

March 1945

March started with the continuation of operations in the Hochwald with the Battalion fully involved. On the 5th the regrouped ready to continue ops towards Sonsbeck and Xanten. On the 9 they were withdrawn to Belgium to rest and refit in Haecht.

On the 28 the Battalion crossed the Rhine at Wesel.

Brig Churcher visited the Battalion on 12th and 18th - it is most probable this photo was taken during one of those visits.



Soldiers of the Herefordshire Regiment in trenches at Sonsbeck



PAGE ONE

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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C.2119. If this is not available, and for
Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be
prepared in manuscript.

ORIGINAL

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

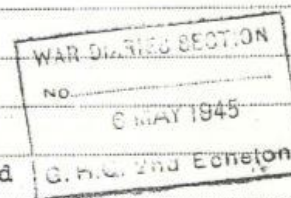
Army Form C. 2118.

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

Commanding Officer Lt Col G.R. Tu. Cain
DSO

Month and Year.....MARCH 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ESE of KERVENHEIM	1	0645	cl 40 Bridge completed at 004393 enabling the remainder of tks (which had been prevented from crossing as the fascines had collapsed) and necessary wheeled vehicles to join their sub-units. Hy NBW fire and shelling experienced throughout the whole Bn area during the day. Bn holds firm the ground which had been gained.	
		1500	Bn HQ moved to House 011389, where less shelling was experienced Casualties for the 24 hours ending 1800 hrs Officers 2 wounded OR's 5 Killed 44 wounded.	
E of KERVENHEIM 2	2	1000	'B' Coy with one tp of 15/19 Hussars attempted to break the enemy dug defences at 027378. Right fwd pl eventually reached a point within 150x of the objective, where they suffered heavy cas; through intense mortar and MMG fire. The enemy allowed them to cross 200x of open country before bringing fire to bear thus making evacuation of wounded and the remainder of the pl	



SHEET TWO

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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

Commanding Officer Lt Col G.R. Turner Gain

Month and Year MARCH 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendix
	2	(cont)	... extremely difficult. Advance by the pl was impossible under the withering fire, so the Coy Cmd decided to consolidate with two pls at 025382, and 024381, with the remnants of the third at 026379. Three attempts were made to extricate the latter without success, and this was finally acheived during the first hour of darkness. Coy experienced intense and accurate Mortar and shell fire and also sniping during the day. 'A', 'C' and 'D' Coys remained in previous location.	
	2000		'A' Coy assaulted the same objective passing through 'B'. First attempt unsuccessful, but later left flanking attack was sucessful, and the posn gained. 'A' Coy took 5 POW. The Coy consolidated in area 027378.	
	2300		'C' advanced through 'A' with one tp 15/16 Hussars u/c and sucessfully reached the east side of the defence line at 032375 against little opposition. Gas up to 2300 hrs; officers wounded 1	

SHEET THREE

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit **1st Bn the Herefordshire Regt**

Commanding Officer **Lt Col G.R. Turner** **D30** **Gain**

Month and Year **MARCH 1945**

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	2 (cont)		... OR's Killed 7, Wounded 18. 53 reinforcements arrived at 'A' Ech.	
ESE of KERVENHEIM	3	0200	'B' and 'D' Coys both having suffered cas; and 'B' having no officers and with only one Sergt left formed a composite Coy under OC 'D' Coy, to effect this 'B' returned to 'B' posn at 016387.	
		0800	'C' subjected to very heavy mortar and shell fire but being well dug in suffered no cas; Bn maintained positions gained and awaited developments in 3 Cdn Div sector. Cas; OR's Killed 1, Wounded 5.	
"	4		Bay much quieter and enemy believed to be withdrawing his artillery. 3 Cdn Div continued to clear wooded area North of SONSBECK. Bn remained in same location. 15 Reinforcements posted to Bn.	
"	5	0930	Bn HQ moved to 026365 and 'D' Coy to area X rds 027367, 'S' in area of BN HQ.	

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Month and Year.....

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

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

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
		1600	3 MONS cleared earthworks and reached rd junc 052361, where they halted and allowed 3 Cdn Div to attack SONSBECK from the north. This objective captured and there the Hereford Gp was pushed out. 28 Reinforcements posted to the Bn.	
E of KERVENHEIM	6,7,8,		Bn remained in same location with the exception of 'D' Coy who moved to Fm 018359 where shelter was provided for all men. (March 8. One Offr posted as reinforcement to the Bn)	
"	9	1045	Bn moved to HAACHT MR 826688 Sht 1; 200,000 8 Belgium, for rest and refit.	
		2300	Bn arrived at HAACHT.	
HAACHT	10-11		Bn resting and interior reorganisation carried out. 'B' and 'D' Coys seperated to form once more two coys.	
"	12		Brig: J.B.Churcher DSO.adressed the Bn giving an account of the last battle.	
"	13		Training commenced at coy level, stress being given to reinforcements	

SHEET FIVE

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

Commanding Officer Lt Col G.R. Turner Cdn
DSO

- Month and Year MARCH 1945 -

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
HAACHT	13	(cont) and moulding together of sub-units.	
"	14		Normal inf; trg;	
"	15		Normal Inf; Trg; Bde Band played the Retreat at 1730 hrs in the village square.	
"	16		Normal Inf. Trg.	
"	17	1100	RSM's Parade with Bde Band. Inspection of all tpt by ASM.	
"	18		Bn Church Parade with Bde Band in attendance. After Church the Bn marched past, the Brigadier taking the salute.	
"	19,20,21		Coys in turn practiced Fd Firing exercises at BOURG LEOPOLD Trg Area.	
"	22, 23		Coys in turn practiced Inf-Trk co-operation exercise, with 2F & F Yeo; (29th Armd Bde having come u/c 11 Armd Div)	
"	24 - 27		Normal inf trg;	
"	28		11 Armd Div moved from Belgium to cross the RHINE to a concentration area NE of WESEL, Bn moved at 0740 hrs and arrived in new location	

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Unit 1st Bn The Herefordshire RegtCommanding Officer Lt Col G.R. Turner ^{11an.}Month and Year MARCH 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
			MR 3341 (Q1) at 2000 hrs. EE	
NE of WESEL	29		Bn moved to concentration area west of EARLE 3950 (Q1)	
W of EARLE	30	0740	Bn moved from Concentration area on route to OTTERWICK 6380 (P1) and OSNABRUCK EE 2106 (N2)	
		2300	Bn with 2 P&F Yeo u/c arrived at LEGDEN 5682 (P1) No enemy encountered all day.	
LEGDEN	31	0730	Bn moves. 23 Hussars forward on Div CL.	
		1100	Bn Gp to make firm base in the area HALTERN 6791 (P1), and LEER 6991 (P1); 15 Pz Gr; reported by Tac R, to be moving towards us during the night. 42 POW captured, all of varying identifications.	
			<i>[Signature]</i>	
			Lt Col;	
			Cmd 1st Bn The Herefordshire Regt;	