ARMY FORM C.2118

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY or

Unit

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

8 RS

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt Col PR Lane-Joynt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LE LONDE	1	1000	Bn still located at LE LONDE (1/50000 Sh 9F/1 map ref 332964). Orders received for move of harbour party to new area but later cancelled. During the day Coys attended Mobile Bath Unit and	
			continued with general reorganisation and administration. 31 Reinforcements arrive in Battalion.	
	2nd	1500	Administration in general continues. Harbour party leaves for new location.	
LA FEUILLIE	3rd	0700	Bn leaves Le Londe and moves in TCVs to LA FEUILLIE (Sheet 9E/6 1/50000 map ref. 5015). Bn HQ est at 505152 with Coys as follows in non-tactical locations: A Coy 502153, B Coy 501154, C Coy 500155, D Coy 499155, S Coy 499156. Situation normal, nothing to report. Administration continued.	A Walker Capt
	4th	0900	Bn leaves LA FEUILLIE and moves to area CRIQUIERS (1/50000 Sheet 9E/4 6537) in two parties, first veh party arriving at 1200 hrs followed by embussed tps who arrived at approx 1600 hrs. In the location Bn was still conc in non-tactical posns and ready for further move forward when ordered.	See Appx El
	5th	0900 2100	Veh party leave CRIQUIERS and proceed to OEUF (Sheet 1/250000 NW Europe map ref. 0710) arriving at 1700 hrs. Some stray enemy were reported in wood 0610 to the west of the village and personnel of Rifle Coys not yet having arrived, personnel from HQ & S Coys who had travelled with veh party carried out the op of clearing this wood but no enemy were located. Rifle Coys arrive at OEUF.	See appendix E2 A Walker Capt
OEUF HALLUIN Sheet 7	6th	0800	Bn departs from OEUF in accordance with Move table att as Appx E3. No opposition was encountered until leading tps of the Bde reached HALLUIN (1/100000 Sheet 7 Belgium & NE France) when it was found canal br between HALLUIN and MENIN had been blown and enemy were occupying posns on the north bank of the canal. It was then decided to move the Bde to area WEVELGHEM 7954 where a small bridgehead was	See appendix E3 A Walker Capt
1/100000			held over the river. The Bn in this operation was given the task of	

Month and Year Sept 1944

Belgium & making a firm base at the river br 798545 and then o	f taking up a
France def posn on southern outskirts of LAUWE 7953 with a	
prepared to carry out any necessary counter-attack is	-
Bridgehead. 'B' Coy took up posn on south bank of ri	
LAUWE and remainder of Bn was disposed as follows:	A Walker Capt
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	
1/100000 7th By midnight 6/7 Bn was complete in posn but shortly	
Sheet 7 orders were received for the Bn to move to COURTRAI	
(Belgium & over the defence of nodal point from 7 Seaforths of	46 Bde. Belgium
NE France) 0500 Main body of Bn leave LAUWE for COURTRAI.	
0900 Change-over complete and Bn now disposed as follows:	
HOTEL 854568, A Coy area brs 843570 and 847572, B Co	-
COURTRAI 861576, C Coy - area brs 853572 and 855573, D Coy and	
SH 53 During the day there was little enemy activity from :	
8557 canal where Belgian resistance forces were active and	d brought in
approx 120 prisoners.	
2100 Reps of 4 RWF (53 Div) arrive with a view to their B	n taking over Bn
area in COURTRAI.	
2300 Bn leaves Courtrai and spends night 7/8 Sept on sout	
of the town at MOORINEGOOD 867562 preparatory to adv	ancing to
contact enemy on morning of 8th Sept.	
Sheet 7 8th 0830 Bn leaves present location and proceeds in advance t	o contact A Walker Capt
1/100000 formation to North East on road COURTRAI - DEYNZE 05	-
Belgium & were still in full retreat and no opposition was enc	-
NE France time HARLEBEKE 8859 was reached though approx 60 energy	-
with little opposition in scattered localities. Here	the Bn took up
a defensive position guarding the River LYS on the n	
HARLEBEKE and the remaining Bns of the Bde were pass	ed through to
continue the advance.	
Bn now disposed as follows: Bn HQ est at 885590, A C	oy 906613, B Coy A Walker Capt
Sheet 7 area 875586, C Coy 887600, D Coy DEERLYCK 9159. Enem	
1/100000 withdrawing to the east on the North side of RIVER L	YS but despite
France & danger of his encirclement by British tps further to	
Belgium attempt any break through our def line of RIVER LYS.	
HARLEBEKE breaking out could hardly be expected in view of energy	my's demolition
8859 of most bridges over the river.	
9th Bn remains at HARLEBEKE.	
Situation normal - nothing to report.	
10th 0830 Bn leaves HARLEBEKE and proceeds by TCV to MALINES 7	175 (NW Europe
1/250000 1/250000 Sheet 3) via VICHTE 9557 - KERKHOVE 0152 - 3	RENAIX 0846 - A Walker Capt
Sheet 2 and NEDERBRAKEL 2052 - NINOVE 3856 - X rds 4755 - ASSCHE	5263 -

