

1/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regt. (West Surrey) War Diary August 1944.

August 1944

1st Aug. Tuesday (D+56).

By 0045 hrs. all Coys reported concentrated in area around ECORIGNY 707574.

By 0050 hrs. Main Bn. HQ arrives at ECORIGNY. 3 POWs of 21 Pz. Div. Recce had brought in.

At 0910 hrs. Bn. Moves towards CAHAGNES 715517 turned left to avoid suspected mines further along rd. to 722577, thence to CAHAGNES by 88mm at 7455.

At 1040 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ at 725574 – shelling of CAHAGNES by 88mm from 1000 hrs. at 7455.

At 1105 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ at 734561.

At 1120 hrs. Fwd. Coys at 737558, Tac. Bn. HQ at 736574.

At 1200 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ at 739552 & Main HQ at 726574.

At 1350 hrs. Fwd. Coys (D Coy at 753538 & "A" Coy at 745548).

At 1410 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ at 747554.

At 1500 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ at 752539.

At 1504 hrs. Carriers report x rds. clear.

At 1520 hrs. "D" Coy report encountering enemy fire at x rds. 759532 from their right flank at about 300 yds. distance.

At 1540 hrs. "A" Coy, - "B" Coy 750540, "C" Coy 750543, "D" Coy 756537.

At 1605 hrs. I.O. reports approx. 12 uncompleted enemy positions at 756536.

At 1608 hrs. Smoke shells falling in our areas (questionable origin).

At 1615 hrs. 5 POWs brought in (3 of 21 Pz. Div. Recce Unit & 2 of 326 Div).

At 1635 hrs. "A" Coy at 762530.

At 1650 hrs. 2 POWs brought in (Arty. Personnel).

At 1731 hrs. "A" Coy to attack 767527.

At 1740 hrs. Carriers report 3 of their vehicles brewed up around x rds. 759532.

At 1850 hrs. "A" Coy almost at 765528.

At 1930 hrs. "A" Coy at rd. junction 773525 (our first objective).but pinned down by M.G. fire & Mortars & troubled by a Tk.

At 2000 hrs. Tks. of 22nd Armd. Bde. proceeded to exploit situation towards AUNAY-SUR-ODON but were unable to make much progress against Mk. V & VI Tks. operating in excellent defensive country. In all their bounds & fwd. from x rds. 759532. Rifle Coys came under considerable enemy arty. & Mortar fire, some obviously from Tks. and or S.P. Guns at close range. The situation was very fluid & reports from our flanks were very vague & few during day.

Casualties, 3 x 6 pdr. A/Tk. Guns & 3 x Lloyd Carriers at x rds. 759532. 3 x O.R's killed. Lt G.H. BOND wounded & 2 x O.R's exhaustion.

Extracts from "I" Log.

At 0925 hrs. enemy Coy attack developing at Pt. 309, 6951. No enemy on this point now.

At 1015 hrs. 50 Div. going from ANCTOVILLE 7760 to FEUGUEROLLES 8061.

At 1035 hrs. Fds. Reported at 721577?.

At 1042 hrs. At 735530 few Tks. & enemy Inf.

At 1240 hrs. Pt. 198 at 7656 in enemy hands.

At 1255 hrs. Enemy Tks. & Inf. in area BÉNY-BOCAGE at 690502. 50 Tks. moving N.W. at 690502 (this was coordinated attack on SAINT-MARTIN-DES-BESACES which broke down under arty. & aerial bombardment).

At 1319 hrs. 1/6th Queen's to establish themselves in area of 755530.

At 1450 hrs. 3 dummy Mk VIs found in area 754548.

At 1615 hrs. Much movement of enemy Met. Reported moving W. at 793563.

At 1705 hrs. 1/6th Queen's fwd. Coys. Having trouble with 3 x Mk. Vs at JURQUES.

At 1749 hrs. 2 S.P. Guns brewed up at 774524.

At 1840 hrs. 1/6th Queen's final objective to be 756526.

At 1940 hrs. Le PARQUET in our hands.

2nd Aug. Wednesday (D+57).
At 0630 hrs. Enemy again in position at 772525.
At 1045 hrs. "B" Coy report being heavily shelled from easterly direction.
At 1600 hrs. Carriers reported about 80 enemy Inf. moving from VILLERS BOCAGE S.W. to track junction 785557, also at 1420 hrs. enemy in orchard 784538.
At 2005 hrs. Tac. Bn. HQ moves.
At 2020 hrs. I.O. reports wood at 776527 is clear.
At 2200 hrs. Locations, "A" Coy at 776527, "B" at 773524, "C" at 771526, "D" at 778525.
At 2240 hrs. Carriers at 760536.
Casualties, 1 x O.R. killed Lt. D.C. SADLER wounded, 11 x O.R's wounded.

Extracts from "I" Log.

At 0709 hrs. 1/6th explored to 750511, Gds. these are moving on.
At 0835 hrs. 22 A.B. report 20 POWs, enemy Met. At 774522, Tiger at 772527.
At 0917 hrs. 1/6th fwd. Coys at 749508.
At 1100 hrs. 1/7th report 35 POWs & 8 M.G's. captured (All of 326 Div).
At 1200 hrs. 1/6th report being engaged by 2 Tks. at 744494, our Arty. engaging & they withdraw (1235 hrs).
At 1300 hrs. Friends reported in AMAYÉ-SUR-SEULLES & at 798594.
At 1340 hrs. 1/7th pushing on to 748563.
At 1350 hrs. 4 C.L.Y. mopping up enemy pockets in area 7655.
At 1450 hrs. 5 R.T.R. have 60 POWs & report 20 + Inf. moving S. at 769549.
At 1753 hrs. 3 R.H.A. to engage Met. nose to tail at 802506.

3rd Aug. Thursday (D+58).
At 0530 hrs. "A" Coy report being stonked by hvy. Mortar on bearing of 175° true from 776527.
At 0630 hrs. 1/6th Queen's who passed through us last night reached objective with ease report fwd. Coys at 792524, 793518, 786518 & 79254.
At 0705 hrs. We enquire about Mortars at 779515 & Tk movement & fire from 787529 but Bde. ask us to move carefully as Gds. May be there.
At 0905 hrs. C Coy patrol going to track & rail junction at 769520.
At 1000 – 1020 hrs. 1/6th very suspicious of high ground at 772515, enemy ay last confirmed there, they have 40 + POWs passed through them.
At 1200 hrs. enemy Inf. seen at 785976.
At 1345 hrs. Nebelwerfer at 785527.
At 1416 hrs. 1/6th report counterattack, Arty. engaging enemy.
At 1550 hrs. 1/6th report 1 Mk. VI brewed up (by P.I.A.T.).
At 1600 hrs. 1/6th report enemy laying smoke.
At 1650 hrs. Help to 1/6 promised by 22 A. B. if needed.
At 1851 hrs. 1/6 fwd. Coys at 789522 & 782512. 1/7th Fwd. Coys at 77535, 778538, 780535 & 781536.
At 1940 hrs. 766517 Large number of enemy moving N.W. "D" Coy moving back to 709524.
Casualties, 3 x O.R's killed, Capt. C. MUNAY PLUMLEY wounded. 4 x O.R's wounded.
Lt. C.F. DICKSON promoted A/Capt.
Complementary message from Brig. C. PEPPER 131 Bde. on 2 days good work in recent advance to BREIAL?.

