

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 2nd Bn A. & S. Hrs

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year April 45.

Commanding Officer Lt Col D.R. Morgan, M.C.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ALTENBURG 104543	1		Easter Sunday. Padre held service for C. of E and Pres, while the R.C. had their service in H.Q. coy barn. Remainder of day spent in usual routine.	
do	2		Coys training and resting. Weather very good. No word of move. We are now miles behind the line.	
do	3		No change.	
AUSTUM 886964	4		Move to new conc area at 886964. The move was carried out without any major difficulty. The CO was ill and was taken to hospital by the MO. His face was very swollen the reason for which was not known at the time. In spite of the very busy roads it was not until we were within a few miles of Austum that there was any difficulty owing to traffic jams and double banking that took place. Locations were as follows :- Bn HQ farm 886964, A coy 890965 B coy 883963, C coy 888963, D coy 886962. We expected to move to another conc area West of OSNABRUCK next day. The 2ic and IO went to Bde to a conference. The other two bns of the Bde were to clear the woods due West of OSNABRUCK. We were to lend them our carriers in order to help them complete their task.	
Do GASTE 1507	5		The bn was prepared to move at 1030 hrs but owing to the TCVs being very late we did not move until 1430 hrs. The weather was very bad and it rained most of the way. We eventually arrived at GASTE 1507. Dispositions as follows:- Bn HQ, A and B coys in factory at 153077, Sp coy in farm at 153070, D and C coys in houses at 150069. No move was expected on the following day.	
	6		Bde O gp at 1130 hrs. Sp coy and bn HQ move in the afternoon to a new conc area at BOHNHORST 7228. The rest of the bn was due as soon as the TCVs could pick them up the following day. The Pnr pl was "at home" in the factory as there was vast quantities of wood.	
do	7		Personnel of HQ and Sp coys were organised into search parties to clear the farms North and South of the village. No enemy were encountered, although a few suspected civilians were evacuated	

			through the P.W. cage. A,B,C and D coys arrived about 1600 hours and were billeted in the village.	
do	8		Church parades for all denominations. A quiet day and the Bn had baths and film shows. Some of the men went into the nearby forest to hunt roe deer. The snipers bagged one.	
do	9		The RSM gave a lecture to NCOs of the Bn on non-fraternization. 4 PsW were taken by the carrier pl from MINDEN FOREST. One PW was also taken on the information of a Russian worker who saw the PW throw his uniform away. Information also came through of a move the following day. The Pipes and Drums played in the evening for the first time on German soil in this war.	
do	10		The move was due at 1500 hrs to WUNSDORF near STEINHUDAR MEER 145295, NW of HANOVER. The 2ic and IO went ahead of the bn in order to meet the Bde comd at x-rds 117258 for an O gp. It was here that we crossed the river WESER and passed through the bridgehead made by the 6 A/B div. The intention was that we should pass through them and make for CELLE, 227 Bde leading with 46 Bde on our right, slightly to the rear.	
GARSSEN 6254	11		The bn moved at 0930 hrs to adv to contact towards CELLE. The recce were stopped short of CELLE by some very stubborn resistance and cratering of the road. One br East of NEUSTADT 1736 collapsed and a detour had to be made for the bde. The vehs were sandwiched together and it was only with great difficulty that we harboured the bn in the wood at 4846. We were given the task of clearing the woods either side of the road from 451451 to 481462. We were the rear bn of the bde during this time. It was found that the main br crossing the river ALLER at 589506 had been blown but the 10 HLI had got some men across and had formed an inf bridgehead. The bn further South at 621483 was found to be intact by the Gordons and they formed a small bridgehead. We, with a sqn of tks, were to pass through them and make our own way to GARSSEN 6254. Unfortunately the second br at 621483 collapsed and we had to wait until a class 40 was put across it in order that the tks could get across. The other brs further on were found to be so weak as to make it impossible to get tks across. By the evening the bn was conc in the village of GARSSEN. The 2ic and IO went to bde in the evening for an O gp, Bde HQ having crossed in the town by a class 40 br.	
do	12		The bn passed the bde SP at 0915 hrs en route for UELZEN. The enemy were very clever in the way they had cratered the road and most of the day was spent trying to find a way round. The tks of the HLI found a roundabout route from which eventually they made their way to HOLDENSTADT 8387 during the night 12/13 via HOLXEN 8583. The	

