

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 7/9 Royal Scots

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Commanding Officer Lt-Col M E Melvill

Month and Year November 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Oostveld BRESKENS	1st	0700 1435 1600 2000	C Coy complete with Capt NORMAND and all under comd Major J G DAWSON moved to BRESKINS 0919 (1/100,000 Sh 2) ☉ Task, movement of supplies for Op. INFATUATE. Message received from HQ 155 Bde, "prepare to move IMMEDIATELY." Bn moved off by tpt route:- EECLOO 0895 - WATERVLIET 1305 - SCHOONDIJKE 0914. Recce Colour Pty - One Officer and One NCO per Coy. embarked with Bde Comds pty (Tac HQ) landing at Uncle Beach 2030 hrs. 113239 Colour pty contacted LIEUT BEVERIDGE and one pl 'C' Coy who were on unloading duties ☉ They had NO casualties up to this time.	
FLUSHING Flushing	2nd	0315 0445 1130 1420 1800 2100 2215	Bn landed on "Uncle" Beach, with 2 pls 'C' Coy, which rejoined at BRESKENS. Conc at 111239 (former barracks German Army). Bn ordered to provide Patrol (Pl) to link up with 4 KOSB in area of Shipbuilding Yards ☉ This relieved 5 KOSB of this Task. Lieut TAYLOR and pl (B Coy) ordered to escort PWs and civilians from offices East Shipyards to area known as "TROUT" (see TRACE "A"). Enemy MG Fire (indirect fire) on to our locn ☉ no cas. Lieut WALKER killed by burst MG fire from Beach area directed through top storey window of Barracks ☉ Personal No. C Coy now under comd 5 KOSB, and situated in area 113247 ☉ B Coy in area 115243 with task of sitting on bridge at 114241 and prevent infiltration from area North into FLUSHING ☉ A Coy in area "FALMOUTH" 120240 with task observing area immediately North. Lt-Col M E MELVILL called to Bde HQ ☉ received "brief" for Op "assist 4 CDO landing". O Gp attended by OCs B and D Coys; Capt THOMSON (OC C Coy), Carrier Offr, SO, IO ☉ Plan see Appx A.	
Flushing	3rd	0205 0700	Bn HQ moved off ☉ Comms as per Diagram attached Appx A ☉ Report of action and timings Appx B. A Coy ☉ activity in FALMOUTH area up to 0330 hrs ☉ Own Arty falling short on own localities ☉ No casualties ☉ 0900 - Capt DR HADDON (Adjnt) joined Tac HQ.	

		1405	Major J.G. DAWSON assumed comd of the Battalion. Own casualties ☉ Listed on Appx 'C'. Two Coys 4 Bn KOSB came under comd this Unit, i.e. A Coy at 1000 hrs ☉ D Coy 1800 hrs. Re-organisation - B Coy (right) 097250 patrol sitting on spit looking to Gap in sea wall; D Coy (centre) 098249, C Coy at 099248; C Coy 4/KOSB (left) 100248, A Coy 4/KOSB 102250; Bn HQ at 100250; Rear Bn HQ and Sp Coy 111239	
	4th	1345 1730 1930 2230	CO and IO attend Bde Comds O Gp. "7/9 RS take over locality held by 4KOSB". Bn moved into new area, with sub-units as follows: Bn HQ = House 62 ☉ C Coy - Shipyards 109243 ☉ B Coy - Xrds 107244 ☉ D Coy 105239 ☉ A Coy 111241 ☉ Sp Coy with Bn HQ ☉ Patrolling Tasks for all Rifle Coys ☉ A&D 4/KOSB revert to own Unit. CO and IO attend Bde O Gp - plan for attack on Middleburg. Pnr Pl came under comd REs and moved fwd to clear gap in minefield - area Canal.	
Flushing	5th	0730 1430 1445 1530	Battalion at ONE hours notice ☉ CO and IO with Bde Comd observing Battle ☉ Major Dawson earmarked to rep Bde Comd as OC FLAG Pty to receive surrender of tps in Middleburg. Lt JL Brown (IO) detailed to rep Bn on recce to be carried out in a Water Buffalo ☉ Object - To determine whether it is possible to land a Bn (transported in Water Buffalos) to North Rd leading into Middleburg ☉ Capt Jones represented Bde Comd ☉ Pty comd by Capt comding Tank. Recce Pty moved off ☉ Route rd to KOUDEKERKE 095285, thence to TER HOOGE 123290 ☉ Area particularly heavy in minefields and anti- landing charges ☉ Flooded quite deeply, except for a part in the centre of KOUDEKERKE ☉ Big welcome from Dutch people of the village ☉ No Germans encountered ☉ At area of Ter Hooge decided impossible to proceed further, 1) owing to failing light, 2) extent of mined areas, 3) No comn to Bde HQ and with those three factors we decided to return with the following answer to Bde Comd "not practicable by night; but, with time and good navigation by day, it would indeed be possible, but a percentage of cas. must be expected owing to Mined Areas" ☉ On return journey, the tank got bogged on concrete bridge which was under water ☉ Time 1730 hrs ☉ Capt Jones & Lieut Brown waded back, arriving and reporting to Bde Comd at 0600 hrs 6th Nov. CO's O Gp to Coy Comds - "Pending success of 157 Bde in reaching SE of Middleburg and forcing surrender - or likewise with 4th Bn KOSB:- the 7/9 RS will be prepared to move up West side of Canal round North of Middleburg ☉ Tpt will be LVTs.	Flushing

