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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 6 RSF

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year Jan 45

Commanding Officer Lt Col I Mackenzie DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Anna Hoeve	1		The New Year started with a bang for the Bosche, the Bn firing everything they had for the first 30 mins after midnight. Daylight found the Bn standing to as patrols were expected to cross the river on our right. About 0930 hrs enemy fighter aircraft in considerable strength flew over our lines and bombed SEVENUM among other places. They were engaged by our fighters and gd tps and three were shot down (none by the Bn).	
"	2		Normal routine in the line was carried out. The weather was dull and cold. OPs were manned along the front by day and listening posts right on the river bank by night.	
"	3		Normal activity throughout the day. At night assistance was given to two agents who were put across the river in a rubber boat. It was an ideal night for the job which was successfully accomplished.	
"	4		The Mortar Pl was concentrated in the area of B Coy and registered all its old targets once again for a battery shoot. Observation of the front was kept up throughout the day and very little enemy movement was reported.	
"	5		During the day S Coy moved to Hoeve Rosa and took up its HQ there. The Bn was visited by Phillip Stalker, war correspondent of the Scotsman. In the morning he visited B Coy and the Mortars with the CO, and after lunching at Bn HQ he was taken by the 2 IC and the IO to see C and A Coys. Finally he was taken to the Int OP where he witnessed a shoot on a farm some 600 yds inside the enemy lines. He was delighted with all he saw and duly "wrote up" the Bn on his return to Scotland. The GIII Camouflage from Corps visited the Bn and professed himself to be very satisfied with camouflage in the Bn area, particularly screens which had been constructed by B Coy.	
"	6		Normal routine throughout the day. The Div Comd visited the Bn and had a look at the front from various places.	

"	7		The weather was very poor, but despite that, the Bn began to make preparations for its relief the next day by the 6 KOSB, advance parties of which arrived in the area in the afternoon. O Gp met at 1800 hrs.	
"	8		The Bn was relieved in the line by 6 KOSB and the relief was completed by 2000 hrs. Bn HQ moved to ROOTH with coys at SEVENUM, ROOTH, MAASBREE, WIELDER and OPDENHOUT. HQ Coy and A and B Ech did not move. The 6th Indep Dutch Coy came u/c the Bn.	
ROOTH	9		The day was spent resting and re-organising. A large programme of entertainments had been organised for the troops and many availed themselves of the opportunity.	
	10		Still resting. Major Boyle GSOII 8 Corps visited the Bn.	
	11		The Bn was still resting, but preparations were begun for the move back up the line to BLERICK.	
BLERICK	12		Advance parties moved off to BLERICK in the morning and the remainder of the Bn followed in the evening and relieved the 8 RS there by 2000 hrs. 6 Ind Dutch Coy reverted to comd of 8 RS and B Sqn 15 Recce Regt came u/c of the Bn. It was a very quiet take over and no difficulties were experienced.	
"	13		A very busy day spent settling in. Two photographers from 2nd Army came round and took photos of the whole front, particularly the bridge area. Intermittent shelling throughout the day. Bn snipers were active throughout the day.	
"	14		Normal line routine was carried out. The 2 IC went off on a recce of rest areas in BELGIUM. Offensive shoots were carried out against the Bosche, but drew very little fire back from him. Bn snipers were very active.	
"	15		C Sqn 15 Recce Regt relieved B Sqn already under comd. The Bn was visited by the Brigadier, and later by OC 2 Gordons whose Bn was going to relieve on this front.	
"	16		Harbour parties left to join 2 IC in GRAMMONT. The GII 15 (S) Div visited the Bn in the afternoon. Normal routine continued. Enemy shelling was intermittent.	
"	17		Advance recce parties from 2 Gordons visited the Bn area. They were accompanied by RAF officers who had taken part in the bombing of VENLO bridge. The latter were shown their handywork by the I Sjt from a forward OP. The GI 15 (S) Div, Commander 44 Bde and the GOC 8 Corps paid an unexpected visit in the afternoon and toured the forward positions looking out at VENLO from a fwd OP. The GOC expressed satisfaction with everything he saw.	
"	18		A very quiet day and normal routine was carried out.	

"	19	Advance parties of 2 Gordons arrived during the day and were shown round the area. The Bn prepared for its relief on the morrow and O Gp met at 1730 hrs. A formal farewell was taken of the Bosche at 2200 hrs, the Bn firing everything it had, including captured 75 mm guns. Unfortunately shortage of amm prevented the gunners from joining in. The enemy suffered in silence.	
"	20	The day was spent in handing over, and the Bn finally moved out to an area South of BOKEND. The handover to 2 Gordons was completed about 2000 hrs.	
"	21	The Bn moved in TCVs commencing at 0700 hrs to the area of GRAMMONT, BELGIUM which was reached at 1800 hrs. Bn HQ and HQ Coy were located at IDIGEM with coys in all the neighbouring villages. The track vehicles did not accompany the Bn and remained in ASTON under comd of Capt Brodie. A tremendous ovation was given to the Bn on its arrival in this area. All ranks were housed in private billets.	
IDIGEM	22	The day was spent settling in and reorganising. Orders were received at 2000 hrs for advance parties to move to HERENTALS at first light next day. Parties were collected with difficulty and spent a very uncomfortable night in Bn HQ.	
"	23	Resting continued. Adv parties moved off at 0700 hrs.	
"	24	Resting continued.	
"	25	The CO held an O Gp at 1400 hrs and gave out orders for the next day's move, the timings of which were still on an H hour basis. The tracked vehs u/c Capt Brodie moved to TILBURG to join the adv party under the 2 IC.	
TILBURG	26	The Bn moved off at 1600 hrs to TILBURG and arrived there after a very cold journey at 0100 hrs. All ranks were once again billeted out in private billets.	
"	27	Tuesday was spent settling in to new location.	
"	28	Reorganisation continued and trg was commenced.	
"	29	Gen trg	
"	30	Gen trg. The CO went to a conference convened by Corps Comd and learned the outline plan for op VERITABLE.	
"	31	Gen trg for rifle coys. Serious planning for the new op VERITABLE was commenced.	I Mackenzie Lieut-Colonel, Commanding 6th Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers