

1/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary

APRIL 1945

1st April. Sunday, (D + 291).

Weather, raining and overcast with chilly W. Wind.

0140 hrs. D Coy report Reaching objective just short of HEEK.

0238 hrs. D Coy have Firm Base and are waiting for B Coy to pause through and complete task.

0405 hrs. D Coy now firm in HEEK, B Coy held up by roadblock at 564921 but no opposition.

0421 hrs. We report to Bde. Out of touch with fwd. Coys.

0437 hrs. Fwd. sub unit at 568912, Civrep that bridge is mined and fwd. Coys 1000 yds. distance northern bridge is guarded by soldiers, southern by civilians.

0513 hrs. Fwd. Coys now at 573912.

0542 hrs. Trouble from snipers reported.

0549 hrs. Route used by subunit is mined.

0602 hrs. Bde. told One bridge intact though prepared for demolition other has centre span out. Locations, B Coy 574910, C Coy 563917, D Coy 567912, Carriers 538905.

0735 hrs. D Coy report gun just fired on bearing of 233 degrees grid from 571910.

0900 hrs. C Coy have pushed forward and now firmly established on bridge at 567928.

1000 hrs. 5 D.G. report being 700 yds W. of MATELEN, roadblock near X rds. being cleared.

1650 hrs. Bde. Informed us that they may need 2 Coys, have them at 15 mins notice to move, rest to stay put.

1755 hrs. Brig. reported that if going OK 1/5 Queen's will go via METELEN to X rds. at 684983 and firm base there.

1800 hrs. 2nd part of plan to be put into operation, C.O. to go to Bde.

1820 hrs. 1/5 Q. will lead followed by 1 R.T.R. and L.O. in METELEN will see you through.

1845 hrs. 1/5 Q. started to move.

1915 hrs. A Coy Pause en route a group of enemy sitting by the side of the road (mostly Russians and Italians).

1947 hrs. We report reaching METELEN 6494.

2030 hrs. A Coy Arrive at objective and find bridge blown and area mind. They have tanks with them.

2040 hrs. C.O. does not proposed to clear minds as we do not wish to use Rd towards OCHTRUP 6201.

Locations, Bn. HQ 679978, A 671994, B 684983, C 642945, D (with Carriers & Mortars) 668964,

A/Tks. 678977, M.M.G'S 676978. B Coys Plns. around X rds. at 683983, 686985 & 686982.

POW bagrep, 78 (of Marcel Bn. Motorised 80, 1301 G.R. 15076 G.R).

Casualties, 1 O.R. killed.

2nd April. Monday, (D + 292).

Weather, very strong gusty wind, much rain during morning clear during late afternoon and early evening but rained heavily most of rest of night.

0609 hrs. No move likely before 0900 hrs.

0648 hrs. Sitrep to Bde., N.T.R.

0700 hrs. Move after 22 Armd. Bde. passes E. to posn. behind 131 Bde. but not before 0900 hrs.

0900 hrs. A Coy are going to look at 659003 some mortar bombs in area believed enemy locality.

0955 hrs. A Coy report 659003 is clear.

1000 hrs. No move likely till late this afternoon.

1155 hrs. Friends on right report IBBENBÜREN 9808 strongly held (probably from 11 Armd. Div.)
Later reports place enemy resistance as due to approx. 500 N.C.O's.
1257 hrs. No move till 1800 hrs. You will connect up with 131 Bde. at MESUN 8308.
1340 hrs. Bde. asks Us to find out form to N.E. & S.E. of road from X rds. 684983.
1348 hrs. A Coy reports 1 X 75mm PAK with eight wheeled truck act 642010.
1350 hrs. Bde. say some trouble from inf. & bazookas also reported in area 6998, sum of 11 Hus.
are in that area.
1405 hrs. O.P. going out from A Coy to 659002 to observe for shoot by 5 R.H.A. On 75mm Pak at
642010.
1449 hrs. 4 Armd. Bde. are in EPE 5296, some difficulty going through it.
1455-1520 hrs. Shoot on 75mm Pak gave all rounds in tgt. area many probably on or very near
tgt. But as it was hidden behind roadblock there is no details of damage could be given.
1530 hrs. Following inquiry from Bde. about possible trouble to N. of MATELEN 2 wards
OCHTRUP C Coy ordered to send out patrol to investigate.
1600 hrs. B Coy reported patrol has returned from searching area 6998 and has N.T.R.
1655 hrs. No move before 1400 hrs. April 3rd.
1800 hrs. C Coy Patrol to 649953 has returned with one POW they are going to return at once
there as a standing patrol.
1915 hrs. Owing to information of possible counter attack directed at NEUENKIRCHEN 7505 C
Coy is ordered to pack up immediately & move up to us preparatory to following 5 R.T.R. up C.L.
towards WETTRINGEN 7107.
2045 hrs. A Coy report that Tks. with them say Tks. of L.H. friends are in OCHTRUP (i.e. 4 Armd.
Bde.) & some are now approaching our front.
2145 hrs. B Coy sending in 17 POWs (Italian) taken by Tks.
2230 hrs. C Coys new location – 716021 (WETTRINGEN)
POW Bagrep, 1
Casualties, 2 x O.R.'s accidentally wounded.
Capt. Peasley returns to B Coy.

3rd April. Tuesday, (D + 293).

Weather, heavy rain during morning cleared later to bright intervals but still showery.

0635 hrs. Sitrep, to Bde. N.T.R.

During day Bn. remained in location around X rds. 684983 the impending move at 1400 hrs. was
eventually laid on for 1800 hrs. The southern party leaving just previously for new location near
RIESENBECK 9207 but at last light it was finally cancelled and move now to be early the next
morning, the heavy rain had made the meadow in which Bn. HQ Tpt. was lodged rather soft and
some difficulty was experienced in getting some held onto the track to form up. A general feeling
that we were almost becoming L.O.B. with the battle now clear to our north at OCHTRUP and to
our front the C.L. clear to RHEINE and news of some fighting against a stubborn enemy group at
IBBENBÜREN in the TEUTOBURGER WALD just over the DORTMUND – EMS Canal.

0915 hrs. C Coy report 2 Pows taken.

1855 hrs. No move before 0600 hrs. April 4th.

Bagrep, 2 P.O.W's.

Casualties, 1 X O.R. Missing, (a D.R.).

Capt. J. Wheatley MC, A/Adj. Transferred to B Coy as i/c on turn from leave of Adj. (Capt. R.G.
Newell).

4th April. Wednesday, (D + 294).

Weather, bright and sunny day.

0600 hrs. Bn. moved via WETTRINGEN 7102, NEUNKIRCHEN, MESUM 8303, ELTE 8504, (coming u/c 131 Bde.). Locations, Bn. HQ 920059, A Coy 918070, B Coy 932051, C Coy 918072, D Coy 930058.

Concentration area was near to our gun area which received some attention from a few enemy planes and slight shelling of the general area also occurred.

0951 hrs. C.O. reported that shelling had seriously wounded the I/O (Lt. A.L. Trewby) and slightly the Jeep driver, the I.O. Died almost immediately.

1000 hrs. Orders from Bde. to get our fwd. Coys ready to move with 8 Hus. Expect to move in about 45 mins time.

The general situation about IBBENBÜREN 9808 held by approx. 2 Bns. of 400 men each of the Hanover Infantry Trg. Gp. was as follows. 9 D.L.I. with 5 D.G. having forced the gorge N. of BROCHTERBECK 0002 were pushing slowly up the road to the bridge at 988079. The wooded slopes to their left were being cleared by 52nd Lowland Div. operating in Sq. 9407.

The enemy were putting up a very determined resistance and progress was very slow. The above orders which later fell through would have involved us in following up the C.L. of the 9 D.L.I. & 5 D.G. passing through them and attacking the east side of IBBENBÜREN to secure passage to C.L. again on the N. side of the town.

1300 hrs. C.O. reports That although we may follow up the attack plan it is probable we shall follow up tanks to right flank around the IBBENBÜREN pocket. 52nd Highland Div. Have come up against stiff resistance in hills which I'm going to take some time to clear up.

1530 hrs. I detailed sitrep by 5 D.G. Revealed that progress was very slow in area 1000 yds. S. of objective, enemy sniping very active every house a strong point to be reduced objective cannot be reached in under 2-3 hrs. They are carrying out recces to the right flank towards LAGGENBECK 0307.

1530 hrs. C.O. reports no move before 1730 hrs. O Gp. 1630 hrs.

1540 hrs. Tac/R reports little movement on rds. to N. & N.E. of IBBENBÜREN (gives lie to POW statement of considerable reinforcements coming).

1630 hrs. C.O. says no move till 1900 hrs.

1802 hrs. 52 L. Div. have been counterattacked but situation restored.

it was eventually decided that 8 Hus. & 1/5 Q. would do a wide flanking movement to the Right taking them on to C.L. of 11 Armd. Div. thro TECKLENBURG 0502 & then driving N.W. thro LAGGENBECK in an attempt to reach the C.L. again at X rds. 032097.

1830 hrs. Bn. to move at 1945 hrs. behind 8 Hus. who will be on tail of D Sqn. 11 Hus.

1900 hrs. Bn. moved. Route via bridge over DORTMUND ? canal at 955054, rd. junct. 972046, BROCHTERBECK 0503, rd. junct. 063003, TECKLENBURG 0502, X rds. 067042, LEDDE 0504, LAGGENBECK 0307 to X rds. 032097 where Bn. would firm base.

The move proved very slow and tedious at first owing to heavy traffic en route & to the darkness of the night, there were numerous minor incidents of vehicles becoming ditched owing to this cause.

Soon after turning N.W. at X rds. 067042 & approaching LEDDE 0504 it became evident that enemy in that area were going to impede progress still further.

The tks. in the lead & our fwd. Coy became involved against bazooka men & Spandau's & some confused actions took place.

2205 hrs. 11 Hus. reported being firm in LEDDE at 055048.

2215 hrs. 8 Hus. report that enemy are holding ? of the railway through LAGGENBECK & are being engaged.

2230 hrs. 8 Hus. report having several POWs (inc. 1 Offr.) they are of the HANOVER I.T. School.
2340 hrs. 8 Hus. report progress now very slow.
Bagrep, POW, 1 (Hanover Inf. Trg. School) for NCO's.
Casualties, Lt. A.L. Trewby (I.O.) Killed. & 12 O.R's wounded of whom one died of wounds the next day.
Capt. Peasley returns to Comd. A Coy.

5th April. (D + 295).

Weather, Fine but turned to heavy rain later in the afternoon.

0032 hrs. 8 Hus. report enemy cleared from railway area 037074 but snipers etc. still active in houses & will be difficult to evict.

0045 hrs. 9 D.L.I. report about 100 enemy moving E. at 000054.

0055 hrs. 8 Hus. report hearing large explosion on bearing of 283° grid from 038071.

0150 hrs. 8 Hus. report their loc. 041066, say that in area 038074 there are enemy in houses. POW say about 100 enemy there.

In view of opposition attempt to proceed will be left till light comes.

0200 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ arrives at W. 089066.

Locations. B Coy fwd. with 8 Hus. at 037073 & 037071.

A Coy 038065

C Coy 042054

D Coy 043065

Carriers 043057

A/Tks. 046059

M.M.G's 039058

Main Bn. HQ 043055

A2 015024

0425 hrs. Sitrep from Bde. reported 22 A.B. making good progress with 5 R.T.R. across the EMS WESER Canal at 325207 & pushing on to S. of Dümmer See, with 11 Hus. they are directed on DIEPHOLZ 4245. WESTERKAPPELN 0913, HALEN 1415 & WALLENHORST held by 1 R.T.R., 1 R.B. & 2 Dev.

0640 hrs. 8 Hus. report that with Coy of 1/5 Queen's they are still at 038071, enemy with rifles and bazookas 300 yds. to North. Leading tp. of Tks. ready to proceed.

0648 hrs. Bde, informs 8 Hus. that as they are later rejoining 22 Armd. Bde. they are not to get involved in any fighting but just keep up pressure in area of railway line.

0658 hrs. We are told not to move. Brig. is calling at about 0900 hrs. after having seen the Div. Comdr.

0945 hrs. 11 Hus. Ordered to Recce for other routes to the C.L. through WESTERKAPPELN 0913 avoiding the direct route as X rds. 032097 held by enemy.

0950 hrs. C.O. warns A Coy to look out for possible enemy movement from our left flank where they are being driven back by 5 D.G. & 9 D.L.I.

0952 hrs. No move likely for us before 1000 hrs.

Patrols by 11 Hus. eventually established a decent route running E. along the railway to 085078 and thence N. to WESTERKAPPELN 0913.

1146 hrs. Order of march, 11 Hus. 1/5th Queen's.

1230 hrs. 1/5 Q. to send rep to 22 Armd. Bde. at once. (2 i/c goes).

1245 hrs. Bn. moves vis route mentioned above to WESTERKAPPELN.

1320 hrs. Bn. comes u/c 22 Armd. Bde.

1445 hrs. C.O. orders O Gp. op to him along C.L. Mortars & Carriers are being detached for task. Tac to move up to HALEN.

1625 hrs. The Bn. HQ at HALEN 142159 & Bn. firm basing bridge.

Locations, A Coy 146158 B Coy 139129,

C Coy at WALLENHORST 1917, D Coy 160155,

Carriers with Mortars 099196, M.M.G'S 142153.