MALINES 7174 1/50000		1530	Bn est at MALINES as follows: Bn HQ & HQ Coy 715748, A Coy 714756, B Coy 719755, C Coy 724748, D Coy 720741. The task of the Bn in this location was solely defence of nodal brs and there was no contact with the enemy. Situation normal - nothing to report. During the evening the CO and Coy recce parties went fwd to OOLEN 9886 (1/50000 Sheet 24 & 34) with a view to carrying out a recce for possible canal crossing in area immediately west of HERENTHALS 9790 but owing to wrong information from higher authority it was found impossible to carry out this recce as the enemy were holding HERENTHALS in strength and also had posns to the west on the south	A Walker Capt
Sheet 45	llth	0730	<pre>bank of canal. CO and IO carry out recce of area held by D.L.I. of 50 Div in area 0685 (Sheet 25 & 35 1/50000) with a view to Bn taking over this position. Pipe band of Bn play retreat in MAIN SQUARE, MALINES. The retreat was watched by a very large number of spectators who displayed a very keen interest in the performance.</pre>	A Walker Capt
Sheet 25 & 35 1/50000 France & Belgium	12th	0715 0800 1430 1830	CO and IO start off for Bde 'O' Gp at 085831, followed about one hour later by Coy Comds and Coy recce parties. After Bde 'O' Gp, CO, IO and Coy Comds & recce parties are taken fwd to D.L.I. Bn area to prepare for change over. Bn main body leaves MALINES and proceeds to F.A.A. at ZAMMEL at 048814.	A Walker Capt
GHEEL	13th	0500 1530 1545	Patrols during the night into GHEEL reported enemy had evacuated the town and at 0800 hrs the Bn moved fwd to occupy it, Bn HQ being established at 083883. During this complete operation approx 100 enemy prisoners were taken. Bde 'O' Gp took place at Bn HQ. Bn 'O' Gp. Bn at immediate notice to move.	A Walker Capt

