

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST BATTALION, 180TH INFANTRY
APO 45, % POSTMASTER, NEW YORK
NEW YORK

1 March 45

PAGE NO. 1 FROM 1 March 45 TO 13 March 45 PLACE Blainville, France

Ramelfingen

NO.	TIME	IN	OUT	MESSAGES, INCIDENTS, ORDERS, ETC.
				Four hours nightly training for Bn. begins tonight. Hq. Co. gives dance at the "Moulin Bleu", Rue Moycet in St. Nicolas du Port. Band was from 7th Army. Dance was a success.
				2 March 45
				Training film. Day and night training.
				3 March 45
	PM			Able gives a dance at St. Nicolas.
				4 March 45
				Usual training going on.
				5 March 45
	PM			Training problems, etc. Amphibious demonstration. Baker gives dance at St. Nicolas.
				6 March 45
				Amphibious demonstration and practice on Meurthe R. E of Blainville conducted by the Engrs. Capt. Schroeder leaves for Brussels leave.
				7 March 45
				Capt. Grow returns from hosp to Bn. Capt. Kerker returns from London. Movies, Bn. rests during the day and night.
				8 March 45
	AM			Bn. attack problem, assimilating landing.
				9 March 45
				Tug, amphibious.
				10 March 45
				Problems, boat landing technique. Boat team lists are made up. Lt. Baker returns from TD and is assigned as Ex. O. of Charlie. Capt. Keirseey returns from TD and is assigned as Bn. Ex. O. Capt. Schroeder from Bn. Ex. O. to CO of Able. He returns from Brussels. Capt. Blanks returns from TD and is assigned to 3rd Bn. as Bn. Ex. O. Originally from Charlie.
				11 March 45
				Bn. rests, there are church services.
				12 March 45
	AM			Bn. entrucks for amphibious training area at les Houillions, W of Saarebourg for one day.
				Regt. amph. training and problem.
	PM			Bn. returns late at night.
				13 March 45
	AM			Advance detail xxxxx leaves for Saareinsuring. Bn. S-3 visits I/114th Inf. 44th Div., and III/114th Inf. for details of their front.
	PM			Bn. CP in Ramelfingen, 2 km SE of Saargemines, also Regt. CP in Ramelfingen (Moselle)(Lorraine). Bn. is to cross Blies R. and attack NE across the German Border, also clean up Bliesbruck.

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14 March 45

PAGE NO. 2 FROM AM 14 Mar 45 TO 0715

PLACE Ramelfingen and

Bliesibersingen

NO.	TIME	IN	OUT	MESSAGES, INCIDENTS, ORDERS, ETC.
	AM			Bn. CO orients Co. CO's and takes them on a ren. Last night Charlie patrol, Lt. Jennings platoon crossed Blies R. at Bliesibersingen, climbed N on ridge and reached 2nd EW road E of Habkirchen. Returned without incident.
1645				Shuffle of troops begun to assembly area at road culvert on S end of Bliesibersingen.
1945				Bn. CP established at Bliesibersingen. Capt. Franks, C-120th Engrs. has assault and rubber boats ready at crossing in town. This PM our mine clearing squad swept approaches to crossing.
2400				Companies closed into assembly area.
				15 March 45
0010				Engr. moving treadway to crossing site.
0040				Troops begin movement from assembly area to launching area.
0100				Troops begin to force crossing of Blies R. Arty. and supporting weapons begin firing on schedule.
0120				3rd Bn. jumps off in time. 114th notified to keep all of their supporting fires N of 59 grid.
0121				Col. Hufft requests searchlights (Col. Hufft and Capt. Keirse crossing with Co.'s) (Capt. Turner is our LO)
0125				Baker wants 2 litter squads at debarkation point, shu mines. Baker wants mine clearing squad at crossing.
0130				Searchlights are on.
0145				Col. Hufft wants lights off. Bn. is across river. Are reorganizing on first good road.
0200				Able has PW, 17th SS Panzer Ren. Bn. King and most of Item are crossing river in Habkirchen.
0205				Baker wants 2 more litter squads.
0215				Flapjack Able reports at 56.3-59.7, enemy mortar firing.
0245				Baker, Able both reported moving from reorganizing point.
0303				Our Engrs. have 2 foot bridges across. Veh. raft being worked on.
0306				We are still moving. 157 has met no resistance.
0315				Col. wants our area traversed with searchlights.
0320				3rd Bn. is on obj. A. Cease all arty. on obj.
				At 0245 Baker had a patrol on way to block RJ SW of Reimheim, also Charlie has patrol on way to block RJ E of Habkirchen.
0347				Mine clearing squad swept road W to creek. The road from Bliesibersingen to Felperswerter is now clear.
0402				Baker requests 6 litters, requested 2 from Regt.
0450				Able and Baker tied in on obj. Received warning order to be on alert to have guide from Baker take White Bn. around right edge.
0455				Baker reports fire from rear, 3 rounds supposed to be tank or TD fire.
0502				Flapjack Able reports 1 green, 1 red, 1 green, 1 red flare on edge of Habkirchen.
0525				Charlie reports enemy patrol trying to leave Habkirchen in between Charlie and road-block. Enemy patrol 15 men.
0555				Flapjack Able reports hearing s/a fire in Habkirchen. Three more PW's come in. Col. Duval visits CP. 2nd Bn. to clean out Habkirchen. Charlie to clear woods W of obj. A
0715				One wounded man brings in four PW's.

