

1st BATTALION THE HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT – APRIL 1945

The Battalion was now well into the German 'fatherland', by the end of the month it was clear that Germany was defeated: on the 25th American and Russian troops met on the Elbe near Torgau, Russian troops were assaulting Germany's capital city – Berlin, and on the 30th Hitler committed suicide. However the fighting continued; there was fanatical and very capable resistance in many areas. To the Allies it was clear Germany was defeated but there was still the need to fight on to secure the final victory, but whilst everyone was aware of this no one wanted to become a casualty at this late stage.

Bob Price enclosed a copy of this poem in a letter to his girlfriend:

The End Is In View

The goal in sight, the end in view, these cheering words impart,
Courage to the weary soul and comfort to the heart,
Goading us to fresh endeavours in the coming days,
Giving us the needed strength to face the final phase,
To fight the next big battle, and win the last great bout,
Casting off forever every thought of fear and doubt,
The hardest task is lightened, hope and faith are born anew,
When having suffered and endured, we see the end in view.

The Allied advances in the East and West were fast and furious, Hitler had issued the 'Nero Decree' demanding a scorched earth policy which meant bridges and infrastructure were destroyed which meant ad hoc, often hostile river crossings. The month also saw, in the west the liberation of the Belsen Bergen Concentration camp – the Battalion was not directly involved; some individuals were and this left a lasting impression on them, but the Battalion moved through the Typhus area around the camp and everyone was aware of 'something' going on. Those that saw the camp could not believe what they were seeing and the full horrors of 'the camps' would only be fully exposed later.

WAR DIARY

The Brigade War Diary

In lieu of AF 02118

Sheet 1

Unit: HEADQUARTERS, 159 INFANTRY BRIGADE
(Incorporating HQ 159 Inf Bde Def Pt
and L&D att)

Comd: J. B. CHURCHER, DSO

WAR DIARY

Month and Year: Apr 45

Place	Date	Time	Incident	Ref to Appendices
ELA	1 Apr		<p>At 1300 hrs the Bde commenced to move forward with 2 FF YCO leading Two Bde, 1 HEREFORD, Main Bde, 3 MON, 15/19 H. The move was in preparation to taking over and pushing through the 29 Arm Bde over the high ground near IRENEBURG 9809. The River EMS and DOREMUND EMS Canal were both crossed by bridges made by our Engineers. By the time 2 FF YCO and 1 HEREFORD arrived, 3 ECR and 4 KSLI were committed against approx Coy of enemy in the area 980060. The Buns were covering the rd-block. A party was arranged that 1 HEREFORD should put in two coys from the WEST and attack across to the rd to rd-block, supported by the 146 Lnd Regt and 151 Pz Regt. 2 FF YCO remained at the bottom of the hill as a firm base, ready to break through. 3 MON and 15/19 H in the meantime were beginning to cross the DOREMUND EMS Canal.</p> <p>The attack of 1 HEREFORD was put in but owing to the difficult country progress was slow. It was found that the enemy had more troops on the ground than appreciated at first; it is now estimated that there is a Bn strong from a HANOVER MO's trg school. The attack was not successful, both sides inflicting casualties. 15/19 H and 3 MON both moved up into their new positions - locations for the night were: Two Bde HQ 962050, 15/19 H 970045, 2 FF YCO and 1 HEREFORD 964053, 3 MON 958054 and Main Bde HQ 007068.</p>	
	2 Apr		<p>At 0730 hrs 3 MON put in attack on the woods 9606 with two coys, with support of the Med Regt. Progress was very slow owing to the density of the wood and numerous snipers. 15/19 H was sent down to BROCHTERBEEK 0103 which they successfully cleared. They also sent off one sqn NORTH to come in behind the Bosche holding up the Mons. This was successfully carried out with very good effect. In the meantime the Arm Bde passed through to take TEXELBEEK which they did after having a certain amount of trouble from olve. Later reports came in that 3 MON had been counter-attacked and were forced back. The difficulty of information was accentuated by the thickness of the wood. Orders were coming through that the Div was to move over BIST so the 7th Arm Div could take over this centre line which was through own area. 159 Inf Bde was unable to move until they were relieved of their present commitments. It was not certain if 7 Arm Div or the Commandos were to take over. Info was received that the 7th Arm would be taking over, but instead of taking over it was decided that they would counter-attack through our positions; this would not take place till the morning. In the meantime, 29 Arm Bde with under comd 3 ECR, 23 B, 8 TB and 4 KSLI was forging ahead and during the night had captured a bridge across the ZWICKELN OLSBEEK just NORTH of CHURCHBURY and were continuing to go ahead.</p> <p>At approx 0900 hrs the recon parties of the 7th Arm arrived incl the Two Bde HQ which moved into the location of our Two Bde HQ. Very soon after the 146th reported that they had observed approx 25 Buns around them and were taking the necessary action. The Bde Comd was informed and everybody was warned to take the required action. Reports then came in very confused. Firing could be heard from the forward edge of the woods, and it was appreciated that an attack was being put in on the 3 MON position. The DEWCHS were warned, who were at the time coming up to take over from 1 HEREFORD and were just short of the bridge; as it was appreciated the Buns were after the bridge they were rushed forward.</p>	

WAR DIARY
No. 146
1 APR 1945
G.H.Q. 2nd Canadian

Sheet 2

In lieu of AF 02118

Unit : HEADQUARTERS, 159 INFANTRY BRIGADE
(Incorporating HQ 159 Inf Bde Def Fl
and LAD att)

