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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 8 RS

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year Dec 44

Commanding Officer Lt Col BA Pearson

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
MEIJEL 7167	1st	- 1430	Bn still concentrated at MEIJEL with Bn HQ at 714067. Planning for op 'GUILDFORD' continues. CO, 2i/c, IO, SO, Rifle Coy Comds and Adj attend sand-model discussion at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde on operation "GUILDFORD".	
MEIJEL	2nd	1530 2000 2330	Final details for operation tied up. Commanding Officer's 'O' Gp at Bn HQ and final orders issued for Bn attack on BLERICK. Reps from sp arms present. Instructions received from 44 Bde that should armour fail to carry out first phase of op due to state of the ground the inf were to be prepared to carry out the attack without the sp of the armour. Such a plan involving the use of Bangalore torpedoes to blast the wire was fixed by the CO, and the Coys informed of the possible change. Message received from 44 Bde that op would take place and that Phase I (the armoured battle) would be attempted despite ground conditions, followed by Phase II. As much loading of essential stores in Kangaroos as was possible was carried out by Coys during the evening.	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
NEAR BLERICK (8908)	3rd	0630 0930	Coys move off in Kangaroos from MEIJEL via BERINGEN 7505 - PANNINGEN 7704 - MAASBREE 8207 and by 0755 hrs had halted with head of coln at 845085 awaiting instrs from 44 Bde to move fwd to FUP in area 875087. Each R Coy had been allotted 11 Kangaroos with 5 to Tac Bn HQ. No 'F' echelon vehs accompanied the coln in view of the extremely bad state of the ground. Instructions received from 44 Bde that flails and AVREs had been successful in breaching the wire and minefields and throwing a bridge over the A tk ditch on bn sector in lanes 1, 2 & 3 and the bn had to move fwd for commencement of Phase II. The Commanding Officer held brief 'O' Gp of Rifle Coy Comds on receipt of this instr and ordered B Coy to move off followed by A Coy, B Coy to proceed via Lane 2 to their 1st objective (Houses 893092 Codename - PENGUIN) while A Coy were to move to their objective (area 895086 ALBATROSS and MALLARD) by Lane 1.	See Appx E1 (only incl in original copy of Diary) A Walker Capt IO See Trace att to Appx E1 See Trace att to Appx E1

NEAR BLERICK 8908		0940	B and A Coys move off in APCs and move through FUP area 875087 into respective lanes.	A Walker Capt IO
		0955	B and A reported through lanes and over A tk ditch, moving towards objectives.	
BLERICK 8908		1000	Wireless communication now becoming difficult. Bn HQ and C Coy move up towards FUP and halt with head of coln at 868088. Ground opposition to B and A Coys advance in the initial stages was not very heavy though shelling and mortaring increased as the attack progressed. Having 'debussed' from the APCs between the A tk ditch and their objective A Coy by 1030 hrs had established themselves on ALBATROSS and shortly afterwards reached 'MALLARD'. B Coy 'debussing' about 200 yds short of PENGUIN had cleared this objective by 1045 hrs and were now moving through ALBATROSS to BLACKCOCK, opposition however now increasing.	A Walker Capt IO
		1115	C Coy on orders from CO move fwd and advance through lane 1. Some delay however was caused through some APCs becoming bogged having taken the wrong turning off into the lane. The move fwd was resumed after a 15 min delay and at approximately 1150 hrs C Coy crossed the A tk ditch on Lane 1 and proceeded to 'debus' just short of PENGUIN. Bn HQ followed immediately in rear of C Coy. B Coy by now had cleared up enemy opposition to the east of the left hand sector of BLACKCOCK and were moving towards the river. C Coy encountering little opposition move down towards the river on the right of B Coy.	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK		1300	Tac Bn HQ est at 894091 with Coys as follows: A Coy HQ 894087 with pls at 894087, 894085, 896087, B Coy HQ 898089 with pls at 898089, 900091 and 902090, C Coy HQ 897088, pls at 896088, 899086 and 897085. General mopping up in the sectors allotted to Coys continued, and some more enemy were rounded up from the numerous cellars in the town.	A Walker Capt IO
		1750	CO 6KOSB arrives at Bn HQ with instrs from Comd 44 Bde for relief of Bn in the early morning of 4th Dec.	
		2030	Frequent heavy shelling and mortaring of the Bn area continued. 2i/c arrives at 894085 with Coy carriers but in view of the relief no F ech tpt was now required and the carriers returned with the 2i/c after the Commanding Officer had arranged the details of the relief.	
		2330	L.O. arrives from 44 Bde with details of relief.	
BLERICK	4th	0400	Visit of acting BM 44 Bde to Bn HQ to confirm details of relief. There was again some enemy shelling during the night.	A Walker Capt IO

