

W A R                      D I A R Y

FOR THE MONTH OF

Fmn: HQ 227 (H) INF BDE

Comd: Brig EC Colville, DSO

O C T O B E R 1944

DATE	PLACE	I N F O R M A T I O N	Ref To Appx
1 - 4	VLEUT	227 (H) Inf Bde was relieved by units of 51 (H) Inf Div during this period and by 4 OCT was concentrated in the reserve area of BAKEL (6125) - MILHEEZE (6424) - DEURNE (6520). The relief was completed without incident and on the afternoon of 3 Oct Bde HQ moved to BAKEL (612248).	Appx D Folios 1 & 2
4 - 18	BAKEL	<p>The Bde Comd directed that during rest period Bns should concentrate on house clearing and that in view of the number of personnel from other arms being transferred to the infantry a permanent Bde training wing should be started by Maj GH Hutcheson (2 Gordons). In addition, Bns also carried out training with armd troop carriers.</p> <p>Although termed a "rest" area, the ground in front of the Bde area was only thinly held by units of 11 Armd Div and 7 US Armd Div, and on the night 7/8 Oct enemy patrols laid mines on the main road between MILHEEZE (10 HLI area) and DEURNE (2 Gordons area) at 652227 and on several tracks North East of MILHEEZE. Following this incident Bns were ordered to send out patrols along the road during darkness. On 8 Oct, however, more US units moved into the area they were discontinued.</p> <p>Lt Gen Sir Richard O'Connor, Comd 8 Corps, visited Bde HQ during the afternoon of 7 Oct and Lt.Gen Sir Miles Dempsey, Comd Second Army, during the morning of 10 Oct. Senior officers of the Bde were introduced on both occasions.</p> <p>Two operations were planned for the Bde during this period, but were cancelled at the last minute. Finally on 18 Oct it was decided that the Bde would return to the ST OEDENRODE (4232) - BEST (3926) area and relieve two Bdes of 51 (H) Inf Div.</p>	Appx D Folio 3
19	BAKEL	<p>In addition to the usual Bde Gping, 15 (S) Recce Regt and 9 Cameronians were placed under comd of the Bde.</p> <p>The Bde moved during the morning and the relief was completed by first light 20 Oct.</p> <p>The Bde HQ moved into its previous location at VLEUT (403289) and the remainder of the Gp was disposed as shown on the attached trace.</p>	Appx J Folio 1

20 - 24	VLEUT	<p>A vigorous patrolling policy was adopted and together with previous patrol results provided an excellent enemy picture. The attached enemy defence plan was produced by Bde HQ on 22 Oct.</p> <p>On 22 Oct 51 (H) Inf Div launched an attack on the enemy positions to the North East of the Bde front, and it was decided that when 51 Div captured ESCH (3037) and BOXTEL (3234), 227 Bde would clear the wooded area of LIEMPDE (3632) to the line of the BOXTEL - BEST railway.</p> <p>For this operation, 6 RSF, 6 KOSB and 6 Gds Tk Bde, less 3 SG, were also placed under comd of the Bde.</p> <p>So successful was the advance of 51 Div that it was thought the enemy may have been forced to pull back on the Bde front. Patrols during the night 23/24 Oct, however, stated that the enemy was still in position. Further patrols were sent out at first light and they found that the enemy had vacated his FDLs. Civilian reports also stated that the enemy was withdrawing on the Bde front, and at 1200 hrs it was decided to put the operation into motion but with only the normal three Bn gping.</p> <p>The advance met with only isolated pockets of resistance, and although mines and booby traps caused some trouble and a few casualties all Bns were dug in along the line of the BEST - BOXTEL railway by last light.</p> <p>During the afternoon, civilians entering BEST from the NAASTEBEST area stated that the enemy was also withdrawing from this sector in the direction of OIRSCHOT. Later in the day, three deserters walked into the 9 Cameronians lines. They said they were part of a rear guard left at OIRSCHOT and had walked all the way to BEST without seeing a German.</p> <p>Recce patrols were immediately sent along the BEST - OIRSCHOT road, and after overcoming trouble with mines reached OIRSCHOT which they reported clear.</p>	<p>Appx J Folio 2</p> <p>Appx D Folio 8</p>
25	VLEUT	<p>Continuing the advance the Bde moved into the area around OIRSCHOT (3125) and on 26 Oct pushed forward again to the area of MORGESTEL (2330) where the Bde concentrated prior to attacking TILBURG.</p>	<p>Appx D 9 &amp; 10</p>
27	MORGESTEL	<p>Moving behind 44 (L) Inf Bde, 227 (H) Inf Bde were to clear the West half of TILBURG as shown on attached Op Instr No. 11</p> <p>44 Bde met with fierce resistance on the Southern outskirts of the Town, but after breaking through this crust they advanced quickly and entered the Town at 1430 hrs. The advance of 227 Bde was held up by bad traffic congestion and a broken bridge. However, the Bde Comd went forward to push the column on and 2 Gordons entered the Town on armd troop carriers soon after 1700 hrs, closely followed by 10 HLI and 2 A &amp; S H. Although a few snipers had been left in the town, the greatest obstacle to the Bns advance was provided by the cheering crowds blocking the roads.</p> <p>Due to heavy traffic, Bde HQ did not move into TILBURG until the following morning.</p>	<p>Appx D Folio 11</p>

28	TILBURG	<p>Soon after arriving in TILBURG, the Bde was placed under two hours notice to move to the ASTEN (6113) Sector, where 7 US Armd Div was being hard pressed by fierce enemy attacks over the DEURNE Canal.</p> <p>The Bde eventually left for ASTEN at 1700 hrs and arrived in the ASTEN area at 2300 hrs.</p> <p>The position on the arrival of the Bde was that the enemy had built three bridges across the DEURNE Canal and had succeeded in getting tanks and SP guns across and driven the Americans out of MEIJEL (7106).</p>	
29	ASTEN	<p>During the morning the enemy retook the villages of SLOT (6613), LIESEL (6614) and advanced six miles up the MEIJEL - ASTEN road.</p> <p><del>The American Comd decided that he would use two of the Bde's Bns to counter attack along the ASTEN - MEIJEL road in an attempt to restore the situation. This decision, however, was overridden and</del> It was decided that with the arrival of 15 (S) Inf Div in the area during the day, the Division would take over the whole sector from the Americans.</p> <p>This relief was started during the night 29/30 Oct and despite two nuisance raids by enemy bombers was successfully completed before first light. The Bde was disposed as shown on attached trace</p>	Appx J Folio 3
30	ASTEN	<p>When the enemy continued his advance at first light, he met with such fierce resistance that he quickly withdrew leaving many dead and wounded, and during the day lost one officer and 43 ORs as prisoners.</p> <p>From that time, the enemy lost the initiative, and with strong arty support and active patrolling the Bde dominated the front.</p>	