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ARMY FORM C.2118

**WAR DIARY**

or

Unit 2nd Bn The Gordon Highlanders

**~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~**

(Delete heading not required)

Month and Year April, 1945

Commanding Officer Lt.Col RWM de Winton D.S.O.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Near HALDERN 1252	1		C.O. with Bde Comd attended memorial service to the late Maj Gen Rennie.	Sheet P.1. 1/100000
	2		C.O. and Adjt visited 5/7 GORDONS near ISSELBURG. Lieut J.M. Coltart posted to the Bn.	
	3	1200	R. Gp. (C.O. and Coy Comds) left HALDERN with a view to recceing areas at present held by 155 Bde (52 Div) from which it was expected 227 Bde would take over. At approx 1830 hrs at the x-rds 5692 the G.O.C. 15 Div was informed by the Corps Comd that the Div had been transferred to 8 Corps. The R. Gp. was present at the time, therefore billeted themselves for the night in the area of the x-rds.	
EMSDETTEN	4	0900 2100 2130	The Bn, after several changes of plan, left HALDERN area and arrived EMSDETTEN 8595 at 1620 hrs. Bn HQ est in school 852954. Bde O Gp - The Bde to sweep the woods in the area TECKLENBURG 0503, LEEEDEN 1002 where it was believed a few franc-tireurs had been left behind in the wake of the 11 Armd and 6 Airborne Divs. Bn O Gp; the bn to sweep a strip of high wooded ground from LENGERICH 0899 to area 1606. Job to be done by Carrier Pl with under comd 1 sec Carriers from 2 A & S.H. with "C" Coy on the right and "D" Coy on the left moving up behind to take on any opposition should this be encountered.	Sheet P.2. 1/100000  Sheet P.2. 1/100000
Near OSNABRUCK	5	0745	Left EMSDETTEN. Coln held up by rd jamming and did not arrive at LENGERICH until 1105 hrs. At LENGERICH an ex French P.O.W. offered to help expose several franc tireurs in LEEEDEN. The job of sweeping the woods was completed in roughly six hours in heavy rain. 10 suspects including the Kreisleiter of TECKLENBURG were arrested with the help of the French P.O.W. also 3 R.A.F. personnel and one German medical officer. No firing took place.	



			<p>possible, the br at 622484 while "B" Coy with the remainder of the Sqn in sp were given the job of making a brhd over the River ALLER at the main rd crossing 589506. By 0600 hrs all these objectives had been achieved. 15 pl "C" Coy comd by Lt JEFFERY with the tp of Honeys had two skirmishes en route, one in the middle of the town with the staff of Celle Gas School, and one just outside at 604483. At 0600 hrs they captured the br 622484 intact. The bn suffered 4 cas during this operation. 28 P.Ws were taken.</p> <p>0830 15 pl joined by the remainder of "C" Coy in the brhd. 1000 The whole bn conc in the brhd. Bn HQ 617481. Owing to further demolitions along a stream just North of the brhd, it was decided to continue the adv along the main axis, i.e. over the main br at Celle. The bn therefore obliged to move between 2200 hrs and 2400 hrs to NE part of the town 589514 and abandon its brhd which was taken over by an American Bn.</p>	
CELLE	13	1000 1600	<p>Bn (now third bn in the line of march of 227 Bde) left CELLE on the road to UELZEN.</p> <p>Carrier Pl given the job of finding a diversion and were in action against an enemy posn with bazookas at DALLE 7468. They were soon recalled as it was believed this diversion would no longer be required. One P.O.W. was taken.</p>	
UELZEN	14	0200-0600 1200 2000 2200	<p>Bn took part in the dramatic advance on UELZEN led by the 10 H.L.I. At 0700 hrs Bn HQ was attacked by a small party of enemy who had been by-passed during the night advance, at the same time a party of 26 gave themselves up. At 0800 hrs the C.O. who was travelling with Tac Bde HQ called up his O Gp. and gave out provisional orders for the attack on UELZEN. It was later decided, however, that the attack should be carried out during darkness.</p> <p>1200 Bn HQ est 874840. 2000 Bn O Gp. Orders for the attack on UELZEN. "D" Coy to lead, followed by "B", "A", and "C". Left Flank Sqn 3 Scots Gds in sp. 2200 Bn moved fwd to F.U.P. area 884866.</p>	
	15	0030	<p>H hr, "D" Coy crossed rly line. They advanced to the outskirts of the town but were there fired on both from the front and their left flank, the enemy on their left having evidently let the leading tps go by with the purpose of setting an ambush. The leading tank was destroyed by bazooka fire. Maj Grose (O.C. "D" Coy) then attempted a flanking movement to the left but again came under hy fire from strongly fortified houses</p>	