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		1630	Bn leaves GHEEL and proceeds North on the TURNHOUT - GHEEL road to area 078909 where Bn HQ is est with coys disposed astride the main road slightly further NORTH.	
GHEEL		1830	CO and IO with 2i/c and OC 177 Fd Bty and later with OC Coys carry out recce of canal for assault crossing during night 13/14th Sept. Despite the short time available and lack of time for proper recce by lower comds the Bn was ordered to cross the canal at first light on 14th Sept and at 2400 hrs 13 Sept CO issued orders for assault crossing of the canal at first light.	A Walker Capt
	14th		During the early hours of the morning the assault boat lorries were	
GHEEL		0530	brought up into the woods at 070923 and assault boats offloaded. Coys also moved up into the area preparatory to the crossing. Leading Coys begin crossing. B Coy on right at point 069926 and A Coy on left at pt 065925. Considerable enemy MG and rifle fire was encountered but despite this the initial crossing was successfully accomplished by these Coys and B Coy after reorganising on far bank advanced to North of AART village to point 074934 with a view to	A Walker Capt
AART 0793		0630	engaging enemy posns in the village from the rear. Again despite enemy opposition the Coy gained its objective. D Coy crossed the canal immediately in rear of B Coy at the same pt and after slight pause for reorganising attacked eastwards toward the village, while Tac Bn HQ crossed at pt 065925 in rear of A Coy and with A Coy advanced behind D Coy to the village. C Coy in the meantime were left in posn on south bank of canal in	A Walker Capt
AART (GHEEL BRIDGEHEAD)			woods at 075927 to assist the operation with covering fire. D Coy gained their objectives in the west end of the village and 'A' Coy were passed through to attack the eastern half of the village and exploit beyond gen line of lock at 079928. Opposition however was now very strong and A Coy were unable to extend the bridgehead as ordered. 'C' Coy were therefore ordered to cross the river and assist A Coy and the two coys were finally able to push back the enemy and also clear area of lock 079928 where it was proposed	A Walker Capt
GHEEL BRIDGEHEAD			building a bridge, the bridges all having been previously blown by the Germans. However this was not accomplished without severe casualties and during the day coys had to withstand fierce and repeated enemy counter-attacks. Enemy shelling and mortaring of the bridgehead area was particularly heavy and on account of this and also the area of the lock coming under S.A. fire from enemy MGs the RE were unable to construct a bridge and all communication with the south bank of the canal was by assault boat under very hazardous conditions, making the supply of food and ammunition a very serious problem.	A Walker Capt