4th Aug. Friday (D+59).
Patrols in "C" Coy of 1 NCO & 3 men back from 2400 hrs. to 0300 hrs. from,
1. 768526 to 768519 to building at 765517.
2. 773525 to 773520 to buildings at 777518.
Had N.T.R. & found no signs of enemy at these five points.

At 1108 hrs. "B" Coy report 2 large unidentified vehicles moving N.W. along fwd. slope of big feature on right.

At 1700 hrs. "B" Coy report contact made with 8 Armd. Bde. at 778508, 764504 & 752513. (reported at 1517 going to 784514).

At 1910 hrs. "B" Coy report 4 Dorset's on La BIGNE 763503 & 5 Dorset's at 780504. 2 weak Coys of enemy at 779501. Wood west of SAUQUES 778519 clear. BASSIEUX 785515 clear. Road running from S.W. to N.E. west of BASSIEUX heavily Mortared & shelled by enemy using direct observation.

There were intermittent & Mortaring of Coy posns. During the day.

At 1100 hrs. O.G. called for move tomorrow following indications of widespread enemy withdrawal S. of AUNAY SUR ODON.

Reinforcements, 41 x O.R's Reinforcements received from 2nd Bn. Beds & Herts.

Casualties, 2 x O.R's killed & 6 x O.R's wounded.

Extracts from "I" Log.

At 0645 hrs. 1/6th at 765527, 1/7th at 758528, sub units at 780528, 783528, 778526 & 784527.

At 1015 hrs. Coys informed of Armd. Car Tp. Of Sherwood Foresters at 765524.

At 1050 hrs. 1/7th report Task 1 done, on to Task 2 & 2 x POWs taken.

At 1157 hrs. 1/7th report 8 enemy at 802534 moving N.W.

At 1255 hrs. 1/7th report enemy at 793533, being engaged by friends some enemy digging in (about 20 reported later in orchard to S.).

At 1400 hrs. 1/6th location 779530.

At 1403 hrs. 1/7th report Task 3 not yet completed at 791531 Mortar & S.A. fire.

At 1455 hrs. 1/7th fwd. Coys at 775523.

At 1633 hrs. 8 H. report furthest Coys at 787526.

At 1920 hrs. 8 Hus. report at 7848 enemy retiring rapidly & enemy Inf. & Tks. moving E. from 793485. Up to 2120 hrs. they report scattered movement S. of enemy.

Farewell message from Maj. Gen. G.W.E.J. ERSKINE, CB, DSO, G.O.C of 7 Armd. Div.

5th Aug.

Saturday (D+60).

At 0530 hrs. Marching troops and at 0800 hrs. Tac. Bn. HQ and at 0820 hrs. Main Bn. HQ moved to 1/5th Queen's concentration area 753538 753538.

Location Tac. Bn. HQ 756536, Main Bn. HQ 756538.

131 Bde. Ops. Order gave 3 R.H.A. leading post S.P. 772548 at 0925 to be followed by 1/7th Queen's, 131 Bde. 621 Fd. Sqn. R.E. 1/5th Queen's 1/6th Queen's & N.Y. but such was congestion on route & difficulties caused by demolitions & mines that at 1725 hrs. 1/7th Queen's were still detained around S.P.

The main delay was occasioned by demolitions at 797558.

At 2200 hrs. Bn. moved via x rds. 745546 to S.P. 772548 to La Poste 793563 to 812548 to LONGVILLERS 8254.

Locations, Bn. HQ at 826544, "A" Coy 824545, "B" Coy 827543, "C" Coy 825543, "D" Coy 825542.

Reinforcements, 2 Offs. + 21 O.R's received from 2nd Bn. Beds & Herts.

Extracts from "I" Log.

At 0941 hrs. 8 Hus. At 805542, mines at bridge & rd. Junc.

At 1025 hrs. Fds. Reported at 9552.

At 1055 hrs. Fwd. Coys at 824535 & 8551 is clear.

At 1104 hrs. 11 Hus. At 829519 & 789450.

At 1135 hrs. large conc. of enemy Tks. & Inf. at ESTRY 748376 being engaged by mediums & Aircraft.

At 1150 hrs. Enemy in area 848481 being engaged by 3 R.H.A. Fwd. Coys at 8246, 8045 & 8148.

At 1512 hrs. 5 R.T.R. Fwd. Coys 814515.

At 1530 hrs. 1/7th pass to command of 22 Armd. Bde. at 1610 hrs.

At 1545 hrs. Fwd. Coys at 938779.

At 1737 hrs. Nebelwerfer at 815377 is firing at 7744.
At 1935 hrs. 3 x 105 mm at 812422 reported by 8 Hus. Shelling 808546.

6th Aug. (D+61).
BN. remained in area of LONGVILLERS 8254.

Extracts from "I" Log.

At 0844 hrs. Inf. & some Tks. at 7841, area clear as far N. as 9851 to 9551.
At 0923 hrs. Sub Unit of 1/7th Queen's lift mines at 880470.
At 1032 hrs. 88mm at 911477, 919477, 893470 & 910472.
At 1052 hrs. Enemy in strength at 944488 & 949496 digging in at 930474.
At 1128 hrs. Some enemy at 899469 & A/Tk gun at 778398. A.P. mines at 895492, S mines at all x rds. in area
At 1324 hrs. 4 C.L.Y. at 890498, 905495, sub unit going to 893495.
At 1335 hrs. Tks. & Inf. at 913474 engaged, 4 M.G's at 876472. 1 destroyed.
At 1411 hrs. At 916480 Inf. & Mortars Inf. Coy on high ground 890470 to 930470.
At 1445 hrs. 1/7th at 878468.
At 1636 hrs. Enemy digging in along line of Rly. 9448. Nebelwerfer at 9150 being engaged, Mortars & Guns at 930487.
At 1800 hrs. Bn. MOUNT PINCON, Red Xs & white flag reported, Fwd. Coys of 43 Div. at 837462, 830477 & 826437.

