WAR DIARY

OR



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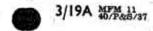
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Place	Jan Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information (Page 1)	Remarks, re to Appendi
	45			initiai
TILBURG		1	1 Canadian Armd Carrier Regiment	
HOLLAND	Į.		Canadian Army - Overseas	
2/1 89335			Lt-Col G.M. Churchill Commanding Officer	
			1 - 31 January 1945	
	1		Weather :- Clear & Cold. New Year's Day was very quietly spent. Work was carried on as usual. The necessity of constantly on guard has curtailed training, but maintenance on vehs and wireless sets is being stressed.	Gyun Gyun
	2		Weather: - Cloudy & Cold - Light snow fell in the morning. Major Compton, GII 21 Army Group paid a short visit in order to have his first view of a Kangaroo. The Commanding Officer left at noon-hour for BRUSSELS to represent 1 Cdn Army at a Sports Meeting. A message was received from THLBURG Garrison that the unit was being relieved from guarding Surrey Oak Bridge.	
	3		Weather: - Cloudy & Dull. A message was received by telephone by the Orderly Officer at about 2000 hrs ordering that one Son stand by on 2 hrs notice to move to 1 Corps Area. This message was given as originating from 79 Armd Div. 'B' Son under Major Baldwin's Comd were accordingly made ready to move.	. Eyen
	4		Weather: - Clear & Cold. No further orders having been received, 31 Tk Bds was contacted. They had no knowledge of the order and immediately started to check on its origin. Shortly after lunch Major Searle advised that the order be altered to 4 hrs notice, and by 2200 hrs it was again altered to 24 hrs.	Exer
	5	-	Weather: - Clear & Summy. Exercise Practice Alert was carried out by TILBURG Garrison. No. 3 Tp of 'B' Sqn was used to carry infantry of the Mobile Reserve to attack a party of paratps who had landed on the outskirts of the town. Practice showed up several faults, particularly in infantry's ideas of how to employ Kangaroos. Order of 3 Jan 45 was finally clarified by 31 Tk Bde. One Sqn to stand by on 24 hrs notice to move in support 10 CIB. Col Churchill, Co and Capt Wilson visited 10 C.I.B. and on return after a brief meeting it was decided to the content of the 3 Bos.	Hu
All the state of the state of			that 'B' Sqn would be put on the job and pending further orders would send 1 Tp to each of the 3 Ens	No in the same

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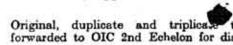


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Place	Date Vi	Hour	Summary of Events and Information (Page 2)	Remarks, refer to Appendices initials
ILBURG OLIAND	5		Contd - in the Bds - Lincoln & Welland Regt, Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders & the Algonquin Regt, on morning of 7th to remain for 3 days to acquaint Ens with Kangaroos. Lieuts P Corbett, Remsden & Zacaruk joined the Regt on attachment from 9 En 2 CERC (X-4a List)	Sque.
189335	6		Weather: - Cloudy. Lt-Col Churchill to 10 CIB HQ for lunch with Brig JC Jefferson for the purpose of meeting CO's of 10 CIB Units and discussing combined trg with them. An exercise which had been planned for Sunday 7 Jan 45 with the Argyles & Sutherland Highlanders Regt, had to be posponed due to a Bds movement. Maj FS Corbeau CC 'A' Sqn and offrs of 'A' Sqn attended an exhibition by "Flame Throwers" held at the "A & SH" of Canada near "REYEN" at 1400 hrs. This demonstration showed the use of smoke by the "Wasps" in an attack. An offrs party had just commenced when the duty offr arrived with a message that two tps were required for Ops. Two tps of 'B' Sqn under Maj H Baldwin were detailed for the job and offrs concerned left to prepare for the action.	SEE APPA C. C. C.
