

AWM373

**Korean War Unit Diaries - British Infantry
Brigades and Commonwealth Division
Headquarters**

War Office: British Commonwealth Division of
United Nations Force War Diaries, Korean War

Diary number: WO281/63

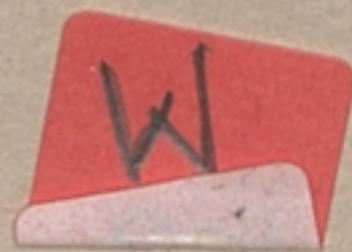
Title: Commonwealth Division Headquarters,
G Branch, April 1952



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EXTD CLOSURE
76 YRS

W0281/63



INSPECTION
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UNTIL
2028



These papers were extracted from

W0281/62

By MOD

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1 COMWEL DIV INTREP NO 272

Main 1 COMWEL Div 1017/G(Int)

23 Apr 52

Period Covered: 221800I to 231800I
Ref Maps: KOREA 1:50,000 AMSL Series

1 Enemy Situation

One lt enemy contact and a small amount of enemy activity was reported in the 29 BRIT Inf Bde sector during the night. An airstrike was placed on CT 118183, however, NO damage was observed. During the day 13 gps of enemy in the open varying in size from 5 to 15 tps, were engaged by Div arty with unknown results. 5 enemy shells and 60 mor bombs were received on the Div front up to 1700 hrs. A few lt enemy probes and patrol contacts were reported on the Eighth Army front up to the end of the period.

2 Enemy Ops During Period

(a) 25 CDN Inf Bde

NO contact.

(b) 28 BRITCOM Inf Bde

NO contact.

(c) 29 BRIT Inf Bde

At 2030 hrs WELCH listening post at CT 168196 heard sounds of pickets being driven into the ground at CT 168203. At 2030 hrs also an enemy LMG at CT 134172 fired on D Coy R LEICESTERS vicinity CT 1417, and the noise of pickets being driven into the ground at CT 141177 was heard. Mor and tk fire was placed on both these areas with unknown results. At 2120 hrs a flare went up in front of A Coy R LEICESTERS vicinity CT 1618 and MMG DF was placed. At 0300 hrs two gps of 4 to 5 enemy simultaneously rushed upon an outpost of the WELCH at CT 163194 from different directions, firing burp guns. The enemy however, were driven off with LMG fire, NO cas being reported.

(d) 1 MARINE Div

NO contact.

(e) 3 Inf Div

At 0715 hrs and again at 1100 hrs, an unknown no of enemy at CT 213237 engaged a UN patrol with SA, AV and mor fire. UN patrol directed SA and arty fire and enemy fire ceased.

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(f) 45 Inf Div

At 0345 hrs an estimated enemy sec 75 yds NE of CT 328369 engaged a 180 Regt outpost in that loc with SA and AW fire. After an exchange lasting 3 mins the enemy withdrew. At 0125 hrs 2 enemy secs at CT 340374, one at CT 345381 and one at CT 336373, were observed cutting UN wire. The enemy were engaged with SA and mor fire and withdrew after 20 mins without returning the fire.

(g) IX Corps

NO contact reported.

(h) II ROK Corps

One lt patrol contact occurred on both the 3 ROK Div and 7 ROK Div fronts.

(j) X Corps

8 ROK Div had one lt enemy probe during the period.

(k) I ROK Corps

NO contact reported.

3

Other Int Factors

(a) Enemy Sightings

Source	Time	MR	Action
HQ RA	1835	CT 088171	15 enemy.
	1950	123155	Active mors.
	0550	150202	5 enemy in wood.
	0615	1323	Cam veh and 10 enemy.
	0650	144223	5 enemy in trench.
	0825	161209	5 enemy digging.
	0935	158213	5 enemy.
	1035	108167	10 enemy.
	1300	118218	Active AA gun.
		107146	6 enemy.
		149200	5 enemy.
	1750	127176	Active MG.

NOTE: All above sightings were engaged by arty.

29 Bde	2030	134172	Active LMG - mor and tk engaged.
	0930	154216	Suspected MG.
ALO	1220	154192	3 large stacks of sups and 4-5 enemy.
Lt Liaison	0600 to	113176	6 enemy in houses.
Flt	0730 to		
	1230 to	113182	Diggings and 6 enemy.
	1330		

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Source	Time	MR	Action
AOP	1800 to 1935	CT 134234	Suspected gun pits under construction and 6 enemy - arty engaged.
	1010 to 1225	1722 076210	Active AA gun in area of Pt 317. Active AA gun (HMG) and 3 enemy.
	1400 to 1615	103171	8 enemy digging - arty engaged.
	1600 to 1800	093213 101216	3 large bunkers and veh tracks. Gun posn - arty engaged 4 times during period (1 direct hit).

