

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

June 1944

- 1st June. Thursday. Finals of Camp Sports held.
- 2nd June. Friday. Blank.
- 3rd June. Saturday. M.T. party move off for Tilbury docks staying at Warley Barracks for night.
- 4th June. Sunday. First flight proceeds by transport to TILBURY docks and by 0900 hrs. boarded M.V. LEOPOLDVILLE, later moved down to SHELLHAVEN to fuel.
M.T. party proceeds to TILBURY docks and boards ship.
- 5th June. Monday. M.V. LEOPOLDVILLE joins convoy off SOUTHEND (inside boom).
M.T. 24 joins convoy off SOUTHEND during evening (inside boom).
- 6th June. Tuesday. (D DAY). M.V. LEOPOLDVILLE sets sail in convoy at 1100 hrs. passing through STRAITS of DOVER at 1700 hrs. where slight enemy shell fire was encountered causing no damage, escort laying an effective smokescreen.
- 7th June. Wednesday. (D+1) At 0400 hrs. MV LEOPOLDVILLE anchors off Portsmouth and leaves again at 2400 hrs. in convoy.
M T 24 leaves SOUTHEND in transport convoy, at first light passing the Straits of Dover at 1100 hrs. slight enemy shelling being encountered.
- 8th June. Thursday. (D+2) MV LEOPOLDVILLE arrives off French coast at 0600 hrs.
At 1430 hrs. Bn. commences to offload and landed at T 919869, troops then marching via VER SUR MER and ? to concentration area at X roads 802822 there meeting advance party.
Bn. HQ at 801822, "H" Coy 802822, "A" Coy 798823, "B" Coy 796808, "C" Coy 798816, "D" Coy 795808.
Slight enemy aerial Activity during night.
M.T. 24 arrives off French coast at midday approx. but no transport was unloaded.
The landing conditions varied very much from 18" to nearly 4'9", the smallest member of the I Section being 4'9½ only just made it.
- 9th June. Friday, (D+3) 3 POWs brought in (2 by "C" Coy 1 by A/Tks. from 726 Inf. Regt. 716 Div.
M.T. party commences to arrive in camp during day inc. C.O.
Rest of advance party arrive in their convoy one ship having been sunk by shell fire as it came through Straights. 2nd flight leave DIDLINGTON u/c Lt. SLADE.
- 10th June. Saturday. (D + 4). All M.T. party arrive during day including I.O. show the Bn was able to resume Contact with the rest of the "I" World.
2nd Flight arrive at PURFLEET.
- 11th June. Sunday. (D + 5). Maps 1/100,000 Sh 7 F, 1/50,000, Sh 7 E 5, 7 F1, 7F3. 1/25,000 Sh 37/16 N.W. 37/16 S.W.
At 0700 hrs Bn. moves via BAYEUX along TILLY SUR SEULLES Rd.
At 0900 hrs. Bn established locations B.H.Q 819743, "H" Coy 821744, "A" Coy 825748, "B" Coy 822742, "C" Coy 815742, "D" Coy 826744. Also 131 Bde. 810749, 1/6th Queen's 823748, 1/7th Queen's 805761.
7 Enemy stragglers captured in wood at 8172 identified as 30 Mobile Bde.

At 0900 hrs 1 Sqn. of 4 C.L.Y. and 2nd Gloucester's attacked PONTE de GUILLETTE 834965.

At 1130 hrs locations Essex and 8th H. at BERNIER BOCAGE 796704.

4 C.L.Y. at MARCEL 829693, establish a crossing here.

2nd Gloucester's at BUCÈELS 830702.

8 Armd. Bde. proceeding from SAINT PIERRE to FONTENAY 8769.

Some POWs taken from 12 SS Panzer Div. and Lehr Div. including many foreign elements.

Bounds in fwd. ? were "SALMON" road LINGÈVRES to TILLY

"PERCH Rd HOTTOT to JUVIGNY.

"APPLE" Track 843650 to VENDES.

"PEAR" track 835625 to MONTON.

"LEMON" road at 850598.

At 1730 hrs. Gloucester's on outskirts of TILLY continuing advance behind heavy barrage, CHURCHILLS were in support.

At 1800 hrs TILLY captured and advance approaching "PERCH"

At 1830 hrs. Arty. affectively engaged enemy tps concentration in HOTTOT 8265 and in wood 8766.

At 2130 hrs enemy infiltrated into Tilly.

Contact was made with a sect. of the 9 D.L.I. who had knocked out a Mk 4 with a P.I.A.T.

The Gloucester's during the daytime got a foothold in TILLY and twice were driven out by Tks.

including some Tigers owing to inability to get Tks. and M10's into the town in time. Another Mk 4 fell to a P.I.A.T while in there.

12th June. Monday. (D+6) Bn. marched at 0245 hrs.

At 0500 hrs. Locations – B.H.Q. 834695.

B, D & A Coys advance in order down track running S.W. from X rds. at 834695 "B" Coy taking left hand track at 832693 & proceeding due South, "D" & "A" Coys follow & fan out East at 832691 then curving South.

Bounds given were, 1. Rd running due west from TILLY

2. Rd. running S.W. from TILLY.

Enemy locations – Glouc's. Patrol of 11-12 suspect L.M.G's at 834688, 834686, 835685 & 838683 with 1 x 88mm at 830683.

0625 hrs. "B" Coy reach 832691.

0645 hrs. Fwd. Coys of 1/6th Queen's at 811706 & 814707 held up on Left flank reporting at 812693 Flame Throwers & Mk VI's.

0720. L.M.G's firing on "B" Coy from 828678.

0725 hrs. "D" Coy at 834693 and contacting "B" Coy.

0709 hrs. "B" Coy at 833686 had to retire from house later through 1 MG fire.

0750 hrs. "B" Coy report presence of enemy tk., partly detailed to deal with it.

0900 hrs. 8 Armd. Bde. on left flank not past road 845686 to 882696 strongly held.

0910 hrs. 1/7th B.H.Q at 815762.1/6th Bn. at 812707.

0921 hrs. 2 Fwd. Plns at 833689 and 2 Plns at 834691 and 835692.

0921 hrs. "D" Coy, fwd. Pln. at 835689, 2 Plns at 8346191 & 835692.

0921 hrs. 3 x 88mm at 830688, 838685 and 836686, later another at 822695.

0945 hrs. "C" Coy being sent round on right.

10 04 hrs. Having trouble with Spandau's at 833686. 11 Pln. had to retire after nearly reaching house "B" Coy 1 O.R. wounded.

1039 hrs. Recce patrol of "C" Coy to recce gun at 822695.

1220 hrs. House at 832685 possibly contains 4 X L.M.G's.

1230 hrs. "C" Coy recce patrol report meeting L.M.G fire at 830698 Sniping from 828692 and & evidence of our occupation recently of farmhouse at 824694 also Mk IV destroyed and field gun damaged nearby, no sign of 88mm they went to locate.

Lt. F. WHITEHOUSE occupied this house as or to be more correct a block of houses around a courtyard but the Germans with small parties of at least 4 Spandaus had withdrawn and proceeded to play a game of modified "hide and seek" both? our men entrenched amongst the hedges and ditches in extremely close country. As occupation of the house seemed useless in that a large number of men who could not get fwd. owing to the presence of the aforementioned Spandau's, so the pln. was withdrawn undercover of Arty. smoke.

At about 12:30 a plan was made to cut off the house with smoke while the Tks. with a Coy close support moved up to clean it up an once again. This plan was about to be put into operation when a Mk. IV firing from the wood scored a direct hit on the turret of the troop Comdrs Cromwell wounding the troop Comdr. severely. Lt. Peter HALIFAX of the 65th A/Tk. Regt. was helping to extricate the wounded officer when the Mk. IV engaged Lt. HALIFAX raced across the open climbed into his M10 and engaged the Mk IV and brewed it up with the 3rd shot. A half tracked vehicle following it was also brewed up.

Casualties, 5 O.R's wounded.

Reinforcements, 1 Officer Lt. D.C. SADLER, 23 O.R's received.

At 1310 hrs. French civilian report large number of Germans in woods between TILLY and JUVIGNY.

At 1315 hrs. Mk 5 special brewed up by M10 at 834686.

At 1320 hrs. All Coys to stand fast and form defensive posts East of house at 833686.

At 1330 hrs. "O" Group.

At 1400 hrs. "C" Coy relieve "B" Coy.

At 1500 hrs. Enemy opposite Glouc's. Identified as Lehr Arty. Regt. (130).

At 1740 hrs. 1/6th Coy Locations, 811705, 815705, 811669 & 811709.

From 2145 hrs. Bn. To retire to concentration area along rd. from x rds. 821726 to FOLLEOTT? Following upon a decision by Corps Comdr. To switch 7 Armd. Div. to reinforce U.S. drive South to CAUMONT and reach VILLERS BOCAGE by this route.

