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Army Form C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 7/9th (Highrs) Bn The Royal Scots

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year October 1944

Commanding Officer Lt-Col M E Melvill

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HORNCASTLE	1st		AMERICA received ☉ ref Appx A "September" ☉ now indicates "Op cancelled" ☉ 48 and 72 hrs leave CANCELLED ☉ Normal privilege leave re-opens MONDAY 2 Oct ☉ maximum number 3 per cent per day.	
	2nd		Lt-Col M E MELVILL now on leave ☉ Comd of Bn devolves Major JG DAWSON.	
	3rd		Major CHATER and Lieut J.L. Brown represent Bn as "skeleton Bn HQ" on exercise HALF-A-LOAF ☉ 22 Set working to Bde HQ ☉ Duration - ends p.m. FRIDAY.	
	4th		Privilege leave increased to 5 per cent.	
	6th		Major JG DAWSON attended Bde Comd's Conference.	
	7th	0900	Major JG DAWSON addressed the Bn on 1) Past operations 2) Present 3) Future Briefly 2) Present - re-organise, and the intention of sea-buildup joining the Bn in near future 3) We are going overseas as soon as (2) completed.	
		1230	Message received from HQ 155 Bde priority IMMEDIATE ☉ "ALL LEAVE CANCELLED ☉ personnel on leave will be recalled forthwith.	
HORNCASTLE	8th	0110	Message BM/2 from 155 Inf Bde originated at 072245 ☉ "Airportable Ech at six hrs notice to move to marshalling area from 0001 hrs 9 Oct. Message A/1 (Appx A) issued. Lt-Col M.E. Melvill rejoined the Battalion.	
		2130	Lt-Col ME Melvill and Major JG DAWSON attended Bde Comds conference.	
	9th		CO's O Gp (ALL Coy Comds, 2i/c, Adj, QM, IO, and Capt. WADSWORTH, RAMC (att)) Subject - Operational ☉ "Division moving by SEA in present organisation of "jeepable" tpt ☉ To be followed by Ech III (sea build-up) ☉ Intention to re-organise as NORMAL INFANTRY DIVISION at first available opportunity ☉ We will meet up with 157 Bde ☉ Op Maps held by unit will be taken ☉ Personnel in LS Infantry : Tpt in LCT.	

HORNCASTLE		1430 1545	<p>Lt MACLEAN reports to 155 Inf Bde as Liaison Officer ☉ Lt MACDONALD now posted to "C" Coy and assumes command No. Platoon.</p> <p>WARNING ORDER received ☉ BM/3 091150 in cipher ☉ Op to be known as WHOLEMEAL ☉ Inf Bns will move tomorrow 10 Oct, remainder Gp 11 Oct.</p> <p>Immediate message received 155 Bde ☉ No movement before 0600 hrs 11 Oct.</p>	
HORNCASTLE	10		<p>Lt-Col M.E. Melvill and Major JG DAWSON attended Bde Comds conference. RASC Drivers (five) attached to unit withdrawn w.e.f. 9 Oct ☉ Vehicles to remain with Unit and to be responsibility of Reserve Drivers to be found within Airtn ech.</p> <p>Home Details ordered to return to BANCHORY.</p> <p>CO's Conference - Operational - attended by ALL Coy Comds, 2i/c, Adj and IO. "Division moving to Belgium to conc area, and come under comd 12th Corps ☉ Corps Comd has ordered that we will fully conc (as a Div) before moving to operations.</p> <p>CO's Conference - attended by full O Gp ☉ 1) Sea build-up joining Bn in this area ☉ 2) Re-organised in this locn on to the following scale of tpt - 45 Jeeps and trailers, 13 Carriers (Universal), 6 3-tonners, CO's staff car, and full scale of Motor-cycles (as Normal Inf Bn) ☉ 3) Bn now re-organising into the following:  Ech 1 - All personnel (A1) not in other echs ☉ Ech 2 - All jeeps and trailers, all available MCs ☉ Ech 3 - Carrier platoon (13) ☉ Ech 4 - 6 3-tonners and CO's staff car ☉ Bn Ech 2 comd of Lt J STORIE ☉ Bn Ech 3 - comd of Capt BUCHANAN ☉ Bn Ech 4 - comd of Lt WILLIAMSON ☉ Warning order issued "Ech 2 at short notice to move after 0600 hrs 11 Oct ☉ Ech 1 may move p.m. 13th or a.m. 14th Oct ☉</p> <p>Two Norwegian Offrs attached to the Bn (Lts GAASLAND and KUERN DAL) are now withdrawn to Norwegian hqs.</p> <p>Capt BUCHANAN and Carrier party left Bn to report to COVENTRY to receive THIRTEEN UNIVERSAL CARRIERS.</p> <p>Message (Cipher) Immediate priority ☉ BM/3 (155 Inf Bde) ☉ wef 111545A Bde HQ and Inf Bns at 12 hrs notice, remainder Bde Gp at 24 hrs.</p>	
HORNCASTLE	12th		<p>13 Carriers (Universal) joined the Bn.</p> <p>Ech comd by Lt WILLIAMSON, previously referred to as "Ship-Build-Up" joined Bn ☉ This ech left BANCHORY, Scotland on 10th, staging at WISHAW (on 10th); CATTERICK on 11th.</p> <p>Message BM/3 - No move before 1200 hrs 13 OCT (received from HQ 155 Bde)</p>	
	13th		All surplus tpt returned.	

