady British shelling maintained throughout night. Occasional Boche mortaring & shelling twds Beach area.</p> <p>2000 Infm recd that Schelde factories prepared for demolition and possibly to be blown during night ; A Coy pls to be withdrawn into West end of Dockyards ; Pnr Offr to take small recce party and investigate for charges - this task extremely difficult : very dark night and exact enemy locations not known ; no charges found within limits of search - no building in fact even blew up.</p> <p>2105 D Coy report capture of blocks 8 and 23.</p> <p>2130 C.O. to Bde : 4 KOSB to hold present posns ; 5 KOSB to pass through our BEXHILL posns at 0530 2 Nov, with intense preliminary Arty bombardment.</p> <p>2300 C.O. briefed 'O' Gp on plan 2 Nov :- <u>Infm</u> : SS Bde have taken WESTKAPELLE ; 156 & 157 Bdes have passed through Canadian bridgehead across the BEVELAND Causeway. German Cmd of WALCHEREN Garrison has</p>	
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		2359	<p>broadcast on Canadian frequency his willingness to surrender the island ; reply given that this would be accepted provided all German posns show white flag. Corps policy is to respect white flag strictly ; this is to be accepted with provision that if any posn showing white flag fires upon any sub-unit, drastic action will be taken against it.</p> <p>Underground leader requested C.O. to ensure no shelling on Office Buildings blocks 43 & 44 since 1000 civilians sheltering there, many of them already injured. After consulting Bde Cmd, C.O. dictated that a) the offices would not be a concentration target, b) civilians be evacuated after daylight, c) German Tps there who were alleged willing to surrender should be encouraged to do so with promise of fair treatment.</p>	GWH
2 Nov	0300 0445 0505 0510 0515 0515 0530 0530 0600 0630 0620 0630 0635	<p>7/9 R.S. reported disembarking on UNCLE beach.</p> <p>Arty concs commenced on North of town.</p> <p>Urgent message from B Coy to I.O. - own Arty falling on fwd coys - I.O. contacted Bde and arranged for all Arty to range up 200 yds.</p> <p>Message from Underground HQ reporting that ST JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL (block 44) had caught fire and that the place was full of civilian wounded.</p> <p>Leading elements 5 KOSB passed through Bn HQ area.</p> <p>O.C. Carriers reported Arty still falling on fwd Coys. I.O. again contacted Bde & asked for further lift of 200 yds.</p> <p>Shelling ceases - Fwd coys lost in casualties 3 killed and some 12 wounded. I.O. sent to Underground HQ to communicate Bde Cmd's orders - unless Germans surrendered unconditionally we could take no responsibility for civilian casualties.</p> <p>5 KOSB crossed BEXHILL X Rds, suffering casualties from conc Mor fire. 2/Lt M. NISBET of C Coy killed there whilst guiding 5 KOSB tps through enemy cross fire.</p> <p>I.O. sent with Underground L.O. to Bde HQ, and recd following orders from Bde Cmd : civilians were to start evacuating from north of town through A Coy area in Docks, and to be escorted by one pl 7/9 R.S. to Civilian Cage east of UNCLE beach.</p> <p>I.O. guided R.S. pl up to Docks through which hundreds of civilians were already streaming back - A Coy had already formed a segregation point at which all German soldiers were separated from civilians. Dock area being harassed by snipers located on cranes and in large ship in Building Yards.</p> <p>5 KOSB through COD, but area not completely cleared.</p> <p>5 KOSB moved into GROUSE.</p> <p>DOVER reported clear by Cdo ; this report cancelled five minutes</p>		

		<p>later.</p> <p>0800 Commandant of District Dutch Civil Affairs visited HQ for infm concerning evacuation of civilians to mainland. British Civil Affairs not yet in WALCHEREN, so civilians must stay put.</p> <p>0915 D Coy reported trouble from area blocks 54 and 65.</p> <p>0930 3.7 Hows firing direct on to sniper hides in Dockyard Cranes - many direct hits scored.</p> <p>0950 5 KOSB reported GROUSE completely cleared.</p> <p>(0800 German wireless news admitted loss of FLUSHING)</p> <p>1000 R.M.O. evacuating casualties across BEXHILL lane of fire, using German prisoners as S.B.'s.</p> <p>1300 Warning order that block 58 was to become a Typhoon target - D Coy disposns withdrawn to facilitate this attack.</p> <p>1315 5 KOSB reported DIKE nearly clear - also PARTRIDGE.</p> <p>1350 Typhoons went in on block 58 - no direct hits, but post surrendered soon afterwards, thus allowing D Coy up into BOULEVARD BANKERT (see below)</p> <p>1410 DIKE & PARTRIDGE definitely taken by 5 KOSB.</p> <p>1435 13 PW taken by D Coy in area block 58.</p> <p>1520 DOVER reported clear - D Coy reorganising.</p> <p>1635 Two patriots reported to I.O. with a fairly recent map showing minefields which now were under water - map sent back to Bde.</p> <p>1700 Warning Order for move : B and D Coys taking over Cdo commitments on sea front. Possibility of counter attack entertained ; two danger areas - a) North of DOVER with MG posns b) BRIGHTON with 2 MG pillboxes manned by German Marines.</p> <p>1830 Bn HQ moved to GROOTE MARKT, adjoining block 8.</p> <p>2000 3 POW of 5 Coy, II Bn, 1019 Inf Regt brought in by a Mortarman to whom they had surrendered - A/I.O. tried to squeeze infm about BRIGHTON from them, but they obviously knew little about the area.</p> <p>2045 C.O. departed to RV with C.O. 4 Cdo prior to Bde Conf.</p> <p>2100 Coy disposns for night 2/3 Nov : C Coy unchanged ; A Coy unchanged ; D Coy around corner SE of block 58 ; B Coy in block 19 with a close watch on BRIGHTON ; Carrs with C Coy ; Mors & Pnrs with Bn HQ.</p>	
	3 Nov	<p>0200 C.O. returned from Bde HQ - 7/9 R.S. to move up and attack area block 55 during 3 Nov.</p> <p>0815 Carr Pl sent in civilian claiming to be a head waiter from Hotel Britannia (ex-German Offrs Mess). This man on being halted was found to have two German grenades in his pocket - escorted direct to Bde.</p> <p>0900 3 PW taken in a neighbouring house to Bn HQ where they had been lying low since British landing. They and a few others were used to collect and evacuate dead Boches in the area.</p>	

		<p>0930 1 offr and 31 O.R.'s surrendered to B Coy in area block 19 - mixed Army & Marine personnel.</p> <p>0935 A Coy 7/9 R.S. which had been under cmd during night reported FALMOUTH clear of enemy ; nor were their patrols harassed from STRAND and PICCADILLY areas.</p> <p>1025 Intercept message from Fwd to Rear Bde gave first news of 7/9 R.S. attack - 200 PW taken.</p> <p>1030 Final score PW taken by B Coy - 1 offr and 42 O.R.'s.</p> <p>1115 Warning Order for A Coy to come under cmd 7/9 R.S.</p> <p>1140 Bn casualties to date : 1 offr and 7 O.R.'s killed ; 1 offr and 56 O.R.'s wounded.</p> <p>1150 Intercept message : 7/9 R.S. had captured enemy Colonel and were arranging surrender of remaining points of opposition. PW estimated about 900 in number.</p> <p>1220 C.O. arrived at HQ with FLUSHING Garrison Chief of Staff - the latter ordered to accompany along with C.O. the fwd elements of D Coy, and call upon all German tps from blocks 54 to 56 to surrender.</p> <p>1250 First batch of 30 PW arrived from D Coy.</p> <p>1325 D Coy reported capture of blocks 55 and 56, but further progress barred by strong opposition West of 55.</p> <p>1330 Second batch of 34 PW from D Coy.</p> <p>1400 A Coy moved up to area of junction KOUDEKERSCHE WEG and HOOGE WEG to hold themselves in readiness to support 7/9 R.S. who had in their action suffered fairly heavy casualties. This new area flooded ; problem of supplies very difficult particularly at high tide when weasel tpt was only possible means.</p> <p>1500 C.O. returned and went personally to Bde HQ to report on situation on D Coy front.</p> <p>1700 A and D Coys both now under cmd 7/9 R.S. ; all units consolidating day's gains.</p> <p>2030 No enemy action reported during last two hours.</p> <p>2130 2i/c & I.O. 7/9 R.S. visited HQ & compared infmn - C.O. 7/9 wounded earlier in day.</p>	
	4 NOV	<p>Up to 0600 - Sitrep NTR.</p> <p>0615 Intercept from 5 KOSB : 3 Coys across Canal - HAYMARKET, STRAND & PICCADILLY reported clear ; Canal bridge N.E. of block 47 reported damaged but passable ; two posns N. of Piccadilly troublesome.</p> <p>To No enemy action in Bn area ; tps clearing areas of German dead, and centralising enemy stores.</p> <p>1500</p> <p>1550 5 KOSB patrol reached 126277, just short of ATK obstacle ; casualties from mines, and opposition from embankment between rly and canal.</p>	<p>?(54 & 54 ?) (W of 54)</p>

		1615 Heavy Arty on 5 KOSB opposition. 1900 Warning from Bde - Bn to move on 5 Nov through 5 KOSB and so up to MIDDELBURG. 2100 Bn 'O' Gp - Bn to advance on Middelburg - B Coy on right of Canal with C Coy follow up, D Coy on left with A Coy follow up. No Arty sp on town itself since 40,000 civilians there. Appreciated that enemy ripe for surrender - close lookout to be kept for white flags which should be strictly respected.	
	5 NOV	0530 Leading tps moved off, passing SP bridge 116247 at 0630 hrs. 0710 B Coy contacted 5 KOSB at blown bridge between OOSTSOUBURG & WESTSOUBURG. C Coy conc in area 123256 ; Bn HQ at junction DEKEN STRAAT & KONINGS WEG, with D and A Coys close behind. 0720 Arty concs on area ATK obstacle ; with second shoot at 0800 hrs. 0820 TYPHOON attack on canal bend immediately South of MIDDELBURG. 0845 C.O. to B Coy - ordered Coy to advance one pl well spaced out and report enemy reaction. 0853 B Coy pl one third way up to ATK obstacle without incident. 0905 " " " approaching " " " " 0920 " " " under Mor fire from West of Canal bend ; MG fire from East of Canal bend ; sniped at close quarters from canal embankment. Little chance of cover - axis of advance narrow footpath with bad flooding on right ; rly on left probably mined ; embankment on other side rly definitely occupied. 0955 B Coy pl with 4 casualties withdrawn to White House 127278 1010 Arty called for fire on embankment area. 1050 Bde Cmd ordered C.O. to advance one Coy up West bank of canal - D Coy detailed. 1200 I.O. fwd to B Coy to pass on plan - D Coy to push fwd and try to bring B Coy opposition under direct S.A. fire. 1245 3 Germans surrendered from foxholes level with leading tps B Coy - interrogated by LT GJENDEMSJO, and told him there was a pillbox on embankment midway between B Coy and canal bend - this manned by about 30 strong commanded by a Major whose order has been "No surrender". 1315 O.C. B Coy, Mtn Regt F.O.O. and I.O. observing from White House - no sign of white flags - embankment evidently a warren of foxholes, with at least two well fortified, dug-in posns. 1430 I.O. reported back to C.O. & Bde Cmd. Decision taken to Typhoon both banks of canal. 1430 D Coy reported mined area commencing 125276 - Teller mines with booby appliances ; also Schu mines ; one man killed. Advance slowed down -	

		<p>1530 Typhoon attack not successful, failing to pinpoint enemy opposition.</p> <p>1600 Situation stabilised ; no movement fwd for B Coy ; D Coy prodding for limits of mines ; C Coy conc same area ; A Coy & Bn HQ in factory buildings block 47.</p> <p>2100 Bn 'O' Gp : B Coy to organise a Night Piat Patrol against "The Major's" pillbox ; if unsuccessful, to attack at first light. This plan discussed with relation to ground, over which it was literally a single file advance.</p> <p>2230 Plans altered - all patrols to be defensive only.</p>	
	6 NOV	<p>0600 Sitrep : no action during night.</p> <p>1100 D Coy up to ATK obstacle - Tellermines encountered. Pnrs and Sappers clearing wider track from HQ to D Coy posn.</p> <p>1200 6 HLI reported very close to MIDDELBURG, having approached from S.E.</p> <p>1215 A Coy 7/9 R.S. loading up in L.V.T. for left hook on Middelburg.</p> <p>1310 Typhoon attack on Canal bend. 3.7 Hows on Canal Embankment.</p> <p>1500 7/9 R.S. proceeding well, with very little opposition.</p> <p>1555 D Coy advanced 200 yd, taking 48 PW without casualties.</p> <p>1609 B Coy collected 9 PW from foxholes - MG fire still active from their right.</p> <p>1610 A Coy 7/9 RS into MIDDELBURG ; mass surrender of enemy ; civilian reaction strongly in British favour. Urgent requests for reinforcement.</p> <p>1730 Bn HQ, A & C Coys on 15 minutes notice for move up to Middelburg.</p> <p>1830 'O' Gp - plans given for night move up canal in L.V.T.</p> <p>1920 Intercept from R.S. - 2000 PW in Middelburg, incl GENERAL DASER.</p> <p>To2330 Bn fed and rested.</p> <p>2345 Tps marshalled and loaded into LVT</p>	
MIDDELBURG	7 NOV	<p>0200 Leading LVT finally moved off - delay caused by soft canal banks causing LVT's to become bogged ; were in fact three short because of this.</p> <p>0300 Beached in MIDDELBURG after a long, cold, wet sojourn in LVT - 5 HLI had entered town 10 minutes prior to Bn arrival</p> <p>0330 C.O. held Conf with C.O. 5 HLI and O.C. A Coy 7/9 R.S. 4 KOSB to be resp for clearing North part of town, and blocking bridge exits.</p> <p>0600 Tps all in reasonable billets - patrolling well under way.</p> <p>0900 D Coy entering Middelburg. B Coy report the "Major's" pillbox still holding out.</p> <p>1000 C.O. negotiated with German General, and arranged for a German Lieut, accompanied by an officer escort from Bn, to proceed by LVT to remaining strongpoint and call for surrender.</p> <p>1125 Surrender party moved off. C.O. and I.O. observed from Church Tower</p>	

		1300 onwds	; posn appeared already to have fallen - later discovered that "Mad Major" as he was called surrendered earlier to 6 HLI. Bn continued patrols as ordered ; also location & guarding of German stores.	
	8 NOV		Patrols and guards over German stores maintained.	
FLUSHING	9 NOV	1030 2030 2100	First Coy moved off back to FLUSHING:- complete Bn in by 1730 hrs. Warning Orders for return to BRESKENS OsC Coys handed in nominations for Immediate Awards	
	10 NOV	0730	Bn paraded for embarkation. Technical trouble with L.S.T.s ; and seas stormy - move postponed.	GWH
	11 NOV	1030	Bn sailed to BRESKENS, whence taken in M.T. back to KLEIT.	GWH
KLEIT	12 NOV	0700	Bn Adv Party under 2i/c left to recce new area near ROOSENDAAL ; on arrival found that 49 Div moving in. Amended order from Bde gave new location BERENDRECHT, Belgian village some 10 miles south of Bergen-op-Zoom.	GWH
BEREND- RECHT	14 NOV	1600	Bn moved into BERENDRECHT - continued to reorganise and check up eqpt. Liberty tpt organised daily for ANTWERP.	GWH
	17	0800	Adv Party left ; to recce new area between TILBURG & S'HERTOGENBOSCH.	GWH
CROMVOIRT BARRACKS	18	0700	Bn left BERENDRECHT ; new conc area an ex-German Barracks in woods a mile east of CROMVOIRT.	GWH
[GSGS 2541:- 5/284428]	19	1230	Recce parties under 2i/c moved up for a 48 hrs period to the front line near S'HERTOGENBOSCH, at present held by Canadians.	GWH
	7 NOV		<u>REINFORCEMENTS</u>	
	15 NOV		No. 85583 Lieut C. CAVENDISH) 121666 " R.B. STEPHENSON) K.O.S.B. - posted to Bn from 38 303314 " E. KENDRA) R.H.U. + 25 O.R.'s.	
			No. 323876 2/Lt F. McCOLL) 50877 " C.W. POWELL) BUFFS + 45 O.R.'s - posted to Bn from 38 R.H.U.	GWH
	22	2030	Org of Carr Pl changed to 2-sec basis ; surplus carriers for use of C.O. and Coy Cnds ; remainder personnel join with ATK Pl to form a small extra Rifle Coy - this a purely temporary and Bn arrangement. "O" Gp : for take over of sector of the MAAS line N.E. of S'HERTOGENBOSCH from 1st Motor Bn, Lake Superior Regt, 4 Cdn Armd	GWH

			Bde - posns to be taken over exactly as found. Take over commences 24 Nov, cmd passes to C.O. 241600, completed 250800. Moving up in sp - 79 Fd Regt, 2 pls M.G. 7 Manch ; 7/9 R.S. on left, 5 KOSB in res. 157 to take over sector left of 155 24 hrs later ; 156 to come into Div res after return from WALCHEREN. Div ATK Regt resp for sector right of Bn until relieved by Div Recce.	GWH
	23	1230	Adv parties left to prepare take-over.	
ROSMALEN- ORTEN SECTOR MAAS LINE (N and NE of S'HERTOGEN -BOSCH	24	1000 1015to 1330 1430 1500 1800 1900 1925 2200	Bn, less L.O.B., arrived new location. Coys settling in to Cdn posns except most fwd pls whose movement is confined to hours of darkness. C.O. and I.O. toured all Coy HQ's. Cmds 4 Cdn & 155 Bdes visited HQ - policy unchanged : Bn is to adopt exactly same locns and patrol routine as Cdn Bn. General activity to be kept quiet meantime. 'O' Gp : orders for completion take-over and night patrolling. D Coy reported slight mortaring in W. end of EMPHEL. D Coy reported their line deliberately cut 50 yds from rly br. D Coy take over complete - C Coy reporting likewise at 2010 hrs. Fwd posns reported all quiet - contact being made.	Patrol proformas are attd in Appces. GWH
	25	0110 0900 1130 1500 1830 Up to 2359	C Coy contact patrol surprised by Boche patrol - Sgt W. LEES killed; later patrols took one PW & found 2 dead Boches. I.O. took PW to Bde where he was questioned by G3I, Div. Infm gained (1) Identification 1 Coy, 1409 Fortress Bn. (2) Disposns of Coys (3) Route of enemy patrol. (4) Patrol task to get a prisoner, civilian or soldier. Sniper Sgt reported numerous wpn pits fwd of dyke N of MAAS - not manned by day. 'O' Gp : patrols to clear road EMPHEL - GEWANDE of civilians with Dutch L.O. assisting ; Capt COLVILLE to set up a Civil Control Centre in HINTHAM. Bde Cmd visited HQ - cancelled patrol programme and ordered normal patrolling meantime. Considerable horse drawn tpt heard N of enemy Dyke and digging on Dyke itself. Slight MMG fire over GEWANDE ; 6 Mor bombs landed in EMPHEL ; D Coy found one Schumine there ; series of flares spotted far N of MAAS.	GWH
	26	Up to 0800	Hy explosions heard in area MAAS rly br, probably improving demolitions. Hy explosions also heard far N of MAAS. Suspicious lights flashing from direction ORTEN, some of which were no doubt vehicles on main S'HERTOGENBOSCH axis. Small belt Tellermines encountered by SP control at 302494. Confirmed that Sgt Lees was carrying no compromising documents when killed - body was left for an hour before being brought in - Corps feared identification.	