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15 March 45

PAGE NO. 3 FROM 0735 TO 0400 PLACE Bliesibersingen

Bannholz Woods, Reinheim Woods, Ballweiler

NO.	TIME	IN	OUT	MESSAGES, INCIDENTS, ORDERS, ETC.
0735				Wire crew brings in 3 PW's, picked up in vic. 57.5-59.2
0752				PW's state that motor pool and kitchen is in Habkirchen
0755				MP's come and pick up 7 PW's, 3 were captured by our wireman and 4 by a wounded Sgt. from Baker who was on way to Aid-Station without arms.
0900				Charlie calls for litter squad at their road-block. Easy is passing thru town.
0915				Two dive bombers bombed Reinheim.
1005				Air OP reports veh. at 58.5-60.0
1010				Litter squad to Baker requested.
1015				Easy in town. Heard few rifle shots. Have 10 PW's
1030				Able sending 12 man patrol to Jungenwald Forest.
1050				Charlie calls for ammo.
1110				Charlie moving away from Habkirchen. Being shot at by MG's from draw N of Habkirchen.
1435				CO orders Dog complete to assemble in woods with A&B
1450				P&A platoon lifted 300 shu mines in 2 rows.
1505				Charlie has 5 PW's which were taken on hill.
1615				Able patrol to Jungenwald Forest saw 3 enemy, killed 1. Charlie notified of mines in NE and SE corner of Jungenwald Forest as per new overlay.
1705				Pagen command group reached CP and got information on situation.
1830				Passport notified on Charlie positions.
2300				Passport orders us to move to obj. C at 1600. Bn. will jump at 1615.
2400				Bn. jumps. Receiving s/a fire from left and SP fire from right.
				Able is at 59.5-62.5, obj. C, Beinheinner Wald.
				Bn. CP moved to Bannholz Woods on Able, 179th front lines. 179th(Able) is attacking Reinheim, they are digging in below us to continue attack in AM.
				Baker patrol reports enemy 88 abandoned.
				Able patrol reports Bebelshheim clear.
				16 March 45
0300				All is quiet.
0600				White passes our left flank.
1130				Able to go to obj. E and peel off to right to take Rubenheim. Baker to go to E following right edge of woods and cut Erweiler-Rubenheim road, then send platoon with tanks S to meet Able at Rubenheim.
1115				Charlie to follow left edge of E(woods) and reconnoiter route of attack to Erweiler.
1200				Bn. CP moved to Reinheim Woods.
1300				Bn. moves out for obj. E
1350				Baker on obj E. Able entering Rubenheim and receiving fire from hill NE of town
2030				Able in town of Rubenheim Rubenheim, have some prisoners
2100				Baker also on obj.(Erweiler)
2110				Bn. CP in Ballweiler, Baker and Charlie in Wicklingen.
2230				Charlie moves to block road at 62.4-69.2
				One round enemy arty. landed near Bn. CP.
				Charlie established road-block at 62.8-69.2
				17 March 45
0145 PM				Lt. Baker takes over command of Charlie.
0400				Ordered to sit tight tomorrow. Units on left and right will continue the attack.
				Combat wire sent to Charlie
				German tank destroyed when it ran over new M-7 AT mine which was laid by P&A platoon.

