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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.