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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 DECEMBER 1944

Commanding Officer LT COL C.L. MELVILLE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ROSMALEN - ORTEN Sector of MAAS Line, N and NE of S'HERTOGEN- BOSCH	1	0030	B Coy patrol again opened fire - no enemy reaction. CO arranged for stonk to come down on Mor posns first, then on RUM targets E of FORT.	For ref to locations, see copies of Nov War Diary - Original copy, Appx IV Duplicate " , Appx V
		0500	Third attempt by B Coy patrol to draw fire - no reaction - third stonk cancelled.	
		0800	Sniper Sgt reported a stretch 300 yd long of ROSMALEN - GEWANDE road now flooded.	
		0927	CO 4/5 RSF and Lt Col J. CARTER, GSO I (SD) toured Bn area.	
		1000	Snipers report from WILD : 1. 12 barges stationary at 360552. 2. Numerous civilians still in WILD. 3. EMPEL at present being mortared.	
		1010	OC ATK Pl reported that he had immobilised a coal barge at 320516 and shot up enemy OP at 321520, the latter without success ; his guns mortared while pulling out.	
		1440	MG Pl, 7 Manch, in spt of EMPEL, force being withdrawn at night into Div reserve.	
		1610	20 barges reported by Snipers to be lying at 360548 to 356552 - considerable animal movement on the island 3555 - civilians may be going to evacuate cattle from there on account of flooding.	
		1835	Flood water now 4 inches deep in some parts A Coy supply route fwd.	
		1915	CO left HQ for GEWANDE. Line to EMPEL cut under water by carriers. Comms now through Gunner wireless.	
		2043	Enemy MG fire on EMPEL - cross bearings gave intersection at 303509.	
		2125	Warning from Bde to watch out for two civilian-dressed members of Div BRANDENBURG - sabotage div. Names - KAYSER and ROSER - 3 others already captured by 7/9 R.S. at BOKHOVEN.	
		2135	CO returned HQ after visit to GEWANDE.	
		2240	More MG fire on EMPEL - from approx same area as at 2043 hrs.	
2245	Civilian car failed to stop when warned by A Coy sentry in ROSMALEN - sentry opened fire, wounding one of the occupants, a Dutch policeman. Hereafter there were very few cases of civilians			

		2355	prowling by night. Both fwd posns reported all quiet.	GWH
	2	0700	Generally a quiet night ; MG fire from FORT area at 0320 hrs answered by our own Mors.	
		1103	ATK party : 1. Partially demolished house 318518 which was used as OP. 2. Along with Polstens engaged OP's at 321525 and 322525 without success. 3. Blast from one 6 PR set alight a haystack on gun posn.	
		1117	20 enemy Mor bombs came down on EMPEL from 318527 - probably reply to our 6 PRs.	
		1600	I.O. to HQ 79 Fd Regt to study recent Div Cover - little difference except for flooding from cover already held.	
		1905	Snipers Report : 1. MG & Mor fire at present falling immediately N of GEWANDE. 2. Enemy occupying area 344535 all day. 3. WILD road flooded in places to 7 inches.	
		2035	Gunner Rep asked to try arrange Air OP to fly over suspected Mor posns while ATK guns shoot up OPs again on 3 Dec - this not possible, but 2 Btys to stand by on call.	
		2200	Owing to flooding, Pioneers unable to booby trap area at 337519.	
		2205	Orders recd to return 4/5 RSF Adv Party who had arrived at 1100 hrs.	
		2235	B Coy fired on RUM posns but no reaction followed.	
		2255	Our Mor fire on HEDEL started a large fire which burned all night.	GWH
	3	0115	Enemy Mors engaged EMPEL, but were silent when our own Mors replied on RUM areas.	
		0915	Visit from I.O. 4 Cdn Bde - reced area for Tank Range - gave news that L.S.R. returning to own area.	
		1030	Movement at N. end MAAS rly br stopped by EMPEL MMG ; GEWANDE MMG engaged under direction of Sniper Sgt posns on Dyke immediately N., but met with no response.	
		1035	ATK guns again unsuccessful with shoot on O.P's ; quick and accurate mortaring forced them to withdraw.	
		1045	Enemy AA gun heard firing from KERKDRIEL area.	
		1110	CO and party of offrs departed for lecture by Field Marshal MONTGOMERY to Offrs of 52 Div in S'HERTOGENBOSCH.	
		1350	CO of Lake Superior Regt visited HQ to check details of take over.	
		1700	One Coy 5 Bn SEAFORTHS billeting for night in ROSMALEN - 152 Bde of 51 Div pulling out of sector S. of ARNHEM on account of extensive flooding there.	
		2000	Road Report : a) 5 in flooding 358513 to 357518. b) 8-10 ins flooding 358502 to 356507.	
		2030	Own Mors started sharp exchange of fire : EMPEL hit by MG from W.	

