

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

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required)

Unit 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry

Commanding Officer Lt-Col H.P. Mackley O.B.E.

Month and Year OCTOBER

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
|-------|------|------|--|--|
| Field | 1st | | Situation normal. Night Patrols activity negative. 0700 Orders received for harbour party to proceed to new location. 1230 hrs C.O. of 1st Gordons arrived at Bn HQ to commence taking over. 1200 mortar pl put down harassing fire on enemy posns in wood to conceal fact that Bn was preparing to move. 1500 Relieving unit began taking over posns. Rear posns to be relieved during daylight and fwd posns at dusk under cover of 4.2 in mortar fire. 2000 handover completed. 2100 Bn moved off embussed to rest area MILHEEZE 6526 by route:- VLEUT 3828 - NEINSEL 4430 - BEEK 5427 - GEMEERT 5729 - BAKEL 6225 - MILHEEZE 6526. (Ref Sheet 5 HOLLAND 1/100,000) | CASUALTIES: NIL P.W.'s: NIL |
| Field | 2nd | | 0030 Bn arrived at MILHEEZE. Bn HQ est at 642266. Bn began four day period of rest, regrouping and trg. Trg to cover chiefly elementary battle drill, handling of weapons and street fighting. | CASUALTIES:- NIL REINFORCEMENTS:- NIL |
| | 3rd | | Situation normal. Bn engaged in trg. 1400 C.O. addressed Officers and afterwards Coys independently. | CAS:- NIL |
| | 4th | | Situation normal. Bn engaged in trg. | CAS:- NIL |
| Field | 5th | 1730 | Situation normal. 1430 Dutch LO addressed coys in turn on "Conditions likely to be met in Germany". Bde Comd addressed all Offrs and NCOs of 227 Bde in Cinema at DEURNE 6520 on pts of general discipline and on the general plan of the forthcoming operation. | CAS:- NIL |
| | 6th | | Situation normal. Bn "I" Section attended one day conference at Bde HQ. 1400 C.O. attended Bde 'O' Gp. Preliminary orders given for forthcoming operation. (Details not given as operation later cancelled). 1645 Div Comdr addressed all officers of the Bn. | |
| | 7th | | Situation normal. 0830 hrs COs parade, rehearsal for parade before Div Comdr on following day. 1500 C.O. and 2i/c attended Corps Comdrs conference. Operation as outlined on 6th October cancelled. Details of further ops not yet known. Dutch LO attached to Bn. | |
| Field | 8th | | Situation normal. 0430 "C" Coy reported that enemy mines had been laid on rd MILHEEZE - DEURNE, one mile south of their posn 653226. | |

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| | | Two Jeeps from outside units became casualties as a result of these mines. The remainder of mines in road neutralized by Bn Pioneer Pl. 1000 Bn paraded before Div Comdr. Div Comdr addressed Bn and afterwards took the salute at a march past of the Bn and Pipe Band. Parade followed by Bn Church parade attended by Bde Comdr. 1130 hrs Contact made with units of 11 Armd Div on left flank with a view to preventing infiltration of German mining parties by night. Bde ordered cycle patrols to be sent out hourly during night between 10/HLI and 2 Gordons along rd MILHEEZE - DEURNE. | |
| Field | 9th | Situation normal. Training carried out by Coys. | |
| | 10th | Situation normal. Training carried out by Coys. | |
| | 11th | Situation normal. Training carried out by Coys. | |
| | 12th | Situation normal. Training carried out by Coys. Warning orders that 13th October would be available for trg. Trg would include wood clearing. | |
| | 13th | Situation normal. Training carried out by Coys. 1630 Officers and NCOs attended demonstration of armoured troop carriers. 2100 CO to Bde for conference and to receive outline of next operation. | |
| Field | 14th | Situation normal. 0930 CO attended coordinating conference at Bde HQ and received maps and details of next operation. 1100 to 1230 Coys practised embussing and debussing with armd troop carriers. Sigs personnel attended 19 Set operating course at Bde HQ. 1700 Bn conference of Coy and Specialist Pl Comdrs to discuss details for forthcoming operation. Details for the moment to be issued to Officers only and no maps to be issued until a later date. | |
| | 15th | Situation normal. Bde 'O' Gp. Proposed operation cancelled. Bn to remain in present location until further notice. Coys engaged in further training. | |
| | 16th | Situation normal. Coys engaged in training. | |
| Field | 17th | Situation normal. Coys engaged in training. | |
| | 18th | Situation normal. Bde O Gp 1000 hrs. Bde to be prepared to return to DONDERDONCK 3930 and take over def posns previously held by Bde, relieving two Bdes of 51(H) Div. Move to be made embussed, marching personnel in TCVs. Bn to pass SP 1135 hrs. Route:- MILHEEZE 6424 - HELMOND 5522 - AARLE 5425 - BEEK 5427 - LIESHOUT 5126 - NIENSEL 4330 - ST OEDENRODE 4332 - DONDERDONCK 3930. Order of March:- A, Bn HQ, B & C. | |
| | 19th | Situation normal. Bn moved off embussed at 1135 hrs on route as detailed above. Bn passed SP at 1145 hrs, arriving DONDERDONCK at 1420. Take over completed by 1800 hrs. Bn HQ est at 392299. Recce patrols sent out during night. No enemy were contacted. | |