		1930	All Gas stores returned. Warning Order received - Ech One moves 12th ⊙ Ech 2, 3 and 4 on 16th ⊙ Marshalling Areas - Ech 1 - Q047387 (Sh 11) ⊙ Other ech 2, 3 and 4 - R0098 (Sh 12. ¼ inch to mile). Movement Order for Ech One issued (Appx B).	
FAREHAM	14th	0415 1400 1710	Entraining of Gp one (A & D Coys, HQ Coy). A, D and HQ Coy train arrives at FAREHAM Rly Stn (map ref - Q0126 - Eng and Wales ¼ inch Sh 12) ⊙ Moved by tpt to Marshalling Camp - map ref Q021270 (Sh 12). C, B and Sp Coy train arrives, and joins Bn in Marshalling Camp.	
FAREHAM	15th		CO's O Gp attended by all Coy Comds - Warning Order for move of 200 Men on 16 Oct; remainder Bn on 17 Oct(?).	
SOUTHAMPTON	16th	1200	Lt-Col M.E. Melvill, Adj, SO and IO, HQ Coy (less QM Staff and Bearer Sec of RAMC) <del>also</del> 'A' Coy complete, and Colour ptys from B, C, D and Sp Coys - B Coy - Capt FINDLAY; C Coy - Capt THOMSON, D Coy - Capt NORMAND, Sp Coy Lt CAIRNS ⊙ EMBARKED SOUTHAMPTON ⊙ Ship - TSS "ISLES OF GUERNSEY" ⊙ Strength of Pty: 204 Offrs and ORs ⊙ Destination OSTEND.	
OSTEND	17th	1400 1530	Party disembarked, met by G3 156 Bde HQ (Capt HAY) ⊙ Party moved to transit camp OSTEND (No. 60). Capts SCOTT, NORMAND, THOMSON, FINDLAY, GRAY and Lieut CAIRNS moved to conc area Sh 7 (Belgium & NE Fr. 1/100,000) East of WAEREGHEM 9762.	
OSTEND WAEREGHEM	18th	0830 1400	Moved by MT to WAEREGHEM by the following route:- X Rds 6397, THOUROUT 7584, X Rds 7579, LICHTERVELDE 7879, THIELT, DEYNZE 0572 thence to Conc Area. Est Bn HQ at 972638 ⊙ A, HQ Coys with Bn HQ in factory ⊙ nearest senior fmn HQ 156 Inf Bde 0464 ⊙ Factory SOCIETE ANONYME de Waereghem.	
WAEREGHEM	19th	1130	Remainder Bn arrived at this locn ⊙ Layout of Sub-Unit now 972638 (Factory) - Bn HQ, HQ Coy, A, B and Sp Coys ⊙ Factory at 973632 - C and D Coys ⊙ Lt Guthrie and 1 Pl 'C' Coy remaining at OSTENDE (duty-guard). A Coy (comd Major JOHNSTON) will now take over Report Centre at DEYNZE (relieving 4/5 RSF). Capt NORMAND, Capt FINDLAY, Lieut CAIRNS reported to Col CARTER at OSTENDE (duties - de-embarkation staff).	
WAEREGHEM	20th	1430	Bn 'O' Gp - attended by Coy Comds, 2i/c, Adj, IO. Order of the Day by Major-General E Hakewill Smith CBE, MC (Appx C).	
	22nd		Lt-Col M.E. Melvill and Lieut J.L. Brown visited HQ 157 Bde (Sh 2 1/100,000) 042983.	