WAR DIARY

Comd: J. R. CHURCHER, DSO Brig

Month and Year : APR 45

Place	Date	Time	Incident	Ref to Appendices
ELA	3 Apr (cont'd)		<p>Infm came through that 3 MON were being pushed back and a certain amount of confusion had set in. 15/19H were ordered to have a sqn in readiness to support them. Arty and Mortar fire was put down, gradually PW were sent back, and from infm gathered it was realised that there were in all approx 2 Bns on the high ground - one Bn from the NOO's School at HANOVER consisting of three coys and 1 Ry Coy, approx 120 men in each coy, although only two coys were on the ground facing the lions, but during the previous night numbers 1 - 5 - 9 Coys of each approx 100 men arrived from the Officers' Cadet School at BIESEN: all of the highest morale and had so far not been committed in this battle. They were all fresh and of the highest morale, they had no by weapons but only rifles, schmeissers and MGs. From reports it seems that it was a three coy adv through the forest from the area IBERREUREN towards the main rd, and they had bumped the MON's position. They attacked with great fury and owing to the thickness of the forest were able to infiltrate to the 3 MON Coy area which caused the confusion. The arty fire seems to have landed exactly on their forming up area for their final assault. With that and the enfiladed MG fire from 2 Indep MG Coy caused very great casualties. At this time the 2 DEVONS with two coys were formed up and put in the attack on the completion of the supporting fire programme which caught the Bns on the flank. This completely broke up the attack. Approx 300 PW were taken. Dead were reported in enormous numbers. As a result of this the position was stabilised - the MONS were able to collect the Bns and the 2 DEVONS were able to push through and take the 3 MON original position on the high ground in a clearing in the forest. Harassing fire was continued. 3 MON had suffered heavily. At 1800 hrs the 151 Bde took over the position and Bde HQ Tac moved to join Main Bde at 90034. 15/19 H and 3 MON at BROCKHEBEEK at 007030. 1 HEREFORD to 966038. 2 FF YCO having rejoined the 29 Arm Bde forward. 3 MON, having collected themselves were extremely reduced in numbers. They were not considered to be in a position to continue the adv through GERMANY. Arrangements were made for their relief. This was very sad for the Bde as 3 MON has always been with the Bde. They were one of the original Territorial Bns in the Bde. They had been in WALES, IRELAND etc and right across NORMANDY, FRANCE and HOLLAND. During this period, they had fought some very fine, gallant and successful battles and they had always seemed to be unshakably in the draw against whom they fought. They had numerous extremely sticky battles. Their officers and men had won a large collection of decorations. They were unfortunate in losing two COs - Lt-Col ORR, DSO and Lt-Col STUCKLEY in battle. They had always worked with the 29th Arm Bde with great success and their officers and men endeared themselves to everyone as a fine example of a landed infantry battalion.</p> <p>At 0715 hrs the Bde moved off in the order 2 FF YCO, 1 HEREFORD, Tac Bde, 15/19 H following up behind main Div in readiness to be passed through to take over from 29 Arm Bde. The Arm Bde had already bypassed OSNABRUCK and had captured one bridge intact across the WESER Canal and had advanced quickly during the night and had captured two bridges across the WESER RLS Canal. Fighting was sporadic against small disorganised parties of inf, in pockets of 50 mostly. These were armed with Bazookas.</p>	

Sheet 3

In lieu of AF 02118

Unit : HEADQUARTERS, 159 INFANTRY BRIGADE
(Incorporating HQ 159 Inf Bde Def Fl
and LAD att)

WAR DIARY

Comd: J. R. CHURCHER, DSO Brig

Month and Year : APR 45

Place	Date	Time	Incident	Ref to Appendices
ELA	4 Apr (cont'd)		<p>Many PW were taken during the day. By evening the Bde was on the ground just behind 29 Arm Bde prepared to continue first thing on the 5 Apr on the SOUTHERN route whilst the 29 Arm Bde adv on the NORTHERN route. Tac Bde HQ was located BOHME 409191 with Main at OSTENLAPPELN 3316 with the 15/19 H. 2 FF YCO and 1 HEREFORD at HYENBOHN 484213. Infm was received that 3 MON were to be taken into Army Reserve and would be replaced by 1 CHESHIRE from 115 Bde.</p>	
	5 Apr		<p>By 0700 hrs the adv continued with the 159 Bde on the RIGHT route and 29 Arm Bde on the LEFT. Little or no opposition - just one or two scattered parties. By 1130 hrs the leading tps had reached the banks of the River WESER, all bridges had been blown. 1 HEREFORD very shortly after their arrival managed to get a pl across at SCHUELSBURG 9032 using civ boats, which was soon built up to two coys. At the same time, 8 FB at SCHUELSBURG 9035 had crossed also with two coys. Corps Sappers arrived to commence the bridge construction. During the late afternoon although the weather was extremely unfavourable the CAP was very prominent putting ME 109s, Fiesler Storch, JU 87 and JU 88 for bombing bridging sites and generally strafing the rds. At 1700 hrs the CO of 1 CHESHIRE arrived with his 2IC and IC. The Bn was spending the night at OSSENBUCK and was expected up the next afternoon. It was reported that the 15(s) Div were being moved up. Also the Commando Bde in readiness for crossing the WESER. Bde HQ 864332, 1 HEREFORD 862335, 2 FF YCO 880347, 15/19 H 015278, 2 Indep MG Coy 864329.</p>	
	6 Apr		<p>The Bde remained in same locations; reports came in that identifications from the Bn of 12th SS and 100 Pioneer Bde. During the morning the Commando Bde moved up and 1 Bn crossed the river. The 15(s) Div were reported to be moving up. 1 CHESHIRE left OSNABRUCK at mid-day to join the Bde arriving at this location from 1600 hrs onwards. During the afternoon considerable air activity was reported, ME 109s, FW 190s, JU 87s and quite a number were shot down. Air Sp was sent to give cover but in between sorties the Rn did damage to the bridge which delayed our progress considerably. During the early evening the two coys of the 1 HEREFORD were withdrawn without loss. The Bde remained in same locations.</p>	
	7 Apr		<p>At 1100 hrs Tac Bde moved to the area OSSEN through FETTERHAGEN crossing the WESER using the 6 Airborne Div Class 40 Bridge. 2 FF YCO and 1 HEREFORD led the adv. PW were sent back in large numbers identified from many different units. By lunch time the 1 HEREFORD Cp were clearing up LOOUL and 15/19 H and 1 CHESHIRE were pushing up the WESER route towards LEESE. HEMISON was cleared first, full of men with Bazookas which slowed up the adv. Owing to the time and light etc, 15/19 H Cp were ordered to return to an area WEST of LOOUL for the night. Air Sp was given all day. The weather being clear was ideal for flying. Numerous Rn planes were brought down during the day. The Bde was located as follows: Bde HQ 908272, 2 Indep MG Coy 905275, 2 FF YCO 964286, 15/19 H 926282, 1 HEREFORD 968299 and 1 CHESHIRE 946287.</p>	

Sheet 4

In lieu of AF C2118

Unit: HEADQUARTERS, 159 INFANTRY BRIGADE
(Incorporating HQ 159 Inf Bde Def Pl
and LAD att)