During early part of night some enemy attempting 2 either cross the bridge guarded by the carriers ought to blow it were engaged and driven off.

Slight casualties were inflicted on the Carrier pln. Involving Capt. Cole O.C. being wounded.

Bagrep, POW 49 O.R's & 1 Offr. (Landerchutzen Bn.).

Casualties, 1 O.R. killed, Capt. G.F.A. Cole and 3 O.R's wounded.

6th April. Friday, (D +_ 296).

Weather, heavy rain during most of day.

Bn. now Had task of catching up with 22 Armd. Bde. fast approaching the R. WESER & during day made its longest hop to date.

1045 hrs. Bn. moved via WALLENHORST 1917, ENGTER 2221, across EMS WESER Canal at 325207, LEMBRUCH 4336, DIEPHOLZ 4346, REHDEN 5146, SULINGEN 7254.

1253 hrs. A change of plans indicated we are to press on to DIEPHOLZ, C.O. is to go to 22 Armd. Bde. We are to pick up tail of 5 R.T.R. & 8 Hus. are to come with us.

1313 hrs. POW states that SULINGEN is strongly held (S.S. in that area).

1434 hrs. Brig. says essential that 1/5 Q. should keep close contact with 5 R.T.R. as there may be trouble later.

As Tks. & Inf. approached SULINGEN from DIEPHOLZ there were several reports of S.P. guns active near SULINGEN & even a Mk. VI reported.

1650 hrs. Leading Coys of 5 R.T.R. nearly in SULINGEN 7254, S.P. Gun firing at them from 715548.

1650 hrs. We report not in contact now with tail of 5 R.T.R..

1719 hrs. 5 R.T.R. in SULINGEN, S.P. Gun still causing trouble & holding up further progress.

1803 hrs. C.O. to meet Brig. at 5 R.T.R. HQ.

1810 hrs. Dutchman reports NIENBURG held by S.S. & H.J. who have orders to stay put, also says 30-40 Tks. at HEEMSEN 004509.

1850 hrs. C.O. orders Bn. to firm base just W. of SULINGEN.

1852 hrs. Brig orders 1/5 Q. & 8 Hus. each less one sub unit will stay at SULINGEN tonight, place to be cleared by 1 sub of 1/5 Q. & 8 Hus. 1 mile S.W. of SULINGEN.

Locations, Bn. HQ 691613, A Coy 691515, B Coy 665529, C Coy (u/c 5 R.T.R.) 705577, D Coy 685516.

Bagrep POW Nil.

Casualties Nil.

7th April. Saturday, (D+296).

Weather, Bright & sunny but cold breeze.

0818 hrs. Bde. reported at 505408 enemy dump containing gas shells is on fire. Type of gas unknown, precautions to be taken.

0910 hrs. Bn. moved via SULINGEN 7552 to rd. junct. 767550 to X rds. 782558 to MELLINGHAUSEN 7857. During morning some delay in moving was caused by Kangaroos being very short of fuel & they were immobilised for a time at MELLINGHAUSEN.

0945 hrs. In general area of VILSEN 8470 there were scattered Gps. of enemy reported, two of these S.P. guns, a Mk. IV tank which however were not causing a great deal of trouble to the Tks.. Some POWs were taken

1027 hrs. 8 Hus. report 2 x 75mm guns in area 8369 K.O'd & 50 + POWs taken.

1105 hrs. The left 796603 where it had been halted about 45 mins. & proceeded via X rds. 918631 to 848647 where it again halted.

1110 hrs. C.O. reports that fwd. Coy may be needed to do a job at 8470 (VILSEN).

1124 hrs. A Coy are now stopped behind 8 Hus. at 856250.
1125 hrs. All warned that enemy a/c are about & they must be ready.
1145 hrs. Carriers are to send 2 Sects. to 828665 to give protection to 5 R.H.A.
1211 hrs. 5 R.H.A. are engaging enemy Inf. at 851703.
1300 hrs. A Coy told to move up to X rds. 825692 and firm base there, B Coy now going to VILSEN with 8 Hus.
1505 hrs. Tac moved X rds. 855650, X rds. 825693 to VILSEN 8470 & was located at 840702. Main Bn. HQ stayed with A Coy at 825693.
1600 hrs. Following on Tac/R reports etc. of situation around the WESER bridges at 8889 orders received to move at once to capture this bridge in conjunction with 8 Hus. & 11 Hus. supported by 1 R.T.R. & 1 R.B.
1700 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moved to X rds. 825693 & Bn. then moved to HEILINGEN X rds. 760766. with A Coy only remaining firm based at X rds. till ordered to move.
1750 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ arrived at HEILINGEN X rds. 760766.
1800 hrs. C Coy ordered to firm base around these X rds. & to send a patrol fwd. up the main rd. as cover.
On our right flank 1 R.T.R. & 2 Devs. had been steadily moving up after occupying HOYA. They had reached MARTFELD 8976 and had also pushed up towards our objective but had been held up by bazookas and a couple of S.P. when about 2500 yds distant.
1820 hrs. A Coy ordered to come up and join us as soon as possible not waiting to be relieved by Tp. 5 R.T.R. of two enemy tanks reported in area 8983, one had been K.O'd and other had retired (Rept. 11 Hus.) and was later reported by 8 Hus. at 856838.
1842 hrs. 8 Hus. report they are in area 8280.
1900 hrs. C.O. report that 3 met. containing enemy are coming down the main road towards their fwd. Coys.
1910 hrs. 8 Hus. report the leading Coys have been fired on by bazookas from 828826.
1925 hrs. C Coy report they have engaged enemy coming their way, have killed 1 and obtained 2 POWs.
1930 hrs. C.O. reports he is at 830826.
1930 hrs. Tac halted at 789788.
1936 hrs. 8 Hus. report clearing enemy from houses at 829825.
1945 hrs. C Coy report that their tanks are now with them in area they engaged enemy.
2020 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moved up to 831814 & Bn. firm based in that area. (At Emtinghausen).
Locations,
A Coy 821821, B Coy 848836.
C Coy 830811, D Coy 828828.
Carriers 838882, Mortars 829822.
A/Tks. HQ with C Coy split up among Coys.
M.M.G's 827828.
2100 hrs. Carriers report they have picked up 8 pows.
2202 hrs. 8 Hus. report rd. block at 855847 held by enemy.
2400 hrs. D Coy are sending out two patrols to rd. junct. 809850.
Bagrep, POW's 18 O.R's (Landerchutzen Bn.).
Casualties, Nil.

Capt. J. Wheatley MC transferred from B Coy to HQ Coy & becomes O.C. Carrier Pln.
Capt. W.E. Gell transferred D to B Coy & becomes 2i/c.
Lt. C.A. Marvin joins Bn. from 131 Bde. HQ to become I.O.

