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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 6 KOSB

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year FEB 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col CWP RICHARDSON

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TILBURG 171314	1	I II	<p>During the morning A, C, D, HQ & S Companies carried on with Coy and Platoon training. B Company carried out two rehearsals of their demonstration attack on a strong point.</p> <p>In the afternoon 'B' Coy commanded by Maj Tinniswood gave a demonstration of an Inf Coy attacking a strong point with Crocodiles and SP guns in support. The remainder of the Brigade watched the demonstration. Flying bombs pass over the Bn area at one in every ten minutes.</p> <p>Six reinforcements arrived (Border Regt) and were posted to "B" Company.</p> <p>Weather - fair (DRY)</p>	AJMBrown CWPR
TILBURG 171314	2	I II	<p>Coys spent the forenoon training as follows:- House clearing & practice with Kangaroos; Use of mortar smoke & Practice with the new Tabby equipment. The CO attended a conference at Bde HQ at 0930 hours. An inter company drill competition was held in the afternoon and a very high standard was set. A Company commanded by Maj Malony won with a margin of 4 points. The Brigadier paid a visit during the competition. Night operations were carried out by A and B Company (house clearing). Two carriers went to workshops to be fitted with "wasps".</p> <p>Weather - dry - windy</p>	AJMB CWPR
TILBURG 171314	3	I	<p>The day was observed as a holiday from training, but Companies took advantage of the time to straighten out their Order of Battle. "B" Company spent ½ hour with the Kangaroos.</p> <p>All Officers attended a cloth model exercise at Bde HQ. Reps from 79 Armd Div and Mx & Sps were present. The CO gave out his plan for Ex "VERITABLE" and various points re supporting arms were discussed. The Gren Gds rep arrived at 1300 to co-ordinate with the CO.</p> <p>A draft of 16 rfmts arrived and were attached to HQ. These men will be LOB in Ex "VERITABLE".</p> <p>In the afternoon the Bn played the RS at football and won by 5-3.</p>	

		II	to check if any new pts had arisen owing to the fact that the weather had created a problem. Weather - wet	AJMBrown CWPR
NIJMEGEN	8	I	The Bn plus supporting arms stood by waiting for orders to move. CO & IO went forward behind 46 Bde with the Bde 'O' Group. On receipt of codeword the Breaching Force which included 'C' Company moved east at 2100. The Bn moved at 2200 hrs east towards S.L. The CO joined the column at the Assembly Area. Column moved throughout the night towards FRASSELT with the aid of movement light. The condition of the roads was bad and this made going very difficult. The QM with A Ech remained at NIJMEGEN.	
		II	Weather - dry all day - rain in evening	AJMB CWPR
OUTSKIRTS CLEVE 875555	9	I	The column continued to proceed and at 0645 a lane was reported clear, the Bn then crossed the SL and advanced in Kangaroos towards objective, which was SCHOTTHEIDE. On route to SL the German border was crossed. C Coy had breached the A/T ditch and B D & A attacked objectives successfully. Coys took up defensive position round the village. Prisoners collected amounted to 9 offrs and 204 ORs. Our own casualties approx 10. Orders were received from Bde at 1230 that we had to move at 1330 to secure the HINGSTBERG feature Sq. 8455. Bn formed up in Kangaroos with in support tanks, Crocodiles & SPs and proceeded through Nutterden to objective. Reports recd showed that no enemy were our side of CLEVE so Bn went direct to attack feature 8755. This was carried out against greater opposition but Coys estd themselves on feature, taking quite a number of PW. The Boche reacted very strongly during the night with patrols, one infiltrating into 'C' Coy area 878558, who immediately drove them out. At 2015 a patrol about 12 strong infiltrated into Mx posn and overran this posn, knocking out 3 guns. 1 PW was captured by B Coy in a slit trench in Coy area with a wireless set.	
		II	Weather - fair	AJMB CWPR
875555	10	I	The Brigadier arrived in the morning and went round Bn area. Slight shelling during morning. Warning order was recd that we may have to move to CLEVE not before 1400. Coys warned to be ready. CO called to 'O' Gp at Bde at 1230. Bn 'O' Gp assembled 1400 & CO gave out orders for attack on CLEVE. B Coy to clear feature junct of co-ords 8855 at 1700 hrs today & then return to their present location. Carriers, pioneers & cooks arrived at Bn HQ at 1600 hrs. B Coy reached objective at 1740 hrs & found it clear of enemy but a few enemy dead lying about. D Coy brought in 8 PW at 1750. The night was uneventful.	