Comd: J. B. CHURCHER, DSO

WAR DIARY

Month and Year : Apr 45

Place	Date	Time	Incident	Ref to Appendices
HLA	8 Apr		At 0700 hrs 1 HEREFORD and 1 CHESHIRE pushed forward along the OL from LOOUM towards REBERG. PW continued to come in from various units - Hy Flak, 12 SS KRATZ Bn, 325 Inf Div from DENMARK and many rear area tps. As soon as 1 HEREFORD Gp reached their first objective where the railway crosses the main rd to the EAST of REBERG, 15/19 H and 1 CHESHIRE then passed through. Little opposition was met in REBERG and MAIDAF, light opposition met in between SCHNEKE and KILWISS where the Hun had withdrawn to the Woods NORTH of the main rd which held up the adv for a while. The HUN was pushed back when the 2 FF YCO and 1 HEREFORD were passed through. Slight opposition was met but progress was good and by late afternoon they were on the river at HILDENSBOELK. About 90 000 PW were taken. Bde HQ were leap frogged up behind the forward units until it settled for the night at DUDENST 1546. In the meantime the Div crossed the WESER and moved EAST of LOOUM and ultimately to LILHART. 49 Arm Bde moved up the WEST route - progress was slow owing to units of the SS KRATZ Bn which were met in the woods NORTH of REBERG and finished the day by LILHART.	
	9 Apr		All bridges across the river LILNE were reported as blown. Very little opposition was reported during the day. A bridge-head across the river at HELSDOFF was made by 1 CHESHIRE and 15/19 H. 1 HEREFORD and 2 FF Yco were on the WESTERN side of the river with Bde HQ. 29 Arm Bde cleared up to the river on the WESTERN route. During the afternoon 1 Commando Bde were being passed through the bridgehead to act as a screen. All this time the Sappers were working on the bridge. Bde HQ moved to LUTTER 204477.	
	10 Apr		At 0700 hrs 2 FF YCO and 1 HEREFORD left their location and moved to the area ESPERE via HENSTADT, the op to be done by 15/19 H was postponed owing to the thick mist. By lunch time 2 FF YCO Gp were committed SOUTH of SCHWALSTADT where PW were taken from the II Marine Fus Bn. After a short sharp battle the place was cleared and 1 CHESHIRE and 15/19 H Gp cleared ELKE contacting the 6th Airborne Div on their right flank. Bde HQ complete completed move EAST of the river via HENSTADT, as the bridge at HELSDOFF would not be complete until the next day. Div moved up to the area EVENSON just WEST of the River.	
	11 Apr		During the day the 15/19 H and 1 CHESHIRE were ordered to clear up to line of river at HUCHOLZ and MARLENDORF. In the meantime during the night the Commandos made a bridgehead opposite ESSEL. During the late afternoon 1 CHESHIRE put a Pl across the river at the ferry NORTH of HUCHOLZ. At 1800 hrs Bde HQ moved up to HUCHOLZ. At 2100 hrs 1 CHESHIRE were put across the river and 4 KSLI put across at ESSEL to relieve 46 Cdo, during the night it was hoped a link would be made.	
	12 Apr		During the night, little activity was reported. A link up was made by the Commandos and 1 CHESHIRE. At first light, a GERMAN Major and Lieut with white flag crossed the lines.	

Sheet 5

In lieu of AF C2118

Unit: HQ 159 INFANTRY BRIGADE (Incorporating
HQ 159 Inf Bde Def Pl and LAD att)

Comd: J. B. CHURCHER, DSO

WAR DIARY

Month and Year : Apr 45

Place	Date	Time	Incident	Ref to Appendices
HLA	12 Apr (Cont'd)		They were brought to Bde HQ where they stated they had been sent to represent the High Command which wished to discuss the question of a truce to hand over a large area containing an area 20 Km by 10 Km in which there were two concentration camps containing 60,000 people, all Political PW (anti Nazis, murderers, thieves and Jews) also about 2,000 Hungarian troops; some WEHRMACHT and SS Troops as guards. The area included BERGEN and NELSEN. At about 0900 hrs two staff cars crossed the WINGEN bridge with white flags, containing the Commander of the District, a Colonel SCHMIDT, and the Staff of of the Camp. They informed us that there were about 1,200 cases of Typhoid and for humanitarian reasons wished the battle to by-pass the area. In the end, the two senior officers were sent to Corps HQ where an agreement was prepared and the 83 Corps and GILL I went back with the German Commanders to the German Army HQ to get a final agreement. In the meantime, the bridge at WINGEN was NOT to be blown. The Bde Comd called an 'O' Gp and gave two alternative orders; if the proposals should be accepted, Plan one, and plan two if not. The whole business had an atmosphere of "Ruritania", senior German Officers with Hungarians giving the Nazi Salute in and around the HQ. During the night, a report came in that the proposals had been refused. The Bde was warned to continue the battle at first light. Bde remained in same locations.	
	13 Apr		At first light, 29 Arm Bde commenced to break out of the Cdo Bde bridge-head. The adv was very slow owing to some SP guns, 3 Tiger tks and Inf. Limejuice was used most successfully, knocking out 2 SPs, an 8.8 and one other veh. 4 KSLI were counter-attacked on the flank by a coy of 12 SS Era Bn with little success. At 1230 hrs, 15/19 H crossed the bridge and moved EAST through EUGENHAUSEN 3356 to marry up with 1 CHESHIRE and the adv on the Bde OL commenced. Progress was slow owing to the thickness of the country and a considerable number of guns were reported. By last light THOREN 3455 and BANNETZE 4055 had fallen and progress had been made half way to WINGEN. Enemy losses were high: KO'd - one 8.8 cm, 2 x 15 cm, 2-40mm 2-20 mm, 3 half tracks and 1 Arm tk. Captured intact - 1-8.8 cm, 1-3.7, 1 half track and one lorry containing fd gun; also approx 100 Volksturm PW and 30 other WEHRMACHT PW from the Flak Arty School, BERGEN and odds and ends. Bde HQ moved to BANNETZE with 1 HEREFORD. During darkness 1 CHESHIRE tried to send out a patrol to WINGEN but failed to get there.	
	14 Apr		At first light, 15/19 H and 1 CHESHIRE tried to continue the adv, which was again held by strong Inf and A/Tk gun fire. By late afternoon 1 CHESHIRE had cleared a considerable amount of the woods and at about 1630 hrs, 1 HEREFORD were passed through them to take WINGEN from the flank. Typhoon support had been had from lunch time onwards.	