		1930	No move before 0200 hrs 6 Nov.	
		2010	No move before 0900 hrs 6 Nov.	
Flushing	6th	0730	CO's O Gp - 0810 - CO ordered to report to Bde HQ.	
		0855	Warning Order - "A" Company prepare to move, Major Johnston to report to Bn HQ.	
		0930	Major Johnston briefed for Op:- A Coy with One MG platoon in support transported in LVTs to move across flooded area to search all concrete localities, if unable to be dealt with by his Force, they were to be reported to Bde HQ ☉ Force was also to recce the possibility of the remainder of the battalion moving in LVTs ☉ If Flag of Surrender was flown by the enemy, Major Johnston was instructed, on behalf of Bde Comd, to accept on terms of unconditional surrender ☉ Timings, Route and Narrative as Appx "D".	
		1630	A Coy reached MIDDLEBURG.	
		1640	Bn ordered by CO to be at half-an-hours notice to move.	
Flushing		1815	Major Dawson - Bn O Gp ☉ 1) C Coy to come under comd 4th Bn KOSB. 2) D Coy to provide one platoon for duty as escort to Bde Comd, if and when the Brigadier decided to go Middleburg that night, this platoon at 30 minutes notice ☉ 3) Bn (less A and C Coy) likely to remain in FLUSHING.	
		2230	C Coy moved from present locn to join 4th Bn KOSB, now moving to Middleburg.	
	7th		Line comm laid to Sp, B and D Coys.	
	8th	1100	Major J G DAWSON attended Bde Comds Conference.	
		1300	Bn O Gp ☉ Areas allocated for cleaning up and collection of British and Enemy Wpns, equipment and amn ☉ Discipline - Drill Parade each day: Turnout and Dress ☉ RAMC Bearer Sec (Comd - Capt WADSWORTH) remain under comd 7/9 RS ☉ Avoidance of Looting ☉ Complimentary - Bde Comd expressed that it should be made known to all ranks, his opinion that the Bde Gp has earned a distinction, that they well might feel conceited about ☉ The Bde Comd also made comment on how willingly all tasks were carried out.	
FLUSHING		1600	Bde Comd visited Bn Area. Bde Comd ordered that it should be recorded in the War Diary that the Cinema Projector complete with all its apparatus and also the Epidiascope, captured by the Battalion at FLUSHING, will be handed to HQ 155 Inf Bde for use within the Brigade ☉ At the end of Hostilities, this property to be returned to the Battalion as Regimental Property of the 7/9th (Highrs) Bn The Royal Scots.	
	9th	1110	A Coy returned to their former location, and revert to comd 7/9 RS.	
		1250	C Coy returned to their previous locn, and to Unit comd.	
		1415	Divisional Comd and Bde Comd visited Bn Area.	