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			Despite all the enemy efforts however by last light except for	A Walker Capt
GHEEL			slight loss of ground on the eastern outskirts of the village the	
BRIDGEHEAD			bridgehead remained intact.	
			Since the assault crossing this morning approx 70 PWs were taken.	
			The Bn was now disposed as follows: Tac Bn HQ:- 075930, A and C Coys	
			gen area rd junc 076931 to lock 079928, B Coy 073933, D Coy -	
			073928.	
			During the early hours of the evening after dark, enemy infiltration	
			and counter-attacks were resumed and some penetration of the	
			bridgehead was achieved, A and C Coys being engaged in fierce	A Walker Capt
GHEEL	15th	0200	fighting during which time A and C Coys were overrun and also two	
BRIDGEHEAD			secs of carriers on that flank. This caused the almost complete	
			collapse of the eastern flank of the bridgehead and positions had to	
			be readjusted as follows: B Coy were withdrawn from their present	
			position and took up posn in area 076930 while remaining personnel	
			of A & C Coys amounting each to approx one platoon strong took up	
			posns at 074929 and 078928 respectively.	
			Further enemy attempts to reach the crossing site at 075927 were	A Walker Capt
GHEEL		0600	held and the bridgehead remained firm though considerably depleted	±
BRIDGEHEAD			in numbers.	
			Enemy shelling of the area again became very heavy with the defeat	
			of his counter-attacks and he was making considerable use of roving	
			S.P. guns and also AA 20mm guns. Further enemy counter-attacks	
			developed during the morning but with excellent arty support all	
			attacks were repulsed.	
		1 - 0 0		
		1500	6 RSF cross canal and ease the pressure on this Bn by attacking	
			through the village and eastern outskirts followed at 1930 hrs by 6	
GHEEL		2000	KOSB who occupied areas 073930 and 076932 and by dusk the bridgehead	A Walker Capt
BRIDGEHEAD			had again resumed its initial proportions.	
	15/16		During the night no enemy attacks developed and the posns were	
			unchanged by first light on the 16th.	
	16th		During the day enemy activity continues though on a slightly reduced	
			scale, but later increased again and the Bn was engaged in repelling	
			these attacks. Our own arty was very active engaging enemy mors & SP	
GHEEL			guns shelling the Bridgehead area. During the afternoon orders were	A Walker Capt
BRIDGEHEAD			received for the Bn to be taken out of the Bridgehead and reorganise	
			during the night 16/17th but due to enemy attempts at infiltration	
			again on request by the COs of the other two Bns in the bridgehead	
			the Bn did not start to come out of the bridgehead until 0700 hrs 17	
	17th		Sept. This operation had again to be carried out by assault boat as	
			it had been found impossible to construct a bridge due to enemy	
			shelling but by 0900 hrs the evacuation of the Bn from the	
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GHEEL		0900	bridgehead was complete and Coys had come back to reorganise in	A Walker Capt
1/50000			GHEEL 0888 with Bn HQ est at 074877. During the day much needed	
Sh 25 & 35			reorganisation and administration was carried out.	
		2100	Orders received for Bn to be ready to move at 0815 hrs 18th Sept.	
GHEEL	18th	0915	Bn leaves GHEEL and proceeds to area NORTH of MOLL 1790. Bn HQ est	
MOLL			at 169914 with Coys as follows: A Coy 160925, B Coy 172932, C Coy	
1790			170930, D Coy 153925, S Coy 175925. In this locality Bn was under	
Sheet 25/35			command 15(S) Div Recce Regt and in reserve behind 15(S) Div Recce	A Walker Capt
1/50000			Regt who were holding posns on south bank of the JUNCTION CANAL.	
	19th	0800	Bn still in same locations. Situation normal - nothing to report.	
		1315	Bn begins to take over positions on canal from Recce Regt and is	
			finally disposed as follows:-	
			Bn HQ - 157925, A Coy area 158934 with pl on canal bank at 157947, B	
			Coy - area X rds 160926, C Coy area 169941 with pl at 170949, D Coy	
			area 148935 with pl at 143943. C Coy finally moved complete into a	
SHEET 25/35			def posn around factory bldgs at 168947 while fwd platoons of coys	A Walker Capt
1/50000			were withdrawn at dark and patrols were sent fwd by each Coy to	
			canal bank. Lateral contact was also made between coys and also with	
			neighbouring formation. Enemy activity limited to occasional	
			shelling. Situation otherwise normal.	
	20th		Bn still in same location. Enemy movement and activity still	
			continues on north side of canal and engaged by our arty. Inter coy	
		1000	patrols continue with nothing of importance to report.	
-1		1930	Carrier patrol reports contact and skirmish with small party of	
Sheet 25/35			enemy in area of woods 1292. Enemy withdrew and on a search being	A Walker Capt
1/50000			made could not be contacted.	
	21st	1000	No change in Bn positions.	
		1030	OC of relieving unit 8H arrives and discusses relief with CO.	
		1330	Bn ready to move having conc in coy areas, but move postponed for	
		1 6 2 0	two hours at least.	
Chest		1630	Bn moves off from ACHTERBOSCH 1692 en route for HOLLAND.	
Sheet			Route via MOLL - X rds 3494 / SH 26/36 1/50000) - canal crossing	A Walter Cant
1/100000	<u> </u>	0000	353961. Harbours for night 21st/22nd at BROEKHOVEN 3609.	A Walker Capt
Belgium &	22nd	0900 1100	CO and IO attend Bde O Gp at RIETHOVEN 3608.	
NE France Sh 7		1400	Bn 'O' Gp at Bn HQ. Bn moves to EINDHOVEN 4218 via STEENSEL 3411 - VELDHOVEN 3713 -	
EINDHOVEN		T#00	MEERVELDHOVEN 3815. Bn HQ est at 421198. Coys located as follows in	
(HOLLAND)			localities: A Coy 422198, B Coy 421198, C Coy 423197, D Coy 422197.	
			Tactical situation permitted of Coys being under cover in local	
			schools but def posns were dug in Coy areas in case of necessity for	
			same.	