			dawn of 12/13 Apr found the HLI on the outskirts of UELZEN confronted by a LAA unit firing 20mm guns at short range. The CO rejoined us at midday very much refreshed and rested.	
877847	13		The bn took up the following posns: Bn HQ 877847, A coy 893868, B coy 884857, C coy 877844, D coy 888862. The bn role was to guard the right flank of the bde adv until the div could be deployed to either outflank or attack the town frontally.	
HOLDENSTADT 8784	14		At 0030 hrs night 14/15 A and C coys moved across the GERDAU river at 898865. It was held up for a considerable time as the REs failed to recce the route down to the river through the woods and it was only through the efforts of our pnr officer, Lt H. Dunning that the boating was got to the right place; the coys did not get the best sp from the arty as they were very late in crossing and getting on to their final objectives just short of HALLIGDORF 9186. The going was very bad as the ground was marshy. Cpl Miller, of A coy, was killed during this attack. Communication was very bad during the night. The object of the attack was to protect the right flank of the adv into UELZEN and to make 44 bde's adv to the right easier. The bn moved into res in the evening when it was superseded by the adv of 44 Bde on the right.	
do	15		Open-air church parade. The bn was very tired and in need of a good rest under cover.	
do	16		Bn resting. Film shows and baths laid on for troops. There was an increase of enemy air activity and one or two bombs dropped unpleasantly near.	
do	17		Orders for the move through UELZEN and the move North were issued by Bde. The bn was to leave at 0900 hrs on the 18th.	
do	18		The move was postponed until 1200 hrs because UELZEN had not been cleared as 46 Bde had not reached the North end of the town. The next order was to be ready to move at 1530 hrs and later 1800 hrs. Finally no move for the day was ordered.	
HITTBERGEN 9031	19		Reveille 0330 hrs. We crossed the SL (rly br 888871) at 0600 hrs. The start was livened up by the strafing of the col by enemy a/c but there were no cas to men or vehs. Our objective was VOLKSTORF 8816 and we reached it at 0900 hrs. We had just settled in when we [were] ordered to move nearer the river ELBE where the 11th Armoured div were fighting for a br. After a slight change of plan half-way we eventually reached HITTBERGEN 9031 at 1700 hrs. The village was heavily stonked and just before we relieved the KSLI the br was blown completely. The bn was situated as follows: Comd Post nr church 904314, A coy astride br 895315, B coy 2 pls astride rd at 890318 with 1 pl around comd post; C coy 885325, D coy	

			888327, Sp coy 902315. The CO and IO visited C coy in the evening and were heavily stonked as they were going down the main road from B coy to C coy. The enemy were very active with their AA weapons firing in a ground role. D coy had 4 cas as a result.	
do	20		The bn remained very much the same all day. A patrol was sent in the early hours to clear the bund at SOSSENDORF 8932. All civilians were cleared out of the area to South of the NEETZE canal and many days after we were still collecting civilians out of houses and woods in the bn area. Several civilians came across the river either by boat or swimming. In the evening A coy moved to HOHNSTORF 8733 which was found to be nearly deserted.	SEE APPENDIX E1
do	21		There was a recce in the bn area for the suitability of rds and tracks for the usage of various vehs. Throughout the following nights we had many visitors in the form of assault REs, naval commandos etc. Two Dutch Fire-women were passed back through PW channels. They had been found living in the woods near Echen 8630 for several days. Planning started for the forthcoming Elbe crossing.	SEE APPENDIX E2
	22		An Int OP was est at Sassendorf 897327. More civilians were cleared from the Bn area.	
	23		CO and IO visited Bde for an O gp. Maps and photos were issued for the forthcoming op. After dark the Bde comd visited the fwd coys with the CO.	SEE APPENDIX E3 & 4
	24		A quiet day with nothing to report.	SEE APPENDIX E5
Bardowick 7726	25		Very quiet day. B coy changed round with A coy at night. There was a flap while the CO and IO were at an O gp at 44 Bde HQ. The Corps comd had asked if it was possible in view of the Russian adv to cross the Elbe that night which immediately set things in a spin. It was later found that the operation had been adv two days. The adv parties of the 9th Cameronians arrived in the afternoon. The bn moved to a conc area in BARDOWICK 7726, Bn HQ, Sp coy and A coy moving in the afternoon and evening and the rest of the bn shortly after midnight.	SEE APPENDIX E6
do	26		There were frantic last minute preparations for the operation Enterprise.	SEE APPENDIX E7
do	27		Massed Pipes and Drums took place in the Cavalry Barracks at LUNEBERG at 1800 hrs.	SEE APPENDIX E8
BRETlingen 8029	28		All pl and coy comds went on a recce to ARTLENBERG 8334 at 0200 hrs in order to have a look at the other bank. They went up into the village in darkness by vehs and walked back in daylight. The bn moved to a forward assembly area in Bretlingen 8029. Shortly after dark the bn moved forward on foot to Artlenberg until such time as	