Flushing			On orders and authority of Comd 155 Inf Bde, Major J G Dawson assumes rank of Lieut-Colonel (Appx F refers). Pioneer Platoon reverts comd 7/9 Royal Scots ☉ No cas.	
	10th		Brigade Church Service attended by Lt-Col J G Dawson and 250 ORs of the Bn. Movement Order received ☉ Intention 155 Bde Gp will move from Flushing to conc area south of MALDEGEM ☉ Unit details as on Serial 7 Appx A to Adm Instr dated 9 Nov 44 ☉ Movement on 13th Nov.	
	11th		Notification of Re-Inforcements received ☉ Offrs - Capt JW MARSH (The Royal Scots), Lieut DF MILLER (RS), Lieut DJ MALLAGH (RS), 2/Lt H. ORTON (Oxf and Bucks), 2/Lt KNOWLES FCF (Oxf and Bucks) ☉ ORs - 3 Sjts, 6 Cpls, 42 Ptes, total 51 ORs ☉ Draft Serial RXXGP (LAAP Scheme).	
Flushing	12th		Lt-Col JG DAWSON assumes comd tps FLUSHING. O Gp - Coy Comds only - Warning Order for movement on 13th. Order of the Day ☉ Lt-Gen GG SIMONDS, CB, CBE, DSO, A/C-in-C First Cdn Army ☉ Issued and read to all Offrs and Men of the Bn ☉ Appx H.	
BRESKINS FLUSHING	13th	1000 1200 1210	A and D Coys, Adjt and IO with half Bn HQ embarked at FLUSHING, on LCTs. The above party under Adjt. landed at BRESKINS, and moved by MT route to OOSTVELD. CO, SO and Sig Pl, B and C Coys embarked at FLUSHING and crossed to Breskens, proceeding to Conc Area at Oostveld.	
OOSTVELD OOSTVELD	14th	(pm)	Capt NORMAND appointed OC D Coy and promoted to Major. Lieut CAMERON promoted to Captain and appointed 2i/c D Coy. Capt MARSH posted to A Coy. Capt KIM BUCHANAN to be 2i/c Coy. Lieut J STORIE to be OC Carrier Pl. Lieut DS MILLER to be 2i/c Carrier Pl ☉ Lieut DJ MALLAGH to A Coy. 2/Lt T KNOWLES to 'B' Coy ☉ Lieut EF STEWART to "D" Coy, 2/Lt M ORTON to 'D' Coy. LOB Pty at BRESKENS returned to Bn.	
SANTULIET	15th	1030 1500	Bn moved by MT route to SANTULIET (Sh 2 1/250,000 - D6112) ☉ Route KNESSELAERE H9891 - MALDEGEM J0198 - GHENT J18 - LOKEREN J3785 - St NICOLAS J4991 - ANTWERP - BREDA rd CAPELLEN, thence SANTULIET D6112. Est Bn HQ at 611123 ☉ B, C, D, Sp, HQ Coys in SANTULIET ☉ A Coy at 606128 ☉ Line comn to all Coys. O Gp - CO to Coy Comds - "Admin"	
	16	2100	Lt-Col JG DAWSON and IO attended Bde Comd's Conference ☉ "Admin"	
	17	0930	O Gp - CO to Coy Comds, MTO, QM, SO, IO ☉ Appointments - Major H ROSE to be Second-in-Command ☉ Capt CMG HERRIOT to be OC 'B' Coy	