Locations B.H.Q 821775, "A", "B", "C", "D" and "H" Coys in following areas respectively. 825724, 818725, 824729, 818729 and 818724.

2nd Flight u/c Capt. P.N.P. PLUNKETT sailed during afternoon from West India docks.

13th June. Tuesday. (D + 7). Bn. moved at 0520 hrs. and proceeded via ARGANCHY 750759, SAINT-PAUL-DU-VERNAY 742701 and SAINTE-HONORINE-DE-DUCY 730652.

The advance party composed of the C.O. with the Bn "O" Group, preceded by a sect. of Carriers for protection purposes moved off at 0300 hrs., and by means of some brilliant map reading on the part of Capt. TWEEDY in the pitch dark reached the RV at 734620 without incident except that the remainder of the Bde Recce Group was not at the start point.

(It subsequently transpired that they were caught by the Echelon of 22nd Armd. Bde. Who were given priority in the use of the rds.).

After waiting for nearly 2 hrs. Coy posn. were received without further orders from the Brigadier and then it only required the rest of the Bn. to arrive for the firm base to be completed.

There were further delays before the remainder of the Carriers, the A/Tk. Guns and one T.C.V. load of Inf. arrived to report that the rest of the Bn. was hopelessly blocked some distance back. A report from one Carrier (rear, sent out as a protective screen) that it was being fired on by enemy tanks, caused a hurried message to be sent back to the Bn. to debus and move fwd. in order to protect the A/Tk Guns (The message reached them sitting in their vehicles about 2 miles back surrounded by 5 R.T.R. B Echelon and being strafed by Marauders which fortunately caused no casualties.

Early morning CAUMONT occupied by U.S. forces.

At 0830 hrs. Enemy Tks. at 735624, at 753639, 1 A/Tk. gun at 755637, 1 gun firing West (& being dealt with) at 770626 road mined and at 778608 an A/Tks. block with mines.

At 0856. at 774633 2x S.P. guns moving S.
At 0900 hrs. Location B.H.Q. 728632.
At 1145 hrs. Bn HQ at 734620, "H" Coy 734621, Coy 737621, "B" Coy 734619, "C" Coy 733619 and "D" Coy 736619.
1150 hrs. Location 1/6th Queen's 748637.
At 1230 hrs. Carriers recce report pocket of resistance at 706623.
At 1250 hrs. 24x S.P. guns moving S from 769694 also enemy Tks. moving north on the same road.
At 1448 hrs. Friends patrolling to area 83668061.
At 1515 hrs. Bn moved via X roads 732617, 742594 2 Saint Germain 775579.
Locations. Bn HQ 782580, Coy 783576, "B" Coy 776578, "C" Coy 784577, "D" Coy 785582 "H" Coy.
1/6th Queen's at 747636, 1/7th Queen's at 783579, 22 Armd. Bde. At 693578.
At 1638. Hrs. Enemy M.G. Coy at 736615.
At 1617. 1 Mk 4 and some Inf. at 786575.
At 1635. 1 Mk 4 & 1 Mk 5 S.W. at 806595.
At 1650. hrs. 1 Mk 6 and some inf. at 785574.
At 1705 hrs. 8th Hussars report roads mined, A/Tk gun at 776590, 4 at 770570, 8 met and 2 Tks at 730534.
At 1730 hrs. Heavies are putting down a barrage on 7856 friends on right reported at 718585 about 60 Inf. and 2 Mortars.
At 1936 hrs. Inf. being engaged at 789585.
At 2018 hrs. Enemy still infiltrating towards 7459, one subunit is maintaining Contact.
Bn. moved at 0520 hrs. and proceeded via ARGANCHY 750759, SAINT-PAUL-DU-VERNAY 742701 and SAINTE-HONORINE-DE-DUCY 730652.
At 2025 hrs. Inf. at 745589, 1MG at 745586, 1MG and 12 men at 754596, one tank or SP camouflaged.
At 2045 hrs. US report five enemy tanks at 798598.
2055 hrs. friends on right extend to 723596.
At 2100 hrs. 11th H. report at 808588, five tanks Mk. V?
2nd Flight anchored off Southend.

14th June. Wednesday. (D + 8). At 0345 hrs. "B" Coy report patrol fired on by Sniper at AMAYO.
0440 hrs. At 785574 enemy tanks and Inf.
0615 hrs. Locations of 1/6th Fwd. Coys, 753589, 750617, and 750610.
Location of 131 Bde. 781578.
At 0730 hrs. fwd. Coys of 1 R.T.R. at 787583 with parties going to 772592, 740599 & 790579.
"B" Coy patrols pinned down by L.M.G. fire in area 780675, enemy thought to be this side of stream and infiltrating.
"B" Coy report big brew up at 776570.
At 1125 hrs. patrol report from "A" Coy village at 770578 clear. "C" Coy, Snipers at 785575 shot up, Spandau firing from 779575.
At 1130 hrs. 22 A.B. have prisoners from Lehr Pz Div. and report VILLERS BOCAGE area covered by 2 Pz. Div. plus 3 Para opposite CAUMONT.
1240 hrs. 4 CLY report in thick country at 776583 some Tks. 1/7th report Inf. moving S. at 792586.
At 1315 hrs. 1/6th patrol out S.E. of a Amayé.
At 1350 hrs. the standing patrol at Amayé is withdrawn and C Coy 1/6th Queen's takeover.
At 1402 hrs. 5 R.T.R. report Mk 5 or VI at 847590 which they are keeping an eye on.
At 1414 hrs. 1/7th make adjustment to their line necessitated by heavy Mortaring.
At 1416 hrs. 5 R.H.A. to engage these mortars at 800581.

At 1425 hrs. 5 RTR not to alter position despite 1/7th adjustment.

At 1527 hrs. 1/5th Carriers at 794581, N.T.R. Met friends there. Mortars at 774564.

At 1529 hrs. 2 Mk IV at 786558 moving S.W.

At 1630 hrs. enemy Mortars at LES MARAIS 785569 are being engaged by our Mortars.

At 1640 hrs. 3 R.H.A. report 50 Inf. our motors taken off previous target to engage this.

The commandos will move up in support of "B" Coy. "B" Coy stated however that the matter was in hand. Every weapon in the Coy firing at a rapid rate. Down to Coy had already started to move up to counterattack and the commandos was ordered to take over their former position. At this stage the morale of this party always high was further raised by the sight of Pte. Bartley the driver of the BHQ cooks truck ambling along with a rifle and an enormous pack under his left arm remarking as he did so the F..... won't get my bag anyhow. The I.O. in charge of this body reached "D" Coy area ahead of them to find it unoccupied except for a Cook's truck and undisturbed except by the whine of bullets as they passed overhead settled down to solve the problem of how to defend an area held by "D" Coy with 90 men with the 18 men at his disposal. The problem was still largely unsolved when "D" Coy was seen to be returning the general situation having been reported as well in hand. The attack was beaten off with comparatively light casualties total for the day were 6 killed, 2 missing 38 wounded mainly by means of the sterling support of the S.P. 25 pdrs firing over open sights at 400 yards range.

In at least one place the guns were firing so fast that the neighboring Inf. were called upon to help prime the shells in order to keep pace with the rapid rate of fire.

There was continual sniping throughout the day and one enemy was dealt with by an extremely competent R.H.A. driver in "C" Coy area who standing on top of the cab of his 3 tonner in a soft hat with no equipment fired three shots. At the third shot the enemy sniper was seen to fall through the branches of the tree he was using.

Although this attack was beaten off with comparative ease and there were plenty of supporting arms thanks, M10s, 25 pdrs etc. available immediately behind the 2 fwd. positions it was considered that the lines of supply had been stretched rather dangerously and there were no troops initially available to defend.

In view of this a short withdrawal was ordered to a former line. Although while this was carried out the roads were choked with M.T. the enemy made no attempt to interfere the withdrawal being covered by the 5 R.T.R. and the 8 Hussars with intensive bombing of VILLERS BOCAGE by the RAF as an extra safeguard.

At 1730 hrs. Inf. at 756576 moving N.W. engaged by R.B.

At 1735 hrs. 3 plus 5 R.H.A report various isolated tanks moving about our southern perimeter.

At 1955 hrs. Inf. and Armd. cars at 762565 moving up for attack and being engaged.

At 1958 hrs. 750 yards from "B" Coy a Mk 6 tank 5 R.H.A. engage this also reported by 8th Hussars later.

At 2013 hrs. 4.C.L.Y. report Tiger advancing at 768579 Amayé.

At 2020 hrs. Attack in full swing mainly on "A" & "B" Coy Fronts.

