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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 194 (Br) Field Ambulance

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required)

Month and Year September 1944

Commanding Officer Lt Col JB MACFARLANE

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ANDE 282909	1	1800	A very quiet day. A very few casualties, sick and accidental injuries were received. MAJ N.R. BUTCHER 107222 reported for duty as 2 I/C	D + 87
	2	1800	Quiet morning. Visited by ADMS who advised that ADS could close as casualties were to be admitted direct to 22 FDS who were across the river SEINE at Muids. MAJ K.D. STEWART was attached to No 35 CCS for air evacuation duties. Movement order received from 44(L) Inf Bde for move on 3 Sept of Bde Group to the area of FEUILLE. Harbour party from B Coy was sent off.	D + 88
ANDE FEUILLE	3	0800 1130 1145 1800 2030	The unit marshalled at 8 o'clock and moved at 0808 with A Coy leading and with the sect MAC following. On reaching VATTEVILLE B Coy joined the convoy and took the lead from there to the arrival in the Concentration Area. O.C. visited Bde HQ. There was a possibility that there might be a further move that night. Heard from Bde that there would be no move before 0600 hrs 4 Sept. The day was one of Brilliant Sunshine and the Harbour Area a pleasant orchard unspoilt by any preceding troops. The National Day of Prayer was observed by a Divine Service conducted in the open. Attendance good.	D + 89
FEUILLE CRIQUES 672387	4	1010 1245 1300	The unit moved with the Bde Group to the area of CRIQUES arriving in a concentration area which had been reconnoitred by a harbour party, which left at 0700 hrs. The new area was reached at 1245 OC visited Bde HQ. There was no information. The unit remained on wheels and dealt with only two cases, one accidental injury and one sickness. They were evacuated to 9 FDS. The unit went for a route march in the afternoon.	D + 90

<p>CRIQUES</p> <p>CROISSETTE 1109</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>1057</p> <p>1820</p>	<p>Fd Amb moved with Bde Group to the area South of St Pol. It was a very long and boring journey for the most part in fine weather. Heavy rain fell at intervals during the afternoon and interference was experienced on the roads by meeting convoys of Polish Troops.</p> <p>The unit arrived at CROISSETTE. It was a desolate spot and showed signs of earlier heavy pounding by the RAF. The sight of German prisoners burying dead horses & cattle under guard of MAQUIS was a heartening one.</p> <p>Two road accidents, both mild, occurred during the day. The cases were carried forward with the column until they could be evacuated to 22 FDS.</p>	<p>D + 91</p>
<p>CROISSETTE</p> <p>762606</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>1030</p> <p>2330</p>	<p>The unit started leaving with the Bde Column. The first part of the journey was uneventful, through attractive country in brilliant weather. Later in the day gaunt industrial areas were passed through and progress was slow. Civilian demonstration, which had hitherto been a pleasant welcome, now became an embarrassment with crowds lining the roads & showering gifts on every vehicle which passed. At times outriders on m/cls had to clear a way through the crowds to enable the convoy to proceed. Unit arrived eventually at a farm at 762506 and before long rain was falling.</p> <p>Great difficulty was experienced in making contact with the CCPs (one sect per Bn) owing to the very wide Bn front and the intense darkness.</p> <p>OC attended 'O' Group conference at Bde HQ. Although Bns were in contact with the enemy and there was sporadic artillery fire, no casualties were received during the night.</p>	<p>D + 92</p>
<p>ROLERGEHM</p> <p>879495</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>0900</p> <p>2100</p>	<p>The unit moved independently of Bde, to a situation which was better placed tactically to serve the Bns. At 1015 hrs we arrived at ROLLERGEHM 879495 and the whole ADS was established in an open field.</p> <p>The weather was wet and stormy and the wind increased in violence until it was no longer safe to treat casualties under canvas. A few casualties were being received, mainly from the 6th Bn RSF. Alternative accommodation was found in a nearby school, which proved to be excellent.</p> <p>Casualties continued to come in, in small numbers throughout the day and evening.</p> <p>OC attended Bde 'O' Group Conference where details of the next days move were given out.</p> <p>During the day 2 German POW were taken over from the MAQUIS.</p>	<p>D + 93</p>