SANTULIET			and granted A/RK of Major ☉ Capt W.E. SCOTT to be OC 'Sp' Coy ☉ Capt K.M.C. GRAY to be OC HQ Coy ☉ Capt J.W. MARSH to be 2i/c 'A' Coy ☉ Lieut J. STORIE granted A/RK of Capt ☉ Re-organisation of Carrier Pl - 7 Carriers (1 Comd and 2 Secs) 1 Carrier to Bn Comd, 1 Carrier spare, 1 Carrier each to OCs A, B, C, D Coys ☉ Spare Carrier, if reserve Bn, earmarked for Bde Comd ☉ C.O. proposes to try out the following organisation - 7 Carriers to Carrier Pl; 5 Carriers to Mortar Pl (one for Comd and 2 secs of mortars); 1 to Bn Comd ☉ remainder "Admin." ☉ Movement Order No.1 S/O/1 of 17 Nov 44 issued, attached Appx "G" ☉ Z hr 0800 hrs.	
VAGHT	18	0730	Bn in MT crossed Bn S.P. moving to BERGEN-OP-ZOOM 611275 (Bde SP) crossing this point at 0800 hrs ☉ Route as Appx "G".	
VAGHT		1130	Bn HQ est at VAGHT	
VAGHT		1730	All Sub-Units in this locn. CO and IO attended Bde Comd's Conference at HQ ☉ Op - Intention of Bde Gp to restore situation in S'HERTOGENBOCHE. Bn order to provide ONE COMPANY, at 30 minutes notice during hours of darkness, the remainder of the Bn at 60 minutes notice, w.e.f. 18 Nov. ☉ Task of Bn - to move without tpt to West of HERTOGENBOCHE on to dry ground (referred to as "Island") area of NIEWKUIK 2346 and to be prepared to make Eastward movement on to HERTOGENBOSCH ☉ 4 KOSB similar movement on East to move into objective on Eastward assault ☉ Warning Order - Bde Comd's appreciation that 52 Division likely to relieve the 4th Cdn Armd Div now on defensive posns on South Bank River MAAS with left flank excl TILBURG ☉ It is further thought that we would probably be responsible for sector North and WEST of HERTOGENBOSCH ☉ If appreciation becomes actual - 4 KOSB will be on right; 7/9th Royal Scots on Left ☉	
VAGHT		2100	CO to Large O Group - D Coy ordered to be Inlying Coy till 0800 19 Nov. thereafter each Rifle Coy as published in Bn Orders. (See Appx "I") Remainder of Bn, less LOBs, A Tk Pl, B ech at 60 minutes notice ☉ Scales Amn - each Rifle - 150 rds SAA, LMG 12 mags per gun; PIATs and 2" Mortar Amn - Airtn Scale ☉ 3" Mortar Pl - "man-pack" ☉ No tpt except ONE Jeep 22 - Wireless Set (Rear-Link to Bde HQ) ☉ Route to be recced on 19 Nov, but NO movement fwd rly line 243470 ☉ LOB will contain 2 L/Cpls and 9 men per Coy; Offrs and NCOs as detailed for attachment to 4 Cdn Armd Div ☉ Order of March Inlying Coy - Next for duty Coy with Tac Bn HQ behind First Platoon - Mortar Pl - Pnr Pl (less one section to be attached to Inlying Coy) - Next again coy for duty - Bn HQ - remaining Coy. ☉ Route (to-night only) - Direct Rd route via HELVOIRT Cross Rds 270399 ☉	

