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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 1st Bn K.O.S.B.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year April 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. W.F.R. Turner

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Field.	1		Another day of rest. Easter Sunday was celebrated with a Church Parade for all denominations at 1030 hrs and then a march past with the Pipe Band in attendance. Brigadier G.D. Renny took the salute. There were Holy Communion Services at 1130 hrs and 1200 hrs for members of the Church of Scotland and the Church of England respectively. In the afternoon Brigadier G.D. Renny came to say goodbye to the Bn before going to take over 156 Bde in 52nd Division. Brigadier J.S. Kempster came as our Brigadier.	
	2		During the morning preparations were made for the move in our role as L of C protection for 30 Corps. At 1400 hrs advance parties left for GROENLO in HOLLAND. The Bn left with the Bde convoy at 2100 hrs arriving some two hours later. The Bn task was to protect the exits from GROENLO to the NORTH which was done with three companies forward and one company in reserve. It was a peaceful though damp night.	
	3		A quiet morning. At 1200 hrs advance parties left for ENSCHEDE, where we took over the NORTHERN exits of the town, with the 2 RUR on the Right. The Bn arrived shortly after 1800 hrs and was settled in by last light in the positions left by 2 R. WARWICK Regt. A quiet and peaceful night.	
	4		At 0630 hrs advance parties left for the area between LINGEN and NORDHORN. The Bn left soon after 0900 hrs, arriving in the concentration area at 1300 hrs. Positions were as follows - Bn HQ 621345, Coys at 623344, 622343, 629345 and 642345. Meanwhile 185 Bde had put in a dawn attack across the DORTMUND - EMS Canal and were fighting the GROSSDEUTSCHELAND SS Bn in LINGEN. Just after midnight the 2 LINCOLNS were directed through the 185 Bde to help to firm up the bridgehead and progress was extremely slow and difficult in the dark.	
Field.	5		A plan was made during the morning for 2/Lincs to close up to the line of the railway at 717355 and for us to pass through and hold the Southern approaches to the town. Accordingly by 1230 hrs the Bn was concentrated in the area 712370 and the attack started at 1500 hrs. Few	

		<p>enemy were encountered and there was spasmodic shelling. Ten P.W. were taken and one Officer P.W. wounded on a patrol. Final positions were Bn HQ 714358 and Coys at 714347, 717347, 723347, 717353. During the afternoon a patrol of "B" Coy went out on carriers down main road to 714358 where they were effectively halted by S.A. and Mortar fire. One P.W. was brought in during the night. All P.W. taken knew nothing of what was really happening and a large percentage of them were under 20 years old.</p>	
	6.	<p>A carrier patrol went down the line of the canal towards the railway bridge but were finally stopped by MG and Mortar fire from the farm at 715344. During the afternoon "B" Coy moved down to 719345 which had been found empty by patrols in the morning. They were withdrawn at 1800 hrs as an Arty fire plan was to be executed on the wood just to the East. At 1900 hrs the Bn was relieved by one Bn 185 Bde and moved to concentration area 715356. At 2100 hrs after Arty barrage the Bn moved down and occupied the position PEACH in area 6924 astride main road.</p>	
	7.	<p>At first light the 2/Lincolns passed through and occupied the area, then the R.U.R. went through and captured the proposed canal and the high ground immediately SOUTH of it. During the afternoon the Bn went through on tanks and armd carriers but were held up by 37m.m. A.A. fire from ESTRINGEN. One carrier of the Advanced Guard was damaged but the crew got back. "A" Coy attempted to attack but were unsuccessful. MAJOR F. HOLDEN and several O.R.s were wounded. A Bn attack was laid on with fire support and went in about 1800 hrs, and was immediately successful. The Bn took 6 (six) Offrs and 118 (One Hundred and Eighteen) O.Rs. P.W. and captured at least 10 (Ten) and possibly as many as 15 (Fifteen) enemy 37 m.m. A.A. Guns intact, a FLAK COY practically complete. "B" Coy sent patrols as far as 746296. At 2000 hrs the 2nd Lincolns moved in and occupied ESTRINGEN and the Bn went to ROTTUM protecting the left flank. Patrols during the night went as far as the main road.</p>	
	8	<p>The Div came under command 1st Corps, the Bn moved from the LINGEN area at about 2130 hrs in TCVs and travelled at night to an area NORTH of OSNABRUCK.</p>	
	9	<p>Most of the Bn had arrived in the area WERBLECK 648 by 1036 hrs except for the bulk of "S" Coy. At 1300 hrs tactical recce parties went to HEILEGENLO and found it unoccupied. The Bn arrived at 1630 hrs and settled in as follows :- HQ at 550644 and Coys at 553643, 549641, 548647, 547642. About 20 enemy shells fell during the afternoon but otherwise it was peaceful. The electricity, telephones and water were still in working order.</p>	

