

Second World War Unit War Diary – 3rd Bn. Irish Guards - Gerahty

The following is from the National Archives WO 171/5148

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Vol. I. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required)

Unit 3rd Bn Irish Guards.
Commanding Officer Lt/Col.D.H.Fit

(cont) Month and Year April 1945.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
327680-005637	17		We were to operate on the left of the 7th Armoured Division to cut the enemys communications between the 2 cities. At 1400hrs the Battalion crossed the Brigade Start Point for a move to the area RETHEN(1166) where we were to concentrate for the night. It was a distance of some 60 miles and the Battalion was not in its new area (005637) before 0100hrs	
005637-3685	18		Towards evening there was an Orders Group SOUTH of SOLTAU (4189) at which we were told that the Brigade Group would concentrate in that area for the night. (3685) before striking WEST to POSTEDT (3122) the following day with the object of capturing ZEVEN (0923) and cutting the Autobahn linking BREMEN and HAMBURG.	
3685-1821			The Grenadier Group, who were in the lead, crossed the railway line in POSTEDT at 1400hrs, and with only minor opposition succeeded in cutting the Autobahn and pushing on to within 3 miles of the final objective. The Battalion Group, moving up behind, took over the responsibility for the area SITTENSON (1821) and the Autobahn crossings NORTH and WEST of it, where we remained for the night.	
1821	20		The Grenadier Group set off at first light for ZEVEN but soon met heavy opposition and were compelled to halt. Meanwhile the Battalion Group had been ordered to send a Company, Squadron Group to ELSDORF (60817) Apart from a few mines the village was occupied without incident and patrols were sent to WISTEDT (060195) and WEHLDOERF (055170). The latter patrol being on the main ROTENBURG-ZEVEN road, obtained a satisfactory shoot at enemy transport moving NORTH from ROTENBURG (1203) By evening the Autobahn from SITTENSON to ELSDORF was clear and in use (cont)	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	References to Appendices
1821-1020	21		A number of prisoners were taken during the day mostly from the Grossdeutschland Brigade. A strong counter-attack, which was subsequently proved to have been made by the 2 Battalions of 104 Panzer Grenadier Regiment (15 Panzer Grenadier Division), was launched, supported by, Artillery, Mortars, and Self-Propelled guns, on to the area ELSDORF-WISTEDT shortly after first light. The situation was serious for a time, as a Platoon and Troop occupying WISTEDT were surrounded and cut off from the main body. Only one tank with the Tank Commander and Platoon Commander with 4 men managed to get back to the Company area. Elsewhere in spite of bitter fighting and heavy shelling on our forward areas, the enemy attack had been beaten off by midday. Another Coy/ Squadron Group was sent down to ELSDORF and the situation was firmly stabilized. During the evening the remaining Coy/ Squadron Group moved to FRANKENBOSTEL (0821) and Battalion HQ to RUSPEL (1020). At about dusk 16 bombs were dropped on ELSDORF fortunately causing very few casualties. The firing of Verey lights from the ground seemed to be co-ordinated in the tactical picture, but it was not followed by any counter-attack.	
1020	22		At about 0200hrs a Self-Propelled gun made a demonstration to the EAST of ELSDORF but when the Defensive fire tasks were fired, it quickly withdrew again. Apart from active patrolling by our own troops which ensured that the enemy were still in the area, the day was a quiet one with no sign of enemy activity on the scale of the previous day. Prisoners taken during the day tended to confirm the impression that (cont)	

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Serial No.

For Week Ending

ANNUAL ROLL OF OFFICERS.

LENGTH COUNTING AGAINST W.E. LESS 1st RFTS. (Total to agree with column 3 of Part

[illegible]

OFFICERS ATTACHED IN EXCESS OF W.E. LESS 1st RFTS.

When issued or received, Serial (if serial).	Name and initials.	Regt. or Corps.	Date of attachment.	Nature of attachment.
1917	W. H. S.	16	5 APR 17	Student
1918	F. J.	2	17 MAY 18	Student

rendered to G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon was Serial No. 1000
rendered to G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon was Serial No. 1001
rendered to G.H.Q. 2nd Echelon was Serial No. 1002
and included in Part A, Col. 3, was Serial No. 1003

(Signature of Co

(Date of Despatch.)

(Bde., Div., Area, etc., with which Unit