8th April. Sunday, (D+297).

Weather, bright sunny day.

0620 hrs. 2 patrols by D Coy have N.T.R. save That one group were fired on by Schmeisser at 816812 and some grenades thrown so to be about 12 enemy involved. H.D. Tpt. was heard moving on road to the north. Patrols returned about 0200 hrs.

Civrep rom 2 civilians who left BREMEN 1800 hrs. say bridge at HEMELINGEN 7696 is not blown ,prepared for demolition and only used by foot passengers.

From BREMEN to DREYE 7791 there are few troops & some 20mm guns but more reinforcements expected.

0716 hrs. 8 Hus. report that both their fwd. Coys & those of 1.5 Q. with them are probing fwd.

0720 hrs. Rd. blocks reported at 813848 & 854854 & 2 Tks. at BEPPEN 8983.

0835 hrs. Civrep that enemy have taken S.P's no. not known over bridge at 8889 which suggest tks. would cross.

During early morning 8 Hus. were engaged with 11 Hus. in clearing up two rd. blocks mentioned and pushing to the river.

1028 hrs. 8 Hus. reported 2 bridges at 883898, 25 enemy seen on far bank.

At 870910 are met. moving about & at 873861 are two S.P's.

1041 hrs. 8 Hus. report 3 S.P's in area 8786, 1 may be a Mk. V Tk.

1130 hrs. 11 Hus. report enemy Inf. at 819865.

During morning Tac & Bn. moved up towards EISSEL 8587.

Tac Bn. halted at 854855. Plan will have to be changed.

1202 hrs. 8 Hus. report at least 6 S.P's in bad country to deal with.

At 8893 are 3 guns firing.

1224 hrs. S.P. gun with Inf. support reported in RIEDE 8186.

1330 hrs. RAF give assistance by bombing any enemy movement, gun positions, met. etc. seen on further bank up to BREMEN including rolling stock on railways.

During the rest of the afternoon there were continued reports of S.P's active in general area, of S.S. Tps. of bazookas etc. Typhoons dealt with some of these & arty & Tks. were engaging all the time, our role however had been mainly passive save 4 B Coy u/c 8 Hus.

1730 hrs. O Gp. at Tac. It had been decided to switch round and clear RIEDE 8086, operation to start on code word "Churchill". Plan was for Bn. to advance on 2 routes, a. A Coy with C Coy in Reserve vis 855847-816866 and b. D Coy with B Coy in reserve from 827825-810849-808878, clearing HEILIGENBRUCH from S. to N. On completion of task A Coy face N. B Coy S. C Coy E.& D Coy W.

1945 hrs. Coys begin to move & Tac goes to 822831.

2025 "Churchill",

The operation proceeded well and Coys reported reaching bounds in rapid succession, (B Coy reported Teller mines at 809847 at 2055 hrs.)

2145 hrs. Positions gained at FELDE, S. of RIEDE.

Locations,

Tac 816848, A Coy 809873. B Coy 811850, C Coy 817866, D Coy 806855

Bagrep, POWs Nil.

9th April. Monday (D+298).

Weather, bright and sunny.

0620 hrs. Sitrep to Bde. N.T.R.

Task for Bn. (in co-operation with 8 Hus.) was first to clear the village of SUDWEYHE 7688 and KIRCHWEYHE 7689, these would allow enable the Tks. with other reserve Coys to carry on up the C.L. and attack BRINKUM 7091.

0920 hrs. C.O. from 772859 reports that there are 250 S.S. in DREYE 7792 & our fwd. elts. are now engaging enemy in SUDWEYHE 7688 (A Coy).

0950 hrs. D Coy to move up to 772859, Tac & C Coy to follow & B Coy to remain at present location.

1000 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ at 772859.

1105 A Coy clearing SUDWEYHE, satisfactory progress being made, when completed they will firm base there & D Coy pass through to clear KIRCHWEYHE.

While this operation was proceeding Bde. were having rather a scare with enemy supported by 2 Tks. & some S.P's pushing very close to them in SYKE 7920 from directly W.

1200 hrs. A Coy have cleared SUDWEYHE, D Coy should have an easy task in KIRCHWEYHE as S.S. men are moving N., Tks. are engaging them.

1230 hrs. Carriers send in Civrep reporting BRINKUM held by S.S. men, all rds. to S. & W. mined. Bridge at 762921 is mined & as is that at 720935.

1235 hrs. Carriers report 2 POWs from 18 Ersatz Bn. 1855 R. Gren. Div.

1245 hrs. C.O. reports D Coy are starting their attack on KIRCHWEYHE should not need much fighting, the enemy are showing white flags & the local Burgomaster is prepared to arrange for surrender of place etc. C Coy are to move fwd. so that they can proceed up C.L. towards BRINKUM. B Coy are to come fwd. to 772859.

1250 hrs. A/Tks. are to leave 2 guns at 765675 covering the main C.L.

1255 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ move fwd. to 768873.

1300 hrs. C.O. reports that Pln. of A Coy has just killed 15 S.S. men & taken 14 POWs.

1335 hrs. C Coy to move up C.L. follow Tks who are now engaging some Inf.

1350 hrs. D Coy entering KIRCHWEYHE following the Burgomaster who says S.S. men have gone. C Coy are on move behind Tks. on Kangaroos.

1400 hrs. C Coy come u/c 8 Hus. & net to them.

1425 hrs. D Coy report 5 POWs taken.

1430 hrs. C Coy have reached railway at 747881.

1500 hrs. 8 Hus. report engaging S.P. gun at 766925.

1515 hrs. D Coy have pushed out a patrol to rly. at 753894.

1530 hrs. C Coy are dealing with opposition just W. of railway, not too heavy but sniping is unpleasant and has caused some casualties (Lt. Wilkinson Cox MC was killed).

1614 hrs. 8 Hus. have POW who reports that S.S. Trg. Bn. has 6 Coys of which No. 3 has 400 in BREMEN, No. 6 200 in area 7791 & No. 5 is 450 strong in area 7289.

1640 hrs. 8 Hus. report enemy very sensitive in area 7791, have guns there which are active.

1645 hrs. 8 Hus. report operation to W. of railway going well but slowly as enemy have to be winkled out of each house.

1700 hrs. 8 Hus. report 3-4 S.P. guns firing in general area 777815.

1820 hrs. Orders from Bde. indicate that we shall stay with them.

1853 hrs. 8 Hus. report some mortar and arty fire coming at their subunits to West of railway.

1900 hrs. B Coy who had moved up to near C Coy are now moving fwd. to their N. towards LEESTE and have got about halfway to their objective.

1945 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moves up to 758883.