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| Field | 20th | | Situation normal. Admin 'O' Gp 1400 hrs. Patrol intentions for night 20/21 Oct laid on. During day fwd posns were mortared intermittently and sporadic bursts of MG fire were observed. Patrol sent out at 2000 hrs, encountering enemy MG fire, returning to Coy area without loss. | |
| | 21st | | Stand to. Situation normal. Bn mortars employed on suspected enemy posns throughout morning. Early morning patrols contacted enemy posns in area of wood fwd of Bn posns. Occasional enemy mortaring throughout day. 2100 hrs A Coy patrol sent out, encountering MG fire from def posns in area 3830, returning without loss. 2400 B Coy patrol sent out. | CASUALTIES: 1 WOUNDED |
| Field | 22nd | | Stand to. Situation normal. B Coy patrol attempted to search a portion of wood in area 385306 but attempt abandoned due to thick nature of undergrowth. No enemy fire was encountered but noise of enemy withdrawing from area of wood was heard. Patrol returned without loss. Enemy mortar fire dropped on 'A' Coy's posns, causing one casualty. | Casualties: 1 Killed 8 Wounded |
| Field | 23rd | | Stand to. Situation normal. Patrols out during night and encountered enemy posns as on previous night and returned without loss. Fwd posns of 'B' Coy mortared. 7 wounded. 1400 hrs C.O. attended planning conference at Bde HQ. 1500 hrs Bn planning conference. 15(S) Div to take part in op to clear wood and adv to BEST - BOCKSTEL rd in conjunction with attack of 51(H) Div on SCHIJNDEL and 53(W) Div attack on S'HERTOGENBOSCH. Clearing of Northern part of wood to be a preliminary phase and to be completed by 1300 hrs. One Sqn COLDSTREAM GDS tks (6 Gds Tk Bde) to operate in support. Op probably to commence on 25th Oct. | |
| Field | 24th | | Stand to. Patrols out during night. Enemy posns previously held were found to be evacuated and although patrols fired their weapons and showed themselves openly, no enemy movt could be seen. Bn 'O' Gp 1030 hrs. Plan changed owing to advance of 51 Div and apparent withdrawal of enemy. 227 Bde to clear wood area DONDERDONCK - VLEUT - DE NACHTEGAAL - LIEMDE at once, 2 GORDONS on right, 10/HLI in centre, 2 A&SH on left. On reaching road BOKSTEL - BEST, Bns were to consolidate and await further orders. 15(S) Recce Regt were to recce along track VLEUT - LIEMDE for enemy posns. Bde to pass SL at 1200 hrs. 1200 hrs Bn started to clear wood, 'C' Coy left, A Coy right. Both fwd coys reached first report line, no signs of enemy, and posns showed hurried evacuation. Coys pushed on to rd BOKSTEL - BEST and consolidated. No enemy opposition had yet been encountered. Coys then told to push on to line of rly BEST - BOKSTEL and reached objective before last light. Bn HQ established | |

