

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. and the Staff Manual respectively. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 2nd Bn. The Royal Scots.

Month and Year January, 1945.

Commanding Officer Lt/Col R. Delacombe D.S.O.

M.B.E.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
In the Field	1 Jan.	0001	Command. Lt/Col. R. Delacombe D.S.O., M.B.E. assumed command of Bn. w.e.f. 31 Dec. 44.	Appendix E1.
		0001	Locations. - FRASSINETO Area as per Appendix E1. Pioneer Pl. in defence of Bn H.Q.	
		0001	Enemy fired many coloured flares and tracers into the air along the front.	
		0015	20 Mortar bombs fell on 'A' Coy Pl at CASA NUOVA 00553172. 3" Mortar Task "FLORENCE" 007318 fired.	
		0035	'A' Coy report that Listening Post in front of C. NUOVA saw enemy patrol of about 10 men. Listening Post threw grenades and fired Bren. No casualties claimed, but enemy patrol withdrew. 2" Mortars fired into probable line of withdrawal.	
		0045	State of alert of B and C Coys reduced to 50%.	
		0705	A Coy Recce patrol to area where enemy patrol was seen returned, having found nothing.	
		1145	A Coy report small bombs, probably grenades fired from discharger cup landing at C. NUOVA 00553172. 3" Mortars fired 12 rounds at 007318 and bombing ceased.	
In the Field		1440	Several enemy seen crawling 70 yards East of GALLO 009323. 12 rounds 3" Mortar fired into area fell 100 yds short but movement ceased.	
			Intentions Night 1/2 Jan:- A Coy Listening Posts at 00503140 and 00603170 all night. B Coy Standing Patrol 00653140) C Coy Standing Patrol 00553140) During maintenance period. Listening Post 00353115 all night. B Coy Recce Patrol to PENZLA 012318 out 0300 hrs in 0500 hrs.	
		1610/ 1625	40 Mortar bombs in B Coy area. No damage or casualties.	
		1712	A Coy being fired on by Spandau from point 440 00853185. 12 rounds 3" Mortar fired on task "Argyll" 00853185 and spandauing stopped.	
		2150	10 light mortar bombs fell in B Coy area.	

		2355	2 shells fell in area A Coy HQ.	
In the Field	2 Jan.	0435 0440/ 0800 1120	B Coy Recce patrol to PENZLA 012318 returned and reported:- 1. House is on fire. 2. Area occupied by enemy of approx. strength 1 pl. 3. Approach is no real obstacle, but hill is very steep. 120 rounds 3" Mortar fired intermittently at PENZLA. A Coy laid 24 A.P. mines in area C. NUOVA 006317 during the night. Two houses at C. MURANO 022315 shelled yesterday are now flying Red Cross flag. Bde reported that air O.P. over Pt 440 008318 saw new signs of digging behind crest and also 500 yards North. Intentions Night 2/3 Jan:- A and C Coys - Normal Listening patrols. B Coy - Recce patrol 1 NCO and 2 to PENZLA 012318 out 1900 hrs in 2100 hrs. Ambush patrol 1 NCO and 6 to 008315 out 1830 hrs in 0100 hrs. LMGs to fire harassing tasks from 1745 hrs to 1900 hrs to cover noise of mule trains.	
In the Field		1300 1510 1600 1615 2040 2140 2350	Bde informed that artificial moonlight not wanted before moonrise tonight. 6 mortar bombs in B Coy area - no casualties. 66 Inf Bde letter G2/2 d. 1 Jan 45 received. Bn to be relieved on 8 Jan. 1 15 cm shell in area of Bn HQ and 4 in area A Coy HQ - no damage. B Coy Recce patrol to PENZLA 012318 returned. They reached within 90 yds of house. Patrol Comd L/Cpl Ormiston then crawled forward alone a short distance. He saw three enemy, who saw him at the same time and challenged him. He fired a burst of TMC and heard a moan. Only 1 shot was fired at him. He then threw a 36 grenade, withdrew to his patrol and returned. A dead German was seen at 011316 on the return route. 3" Mortars fired 20 rounds at PENZLA. 1 Herts reported that their Recce patrol to Pt. 440 008318 heard digging and movements, and asked us to put down some mortar fire. 12 rds fired.	Appdx. E2.
In the Field	3 Jan.	0055 0128 0220/ 0240	A Coy harassed by Spandau from PENZLA 012318. 3" Mortars fired 12 rounds at PENZLA and spandauing stopped. B Coy Ambush patrol to 008315 returned. N.T.R. Bn Area and area to left bombarded by rocket-like projectile with very heavy detonation, thought to be Nebelwerfer firing single rounds from close range. No damage or casualties.	

