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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 7/9th (H) Bn The Royal Scots

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt-Col J.G. DAWSON

Month and Year December 1944.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
VLIJMEN	1	0900 1400 1600 2330	Two civilians arrested by 'C' Coy are of BOKHOVEN ☉ Both men had concealed on their person Arms and amm ☉ No identity cards. One other civilian arrested by 'C' Coy in same area ☉ No arms, identity card NIJMEGEN. Report from Division I.O. to say these men were SABOTEURS from Div BRANDENBURG ☉ Their task was solely to obtain identifications (?). It was stated by the P.Ws. that they were to have been lifted from area of BOKHOVEN by a boat which would come across on the signal of striking matches (!). Patrol from "B" Coy (Lieut NEWTON), under comd Capt. GALLOWAY (Div. I.O.) set out to ambush the boat party, which, it is hoped JB, the enemy will would send in answer to the above signal ☉ A boat with FIVE Germans did answer and Capt GALLOWAY, taking on the role of one of the PWs, encouraged THREE members of the Boat to come ashore ☉ On the order of Div. I.O. to lay down their arms, one of the other two men in the area of the Boat fired Rifle shots and the whole German party withdrew to the Boat ☉ MG fire on fixed lines from enemy side covered the boat across the R. MAAS ☉ It was observed that definitely ONE casualty was inflicted on the enemy ☉ No cas. to own tps.	
VLIJMEN	3rd	1230 1600	Lt-Col J.G. Dawson, Major NORMAND, Capt GRAY, Capt BUCHANAN, Lieuts NEWTON, MIVIE, BROWN, STEWART and Capt STOREY attended lecture by F-M Sir Bernard L. MONTGOMERY. CO attended Bde Comd's Conference ☉ Subject: Relief of 155 Inf Bde by elements 4 Cdn Armd Division night 5/6th Dec. CO to Bn O Group ☉ Relief of Bn on night 5-6 Dec by Linc and Welland Bn ☉ Comd of area to devolve to OC Relieving Bn at 1600 hrs 5 Dec ☉ Intention that 7/9th (H) Bn The Royal Scots move to area WEST of HELVOIRT 2640 (1/100,000 Sheet 5 GSGS 2541) to concentrate and to be prepared to move by MT route to Div Conc area.	
	4th		Advance party relieving Bn arrived and attached to sub-units.	

VLIJMEN		2130	C Coy reported that BOKHOVEN OP party returning to B Coy HQ on being relieved was ambushed on the road at approx 268517 ☉ Enemy force believed to consist of Twelve men ☉ Own cas - TWO KILLED, query FIVE prisoners.	
		2130	Bn STAND-TO ☉ Line comn to BOKHOVEN OP "cut".	
		2145	Carrier pl to move to C Coy area to relieve TWO pls from their commitments ☉ ONE pl C Coy move to BOKHOVEN ☉ ONE pl 'C' Coy to 'C' Coy OP at HEDIKHUISEN 237517.	
		2144	Arty ordered to fire on "Z FOUR".	
		2200	Remainder of B Coy Platoon reported in ☉ Lt WIDDOWSON reported ambush of his leading section occurred at 1930 hrs (approx) ☉ The section was early in moving-off and was some 20 minutes in front of the platoon ☉ Two wounded men were able to give the platoon comd a "picture" of what had happened ☉ Enemy had taken FOUR prisoners and had made off in direction of Ferry at 263524 ☉ Own Cas later confirmed as 4 KILLED, 2 "shock", 4 missing believed prisoners ☉ Names Appx "A".	
VLIJMEN	5th	0700	Major H. ROSE, with Colour party, moved off ☉ Report to BEEK 6361 (1/50,000 Sh 48 GSGS 4040). (Appx B).	
		1400	Rear Bn HQ, comd of Capt D.R. HADDON (Adjt) moved to set up new HQ.	
		1600	Command of area passed to OC Linc and Welland Bn ☉ A Coy, 7/9th RS, still in posn at ENGELEN 2949 (Sh 5) with all OP posns still manned by 7/9 RS; their relief to be completed at dark. IO and remainder Bn HQ (less CO) moved to new HQ est at MONASTERY 247404; "A" Coy "HUT" 296426; "B" Coy 237403; "C" Coy 239404; "D" Coy 234401; "Sp" Coy 228398.	
HELVOIRT	6th		CO rejoined Bn ☉ No commitments with the former Defence Area ☉ Relief completed.	
STEIN	7th	0900	CO and IO left for new area.	
		1000	Bn, in TCVs, and all tpt moved off ☉ Appx C.	
		1515	Bn HQ est at 617659.	
		2100	Lt-Col JG DAWSON attended Bde Comds O Gp at Bde HQ 632611 ☉ Details Op SHEARS ☉ Appx D.	
		2300	Bn arrived new locn ☉ 'A' Coy - 615658; 'B' Coy 614657; 'C' Coy 613658; 'D' 613657; 'Sp' Coy 615656 ☉	
STEIN	8th		Capt MALONEY reported to BOURG LEOPOLD 2782 to collect 14 LLOYD 6 Universal and 6 Mortar Carriers ☉ Authy OSA/01600 and OSB/1702 dated 7th Dec 44. Planning Room set up (Op SHEARS).	
		2000	CO to Bn O Gp ☉ Op SHEARS (details Appx D) ☉ Lloyd Carriers - 12 to A Tk Pl; 1 to OC A Tk Pl; 1 to OC Mortar Pl.	