		2350	PRACTICE - "STAND TO" INLYING COY.	
VAGHT	19	1330 (am)	Four patrols sent fwd to recce routes ☉ CO, JLO (att from HQ 155 Inf Bde), IO - recce of route. CO lectured to all Officers and men of the Bn - "Lessons from Bn Operation at FLUSHING" ☉ 1900 hrs Inlying Coy - now 1 hrs notice (Bn 2 hrs notice).	
	20	1400 0520	CO with Rifle Coy Comds on recce of assembly area etc. ☉ Recce pty from all sub-units moved over route to assembly area ☉ PRACTICE - STAND-TO Bn.	
	21	0900	CO - Coy Comds, SO, IO - "Ops"	
VAGHT	22	2030	CO - Large 'O' Gp ☉ Relief of Linc and Welland Regt (4 Cdn Armd Div) on 24/25 Nov. area West S'HERTOGENBOSCH to incl HERPT 2151 ☉ Comd of the area to pass to OC at 1600 hrs 24 Nov. and then to 155 Inf Bde at 0800 hrs 25 Nov. ☉ LOBs - Capt GRAY (OC), Lieut MURRAY, WIDDOWSON, GUTHRIE, and Capt CAMERON; - one NCO and six men, each rifle platoon; A tk pl complete (Capt TRACEY, and Lieut BILTON); MTO all Drivers (less CO's car, CO's Jeep, 0 Jeep, 1 SAA Jeep, 1 Jeep per Coy ☉ Sjt Crosbie, & 1 Sniper NCO ☉ Admin - Amn scale, 150 rds ☉ Big pack to remain with LOB ☉ Respirators left behind.	
	23	1300 1430 1700 2030	Advance Party under comd Major ROSE moved by MT to RV at VLIJMEN 2647. O Gp - Bn HQ - Patrol programme for night 24/25 Nov. ☉ Warning Order to prepare to dig-in posns night 25/26 Nov. CO attended Bde O Gp. Large O Gp. - Op - Arty sp initially 1 Fd Regt and 2 Btys, eventually all to come under comd CRA, and will then have on call 4 Fd Regts 2 Mediums ☉ Mtn Gunners assume Counter Mortar Rote ☉ Division Policy for the "Holding of the Line" - First ten days, Units to sit "QUIET", and observe; if enemy crosses the River MAAS, he should NOT get back ☉ Patrolling policy - movement to the minimum; standing patrols to be thickened-up; Units NOT to cross river unless ordered by Bde Comd ☉ Units to be TEN DAYS in the line ☉ Stand To - 0700-0800 : 1700-1800 hrs.	
Vaght VLIJMEN	24	0900 1600 2215	Marching tps move to VLIJMEN 2647 ☉ Route - Comd to Br 2444 - NIEUWKUIK 2346 thence direct to Coy areas. Tpt under MTO via most direct road route ☉ No tpt beyond Cross Roads 272480. Comd Bn Area assumed by 7/9th (Highrs) Bn The Royal Scots. Relief of all fwd posns completed ☉ NTR.	
	25	0600	Sitrep - Burst of MG fire ☉ Patrolling NTR ☉ No cas.	

		1830	Sitrep - BOKHOVEN 2751 and HEDIKHUISEN 2351 under Mortar Fire - 44 Bombs ☉ MGs NOT active ☉ No cas.	
	26	0600 1800	Sitrep - Apart from intermittent MG and Mortar fire on fwd posns ☉ NTR ☉ patrolling - NTR ☉ No cas. Sitrep - Enemy OP identified and engaged by 258 Bty. - 5 out of 6 on to target. Slight MG and mortar activity ☉ No cas.	
	27	0600 1800	Sitrep - Quiet ☉ Patrolling NTR ☉ No cas. Sitrep - Loudspeaker heard from area 3052 ☉ Query Orders being relayed to FORT.	
VLIJMEN	28	0600 1700	Sitrep - apart from slight Mortar activity area A Coy OP 289508 ☉ NTR ☉ No cas. Sitrep - heavy mortaring C Coy OP at HEDIKHUISEN ☉ No cas.	
	29	0600 1700	Sitrep - No activity. Sitrep - Mortaring - No cas.	
	30	0600 1700	Sitrep - slight MG activity - Patrols NTR - No cas. Sitrep - Mortars active on fwd posn but NO cas. Defence Scheme fully complete and attached as Appx "J".	JG Dawson Lt-Col 5 Dec 44

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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit Appx B