BLERICK		0650 0700 0800 2400	<p>A Coy leave present posns and proceed by march route to rd junc 877087 where met by guides and later to new coy area 875087 with Coy HQ at 872088.</p> <p>Message received from 6KOSB to the effect that they had completed occupation of new posns necessitated by 8RS relief. C Coy leave present area and move by march route to BOEKEND and Coy HQ is est at 875098.</p> <p>B Coy move by march route to gen area 845085 and Coy HQ est there.</p> <p>Bn HQ moves by APC (command, sig, Med and RA Kangaroos that had been retained after the attack) to Rooth 8408, Bn HQ being established at 850092.</p> <p>During the afternoon the Commanding Officer and OC C Coy carry out a recce of gen area 885115 at present held by Coy 2 Glas H with a view to C Coy taking over that evening.</p> <p>C Coy having taken over from 2 Glas H Coy are located as follows: Coy HQ 882118, Pls at 883114, 886114 & 885117.</p> <p>There was occasional enemy shelling and mortaring in the Bn area but no damage was caused.</p>	A Walker Capt IO A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH 8408	5th		<p>During the day the following changes of location took place:- A Coy HQ moved to BOEKEND at 875099 leaving two pls in original area and one in occupation of HOUT-BLERICK 8807. Carrier Pl occupied WIELDER 883105.</p> <p>During the day there was again spasmodic shelling in the Bn area. Our own arty was very active.</p>	
ROOTH	6th	1400	<p>Location no change.</p> <p>A party of war correspondents visited the Bn and were entertained to lunch at Bn HQ, afterwards interviewing some members of Rifle Coys on their experiences.</p> <p>Brigadier HCHT Cumming Bruce DSO Comd 44 Bde visited Bn HQ.</p> <p>S Coy changed location during the afternoon and established Coy HQ at 848089.</p> <p>Situation otherwise comparatively quiet.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH	7th	0800 0930	<p>Situation normal, occasional shelling during the night.</p> <p>CO proceeds to conference at HQ 44 Inf Bde.</p> <p>During the morning 2i/c and OC Pioneer Pl carry out recce in area 880075 with a view to a possible Coy area in this locality. Pioneer Pl later cleared this area of mines and taped off routes into the posns.</p> <p>On his return from Bde the CO visited A & C Coys and informed the Coy Comds of future intentions etc.</p>	A Walker Capt IO

		2145	<p>Later in the day at a short conference OsC B & S Coy and officers of HQ Coy were informed of the various points arising from the Bde conference that morning.</p> <p>Contact patrol from C Coy proceeded to level crossing at 892113 to meet patrol from 6RSF but due to non-arrival of RSF patrol no contact was made.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH 8408	8th	0300 1000	<p>Patrol investigating houses at 885073 where enemy posn was suspected found houses unoccupied and no trace of any enemy in the locality.</p> <p>B Coy leave present area to take over from 'C' Coy and relief is completed by 1230 hrs.</p> <p>'C' Coy returns to locality vacated by B Coy.</p> <p>During the day apart from occasional shelling in fwd area there was nothing of importance to report. The first two enemy a/c to be seen for some considerable time flew over the Bn area at 4000 ft late in the afternoon. Patrol made contact with 6RSF at level crossing 892113 at 2230 hrs. 25 reinforcements from 10 BW arrive.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH	9th	1125 1530 2000	<p>Major Gen Barber DSO MC Comd 15(S) Div visits Bn HQ.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer visited fwd Coys during the morning.</p> <p>Comd 44 Bde, 2i/c 6KOSB & OC B Coy 6KOSB visit Bn HQ to discuss with CO the occupation of BERCKT CLOISTER 868062. It was decided to occupy this area with a platoon of A Coy (8RS), A Coy being warned to have one pl standing by to proceed and occupy the posn.</p> <p>12 Pl B Coy proceed to occupy area houses 889123 reces having been carried out earlier in the day.</p> <p>There was again occasional enemy mortar and arty activity during the day.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH	10th	0800 1000	<p>9 Pl A Coy leave present area by MT and proceed to BAARLO 8505 and carry out occupation of area 868061.</p> <p>'S' mines were located in area 12 Pl B Coy causing one fatal casualty and Pioneer Pl carried out mine clearance of this area. Situation otherwise quiet with some occasional mortaring fwd of B Coy.</p> <p>A draft of 2 officers & 100 ORs arrived from 7 Green Howards. In view of the strength of the Bn, arrangements for the reforming of D Coy were made.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
	11th	1200	<p>No change in location - situation very quiet.</p> <p>Comds 44 & 46 Bde visit Bn HQ to arrange details of relief of Bn on 16th Dec.</p>	
ROOTH	12th	1300	<p>Another quiet day with little to report. Commanding Officer visits fwd Coys during the morning.</p> <p>CO & IO 9 Cameronians visit Bn HQ to discuss details of forthcoming relief.</p>	A Walker Capt IO

