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ARMY FORM C.2118

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Delete heading not required)

Unit 7th Bn, The Seaforth Highlanders.

Month and Year SEPTEMBER, 1944.

Commanding Officer Lt.Col P.M. HUNT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LES ANDELYS	1 Sep		Routine normal.	
LES ANDELYS	2 Sep		Routine normal.	
LE PAVILLON	3 Sep	0715 0945 2030	Bn leaves LES ANDELYS. - Start of 12 Corps drive through France. Bn arrives at LE PAVILLON. C.O. held conference.	
FOUILLOY.	4 Sep	0730 1045 1430 1500	Bn leaves LE PAVILLON - Move by M.T. Bn arrives at FOUILLOY. Bde Comd visits Bn H.Q. C.O. held 'O' Gp.	
	5 Sep	0915 1815 1930 2115 2145	Bn leaves FOUILLOY. Bn arrives at HAUTECLOQUE. Bn leaves HAUTECLOQUE. Bn arrives at VILLERS CHATEL. C.O. leaves for 'O' Gp at Bde H.Q.	
VILLERS CHATEL	6 Sep	0830 1310	Bn left Villers Chatel for COURTRAI (BELGIUM). Route was through ARRAS, CARVIN, SELLIN, LESQUIN, HEM, TOUFFLES and PECQ. Bn crossed BELGIUM Frontier. Bn entered COURTRAI. Took up posns at Canal Brs. Coys detached on mopping up ops with 15 (S) Div Recce and ROYALS. Casualties - 3 Killed, 5 Wounded.	See App 'A'
COURTRAI BERCHEM	7 Sep	0900 1145 1230 1345 1410 1445	Bn left COURTRAI. Bn arrives at BERCHEM 0251. C.O. held 'O' Group. Bn left BERCHEM. Weather conditions bad - heavy rain. Bn at KERKHOVE F.U.P. 3 Coys attack CASTER and TIEGHEM X Rds. 'A' Coy centre, 'B' Coy left & 'D' Coy right. 'C' Coy reserve Coy. Carrier Pl on recce to ELSEBEM contacted no enemy. 'D' Coy completed task, passed through objective to high ground N of CASTER. 'B' Coy pinned to ground by heavy M.G. fire from	

			<p>area X rds TIEGHEM. Opposition overcome and Coy gained objective.</p> <p>Coys positions right to left on consolidating - 'D' Coy high gd 0154: 'A' Coy BASSEGHEM 0054 - 'B' Coy area X rds TIEGHEM. Bn takes up firm base guarding canal and crossings. 'A' Coy VIERCHAAR 0152; 'B' Coy KERKHOVE 0152; 'C' Coy VOSSENHOER 0153; 'D' Coy VARENT 0253. Bn HQ. at VOSSENHOEK 0153.</p> <p>P.O.W. taken - 31.</p> <p>Bn casualties - 8 killed and 15 wounded.</p>	
VOSSENHOEK.	8 Sep	<p>0200 Bn in defensive posns.</p> <p>0300 'D' Coy patrol to CASTER.</p> <p>0330 " " " returns.</p> <p>0430 'C' Coy Patrol to CASTER X rds.</p> <p>0430 " " " returns.</p> <p>0130 'A' Coy patrolling area from VIERSCHAAR 0152 to TIEGHEM. Patrols during the day from all Coys brought in 82 P.W. incl 2 Offrs.</p>		
VOSSENHOEK.		<p>0930 C.O. left for recce.</p> <p>1030 Carrier Pl moves off.</p> <p>1930 Bn left VOSSENHOEK by M.T.</p>		
	9 Sep	0200	Bn arrives at QUENENBOSCH posns along ESCAULT Canal. 'A' Coy Rly Br 2076; 'B' Coy along rd 1974; 'C' Coy Canal Br and Rd June 1771; 'D' Coy TIERLINCK 1569.	
QUENENBOSCH	10 Sep	<p>1400 C.O. leaves for 'O' Gp at Bde H.Q.</p> <p>1615 Bn leaves QUENENBOSCH.</p> <p>2215 Bn arrives at MALDEREN conc area.</p>		
MALDEREN	11 Sep	<p>0900 C.O. held 'O' Group.</p> <p>1230 C.O. leaves for Brig. recce party of ALBERT CANAL Br Head area GHEEL.</p> <p>1400 Coy Comds leave for recce as above.</p>		
	12 Sep	<p>1130 Bn leaves MALDEREN.</p> <p>1600 Bn arrives at PADDENHOEK F.A.A.</p> <p>1645 C.O. held 'O' Gp.</p> <p>1715 Bn leaves PADDENHOEK.</p> <p>1755 Bn crosses ALBERT CANAL.</p> <p>1805 Bn arrives at HEEZE and takes over posns from 5 E.YORKS, 50 Div. 'A' Coy along track and astride rd and track junc 0386. 'B' Coy along main rd running N.E. 0486. 'C' Coy rd and track junc 0486. 'D' Coy along track 0487.</p>		
HEEZE	13 Sep	1315	<p>Bn at HEEZE. Defensive posns on ALBERT CANAL Br head.</p> <p>Bn moves fwd to broaden br head, meets no opposition - 1 P.W.</p>	

