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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 4TH BN. K.O.S.B.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Commanding Officer LT COL C.L. MELVILLE

Month and Year OCTOBER 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
WOODHALL SPA	2	0900 1200	291900 Sitrep recd. Int Report 30 Sep " 301900 Sitrep, and Int. Report to 011000 recd)) See Appces 1,2,3 & 4.) GWH
	3	0900	301200 Sitrep recd late.	See Appx 5.
	3 to 6		Div Skeleton Ex HALFALOAF - to practice the efficiency of signal commn whilst on Airtn basis. Maj RAE and I.O. represented Bn HQ.	GWH
	7	1300 1700 2245	All leave cancelled - personnel on leave recalled. 071000 Sitrep recd Cipher message : Bn on 6 hours' notice to move wef 090100 to a Marshalling Area. Coys ordered to be loaded up by 081830 - on 3 hrs' notice from 082359	See Appx 6. GWH
	8	2130	C.O. attended Bde Cmd 'O' Gp.	GWH
	9	0900 1000 1630	071200 Sitrep and Intrep recd C.O.'s "O" Gp - Fresh op being prepared. Div NOT now airtptd, but concentrating for a sea assault, destination and role unknown. Kit and order of "Fly-in" remains same as for Airtn role. 155 Bde likely to move 10 Oct. Op known as Exercise WHOLEMEAL Bn notified no move before 110600	See Appces 7 & 8 GWH
	10	1430 1745 1800 1930	C.O. attended Bde "O" Gp. 2nd Army Order of Battle, 155 Bde Gp Int Summary No.2 recd C.O.'s "O" Gp : Outline Div plan now seems to be that units move to Marshalling Area in four echelons :- I Personnel II Jeep & Trailer III Carriers IV 3-Tonners. On disembarking on Continent, Div will conc to allow units reorganise whilst small dets will be sent fwd into battle zones to build up picture of present type fighting etc. Destination still unknown. II Ech prepare to move as from 110600 under Lt ALEXANDER ; I Ech probably pm 13 or am 14 Oct. I.O. issued Ops Maps to Coys	See Appces 9 & 10 GWH
	11	1045 1630	081200 & 091200 Sitreps recd Complete Bn placed on 12 hrs notice to move as from 1545 hrs.	See Appces 11 & 12 GWH
	12		101200 Sitrep recd : 52 Div passes from cmd FAA to cmd 21 Army Gp.	GWH - Appx 13
WOODHALL	13	1030	C.O.'s 'O' Gp : further admin details thrashed out : Bn changing to	

SPA		1800	W.E. of normal Inf Div, but retains mountain kit and airborne tpt. I.O. drew maps to cover move from Port of Disembarkation to Div Conc Area. No move for Bn before 16 Oct.	GWH
	14	0700-	1st G.H. and 7/9 R.S. moved to their respective Marshalling Areas.	GWH
	16	1400	Warning Movement Order & timings recd. C.O. held Advance Conf for 'O' Gp	
TRANSIT CAMP SOUTHAMPTON	17	0330	Main Body Personnel Ech (HQ, SP, B & C Coys) entrained at WOODHALL SPA.	
		1355	" " " " arrived FAREHAM and proceeded to Transit Camp	A/17.
		0750	Remainder " " (A and D Coys) entrained WOODHALL SPA	
		1700	" " " " arrived FAREHAM, thence to Transit Camp A/17.	GWH
	18	0730	Bn moved in TCV's from Transit Camp to SOUTHAMPTON DOCKS, arriving there 0830 hrs.	
		1030	Bn embarked on LSI(H) The LADY OF MANN, along with 241 Coy RE and 355 Lt AA R.A.	
		1200	Ship sailed and made way down to Convoy RV.	
		2045	Convoy sailed for OSTEND ; weather gale force 9 / fairly rough seas ; sickness remarkably limited.	GWH
	19	1030	Dropped anchor 3 miles out from OSTEND to await favourable tide.	
		1430	Seas too heavy to enter harbour which is rendered difficult by sunken German block ships.	
		1600	Convoy turned about and made for sheltered ENGLISH waters.	
		2100	Cast anchor off RAMSGATE where convoy waited during night.	GWH
OSTEND	20	0815	Convoy sailed once more for OSTEND ; sea very much calmer.	
		1430	Bn commenced disembarking, met by guides from 7/9 R.S. ; Bn marched to No 60 Transit Camp, an ex-German barracks ; C.O. & I.O. meantime recd orders for Conc Area by Acting GI Div.	
		1600	Bn Adv Party under 2i/c left for Conc Area.	GWH
VIVE ST ELOI	21	0845	Bn left Transit Camp in TCV's, except small Rear Party under Sgt Gray, Mor Pl who were left in charge of Bn cycles and handcarts.	
		1205	Main Body arrived Conc Area, met by Adv Party in VIVE ST ELOI (H9665)	
		1200	Tps billeted mainly with civilians. Task of settling in rendered easy by the wonderful hospitality of the townspeople. Local language Flemish, but intercourse by use of French and English.	
			Owing to the fact that a few collaborators and disguised Germans still in area, certain routine security measures taken :- (1) All ranks carry personal wpns charged at all times, (2) No soldier permitted to walk anywhere alone, (3) Double sentries posted on all HQ's by night, (4) One pl, strength 1 offr 30 O.R.'s detailed daily as Bn Inlying Picquet, (5) All ranks to be in billets by 2230 hrs.	GWH
	22	1700	SP Coy moved from unsatisfactory billets to VIVE ST BAVON (H9170)	GWH
	24	0900	Coy Cmds & Spec Pl Cmds inspected Atlantic Wall at OSTEND.	

