

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

October 1944.

1st Oct. Sunday, Area E 441328.  
Night 30/1st, Recce patrols 1. "B" Coy to bridge at 406429 N.T.R. 2. "D" Coy to 416417 heard enemy movement to S. of canal. 3. Jeep patrol along rd. DINTHER 4440 to VEGHEL 4837 has N.T.R. 0700 hrs. Bn. Moves (on relief) by elements of 181 US Airborne Div.) to EVERSE 4432, rest area but with counterattack role should enemy strike to C.L. between ST OEDENRODE 4332 & YEGHEL 4837.  
Lt. Col. J.H. FREELAND assumes Comd. Of 131 Bde. And Maj. NANGLE assumes A/Comd. Of Bn. During C.O's absence.

2nd Oct. Monday. N.T.R.

3rd Oct. Tuesday, Area E 426327.  
1730 hrs. Bn. Moves to relieve 7 Royal Welch in OLLAND area 3933.

4th Oct. Wednesday.  
Night 3/4 Recce patrols do not contact enemy but hear enemy movement nearby. Enemy recce patrol enters our F.D.L's to secure POWs, we take 1 POW from it. 1 O.R. accidentally wounded. Some enemy movement seen during morning was Mortared.

(The following copied from the I.O's record)

The W.F. from whom we took over stated that generally the enemy opposite us lacked initiative and aggression but that they had just received paratroop reinforcements from Schindel. several of them had been made POWs owing to ignorance of the situation walking into the R.W.F. F.D.L's in daylight, but the remainder were no longer so ignorant as was discovered very forcibly the same night that we took over.

In the middle of this night Ptes. SAUNDERS and LEWIS ("A" Coy) in a fwd. position while ? ? ? the sleep of those who are not on "stag" were disturbed by someone pulling at their blanket. Pte. Saunders without opening his eyes replied I have just come off stag and attempted to resume his sleep but the pulling persisted until Pte. Saunders opened his eyes to see that the intruder was a German.

The comment which was forced out of him by this surprising sight "it's a ..... Boche" was made in so loud a voice that it awoke Pte. Lewis the other occupant of the trench. The German menaced the two of them with his revolver and stated "Gun come with me" pointing towards the hedge as Pte. Saunders attempted to get out of the trench on the road on the side opposite to the hedge the German emphasised the point by hitting him smartly on the head with the pistol. Complying with this request Pte. Saunders observed from the top that the pistol was now pointed at Pte. Lewis so he boldly took a chance and ran for it shouting "Bren gunner" as he did so.

Things then began to happen in a big way in several directions at once. A Schmesser opened up from about 60 yds. towards the enemy position and the bullets penetrated Pte. Saunders jacket fortunately without injuring him. Pte. Lewis with a revolver stuck into his back applied a known combat lesson IV rapid use of cutting edge of palm knocked the revolver out of the Germans hand and then used his knee to good effect. The Bren gun opened up the Coy stood to and eventually the patrol withdrew off without the Coy suffering any casualties. The original intruder meanwhile gave an excellent imitation of a wounded and subsequently the dying man but on being kicked rather sharply abandoned this and rose to his feet uninjured. It was generally felt that the whole incident reflected just credit on the two men involved, Pte. Saunders and Pte. Lewis.

5th Oct. Thursday, Area 441328.

1000 hrs. Bn. relieved by 7 R. Welch and returns to EVERSE 4432.

6th Oct. Friday.

During ensuing days various recreational activities provided visits to cinema in VEGHEL also mobile cinema unit provides shows at "D" Coy HQ and a football knockout competition between Bn. Coys & Plns. Commenced (a local Dutchman usually officiated as referee at these games & gave satisfaction).

8 Hus. Being relieved by 107 R.A.C. of 34 Tk. Bde. (and returning to 7 Armd. Div.) We came u/c of 107 R.A.C.

7th Oct. Saturday.

14 Reinforcements received (from Beds & Herts) and posted to Coys.

8th Oct. Sunday.

1 O.R. accidentally killed.

9th Oct. Monday.

N.T.R.

10th Oct. Tuesday.

Lt. Col. J.H. FREELAND resumes Comd. Of Bn.

11th Oct. Wednesday, Area 454426.

