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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 7/9TH (HIGHRS)_BN THE ROYAL SCOTS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year APRIL 1945

Commanding Officer Lt-Col J G DAWSON

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
GR BURLO A 3468	1		Bn arrived in GR BURLO at 0930 approx by MT route from HAFFEN ☉ Bde Comd visited ☉ All male civs of mil age detained and questioned, eight being evac to PW cage	
AHLE A 5389	2		Colour parties left for area AHLE 5389 ☉ Bn left by MT route at 1600 hrs, arriving at AHLE at 2100 approx, and were placed at 1 hrs notice from 030800	
Area V 958058	3		Colour parties moved off at 1030 hrs approx and main bodies at 1215 for conc area V 8704 ☉ Bn, as part of 155 Inf Bde Gp, came under comd 7 Armd Div w.e.f. 0500 hrs ☉ CO left in adv of main body to meet Bde Comd in area BIRGTE V 9505 ☉ Orders received for relief of 2 DEVONS (7 Armd Div) in area 9506 same evening, and for an attack EASTWARDS on 4 Apr to clear enemy pockets from high ground overlooking main axis south of IBENBUREN 9808 ☉ Main body marched from 907062 and relief complete by 2200 hrs. CO again visited Bde for final details for attack on 4 Apr.	
Area V 975060	4		Leading coys (C right, A left) crossed Bn SL at 0710 hrs, and reached objectives 966064 and 975065 respectively, by 0815 without opposition ☉ D Coy passed through to high ground 973059 and B Coy moved to area 973070 without incident ☉ 6 HLI passed through the bn at 0900 hrs, and after some steady fighting, during which D Coy became involved with small pockets of snipers, bn moved fwd to EAST side of main axis in area 9706 ☉ D Coy were later detached for close defence of br at 953054 ☉ 5 PW taken during day	
	5		Round up of civs and interrogation during morning ☉ 71 Bde (53(W) Div) passed through at 2100 hrs for attack on IBENBUREN 9808 ☉ Orders received for move on 6 Apr	
DIELINGEN W 4127	6		Bn moved by march route to area 995032, and thence by MT route in Bde gp coln to area DIELINGEN W 4127 arriving 2300 hrs onwards	
	7		CO visited Bde at 0730 hrs and Tac 7 Armd Div at SULINGEN W 7254 during morning and early afternoon ☉ Orders received late afternoon for attack during following day on KORNAU 4852 and BARNSTORF 5257 ☉ B and C Coys with Tac HQ moved to conc area	

			DIEPHOLZ W 4245 2100 hrs ☉ Remainder of Bn ordered up at 2200 hrs ☉	
JAKOBIDREBBER W 4650	8		H-hr previously fixed for 0300 hrs postponed to 0430 hrs owing to late arrival of rest of bn and lack of comn to RA ☉ Carrier Pl, B and C Coys gained objectives without incident, finding northern br in KORNAU 4852 blown but southern br intact ☉ RE having estimated that new br would take until 1300 hrs, Carrier Pl ordered to recce alternative route ☉ Br was found intact at 472529 for lt tfc, and adv was continued by this route ☉ Carriers reported br at 493538 and B Coy moved up to secure brhead, C Coy remaining at KORNAU as firm base and RE br party protection ☉ D Coy then passed through, with objective br at 505558, while carriers patrolled area DREEKE 5153 and DUSTE 5353 ☉ All brs in this area were found blown ☉ D Coy met some opposn in wooded area 5055, but made their way through wood slowly ☉ Carriers returned from patrol with some PW, and were ordered to op WEST of main rd in sp D Coy ☉ Br at 505558 captured intact, and D Coy reported enemy retiring in some confusion ☉ A Coy had meanwhile come up to sp D Coy on right ☉ Carriers and D Coy closely pursued the enemy and made a forceful entry into BARNSTORF, with the enemy completely routed, at 1530 hrs ☉ The pursuit was continued by one sec of carriers on to the high ground 5158 ☉ The br at 520573 was found to be destroyed, but the local burgomaster guided our tps to a br intact further EAST ☉ The bn, less C Coy, consolidated in BARNSTORF by 1730 hrs, C Coy remaining as br protection party at KORNAU ☉ The carrier pl patrolled towards BASSUM 6672, and contacted elts of 5 DG and 9 DLI in area 5560 ☉ Total cas own tps during day were 2 killed and 8 wounded, with 1 offr and 1 OR of 354 A/Tk Bty RA killed when their carrier went up on a mine at 500548 ☉ Total PW counted amounted to 2 offr and 107 O.R.'s. CO was called to Bde O Gp at 2145 hrs for orders for move on following day	
BARNSTORF W 5257				
SYKE 7380	9		CO left at 0730 with recce parties to meet Bde Comd at VILSEN 8370 ☉ Orders received there to take over from 2 DEVONS in area THEDINGHAUSEN 8685 and WULMSTORF 9183 ☉ Orders cancelled at 1300 hrs, and recce parties proceeded to new area of 2 DEVONS at SYKE 7380 ☉ Bn moved by MT at 1530 hrs and relief completed by 2100 hrs	
	10		Quiet day on bn front ☉ Bde Comd visited	
	11		Bn relieved during late afternoon by 2 WARWICKS (3 Brit Div) and proceeded by MT route to conc area STEYERBURG 8742 ☉ During	