7th Aug. Monday (D+62).
At 0835 hrs. Bn. moved from long villas, 8254 to 844537 to 857542.
At 1000 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ at 861535.
At 1100 hrs Tac Bn. HQ at 885492, Main Bn. HQ at 873514.
At 1135 hrs. "A" Coy at 885494, & "D" Coy at 886497. "C" & "B" Coys moving S. from HAMARS 8948 which is being shelled.
At 1230 hrs. Attack to start at 1330 hrs. (on feature at 8646).
At 1235 hrs. "B" Coy report smoke shells before them at 892457, also M.G. fire.
At 1350 hrs. "A" Coy going to 874475.
At 1505 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ at 890484 (HAMARS) Main at 880497.
At 1510 hrs. "B" Coy Fwd. Coys at 865464 & in touch with Tks. (1 R.T.R).
At 1600 hrs. Fwd. Coys progressing OK. C.O. reports Fwd. Coys at 862462.
At 1647 hrs. 1 R.T.R. report that wood at 865464 reported clear by our Fwd. Coys. Still contains "Bazookas".
At 1700 hrs. "A" Coy at 870457, "B" Coy at 864462, "C" Coy at 863464, "D" Coy at 881468.
At 1945 hrs. I.O. reports Coys at 862462, 861467 & 881469 going to 870457.
Casualties, 1 x O.R. killed, Lt. E.A. CRUSE wounded and 18 x O.R's wounded.

Extracts from "I" Log.

At 0450 hrs. 1/7 report POWs of 989 P.G.R. of 277 Div. Phase 1 completed.
By 0525 hrs. 1/7 report 21 POWs (2 Offs). Of 277 Div. Phase 3 completed.
At 0840 hrs Mines in area 838473 along all rds.
At 1000 hrs. I.O. reports operation over R. ORNE performed yesterday by 176 Bde. of 59 Div. successful, 177 Bde. & Tks. now following up.
At 1250 hrs. 1 R.T.R. have sub units at 885454, 873459, 854456, 862482.
At 1435 hrs. Fds. On right going to 850465 & to 860463.
At 1445 hrs. 1 R.T.R. report Val? Clear.
Act 1500 hrs. Mortars reported at 892462 and 915473.
At 1542 hrs. 3 R.H.A. engage enemy Inf. at 919461 and at 868442.
At 1630 hrs. At 864448, 1 R.T.R. having trouble with A/Tk. Gun, 1 tank lost.
At 1816 hrs. 1 R.T.R. report 851460 clear.

At 2000 hrs. Pt. 172, 8947 in enemy hands and being engaged.

8th Aug. Tuesday (D+63).

Despite hopes to that effect it very soon became evident during the day that the enemy had not withdrawn towards CONDÉ-SUR-NOIREAU or his arty. screen and Mortars at least were still in position for throughout the day intermittent and accurate fire pinned down Bn.

At 0615 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moved from HAMARS and at 0720 hrs. past x road at 878470 (where C.O. was wounded) to MONT DES CHAMPS 8945.

Locations, Tac Bn. HQ at 874458. "A" Coy around x rds. 870457, "B" Coy 875460, "C" Coy at 874459, "D" Coy at 873455.

At 0900 hrs Main Bn. HQ moved to HAMARS 890485 and being held up there by congestion on roads, their transport was caught by recurring enemy stonks and suffered much minor damage. By 1700 hrs all recoverable transport and personnel had withdrawn to 885498.

By 1730 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ and Rifle Coys undercover of smoke screen laid along high ground in area 8847 had withdrawn, Tac proceeded to Main Bn. HQ and the whole then went via COURVAUDON 8752 to AUNAY-SUR-ODON and then S. to 828495 whilst the rifle Coys proceeded from VALLIE x rds. 878470 through VALCONGRAIN 8747 to AUNAY-SUR-ODON then also to area 828495.

It was with considerable relief that Bn. heard from Bde. that proposed attack by Bn. that night was off.

Casualties. 7 x O.R's killed, Lt. Col. J.B. ASHWORTH and Maj. E. JEFFREY wounded 34 X O.R's wounded and 7 x O.R's exhaustion.

Extracts from I log.

At 0620 hrs. 8444 reported clear of enemy.

At 0740 hrs. 8 Hus. at 863447.

At 0843 hrs. 4 x S.P. guns at 863436 and 863444 1 later brewed up by find R.H.A.

At 10:50 hrs. Enemy making firm stand at 865435, all along valley to E. and N.E. LA LANDS 8744.

At 1123 hrs. Mortars at 896465 & 886444 engaged.

At 1500 hrs. Arty. O.P. has N M S in area 8946, 9046. Tiger engaged at 892463, Inf. at 834332. 88mm S.P. at 840437.

At 1600 hrs. M.G's firing from 894473 and 890473, at 914438 much Met moving.

At 1955 hrs. Bde. informs us very important to have all Bn. in new conc. area as soon as possible.

At 2020 hrs. 2 subunits of ours in rest will be in 10 minutes.

9th Aug. Wednesday (D+64).

Bn. at 1 hrs. notice to move.

At 1200 hrs. Bn. moved S. and at 121250 hrs. Tac HQ at 837462 whence directed along track to 845462. Main Bn. HQ moved to 830472.

At 1230 hrs. (from I.O.) 1/6th to attack La FRESNÉE, 862465 & at 1400 hrs. approx. 1/5th to pass through them to Pt. 280 at 865436 & possibly exploit to CAULVILLE 869427, object to protect left flank of 50 Div.

At 1320 hrs. all Coys in Conc. area 848462.

At 1640 hrs. Tac B.H.Q at 856454.

At 1910 hrs Officer rep to report to Bde. at 1945 to guide relieving unit to front. Recce parties to Be ready by 2100 hrs.

At 1920 hrs. Attack by 1/5th in progress & by 1950 hrs. report good progress & no engagement with enemy.

2005 hrs. 1/5th are on Pt. 280 with 5 D.G. but not yet consolidated.

At 2020 hrs. Mines on ? from 863427 to 869428.

At 2140 hrs. Tac BN. HQ at 862448 (La FRESNÉE).

During night relief effected by 4 Wilts. Of 129 Bde. & Coys conc. around Tac BN. HQ.

Casualties, Capt. J.W. CAMPBELL & 1 O.R. killed, 7 x O.R's wounded & 1 x O.R. exhausted.

Lt. D.B. SADLER returns to unit.

Extract from I.O. Log.

At 0900 hrs. Large Inf. at 9450 & 934472.

At 1025 hrs. 3 R.H.A. engage 1 Mk. V at 864438 and S.P. at 887445.

At 1220 hrs. 3 R.H.A. engage S.P. at 904445 and Inf. position at 885459.

During middle of day good reports came in of progress of 50 Div. by certain bounds and taking of POWs. (of 276 Div).

50 Div. 1325 hrs. Tks. & Inf. at 866433 and suspected S.P. gun.

50 Div. 1330 hrs 1/6th Zero hour.

At 1430 hrs. Fds. on right have line from 850428 to 859404.

At 1503 hrs. 1/6th after reporting steady progress delayed by mines at La FRESNÉE by 1535 hrs advanced resumed and at 1550 hrs. Mortar fire on left flank.

At 1555 hrs. 5 R.T.R fwd. Coys at 860451 and 857451, making slow progress.