		1830 2220	Defensive posns taken up as follows:- 'A' Coy NEDREBUUL 0088; 'B' Coy N.W. of WOOD and astride Rly line 0087; 'C' Coy astride main rd and along edge of WOOD 0287; 'D' Coy BOEKEL 0187. Bde Comd visits Bn HQ. Bn HQ at X rds 0189 NEDERBUUL Area.	
NEDERBUUL	14 Sep	1430	Bn in defensive posns on ALBERT CANAL Br head. Mortars shelled enemy posns N of Canal Wood 904913. Recce Patrol by 'A' Coy. Enemy shelled Lock area 092884 - Major Currant, 'B' Coy Comd killed and 2 other ranks wounded.	See Appdx 'B'
NEDERBUUL	15 Sep	0100	Bn in defensive posns on ALBERT CANAL Br head. Contact Patrol B,D Coys to GERHUDE. Contact Carrier Sec and return by BOCKEL. Contact made.	
NEDERBUUL	16 Sep	1800 1815 0200 1530	Bn in defensive posns on ALBERT CANAL Br head. C.O. held 'O' Group. Coy of Queens Regt take over 'B' Coys posn area Canal Lock. Contact Patrol from 'B' Coy to Queens at Lock. Return by Canal Bank. Contact made. Snipers Report see Appendix. Bn Mortar shoot on enemy posn NORTH of Canal.	See Appdx 'C'
NEDERBUUL	17 Sep	1445 1700	Bn in defensive posns on ALBERT CANAL Br head. C.O. leaves for 'O' Gp at Bde H.Q. C.O. goes on recce of new area.	
	18 Sep	1345 1415 1830	Bn leaves NEDERBUUL area - posns taken over by 1/7 Queens, 7 Armd Div. Bn arrives at KRAAIE BOSSCHEN to take over posns from 10 HLI, 227 Bde. 'A' Coy edge of Wood and along track 105917. 'B' Coy N.E. of track 108913. 'C' Coy area of WOOD and track 088923. 'D' Coy WOOD 094914. Bde Comd visits Bn HQ. Quiet day.	
KRAAIE BOSSCHEN	19 Sep		Bn in defensive posns. Quiet day.	
KRAAIE BOSSCHEN	20 Sep	1010 1815 1830	Bn in defensive posns. Bde Comd visits Bn HQ. C.O. leaves for 'O' Gp at Bde HQ. 1 Coy and Carrier Pl of KOSB, 44 Bde, take over fwd posns.	
	21 Sep	0650 1045 1230 1240 1300	Bn leaves KRAAIE BOSSCHEN. - M.T. move. Bn crossed DUTCH Frontier at LOMMELSCHE. C.O. leaves for 'O' Group at Bde H.Q. Bn arrives at VELDHOVEN. C.O. held 'O' Group.	