	7		Weather: - Cold and Snow. Two tps of 'B' Sqn plus a halftrack & LAD detachment left at 0240 hrs with Capt Rook as navigator, to report to 8 Inf Bde, 3 Brit Div. Night was quite dark and distance to be covered was appox 55 miles. Maj Baldwin proceeded the convoy in an armd truck. Enroute an accident put two carriers out of action. While parked at side of road, a British lorry crashed into the rear-end of the LAD Ward-LaFrance breakdown lorry & caused considerable damage. Lt-Col Churchill left HQ at 0830 hrs for VENRAY to join Maj Baldwin. Capt Rook Tech Adjt returned from VENRAY. Capt Calder, Maj 31 Tk Bds left for 1 week to take charge of convoy transporting refugees to rear area. Capt CR Wilson becomes Adjutant.	Min Sto
	8.	1	Weather: - Wet Snow - then Colder, causing icy roads. 'B' Sons two tps return from VENRAY over icy roads. Seven tks slid into ditch. All but one managed to get home after a trip of approx 55 miles.	See Appx Afr
	9		Weather: - Cold & Clear - Icy Conditions remain. Capt Harvey to ANTWERP to buy dishes for offrs mess. Maj Bingham, 2 i/c, & Capt Wilson to Army HQ, Q Plans re 'B' offrs mess in Moderne Cafe, also to Maj Smith, DAAG Pers, re leave.	Syan
	10		Weather: - Cold & Clear. Exercise with 10 CIB cancelled owing to icy rd conditions. Warning order for Tact move at 1600 hrs. Lieut Tatchell to 31 Tk Bde for infm. Brigadier's visit for 11th cancelled. Unit preparing to move to concentration area at RUSSIAN CAMP KA469 WATER SCHEIDE.	Han

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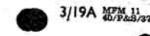
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Place	Date 45	Hour	Summary of Events and Information (Page 3)	Remarks, refe to Appendice initials
TILBURG HOLLAND 189335 WATERSCHEIDE K/4469	11	×	Weather: - Cold & Dull - Roads still Loy. Started loading tptrs at 0800; slow due to ice & late arrival of 1 sec of Tptrs. Echelons conformed to Tptr coln. Harbour party & CO left at 0915 hrs. Tac HQ moved at 1400 hrs. The leading carriers were off loaded at CHENCK MR/4365, some distance from their allotted harbour area, icy roads preventing the Tptrs from getting up a long hill. The Kangaroos, working from small scale maps, had difficulty finding the route into WATERSCHEIDE in the darkness. The move was made without other incident beyond occasional Tptr breakdowns on the road. In such cases the Karriers were off loaded onto spare Tptrs and continued enroute. Main HQ & Rear Party remain TILBURG E/189335.	See Syl
	12		Weather: - Cold & Dull. Move begun on 11th completed in small hours of today. The CO & Adj attended conference at GELEEN MR/6664 & discussed coming Ops with Brig Knight, 31 Armd Bds. Maps & warning order were obtained, which were passed on to Sqn Comdrs. The CO visited Inf Bn CO, 7/9 Hoyal Scots & 8 Armd Bds for con- ference, returning to Tac HQ at 0200 hrs for '0' Gp with Sqn Comdrs. Recommon particular of the Collowing day. ESM Langlois was despatched to TILBURG with instr to bring fwd Main HQ to new area.	Spen
31 V	13		Weather: - Continued Cold & Ice. Message received at 0230 hrs instructing 1 Cdn Armd Regt less RHQ to move to new loom, start time 1030 hrs. Recoe parties were re-briefed on changed areas. Leading the crossed SL on time. Lt-Col Churchill to 8 Armd Bde and 155 Inf Bde of 52 (L) Div. The Sqns 'B' vehs conforming, moved to different areas to tee up for the coming Op: 'A' Sqn to MEERSSEN MR/6055; 1 & 2 Tps of 'B' Sqn, under Comd of Capt Copley, to VOORSTAD, MR/681685, near SITTARD: 'B' Sqn less 1 & 2 Tps to BUNDE MR/K/4469. Main BQ moved from TILBURG to occupy area vacated by Kangaroo Sqns at WATERSCHEIDE MR/K/4469.	See