		<p>To1300 Bn Cmd visited Bn area, touring C and D coy rear locns. I.O. 21 Cdn Armd Regt called for permission to use Bn area as Tank Gun Range - this had to be refused. V2 report from Int O.P. - 50° mag. from Int OP situated in ROSMALEN Church Tower.</p> <p>Up to 1800 452 Mtn Bty moving into ORTEN area - under C.R.A., not Bn control. Personnel in both fwd posns sniped at within these villages during daylight - blitz on civilians very necessary. 5 KOSB Adv Parties arrived to spend 48 hrs in the line prior to probable take over.</p> <p>To 2359 Road cleared of Tellermines at 302494. Considerable mortaring of EMPHEL. D Coy patrol ran into trouble from E end enemy bridgehead : 2 men killed ; one seriously wounded ; Pl Cmd LT CLARK tried to carry this man back but was forced to abandon him and lead his patrol back out of heavy and accurate MG 42 and Mor fire. Further attempts to recover the three bodies impossible owing to a) distance from enemy 70 yds b) bright moonlight with visibility several hundred yards c) Enemy have the only approach accurately registered.</p>	
	27	<p>0100 Mor OP established in house 299499. Patrol out N from ORTEN advanced to 303507 but halted by MG 42 fire from FORT CREVECOEUR and S area enemy bridgehead.</p> <p>0500 Spasmodic mortaring of road W of EMPHEL continued during night.</p> <p>0630 Numerous bearings on Mor flashes and MG flashes reported - Int OP & Sniper OP's fwd.</p> <p>1025 Small number enemy spotted 348538 : too far to engage with small arms - soon disappeared.</p> <p>1130 C.O. 6th BN CAMERONIANS visited HQ, then toured rear O.P.'s.</p> <p>1330 CO 79 Fd Regt arrived HQ to check Arty targets</p> <p>1450 GSO 1, 52 Div, and CO 5 KOSB studied front from Int O.P.</p> <p>1645 D Coy reported that they had cleared 15 civilians from houses between EMPHEL & 336516.</p> <p>1700 C Coy reported that Sniper Sgt had dispersed with Bren fire a digging party on Dyke 347540.</p> <p>1850 WILD patrol left early in attempt to capture 5 enemy who, civilians had reported, were S of the river in that area - no result. Later established that civilians were referring to houses, not enemy.</p> <p>1850 Document presented at HQ - authorisation for O.D. to draw wpns for their Watch Posts - C.O. forbade this and sent bearer to our Civil Centre to be interviewed by Cdn FSP.</p> <p>1915 F.O.O. reported probable OP in house at 318518.</p> <p>2046 Dutch L.O. and 2 Cdn FS Sgts arrived HQ & directed to Civil Centre.</p> <p>2122 C and D Coys reported relief of one fwd pl achieved without incident.</p>	

		2240	CO laid down following orders ref civilians cleared from fwd areas a) Allowed to clear livestock etc during daylight over next 48 [hr] period b) must not be in fwd area during hours of darkness, c) one O.D. unarmed allowed with our fwd posns to act as interpreter.	
	28	0140 0700 1055 1150 1300 1435 1930 2026 2105 2220	Cdn FSP reported that 5 of the civilians taken by D Coy were suspect & being held for further questioning. All patrols reported very quiet night. Enemy seen entering OP or MG post in factory roof 357545. I.O. returned from recce of area KRUISSTRAAT and east to road GEFFEN - LITHOIJEN and prepared trace showing widespread flooding and blown bridges found as result. Three bodies lost from patrol 25/26 Nov no longer visible - appreciated that enemy have them. GOC arrived HQ - general posn discussed - ref morning's recce A Coy to post 24 hrs standing Patrols at 379523 and 418530. Enemy patrol approaching GEWANDE from N - ambush prepared. D Coy patrol W of EMPER tried to draw fire by engaging E of enemy bridgehead - Mor reaction after 18 mins - next time reaction comes, gunners to counter-mortar immediately. Sniper report from EMPER - Sniper Cpl & his team spent whole day in house 336516 - 2 enemy spotted in tall house 334532 - house snipers using was spasmodically mortared all day, apparently from area 335531. 54 ATK Regt patrol spotted boat crossing river - opened fire when occupants disembarking, wounding 3 - then found to be civilians.	
	29	0030 0100 0245 0700 1100 1330 1415 1600 1730	Enemy seemed nervous in area of RUM targets - putting up flares, intermittent bursts MG 42 etc - was given Arty stonk one minute after midnight. Orders from GOC to lay on Arty spt for C Coy patrol out searching for Boche patrol. C Coy report no trace of enemy - seem to have withdrawn quickly after being spotted. Considerable MG activity from enemy bridgehead right up to first light. C.O. 6 CAMS visited HQ ; followed soon after by ADMS 52 Div and CO 155 Fd Amb. "O" Gp : 1. Orders for change over of Coys, 30 Nov. 2. Sniper OP to spend hours of daylight at WILD. G2 Div, G3 Bde and I.O. 5 KOSB visited HQ and proceeded to Int O.P. One assault boat arrived - for use in ferrying supplies from ROSMALEN to GEWANDE. Report from Sniper Sgt : 1. River 300 yd wide now. 2. Enemy trenches	GWH

		<p>S of his Dyke waterlogged. 3. Small digging party all morning 349548. 4. Factory 357545 still occupied.</p> <p>2000 Weather permitting Bde I.O. flying in Air O.P. 30 Nov - asked to examine particular localities opposite Bn sector.</p> <p>2150 Coy change over reported complete : B Coy now in EMPEL, A in GEWANDE.</p> <p>2359 Heavy explosion area MAAS rly br - thought to be further demolition.</p>	GWH
30	<p>0700 Very quiet night - enemy activity confined to two bursts spandau over EMPEL.</p> <p>0847 Sniper and Int OP's both reported bearings taken on two V2's early evening 29 Nov.</p> <p>1220 CO and I.O. visited C Coy post at 414544 - canal had risen 3 ft since a.m. 28 Nov.</p> <p>1400 Adv Parties from 5 KOSB left Bn area after their 48 hr stay, leaving 4 snipers to assist in observation.</p> <p>1415 Bde Cmd & CO 79 Fd Regt visited HQ to tie up fire programme for night : B Coy patrol W of EMPEL to open fire at fixed times ; Med, Fd & Mtn Arty, all MG's and Mors to stonk RUM areas if any reaction, wait 10 mins and lift on to known Mor posns, a further pause then back on to RUM targets.</p> <p>1600 MG 42 from 346537 firing tracer over WILD.</p> <p>2040 Spasmodic MG fire from RUM area on EMPEL.</p> <p>2050 Lines giving trouble - CO went to B Coy HQ to direct course of fire battle.</p> <p>2115 B Coy patrol opened fire as arranged - no reaction - stonk went on & was followed by short but violent MG fire from FORT. Second stonk missed enemy mor which opened up from new posns.</p> <p>2215 OC A Coy spotted definite flashes from a house in ROSMALEN - threw cordon round - later investigation proved that by use of a mirror reflecting light through skylight it was possible to signal. Nothing could be proved against owners of house by F.S. - were asleep in shelters while lights were showing.</p> <p>2330 B Coy reported flooding worse on road to EMPEL - road being marked with tape.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>APPENDICES</u></p> <p>I No.4 Cdo Gp O.O. No.1 - 28 Oct II 155 Inf Bde Gp O.O. No.1 - III Trace A attd to Appx II - Key to objectives IV 155 Inf Bde Gp V Craft Loads - 4 KOSB - 30 Oct VI 1/10,000 Def Overprint - VII 1/5000 Town Plan - FLUSHING VIII 1/25,000 Def Overprint - IX 1/25,000 Cover S'HERTOGENBOSCH Sector X Trace - Lake Superior XI Specimen Patrolling Programmes - 26/27, 29/30 Nov.</p>	GWH	
			<p>29 Oct Adm. Instrs - 30 Oct FLUSHING FLUSHING and MIDDELBURG Regt-Situation 22/23 Nov.</p>

				C.L. Melville Lt. Col.	
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Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 4TH BN. K.O.S.B.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year DECEMBER 1944

Commanding Officer LT COL C.L. MELVILLE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ROSMALEN - ORTEN Sector of MAAS Line, N and NE of S'HERTOGEN- BOSCH	1	0030	B Coy patrol again opened fire - no enemy reaction. CO arranged for stonk to come down on Mor posns first, then on RUM targets E of FORT.	For ref to locations, see copies of Nov War Diary - Original copy, Appx IV Duplicate " , Appx V
		0500	Third attempt by B Coy patrol to draw fire - no reaction - third stonk cancelled.	
		0800	Sniper Sgt reported a stretch 300 yd long of ROSMALEN - GEWANDE road now flooded.	
		0927	CO 4/5 RSF and Lt Col J. CARTER, GSO I (SD) toured Bn area.	
		1000	Snipers report from WILD : 1. 12 barges stationary at 360552. 2. Numerous civilians still in WILD. 3. EMPEL at present being mortared.	
		1010	OC ATK Pl reported that he had immobilised a coal barge at 320516 and shot up enemy OP at 321520, the latter without success ; his guns mortared while pulling out.	
		1440	MG Pl, 7 Manch, in spt of EMPEL, force being withdrawn at night into Div reserve.	
		1610	20 barges reported by Snipers to be lying at 360548 to 356552 - considerable animal movement on the island 3555 - civilians may be going to evacuate cattle from there on account of flooding.	
		1835	Flood water now 4 inches deep in some parts A Coy supply route fwd.	
		1915	CO left HQ for GEWANDE. Line to EMPEL cut under water by carriers. Comms now through Gunner wireless.	
		2043	Enemy MG fire on EMPEL - cross bearings gave intersection at 303509.	
		2125	Warning from Bde to watch out for two civilian-dressed members of Div BRANDENBURG - sabotage div. Names - KAYSER and ROSER - 3 others already captured by 7/9 R.S. at BOKHOVEN.	
		2135	CO returned HQ after visit to GEWANDE.	
		2240	More MG fire on EMPEL - from approx same area as at 2043 hrs.	
2245	Civilian car failed to stop when warned by A Coy sentry in ROSMALEN - sentry opened fire, wounding one of the occupants, a Dutch policeman. Hereafter there were very few cases of civilians			

		2355	prowling by night. Both fwd posns reported all quiet.	GWH
	2	0700	Generally a quiet night ; MG fire from FORT area at 0320 hrs answered by our own Mors.	
		1103	ATK party : 1. Partially demolished house 318518 which was used as OP. 2. Along with Polstens engaged OP's at 321525 and 322525 without success. 3. Blast from one 6 PR set alight a haystack on gun posn.	
		1117	20 enemy Mor bombs came down on EMPEL from 318527 - probably reply to our 6 PRs.	
		1600	I.O. to HQ 79 Fd Regt to study recent Div Cover - little difference except for flooding from cover already held.	
		1905	Snipers Report : 1. MG & Mor fire at present falling immediately N of GEWANDE. 2. Enemy occupying area 344535 all day. 3. WILD road flooded in places to 7 inches.	
		2035	Gunner Rep asked to try arrange Air OP to fly over suspected Mor posns while ATK guns shoot up OPs again on 3 Dec - this not possible, but 2 Btys to stand by on call.	
		2200	Owing to flooding, Pioneers unable to booby trap area at 337519.	
		2205	Orders recd to return 4/5 RSF Adv Party who had arrived at 1100 hrs.	
		2235	B Coy fired on RUM posns but no reaction followed.	
		2255	Our Mor fire on HEDEL started a large fire which burned all night.	GWH
	3	0115	Enemy Mors engaged EMPEL, but were silent when our own Mors replied on RUM areas.	
		0915	Visit from I.O. 4 Cdn Bde - reced area for Tank Range - gave news that L.S.R. returning to own area.	
		1030	Movement at N. end MAAS rly br stopped by EMPEL MMG ; GEWANDE MMG engaged under direction of Sniper Sgt posns on Dyke immediately N., but met with no response.	
		1035	ATK guns again unsuccessful with shoot on O.P's ; quick and accurate mortaring forced them to withdraw.	
		1045	Enemy AA gun heard firing from KERKDRIEL area.	
		1110	CO and party of offrs departed for lecture by Field Marshal MONTGOMERY to Offrs of 52 Div in S'HERTOGENBOSCH.	
		1350	CO of Lake Superior Regt visited HQ to check details of take over.	
		1700	One Coy 5 Bn SEAFORTHS billeting for night in ROSMALEN - 152 Bde of 51 Div pulling out of sector S. of ARNHEM on account of extensive flooding there.	
		2000	Road Report : a) 5 in flooding 358513 to 357518. b) 8-10 ins flooding 358502 to 356507.	
		2030	Own Mors started sharp exchange of fire : EMPEL hit by MG from W.	

		2035 2200	and Mors from N. Our Arty engaged mor areas ; Mtn Bty engaged RUM areas ; this silenced enemy. A and B Coys both out of line comm to fwd posns - comm gained through Gunner wireless. Flood report to Bde : a) River is lower b) Land flooding very bad - affected by very strong wind. Regtl line party reported GEWANDE road 2½ feet under water in places - patrols ordered to keep check.	GWH
	4	0030 0700 1115 1205 1405 1415 1415 1500 1730 1820 2015 2038 2245	Decrease in flooding reported on A Coy front. Both fwd Coys reported very quiet night. Lieut General O'CONNOR, Comd I British Corps arrived with Bde Cmd at HQ. They then visited A and C Coys, leaving Bn area 1200 hrs. Lt Col WALFORD and Maj GREEN of 5 Bn Seaforths visited HQ - their Bn being billeted in parts of our area. 2 enemy Arty shells landed 357516 - first Arty shells to have been reported since taking over. GEWANDE line, which had been badly mauled by a weasel, now repaired and in working order. I.O. & I. Sgt, LSR, arrived HQ and were given general infmn prior to their takeover. C.O.'s Orders concerning control of civilians in Fwd Areas issued. Enemy Mors engaged posn which own Mors had vacated earlier in day - 15 mins accurate conc. BM visited HQ and gave Fire Plan for 0700 hrs 5 Dec : 1. Triangle 294523 engaged by 4.2 Mors 2. Triangle 290524 by 3.7 Mors 3. Selected targets in HEDEL by as much Fd Arty as may be available. WILD patrol has withdrawn through patrol midway between WILD and GEWANDE against Boche patrol strength 20 which had approached from North ; one man reported missing. CO confirmed OC A Coy's order to re-establish posn at WILD ; A Coy also to send one pl fwd to GEWANDE, C Coy to send one pl to A Coy HQ. Missing man came in slightly wounded to GEWANDE. News recd that 7/9 RS had skirmish with enemy patrol at BOKHOVEN ; RS lost 4 dead, 5 prisoners.	
	5	0040 0215	CO returned from GEWANDE bringing a Dutch civilian who had crossed MAAS into A Coy area - he had made his way from AMSTERDAM with 27 others who crossed in 54 ATK Regt area - reported that German MGs were mounted in AMSTERDAM streets and were shooting any Dutch males between ages of 25 and 45, since no man in this age category had reported for forced labour in GERMANY. Civilian escorted to Civil Control Centre for the night for later questioning by Corps. News recd that 54 ATK Regt patrol captured a boat load of 9 of the Boche patrol which had attacked our WILD patrol ; identification	