	9th	1700 2030	Capt STORIE attended a WASP Demonstration at BOURG LEOPOLD 2782 ☉ Bn attended Tank-Inf Demonstration ☉ CO attended Bde Comds Conference ☉ Op SHEARS ☉ SRY in sp ☉ CO to Bn O Gp ☉ Op SHEARS ☉ LOB's earmarked.	
	10th	0940	A, B & C Coys ☉ Coy Exercise with Tanks ☉ Area 7050 - 7150 - 7051 - 7151. Grenade accident C Coy ☉ 12 wounded ☉	
	11th	1000	KANGAROO ☉ Demonstration by D Coy 7/9 RS. CO attended co-ordinating conference DIV HQ.	
	12th	1400	CO - Tk Sqn Comd and Gunner Reprs ☉ Conference Op SHEARS.	
STEIN	13th	0930 1015	CO - ALL COY COMDS, SO & IO ☉ Warning Order ☉ Likely objectives and routes. Received from HQ 155 Inf Bde (Cipher) ☉ G01-TOP SEC - OP SHEARS CANCELLED.	
	14th	1700	Major NORMAND and Lieut Brown attended "Tank-Inf Demo" (US Army) at HERZONGENRATH 8553 CO and IO attended Bde Comd's conference. Army Form C2118A taken into operation and shown as attached to this Diary as "Appx A/ONE".	
	16th	2000	CO to Bn O Gp ☉ Admin, Order of March ☉ Patrolling - only routine link-up by B and D Coy.	
GILLRATH (GERMANY)	17th	1700 2000	By agreement with OC 30 Corps Services Bn, command area of GILLRATH passes to Lt-Col J.G. DAWSON ☉ 7/9 (Highrs) Bn The Royal Scots (RR) NOW in GERMANY. Relief of 30 Corps Services Bn completed ☉ Layout - Bn HQ - House 83086620 ☉ A Coy - area HATTERATH 8467 with one pl PANHANDLE WOOD 852677 ☉ B Coy - Wood 847676 with fwd posn in BANCHORY WOOD 849678 ☉ C Coy - GILLRATH area ☉ D Coy 833675 with posn in TRIANGLE WOOD 833678 ☉ Sp Coy GILLRATH ☉ 3" Mortars in Quarry 833662 ☉ LOB - STEIN ☉ Cooking - A & B Coys at HATTERATH, remainder GILLRATH ☉ One Bty 186 Fd Regt RA in support, with OPs area TRIANGLE WOOD and B Coy locality ☉ Rep with Bn HQ ☉ RAP and Bearer Section GILLRATH. 2/Lieut M.W. ORTON wounded in action and evacuated to 157 Fd Amb. Pte STOREY (3661696: D Coy) killed in action ☉ Pte TOWNSEND (14775939: D Coy) missing believed PW (body recovered: NOW KILLED)JLBlt ☉ 1 Offr and 2 ORs endeavoured to repair comms between their posn (TRIANGLE WOOD) and D Coy hq ☉ In doing so they were ambushed by enemy patrol who opened with automatic fire from area track 833676; own patrol replied with Grenades and disengaged to TRIANGLE Copse ☉ Pte STORIE managed to get	