This attack developed suddenly and rapidly although it had appeared to be imminent all day. First reports said that "B" Coy had been overrun although a terrific volume of brand an rifle fire was coming from this area. A Coy reported that the enemy were infiltrating between "A" and "B" then they "A" were well rather thin on the ground so one troop of tanks and the BHQ come on go well moved to cover the gap. They then said the attack was under control so

At 2030 hrs. "A" Coy asked for assistance B.H.Q. personnel moved to their support; "D" Coy prepared to move to B.H.Q. for counterattack roll. 1 R.T.R. came to "A" Coy area to repel the attack led by two Tigers at 2045 hrs. they report one Tiger brewed up.

At 2048 hrs. 1/6th Bn. report fully committed some Inf. penetration.

At 2053 hrs. 22 Armd. Bde. worn 4 C.L.Y. to stand by to assist 1 R.T.R.

At 2056 hrs. 1/5th report to 22nd A.B. that they were holding everywhere and hope to push back and restore situation.

At 2100 hrs. 260 A/Tk Bty. report some Inf. infiltration at 80577 to deal with which 4 C.L.Y. are moved fwd. By 2100 hrs. this had restored the situation.

At 2119 hrs. 1/5th report to 22nd A.B. that situation is well in hand.

At 2126 hrs. 1/5th request "Stop D.F. Fire" (falling short & causing damage to us).

At 2140 hrs. Mortar reported at AMAYÉ church & some Sniping – 1 R.T.R. engaged.

At 2215 hrs. Bde. Sends message "Party seems to be over" I hope a good time was had by all.

Casualties, 46 O.R's Killed, 2 O.R's missing believed killed, 36 O.R's wounded, 2 Offs. Wounded (Capt. TWEEDIE & Lt. CHURCHILL).

2nd Flight land on beaches.

15th June. Thursday. (D+ 9) At 0030 hrs. Bn. Moved via BRIQUESSARD to LIVRY arriving 0200hrs.
Locations, Bn. HQ 742624, "A" Coy 750616, "B" Coy 747018, "D" Coy 745614, "C" Coy 741611.
At 0900 hrs. 50 Div. report 7768 & 7868 enemy withdrawal but Rearguard left.
At 0910 hrs. Location Tac Bde. 718643, 1/7th Queen's at 747636, 1/6th Queen's at 741596.
At 1002 hrs. Civilians report Tks. & S.P. guns at TORTEVAL.
At 1050 hrs. 200 enemy reported in houses S.W. of CANDON 771618 & small party in house at 762622.
At 1140 hrs. "A" Coy bring in 2 P.O.W's from house at 762622 – identified as 12 Coy 916 G.R. 352 Inf. Div.
At 1218 hrs. 748641 & 752644 clear of enemy.
At 1300 hrs. 4 Tigers at 750604.
At 1700 hrs. Patrols Locations, Carriers at 752602, 7577610 & 764615 & standing Patrol at 756618.
At 1730 hrs. 1/5th Queen's Carriers with Tks. at AMAYÉ-SUR-SEULLES. M10's in position between "C", "A" & "D" Coys & the stream.
At 1740 hrs. CAHAGNES village appears to be freely used by Germans, later to be combed.
At 1830 hrs. "B" Coy Patrol – N.T.R.
At 1915 hrs. U.S. Patrol contacted at 750604.
At 1945 hrs. 2 shells landed (Believed 25 pdrs.) in "B" Coy & caused 5 casualties.
At 2137 hrs. 1/6th Queen's report small Inf. Attack supported by Tank.
2nd Flight rejoined Bn.
Casualties, 5 O.R's wounded.
Reinforcements, 62 O.R's received & Capt. D.J. Barton.

Notes.

The Bn. was very much spread out in this area and the very close country made it difficult to make dispositions to guard entirely against infiltration.

L/Cpl. ESTIDE "A" Coy one of the "Fighting Spaniards" was sent with three men to arrest 2 Germans reported by a French civilian to be sleeping in his house. The I.O. profiting by the German classes arranged by the education officer while the Bn. was in VICO EQUENSE (ITALY) & on board HMS ? & HUNSTANTON camp S5 was able to write "Give yourself up as the English are here" on a piece of paper for L/Cpl. ESTIDE to use. This and a rifle shot through the window was effective and the 2 Germans one of them a sailor surrendered without further ado.

At 1100 hrs. that morning the I.O. with three members of the "I" section and 1 signaller went out on patrol and not without much trepidation. The patrol reached the X roads at 758621 without incident except that the I.O. found a silver Ronson cigarette lighter lying on the track marks of a tank and the tracks were followed in the hope that the lighter could be returned to its rightful owner but unfortunately without success. A post was established at 756619 by the 4 O.R's and food and a 30cwt. were later sent out to them. This was the first of a series of incidents in which

the Intelligence Sec. and the signals Sec. in particular and B.H.Q. personnel in general played its part of "Shock Troops".

The day was generally quiet and it was thought that the enemy had lost contact on this particular sector of the front although on 1/6th Queen's front there was a small attack in the evening.

7th ARMD DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMERY No. 5

Based on information received up to and incl. 2359 hrs. 15th June.

A. Operations.

Activity on our front was confined to the SAINT GERMAIN VILLERS rd. and was very slight. At the X rds. S. of CRANVILLE a road block formed by 2 knocked out Cromwell's was covered by an A/Tk gun. Two S.P's were reported in the same area, 3 Tigers at ANCTOVILLE 7760 and mines at 765668 and suspected mines at 767637. At last light there was some Activity further South on the line of the CAUMONT VILLERS road.

On the American front CAUMONT was slightly shelled all day, no doubt by the Bty. of 74 Arty. Regt. identified yesterday and tonight an attack, rather heavier than merely probing, developed all along our flanking Divs front.

Dispositions in this sector are as follows. On the left of 304 P.G.R. South of CAUMONT is 3 Bn. 5 Para Regt. A deserter from 1 Coy 304 P.G.R. reported that one Coy were in position 1 km N.W. of CAHAGNES 7356, 2 Coys W. of this place and 7 Coy E. 304 has already been stated to cover a front of 7 kms which makes the inter Regt. boundary S. of AMAYÉ. This tallies with POW taken on our front. The same deserter stated that Tks. of 2 PZ dev, all Panthers were coming by train and were expected in a week.

This was corroborated by another POW who had been told tanks were to be expected from Abbeville on rail flats in eight days.

A POW today told the Americans that 2 Bn. 30 4's attack was to have been followed by 1 Bn. but 1 Bn. we're pinned down by Arty. fire. This refers to the attack on us last night and proves that both P.G.R. were involved.

Addendum to 7 Armd. Div. Intelligence Summary No. 4.

Part one.

POW 2 O.R's from 3 Coy 2 PGR. FTN 23436. O.C. 1/2 Hptm BRANDTS S. OC 3/2 Oblt FLEINER. POW took part in attack 2000 hrs. d + 8 in a may 7757 area. were warned of attack only 10 minutes before it came off. Knew that all four Coys of one Bn. were in attack but had no knowledge of other Bn. or other PGR. Say each Coy had 3 Tigers in support. Several Tigers soon brewed.

Very heavy casualties caused by our Arty. concentration these 2 prisoners are still shell happy. When Coy began to retire owing to our fire Polish POW says he heard Oblt FLEINER remark 1 Bn. is no bloody use at all we need a lot more here to do any good.

Coy had no food on d + 8 and one meal on d + 7.

It is believed that enemy casualties last night were between 700 and 800.

16th June. Friday. (D+10)

At 0040 hrs. 1/6th Queen's to have priority for 4.2-inch Mortars.

At 0750 hrs. A small attack against 1/6th Queen's, enemy are forming in CAHAGNES and LE QUESNAY.

At 0830 hrs. Approx. 20 shells 88mm on area 741609.

At 0927 hrs. 4 X POWs from 5 Coy 304 P.G.R. of 2 Pz Div.

At 0949 hrs. Enemy moving on 1/6th Queen's posn.

At 1027 hrs. NORFOLK Yeo. (M10's) report Tiger K.O'd.

At 1033 hrs. 1/6th Queen's report cont. movement of enemy across Front, Left-hand units are engaging.

At 1116 hrs. Civilians report Germans in ANCTOVILLE 7760 across river at LOUNAY area 660613 (Inf. But no tanks).

At 1122 hrs. "D" Coy Patrol suffer 1 killed, 2 slightly wounded, 1 missing.

At 1127 hrs. "D" Coy report smoke shells in their area.

At 1210 hrs. "D" Coy Patrol report – Mortared from area 753596 S.A. fire at 759597 (1 Killed) – enemy withdrew & patrol found new Spandau posn. Following which came under M.G. fire from 2 posts 762597 & 766598. At 764603 road heavily swept by Bren.

At 1302 hrs. Bn. Of enemy Inf. With Tks. moving N. at 7662.

At 1358 hrs. 3 Tks. engaged at 743588.

At 1415 hrs. "B" Coy shelled by 105mm, no casualties.

At 1451 hrs. R.N.F. Heavy Mortar Pln. Location 735616.