1000 hrs. C.O. addresses Bn. on forthcoming Operations and our role therein.

1300 hrs. Bn. moves to area N. of ZUID WILLIAM canal from HEESWIJK 4341 to woods 4243.

12th Oct. Thursday, Area 436418.

0800 hrs. 1 POW straggler brought in by Carriers.

1130 hrs. Bn. HQ moves fwd. to HEILAREN 4341.

1000 to 1400 hrs. Recce patrols 1. "A" Coy on mine laying stopped by enemy outpost at 408432.

2. "B" Coy observe enemy to S. of canal at 414419 & engage. 3. "D" Coy along N. Bank of canal have N.T.R. Intermittent enemy Mortar & shell fire wounds 3 x O.R's.

13th Oct. Friday.

1100 hrs. "D" Coy established fwd. Pln. In area KASTEEL 4142.

14th Oct. Saturday.

Night 13/14, Patrols 1. "A" Coy mine laying again to LAAR 4044 x tracks, do not reach objective owing to enemy to their immediate front. 2. "B" Coy to 4141 – N.T.R.

2000 hrs. "C" Coy recce patrol observe enemy activity in HONNEM BOCHE area 4040.

15th Oct. Sunday.

Night 15/16 "B" Coy protective recce of area 4141 has N.T.R.

16th Oct. Monday.

0930 hrs. Carriers, Mortars, Med. M.G's & Tks. u/c with arty. support "Beat up" MIDDELRODE area 3942.

1130 hrs. Enemy reaction from 3-4 guns estimated to be at 399407 2-3 Spandaus & slight rifle fire. At end of which some enemy Mortar D.F. 2 x O.R's slightly wounded.

1915 to 2000 hrs. All arms party in area of bridge at 426408 to observe enemy reaction to feint attack indicated that they have little defensive fire to hand our casualties. 1 x O.R. killed, 4 x O.R.'s wounded.

- 17th Oct. Tuesday.  
1700 hrs. Acting on information supplied by Dutchman from SCHIJNDEL 4038 who swam canal of 25 American Paratroopers in flat area whom he could guide during the night to our lines.  
10 Pln. Of "B" Coy lay up near bridge at 426408 to cover this passage all night 17/18 with no result.
- 18th Oct. Wednesday.  
1400 to 1800 hrs. Recce patrols 1. "A" Coy to area 4042 had little to report. 2. "D" Coy to 405436 were stonked by enemy 81mm Mortars.  
3 x O.R.'s reinforcements received & posted.
- 19th Oct. Thursday.  
1400 to 1900 hrs. Recce patrols 1. To examine track 412433 to 407435 and enemy strength in that area. 2. To investigate houses at 404425, saw few signs of enemy.  
1500 hrs. "B" Coy relieved by "A" Coy 8 R. Scots and taken back to 435414 for 2 days training in house clearing & street fighting in co-op with Crocodiles.
- 20th Oct. Friday. 1930 to 0130 hrs. Recce patrols 1. To ascertain enemy strength in MIDDELRODE 3942, heard much enemy movement there & estimated strength at Pln. 2. To houses at 398439 & 401442 found enemy in occupation.
- 21st Oct. Saturday.  
1000 hrs. C.O. addresses all parts of Bn. on forthcoming Ex. "ALAN".
- 22nd Oct. Sunday. Exercise "ALAN"  
0630 hrs. Bn. tied up awaiting progress of 1/7th Queen's attack on MIDDELRODE 3942.  
0830 hrs. "B" & "D" Coys at F.U.P. near S.L. area 407442. Tac at 416432 with "A" Coy in Reserve.  
"C" Coy flank guard at KASTEEL 4142.  
1005 hrs. "B" Coy on right flank, "D" Coy on left cross S.L.  
1030 hrs. Both Coys have reached area 404443 meeting no opposition.  
1100 hrs. Minefields just E. of LAAR 4044 covered by Snipers & Mortars D.F. slow up advance.  
1430 hrs. LAAR 4044 cleared POWs taken better progress becoming possible.  
1540 hrs. "B" Coy at DOORNHOEK 3844. "A" Coy brought fwd.  
1600 hrs. Fwd. Coys "B" at 391466, "D" at 392443, more POWs taken, Tac at 401443.  
1900 hrs. A, B, D, Coys firm in DOORNHOEK area 3844. Stragglers mopped up.  
4 x O.R.'s killed, Lt. DUTTON & 8 O.R.'s wounded.
- 23rd Oct. Monday.  
Night 22/23 Recce patrols 1. "B" Coy hear enemy movement in VREDEN DAAL 3845. 2. "D" Coy to canal at 378444 hear H.D. transport to S. 3. Carriers contact 1/6th Queen's on right flank.  
1010 hrs. Advance continues to final objective, BERLICUM area 3745.  
1045 hrs. "A" Coy occupy VREDEN DAAL 382252. Tac moves to 392443.  
1245 hrs. Report to Bde. We have "A" & "D" Coys firm on bound "KETTLE" both sending Plns. To Bound "Pot" finally.  
1325 hrs. "A" Coy firm area BERLICUM 3745, final objective have contacted 1/6th Queen's on right flank. "D" Coy patrol reports all clear to river elbow 392446.  
29 POWs brought in, 3 x O.R.'s wounded.