		<p>1410 C.O. and Coy Comds leave for recce of WILHELMINA CANAL. 1430 Bn leaves VELDHOVEN. 1830 Bn arrives at 394244 FAA. 2115 Bn crosses WILHELMINA CANAL. Bn Pioneer Pl built raft for carrying A Tk Guns. R.E. built class 9 raft for transport. 'A' Coy encountered stiff opposition from MMG area Canal and Rly crossing 380245 before enemy were pushed back over Rly. 2 ORs wounded. MG fire from well sited posns on Rly. 2230 Br head over WILHELMINA CANAL est. Right 'D' Coy area LOCK and across tracks 393253; Centre 'B' Coy area houses and Wood 385255. Left 'A' Coy area Rly Br to track 380246. 'C' Coy between A & D 384249. Bn HQ at 388252. During night Patrols to BEST, one along Rly, one along rd. Object to find out if BEST was held by the enemy and in what str. Patrols reported BEST held, str unknown. Lt Millar wounded on this patrol.</p>	
	22 Sep	<p>0800 'D' Coy went fwd to occupy BEST as it was then believed village was practically unoccupied. However, Coy came under hy MG and mortar fire while clearing houses and streets. The enemy were strongly entrenched, and 'D' Coy had to withdraw to its original posn, having suffered fairly hy cas. 4 P.W. were captured. Lt Pyrah and 17 Pl missing during street fighting phase. 2 G.H. later failed to capture same village. Casualties: 9 wounded, 21 missing. 0730 Bde Comd visits Bn HQ.</p>	
	23 Sep	<p>Bn holding posns on WILHELMINA Br head. 1000 Bde Comd visits Bn HQ. 1400 C.O. held 'O' Group. Two Bns attack. 2 G.H. RIGHT - 7 SEAFORTH LEFT. Boundary lines rd crossing Rly 373257. Sup arms, 2 Fd Regt, 1 Med Regt; 1 Pl 4.2 Mortars; 2 Pl MMG. 7 Seaforth to attack and capture Rly from crossing 373257 to 377251. 'B' Coy right Factory 374257; 'C' Coy line of Rly from hedge to track 375256 to excl track and Rly Junc 376253. 'A' Coy incl Rly and track junc 376253 to shrubbery and Rly 377251. 'D' Coy in reserve. Attack went in. Heavy MG fire from Rly waggons and factory. Enemy posns along Rly dug well into embankment. Progress slow under heavy M.G. fire. At 1845 hrs, posns of Bn were - 'B' Coy area 376257; 'C' Coy area tracks 378256; 'A' Coy area 378254; 'D' Coy 382256; Bn HQ at 384257. Objectives were not taken and Coys consolidated where they were. Casualties: 6 ORs Killed; 1 Offr and 32 ORs wounded.</p>	

	24 Sep	2100	Bn holding posns on WILHELMINA CANAL Br head. Recce Patrol from 'C' Coy to Rly. Enemy posts occupied. Contact patrols between Coys.	
	25 Sep	1445	Bn holding dug in posns covering Rly. Contact Patrols during night. Typhoons attacked enemy posns around factory area. Intermittent mortaring of factory area. 2 ORs wounded. 227 Bde attempted attack left flank on to rd NAASTEBEST and failed. 2 Gordons came under very heavy MG fire on W side of Rly. They were unable to adv and suffered cas. The attack failed.	
	26 Sep	0715 0945 1600 1815	C.O. held 'O' Group. Bde Comd visits Bn HQ. Two Bns attack. 1st phase 9 Cams to clear rly level crossing 371263 to crossing incl small house 373257. 2nd phase, 7 Seaforth to capture factory area 374257 to incl track and rly crossing 375253. 'B' Coy to capture and hold factory E of rly and gain firm base for 'C' Coy to pass through and capture building W of rly. 'D' Coy to clear rly to crossing 375253. 'A' Coy to remain and give flank protection. In support all Div arty and 1 troop of S.P. A/Tk Guns. Attack goes in under heavy enemy MG and mortar fire. 'B' Coy reached factory. 'C' Coy reached rly and one Pl crossed, then coming under enemy cross fire from houses on right suffering cas. 'D' Coy moving through towards rly were shelled and mortared, and were held up also by MG fire from area waggons S of factory. All enemy were cleared from factory and embankment E of Rly. Position of Coys 'B' and 'C' combined to form one Coy in factory commanding good observation and fire on rly. 'D' Coy in area 377256. 'A' Coy in area 377253. Bn HQ. at 379259. Casualties: 4 ORs Killed, 3 Offrs & 27 ORs wounded; 1 Offr & 7 ORs missing. C.O. leaves for 'O' Group at Bde H.Q. Contact patrols with 9 Cams.	
	27 Sep	0715 1430 2000 2100 0300	C.O. held 'O' Group. Bde Comd visits Bn HQ. 'A' Coy relieved 'C' Coy in factory - 'C' Coy taking over 'A' Coys posn. Fighting patrol went out to rly waggons 374255. No enemy contacted. " " returns.	
	28 Sep		Bn still holding same posns containing enemy W of Rly - 1 P.W.	

		1430	Carrier Pl recce patrol.	
	29 Sep	1155 21- 2300	Bn still holding same posns containing enemy W of Rly. Bde Comd visits Bn HQ. 2 P.W. Carrier Pl - Recce Patrol. Intermittent shelling throughout day.	
	30 Sep		Bn still holding same posns containing enemy W of Rly. - 2 P.W. Recce Patrol - 1 Sgt & 3 ORs from Pnr Assault Sec.	See Appdx 'D'