At 1500 hrs. Typhoons to bomb CAHAGNES, Strafe 1/6th Queen's instead.

At 1502 hrs. Warning that 1/7th Patrol out from 1600-2199 hrs. will come back through "A" Coy. Patrol 758621-764616.

At 1530 hrs. "A" Coy Patrol Report – Enemy M.G. believed to be 200 yds. S.W. of 758610. Heavy tracked vehicles heard in LOUNAY. 2 Germans seen at 767608 with L.M.G., 2 others 200 yds. To S. at 766605. Mortars fire on our tps. M.G.'s at 758606 & from LES H? Vento fired on by Brens at LA VAUTRIE Bridge & also by Armd. Car in that area.

At 1610 hrs. Strong enemy patrol endeavouring to infiltrate through "A" Coy.

At 1630 hrs. 1 enemy tk. Firing at "A" Coy.

At 1641 hrs. Enemy Inf. In front of "C" Coy.

At 1652 hrs. Tiger Tk probably at 748612.

At 1729 hrs. Spandau moves from "A" Coy to "B" Coy area.

At 1700 hrs. "B" Patrol report – Snipers in first house on S.W. fringe of wood below D'EPINE 755608, also Arty. O.P. believed to be here. 200 yds. Due N. from this an A/Tk. Gun in posn. At 749604 had been moved. Bren fire came from left of wood over patrols heads. Several Germans seen moving down track S.W. from 747606.

At 1730 hrs. "D" Coy N.T.R.

At 1821 hrs. "B" Coy report enemy infiltrations between positions.

At 23 hrs. 1/7th Queen's warned enemy is working round to them.

At 1831 hrs. "A" Coy asked for D.F. 3 to stop.

At 1835 hrs. Mortar fire from between "A" & "B" Coys.

At 1840 hrs. "D" Coy report 4 men cut off in sunken rd. enemy disappear from this front.

At 1905 hrs. "B" Coy report enemy working round again towards 1/7th Queen's.

At 1910 hrs. 1/7th report Inf. & a tank on their front.

At 2037 hrs. Identification of P.O.W. at 744619 was 7 Coy 2 P.G.R.

At 2123 hrs. Some enemy in sunken rd. on their left front.

At 2145 hrs. 1/6th report some enemy movement in area 747594.

In view of the quiet on the day ? 3 lengthy patrols (all traces attached) were ordered by the C.O. in order to establish the presence of the enemy. These patrols as will be seen by the following accounts were full of incident.

"D" Coy. Lt CLARKE – Patrol had gone some short distance when it came under fire from Schmeisser at very close range and 1 of the patrol was badly wounded. Lt CLARKE withdrew his patrol a short distance reorganised and then crawled fwd. alone to recover the wounded man he found him and carried him back over the river to the rest of the patrol. The man was then found to be dead. The patrol then moved fwd. again and approached the posn. From flank to find that the enemy had withdrawn. On proceeding further, the patrol came under fire from Spandau and was also fired on by Brens. Patrol returned with 2 men wounded and it got another man missing. This man subsequently turned up. See note below re Whiskey.

"A" Coy. "A" Coy patrol sent out got missing man from "D" Coy as they were going out. His nerves being somewhat shaken by the ordeal of wandering about lost in front of our lines for nearly 2 hrs. he gave a somewhat colourful account of the ordeals of his patrol which cheered "A" Coy on their way. On the return of this patrol having suffered no casualties they reported being fired at by all types of German weapons (also once again Brens). The information brought back was detailed and subsequently proved to be 100% accurate. The patrol commander was considered to have earned a drink of Whiskey. Bottles I Patrol Commanders for the use of part of the G1098 of all I.O's.

"C" Coy Lt. THEARLE. In the early part of his patrol Lt. THEARLE and 2 of his men were pinned down by fire from a Spandau and got separated from the rest of the patrol. He eventually managed to crawl out of the line of fire of the Spandaus and was lying in a ditch along side a rd. when he heard 2 Germans walking boldly down the rd. followed pretty closely by a 75mm A/Tk. Gun towed by a halftrack vehicle. The crew of 6 proceeded to dismount unlimber and get the gun into Ation position. The situation grew tense when they began to cut portions of the hedge down for camouflage, but Lt. THEARLE was not observed. When this was completed Lt. THEARLE managed to AttrAt the attention of the other 2 members of his patrol and was giving them orders to join him in jumping out on to the rd. and seizing the gun and capturing the crew when continued bursts of L.M.G. (Bren) fire across the rd. caused the crew to limber up and drive away hastily. After more unpleasantness in the shape of Spandau and Mortar fire Lt. THEARLE returned safely to our lines.

See map below.

Late that night after A2 Echelon had been called upon to send fwd. every available man and the B.H.Q.

Commands had been sent out to man positions it was felt the Bn. Was still so stretched that the 2i/c went to Bde, H.Q. to ask for any help that might be forthcoming. In answer to his request a Squadron of Tks. was placed under command to be available at first light the following day.

The Bn. Suffered a serious loss when Maj. BORRETT (O.C. C Coy) was fatally wounded by a Snipers bullet. Maj. BORRETT had been with the Bn. For over 2 yrs., had been in succession M.T.O., 2i/c H.Q. Coy, Adjutant, O.C. "H" Coy, & finally O.C. "C" Coy. His never-failing cheerfulness, his conscientiousness and readiness to work hard over the smallest detail, his feeling for the welfare of his men made him an officer who will be sadly missed.

17th June. Saturday. (D+11)

At 0556 hrs. Sitrep - N.T.R. (sent to Bde.)

At 0845 At 750609 enemy Inf. Being engaged. 1 Mk. IV Tk. Static at 742589.

At 0908 hrs. Enemy Tk. S. of "C" Coy front.

At 0915 hrs. "B" Coy patrol going out.

At 0936 hrs. Concentrated shelling by 105mm of area 754615.

At 0937 hrs. "A" Coy asked for D.F. 4

At 0943 hrs. "A" Coy ask for D.F. 2 Southern half.
At 0949 hrs. "A" Coy report M10 engaging A.F.V. at 300 yds.
At 0956 hrs. Enemy shelling area 741613 (30).
At 1040 hrs. "B" Coy report enemy Standing Patrol believed to be at 756624.
At 1351 hrs. 1/6th Report Mk. IV Tk. Knocked out at 738545 1 at 746589 on fire.
At 1406 hrs. 2i/c asks for Air O.P.
At 1547 hrs. "A" Coy N.T.R.
At 1548 hrs. Enemy at 743607, our fwd. Coys retire to 741603.
At 1815 hrs. "B" Coy report small enemy party in house at 755624.
At 1930 hrs. Area 746613 being heavily shelled.
At 1946 hrs. 1/6th ask for D.F.
At 2010 hrs. Enemy break into BOIS DE BRIQUESSARD.
At 2020 hrs. 1/5th report enemy attack not so bad as first thought.
At 2030 hrs. Enemy reported thro Left Flank of 1/6 Queen's
At 2043 hrs. 1/6th Queen's are stabilising situation.
At 2100 hrs. "A" & "D" Coys split by Attack now joined again.
At 2103 hrs. "C" Coy report situation lighter.
At 2105 hrs. Capt. BARTON's Defence Pln. Of H.Q. Coy still in posn. On "C" Coy Left Flank.
At 2110 hrs. "B" Coy report 1 casualty thro Sniping.
At 2115 hrs. 1/6th report situation almost normal.