ROLLERGEHM	8	0830	OC departed with Bde 'O' Group. ADS closed and 'B' Coy took over, the intention being that 'B' Coy would cope with casualties until such time as ADS had been re-established. The number of casualties were small and were mainly Prisoners of War. While preparing to move at 2.15 in the afternoon, an unfortunate accident occurred. The Signals NCO on the Signals vehicle attached was rewiring his long aerial & it made contact with a live electric wire. The NCO was only mildly injured but Driver KING, R. Sigs attd, who was standing by the vehicle and holding the door, fell unconscious and died within a few minutes. His loss was greatly felt as he was a most popular & much valued attachment to the unit.	
HARLEBEKE 8960		1600	Unit arrived at HARLEBEKE and ADS was established in a fine modern school. During the night and evening there were several casualties admitted. The greater majority being Germans who had been wounded from 2 - 5 days and who had been attended by their own Medical Officer.	D + 94
HARLEBEKE	9	1200	The morning passed quietly, except that orders for a sudden move to place the unit in a more sound position tactically, with relation to the Bns, were received. The funeral of Driver KING was held in MADELINE Cemetery in COURTRAI.	
WAERGEHM 968632		1400	The unit moved to the new location just outside WAERGEHM to an excellent modern Industrial School.	
		1500	The unit arrived at 1500 hrs and opened lightly as no casualties were expected. None were received.	
		1400	ADMS arrived and saw round the layout.	
		1700	Comdr 44 Bde called and saw over the unit.	D + 95
WAERGEHM	10		The unit moved at 0800 hrs to a place near HOMBEEK between Brussels & Malines and remained on wheels in the grounds of a chateau. The journey was uneventful, and was in brilliant weather. There was considerable congestion on the roads and delay when nearing the new location.	
HOMBEEK 663723			'B' Coy remained on wheels in the same location as HQ. A Coy was split into sections, each of which was out with a Bn. The Bde was not in contact with the enemy.	D + 96
HOMBEEK 663703	11		A very quiet day was spent by all. Bde HQ, HQ Division and all R.M.O.s and the outlying sections were visited. All flags flown and other unauthorised adornments on vehicles were removed and general tightening up on the turnout of the men and vehicles & convoy discipline was put in hand. This step was taken, not	

			through any feeling that the standard in the unit was low, but the turnout of other troops & vehicles was noticed to be so far below our standard that a greater effort was made.	D + 97
HOMBEEK 663723	12		The unit moved at 1000 hrs with the Bde Group. The Division was to take over the Bridgehead over the ALBERT Canal NORTH of WESTERLOO, from 50 Div, who had had heavy fighting and sustained heavy casualties. 46(H) Inf Bde were to take over & 44(L) Inf Bde were to be in reserve. After an uneventful journey the unit arrived at 1300 hrs at HERSSELT where it remained on wheels. At 1900 hrs the unit moved independently to the football field at WESTERLOO 048844 where it remained closed. A Coy was in support 44(L) Inf Bde with sections to Bns and B Coy was closed in the farm buildings opposite the football ground.	D + 98
WESTERLOO 048844	13		The greater part of the day was spent quietly and an opportunity was taken to 'make & mend' and to bath the men. 44(L) Inf Bde passed through the 46(H) Inf Bde & took the town of GHEEL. B Coy establishing in the institution at 075877. In the evening the unit moved to join 'B' Coy at the institution at GHEEL. Accommodation was found to be very satisfactory and an ADS was established. The Buildings and surroundings bore ample evidence of their previous occupation by the enemy & the fierce fighting which had followed. 2150 The village of GHEEL was heavily shelled, several shells falling near the ADS. There was no damage or casualties.	D + 99
GHEEL 075877	14		A steady flow of casualties were received. B Coy were in sp 44(L) Inf Bde with sections to Bns. Capt MAKIN RAMC MO i/c 8 RS established his RAP on the S side of the ESCAUT Canal near to AART. During the morning the RAP and CCP were subjected to very heavy shelling. Three men (of the 8 RS) were killed and several were wounded. LT GREEN RAMC SBO i/c section was wounded & suffered from blast to the abdomen & was evacuated. PTE SCOTT RAMC showed great courage and initiative under this heavy attack. A great deal of cleaning was done during the day to get the building in order, and 'B' Coy were relieved of their ordeal by A Coy. 'B' Coy established a minor Sick and Exhaustion Centre in an adjacent building. During the day 67 Battle Casualties were admitted.	D + 100
	15		The 8th Bn Royal Scots succeeded in establishing a limited Bridgehead over the ESCAUT north of AART. No medical installation moved across but casualties were brought back in boats and	

