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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

Unit 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt (DCO)

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year April 1945

Commanding Officer Lt Col A.N.W. Kidston

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
146494	1-4		Bn remains in Corps reserve and uses the time for maintenance and re-organisation.	D1.
	4		A Coy move to 903936 - B to BORGHORST 771922 - C Coy to EMSDETTEN 853955.	D2.
GREVAN 889913	5		Bn HQ and HQ Coy move to area GREVAN 889913. 20 prisoners are taken from the neighbouring woods. It is also reported that some 400 para troops are in the vicinity and great care is taken to safeguard the HQ and to ensure that as many of them as possible are safely put away when discovered.	E6.
	6		C Coy harbour party move to STELLHORN 741270. The remainder of the Coy move at 0900 hrs. An NCO of the party is shot and the surrounding woods are combed. Just after this event 77 CCP report to 11 pl that they are being sniped. The pl searches the area and takes 122 PW. Pte Ramsden is responsible for 67. These he finds lurking in a barn. OC C Coy decides to house them in a loft at BOHNHORST, where they are given a meal and marched to the PW cage next morning. Bn HQ and HQ Coy move to 688255 arriving at this location at about midday after an all night convoy. These last few moves are reminiscent of the Normandy days. We are moving fwd and covering 60 to 70 miles each time. On arrival at the various locations each unit is allotted an area by Div for which it is responsible i.e. clearing enemy pockets, arresting suspicious persons etc.	E.7.
	7		A Coy move to 738180 arriving at 0600 hrs. The area is searched but no enemy are found. B Coy move to 602262 arriving at 1500 hrs. 9 Pl C Coy bring in 4 PW and 10 Pl bring in 5 PW. D Coy move to 687252.	
	8		9 pl takes 3 PW - 1 Offr and 2 ORs. Pte Robins is wounded in the leg by a sniper. C Coy HQ take 2 civilians prisoner. Coy spend day in maintenance.	

898218	9		Bn HQ move to 898218. C Coy clears wood around their location to an extent of 5 kms - No enemy.	
081275	10	1030 1115 1400 1630	Bn HQ and HQ Coy move to 081275. A Coy move to 943215. B Coy move to 875246. D Coy move to 897216 in area of BIERDE. C Coy move to 171293. 9 pl joins 10 HLI. 2 PW taken near C Coy HQ.	D3. E.8.
432428	11	1700 2300	Bn HQ and HQ Coy move to 432428. A Coy move in Bde column to 465353. 4 pl are in sp of 9 Cams at 485355. B Coy move to 366383. 11 pl C Coy join 2 A&SH. 227 Bde move on axis NEUSTADT - METEL rd. OC C Coy joins Bde Tac HQ. 10 pl is in reserve with Coy HQ. Fairly stiff resistance is encountered by leading Bn and going is slow. Coy harbours at 492465 in an extremely muddy field. 12 and 15 pls D Coy are placed in sp of 10 HLI and move off in their convoy. 13 and 14 pls move with 46 Bde under Bde control. 14 pl harbour for the night with A Coy whilst 13 pl proceed to 530374 with a view to supporting an attack with 9 Cams on enemy strong point around the rly crossing at 559389. Coy HQ move to Div conc area and are est at 431426.	
5950 CELLE	12	0600 0900 1600 2000	Bn HQ and HQ Coy move to CELLE 5950. Many members of the Bn visit the concentration camp and are appalled and horrified at the sights. Leading citizens of the town are made to bury the dead and remove the sick to hospitals. Many NCOs of the Bn supervised. Bn guards food stores. A Coy move to 588501 with 46 Bde. C Coy Tac HQ move to 542479 and are joined by main Coy HQ at 1000 hrs. 9 pl C Coy move into CELLE with 10 HLI. 9 and 11 pls cross R. ALLER by bridge at 621482. 11 pl follows leading Coy of 2 A&SH to their objective at GARSSSEN. The roads are very bad in this area and 9 pl remains behind to tow out TCVs of 10 HLI. They join 10 HLI next morning at 0200 hrs. C Coy HQ and 10 pl move off to cross cl 40 bridge at CELLE and harbour at 603532. 12 and 15 pls D Coy move in Bde column through CELLE and are est at 575533. 13 and 14 pls move together with remainder of 46 Bde and are est in area 5848. D Coy HQ move to CELLE at 587499.	