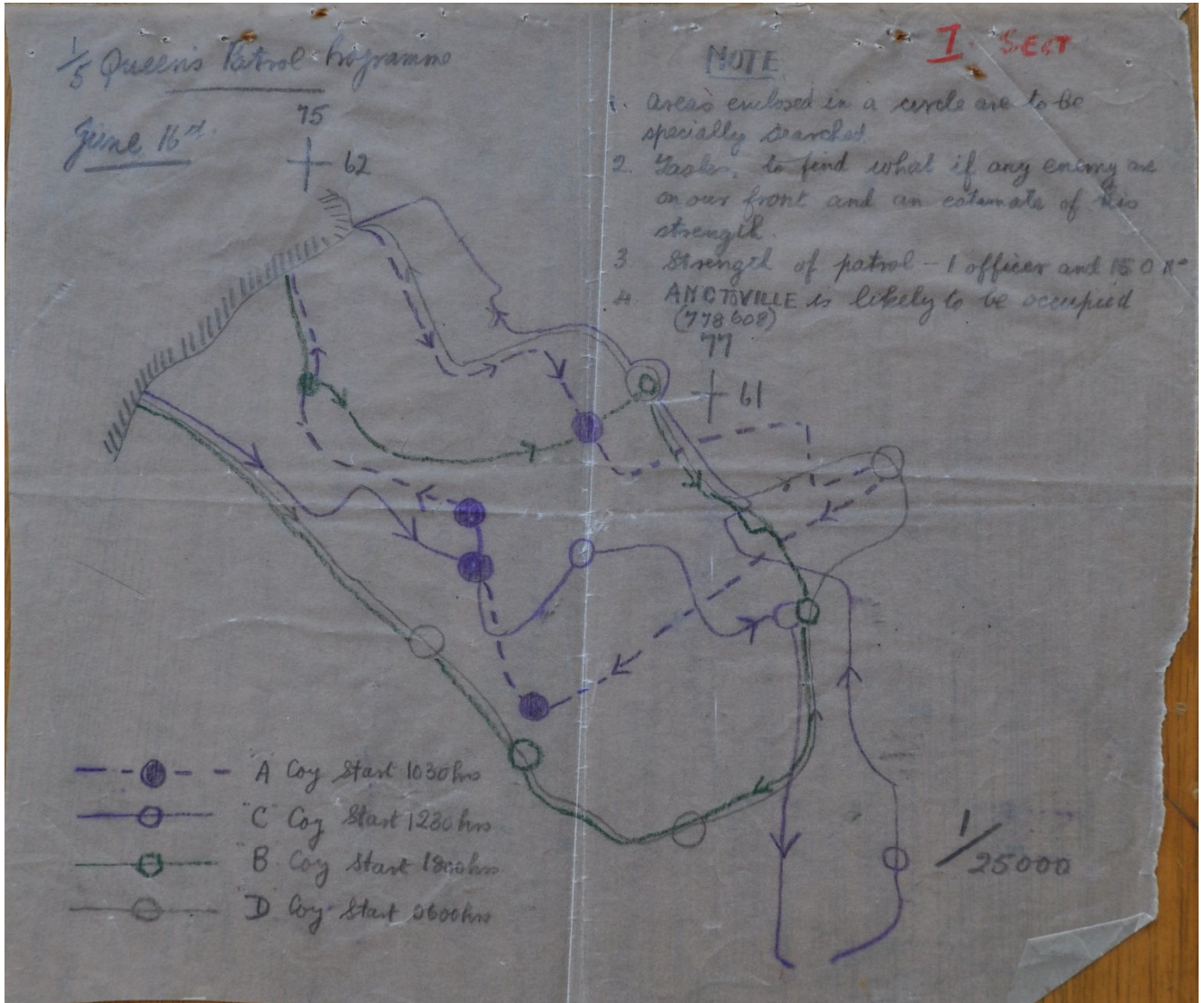
Casualties:- 1 x O.R. killed.
1 x Officer (Lt. THEARLE) & 11 O.R's wounded.
2 x O.R's returned from missing.

During the morning and early afternoon no. 13 Pln. of "C" Coy in particular was very heavily shelled and some casualties were caused. It was decided early in the day that the redistribution shown would take place at last light and the recce is carried out for this caused rumours to spread to much extent that when the 1/6th Queen's were attacked in the early evening unidentified personnel drove down the road through "C" Coy Lines spreading the story that a general withdrawal was taking place at that moment. Several members of 13 Pln. young boys of 19 who had not been in Action before and were rather shaken by the heavy shelling withdrew to their Coy H.Q. with the news that their Pln. had been overrun. Immediately two troops of Tks. together with the Carrier Pln. dismounted were dispatched to the scene. When nearly at the place where the enemy were suspected to be this force met 2 Sections of the Mortar Pln. who were Acting as Inf. in the "commands" and who seemed mildly surprised at all the excitement. Reaching the fwd. section position of 13 Pln. after extensive fire and movement or rather preparation for fire and movement since the fire part of it proved unnecessary, the I.O. leading the force was surprised and very much relieved to find Cpl. TAYLOR with his Sect. still in posn. together with Sgt. Boyd and his 6 pdr. While the fwd. O.P. at 738602 was in the process of being reestablished with much care the Brigadier sitting on top of his Dingo with a soft cap on moved past towards the enemy. To the surprise of all no shots were heard subsequently. No further large-scale incident occurred during the remainder of the day.

At last light a new distribution of the forces on our front was affected. It had been recognised that 131 Bde. had too much front to protect. Consequently 1/6th Queen's withdrew their fwd. positions slightly making the fwd. edge of Bois de Briquessard their fwd. Line the 1/7th were brought into the central Sect. covering the village of LIVRY the 1/5th front was short and on this Flank where "C" Coy had been overstretched and also on its Left Flank where the R.B's came into the Line filling in the area what had been an open flank. The gap between "C" Coy and 1/6th Queen's had been filled during the day by a scratch defence Pln. from Bn. H.Q. u/c Capt. D BARTON which with the assistance of 2 Cromwell's had been

detailed to clear the wood at 743606 of Snipers and to fill positions along the 2 sunken lanes leading off the road at 738603 and 739601. The Tks. silenced M.G.'s in the wood who did not further worry us. Throughout the day the heavy shelling by enemy prevented any exploitation of this, the fwd. Lines were however managed till the minor attack on the 1/6th Queen's in the evening made them untenable.

Re disposition on Bn. and Coys although above changes was slight locations became Bn. HQ 741615, "A" Coy 749617, "B" Coy 744618, "C" Coy 744615 (In reserve) and "D" Coy 743613. The day started with very heavy shelling 69 shells falling on Bn. H.Q. alone in one hr. 15 mins, it was felt that this was almost a breach of the Geneva Convention. The Bn. H.Q. Commands having returned to Bn. H.Q. owing to misunderstandings an order just had time for a quick wash and shave before it had to leave again on a new mission leaving their breakfast cooked but not eaten to follow later. The morale of this magnificent body was not however affected by this as subsequent operations showed. The highlight of the latter came when the tanks ask for very close Inf. protection while cleaning the Rd. Accordingly the "I" Sect. mounted the tanks which drove into the wood searching for the Snipers and M.G.'s known to be there and right into the thick of the heavy shelling brought down by their presence. Although the Tp. Comdr. was wounded the "I" Sect. were unwounded.



18th June. Sunday, (D+12)

At 0810 hrs. "A" & "B" Coys reported shelling of their area by friendly guns.

At 0825 hrs in area 741612 intermittent shelling by one or two enemy guns, some 25 shells falling.

At 0900 hrs. "B" Coy report bearing of 285 from 7466204 shelling by friendly guns 25 pdr.

At 0630 hrs. Location 1/7th 732617.

At 1100 to 1130 hrs. 1/6th report enemy Tks. and Inf. at 732594, A/Tk gun at 736597, Inf. digging in at 735595 (approx. 30).

At 1200 hrs. "A" Coy report enemy gun firing from 756612.

At 1216 hrs. 1/6th report enemy A.F.V. at X roads 740594.

At 1241 hrs. 1/7th report small enemy party being engaged.

At 1320 hrs. "D" Coy report patrol engaged Spandau at 743608, killing 1 enemy, 1 man of patrol missing.

At 1405 hrs. Enemy tracked vehicle and Inf. at 740599 being engaged.

At 1427 hrs. Considerable troop movement seen at 741599 Armd. Cars, Inf. and small Tks.

At 1440 hrs. The above reported to be 8 wheeled Armd. car Recce vehicle motorcycles small tanks and Inf. 30.

At 1510 hrs. 1 of enemy killed 2 Armd. cars retire into BRIQUESSARD.

At 1515 hrs. "A" Coy report S.A. Fire on 8 Pln. Front and request D.F. 2 and 3.

At 1825 hrs. "A" and "D" Coys report Mortar fire in their rear areas and call for D.F.3.

At 2055 hrs. Bde. report 50 Div. about to clear TILLY. R.A.F. to bomb Bois?.

At 2205 hrs. "B" Coy report 1 Mortar bomb in Coy HQ no casualties.

At 2235 hrs. "D" Coy patrol report 2 men digging at 750613, these hit believed killed. Patrol engaged by Spandau fire.

At 2240 hrs R.B. report enemy firing from wood 755630.

During whole afternoon very heavy shelling in area N. towards TILLY accompanied by many attacks by Typhoon rocket firing planes enemy put up considerable Flack.

Casualties 4 x O.R.'s killed.

6 x O.R.'s wounded.

1 x O.R. missing.

1 Officer Major Johnson (exhaustion).

A Section from BHQ reinforce 1 of "D" Coys fwd. positions for 24 Hrs and suffered with the Rifle Coys. The atrocious shelling and other harassing enemy activities which at this time were continuous throughout the 24 hrs. of the day.

Two of the men had to be evacuated at the end of the 24 Hrs suffering from shell shock.

Another Sect. from BHQ personnel relieved the first in the fwd. positions and during the day in which they were posted was even more tiring than the previous one, the sunken lane was first of all obviously registered and then there was a somewhat ominous silence. It was shelled heavily the following day by which time the Sect. had been withdrawn.

19th June. Monday. (D+13).

Strong N.E. wind, rained continuously all day.

At 0545 Hrs "D" Coy patrol reached BUQUET where it came under heavy fire.

