

October 1944

The month was spent in a series of minor operations to mop up any enemy operating west of the River Maas, they still had a bridgehead to the west in the Venlo area. On the 7th 11 Armd Div were relieved by 7 US Armd Div and consequently moved to a forest location north of Overloon. The later part of the month was spent with constant moves and patrolling and on the 27th took over from the 7 US Div to enable them to counter German attacks further South. The Battalion was also preparing locations to occupy for the winter, which was to prove a cold and miserable winter.

As Capt Wardman said:

A great deal of the winter was spent in clearing Germans from the area to the west of the river Maas, an area which was very wet and boggy, with canals for drainage everywhere. You dug a slit trench, for protection, but could only dig about 2 feet deep and then the trench filled with water. So you banked the soil up round the trench and hoped that you did not have to get in it too many times, because you were soaked through every time you did. This was winter time too. I remember one night when we were occupying positions near to the Maas, opposite town of Roermond, when we had about 28 degrees (F) of frost. Even the anti-freeze in the Vickers guns froze, bending the barrel of one gun, despite the fact that the guns had been covered with a good layer of straw. As you will have gathered the Vickers is water cooled.

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Sheet One. ORIGINAL

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required).

Army Form C.2118.

Unit 1st. Bn. The Parachute Mine Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. J. P. Dunn, Oair.

Month and Year October 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
St. Anthony's.	Sept 27	0800	A Coy move out to area S.W. of Baugen 7442. One pl with G.P. sent at Baugen to observe enemy activity E of River Pass.	
		1130	B Coy - relieve A Coy. Personnel from En H.Q. occupied B Coy	
			En H.Q. posn until arrival of A Coy.	
		1900	Coy sent out fighting patrols every two hrs. Patrols from B Coy report no activity during night.	
	28	1030	D Coy relieves B Coy. Nil reports by patrols.	
Fandel.	29	1730	Orders received to move to Fandel tomorrow.	
	30	0645	En moved to Fandel 5833 after relief by U.S. Forces in coy groups at half hrs interval.	
		1200	Bn H.Q. est at 599332 all coys in civilian billets.	
	Oct. 1.		Coys settling in. 44 C.Rs reinforcements arrive. Baths, entertainments.	
	2		En commenced training and vehicle maintenance. Baths, entertainments.	
	3		Training included firing, 30yd range, and vehicle maintenance.	
			B. Coy practice movement by night.	

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Month and Year October 41.

Sheet Two.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C.2118.

Unit 1st. Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. F.R. Turner. Main

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Mandel	4		Coys practice wood and house clearing. B Coy night ex. fighting patrol.	
	5		Regt. comm. inspected Coys during training.	
	6	0900	A Coy proceeded to Meijel 107 sup by 1 to R.A. lto PAFs. at 0900 hrs. Object, To act as holding force in village and prevent enemy infiltration.	
	7		11 Arm Div moving to relieve 7 U.S. Arm Div. Bn moves to area N of Overloon 7632. A Coy remain in Meijel. Lt Clide and 1 O.R. wounded.	
N of Overloon		1330	Move commenced	
		1600	Bn arr in area 7434. C Coy 748341. D Coy 756334. B Coy 766339.	
			Bn U.S. with C Coy. No enemy interference during move but spasmodic mor fire and shelling, later.	
		2300-0300	B Coy patrol proceeded to the ^{track} junc 777328 and laid mines. No enemy encountered.	
			D Coy standing patrol 760327. Enemy F.D.L. and listening post locd	
			Movement of tracked vehicles heard N.E. of Overloon. Enemy considered to be in strength N.E. of Overloon.	

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Month and Year October 44.

Sheet Three.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st. Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. F.R. Turner - Oain

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	6	1500	Reinforcements arr, total 11 C.Rs. New 21/C arr, Major W.H. Terry.	
		1700	Enemy mor centre of B Coy area. No cas. Spasmodic mor, shelling and fire from NBW until 0200 hrs.	
		1730	Mor pl of I. Fus opened fire with captured NBW.	
		1800	R. Es moved fwd to lay mines in 'Boot Wood' fwd of D Coy area, 759327.	
		1845	Enemy seen adv to N of Boot wood 759328 and standing patrol D Coy mor heavily. Patrol consisted of two secs sup by one tp tks. Comd decided to withdraw with the intention to go fwd with tk sup and push out the enemy.	
			The tks withdrew to harbour area for the night before this operation was carried out leaving enemy in possession of our posn. Patrol subsequently withdrew to rear posn under further hy mor fire, suffering two cas(wounded). Since the R. Es had no inf sp, laying of the intended minefield was impossible.	
		1930	B Coy sent out fighting patrols of pl strength to Halfway 780332. Met one sentry at 775337. Hearing enemy on their left (area 777337)	

Sheet Four.