At 1730 hrs. 2 Tks. at 901401 and other enemy A.F.Vs at 882468.

At 1925 hrs. 5 D.G. halfway to Pt. 280.

Lt. C.F.A. COLE promoted A/Captain.

- 10th Aug. Thursday (D+65).
At 0730 hrs. following 1/6th Queen's Bn. moved from La FRESNÉE to 856454 to VALCONGRAIN 8646 to 852482 to conc. area at 854486. Main Bn. HQ at 0800 hrs. moved from 836472 via VALCONGRAIN to same area.
Locations, 1/6th at 837489, 1/7th at 861500. N.F. at 843576, "A" Coy at 853487, "B" Coy 849488, "D" Coy 858492. 1st Bn. party leaves for 30 Corps Rest Camp.
- 11th Aug. Friday (D+66).
N.T.R. at Rest Camp.
- 12th Aug. Saturday (D+67).
Maj. H.J. NANGLE transferred "A" to "H" Coy.
Congratulatory message received from Div. Comdr. To all ranks 1/5th & 1/6th Queen's for performance during day & night of Aug. 6/7th.
- 13th Aug. Sunday (D+68).
N.T.R.
- 14th Aug. Monday (D+69).
"C" Coy (Coy HQ retained) disbanded & personnel distributed to "A", 9 O.R.s, "B", 1 Off. & 16 O.R's, & "D" Coy 16 O.R's.
- 15th Aug. Tuesday (D+70).
14 x O.R. reinforcements received (H-4, A-7, B-1, D, 2).
- 16th Aug. Wednesday (D+71).
At 0715 hrs. Bn. moved via AUNAY-SUR-ODON VILLERS BOCAGE to 951650 to ATHIS BRIDGE 007643 to x rds. 022611 to x rds. 057618 thence down improved tank track to East of CAEN – FALAIS rd. to SAINT-AIGNAN-DE-CRAMESNIL 093568 to area SAINT-SYLVAIN 1354 (Arriving approx. 1430 hrs.).
Locations, Main Bn. HQ 129545, Tac. Bn. HQ 134544, A Coy 128546, B Coy 129546, C Coy 134545, D Coy 128547.
- 17 Aug. Thursday (D+72).
At 1430 hrs Bn. moved via 161524 to 198519 (CONDÉ-SUR-IFS) to 179501 to 183494 to area ERNES 2049.

Locations, Bn HQ 203497, & Coys in immediate area just to N. of Bn. HQ.

Extracts from "I" Log.

At 1030 hrs. 11 Hus. Take POW of 252 G.R. who says there are enemy at 3156, at 287561 & at 293554 are 2 ?SS.

At 1124 1/6th ready to move.

At 1159 hrs 11 Hus. Report enemy (20 Inf. at 286458) & at 283433.

At 1231 hrs. 11 Hus. Report patrol at 275437 engaged by S.A. fire & M.G. from the E.

At 1243 hrs. POW taken by 11 Hus. Reports 60 enemy Inf. & A/Tk. Gun at 285435, 20 Inf. at 288457 engaged & M.G. K.O. at 282450.

At 1304 hrs. 1/6th & 1/7th continue to make slow progress.

At 1314 hrs. 1/6th loc. 215426.

At 1644 hrs. 1/6th fwd. Coys held up by A/Tk. Guns to their front (at 0476).

At 1747 hrs. 1/6th take POW.

At 1829 hrs. 1/6th brew up M.G. at 3049?.

At 2015 hrs. 1/7 report A/Tk. Guns on both sides of road at 310459.

At 2100 hrs. 1/7th at 286485.

At 2112 hrs. 1/6th fwd. Coys at & Carriers engage Inf. in house at 324493.

Reinforcements, 5 Offs. (Maj. B.C. O'BRIAN, Maj. A.G. SCOTT JOYNT, Capt. W.E. GILL, Lt. L. DALTON, Lt. H. PARTINGTON) & 45 x O.R.'s received and posted, all from Beds & Herts.
Maj. B.E.L. BURTON & Maj. G.H. SENIOR S.O.S.

18th Aug. Friday (D+73).

At 0900 hrs BN. moves CONDÉ-SUR-IFS 1952 to SAINT-PIERRE-SUR-DIVES 2649 to 307487 (arrived 1115 hrs) with "A" Coy at 314490, "B" Coy at 315498, "D" Coy at 307487.

At 1900 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moved to 413747 with "A" Coy at 413718 "B" Coy at 420734, "D" Coy at 419742.

During the day several accounts had been received from 1/6th Queen's and 1/7th Queen's of them being attacked by our own aircraft. At 1830 hrs. appeared we received our share when transport on road to Tac Bn HQ and near Main Bn HQ were strafed, we suffered no casualties but a Lloyds carrier was brewed up.

1/6th and 1/7th during day encountered only slight opposition from rear guards but difficult going in the close wooded country made their progress slow.

2 X O.R.'s reinforcements from Beds and Herts.

1 X O.R. wounded.

19th Aug. Saturday (D+74).

"B" Coy moving fwd. at 0445 hrs. reported Task 1, (429752) clear N.T.R. by 0529 hrs., Task 2 (432749) clear by 0815 hrs. reached 437750 & at 0845 hrs. fwd. Coys were at 446745 with N.T.R.

At 1000 hrs. "A" Coy reported our aircraft dropping bombs in close vicinity and caused damage to 8 Hurs. approx. at 416733 (later 1/7th Queen's reported that this fell in his arc).

At 01020 hrs. Mortars reported Nebelwerfers located firing at 170° mag. from their location, (411749).

At 1045 hrs. Patrol of "B" Coy reported reaching bridge over R. Uie? At 465746, it was intact & they found only wounded POWs there but could not evacuate these, our own arty. was active thereabouts.

At 1254 hrs. 1/5th reported ready for party across river at 1300 hrs.

At 1330 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ & "A" & "D" Coys proceeded to S.P. gun at 418944.

At 1330 hrs. Fwd. men of "B" Coy report enemy on rd. just over river & Tks. needed.

At 1345 hrs. R. Sie not yet crossed.

At 1400 hrs. "B" Coy & Carriers crossed river & Tac Bn. HQ reached 444748.

At 1400 hrs. R.E's report Snipers earlier on net? Near 462738 in houses & Assault Pln. Party over to investigate.

At 1414 hrs. Tks. reported crossing R. SIE at 465745.

At 1520 hrs. Assault Pln. & Snipers party returns to Tac Bn. HQ at 461743 reports finding no enemy in area 452 788 but civilians there reported their presence there up to midday.

At 1525 hrs. All Coys over R. SIE & established in posn.

Locations, "A" Coy 475745, "B" Coy 46745, "D" Coy 470143.

At 1625 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ at 467745.