		<p>evacuated from there to the C.C.P. in Carriers of the Royal Scots.</p> <p>During the day DDMS 12 Corps arrived and decided that 9 FDS and 2 FSUs would move in to the other end of the same Building as the ADS. They arrived in the evening.</p> <p>During the day 83 Battle Casualties were admitted. They were evacuated to the CCS at MALINES.</p>	D + 101
GHEEL 075877	16	<p>This proved to be a very busy day, casualties from the 8 Royal Scots and the 6 RSF coming in, in large batches. Many of them were in a sodden condition and suffering from varying degrees of exposure. An attempt had been made to bridge the ESCAUT at AART, but by blowing the lock gates the enemy succeeded in flooding the approaches. B Coy CCP at 078909 did exceptionally good work under difficult conditions and often exposed to fire. Casualties from the north bank of the Escaut were all evacuated by assault boats. Moving 9 FDS and its two attached FSUs in the same building proved an excellent arrangement. Very good liaison was maintained and the fullest cooperation given at all times.</p> <p>The Light Section of B Coy who carried out the evacuation of casualties from the north side of the Canal and used the Carriers of 8 R Scots to take them to the CCP was established at 076927.</p> <p>During the day 157 Battle Casualties and many Exhaustion Cases were admitted.</p>	D + 102
GHEEL 075877	17	<p>The day proved quieter. 6 RSF relieved 8 RS in the bridgehead during the night and very heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. The Relief of 8 RS did not result in the increase of casualties which had been expected.</p> <p>Arrangements were made for the relief of 194 Fd Amb by 153 Fd Amb and at 1700 hrs the unit moved to the institution at MOLL. Owing to a diversion in the route caused by repairs to a bridge, the unit was forced to use a sandy track. There was much congestion by other traffic, many vehicles being bogged. No vehicles of the unit were bogged but the delay caused by clearing other vehicles was considerable.</p> <p>The unit arrived at MOLL in the dark with heavy rain falling. The Building proved to have been an SS Barracks & was in a most unsanitary condition. An ADS was established without delay.</p> <p>31 Casualties were admitted during the day.</p>	D + 103
MOLL 172909	18	<p>A quiet day spent mainly in cleaning the Building & making it habitable for patients and men.</p> <p>One cas was admitted during the day.</p>	D + 104