		1500	Jeep and 3 tonner Ech under LT CARTNER arrived VIVE ST ELOI. Ech embarked TILBURY on 22 Oct and sailed in L.S.T.2, beaching near OSTEND on 23 Oct - completely off-loaded by 2300 hrs. Ech staged at 60 Transit Camp 23/24 Oct, and arrived VIVE ST ELOI 1500 hrs.	
		2325	Stray shot fired near area M.T. Compound - no damage done - local opinion holds that shot fired by collaborator or German probably from area ZULTE	GWH
	25	1500	C.O. left Bn HQ to meet Cmd 1st Canadian Army at GHENT.	
	26	0900	Bn recce party under 2i/c to KLEIT - took over billets from 6 H.L.I.	
		0900	C.O. gave O Gp prelim briefing on imminent Op - INFATUATE I. 2/Lt J. DUHAMEL, late Belgian Army and Underground Army became attached to Bn HQ - to be employed for interpreting duties and liaison with civil population.	GWH
	27	0800	Move to KLEIT (J.0296) of Bn Adv Party.	
		1230	" " " " Main Body, arriving 1600 hrs.	
		0800	C.O., I.O. to Tac Bde HQ at BRUGES - present at following Confs. a) Bde Cmd & Cmd 4 Commando - Commando plan outlined and tied up with proposed 155 plan. b) Bde Cmd, BM, C.O., I.O. : details 4 KOSB plan discussed. c) As in b, + Cmd R.N. Gp : L.C.A. plan decided upon.	GWH
KLEIT	28	1300	C.O. & I.O. to HQ 4 Commando at DE HAAN (C.7307). Further details mutual sp discussed. Met Capt A. THORBURN, ex I.O. of this Bn, who will be leading Commando Tp Cmd in coming operation.	
		1600	C.O. & I.O. to Bde Tac HQ. C.O. outlined Bn plan - details of Sp Arms agreed upon.	GWH
		1830	C.O.'s O Gp - Bn plan outlined to Coy Comds for attack on FLUSHING - issue of 1/10,000 Town Plans - sector objectives given. Broad outline of Op : Combined Op against FLUSHING launched from BRESKENS - Commando touch down 0545 hrs 1 Nov and seize the Southern part of town as bridgehead - 4 KOSB pass through and capture northern half. Bombing plan : 500 Hy Bombers on town during 48 hour period up to H-15. Arty : 282 pieces incl Fd, Med, Hy and Super Hy take over from H-15, thence as called upon. Sp Arms : 241 Fd Coy R.E., 452 Mtn Bty R.A., 4 Pl (4.2 Mor) A Coy 7 Manch, 2 Bearer Secs 155 Fd Amb.	GWH
	29	1100	C.O. briefed all offr. I.O. visited Sp Arms to obtain numbers for Adv Parties.	
		1500	4.2 Mor Pl Cmd visited HQ - details of Mor sp decided.	
		1530	Additional Bearer Sec under Lt JONES arrived from 155 Fd Amb.	
		1600	Four F.O.O. parties arrived from 110 and 61 Fd Regts.	
		1550	O.C. 452 Mtn Bty visited HQ - Adv parties, F.O.O.'s, possible targets arranged.	

		1730 1800- 2230	C.O.'s 'O' Gp - further details mostly admin discussed. C.O., I.O., S.O. worked out exact details of LCA loads and flights. [2000 hrs. Bde Int Smy No 3 recd - no copy available for records]	GWH
	30	0900 1730 2145	'O' Gp visited BRESKENS - recced area for conc night 31/10. Visibility poor so very little of FLUSHING seen. C.O. & I.O. to Bde Tac HQ - Canadians into WALCHEREN with objective EAST part of FLUSHING - if successful, bombing programme off - but 4 Commando & 4 KOSB carry out original plan. C.O.'s 'O' Gp - Admin orders for move 1000 hrs 31 Nov.	[Bde Admin Instrs recd - no copy available] GWH
	31	0045	Order from Bde to move 0900 hrs to BRESKENS [Remaining entries will be incl in War Diary for NOV.] C.L. Melville Lt. Col.	