Contact was made with patriot forces operating in LIVAROT area, although a very motley assembly & armed with every conceivable weapon, both enemy & ours they were very eager to provide assistance & information. Their leader who had been in contact with F.F.I. HQ in PARIS & LONDON from whom he received orders at intervals "to harass the enemy by attacks on his lines of communications, demolitions etc. was taken to by I.O. to Div. HQ for closer questioning. Several members revealed themselves as allied personnel (R.A.F., Paratroopers etc) who had received every assistance from the patriots during their enforced stay behind the enemy lines. An interesting item of news was a convincing statement by one of the group that he had been present just after Rommel was wounded during a strafing raid by Spitfires, he was certain that those wounds caused his death & that he was buried at BERNAYL?.

From them to considerable information was obtained of locations of enemy forces in LIVAROT-PAYS-D'AUGE area in particular in areas 472714 & 488714 & a party of 10 men guarding bridge at 46766 also of location of mines along rds. leading E. from LIVAROT.

During late afternoon a small party from Tac Bn. HQ entered LIVAROT & exchanged shots with some Snipers there.

From 1800 hrs. 1 R. Bde. passed over R. SIE at 465745 established a command post near Tac BN. HQ & moved fwd. into Livarot, taking over our patrol commitments in that area.

There was considerable enemy air activity in the area during the night some bombs fell uncomfortably close to 413742. 4 x POWs sent back during day (from Hali Sturn Regt?).

This was a day of great moment in the history of the BN. although it was not possible to realise it completely until some time had elapsed. First the war had become fluid and continued to be so for some time even though we still had some heavy fighting to do. Second, contact was made with the F.F.I. for the first time in any large scale and the problems of making use of their undoubted enthusiasm without causing them to suffer heavy casualties ? first encountered. Third, the existence of a comparatively large civilian population which had not endured "liberation" in the manner previously encountered as consequently was extremely pleased to see us.

On the previous day the two other Bns. Had been directed on to parallel axis approaching Livarot the previous day in the face of determined enemy opposition. In the evening Col. MASON of the 1/6th Queen's had made a long personal recce of a 2nd class route which was down to the river further N. and it was accordingly decided that the 1/5th Queen's should move along this route at 1st light the following morning. Accordingly, "B" Coy moved off at 0445 hrs. and reached the objectives unopposed, the Germans (according to civilians) having left half an hour before they arrived. Lt. COX then went fwd. to hold the bridge until the rest of the Bn. could get there. Capt. ? was walking over the bridge in a princely manner accompanied by a ? with a Bren Gun when he was some what startled to see 2 German ? drive past along the lateral rd. likewise in a somewhat princely manner. The positioning of the Bren gun ensured that this happening should not be repeated.

The river at this point runs in a valley with very steep sides and this enabled our supporting arms (M10's & Vickers) to get ? positions giving them absolutely ideal shoots onto the enemy side. While the Bn. was crossing the Vickers reported to Maj. GRANT -2 Tiger Tks. leaving in an Easterly direction. Maj. GRANT staying himself to direct the fire of the M.G's sent the I.O. down the side to get the M10's on to the target. This they did with commendable speed and accuracy and the Tiger that was being towed was definitely hit and apparently abandoned. The other disappeared into cover where it was searched for vigorously and accurately by the supporting arms already mentioned with excellent help from 3 R.H.A..

The wreckage was inspected by the I.O. the following morning when to his great chagrin he discovered that the Germans had changed the "Tiger" to an Armoured Car during the night. There is apparently no limit to the ingenuity shown by the Germans!!.

The patrol sent out from Tac Bn. HQ to recce LIVAROT was led by the A/Tk Pln. Comdr. and was composed of the Orderly Room Sgt, L/Cpl. MELTON of the Regt. Police, Pte. BERRY the driver of R.A.C.V. etc. ? outsiders mentioned a "Strong desire for loot" as being the motive power of this patrol but this statement may have been inspired by malice. The patrol withdrew eventually from the town pursued by shots from the Germans there and casting longing glances at the Bank there as they went.

During the night a Volkswagen and a BMW ? motored into our lines and were dealt with in a satisfactory manner by our sentries.

20th Aug. Sunday (D+75).

During day Bn. remained in firm base to E. of river VIE at locations occupied yesterday save that during the morning main Bn. HQ moved up to 455748. 1 R.B. pushed through LIVAROT to east and South without meeting much opposition though civilian reports gave numerous small groups of enemy scattered around particularly in area of SAINTE-MARGUERITE-DES-LOGES 5074. To our S. and still W. of the river 1/6th and 1/7th made slow progress through difficult country. 1/6th during late afternoon began to take over from the 1 R.B. around LIVAROT to E. and S.

POWs brought in in small parties throughout the day totalled 26 some 5 or 6 being passed on to us by 1 R.B. 2 officers of 21st Pz Div. were included in the total the remaining came from Flak Regt. 85 Div. 83rd Regt. of eight Nebelwerfer Bde. and foreign oddments.

Casualties 1 O.R. wounded.

The problems arising from the cooperation of the F.F.I. in number and in scope and included searching a Gestapo HQ in LIVAROT. The settlement of a dispute between 2 factions as to the bona fide or ? of a certain Frenchman, the arrest of an alleged woman spy etc. The last mentioned incident carried originally considerable perplexity the accusations to a smartly dressed woman of about 30 about 4'4" with a beautiful voice standing proudly before an audience of British troops while her captors 2 extremely villainous looking individuals reeled off a list of the most horrible enemies. She was handed over to the custody of the French Red Cross and the case referred to civil affairs.

A pleasant day was spent by all.

The advent of the new phase of the war was shown when the I.O. conducting a recce party to the wrecked bridge at live received an invitation to breakfast at the House of one of the local Gentry. In spite of the additional attraction provided by his young daughter the call of duty was too strong and the invitation had to be refused.

Later in a trip to bring in a wounded German POW the locals showed an acute inside into the habit of the British soldier. On entering the barn where the German soldier was asleep the French guide immediately without requiring any instruction removed the German's watch from his pocket and handed it to the British officer accompanying him. The less important process of removing his weapon and searching him for military documents was not carried out.

21st Aug. Monday (D+76).

During the morning a small counter attack on the 1/6th Queen's by a small group of S.S. Men (reports stated 20 drugged S.S. Men attacking with bayonets) there was also a Tk. Swanning about around cemetery at 472732 which got mixed up with our fwd. Coys there & shot up amongst others a troop H.Q. of the 65 A/Tks.

At 0934 hrs. "D" Coy called for D.F. task 614 on this front 3 R.H.A. obliged.

At 1145 hrs. we reported Mk. IV at 475722 brewed up by 5 D.G. later stated it was slightly damaged & crew had baled out and disappeared).

At 1400 hrs. "A" Coy at 479743 & 477739.

At 1438 hrs. We report standing patrols at 479743 & 477760.