EINDHOVEN	23rd	0800	Bn ready and standing by to advance Northwards on road to BEST	
BINDHOVEN	2310	0000	(1/100000 Sheet 5) 3726 in rear of 6RSF. This move was delayed	
			however but the Bn left EINDHOVEN during the afternoon and proceeded	A Walker Capt
			to area a few miles NW of EINDHOVEN and harboured for the night. Bn	in mainer cape
			HQ was est at windmill 403229 and Coys disposed as follows: A Coy	
			393233, B Coy 392232, C Coy 394230, D Coy 399235.	
			Situation normal - nothing to report.	
		2015	CO and IO attend Bde O Gp. Orders received for advance on morning of	
		2015	24th Sept.	
		2200	Bn 'O' Gp - CO issues orders for advance to contact at 0700 hrs 24th	
		2200	Sept.	
BEST	24th	0700	Preceded by a troop of 15(S) Div Recce Regt the Bn advanced North on	A Walker Capt
(1/100000)			main EINDHOVEN - S'HERTOGENBOSH road. Coy objectives were as	
Sheet 5			follows: A Coy 375279, B Coy 373279. B Coy led the advance and	
3726			gained their objective with no opposition and A Coy then occupied	
			posns on right of B Coy. C and D Coy were then brought up into posns	
			on the left flank in areas 365277 and 366275 respectively. Bn HQ was	
			established at 377272. Vigorous patrolling by fwd Coys located enemy	
			posns in southern edge of woods 369286 to 365283 with other posns at	
			375286 and also in area of railway line at 363277.	A Walker Capt
BEST		1100	A Coy advance on right to take enemy posns at 369286 but in face of	
			hy opposition from MG fire to the front and rt flank were forced to	
			consolidate at 372285.	
		1400	Enemy counter attacks on a small scale were directed at left fwd coy	
			posns but with sp of arty these were repulsed.	
		1445	On instrs from 44 Bde for Bn to form a tight defensive locality in	
			area of X rds 372279, A & B Coys were left in posn but C & D Coys	
			were to move to areas 368281 and 373282 respectively.	A Walker Capt
BEST		1630	A Coy disengage and move to original posn on the right of 'B' Coy.	_
		1700	Bn HQ move to area 279276 in rear of A Coy.	
			Patrol activity continued and enemy positions located were engaged	
			by arty and mortar fire.	
			Enemy arty activity in the Bn area also increased in particular in	
			area of X rds 372279.	
			During the night Coys carried out vigorous patrolling all along the	
			front, and contact patrols with own tps on right and in rear were	
			maintained.	A Walker Capt
BEST	25th	0845	CO & IO attend 'O' Gp at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde.	
1/100000		0930	CO holds Bn 'O' Gp at Bn HQ and orders issued for attack by C & D	
Sheet 5			Coys on enemy posns at 369286.	
		1045	Coys move to SL in front of A & B Coy posns.	