- 24th Oct. Tuesday, Area E 392443.  
Night 23/24th – Patrols 1. “D” contact 1 R.B. at MIDDELRODE 3942. 2. “C” Coy recce to river elbow 392446, hear much movement in DONGEN area 3646 in conjunction with arty.  
1100 hrs. “A” Coy recce patrol to bridge at 367459 is mortared.
- 25th Oct. Wednesday.  
1 POW straggler brought in, otherwise N.T.R.  
“A” Coy relieved by 1/7th Queen’s.
- 26th Oct. Thursday, Area 277381.  
1000 hrs. Bn. moves via canal bridge at 425409 (Bde. S.P. at 1030 Hrs.) SCHIJNDEL 4038, BOXTEL 3234 to conc. area at 332369.  
1750 hrs. Bn. moves to firm base, area 2738.
- 27th Oct. Friday, Area 212375.  
0745 hrs. “A” Coy moves to S.P. at x rds. 271398, followed by Tac.  
0928 hrs. “A” Coy reach 1<sup>st</sup> Objective x rds. 223358 no opposition, firm base there & later take 1 POW straggler.  
1045 hrs. “D” Coy reach UDENHOUT 2038, already occupied.  
1450 hrs. “B” Coy complete 2 tasks clearing woods N.E. & S.W. of main rd. in sq. 1938, N.T.R.  
Last light. Bn. forms firm base around x rds. 204380.
- 28th Oct. Saturday, Area, E 158368.  
0905 hrs. “A” Coy move to 180380 and Tac to 188372.  
1425 hrs. “A” Coy move on Bn. Task involving move to area 1536 and clearing tracks from there W. of main rd. TILBURG-LOON OP ZAND to final objective 148397. Other Coys & Main HQ RV. At Tac, 185372.  
1530 hrs. Fwd. Coys of “A” Coy at 149377 being Mortared, other Coys immediate Reserve. Bn. HQ at 158368.  
1620 hrs. Fwd. Coys of “A” Coy reach 148394 but heavy & accurate enemy fire continuing return to 155383.  
1745 hrs. Coys firmly established “A” at 148387 other Coys guarding left flank.  
1 x O.R. killed, 6 x O.R’s wounded.
- 29th Oct. Sunday.  
0430 hrs. “B” & “D” Coys start advance to rd. running W. from LOON OP ZAND. “D” Coy on right met no opposition but “B” Coy soon met enemy opposition.  
0730 hrs. “D” Coy secure objective. Wood at 145460, but report small group of enemy to rear.  
1200 hrs “A” Coy after clearing pockets of enemy in sand dunes 144395 advance to x rds. 137396.  
1330 to 1400 hrs. “A” Coy clear wooded area 1239, later Bn. HQ moves to firm base around x rds. at 115396 and x rds. at 109378.  
1830 hrs. Bn. firm slight enemy shelling of MOER 1139.  
2 x O.R’s killed. Lt. SADLER missing (after “B” Coy patrol ambushed) 10 x O.R’s wounded. 34 POWs taken.
- 30th Oct. Monday Area E 068400.  
Night 29/30th Recce patrols 1. “D” Coy to 088386 to 686383 at 2200 hrs. 0100 hrs. & 0400 hrs. N.T.R. 2. “A” Coy to 086404 to x rds. 078393 N.T.R. 3. To DONGEN 0640 find some enemy still there & take 2 POWs on return.  
0830 hrs. Tac moves to S.P. at x rds. 108379.