		<p>0220 given as 37 MG BN - later corrected - actually GAF Ground Tps. Pl which went to restore situation in WILD reported back to base, leaving strong Standing Patrol in WILD.</p> <p>0530 Situation confused at EMPER - enemy patrol activity reported there, but comms cut.</p> <p>1035 AA fire on Air OP coming from camouflaged posn on factory roof 357546.</p> <p>1040 CO LSR arrived HQ - to take over cmd at 1600 hrs.</p> <p>1050 B Coy reported enemy patrol about a dozen strong in action against their small standing patrol in 313513 at 0145 hrs ; patrol withdrawn without loss under cover Coy MMG ; enemy then withdrew to RUM area.</p> <p>1300 Handover to LSR partially completed :- Rear elts A Coy left area 1235 hrs, rear elts B 1145 hrs, C Coy 1100 hrs, D 1203 hrs, SP 1150 hrs, HQ less Tac HQ 1240 hrs : all returning CROMVOIRT Barracks.</p> <p>1830 Bde I.O. called at HQ - confirmed GAF identification of last night's enemy patrol ; passed on Air Report that roads W. of ARNHEM choked with German tps & tpt moving West.</p> <p>2000 Slight MMG fire over EMPER ; working party heard N. of GEWANDE.</p> <p>2012 Remainder A Coy relieved and departed ROSMALEN.</p> <p>2305 Remainder B Coy relieved and departed ORTEN.</p> <p>2330 Strong Boche patrol forced Cdn patrol at 304513 to withdraw to 307495 where it was reinforced by Pl B Coy ; meanwhile D Coy stood to until enemy patrol withdrew to RUM area under B Coy fire.</p>	GWH
CROMVOIRT BARRACKS	6	<p>0150 All quiet on both flanks of front.</p> <p>0800 Tac HQ closed down and returned CROMVOIRT BARRACKS.</p> <p>0800 Bn Adv Party under Maj C.F. HOGG moved off for new locn at STEIN K6165</p> <p>1230 Final Orders issued for Main Bn move to STEIN.</p>	GWH
STEIN K 6165	7	<p>0830 CO & IO started out for Bde RV near MAASTRICHT - no Bde rep there, so proceeded to STEIN, contacted OC Adv Party, then went to Bde HQ, arriving there 1700 hrs.</p> <p>1100 Main Body moved off to STEIN, arriving there 2100 hrs.</p> <p>1700 New Dutch Interpreter attached to Bn - KEES EGELIE ; to be given rank of Sgt.</p> <p>2100 Bde Conf. : outline plan given for Operation SHEARS : Break through on D Day by 43 Div, N of GEILENKIRCHEN, followed by 157 Bde - main objective HEINSBERG and high ground SE of that, D+1 2nd Gds Armd Div pass through the newly made open door and clear enemy line NW to ECHT ; 52 Div Recce Bn fight through on WALDFEUCHT - MONTFORT axis ; 155 Bde pass through 157 : 5 KOSB to HAAREN, 7/9 RS to POSTERHOLT ; 4 KOSB to woods 7883. Relief by 7 Armd Div on night of</p>	

		2300	D+1. Arty spt from 450 pieces, some of which to screen SIEGFRIED LINE permanently with smoke. Air spt a bonus and not necessary for success. D Day provisionally 12 Dec, but wet weather may cause postponement. Bn 'O' Gp : orders for move of Bn reps to Dem. by Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry on 8 Dec.	GWH
	8	0900 1030 1800	'O' Gp : initial briefing on times of Bde Conf 072100. Bn party moved off to Dem. of Tank Spt - incl Flails and Flame-Throwing Churchills. 'O' Gp : Bde I.O. enlarged upon briefing already done. Orders given for Coy Fd Firing Ex with Tanks 9 Dec.	GWH
	9	1300 1700	Coy Fd Firing Exs. Bde Conf for C.O.'s and 2 i/c's	GWH
	10	a.m. 1000 1100 2200	Coys attended Dem. of Kangaroos - Inf-carrying tanks. C.O. to Div Planning Conf - D Day postponed to 15 Dec - Armour requires frost to harden ground. I.O. attended Bde Int Conf - the enemy and ground picture enlarged. Draft of 33 O.R.'s arrived from 6th Bn GREEN HOWARDS, ex 50-Div.	GWH
	11	1300 2030 2100	2 i/c recced a Bde Defence Layout S. of STEIN - to block and counterattack any breakthrough by enemy. CO attended a Bde Panning Conf. Extract from 52 Div Planning Summary issued.	GWH
	12		Op SHEARS - 4 KOSB O.O. No.1 issued.	GWH
	13		Op SHEARS cancelled. 52 Div came under command 12 Corps	GWH
	14	1630 1700	Bde Cmd visited HQ C.O. to Bde Conf.	GWH
	16	1000 1200 1400 [0930] 2100 2300	I.O. to 5 Armd Bde HQ - SHINVELD 7664 - recd general layout of 1 Bn Welsh Guards area STAHE 8066. Bde Conf for C.O.'s - takeover to be completed by 172400 - no move timings yet. C.O., I.O., OC Atk Pl, Bde L.O. to HQ 1 Bn Welsh Gds - recd detailed layout Bn. Bn Adv Parties left STEIN for STAHE. 'O' Gp : orders for takeover. I.O. to Bde for route & timings of move.	GWH
	17	1000 1145 1700 1800 2040	Pl Cmds and Spec Pl reps guided to STAHE by I.O. Main body Bn left STEIN ; arrived Dis P at X Rds 801662 1410 hrs ; HQ, SP Coy and Rifle Coy Carrs moved up to fwd posns. Rifle Coys moved up to ops locns and by 2000 hrs all reported takeover complete. EA engaged over area by AA - later dropped bombs far S. of Bn area. C.O. and Sheldrake rep fixed up Gunner plan.	For layout see Appx XI GWH

		2225	C.O. assumed comd of Bn area.	
	18	0730	Very quiet night - considerable air traffic during night frequently engaged by our AA. General request from Coys for sandbags + trip flares for improvement def security.	
		0930	C.O. + Shelldrake started tour of all fwd posns, returning HQ at 1230 hrs. Following visits made to HQ during morning : OC 9 MMG Pl, 7 Manch ; OC 304 Atk Bty ; Maj POLLOCK 186 Fd Regt, Maj CAMERON 472 Mtn Bty, LT COL PROUDFOOT 186 Fd Regt and Bde Cmd.	
		1540	B Coy mortared, and during afternoon spasmodic fire covered whole BIRGDEN area : D Coy mortared from 811698 approx, and C Coy shelled.	
		1730	A few bursts Spandau tracer on A Coy from 805699 or 808697.	
		2050	D Coy presented SCHIERWALDENRATH with 60 2in Mor HE - no reaction.	GWH
	19	1415	A Coy shelled - one hit on KREUZRATH church.	
		1820	7/9 RS reported enemy moving S. from 826678 twds B Coy posn ; engaged by gunners.	
		1930	Bde ordered special watch on a) parachutists b) mov of tracked vehs.	
		2030	A Coy reported veh mov at 807702 - engaged by Med Arty.	GWH
	20	0630	Lt. tracked vehs heard N. of D Coy.	
		1305	A Coy patrol reced village 808685 and found it clear of enemy and obstacles.	
		1635	D Coy mortared from 821707.	
		1720	Occasional mor bombs falling on Coy area.	
		1800	Both A and D reported vehs, probably half tracks immediately opposite their fronts.	
		2030	Foxhole 819696 occupied at night - D Coy planning to deal with this on night 21/22.	
		2100	Village 808685 occupied by composite pl from L.O.B.	GWH
	21	0600	Very quiet night - a little enemy digging & probably wiring heard opposite D Coy.	
		0845	Brief bout of MG fire swept A Coy area from LANGBROICH. Again at 1120 hrs.	
		1230	20mm fire on KREUZRATH ; gun posn not discovered.	
		1505	Hy Mor (12 cm?) engaging A Coy ; again at 1530 hrs - replied with own Arty.	
		1702	Spandau fire on A Coy seemed to be directed by sniper firing tracer.	
		2045	Enemy reported in BIRGDEN between C and D Coys ; also in gap between there and KREUZRATH	

		[a.m.] 2130 2200	Lt D. URQUHART wounded by calibre 2in Mor bomb whilst engaging sniper. A Coy heard vehs, prob'y half tracks, & m/c's at 808702 moving east. Still considerable traffic heard by A Coy.	GWH
	22	0300 0600 1145 1145 1400 1430 1530 2145 2210 2359 2335	Enemy patrol between 5 and 15 approached Carrier posn - withdraws when fired on, leaving one groaning wounded - under cover own mor fire a party went out to collect this man, but suffered 3 cas from enemy mors and came back. M.O. & party went to Carr posn & evacuated cas ; German now dead ; documents etc taken A Coy mortared from posn between LANGBROICH & SCHIERWALDENRATH. Windmill 811695 completely destroyed by our Atk guns. A Coy spotted movement of enemy cyclists and horse drawn ambulances at 806706. A Coy mortared ; one or two shells every three minutes from 1130 onwards. Airburst mor bombs over B, C & D Coys which discharged propaganda Xmas cards. Light traffic has been heard consistently opposite A Coy front. Report, originating OD, passing through Div, then gunner channels, recd by R.A.L.O. that paratps had dropped in area 7965 - this report later discredited. Considerable to and fro traffic heard during evening - much of it thought to be half track - opp B & D Coys 13 enemy with soft hats, greatcoats and wpns slung passed A Coy Standing Patrol 799697 ; primary object our patrol was observation until much later hour, so fire was not opened.	GWH
	23	0035 1100 a.m. 1600 2030 2055	A Coy intermittently mortared for half an hour. Lt Col ROSE, 5 HLI arrived HQ. At same time OC A Coy arrived with night patrol report, plus the news that his wire had been cut during night near haystacks 802685 ; also there had been taken from RAOP carrier an 18 set, satchel and greatcoat. C.O. fixed up inter Bn bdys with 7/9 RS and 5 KOSB. 4.2 in Mor Pl came u/c. A Coy reported presence of enemy patrol close to their area ; A Coy patrol had gone out to ambush possible repetition of Boche patrol seen on night 22/23 ; almost immediately it started, it was pinned by fire, MG on its left, Mors on right - 3 cas from Mor ; patrol succeeded in disengaging and withdrawal successfully carried out, sp by Mtn Bty. One dud 75mm shell landed in cellar HQ of B Coy.	

		2100 2150	M.O. arranged to have 3 cas held in A Coy area until first light Area between C and D Coys shelled.	GWH
	24	0030 0145 1110 1200 1250 1330 1820 2005 2145 2215 2315	D Coy confident in map spotting enemy mors, probably four, at 809698. This backed up by C Coy, so Mtn Bty stonked the posn - no more mortaring during night. Harassing mor fire on A Coy - a few shells every 5 mins - continued till 0440 hrs Warning recd that enemy bombers heading our way - nothing actually seen of them. Comd 52 Div and Comd 155 Bde visited HQ. OC Atk Pl handed in Boche identity disc found in KREUZRATH - 2 Coy, 137 Ers Bn - little value. CO ordered 4.2 Mors be prepared to engage LANGBROICH area by nightfall - OP set up in A Coy area. Boche carols commenced opposite A Coy - Hark the Herald Angels - with cornet accompaniment! On CO's order, our 3in Mors laid down 60 HE on rd LANGBROICH - S'WALDENRATH where tpt was heard. D Coy reported details of Boche carollers opposite them - Am Stillen Nacht, Last Post and cries of "Kamerad". Hy Spandau fire on BIRGDEN - from approx 813700. B Coy reported fierce duel between one Spandau and four others ; our own Arty tackled the group of four, and as a result the enemy brought down 30 mor HE on their own single Spandau - the feeling in our fwd areas was that the Boche was having too "spirited" an Xmas Eve.	GWH
Christmas	Day	0100 0407 0500 0735 1015 1445 1825 2030	10 shells landed in village of STANZ Possible fire seen by A Coy in area 791702. A Coy shelled from area 808705 - C.O. ordered retaliation from Fd Regt. Our Xmas "hate" started : (1) 3in Mors smoked LANGBROICH (2) 4.2 Mors 80 HE on 796705 (3) 3 Fd Regts and Med Bty on two selected targets - no enemy reaction. Boche gave A Coy a miscellaneous programme of gramophone records ; and cries were heard of "Merry Christmas Tommy, or is it Yank?" Bde L.O. called at HQ to collate ATK layout within Bde ATK def plan. Fire in VINTELEN reported by Bde to have been accidentally started by 5 KOSB. Command Post Christmas Dinner - the first and last (?) to be celebrated in GERMANY.	GWH
	26	0257	Bomb landed between C and D Coy area - aircraft not identified.	

		0815 Bde announced the seizing of GEBROEK 6575 by enemy. 1130 A Coy consistently mortared - Fd Regt turned on to two selected targets 1300 Shelling in A Coy area intermittent for an hour. 1730 Patrol of 15 observed by 7/9 RS at 828681 - caught by our gun fire - R.S. sending out three Bren Carrs to mop them up. 1830 C Coy reported a trk veh blown on minefd at 813672. This actually was one of the three RS carriers which had strayed - 3 cas not very serious sustained. 1952 CO returned from 13/18 Hussar Sqn ; CO & 2 i/c 4/5 RSF arrived HQ 2330 2 D Coy men wounded as result of inserting bomb into 2in Mor the wrong way up. Cas sustained whilst engaging enemy riflemen in foxholes 819657.	GWH
	27	0910 CO left HQ with RE and ATK reps on recce of areas to be mined. 1000 Bde Cmd arrived HQ and went to fwd coys with 2 i/c 1045 Herd of goats observed 831684 - these may have been the "German patrol" of previous night 2000 Digging heard at 816694 engaged by D Coy 2in Mor and Piat party.	GWH
	28	0510 Heavy mortaring - 12 cm - on A Coy ; two good Mortreps came in and provided Fd and Mtn Bty with good shoot. This mortaring continued for an hour. 0635 D Coy reported Spandau, 20mm and Mor fire covering BIRGDEN : volume of fire increasing on all Coy areas. 0640 5 KOSB being attacked in VINTELEN & KIEVELBERG : own Bn stood to 100%. 0817 Mortaring on A Coy still very active - CSM McTURK and Pte KING, dog-handler, both wounded. No news of attack against 5 KOSB. 0950 5 KOSB counter attack on VINTELEN with carriers held by intense Spandau fire. South end of KIEVELBERG held by enemy. 1100 I.O. to B, C and D Coys with Takeover orders. B Coy HQ mortared very accurately. 1145 Arty OP in KREUZRATH Church received direct shell hit - no cas. 1430 C.O. with C.O. 4/5 RSF commenced tour of Coys. 1500 Lloyd Carrier on tow from KREUZRATH skidded, mounted verge at 788682 and blew up on unrecorded American necklace - driver Pte T. HOGG Killed ; veh a total cas. 1900 156 Bde assumed comd our sector. 2025 Complete Bn, except Tac HQ, relieved by 4/5 RSF. 2100 " " " " , settled in to new area : HQ 804661, A 801662, B 811666, C 805669, D 808657, SP 808658 ; one pl A Coy 799672. Now in res to 156 Bde. 2210 C.O. assumed comd in new HQ.	GWH

NIEDERBUSCH	29	1045 1225 1530	<p>Comd 156 Bde arrived HQ ; as result of Conf D Coy moved to GANGELT and came u/c 6 CAMS ; one pl B Coy took up posn vacated by D Coy ; one pl A Coy to prepare posn at 795664.</p> <p>Comd and BM 155 Bde visited HQ. Sit completely restored in KIEVELBERG and VINTELEN.</p> <p>Enemy : 84 PW ; many Killed & wounded. 5 KOSB : 8 Killed, 20 wounded ; 40 PW - incl Maj CAMERON OC 474 Mtn Bty RA, his Bty Capt and OP party.</p> <p>Lt Col TOD HUNTER, Comd 54 ATK Regt, visited HQ and transmitted Bde Comd's order for C.O. to place one pl at 799672 every night to protect ATK guns in that area.</p>	GWH
	30	0715 0735 0740 0900 1100 1105 1525 1555 1740	<p>Attack reported on "right sector" - no details known. Bn stood to.</p> <p>Area of enemy attack TRIPSRATH 8767</p> <p>CO ordered (1) B Coy Pl to rejoin Coy (2) A Coy to man old D Coy posns, leaving one pl to protect Bn ATK guns in their present posn.</p> <p>RSF reported enemy patrol of 15 has approached their Carrier posn 825687 early in morning, thrown one grenade from 20 yds away, and then withdrawn with no cas.</p> <p>I.O. 155 Bde visited HQ - Enemy holding south end TRIPSRATH, but G.H. blocking them at north end ; woods at 862680 being cleared.</p> <p>Bn stand to decreased to 50%.</p> <p>(1) D Coy returned under comd to original posn. (2) 2i/c & Int Sgt recced Int OP at 819668 to cover gap between BIRGDEN and 7 Cams in woods 834675.</p> <p>Pnr Sgt reported that a covered route was threequarters taped from 801668 to 795664. No booby traps found, but wood edges trip flared. Job to be completed when more tape available.</p> <p>TRIPSRATH reported clear.</p>	GWH
	31	0830 0930 2300	<p>Int OP in posn, but a) were fired on by undetermined unit own tps b) Infmd by Mtn Gunners that posn was registered by Spandaus ; so moved to hayshed 821664.</p> <p>I.O. to 156 Patrolling Conf. Infmn given to Bn reps about TRIPSRATH battle : 67 PW taken in the village, 17 in woods 8567, with more expected. PW stated they suffered hy cas. Attack was on Bn level, but broken up by initial Arty DF.</p> <p>C.O. summoned to 155 Bde HQ for orders. Bn had expected to relieve 6 HLI who were in res in TRIPSRATH sector ; but warning order conveyed news that we should definitely be up front, since defence was to be thickened up in that area.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C.L. Melville Lt. Col. Comd. 4 K.O.S.B.</p>	GWH

APPENDICES

- I 79 Fd Regt HM List No. 1 - 2 Dec
- II Control of Civs in Fwd Areas - 3 Dec
- III 155 Bde Int Smy No. 6 - 4 Dec
- IV Trace of 4 KOSB Sit as on 6 Dec
- V Extract 52 Div Int Smy - 11 Dec
- VI Op "SHEARS" - 4 KOSB O.O. No 1 - 12 Dec
- VII Maps 1/50,000 : Sheets 48, 27 and 37.
- VIII Op "SHEARS" : 52 Div Int Smy No. 6.
- IX 4 KOSB Patrol Programmes 23/24, 25/26, 26/27, 27/28 Dec.
- X 4 KOSB Int Smys Nos 1 & 2
- XI Trace - Bn Def Layout on 19 Dec
- XII 4 KOSB Part I Orders of 26 Dec
- XIII 52 Div Int Smy No 22
- XIV " " " " No 23