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Month and Year October 44.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R. P. Turner 2ain.

Place	Date	Hour	Cont.	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
				and their attempt to capture the sentry being unsuccessful owing to unfortunate exposure of an enemy searchlight, they returned to their posns.	
		2000	(cont'ds.)	D Coy standing patrols to 757329, 759330, B Coy 773337 and 775343	
				Slight enemy movement heard in both located enemy posns until 0530 hrs.	
				Our patrols withdrew at first light.	
		2330		B Coy patrol to tip of wood 777348. Nothing seen or heard.	
	9			Patrol from 1000hrs approx D Coy, small fighting patrols with Brens, mors to area 756328 and 763328 to harass flank of enemy posn,	
				leaving listening post 754327. B Coy, fighting patrol to enemy posn 777337	
				10 Germans seen in the area.	
		1400		A Coy arr from Meijel and occupied area between B and D Coys.	
		1530		D Coy put in Coy raid in 'Boot' wood 760327 with tk and arty sp	
				with the object of inflicting cas and obtaining P.Ws. Results 10 enemy	
				killed, 17 P.Ws taken. Identification Battle gp 'Paul' Coy withdrew suffering	
				4 cas (wounded). Bde Comd at Bn H.Q. during att. Enemy replied with	

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Month and Year.....

October 44.

Sheet ~~ONE~~ TWO

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Erase heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. F. R. Turner Cain.

Place	Date	Hour	cont. Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			by mor and shell fire. This cont intermittently until 2200 hrs.	
			Speed in execution and the application of fire and movement were	
			responsible for the success of this raid.	
		2000	B Coy fighting patrol laid mines X tracks 774326 no enemy met.	
		2130	D Coy fighting patrol to toe of 'Boot' wood 766327.	
	9		Considerable enemy movement heard approx strength about 20.	
		2400	B Coy fighting patrol to Rouw 771324 Report it clear.	
	10		Rained incessantly throughout day.	
		0500	C and D Coy changed posns.	
		1630	F.S.P. est civilian check point on rd 1/2 mile N of Bn H.Q.	
		1030	Reps from 3rd British Div arr to recce area.	
	11	1400	Intended Psychological warfare cancelled on Div Comds Instructions.	
		1730	B Coy with tk and arty sp att enemy posn 777337 cas inflicted and 2 P.Ws taken (Identification Battle Gp Hardegg) Intermittent shelling and mor by enemy throughout 24 hrs.	

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SHEET SIX WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Unit...Ist. Bn. The Herefordshire Regt

Commanding Officer...Lt. Col. G.R. Turner Cain

Month and Year...October 44

(Delete heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			Patrols	
	IO	2100	- 2310 C Coy recce patrol to toe of "Boot" wood. 6 Germans seen patrolling edge of wood and other enemy heard inside wood	
		2300	- 0130 B Coy patrol to 777329 and lay mines 777329. No enemy meet	
		0100	- 0510 A coy patrol to Row 771324. Voices heard in woods S.W. of Row.	
II	0500		A and D Coys change posns.	
	0700		Polish deserter brought in by B Coy. Ident. 2 Coy 437 Bn.	
			Battle Gp. Hoffman	
	1100		C.R.A. visits Bn. H.Q.	
	1330		Psychological warfare commences 2 mins stonk by 4 Field	
			Regts in Boot Wood followed by propaganda speech, then further 4 mins stonk and finally further speech with suitable space of time between each item. (NOTE Coys reported that it was unlikely that the sound carried far enough)	

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SHEET SEVEN
WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Unit Ist Bn. The Herefordshire Regt

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. G.R. Turner Cain

(Delete heading not required).

Month and Year October 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	1900	3	German deserters from Boot wood Ident. Battle Gr. Paul They did not hear the speeches but were fed up with our shelling! P.O.W.s gave fair information (average age 22yrs 4 yrs service) Patrols cancelled during early part of evening as the area was illuminated by several fires.	
11	2400	0305	Patrols to houses 777333 Nothing seen or heard mines laid 774334	
12	0300		1 deserter (Frenchman) Ident. 13 Coy Para Bn. Paul	
	0400		Enemy Mor killed 1 O.R. and wounded 1	
	12.00		H.H.R. for 8 COY. OP. 'CONSTELLATION' H.A.R.M.D. DIV PROVIDE DIVERGENT FIRE TOWARDS VIERLINGEN 7935	
	1900		Patrol to Halfweg brought no reports of enemy. 3rd Brit Div Capture HALFWEG	
			Overlooked. Enemy mortaring and shelling throughout day Quiet on our front apart from mortaring and shelling	
13			1530 C coy moved to cover left flank area 763344. our patrols during night Halfweg - Schofferden. N.T.R.	
14			48 hrs passes on die, allotment (to Brussels.) Patrols brought information that enemy occupied most area 789343	

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Month and Year.....October, 1945.