At 1503 hrs. Partisans report to us 2 Tks. & some 40 Inf. at 478730 & small no. of Inf. at 478714 (3 R.H.A. engaged first area & reported 3 direct hits.
At 1548 hrs. "D" Coy reports Mortaring of LIVAROT & to S. of them but unable to locate Mortar.
At 1840 hrs. "D" Coy receive info. From Partisans of 100 S.S. at 494740.
At 2000 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ had moved to 465765 & by 2030 hrs. A & B Coys at 468766 & 467767 respectively. "D" Coy had remained behind & came under comd. Of 1/6th Queen's.
During the day 47 POWs were brought in including 1 Off. & were from a variety of units (272 Div., 21 Pz. Flack Regts.
Casualties, 1 x O.R. wounded & 1 x O.R. exhausted.
Reinforcements. 1 Off. & 3 O.R's from Beds & Herts.

22nd Aug. Thursday (D+77).

At 1035 hrs. Bn. moved to destination 504815 on reaching which point Coys were to remain embussed "D" Coy would rejoin Bn. here from 1/6th Queen's.
At 1100 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ stopped at 502810 till 1220 hrs.
At 1240 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ reached 077834 Main Bn. HQ at 511828. Coys had moved into SAINT-MARTIN-DE-LA-LIEUE where they debussed.
At 1350 hrs. "B" Coy reported that civilians said there were enemy in large numbers at 545874.
At 1415 hrs. "A" Coy At 533868 where they had contacted our tanks (1 R.T.R.
Tasks to be
1. "A" Coy bridge at 534874.
2 "B" Coy at 841867 to contact 1/7th Queen's on our right
3 "A" Coy onto 536874.
4 "A" Coy to road at approx. 540878.
At 1430 hrs. Tasks II and IV cancelled III becoming I our final objective given as 560877 but temporary objective to be area pt. 132.
At 1432 hrs. "A" Coy sending out patrols into streets.
At 1530 hour's. Roads in area 5487 reported mind and also adjoining woods.
At 1435 hrs. "A" Coy reported "neat and tidy" at 534875 and at 838873 there was a crater 18 feet wide in roadway whilst 1 R.T.R. reported bridge over canal at 534873 was blown.
At 1551 hrs. "A" Coy our firm and have contacted friends on left 51 Div.
At 15 32 hrs. R.E's to come to 1/5th to deal with demolitions at 533873.
At 1613 hrs. "A" Coy report some sniping and Spandau fire in their locality.
At 1620 hrs. Guide reports approx. 1 Coy Glos. at Saint Julian de Mailloe?. 5881.
At 1630 hrs. Tanks able to get past demolitions.
At 1730 hrs. With support from Medium & field Arty. & from start line 542872 to 538875 "D" Coy were to go straight to pt. 132 whilst "A" Coy were to consolidate on start line if opposition proved light exploration to take place.
At this period the enemy defences, strengths and intentions on the high ground east of LISIEUX were not known. At 1815 hrs we sent a reliable civilian report from a leader of a group of F.F.I. in LISIEUX that the enemy (S.S. personnel) held the ground in strength with tanks and guns and we're determined to stay put obviously they were unaware then of all flanking formations near THIBERVILLE and felt justified in standing on this naturally strong position. Minor information from same source was that all bridges over river ? S. from LISIEUX were guarded by small groups of enemy and were prepared for demolition.
At 1915 hrs Tac Bn. HQ moved to 532864.
At 1920 hrs. Enemy snipers in marketplace of LISIEUX were active.
At 1925 hrs Bde. sent a request to the C.O. to call off the party.
Information now was that up to 3 Coys of enemy were in position on high ground with support from all arms.
The C.O. could not immediately comply as "D" Coy were heavily committed.

At 1930 hrs. All DF's were asked for and by 1945 hrs were going over for them. All Coys were drawn back to form a box around village of SAINT-GERMAIN-DE-LIVET 5184 in the case of "D" Coy smoke was laid down to facilitate withdrawal.

At 2020 hrs. Tac Bn HQ had rejoined Main Bn. HQ at 311828.

At 2030 hrs. An enemy flank reported at 553742 and strong enemy concentrations on road at 553863. It appeared likely that the enemy were concentrating to counterattack and main Bn. HQ being on an exposed flank dug in for any such eventuality.

Casualties, 2 x O.R's killed, Maj. P.Z. HENDERSON and 17 O.R's wounded.

Report on the Battle for LISIEUX.

On this day began what turned out to be the battle for LISIEUX and for those who were there the name is unlikely to be forgotten.

The battle opened when "A" Coy advanced to the outskirts of the town and made a small bridge guard over a blown bridge there. They very soon came under fire from Snipers in the buildings and a corporal was killed.

After considerable recce a way round was found for the Tks. and 51 Div. where contacted on the left. It was then decided to pass "D" Coy through "A" Coy skirt through the built-up area to the east and take up positions on the road leading out of the town in that direction. A set piece attack was laid on with strong artillery support. As "D" Coy approached however there was mortaring which at the beginning was only unpleasantly close causing one slight casualty. However, as they were approaching the S.L. which was just north of a huge pagoda like church the Mortaring began again and the first bomb caused eight casualties wounding the Coy Cmdr. of "D" Coy Maj. HENDERSON. This resulted in a certain amount of confusion especially as accurate Mortar fire continued to fall right onto the road up which "D" Coy were attempting to advance. However the S.B's of several Coys were brought up and working with great gallantry under extremely unpleasant conditions including in attending to all the casualties and evacuating them with the help of a Jeep which arrived from the R.A.P. Meanwhile Capt. CHATTERTON had taken over O.C. "D" Coy and had got the Coy fwd. onto the S.L. where they were under heavy enfiladed fire from Spandaus. Major NANGLE acting C.O. at the time was endeavouring to bring down the artillery barrage the wireless did not work very well owing to conditions caused by houses hills etc when the attack was called off by Bde. HQ owing to news of stronger opposition then was at first realised.

The above account would not be complete without some reference to the R.E's, the C.O. ask at Bde. HQ for a Scissor bridge and they drove straight from Bde. HQ to find that the Scissor had just arrived. During the day's fighting the tanks under command gave excellent close support.

23rd Aug. Wednesday (D+78).

At 0600 hrs. A patrol reported that an extensive tour gave indications that LISIEUX was free.

During the morning and following on a night of heavy arty. activity our guns continued to stonk high ground east of LISIEUX.

At 12:30 hrs. Enemy still seems intent on holding P. 132, 595787.

Zero hr to be 1400 hrs.

At 1453 hrs "A" Coy were on the S.L. and Tac at 537875.

At 1503 hrs. Fwd. Coys were at 549875.

At 1530 hrs. "B" Coy approaching 553876 rd. is obstructed by trees felled by shelling.

At 1554 hrs "B" Coy at 553876 and still progressing meeting little opposition.

At 1544 hrs. 20 POWs collected and being sent in.

At 1611 hrs. Fwd. Coys are at 557877.

At 1616 hrs request from Brigadier to push on to 560877 if possible.