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 4th Bn KOSB

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year JANUARY 1945

Commanding Officer LT COL C.L. MELVILLE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
<p>NIEDERBUSCH 8065 and HOCHHEID</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>0025 0145 0630 0730 0900 0937 1100 1545 1612 2034</p>	<p>"O" Gp : orders for takeover - 2 Coys from 1 G.H. ; 2 Coys & HQ from 5 HLI. C.O. left HQ for HQ 157 in TEVEREN 8362 and HQ 5 HLI to recce actual layout. C.O. returned from above and G.H. H.Q.'s. "O" Gp - detailed orders for takeover. FOCKE-WULF, crippled by AA, made good landing 809655. Pilot u/offz. THARAAN captured before he could destroy maps or plane - member of SQN. MAJOR SCHRODER which was engaged on low level strafing into BELGIUM. PW evac to 156 Bde HQ. Another similar fighter seen shot down by MUSTANG in direction WALDENRATH. Capt A.G.S. HILL decorated with MC by Field Marshall MONTGOMERY. Sgt ATKINSON, D Coy, decorated MM " " " " . C.O. 1 GH arrived at new HQ - conducted C.O. to TRIPSRATH posns. C.O. 5 HLI left HQ and C.O. assumed comd of area. Whole Bn completed takeover. HQ 873667, A Coy 877674, B Coy 881678, C Coy 870679, D Coy 870676 ; Carrs u/c D Coy ; ATK Pl split amongst Coy locns ; 2 Mors with D Coy ; SP HQ with Bn HQ.</p>	
	<p>2.</p>	<p>0100 0930 1120 1515 1530</p>	<p>C Coy reported enemy digging 867687 towards "KIDNEY BEAN" ridge 874685 - Arty engaged. The first of the Bde Patrol Conf held at Bde HQ - these continued as normal drill - Capt MILNE-HOME appointed Bn Patrol Master. Bde Cmd and C.O. 80 Fd Regt arrived - ATK layout discussed ; also strengthening of Coy localities. V slight shelling between A and B Coys - perhaps reaction to these Coys testing automatic wpns. I.O. to Bde Int Conf. New Div Master Minefd Trace issued : very unsatisfactory, but amendments being published when data has been checked. Returned HQ with Scout Car for C.O.'s use. Also 5 NCO's from 43 Div for 48 hrs' attachment to gain experience in our sector of line.</p>	

3	0220 0340 1150 1215 1415 1500 1510 1955 2220	<p>Spasmodic MG fire over C Coy fwd area, with occasional mortaring in front.</p> <p>B Coy patrol observed small party enemy returning from SW to 879683 (SPANDAU CORNER)</p> <p>Bde Cmd arrived HQ - discussed with C.O. proposed increases in minefd defence of area.</p> <p>C.O. 54 ATK Regt visited HQ - decided with Capt COUTTS on changes to ATK layout.</p> <p>Gunners had a lucky strike on dugout in KONINGSHOF area : C Coy reported screaming from wounded.</p> <p>Mortaring on C Coy ; Sniper Sgt observed Mors at 880684 - Fd Regt gave this a Scale 1 Conc.</p> <p>15 dead enemy seen by Arty OP and C Coy on road to KONINGSHOF - more results of recent TRIPSRATH battle.</p> <p>Int OP reported steady searchlight on bearing 344° mag. from 874667.</p> <p>One mor bomb, later judged to be a shell, landing regularly every 10 mins in C Coy area, then switching to area 5 KOSB - this continued right up to midnight. C Coy and Gunner OP endeavouring to fix a bearing on the gun.</p>	
4	0005 0530 1010 1100 1120 1340 1800	<p>Arty stonk on suspected gun posn troubling C Coy - enemy did not fire again.</p> <p>X Rds 866676 mortared ; D Coy patrol in that area judged locn of offending wpn to be 865686</p> <p>C.O. & OC A Coy reced altve posn for A Coy around Bn HQ ; also resited MMG Pl there too : this calculated to cover dead ground between HQ & TRIPSRATH ; also placed A Coy in better posn for CA on that village.</p> <p>C.O. 7/9 RS visited HQ - inter Bn bdy agreed upon.</p> <p>Mortaring on C Coy ; Arty retaliation unsuccessful until C Coy found accurate bearing.</p> <p>News that 7/9 RS took 3 PW from isolated wpn pit with one Sec during daylight.</p> <p>Horse and half track movement heard in KONINGSHOF - Arty gave them Scale 2 from Regt.</p>	GWH
5	0020 0030 1050 1050	<p>Enemy put up several flares 200 yd ahead of B Coy - prob'y heard B Coy patrol being relieved.</p> <p>C Coy reported intense Mor fire, SA and shouting to their left - this was actually taking place left of 5 KOSB where 7 Cams were doing a deceptive "attack."</p> <p>News that 7/9 captured 4 very talkative PW on 4 Jan, who gave away great detail of their Coy layout.</p> <p>3 minute Mor Conc on C Coy.</p>	

		<p>1155 CRA and C.O. 80 Fd Regt arrived HQ :(1) Fire sp for proposed C Coy patrol fixed up. (2) Details given of Corps Arty shoot on STRAETEN - KONIGSHOF area timed for 060800.</p> <p>1205 O.C. 241 Fd Coy visited HQ after recce of proposed minefd TRIPSRATH to HQ area.</p> <p>1400 C.O. and C.O. 7/9 R.S. toured localities of both Bn's fwd Coys.</p> <p>1555 O.C. B Coy 7 Manch arrived HQ : impossible find suitable MMG posns in area HQ, so the Pl would move to area NIEDERHEIDE.</p> <p>1600 3 in Mors registered 872673, 876680, 866676.</p> <p>2020 Warning recd of possible attack on BIRGDEN - Bn therefore ordered to stand to 100% as from 060500.</p> <p>2205 C Coy patrol, which went out to haystacks 872684 at 1800 hrs, returned : no enemy seen, but from marks on fresh snow it was possible to state that their OP's in haystacks had been occupied within last 36 hrs. Before leaving, the 2 Pnrs in patrol booby trapped enemy approaches.</p>	GWH
	6	<p>0430 BM reported enemy, 100 to 300, forming up opposite HONGEN on 7 Armd Div front.</p> <p>0500 Bn stood to 100%</p> <p>0750 NTR about possible or actual enemy offensive action - Bn stood down to normal degree alertness.</p> <p>0750 Corps Arty shoot started with the laying of smoke screen opposite 5 KOSB - enemy replied with S.A.</p> <p>0800 Shoot continued for 10 mins, with our own 3 in Mors joining in on KONIGSHOF.</p> <p>1340 Lt Cols TAYLOR and DAMON, U.S. Arty, visited HQ with view to selecting targets for their 4.5 in and 8 in guns. American OP's are in Bn HQ also TRIPSRATH.</p> <p>1400 Bde Cmd arrived HQ and toured area of A and B Coys.</p> <p>1620 ADMS visited HQ</p> <p>1635 Snipers reported fresh digging at 874685 and 873685 - latter possibly an OP.</p> <p>1742 Bde ordered Bn to provide carrying party of 30 for mine laying on 7 Jan.</p> <p>1748 Maj DARLING, B Sqn 52 Recce visited HQ - at present in posn in GEILENKIRCHEN.</p> <p>1835 In addition to 2 dead Boches at 874667, 2 British dead (43 Div) seen by B Coy.</p> <p>2248 Arty Airburst and MMG turned on to enemy digging party heard by C Coy at 874684.</p> <p>2359 Flares reported in Carr Pl, C Coy and B Coy areas - prob'y action of frost and snow. Int OP also spotted WHITE - WHITE - RED Verrey lights</p>	

			in B Coy direction.	
7	0012	Several more lights observed - one Coy accusing another of firing them - this business was never cleared up.		
	0055	Digging heard by C Coy on KIDNEY BEAN feature - also Spandau fire from there ; by 0115 our Arty and MMG had silenced both.		
	1120	Bde Cmd toured C and D Coy areas in TRIPSRATH.		
	1240	German cyclist moving slowly S on main road at 876675 - unfortunately both our and 5th Bns opened fire, missed, and the solitary cyclist disappeared into the ditch and was never again seen.		
	1300	D Coy reported R Mines laid across track TRIPSRATH Church to Bn HQ ; party of Pnrs were sent to examine a dump of 12 which had been found near the church.		
	1430	CRE and OC 241 Fd Coy arrived to supervise dumping of 75 grens prior to laying of minefield. Carrying party of 30 provided from one Pl A Coy and Bn HQ personnel.		
	1550	Unknown cause exploded nearly all 75 grens (2400 total) ; 32 Sappers Killed ; 17 of our own personnel ; of this total recognisable parts of only 14 bodies were eventually found. Among those killed were 5 batmen, incl C.O.'s. C.O.'s bodyguard and his Bren gunner. Damage was caused to Bn HQ and SP HQ buildings which were little more than 100 yds away. CRE and C.O. were only 100 yds from the explosion but were able to take cover in a ditch. Maj WILLIAMS, O.C. Fd Coy, was at the head of the Inf carrying party, but was unhurt ; claimed that enemy shells landed, but no confirmation from others on the scene.		
	1610	News received from C Coy that whilst investigating and removing dump of R Mines in TRIPSRATH, Sgt McALLAN and 3 other Pnrs were killed by one which exploded practically in their hands. Remainder still in Trailer on main street of the village.		
	1700	CRE and C.O. went to TRIPSRATH to supervise destruction of these.		
	1815	Pnr Offr successfully destroyed R Mines - force of explosion lifted a previously knocked out Sherman clean off the middle of the road into the side.		
	1900	B Coy complained that own Arty or Mors dropping short on their patrol - on checking, this found to be impossible :- instance of now common Boche habit of firing while our guns are busy.		
	1830	Fresh Pl of Sappers started taping minefd - adverse snowy conditions arrested further progress at 2015 hrs, and work not continued till 2215 hrs, at which time Inf carrying party started shifting 75 grens from new dump up to minefd.		
	1910	Sniper Cpl returned from B Coy (1) Found S Mines on our side enemy wire 881680 to 883680. (2) Two Boches seen at dusk in SPANDAU CORNER		

		<p>2200 (3) Identified one British corpse at 88236800 - 207302, BRYANT W.A. C.O. ordered cessation Mor HF in case enemy CM interfered with minelaying.</p> <p>2210 One mor bomb landed in area of afternoon's explosion.</p> <p>2235 156 Bde called for SOS in front of BIRGDEN - extra vigilance on our front, but no further action reported.</p>	GWH
8	<p>0050 MG occasionally spraying TRIPSRATH located quarry 875682 - close to C Coy protective patrol.</p> <p>0225 Work on minefd completed - band of 6 rows from 876674 to 871675.</p> <p>0910 C.O. to Bde HQ via D Coy 7 CAMS in GEILENKIRCHEN where he confirmed arrangements for carrying party to function in completion of minefd.</p> <p>1000 U.S. OP observed 40 enemy S of BAUMEN manhandling some heavy object - U.S. Arty Group came down on that village 50 mins later.</p> <p>1120 D Coy reported that an American offr had lifted an R Mine from the small minefd reported on 7 Jan, had carried it to his HQ and disarmed it.</p> <p>1235 Bde Cmd inspected scene of yesterday's explosion.</p> <p>1400 Court of Enquiry held at Bde HQ under Bde Cmd into circumstances of the explosion.</p> <p>1500 Pnr Offr commenced destruction of R Mines laid across track from TRIPSRATH, two at a time : as one pair exploded, others were thrown up off the ground without themselves going off.</p> <p>1705 Series of light signals reported by D Coy ; other reports came in, and it appeared that enemy had put up three Red-over-Greens somewhere between N end TRIPSRATH and his posns at SPANDAU CORNER. Interesting to note that the alarm signal from our protective patrols the previous night was Red-over-Green-over-Red.</p> <p>1800 B Coy heavily mortared.</p> <p>1805 Taping and dumping started at minefd.</p> <p>2000 C.O. and Maj WILLIAMS left Cmd Post for minefd via Sp HQ.</p> <p>2055 Request via Bde from 7/9 RS to send small RE party to help them find cas lying out in Schu Minefd where in a raid sp by vast quantity of Arty during early evening they took 6 PW and lost 16 cas from Schu Mines. 2 PW offered guidance to find two cas, but they along with 7/9 Pnr Offr and Dutch Interpreter were killed by mines during the search ; and 2 Pnrs were wounded : all the latter still lying where they fell.</p> <p>2130 Movement heard by Carr Sec near C Coy HQ - one trip flare went up - TRIPSRATH Coys stood to.</p> <p>2145 Minefd completed - all Sappers and Inf clear.</p> <p>2205 Maj WILLIAMS and small Sapper party left for HQ 7/9 RS to assist in recovery of cas from Schu minefd.</p>	GWH	

TEVEREN 8463	9	0030 1110 2020 2225	A Coy's patrol reliefs mortared since darkness - unable to locate source - mortaring ceased at 0030 hrs. 2i/c 4/5 RSF arrived to take over. CO 4/5 RSF took over comd of Bn area. Whole Bn settled in res area in TEVEREN 8463, with C Coy in GEILENKIRCHEN.	GWH
	10	1100 1700 2330	Memorial Service held for our men Killed by mine explosion on 8 Jan - Service in INDEMBODEN 7763 "O" Gp - prelim orders for recce of rest area in line, GILLRATH 8466 area. 2i/c came in from 156 Bde HQ with infmn that 43 Div taking over 52 sector.	GWH
	11	0030 0730 1330	L.O. arrived HQ with move forecast - Bde moving to area BUNDE 5957 on 12th. CO and IO left for Conf at 8 Armd Bde HQ - prelim planning forecast for Op "BLACKCOCK". CO and IO arrived HQ 4/7 D.G. to discuss general orders for Op.	GWH
BUNDE 5957	12	a.m. 1400 1800	Bn moved to BUNDE C.O. went to 4/7 D.G. at SCHINNEN 7062 for further liaison and discussion. "O" Gp - Prelim briefing of Coy Cmds.	GWH
	13	1730	First full "O" Gp	
	15	a.m. 1430 1530	Party from Bn saw dem of Sherman and Honey Tanks at HQ 4/7 D.G. Final "O" Gp for Op, covering move to Conc Area at SCHINNEN. Fd Marshall MONTGOMERY visited ATK Pl HQ, distributed newspapers and cigarettes to the men and wished them all good luck in the coming operation.	
	16	0700 0950 1330 1730 1745 1830	Head of Bn coln passed SP at x Rds 5956. Roads very icy - trouble with Kangaroos - going therefore slow. Arrived SCHINNEN and fitted into order of march by 4/7 D.G. Bn coln had advanced as far as GELEEN 6765 where whole coln held up. GOC visited HQ and gave news that 7 Armd Div had taken SUSTEREN 6776 with Inf sp by Flails Bn placed on 30 mins notice as from 170830 BBC programmes interrupted with announcement of our new offensive.	
	17	1030 1630 2000 2330	Bridging of main road S of SUSTEREN going slowly - trouble from SP guns. "O" Gp. Our move fwd dependent on bridging ops S of SUSTEREN. Bn now on 30 mins notice from 172330. Notice again changed - now one hour from 180200 Visit from I.O. 4/7 D.G. :- 7 Armd now in ECHT 8169.	GWH
	18	0820	"CROWN" phase has started - i.e. rem 52 Div opened attack on main	

<p>GELEEN to HEIDE 6976</p>		<p>posns ISENBRUCH to STEIN. 1000 HONGEN reported captured by "CROWN" forces. 1335 Adv Coln moved - A Coy and one sqn 4/7. 1600 Main body started, and had smooth run up through SUSTEREN into HEIDE where A Coy took over from B Coy 5 KOSB and rem Bn conc. 2050 Two PW taken by A Coy - 8/1219 Inf Regt - PW thought that this area clear of enemy. 2226 Recce elts C Sqn 4/7 over bridge 700766. 2345 C Sqn in posn at SLEK 7077 - B and D Coys moved up to join the Sqn. In event of trouble from SLEK, C.O.'s made plan to clear it, using Petards and Crocodiles.</p>	<p>GWH</p>
<p>To KONINGSBOSCH 7574</p> <p>KONINGSBOSCH</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>0100 B Coy contacted C Sqn up in SLEK. C Coy made contact 20 mins later with Bn in HEIDE 0220 Bn, less A Coy and Main HQ, moved up to SLEK. 0420 Two tanks disabled by mines short of 729760 - enemy seen in that area, but tanks safely pulled out. 0500 Tac HQ set up 721763 - A Coy ordered up from SLEK : to pass through and continue advance - quick plan for attack on KONINGSBOSCH to be given to A and D later at 741748. 0620 A Coy passed through and advanced towards KONINGSBOSCH. 0745 Tac HQ arrived at farm 741748. A Coy not to be found - until there came a sudden request from OC A to discourage tanks from shooting his Coy up : the Coy having missed its route slightly and arrived X Rds 749748 where with a few bursts of Sten fire they had captured 53 PW and two 88mm S.P.'s. Situation was critical, and the C.O. had to regain control under very difficult circumstances : launching D Coy round into SE end of KONINGSBOSCH he went up and disposed A Coy favourably around their X Rds. 0900 Enemy 88's got the measure of us and for almost four hours plastered the area 741748 which was 4/7 RHQ, our Tac HQ, SP Coy HQ, RAP and PW Cage. In addition he dealt successfully with 3 of A Coy's Kangaroos, and narrowly missed the C.O.'s on many occasions. 1145 D Coy had cleared rest of village and was establ at X Rds 753740. 1245 C.O.'s wireless operator wounded slightly in head by 88 fire at 741748. 1252 C.O.'s bodyguard wounded in back at this same farmplace. 1315 Four Panthers and a Tiger observed at 754747, but they slipped back over a rise before our SP's could be brought up. 1317 C.O. & RA rep moved up to A Coy HQ. 1317 I.O. went back down to woods 730761 to bring up C Coy. 1400 Enemy patrol ambushed 3 C Coy men, one of whom escaped (patrol were fired on, one Boche wounded & fell down screaming ; C Coy man</p>	