		II	Weather - fair	AJMB CWPR
CLEVE 892551	11	I	At 0325 hrs Bde passed message that LO was on way with orders. LO did not arrive until approx 0430 hrs. Orders recd cancel previous order to attack CLEVE and that we were to move direct to CLEVE at 0830 hrs and take over from 129 Bde - 43 Div. As LO was late timings were put back 1½ hrs. Recce party proceeded to 129 Bde HQ at 887556 at 0645 but was ambushed by enemy patrol & shot up. There was a certain amount of confusion as to location of own & enemy tps. Recce party returned & proceeded on tanks and approx 180 Boche surrendered. Coys moved at 1000 hrs and arrived in the western outskirts of Cleve at 1200 hrs. The Bn was superimposed on the WILTSHIRE REGT of 43 Div. The Bn took up a defensive posn in this area and sent patrols out during the night to the N and centre of the town and towards the canal, reporting no sign of enemy. The Kangaroos, Crocodiles & Sqn Gren Gds ceased to come under our command.	
		II	Weather - wet	AJMB CWPR
AM CLEVE 892551 PM 877552	12	I	The Bde is being relieved by 7 Bde 3 CON DIV. Recce parties moved off under 2i/c at 0730 to recce billet area as Bde is going into Corps reserve. Brigadier arrived at 0815 and gave information to CO. Coys ordered to be ready to move from 1400. Coys moved to reserve area independently from 1430 hrs and completely evacuated CLEVE by 1545. Bn estd in new area by 1630 hrs, having dug defensive posns. All Coys were located in billets and will probably remain in this location for 48 hrs. Time to be spent in re-organising & admin & rest.	
		II	Weather - wet	AJMB CWPR
877552	13	I	At 1 hours notice to move wef 0700 hrs. We are now under command of 43 Div. Warning order recd. CO and IO proceeded to 43 Div HQ at 878543 to meet Brig. CO held 'O' Group for Coy Cdrs & supporting arms 1130. We have to be prepared to counter attack area xrds 886536 - xrds 883538 - CLOISTER 878544 with in support One Sqn 4 Gren Gds, [4 Pl] B Coy 1 Mx & Tp 243 A/Tk. Infm received from Bde that we may not be used to morrow but may have to assist 43 Div.	
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR
877552	14	I	Put at one hours notice to move from 1200 hrs. Cancelled at 1100 hrs. Not now likely to move before 1200 hrs, 15th. Not now at an hours notice. Coys ran sports during the afternoon. The area was bombed at 1630 hours. The CO presented Pte Zaccarini "Sp" Company with the C-in-C's Award for Gallantry.	
		II	Weather - good	AJMB CWPR

