

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. 1. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Jan 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ROOTH 8408 BLERICK 8909	1st		<p>Situation normal - location no change. Bn HQ est 850092. Preparations being made for move of Bn into BLERICK to relieve 6KOSB. During the morning there was considerable enemy air activity in the area, over 30 enemy a/c being seen. One FW 190 was destroyed above bn area by Spitfire. Pilot picked up by neighbouring unit. Bn moved into BLERICK in the late afternoon, Bn HQ est at 895090 at 1800 hrs and all Coys being complete in new areas by 1945 hrs. Bn disposition now as follows: Bn HQ 895090, A Coy HQ 898092 with pls at 900093, 902091, 900088. B Coy HQ 900095 & pl areas 898098-902103, 902097-903099, 902095-905095. C Coy HQ - 897089 & pl areas 897092, 896088 & 897088. D Coy - HQ 893083 & pl areas 894082, 892080 & 897085. Carrier Pl in ground role 898087 & A tk pl in ground role at 893103. Apart from occasional shelling there was nothing to report during the evening or night.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	2nd		<p>The day was very quiet with nothing of importance to report. During the night however there was some enemy patrol activity in area 891077 & also in area 899098. This latter patrol challenged Pl Comd & Runner of B Coy in English then fired on them, runner being killed and Pl Comd wounded. Patrol then disappeared towards river.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	3rd	0830	<p>There was nothing else to report during the night & D Coy cleared area houses 891079 at first light without finding any trace of enemy patrol of previous night. Permission asked by & granted to OC D Coy to occupy area of 889081 & 891077 by pl. This op was carried out at last light & other posns now adjusted as follows: Pl of D Coy in area 897085 move to area 889081 & 891077. Carrier Pl move one sec to area 897085. Sec 'C' Coy by night occupy posn area 896085.</p>	A Walker Capt IO

	4th	2340	<p>Situation normal - occasional shelling & mortaring of Bn area during day while our own arty & mors were very active, engaged enemy seen moving on far side of river during the day.</p> <p>One gun of A tk pl moved into posn at 904096 in order to be able to engage area of br if necessary.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	5th	0800	<p>During the night there was nothing to report.</p> <p>Considerable mov of small parties of enemy were seen from time to time in gen area of main rd & cemetery (899076 & 901073) & were engaged by arty & mor fire.</p> <p>Enemy arty & mor activity was on a reduced scale.</p> <p>During the night there was occasional Spandau & rifle fire from East bank of river while our own Coys carried out harassing shoots throughout the night.</p>	
BLERICK 8909	6th		<p>There were reports of enemy mov in area on rt of D Coy during the early morning but no patrol was seen.</p> <p>Enemy were also reported by Sqn Recce Regt in area 883069.</p> <p>The day was again fairly quiet with nothing to report.</p> <p>Apart from the usual Spandau & rifle fire from enemy & our own harassing shoots there was little to report on immediate front of bn</p>	A Walker Capt IO
	7th	0020	<p>but Sqn of Recce Regt at HOUT BLERICK 8807 (under comd 8RS) reported engagement with enemy patrol at 877074 which made off when fired upon.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK		0800	<p>Situation normal - location no change. Very quiet day with nothing to report.</p>	
		2200	<p>Recce Regt Sqn report engagement with enemy patrol in area X tracks 878072. Otherwise quiet night.</p>	
BLERICK	8th	0700	<p>Report from arty that during the night enemy patrol had laid some mines (tyre busters) across main road in area 872088 damaging tyres of arty veh which came up the road. This was probably carried out by patrol reported by Recce Regt during the night.</p> <p>Isolated enemy movement during the day engaged with SA, mortars & arty fire.</p> <p>Enemy activity negligible, followed by a very quiet night.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
	9th	0800	<p>Situation normal - nothing to report. Quiet day on whole of bn sector.</p>	
	10th	0055	<p>Patrol reported in area of 902103 but made off when challenged. No further developments.</p> <p>Enemy mortaring & shelling of area increased during the day. Our own arty was very active while Coys again carried out harassing shoots during the night 10/11 Jan.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK	11th	0800	<p>Location no change - night passed without incident. Quiet day on the whole.</p>	