MOLL 172907	19	<p>Another very quiet day. HQ 15(S) Inf Div was visited during the morning and also HQ 44(L) Inf Bde.</p> <p>A cinema performance was made available to the unit during the afternoon.</p> <p>In the evening the unit was visited by the Divisional Concert party who gave an excellent performance. It was much appreciated. During the day 3 Cases were admitted.</p>	D + 105
	20	<p>The day passed quietly. HQ 15(S) Inf Div & HQ 44(L) Inf Div were visited again.</p> <p>During the day 7 Battle Casualties were received. All the casualties received at MOLL were severe. The Bde was holding the line of the Canal and was not attempting to cross it. Active patrolling by the 15 (S) Reconnaissance Regt & the KCLY. Nearly all casualties were caused by snipers and wounds were in the main either of the head or chest. They were evacuated to 153 Fd Amb ADS at GHEEL or to No 9 FDS according to the classification of the case.</p>	D + 106
MOLL 172907 REITHOVEN 363096	21	<p>The morning passed quietly and by mid day the unit was prepared to move with the Bde Group to the EINDHOVEN area. There were considerable delays owing to the very heavy traffic on the roads & the unit did not move until 1700 hrs. Even then progress for the first two hours was measured in yards. The Border of Holland was crossed in the dark and finally the unit moved into Harbour area just north of REITHOVEN in a school & adjacent field which had been requeud by the harbour party. The journey was uneventful except for our vehicle which became ditched as it ran into the glare of searchlights sited on the edge of the road.</p> <p>Four Battle Casualties were admitted during the morning before leaving MOLL.</p>	D + 107
REITHOVEN EINDHOVEN 405212	22	<p>The Bde Group were to continue the advance to the EINDHOVEN area, but numerous delays and changes in plan took place during the morning and Bde HQ were visited at frequent intervals.</p> <p>Finally at 1430 hrs the unit moved and after an uneventful journey arrived in the grounds of the Asylum to the North of EINDHOVEN on the road where it remained closed and on wheels. A Coy was in support of 44(L) Inf Bde who crossed the Canal just South East of BEST. Casualties were evacuated by Sections direct to the ADS 193 Fd Amb.</p> <p>The day was one of brilliant sunshine, and everyone was very impressed by the cleanliness & tidiness of Holland and the attitude of the Dutch.</p>	D + 108

	23		The day was spent quietly. One Section of A Coy, in support of 6 RSF, were over the Canal. There was stiff opposition to 46(H) Inf Bde in the Best Area, but less to 44(L) Inf Bde who were working to the East of the main road. At 1500 hrs two bridges over the canal were complete, but they and the road were still under intermittent fire. The weather remained fair.	D + 109
EINDHOVEN 405212	24		Weather broke & heavy rain fell. Slow progress by Bde. All sects A Coy across the Canal. Casualties were still evacuated to ADS 193 Fd Amb. HQ 44 Bde visited.	D + 110
	25		Weather continued to be bad. 44 Bde advancing from BEST to VLEUT. Casualties light.	D + 111
	26		Infantry finding resistance more stubborn & difficult to cope with in the close country. Weather still very broken and casualties light.	D + 112
EINDHOVEN 425202	27		Drive by 6 KOSB from VLEUT along the S Bank of the river Dommell. One Company having reached its objective were subjected to heavy fire and suffered heavy casualties. During this fighting Capt THOMPSON RAMC MO i/c 6th KOSB went forward in a carrier under the red cross to collect casualties. He was captured but after interrogation he was released together with the personnel & carrier. During his absence Capt MacCallum RAMC did duty in his RAP.	D + 113
	28		The 6 RSF went through the KOSB, but the enemy appeared to have withdrawn a little and their objective was reached with only few casualties. Typhoon dive-rocketing was observed by the CCP, at close quarters. ADMS and OC visited forward units. News was received that the General Medical Council had requested Capt MacCallum's release from Service.	D + 114
	29		The morning provided a very welcome fine spell. At mid day 'B' Coy relieved A Coy and moved to the outskirts of ODENRODE evacuating casualties to 202 Fd Amb.	D + 115
	30		A very quiet day. OC visited HQ 15(S) Div and Bde HQ. The possibility of moving and establishing an ADS in the area of ODENRODE was considered. Very few casualties were sustained. ADMS decided ADS was unnecessary. JB MacFarlane Lt Col	D + 116