Sheet Eight.

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit.....1st Bn The Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer.....Lt. Col. G. R. Turner.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	15		One deserter (Para Bn Paul 3 Coy.)	
		1000	Orders for clearing ops. To clear area Schofferdan-Hattem N to 788345 over rly to 795345 stn 796339, and wooded area 790333. One tp R. Es and 1 tp flail tks, 2 sqns 15/19 H under comd. Commencement of op delayed by minefields and obstruction by K. Od tk.	
		1500	A and D coys formed firm base area 787337 and 791336. C and B Coys passed through to obj. (rly stn, track, and Moat areas). Several cas inflicted on enemy. 13 P.Ws captured. (Ident. 437 Trg Bn) 3 minor cas.	
			Mines and state of ground slowed down the op, but Bn back in old posn by 1900 hrs.	
N of Deurne	16		Bn moves to area N of Deurne 655227.	
		1900	Bn in Posn.	
E of Deurne	17		Party to recce br 703234 held by 7th U.S. Armd Div.	
		0800	Recce party report br O.K.	
		1030	A and D Coys moved towards br. head with tk sp, 15/19 H. Country very open around br. head. Tks could not deploy beyond br owing to soft ground.	

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Sheet ~~1~~
WAR DIARY

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn The Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. J. P. Turner in .

Month and Year October 44.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			Americans had informed us that br. head extended for 500 yds other side, in actual fact it extended for 200 yds. A and D Coys exposed to considerable mor and shelling crossing br causing by cas, adv 600 yds E either side of rd.	
			Believed enemy were in strength at Ijsselstiegn, so they were "Lime-juiced" by Typhoons. B and C Coys were brought up and D Coy att farm area 714233 taking 60 P.Ws. under arty smoke screen B and C Coys moved round the left flank and att Ijsselstiegn from the N, slight opposition met and very few own cas. B and C consolidate in areas 727225 and 722225. D and A Coys move up to 717228 and 723230. Total cas during day, wounded, offrs Major Mason, O.C. A Coy Capt. Holding and Lt De Carle. O.Rs. 5 killed 67 wounded. B. Wsl Offr, 1 R.S.M. 1 C.S.M. and 94 O.Rs. (Identity, 16 Bn. 22 Regt.	
Ijsselsteijn 18			2 P.Ws by B. Coy during night (5 Coy, 489 BN)	
	0630		B and C moved fwd to clear area fwd of their posn, 2 offrs, 60 O.Rs taken P.W. (Identification 489 Bn & 22 Regt, one of 180 Div H.Q.	
	0930		Bn H.Q. mor during interrigration or P.Ws. 12 cas, (wounded)	

Sheet Ten.

Army Form C. 2118.

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October 44.

WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

1st Bn The Herefordshire Regt

Lt. Col. G.R. Turner D.L.

Commanding Officer

Month and Year.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	18	1125	orders to move to area 7522 to back up K.S.L.I. who had moved forward Veulen 7722.	
		1300	Harbour party moved to receive new posns with B Coy clearing.	
		1410	Bn moves.	
		1430	Harbour party shelled. 2 killed and 21/c (Major Terry) wounded. This area decided to open and at 1515 bn moves to area 7321.	Sgt Ben (Bernard) shot & killed.
			only 3 Coy locations (A and D 733220. B 736219. C 734216) as	
			A and D formed composite Coy.	
		1600	Bn in Posn.	
		1900	B Coy capture 2 officers and 31 G.R.s P.C.W. all from 489 Bn 4 more during night 16 Bn 22nd Regt.	
S.E. of IJsselsteijn	19		Slight shelling and mortaring during day day	
	20		18 O.R. reinforcements arrive. slight mortaring and shelling.	
Veulen	21		Bn take over from K.S.L.I. who are to proceed to Deurne for 4 days rest.	

WL 47724 008 9,000,000 8.43 W. H. A. S. 51/5975

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Sheet ELEVEN
WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2110.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regt

Commanding Officer. Col. G.R. Turner. Cain

Month and Year: October 44

(Delete heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	21	1630	Bn transport moves in small groups followed by troops on foot as route open to enemy observation.	
		2115	Bn. in posn. No enemy interference. Location B 769222 O 768223 A / D 767222.	
	23	45	enemy patrol fired on by B Coy. 1 wounded P.O.W. Ident. 5 Coy 2nd Einheit Brehmen Regt. Patrol armed with 5 Panzerfaust. Object to destroy tanks. Strength 10 men. P.O.W. gave other usual information.	
Veulen	22	1400	Interrogation of all local inhabitants and subsequent evacuation of all but 4 who remained to tend cattle. Slight enemy mortar and shelling. Night patrol return with information as follows A/P minefield area 771228 enemy pln locality 774227. Tracked vehicles heard in factory area 777227. Enemy pln locality 774224. Enemy possibly laying mine field W of this position.	
veulen	23	0430	Arty stonk on Farm 774217 held by enemy. This farm still held by enemy 2100hrs.	

