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Month and Year November 1944

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required)

ARMY FORM C.2118

Unit 153 (British) Field Amb

Commanding Officer Lt Col W.A.M. Scott

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Field	1	2359	Coy C.C.P. remains at ASTEN 616133 & ADS + 1 Coy at SOMEREN 590114. Battle Casualties admitted 54 Sick 32. Evacuation is to 33 C.C.S. at GELDROP	DMcC
	2		No change in locations B.C. admitted 39 Sick 16. Enemy withdraws along the Div front. General news indicates that SCHELDT estuary is now practically clear & that the port of ANTWERP will soon be available as forward Base.	DMcC
	3		B.C. admitted 34 Sick 23. No change in locations.	DMcC
Field	4	1800	No change in location of ADS or Coys Admitted B.C. 21 Sick 15 Evacuated 34	DMcC
	5	1800	No change. Admitted B.C. 2 Sick 2 Evac 4.	DMcC
	6	1800	No change. Admitted B.C. Nil Sick 2 Evac 2.	DMcC
	7.	1500 1700 1800	2 A&SH moving from area ASTEN 6113 to area 6604 on the OSPEL - MEIJEL axis. Battalion to come under comd of 51 Div. In view of absence of medical establishment in area one Section of A Coy move forward into school at OSPEL 640018 & take casualties from 152 Bde & 2 A&SH overnight. A.D.S. admitted B.C. 1 Sick 1 Evac 2.	DMcC
Field	8	1630	Section of A Coy relieved by Sect of 175 Fd Amb Section returns to SOMEREN 590114 ADS admitted BC 6 Sick 8 Evacuated 10.	
	9		ADS & A Coy (closed) at SOMEREN B Coy at ASTEN ADS admitted B.C. 2 Sick 1 Evacuated 6	
	10		Location unchanged. ADS admitted B.C. 19 Sick 17 Evacuated 35 R.T.U. 1 A.D.S. 193 Fd Amb open at ASTEN. 'B' Coy closed.	

Field	11	1100 1800 2200	A ₃ Section moved to OSPEL 640018 as it was considered that C.C.P. of 51 (H) Division was unduly far back from 2 A&SH in area 6105. 2 A&SH now under command 15 (S) Division. Other locations unchanged ADS - Admitted B.C. 7 Sick 20 Evacuated 26 C.C.P. at OSPEL shelled - no casualties	
	12	1800	ADS - B.C. 2 Sick 16 Evacuated 16	
	13		No change in locations. One Section of 22 FDS joins ADS to form resuscitation team in view of arrangement that casualties from the initial phase of 51 (H) Division's attack will be evacuated through the A.D.S. This attack is to be launched from the NEDERWEERT (6100) - OSPEL 6461 area in a S.E. direction across the canal running E.N.E. from NEDERWEERT. 2 A&SH relieved in area 6504 by 2 Gordons who continue holding role & patrolling in that sector. ADS B.C. 9 Sick 20 Evacuated 29	
	14		No change B.C. 7 Sick 11 Evacuated 18	
	15	1500 1800	No change in locations Capt J.P. SENIOR posted to Unit from 131 Fd Regt Lt R.A. BUSH " from " to 131 Fd Regt ADS Admitted BC 4 Sick 5 P.W. 2 Evacuated 11	
	16	1100 1400	A ₁ Section joins A ₂ at OSPEL 640018 and Section A ₂ moves forward to MEIJEL which was liberated last evening by 10 HLI. Little enemy resistance encountered but numerous mines and booby traps in approaches to & in the village of MEIJEL (710069). Evacuation from this area is to 193 Fd Amb at ASTEN 616133 thence to 33 CCS at GELDROP 4816. Advance by 51 (H) Div on right going well against light opposition but hampered somewhat by mines, bad weather & difficult country. 'B' Coy joins ADS at SOMEREN Admitted B.C. 5 Sick 4 Evacuated 3.	
	17	1800	No change. Admitted B.C. 2 Sick 3 Evacuated 10.	
	18	1800	No change. Admitted BC etc Nil	
	19	1000	Sections A ₁ & A ₃ move from OSPEL to M.R. 717067 - East of MEIJEL to support 227 Bde in their crossing of Canal de DEURNE between MEIJEL and BERINGEN 750060. ADS and B Coy remain in SOMEREN.	
	20	0800	227 Bde with 10 HLI leading cross canal with little opposition as 51 (H) Div operating on right have taken BERINGEN. Sections A ₁ & A ₂ move to BERINGEN 749060. ADS closes at SOMEREN.	
Field	21	1300	H.Q. and B Coy move to MOOSTDIJK 697076 One Section of 'A' Coy at MEIJEL Two Sections " " " " 749060	