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17 March 45

PAGE NO. 4 FROM 0855A TO PLACE Ballweiler

TIME	NO.	IN	OUT	MESSAGES, INCIDENTS, ORDERS, ETC.
0855				Baker is ordered to send a combat patrol to Blickweiler.
0930				All companies are notified of Baker patrol route. Co's to notify their FQ groups and mortar observers.
1030				Baker patrol recalled, I/179th has taken Blickweiler 2nd Bn. has pushed beyond Biesingen, 2nd Bn. is pushing NE from Seelbach. 2nd/179 is in Breitfust, 3rd/157 is in Bockweiler.
1100				Capt. Hollerich leaves for home leave. Capt. Kerker from Dog CO to S-3, Lt. Scott to Dog as CO
1830				Enemy tanks and Inf. at 63.7-69.8 advancing toward C. Charlie exchanging fire with them. They were spotted initially by Item who informed Regt who in turn informed us. Charlie shifting 57's around to be able to fire on them (2 57's of Bn. AT platoon and 3 57's from AT Co. platoon) Enemy advancing on Biesingen-Blieskastel road. 3rd Bn. will not give us clearance to put arty. on these coordinates.
1920				Charlie patrol returns, found enemy platoon patrol and 1 tank in draw, 1000 yds. N of them. Tank fired one round, 57 returned fire. Item has been mortaring them.
2150				12 man enemy patrol between Love and Charlie. Charlie ordered to send patrol to Love.
2250				Charlie patrol on the way.
2345				Regt. notified of patrol being on way.
				18 March 45
0030				Patrol reported in.
0035				Reported to Regt.
0045				Charlie reports flare signal.
0050				Reported to Regt.
1700				Bn. ordered to move one company to Assweiler as reserve behind/for 2nd Bn. Able ordered to move at dark. Bn to make rcn. at 62.0-71.0, Item is on obj. at 63.4-71.3
2030				Able patrol of 5 men went N from Seelbach; found crater in road #3 about 800 yds. North of town-which will have to be filled in before veh. can use it; approached bridge (60.1-71.3) which is covered by MG fire and 3 tanks fr patrols left front. Patrol was unable to investigate condition of bridge because of MG fire. Patrol returned at 0030. Reported to Regt.
2140				Baker tanken off alert to go behind 2nd Bn. 19 Mar 45 Able and Baker with Engrs. representatives with each, to patrol to creek to reconnoiter for crossings.
				20 19 March 45
0255				Patrol back. Found dirt fill-in over creek where troops could cross. Reported to Regt.
0500				Baker patrol reports in. Could not get to river, because of enemy.
0945				Bn. ordered to be formed into a tank force, with one Bn. of tanks, under Div. control. At 0300 the 20 Mar 45 The Bn. entrucked on 2 1/2's at Assweiler, detrucked at Ingweiler. Able mounted on tanks went to Homburg under command of Lt. Col. Durvey of 191st tanks. Baker mounted on tanks under command of Lt. Col. Hufft, *** went N from Einod. Had one tank knocked out, one man KIA, one man WIA near Kirrberg. Then tanks knocked down Kirrberg, troops dismounted from tanks and all went thru Kirrberg. 2nd Bn. 179th is in Homburg with Able. Bn. CP is located in Einod.
Dark				