		<p>imitated this and in ensuing disorder made his escape). C Coy started to beat their wood, but only came across 8 civilians, men, women and children whom Boches had driven out before them. A second attempt produced 4 PW, rem of patrol escaped.</p> <p>1410 I.O. reported back to C.O., and was ordered back again to fetch up rest of Bn. Considerable 88 fire still coming down on axis, but no cas suffered on the march fwd to KONINGSBOSCH.</p> <p>1730 Whole Bn establ in the village : A and D as before ; HQ 752742, B 752743, C 751745.</p> <p>1830 4/7 DG HQ moved up into the monastery school. A very quiet night ensued during which 11 more PW were prised up out of cellars : some 1220 Regt, some 56 Pion Bn incl a CSM. Total PW for day : 6 offr 69 O.R's.</p>	GWH
	20	<p>0330 News that 7/9 RS coln up level further North - may be patrolling twds AAN DE SCHOOL 7675.</p> <p>0750 C.O. 4/5 RSF visited HQ - his Bn deployed in area 758738.</p> <p>1000 Various captured documents came in from A Coy, taken from kit of a Lieut FAHL :- traces of our ops area, code list of weapons, staff depts. etc, Order of Battle with codenames of 176 Div.</p> <p>1300 Village shelled very accurately - this continued spasmodically all day.</p> <p>1510 Bde Cmd arrived HQ.</p> <p>1525 Captain VINEY SCOTT seriously wounded by a shell, and died shortly afterwards in the RAP.</p> <p>1600 Bde Cmd set up his Tac HQ with ours - C Coy ordered to secure AAN DE SCHOOL as springboard for 5 KOSB attack on WALDFEUCHT</p> <p>2000 Lt WILSON took out patrol to investigate the former.</p> <p>2359 Patrol returned - no enemy - road block of felled trees at 759751.</p>	GWH
	21	<p>0130 C Coy set out for their AAN DE SCHOOL posn and secured it without incident.</p> <p>0215 5 KOSB into WALDFEUCHT against very slight opposition.</p> <p>0630 News of CA against 5 KOSB - enemy infantry penetration into SE of town with several Tigers also. Posn reported as being sticky. Bde Cmd planned reinforcement by one of our Coys.</p> <p>1110 B Coy, sp by 3 SP's, a Wasp Sec and Arty smoke on flanks, moved quickly up in Kangaroos to WALDFEUCHT</p> <p>1215 B Coy fighting to secure a firm base in the town - this successful and contact made with 5th Bn</p> <p>1220 Comd 8 Armd Bde arrived HQ and discussed WALDFEUCHT situation with our own Bde Cmd - also possibility of pushing on through to HAAREN.</p> <p>1400 Rem Bn to move up into WALDFEUCHT overnight.</p> <p>1800 C.O. & I.O. departed after very sharp stonk to confer with C.O. 6</p>	

		2030	HLI in BOCKET 7874 2i/c arrived BOCKET with rem Bn in Kangaroos. A Coy to lead up direct road to WALDFEUCHT, followed by D, HQ, then A Coy 6 HLI, under comd for this op.	
		2330	Advance started and not a shot fired. A Coy to 776756, D 776755, A Coy 6 HLI 771774 -	GWH
WALDFEUCHT 7775	22	0200	Posn consolidated and B Coy contacted.	
		0315	C.O. contacted O.C. 5 KOSB and fixed plan for thorough clean up of town.	
		0400	Slight mortaring of town - 2 slight cas.	
		0545	A Coy 6 HLI released and returned BOCKET.	
		a.m.	A and D Coys searched SE half of town - PW utilised in burying German dead. 2 PW from an Engr Bn, under direction of Pnr Offr, lifted 63 RIEGEL Mines in area.	
		1230	C Coy rejoined Bn from AAN DE SCHOOL.	
		1430	"O" Gp. : Bn to undertake capture of HEINSBERG along with 7/9 RS. B and D Coys join 7/9 RS in encirclement of town prior to clearing by rem 4 KOSB. Flails, Crocodiles, SP's, Shermans in sp.	
		2130	Bn moves off on foot from WALDFEUCHT for HEINSBERG via BOCKET, SELSTEN, APHOVEN.	GWH
HEINSBERG 8475	24	0100	Coln reached SELSTEN 8173 and came under continuous shell and mor	
		0235	fire all the way up. Bn halted in APHOVEN until 7/9 force in posn on the roads up Eastern & Western outskirts HEINSBERG.	
		0525	Advanced up sunken road 839738, through Community Trench 844742 and into square at 848747.	
		0930	Severe shelling & mortaring commenced.	
		1145	A Coy, with Crocodiles cleared W of town - hand to hand fighting ensued, to cost of enemy. D Coy cleared E of town with less opposition.	
		a.m.	7/9 RS disposed easily of two very badly attempted counter attacks.	
		1400	B Coy, W of orchards 847751, caught in shallow trenches by observed shell & mor fire - enemy located PLOSTERHOF 844749. Maj HOGG C.F. wounded, CSM wounded and Capt J. ELLIOTT Killed. L/Cpl LEITCH, Coy signaller, severely wounded in leg and buttocks, remained at Coy HQ and directed Arty smoke shoot to cover withdrawal of Coy to houses 847747.	
		1730	Carr Pl attacked PLOSTERHOF but repulsed - LT CAVENDISH wounded. This posn later cleared by 7/9 RS.	
		p.m.	During lull in fire, RMO organised PW to evac cas - this coln of 120 escorted by night by 5 snipers back down to APHOVEN. Large number of them were surrender party from 4 Coy 330 Regt	GWH
	25	1100	Enemy fire slackened and finally died out.	

LAFFELD 8272		1315 Bn ordered down into res in LAFFELD 8272. 7/9 RS taking over whole of HEINSBERG. 1615 C.O. 7/9 RS assumed comd of HEINSBERG area. 1700 Sharp shelling of main square, during which last veh (C.O.'s wireless Carrier) pulled out. 2000 Whole Bn into LAFFELD. 2100 "O" Gp - Bn to go into line at OBSPRINGEN for 5 days, then 5 days rest SITTARD area.	GWH
	27	0915 C.O. reced OBSPRINGEN area with Bde Cmd. 1500 "O" Gp. - HQ, B, D and SP Coys to take over from 7 Cams area OBSPRINGEN ; A and C Coys from 4/5 RSF at VINN 8277 and HAASERDREISCH 8178 respectively.	GWH
OBSPRINGEN 8076	28	0900 Adv Parties left LAFFELD. 1000 C.O. went on further recce with G.O.C., CRA and Bde Cmd. This party 1100 had very narrow escape when American Hy Bombers dropped 30 to 50 bombs just N of OBSPRINGEN within a hundred yards of them. 1700 HQ established OBSPRINGEN 799762. 2210 Bn takeover completed.	
	29	0030 A Coy patrolled to TREFELSBRIDGE 829783 but found no signs enemy. C Coy contacted Recce Sqn at ECHTERHEIDE 809788. 0930 "O" Gp - plans for def against major CA - A and C Coys withdraw to areas 796774 and 802765 only under orders C.O. Coy posns to be reced by OC Coys, then dug by B and D Coys later. Bn employed mainly on mine locating and improvement posns - neither mor bomb nor shell of any kind landed in Bn area during period in line.	GWH
	30	1300 A Coy patrol to END 8380 via KARKEN planned. Object to find out how strongly END was held. Patrol, led by Lt SCOTT moved off. After investigating KARKEN church, Lt SCOTT went on to search village ; coming under automatic fire from N end of village and mor fire from END direction. One man presumed killed, two missing - attempt by SB to reach first man met with fire on his Red Cross flag. Later in evening all men turned up ; two men had gone to locate first man, finding him badly hit ; lying up until darkness, they collected 2 civilians who wheeled cas in a barrow back to A Coy area. These civs then evac through PW channels.	GWH
	31	0900 Two civs sent back evening 30 Jan both been called up for Volksturm - one had gone into hiding rather than report - other told his service would consist in helping man Siegfried Line. Both denied that any civs in KARKEN had been issued with arms - Lt SCOTT had been certain that civs had fired on his patrol from rear	

		<p>whilst he was engaged frontally by enemy soldiers. Lt D.J. URQUHART returned to Bn from Mil Hosp.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>POSTINGS IN.</u></p> <p>12 9 O.R.'s rejoined from 34 RHU</p> <p>14 17 O.R.'s, The Royal Scots, from 34 RHU.</p> <p>20 12 O.R.'s, Green Howards, " 33 RHU.</p> <p>21 15 " , Border Regt, " " .</p> <p>6 O.R.'s rejoined Bn " 34 RHU.</p> <p>31 4 " " " " "</p> <p>26 " , King's Regt, " 33 RHU.</p> <p>28 " , Loyal Regt, " 33 RHU.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Appendices</u></p> <p>AF C 2118 A - Appx "A"</p> <p>Patrol Data 1-9 Jan - " I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For Map Refs see Appx VII to Unit War Diary for December 1944</p>	GWH
			<p>G.W. Halliburton, Capt for Lt Col, Comd, 4 K.O.S.B.</p>

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 4th BN K.O.S.B.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year FEB 1945

Commanding Officer LT COL C.L. MELVILLE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
OBSPRINGEN 8076	1	a.m. 1700	C Coy, with aid of CA, evac civs from farmplace 819793. "O" Gp : orders for handover to 4/5 RSF. Bearing taken on heavy gun which sent over occasional shell into area well to rear of Bn - probably Siegfried gun - active three or four times during night.	GWH
WALDFEUCHT 7775	2	0915 1125 1315 1600 2130	Bn ADV Party left for WALDFEUCHT, and ADV Party 4/5 RSF arrived Bn HQ. Civs streaming into C Coy area from KARKEN - they reported that Green Police had come across the ROER to evac KARKEN 8377, but many civs preferred to evac to British lines. About 100 Wehrmacht alleged to be mining KARKEN area. C.O. requested Bde Comd to get air and arty fire down on the village. B, D, SP and HQ Coys handed over and free of area CO 4/5 RSF assumed cmd - ordered A Coy send offr patrol up to KARKEN - Lt BEATTIE carried out this patrol, but found no enemy in village, nor any trace of mining. A and C Coys both settled in at WALDFEUCHT - delay due to very bad state of roads. - Period at WALDFEUCHT very quiet. Ops role twofold : a) def of the town ; perimeter naturally quadrilateral, each Coy responsible for one sector b) C.A - period so short that no one definite CA worked out in detail. Men given as much rest as possible, and parties attended Cinema Shows at Bde Cinema in BOCKET 7874. Working parties kept busy on road maintenance under Bde control.	GWH
	5		Following offr appointments and promotions approved by C.O. :- 1. Capt A.P. INNES promoted T/Maj and appointed O.C. B Coy. 2. Capt F.H. COUTTS " " 2i/c B Coy. 3. Lt G.W. Halliburton " T/Capt " " O.C. Mor Pl. 4. Lt A.S. ROSS " T/Capt 5. Lt D.J. URQUHART " I.O. 6. Lt R. STEPHENSON promoted T/Capt and appointed 2i/c A Coy.	GWH
STOCKHEIM	6	1120	Lt Col BAIRD of 36 U.S. Inf Regt arrived with his Bn recce party	

6071		1330	prior to takeover from us. Takeover by U.S. Bn complete and Bn on move to STOCKHEIM 6071 on W side of MAAS, S of MAESEYCK.	
		1800	Bn settled in at STOCKHEIM. Maj G.H. DAVIDSON in cmd while C.O. on 48 hrs leave.	GWH
	7	0930	Bn Adv Party moved off, arriving GUN 8724 at 1500 hrs.	GWH
	8	1700	A/I.O. returned to STOCKHEIM from GUN with infmn about that sector of MAAS line which Bn were to takeover from 2nd Bn K.S.L.I.	
		1730	"O" Gp : orders for move to GUN, and for takeover from 2 K.S.L.I.	GWH
GUN 8724 HQ: 873244	9	0630	Head of Bn coln moved off from STOCKHEIM, arriving GUN area 1335 hrs.	
		1700	C.O. arrived HQ and took over cmd from 2i/c.	
		1745	Admin HQ set up under Adjt at TIENRAIJ 8523	
		1915	2 Carr Secs and 2 Mor Dets badly bogged, causing some delay in takeover.	
		1945	Carrs and Mors both reported in posn.	
		2040	D Coy reported takeover complete : i.e. whole Bn in posn. Layout as follows: A Coy 888255 ; B (in res) 868251 with 4 mors & 2 ATK guns ; C Coy 895249 with 2 mors ; D Coy 883262 with 4 ATK guns ; under comd - 4 Dutch Coy (young soldiers in trg) 885237 ; 5 Dutch Coy TIENRAIJ. Capt COUTTS placed in charge of admin and trg of these Coys.	GWH
	10	1110	O.C. 80 Fd Regt visited HQ - discussed DF plan.	
		1200	Infmd by BM that Boches had blown the last ROER dam - floodwater expected in MAAS at VENLO by midday. Coys warned to be prepared for emergencies.	
		1240	Lt Col Turner 5 KOSB, Acting Bde Cmd visited C.O. at Bn HQ.	
		1812	RMO reported shelling in area 867229 - prob'y attempt at C.B.	GWH
	11	0535	MAAS risen very slightly, but no cause for alarm.	
		1145	6 Mor bombs landed in C Coy area - no cas.	
		1550	8 mor bombs, or 7.5 shells, landed just S of Bn HQ.	
		2000	Int OP report for the day : occupied dugouts observed at 894261, 892262, 891263.	GWH
	12	0015	Following flood report to be rendered to Bde each morning at 0700 hrs :- A. Is river overflowing. B. Is there an area of shallow water on WEST bank. C. Are the roads saturated. D. Has strength of current increased. E. Is there any flooding on enemy side of river.	
		0050	Veh mov reported by 156 Bde on Steam Train Road (main road running along E side of MAAS.) Warned Coys to make an immediate report on any such mov heard. Thought to be supplies and possibly reinforcements going North against tps of 1st Cdn Army on REICHSWALD front.	
		0135	D Coy reported mov on Steam Train Road - Gunners took much too long	

		<p>in bringing DF down - T.O.T. was actually 0200 hrs.</p> <p>0235 Mov heard again - DF fire much quicker this time.</p> <p>0528 Fire again brought down on traffic mov.</p> <p>0600 CO rendered flood report in accordance with demand earlier during night - answers were A. Yes B. Yes - 100 to 300 yds in width C. Very much so D. Not appreciably E. Yes - up to 100 yd.</p> <p>1225 Spandau fire across A Coy front from 893264 - own mors replied.</p> <p>1525 Capt COUTTS reported inter Coy relief complete between 4 and 5 Dutch Coys. One pl of 5 Coy to take up posn in A Coy area, one in C Coy.</p>	GWH
	13	<p>0450 Int OP reported lights and sounds of MT on Steam Train Road - no more seen or heard after an almost immediate gunner shoot.</p> <p>0700 Flood water risen 6 inches during night.</p> <p>1030 Acting Bde Comd visited HQ - 155 Bde ordered to obtain identification by first light 15 Feb : 7/9 RS to cross from BLITTERSWIJK 8727 ; 4 KOSB also to make a river crossing. CO nominated C Coy to find patrol under Lt KENDRA. I.O. contacted 5 Dutch Coy in search of local knowledge.</p> <p>1200 D Coy reported further flood rise of 6 inches since daylight.</p> <p>1400 Lt KENDRA, accompanied by Bde I.O., flew over enemy lines in R.A.A.O.P.</p> <p>1625 All arrangements for identification patrol cancelled by Bde.</p>	GWH
	14	<p>0030 Recce party for move to Conc Area further north to stand by for further orders. Considerable flare activity during night - own AC towards the RUHR ; also gun flashes - REICHSWALD battle.</p> <p>0740 Flood water risen approx 12 inches overnight.</p> <p>1650 Flooding increased further 12 inches in D Coy area - position in process of becoming an island.</p> <p>1700 Adv parties to be prepared as from midnight to move. Probable that we take over from Polish Forces W of S'HERTOGENBOSCH, while U.S. forces take over from us. This almost immediately contradicted - Bn to move on 15th to a posn behind 1st Cdn Army.</p> <p>1450 U.S. Adv Party arrived, under Bn C.O., Lt Col MARUN. Identity of the Unit not given, since it was part of a security formation.</p> <p>1600 Pnr Off reported that a suspect mine area between GUN and 5 Dutch Coy was clear of mines.</p>	GWH
	15	<p>0240 Tracked mov heard on Steam Train Road - gunners already pulled out, and contact with 79 Fd Regt through Bde too slow - engaged with own Mors.</p> <p>0715 Bn recce party left for new locn.</p> <p>0730 Further rise of 12 inches in flood water.</p> <p>0900 "O" Gp : offrs of both our own and U.S. Bn were present. Final details of takeover settled.</p>	

		1150 Lt Col TURNER left Bde to take over 5 KOSB. As result of Div reorganisation, 5 KOSB now in 157 Bde, 6 HLI taking their place in 155 Bde. Lt Col PERCIVAL, 6 HLI, now Acting Bde Cmd. 1600 Handover completed. 1830 Bn settled in to new Conc Area at WANROIJ	GWH
	16	1000 2i/c and small recce party went up to HEIJEN 7941 to look over Bn Assembly area along main road immediately N of that village. 1000 CO and I.O. to Bde for Conf on Op VERITABLE. 1400 C.O.'s Prelim "O" Gp for this Op. 2115 C.O. and I.O. left for Tac HQ, 155 Bde at GENNEP.	GWH
HEIJEN 7941	17	0400 A/I.O. and Coy guides preceded Bn to Assembly Area. 0815 Bn concentrated in Res Area. 1000 "O" Gp : Plan is as follows : H hr 1530 hrs. 6 HLI to capture GROOTE HORST 8639 ; 7/9 RS to take up posn in res around 840388 ; 4 KOSB to pass through 6 HLI and capture the area of X Rds 879404. 1100 C.O. summoned to Bde. GOC passed through Bn locn and intimated change of plan. 1430 "O" Gp : 6 HLI as before ; 7/9 RS to capture ground overlooking SLUICE at ATK ditch at 835388 ; 4 KOSB to cross ATK ditch, capture, hold and clear woods in square 8437. Patrols to contact 6 HLI when posn firmly secured. 1830 Bn moved off on foot to fwd Ass Area 810412. 2000 Bn dug in on Assembly Area, which thereafter became F.U.P. 2200 6 H.L.I. passed through Bn 810414.	GWH
	18	0045 I.O. set off and contacted C Coy 7/9 RS 825392, whose Bn had been held up by enemy strongpoint around farmhouse 836395 then returned to report their locn to C.O. 0130 Bde Cmd arrived HQ to convey new orders - Bn to make good the line of main road REMPELD - BLIJENBEEK. I.O. departed to recce A and C Coy areas on that line, approx 0400 A and C Coys guided into posn by I.O. A. 825387 C. 830388. 0530 B, D and Tac HQ guided also into posn by I.O. Bn layout then as follows :- HQ 825389, A 825387, B 826389, C 830388, D 826390. 0800 Half an hour's heavy arty fire on Bn objectives ; one Tp Crocodiles and AVRE's knocked out by SP guns. A and C Coys suffered heavy cas in this fire which continued throughout the day, thickened up by mortars. 0900 Lt T. GRAY wounded in the left foot. 1400 Capt D. COLVILLE fatally wounded by observed Spandau fire. Evac of cas particularly difficult and dangerous, but extremely well carried out by Regtl SB and Bearer Sec under Capt HILL and Lt R.	