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| | | | 363295. 'A' and 'C' Coys dug in on line of rly, B Coy in area Bn HQ. | |
| Field | 25th | | Stand to. Situation normal. Still no sign of enemy. Bn to move to conc area NOTEL 3226. Bn moved off in two bodies. Marching personnel at 1230 hrs by route SNEIPSEND 3427 - track junction 323282 - NOTEL 3226. Tpt left at 1400 by route VRILKHOVEN 3432 - x tracks 320298 - NOTEL 3226. Bn HQ est at 323270. Bn 'O' Group. Bn to move to area MOERGESTEL 2330 on 26th, where Bde would assist in attack on TILBURG. | |
| Field | 26th | | Stand to. Marching personnel moved off at 1035 hrs passed SP 300069 at 1135. Route:- Main road OIRSCHOT 3125 - MOERGESTEL 2330. Order of march:- C, B, Bn HQ, A. Bn reached MOERGESTEL at 1630 hrs. Bn HQ est at 229305. 1400 hrs CO attended Bde 'O' Group. Details of plan for clearing of TILBURG in conjunction with 44 Bde. HLI to mop up GOIRLE 1527 after passage of other two Bns in armd carriers. Then adv in turn on Armd Carriers and enter NE part of town. 1700 hrs Bn 'O' Group. Details of plan to clear TILBURG and GOIRLE. Planning done entirely from air photographs and town plans. 2100 C.O. attended Bde 'O' Group. Change of plan in attacking TILBURG. Bde advance to be made through 44 Bde area west of town, and HLI to clear GOIRLE from the north. | |
| Field | 27th | | Bn 'O' Group 0900. Details given for clearing of GOIRLE and subsequent clearing of TILBURG. Bn to move to fwd assembly area at VOORT 1825. 1125 hrs Bn passed SP to move to VOORT by march route:- MOERGESTEL 2330 - BIEST 2126 - HIVARENBEK - VOORT. Tpt followed later by same route. Arrived assembly area 1400 hrs. 1530 hrs Orders received from Bde Comd that 44 Bde had advanced rapidly and Bde was to move in rapidly to occupy TILBURG. 1600 hrs Bn began to move into TILBURG by march route via BROEKHOVEN 1630. Tpt much delayed by traffic congestion and only tracked vehs could cross the temporary bridges. Bn entered TILBURG without opposition at last light and took up billets for the night. Al echelon and food brought up by 2100 hrs. | |
| Field | 28th | | Situation normal. Carrier patrols sent to check roads SW of town. Bn 'O' Group 1000 hrs. Bn to move to conc area HEEZE. Area changed en route to ASTEN 6113. Bn moved off embussed from TILBURG at 1730 hrs by route - TILBURG - HILVARENBEK - STEINSEL - EINDHOVEN - GELDROP - HEEZE - ASTEN. Order of march - S Coy (tracked vehs), A, Bn HQ, B & C. Bn arrived ASTEN 2100 hrs. Bn HQ established 616147. On arrival orders given for alarm posns South of ASTEN to be manned in case of emergency. | |

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| | 29th | | Stand to. Situation normal. 0800 CO attended Bde 'O' Group. Bn def posns south of ASTEN coordinated. 0845 CO carried out recce of ground with Coy Comdrs. 1100 hrs Bn ordered to take up def posn around ASTEN in event of enemy counter attack. Bn HQ est at 619132. 1500 hrs Bn ordered to move fwd and take up posn in area of wood 6409 to relieve recce unit of 7 Armd Div. Bn moved and took up posns by 2359 hrs. Bn HQ est at 640103. | Casualties: 2 Wounded |
| Field | 30th | | Stand to. 2 GORDONS on left were attacked twice at 0430 and 0730. Both attacks beaten off. Own patrols active on Bn front while Recce Regt on right patrolled canal. Some PWs were taken. 2300 enemy infiltrated through our lines, believed to be Coy Strength, and took up posn in wood 6409. Div Arty and Medium Arty brought to bear on wood during night and concs were put down on tracks 6509 to prevent enemy escaping. MGs & Bn mortars fired on track also. 2400 Tanks moved up to protect flanks. Noise of enemy movt in area 6508 engaged by arty fire. | 18 P.O.W. Taken Casualties: 1 Killed 7 Wounded |
| Field | 31st | | 0015 Sig Sgt and Cpl on line repair party captured by enemy in wood. Sgt escaped but was wounded in doing so. Arty brought down on wood at different intervals from 0100 to 0700. 6 PWs were taken. 0700 hrs A Coy with spt of tanks swept wood thoroughly but owing to misty nature of morning and poor visibility enemy escaped. A Coy reported wood cleared of enemy. Enemy shelling of fwd posns during day. Reinforcements for month of October 140 H.P. Mackley Lt Col Officer Comdg 10th Bn H.L.I. | 21 P.O.W. Taken Casualties: 2 Killed 2 Wounded |

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Unit 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry

Month and Year Oct 44.

Commanding Officer Lt-Col H.P. Mackley OBE.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | References to Appendices |
|-------|-----------|------|--|---|
| Field | 6 Oct | | WAR DIARY PART II - ADMINISTRATIVE. A/Capt D.W. Preston posted to WE 10/HLI from 7 Seaforths and TOS this Unit wef 7 Oct 44 WS/Lieut. D.R. Turner posted to WE 10/HLI from 32 RHU and TOS this Unit wef 7 Oct 44 | |
| " | 20 Oct | | WS/Lieut. J.A. Kerr (276868) posted to WE 10/HLI from 32 RHU and TOS this Unit wef 18 Oct 44 2/Lieut. D.D. Farmer granted immediate emergency commission by GOC 21st Army Group wef 20th Oct 44 | Authy EXPOR/A/8390 of 191230A |
| | 26 Oct | | A/Capt W. Laing 190340 to be T/Capt wef 19 May 1944. WS/Lieut.(CDN520)Jackson R.G. admitted CCP and sos wef 20 Oct 44 | |
| | 30 Oct | | WS/Lieut. 277441 D.R. Turner admitted CCP and sos wef 29 Oct 44 | |
| | | | Field 31 Oct 44 | H.P. Mackley Lieut.-Colonel Commanding 10th Bn The Highland Light Infantry |