		2035 2200	and Mors from N. Our Arty engaged mor areas ; Mtn Bty engaged RUM areas ; this silenced enemy. A and B Coys both out of line comm to fwd posns - comm gained through Gunner wireless. Flood report to Bde : a) River is lower b) Land flooding very bad - affected by very strong wind. Regtl line party reported GEWANDE road 2½ feet under water in places - patrols ordered to keep check.	GWH
	4	0030 0700 1115 1205 1405 1415 1415 1500 1730 1820 2015 2038 2245	Decrease in flooding reported on A Coy front. Both fwd Coys reported very quiet night. Lieut General O'CONNOR, Comd I British Corps arrived with Bde Cmd at HQ. They then visited A and C Coys, leaving Bn area 1200 hrs. Lt Col WALFORD and Maj GREEN of 5 Bn Seaforths visited HQ - their Bn being billeted in parts of our area. 2 enemy Arty shells landed 357516 - first Arty shells to have been reported since taking over. GEWANDE line, which had been badly mauled by a weasel, now repaired and in working order. I.O. & I. Sgt, LSR, arrived HQ and were given general infmn prior to their takeover. C.O.'s Orders concerning control of civilians in Fwd Areas issued. Enemy Mors engaged posn which own Mors had vacated earlier in day - 15 mins accurate conc. BM visited HQ and gave Fire Plan for 0700 hrs 5 Dec : 1. Triangle 294523 engaged by 4.2 Mors 2. Triangle 290524 by 3.7 Mors 3. Selected targets in HEDEL by as much Fd Arty as may be available. WILD patrol has withdrawn through patrol midway between WILD and GEWANDE against Boche patrol strength 20 which had approached from North ; one man reported missing. CO confirmed OC A Coy's order to re-establish posn at WILD ; A Coy also to send one pl fwd to GEWANDE, C Coy to send one pl to A Coy HQ. Missing man came in slightly wounded to GEWANDE. News recd that 7/9 RS had skirmish with enemy patrol at BOKHOVEN ; RS lost 4 dead, 5 prisoners.	
	5	0040 0215	CO returned from GEWANDE bringing a Dutch civilian who had crossed MAAS into A Coy area - he had made his way from AMSTERDAM with 27 others who crossed in 54 ATK Regt area - reported that German MGs were mounted in AMSTERDAM streets and were shooting any Dutch males between ages of 25 and 45, since no man in this age category had reported for forced labour in GERMANY. Civilian escorted to Civil Control Centre for the night for later questioning by Corps. News recd that 54 ATK Regt patrol captured a boat load of 9 of the Boche patrol which had attacked our WILD patrol ; identification	