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20 March 45

PAGE NO. 5 FROM 2400A TO 1430 PLACE Elnod and Erbach,

Homburg, Bruchmuhlbach, Obrigheim, Kindenheim, Rheinduerkheim	
TIME	MESSAGES, INCIDENTS, ORDERS, ETC.
2400	Abel, Charlie, tanks and Bn. CP in Erbach, North of Homburg Bn. came around W side of Homburg thru RR and factories. Today we saw hundreds of Russians who had been PW's and forced labor. 21 March 45
0100	Baker and CO's location not known. Lt. Col. Hufft has been wounded in head. Baker is in Bechhofen. Baker has about 150 PW's. Capt. Kerker and S/Sgt. Rodgers took 200 PW's at Sanddorf. 22 March 45
1200	Able, Charlie and Dog assemble in Homburg. Baker assembles 3km NE from Homburg. Bn. CP NE end of Homburg This AM the 6th Armd Div. and elements of the 3rd Army went thru us, going NE from Homburg. The 179th is tying onto 3rd Armor's right flank. 23 March 45
1600	Bn. in Bruchmuhlbach, NE of Homburg. 24 March 45
0900	Bn. entrucks and bivouacs at Obrigheim SW of Worms in Pfalz Prov. 25 March 45
AM 1600	Personal and arms inspection, quarters inspection. Bn. closes in at Kindenheim. 26 March 45
PM 2445	Bn. showers Bn. CO, Int. Sgt. and 3 men from Able crossed the Rhine R. at Rheindurkheim in a rubber boat. Ten enemy tried to encircle patrol. 27 March 45
0215	Patrol returned without casualties at 0215. 28 March 45
AM	Quartering party reconn CP and Co. assembly areas are in Chemical Factory S of river. 29 March 45
PM	Bn. CP established in "The United Straw-Material" Factory(Vereinigte Stroh-Stoff Fabriken) in S end of Rheinduerkheim, in Hessen-Darinstadt Province, N of Worms, on the W bank of the Rhine. Tonight the Bn will cross the Rhine with the 3rd Bn. on the left, 179th on 3rd Bn.'s left, 3rd Div. on our right. In assault boats and storm boats. Amphibious operation under direction(for this Bn.) by Co. C, 2831 Engr. Bn.-40th Engr. group. Our tanks(DD Tanks)(Tanks on canvas pontoons) will float over under their own power at H plus 4. 1st obj. will be road along Altrheim Creek("E"), 2nd-RR("F"), 3rd-2nd RR, N of Bobstadt("G"), 4th-Kleinhausen("H"). 30 March 45
0230	Bn. jumps across Rhine in boats. Later waves had casualties from wounds and drowning caused by 4 flak wagons on further shore. Enemy had also a 50mm mortar Capt. Schroeder's boat was sunk but he swam to the shore. 31 March 45
Dawn	Bn. reaches without incident. About 30 PW's. 1 April 45
1200	Bn. reaches 2nd obj. without incident. 2 April 45
1225	Bn. reaches 3rd obj. without incident. Tanks and arty. fire at woods to E. 3 April 45
1430	Bn. jumps E on open plain for Kleinhausen and Grosshausen. Bn. reaches edge(300 yds) from Kleinhausen and Grosshausen (twin towns) 4 April 45