1950 hrs. M.M.G's are to go to D Coy.

1950 hrs. Carriers report mines on tracks at 738886.

1952 hrs. B Coy reports enemy met. at 733897, with bazookas when engaged retreated leaving bazookas behind.

2000 hrs. B Coy report near LEESTE and being very heavily engaged by enemy in some strength, their location is 727895.

2005 hrs. D Coy have 4 POWs.

2007 hrs. B Coy need arty support at 722888, they are being mortared from approx. 700 yds range on bearing of 255 degrees grid from 728898.

2020 hrs. 8 Hus. report bombing by Typhoons to their front is very impressive in right place. Also they have taken many POWs and killed many enemy.

2025 hrs. Our fwd. Coys give good report on bombing to.

2135 hrs. B Coy report that heavy enemy met. movement has being heard from area 726890, S.P. gun has fired from that area at them, H D Tpt. Is moving from sq. N. in sq. 7289.

Locations, Bn. HQ 758883, A Coy 769889, B Coy 733896, C Coy 737881, D Coy 761895, Carriers, Mortars, A/Tks. near Tac Bn. HQ, M.M.G's at 741899.

It transpired that B Coy ran into really stiff opposition near LEESTE 7289, being met with Hy. M.G. fire Mortars, etc. & had to get back from exposed positions by crawling. They were neat and tidy at 2140 hrs.

2240 hrs. Lt Bond, 2/Lt. of C Coy Reports at Tac Bn. HQ in a Slightly wounded and shaken state. His carrier with Capt. Marsden and two POWs on it were returning from the fwd. pln. when it was blown up either by a mine (unlikely) or by a bazooka, he dragged driver from blazing carrier saw Capt. Marsden walk away from the back of carrier, probably dazed at least, of the two POWs he could report nothing.

Capt. Marsden was missing for some time and concern was felt but at 2250 hrs. C Coy reported finding their O.C.

2345 hrs. B Coy who were too far fwd. Where to to withdraw their positions and consolidate around MMG positions and this was completed by 0350 hrs April 10th.

Bagrep, POWs 27 O.R's (varied flak Regt. 6 S.S. PZ. GR., 124 SS Bn., 18 SS Ersetz Bn.)

Casualties, Lt. D. Wilkinson Cox MC & 4 O.R's killed.

Lts. G.H. Bond & H MacDonald wounded and also 8 O.R's.

10th April. Tuesday, (D+299).

Weather, very bright sunny day.

0600 hrs. D, A, & C Coys have N.T.R. B Coy report slight met. movement S. to N.

During day Bn. remained firm based in the general areas to N. at DREYE and to area N. & E. around LEESTE & BRINKUM.

0913 hrs. 8 Hus. report small number of enemy Inf. seen on outskirts of BRINKUM 7091.

8 Hus. report suspected gun at 725881 and enemy Inf. with bazookas in houses at 727800. 1 R.B. Report that ? is still held by 800-1000 enemy.

1035 hrs. At 725881 there are mines but not a gun.

1100 hrs. C.O. reports mines at 726880.

1210 D Coy patrol towards DREYE 7791, report large rd. block at 764903 covered by two Spandau's and approx. eight men.

1248 hrs. We report to Bde. an ME262 flying over from E. to W.

1250 hrs. 8 Hus. report 2 suspected tanks at 7077.

1100-1400 hrs. Carriers patrol to ensure that routes 2 rear all clear of enemy visited RIEDE 8186, DONNERSTEDTER 8386 to 855848, 833830, 859849 had N.T.R.

1314 hrs. 8 Hus. report 1 Coy of S.S. men are in area between brickworks 778905 and first group of houses in DREYE and one SP gun firing S.E. From brickworks. There is a roadblock behind which one Inf. with tank. Men in DREYE are armed and digging in.
1421 hrs. 5 R.T.R. engaged area 777908 (rd. block & enemy Inf.) whilst mediums engaged brickworks 778905 (containing S.S. tps.),
1515 hrs. D Coy report S.P. gun firing 2000 yds. from this posn. on bearing of 30° grid.
1540 hrs. B Coy report killing one enemy, unable to secure identification at moment owing to considerable sniping & Spandau fire. one Spandau firing from 729899. 4 enemy seen at 733899 & rifle shots at 728894.
1554 hrs. 5 R.H.A. engage 733893, many enemy snipers active.
1610 hrs. B Coy report result of arty shoot has caused ceasefire of sniping & 4 enemy seen have run back into village.
1630 hrs. B Coy report snipers in tower at 727894 have been liberated.
1720 hrs. 8 Hus. report enemy gun seen to fire S.W. from 764903.
1720 hrs. 6 enemy seen entering house at 737904 fired at by B Coy.
2000 hrs. Sitreps from Coys were B, C, & D – N.T.R. A Coy Tks. have found their R.H. pln. Mortars – Shot at 1200 hrs. a rd. block & Inf. at 764904, 30 rds. in all. Target area and at 1600 hrs. on same target with 40 rds., one hit a pill box.
2210 hrs. 8 Hus. report rd. block under rly. bridge at 763962. A Bty. of 88 mm's at 755955, exact location being 100-200 yds. W. of village. Possibly another 88mm at 755928. here is a small ammo dump in the brickworks. 90-100 S.S. in DREYE. Bridge near DREYE over WESER is blown.
2335 hrs. C Coy report enemy voices heard at 725883.
Bagrep, POWs Nil.
Casualties, Nil.
Lt. A.G. Nicholls transferred from HQ Coy to C Coy.

11th April. Wednesday, (D+300).

Weather, Bright & Sunny.

During morning whilst we were changing over with our relief (4 K.O.S.B. of 155 Bde.) there were several reports sent in by Coys of enemy shelling by S.P. guns. Our arty retaliated strongly particularly on enemy in houses in general area 732897, these received direct hits on the enemy attempting to evacuate this unhealthy spot they provided attractive targets to our fwd. Coys & the Snipers in particular had the opportunity to do some good work (in B Coy area).

Our relief were unfortunate enough to secure some casualties in one T.C.V. which was hit in SUDWEYHE.

1500 hrs. Bn. moved to area around Tac on C.L. at 769876 & stayed there for approx. 1 hr. awaiting its turn in the convoy.

1615 hrs. Bn. moved via SYKE 73800 & straight down the main rd. to NIENBURG till at the D.P. rd. junction 902525 it turned right & went via X rds. 882527 to PENNIGSEHL 8750 where it concentrated.

Locations, Bn. HQ 874501, A Coy 878509, B Coy 875505, C Coy 877506, D Coy 876506. A2 at DEBLINGHAUSEN 840540. Carriers, Mortars, & M.M.G's at 874498, A/Tks. at 875495.

Bagrep POW, Nil.