		<p>0220 given as 37 MG BN - later corrected - actually GAF Ground Tps. Pl which went to restore situation in WILD reported back to base, leaving strong Standing Patrol in WILD.</p> <p>0530 Situation confused at EMPER - enemy patrol activity reported there, but comms cut.</p> <p>1035 AA fire on Air OP coming from camouflaged posn on factory roof 357546.</p> <p>1040 CO LSR arrived HQ - to take over cmd at 1600 hrs.</p> <p>1050 B Coy reported enemy patrol about a dozen strong in action against their small standing patrol in 313513 at 0145 hrs ; patrol withdrawn without loss under cover Coy MMG ; enemy then withdrew to RUM area.</p> <p>1300 Handover to LSR partially completed :- Rear elts A Coy left area 1235 hrs, rear elts B 1145 hrs, C Coy 1100 hrs, D 1203 hrs, SP 1150 hrs, HQ less Tac HQ 1240 hrs : all returning CROMVOIRT Barracks.</p> <p>1830 Bde I.O. called at HQ - confirmed GAF identification of last night's enemy patrol ; passed on Air Report that roads W. of ARNHEM choked with German tps & tpt moving West.</p> <p>2000 Slight MMG fire over EMPER ; working party heard N. of GEWANDE.</p> <p>2012 Remainder A Coy relieved and departed ROSMALEN.</p> <p>2305 Remainder B Coy relieved and departed ORTEN.</p> <p>2330 Strong Boche patrol forced Cdn patrol at 304513 to withdraw to 307495 where it was reinforced by Pl B Coy ; meanwhile D Coy stood to until enemy patrol withdrew to RUM area under B Coy fire.</p>	GWH
CROMVOIRT BARRACKS	6	<p>0150 All quiet on both flanks of front.</p> <p>0800 Tac HQ closed down and returned CROMVOIRT BARRACKS.</p> <p>0800 Bn Adv Party under Maj C.F. HOGG moved off for new locn at STEIN K6165</p> <p>1230 Final Orders issued for Main Bn move to STEIN.</p>	GWH
STEIN K 6165	7	<p>0830 CO & IO started out for Bde RV near MAASTRICHT - no Bde rep there, so proceeded to STEIN, contacted OC Adv Party, then went to Bde HQ, arriving there 1700 hrs.</p> <p>1100 Main Body moved off to STEIN, arriving there 2100 hrs.</p> <p>1700 New Dutch Interpreter attached to Bn - KEES EGELIE ; to be given rank of Sgt.</p> <p>2100 Bde Conf. : outline plan given for Operation SHEARS : Break through on D Day by 43 Div, N of GEILENKIRCHEN, followed by 157 Bde - main objective HEINSBERG and high ground SE of that, D+1 2nd Gds Armd Div pass through the newly made open door and clear enemy line NW to ECHT ; 52 Div Recce Bn fight through on WALDFEUCHT - MONTFORT axis ; 155 Bde pass through 157 : 5 KOSB to HAAREN, 7/9 RS to POSTERHOLT ; 4 KOSB to woods 7883. Relief by 7 Armd Div on night of</p>	

		2300	D+1. Arty spt from 450 pieces, some of which to screen SIEGFRIED LINE permanently with smoke. Air spt a bonus and not necessary for success. D Day provisionally 12 Dec, but wet weather may cause postponement. Bn 'O' Gp : orders for move of Bn reps to Dem. by Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry on 8 Dec.	GWH
	8	0900 1030 1800	'O' Gp : initial briefing on times of Bde Conf 072100. Bn party moved off to Dem. of Tank Spt - incl Flails and Flame-Throwing Churchills. 'O' Gp : Bde I.O. enlarged upon briefing already done. Orders given for Coy Fd Firing Ex with Tanks 9 Dec.	GWH
	9	1300 1700	Coy Fd Firing Exs. Bde Conf for C.O.'s and 2 i/c's	GWH
	10	a.m. 1000 1100 2200	Coys attended Dem. of Kangaroos - Inf-carrying tanks. C.O. to Div Planning Conf - D Day postponed to 15 Dec - Armour requires frost to harden ground. I.O. attended Bde Int Conf - the enemy and ground picture enlarged. Draft of 33 O.R.'s arrived from 6th Bn GREEN HOWARDS, ex 50-Div.	GWH
	11	1300 2030 2100	2 i/c recced a Bde Defence Layout S. of STEIN - to block and counterattack any breakthrough by enemy. CO attended a Bde Panning Conf. Extract from 52 Div Planning Summary issued.	GWH
	12		Op SHEARS - 4 KOSB O.O. No.1 issued.	GWH
	13		Op SHEARS cancelled. 52 Div came under command 12 Corps	GWH
	14	1630 1700	Bde Cmd visited HQ C.O. to Bde Conf.	GWH
	16	1000 1200 1400 [0930] 2100 2300	I.O. to 5 Armd Bde HQ - SHINVELD 7664 - recd general layout of 1 Bn Welsh Guards area STAHE 8066. Bde Conf for C.O.'s - takeover to be completed by 172400 - no move timings yet. C.O., I.O., OC Atk Pl, Bde L.O. to HQ 1 Bn Welsh Gds - recd detailed layout Bn. Bn Adv Parties left STEIN for STAHE. 'O' Gp : orders for takeover. I.O. to Bde for route & timings of move.	GWH
	17	1000 1145 1700 1800 2040	Pl Cmds and Spec Pl reps guided to STAHE by I.O. Main body Bn left STEIN ; arrived Dis P at X Rds 801662 1410 hrs ; HQ, SP Coy and Rifle Coy Carrs moved up to fwd posns. Rifle Coys moved up to ops locns and by 2000 hrs all reported takeover complete. EA engaged over area by AA - later dropped bombs far S. of Bn area. C.O. and Sheldrake rep fixed up Gunner plan.	For layout see Appx XI GWH