In the Field		<p>1020 1030</p> <p>1600</p> <p>1855 1900 1955</p> <p>2045 2050</p>	<p>A and B Coys each laid 4 coils Dannert during the night. 60 Mortar bombs fell in B Coy area. No damage or casualties. Coys informed of relief programme by letter. Intentions Night 3/4 Jan:- A Coy. Listening Post 1 NCO and 2 at 007317 out 1800 hrs in 0100 hrs. Listening patrol in conjunction with 1 Herts on track 004317 during hours of darkness. C Coy. Standing patrol 1 NCO and 6 at 005313 out 1800 hrs in 2400 hrs. B Coy. Ambush patrol 1 NCO and 5 at 008315 out 1830 hrs in 2400 hrs. Ambush patrol 1 NCO and 6 at 011316 out 1800 hrs in 0100 hrs with additional object to obtain identification and approximate time of death of dead German observed by Recce patrol on night 2/3 Jan. 3" Mortars harassing fire 1945 hrs to 2115 hrs on PENZLA 012318 to cover noise of mule trains. Arty harassing fire arranged for same purpose 1945 hrs to 2115 hrs on bend in road 014319. 66 Inf Bde letter G2/2 d. 3 Jan received. Bn to be relieved by 2 For. on 8 Jan. 10 Mortar bombs fell in B Coy area. No casualties. 2 Bn Royal Scots Op Order No.5 issued - Counter attack plan. B Coy Ambush patrol at 008315 returned. Saw one man approaching. Patrol fired prematurely and man ran off. Patrol Comd decided purposes of patrol defeated, and after waiting a further 30 mins returned to Coy Area. B Coy Ambush patrol returned to 008315. 14 shells in B Coy area. No casualties.</p>	<p>Appdx. D1.</p> <p>Appdx. E3.</p> <p>Appdx. D2</p>
In the Field	4 Jan	<p>0005 0030 0110</p> <p>0140</p>	<p>B Coy Ambush patrol to 008315 returned. N.T.R. C Coy Standing patrol 005313 returned. N.T.R. B Coy Ambush patrol to 011316 returned. Paybook of dead German brought back. Body was frozen to ground, and clothes frozen hard. Paybook had been sodden and was falling to pieces. Must have been lying for several weeks. Paybook shows 7 Coy 367 Grenadier Regt.(M) Pte Marshall 95 wounded by mortar as patrol was returning. A Coy Listening Post at 007317 returned. Noise of movement heard in front, but did not come near. Noise of mule train heard from PENZLA direction. Wiring of A Coy position at C. NUOVA 00553172 completed</p>	