(b) Enemy Arty and Mors

The following is the enemy arty and mor fire received up to 1700 hrs based on SHELREPS and MORTREPS:

MR	No of Rounds	Type
CT 1417	5	Fd Arty
CT 1314	8	Unknown Mor
1417	3	Unknown Mor
1518	48	Unknown Mor
1819	1	Unknown Mor

(c) Weather

24 Apr - Scattered to broken middle clouds. Visibility fair in haze.

25 Apr - Increasing high cloudiness becoming overcast late in day.

26 Apr - Broken low clouds and overcast middle clouds and high clouds with rain showers late in day.

27 Apr - Partly cloudy. Excellent visibility.

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Counter-Int

(a) Sabotage

LEE SONG NE, apprehended in the vicinity of a fwd coy area of the 15 Inf Regt for suspected sabotage of comn wires, was interrogated and revealed the following info. He had been given a mission by an unknown provocateur to cut comn wires in fwd areas, attempt to ascertain signs and countersigns and determine tele codes. LEE confessed to severing comn wires on seven occasions in fwd areas. LEE's motive for this sabotage effort was promise of food and clothing for his family by the unknown provocateur.

(Extracted from 3 Inf Div PIR No 110 dated 20 Apr 52)

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(a) Espionage

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At 201545I Apr 52, a work detail from C Coy, 15 Inf Regt sighted an infiltrator at CT 210216 on the banks of the IMJIN River. This was near the posn where an enemy agent's body was found 19 Apr 52. As UN tps attempted to take him prisoner, he pulled out a hand grenade and was subsequently killed by SA fire. The suspected agent was a NORTH KOREAN by the name of KIM-SUNG-WON and he was wearing an AMERICAN fd jacket and pants over uniform which consisted of a BRIT battle jacket with CCF pants. His wet clothing and 4 large gourds, tied together, found in the near vicinity seemed to indicate that he attempted to enter our lines by floating down the IMJIN River as did the agent of the previous day.

(Extracted from 3 Inf Div PIR No 110 dated 20 Apr 52)

G-2 I Corps Comment: The possible attempt to infiltrate an agent into our lines by way of the IMJIN River may presage future efforts on a larger scale during the spring and summer months.

5 Enemy Capabilities

NO change from INTREP No 259 dated 10 Apr 52.

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W. J. Hunter capt
for Lt Col
GSO 1
1 COMEL Div

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1 COMWEL DIV INTREP NO 279

Main 1 COMWEL Div 1017/G(Int)

30 Apr 52

Period Covered: 291800Z to 301800Z
Ref Maps: KOREA 1:50,000 AMSL Series

1 Enemy Situation

Although there was NO contact during the period, the enemy was quite active on the Div front and presented numerous tgts by night to our arty. During the day, Lt ac sighted a total of 27 enemy gps varying in str from 4 to 50 enemy, and of these, arty engaged 17 gps incl two consisting of 50 enemy. Eight sup areas were also observed, four of which were newly developed, although three appeared to be of a temporary nature only. Two of these sup areas were engaged by arty with unknown results. An airstrike was placed on CT 095193 to CT 092188, 3 gun posns being destroyed and one secondary explosion being observed. Enemy arty was more active than normal with a total of 91 shells and 62 mor bombs being received. Of the former, 87 shells were received on 29 BRIT Inf Bde front and only 4 in 25 CDN Inf Bde sector. The mor fire was evenly distr on the two Bdes. On the remainder of the Army front, the enemy continued with lt probes and patrol contacts, the no of these being rather more than normal.

2 Enemy Ops During Period

(a) 25 CDN Inf Bde

At 2219 hrs the RCR reported that two enemy passed through minefd and penetrated to CT 142136. Flares were put up and the enemy withdrew, NO contact being made. At 2250 hrs a R22eR patrol at DEUCE, CT 117122 heard enemy mov across the river. The patrol withdrew and arty was placed with unknown results. At 2240 hrs a standing patrol of the PPCLI heard the sound of revelry at CT 130170. Again arty was placed with unknown results. During the night enemy mov and possible small patrols in the areas CT 115122, CT 130170, CT 114124 and CT 120120 were engaged with arty fire. The results once more, were unknown.