/ cont'd

Unit: HEADQUARTERS 159 INFANTRY BRIGADE
(Incorporating HQ 159 Inf Bde Def Pl
and LAD att)

Comd: J. B. CHURCHER, DSO

WAR DIARY

Month and Year: Apr 45

Place	Date	Time	Incidents	Ref to Appendices
NIA	14 Apr (Cont'd)		By last light 1 HEREFORD were in WINSSEN with one sqn 15/19 H. Orders from 1 CHESHIRE were given for them to close up on the town. This was carried out. Bde HQ remained in previous location. 2 FF YEO were still back waiting to be brought forward.	
	15 Apr		At 0615 hrs 2 FF YEO moved forward through WINSSEN and continued to adv. PW continued to come in. Progress was good. Small battles took place at WOLTHAUSEN, SULZE-BECKEDOFF, HERMAUNSBURG. Just before last light 2 FF YEO reached MUDEN 6078, sending one sqn across the blue. As soon as they were across the bridge was blown behind them. This sqn was reinforced by two coys of 1 HEREFORD and the Sappers moved up to build a bridge. En of SS HUNGARIANS was encountered in the woods by Bde HQ at BECKEDOFF at last light, a lively action took place between the Bde and the 2 Indep MG Coy and the protective tp of 15/19 H. By dark the position was in hand. 1 CHESHIRE moved up into the area. The Armoured Bde had also made good progress and were well NORTH of BERGEN having taken large numbers of PW.	
	16 Apr		At first light the adv continued. The bridge at MUDEN was completed at 1200 hrs and 1 HEREFORD and 2 FF YEO were able to cross the blue. They moved off NORTH EAST in the SOUTHERN edges of the SCHMARBECK aerodrome. In the meantime 15/19 H and 1 CHESHIRE attacked from the SOUTH up to SCHMARBECK, many PW were taken during the day. By the end of the day 1 HEREFORD and 2 FF YEO Gp collected at KIMBE and 15/19 H and 1 CHESHIRE Gp with sqn 1 CR at NICHENBERG 7386. The main trouble of the day was the CL which crossed the SCHMARBECK aerodrome and signs of rds marked on the maps had disappeared. This led the column through very bad tracks and at one spot where a rd block xk had to be removed the rd collapsed. By last light it was beyond repair and the echelons Main Bde, 2 Indep MG Coy and 151 Pz Regt were left SOUTH of the block and were ordered to collect for the night and be ready to attempt to move up at first light. During the course of the day two PW Camps were liberated and SCHMARBECK aerodrome which was in order but all aircraft and eqpt had been destroyed. Skirmishes were encountered on the 'druse'.	
	17 Apr	GR SUSIEDT	During the night, the rd at the block was put in order and at first light the remainder of the column joined the Bde. At approx 0900 hrs the Bde continued to adv clearing GE BUSTROP, STADHEF, KESTORF, WESSENSTEDT and MARUM and linked up with reeco elements of 15(S) Div and SAS Troops. From a 'Big Picture' view, the Div was being used as the guns and 15(S) Div as the beaters from SOUTH of OELLE. It was hoped a large force would be caught including some of the which were reported in the area from various reports. Many PW were taken. It was reported that in the area of the aerodrome at SCHMARBECK sniping continued from odd parties of GERMANS hiding in the thickly wooded country surrounding the druse. Bde HQ halted at LINDEM 7790. The PWs taken were from various units quickly formed at MUNSIE and sent down to fill the gap. Also odds and ends from the LUFTWAFFE and units already overrun.	

Unit: HQ 159 INFANTRY BRIGADE (Incorporating
HQ 159 Inf Bde Def Pl and LAD att)

Comd: J. B. CHURCHER, DSO

WAR DIARY

Month and Year: Apr 45

Place	Date	Time	Incident	Ref to Appendices
NIA	18 Apr		At first light orders came through that the Bde were showing signs of withdrawing from the 15(S) Div front by WELSEN so that Div was ordered to push on. Moving off on two routes: Left 159 Inf Bde - Right 29 Arm Bde. During the afternoon a bridge was taken intact in LUNEBURG by 15/19 H. 2 FF YEO and 1 HEREFORD were pushed through to BARDWICK and on to WINSSEN but the bridge between had been blown which held up further progress in a NORTH WESTERLY direction. Many PW were taken during the day but no firm unit was found in position. The River ELBE now only being 4 miles away.	
	19 Apr		During the day, minor ops were carried out. 4 KSLI with 29 Arm Bde were first on the river line at HALMSTORF on the ELBE facing LAUBENBURG. The railway bridge was reported partly blown. 1 CHESHIRE cleared up to LINDENHAUSEN and 2 FF YEO and 1 HEREFORD cleared to WINSSEN and LUNEBURG. PWs were taken during the day from all kinds of mixed formations. It was reported that the 7 Arm Div had come up on our left flank and the 15(S) Div took over on our right flank. Increased arty fire was reported from the EAST bank of the ELBE.	
	20 Apr		Little activity was expected after the Bde was up to the ELBE. Arrangements were being made by Div for all the guards (600 in all) belonging to NELSEN Camp. Tpt supplied by the Cdo Bde took them from NELSEN to ALDENHAUSEN where the RV was arranged. The RV met them in his scout car with a loud hailer on another. He also had with him the Dutch LO's Batman who was in the other scout car. The party then moved off to the river bank at NIEDERMAERSCHACHT. The Bde were then ferried across the river. One incident happened at an early stage. When the party arrived a tp of HONEY Tks coming along the river bank rd from the WEST arrived in the village the GERMAN Colonel had to order the GERMAN tps in the town NOT to shoot with MANZEPARISTS at the tks. By late afternoon the last of the party were ferried across. Orders were received saying that the Bde was likely to remain in the same positions for a few days.	
	21 Apr		Orders were received from Div that the Bde was to look after the river line from Pödel Stackte and exel TESFE at 7757. 4 KSLI returned under comd. At 0930 hrs one coy and one sqn cleared NIEDERMAERSCHACHT. Some PW were taken from 2 BN SS Polizei, one pl having been sent this side of the river, the remainder being in GEESTHACHT. The Bde were deployed as follows:- 1 CHESHIRE at BARDWICK with 15/19 H and Bde HQ with one coy on the river line NORTH of the 1 HEREFORD area at WILHEMUSCH. 1 HEREFORD at WINSSEN with one pl at HOOPTE with one tp from 2 FF YEO. 2 FF YEO at BOSTEL. 4 KSLI at OLDERSHAUSEN with one coy at NIEDERMAERSCHACHT. No activity reported. PW still continued to come in from the surrounding countryside.	

Sheet 8

In lieu of AF C2118

Unit: HQ 159 INFANTRY BRIGADE (incorporating
HQ 159 Inf Bde Def Ft and IAD att)Cmd: J.B. CHURCHER DSO
.....Brig.