			2330 hrs B & D Coys went in to objectives on re-organised plan. B Coy on foot advancing slowly against stiff opposition but taking several PW. 'D' Coy advanced in Kangaroos and de-pouched when across anti tank ditch. They proceeded and secured objective without much opposition. 'C' Coy remained in area of Bn HQ.	AJMB AESJ
911445	19	I	Companies are now estd as follows: D - area 912441 - 913441; B - area 918440 - 917437; A moving through D Coy to secure 912436. Tanks reported to Bn HQ at 0630 hrs and 1 Troop was sent to B Coy & 1 Tp to A & 1 Tp to D. 0900 A Coy secured xrds 913436. 'C' Coy to be passed through A Coy to secure ground to river. Plan formed Coy to be assisted by tanks and Crocodiles. C Coy crossed START LINE at 1300. Area cleared by 1720 hours. Patrol sent forward to river during the night to report of bridges but reported blown. Objectives now completely taken & Coys firmly established.	AJMB AESJ
		II	Weather - fair	AJMB AESJ
911445	20	I	Coys remained in present locations; to have maximum rest. Heavy shelling throughout the day. CO held a co-ordinating DEFENCE Conference at 1415 hrs. CO received a personal letter of congratulations for the good job the Bn had done to secure its objectives. B Coy sent a standing patrol to 922437. Mortars and MMG used to put down harassing fire in area square 9242.	AJMB AESJ
		II	Weather - misty	AJMB Brown AESJ
911445	21	I	Quiet night, slight small arms fire in 'C' Company area; no shelling. CO to RV at Bde at 1115 for instructions. CO O Gp 1515 hrs. The CO outlined the intention for attack on woods NE of WEEZE. Attack may take place in two days time. Bn visited by the Div Comd & Bde Comd.	AJMB AESJ
		II	Weather - good	AJMB AESJ
911445	22	I	Monmouths were superimposed on our area and took over our operational commitments. CO went to recce area for forming up the Battalion. CO attended a Brigadiers 'O' Gp at 1615 hours. Bn 'O' Gp was held at 2000 hrs and orders were given out for the attack on enemy positions in the wooded area NE of WEEZE. Bn to be prepared to move at first light.	AJMB AESJ
		II	Weather - good	AJMB AESJ
942414	23	I	Bn moved to FAA in square 9344 at 0630 hrs. CO held a co-ordinating conference at 0700. Main Bn HQ estd 936441 by 0830 hours; Coys moved from FAA to FUP at 0920; B & D passing START LINE at 1014 to attack wood 939412. Progress was slow as shelling was heavy. Objectives taken by 1222 hours. C & A Coys then passed through to attack right hand side of woods in area 940404 which was cleared to southern edge by 1317. A considerable number of PW were taken, shelling being very	

			heavy. Forward company reported enemy inf & tanks at 948395. This was dealt with effectively by SHELLDRAKE. Bn took up a firm position in area secured, Bn HQ having been established at 942414. A patrol was sent out by Carrier Platoon to farm 936401 and then to wood at 936396. Weather - fair	AJMB AESJ
942414	24	I II	Carrier Pl sent a patrol to wood 935395 to harass enemy on other side of river. They had a very profitable day claiming 16 certain hits. Bde Comd visited the Bn at 0830 hrs. Enemy smoke screen put down in area 944394 at 0930 hrs. Probable enemy counter attack. 4" mortars & arty dealt with effectively. Bde being relieved by 3 Br Inf Div tomorrow. Bn moving to rest area at TILBURG. Guides met recce party from 8 Br Inf Bde at 1400. CO & IO of S LAN R reced posns during afternoon. Weather - fair	AJMB AESJ
942414 Harbour Area 9346	25	I II	A Coy sent out a recce patrol to wood in sq. 925395. Coy reps & recce parties from S LAN R arrived at 0945. CO held 'O' Gp at 1200 hrs to give out orders for move to concentration area. Harbour recce parties went off at 1200 hrs. Bn was completely relieved by 2200 hrs and concentrated in harbour area 9346. Move Order for move to rest area issued 2330 hrs. Weather - wet	AJMB AESJ
9346 AM	26	I	Bn moved in convoy to at 0900 hrs, arriving at destination at 1415 hrs to harbour in this area one night prior to moving to Turnhout. Troops were allowed to walk out.	
TURNHOUT 1/100,000 BELGIUM- NE FRANCE SHEET 3 Map Ref 0506	27	I	Bn moved by MT to Bde rest area in TURNHOUT, arriving approx 1400 hrs. The Bn was billeted in schools and the officers in civilian houses.	JRPB AESJ
TURNHOUT	28	I	The day was spent in administration. The CO inspected all personnel who had joined the Bn since it had been in the line during the last ops ☉ A further draft of 39 ORs arrived. These were mainly men from the Border Regt. At a Coy Comds conference the outline of the Bn activities during the rest period was announced. The main points were as follows:- All MT to be thoroughly overhauled; trg to be carried out between 0900 hrs and 1330 hrs, particular attention being given to woodland fighting; assault crossings; night work (each coy to do two night exercises); drill; WT and shooting. It is hoped that every man	

		in the Bn will be able to have 48 hrs leave in BRUSSELS during the rest period.	JRPB AESJ
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