	10		A quiet morning. At mid-day the Bn moved hurriedly to the TWISTRINGEN area. The task was to protect the left flank of 12th Corps.	
	11		A quiet day with nothing of interest to report. "B" Coy came under command of 8th Bde and held the rd junc at RECKUM.	
Field	12		The morning was spent preparing for the move. At 1600 hrs the Bn left TWISTRINGEN in TCVs. Arriving in WILDESHAUSEN at about 1900 hrs. The enemy shelled the rd leading into the town just as the Bn tpt was beginning to come out of the wood at 485775 so the tpt was led into the town in blobs just as it got dark. The Bn took over from the 1/S. Lancs R. with posns as follows :- Bn HQ at 477784, "A" Coy 469781, "B" Coy 474783, "C" Coy 477786, "D" Coy 470784. There was an intermittent shelling throughout the night, especially in the centre of the town.	
	13		During the morning there was intermittent shelling of the town and several O.Rs were wounded. At 1020 hrs the enemy launched a counter attack down the line of the rly from 472793 and from 467784 simultaneously on "D" Coy in posn in the sta area. Fd Arty followed by Med Arty dispersed the attack from the WEST before it had time to form up properly. The attack down the rly was shelled by Fd Arty and smoke was fired at fairly close range. 3 P.W. captured came from 7/2/115 P.G.R. and from their statements, enemy casualties were at least 1 Offr ORs killed and 3 wounded. The remainder of the enemy withdrew in some confusion and at great speed, harassed by Fd and Med Arty fire. During the afternoon the town was bombed by Spitfires as far as we could see, killing 1 and wounding 4 ORs and writing off 1 Carrier. During the afternoon "C" Coy cleared the houses in the area 480788, inflicting several casualties on the enemy.	
	14		A quiet morning. At 1200 hrs the CO and Recce parties of the 5/7 GORDONS of 51st Div came to prepare to relieve us. The relief was complete by 1800 hrs and the Bn concentrated in the area SOUTH of HAPSTEDT as follows :- Bn HQ 564756, "A" Coy 558755, "B" Coy 563771, "C" Coy 566752, "D" Coy 563753, "S" Coy 572767. A quiet night.	
Field	15		A peaceful day. 27 reinforcements arrived and were posted to Coys after being inspected by the C.O.	
	16		Another peaceful day, preparations for the move.	
	17		The Bn moved via BARRIEN 7383 and relieved the 1st Bn SUFFOLKS with posns as follows:- Bn H.Q. 687886, "A" Coy 684893, "B" Coy 682895, "C" Coy 688897, "D" Coy 694895. Patrols during the afternoon by "B" Coy established that the enemy were covering a rd block at 680897. The enemy were thought to be in Coy strength from the rd block to X rds at 675707. At night Lt SIMPSON and Sgt DORIS both attempted to oust the enemy from their posns round houses in the area WEST and EAST of the block respectively but without success.	

	18		Just before first light Lt WEST and patrol managed to remove about two thirds of the block but had to withdraw when light came. At 0600 hrs the 2/LINCS attack started, but they were held up by the enemy covering the rd block for about two hrs. Eventually they captured STUHR 6872 in the evening.	
	19		The 2/R.U.R. passed through 2/LINCS and attacked at 0600 hr eventually securing their objectives at 6692 by 1200 hrs. At mid-day the Bn moved up to the R.U.R. area, and at 16 0 hrs the attack started with "C" Coy and 1 Tp of Tanks from 661943 to 6 8946 then NORTH EAST into MITTELSHUCHTING 6695. "A" Coy and 1 Tp of Tanks followed "C" Coy intending to follow a parallel route from 655949 to 659959, but owing to the enemy disposns along the line of the stream, the Coy followed the track up the side of the stream. The enemy were not numerous but house and garden had to be searched and cleared, which proved to be slow work. There was intermittent shelling by enemy guns. Shortly after 2000 hrs. "C" Coy reached their final objective at 665964 and "D" Coy following "C" Coy route occupied the rd jct at 661959. Meanwhile "A" Coy after some slow but productive work on the left reached 653959 by last light and formed up there for the night. Bn H.Q. and "B" Coy then moved to the area 661953. The total of P.W.s till last light was 3 Offrs and 70 O.R.s. During the night a further 30 P.W.s were brought in. "A" Coy patrol had a lively time during the night disturbing the enemy with grenades.	
	20		At first light "A" Coy moved forward and occupied the rd jct at 654962 with only light opposition. At about 0600 hrs "B" Coy moved up through "D" Coy and captured the rd and rail crossing at 660966 after some sharp fighting, taking some 20 p.w.s. Final posns were:- Bn H.Q. 661959, "A" Coy 654962, "B" Coy 660966, "C" Coy 665964, "D" Coy 661963. At 1000 hrs the 2/LINCS launched an attack on KIRCHHUCHTING 6795 from the area 667942. The Bn supporting arms carried out a diversionary fire plan for the attack. The remainder of the day was quiet and uneventful.	
	21		A quiet morning. During the afternoon the 1st B.W. of 51(H) DIV took over from us. The relief was completed by 1830 hrs and the Bn moved to the area SYKE 7380 with posns as follows:- Bn H.Q. 736806, "A" Coy 729805, "B" Coy 736803, "C" Coy 728805, "D" Coy 736801. A quiet restful place.	
	22		A peaceful day. A Sunday Service for C of E and Pres was held in the local church at 1030 hrs. The Pipe Band beat "Retreat" at 1730 hrs. The guests included the Div Comdr GEN L.G. WHISTLER C.B. D.S.O. and the Bde Comdr BRIG KEMPSTER and other friends of the Bn.	
Field	23		Preparations for the coming operation which was the capturing of the SOUTH WESTERN half of BREMEN. Otherwise a quiet day.	