WAR DIARY

Month and Year: Apr 45

Place	Date	Time	Incident	Ref to Appendices
ELA	22 Apr		The Bde remained in same locations. No activity reported. Although during the night a patrol of 3 Fms were shot up by the forward pl of the 1 HEREFORD. 1 Killed, 1 Wounded, 1 Escaped. No casualties received by 1 HEREFORD.	cd
	23 Apr		The Bde remained in same locations. No movement reported.	cd
	24 Apr		The Bde remained in the same locations. No major movement reported although CPs reported movement on the other side of the ELBE. PWs continued to give themselves up.	cd
	25 Apr		The Bde remained in the same locations.	cd
	26 Apr		During the night, two patrols were reported, one coy strength which was sent out to forage for food and another, a party of 30 to attack any tks. The latter were successfully shot up, killing five and one PW. The former seems to have been successful. Two deserters. Large rumours were reported that the RUSSIANS were on the ELBE SOUTH of LAUBENBURG. This was NOT confirmed.	cd
	27 Apr		It was officially announced on the EBC that the RUSSIANS had linked up with the AMERICANS at MORGAN. There were many rumours of further RUSSIAN advances. The front held by 1 HEREFORD and one coy of 1 OBERSHIRE was taken over by 29 Armd Bde. 1 HEREFORD moved to ROTTUMF 7130. The Div Battle School had moved from WEEET to the hatted camp just NORTH of BARDWICK. Details were given to the COs of the forthcoming op with 8 Corps. 3 RTR - 15/19 H & KSLI 1 HEREFORD were the units in the 159 Inf Bde Gp.	cd
	28 Apr		The Bde remained in same locations. Bde Cmd of 160 Bde visited the HQ in readiness to take over the Div front. Rumours came through that HIMMLER had offered unconditional surrender to AMERICA and REITAIN. This was announced by No. 10 Downing Street, through EBC saying this offer had been turned down owing to the fact it had not been offered to RUSSIA as well.	cd

Sheet 9

In lieu of AF C2118

Unit: HQ 159 INFANTRY BRIGADE (incorporating
HQ 159 Inf Bde Def and IAD att)Cmd: J.B. CHURCHER DSO
.....Brig.

WAR DIARY

Month and Year: Apr 45

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Place	Date	Time	Incident	Ref to Appendices
ELA	29 Apr		The Cmd Offr of WELCH REGT of 160 Bde of 53(W) Div visited & KSLI making arrangements to take over their sector on the 30 Apr. The 15(S) Div and Ode Bde crossed the ELBE with small opposition and few casualties. By the end of the day the bridge-head was approx 6 miles by 4 miles deep. Approx 1,100 PW taken during the day. A Bn of 18 SS Ers Trg Bn was bumped in LUTAU 5741 and DALLDORF 9141, otherwise very mixed low grade units were encountered; very little arty or any heavy weapons. The LUFTWAFFE were over in parties of 10 - about 50 aircraft in all. The Cl 9 Br was hit, rds were strafed, 13 were destroyed and 3 damaged.	cd
	30 Apr		During the day the 15(S) Div and Ode Bde continued to enlarge their bridge-head. As the day went on, less opposition was encountered. Owing to this factor, the 11 Armd Div was going to be put across earlier. The bridge was completely constructed by midday. 1800 hrs was 'H' Hr. Owing to congestion on rds to the bridge, progress was very slow. The time for 159 Inf Bde Gp was put back one hr. The move was arranged so that half 29 Armd Bde followed-half should be followed by half 159 Inf Bde. At first light the remaining Gps were to follow. At midnight, Bde moved to cross the ELBE.	cd

The Battalion War Diary

SHEET ONE. *ORIGINAL*

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

Month and Year APRIL 1945

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

Army Form C. 2118.
Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment.
Commanding Officer Lt.-Col. G.R. Turner Cain **ISO.**

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
<u>HAUTEAN and DEER</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1240</u>	Bn. with 2F and F Yeo u/c moved with the intention of passing through 4 KSLL at BIRGHTE Bridge V9406 across the Dortmanhms Canal. Route Leer, Bursteinfurt, Emsdetten V8097, Wesum V8404, Elte 8005, Riesenbeck 9307, Birghte 9400. The enemy had been located by 4 KSLL on the wooded high ground at 972060, and A and D Coys. (left and right respectively) were deployed to attack this position, the close country making tank support impossible. "A" Coy reached high ground at 972060, but were counter attacked three times and were finally surrounded. On orders from Bn.HQ, they managed to make their way to the Southern edge of the wood. "D" Coy on the right also had difficulty and later were ordered to withdraw. Both Coys suffered casualties, the total for the operation being :- Offrs. Killed 2 (Lieut. Spittal and Lieut. Hopkinson) wounded 2 (Lieut. Mannering and Lieut. Mason. OR's killed 3 Wounded 36 and missing 13.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> WAR DIARIES SECTION No. <u>4 JUN 1945</u> G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon </div>

W. 10094 5025 1,250,000 5/44 W. H. A. S. 51/9-74

SHEET TWO.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2119. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

Month and Year APRIL 1945

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

Army Form C. 2118.
Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment
Commanding Officer Lt. Col. G.R. Turner Cain **ISO.**

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
<u>BIRGHTE</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>(cont)</u>	.... The Bn. eventually consolidated on the reverse slope with "A" at 963051, "B" at 937053, "C" at 964055, "D" at 967049 B.H.Q. at same area. The enemy were first class troops being a composite unit formed from the NCO Inf. Trg. School at Hanover. Birghte Bridge and the Bn. positions were attacked twice by enemy aircraft, during the afternoon and evening without causing casualties. Awards for this action "A" Coy. Major Tapper awarded Military Cross, C.S.M. Hartnett and Sergt. Bevan awarded the Military Medal.	
"	<u>2</u>		Bn. remained in the same locality whilst 3 MONS. endeavoured to seize the feature 972060. They were also driven back by a counter attack and later took up positions on the left of the 2330 Bn. Patrols from "B" Coy found south edge of WOODS 968056 to 973056 strongly held. Sharp bombing attack in the evening but no damage or casualties caused.	

W. 10094 5025 1,250,000 5/44 W. H. A. S. 51/9-74

SHEET THREE:

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment.

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

Month and Year... APRIL 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BIRCHTS	3		3 MONS. again heavily counter-attacked in the morning causing severe casualties. Position later restored by 2 DEVONS (7th. Armd.Div.) passing through 3 MONS. and taking 200 POW.	
		1900	Bn. relieved by 4KOSB (part of Bde. of 52(L) Div. u/c 7. Armd. Div) and coys moved to rest locality south of original area preparatory to a further advance in the morning.	
"	4	0645	Bn. moved. The Hfd. Gp. following up the 29th. Armd. Bde. by bounds Route Brochterbeck W0103, Tecklenberg 0503, Lette 1209, (halt with Bn. in area 0909 for 1 1/2 hours) Rd. June 151080, Eversheds 1812, Lecktingen 2014, Icker 2616, Osterkappeln 3317, arriving approx 1500 hrs.	
		1700	Bn. ordered to area Butterbohn, route Osterkappeln, Bohnte 3919, Buttenbohne, where on arrival it was found that the enemy had already been mopped up by the 15/19th Hussars.	
		1900	Bn. at	

WL 3054 5823 1,220,000 8/44 W. H. & S. 51/2/71

SHEET Four.