			The rehabilitation of D Coy continues at 'A' echelon. During the period when bn was in Bde reserve opportunity was provided for baths, entertainments etc, a small proportion being allowed away on each occasion.	
ROOTH	13th	1100	Location no change. There was little of importance to report during the day. CO and 2i/c leave to attend presentation by CinC of awards to officers and ORs of the division. The following officer & other ranks of the Bn were decorated: Lt JR Stobo (B Coy) MC Sgt D Douglas (Sigs Sgt) MM Sgt R Laing (Int Sgt) MM Cpl C Moore (B Coy) MM Other awards gained by members of the Bn were: Lt Col Lane-Joynt DSO Major MH Cooke (wounded 31 Oct) MC During the early afternoon a change over between B & C Coys was carried out being completed by 1430 hrs. Situation otherwise normal apart from increase in enemy shelling in BOEKEND area.	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH	14th	1030	Corps Commander visits bn accompanied by Comds 15(S) Div and 44(L) Inf Bde. During the day enemy activity was again confined to a further increase of shelling and mortaring, mostly in the gen area immediately east of BOEKEND 8709. A number of vapour trails left by V2's were observed during the day, bearings being taken on the points of origin and reported.	A Walker Capt IO
	15th		Situation unchanged with little to report, followed by a very quiet night.	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH	16th	1200	CO returns from Div HQ. Enemy activity was again confined to occasional shelling and mortaring in the fwd areas. Situation normal.	
ROOTH	17th	0945 1830	Commanding Officer leaves to visit HQ 44(L) Inf Bde. During the day there was considerable enemy air activity with some jet propelled a/c but no offensive action was carried out by them in the Bn area. Occasional enemy shelling continued. CO holds short conference on forthcoming change-over with 6RSF, recce parties having been sent off during the afternoon to stay with 6RSF and become acquainted with the local situation prior to arrival of the Bn.	A Walker Capt IO
	18th		The day was generally quiet with preparation being completed for change-over. D Coy took over C Coy posn in area 8811. Immediately	

BLERICK 8909			<p>after last light Bn moved by march route by Coys through BOEKEND and WIELDER 8710 and began take-over from 6RSF.</p> <p>Bn HQ moved to 894097 while Coys were located as follows: A Coy HQ - 892102 with pls as follows: 893103, 894106 and 892105.</p> <p>B Coy - HQ at 900095, Pl areas 897098 - 902097 - 903099, 902095 - 905095.</p> <p>C Coy - HQ at 898092, pl areas 900094, 899092 and 902091.</p> <p>D Coy - as for previous C Coy posns.</p> <p>Carrier Pl in ground role - 902103.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	19th	1045 1130	<p>There was little enemy activity during the day apart from very infrequent shelling.</p> <p>Comd 44 Bde visits Bn HQ & makes a tour of C Coy area.</p> <p>Comd 11 Armd Div visits Bn HQ to find out details of local situation in view of probable relief which however never took place.</p> <p>There was no enemy activity on this side of the river during the night, and reports were only received of occasional spandau & rifle fire from east bank of river.</p> <p>A considerable amount of work was done by Coys in improving the defences by sandbagging, wiring and laying of trip flares. This work more or less continued during the whole time the bn occupied this sector.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	20th	1430	<p>The day was again uneventful apart from occasional shelling & mortaring, with an enemy 'leaflet' raid on the BLERICK area.</p> <p>During the afternoon the A tk pl carried out a successful shoot against tower 905087, believed an enemy O.P., scoring 11 direct hits out of 13 rounds fired.</p> <p>D Coy relieved a tp of 15(S) Div Recce Regt in gen area 890122 and are now disposed as follows: HQ 889123, pls 891123 (moves at night to 893124), 885117, 890114. Relief was complete by 1830 hrs.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	21st		<p>During the early hours of the morning a strong enemy patrol overran post of neighbouring unit at 894129 and D Coy were ordered to send a pl along rly to Recce Regt posn at 893135 and contact this posn.</p> <p>Patrol returned to Coy position at 0730 hrs without having made contact with the enemy.</p> <p>During the day there was little of importance to report.</p> <p>There was little enemy activity during the night also.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK 8909	22nd		<p>Instrs received that Bn would take over area North of Blerick from 'A' Sqn 15 Recce Regt by evening.</p> <p>CO and OsC B & C Coy carry out recce of the area during the morning. Preparations were completed by the afternoon for the relief, and on relief of fwd Coys by Coys of 6KOSB the bn move to the northern sector of the Bde front and took over from A Sqn 15 Div Recce Regt.</p>	A Walker Capt IO