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26 March 45

PAGE NO. 6 FROM 1430A TO 0100 PLACE Rheinduerkheim

Kleinhausen, Bensheim

NO.	TIME	IN	OUT	MESSAGES, INCIDENTS, ORDERS, ETC.
	1430			Town has an enemy arty. battery and many flak wagons (at least a btry.) Bn. holds at calls for air mission. Dive bombers strafe many times and bomb. Also 5 arty. btrys. are laid on town.
	1530			Immense barrage on town and an ammo dump is afire. It was a beautiful show.
	1535			Bn. CO decides to enter town with tanks.
	1630			Baker enters town by main road with 4 tanks. Tanks machine-gunned and fired their cannons at enemy in town. Able entered town in canal, Charlie followed Baker in. Bn. took about 70 PW's in town, including a Major, 1 Capt., and 1 1st Lt. of Air Corps. Bn. cleans up town except some of the AA guns and a tank on S end of town. Bn. organizes town; Charlie eastern section, Able NE section, Baker SE section, 57 platoon (Bn.) and 57 platoon (Regt) put out road-block on bridges on E end. Bn. CP located in a saloon in center of town.
				27 March 45
	0530			Patrol from George 30th Inf. 3rd Div. contacted Able. They are in Lorsch and continuing on to Heppenheim reported to Passport. WEB
	0830			Bn. jumps off for Bensheim, column of Co.'s: Baker, Charlie, Able along Wolfslache Canal. Upon reaching outskirts of town, Baker swung SE, Charlie went E on road, each with tanks and TD's. Baker hit s/a resistance in SW part of town, then Bn. took about 70 PW's out of town, plus about 400 in a hosp. (military).
	Noon			Baker leaves town going NE, right of Schonberg road, to take obj. E (vic Schonberg). Baker has platoon pinned down by crossed MG fire coming from Gemeinde Wald (woods) E of Schonberg, killing 1 man and wounding 2. During afternoon, on Schonberg road, Bn. 57 platoon had 3 men wounded by mortar fire. In AM Baker had 1 KIA and several WIA in Bensheim. Bn. CP is in Bensheim.
	1630			Bn. (-B) moves from Bensheim to Elmshafen. Snipers on hill E snipe at town.
	Night			Charlie sends patrol to W of Town. Returned with 2 PW's who report an enemy Co. there. Able has 2 patrols out, 1 to SE and 1 to E. The one to the E returned without report or incident. Baker will return to town tonight to be billeted in houses for the night.
	2015			Charlie preparing to send one platoon to Hohberg (hill) E of town with section of LMG's and 300 radio and a platoon to road crossing at Haurith Woods, E of Hohberg, with section HMG's and 300 radio, and Bn. 57's. In Bensheim today civilians were looting stores, so we ordered them all to go to their homes and called for Regt. MP's to quell this practice.
	2325			Charlie platoon on Hill reporting they are moving into position.
				28 March 45
	0100			Passport 3 called- Able is to be Regt. Mobile reserve tomorrow- follows 2nd and 3rd Bn.'s- to have platoon of tanks and platoon of TD's atchd., section of HMG's and section of 81mm mortars. Co. CO to be at Regt. at 0800. Co. to be ready to move at 0900. Able notified. Remainder of the Bn. to move when trucks are released by 2nd and 3rd Bn.'s. Charlie platoons to be relieved at 0630.

28 March 45

PAGE NO. 7 FROM 0200A TO 0945 PLACE Bensheim, Elsenfeld

NO.	TIME IN OUT	MESSAGES, INCIDENTS, ORDERS, ETC.
	0200	Remainder of Charlie road-block is in position. Regt. notified.
	0330	Trying to contact Charlie but can't get anyone. RPB
	0338	Still trying to contact Charlie.
	0345	No radio contact with Charlie.
	0400	Trying to contact Charlie again.
	0405	Cannot contact Charlie.
	0420	Still trying to contact Charlie.
	0435	Still no contact with Charlie.
	0445	Still trying Charlie.
	0515	No contact with Charlie as yet.
	0545	No contact yet.
	0615	Charlie patrol on Hill contacted. FMT Cannot contact Charlie road-block.
	0630	Still trying to contact Charlie road-block. Charlie platoon on Hill moves out., platoon will contact road-block.
	0645	Road-block moved to Co. area.
	AM	Lt. Norton reports in to Bn. CP from road-block. Able with TD's in Regt. Mobile Reserve. Bn. is also in reserve.
	2200	Bn.(-A) entrucks and moves to Hochst.
29 March 45		
	0100	Bn. arrives at Hochst, and beds down in town with Regt. CP.
	1100	Bn. moves on tanks and TD'S to Sulzbach in Wurttemberg Province.
	1400	Bn. jumps 3 on road for Klein Wallstadt, with tanks.
	1445	Charlie in lead, comes upon physical road-block which they clear out by hand and with a tankdozer. Charlie takes 32 PW's.
	1515	Charlie turns off left for obj. C(Hill) Able going to KleinWallstadt. Some pack-howitzer on Able.
	1530	Charlie passed CP 3.
	1600	Able moves into KleinWallstadt. Takes many PW's from town (Air-Corps and labor Bn. incl.)
	1630	Baker and Hq.Co. in town.
	1640	Able leaves for next obj.(Elsenfeld) Hospital(Lazarett) with 120 wounded and doctors taken in Klein-Wallstadt.
	1650	Baker ordered to follow Able into Elsenfeld, then to take obj A(Hill E of town). Bn. will hold town on: Obj. C("C" Co.), obj. A(B Co), Able is in Elsenfeld.
	1730	Able in town, receives MG fire from Hill to left. Tanks fire at them.
	1745	Baker is 400 yards beyond obj. A
	1800	Bn. CP in Elsenfeld, in mansion. Charlie to be relieved on Obj. C by George then to go on Baker's obj. with them for the night.
30 March 45		
	0745	Able jumps for Ruck, Baker followed by Charlie jumps for Eichelsbach.
	0830	Able on edge of Ruck. Tanks fire at woods to right and left and at town. Able receives some s/a fire. Tanks receive one round of AT fire.
	0930	We are putting arty. and mortar fire onto town. Tank driver was wounded in head by AT round.
	0945	Able 3rd platoon with .sect. HMG's to go N into woods and come into Ruck from N.