(b) 28 BRITCOM Inf Bde

NO contact.

(c) 29 BRIT Inf Bde

At 1915 hrs a large explosion behind Hill 248, CT 151216 was reported by the WELCH. At 2110 hrs a WELCH patrol on CRETE feature at CT 171204 received enemy mor fire and withdrew. NO enemy were sighted in the area. At 0100 hrs 2 enemy vicinity CT 161189 were engaged with LMG fire from a R LEICESTERS listening post. The results were unknown.

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A 14 man enemy patrol was sighted on CRETE feature, approaching a R NORFOLK listening post at CT 185203. The post engaged the enemy patrol with LMG and mors but NO cas were observed. At 0212 hrs 4 enemy on Pt 227, CT 1518 were engaged by the R LEICESTERS with mors and throughout the night enemy mov, possibly patrols, in the area CT 1821, was engaged with arty with unknown results.

(d) 1 MARINE Div

At 1110 hrs an enemy pl at BS 948941 engaged a UN patrol with SA fire. An exchange of fire lasting 15 mins resulted in which arty and mors were emp, and the UN patrol withdrew.

(e) 1 ROK Div

At 2300 hrs an enemy sec at CT 235302 and 3 enemy at CT 226291 were engaged by two UN patrols. Exchange of SA fire lasting 10 and 20 mins respectively, ensued and the enemy withdrew. At 2345 hrs an enemy sec CT 194224 engaged a UN outpost. An exchange of SA fire lasting 5 mins ensued, after which the enemy withdrew. At 0400 hrs an enemy pl engaged the same outpost again from CT 194224. An exchange of SA fire resulted once more, and after 10 mins the enemy withdrew.

(f) 45 Inf Div

At 2155 hrs an enemy pl at CT 268338 engaged a UN patrol in a 20 min exchange of fire. The UN patrol withdrew and arty and mor fire was placed resulting in 8 enemy killed.

(g) IX Corps

9 ROK Div had one lt enemy patrol contact and 7 Inf Div had one lt enemy probe during the period.

(h) II ROK Corps

6 ROK Div, ROK Capitol Div and 3 ROK Div each had one lt enemy patrol contact during the period.

(j) X Corps

There was one lt enemy probe on the front of 7 ROK Div and 8 ROK Div had two probes and one lt patrol contact during the period, 25 Inf Div having one lt probe only.

(k) I ROK Corps

11 ROK Div had one lt enemy patrol contact and one lt enemy probe, 5 ROK Div having one lt enemy probe up to the end of the period.

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(b) Enemy Arty and Mors

Following is the enemy arty and mor fire received up to 1700 hrs based on SHELREPS and MORTREPS:

MR	No of Rounds	Type
CT 1817	27	Fd arty
1617	10	Fd arty
1719	9	Fd arty
1717	16	Fd arty
1516	1	Fd arty
1718	15	Fd arty
1919	1	Fd arty
1819	3	Fd arty
1816	1	Fd arty
1820	1	Fd arty
1818	4	Fd arty
1517	1	Fd arty
1615	2	Fd arty
CT 1417	11	Unknown mor
1318	6	Unknown mor
1719	17	Unknown mor
1819	8	Unknown mor
1718	6	Unknown mor
1315	5	Unknown mor
1416	4	Unknown mor
1316	5	Unknown mor

(c) PW

The following is extracted from I Corps PW Interrogation report dated 9 Apr 52. PW (CCF Squad Ldr) deserter, captured by 1 MARINE Div at CT 064076, identified from 63 Army, 187 Div, 560 Regt, 2 Bn, 5 Coy:

PW said that recce patrols were sent out primarily to find out info concerning mines, barbed wire entanglements, brs and UN MSRs. The recce patrol at night would drop pieces of white paper along their route in order to find their way back safely.

Comment: This method of "route marking" was used on an attack on 7 Pl, PPCLI, night 25/26 Mar 52.

(d) Weather

- 1 May - Scattered to broken low clouds. Poor visibility in the morning improving to good by noon.
- 2 May - Partly cloudy to overcast with scattered rain showers. Visibility good except during precipitation.
- 3 May - Continued low cloudiness with fog and rain showers. Poor visibility.