	,14		Weather: - Continued Cold with snow. 1 & 2 Tps of 'B' Sqn - for details this date forward see attached Appendix 'E'. Major Bingham, Capt Harvey and Mr Hin, Dutch Interpreter, arrived at Russian Camp, MR/K/4469. WATER-SCHEIDE, thus severing the last connection with TILBURG.	'E' GA
	15		Weather: - Clear & Cold. Roads continue very icy. Capt Rock, Tech Adj, and Mr. Simpson, Sigs Offr took four the to Squs in the field and had difficulty in keeping the Kangaroos on the Roads, which were sanded only on the approach to Bridges. MHQ Main opened at 0800 hrs at Russian Camp, The Adj, Capt Wilson, moved fwd to set up Tac HQ at OVERHOVEN MR/689695. Tac HQ was constituted as follows: Commanding Officer, Adjutant, Tech Adj, Sigs Offr, Lieut Zacaruk, 3 operators in a Sigs HUW and two batmen. This party was increased later in the day by the arrival of Capt Harvey from Main HQ; and the addition of two British Army	es ofen
CO. A. C.		4	MANUFACTURE AND 1951	

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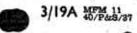


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Place	Jan Date 45	Hour	Summary of Events and Information (Page 4)	Remarks, ref to Appendice initials
Main HQ MR/K/4469 MATERSCHEIDE Tac HQ MR/689695 OVERHOVEN	15		Contd: operators and a 15 cwt wireless web borrowed from Main. Wireless comm is expected to be difficult because of the wide dispersal of the Sqns and parts of Sqns. The Commanding Officer attends a conference at 45 Div HQ. Orders to combine the echelons of 'A' Sqn and of 'B' Sqn less two Tps, upset plans to combine our echelons with those of the different Inf units our Kangaroos will support. This, plus rigid traffic control, will complicate the problem of supply. To simplify the problem as much as possible, an advance petrol & supply dump will be set up in OVERHOVEN, with Tac HQ at once, to be followed by Main HQ in a few days.	Appx 'D'&'E'
in a	16		Weather: - Cold & Threatening. 'B' Sqn less 1 & 2 Tps. For detail from this date fwd to completion of Op HLACKCOCK, see narrative in attached appendix 'D'. The QM, Capt Callaghan set up an advance petrol and supply dump in OVERHOVEN and joined Tac HQ there. 'B' Sqn 1 & 2 Tps. For detail of actions see appendix 'E'.	1
9.7	17		Weather: Icy Cold Rain - miserable weather: 'B' Sqn less 1 & 2 Tps - Op HLACKCOCK appendix 'D'. 'B' Sqn 1 & 2 Tps - appendix 'E'. Tac HQ prepared to move fwd to area SUSTEREN, but move was postponed because Main Axis NORTH had not been cleared of enemy pockets and obstacles. Sjt Carmon, clerk, left for Stationery Depot, BRUSSELS or a m/c to obtain sufficient Pass Forms & Ration cards to send our first UK Leave pers.	Sten
	18		Weather: Cold with freezing mist causing roads to be very dangerous. 'B' Sqn less 1 & 2 Tps. Op BLACKCOCK appendix 'D'. 'B' Sqn 1 & 2 Tps - appendix 'E'. Sidelight on 'A' Ech, 1 & 2 Tps 'B' Sqn. At 1200 hrs a call came via the Sigs offr for fitters to report to the Tks located at DIETEREN MR/674770. Cpl Compton and Tprs Cullen & Baker were despatched in a jeep to follow Capt Rook, Tech Adj, who was leading the way. On the way up they ran through a storm of SA fire, Compton roundly cursing the jeep for its top speed of 35 mph. This story has neither been confirmed nor denied by Capt Rook, who admits, however, that he was buttoned up tight in his Scout Car	syon
ain BQ & Tao R/689695 VERHOVEN	19		Weather :- Cold & Loy. 'B' Sqn less 1 & 2 Tps - Op HLACKCOCK appendix 'D'. 'B' Sqn 1 & 2 Tps - appendix 'E'. Wain HQ moved to join Tac at OVERHOVEN MR/689695. The RSM remaining behind to direct on the mail truck and also returning leave pers. Due to extremely icy condition of rds weh travel was limited to 5 mph.	Gen
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Place	Jan Date 45	Hour	Summary of Events and Information (Page 5)	Remarks, refer to Appendices initials