		2225	C.O. assumed comd of Bn area.	
	18	0730	Very quiet night - considerable air traffic during night frequently engaged by our AA. General request from Coys for sandbags + trip flares for improvement def security.	
		0930	C.O. + Shelldrake started tour of all fwd posns, returning HQ at 1230 hrs. Following visits made to HQ during morning : OC 9 MMG Pl, 7 Manch ; OC 304 Atk Bty ; Maj POLLOCK 186 Fd Regt, Maj CAMERON 472 Mtn Bty, LT COL PROUDFOOT 186 Fd Regt and Bde Cmd.	
		1540	B Coy mortared, and during afternoon spasmodic fire covered whole BIRGDEN area : D Coy mortared from 811698 approx, and C Coy shelled.	
		1730	A few bursts Spandau tracer on A Coy from 805699 or 808697.	
		2050	D Coy presented SCHIERWALDENRATH with 60 2in Mor HE - no reaction.	GWH
	19	1415	A Coy shelled - one hit on KREUZRATH church.	
		1820	7/9 RS reported enemy moving S. from 826678 twds B Coy posn ; engaged by gunners.	
		1930	Bde ordered special watch on a) parachutists b) mov of tracked vehs.	
		2030	A Coy reported veh mov at 807702 - engaged by Med Arty.	GWH
	20	0630	Lt. tracked vehs heard N. of D Coy.	
		1305	A Coy patrol reced village 808685 and found it clear of enemy and obstacles.	
		1635	D Coy mortared from 821707.	
		1720	Occasional mor bombs falling on Coy area.	
		1800	Both A and D reported vehs, probably half tracks immediately opposite their fronts.	
		2030	Foxhole 819696 occupied at night - D Coy planning to deal with this on night 21/22.	
		2100	Village 808685 occupied by composite pl from L.O.B.	GWH
	21	0600	Very quiet night - a little enemy digging & probably wiring heard opposite D Coy.	
		0845	Brief bout of MG fire swept A Coy area from LANGBROICH. Again at 1120 hrs.	
		1230	20mm fire on KREUZRATH ; gun posn not discovered.	
		1505	Hy Mor (12 cm?) engaging A Coy ; again at 1530 hrs - replied with own Arty.	
		1702	Spandau fire on A Coy seemed to be directed by sniper firing tracer.	
		2045	Enemy reported in BIRGDEN between C and D Coys ; also in gap between there and KREUZRATH	

		[a.m.] 2130 2200	Lt D. URQUHART wounded by calibre 2in Mor bomb whilst engaging sniper. A Coy heard vehs, prob'y half tracks, & m/c's at 808702 moving east. Still considerable traffic heard by A Coy.	GWH
	22	0300 0600 1145 1145 1400 1430 1530 2145 2210 2359 2335	Enemy patrol between 5 and 15 approached Carrier posn - withdraws when fired on, leaving one groaning wounded - under cover own mor fire a party went out to collect this man, but suffered 3 cas from enemy mors and came back. M.O. & party went to Carr posn & evacuated cas ; German now dead ; documents etc taken A Coy mortared from posn between LANGBROICH & SCHIERWALDENRATH. Windmill 811695 completely destroyed by our Atk guns. A Coy spotted movement of enemy cyclists and horse drawn ambulances at 806706. A Coy mortared ; one or two shells every three minutes from 1130 onwards. Airburst mor bombs over B, C & D Coys which discharged propaganda Xmas cards. Light traffic has been heard consistently opposite A Coy front. Report, originating OD, passing through Div, then gunner channels, recd by R.A.L.O. that paratps had dropped in area 7965 - this report later discredited. Considerable to and fro traffic heard during evening - much of it thought to be half track - opp B & D Coys 13 enemy with soft hats, greatcoats and wpns slung passed A Coy Standing Patrol 799697 ; primary object our patrol was observation until much later hour, so fire was not opened.	GWH
	23	0035 1100 a.m. 1600 2030 2055	A Coy intermittently mortared for half an hour. Lt Col ROSE, 5 HLI arrived HQ. At same time OC A Coy arrived with night patrol report, plus the news that his wire had been cut during night near haystacks 802685 ; also there had been taken from RAOP carrier an 18 set, satchel and greatcoat. C.O. fixed up inter Bn bdys with 7/9 RS and 5 KOSB. 4.2 in Mor Pl came u/c. A Coy reported presence of enemy patrol close to their area ; A Coy patrol had gone out to ambush possible repetition of Boche patrol seen on night 22/23 ; almost immediately it started, it was pinned by fire, MG on its left, Mors on right - 3 cas from Mor ; patrol succeeded in disengaging and withdrawal successfully carried out, sp by Mtn Bty. One dud 75mm shell landed in cellar HQ of B Coy.	