1050 hrs. Bn. meeting no opposition established in DONGEN 0640. 10 POWs taken.  
33 O.R's "C" Coy transferred to "B" Coy .

31st Oct. Tuesday Area 161490.  
1130 hrs. Bn. moves via LOON OP ZAND to WAALWIJK 1547 & takes over area fronting  
AFTWATERINGS Canal "Island".

#### APPENDIX J 1.

### CAPTURE OF DOORNHOEK AND BERLICUM 22 & 23 Oct. 44 by 1/5th QUEEN'S Written by the Commanding Officer

#### 1. GENERAL SITUATION.

In mid-October with the CANADIAN ARMY battle for clearing the river SCHELDT going slowly against fierce opposition, it became vital that further help should be given to clear the Boche out of S.W. HOLLAND and to open ANTWERP up as a port as soon as possible. Until ANTWERP was working as a port the allied armies would be unable to stage a large-scale offensive into GERMANY. In order therefore to help the Canadians in their task 12 Corps was ordered to clear the area South of river MAAS while 1 Corps pushed northwards from ANTWERP and TURNHOUT.

At this time 7th Armd. Div. was still holding a defensive left flank to the NIJMEGEN salient between river WAAL and WILLEMS ZUID CANAL West of HEESCH and HEESWIJK. 131 Queen's Bde. being on the left with right 1/7th Queen's and left 1/5th Queen's. Active patrolling and raids on various scales sometimes with tank support were carried out but owing to shortage of ammunition nothing larger could be staged. Opposite the Div. was 712 Div. and parts of 59 Div. mostly org in Battle Groups. These troops were largely composed of inferior Inf. quality lacking heavy weapons. They did however patrol more offensively than had hitherto been seen by the Div. either in AFRICA or EUROPE.

#### 2. IN THE LINE 11TH OCTOBER 22ND OCTOBER.

The Bn. took over from 1/6th Queen's on 11th October returning to the same area in which it had been 10 days earlier. During this period the Boche had built up a defensive line covering MIDDELRODE - DOORNHOEK the woods West of VEGHEL which was his outer defence on the east of HERTOGENBOSCH.

At the same time, he was still established east of the woods covering the South Bank of the WILLEMS ZUID canal to within one mile of VEGHEL the Bn. therefore had a long exposed left flank lying along the canal and was very extended. The Boche fortunately had no aggressive intentions across the canal and was kept guessing as to ours by periodically hotting up parties and patrols and continual harassing fire. The line of outposts was approximately 800 yards in front of the F.D.L's and no man's land another 800 yards. By continually changing the positions of the outposts the Boche never discovered their strength and was never able to raid them. Unfortunately, he played the same game and so no fighting patrol success on a large scale took place.

#### 3. PATROLLING.

Bde. planned the patrolling and each morning a Bde. Patrol Conference was held in which Bn. Patrol Masters went (2I.Cs.) At this conference the activities of the previous 24 hrs. were discussed, and a plan made for the next 24 hrs. By this system a complete picture was built up of the enemy's positions and habits while casualties were inflicted steadily on the enemy.

At 1200 hrs. each day a Bn. Patrol Conference was held and, in this way, Coys were kept fully in the Bde. as well as the Bn. picture while the Bn. Patrol Master (2IC) organised briefed and rehearsed the

patrols. The standard of recce patrols was high and much useful information was gained. Small fighting patrols of 1 officer or Sgt. 2 Rifleman or Snipers and 2 Bren Gunners had considerable success during daylight and enemy were ambushed on more than one occasion and useful information gained. It was later confirmed when the German Battle Group Comdr. HANKE was captured on 23rd October that the Boche patrolling had proved very costly, and they had had to give it up very largely.

4. "HOTTING UP PARTIES".

With the object of keeping the enemy guessing as to our intentions and to draw fire in order to locate his positions several "hotting up" practise by fire were staged one across the canal at night using all Pln. weapons including P.I.A.T. in a Mortar role M.M.G'S Mortars and arty. and another against MIDDELRODE with the Carrier Pln. M.M.G'S Mortars and 2 tps. of 8 H. Both parties drew little reply from small arms weapons but a little enemy D.F. from guns and mortars came down.