Casualties, 2 O.R's wounded.

Lt. Churchill transferred from A Coy to C Coy.

12th April. Thursday, (D+301).

Weather, overcast at first but later bright and sunny.

Bn. stayed in conc. area at PENNIGSEHL making such preparations as possible towards future move over R. WESER details of this are given in full by 22 Armd. Bde. Ops. Order No.

Bagrep POWs, Nil.

Casualties, Nil.

Capt. J.T. Peasley transferred from HQ Coy to B Coy.

13th April. Friday, (D+302).

Weather, bright and sunny.

1045 hrs. Bn. moved via LEMKE 9652, NIENBURG 0050, to conc. area at ERICSHAGEN 0253.

Locations, Bn. HQ 021533, A Coy 015539, B Coy 020533, D Coy 019534, Carriers & Mortars 020535, M.M.G's 022528.

Bagrep, POWs Nil.

Casualties, Nil.

Capt. Marsden from C Coy to HQ Coy.

14th April. Saturday, (D+303).

Weather, bright and sunny.

Bn. remained Concentrated in ERICSHAGEN 0258 waiting for the bridgehead at RETHEM over the R. ABLE.

0700 hrs. Sitrep to Bde. at first light had N.T.R.

0945 hrs. Bn. at 2 hrs notice to move from 1600 hrs.

1020 hrs. Bridge not likely to be ready till midday.

1200 hrs. Bde. reports bridge will now be made ready by 1230 hrs. and there are possibilities of an early move.

1300 hrs. 5 R.T.R. leading let. of 22 Armd. Bde. should soon be the crossing.

However there was still considerable resistance met in the wooded areas just over the ADLER from 2nd Marine Div. though they had little by equipment but plenty of bazookas and M.M.G's.

15th April. Sunday (D+304).

Weather cloudy and overcast at first but cleared bright and sunny later.

0800 hrs. Gr. EILSTORF 1670 still held by enemy also BOHME 1707.

0836 hrs 8 Hus has received orders from Bde. should move in approx. 1 hr.

1050 hrs. KIRCHBOITZEN 1892 reported clear box still enemy in Gr. EILSTORF 1670.

1105 hrs. Bn. moved via HOLTORF 0154, HEEMEN 0357, to RETHEM 1066. Going to demolitions of small bridges over streams in the marshy ground beyond RETHEM a slight diversion to the S. had to be made before re joining the C.L. Again act 135683. Movement generally was slow going to hy. Traffic on roads too damage and diversions caused by these. After RETHEM too the wooded areas giving good defensive possibilities to the young fledged but tenacious marines took time to clear.

1500 hrs. Bn. halted around Tac at 146692, it was learned here that after SOLTAU the C.L. would now head due N. towards Hamburg.

Bn. remained in This area till 1930 hrs. whilst 1 R.T.R. & 8 Hus. were clearing C.L. to WALSRÖDE, the 8 Hus. in particular dealing with small villages to the S. Of it and the 1 R.T.R. the main rd. (as well as pushing up their own C.L. from the S.P. at 152700.).

1540 hrs. Large explosion heard in WALSRÖDE, probably bridge.

1648 hrs. Report of 10 tanks in area 2279 caused a flurry but no contact was made.

1729 hrs. Mines reported on C.L. at 192727, a contributory cause to a diversion we made in our move at 1745 hrs. 8 Hus. nearly in WALSRÖDE, large crater with a stream running through it at 246755

16th April. Monday, (D+303).

Weather, bright and sunny.

8 Hus. pushing on to FALLINGBOSTEL 3276 found it occupied by enemy who although not a great strength, indeed only a few small groups were at strategic points held up any advance. The main road was blocked just before the town and mines were also in evidence. 8 Hus. were able to push S. around town and on to the autobahn under construction along which they progressed slowly toward DORFMARK 3680. They liberated Stalag 11B at 3375 containing some 6500 British and US POWs as well as 8000 allied nationals and also Stalag 357 at 3475 with an additional 3500 POWs and 4000 allied nationals (members of Bn. found some old friends there). Meanwhile 11 Hus. were probing the tricky wooded country just N. of main rd. WALSRÖDE – FALLINGBOSTEL whilst 1 R.T.R. were proceeding slowly up “Red” route on which they were temporarily held up at JARLINGEN 2783.

In WALSRÖDE itself we located a German hospital with 200 + patients at 258763 and a Nazi HQ at 255756 containing many documents.

0950 hrs. We were warned that we should be needed most probably to deal with the opposition in FALLINGBOSTEL being relieved in WALSRÖDE by 2 Devon's.

1008 We sent back to Bde. a German doctor from the hospital believed to be an impostor and some of his patients believed to be trained saboteurs.

1130 hrs. Relief by 2 Dev. effected and we are now ready for job in FALLINGBOSTEL.

1250 hrs. Bn. moved along main road to FALLINGBOSTEL.

1350 hrs. A Coy leading are at 293758 and Tac at 287758.

1450 hrs. A report that enemy had left FALLINGBOSTEL and that it would therefore not be necessary to mount attack as planned was received, consequently our plans were amended to follow this.

1500 hrs. We report that 1 Coy is going to cross the river almost immediately to give cover to R.E's to deal with blown bridge, they will be followed by another which should then give adequate protection.

1545 hrs. 1 Coy over the river and other just ready to do so, no opposition.

1605 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moved to 317763.

1607 hrs. The finding of a mine at 312767 led to a suspected minefield there later learn to be incorrect.

1630 hrs. Brig. orders 2 Devs. up to JARLINGEN & BOMMELSEN & take over from 5 R.T.R. who are now making excellent progress.

Locations, Bn. HQ 317763, A Coy 322768, B Coy 321767, C Coy (with 8 Hus.) proceeding up autobahn towards DORFMARK. D Coy 322765, Carriers 309767, Mortars 317762, M.M.G's 310765. A Coy of the R.B. u/c secured the S.E. of the town holding positions at 322758, 327760 and 327763. Owing 2 vehicles not being able to cross the river BOHME they were concentrated in areas A-316766, B-318762, D-315758.

1700 hrs. A Coy report snipers in area 324784 are being engaged by 5 R.H.A.

1710 hrs. A Coy report they are sending back 3 POWs (from 101 Packs Bn. which has no guns or tanks).

1835 hrs. A Coy report firing at armoured car act 324771 which ? retaliate but withdrew immediately.

1850 hrs. A Coy report their fwd. Coys at 326772 have one POW (a CSM).