	24		Further preparations in the morning and afternoon. The Bn moved to a fwd Assembly Area in the area 706885 at 1830 hrs. The operation was to begin at midnight.	
Field	25		<p>At 0001 hrs the 2/R.U.R. in Buffaloes assaulted KATTENTURM 7293 from the EAST capturing the bridge at 721935 intact, destroying 1 88m.m. gun and taking a number of P.W. The Bn moved from the fwd Assembly Area at 0715 moving through BRINKUM 7091 and over the bridge at KATTENTURM at 0830 hrs. The attack was postponed for 15 mins and eventually started at 0915 hrs with "B" Coy left and "D" Coy right from 723943 with the main rd running NORTH EAST as the inter-Coy boundary. There was no opposition to the two leading Coys and they reached their objectives, "D" Coy at 727952 and "B" Coy at 728954 shortly after 1000 hrs. Then "A" Coy right and "C" Coy left passed through and at 1045 hrs had secured their objectives, "A" Coy at 729957 and "C" Coy at 727958. All Coys had taken P.W. and the total up to 1100 hrs was 1 Offr and 41 O.R.s. all from different units and different arms. Bn H.Q. was established at 727954. Patrols at once went out and reached the Barracks 730960 but found no enemy. A Camp of several thousand Russian P.W. was found at 729956, and several more P.W. were brought in. At 1200 hrs the 2/LINCS went through to capture the FOCKER-WOLFE aircraft factory and the airfield 7095, which had been subjected to seven hours of heavy arty fire, as well as bombing and rocketting by Typhoons. At 1800 hrs the Bn was ordered to capture the X rds at 702974 and the area SOUTH EAST of it on relief by 2/R.U.R. and 2/K.S.L.I. who were to relieve "A" Coy. Unfortunately the 2/K.S.L.I. took longer to arrive than we had anticipated and "A" Coy were attacked by some enemy who had crept back into the Barracks. A fierce battle ensued in which the enemy made three attempts to oust "A" Coy. Finally the K.S.L.I. arrived and took over by attack through "A" Coy at 2100 hrs. Meanwhile the Bn had attacked through the 2/LINCS and against dislocated opposition had reached the following posns:-</p> <p>"B" Coy 705975, "C" Coy 702974, "D" Coy and Bn H.Q. 707971. "A" Coy finally arrived at 2200 hrs and took up posns at 705975 round the football field covering the main rds. "C" Coy sent a patrol to 700978 and reported it clear. During the night Lt LOGIE was accidentally wounded in the foot.</p>	
	26		At 0125 hrs a "C" Coy patrol reported hearing sounds of enemy activity in the area 698969. At 0200 hrs an "A" Coy patrol reported sounds of enemy digging at 702979. At 0600 hrs "B" Coy and "D" Coy moved fwd and secured the line of the rly from 701979 to 696976. At 0800 hrs the 2/R.U.R. passed through to secure the line of the rd in the area 691978. At 1130 hrs "B" and "D" Coys withdrew to their former posns.	

			The remainder of the day was spent in resting and dealing with civilians.	
Field	27		At 0700 hrs Recce parties set off under the 2nd in Command to the DELMENHORST area. The Bn arrived just after 1200 hrs to relieve the 1st GORDON HIGHLANDERS of 51st (H) DIV. Relief was completed by 1630 hrs and the Bn disposns were as follows:- Bn H.Q. 602960, "A" Coy 605966, "B" Coy 599967, "C" Coy 614964, "D" Coy 601965. During the late afternoon patrols went out to the area and found BUNGERHOF clear of enemy and a crater in the main rd at 606977 and the bridge at 601989 blown. A "D" Coy patrol went out to the area 601989 and brought in 1 Offr and 47 O.R.s. P.W. They were all G.A.F. Ground Staff and could give us no recent infm at all.	
	28		Patrols during darkness found HORST 592995 clear of enemy. Otherwise a quiet day.	
	29		A combined Bde Church Service was held in DELMENHORST PROTESTANT CHURCH at 1100 hrs. There was a march past afterwards and Brigadier Kempster took the salute.	
	30		A quiet day - nothing of interest to report. Casualties were:- Killed NIL and 12 Wounded 1 and 59, of whom 1 and 4 have since rejoined.	