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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY
or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~
(Delete heading not required)

Unit 15th Scottish Reconnaissance Regt
incl LAD att.

Month and Year MAY 1945

Commanding Officer Lt.Col. K.C.C. Smith

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
B.L.A.	1		Regt located as under - RHQ KOLLOW 814445 with C Sqn and A Ech A Sqn HAMWADE B Sqn (Residue Sqn) and LAD NEETZE B Ech in Div Adm Area BAVENDORF. The main task today was to patrol outside the perimeter of the Corps brhead and to seize, if possible, the village of BRUNSDORF and to patrol out westwards from HAMWADE towards HAMBURG. C Sqn patrolled northward and finally took the village of BRUNSDORF at approx 1800 hrs, where they were relieved by 6 KOSB. A Sqn with under comd two patrols SAS patrolled westwards from HAMWADE and made contact in the general area of the woods some 5 miles further on. They had to withdraw for the night as the inf had not come up but remained static during the day.	
	2		Local patrolling from the brhead westwards to HAMBURG and northwards on the main axis towards LUBECK. Very little to report during the day except on the western side where A Sqn was approached by German Officers with the initial surrender of forces within the small town of BERGDORF. In point of fact this finally developed through various channels to the complete surrender of the German Armies in the NW of GERMANY. Otherwise this was a fairly uneventful day.	
	3		Ordered today to push on if possible to cut the HAMBURG - LUBECK Autobahn in the areas of BARGTEHEIDE 6673 and AHRENSBURG 6667, when we would be followed up by 44 Bde on the rt and 44 Bde on the left. Sqns set out at first light with two tps SAS in support; A Sqn on the rt and C Sqn on the left. By 1000 hrs A Sqn had cleared the general area in which the Bde was going to lie up, that is, TRITTAU, LUTJENSEE, C Sqn on the left had cleared up as far as PAPENDORF and LAGELAKE 6858. A Sqn made rapid progress on the rt and cut the Autobahn at HAMMOR at about 1130 hrs. They had a certain amount of trouble with a fair number of stragglers and one or two organised	

		posts of SS who appeared to be holding the general line of the Autobahn. C Sqn on the left, having cleared PAPENDORF and area were going to continue on to their objective when they were approached by a German Staff Officer with a Stop Line which he said had been arranged by Treaty and which briefly was a line drawn round the outskirts of the suburbs of HAMBURG. This was referred to Div for their guidance and after some delay it was finally found that this was in fact the initial surrender of HAMBURG. C Sqn were therefore unable to progress any further. A Sqn continued on the rt and captured BARGTEHEIDE, and C Sqn then side-stepped behind A Sqn so as not to interfere with the demarcation line and continued and captured AHRENSBURG. Up until about 1600 hrs the Regt had taken some 5 - 600 PW. About this time the Commander 2nd SAS Regt was called to Corps, and he and the CO motored up the Autobahn as far as LUBECK, and were able to report the whole line of the Autobahn clear. The remainder of the day was spent with the Sqns patrolling in a westerly and northwesterly direction from firm bases at BARGTEHEIDE and AHRENSBURG. No enemy were found within 7 to 10 miles from these firm bases. Contact was made with 11 Armd Div at BAD ODESLOE. The Regt harboured for the night, A Sqn BARGTEHEIDE, C Sqn AHRENSBURG, RHQ and HQ 2 SAS, A Ech at GROSS HANS DORF. Orders were received from Div to hold BARGTEHEIDE and AHRENSBURG for the night. At about 1900 hrs a flying patrol was sent to FRIEDRISK SRAH 730512 to guard documents of importance to the Allies which were located in the Schloss at this town, which was being used by the SWEDISH and NORWEGIAN Legations.	
	4	Regt remained in situ until Bdes took over from us at BARGTEHEIDE and AHRENSBURG, when the Regt less B Sqn, A Ech and LAD, were moved to ELMENHORST 669776. Regt spent a quiet day on maintenance, until at about midnight Comd 2 SAS, who had harboured his Regt at BORSTAL some 2 miles from ELMENHORST, came in to state that one of his jeeps had been ambushed in the area HEIDERFELD 6489. The Burgomaster of that village had come down by bicycle to tell him that a number of SS Tps had set up in the village and ambushed his jeep, and were remaining in the village. OC 2 SAS Regt requested assistance for an early strike tomorrow morning before the "cease fire" came into effect at 0800 hrs. Arrangements to this effect were made.	
	5	The striking force under the CO of 4 car patrols with mortars and A/Tk guns, and 2 Sqns SAS, Rvd at LEEZEN 6588 at 0530 hrs. Patrols pushed into HEIDERFELD and met no opposition, but a jeep was found	

