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Army Form C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 624 FD PK COY

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year APRIL 1945

Commanding Officer Maj J.B. KELSALL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BOCHOLT	1		O.C. Coy departed on U.K. leave 31 MAR. CAPT W.E. ARCHIBALD assumed command. Coy carried out maint on all eqpt.	
"	2		DIV R.E. inspected by G.O.C. 15 (S) DIV.	
"	3		Movement orders received - Coy parked up.	
"	4		Move cancelled.	
GREVIN	5		Coy moved to A851893 near GREVIN.	
"	6		All G1098 Bulldozers & two oxy-acetylene cutting teams attached to 278 Fd Coy for work on Br site at 960027 over DORTMUND-EMS CANAL. Bulldozers dammed & completed track across canal. 6 no attached tippers despatched to R.E. 8 Corps.	
HILLE	7		Coy moved to Map ref W685180 near HILLE	
"	8		Cl III Armd bulldozer & Coles Crane despatched to 279 Fd Coy. Cl IV " " despatched to 278 Fd Coy for work on Brs over R. WESER. Three German Trailers (3 ton) found & repair work carried out - now useful load carriers. 6 no R.A.S.C. lorries returned to C.R.A.S.C.	
"	9		Wearing surface for 400 ft Bailey Br obtained, cut, & delivered to 279 Fd Coy. Maintenance on Unit eqpt carried out.	
"	10		Br Pl & G1098 Mech Eqpt joined 20 Fd Coy & moved to WUNSTORF (W1527). Orders to prepare for move received by Coy.	
WUNSTORF	11	0600	Coy moved to WUNSTORF (W1527)	
		1330	1 no Cl II Armd Tractor attached to Coy. Cl II Armd Tractor despatched to 20 Fd Coy. 5 no Decking, 6 no Panel, 2 no Pump, 2 no Accessory, 8 no Bow Pontoon, 3 no Centre Pontoon, & 6 no Floating Bay Units, 4 no Landing Stage Units, 2 no L.S. Centre Panel Unit, 2 no Asst Rafting Units attached to Coy. Br op in view - crossing of R. ALLER in area W5850 17 no Mk III & 7 no Mk II Assault Boats collected from crossing site at W9132. Large number of bullet holes in canvas repaired.	
WUNSTORF				

			Carrimore Trailer carrying bulldozer hit by mortar shell - Trailer rendered u/s.	
FUHRBERG	12		Moved to FUHRBERG X4343	
"	13		O.C. returned from leave. Coy moved to SCHARNHORST X7262	
SCHARNHORST	14		Recd one Cl II one Cl III once Cl IV dozers and two 10 RB excavators - all issued to 279 Coy and 100 Fd Coy of 8 Corps Tps. Many prisoners taken from nearby woods and many came in voluntarily. Greatly embarrassed by numerous freed Poles Russians and other nationalities.	
SCHARNHORST	15		Moved to near RABER X8079. Br Pl returned and empties sent away to refill. D4 dozer with Mack Tractor & Carrimore trailer destroyed by enemy action while att'd to 278 Coy at STADENSEN X9079. All personnel escaped but lost all kit. Wksp Pl repaired partially demolished Br near RABER. Coy located on extreme left flank of Div - nothing on West of us - listening posts occupied at night.	
RABER	16		Br on vehs of 90 Coy RASC returned to this Coy - now hold equiv of RASC Pl. Wksp Pl assisted 278 Coy in building Water Point.	
"	17	1200	Wksp Pl took over op of Water Pt. OC attended CRE's "O" Gp - reallocation of Br Eqpt and other resources - this effective by evening.	
"	18		Standing by to move.	
"	19		Moved to EPPENSEN X8898 - good locn in large farms Wksp Pl set up Water Pt at BUNSTORF X9199 - pt in last area dismantled.	
EPPENSEN	20		Moved to near SCHARNBECK S8626 - no covered accom - Coy bivouacked.	
"	21		Wksp Pl off-loaded and started to work normally. Fd Stores & Br Pl carrying out check and maint of eqpt. 6 att'd RASC lorries ordered away during night.	
"	22		Coy almost back to normal employment. Off-loaded 6 Br Pl vehs for gen use. 2 3 ton lorries left to take leave party to GENNEP - they will be away at least 4 days. CRE called in evening - we are to start making small fascines (2 man load) for crater filling in fwd areas.	
"	23		3 Br Pl vehs called away for 3 days to help produce a composite Pl for RASC - we are now completely immobile.	

"	24		Coy employed on maint & repair of vehs & eqpt. Also making small fascines for crater-filling, timber dogs, cutting wearing surface and 5ft pickets and making up culverting.	
"	26	2000	OC attends CRE's "O" Gp - outlines plan for crossing Elbe. A fwd Mech Eqpt Park established at this locn for 11 AGRE. No less than 18 dozers of all types arrive here and are sent out. Incl are 4 Clark Cl V airborne dozers - very small and doubtful if they are of much value but they can be carried in L.V.Ts. Even so if they arrive on enemy bank of a river early in an asst their noise will make them conspicuous and there is no protection for the operator.	
	27		Nine vehs of Br Pl had dumped loads fwd during night for br to be built by 278 Fd Coy tonight. Br Pl now refills.	
"	28	0900	CRE's "O" Gp. Final orders received. We are to load 9 RASC lorries with stores for op ENTERPRISE due to start at 0200 hrs tomorrow. All Mech Eqpt now disposed of except own three and two attached.	
"	29	1000	Five dozers sent fwd to cross ELBE by Cl 40 rafts at ARTLENBURG S8334. Last one crossed at 1745 after spending day under shell-fire & bombing. Considerable enemy air activity all day. Br Pl and 15 cwts from Store Pl left at 2000 hrs to cross by Cl 9 br. Remainder of Coy require Cl 40 on account of trailers.	
"	30	2100	Br Pl still in Marshalling Area - do not cross till 1200 hrs today. Find locn in LAUENBURG S8835 to which Coy will move tonight. We are to cross Cl 40 br at 2300 hrs. Much enemy air activity - several are shot down. A Spitfire makes a forced landing through engine trouble near us. Pilot OK and we take him to LUNEBURG. Move cancelled as we are about to move off. 11 Armd Div have been given full use of br. JB Kelsall Maj RE.	