At 1640 hrs. 2 enemy tanks advancing on fwd. Coys and being engaged.

At 1650 hrs. The northern part of LISIEUX is not yet clear and the pocket here should be cleared.

At 1709 hrs. 1/6th Bn. to send Coy to deal with these request C.O. to Bde.

At 1821 hrs Norfolk Yeomanry report Mk. IV brewed up at 357876.

At 1825 hrs. Our fwd. Coys held by enemy but no counterattack coming in.

At 1847 hrs. All quiet in our forward areas but arty. is active on enemy to front.

At 1955 hrs. Enemy with bazookas reported creeping north at 544867. Later shot up by Carriers and Tks.

At 2015 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moved 2543876 centre of Coy area.

At 2100 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moved to 546875.

Casualties, 3 x O.R's killed. Major B.C. O'BRIEN and Lt. A.L. TREWBY and 12 O.R's wounded.

Report on 2nd Day of the Battle for LISIEUX.

The battle was resumed with a slightly different plan. 51st Div. the Gordon's were to clear the town as far as the 537 easting and we were then to pass through them. It was not possible to obtain a clear picture of what actually had happened even at the time the Bn. moved off but in fact it was discovered when we actually reach the area that it was not entirely clear although the Gordon's had cleared most of it suffering heavy casualties while doing so.

The approach to the start line was made at first without incident although the tank which was boldly leading the advance took the wrong turning and unfortunately was brewed up by an 88mm.

"A" Coy who were following were reassured by the explanation given by the I.O. in all certainty that the tank was laying smoke to cover itself.

The noise of the 88mm had being covered by the noise of the machine gun from the 2nd tank which was machine gunning an empty house. The C.O. who had been travelling in his Dingo just behind the leading tank alone knew what had actually happened and he issued orders that we were to retrace our steps a short distance and go by the route as originally ordered.

On returning to the road fork the 3rd tank in the troop was seen to the great amazement of all to be heavily machine gunning the piles of rubble which held a large number of Highlanders it was found impossible to stop this fire until the I.O. climbed onto the turret and seized the Tk. Comdr. by his ears at the same time addressing him in terms about which there could be no doubt. Fortunately, no casualties were inflicted. On taking the right route "A" Coy reached the S.L. without further incident apart from discovering a Gordon who had been captured by the Germans, had escaped and had been shot in the back. He had been laying there for four hrs. and intended to write to Sir James Grigg about it. "A" Coy pushed on and were immediately followed by "B" Coy progress being without incident except that 20 POWs were taken ? was unfortunately wounded by our own shellfire.

Meanwhile it had been unable to follow owing to difficulties of terrain and had to carry out a recce to find a way round. They were unsuccessful in this and pushing fwd. to join the Inf. when the latter said they had met enemy tanks and 20 to 30 infantry. Casualties were caused to our troops and one. (a page seems to be missing)

Recommendation for the award of the M.M. to 14217650 Pte. HYDE P.

At LISIEUX on the 23rd August 1944 Pte. HYDE's Pln. was ordered during an attack to go forward to deal with some infantry supported by a Mk. IV tank that were counter attacking he's Coy. At the time that the Pln. was sent on this mission the supporting tanks had been unable owing to the ground to keep up with the infantry so the Pln. was forced to engage both tank and infantry without any supporting arms. Pte. HYDE was no. 1 on the Bren gun and took up a position on the line of advance of the tank and engaged it at very short range, he continued to fire at the tank blinding the tank and causing it to "close down" so enabling our supporting tanks on arrival to manoeuvre to a flank and destroy it. At the beginning of this action Pte. HYDE was wounded in the ankle by a bullet from the approaching tank but this wound he entirely ignored. This soldier's courage in the face of vastly superior firepower was a great example to the other men in his Pln. and undoubtedly he was to a very great extent responsible for the destruction of the enemy tank.

Recommendation for the award of the DCM 23782716 Pte. PILKINGTON J.

At LISIEUX on the 23rd August 1944 Pte. PILKINGTON'S Pln. was ordered during an attack to go forward to deal with some infantry supported by a Mk. IV tank that were counter attacking his Coy.

At the time that the Pln. was sent on this mission the supporting tanks had been unable owing to the ground to keep up with the infantry so the Pln. was forced to engage both tank and infantry without any supporting arms. Pte. PILKINGTON was no. 1 on a Bren gun and took up a position on the line of advance of the Mk. IV tank, he was wounded in the feet, this wound he paid no attention to whatsoever and continued to bring fire to bear on the tank, shortly after this he was seen to slump over the gun by his Pln. commander and it was later discovered that his shoulder had been shattered by a burst from the enemy tank.

The Pln. Comdrs attention was again drawn to Pte. PILKINGTON by hearing the Bren open fire again, he saw that Pte. PILKINGTON had come round and had once more opened fire on the Mk. IV and continued to do so until his ammunition had been exhausted he then sent back for more completely ignoring his numerous wounds. This Ptes. gallant action had complete disregard for his own personal safety playing a big part in enabling his Pln. to carry out its role which was to deal with this enemy counterattack.

Although he must have been in great pain from his wounds he continued to do the he's duty as a soldier when many a braver man would have failed.

24th Aug. Thursday (D+79).

Patrols night 23/24th from midnight to 0330 hrs were as follows:-

1. To 552875 to x rds. 557869 heard enemy Met. at 556870 & to S.
2. North of rd. to x tracks at 553877 where contact was made with enemy so that patrol was unable to proceed on to CHAMPAGNE.

At 0945 hrs. patrol to 546879 to 554882 (CHAMPAGNE) cancelled as friends had found this area clear.

At 1030 hrs. fwd. Coys approaching 553876 & at 1125 hrs. reported clear.

At 1200 hrs. 2 POWs of 731 Regt. 711 Div. say their Regt. Has withdrawn 20 kms to an unknown to (them) destination.

At 1206 hrs. Carriers have met friends at 573899.

At 1225 hrs. "A" Coy report 2 unidentified Armd. Vehicles on their left flank (later confirmed as our Tks).

At 1235 hrs. Tac. Bn. HQ moved to 560877.

At 1310 hrs. Tac. Bn. HQ moved to 578874.

At 1355 hrs. Locations, "A" Coy 585875, "B" Coy 584873, "D" Coy 583874, Mortars 579873.

At 1740 hrs. Main Bn. HQ at 560899.

At 1745 hrs. 2 x POWs of 989 Regt. 277 Div. brought in.

Maj. D.A. GRANT MC transferred from "C" to "H" Coy.

25th Aug. Friday (D+80). At 0830 hrs. Bn. moves via x rds. 703863 to x rds. 717891 to x rds. 763902 to GIVERVILLE 7891 (arrived 1040 hrs).

Locations:- Tac. Bn. HQ at 789911, "A" Coy 790911, "B" Coy 788913, "D" Coy 790911, Carriers, Mortars & A/Tk. 791912, Main Bn. HQ at 788912.