			to the Copse, but died within minutes ☉ Subsequent patrols did not regain contact with the enemy patrol.	
GILLRATH	18	1600	CO to Coy Comds:- Intention again stressed "NO withdrawal". (Comd in appreciation of the importance of this flank in relation to German thrust in the South) ☉ Line Comn - If line comn failed during darkness no attempts would be made to repair during hours of darkness, unless orders from this HQ ☉ Normal practice - if line fails, wireless will open immediately ☉ Reliefs - within Coys would take place at STAND-TO (mornings) ☉ Admin - more Amn being sent forward to be held in Coy localities ☉ Rations - one days to be held in Coys ☉ Water - more jerricans to be obtained. Sitrep - apart from slight mortaring in general area - NTR.	
	19		Sitrep - possible 8.8mm engaging area GILLRATH ☉ 90% shells did not explode ☉ Patrol (enemy) observed area 843680, engaged by Arty and own fighting patrol from A Coy, but enemy withdrew ☉ NO cas inflicted ☉ Movement on our sector very slight.	
GILLRATH	20	1800	CO and IO attended Bde Conference ☉ re-organisation of Bde FDLs. Sitrep - continued light hostile mortar fire ☉ Regrouping, see Appx "D".	
	21	0930	CO to Bn O Gp ☉ General situation, and intention of 12 Corps to hold present line of FDLs ☉ Adjustment to be made in Bn Area (as taken over from 30 Services Bn) to provide Coy "blocks", self supporting, and if possible, mutually supporting to each other ☉ Intention of CO to pull out coy in area of 8467 to EAST side GILLRATH ☉ Mines to be laid on CRE plan ☉ Booby Traps to be laid area Banchory Wood ☉ Recce to take place immediately. Op Order No.3 (Copies 8 and 9) show re-organisation ☉ Appx E Sitrep - NTR.	
	22	1520	Nebelwerfer identified on our front, engaged by Regt RA ☉ Otherwise NTR.	
	23		Own Mortars active ☉ Enemy activity NTR.	
GILLRATH	24		Enemy patrol (str. 14) approached C Coy Pl. posn in copse 831678, and were engaged by Automatic & Rifle fire ☉ Enemy returned fire and withdrew ☉ Own casualties - ONE killed (Pte.	
	25		C-in-C message to all troops ☉ Appx F. Sitrep - NTR. Regrouping - D Coy relieved C Coy (left fwd); A Coy relieved B Coy (right fwd) ☉	
	26		Sitrep - increase in hostile mortar activity (130 bombs) on fwd	

		1710	areas ☉ NO cas. D Coy - sent out fighting patrol, supported by one section Carrier Pl to destroy enemy patrol observed at 829683 ☉ Enemy again successfully disengaged, resulting in ONE carrier damaged own minefield, and ONE man injured ☉ Enemy cas. NOT known.	
	27		Sitrep - NTR.	
TEVEREN	28	2000	Comd of area handed over to OC 7 CAMERONIANS, on relief of all posns being completed.	
		2000	Bn HQ est at 838627 ☉ Layout, Tasks, etc - as laid down Op Order No.4 - (Appx G).	
	30	0700	Bn ordered to STAND-TO ☉ Enemy attack at first light area wood 8668 and TRIPSRATH 8767.	
		0930	CO - Coy Comds - Admin Conference.	
		1300	CO ordered to report to COMD 157 Bde ☉ TWO Coys now under comd 157 Inf Bde ☉	
		1400	B and C Coys move by march route to report to 2i/c (Major ROSE 7/9 RS) operating tactical Bn HQ at 863646 ☉ Subsequently B Coy at area 864646; C Coy at BAUCHEM 8564 ☉ Tasks re-inforce 6 HLI in area GEILENKIRCHEN (Note - 6 HLI had deployed TWO Coys to assist 1 GH and 5 HLI in dealing with enemy infiltration).	
TEVEREN	31	0015	CO ordered to report HQ 157 Inf Bde ☉	
		0100	CO to 'O' Gp ☉ Warning Order - Bn (less B and C Coys) may be required to move fwd to GEILENKIRCHEN ☉ Bn to be prepared as from 0400 hrs.	
		0230	D Coy to move fwd by march route to NIEDERHEIDE 8665 to be in posn by 0730 hrs to-day ☉ Tactical hq - signals personnel and Intelligence staff with CO and IO to move fwd at 0550 hrs ☉ Rear Bn HQ (comd Major ROSE) with A Coy and Sp Coy remain TEVEREN.	
		0600	CO est HQ (Tac) at 863646	
		1200	Situation at WOOD 8668 and TRIPSRATH 8767 restored ☉ IO with staff and signals personnel returned to TEVEREN ☉ CO remaining at Tac HQ, with Coys remaining in posns.	
		1400	Colour party under Major ROSE moved to HQ 5 HLI at HOCHHEIDE 8766 to prepare to relieve 5 HLI night 2/3rd Jan 45.	
TEVEREN		1930	CO ordered to report to HQ 157 Inf Bde ☉ G.O.C. 52 Div ordered 3 Bns to hold sector 157 Inf Bde instead of 2 ☉ Relief on 2/3 7/9 RS right; 4 KOSB centre; 5 KOSB left ☉	
		2030	CO to O Gp ☉ Relief of B Sqn 52 (L) Div Recce and 2 Coys and Carrier Pl 5 HLI will take place by daylight on 1st Jan 45 ☉ HQ and comms to be established by 1500 hrs ☉ C Coy wood 889668 ☉ B Coy 885676 ☉ Carrier Pl. (less track vehs) 882672	

		2359	<p>⊙ D Coy Ho. 889664 ⊙ A Coy 879663 ⊙ Bn HQ House at 885663(?) ⊙ 3" Mortars, to be recced ⊙ Pnrs to be recced ⊙ Recce Gp to move fwd at 0900 hrs.</p> <p>Available Offrs and WOs greeted "New Year In" ⊙ CO read messages from H.R.H. The Princess Royal and from the Hon. Col of the Bn.</p> <p>JG Dawson Lieut-Colonel Commanding, 7/9th (Highrs) Bn. The Royal Scots (The Royal Regt.)</p>	
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