			227 Bde now advancing along track running N.E. from BERINGEN to ACHTERSTE and SEVENUM 8114 Weather conditions appalling but good progress made by Bde & Battalion of Scots Guards (armoured) attached	
	22	1700	ADS and B Coy - no change Two Sections of A Coy at 749060 One " " " " at 763083 Weather still shocking : cold and very wet Track from Beringen to Achterste now quagmire. Sappers laying wire tracking for wheeled vehicles. Detachment of one Section conveyed by Weasels, loaned by Div Recce Regiment establishes C.C.P. at SEVENUM 817139	
	23	2000	H.Q. & B Coy routed by A/Q Div to SEVENUM via MAASBREE 8208, but Maasbree - Sevenum stretch of road blocked by mines & demolitions. Return to area 6909. 'A' Coy ploughs its way and, over one particularly bad stretch, is dragged by recovery vehicles through deep mud. Coy C.C.P. established at SEVENUM. Evacuation by Humber amb cars via Beringen to 193 Fd Amb at ASTEN.	
Field	24	1200 1000 1800	Fd Ambulance complete at SEVENUM. H.Q. & B Coy proceeded via DEURNE 6520, AMERIKA 7716 and HORST 8218. ADS established. Section of A Coy moved to HORST 833183. Admitted ADS B.C. 2 Sick 1.	
	25	0800 0900 1100 1800 1900	As SEVENUM is now in 49 Div area ADS moves to re-open at HORST 828187, to take casualties from advance of 227 and 46 Brigades towards River Maas, 227 Bde on right with TIENRAIJ 8523 as initial objective. Car post established 833203 and later as 2 A&SH advanced on TIENRAIJ, C.C.P. was established at 843214 Admitted ADS B.C. 4 Sick 10 TIENRAIJ taken and at Bde 'O' Group plan for final advance on R. MAAS while 2 Gordons advance through to SWOLGEN 8722 and BROEKHUIZERVERST 9022 while 10 HLI on the left advance on BLITTERSWIJK 8727	
	26	0900 1700 1800	Recce Regt reports that enemy is withdrawing from BLITTERSWIJK 8727 towards R MAAS Battalions approaching objectives and 2 Section C.C.P. established in TIENRAIJ 859233. One Section remains 843214 ADS Admitted B.C. 14 Sick 16	
	27	1800	Mopping up continues on West side of MAAS; no change in locations. Admitted B.C. 21 Sick 8	
	28		227 Bde being relieved by Bde of 11 Armd Div.	

		1500	10 HLI and 2 A&SH move to area ASTEN 6113 with two sections of 'A' Coy. One section remains with 2 Gordons who move back at night. ADS & B Coy remain in HORST.	
		1800	Admitted B.C. 36 (inc 1 POW) Sick 12	
	29	1000	One Coy of 179 Fd Amb takes over from ADS; HQ & B Coy remain in HORST	
		1500	Third section of A Coy moves from TIENRAIJ to ASTEN. HQ & B Coy to move to MEIJEL 7106 when 194 Fd Amb move to MAASBREE 8208	
	30		H.Q. & B Coy remain at HORST 'A' Coy at ASTEN Nil to note.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Field			At the beginning of the month the Division succeeded in countering the enemy break through in the LEISEL - MEIJEL area & held positions covering ASTEN - DEURNE while 51 (H) Div and 49 Div moved up on the right. By the 15th, an offensive was launched on the right & the Division advanced to MEIJEL and up to the DEURNE canal to conform with advances by the 51 Div. Thereafter a series of advances to contact actions were fought over the bleakest of country, under appalling weather conditions along tracks that would soon have become quite impassable but for the magnificent work of the Sappers. The enemy withdrew skilfully covering his line of withdrawal with mines & booby traps, sporadic shelling and mortar fire. Few casualties were sustained and four prisoners taken. At the end of the month the Div was brought out of the line to re-equip & rest. A high proportion of casualties was due to SCHU mines causing traumatic amputations of one or both feet. Resuscitation was of primary importance & ambulance cars were attached to RAPs throughout the operation to avoid undue exposure of casualties in jeeps. As the C.C.S. did not move forward the distance between ADS & C.C.S. was eventually forty miles.	WAM Scott Lieut Colonel R.A.M.C.