		2100 2150	M.O. arranged to have 3 cas held in A Coy area until first light Area between C and D Coys shelled.	GWH
	24	0030 0145 1110 1200 1250 1330 1820 2005 2145 2215 2315	D Coy confident in map spotting enemy mors, probably four, at 809698. This backed up by C Coy, so Mtn Bty stonked the posn - no more mortaring during night. Harassing mor fire on A Coy - a few shells every 5 mins - continued till 0440 hrs Warning recd that enemy bombers heading our way - nothing actually seen of them. Comd 52 Div and Comd 155 Bde visited HQ. OC Atk Pl handed in Boche identity disc found in KREUZRATH - 2 Coy, 137 Ers Bn - little value. CO ordered 4.2 Mors be prepared to engage LANGBROICH area by nightfall - OP set up in A Coy area. Boche carols commenced opposite A Coy - Hark the Herald Angels - with cornet accompaniment! On CO's order, our 3in Mors laid down 60 HE on rd LANGBROICH - S'WALDENRATH where tpt was heard. D Coy reported details of Boche carollers opposite them - Am Stillen Nacht, Last Post and cries of "Kamerad". Hy Spandau fire on BIRGDEN - from approx 813700. B Coy reported fierce duel between one Spandau and four others ; our own Arty tackled the group of four, and as a result the enemy brought down 30 mor HE on their own single Spandau - the feeling in our fwd areas was that the Boche was having too "spirited" an Xmas Eve.	GWH
Christmas	Day	0100 0407 0500 0735 1015 1445 1825 2030	10 shells landed in village of STANZ Possible fire seen by A Coy in area 791702. A Coy shelled from area 808705 - C.O. ordered retaliation from Fd Regt. Our Xmas "hate" started : (1) 3in Mors smoked LANGBROICH (2) 4.2 Mors 80 HE on 796705 (3) 3 Fd Regts and Med Bty on two selected targets - no enemy reaction. Boche gave A Coy a miscellaneous programme of gramophone records ; and cries were heard of "Merry Christmas Tommy, or is it Yank?" Bde L.O. called at HQ to collate ATK layout within Bde ATK def plan. Fire in VINTELEN reported by Bde to have been accidentally started by 5 KOSB. Command Post Christmas Dinner - the first and last (?) to be celebrated in GERMANY.	GWH
	26	0257	Bomb landed between C and D Coy area - aircraft not identified.	

		0815 Bde announced the seizing of GEBROEK 6575 by enemy. 1130 A Coy consistently mortared - Fd Regt turned on to two selected targets 1300 Shelling in A Coy area intermittent for an hour. 1730 Patrol of 15 observed by 7/9 RS at 828681 - caught by our gun fire - R.S. sending out three Bren Carrs to mop them up. 1830 C Coy reported a trk veh blown on minefd at 813672. This actually was one of the three RS carriers which had strayed - 3 cas not very serious sustained. 1952 CO returned from 13/18 Hussar Sqn ; CO & 2 i/c 4/5 RSF arrived HQ 2330 2 D Coy men wounded as result of inserting bomb into 2in Mor the wrong way up. Cas sustained whilst engaging enemy riflemen in foxholes 819657.	GWH
	27	0910 CO left HQ with RE and ATK reps on recce of areas to be mined. 1000 Bde Cmd arrived HQ and went to fwd coys with 2 i/c 1045 Herd of goats observed 831684 - these may have been the "German patrol" of previous night 2000 Digging heard at 816694 engaged by D Coy 2in Mor and Piat party.	GWH
	28	0510 Heavy mortaring - 12 cm - on A Coy ; two good Mortreps came in and provided Fd and Mtn Bty with good shoot. This mortaring continued for an hour. 0635 D Coy reported Spandau, 20mm and Mor fire covering BIRGDEN : volume of fire increasing on all Coy areas. 0640 5 KOSB being attacked in VINTELEN & KIEVELBERG : own Bn stood to 100%. 0817 Mortaring on A Coy still very active - CSM McTURK and Pte KING, dog-handler, both wounded. No news of attack against 5 KOSB. 0950 5 KOSB counter attack on VINTELEN with carriers held by intense Spandau fire. South end of KIEVELBERG held by enemy. 1100 I.O. to B, C and D Coys with Takeover orders. B Coy HQ mortared very accurately. 1145 Arty OP in KREUZRATH Church received direct shell hit - no cas. 1430 C.O. with C.O. 4/5 RSF commenced tour of Coys. 1500 Lloyd Carrier on tow from KREUZRATH skidded, mounted verge at 788682 and blew up on unrecorded American necklace - driver Pte T. HOGG Killed ; veh a total cas. 1900 156 Bde assumed comd our sector. 2025 Complete Bn, except Tac HQ, relieved by 4/5 RSF. 2100 " " " " , settled in to new area : HQ 804661, A 801662, B 811666, C 805669, D 808657, SP 808658 ; one pl A Coy 799672. Now in res to 156 Bde. 2210 C.O. assumed comd in new HQ.	GWH