At 1130 hrs. Bn. reports to Bde. as all neat & tidy.

At last light a stray enemy Tk. Fired a few shells into Bn. area & set on fire the Mayors house. At the same time there was some enemy air activity in area of our Bridgehead over the R. RISLE at BRIONNE.

26th Aug. Saturday (D+81).

At 0730 hrs. Bn. moved via SAINT-GEORGES-DU-VIÈVRE to PONT-AUTHOU to BONNEVILLE-APTOT (arrived 0850 hrs).

Locations, Tac Bn. HQ at 926967, "A" Coy 925968, "B" Coy 933966, "D" Coy 927968, A2 831148.

At 1000 hrs. Enemy reported in near locality and orders consequently given to dig in.

12 POWs of 331 Div. Faher? in Bn. HQ area.

At 1018 hrs Bn. all neat and tidy.

By 2000 hrs Bn. moved to form a firm base around PONT-AUTHOU. Locations main Bn. HQ at 893961, "A" 899963, "B" 898954, "D" 905961, Carriers 2 at 914963, 2 at 881953, Mortars 888956, A/Tks 898954.

- 27th Aug. Sunday (D+82).
At 0630 hrs. Bn. moves to conc. area in sq. 8397.
At 0810 hrs. Bn. neat & tidy.
Locations, Bn. HQ 841977, "A" Coy 841977, "B" Coy 840977, "D" Coy 846977, Carriers, Mortars, A/Tks. 842978, A2 819952.
At 1230 hrs. Warning order received, to move from S.P. at 827982 to MONTFORT SUR RISLE to conc. area in sq. 8505.
At 1430 hrs. Bn. moved via SAINT-GEORGES-DU-VIÈVRE to S.P.
At 1600 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ arrives at 853050, "A" Coy, 853053, "B" 852050, "D" Coy 853052, Mortars & A/Tks. 851054, Main BN. HQ 853052.
At 1900 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moves & arrives at 2000 hrs. at 844118. "A" Coy 843124, "B" Coy 847124, "D" Coy 848128. (Reported neat & tidy at 1030 hrs).
At 2100 hrs. "A" Coy report that M.G. fire in front is preventing them from getting into posn. 2 large groups of POWs were brought in making a total of 77. This included a complete Heavy Mortar sect. of 711 Div. with all their equipment.
Lt. Col. J.H. FREELAND assumes Comd. of Bn.
Reinforcements, 3 officers (Maj. G. BALL, Capt. J. EVANS, Lt. T.C.V. DAY and 85 x O.R's received & posted (A – 27, C – 6, D – 24 H – 28).
- 28th Aug. Monday (D+83).
At 0830 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moves via BONNEVILLE-APTOT 8412 to 855119, "D" Coy remained in location near BONNEVILLE "B" & "A" Coys had 3 tasks to perform namely to clear village of LA HAYE AUBREE, LES QUESNEY & Les MONTS DE CAUX.
At 0830 hrs. "B" Coy reported wood at 860120 clear.
At 0840 hrs. Mortars at 858118.
At 1045 hrs. "B" Coy are at LA HAYE AUBREE.
At 1059 hrs. Civilians report many enemy returned to approx. 2 miles N. of LA HAYE AUBREE.
At 1210 hrs. Civilians report 100 Germans no Tks. or guns but with M.G's.
At 1215 hrs. "B" Coy are some 400 yds. from LES QUESNEY.
At 1230 hrs. Our operation called off by Bde. All fwd. elements to conc. on rd. near Tac Bn. HQ "D" Coy to move direct to Main Bn. HQ at 853152 & join column there, the whole going to area 84978498. POWs taken during day totalled 28 (of 711 Div. 272 Div. &).
At 1430 hrs. Bn. moved and proceeding via MONTFORT SUR RISLE to 845982 arriving at 1535 hrs. "A" Coy 841976, "B" Coy 840976, "D" Coy 841976, Mortars 846978, Carriers 847978, A/Tks. 847978.
- 29th Aug. Tuesday (D+84).
At 1915 hrs. Bn. moved via SAINT-GEORGES-DU-VIÈVRE 8096, PONT-AUTHOU 8895, BRIONNE 8989, LE NEUBOURG 0284, to QUITTEBEUF 0978.
Locations, Bn. HQ at 097785, "A", "B" & "D" Coys, Carriers & Mortars in ECAMBOSC, 089792, A/Tks. at 095785.
Reinforcements, Lt. E.A. CRUSE & Lt. F.F. NEWCOMBE & 11 x O.R's received & posted.
- 30th Aug. Wednesday (D+85).
16 Reinforcements, (O.R's) all to "D" Coy.
- 31st Aug. Thursday (D+86).
At 0650 hrs. Bn. moved.
At 0700 hrs. Bn. crossed S.P. at 128769.

At 0750 hrs. (Slidex) to all Coys Route from x rds. 128769 to rd. junction 645177 to named BOTTLE.
Thereafter route to named MOON.
At 0800 hrs. Bn. at rd. junc. 226827.
At 0845 hrs. Bn. at CAILLY BRIDGE.
At 0910 hrs. 1/6th report at 278850 there is a serious hold up which will necessitate a diversion.
At 1045 hrs. Diverted to 291847 to rejoin centre line at 275858.
At 1150 hrs. Bn. stopped at 310865.
At 1200 hrs. Change of route – C.O. reports we shall be crossing river at PONT ANDELYS 3990 & not as previously ordered at 3118.
At 1250 hrs. Bn. at PONT ANDELYS.
At 1310 hrs. Scatter party leaves for 452952.
At 1320 hrs. Fwd. Tks. of 22 Armd. Bde. are nearing GOURNAY-EN-BRAY.
At 1322 hrs. 1/6th are at 456956.
At 1355 hrs. Bn. arrived at 436935 & concentrated closely in that area.
At 1546 hrs. At 1600 hrs. 1/6th will move & 1/5th will first allow Bde. to pass through (from 440910) before moving.
At 1630 hrs. A subunit requested for a job at 6623.
At 1645 hrs. “B” Coy are to go on this, leave at once their posn. On route will not make any change of order.
At 1710 hrs. “B” Coy held up en route by other traffic.
At 1840 hrs. Bde. informs us we shall spend the night just short of bound “SNELGROVE” (GRIEMSNIL?) 6430 probably a NEUVILLETTE.
At 1955 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ passes through GOURNAY EN BRAY 6515.
At 2310 hrs. Bn. conc. in area of Haussez? 6227. Location, Bn HQ at 622270.

Comdg. Officers,

1/8/44 to 8/8/44

Lt. Col. J.B. Ashworth,

8/8/44 to 17/8/44

Maj. B.E.L. Burton,

17/8/44 to 27/8/44

Maj. H. Nangle,

27/8/44 to 31/8/44

Lt. Col. I.H. Freeland.