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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 NOVEMBER 1944

Commanding Officer LT COL C.L. MELVILLE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
KLEIT	OCT 31	0800	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.	
BRESKENS		1200	Bn arrived Breskens, accommodated in two or three large municipal buildings - whole town in ruins.	
		1500	"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.	
		2000	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	Arty bombardment of shore line and Southern half of FLUSHING - 282 pieces firing incl Heavy, Med, Fd guns and Rocket guns.	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.
		0630	Commandos report that beachhead firmly established and held.	
		0755	C and B Coys touching down on UNCLE beach ; little enemy opposition.	
		0805	Capt J.L. BENNETT seriously wounded in spine by small arms fire coming from area of BELLAMY PARK.	
		approx		
		0810	Second Flight (Bn HQ, A & D Coys) sailing into range of MG 42, Mortars and enemy Airburst.	
		0820	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.	
		0825	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.	
		0900	C.O. & I.O. rejoined HQ, moving up through Cdo posns to establish permanent HQ in an Air Raid Shelter in GRAVE STRAAT (112241)	
		1000	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,	

			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 infmn. 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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			<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>2359 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>	<p>?(54 & 54 ?) (W of 54)</p>
	<p>4 NOV</p>	<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>	

		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 -	

		1530 Typhoon attack not successful, failing to pinpoint enemy opposition. 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. 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. 2230 Plans altered - all patrols to be defensive only.	
	6 NOV	0600 Sitrep : no action during night. 1100 D Coy up to ATK obstacle - Tellermines encountered. Pnrs and Sappers clearing wider track from HQ to D Coy posn. 1200 6 HLI reported very close to MIDDELBURG, having approached from S.E. 1215 A Coy 7/9 R.S. loading up in L.V.T. for left hook on Middelburg. 1310 Typhoon attack on Canal bend. 3.7 Hows on Canal Embankment. 1500 7/9 R.S. proceeding well, with very little opposition. 1555 D Coy advanced 200 yd, taking 48 PW without casualties. 1609 B Coy collected 9 PW from foxholes - MG fire still active from their right. 1610 A Coy 7/9 RS into MIDDELBURG ; mass surrender of enemy ; civilian reaction strongly in British favour. Urgent requests for reinforcement. 1730 Bn HQ, A & C Coys on 15 minutes notice for move up to Middelburg. 1830 'O' Gp - plans given for night move up canal in L.V.T. 1920 Intercept from R.S. - 2000 PW in Middelburg, incl GENERAL DASER. To2330 Bn fed and rested. 2345 Tps marshalled and loaded into LVT	
MIDDELBURG	7 NOV	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. 0300 Beached in MIDDELBURG after a long, cold, wet sojourn in LVT - 5 HLI had entered town 10 minutes prior to Bn arrival 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. 0600 Tps all in reasonable billets - patrolling well under way. 0900 D Coy entering Middelburg. B Coy report the "Major's" pillbox still holding out. 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. 1125 Surrender party moved off. C.O. and I.O. observed from Church Tower	

		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> 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.	
	15 NOV		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 Cmds ; 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	Bn, less L.O.B., arrived new location.	Patrol proformas are attd in Appces. GWH
		1015to	Coys settling in to Cdn posns except most fwd pls whose movement is	
		1330	confined to hours of darkness. C.O. and I.O. toured all Coy HQ's.	
		1430	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.	
		1500	'O' Gp : orders for completion take-over and night patrolling.	
		1800	D Coy reported slight mortaring in W. end of EMPEL.	
		1900	D Coy reported their line deliberately cut 50 yds from rly br.	
		1925	D Coy take over complete - C Coy reporting likewise at 2010 hrs.	
		2200	Fwd posns reported all quiet - contact being made.	
	25	0110	C Coy contact patrol surprised by Boche patrol - Sgt W. LEES killed; later patrols took one PW & found 2 dead Boches.	GWH
		0900	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.	
		1130	Sniper Sgt reported numerous wpn pits fwd of dyke N of MAAS - not manned by day.	
		1500	'O' Gp : patrols to clear road EMPEL - GEWANDE of civilians with Dutch L.O. assisting ; Capt COLVILLE to set up a Civil Control Centre in HINTHAM.	
		1830	Bde Cmd visited HQ - cancelled patrol programme and ordered normal patrolling meantime.	
		Up to	Considerable horse drawn tpt heard N of enemy Dyke and digging on	
		2359	Dyke itself. Slight MMG fire over GEWANDE ; 6 Mor bombs landed in EMPEL ; D Coy found one Schumine there ; series of flares spotted far N of MAAS.	
	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 EMPEL. 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 EMPEL 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 EMPEL & 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 - LITHOEN 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 EMPEL 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 EMPEL - 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 ROSMALLEN to GEWANDE. Report from Sniper Sgt : 1. River 300 yd wide now. 2. Enemy trenches	GWH

		<p>2000 S of his Dyke waterlogged. 3. Small digging party all morning 349548. 4. Factory 357545 still occupied.</p> <p>2150 Weather permitting Bde I.O. flying in Air O.P. 30 Nov - asked to examine particular localities opposite Bn sector.</p> <p>2359 Coy change over reported complete : B Coy now in EMPEL, A in GEWANDE.</p> <p>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>	<p>GWH</p> <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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