			relief area came under cannon fire from own TYPHOONS ☉ No cas ☉ Relief complete 1945 hrs and bn conc in new area by 2145 hrs	
STEYERBURG 8742	12		Orders received during day to move to new conc area EAST of R WESER ☉ Colour parties left 1630 hrs and main body at 1830 hrs by MT route ☉ Bn arrived GADESUNDEN 0458 at 2000 hrs	
GADESUNDEN 0458	13		Bn in conc area with no commitments	
	14		Orders received by CO at 2200 hrs for RV for orders at 4 Armd Bde. HQ est area 1468 at 150700	
	15		Bde Comd issued orders at 0800 for bn to move up main axis as soon as 22 Armd Bde was clear, for mopping up op between ALTENWAHLINGEN 1468 and BOHME 1767 ☉ CO called up O Gp, which arrived at 1030 hrs ☉ Bn arrived at 1600 hrs, debussing at ALTENWAHLINGEN and moving fwd at 1700 hrs in approach to contact fmn, D Coy leading ☉ No organised opposn was met, but some shots were fired towards stragglers and 1 offr and 1 NCO from II Bn, 6 Marine Regt were picked up en route ☉ Objective finally consolidated at 1930 hrs ☉ Own tps no cas ☉ Enemy 1 dead and 1 offr and 10 OR additional PW found hiding in village ☉ Carriers patrolled to ALTENBOITZEN 2070 to contact 6 HLI and to BIERDE 1966 ☉ Civs reported that the enemy had left the latter village shortly before our arrival	
BOHME 1767	16		Bn moved during morning to conc area KIRCHBOITZEN 1872 and was placed at 1 hrs notice to move. Immediate award was notified of the M.M. to Pte. REASON, W., of D Coy ☉ Adv parties left at 1830 hrs for WALSRÖDE 2575 area	
KIRCHBOITZEN 1872	17		Bn moved at 0900 for conc area VIERDE 3478 ☉ CO received orders at Bde for attack on SOLTAU 4189 ☉ 5 DG (22 Armd Bde) were placed under comd for the op, which started from VIERDE at 1215 hrs, with the recce sqn 5 DG, followed by A Coy riding on C Sqn tks ☉ No opposition was met until the leading recce tk was hit at 387872 by a 75mm gun firing from 388875 ☉ A Coy proceeded to clean up the area, while C Coy riding on B Sqn 5 DG, proceeded to SOLTAU on a bypass route to the right ☉ Both coys reported that they were entering the town at 1930 hrs approx ☉ CO ordered a tighter consolidation in the centre of the town, instead of the complete occupation which had already been ordered ☉ These orders failed to reach the platoon comd of C Coy leading pl, who continued to his original objective, and met some opposition in the area of an allied PW camp at 421903 ☉ Own cas in this encounter were 2 OR's killed and 1 offr (Lt E. BURTON) and 2 OR's wounded ☉ By 2330 hrs the bn was firmly est in the centre of SOLTAU, after a slight	

			battle in the centre of the town, where 3 snipers and 1 enemy with a Pzfaust caused some delay	
SOLTAU 4189	18		During the night a recce patrol on foot went fwd as far as 422952 to find out the state of rds and brs, and to contact 11 Hussars who were believed to be in the area of the br at 420937 ☉ The patrol did not contact them, but as a result of this recce, the main axis through SOLTAU was workable by first light ☉ At first light coys pushed on to their original objectives, taking a total of 9 offrs and 234 OR's for the entire op, and capturing intact 1 S.P. 88mm gun ☉ During the afternoon the carrier pl attempted to mop up an enemy pocket on the rly line at 4290, but considerable opposn was met, and the attempt discontinued at 2000 hrs ☉	
	19		C Coy moved out at first light in an attempt to clean up the enemy pocket, but it was soon discovered that the opposition was well organised and much more numerous than had been supposed ☉ At 1500 hrs the attempt was again abandoned ☉ Own cas were 2 killed and 2 wounded, though enemy cas were estimated at at least 8 killed and 5 wounded ☉ Orders were received during the afternoon that the bn, as part of 155 Inf Bde Gp, would be relieved during the night by 160 Bde (53(W) Div) ☉ Pipe band played during morning in SOLTAU	
VERDEN 0081	20		Adv parties of 4 WELCH arrived at midnight and main bodies at 0230 hrs ☉ Relief was completed by 0330 ☉ Bn moved at 0800 by MT route to VERDEN 0081 to a conc area, arriving at 1100 hrs approx, reverting under comd 52(L) Div.	
	21		Orders received for attack through 156 Bde on USEN 8890 and eastern part of ACHIM 8791 ☉ Bn moved off at 1700 for conc area ETELSEN 9289 in Kangaroos	
ETELSEN 9289 USEN 8890	22		Bn moved off in Kangaroos, with B and D Coys leading on double axis, crossing the SL at 0400 ☉ B Coy reported USEN 8890 clear at 0505, and Bn gained objectives with little opposn and 244 PW, at 0610 hrs ☉ Some slight shelling by 88mm flak gun, and a few 105mm shells during day	
MAHNDORF 8194	23 24		Orders received for attack on MAHNDORF 8194 ☉ Bn moved off in Kangaroos at 1630 hrs, but while en route, bn was ordered to halt, H-hr having been postponed until 2230 hrs owing to hy daylight shelling ☉ H-hr was eventually fixed for 2230 hrs ☉ B and C Coys reported their objectives (the high ground to the SOUTH of the village) cleared by 0030 hrs and A and D Coys reported on objectives 801943 and 809946 respectively by 0345 hrs ☉ Some delay was caused by aerial 500-lb bombs which were buried in the roads, and 1 Crocodile, 1 AVRE, and 1 6pdr gun and tractor were	