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment

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

Month and Year... APRIL 1945.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
BUTTENBOHNE	4	1900	Bn. settled in the location preparatory to marrying up with 2 P&F ^{VED} Gp. advancing the next morning. B.H.Q. at 488203	
"	5	0700	Bn. moved to seize a bridge over the R. WESER. Route Rd. June 572221, Rahden 6026, Laversloh 6825, (Hfd. Gp. passed thro' ESII Gp. here) Bonhorst 7326, Rd. June 759291, Harriestedt rd June 814280, One sqn 2P&F were sent to Glissen 837267, turned north and first opposition of the day met at 836273. One tank KO'd. "DE" Coy was sent to deal with the enemy and the position was mopped up. 9 POW were taken. At the same time "B" Coy on tanks were sent NE to Diers 8403, Muslingeren 8733, and reached the R. WESER at Schlusselfburg 917323, (finding no bridge across but ferry stages) without opposition. "C" Coys on tanks and "A" Coy on TCV's followed up to Musseringen where a temporary BnHQ was located.	

WL 3054 5823 1,220,000 8/44 W. H. & S. 51/2/71

SHEET FIVE

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit: 1st The Herefordshire Regiment.

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

Month and Year: APRIL 1945.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
	5	cont.....	THE Commanding Officer made a recon and decided to send "B" Coy across in one boat found on the river bank. This was achieved without opposition and later "C" Coy were sent across on Mk.11 assault boats with "A" Coy on the west bank providing ferry services. Two wireless Jeeps for the use of P.d. and med arty POC's (other comm was by 18 set and later line was laid across the river) and 2x A/Tak. Guns (6 pr) were sent across on a Cl 111 raft. Ferrying was a slow operation as the current was very fast. Two sec MMG were sent across and one pl 4.2" Mortar (2 Ind. MG Coy) came u/c. "B" and "C" Coys in a tight bridgehead around small village 9132 "D" Coy in Mussleringen. "A" and BnHQ in eastern half of Schlusselfburg.	
SCHLUSSELFURG (6			"B" and "C" Coys remain on the east side of the river.	

W1.80591 0632 1,220,000 9144 W. H. & S. 51/7/71

SHEET SIX

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit: 1st Herefordshire Regiment.

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

Month and Year: APRIL 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
SCHLUSSELFURG 6	cont.....		Enemy seen infiltrating into the area from the NE and SE and our own patrols encountered enemy. 20mm sprayed area of bridgehead otherwise SA fire only. Only enemy interference to the ferry service was from the air, which was ineffective. ^{for the day} Cas. 2 OR's killed and 5 OR's wounded. Higher plan to go through Petershagen 8420 bridgehead formed by 6 AB Div. to continue advance. "B" and "C" Coys therefore withdrew to west bank of the river together with all guns vehicles and equipment. This operation completed without incident by 2115 hrs. "A" and "C" Coys moved to eastern half of Schlusselfburg with BnHQ and "B" and "D" and majority of Supt. Coy in Mussleringen.	
	7		Hfd. Gp. ordered to continue route advance via Petershagen Bridgehead.	
	1100		Bn moved and cleared route Windheim, Dohren, Loeum where	

W1.80591 0632 1,220,000 9144 W. H. & S. 51/7/71

SHEET SEVEN
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in P.S. Regs., Vol. I.
Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F.
C.2119. If this is not available, and for
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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit: 1st The Herefordshire Regiment.

Month and Year: APRIL 1945.

Commanding Officer: Lt. Col. G. R. Turner. Jain DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
SCHLUSSELBURG 7 (cont)			...first enemy were met in strength. "B" on left and "D" on right attacked through the village with "A" Coy firm base in western end of it. "D" Coy passed through "B" and "C" Coys and finally cleared the opposition. This operation was highly successful yielding 150 POW from LAD (Labour Corps) and Battle GP Volkass at little cost to ourselves: Cas. 10 OR's wounded. Also WMG Pl. had three killed and 2 P&P Yeo. lost a sgn. commdr. Enemy equipment destroyed: 6x88mm guns, 3x20mm guns, 2 Halftracks, 1x arm'd Car, and 5x lorries. Bn. consolidated in Loccum with BnHQ at 971301.	
LOCCUM	8		15/19 Hussars and 1st Cheshire Gp. passed through and reached line of railway NE of Bilvasel 1340 meeting slight enemy opposition via Mardorf 0633 and Schneeren 0838, Herefords Gp. stepping up behind in bounds and at 1630 hrs. ordered to pass through Cheshire Gp. Route was clear through to Hagen 1443.	

WL 30094 5022 1,250,000 9/44 W. H. & S. 61/2/71

SHEET EIGHT

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit: 1st The Herefordshire Regiment.

Month and Year: APRIL 1945.

Commanding Officer: Lt. Col. Turner. Cain DSO

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LOCCUM	8	cont.	Dudensen 1646 and Laderholz 1849. A rd block was encountered 400 x north of Laderholz covered by enemy infantry with SA and pzfausts. "B" Coy with one sgn sent to deal with this whilst "C" Coy and "C" sgn diverted south east to Mandelsloh 2446 <i>thence North to NEIDERSTOKEN 2451</i> without opposition, although 70 POW were taken in the latter village, the majority of these were from the Hitler Jugend. Opposition continued strongly north of Laderholz and darkness fell before Neiderstoken was cleared. Bn. therefore consolidated with "C" coy in Neiderstoken and "A" "B" and "D" Coys and BnHQ in Laderholz 186492. Cas. 1 OR killed and 9 OR's wounded.	
LADERHOLZ	9	0645	Attacks by "A" "B" and "D" Coys to clear Neiderstoken met no opposition. "A" Coy and sgn passed through "C" then south to sit in Mandelsloh. "B" and "D" Coys with BnHQ at 197506 consolidated in Rodewald, and awaited completion of bridge	

WL 30094 5022 1,250,000 9/44 W. H. & S. 61/2/71

SHEET NINE

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit: 1st The Herefordshire Regiment.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. G. R. Turner, DSO, Gain

Month and Year: APRIL 1945

(Delete heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
LADERHOLZ	9	(cont)	.....by RE's at Helsdorf 2545.	
RODEWALD	10		Higher plan was changed and Hfd Gp. were ordered to pass over 6 AB Div; bridge at Neustadt 1736 and clear villages to the North of Esperke 2650. Route was Laderholz 1849, Hagen 1543 Neustadt 1735 then road running north on the e-astern bank of the Linne River. First opposition was encountered at Grindau 2753 when the leading tank with "D" Coy was knocked out by a pzfaust, with the resulting fatal casualties to the wireless operators. The village was cleared by "A" and "D" Coys and "B" and "C" passed through to clear the next village of Schwarmstedt 2755. This was completed by 1700 hrs. Oppcition was extremely determined, units indentified were from 2 Marine Div; approx 60 POW's were taken during the day. Own cas; Officers killed one, Wounded one. OR's Killed; 5: Wounded ten.	

