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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Delete heading not required)

Unit 7/9TH (HRS) BN THE ROYAL SCOTS

Month and Year MARCH 1945

Commanding Officer Lt-Col H. ROSE D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
TERPORTEN 8542	1		Bn relieved by 6 CAMERONIANS, present posns having become superfluous owing to the occupation of GROOTE HORST 8639 by 6 HLI ☉ Bn moved by march route to area CUSTOMS HOUSE - SEMINARY 8840 and relief was completed by 1930 hrs ☉ D Coy jeep blown up by R mine at 875390.	
SIEBENGEWALD 8840	2		All quiet on the Bn sector, and owing to moves fwd by flanking bns during the day bn posns again became superfluous ☉ Considerable trouble was encountered during the day with civ population, freshly laid mines being found at first light in the fwd coy area ☉ Some suspect civs were detained, questioned and evacuated.	
	3		Bn ordered to follow 4 KOSB to area TWISTEDEN - KLEINE KEVELAER 9429, preceded by harbour parties ☉ Owing to rd demolition and hy traffic ahead, bn did not reach TWISTEDEN until 0100 hrs 4 Mar.	
TWISTEDEN 9429	4		C Coy ordered to move by march route to area SPITZFELD 9525 ☉ Tac HQ and Carrier Platoon moved to area 952283 ☉ B Coy ordered to march to reinforce C Coy ☉ 1 offr and 1 OR PW taken during the day ☉ RE stated that they were unable to complete bridge at 952283 for 12 hrs, and accordingly CO ordered the construction of a Cl 1½ bridge by SP Coy ☉ This was completed by 1800 hrs (known as MALONEY Bridge) ☉ OC B Coy was forced to open fire towards civs who were hesitant in complying with his orders ☉ CO visited Bde for orders for move SOUTH	
	5		Colour parties moved to WESTERBROEK 9616 at 0600 hrs ☉ The whole area was found to be occupied by US Army tps 75 U.S. Div ☉ Bn column left at 0830 hrs, but was halted at WALBECK 9623 until a new area was allotted ☉ Bn eventually moved into area allotted to 1 Mtn Regt RA at HOLT 9620, with the intention of moving to WESTERBROEK as soon as U.S. tps were clear of that area ☉	
HOLT 9620	6		Orders for move to WESTERBROEK cancelled ☉ R and O Gps and colour parties stood by from 0900 to move to any area ☉ Parties stood down 1600 hrs ☉ Orders received for non-operational relief of 71 Inf Bde (53(W) Div) on 7 Mar in area ISSUM 0927	