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30 March 45

PAGE NO. 8 FROM 1030A TO 1600 PLACE Elsenfeld

NO.	TIME	IN	OUT	MESSAGES, INCIDENTS, ORDERS, ETC.
	1030			Baker is in Ruck.
	1130			Able is in Eichelsbach, Charlie on obj. (Hill N of town).
	1300			Able on hill on Charlie's right.
	1530			Bn. to hold where they are. Except Baker who will take Sommeran. Able and Charlie to extend some forward and patrol. Two TD's and two tanks to stay in Eichelsbach, 2 tanks and 2 TD's to go with Baker into Sommeran.
	1645			75 pack puts 1 round smoke near Bn. CP.
	1700			We are shelling Sommeran with arty and mortars. We observe many enemy dug in around town, traffid on road, and a tank. Our AT guns pin down a tank and then our TD's knocked it out.
	1800			Baker will not go to Sommeran after all, Baker will stay in Eichelsbach. Bn. got about 100 P's in Eichelsbach incl. the Bn. CO and a Co. CO.
	1910			Charlie's 2 patrols back. One went E a 1000 yds found nothing and returned. Other patrol went N a 1000 yds to contact 2nd Bn. They encountered any enemy patrol coming their way. Patrol returned.
	1950			Baker patrol to Sommeran fired on 500 yds from obj.
	2000			Baker patrol having fire fight, received one round of mortar fire, shot two enemy and at present have 3 men unaccounted for.
	2005			Red Sunray orders patrol to withdraw.
	2008			A Lt. from 1st Bn. 30th Inf. contacted Able road-block at Ruck.
	2020			Baker patrol returns, still has two men unaccounted for.
	2125			Eschan has been taken by 3rd Div. they are now attacking Sommeran.
	2130			Two men who did not return from Baker patrol are back.
	2200			Baker patrol of 6 men to leave for Eschheim to contact 3rd Div.
	2300			Passport reports 645th Rcn. coming back thru our lines. Charlie and Able notified.
	2305			Able patrols back. saw nothing, heard nothing, went about 1800 yds to front. JRT. Reported to Regt
				31 March 45
	0030			Baker patrol returned reported to CP. They were fired upon when they reached the point near the woods at 07.6-37.8 and withdrew. They did not contact any elements of the 3rd Div. Reported to Passport. WMB
	0400			Rcn. elements from 645th still didn't come back thru our lines
	0441			Charlie and Able all quiet.
	0800			Bn. jumps for Wintersbach. Charlie on left, Baker in center down trail on tanks and TD's Able on right
	1100			Charlie and Baker reach Heimbuchental-Hobbach road, W of Wintersbach. Tank dozer clears 2 of 3 road-blocks. Able on right is cut-off and surrounded, 4 rounds AT fire on road.
	1200			Two enemy tanks coming from Sommeran, stop on road below us HMG's drive tanks crew off of one tank, the other drove away toward Wintersbach.
	1215			Able reports they are on the way toward us.
	1300			Many krauts seen retreating up creek toward Wintersbach. We shell them.
	1330			Air mission is on Wintersbach.
	1404			2nd Bn. patrol arrives at Bn. CP, reports George is in Heimathen, Fox on way to Buchenthal, 3rd Bn. in Volkersbrunn.
	1430			Able contacts Baker.
	1600			Able in position on Charlie's left, Baker on Charlie's right

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31 March 45

PAGE NO. 9 FROM 1800A TO PLACE Elsenfeld

NO.	TIME		MESSAGES, INCIDENTS, ORDERS, ETC.
	IN	OUT	
	1800		Bn. will be relieved tonight by elements of Cook Regt. of the 3rd Div. Capt. Kerker will meet them at Heimathen to guide them to our sector.

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