		lost ☉ Mopping up continued during the day and 59 PW were taken ☉ C Coy, after some difficulty, cleared up an enemy pocket at 813948, own cas for the op amounted to 9 OR's killed and 3 offrs (MAJOR R.H.B. JOHNSON, CAPT J.W. MARSH and Lt M.W. ORTON) and 14 OR's wounded ☉ Shelling from 88mm flak guns and 105mm guns was particularly hy during day.	
BROKSt 7397	25	Orders received for an attack on one of the BREMEN sectors, later confirmed as ORANGE sector (bounded on the NORTH by the main rly, on the SOUTH by R WESER, on the EAST by the VERDENERSTRASSE and on the WEST by the ALTSTADT and REMBERSTRASSE) ☉ CO visited HQ 4/5 RSF (156 Bde) in BREMEN during the afternoon, and bn moved in Kangaroos, with 2 tps of tanks and a half sqn of Crocodiles, at 1630 hrs ☉ Bn passed through 4/5 RSF on a double axis at 1845 hrs, and B and D Coys reported objectives 739984 and 737979 reached without opposition by 1910 hrs ☉ B Coy later reported a small enemy pocket on the rly, which withdrew when engaged with fire ☉ A and C Coys reached objectives 730988 and 730981 by 2030 hrs; clearing of houses near coy firm base areas was begun and 4 KOSB passed through at 2100 hrs approx to NILE sector ☉ PW came in at a steady rate, and two of the city police were found who stated that a telephone line was still in op to police HQ in the enemy-held part of the town ☉ The Chief of Police was contacted and negotiations entered into, but these broke down at 0300 hrs, when the Chief of Police stated that Gen BECKER, the garrison comd, who, with his staff, was in a bunker in the BURGERPARK at 733998, had refused to come to the telephone and would have nothing to do with the British ☉ The area of the bunker was engaged with arty and mortars ☉ During the night two sentries of B Coy who had been posted at the rly bridge at 740987 were reported missing ☉ These later returned, having been liberated by 43 Div.	
	26	A small party of enemy infiltrated into A Coy area at 0830, and one tk was reported hit by a Pzfaust ☉ The situation was quickly restored, and B Coy and Carrier Pl of 6 HLI were placed under comd to assist in the garrison of the area ☉ By midday the sector had been completely searched and cleared; total PW numbered 22 offrs and 541 OR's, and the Carriers reported that they had captured the City standard ☉ 43 Div on right flank were contacted at 1530 hrs	
	27	Civ checking continued ☉ CO visited Bde in the evening for orders for taking over another sector of the town from 43 Div	

	28	GOC visited bn and addressed an all ranks parade in the BREMEN SPORTSPALAST at 1000 hrs, which was followed by a march past ☉ Pipe band was in attendance - the first band to play in BREMEN. Colour parties visited proposed new bn area in the NW suburb of the town.	
722011	29	CO and reps from the bn attended Div Church Parade Bn took over area in NW of BREMEN from 5 WILTS (43(W) Div) ☉ Complete in new area by 1700 hrs ☉ Local patrols by night	
	30	Patrol of one pl from D Coy ordered out to piquet rd jct 731015 at midday ☉ Further pl standing patrols ordered out at 1845 hrs to 739014 (to relieve 4 KOSB), 725015 and 719013 ☉ Patrols found from C and Sp Coys and MMG Pl 7 MANCH respectively. Following promotions and inter-coy transfers were announced:- CAPT W.E. SCOTT to be MAJ and OC A Coy (vice MAJ RHB JOHNSON) LT D.J. MALLAGH to be CAPT and 2i/c A Coy (vice CAPT JW MARSH) LT J McVIE to be CAPT (vice WE SCOTT)	JG Dawson Lt-Col