WAEREGHEM	23rd		Party of 6 Officers, 10 NCOs visited OSTEND to inspect Defences. CO returned from Bde HQ with details of pending operation ☉ Lt-Col M.E. Melvill briefed 2i/c, Adj, SO, IO ☉ Details on Appx "D".
	24th	1900	Echs 2 and 4 joined the Bn ☉ Casualties - CO's Staff Car and 1 M/C. Embarked at Tilbury on 22nd Oct ☉ Landed at OSTEND 24th.
	25th	1930	CO met ARMY COMD in GHENT. J1880Q JBLt J1885 (1/4 inch Sheet Two). Conference at Bde HQ attended by Lt-Col M.E. Melvill. Ech 3 joined Bn ☉ No casualties ☉ Embarked at Tilbury, Monday 23rd ☉ Disembarked at OSTEND 1330 hrs to-day ☉ All Bn now concentrated in Belgium.
	26th		Major J.G. DAWSON representing Bde Comd, recce'd Bde Gp Layout in new Conc Area. CO's O Gp - attended by OCs A B C D Sp HQ Coys, Adj, SO, IO, MTO, QM, MO ☉ Operational ☉ As Appx "D" but infm of Conc Area.
	27th	1000	Colour ptys moved off to new conc area (Sh 2 Belgium and NE FRANCE) 1/100,000. OOSTVELD 9693 - 1 Offr and 1 NCO per Coy under Major J.G. DAWSON.
Waereghem	28th		C and D Coys with Pioneer Pl moved by MT route to erected Wire Fencing (Task - 8 hours) at DE HANN (Sh2) - 7207 and then to proceed to new conc area at OOSTVELD 9693. Conference attended by OCs HQ, Sp, A, B Coys, MTO, ATk Officer, QM, IO - Subject - Movement of Main Body tomorrow.
Waereghem OOSTVELD  OOSTVELD	29th	0915  1400	All remaining Jeeps and Trailers with A Coy complete and 50% B Coy moved by MT Route to Conc Area ☉ Route. DEYNZE - LOOTENHULLE 0080 - AELTRE 9984 - KNESSELAERE 9790 thence to OOSTVELD 9693 (Sh 2 1/100,000). Remainder Bn moved from WAEREGHEM to conc area ☉ Bn now laid out as follows: Bn HQ in at 964937 ☉ A Coy 979945 ☉ B Coy - 967935 ☉ C&D Coys - 969940 ☉ Sp Coy - 958933 ☉ Comms - Line to A B C and D Coys ☉ Refs all Sh 21&31 1/50,000. Warning issued to all coys of pro-Nazi element and collaborators in Maldegem 0098.
OOSTVELD	30th	1730	Bde O Gp attended by CO and IO at HQ 155 Inf Bde at BRUGES.
	31st	1130	CO briefed ALL Officers of the Bn on Operation (Infatuate) ☉ Re-organisation of the Bn to the following:- Rifle Coys the same as before but MINUS LOBs and VICKERS GUN ☉ Support Coy - Mortar Platoon on Man-Pack; Modified Carrier Platoon as Appx "E"; No Anti-Tank Platoon required for Operation ☉ HQ Coy as normal minus Coy hq ☉ Officers left out of battle - Major J G DAWSON, Major CHARTERIS, Capt NORMAND, Capt SCOTT, (OC LOB), Mr WIGHTON and Mr NEWTON; Capt STRACEY, Capt ALLISON, Mr BILTON, Mr STOREY,

Oostveld			<p>Mr WILLIAMSON ☉ ORs - CQMS and storeman of <u>all</u> Coys; Sjts - B=1; C=2; D=2; Corporals 1 per Rifle Coy; L/Cpls 1 per Platoon; Privates - 6 per Rifle Coy (excluding Drivers and Batman) ☉ <u>Specialists</u> - Mortar Pl - Sjt, Cpl, L/Cpl + Drivers: Pnr Pl - Sjt 2 Pioneers + Drivers: Carrier Pl - all NOT required for new organisation ☉ Intelligence Cpl, Sniper, 2 dogs and handlers; ALL Cooks; ALL Fitters &amp; MT Staff, ALL Drivers; Ord Rm Clerk; One R.P.; Signal Sergeant and 3 others; ALL Batman of LOB Offrs ☉ <u>Dress</u> - Jersey pullover, windproof top, Mae Wests, Gloves, normal equipment (i.e. - small pack). In small pack - 24 hr Ration pack, Emergency Rations, Sterilization Tablets, Heavy pullover, pr Socks, cap comforter, Towel, Mess Tin, Two Sandbags, Water Bottles MUST be full - Note Respirators will NOT be carried ☉ Large Pack - Great coat, spare pair Socks, Washing &amp; Toilet Kit, Windproof trousers - Remainder kit in Rucksack under LOB.</p> <p>Amn - As for Airtn Scale, less 75 Grenades (now only carried by Pnr Pl) ☉ Reserve Amn remains under OC LOB ☉ 3" Mortar Amn - carried by A B D Coys, 99 rds each, to be dumped on other side at Bn Dump ☉ Water shortage on "Objective" - 2 gallon Water Tins will be taken, 2 Water Bottles to be carried by each S-B. Blankets to be issued specially for Op ☉ Shell Dressings to be carried by other ranks ☉ Morphia carried by each Officer ☉ No pedal or motor cycles to be taken ☉ Wireless Silence till 0530 D-Day ☉ Listening watch from 0500 hrs ☉ Bn at ONE hour's notice from 0800 hrs 1st NOV ☉ Order of Bns, 4 Cdo, 4th KOSB, 5 KOSB, 7/9 Royal Scots ☉ D-Day as on Appx D ☉</p>	
OOSTVELD			<p>M Melvill 7/9th (Highrs)</p>	<p>Lieut-Colonel Bn The Royal Scots (The Royal Regt)</p>