ain HQ & Tao R/689695 VERHOVEN	20		Weather: - Continued Cold, 'B' Sqn 5 & 4 Tps - Op BLACKCOCK - appendix 'D'. 'B' Sqn 1 & 2 Tps - joining 'A' Sqn. Jerry Mortar shells landed in village(OVERHOVEN) wounding several civilians and perforating four HQ Trucks. The Paymaster's HUP having four flat tires and a shattered windshield, Maj PS Corbeau, OC 'A' Sqn at Tao HQ for Commanding Officer's meeting tonight. Coming phases of exercise BLACKCOCK discussed. Lieut Craigs Tp still cut off.	Appx 'E'
6	21		Weather: - Continued Cold with snow & more Ice. 'B' Sqn 3 & 4 Tps - Op HLACKCOCK - appendix 'D'. 'A' Sqn less one tp plus one tp 'B' Sqn at MR/785674- standing by for action tomorrow morning to lift 7th Hampshire Regt to PUTT.	Appx 444
	22		Weather: - Clear & Cold. Capt GF McLauchlin, 2 i/c 'A' Sqn commenced duty as A/Adj, replacing Capt Carl Wilson, who took over as 2 i/c 'A' Sqn. RHQ was packed up and ready to move to SCHINVELD MR/765645 on the Dutch-German border. At the last moment it was found that road space was not available, so the move was cancelled. 'A' Sqn less one tp with under comd two tps 'B' Sqn carried the 7 Hamps of 130 Bde, 43 (Br) Div into a successful attack on the German towns of PUTT (\$270) and WALDENRATH (8369). 'B' Sqn 3 & 4 Tps - Op BLACKOOCK - appendix 'D'.	'A' Son LOS to this poi
ain HQ & Tac R/7664 CHINVELD	23	0900	Weather: - Continued Cold, but Clear. HKQ moved from OVERHOVEN to SCHINVEID, where A echelons of 'A' & 'B' Sqns were also located. 'A' Sqn carried a Bn of the DCLI of 129 Inf Bde 43 Div into attack on the German town of STRAETON (8469) during the forenced. In the afternoon a Bn of SCMLI was carried by 'A' Sqn for attacks on SCHETFENDAHL (8371 and ERFEN (8471). Seven Tks were lost by 2 Tp 'A' Sqn in a minefd. Sjt Appleyard, Tp Sjt 2 Tp was wounded. 'B' Sqn remained inactive at KONINGSBOSCH (7573) under Comd 155 Inf Bde 52(1) Div. The GOC 43 Div visited RHQ and expressed his pleasure & satisfaction with the work done by the offra & men of this Regt while under his Comd. He mentioned the extremely low cas in 43 Div on this Op and contributed this to the fact that 'KANGAROOS' had been used in nearly all the jobs done by 43 Div. 'B' Sqn 3 & 4 Tps - Op BLACKCOCK - appendix 'D'.	you
s	24		Weather: - Clear & Very Cold. HHQ and the A echelons of Sqns still in SCHINVEID MR/7664 on the Dutch side of the border. HHQ and the A echelons of Sqns still in SCHINVEID MR/7664 on the Dutch side of the border. 'A' Sqn moved from WALDENRATH (K8469) to HARZELT (7970) but was not engaged in Ops. The men were able to get some badly needed sleep. Major Corbean OC 'A' Sqn visited RHQ in the afternoon and had dinner at PHO Mess. Lt Smith, Admin offr of 'A' Sqn was sent to 'F' Ech to get some battle experience. He	Efen

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Main HQ & Tac MR/7664 SCHINVELD	24		Contd - took over No. 2 Tp and the present Tp offr Mr Combe returned to 'A' echelon to become Admin Offr. Three 'A' Sqn Tks which had been attached to HQ 155 Inf Bde of 52 (L) Div, Sjt Dyer, who had been in charge reports that the carriers had been used as a mobile Bde Comd Post and Tac HQ. The A/Adj, Capt McLauchlin visited 51 Armd Bde HQ at GELEEN. Four new Kangaroos were delivered late in the evening by offrs and men of 264 Fwd Del Sqn. 