ISSUM 0927	7		Colour parties left at 0800 and main body at 0945, by MT arriving at ISSUM at 1200 hrs ☉ Bn relieved 1 HLI (53(W) Div) with no operational commitments	
	8		Orders received from 155 Bde to be ready to take over from 6 CAMERONIANS at ½ hrs notice from 1200 hrs ☉ 6 CAMS were holding posns in area of 145304 and would be moving fwd from 1400 hrs ☉ Colour parties left at 0815 ☉ Bn eventually took over posns at 1930 hrs ☉ Some mortaring and shelling of bn area during the night ☉ 2 OR's wounded	
	9		CO visited Bde at 1900 hrs for orders for bn attack on x-rds 169366 and RILL 1734 ☉ Timings were to be given later	
142304	10		Bn moved at 0705 to FUP area 152336 ☉ Tac HQ est 154336 and main HQ moved from ISSUM to 142304 ☉ A and B Coys crossed SL (161334 - 160336) 0900 hrs ☉ B Coy reported objective 167339 taken 0930 hrs with 9 PW and no opposn ☉ A Coy met slight opposn but reported objective X rds 169336 taken at 1005 hrs with 6 PW ☉ C Coy passed through and secured RILL 1734 with 9 PW, no opposn ☉ D Coy est in area 173340 by 1200 hrs, and Tac and main HQ est 167340 at 1600 hrs ☉ Slight mortaring on fwd coys during consolidation ☉ Own tps casualties 1 OR killed, 1 offr (CAPT MACLEAN) and 4 OR's wounded ☉ B Sqn 9 RTR under comd for op, went out of comd 1900	
	11		Orders received for move to area XANTEN 1141 to take over sector from 7 SOM LI (43 Div) on WEST bank of R RHINE ☉ Colour parties left 1430 hrs ☉ Bn left 2230 hrs by march route	
XANTEN 1141	12		Bn arrived in new area 0130 hrs ☉ MT coln arrived 0630 hrs ☉ Relief complete and comd passed 0700 hrs ☉ Lt-Col J.G. DAWSON resumed comd of Bn ☉ CO toured Bn area and visited 155 Bde for op instrs ☉ One ME 262 brought down in D Coy by own aircraft ☉ Recces of river bank carried out after dark by inf and the comds of other fmns.	
XANTEN	13		CO visited coys ☉ 4 inf O.P.'s est in bn area ☉ CO visited Bde for orders on disposal of civs and livestock ☉ Civs evacuation begun ☉ Slight shelling D Coy area	
	14		Continuation of civ evacuation and livestock ☉ Slight shelling C Coy area and OP.	
	15		CAPT BLACKETT (DLI) joined the Bn and posted to Sp Coy.	
	16		Lt-Gen DEMPSEY, G.O.C. British 2nd Army, visited the Bn ☉ GOC VIII Corps was also present ☉ Own arty engaged and removed BISLICH church tower	
	17		Visibility good, and much information of enemy mov gained by OP's ☉ Fire broke out at BIRTEN 1238 at 1830 hrs	
	18		Slight shelling bn area	

	19		Visibility good and considerable mov again seen	
	20		CO visited Bde.	
	21		Visibility good and considerable mov seen on other side of Rhine	
	22		Arty deception plan for fake crossing of Rhine commenced 0400 hrs ☉ Enemy reaction slight but OPs managed to obtain a few bearings on enemy gun positions.	
XANTEN	23		The second deception plan on the enemy took place 0330 hrs ☉ Results obtained were about the same as on the 22nd ☉ On this occasion the Bn played the part of creator of "Battle Noises" ☉ The Carrier Pl running back and fwd and Mortar Pl putting on a Smoke Shoot.	
	24		"The Great Day" at 0200 hrs the 15(S) Div made a crossing of the Rhine on our Bn sector, reporting opposition negligible. All our fwd outposts and OPs were fully manned. 1000 hrs. The first wave of the great Airborne Assault crossed over XANTEN. The Prime Minister passed through XANTEN at 1130 hrs on his tour of inspection of the Rhine crossing.	
	26		Events on the BN sector quietened down as the Rhine Bridgehead moved on, and the Bn settled down to bringing its administration up to date.	
XANTEN	27		Received instructions (which were later cancelled) to be ready to move to conc area NORTH of the RHINE.	
	28		Placed at 3 hrs notice to move from 1330 hrs. C.O. called to Bde for "O" Gp 1730 hrs ☉ BN to move across the Rhine with A Ech and concentrate area HAFFEN 1149 BN passed Bde SP 2000 hrs. Crossed Cl 19 Bridge over Rhine 086471 at 2030 hrs ☉ Arrived Haffen 2100 hrs	
HAFFEN 1149	29		C.O. visited Bde 1000 hrs ☉ No move from Conc Area before 1300 hrs ☉ CO called to BDE "O" Gp 1700 hrs ☉ BN to be prepared to move as part of 155 BDE Gp (Mobile) advancing up the Main Axis EAST from BOCHOLT 2260 BORKEN 3960 behind elements of 7 ARMD DIV. CO called BN "O" Gp for 1900 hrs and made all preparations for the move ☉ The BN was to be ready to move by 1000 hrs on 30th.	
HAFFEN	30		The Bn standing by 1000 hrs ready to move on Bde Instrs being received. BN placed at 6 hrs notice to move.	
	31		COLOUR parties left at 1600 hrs to recce concentration area for the BN in area GROOT BURLO 205607. BN to be ready to move off by MT Route at 0500 hrs 1 APRIL.	JG Dawson Lt-Col O.C. 7/9 RS