5. ADDITIONAL POINTS.

(a) Mines and booby traps

75 Grenades laid as A/Tk. mines with anti-lifting devices and many booby traps were laid chiefly covering the outpost. These took a toll of the enemy particularly in front of the KASTEEL outpost where 3 rifles and 2 dead pigs were found after a German patrol had walked into the trouble at night.

(b) P.I.A.T. in Mortar roll.

"B" Coy had great success across the canal using the P.I.A.T. in a Mortar roll. Great accuracy was obtained and a house demolished.

All P.I.A.T. teams were trained in this role and had a live practise during the hotting up party across the canal.

(c) COMMUNICATIONS.

A very extensive line org enabled every Pln. and outpost to be in communication by line with Coy HQ it was necessary to have three exchanges. The signal Pln. are to be congratulated on this performance.

(d) SNIPERS.

The enemy across the canal who were in one case only 50 yds from "B" Coy were completely dominated by us to such an extent that they did not dare move during daylight. The snipers bagged 4 certainly before the game went to ground completely. On only one other occasion and then on a patrol did the snipers have a shot.

(e) DUMMY A/TK. GUNS.

Seven dummy A/Tk. gun positions were made by the A/Tk. Pln. and a prize given for the best one. 3 guns were first class complete with lookout men in two cases in tin hat and in the third with a beret.

(f) TRIP FLARES.

These were used for the first time and thoroughly proved their worth. Warning of enemy approach was given on many occasions to the outposts in spite of animals setting them off on several occasions even Bn. HQ used them.

OPERATIONS TO CAPTURE S HERTOGENBOSCH.  
22 and 23 Oct.

1. 12 CORPS PLAN.

To capture S'HERTOGENBOSCH with right 53rd Div. left 7th Armd. Div. (131 Queen's Bde). 51 (HD) Div. to capture SCHIJNDEL and to clear the area South of WILLEM ZUID CANAL 15 Div. in reserve for exploitation probably towards ?. H hr. for attack 0630 hrs. 22nd October.  
7th Armd. Divs. role was to capture a line North and South through BERLICUM and then to concentrate for exploitation westwards through 51 HD Div. South of S'HERTOGENBOSCH.

2. BRIGADE PLAN.

Phase I 1/7th to capture MIDDELRODE then to protect left flank of Bde. H hour 0630 hrs.  
Phase II 1/5th to capture DOORNHOEK.  
Phase III 1/5th and 1/6th right to capture BERLICUM.  
Phase IV Relief of 1/7th by 1 R.B. 1/7th then into Bde. reserve.  
Right Flank Protection 1 R. Tks. – gap between 7 Armd. & 53 Div.

Corps arty. to neutralise enemy batteries from 0200 - 0600 hrs. 22nd October South of WILLEMS ZUID CANAL.

3. Bn. PLAN.

- (a) To move forward to F.U.P. 1000 yards in front of present F.D.L's when 1/7th attack on MIDDELRODE was well underway.
- (b) Phase i. Right "B" Coy supported by 2 tps Crocodiles and 1 tps. 8 H. left "D" Coy. "A" Coy in reserve behind "B" for mopping up. Covering force for S.L. and right Flank protection "A" Sqn. 8 H. with u/c 2 tps. Flails, Carrier Pln. less 1 sec. 1 sec. Mortars 1 tp. M10's. Left flank protection during forming up 1 Pln. "C" Coy 1 Sec. Carriers during reog. 1 Pln. M.M.G'S N.F.
- (c) Fire plan. Div. arty. and 2 Med Regts. on call 4.2" Mortar Pln. on call. Smoke left flank if required.
- d Phase ii. (In outline) "A" Coy to pass through "B" and capture BERLICUM Crocodiles in support. "A" Sqn. 8 H. and Carriers on right flank "B" Coy remain firm base. "D" Coy left flank protection.

4. PREPARATIONS.

The Bn. had three days in which to prepare for the attack that would start over ground which had been patrolled for two weeks. This was ample time, and it was possible for the following to be carried out.