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SHEET TWELVE WAR DIARY

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2418.

Unit 1st, Bn The Herefordshire Regt

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. G.R. Turner Oair

Month and Year... October 44

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Veulen	23	0430	Fighting patrol failed to clear area, opposition too strong, 1 wounded Attempted attack on enemy locality 774227 after mine clearing at 771228. attack observed and ground flares made operations impossible. Further fighting patrols to 774224 met fire from 3 Spandaus and returned. No casualties. 1 German shot by D. Member of patrol Ident. 5 Coy 2 Bn Einheit Brehmen Regt.	
Veulen	24	1900	All quiet during day except for occasional shelling and N.B.W. Heavy enemy stonk on Bn area by shells mortars and N.B.W. No casualties. R.A.P. building caught fire, had to evacuate, 1 ambulance lost. Patrols found A.P. mines 773225. Standing patrol installed 768231 to prevent possible patrol infiltration. Nothing seen or heard. Arty stonk on 773224 as enemy heard approaching down rd.	
Veulen	25	0200	Buzz Bomb flying W.	

SHEET THIRTEEN
WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Unit.1st...BN...The Herefordshire Regt

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. E. R. Turner, Cain

Month and Year....October 44

Month and Year....October 44			Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
Veulen	25	1900	Bn relieved by K.S.I.I. moved out to rest area Deurne in small gps	
	2045		Bn installed in billets	
Deurne	26		General maintenance, rest and entertainment, baths. 65 C.R.s R.F.S. and Major Alpin and Major Stairs arrive.	
Deurne	27	1400	Orders received for Bn to move to Griendtsveen., to take over from OGB 7th U.S. Div who are to counter enemy threat at Meijel.	me to D Coy as 216 (Capt)
		1700	Bn moves.	
		2000	Take over complete, location A 726176 B 712174 C 708180 D 715179, No incidents and night quiet.	
			<i>[Signature]</i> Lt. Col. Commanding Officer. 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.	

WL47724 268 2,000,000 3:48 W.H.&S. 51/5975

ONE

ORIGINAL

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WAR DIARY

OF

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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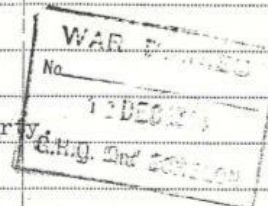
Army Form C. 118.

Unit 1st Bn The HEREFORDSHIRE

Commanding Officer Lt Col G. R. Turner Cain.

Month and Year OCT 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
GRIENDTSVIREN	Oct 28		All quiet on the Bn front. Germans advancing towards LIESEL. During the night an enemy patrol was fired on by C Coy. No results known.	
"	29	1500	Slight enemy shelling in A Coy posn. Alternative posns recce'd for the whole Bn in case enemy thrust becomes too great to hold present posns: Germans take LIESEL but their advance is halted there. All quiet on our own front.	
"	30		Day quiet.	
		2030	Several enemy seen by DF Patrol at 727183. DF Task fired by arty.	
		2200	Enemy shell DEURNE area. Soft vehicles not affected.	
"	31	0230	Enemy patrol fired on by C Coy at 704 184. One killed and one PW who gave valuable information concerning enemy formations and higher intentions, locations of his own Coy posns, and news of two wireless interception stations at AMERIKA (Also stating, that by these the enemy were able to assess the	



Sheet TWO

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

1st Bn The HEREFORDSHIRE Reg

Commanding Officer Lt Col G. R. Turner Cain.

Month and Year..... Oct - 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
GRIENDESVEEN (cont:)			weakest point in our lines.) Ident: 100y/22 /489 Regt:	
		0430	A and D Coys change over posns. 2200 10R killed & 50RS wounded by shell fire at 737174.	
"	31		All quiet on our front except for slight shelling. Patrols had nothing to report throughout the night.	
			B and C Coys change over posns during the morning.	
		1500	C Coy standing patrol at 702165 kill one, wound one, and capture one of a German approaching patrol. These had civilian clothes under their uniforms and turned out to be deserters.	
Nov:				
"	1		Quiet through the 24 hrs: Patrol activity uneventfull. Trip flares laid forward of Standing and DF Patrols.	
"	2		Nothing to report:	
"	3		Again all quiet on our front. RECO lay chrapnel mines as follows:-	
			Belt of 25 from 710184 to 713183, belt of 25 from 713183 to 713184 (the track being left clear) and a belt of 30 from 714182	
			to 717181.	