688624	13		<p>3 pl A Coy are under comd 2 GH giving right flank protection to Div, move to 803621. 5 pl giving left flank protection to Div move with 7 Seaforth. 4 pl are in reserve under comd 9 Cams. B Coy move to 577508.</p> <p>9 and 11 pls C Coy plus 2 pls of mortars conc at GARSSSEN and at 1100 hrs join Bde column whose objective is VELZEN.</p> <p>13 pl D Coy move at approx 0700 hrs in sp of 7 Seaforth. 14 pl move with 2 GH at approx 0900 hrs. 12 and 15 pls with 227 Bde. Coy HQ moves to 686224.</p> <p>Bn HQ and HQ Coy move to 688624.</p>	
	14		<p>A Coy HQ and 3 pl move in advance-to-contact to 898791.</p> <p>B Coy concs in area 818820.</p> <p>C Coy Tac HQ moves to HOLXEN 850830 and on arrival search their allotted billets for arms and amn. One householder in particular is questioned and emphatically denies being in possession of these but on investigation however, a German rifle, fully loaded, a Spandau with amn are discovered. The man is arrested and after interrogation is found to be a prominent Nazi official of the village. 10 pl takes up posns at 865842. All three pls of C Coy are to sp a night attack on VELZEN. Recces are made and the gun line is decided on at 882862.</p> <p>12 and 15 pls D Coy having been on the move all through the night, arrive at HOLXEN. During the morning the sp of one mortar pl is required and 12 pl moves forward to HOLDENSTEDT. A plan is made for an attack on VELZEN. 15 pl joins 12 pl and takes posns at 883861. 14 pl remain with 7 Seaforth and 13 pl with 2 GH.</p>	
803793	15	1600	<p>Bn HQ and HQ Coy move to 803793.</p> <p>5 pl A Coy move to BOHLSSEN 8489 to clear SUSTEDT with 7 Seaforth. The enemy are engaged on numerous occasions and cas are inflicted. 4 pl move from BOKEL 8972 to NIENWOHLDE 9176 and finally to NETTLEKAMP 920800. A Coy HQ and 3 pl move on axis with 2 GH to STADENSEN 9079. At 0345 hrs en launches a counter-attack against STADENSEN 9079 and penetrate into Bn gp perimeter with armour and motorised inf. A Coy HQ and 3 pl take on def task together with 2 GH and sp arms. Cas are inflicted on armour and inf and attack is repulsed. CSM A Chapman is wounded in the leg during this action.</p> <p>7 Pl B Coy in sp of 8 RS cover eastern approaches to BORNE 8883. 6 pl are in sp of 6 RSF for consolidation in NIENDORF 9085 and HALLIDORF area. 7 pl is at 907848 and 6 pl 914862.</p> <p>6 pl move fwd to HALLIDORF and shoot up on tpt moving along rd ESTERHOLZ 9384 - VELZEN 9089.</p>	

		1730	<p>7 pl is ordered to take up posns in NIENDORF 9085 covering rly running SE. Pls of C Coy are in action firing on front edge of wood 877891 to 884902.</p> <p>11 pl then takes up a posn at 881866 covering the open ground at 8787 - 8687 - 8688 - 8788 - 8789. 2 PW are taken from a deep dug-out at no 1 sec's posn. Cpl McAree whilst crawling into an 'L' shaped trench comes face to face with 2 Germans on reaching the corner. They are both armed but give themselves up without any trouble.</p> <p>12 and 15 pls D Coy carry out an observed shoot on enemy MT withdrawing to VELZEN. 14 pl remains with 7 Seaforth in KLEINESUSTED and during the day enemy patrols are engaged and DF tasks also registered. 13 pl assist in repulsing heavy counter-attack on 2 GH. D Coy HQ move to 804793.</p>	
	16		<p>7 pl B Coy take up counter-penetration role owing to the advance of the formation on their right. The remainder of the Coy are standing by ready to move fwd.</p>	E 11.
	17		<p>3 and 4 pls A Coy provide left flank protection to 46 Bde in the attack on VELZEN - 3 pl in a posn at 880866 and 4 pl 958901.</p> <p>7 pl B Coy occupy posn at 929871 and capture 4 Germans whilst doing so.</p> <p>6 pl B Coy occupy a posn at 913886 both pls being engaged in harassing the N and NE approaches to VELZEN.</p> <p>Mortar pls remain on call from their various Bdes. 15 pl sp Recce Sqn and assist in the capture of HAMSEN 8487 and HOLTHUSEN 8188.</p>	
	18		<p>A Coy HQ move to 894885 and pls give flank protection to 46 Bde and engage series of enemy proceeding west from VELZEN to woods.</p> <p>7 pl B Coy move to LIDERIN 928884 and later to MOLZEN with 1 Coy of RS to take over from 6 Airborne.</p> <p>9 pl C Coy join 10 HLI - 10 pl join 2 Gordons - 11 pl join 2 A&SH as part of respective Bn Gps for move to area of VELZEN.</p> <p>D Coy HQ captures 17 of the enemy in the area VELZNER - STADT - FORST and find in WESTERWEYHE 25 British, 2 American and 1 Polish PWX who are brought to Coy HQ.</p>	
569988	19		<p>Bn HQ and HQ Coy move to 569988.</p> <p>A Coy move fwd in 46 Bde column and conc at 924980.</p> <p>B Coy move to 906960 and conc with 44 Bde.</p> <p>227 Bde incl C Coy move northwards via VELZEN to VASTORF 8815.</p> <p>There being no opposition the move is extended to SCHARNEBEEK 848252.</p>	D4.