- (a) "B" Coy to practise street fighting in DINTHER. This training was attended by all Tk. Comdrs who would support these ops. and much value was gained by discussion unfortunately "A" Coy could not do this training to as they were holding the line.
- (b) Verbal orders to be given out in outline 3 days before the attack so as to enable planning and study air photos to take place.

- (c) Final full verbal orders on a cloth model made by the 2IC on the day before the attack.
- (d) Briefing of the troops by the C.O. personally on a large-scale map this talk had to be repeated 7 times owing to the Bn. being in the line and it being impossible to concentrate all Coys.

#### THE BATTLE.

- (a) Arty. C.B. preparation.

At 0200 hrs. 22nd October a terrific Arty. C.B. programme was fired on enemy gun positions SOUTH of the CANAL. This went on for four hrs. without stopping and kept everybody awake in a good cause. The object of this bombardment was not only to neutralise enemy guns but to mislead him our point of attack.

- (b) 1/7th Attack.

This attack quickly met with strong opposition covering MIDDELRODE and slow progress was made with the result that the Bns forming up was held up. Enemy D.F. shelling and mortaring caused the 1/7th casualties.

- (c) Phase i - Capture of DOORNHOEK.

Owing to the opposition met by the 1/7th the route to the F.U.P. was changed and the Bn. formed up without a casualty but had to wait an hr. as the Tks. were held up by mines which the covering force met when moving out. The result was that the Crocodiles were very late in arriving. The 1/7th battle was still raging.

H hr. was 1005 hrs. and both main effort Coys crossed the S.L. punctually the arty firing concentrations on reported enemy positions. Opposition was quickly met 300 yards over the S.L. from an enemy Coy position covered by mines which caused 2 casualties to the tks. while a Flail tank was knocked out by a captured Airborne 6 pdr. at a range of 150 yds while it was trying to beat a path for the Crocodiles. Two tk. Tp. Comdrs included the Flail trp. were shot by enemy Rifleman while they had their heads out of the turret and the attack came to a standstill while a way was cleared through the mines by the flails, Assault Pioneers with "B" Coy and the R.E's. The ground also was difficult and a dyke proved an A/Tk. obstacle.

Once the tks. got through the mines the Inf. methodically outflanked the enemy position and inflicted casualties capturing 10 prisoners. The Crocodiles as expected proved too much for the enemy's morale and the speed of the attack increased. The Inf. worked well in close cooperation with the tks. and DOORNHOEK was reached at about 0330 hrs. More mines were met at track junctions and crossroads and the M.M.G. Pln. Comdrs carrier was blown up and the Pln. Comdr. (Lt. MANSER) was fatally wounded.

"D" Coy progressed well on the left and reached their objective by 1700 hrs. while "B" Coy set about clearing DOORNHOEK main Street. The flamethrowers with gun tks. on their flanks systematically worked down the street destroying any house occupied by the enemy or suspected of doing so. By 1730 hrs. the village was captured, and reorg started the A/Tk. guns and reserve ammunition Coy carriers moving quickly forward.

The attack had gone well according to plan and after the initial hold up by mines shortly after crossing the S.L. had gone fwd. as quickly as expected. "A" Coy had not been committed and the right flank guard had met opposition only from small arms. The Bn. was completely reorganised on its first objective by last light as planned. Patrols were sent out to cover the reorg and enemy seen withdrawing were heavily stonked. Two recce patrols were sent out during the night to contact the

enemy and apart from in the houses on the 2nd objective no movement was heard. (The night was very dark).

#### Phase ii capture of BERLICUM.

H hr. for this attack was 1030 hrs. 23rd October much later than was hoped owing to the long way which the Crocodiles had to come fwd. after returning to refill during the night.

A roadblock of five large trees had to be cleared from the access by the R.E's otherwise no obstacle held up the advance and no mines were met.

The same technique of attack was carried out as before a heavy arty. conc. then the Crocodiles leading followed by "A" Coy. "A" sqn. 8 H. again working on the flank. No opposition was met until "A" Coy reached the area of BERLICUM Church which had been destroyed like that of DOORNHOEK. Here fire was encountered from the left and from a house and garden on the right of the road. 9 Pln. Lt. NEWCOMB quickly dealt with the opposition and inflicted losses on the enemy getting a Bren up to the attic window of the house and shooting the Boche as they crawled away down a ditch. 24 prisoners were captured in this area and many light automatic weapons. Some enemy shelling from 88mm and Mortaring came down both in DOORNHOEK and BERLICUM and a few casualties suffered. The 1/6th on the right came up into line soon after "A" Coy reorg was complete.