			MAJOR.	GWH
	19		Bn during the night were still under effective shelling and mortaring which however was less intense. A and C Coys put patrols fwd to Anti-Tank ditch, and gained the infmn that it was on an average 5ft deep with a width of 18/20 ft and had normal sloping banks. 0600 A and C Coys withdrawn by Bde order to wood edges at 825388. D and B to 826391. Bn HQ to 824391. During day Bde Cmds 156 and 157 visited area on recce tasks. Spasmodic shelling continued and cas mounted. 1115 Lt K. WILSON evac as a battle shock case. 2230 Very heavy shelling and mortaring, incl Nebelwerfer, of whole area until 0430 hrs. Many cas sustained.	GWH
	20		A and C occupied original fwd posns by night. B Coy contacted 52 Recce on the left. 1500 Lt E. KENDRA severely wounded in the head by shell fragment. Bn HQ moved again to 825393. B and D occupied the fwd posns 1730 KASTEEL BLIJENBEEK bombed and badly damaged by Typhoons.	GWH
	21		Bn occupied same areas and were still under heavy fire, though fewer cas were now being suffered - posns by this time being more shellproof. Bde demanded report on battle exhaustion cases. Quieter night with noticeable and welcome decrease in enemy shelling.	GWH
	22		D Coy patrolled to KASTEEL and found no sign enemy in outer buildings. 1030 Typhoons again dealt with KASTEEL : causing heavy damage. 1400 Relief by 6 HLI commenced ; Bn moving back into posns vacated by HLI area sq 8240. ATK and Mor Pls remained in posn under comd 6 HLI.	GWH
	23 &	24	Bn rested in a close area approx 821408 and rehabilitated.	
	25		Following offrs posted to Bn : Capt WILSON, 2/Lt J. ROSS, and 2/Lt TESKEY. 1430 Maj Gen C.M. Barber D.S.O., G.O.C. 15 (S) Div visited C.O.	GWH
	26		Bn placed on 10 minutes notice to move - destination or objective most obscure - probably to assist 6 HLI and 5 KOSB in their attack on Lt Col C.L. MELVILLE, O.C. 4th Bn KOSB, was awarded the DSO. Capt R STEPHENSON awarded the M.C.	GWH
	27	0700 1030	Bn still standing by. D.J. Urquhart Lieut Bn stood down to one hour's notice. for O.C. 4th K.O.S.B.	GWH

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 4 KOSB

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year MAR 1945

Commanding Officer LT COL C.L. MELVILLE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
KASTEEL - BLIJBEK AFFERDEN	2	0900 1000 1230 0200 1415 1715 1720 1905 2300 2330 2345	Warning order from Bde - Bn to take over from 6 H.L.I. at Ref 833397 Bn at 1 hrs notice to move. Recce parties to move immediately to H.L.I. area Mtr pln & A/TK pln revert to Bn command from 6 H.L.I. Main party move & take over from 6 H.L.I., coy locns as follows: H.Q. 833397 A. B. C. D. Coy of WELSH GUARDS under command locn at "B" Coy sent on patrol with orders to stop at 847397 & consol. 6 H.L.I. Bn H.Q. at 858396. Brig MacLaren & Capt Jones with change of plan for Bn - the Bn to move to new locn to be notified later & is put on 1 hr notice to move. "A" Ech vehicles move into area. Message from Bde - G.O. 3 of 02 2335A - state of readiness to move 3 Mar at 1000 hrs. Lt J. Beattie to battle school - to report rear Bde H.Q. by 1000 hrs 3 Mar 45. Padre Capt F. Findlay will report rear Bde H.Q. 3 Mar 45 & stay there 3/4 Mar then report to Chaplain General - Brussels.	
"KASTEEL" AFFERDEN TWISTEDEN 9429	3	0100 0830 1200 1300 1600 1700	P.O.W. in Div cage has given information that "KASTEEL" area is mined - No further details. Report 1 jeep & driver have been blown up on a mine on track area . Later found to be M.T.O. & Driver from 6 H.L.I. C.O. to "O" Group at Bde for instructions on Bn move. Bn "O" Group for move to TWISTEDEN via the following route. S.P. 836390 to rd junc 848390 right to rd junc 896362 left to rd junc at 919361 right to Bn location at squ. 9429 Capt ROSS with mine detectors advance in front of "C" Coy who are advance coy. Report rd clear but bridge at 929312 has (2) 500 KIL. bombs as demolitions. The bridge is safe for foot troops but not vehicles. I.O., Capt Ross proceed to TWISTEDEN & KLEINKEVELAER to recce coy	

KLEINKEVE- LAER		<p>1730 areas. "C" Coy in position - "A" Coy - "D" Coy take up defensive positions in areas & F KLEINKEVELAER "A" at 952286 "C" at 949288 "D" at 950295 Bn HQ at 951290 ☉ "B" Coy to guard Bn transport along road 927316 ☉</p> <p>1830 Maj Ross 317 Bty 80 Fd Regt & F.O.O. report in position.</p> <p>1845 "A" Coy take 11 prisoners in barn in area. Identified as arty.</p> <p>1900 R.E. party reports to clear bridge of charge.</p> <p>1930 "A" Coy to send patrol to bridge at 952282 & report on condition.</p> <p>2000 C.O. to Bde for orders.</p> <p>2040 Bridge at 929312 clear & transport of "F" Ech to join company.</p> <p>2110 C.O. call "O" group for 0700 hrs.</p> <p>2130 Capt Jones Bde with route & instructions for move 04 Mar 45 Bn will move to GELDERN 0225.</p>	
LULLINGEN 9627	4	<p>0035 "A" Coy report patrol in - no opposition ☉ Bridge at 952283 is blown.</p> <p>0700 Coy Commanders "O" group for Bn move to GELDERN.</p> <p>0800 Bn moves off with pioneers sweeping & clearing rds. "C" Coy advance coy.</p> <p>0830 Pioneers report bridge at 968279 prepared for demolition with (1) 1000 KIL bomb & (2) 500 KIL bombs - Bn halted along rd & held up.</p> <p>1000 Crater in rd at 965265 & anti-tank ditch.</p> <p>1015 T.A.C. H.Q. & "C" coy in LULLINGER squ. 9627 where T.A.C. will be until further instructions. "C" Coy proceed along rd to 980262 where they take up position.</p> <p>1140 Capt Jones with orders to remain at present position & concentrate Bn in area of LULLINGER until crater can be repaired.</p> <p>1220 Bn in position "A" Coy at 975270. "D" coy 965276 "B" coy 968285 T.A.C. at 964277.</p> <p>1400 R.E. party start on crater.</p> <p>1700 C.O. to Bde for orders.</p> <p>2100 C.O. calls "O" group - Bn will move at 0700 hrs to area sq 9819 VOSSUM</p>	
VOSSUM 9720	5	<p>0700 Bn moves to new area ☉ Recce parties of Maj Davidson & 1 Offr - 1 N.C.O. per coy having gone ahead at 0500 hrs area sq. 9720-9819.</p>	
	6&7	<p>Bn resting, reorganising & administration. Warning order to move area of ISSUM at 0800 hrs 7 Mar 45</p>	
ISSUM 0927	7	<p>1100 Bn relieve the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at ISSUM sq 0927. Companies relieving companies - take over completed at 1200 hrs.</p> <p>1400 C.O. to Bde for orders.</p> <p>1830 Warning orders. Bn to relieve R.S.F. at 165304 8 Mar timings later.</p>	
	8	<p>0130 "O" group at Bde attended by Adjt Capt Bearpark.</p> <p>0830 Advance & recce parties of 1 offr & 1 N.C.O. per coy to new location</p>	

		<p>at 139305 & area.</p> <p>1500 Bn move from ISSUM to area with T.A.C. at 133302. "A" coy at 125294 - "B" coy at 134289 ⊙ "C" coy at 119298. "D" coy at 159302.</p> <p>1630 Maj Ross & F.O.O. of 80 Fd Regt report.</p> <p>1800 Col. Sulley O.C. Div Sigs calls.</p> <p>1900 C.O. to Bde for orders.</p> <p>2100 2i/c to Bde for conference.</p> <p>2020 GOLD reported taken by R.S.F. "X" rds at 160325</p> <p>2215 Capt Jones Bde - C.O. wishes "O" group at 2330 hrs. - This "O" group waited for 3 hrs while orders were changed many times.</p>	
<p>133302</p> <p>HAUS-LOOS 160334</p>	9	<p>0130 "O" group & orders for attack on HAUS LOOS ref. 160334 interrupted occasionally by heavy shelling from mortars & 88's. Heavy arty barrage from our own arty in support of R.S.F. attack on ALPEN squ. 1531. Plan for 4 K.O.S.B. - "D" coy & "A" coy will secure HAUS LOOS 160334 then "B" coy & "A" coy pass through & secure area of "X" rds 168336. F.U.P. will be along track from 143320 to 140329. S.P. will be line of railway track from 168320 to 150330. Coys will cross S.P. at 0800 hrs. In support 2 sqdn TANKS from SCOTS GUARDS from area 152337. Arty support of (8) fld Regts & (3) MED Regts.</p> <p>0230 Maj Davidson to SCOTS GUARDS for liaison - later reports that railway line is not held by this unit. G.O.C. has information that this line is secure.</p> <p>0400 New route from Bde & information that all bridges in repair.</p> <p>0430 Capt Erskine confirms time of 0800 hrs across S.P. & Bn will move from present location at 0500 hrs.</p> <p>0445 I.O. to check companies at "X" rds 144310. Shelling is very heavy from 88 m.m. & mortars. The occasional NEBELWERFER ⊙ ALPEN is in flames from attack by R.S.F.</p> <p>0545 Bn is on F.U.P. & digs in - TANKS are in position & a heavy barrage by enemy on ALPEN for 15 mins.</p> <p>0600 ALL Quiet for the moment.</p> <p>0610 Maj Rae sent to recce S.P. & contact 2i/c at Scots Guards.</p> <p>0630 Shelling of area by 88 - mortars - nebelwerfers - "moaning minnies".</p> <p>0700 Sqdn of tanks from WELSH GUARDS attack & shoot on HAUS LOOS</p> <p>0720 WELSH GUARDS report (3) tanks knocked out by 88 from HAUS LOOS area, also S.A.A. from 168322 area.</p> <p>0730 Arty barrage of (8) fld & (3) med Regts on HAUS LOOS & area for 30 mins. Communication very bad from all sets.</p> <p>0735 Information that S.P. (railway line) is not held by Scots Guards or by British troops - this information passed to Bde for action.</p>	<p>4 K.O.S.B. under command of 156 Bde.</p>

		<p>0800 "D" coy leave F.U.P. for S.P. on the left - "A" coy leave F.U.P. for S.P. & are on the right.</p> <p>0815 "D" coy report they are under S.A.A. fire from railway embankment.</p> <p>0817 "A" coy report they are under spandau fire from factory at ALPEN</p> <p>0820 "D" coy under heavy shell & mortar fire - approach to railway is or appears to be enemy D.F. task.</p> <p>0825 "A" coy under heavy shell & mortar fire 1000 yds short of S.P.</p> <p>0830 TANKS shooting HAUS LOO & giving covering fire to infantry with S.A. - (4) have been knocked out by 88 m.m.</p> <p>0900 "A" & "D" coy call for Arty on HAUS LOO - communications & wireless out of order. C.O. asks for relay at "A" Ech. Throughout the day wireless was very poor & F.O.O. could not get to the guns.</p> <p>0915 Forward companies call for stretcher bearers - casualties are seriously wounded.</p> <p>0930 WELSH GUARDS L.O. reports that they have reason to believe that at least (8) - 88 MM guns at HAUS LOOS.</p> <p>0945 "A" coy SPANDAU & S.A.A. from factory at Alpen holding advance up. Want MED ARTY on this area - Shell Drake having great trouble with wireless - orders & communication impossible - guns on harassing fire & targets.</p> <p>1000 Relay set up for Arty at "A" Ech & completed - Bde orders that HAUS LOOS is Bn objective. X rds at will be taken by 7/9 R.S.</p> <p>1015 U.S.A. signal L.O. to plot exact position of our troops.</p> <p>1030 Civilians start coming from forward areas - some are & have been wounded.</p> <p>1045 "D" coy report (2) sections on railway embankment & in posn</p> <p>1050 "A" coy report they are on railway line & digging in but the shelling & S.A.A. is very heavy.</p> <p>1130 "B" coy & "C" coy prepare to move from F.U.P. & pass through forward companies onto obj.</p> <p>1200 "B" coy passes thru "D" coy - "C" coy through "A" coy.</p> <p>1330 "C" coy calls for MED ARTY on HAUS LOO - this is not possible because of the safety limit & our own troops would be in danger.</p>	
HAUS LOO		<p>1400 I.O. to recce new T.A.C. H.Q. & contact 2i/c at SCOTS GUARDS.</p> <p>1410 Forward coys report heavy shelling & mortars, "Moaning Minnies" in Bn area.</p> <p>1500 Coldstream Guards pass to left to put in attack on squ. 1534.</p> <p>1502 "C" coy reported on objective & consolidating position.</p> <p>1535 "B" coy reported on objective & consolidating position.</p> <p>1600 Forward companies report heavy shelling - but consolidation complete - require stretcher bearers.</p> <p>1605 C.O. reports to Bde that objectives taken.</p>	
HAUS LOO			

		1830	Bearer section under Lieut T. Jones start to clear wounded, report casualties very heavy.	
		1900	Maj Stuart to T.A.C. - requests rations forward.	
		1930	Bde suggest moving "A" & "D" coys forward - this considered impossible by C.O. - Bde cancel order.	
		2000	This was a costly battle in casualties as most were fatal. Lt L. to Brown "C" coy wounded. Total of 80 casualties.	
		2400	The shelling continued until the following day. Company admin & rations were very difficult because of this & also the evacuation of wounded. Some were sent through 157 Bde medical channels.	
HAUS LOO	10	0500	Shelling which has been heavy since 0600 grown considerably less & almost none in Bn area.	
		0900	T.A.C. moves to 152329 "D" coy to 162334 "A" coy to 160324.	
		0930	7/9 R.S. pass through old area to MENZELEN	
		1000	90 P.W.s from 6 H.L.I. who are in MENZELEN to be escorted to PW cage.	
		1500	Brig MacLaren & Capt Erskine call at T.A.C. re move to MARIENBAUM.	
		1800	Bn spent most of day resting & on admin. Shelling stops & area quieter.	
	11	0900	Bn on admin - colour & recce parties preparing to move.	
		1300	Adm & Recce parties move off under Maj Davidson for MARIENBAUM.	
		1500	C.O. to Bde "O" Group. Bn on (2) hr notice to move.	
		2100	C.O. to Bde for further orders. Maj Rae to L.O.B. as ill.	
MARIENBAUM T.A.C. at 080440.	12	0300	Move postponed 24 hrs.	
		1500	O.C. to Bde "O" group. Bn to move at 2100 hrs for new locn.	
		2100	Bn moves for MARIENBAUM via Alpen 1531 - Bonninghardt 1231 - Sonsbeck 0535 - Xanten 1141 to MARIENBAUM.	
		2350	Bn in new location with T.A.C. at 080440 - "A" coy at 085443 - "B" coy at MARIENBAUM - "C" coy at 072444. "D" coy at 088432.	
MARIENBAUM T.A.C. at 080440	13TH	0900	C.O. to Bde conference 1000 hrs with 2i/c - all cattle to be rounded up.	
		1030	"O" Group all coy commanders - Admin points for Bn.	
		1620	"D" coy reports shelling of their H.Q. at 088432 by 88 MM.	
		1700	C.O. to conference at Bde.	
		2000	Conference at C.P. for Coy Commanders re setting up of traffic control points - 14 posts in area for checking traffic.	
		2245	Smoke screen will lift for 14-15 Mar - searchlights may shift direction if hindering movement of troops.	
	14	0900	Bn man 14 traffic control points to stop & check & issue passes to essential traffic only. The north to south traffic to be stopped &	
		to	only Recce parties were permitted forward. East & West traffic cut	
		2400	to minimum.	