1930 hrs. 1 R.T.R. approaching SOLTAU Having reached LEITZINGEN 3690.
2040 hrs. Bde. says we can keep Coy 1 R.B. till tomorrow when C Coy with 8 Hus. will rejoin us.
2100 hrs. Orders for early move tomorrow issued and instructions for getting food across to Coys on N. of river.
2200 hrs. Bde. asks for recce up to DORFMARK by 0600 hrs. to see if C.L. is OK.
2215 hrs. A Coy report that a patrol from them has been 233977 and has N.T.R. Found enemy positions vacant but obviously recently occupied act 334774.
2235 hrs. 2 Secs. of carriers to go with R.E's up to RANSDORF to see road is clear of obstructions and mines.

17th April. Tuesday, (D+304).

Weather, bright and sunny day.

0515 hrs. Report to Bde. that carriers have contacted 8 Hus. in DORFMARK and that with R.E's they have proved C.L. to be clear to there, they have now returned.

0536 hrs. Bridge over river is completed.

0625 hrs. 1st light sitrep to Bde. – N.T.R.

0750 hrs. Bn. moved towards DORFMARK 3680.

0800 hrs. 1 R.T.R. report they are nearing SCHNEVERDINGEN.

0830 hrs. Bn. at DORFMARK & turn left for BOMMELSEN 3185.

0850 hrs. Bn. moved from BOMMELSEN to X rds. 833887.

0850 hrs. 8 Hus. report going is now very bad, hardly suitable for wheels.

0930 hrs. Bn. moved past X rds. 333887 to rd. junc. 369873 to 367893 where it halted behind 8 Hus.

0945 hrs. Meanwhile C Coy who were rejoining us from 8 Hus. reported nearly on our tail after returning to FALLINGBOSTEL and then on same route as we had taken.

0950 hrs. There were reports of considerable enemy not organised in SOLTAU. This was to be cleared by 1 R.B. but evidently was too much for them for later 155 Bde. had to complete task.

0955 hrs. 1 R.T.R. report meeting opposition in SCHNEVERDINGEN, may need 1/5 Queen's to clear, at any rate they will go there later.

1000 hrs. Our C.O. to contact C.O. 1 R.T.R. at same time 8 Hus. reported they had been held up to N. SOLTAU by shellfire at 390895.

1100 hrs. C.O. on way to meet C.O. of 1 R.T.R. reports he is completely stuck at 370904 and going is impossible for wheels. It was eventually decided to leave all wheeled traffic in the area now in and only tracked (+ ½ tracked) to proceed.

Main Bn. HQ went to 363893.

1149 hrs. It is reported to 1 R.T.R. that 1/5 Q. will soon take over SCHNEVERDINGEN.

1300 hrs. Tac with tracked vehicles move off behind 8 Hus.

1445 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ at 376038, have followed a very circular route through woodland tracks to SCHNEVERDINGEN.

This enabled 1 R.T.R. To transfer to yellow route and help 8 Hus. who had been having considerable trouble all the way up it.

Locations. Tac 376038, A Coy 380049, B Coy 373045, C Coy 361909, D Coy 372047, Mortars 377045, M.M.G's 370045.

1640 hrs. D Coy report taking 7 POWs.

1650 hrs. B Coy report on patrol to 356037 finding 2 Teller mines at 364039, 2 more at 364041, rifles, bazookas and other equipment at 361041 and three POWs taken.

1651 hrs. 1/5 Q. report to Bde. that on behalf of 1 R.T.R. they are sending back 180 POWs (incl. 7 Offrs.) Also 15 escaped British POWs.

1745 hrs. 1 R.T.R. want us to collect 120-150 POWs from them.
1935 hrs. B Coy send in shell report (1 shell from S.P.) & later 3 more shells from S.P.
2115 hrs. Bde. send Civrep of 2 A/Tk. guns & some enemy in area 3106 and arty are to engage.
2115 hrs. Orders from Bde. remain where you are till ? but have 1 Coy at short notice to move to support 1 R.T.R. if necessary.

18th April. Wednesday, (D+305).

Weather, bright and sunny.

0640 hrs. First light sitrep to Bde. Standing patrol heard movement on R & L side of Rd, open fire but nothing heard or returned, B Coy reports at 0145 hrs. they opened fire on suspected enemy at 367044, no retaliation.

0645 hrs. Bde. reports SOLTAU is now clear and we can use a new C.L. through it for main Bn. HQ and soft skinned vehicles too come up.

0745 hrs. Relief for 1/5 Q. is coming along so you must be ready to move with 1 Coy at 30 mins notice.

0934 hrs. Bde. informs aspect ref ammo dump at 337055 there are about 200 huts there prepared for demolition, they are sending a R.E. rep to us to deal with it.

1045 hrs. D Coy report considerable movement observed in area of ammo dump.

1130 hrs. Main Bn. HQ rejoins Bn. at SCHNEVERDINGEN using the new C.L. through SOLTAU to HEBER 4200.

1140 hrs. Bde. tells ask to be ready when relieved by 155 Bde. to go up yellow route behind 8 Hus. & after that to be ready if needed to follow 1 R.T.R.

1315 hrs. Tac moved to yellow route via X rds. at 415056, thence N. to 409112 where it halted at 1345 hrs. with back of column at 409118.

Carriers carry out a recce of route to 3418.

1505 hrs. Carriers report 408122 is clear.

1540 hrs. Carriers report GROSS TODTSHORN 3615 is clear.

1550 hrs. Carriers report OTTER 3418 is clear.

1600 hrs. Carriers report KAMPEN 3618 is clear.

Meanwhile 8 Hus. were moving on TOSTEDT Ann reported no opposition till they met the railway where small groups of enemy appeared.

1635 hrs. Bn. moved along main Rd following route reced by carriers namely to 382178 thence S.W. down track to 373147 to Gr. TODTSHORN 3615 to KAMPEN 3618 to OTTER 3418.

1720 hrs. 1 R.T.R. report they are still held up by determined opposition from woods to N.E. of KAMPEN where they first met opposition this morning.

1755 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ arrived at 342182 where Bn. had a quick meal.

1825 hrs. Brig. tells 8 Hus. to Call us on towards TOSTEDT when they want us.

1935 hrs. Tac moved via 339213 to 329212 to 325205 to 318206 to TOSTEDT 3122, (bridge at 330210 being blown).

1940 hrs. 8 Hus. report that TOLSTEDT is clear but in TOLSTEDT 3021 Being fired on by bazookas and in TODTGLÜSINGEN 3302 they are shooting up Inf. & some met.

A Tiger at 334 242 was soon K.O'd as well as 88mm with it.

2015 hrs. Tac arrived at 318223.

2040 hrs. Tac moved slightly to 319221, one POW picked up nearby who was wound did recently and now returning to his unit at OLDENBURG (a Panther crew) POW also reported troops and guns in this area returned to BUCHHOLZ.

Locations, Tac Bn. HQ 319221, A Coy 322225, B Coy 314225, C Coy 332213, D Coy, Carriers 332213, Mortars 316223, M.M.G's 322229.