			<p>and also from an SP and a half track. Owing to the threat of encirclement from behind and the difficulty of control under the circumstances Maj Grose decided to withdraw onto "B" Coy about 300 yds behind and here the two coys remained until the following night when they were relieved by the 9 Cameronians. "D" Coy lost two killed and 8 wounded during this op. 17 prisoners were taken. It was generally agreed that street fighting against a well established enemy during darkness and with tanks in sp was definitely 'not on'. It was found also that the artificial moonlight was no assistance in such circumstances.</p> <p>At 0400 hrs "C" Coy was moved to the area of the level crossing. The H.L.I. was also held up on the left under similar conditions.</p> <p>Intermittent shelling from SPs, 20 mm and mortars.</p>	
BORNE	16	0200-0400	<p>Bn relieved by 2 Glas H and one coy 9 Cameronians and conc in BORNE 8883. Bn HQ est 887834. Bn rested all day. Capt J.H. Carvill joined the unit. Offrs of Left Flank Sqn 3 Scots Gds invited to drink with Coy Comds at Bn HQ Mess during the evening.</p>	
	18	1730	<p>Excellent weather.</p> <p>Bde O Gp. The Bde to move through UELZEN and occupy area VASTORF 8714 - GIFKENDORF 8813. No T.C.Vs. Bde had to lift itself on tks, A ech, Fd Regt, etc.</p>	
	19	0600 0950	<p>Bn left BORNE 8883, lifted on Left Flank Sqn, fd bty and sp coy tpt.</p> <p>Arrived Gifkendorf 8814 but almost immediately owing to the progress of 11 Armd Div, the Bde was ordered to move on. During the next two or three hours five different objectives were given to the bn, the final one being the area LUDERSBURG 8928, JURGENSTORF 9129 which was entered at 1730 hrs. Bn HQ est in a large house 894287. Soon after arrival the Brig informed the C.O. that the bn would have to move to area BARUM 7831 - BUTLINGEN 7833 on the following morning.</p>	Sheet L.5. 1/10000
BARUM	20	0900 1200 2100	<p>Carrier Pl followed by R Gp went off to recce area BARUM - BUTLINGEN found br at 780321 blown but encountered no opposition.</p> <p>Rest of bn moved into BARUM - HORBURG - BUTLINGEN. Bn HQ est 783317.</p> <p>-0100 (21 Apr) "D" Coy cleared TESPE 7838 on the bank of the ELBE; took 7 P.O.W. without a shot being fired.</p>	

	21		Evacuation of civs from the area began. Showery weather. "A" Coy took over from "D" Coy and Carrier Pl in TESPE.	
	22-28		Weather improved. 'Fishing' on the Barummer sec. Occasional shelling from the far side of the Elbe which completely overlooked the bn area, but no cas were caused. Int Sec and F.O.O. scrutinized the far bank and picked out a considerable number of enemy posns. The factory at KRUMMEL was still evidently in partial operation, and was occasionally visited by a train which came out of the tunnel in TESPERRUDE 796374. On 26 Apr the train was shelled by 131 Bty and although it was not thought to have been damaged it did not reappear. Lt D.C. Burgess and 2/Lt D.J. Smorthwaite joined the bn on 22 Apr. Lt T. Hornsby joined on 23 Apr.	
	27		Bde O Gp. Crossing of the ELBE put forward owing to the rapidity of the Russian advance. 227 Bde to pass through 44 Bde's brhd and swing WEST with 2 Gordons on the left actually clearing the river bank, A & S.H. centre and H.L.I. on the right.	
BARUM	28	0930	C.O. addressed the entire bn in a hall in BARUM and told them of the coming operation.	
	29	0230 0900-1000 1000 1115 1400 1720	Bn began to move out of BARUM - BUTLINGEN area breakfasted at BRIETLINGEN 8029, 0430 hrs and moved into assembly area LUDERHAUSEN 8131. The bn was ordered to cross the ELBE in storm boats with essential vehicles (carriers and jeeps) in 'buffaloes'. This operation was completed and the bn concentrated in the bridgehead already taken by 44 Inf Bde. Bn ordered to move off up the main rd and capture the village of TESPERRUDE (MR 3779 Sheet 2528) and clear the wooded area SE of the village along the North bank of the river. Rd blocks at 814374 and 807376 reported. Bn bypassed them to the South leaving a platoon with a R.E. party to clear them. Objectives taken with 6 offrs and 205 O.Rs as P.O.W. Good work was done by "A", "B" and "D" coys in clearing the many snipers and bazooka parties from the woods. Total Casualties - 6 killed and 25 wounded, including Major GORDON CAMPBELL, MC, RA comdg 320 Bty RA. Major Campbell who was wounded in the thigh by a sniper had been bty comd with the bn during the whole campaign since landing in NORMANDY. Following on the capture of TESPERRUDE by "A" Coy and the high ground beyond by "C" Coy, "D" Coy was ordered to pass through and clear the KRUMMEL Factory area as far as 766387 with "C"	

			Coy working along the high ground above the factory as far as 773384.	
TESPERHUDE	30	0400	"D" and "C" Coys reported their tasks completed and on their objectives 794376 and 796377. Total P.O.W. 2 offrs, 116 O.Rs. At 0640 hrs they were relieved by a coy of 2 A. & S.H. and took up posns in GRUNHOF 8038.	
		0700	Carrier Pl despatched to recce HAMWARDE 7843, which they found to be held 30 P.O.W brought back. During the morning "A" Coy captured two 'Frogmen' their task was not discovered.	
HAMWARDE		1600	Bn moved off to HAMWARDE which had now been cleared by 15 Recce Regt and occupied posns in the village during the night with 2 troops, 3 (Tk) Coldm Gds in sp. Bn HQ 786433. Meanwhile the Adv Adm Area 838350 had been heavily shelled during the day and the ration 3 tonner, the Pnr 3 tonner and the med half track were destroyed.	