During the afternoon "A" Coy patrolled fwd. and a few enemy were located in a house which our mortars stonked. During the night patrols found nothing. Next morning the 2IC took out a Harassing force to the canal bank consisting of M.G. Pln., Mortars Pln. and the R.A. O.P. Tks. with the object of shooting up likely enemy withdrawal from the 51st (H.D.) Div. attack. This force saw no Germans but fired all their ammunition the Gunner Officers having a competition with their 75 mm's from their tks. at likely targets at long range. Some more prisoners drifted in during the day Otherwise no further action took place and the Bn. conc. for its next job while 53 Div. continued into S'HERTOGENBOSCH.

#### NOTES ON THE BATTLE.

##### (i) Preparation.

This O.P. was a complete success very largely due to the time given to preparations training and study. Everyone knew what was required and got on with the job. If every attack could be staged like this one then the attack should always succeed and few casualties be suffered.

##### (ii) Movement over bad tracks.

Nothing better than sandy tracks were available as the main road was avoided as a likely approach. Arrangements were therefore made in anticipation of bad weather to maintain the Bn. entirely on a Jeep and Carrier basis. Each Coy was given a Lloyd carrier from the A/Tk. Pln. to carry reserve ammunition forward for reorg while the 2IC org. the carrying fwd. of food and great coats in jeeps and carriers.

This went very smoothly although the weather was fine and wheels were able to use the tracks.

##### (iii) Arty..

The devastating result of concentrated artillery fire was clearly shown the area was much the same as NORMANDY with every house demolished or damaged and shell craters a few yards apart over a large area.

##### (iv) Crocodiles.

A fearful weapon which no enemy will stand up to and one which is invaluable in street fighting as it does the job thoroughly saving casualties to our Inf.

Casualties.

Phase 1.	Killed.	Wounded.	Total.
Officers.	0	1	1
O.R's.	3	10	13
Phase 2.	0	1	1
O.R's.	0	2	2

Officers taking part in the Battle.

Bn. HQ.	Lt. Col. I.H. Freeland.	Lt. E.W. Franklin.
	Maj. H.J. Nangle.	Lt. L.J. Wheatley.
	Capt. P.N.P. Plunkett.	Capt. R.C.S. Maclean
	Capt. D.J. Watson	
	Capt. H.D. Moore R.A.M.C.	
"H" Coy.	Carrier Pln. Capt. G.F.A. Cole.	A/Tk. Pln. Capt. C.F. Dickson.
	Lt. D.B. Bangham.	
"A" Coy.	Maj. E.W. Hall.	"B" Coy. Maj. J.E. Evans.
	Capt. M.T. Crook. (wounded)	Capt. J.C. Franklin.
	Lt. L.M. Baker.	Lt. D.C. Sadler.
	Lt. F.T. Newcomb.	Lt. A.M. Traplin.
"C" Coy.	Maj. D.A. Grant MC	"D" Coy. Maj. G.R. Ball.
	Lt. A.L. Trewby.	Capt. W.G. Chatterton.
		Lt. L.E. Dutton (wounded)
		Lt. W.E. Gell.
		Lt. R.G. Newell.
"D" Bty. 3 R.H.A.		"A" Sqn. 8th Hus. Maj. J. Gwynn MC
	Maj. J. Tyrell MC, DCM.	"A" Pln. MMG (N.Fus.) Lt. Manser, Killed.
	Capt. G. Brice.	
	Capt. R. Cork.	Crocodiles & Flails ) Maj. Duffey.
	Lt. W. Buckold.	147 R.A.C. (Bufs) )

Prisoners Captured.

3 Officers  
60 O.R's

Equipment Captured.

2 x 81mm Mortars.  
1 x 6 pr. (Airborne) (probably captured by Boche at ARNHEM).  
2 x Jeeps (Probably captured by Boche from US Airborne tps).  
1 x MC.  
Many assorted small arms weapons.