		2200	Enemy patrol reported by Recce Regt in area 879065 but was lost to view when 'artificial moonlight' was extinguished and could not be traced by time request for "moonlight" to be continued was put into effect. Exchange of MG & rifle fire continued occasionally across river during the night.	
BLERICK	12th	0350 0800 1815	Patrol in area 894106 engaged by A tk pl listening post and then made off east towards river. Nothing further to report during night. Situation normal. Preparations made during the day for relief of bn by 6RSF on evening of 12 Jan. Change-over commenced immediately after last light and was completed by 2100 hrs. Bn HQ move to MAASBREE 827080 with Coy as follows: A Coy - SEVENUM 802143 B Coy HQ 880105 with pls at 885116, 887110 & 882104-876087. C Coy 837085, D Coy 847090 & Dutch Coy under command 810147 (VOORSTE HEES), Carr Pl (1 off + 20) occupied DUBBROEK 847076 while remainder carrier pl and S Coy were in area 806142.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
MAASBREE 8207	13th - 20th		The bn was now in Bde reserve and it was possible to carry out a certain amount of administration & general cleaning up of arms, eqpt etc. In addition, a proportion of Coys was able to attend cinema shows & concert parties. On 18th Jany, Coy Comds carried out a recce of area at present occupied by 2A&SH in HELDEN 7903 - EGCHELHOEK 7703 with a view to the bn taking over this area. Situation otherwise normal.	A Walker Capt IO
MAASBREE	20th		Final preparations carried out by Coys for move to new area. During the latter part of the morning Coys moved by march route to new areas as follows: A Coy EGCHELHOEK 772038 B Coy HELDEN 790037 C Coy HELDEN 789040 D Coy EGCHEL 773032 1130 Comd 44(L) Inf Bde visits Bn HQ. 1400 Reps from 10 HLI arrive in Bn area & proceed to take over areas vacated by Coys. 1500 Bn HQ closes at 827080 and moves to EGCHELHOEK 771038. 1600 Bn complete in new area. 1630 Comd 44 Bde visits Bn HQ with DAA & QMG. The Commanding Officer visited Coys in their new locations and also visited HQ 1 Commando Bde during the early evening as the Bn was now under command of this formation for the time being.	See Appendix E1 & 3 A Walker Capt IO
EGCHELHOEK				