			we were required to load into our Buffalos. The barrage was terrific and started just before midnight.	
Factory at 790397	29		<p>The rough plan was that 44 Bde should make the initial br hd, with 8 RS on the left and 6 RSF on the right. 2 A & S H would take over the posns as soon as we could be got across on the returning Buffalos. The 6 KOSB were to take Schnakenbek by passing through the 6 RSF and going via rd junc 853349. The change over was to take place coy by coy with the 6 RSF. The coys were at 839351, 841352, 841351 and 842349. Bn HQ in the factory at 839350. At about 0300 hrs the bn started to cross. The first hitch was that the COs carrier got ditched in the dark and it took a good three-quarters of an hour to get it out. The CO in the meantime went over with bn HQ and used the RA net as the comd net to Bde. Just as bn HQ was getting into the quarry the enemy put down a very accurate DF task which caught a lot of people in the open. Nine Eight men were killed including Lt Davidson and three serjeants. 50-60 men wounded. It was most unfortunate that it should have happened at that moment as everyone had just arrived and had not time to dig in. The relief took place uneventfully, B and C coys moved up the main rd with B coy astride it at 842357 and C coy farther East at 845346. A coy then took over the protection of the left flank of the br hd from the 8 RS at approx 837353. Bn HQ in the meantime remained under the protection of the cliff at 839351. Throughout the morning the enemy shelled the bridge from a very long range and very accurately which was very distressing for the men crossing in storm-boats. The shelling impeded the rafting and br building for a considerable time. The 2 Gordons and 10 HLI had crossed, the Gordons making for Tesperhude 7937 and the HLI going for the high ground in the area 813391. We then followed up behind the HLI and conc in the area 827375 until about 1700 hrs when we were moved to a forward assembly area at 815384, preparatory to the attack on Grunhof and exploiting to Grunjager at 783399. We passed the start line which was the fwd edge of the wood at 2200 hrs in pouring rain, the RA putting down a hy stonk. Grunhof was found to be practically deserted. The area NW of Grunhof was found to be a built-up factory area with a metal fence all round. Bn HQ and B coy could not get through the gate at 795389 so had to go back and follow C coy who were going up the main rd to the right. C coy had suffered one fatal cas from the wood on the right which was found to be quite thick. Bn HQ then moved into the factory area at 790397 and collected Sp and B coys round it for defence. A coy reached</p>	

			Grunjager at 783399, C coy remained for the night at the west end of the wood at 791398, D coy in the area 782397.	
783394	30		At dawn B coy sent a pl to relieve a coy of the Gordons in the area of Krumme 778387. This was later stepped up to be the complete coy. C coy then moved round Bn HQ. Bn HQ and C coy later moved into the factory at approx 783394 in which posns we remained all day. The adv parties of a bn of 53 Div arrived in the evening. The night was spent more or less resting. The relief by the Welch bn did not in fact take place owing to the surrender negotiations which were in the process of taking place in the town.	