At 0615 Hrs "B" Coy patrol reached 757612 LA VAUFRIE and was fired on, on its return.

At 1102 Hrs. 1/7th Queen's reported to us that they were sending a patrol to x roads 740610 S.E. along road to bridge 751603. Time out 1100 Hrs time in 1800 Hrs.

At 1320 Hrs. Civilians brought to Bn. HQ reported that the Germans were occupying a farmhouse at 759 627 and that some 200 to 300 Inf. were located from there in ditches and woods down to the LIVY - SAINT-GERMAIN-D'ECTOTAT road near the latter place.

At 1325 Hrs. Spandau reported firing at 763652, enemy on road leading N.E. to CRANVILLE. Roads in area 757640 are mined.

At 1430 Hrs. Friends at 767648 and 758645. At 766645 enemy at corner of road by building with M.G. Number not no.

At 1548 Hrs 1 R.T.R. report Inf. 200 plus S.E. of CRANVILLE which Tks confirm civilians report above. Also, S.P. gun N.W. of CRANVILLE.

At 1551 hrs. R.A. report 400 Inf. In wood at 759620 and will engage.

At 1630 Hrs. Bde. reports that at 1545 hrs. wood at east of road 8467 near TILLY holds 300 to 400 Inf.

At 1645 hrs. 1/7th Queen's warn us of recce patrol out 2300 Hrs in 1000 Hrs.

At 1650 hrs. Our patrols "A" - recce patrol leaving 2330 hrs. returning 0100 Hrs. 1. To see if houses at 753607 are occupied. 2. Watch for enemy movement. 3. Pinpoint any newly dug Mortar positions.

B. Out to cover wiring party to look for and pinpoint likely O.P's.

During night 18th 19th Coy dispositions as follows, "C" from reserve, relieve "B" what relieves "A" who go into reserve. This is now a rest area at 739618 and it was changed to here owing to stonk on previous area 744615 which killed Major ELLIOT.

Casualties: - One officer Major R. ELLIOTT and 2 O.R's killed.

3 x O.R's wounded.

Lt. A.J. SLADE, - exhaustion.

The death of Major ELLIOT killed instantly by a shell which hit a tree under which he was sitting was another shock to the Bn. after the one caused by the death of Maj. A.C.J. BORRETT. These two exemplified the spirit of Alamein, Tunis and Salerno in the Bn. in their refusal to be depressed by the blackest outlook. His care for his men was exemplary illuminated by the manner of his death. His Coy was resting and in view of the excessive strain under which he had been living he had been ordered by the C.O. to spend the day in the R.A.P. but he insisted on remaining in the Coy area to see that his men were all right. While there he was killed.

There are probably officers who are more competent than Major BORRETT and Major ELLIOT but there are very few who thought continuously of and worked as hard for the welfare of the men under their command.

Let this be their epitaph.

20th June. (D+14).

At 0600 hrs. "A" Coy patrol reports farmhouse was unoccupied at BUQUET, a truck came to the village from South and stayed approximate ½ hr. five enemy left building and headed West. Much Activity heard behind large wood at 753608.

At 0830 hrs. Locations reported, 1R.B. HQ at 747633, 1 Coy at 754636, "B" Coy at 751633 and "C" Coy at 748628, main Bde. at 726655.

At 1600 hrs sitrep from 50 Div. reported capture of TILLY by 2nd Essex and of HOTTOT by 231 Bde. after repulsing 2 coordinated attacks.

During day an "I" Sect. O.P. located approximately position for R.A. of 3 x 105mm which during day intermittently shelled our area their post being at 751616. At 1730 hrs they definitely transferred their attention to the O.P., the farmhouse was hit 3 times and again the most diminutive member of the "I" Sect. had a miraculous escape.

During night 19-20th "A" Coy had relieved "B" Coy at 749617 who took over from "D" Coy at 743613, "D" Coy going into rest area.

Message received from Lt. Gen. G.C. BUCKNALL GOC 30 Corps thanking all troops for present efforts and exhorting them to carry on without relaxing for next 10 critical days.

Casualties: -

1 x O.R. killed.

9 x O.R's wounded.

21st June. Wednesday. (D+15).

At 0600 hrs. Sitrep to Bde, Patrol to wood at 753614 heard working party which appeared to be driving in stakes cutting down bushes and trees, no sounds of digging (1/7 patrol confirmed these noises).

At 0630 hrs. BUQUET reported clear of enemy.

At 0900 hrs. Message sent to 1 R.B. asking for permission to stonk wood 757628 with 3" Mortars.

At 1005 hrs. O.P. (Which had transferred to nearby house at 749616) reported 75mm probably S.P. firing on bearing of 125° Mag.

At 1005 hrs. 1 R.B. report sending patrol to 755624 which contacted enemy, killing 1 when it withdrew, enemy strength in area estimated at 1 Pln. 3 Sect. post opened fire on R.B. patrol.

At 1030 hrs, "B" Patrol to BUQUET 750609 to check on report that this area was clear of enemy, I.O. 1015 hrs.

At 1030 hrs. "A" Coy Patrol from 752616 N.E. along wood to 754619 then turning S. to La VAUTRIE time out 1030 hrs.

At 1120 hrs. "D" Coy Patrol to BUQUET was fired on by Spandau's from 748609.

At 1549 hrs. "A" Coy report small enemy Mortar firing from corner of wood at 755615.

At 1630 hrs. Bde. Reported that 2 P.O.W's of 2 P.G.R. of 2 Pz Div. stated that an attack was being put in by their Regt. same time & place they did not know today. Later further information came through that an attack had been attempted on June 20th but it had broken down in its first stages owing to the Arty. Fire thrown down as they formed up.

At 2230 hrs. a 100% stand to was imposed till midnight following upon the above information but nothing came of it either on our front or on our immediate flanks.

During evening a patrol of 5 or 6 Typhons strafed with M.G. fire the area of the Bn. But only for a few minutes, no damage.

This occurred on June 22nd not 21st.

C.O. Reports personal message received from Div. Comdr. Of appreciation for past efforts & exhaustion to stick it out till with our mounting strength we can attack in a big way.

Casualties: - 1 O.R. wounded.

1 O.R. missing.

Reinforcements: - Lt. W. LINNARD "A" Coy T.O.S. from 1/6th Queen's

22nd June. Thursday (D+16)

At 0310 hrs. "C" Coy reported Bren gun fire & a white flare on their Left.

At 0945 hrs. Maj. Gen. G.W.E.J. ERSKINE DSO, CB, G.O.C. 7th Armd. Div. accompanied by Brig. M.S. EKINS visited Bn. area and spoke informally to many of the officers.

At 0545 hrs Bde. reported that friends on left had reported track movement N.E. to S. W. of their fwd. Coys.

At 0610 hrs. "C" Coy report that excavation of 2 unexploded shells gave measurements which indicate that they were 152mm Russian guns, this gun had been reported to be used by Pz. Lehr Div. 130 Arty. Regt. 12 x 15.2cm gun Howitzer.

At 10:30 hrs "A" Coy patrol report would 755615 clear of enemy.

At 1035 hrs. O.P. at 749616 reports Mortar firing in front of "B" Coy but unable momentarily to locate this also at 1000 hrs 75 MM fired 6 H.E. on bearing of 130° mag.

At 12:06 hrs. "A" Coy to provide standing patrol in wood at 755615 S.E. corner and to patrol S.E. side, friends were advised.

At 1235 hrs. "A" Coy report tank firing 1000 yds South of 752615, approx. at 755605. Mortars to put on stonk.

At 1350 hrs "B" Coy patrol from 744613 along S.E. hedgerow to track at 748608. At 74661 Cpl. LOTT left the 2 O.R's with him to investigate fwd. after about 200 yards a Spandau fired several burst from 748608. Acting on instructions the two men returned to report but not before making an abortive attempt to crawl fwd. to Cpl. LOTT's position.

Later Spandau at 746608 was engaged by 3" Mortars Cpl. LOTT did not return.

At 1510 hrs friends on left reported at 767664, 762662, 764657, 770653. Spandau's at 769647 being dealt with.

At 1920 hrs. Bde. location now 722649.

At 1930 hrs. 1/5th location reported as 744621?. This slight change to about 600 yards N.E. of old position was due to 1/7th Queen's taking over another Coy area namely that with HQ at 743613 occupied till change over by "B" Coy which took place at 1830 hrs when "B" Coy were transferred to a further rest area at 736624. This gave both 1/5th and 1/7th a 2 Coy front.

At 2033 hrs Bde. reported infantry D bussing at 758647 strength 1 Pln and enemy Mortar at 754648.

Casualties: - 1 OR missing.

Reinforcement:- Lt. E.A. CRUSE, ("A" Coy) Lt. F.L.S. CLOSE, ("B") Coy Lt. F NEWCOMBE, ("D" Coy) Lt. TREWBY, ("C") Coy, and 41 x O.R's.