W. 30091 3022 1,520,000 9/44 W. H. A. S. 51/9 74

SHEET TEN.

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit: 1st The Herefordshire Regiment.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. G. R. Turner, DSO, Gain

Month and Year: APRIL 1945.

(Delete heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
RODEWALD	10	(cont)	..... In the evening "B" and "C" Coys were relieved by 1 Cdo Bde and withdrew to the Bn rest area at Esperke. "A" and "D" Coys remained in positions north and south of Grindau, respectively, together with MMG Pl and 3" Mor Pl;	
ESPERKE	11		Bn remained in rest area at Esperke, whilst the 1 Cdo Bde and Cheshire Gp obtained bridgeheads over the R. Aller. These were successfully accomplished at Essel 3057 (Cdo) and north of Bucholz 3157 (Cheshire.) During the night work was commenced on building a bridge.	
ESPERKE	12		Bn remains in rest area at ESPERKE and GRINDAU whilst a bridge was constructed over the River Aller at ESSEL 2956. A delay was also caused by a deputation of German and Hungarian Officers who came over to request a " non fighting area " north of the ALLER owing to an epidemic of Typhus. [BELSEN Camp of notoriety] Discussions went on all day but the plan was finally rejected.	

W. 30091 3022 1,520,000 9/44 W. H. A. S. 51/9 74

SHEET ELEVEN:

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment.

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

Month and Year APRIL 1945

(Delete heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
ESPERKE	12	(cont)	....by the Commr. of 1 Para. Army. 1 Cheshire and four Cdo Gps in the meanwhile were sitting tight in their two bridgeheads at BUCHOLZ and ESSEL respectively, and the KSLI Gp concentrated in SCHWARMSTEDT 2755.	
"	13	0900	Hereford Gp to cross the R. ALLER at ESSEL 2956 at the rear of 29 Armd Bde. 159 Inf. Bde. route Essel - Winsten 4756 - Wolthousen 5257 - Hassel 5262 - silze 5566 - Weerdorf 5671 - Mude 6078.	
		1600	Hereford Gp left Esperke to cross the ALLER and concentrated in the area 400557 whilst the Cheshire Gp attempted to break through to Winsten. This operation was not successful, the Cheshire Gp being held in area 440570 by strong A/tk and Pfaust fire.	
Est of WINSTEN	14		Bn remained in area whilst the Cheshire Gp attempted again to break through to Winsten. but this was again unsuccessful	

WY.20694 9822 1,220,000 9/44 W. II & S. 51/9.74

SHEET TWELVE

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st Bn. The Herefordshire Regiment

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

Month and Year APRIL 1945

(Delete heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
East of WINSTEN	14	(cont)	....and at 1230 hrs the Hereford Gp was ordered to attack WINSTEN from the NW via Tck. June 438570 - 438575 - 444572 - 448573 - 451573 - 454574 - 458573. Coys to 'leapfrog' forward onto the following objectives:- (1) "A" to 438575; (2) "D" to 444572; (3) "C" to 448573; (4) "B" to 451573; (5) "A" to 454574; (6) "D" to 458573; (7) thence on to the main road running south to Winsten where "D" and "C" Coys move astride the rd to 460571; (8) "A" and "B" Coys to 463568; (9) "B" and "C" to final objectives at 472563 and 469550.	
		1600	Operation commenced. The only vehicles used were tcks and Jeeps owing to the poor state of the tracks. No opposition was encountered all the way to 464565. at 1830 hrs "B" and "C" went in on to the final objective after the preliminary 'stunk. Approx 20 to 30 POW's were taken identified as Battle Gp. Totzeck from the Werfer School at Celle.	

WY.20694 9822 1,220,000 9/44 W. II & S. 51/9.74

SHEET THIRTEEN

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit...1st. The Herefordshire Regiment

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

Month and Year...APRIL 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
East of WINSTEN	14	(cont)	.... Casualties Killed OR's 2 ; Wounded OR's 10. Enemy equipment captured intact 1x7.5 cm A/tk gun, and one half tck (armd)	
WINSTEN.	15	0700	Remainder of the wheeled tpt joined the Bn. 0815 hrs Hereford Gp moved. First opposition encountered at a road block near Walthousen 5157. Several POW's were taken in the area including a Major, Comd. of the Btl Allschwager, one of the Bns. of the Battle Gp Totzeck. Advance continued on to Silze 5566. Beekdorf 5671, Hermansberg 5873, June 580748, to Muden. The leading tanks passed over the bridge at Muden 604783 which was blown whilst they were over on the other side of the River. As a result of this two rifle coys were sent over the River to form a tight bridgehead around the bridge to enable the RE to build a bridge and for the protection of the tanks. Cmd. Post and the remainder of the Bn. were located approx 300x	

W. 50091 552 1,250,000 9/44 W. H. & S. 51/57

SHEET FOURTEEN

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

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

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

Month and Year...APRIL 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
WINSTEN	15	(cont)	.... short of the bridge. During the day approx 200 POW's were taken, the majority of them from Luftwaffe units drawn from the aerodrome at 6583. 3x5cm A/tk guns were captured and several vehicles destroyed. Cas. Officers, wounded 1 (Major Northey MC O.C. "C" Coy) OR's Killed 2, wounded 7. 30 OR's posted to Bn as reinforcements.	
MUDEN	16		The bridge was completed at 1030 hrs; and the remainder of the F & F Yeo. passed over followed by the Bn. Hfd. Gp. concentrated at Polzen to allow 29 Arm'd Bde to pass through, on the northern route to Ebstorf.	
		1500	Hfd. Gp. moved on route Aerodrome 6482 - June 679834 - 690880 - Elmke 7388. The aerodrome was only lightly held, some opposition coming from the woods on the east and NE side. Difficulty was experienced at 685859 in passing vehicles over the bogged ground and the complete column did not get through until the next morning. Approx 500 POW's taken during the day.	

W. 50091 552 1,250,000 9/44 W. H. & S. 51/57

SHEET FIFTEEN.

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st. The Herefordshire RegimentCommanding Officer Lt. Col. A. G. Fripp DSOMonth and Year APRIL 1945

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
MUDEN	16	(cont)	.....Own Cas: OR's wounded 1; The Commanding Officer Lieut.-Colonel G.R. Turner Cain DSO left the Bn. to take up duties as AAG HQ 1 Br Corps Basic Control Increment. The 21/c, Major R.C. Fripp DSO assumed command of the Bn. and was promoted Lieut.-Colonel; Major W.A.P. Croft MC. rejoined the Bn. and appdtd. 21/c.	
EIMKE	17		Orders were passed to Hereford Gp to move to Ebstorf 7502 to take up a defensive position in order to cut off escape and rdief routes to Uelzen 9089 which was being attacked by the 15 (S) Division the following day. This move was completed by the afternoon, Coys taking up the following def. pos.:- "A" 803965, "C" 804961, "D" 804957, "B" in reserve at 795962. Bn HQ 800962. Coys proceeded to clear the woods forward of their positions and "D" Coy came under heavy Spandau fire resulting in 10 casualties.	