'B' Sqn carried 5 Wilts into the attack on UETTERATH (8770). There was little opposition and a good be of prisoners taken. Lieut Johnson of 'B' Sqn brought in 12 crews to spend the night at 'A' Echelon. The HHQ Liason Offr Lieut Ramsden arrived back from across the border with a large pig which by a strange coincidence had been hit with shrapnel (German) just as Mr. Ramsden was passing. Unfortunately the animal had not been properly bled and it was considered unsafe to eat the meat. Capt Copley 2 i/c 'B' Sqn visited RHQ late in the evening and advised that his Sqn was spending the night at REKERENEN and expected to move to TEVEREN (7770) in the morning. Capt Harvey and Lieut Hin, Dutch Interpretor returned late in the evening after an all day trip to EINDHOVEN and return. The Commandin Officer appeared today wearing the first of our new cap badges to be received from Gaunt Ltd, Birmingham. This badge was the offrs type with bronze finish, and excited much favourable comment from all ranks. The arrival of the first 500 OR badges is expected daily and is eagerly awaited.	See Appr
	25		Weather :- Cold & Clear. HHQ and the Sqn echelons remain in SCHINVEID (7664). A Sqn released from 45 Div and arrived at SCHINVEID early in the evening. A special hot meal was laid on at RHQ mess for 'A' Sqn offre who arrived tired but happy. Most of them were so exhausted that they were unable to do justice to the meal. Two sections of Kangaroos from 'A' Sqn were attached to the 112 Pioneer Coy (British) under Comd 45 Div to assist in laying out smoke generators which are to be used to screen movement on rds exposed to observation from the fwd def line of the SIECFRIED def system. During a discussion in the Mess it was discovered that the entire fighting portion of the Regt operated on German soil from 21 Jan to 26 Jan. This is thought be a "First" of some sort for a Canadian Unit.	See Appx g
	26	/5	Weather: - Continued Clear & Cold. 'B' Sqn arrived in SCHINVELD and both Sqns spent the day doing maintenance and sending the men for baths to nearby coalmines which had excellent bathing facilities. For the first time since leaving TILBURG a Regt'l offra mess was in operation. At 2300 hrs instra were received from 31 Armd Bde, directing the entire Regt to move by road to WATERSCHEIDE via GELEEN, the Berg Bridge and ASCH. The move to take place at 1200 hrs the following day. The purpose of the move being to concentrate for impending operations at the northern end of the line. This news blasted a lot of fond hopes about having time for rest and for maintenance of which our equipment is badly in need after the hy going on Op 'ELACKCOCK'. The instra further state that on reaching WATERSCHEIDE, 30 of our tks would be put	. Gym
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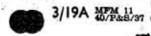
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Place	Jean Date 45	Hour	Summary of Events and Information (Page 7)		marks, refe Appendice initials
in HQ & Tec /7664 HINVELD	26		Contd - aboard transporters and taken to an unknown destination. The remainder of the Regt was to DIEST area (E1369) the following morning and await the arrival of further tptrs. RHQ and were to come under cound of 30 Armd Ede on arrival in HOLLAND. 'B' Sqn was to remain under our fun 31 Armd Ede.	'A' Son	
giment /1/4466 NTERSLAG	27	*	Weather: - Clear & Cold. The Regiment moved off from SCHINVELD(MR/7664) at 1200 hrs with the wheeled vehs leading. WA (12668) was reached shortly after 1400 hrs. The Regtl recce party was contacted and it was f they had been unable to find accommodation in WATERSCHEIDE (14668) but had been successful in a suitable spot at WINTERSLAG (14466) a neighboring town. Accordingly arrangements were made 30 tptrs to come to WINTERSLAG (14466) and the column moved off once more. On arrival we four billets to be two large schools which although not heated were fairly comfortable. The highly the day was the arrival of 80 odd bags of mail which contributed greatly to what would otherw been a very dull Saturday evening.	found that locating e for the und our light of	Yhu