23rd June. Friday. (D+17).

At 0507 & 0533 hrs. 1/6th & 1/7th Queen's N.T.R.

At 0821 hrs. 1 R.B. report road mined at 762637.

"B" Coy Patrol reports that owing to extensive wireless conversation by 1/7th regarding patrol it was decided to send out 3 men only to investigate area where Cpl. RONALD FRANCIS LOTT was missed, they were unsuccessful but confirmed presence of Spandau pit this area not occupied and showing traces of recent usage "C" Coy patrol report Spandau firing from S. of river engaged patrol when 50 yards N. of bridge at VAUTRIE. Houses showed no signs of occupation. Another M.G. firing from LA PERELLE S W engaged patrol at 757614. Truck heard to start up at approx. 758621 and head N.E. shouting in German heard from BEQUET it is interesting to note that "B" patrol did not hear this go in that area at time.

At 0840 hrs. O.P. at 749 616 report 6 H.E. Mortar rds. fired on bearing of 206° mag and at range of approx. 750 yards.

At 2100 hrs. "C" Coy to provide one Pln. guard for tanks.

Relief tonight our "C" Coy by "B" Coy and "A" by "D" Coy. "A" Coy briefed to provide patrol of 1 officer and six men to recce to outskirts of SAINT-GERMAIN-D'ECTOTAT.

P.O.W. captured by R.B. was from 2 Pz Div. Recce Unit 61 Recce Unit reached Cranville x roads at 768636 and found clear of enemy but wood to E. believed occupied.

At 2205 hrs. Bde. reported Mortar firing from 769634.

R.B. Patrol tonight along track 759634 to LA COUARDE S. then to 759624 & to 755624 from there N.W. to our Lines. ("A" and "C" Coy we're advised of this).

A bathing party preceded to BAYEUX at 1300 hrs and returned at 1800 hrs formed mainly of "B" Coy with some additions from Bn HQ making about 80 in all.

Cap. D.A. GRANT (w.e.f.) June 16th promoted A/Maj. and O.C. "C" Coy

Casualties: - Nil.
Lt. LINNARD to hospital

Reinforcements :- Major H.J NANGLE appointed O.C. "A" Coy.
Major E. Jeffrey appointed O.C. "B" Coy.

24th June. Saturday. (D+18).

At 0600 hrs. "A" Coy patrol 1 officer and 3 O.R's proceeded S. of Rd till it reached hedge immediately W. of sunken track heading to REVIELLE opposite position 755617. Heard small groups of Germans coming down road from SAINT GERMAIN and turning off to go to houses at La Pharrell? from whence came loud talking. Patrol withdrew slightly crossed road and made good progress to 755618 from where they heard sounds of pick and shovel in wood to N. at irregular intervals. Much Met. heard moving in and area.

At 1200 hrs. 1/6th reported standing patrol at 739606 and a recce patrol out 0900 hrs. from 736603, 737607 to 746606 lying up at 703604 till 1200 hrs.

At 1800 hrs. R.B. report their patrols are,

1. 755637-762637 at 762637 roadblocks mined, a derelict truck at 768637.
2. 755637-767637-762643 at 757637 many unoccupied slip trenches, sounds of digging at 757639. Voices at 759641, GRANVILLE clear of enemy.

At 1950-2000 hrs. O.P. at 749616 heard? sound bearing of gun firing at 100° mag.

2100 hrs. Sitrep 2 Coys reshuffle of Coy positions tonight, three up to one in reserve. "C" Coy to find patrol tonight. No change reported by 49 and 50 dims little activity in Bde. area.

At 2105 Hrs. 1/6th report 2 large columns of dust at 7448 probably transport. R.B's report standing patrol in houses at 755624 also patrol to 763637 to lay up till 0130 hrs. when after covering fire at 762637 by 5 R.H.A. 1 Coy will advance and fire Brens at block house.

A small number of ME 109s flew very low over Bn. area on way to own lines and fired a few bursts, our Brens replied despite the suddenness of their appearance, no damage inflicted either way.

Casualties Nil.

25th June. Sunday. (D+19).

At 0700 hrs. "C" Coy patrol report enemy post astride rd. at 755624. 2 men N. of rd. & another 2 men and suspected Spandau 50yds & 100yds respectively S. of the rd. along line of hedge.

At 0927 hrs. 49 Div. reach x rds. at JUVIGNY 8466.

At 1100 hrs. "B" Coy report patrol recce (1 Sgt. & 3 O.R's) out at 1145 hrs. to 753623-754622-747621. To rtn. At 1245 hrs.

At 1150 hrs. Bravo Coy sentry reports Germans at hedge junction 755618. All Coys were advised also Bde. & R.H.A.

At 1300 hrs. Sitrep to all Coys junctions of 50th and 49th Div. RAF destroyed 28 Met. yesterday. O.P. at 749616 locate very distinct fresh tracks on fields near BRIYERE 7957 not there previous day. Area to be stonked. Enemy at LA PERELLE identified on patrol as from I/2 P.G.R. and at LA BUQUET & LA VAUTRIE II/304 P.G.R.

At 1308 hrs. To Bde. Details sent of tracks seen by O.P.

Casualties:- Nil.

26th June. D + 20.

"C" Coy patrol saw and heard nothing in neighbourhood of LA PEROLLE.

Spandau fire heard at intervals from bar BUQUET Sect. 2 tracked vehicles heard approaching that area from S. and E.

At 0940 hrs. Short stonk of old B.H.Q. area by guns firing on bearing of 1690° mag from 749616.

At 11:05 hrs. one enemy gun at 764635 manhandled into wood there activity generally in area being seen to.

At 11:25 hrs at 763643 1 Mortar at 763644, 1 x A/Tk. gun on track.

At 1200 hrs. Green Howards report enemy thinning out on their front and pushing onto LE LION VERT.

At 1415 hrs. Coy patrol report booby trap encountered in hedge lining road at approximate 757619 one man wounded, wire seen stretching across field probably other traps. 2 Snipers and two Spandau's around 758617 Gunners to take action. Friends report Spandau at 7533623 firing S.W. R.B's patrol last night heard noises at farm 754623 and let a small recce party go out from there.

At 1855 hrs. Patrols for night 26/27th "A", "B" and "D" Coys each 1 Officer plus 3 O.R's from 2400 hrs to 0430 hrs. on route shown on trace "D" Coy to find if LA PÉRELLE is clear and secure P.O.W.

"A" Coy to lay up in area shown on trace as O, discover if enemy are present in LA PÉRELLE and secure P.O.W. if nothing seen or heard investigate LA PÉRELLE more closely.

"B" Coy investigate area in circle if no enemy there proceed to 2nd circle and repeat procedure and 80024 circle no. 3 secure P.O.W.

At 2145 hrs. R.B's report patrols going from 750629-756624 and 756636-764634 sitrep fwd. Bde. reports 8865 held(12 S.S. Pz. with 60 Tks.

Casualties:- 1 x O.R. killed.
2 x O.R's wounded.

27th June. Tuesday. (D+21).

From Bde. 2 Bn's. Guards Bde. at COLEVILLE 9265 and 1 Bn. in GRANVILLE 9064.

Patrols report. "B" Coy 1 German killed 1 possibly wounded at 756619.

"D" Coy enemy digging at hedge junction 755613.

An aerial photo of 24th shows digging at this point and a track across Meadow to it from BUQUET.

R.B's report patrols going from 749628 along track to buildings 75624 and from 756-6372 track junction 763634.

At 1100 hrs. 1/7th Patrol reported digging along hedgerow at 753607 to 756610.

Standing patrol at 743608 reported considerable enemy M.T. movement along track S.E. of posn. To tracks 752603.

At 1140 hrs. 5 E. Yorks patrol reports on route 772660 to LA POTERIE shot up 12 enemy, all believed killed & took 4 x P.O.W's.

Bde. Sitrep- 156 Bde. – TESSEL TRETTEVILLE?, 147 Bde. FONTENAY,

10 D.L.I. RAURAY.

Enemy Sqn. 8966 has been identified No. 4 Sqn. 3 Pz. Regt. 2 Pz. Div.

With heavy Met. Movement from CAHAGNES to VILLARS BOCAGE

2 Pz. Div. being relieved by Inf. Div. ? . Horse transport reported by 1/6th

Queen's 2 nights ago.

Patrols for night, "B" Coy to lay up in area shown on trace & secure a P.O.W. for identification.

"A" Coy – ditto.

"C" Coy – ditto in first area if nothing heard these to proceed to next area shown & repeat procedure.

All patrols of 1 Officer & 4 x O.R's T.O. 2400 hrs. T.I. 0430 hrs.

2200 hrs. Heavy vehicles movement E. ½ mile from fwd. posns. either track or wheeled – 765615 from "C" Coy.