		abandoned and shot up. On enquiries locally it was confirmed that about 60 SS had been in the village the night before when the driver and co-driver of the jeep had been very badly wounded, if not killed. The remaining two occupants of the jeep were slightly wounded. The enemy had withdrawn from the village about 2 hours before we arrived. Patrols then pushed on through TODESFELD 6091 to BARK 6193 where they caught up with about 10 SS who were taken prisoner. They stated that the main force had withdrawn into the forest at SEGEBURG with strong posts in the villages of WITTENBORN 6395 WANSTEDT 6398. As the Armistice came into effect whilst we were clearing up the 10 SS in BARK it was decided that no further action could be taken and the force returned to LEEZEN. The remainder of the day was uneventful.	
	6	Nothing to report.	
	7	Locns as above. One Sqn required for force consisting of 46 Bde Gp who were to go and occupy KIEL. A Sqn were put under comd 46 Bde Gp and proceeded with them to KIEL. The occupation was entirely uneventful; the Sqn seized and held the various brs in the harbour area required of them without any opposition at all. Sqn HQ was est in KIEL. B Sqn (Residue Sqn) and the LAD were brought up from KOLLOW and were harboured at NERITZE 6880.	
	8	A further Sqn was required to form a stop on the brs over the KIEL CANAL to control the remainder of the German Armies from DENMARK who were coming South towards HAMBURG to surrender. C Sqn were sent out on this and seized and held without opposition the line of the KIEL CANAL from BRUNSBUTEL 5290 - br 0416, where they formed crossing patrols on all crossing places between these two points. Locns of the Regt for the night - RHQ, A Ech, LAD ELMENHORST 6777 A Sqn KIEL B Sqn NERITZE 6880 C Sqn BRUNSBUTEL 5290	
	9	No change in locns. During the day the CO was called to Div for an O Gp when it was stated that by arrangements with 8 Corps a GERMAN Force was to attempt to clear the forest of SEGEBURG of the SS who were still holding out in that area. Steps were required to ensure that the main axis BAD SEGEBURG 6896 - NEUMUNSTER 4711 was not interfered with, and the residue Sqn was put out to do this! They took up posns on the morning of the 10th.	
	10	Locns - "A" Sqn - KIEL. "B" Sqn - stops in Wehrmacht - SS battle on the main SEGEBURG - NEUMUNSTER Rd. RHQ, A Ech and LAD - ELMENHORST.	

		"C" Sqn - BRUNSBUTEL.	
	11	Nothing to report. B Ech joined RHQ at ELMENHORST.	
	12-13	Nothing to report.	
	14	C Sqn relieved from commitment on KIEL CANAL and returned to previous locn at ELMENHORST.	
	15	B Sqn relieved from commitment on axis BAD SEGEBURG - NEUMUNSTER and returned to NERITZE. A Sqn remained at KIEL. RHQ, A Ech, B Ech and LAD at ELMENHORST. Warning Order received from Div that the Regt would be required to take over a PW staging camp commitment on the BALTIC Coast, probably on 16 or 17 MAY. Orders to this effect were confirmed that evening.	
	16.	Lt. Col. K.C.C. SMITH returned from UK and re-assumed comd of the Regt, Major P.T.I. MacDIARMID reverting to 2 i/c. Regt less A Sqn moved to TIMMENDORFER STRAND 9905 preparatory to taking over PW Staging Camp Commitments in that area. Recces were made and camps set up in the large woods 9806 - 9905. Final arrangements were made to meet the PW who were supposed to arrive in US PW Tpt.	
	17	Locns - RHQ, B & C Sqns, A & B Ech and LAD - TIMMENDORFER STRAND A Sqn - KIEL The IO was sent to a co-ordinating conference at LUBECK and arrived back at RHQ at approx 1600 hrs with two LOs from the American 8 Div (18 Corps) with the infm that the PW were not now arriving by rd, but would, in fact, arrive by train. A complete re-shuffle of the staging area was therefore necessary and arrangements had to be made to receive PW from the trains and take them into the staging camp and then continue as before, marching to NEUSTADT. It was quite apparent that as the train had to be on to NEUSTADT to complete the circuit that it would be very much easier to detrain, if possible, in NEUSTADT and hand the German PW straight to the German control instead of staging them in TIMMENDORFER and continue to march them up the already overcrowded rd, overcrowding being caused by a very considerable number of DPs in the general area. Arrangements to second the motion with US 80 Corps to bring this about.	
	18	The first batch of 23,000 PW arrived by train without major incident and were staged for the night in the prepared camps. Permission was obtained during the day to change the plan and to detrain at NEUSTADT and hand PW straight to German Control without staging. Recces and arrangements were accordingly made for this. It was decided that the staging camp would be emptied as follows - 3,000 - 19 MAY. 10,000 - 20 MAY. 10,000 - 21 MAY.	

			A Sqn were relieved of commitment at KIEL and reverted to comd of the Regt. They were located at NIENDORF 0401.	
	19		Detraining commenced at NEUSTADT 0116. The vehs of the German PW arrived by rd and had to be passed by us into the German area.	
	20-23		Regt continued with PW commitment at NEUSTADT.	
	24		Two Sqns ordered to take over from RA in the northern part of KREIS STORMAN in the towns of BAD ODESLOE and REINFELD 8185. A and C Sqns were ordered for this task and moved that day.	
	25		Regt located as under - RHQ, A and B Echs, LAD - TIMMENDORFER STRAND A Sqn - BAD ODESLOE - commitment of VPs and DPs. B Sqn - TIMMENDORFER STRAND C Sqn - REINFELD - commitment, control of DPs in that area.	
	26-27		As above with extra commitment of C Sqn producing 3 tps of Armd Cars to escort SS PW to Second Army SS Camp.	
	28-30		Nothing to report.	
	31		Nothing to report. Locns of Regt as under - RHQ, A and B Echs, LAD, B Sqn - TIMMENDORFER STRAND. A Sqn - BAD ODESLOE C Sqn - REINFELD.	