BEST 1/100000 Sheet 5		1100	despite arty assistance were unable to gain objective. Enemy mortar and arty fire continued and it appeared the enemy were holding the southern edge of the wood in considerable strength. The enemy MG from rt flank was also directed on rt flank of D Coy axis of advance making fwd movement impossible without hy casualties. On account of this it was decided to postpone the operation and C & D Coys resumed their def posn recently vacated. Enemy activity continued on the front and was engaged by our arty & mortars. Enemy shelling at frequent intervals continued. Night patrols continued.	A Walker Capt
	26th		Contact still being made with enemy in known localities and recce	
			patrols pushing fwd fired on by enemy MGs. Own arty active. 4 PWs	
			taken - situation otherwise normal.	
BEST 1/100000	27th		Patrols during night 26/27 report enemy still in posn on rt in front of D Coy but appeared to have pulled back slightly on left in area	A Walker Capt
Sheet 5			of woods 365285.	
Sheet 5			Reps of 2 Gordons arrive with a view to their Bn relieving 8RS, and	
			carry out recce of area.	
			Unit harbour party leaves for new area.	
		0930	Relief of Bn by 2 Gordons begins and is completed by 1130 hrs.	
		0200	Bn on relief moves by march route to harbour area in woods 3930, Bn	
			HQ being est at 393303. Coys take up local defence of area as	
			follows: D Coy 392303, C Coy 393303, B Coy 394304, A Coy 397305.	A Walker Capt
Sheet 5		1930	CO and IO proceed to 'O' Gp at HQ 44 Inf Bde.	-
1/100000		2100	Bn 'O' Gp at Bn HQ. Orders issued for attack on morning of 28th	
			Sept.	
	28th	0430	Bn leave present area and proceed by march route to FAA at 401317 in	
			preparation for attack on FRATERSHOEF 389325.	
		0530	A Coy cross start line at track junc 394321 and attack houses at	
			391322. Objective gained with little opposition and Coy	
			consolidates.	
		0655	B and C Coys pass through A Coy and attack, objectives houses 389325	
			to houses 387325 with B Coy right, C Coy left.	A Walker Capt
Sheet 5			Opposition on right very light but considerable MG fire was	
1/100000			encountered by C Coy but coy objectives gained and consolidated. Bn HQ est in area of A Coy at houses 391322 while D Coy were passed	
			through to take up posn on left flank at 388321. Carrier secs were	
			utilized to complete the perimeter defence of bn area. Approx 70 PW	
			taken during bn attack. Prisoners of very varied selection and	
			ERSATZ units. During the day there was considerable shelling of Bn	
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			area and mortaring also increased in intensity. Enemy in located	
FRATERSHOEF			posns to front engaged by our arty.	A Walker Capt
390323		1700	Counter-attack develops on left flank directed at A Coy area and Bn	
1/100000			HQ. Estimated strength of enemy - one coy. Enemy managed to	
Sheet 5			infiltrate to 150 yds from Bn HQ but were driven back by S.A. fire	
			from Bn HQ personnel from houses 391322 and excellent arty defensive	
			fire. After retreating 8 stretcher bearers bearing Red Cross flag	
			approach Bn posn and ask for truce to enable them to collect 50	
FRATERSHOEF			stretcher cases. Truce of one hour granted. All firing stopped. Five	A Walker Capt
390323			minutes after expiry of truce one enemy shell landed in Bn area but	
1/100000			for remainder of night there was no other enemy activity.	
Sheet 5			Our own patrols were active in all Coy fronts during the night.	
	29th	0530	Stand-to, situation normal, nothing of importance to report during	
			night. Daylight recce patrols were sent out by all coys and various	
			enemy posns were located, and later engaged by arty and mortar fire.	
			One sec of 15(S) Div Recce Regt also patrolled fwd areas and	
FRATERSHOEF			reported contact with strong enemy posns 600 yds to west of fwd coy	A Walker Capt
390323			localities. Typhoons were also very active rocketing and machine	n warker cape
550525			gunning enemy in considerable numbers in woods 3730, 3731.	
	30th	0030	Bn still in same location. Local Coy patrols still operating. During	
	JULII	0030	the night enemy activity increased in fwd areas and it was apparent	
			enemy were now occupying posns much closer to our FDLs. New enemy	
			positions confirmed by patrols.	
		0530	Stand-to. Situation normal.	
				A Wallson Cont
		0630	D Coy patrol wipe out MG posns at 386321, one German killed, one	A Walker Capt
		-	prisoner and one escaped.	
FRATERSHOEF		0815	Enemy continue sporadic shelling & mortaring of Bn area.	
390323			Considerable enemy movement was noticeable during the day and	
1/100000		1000	engaged by small arms, mortar, and arty fire.	
Sheet 5		1800	Very heavy shelling of Bn area during which time approx 200 shells	
			fell in Bn locality. Also accompanied by MG and rifle fire and in	
			view of probable counter attack, our arty defensive fire was called	
			for and appeared to stop enemy's attempt to form up for counter-	
FRATERSHOEF			attack. No counter attack developed though considerable enemy	A Walker Capt
390323			movement heard in woods and sounds of horse drawn transport. During	
1/100000			the night sounds of enemy activity, digging, and movement of horse	
Sheet 5			drawn tpt continued. Occasional enemy shelling continued. Coy	
			patrols very active.	
			During the night very good assistance to observation was given by	
			searchlights in rear areas being directed over Bn locality. This	
			"artificial moonlight" made any enemy movement up to 80-100 yds from	

FRATERSHOEF 390323	our posns difficult to escape detection and was very much appreciated by fwd troops.	A Walker Capt
1/100000		
Sheet 5	A Walker Capt IO, 8th Bn The Royal Scots	