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Commanding Officer _____

Month and Year November 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
(Ap prox)	3rd	0145 0210 0330 0400	<p>Tactical headquarters moved off.</p> <p>Own Artillery shells landing on own tps ☉ Coys affected - Carriers B Coy and D Coy ☉ Gunner Rep. with Colonel Melvill said it was enemy shelling and on this the Colonel ordered Lieut BROWN (IO) to push forward to the leading tps and order them to Advance ☉ At this time we had NO comm to rear headquarters, therefore not in touch with Bde HQ ☉ When it became evident that it was own shells, CO ordered the barrage to be lifted; this was delayed owing to the 22 set on man-pack, thereby message was delayed considerably ☉ It must be added that at this moment the Bn was wading in water over waist deep ☉ Cas. were heaviest with Carrier pl and "D" Coy ☉ The barrage was lifted a few minutes before 0315 hrs (H hr) ☉ The CO thereby postponed H hr till 0330 - the IO was ordered to pass this message to all Coy Comds ☉ Progress was slow, but morale high ☉ Comms to Coys intact, still no comm with Bde HQ ☉</p> <p>Leading elements just approaching F.U.P. ☉ water, and in parts current, made progress very slow at this point ☉ It was quite evident that Coy personnel and gps were out of positions as for "order of march" ☉ CO at this moment set up HQ in House a few yards from F.U.P. ☉ Major ROSE asked for permission to work forward to find a shallower FUP (!!!)☉ In doing so, the Bn "Snake" formation found themselves almost on to objective, and asked for "permission to assault now" ☉ This was agreed to by Colonel Melvill, and instructed that all comds "tie-up" at this point and organise the assault forward ☉ At this time, still no comm to Bde HQ ☉</p> <p>Tremendous cheering and cries "UP THE ROYALS" as Lieut CAMERON and 16 Platoon D Coy assaulted Pillbox (No.1) ☉ Support fire from Capt Buchanan and 2 secs of Carriers (dismounted) ☉ This was very successful - THIRTY PWs ☉ Bn morale very high ☉ Lieut Cameron re-organised & consolidated 2&3 Secs left : 1 Sec right on the bank in front of posn (Pillbox still under own fire) ☉ On right of 16 Pl,</p>	

		<p>Lieut TAYLOR moved his platoon into posn ☉ 18 Pl D Coy (composed of 17 & 18 Pls) - 12 men - moved to clear Hotel supported from fire of 16 Pl and B Coy ☉ Lieut George found Door locked, but found it easy to break through and, as soon as inside, garrisoned all the basement, and signalled for 16 Platoon to come across ☉ 16 Pl then moved into Blg (sp fire from B Coy) to move into second floor (time now almost 0600 hrs) D Coy HQ in Pillbox ☉ It was observed that main enemy oppsn came from White House (see diagram) ☉</p> <p>0630 Lt Beveridge and Platoon entered the Hotel, with purpose of locating 20mm gun that was holding up "B" Coy (enfilade fire on B Coy's left) ☉ Boche set fire to hotel ☉ It was then decided that the only way to get out of the burning building was to attack along trench system and Lt Beveridge & Platoon moved to clear the trenches supported by fire from 18 & 16 Pls. ☉ Boche SURRENDERED ☉ PWs numbered 130 including Garrison Comd of FLUSHING (Oberst REINHART) ☉ 18 Pl was called upon by OC B Coy to search a corner house, to assist B Coy fwd, and 18 Pl found nothing there. Major CHATER (OC D Coy) was killed as he was trying to get across to join 16 and 18 Pls in Hotel.</p> <p>C and B Coy who had been taking on the "flank" buildings during this stage, finally mopped them up, and the ENEMY fully and finally surrendered.</p> <p>0635 Lt-Col M.E. Melvill ordered Lieut BROWN to go back to Bde HQ and to inform Bde Comd of the situation (which was very dim) at that time, ie - 20mm in such a position that it completely dominated the situation and was <u>not</u> approachable ☉ 2 platoons in the Hotel, which was burning furiously ☉ Amn short ☉ Enemy in considerable strength ☉ only comn to Bde HQ via Gunner 22 Set (est at 0400 hrs) ☉ Casualties - appeared to be very high.</p> <p>IO arrived at Bde HQ and was given three propositions for Colonel Melvill ☉ 1) Typhoon support to knock out gun (note - means withdrawing own fwd tps) ☉ 2) Assistance of ONE or TWO Coys of KOSB Bn ☉ Possibility of withdrawing, with complete powers to Colonel Melvill to make decision but, if possible, not to do it ☉ KOSB Coys to be placed at disposal of OC 7/9 RS to assist in the withdrawal ☉</p> <p>CO during this time left Bn HQ and moved towards "B" Coy, and although warned of the danger of the piece of ground [...]</p>	
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