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3 Other Int Factors

(a) Enemy Sightings

Source	Time	MR	Action
HQ RA	1950	CT 183220	Active MG - arty engaged.
	1345	079189	15 enemy in trench - arty engaged.
	1730	137215	Gun posn - arty engaged.
	1755	146237	Suspected gun posn - arty engaged.
Lt Liaison Flt	1210 to 1345	105165	Sup P and 5 enemy - arty engaged.
	1340 to 1525	143242	6 enemy at rd junc - arty engaged.
	1705 to 1800	147237	15 enemy scattered in area.
		102183	6 enemy working near sup P.
		108167	8 enemy in village.
		116168	8 enemy in village.
		087207	Rd running NORTH to SOUTH heavily used by vehs.
AOP	1800 to 1945	095211	Gun posn - arty engaged.
		125175	20 enemy around trenches - arty engaged.
		128194	50 enemy in shallow trench - arty engaged.
	1015 to 1225	088179	Sup P.
		087179	Tunnel in reverse slope of ridge, 4 enemy working.
		114223	25 enemy digging in open - arty engaged.
		111197	2 AA MG pits.
		070180	20 to 25 enemy digging.
		090176	Filled bags in trench (approx 80).
		to 095175	
		105165	Many small stores in trenches.
		117165	9 enemy digging comn trench.
		118160	Sacks in trenches.
		to 117165	
	1230 to 1500	075188	30 enemy moving NORTH on rd - arty engaged.
		106210	15 enemy digging comn trench - arty engaged.
		083203	8 enemy digging possible gun posn - arty engaged.
		100208	25 enemy digging - arty engaged.
		095213	10 enemy in open - arty engaged.
		076186	Approx 50 enemy moving NORTH from KUHWARI - arty engaged.
		077187	15 enemy in sup area - arty engaged.
		105208	11 enemy digging in comn trench - arty engaged.
	1510 to 1730	080184	20 enemy on rd.
		114219	30 enemy in trench - arty engaged.
		to 114221	
		101216	Active gun - arty engaged.
		105183	5 to 10 enemy in cam area.

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PPX to
INTREP No 279
dated 30 Apr 52

WEATHER STUDY - MAY 1952

1 GEN

Conditions should remain unchanged from that of Apr. Precipitation will continue to be lt with an average mean of approx 3.1 in. Temperature will continue to rise and the average increase will be about 10 degrees F higher than Apr. Rd conditions are generally better than in Apr, since the boggy conditions brought about by the spring thaw have largely disappeared by this time. Cloudiness continues to increase in May with an average of 60 to 70 percent of the month with cloud cover.

2 PRECIPITATION

Rainfall increases somewhat in May. During the month of May precipitation will fall on the average of 8 to 10 days. The amount of precipitation and the frequency will NOT materially affect the conditions of river stages and soil trafficability. Rd conditions and terrain suitable for cross-country mov should be better than during the month of Apr.

3 VISIBILITY

Cloudiness continues to increase during the month of May and all stations report cloud cover for 60 to 70 percent of the month. Damp haze which is characteristic of the warm air, is a very prevalent restriction to visibility during May. Other visibility restrictions are precipitation, smoke, dust, and radiation fog in the lowlands. Except for precipitation, dust, and smoke, most of the restrictions to visibility will dissipate through diurnal heating by 1000 hrs ITEM time each day.

4 TEMPERATURE

Temperature continues to rise throughout the month of May. The mean max is about 74 degrees in the SOUTH and 70 degrees in the NORTH, although temperatures of over 90 degrees have been recorded throughout most of KOREA during the month. Freezing temperatures are unusual in May, except in the highlands of Northern KOREA.

5 WINDS

The surface winds during the month of May are characterized by a gradual shifting of the prevailing winds from an average Northwesterly direction to a SW or Southerly direction. During May surface winds exceeding 22 mph are prevalent on an average of only 2.0 days per month.

6 TURBULENCE AND T UNDERSTORMS

Turbulence is NOT a hazard to air op until the occurrence of thunderstorms become widespread. In May thunderstorms become more frequent in the Northern part of KOREA averaging 3 to 6 days per month.

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Att at Appx A is Weather Study for the month
of May 52.

4 Counter-Int

Negative.

5 Enemy Capabilities

NO change from INTREP No 259 dated 10 Apr 52.

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List E

LaBlair's Major
for Lt Col
GSO 1
1 COMWEL Div

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