In the Field			<p>during night. Intentions Night 4/5 Jan:- A Coy Ambush patrol 1 Sec. to 007317 out 2300 hrs in 0400 hrs. Normal Listening patrol in conjunction with 1 Herts on track 004317 during darkness. B Coy Ambush patrol 1 Sec. to bend in track 009317 out 1815 hrs in 2300 hrs. Listening patrol 1 NCO and 2 to wadi bed 013314 out 2100 hrs in 0100 hrs. C Coy Ambush patrol 1 Sec. to wadi 007313 out 1815 hrs in 2300 hrs. Normal Listening patrols. No searchlights wanted from 1800 hrs to 1930 hrs during movement of mules on skyline 003312. 3" Mortars harassing 1 min slow on PENZLA 012318 at 0600 hrs. 1355 8 Mortar bombs in A Coy Pl area at C. NUOVA 00553172. No casualties. 1730 30 Mortar bombs in B Coy area. No casualties. 1930 B Coy reported considerable amount of small arms fire from direction of Ambush patrol at 009317. A and C Coy reported small arms fire and flares from direction of PENZLA. 1945 3 men from B Coy Ambush patrol returned to Coy area. On way out, they were challenged in German from the rear at short range. The patrol scattered, and fire was opened on them by several automatic weapons and flares were put up. These three men had not seen the remainder of the patrol since then. A further patrol was sent out to search the area. 2000 50 rds 3" Mortar fired at PENZLA 012318. 2040 Several bursts of automatic fire heard from PENZLA. 2245 C Coy Ambush patrol to 007313 returned. N.T.R. 2315 B Coy Search patrol returned. They had searched area to within 100 yds of PENZLA and found nothing. The missing members of the ambush patrol are Ptes Lawson, Wilkes, Rennie, Somerville and Sillars.</p>	
In the Field	5 Jan.	0100 0110 0340 0410 1000	<p>B Coy Listening post at 013314 returned. N.T.R. 12 heavy shells landed in B Coy area. No casualties. Noises of digging heard in front of B Coy in area 012315. Grenades thrown down slope, and noises stopped. A Coy Ambush Patrol at 007317 returned. N.T.R. 2 Bn Royal Scots Op. Order No.6 issued - Orders for Relief on 8 Jan.</p>	Appdx. D3

In the Field		1030/ 1300	<p>Intermittent mortaring and shelling by single enemy mortars and guns of various calibres. Apparently registering on Bn area. No damage or casualties.</p> <p>Informed by Bde that enemy has moved Arty and mortars in last few days. 5 coils Dannert wire laid in front of Bn HQ during afternoon.</p> <p>Intentions Night 5/6 Jan:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A Coy Standing patrol 1 NCO and 2 to 008317 out 1930 hrs in 0130 hrs.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Normal Listening patrol in conjunction with 1 Herts on Track 004317 during darkness.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">B Coy Recce patrol 1 NCO and 2 to N.E. slopes 012315 to investigate noises of digging heard there. Out 1800 hrs in depending on information.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ambush patrol 1 Sec. to 012315 out depending on information from Recce patrol in 0200 hrs.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ambush patrol 1 Sec. to corner of wood 009316. Out 1800 hrs in 2400 hrs.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">C Coy Standing patrol South of maintenance track 005313. Out 1800 hrs. In 2300 hrs and normal Listening Posts.</p>	
In the Field		1630/ 1715 1945 2125 2130 2225 2300 2325	<p>36 Mortar bombs on B Coy and Bn HQ areas. No casualties.</p> <p>Bn stood to because of poor visibility caused by mist.</p> <p>B Coy Recce patrol returned. Nothing seen because of very poor visibility.</p> <p>B Coy Ambush patrol went out to 012315 in spite of lack of information.</p> <p>Bn state of alertness reduced to 50%.</p> <p>Heavy rain commenced.</p> <p>C Coy Standing patrol to 005313 returned. N.T.R.</p>	
In the Field	6 Jan	0005 0035 0105/ 0120 0215 1030	<p>B Coy Ambush patrol to 009316 returned. N.T.R.</p> <p>A Coy Standing patrol to 008317 returned. N.T.R.</p> <p>25 Nebelwerfer bombs fired singly landed in Bn Area. No damage or casualties.</p> <p>B Coy Ambush patrol to 012315 returned. N.T.R.</p> <p>Rain which commenced 2300 hrs 5 Jan is now turning to snow and beginning to lie.</p> <p>Intentions Night 6/7 Jan:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A Coy Listening Post in conjunction with 1HERTS on track 004317 during darkness.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">B Coy Listening Post 1NCO and 2 to 009314. Out 1900 hrs In 0100hrs.</p>	