W. 30094 9622 1,230,000 9/44 W. H. & S. 51/8/74

Sheet 16.

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WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st. Bn. Herefordshire Regt.Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R.C. Fripp D.S.O.Month and Year April 1945.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
Eimke	17	.....	No other incidents were reported apart from movement in buildings forward of 'C' Coy. position at 806961; Approx. 30 P.O.W.'s, mainly deserters, were rounded up in the woods Unit remained in the same position, coys being allotted further areas to patrol and clear with instructions not to get committed should heavy opposition be encountered. Amnd. patrols also cleared Wittenwater 9092, and Melzingen 8293. Own casualties for the day nil.	
Ebstorf	19	1200	Hereford Gp. relieved by 6 AB Division. Higher orders were changed owing to the rapid advance of the 15(S.) Division on our right towards Uelzen. 159 Bde. Gp. to advance via Luneberg to the river Elbe. Route Ebstorf, Wriedal 7296, Orzen 7313, Kirchgellersen 7118, Reppensten 7420, Luneberg, Bardowick 7725, Rottorf 7130, Winsen 6534. No opposition was encountered until Luneberg was passed. One coy. cleared	

W. 30094 9622 1,230,000 9/44 W. H. & S. 51/8/74

Sheet 17.

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st. Bn. Herefordshire Regt.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R.C. Frupp D.S.O.

Month and Year April 1945.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
EBSTORF	19	1200	..... the village of Handorf 7432 and approx. 60 to 70 P.O.W's were taken. The advance was finally stopped at Bridge 7330 which was blown after our leading tanks had passed over. The Bn. concentrated for the night in the area of the bridge and work was commenced in putting another one across. Own casualties were:- OR's killed 1 wounded 6.	
East of Rottorf 728300	20		Advance continued against slight opposition and Winsen was reached and cleared by the late afternoon. Hrd. Co. concentrated in the town coys. located as follows:- 'A' 651326, 'B' 650330, 'C' 646328, 'D' 648319 Cmd. Post 648325.	
WINSEN	21		Bn. remains in WINSEN. Higher plan was to wait on the Elbe until the flanks reached the river. Owing to the possibility of the unit remaining in the same location for five to six days, certain adjustments to the Bn. layout were made. 'D' were moved to the area of road junction 673342, and the A.Tk.	

WL 47724 598 3,000,000 243 W. H. & S. 51/5/73

SHEET EIGHTEEN:

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Army Form C. 2118.

Unit 1st. The Herefordshire Regiment.

Commanding Officer Lt. Col. R.C. Frupp D.S.O.,

Month and Year APRIL 1945.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
WINSEN	21	(cont)	....and 3" Mor Fls took over the area at the south end of the town vacated by "D" coy. One Coy of the 1 Cheshire came u/c and located at Uhlenbusch 680378. A 24 hours standing patrol consisting of one pl, one tp of tanks was located at road junc 630358 provided in turn by "C" "D" and "A" Coys. At midnight two enemy were shot along rd 627358. One was killed and one wounded. They were carrying pzfausts and revolvers. The area was searched but no further incidents were reported. At midday the Batt. area was very heavily shelled by S.P. guns firing possibly from the N.W. on the other side of the river. "C" Coy received 3 casualties, one killed 2 wounded.	
WINSEN	22		Bn. still in same location. During the day 13 POW's were evacuated to Bie. No other incidents to report. On their return from the forward standing patrol position; "C" Coy cleared the village of STOCKTE 6455. Nothing to report.	

WL 30091 6022 1,200,000 944 W. H. & S. 51/5/74

SHEET NINETEEN

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. Monthly War Diaries will be enclosed in A.F. C.2118. If this is not available, and for Intelligence Summaries, the cover will be prepared in manuscript.

Month and Year **APRIL 1945**

WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit **1st. Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.**Commanding Officer **Lt. Col. R. C. Fripp D.S.O.**

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
WINSEN	22	(cont)	....The Cheshire Coy under command captured a complete patrol of 5 men who crossed the river at 708405 and worked down our side of the river until they were captured at 685389. They provided useful information of dispositions on the North side of the Elbe. 45 CR's posted to Bn as reinforcements.	
WINSEN	23		The previous nights patrols had nothing to report.	
	1415		The Cheshire Coy area was heavily shelled with one direct hit on their Coy HQ. Two tanks went to an area near the river 660360 and fired on the area immediately opposite on the N. Bank. This was an attempt to mislead the enemy on to the location of our defences and to draw his fire on to an un-occupied area. 11 POWs were taken during the day, all deserters picked up in the forward areas.	
WINSEN	24	0500	A large enemy patrol clashed with "B" Coy in the forward standing patrol area. They were successfully repelled and cas.	

WL 47724 989 2,000,000 2/48 W. H. & S. 81/5273

SHEET TWENTY

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Month and Year **APRIL 1945.**

WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Delete heading not required).

Army Form C. 2118.

Unit **1st. Bn. The Herefordshire Regt.**Commanding Officer **Lt. Col. R. C. Fripp D.S.O.**

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
WINSEN	24	0500 (cont)	...inflicted on them were 5 dead.	
WINSEN.	25.		No incidents to report.	
WINSEN.	26 .		A recon. party from the 8 R.B. arrived in the afternoon preparatory to relieving the Bn. tomorrow.	
WINSEN.	27.	1130	Area handed over to the 8 R.B. without incident. Bn. moved to a reserve area at Rottorf 7130.	
WINSEN.	27/29		Nothing to report.	
WINSEN.	30		After a re-organisation of Bie. groups, Bn. in future to work with 3rd. R.T.R. in place of 2F & F. Yeo. Pl. M.M.G. and 1 tp. R.B. came under command. Hereford Gp ordered to cross the river ELBE, and to pass through the bridgehead formed by the 15 (S) Div. 11 Arm'd. Div. to reach concentration area W. of Lubeck as quickly as possible.	
	1930		* Bn. moves but owing to great congestion on the road it was long delayed in its journey. Route Luneburg 7820,	

WL 47724 989 2,000,000 2/48 W. H. & S. 81/5273

332 42734 998 2,000,000 8/48 W. IL. & S. 51/5275

WL47724.096 2,500,000 3.48 W. H. & S. 21.12.71