			11 pl who are harboured at HITTBURGEN 905315 experience some unpleasant moments when shells land in their location. Pte Tanner is wounded in right arm and leg. D Coy move to BARUM 864986.	
849252	20		Bn HQ and HQ Coy move to 849252. A Coy move to 939209 - pls move with respective Bns giving short range local protection. B Coy move to RUHSTORF 903155. C Coy move to 805289 and pls carry out harassing shoots in area 9035. D Coy HQ move to 853253. 15 Pl with Recce move up to GARZE 9727 and engage BLECKEDE. OC Recce is informed that our inf are coming up from the south and therefore decides to withdraw to NEETZE.	D5. E.12.
	21		A Coy move to 956266 and pls take up posns to harass N of R ELBE. B Coy move to 800206 and conc under 44 Bde. 9 and 11 pls C Coy are to take up harassing role on R ELBE with 10 pl in reserve. During the day 11 pl spots 6 Germans running along on the opposite bank - 3 of which soon discontinued running. 14 pl D Coy are supporting 9 Cams at GARZE.	
	22		11 pl C Coy request location of enemy gun from RA OP. This gun has been lobbing shells in the pls area. The gun is located and the pl opens up silencing 1 88 mm and 2 20 mm guns. 14 pl D Coy carry out opportunity shoots on the E bank of the river.	
	23		10 pl C Coy relieve 11 pl. 14 pl D Coy shoot up barges on the river. Later in the day they are relieved by 15 Pl.	
	24		One sec of 3 pl A Coy take up direct fire posns and fire on a small party of Germans on the other bank inflicting cas. 2 A&SH having watched a ration truck on the other side of the river which arrives at a certain point the same time each day, calls upon 1 sec of 10 pl C Coy who fire with good effect.	
	25		A Coy move to 910290. B Coy move to 775205.	
	26		A Coy carry out harassing shoots. OC C Coy recces posns for Op 'ENTERPRISE'. Lt J.A. BOUND joins Coy and takes over Comd 10 pl.	
	27/28		All Coys are endeavouring to get maximum rest prior to impending Op.	
	29	0130	Op 'ENTERPRISE'. 'PEPPERPPOT' commences and continues until 2000 hrs.	E15. E16. E47 - E55.

		0800	<p>9 pl and Tac HQ C Coy are called to control point and whilst waiting to cross the ELBE the enemy makes an air attack. The pl narrowly escapes being hit by gunfire from these planes. 1 sec of 9 pl crosses by 1030 hrs the remainder getting across by 1430 hrs. During the crossing 8 enemy aircraft attack and Tac HQ on the N side have some very nasty moments but fortunately come through unscathed. 9 pl then joins 10 HLI and takes up posns at 838385 and 832385 later move fwd to 814384 with arc to west to incl GRUNHORF. 11 pl join 2 A&SH to take up posns at 813386 with targets at 798395 and 793397. Tac HQ and 10 pl then move to 2 Gordons area at 803374. 4 and 5 pls A Coy cross by LVT under priority of 46 Bde and 4 pl goes into action with 7 Seaforths.</p> <p>14 and 15 pls come out of action at 0700 hrs and await orders from 46 Bde to cross the river. These pls reach VWAA at approx 1030 hrs. O.C. Coy crosses with the C.O. at 1230 hrs but the 2 pls are considerably delayed and do not land on the other bank until 1730 hrs.</p>	
	30		<p>3 pl A Coy occupies HEIDBURG 3987 with posns covering gaps between 2 GH and 7 Seaforth in conjunction with 4 pl. 4 pl move to LUTAU 8741 facing NE and giving protection from the ZUCKEN HOLZ which is not yet cleared.</p> <p>8 pl B Coy move to KOLLOW 8144. Coy HQ concs at 829421. 7 pl are in reserve at GULZOW 8342. 6 pl take up a direct fire posn in sp of 6 RSF at 825495.</p> <p>9 pl C Coy move to GRUNHOF 800388. 11 pl move to 782390. Tac HQ join Bde Tac at TESPERHUDE. Coy main crosses at 1500 hrs. 9 pl then occupy WIRDSHOP with 10 HLI.</p> <p>Bn HQ TAC crosses at approx 0630 hrs after waiting all night in the marshalling area. HQ Coy follows later in the day.</p> <p>12 pl D Coy crosses at 0800 to sp the Bde advance to the west. 13 pl crosses at 0100 hrs and are placed in sp of 8 RS at JULIUSBURG 8439. 14 pl having crossed with 2 GH assist in their occupation of LATAU whilst 15 pl sp 9 Cams from a posn at 897394</p>	