2200 hrs. Tks. on right (15 (SS Div.) have crossed R. ODON at 927624 & 930627. Bridge at 930630 is intact at 2030 hrs. Armour was going through.

Patrol from "B" Coy led by Lt. F.L.S. CLOSE had a short interesting period of great excitement. The patrol Comdr. went through a gate in the hedge (there being there being no other gap) and immediately spotted a German sentry to his front about 150 yds. away. He froze in position on top of a bank with a ditch below him and while still there saw and heard 2 men walking along the ditch approaching him from his right. They wore cap comforters and carried their weapons slung and although Lt. CLOSE must have been clearly silhouetted did not see him until they were five yds. away when Lt. CLOSE rose up from his crouching position and said "put your hands up" they immediately turned and ran up the bank. Lt. CLOSE fired and hit one in the back he fell down and did not move again he fired at the other man as he disappeared into the corn and probably had wounded him. At that moment Spandau's opened up at Lt. CLOSE who rejoined the rest of his patrol and withdrew.

Casualties, 4 x O.R's wounded.

Reinforcements, Lt. G.H. BOND 2 a Coy and 21 x O.R's.

28th June. D plus 22).

"A" Coy patrol reports at hedge junction 754618 a German sentry spotted smoking cigarette and moving from tree to tree.

Suspected Mk. IV firing from 500 yds. Fwd. of 750615 at bearing of 175° mag.

At 0720 hrs. Bde. Report, 8 Corps sitrep, 227 Bde. A.S.H. Coys across R. ODON at 930630 +2

Sqns. of 23rd Hussars. Cameron's in GRAINVILLE. Fife and Forfar Yeo. moving across river.

Seaforth's moving S. and hope to cross River tonight. Intention 2 Armd. Regts against 9259 tonight with A.S.H. 43rd Div. relieving remainder of 15 (S) Div.

Enemy include tanks still east of MOUEN in 9365 and W. of GRAINVILLE 9064. 49 Div. engaging enemy Tks. and Inf. on 65th northing

1000 hrs. Bde. reports Typhoons rocketing suspected HQ at 816593.

1200 hrs. 1/7th report engaging 2 enemy at 738605.

Track 718658 to 729669 closed for repairs until further notice, diversion via Div. access.

3rd flight u/c Lt. W FRANKLIN, leaves DIDLINGTON Norfolk at 0530 hrs and arrives at concentration area Tilbury docks in the evening.

Casualties, Nil.

29th June. Thursday, (D+23).

"A" Coy patrol night 28/29 T.O.0245 hrs.

Reports – Led by Maj. NANGLE & consisting of 8 Pln. Reached the hedge running S.E. from 752621 without incident and proceeded along the hedge S.E. without incident until it reached a point half way along approx.. 753619. The patrol was moving very silently & Maj. NANGLE heard the click of a bolt from the corn on his right, he immediately fired a Sten magazine in the direction of the sound a distance of about 10 yds. this produced a moan. The patrol withdrew about 15 yds. to listen and could hear nothing in the grass.

While still trying to locate this a Spandau (probably handled by the man's companion who had moved out of the corn into the hedge further S.) opened fire & 2 bombs from a 50mm Mortar fell just in front of the patrol. The agreed signal 3 green Verey lights for Arty. Fire to cordon off the area of operations was given but this did not produce any immediate results (the patrols communication broke down at that particular moment & "C" Coy who saw the lights were unable to locate them). The 38 set carried by the patrol also became temperamental at the moment and it was impossible to pass the code word.

Accordingly one Bren engaged the Spandau while one party broke thro the hedge to approach the other side & another party proceeded to beat through the corn. At this particular time there were sounds of considerable activity heard from area of tracks & rd. junction at 756618.

A truck was heard to drive away etc. As this plan began to operate communication was restored Arty. Fire came down & very effectively stopped the movement reported. The beating party then discovered the enemy who had been wounded in the left temple by Maj. NANGLE firing. He was alive but died as they were examining him. Their task having been accomplished the patrol returned carrying the body with them.

Unfortunately it was discovered that all identification marks ? epaulets, letters even identity disks had been removed before the German took up his post.

At 0815 hrs. – Sitrep to Coys, A/Tks, Carriers & Mortars containing main detail of "A" Coy Patrol.

131 Bde. Ops. Inst. No. 2 of 28/6/44

56 Bde. Comes u/c 7 Armd. Div. has following tasks.

- a. Relieve 1 R.B. area 7563 with 2 Glos. Night 28/29 June. Tasks of relieving Bn. Recce towards St GERMAIN, feature 7662 without undertaking Maj. Offensive action.
- b. Maintain present patrol Line with 8 Hussars who come u/c 56 Bde. At 2300 hrs.
- c. Relieve 7 G.H. in area 7666 (2 Essex) area 7666. Task to dominate area as far S. as rd. GRAINVILLE - LONGRAGE with a view to future Ops. To the S.E.
- d. Retain 1 Bn. (25 W.B.) in Reserve in area of 56 Bde. H.Q. 748684.
22 Armd. Bde. Remain Div. Res. with 1 Regt. (5 R. Tks.) available to support 131 Bde. In vent of enemy thrust N. 3 R.H.A. to continue in Support of 131 Bde.
131 Bde. Will continue to hold present posn.

Boundaries. Between 131 Bde. & 56 Bde.

- a. Pt. of junction will be rd. stream crossing 744627.
- b. Patrol body's within 131 Bde. as at present. Those 1/5th Queen's & 2 Glos. Will be settled later. 1/5th & 1/6th Queen's to secure P.O.W's for identification night 28/29.

No change 131 Bde. Main & Rear.

131 Bde. Sitrep. 0600 hrs. 2 S.W. Bordrs. 7468. 2 Glos. Relieve 1 R.B.. 2 Essex relieve 7 Green Howards 762666. Div Arty. Engage rds. VILLARS BOCAGE area night 28/29 49 Div. fwd. Coys. 11 D.L.I. at RAURAY 8965. 8 Corps, 7 Seaforth's 9163. Cameronian's 9164, 8 R. Scots Orchard 920640, 6 R.S.F. Orchard 906348, 4 Armd. Bde. To clear MOUEN 9365 and cross R. ODON.

131 Bde. 1953 hrs – 20 Tks. ? not observed at 0930 hrs. at 825585. Attacked continuously all day at least 16 hit.

Casualties, - 2 x O.R's wounded.

The official account of Maj. NANGLE's patrol appears on the opposite page and this account with two additional grammatical errors appeared in the Divisional intelligence summary the following day.

The patrol had some tense moments the exact nature of which are not apparent from the official account. For example when Maj. NANGLE's fired his Sten this almost immediately resulted in a tremendous battle of activity from the enemy positions further along the road. It

seemed clear they were “standing too” and possibly also preparing for a counter attack or fighting patrol.

At once therefore the artillery took specially laid on for the job of “cutting off” this area from the area that the patrol was actually operating in was called for. This was to be done by passing the code word “Elizabeth” over the 38 set but this having been passed and the knob turned to receive the only reply was the sound of JOE LOSS singing ? it in no mean fashion which might have been of entertainment value at any other time but was of no comfort with indicative Germans within audible distance. As this possibility had always been envisaged Maj. NANGLE’s crawled about 20 yards back having by this time got tired of crawling and fired 3 green Verey lights. The sentries from “C” Coy had been warned specially to look out for these and then reported them to their Coy Comdr. but on attempting to pass it onto BHQ it was discovered that the telephone line was not working. A runner was sent post haste but it was 20 minutes before the artillery came down as described in the official report.

30th June. 0500 hrs. Down to company patrol fighting report neither saw or heard anything of enemy. At only gap in hedge at 754612 there was a wire stretched across chest high. Enemy actively has been observed here in the past.
 0800 hrs 131 Bde. report that 8 Corps were attacked by Germans and forced to withdraw but subsequently regained all ground lost.
 0830 hrs. 131 Bde. Sitrep - 1 R B. 728668. Div. Arty. active 29th with H.E. and C.B. work silenced 4 gun Bty. 760579 located by sound ranging at 774625, 3 x 88mm’s engaged, only one gun now firing. O.P. AMAYE church demolished 7757 8 Corps front c/a on right flank towards 9166 beaten off. 9 Cameronian’s reestablished 900652- 909648.
 1000 hrs. 131 Bde report 84 Met. destroyed 122 damaged. Column of Met. and Tks. at 8459 attacked, results not observed on account of dense smoke.
 Bridges at 9347 + 9552 received direct hits.

Battalion H.Q. for security reasons moved slightly E. to a new area at 744610, the Carriers moving into their old location. Tac HQ 744610, main B.H.Q. at 743611

Casualties, 1 x O.R. wounded.

Casualties for month of June.

	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Exhaustion	Hospital	Totals
Officers	2	7	0	2	0	11
O.R’s	20	98	6	12	56	192
	22	105	6	14	56	203