NIEDERBUSCH	29	1045 1225 1530	<p>Comd 156 Bde arrived HQ ; as result of Conf D Coy moved to GANGELT and came u/c 6 CAMS ; one pl B Coy took up posn vacated by D Coy ; one pl A Coy to prepare posn at 795664.</p> <p>Comd and BM 155 Bde visited HQ. Sit completely restored in KIEVELBERG and VINTELEN.</p> <p>Enemy : 84 PW ; many Killed & wounded. 5 KOSB : 8 Killed, 20 wounded ; 40 PW - incl Maj CAMERON OC 474 Mtn Bty RA, his Bty Capt and OP party.</p> <p>Lt Col TOD HUNTER, Comd 54 ATK Regt, visited HQ and transmitted Bde Comd's order for C.O. to place one pl at 799672 every night to protect ATK guns in that area.</p>	GWH
	30	0715 0735 0740 0900 1100 1105 1525 1555 1740	<p>Attack reported on "right sector" - no details known. Bn stood to.</p> <p>Area of enemy attack TRIPSRATH 8767</p> <p>CO ordered (1) B Coy Pl to rejoin Coy (2) A Coy to man old D Coy posns, leaving one pl to protect Bn ATK guns in their present posn.</p> <p>RSF reported enemy patrol of 15 has approached their Carrier posn 825687 early in morning, thrown one grenade from 20 yds away, and then withdrawn with no cas.</p> <p>I.O. 155 Bde visited HQ - Enemy holding south end TRIPSRATH, but G.H. blocking them at north end ; woods at 862680 being cleared.</p> <p>Bn stand to decreased to 50%.</p> <p>(1) D Coy returned under comd to original posn. (2) 2i/c & Int Sgt recced Int OP at 819668 to cover gap between BIRGDEN and 7 Cams in woods 834675.</p> <p>Pnr Sgt reported that a covered route was threequarters taped from 801668 to 795664. No booby traps found, but wood edges trip flared. Job to be completed when more tape available.</p> <p>TRIPSRATH reported clear.</p>	GWH
	31	0830 0930 2300	<p>Int OP in posn, but a) were fired on by undetermined unit own tps b) Infmd by Mtn Gunners that posn was registered by Spandaus ; so moved to hayshed 821664.</p> <p>I.O. to 156 Patrolling Conf. Infmn given to Bn reps about TRIPSRATH battle : 67 PW taken in the village, 17 in woods 8567, with more expected. PW stated they suffered hy cas. Attack was on Bn level, but broken up by initial Arty DF.</p> <p>C.O. summoned to 155 Bde HQ for orders. Bn had expected to relieve 6 HLI who were in res in TRIPSRATH sector ; but warning order conveyed news that we should definitely be up front, since defence was to be thickened up in that area.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">C.L. Melville Lt. Col. Comd. 4 K.O.S.B.</p>	GWH

APPENDICES

- I 79 Fd Regt HM List No. 1 - 2 Dec
- II Control of Civs in Fwd Areas - 3 Dec
- III 155 Bde Int Smy No. 6 - 4 Dec
- IV Trace of 4 KOSB Sit as on 6 Dec
- V Extract 52 Div Int Smy - 11 Dec
- VI Op "SHEARS" - 4 KOSB O.O. No 1 - 12 Dec
- VII Maps 1/50,000 : Sheets 48, 27 and 37.
- VIII Op "SHEARS" : 52 Div Int Smy No. 6.
- IX 4 KOSB Patrol Programmes 23/24, 25/26, 26/27, 27/28 Dec.
- X 4 KOSB Int Smys Nos 1 & 2
- XI Trace - Bn Def Layout on 19 Dec
- XII 4 KOSB Part I Orders of 26 Dec
- XIII 52 Div Int Smy No 22
- XIV " " " " No 23