NEAR BLERICK			<p>The relief was somewhat delayed by hy mortaring and shelling which continued most of the day. The relief was otherwise carried through without any other interference & Coys were complete in new location by 2400 hrs.</p> <p>The Bn was now disposed as follows: Bn HQ 869133 *(A Coy - HQ & pls by day 867133 & by night HQ 869133 & pls areas 871134, 867133 and 868132). B Coy - HQ - 892135 & pl areas 892135, 894137 & 893133. C Coy - HQ - 891142 & pl areas 891142, 896139 & 897143. D Coy - HQ - 889122 & pl areas 891122, 890114 & 892124. Carrier Pl & A tk pl occupied in a ground role areas 893129 & 868148 respectively. The night was very quiet apart from some rifle fire from across the river.</p>	A Walker Capt IO * Not relieved in BLERICK until 23rd Dec.
NEAR BLERICK	23rd	1430	<p>Situation normal - Comd 44 Bde visits Bn HQ at 0945 hrs. There was considerable shelling of the area during the day & our arty was also active. CO attends conference at HQ 44(L) Inf Bde at SEVENUM 8114. During the night there was some enemy patrol activity in the neighbourhood of GROOTRAII 896121 and fire was exchanged between patrol & D Coy listening post. Patrol withdrew & was not again located. A Coy arrived in posns (already given) on their relief in BLERICK where they had been u/c 6KOSB for the previous 24 hrs. Arty & mortar activity on both sides was considerable during the night.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
NEAR BLERICK	24th	0800	<p>Situation normal after 'noisy' night. Little was observed of the enemy during the day though what movement that was seen was engaged by our arty & mors. There was also occasional arty & mortar fire in the bn area. There was little activity during Christmas Eve though the church bells of VELDEN 9014 were heard ringing during the evening presumably with no military importance. Five civilians crossed the river during the morning & were evacuated.</p>	A Walker Capt IO
NEAR BLERICK	25th		<p>Christmas day brought one of the quietest so far in the sector. Comd 44 Inf Bde visited Bn & went round Coys with the Commanding Officer. It had been anticipated that the Germans would perhaps try some form of large scale raid on Xmas day as all reports from civilians pointed to this. However after considerable work, the defences had been greatly improved & in a state of complete readiness, the bn</p>	A Walker Capt IO

			awaited a possible attack across the river. This however never materialised & Xmas passed with little to report.	
NEAR	26th		The day was again quiet & except for the usual exchange of arty fire there was little to report.	A Walker Capt IO
BLERICK	27th	1230	Another quiet day with preparation being made for relief of Bn by 6RSF. Recce parties of 6RSF arrive. Take over was carried through during the afternoon & evening without incident and bn move back to reserve area as follows: Bn HQ 850092, A Coy 875099 with pl at WIELDER 882105 & a pl by night at 875087, B Coy - 847090, C Coy - 838085, D Coy - SEVENUM 8111, S Coy - SEVENUM 8114. The A tk pl in a ground role occupied posns at 847076 as local protection to gen area. There was nothing to report during the night.	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH 8408	28th	1030	Period of administration & rest where possible begins. Visit of Comds 15(S) Div & 44 Inf Bde to Bn HQ. While the bn was 'in the line' there had been no opportunity to celebrate Xmas & have Coy Xmas dinners. This was now possible & today Coy Xmas dinners were held by B & C Coys in MAASBREE 8208 & by D Coy in SEVENUM 8114. The CO, Adj & RSM attended.	A Walker Capt IO
ROOTH	29th		Location no change - situation normal. Xmas dinners held by HQ & A Coys at MAASBREE & by S Coy in SEVENUM. B Coy move to SEVENUM & A Coy occupy B Coy area in the late morning. Dutch Coy under command of Bn moves to area vacated by A Coy in BOEKEND - WIELDER area 8710, with posns as follows: HQ - 882105 & pls at 886115, 887110, WIELDER & BOEKEND 875099 (by day only) moving at night to 877086. During the night there was nothing to report.	A Walker Capt IO
	30th		Situation normal - location no change. Administration continues. 2i/c 6KOSB visits Bn to discuss with CO changeover with 6KOSB on evening of 1 Jan 45. 'Scotsman' Press Correspondent arrives to stay for few days with Bn.	See Appx G1
	31st	0945 1200	Another quiet day with nothing to report. CO visits Dutch Coy & 6KOSB in BLERICK to discuss details of relief. Church parade in MAASBREE.	See Appx G2 A Walker Capt IO