	15		Maj Davidson is O.C. of rounding up & collecting all livestock in Bde area less pigs. Maj D.O. HOGG is O.C. of Bn area. Round-up & rodeo continued for three days with many queer sights & much amusement.	
MARIENBAUM T.A.C. H.Q. AT 080440	16	0240 0250 1000 1115 1300 1430 1610	For information - "B" coy 6 H.L.I. suspect (2) Germans have entered area at Ref. 110449, were fired on without success. Corps Commander will visit Bn at 1130 hrs. Smoke will lift at 1200 hrs. Visit at T.A.C. H.Q. of Barber & Brig MacLaren Col. McMinn R.A.M.C. for lunch. B.M. wishes T.C.P. established at 067447. Commandos to Recce area.	
	17	A.M. 1530 P.M. 1900 2330	N.T.R. Curfew patrol of 1 N.C.O. & 6 men plus (1) 15 cwt to report to #8 F.S.S. at 063391 - duty - to patrol during night. No. 1 T.C.P. shelled & had direct hit - vehicle hit & burning. Fire in "A" coy area - haystack hit by shell.	
	18		N.T.R.	
	19	0845 0930 0945 1200 1600 1900 1915	Bde & Bn area shelled during night. "B" coy shelled at 0400 hrs - 0650 hrs on rd junc 063454 by heavy cal guns, small crater in rd junc. "D" coy report rd between "D" coy H.Q. & XANTEN being shelled at ½ hr intervals. Bn war correspondent & photographer visits Bn for picture of Bn pipers - C.O., 2i/c, M.O., & QM - will be in paramount newsreel. Maj Madden 2i/c 5th B.W. visits C.O. Mortar bombs land in "D" coy H.Q. area - no casualties	
MARIENBAUM	20	1730 2000	"O" group at Bde - Carrier pln warned for Chinese* puzzle party 21 Mar at night. Bn supplies 1 offr 48 O.R. to unload "storm boats"* for sappers.	* FAKE Rhine Crossing is Chinese. * assault boats
	21	0430 1000 1315 1520 2000 2108	156 Bde put on Chinese party south of Xanten. Heavy Arty Conc starting at 0500 hrs for (1) hr - no retaliation in Bn area. Coy Comdrs conference. Capt Stevenson "A" coy brought in 3 suspicious Russians from 115360 area. Smoke being laid until 1900 hrs - was continued until 0130 hrs. Lt Col Bradford C.O. of 5th B.W. for dinner. (5) shells in "D" coy H.Q. area - (2) direct hits of H.Q. - no casualties.	
	22	0600 1050	No enemy reaction to "Chinese" in Bn area. Bn stood down. Shellrep from "B" coy - shells land Marienbaum area 1050 & 1052 hrs.	

		1210	"B" coy 88 mm shells landing in area of Marienbaum	
	23	1730 1800 1830 2145 2400 2400	Aircraft seen bombing WESEL mostly FORTS & some LANCS. All guns in area opened up in pre-crossing bombardment. C.O. to Bde "O" group. R.A. report enemy para-troop landing - investigated & found to be fake. Heavy bombardment & shelling - 15 DIV pass through Bn area on way to the river & crossing. P.W. cage established in rear of T.A.C. H.Q. for DIV & CORPS.	
MARIENBAUM TAC H.Q. at 080440	24	0240 0500 1000 1015 1930	15(S) DIV first flight cross Rhine at 0205 hrs without opposition. 51(H) DIV now at 085523 & 035545. 15(S) DIV 6 R.S.F. have one coy at 136428 - 8 R.S. have landed on other side, opposition still light. Mr Winston Churchill passes through Bn area. First phase of the Air-Borne Army 6 Airborne DIV & 17 U.S. AIR DIV pass over. This was a clear, bright day & the planes were about 500 ft altitude in perfect formation. First the Dakotas & the para troops & a short time later the glider borne troops. Dakotas towed (2) gliders each mostly HORSIA type. On our RIGHT we could see the Americans & WACO gliders. Later the returning planes (2) Dakotas crashed in flames narrowly missing BN H.Q. - both crews escaped by parachute. Many gliders landed in the Bn area. Later Lancasters came over at tree-top level with supplies - the whole show was an inspiring, impressive sight. T.A.C. H.Q. strafed by enemy - NO casualties.	
	25	0430 0540 1030 1400	Patrol of (1) N.C.O. & (4) O.R. to investigate plane crash at 055435 in Hochwald Forest. Patrol returns after finding wreckage of German plane. "B" coy to provide guard for bridge at 086466 of (1) pln. "D" coy to " " " " 210402 of (1) pln - OC Coy Maj M. Bell 2i/c of 6 H.L.I. calls for C.O.	
MARIENBAUM TAC H.Q. at 080440	26	0900 1900	"B" & "D" coy will continue to guard bridges. "A" coy have (1) wounded Russian woman who is sent through R.A.P. & normal channels.	
	27.	0645 0730 1000	Brig MacLaren orders 1 sec of carriers to 6 H.L.I. (2) sections of mortars report to 6 H.L.I. Bn will man (2) T.C.P. only one at MARIENBAUM - "B" coy - & the other at XANTEN to be manned by "D" coy.	
	28	1200 1640 2000	Warning Order - Bn at 3 hrs notice to move as of 1300 hrs & take over from 227 Bde. 2i/c & 1 offr per coy to be recce party for harbour area. Bn to cross S.P. at MARIENBAUM on foot for new area at BELLINGHOVEN.	

BELLINGHOVEN 134502		2140	BN crosses the Rhine led by the C.O. & Maj Allen Innes who blew a very fine hunting horn - for the last hunt.	
		2330	Bn in new area TAC H.Q. at 134502.	
	29		N.T.R.	
	30	1100	C.O. conference re new move - Maj Ross 80 Fd Regt & F.O.O. report.	
	31	1500	Warning Order for move - Advance & Recce parties move at 1630. Main party at 0430 - D.P. at 325649. Bn move via "Star Route Up".	
				D.J. Urquhart Lieut I.O. for Lt Col C.L. Melville O.C. 4 Bn K.O.S.B.

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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 4th Bn K.O.S.B.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year APR 1945

Commanding Officer LT COL C.L. MELVILLE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
GRAF BURLO 351682	1	0430 0745 1230 1800	Bn moves from BELLINGHOVEN via route DINGDEN - BOCHOLT - RHEDE - GR. BURLO. Bn in position at GRAF BURLO in more tactical role. LT. COL. CARTER G.1 of 52(L) DIV calls for C.O. C.O. to dine with G.O.C. 52(L) DIV.	
AHLE 529901 AHLE 529901	2	1000 1500 1945 2110 2100 2300 2330	"O" Group held by C.O. for orders on move to new area with 304 L.A.A. Bty & (1) tp S.P. guns 54 A/T Regt under command. Bn moves off from Graf Burlo. Bn in new location at 529901 AHLE. Capt Jones with movement warning orders for Bn - Brig. MacLaren will hold "O" Group at this H.Q. at 2200 hrs. Large searchlight battery (German) in T.A.C. H.Q. area. Generators & all equip in operating order. (20) French P.W. at location as forced labour. Brig MacLaren & Capt Erskine & Capt Jones with orders for move to area 818944 where Bn comes under Command 7th ARM DIV. C.O. holds "O" group & issues orders for proposed move at 0600 hrs to R.V. at via route where they will take defensive positions & wait for further orders by C.O. who will go to H.Q. (7) DIV at 0800 hrs to receive same.	
AHLE 529901 IBBENBUREN 962050	3	0530 0600 0720 0900 0910 0935 • 1500 1800	Bn move postponed 1 hr. Bn will not move until 160 Bde 53 (W) DIV pass through. Bn will move at 0800 hrs if road is clear. 1 pln Manchesters report & are under command. Maj W. Ross reports - 317 Bty of 80 Fd Regt under command. Bde L.O. with orders & change of plan. Bn will now concentrate in area squ. 9605. Bn will move immediately via same route & then to C.O. "O" group for Coy Commanders then a recce of coy positions. Bn takes over from (1) Bn Hereford Regt. A - B - C coy. "D" coy to guard bridge at 953054. TAC H.Q. at 962050. "A" coy 964055. "B" coy	

<p>TAC H.Q. at 981062</p> <p>IBBENBUREN TAC H.Q. AT 981062</p>		<p>2005 2008 2010 2015 2040 2040 2400</p>	<p>position, which is at 987070. "C" coy to move up to "D" coy & consolidate position at 985072 ☉ TAC H.Q. at 981062 with mortars. Carriers to remain with "D" coy. Stretcher bearers needed by "D" coy. Carriers have gone around road block at 982064 & joining "D" coy. Stretcher bearers for (7) casualties at "A Coy. LIEUT F. THURGER wounded. "A" & "B" coys call for company carriers to come forward to their positions. "A" & "B" coys want to know carrier route & their stretchers. A route was later found & Recce'd by Pte F. Brown "B" coy - was highly commended by C.O. Coys consolidated & cleared wounded. Maj Ross put down harassing fire on various D.F. tasks but enemy quiet & N.T.R.</p>	
<p>IBBENBUREN TAC H.Q. AT 981062</p> <p>IBBENBUREN TAC H.Q. AT 981062</p> <p>IBBENBUREN TAC H.Q. AT</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>0430 0505 0630 0640 0652 0654 0655 0650 0850 0920 0930 0931 1012 1040 1054 1120 1230 1400</p>	<p>C.O. orders trp of SP guns to engage UPMEYER at 981069 & clear of enemy. Offr i/c S.P. guns wants D.F. on UPMEYER & Reference - this could not be given as our own troops in locality. S.P. guns report on target & about to fire. Request for (1) pln for covering protection by S.P. GUNS as enemy sighted. "A" coy being fired on by our S.P. guns who have taken the wrong target & are firing at houses 981067. "B" coy positions being fired on by our own S.P. guns. Casualties reported at houses 981067. C.O. orders S.P. guns cease fire & return this H.Q. "B" coy report (5) casualties from our SP guns "D" coy send (1) P.W. to TAC H.Q. for questioning - identified as N.C.O. from HANNOVER O.C.T.U. who were sent to defend & hold IBBENBUREN, claims they withdrew over river at 0330 hrs. 4 Apr. - "A" coy to send patrol to code sign "PEN" - "D" coy to send patrol to code sign "INK" & report any enemy action immediately ☉ "A" coy report area being shelled by 88 MM & MORTAR. "D" coy report shelling of their area by 88 mm. "A" coy report white flags being raised in houses in IBBENBUREN. "A" coy patrol reports "PEN" clear of enemy. "D" coy reports "INK" clear - patrol was fired on from right & encountered some shelling. 2i/c comes up from "B" Ech. Sgt Scott & (1) man to Recce road & bridge from "PEN" 979075 to "PENCIL" 982079 & report on condition. C.O. "O" group coys prepare to move at 1445 - "A" to area 982078 -</p>	

<p>981062</p> <p>IBBENBUREN TAC H.Q. AT 981062</p>		<p>1700</p> <p>1750</p> <p>1900</p> <p>1912</p> <p>1950</p> <p>1953</p> <p>2003</p>	<p>"B" to area 979069 - "C" to area 988075. "D" coy remain in present position & TAC H.Q.</p> <p>I.O. to 4 R.W.F. for information & to turn over maps of area.</p> <p>Capt Erskine with information of attack on IBBENBUREN at 2100 hrs by 4 Bn R.W.F., 1 Bn H.L.I. & OX & BUCKS.</p> <p>Carrier pln to supply covering party for R.E. along road 979075 - 985073.</p> <p>Carriers report all road blocks clear.</p> <p>Bn is to halt & clear roads of all civilians who leave IBBENBUREN & place in cage established at TAC H.Q.</p> <p>Col P. Percival 6 H.L.I. calls on C.O.</p> <p>4 R.W.F. & 1st H.L.I. pass through Bn area for attack on Ibbenburen which was launched at 2100 hrs with light opposition & by day break the Bde were firmly holding & clearing IBBENBUREN.</p>	
<p>IBBENBUREN</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>0015</p> <p>0030</p> <p>0400</p> <p>0500</p> <p>0530</p> <p>0900</p>	<p>Patrol of 6 H.L.I. sent out to contact "D" coy has not returned - thought to have met opposition - checked with "D" coy but no report or sound of enemy or patrol in area.</p> <p>Warning order for Bn move on 6 Apr but not before 0700 hrs. Bn placed at (1) hours notice as of 2400 hrs.</p> <p>Bde "O" group at 0430 hrs attended by 2i/c.</p> <p>C.O. & Recce party move off for new area at 415439 DIEPHOLZ.</p> <p>"O" group held by 2i/c for move to new area.</p> <p>Bn move off for DIEPHOLZ & is held up by 53(W) DIV convoys at 972046 for two hrs, after which the convoy moved slowly until 3.40 AM where it stopped on the outskirts of DIEPHOLZ for the night. The Bn sleeping in the vehicles.</p>	
<p>DIEPHOLZ 415439</p> <p>DIEPHOLZ 415439</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>0900</p> <p>1400</p> <p>1410</p> <p>1500</p> <p>1530</p> <p>1535</p> <p>1830</p> <p>1905</p>	<p>Bn in position at DIEPHOLZ. TAC H.Q. at 415439 ☉ Take over completed from K.R.R.C. Bn of Rifle Bde.</p> <p>Bn to supply one pln as covering party for R.E. Recce patrol to bridges at . "C" coy 14 pln under Lt J. Ross to be covering party.</p> <p>C.O. orders 1 sec of carriers & (2) S.P. guns for patrol of RE & "C" coy.</p> <p>"C" coy report woods in area clear.</p> <p>Recce party moves off.</p> <p>Brig MacLaren calls with Capt Jones & Capt D Erskine for information & progress of Recce & decide to use T.A.C. H.Q. for H.Q. of Bde attack on by 7/9 R.S. & 6 H.L.I. - 4 K.O.S.B. reserve.</p> <p>Recce party returns to make report. Party fired on by Spandau, SAA & S.P. guns. (1) T.C.V. hit but no casualties. Bridge at blown but bridge at is O.K.</p> <p>2i/c of Russian P.W. camp is captured by Russians & beaten before</p>	

		1930	being turned over to Adjt & placed in Bn P.W. cage. Russian P.W. did much looting & the Bn were kept busy guarding stores & shops. Bn area strafed & (2) bombs dropped by enemy aircraft. No casualties.	
DIEPHOLZ 415439	8	0900 2000 2015 2130 2245 2330	N.T.R. day spent on admin & rest. Bn area strafed by enemy aircraft. Warning order of Bn move. C.O. to "O" group at 2230 hrs. Recce party of 2 Bn Royal Ulster Rifles arrives Diepholz. 3 DIV. Lt Col Turner 1st K.O.S.B. calls at Bn H.Q.	
DIEPHOLZ 415439 EINSTE sq. 9281 EINSTE sq. 9281	9	0200 0600 0845 0800 0900 1330 1400 1430 1500 1530 1600 1630 1700 2145	Bn "O" group called by C.O. Bn Recce party ordered to leave for new area. Handover to 2 Royal Ulster Rifles completed - less 1 pln Manchesters who follow at later timing. Manchesters will report at new area. Bn move from Diepholz to Einste via Rehden - Wehrbleck - Sulingen - left to Schwalforden - Weseloher - Vilsen - Martfeld - Holtum & in area squ. 9281 - 9482. TAC H.Q. 925815 - "A" coy 935813, "B" coy 914798, "C" coy 938819, "D" coy 925816. Bn takes over from Durham Light Inf of 7 Armd Div & under Command of 7 Armd Div. C.O. to Bde conference. "C" coy ambushed by enemy patrol while getting into position - enemy infiltrate into area. (5) casualties. (2) carrier sections sent to assist (1) Royal Tank Regt in recovering tank. Recce party cut off by enemy. Lt Col C.L. Melville appointed G.I. of 52 (L) DIV to take over immediately. Maj Davidson to take over Bn with Maj Rae acting as 2i/c. Recce harbour party to report to Bde. 4 Bn K.O.S.B. come under direct Command of 7 ARMD DIV. Bn move cancelled, recce parties to return. (1) squadron 11th Hussars under command "A" squadron. "O" group for Coy Commanders & detach commander (1) trp A sqdn 11th Hussars to patrol at first light in area of Blender - Varste.	
EINSTE sq. 9281	10	0300 0402 0440 0700 1120	One sub-unit engage enemy at 945825 - enemy retire. Heavy explosion area of bridge 969821 " " " " " " Patrol of 11 Hussars delayed because of tank breakdown. New party to patrol. (2) P.W. Marine Regt state bridge at 969821 blown & that their trps have withdrawn across river at 0300.	