	28	8)	Weather: - Cloudy & Snowing. At 6900 hrs the Regiment less 30 tks moved off from WINTERSLAG (14466) bound for the DIEST (MI Our record party consisting of Capt Harvey HQ Sqn Comdr and Lieut Hin, our Dutch Interpretor, gone ahead to look for accommodation. The roads were very loy and treacherous and the Tk dvrs difficulty keeping their machines under control. On reaching the outskirts of DIEST we were the record party and informed that no accn was available in DIEST, but that some had been loca EECQUEVOORT (180665) a few kilos to the SE. The Regiment had just become settled in RRECQUEVO (180665) when word arrived that the move was cancelled and that the Regiment was to return to (14466) at once. Amidst much profame language we packed up and returned to WINTERSLAG where ied our billets of the night before.	having s had great met by ated in DORT WINTERSLAG	Ofen
	29		Weather :- Cloudy with Rain. It was learned today that 'A' sons the were to go into whose with high priority for thorough and are to be ready for Ops by 5 Feb. 'B' Son the are to follow 'A's through whose and are to ready for Ops by 13 Feb. Preliminary Admin orders for Operation 'VERITABLE' arrived today. It that HHQ and 'A' Son are to be under command of 30 Armd Bde of 79 Armd Div, who in turn are in of 30 British Corps for this Op, which is to be in the Canadian sector and will be directed by Canadian Army. 'B' Son will remain under Comd of our parent fum 31 Armd Bde of 79 Armd Div. commanded by Maj FS Corbeau will be working with 44 (L) Inf Bde of 15 (S) Div. Major Corbeau attending conferences all this week in preparation for the Op. It was also learned today that Regiment will move to the area RIETHOVEN (E3309) just SOUTH of EINDHOVEN. Our LAD under comd Duncan moved to HASSELT (K3262) today. A Good building for them to work in has been located	to be We learn In support by First 'A' Sqn in will be at the I Capt	Öfu

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in-Tec & Sgn /K/4466 RTERSLAG	29		Contd: and they expect to install ten new engines. Col Churchill was busy today attending conference at 79 Div and First Cdn Army HQ. These conferences are being held to review the WE of Army Carrier Regiments with a view to making the present one more adequate and to consider the possibility of adding a third Sqn.	250
Squ 78/3309 STHOVEN 0 78/3262 SSELT	30		Weather Mild with Fog. Regiment still in WINTERSLAG. Maintenance on the tanks is the order of the day. The Commanding Officer returned from HQ First Cdn Army late in the afternoon. At a meeting of the Officers in the evening the Commanding Officer announced that an Increment to the Regiment had been authorized as an interim measure pending changes in the WE of the Regiment which are now under consideration. The Increment provides eight new troop offrs which will be a great help, as a Tp Idr will now have six Tks instead of twelve. An extra Captain per Son is provided and an Ass't Tech Adj as well as an IO and an LO. The Increment also provides ten new vehs and twenty-eight ORs made up of dwrs, CAC Operators and Fitters.	Gefan
	31		Weather: - Cloudy with Rain and Mist. The Regiment moved from WINTERSLAG (K4466) to a new area south of EINDHOVEN. RHQ and 'B' Sqn moved to LUYKGESTEL and 'A' Sqn to RIETHOVEN (E3309). The move went off smoothly and all vehs had arrived by 1600 hrs. The Tks still remaining at WINTERSLAG were moved by Tptr and went direct to Wksp. The LAD remained at HASSELT (K3262) to finish the work on hand.	itoo iss. / T
			Strengths : See Field Returns attached.	
	t'		(CM Churchill) Lt-Col Commanding 1 Cdn Armd Carrier Regiment	
10			1 Cdn Armd Carrier Regt 16 Mar 1945 MR/E/270101 Under Comd Tk Bde - 79 Armd Div(Brit) 21 Army Group	
	1	4		And the second second