In the Field			<p>Recce Patrol 1NCO and 6 by right flank route to PENZLA 012318 Out 1800 hrs In 20000 hrs.</p> <p>C Coy Standing patrol of 1 NCO and 6 at bend in track 005313. Out 1745 In 0100 hrs.</p> <p>Arty harassing fire arranged from 2200 hrs to 2400 hrs on track junction 020326.</p> <p>1650 Pioneer Pl reported suspected movement in wadi at 005312. Bn HQ and C Coy stand to. C Coy 2" Mortars fired into area. 24 rds 3" Mortars fired into area. Patrol out from Bn HQ.</p> <p>1700 Bn HQ Patrol returned. No trace of movement found. Snow very deep and drifting into wadi.</p> <p>2200 B Coy Recce Patrol returned. Patrol went out on right flank got on to a terrace and moved round it to the left flank without finding a way down. Snow was 5 inches deep and drifts deeper and wadi sides were very steep.</p> <p>2230 B Coy Listening Post at 009314 returned. NTR. Conditions in wadi very bad with snow.</p>	
In the Field	7 Jan	0100 0500 0610 1000 1330	<p>C Coy Standing Patrol returned. NTR.</p> <p>A Coy fired on by Spandau from PENZLA 012318. 10 rds 3" Mortar fired at PENZLA and firing ceased.</p> <p>A Coy fired on by Spandau from Pt 440 00853185. 10 rds 3" Mortar fired and firing ceased.</p> <p>Snow four foot deep in places. Conditions for troops in positions on forward Very Severe.</p> <p>1 Pl. of 11 Lancashire Fusiliers came under comd, role to defend Bn HQ area. Occupied positions held by Pioneer Pl. and enlarged them.</p> <p>Intentions Night 7/8 Jan:-</p> <p>A Coy Normal Listening Patrols in conjunction with 1HERTS on track 004317 during darkness.</p> <p>B Coy Ambush Patrol of 1NCO and 4 at 007314. Out 1800 hrs In 2300 hrs.</p> <p>B Coy Fighting Patrol 2 NCO's and 9 to PENZLA 012318 Out 0300. Arty and 3" Mortars at call. Arty on CASSETTA 014322 and MURANO 022315. Mortars on Pt 440 008318 and GALLO 009323.</p> <p>C Coy Standing Patrol 1 NCO and 6 to corner of track 005313, Out 1745 In end of mule traffic.</p> <p>11 LF Pl. Listening Post at 003311 All night.</p> <p>1330 Informed by Bde that it is now known that enemy are using snow camouflage suits.</p>	