EGCHELHOEK		2330	<p>C Coy as duty company sent one pl to No 45 RM Commando 873044 at last light while two pls reported to No 6 Commando at 835013, as an anti-patrol precaution.</p> <p>B Coy carried out the duty of Mobile Coy should the necessity for such a force have arisen. The above operational roles were to be carried out by Coys in turn every 24 hrs.</p> <p>Instructions received to send complete Bn harbour party to GRAMMONT (Map ref 2848 Sheet 2 1/250000) leaving at 0930 hrs on 21st. Orders had been received earlier in the evening that only a skeleton harbour party to be sent.</p>	<p>See Appx E2</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>
EGCHELHOEK	21st	<p>0930 Harbour party leave for GRAMMONT area.</p> <p>1030 Commanding Officer visits HQ 15(S) Div at PANNINGEN 775048.</p> <p>1200 Instrs received that Bn was now to proceed to area south of HERENTHALS (9791 Sh 3) and that new harbour party would be required. Our Commanding Officer returns from 15(S) Div HQ. It was decided to send OC 'C' Coy (Major McIntyre) off as early as possible to carry out recce of the area & remain there until arrival of Bn, probable date of move being 22nd Jan.</p> <p>1245 Recce party from relieving Bn (12 Para Bn) arrive.</p> <p>1400 CO leaves for conference at HQ 15(S) Div.</p> <p>1430 Major McIntyre leaves to recce area.</p> <p>1630 CO returns from 15(S) Div with orders for Bn to take over area at present held by 45 RM Commando by morning of 22nd Jan.</p> <p>1700 CO, 2i/c & IO leave for HQ 1 Commando Bde to arrange details of relief.</p> <p>1815 CO holds 'O' Group for Comds of A, B & C Coys at HQ B Coy.</p> <p>1915 'O' Group at Bn HQ & orders issued to remaining Coy Comds & reps for move & relief.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p> <p>A Walker Capt IO</p>	
BAARLO 8504				
BAARLO	22nd	<p>0200 During the night relief of 45 RM Commando was carried out by the Bn, Coys proceeding independently to new area in tpt and taking over according to timetable as laid down by the Commanding Officer in his orders.</p> <p>0600 Bn HQ leaves present location and moves to 853047.</p> <p>0900 Relief complete and Bn now disposed as follows: Bn HQ 853043. A Coy - HQ 860050 with pls at 867061, 860047 and 859050 with sec at 867048. B Coy - HQ 847043 with pls at 855031 by day and two pls area Coy HQ and at night pls at 855031, 848032, 860027. C Coy - HQ at 854048, two pls area BONG 8405 and one at 863037 by day, and by night one pl at 863037, pl at 863044 and pl at 865048. D Coy - HQ at 843025, pls by day 843023, 847026 and 846024, by night one pl 843023 to 847015, one pl 847026, one pl 847022 to 852018.</p>	<p>A Walker Capt IO</p>	

BAARLO			Carrier Pl occupied ground role in area X rds 859057 with two secs by night at 871057 and 872052. The day was very quiet with negligible enemy activity though our own sp arms engaged enemy movement during the day. Reps from 12 Para bn visited Coys in evening after dark to become acquainted with general layout in view of their taking over area on evening of 23rd Jan. 1430 Bn comes under direct command of 15(S) Div.	A Walker Capt IO
BAARLO	23rd		Another quiet day with preparations being made for hand-over to 12 Para Bn. Relief began at last light and after being relieved Coys moved in tpt to NEERKANT 6909 (Sheet 27 SW/East). Relief was complete by 2000 hrs.	A Walker Capt IO
NEERKANT MEIJEL	24th		Bn spent night 23/24th at MEIJEL and on the morning of 24th Jan moved by tpt to rest area in TILBURG (Sheet 5 1/100000 1532) arriving at 1600 hrs where column was met by harbour party redirected from GRAMMONT and guided to rest area. Bn HQ was est at 179322.	See Appx E4
TILBURG	25th		Bn located in rest area in TILBURG. Situation normal nothing to report.	A Walker Capt IO
TILBURG 1/50000 Sheet 2A&3A 1733	26th		Administration & general cleaning up of arms, eqpt, transport etc continues.	
	27th	1700	Another day of administration and general cleaning up. Men were allowed out after lunch. CO attended conference at Bde HQ on future operations. C Coy held a successful dance in the evening.	
Tilburg	28th	1030 1200 1400	A rest day. Church service by Padre in Garrison Theatre. Coys marched down under own arrangements. CO's conference for Coy Commanders on future operations and training. CO and 2i/c made recce of trg area. HQ Coy held dance in the evening.	CGR Mair Capt A/IO
	29th		Normal training starts in Coys - drill, P.T., weapon training etc. Sgts Mess Dance in the evening.	
	30th	1100	Training continues. C and D Coys on range. CO attended conference at HQ 30 Corps at BOXTEL 3385 (Holland 1/100,000 Sheet 5) on future operations.	
	31st	1430	Training continues. S Coy on range. C.O. attends further conference at Bde HQ on future operations.	CGR Mair Capt

			Cold spell breaks. Rapid thaw.	A/IO
--	--	--	--------------------------------	------