		1445	Orste reported clear by - 2 trps & 1 sec of carriers stay in Orste.
		1830	C.O. to Bde "O" group at 2030 hrs.
		2145	"C" report spandau & air burst 88 mm over area from Amedorf.
SUDWEYHE 758884	11	0600	Recce & Harbour parties move for new location under Maj G.H. Rae.
		0800	Bn moves for new location - no handover to Regt or group.
		1200	Bn in position with T.A.C. H.Q. at 758884 "A" coy 754893 "B" coy 762892 "C" coy 745881 "D" coy 769888.
		1210	"B" coy T.C.V. hit by air-burst 88mm - 1 killed 3 wounded.
		1500	Bn takes over coy for coy from 1/5 Queens Regt 7 DIV.
		1540	"B" & "D" coy areas were heavily shelled.
		1630	(1) trp tanks VIII Hussars under command - Bn very light on ground compared to previous Regt & attachments.
SUDWEYHE 758884		1745	Recce parties from 2 Bn K.S.L.I. (3) DIV arrive.
		1730	Bn under command of 180 Bde (3) DIV.
		1740	Heavy shelling of Bn area by S.P. & 88mm guns - no casualties.
		1930	Heavy shelling of area by 105 & 88m.m. guns - some casualties.
		2000	VIII Hussars return to their Regt.
		2030	Bde order Carrier pln patrol at first light of DREYE sq. 9277 - enemy believed to occupy this village at night.
758884		2255	All coys will send out contact & scout patrols through-out night & report to Bde via duty officer.
		2255	Civilians state Rhede is occupied by enemy at night. Inform 185 Bde who order carrier patrol to continue.
		2258	"A" coy report enemy air-craft strafing area & also aiming at gun area.
		2341	Patrols report to coys - NO contact with enemy N.T.R.
	12	0030	T.C.V.s will be moved at least 3000 yds from village under cover of darkness & morning mist to prevent observation by enemy.
		0100	Patrols from "A" & "C" coy return - no contact N.T.R.
SUD. 758884		0205	"A" coy standing patrol report sound of enemy transport moving north in LEESTE area.
		0300	Section patrols move to investigate enemy movement in LEESTE area & if unoccupied will remain in area.
		0415	Patrols return no contact with enemy N.T.R.
		0615	"A" coy report small enemy patrol approaching ☉ Patrol shot up with two enemy killed & one (1) P.W. identified as S.S. Panzer Grenadier Regt.
		0800	Advance party & Recce parties leave for NIENBERG.
SUD 758884		1000	Shelling of Bn area by 88mm & 105mm guns - counter Battery being laid on by MED & FD Arty.
		1200	Morning very quiet - no sign of ground troops.
		1300	Advance party of (2) Bn K.S.L.I. report

SUD 758884		1500 1700 1800 1902 2000 2359	(2) Bn K.S.L.I. take over from Bn coy for coy at 1500 hrs. Bn order to proceed to Einste area sq. 9281 as enemy have counter-attacked. Take same area as before with T.A.C. H.Q. at 925815, coy positions to be the same. Bn move via T.C.V.s for Einste to take up position. Bn column is strafed by enemy aircraft - two (2) bombs dropped but no damage or casualties. Bn in position with coys at "A" Bn on stand-to from 2000 hrs till 0800 hrs & alert. No sign of enemy or counter attack. Area was shelled by 88mm airburst at intervals but no casualties. Enemy activity on the opposite side of river in Verden area.	
EINSTE 925815	13	0200 TO 0630 0815 0900 1030 1100 1230 1330 1400 1630	No sign of enemy counter attack & patrols N.T.R. All enemy seem to have withdrawn to their side of river. Shelling continues but no damage or casualties. Bn will be relieved by "B" Sqdn of 52 Recce Regt Maj Haines O.C. Advance party of Recce Regt arrive. Recce Regt take over from Bn under Maj Haines. Advance party of 7 Cameronians 52 DIV to take over from Bn instead of Recce Regt. Main Body of 7 Cameronians arrive & take over coy from coy under Col W. Forbes. Handover completed & Bn embussed for move to NIENBERG. Bn moves off for new area. Bn in new area at NIENBERG. All coy in city & under cover with orders for 48 hrs rest.	
NIENBERG	14	1000 1100 2210	M. General Lyons O.B.E. G.O.C. (7 ARMD DIV) calls at T.A.C. H.Q. to see C.O. Bn at (1) hours notice from 1700 hrs. C.O. & I.O. to attend Recce & "O" group at 0630 hrs at 135685 "Xrds" - 155 Bde under command of (7) ARMD DIV.	
GR. EILSDORF sq. 1570	15	0630 0700 1500 1700 1715 1718 1906 1910	C.O. & I.O. to Bde "O" group. Bn put at 1 hours notice to move to Greater Eilsdorf squ. 1570. Bn move from NIENBERG to new location via T.C.V.s. Bn in position at Gr Eilsdorf A - B & C coys & T.A.C. H.Q. in village, Baker coy at area 148710 (1) coy to patrol woods in area 148710. "B" coy to patrol woods. "B" coy meet enemy opposition at 149720, some casualties & company withdraws. "B" coy to attack & clear woods at first light.	
GR.	16	0715	"B" coy on S.P. for clearing of woods supported by one trp of 13-18	

<p>EILSDORF sq. 1570</p> <p>WALSRODE sq. 2575</p>		<p>0730 0745 1030 1100 1600 1730 1730 1830 1900 1910</p>	<p>Hussars & 1 bty of 80 FD REGT. "B" coy progressing NO opposition "B" " on objective & woods cleared, no enemy left, small battle group of 9 enemy met, (2) killed six wounded, (1) P.W., no casualties to "B" coy. (1) offr & 12 O.R. surrender to "C" coy Bn at (1) hrs notice to move. Bn to move to WALSRODE at sq. 2575. Bn takes over fr (2) Bn DEVONS coy for coy at WALSRODE. Bn in posn & in support have 1 Bty of R.H.A. & (2) sect. 4.2 mtrs. Large wine cellar found in "C" coy area. Guards placed on (2) large German Mil Hospitals. "B" coy to go to FALLINGBOSTAL for guard on STALAG #11.</p>	
<p>WALSRODE sq. 2575</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>0845 1045 1100 1105 1110 1240 1400 1600 1900 2000</p>	<p>C.O. to Bde "O" group. "O" group for all coy O.C. at TAC H.Q. MAJ INNES requests (1) coy for reinforcement at P.W. camp at FALLINGBOSTALL - P.W.s looting & bothering civilian women. Large dump of enemy ammo found in school house at 248756. "A" coy move to FALLINGBOSTAL sq. 3276 to assist "B" coy in guarding STALAG 11. Bn will move to new location less "B" & "A" coy. Bn moves by coys to new conc area. Bn in conc area at MITTELSTENDORF sq. 3885 Recce & advance parties to move at first light to sq. 3704 SCHNEVERDINGEN 7/9 R SCOTS report attack on SOLTAU going well - stiff enemy opposition along railway embankment.</p>	
<p>SCHNEVER- DINGEN sq. 3904</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>0900 1130 1200 1400 1700 1700 2130</p>	<p>Bn moves to SCHNEVERDINGEN via SOLTAU "X" rds sq. 4200 to area. Bn takes over coy from coy of 1/5 Queens & is under command of 131 Bde (7) ARMD DIV. Carrier pln to occupy INSEL sq. 3507 - will be relieved by (1) pln of "B" coy. All coys in position. "C" coy have 1 pln at 344042 to guard large ammo dump. (1) pln carriers at 362006 to guard rd junctions (5) POWs taken in area. 52 P.O.W.s taken in area mostly in civilian clothes & surrendered on warning issue in morning. Recce & harbour parties to leave immediately for VERDEN area.</p>	
	<p>19</p>	<p>0700 1000 1100</p>	<p>Bn moves via T.C.V. for VERDEN under command of 52 (L) DIV. Coys to search all houses in area for soldiers. P.W. in civilian clothes warned to report to I.O. in uniform by 1700</p>	

		1800	hrs - or all not reporting will be shot. After considerable trouble Bn in position at VERDEN with coys at:- TAC H.Q. - 005841 - "A" coy 004849 - "C" coy 008845 - "B" coy 002831 "D" coy 001852.	
VERDEN	20	0900 1800 1930	Day spent in admin & reorganising. Brig MacLaren & Capt Jones with orders for attack on UPHUSEN sq. 8282	
	21	0900 1100 2100	Bn moves to conc area at ETELSEN sq. 9389. C.O. holds "O" group for attack on UPHUSEN. Slight change in plan - "O" group & movement orders.	
UPHUSEN	22	0100 0400 0415 0530 0545 0630 0900 0950 1000 1030 1135 1155 1156 1205 1210 1300 1400 1400	Bn in conc area at BIERDEN sq. 8585. Battle plan to be "A" coy will secure high ground at 849921 - "C" coy will move to wooded area & wood at 845926, "B" coy pass thru "A" to railway marshalling yds at 829937. "D" coy follow "B" coy & swing left to secure area 826935 - support by 1 trp tanks, 1 trp crocodiles & arty. "A" coy over start line. "C" coy cross start line. Heavy Arty barrage by (1) bty MEDs (1) Regt (80 FD) for 15 mins 0400-0415 "A" coy nearing obj - opposition from snipers & well dug in positions at dummy A/A site. "C" coy meet heavy S.A. opposition. "B" coy move thru "A" coy supported by (1) trp tanks Royal Scots Greys & 1 trp of crocodiles R Armd CORPS & "D" coy to follow. "C" coy report they are surrounded & cut off. Heavy Arty barrage for 10 mins on ACK ACK site by med & fld Arty. "B" coy & supporting Armd attack thru "A" coy. "B" coy report high ground cleared & are proceeding on to objective. "B" coy reported on objective & consolidating - no casualties. "D" coy nearing objective. "C" coy report on objective & consolidating. "D" coy report on objective & consolidating. "B" & "D" coy being shelled by 88MM. UPHUSEN secured & consolidated. TAC H.Q. moves to UPHUSEN at 828935. - 1600 Bn area shelled heavily by 88M.M. & 155 guns from Bremen area - these were very heavy shells.	
	23	0900- 1900 2200	N.T.R. - Bn resting & reorganising. Bn area being shelled by 88 M.M.	

BREMEN		1130	More prisoners of war from C & D coy. Total number taken to date 692 - of various regts & services - mostly marines.	
BREMEN		1245	Police General of Bremen & 350 police surrender. They marched from the central police station in threes under a white flag. Were met by an officer who guided them to Tac H.Q. & informed the C.O. that they wished to surrender the force. The C.O. met the General who surrendered his force & the sword to the C.O. - The General was then ordered to disarm the force & to proceed under guard to the police station & remain there under guard.	
BREMEN		1255	Railway police & workers surrender arms & ammo & the railway force.	
BREMEN		1400	Snipers are active from house on far side of railway not yet cleared.	
BREMEN		1430	Support Coy report finding large wine cellar.	
BREMEN		1445	"B" coy report finding large wine cellar.	
BREMEN		1520	Carrier pln report telephone exchange found complete & guard placed on building.	
BREMEN		1600	Civilians & D.P.s looting station & parcels - 1 pln "A" coy placed as guard.	
BREMEN		1630	"A" coy & "C" coy will send out contact patrols along R.R. tracks to 6 H.L.I.	
BREMEN		1700	157 Bde pass thru to attack & take area "M" of Bremen.	
BREMEN		1730	Brig MacLaren & Capt D. Jones call with patrol programme.	
BREMEN		1800	All coys to have local protective patrols.	
BREMEN		1900	The night was very quiet & other than local patrols no incident was reported.	
BREMEN			The total number of prisoners taken by the Bn for the Bremen battle number 1267 & 600 police fully armed surrendered to the Bn.	
Bremen	27	0900	Bde ordered that all air-raid shelters be checked for P.W.s & soldiers in civilian clothes.	
Bremen	27	1100	Shelters checked & (4) P.W.s found plus many D.P.s.	
Bremen	27	1200	Bn spent the afternoon consolidating posns & in administration. "D" coy move to police station for guard purposes. All "T" force targets under guard & some relieved by "T" force.	
Bremen	27	1500	157 Bde reported on objective.	
Bremen	27	1800	43 DIV attack area "F" & Bremen Garrison General surrenders. Pte J. Reid, a prisoner, released by Durham Light Inf & returns to Bn.	
Bremen	28	0700	Bn H.Q. & "C" coy move to new location at TAC H.Q. - 72839945 - "C" coy at 72949951.	
Bremen	28	0930	G.O.C. Maj Gen Hakewell-Smith addresses Bn & congratulates them on the excellent spirit & work they have shown & done through-out the	

		1400 1600 2400	N.W.E. campaign. TAC H.Q. & "C" coy in new posns. Patrols by "C" & "A" coy, see patrols N.T.R.	App. "B"
	29	1000 1800 2400	"D" coy moves to new location at 72709953 & report in posn. Bn on administration Patrols by "C" & "D" coy.	App. "B"
BREMEN	30	1600 1800 2400	Bn at 3 hrs notice to move to new area. Patrols. "C" & "D" coy. Maj G.H. Davidson promoted to Lt Col Davidson C.O. 4th K.O.S.B. D.J. Urquhart Lieut for C.O. 4th Bn K.O.S.B.	App. "B"

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol.I. and the Staff Manual respectively. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.219. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 4th Bn K.O.S.B.

~~**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**~~

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer LT COL G.H. DAVIDSON

Month and Year MAY 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BREMEN	2	0711 0810 1600 1930 2400	Warning order - Recce parties will leave at 0830 hrs for new area 7915. Will be met by guides. Bn will move to new area, pass S.P. LEKE at 1200 hrs. Will have under command (1) trp 17 pds - 1 pln M.G. Manchesters - 80 Fd Regt. Bn in position in new area having taken over from 1st Bn Worcestershire Regt 214 Bde of 43 DIV. Coy locations at A - 817177 ⊙ B - 821163 - C 827170 D 845177 - H.Q. - 832167 "A" coy report local protection patrols have N.T.R. N.T.R.	
832167	3	1240 1400 1600 2145	Brigade report rds cratered at 789195 - Bridge blown at 789193. R.E. Recce party report to recce rds at 816188 816077 as soon as possible & will have covering party supplied by 4 K.O.S.B. - "A" coy to supply party. Brig & BM with order for Recce patrol to find condition of hedges and rds, also to search area North & an ISLAND for enemy. "A" coy will supply first patrol. "B" coy " " second party for island. "A" coy patrol returns N.T.R. "D" " " " N.T.R.	
832167	4	0120 0230 0940 1015 2400	R.E. Recce & "A" coy recce return & report directly to Bde - Road found to be heavily cratered. Reported shelling of "A" coy area from 270° - no casualties. R.A. will reply to any shelling in area. "B" coy return from searching island & report no enemy at - 805200 - 850210 or 810230 or 850230. N.T.R.	
	5	A.M. P.M.	A.M. N.T.R. "D" coy to patrol as coy to stop all D.P. personnel from entering area. N.T.R.	
832167	6	A.M. P.M.	N.T.R. RUMOUR of peace & at 1900 hrs THE NEWS	
	7	1000	Church service held at TAC H.Q. with Bn present & a service for the	

		2300	fallen of the 4th Bn K.O.S.B. - this was a very impressive service & one of thanksgiving & prayer by & for all of the 4th Bn. SEE AT "O" group for C.O. at Bde.	APPEN. "C"
832167	8	0930 1000 1200 1400 TO 1600 1700 1700 1800 1830	"O" group at TAC H.Q. for coy Commands. Advance Recce party for Osterholz - O.P. of 80 Fd Regt will move with Regt. C.O. will attend DIV Conference at Bremen for area & occupational role of Bn. Prisoners & enemy begin to surrender in numbers to coy H.Q.'s & TAC H.Q., are told to report back to German Army. C.O.'s orders on occupational duties. Bn in new location at Osterholz - Scharnbeck after move via Bremen. P.M.'s speech broadcast to troops Bn Pipe band plays retreat in town square Osterholz - Scharnbeck.	
OSTERHOLZ-SCHARNBECK	9	0930 1330 1500 1810 2400	Coy Commands conference for patrols of area & location of enemy dumps & rd conditions in area. B.M. orders 1 pln & carriers to investigate report of S.S. trps at RITTENHUDE - who have about (9) Russians. RITTENHUDE clear of all enemy troops. Report of Russians being killed FALSE. 12 pln left to search village. Sgt Cowie 12 pln reports no S.S. in Rittenhude area, village clear. N.T.R.	
	10	0900 1000 2400	Reports of all enemy dumps & supplies in area sent to Bde. 1 pln "A" coy to report to LESUM for traffic control duties. (6) P.W. taken for day.	
	11	0900 1100 1800	"C" coy to relieve 80 Fd REGT at German D.P. Camp. 30 P.W. taken to hospital at Bremen. Various complaints of looting by Russians.	
OSTERHOLZ-SCHARNBECK	12	0930 1800	"O" group for O.C. coys. 12 P.W.s in civil clothing taken.	
	13	0900 0930 2300	2 P.W.s beaten by Russians. Bn church parade. "A" coy have smoker - C.O. 2i/c attend.	
	14	0900 1400 1800	C.O. to "C" coy for lecture & information to men - on NORWAY. Bn patrols to check civilian passes. H.Q. coy have smoker. C.O. - 2i/c attend.	
	15	0900 1200	C.O. Bde "O" group re orders on new location at Martfeld 8976. Advance Recce parties leave for MARTFELD 8976.	
	16		Normal Bn routine N.T.R.	
	17		" " " N.T.R.	

MARTFELD 8976	18	0900 1200 1530	Bn prepare to move to new area. " move to new area via BREMEN. " in new area. Locations - A B C D H.Q. at	
	19 TO 23	0900	Bn on admin & reorganisation & coy sports & recreational training. Recce parties leave for new area at LETZLINGEN 549349.	
	24		Bn prepare to move to new area.	
	25	0900 1500	Bn move to new area. Bn arrive new area. H.Q. at 559345 A - 312212 B 312211 - C - 265185 D 495295 Sp at 420281	
LETZLINGEN 553345	27	1400	Ceremonial take over from the 379 Fd Regt U.S. Arty 102 DIV Lt Col DAMON at Oebisfelde by "A" coy & "B" coy. One bty of U.S. soldiers & 1 coy of 4th K.O.S.B. paraded to the town square led by the pipe band. Col Davidson & Col Damon led the parade. Maj G.H. Rae M.C. was O.C. K.O.S.B. coy & Maj P. Roach O.C. Arty Bty. The coy presented arms to respective C.O.s & the command of Oebisfelde to Lt Col G.H. Davidson after which the coy & Bty marched off the squ & back to the Barracks.	
LETZLINGEN GERMANY	28	2400	Bn officers to act as Military Govt in respective towns & areas. Maj A.R. Stewart M.C. to be Mil Govt for Oebisfelde with Capt F. Coutts as chief of police.	
LETZLINGEN GERMANY	29	1830 2100	Ceremonial take over from 380 Fd Regt U.S. ARTY of 102 DIV. MAJ SWEENEY C.O. - at LETZLINGEN. (1) Bty of U.S. ARTY parade at the town square & (1) coy K.O.S.B. & the pipe band. The Stars & Stripes was lowered & the Union Jack raised while each coy Presented Arms. The respective C.O.s then took the salute from his opposite coy. Both coys were led by the pipe Band of the Bn. 1830 Pipe band plays retreat at LETZLINGEN. A large number of U.S. troops were present. 2100 Offrs of the Bn entertain the C.O. & offrs of the 380 Fd Arty U.S. at dinner & social evening.	
	30	1400	Take over from Americans completed in Bn area.	
	31		Maj G.H. Rae awarded M.C. Maj A.E. Stewart awarded M.C. Pte G. FINLAYSON "B" coy awarded M.M. Cpl T. KIRKHOPE "D" coy " M.M. Cpl E. WILSON "B" coy " M.M.	