		1730	Advance party Of 2 FORESTERS arrived at Bn HQ and went to spend the night with Coys.	
		2105	B Coy heard German voices in area 009317. 3" Mortars fired 20 rds into area.	
		2130	B Coy saw 4 enemy in wadi at 006312. Engaged by Brens and disappeared.	
		2305	B Coy Ambush Patrol to 007314 returned. NTR.	
In the field	8 Jan	0440 0500	White flare seen in direction of PENZLA 012318. B Coy Fighting Patrol returned. They reached about 150 yds of PENZLA and patrol comd went forward with 1 man to recce. As they came out of small wadi phosphorous grenades were thrown at them. They replied with grenades and two automatic weapons fired back. Patrol comd considered he had lost all element of surprise and led his patrol back to Coy area. They state enemy standing patrol of about 1 Sec. at PR 01183173.	
		1050	12 light mortar bombs in Bn area. No casualties.	
		1640	Mortar Pl. relieved by Mortar Pl 2 FORESTERS.	
		1800	2 FORESTERS arrived area Bn HQ. Owing to snow and ice movement up the hill was most difficult.	
		1947	Hand over of B Coy. FRASSINETO completed.	
		2008	Hand over of C Coy. Centre Coy completed.	
		2020	Hand over of A Coy. Left Coy completed.	
		2025	Command passed to 2 FORESTERS. Bn moved to embussing point near Bde HQ, convoy formed up and moved off to rest area at L'Olmo. Roads very bad with hard frozen snow.	
In the Field	9 Jan	0600/ 0900	Bn arrived area L'Olmo. Orders received for advance party to move to PERUGIA to contact 2 Inf Bde there for orders. Bn to move on 10 Jan.	
		1400	Advance party consisting of 1 representative of each Coy left for PERUGIA. 2RS Op Order No 7 issued.	Appdx. D4
	10 Jan	0700 1100	Guide party left. Advance party arrived BEVAGNA. Main body left area L'Olmo.	
		1700 2300	Guide party arrived BEVAGNA and contacted advance party. Bn main body advance elements arrived BEVAGNA.	
	12 Jan	0600	Bn completed move into area BEVAGNA 8682. 2 Inf Bde Adm. Instructions No 16 received.	Appdx H1.
	13 Jan		Routine 66 Inf Bde Op. Instr. No 6 received. 1 Div to move to Middle East.	No copy available.

			2 Inf Bde Orders for move of advance parties received	Appdx E4.
In the Field	14 Jan	1000	Bn Church Parade. Brigadier Redmayne D.S.O. took salute at march past of Bn. 2 Royal Scots Op Order No. 8 issued.	Appdx D5.
	15 Jan		Routine 66 Inf Bde Op. Instruction No.7 received.	Appdx E5.
	16 Jan	0900	Bn advance party u/c Major Crawford left to join 1 Div advance party for move to training area.	
	17 Jan		Routine 2 Bn Royal Scots Op Order No. 9 issued.	Appdx D6.
	18 Jan		Appdx C to 66 Inf Bde Op Instr. No 7 received. Appdx A to 2 RS Op Order No 9 issued. 66 Inf Bde letter G3/4 received.	Appdx E6. Appdx D7. Appdx H2.
	19 Jan		Routine	
	20 Jan	1100 1330	Bn less adv. and rear parties embussed for TERNI. Arrived TERNI and entrained for TARANTO.	
	21 Jan		On train.	
In the Field	22 Jan		On train.	
	23 Jan	0900	Bn detrained NASISI Stn and marched to transit camp, TARANTO.	
	24 Jan		Routine	
	25 Jan	2030	Routine Commanding Officer called to 66 Inf Bde O Group. Commanding Officer's O Group. Bn would embark on H.M. Troopship BERGENSFJORD on 27 Jan at OIL JETTY, TARANTO. Baggage to be loaded on lighters at GENIO MARINA on 26 Jan. Lt Dall to be baggage officer. I.O. and 3 men to embark BERGENSFJORD 26 Jan as berthing party.	
	26 Jan	0800/ 1200 1700	Baggage loaded on lighter. Berthing party embarked.	
	27 Jan	0700 0930 1600	Bn moved by march route from Transit Camp. Bn commenced embarking HMT. BERGENSFJORD. HMT. BERGENSFJORD sailed	
In the Field	28 Jan	2300	At sea. Clocks put forward 1 hour to 2400 hrs. All times shown henceforth are "B" Time.	

	29 Jan		At sea.	
	30 Jan		At sea. 66 Inf Bde Adm. Instr. No.1 received.	Appdx H3.
	31 Jan	0830 1115 1315	Bn commenced disembarking at HAIFA, PALESTINE. Bn left HAIFA by train. Bn arrived HADERA. Embussed and moved by road to Camp 87, PARDESS HANNA 148210	