What was going on at bridge over railway, Coy guarding this area were to report immediately it was completed.

19th April. Thursday, (D+306).

Weather, bright and sunny but strong westerly wind.

Patrols, 0430 hrs. to 0545 hrs.

Recce A Coy to 320234 and back

B Coy to 303232 and back,

D Coy to 309235 and back, all N.T.R.

C Coy to Contact Carriers.

0600 hrs. Bridge over the railway should be ready by 0800 hrs.

0640 hrs. C.O. reported to Bde. that 8 Hus. when they moved out took arty with them and he would like something to cover us - this was arranged by 5 R.T.R.

0903 hrs. Bde. ordered the C.O. to Leave one Coy behind at TOSTEDT 3122 and an O.P. At WISTEDT 3021 and be prepared to move up and take over HOLLENSTEDT 3132.

0920 hrs. Bde. reported bridge ready. Ordered the Bn. to move off with three Coys and A/Tk. Pln. and tie up with 8 Hus. S. of HOLLENSTEDT.

1000 hrs. The Bn. moved off leaving B Coy behind. The 1 R.B. were to relieve them later. Route was main road N via DOHREN 3125.

1345 hrs. The Bn. attacked HOLLENSTEDT but met no opposition and by 1445 hrs. Were able to report the town clear.

An aircraft assembly factory was found.

The Bn. firmed based in the town for the night complete with B Coy. Who had rejoined us in the late afternoon.

Locations.

Bn. HQ 320320

A Coy 317321

B Coy 314311

C Coy 317316

D Coy 320324

Carriers 307317

M.M.G's 309319.

1900 hrs. Bde. Informed us that the following day the battalion task would be to clear the road from 379328 to X rds. at 3827.

20th April. Friday, (D+307).

Weather, overcast during early morning but bright and sunny later.

0745 hrs. The Bn. moved along the autobahn but were held up by a blown bridge at 379328 but were able to get on the road leading S. from 379328 by making a detour through the field next to the blown bridge. In the meantime the C.O. had send the carriers to recce a route from 361325 to road junction 383297 via the villages WENNERSTORF 3631 and WENZENDORF 3629 which they did successfully and found clear. Tac HQ then moved along this route too WENZENDORF while the Coys cleared down the main road to X rds. 3827 meeting no organised opposition. There were several low flying enemy fighters about and Tac HQ claimed one damaged by them by Bren fire.

1200 hrs. Tac HQ moved to 385287.

1530 hrs. The Bn. was ordered to move forward to IDDENSEN 4435 prior to clearing the wooded area each side of the main road from 459372 to LURADE 462391.

1830 hrs. The Bn. commenced the wood clearing operation. There was some shelling as the Coys moved up to the S.L. and we suffered a few casualties. Little opposition was met in the wooded area and we took 12 prisoners. By 2055 the operation was complete and Coys dug in.

Locations,

Tac HQ 452365,

Carriers 464366

A Coy 461374, Mortars 458364.

B Coy 466366, M.M.G's 461370,

C Coy 460386,

D Coy 461387.

During the night there was some shelling and A Coy reported track vehicles moving about in area 464397.

Casualties, two O.R's wounded,

6 O.R. reinforcements arrived.

21st April. Saturday, (D+308).

Weather, overcast, showers.

0630 hrs. A Coy cleared the wood leading up to C Coy at 463387 with no opposition excepting 2 Germans who were taken prisoner.

1415 hrs. A Coy was sent to clear the village of WOXDORF 4837 they met no opposition in the village and came back to their posn. at 461374.

1800 hrs. D Coy established permanent Standing Patrols at 452392, 457393 and 460394.

A Coy put out a permanent standing patrol at 462384.

2100 hrs. A Coy sent out a recce patrol to WOXDORF 4837 and found it clear of enemy.

B Coy sent a recce patrol to METZENDORF 4736 and this village also was found to be unoccupied by the enemy.

C Coy sent out a recce patrol to the area of track 464396 to 467396. The patrol got close to the track and discovered that it was definitely held by the enemy.

D Coy sent out recce patrol whose task was to investigate area of track junction 457399 rd. junction 464403, rd. and track junction 463396.

There was spasmodic shelling and Mortaring of Coy posns. during the day and enemy artillery also paid some attention to the village of TOTENSEN 4536.

Bagrep; 3 POWs.

:Casualties; 5 O.Rs wounded.

22nd April. Sunday, (D+309).

Weather, showery.

0015-0040 fairly heavy shelling of C & D Coy areas.

0600 hrs. The Carrier Platoon captured 2 prisoners who had been hiding up in the wood in area 467365. They were both members of a Flack Bn.

0610 hrs. D Coy reported that the area of their Coy HQ was being shelled. They suffered no casualties.

0720 hrs. D Coys centre Standing Patrol at 457393 was shot up by the enemy.

Three of our men were killed and two wounded.

The Germans adopted the Rouge of the white flag they approached our patrol position displaying a white flag and as our patrol prepared to take them prisoner they were shot down by a German covering party. (Cpl. Robert Bruce Pass, 6144429).

0930 hrs. C Coy spotted an enemy observation post at 477392 which was engaged by our arty. 8 direct hits on the O.P. were observed.

1210 hrs. C Coy reported that wood 471395 was full of enemy at least 18 Germans could be counted.

They were engaged by our arty.

1715 D Coy were shelled by at least 2 88mm guns. Shelling was described as spasmodic and harassing.

Our Mortars were active during the day. Engaged the wooded areas to the north of our fwd.

Coys and an enemy patrol and one S.P. Gun at METZENDORF 4736.

Our 2 fwd. Coys carried out extensive booby trapping in areas just forward of their section posns. and on the flanks.

Bagrep, 2 POWs,

Casualties, 3 O.R's killed, 2 O.R's wounded, 2 O.R's missing believed POW.

23rd April. Monday, (D+310).

Weather, bright and sunny

0200 hrs. B Coy sent out a strong recce patrol to ascertain if METZENDORF clear of enemy. Patrol arrived back at 0445 with the report that enemy were definitely in METZENDORF.

0300 hrs. C Coy sent a recce patrol to find out if any enemy along the edge of the wood running from 4/6 9385 to 472392. Patrol discovered unoccupied posns. at 469385 and heard considerable enemy noise in the wood at 474390.

There was considerable enemy patrol activity in the early hours of the morning.

A, C & D Coys all Engaged enemy patrols and A Coy succeeded in capturing a prisoner who gave some interesting information about the enemy patrols. He said he was one of a party of 30 Germans who led by a Lieutenant were sent from the barracks at HARBURG 4942 to recce our position and find out our strength. The party came down the main road from HARBURG and about 800x from our fwd. posns. split into three parties. Two parties then moved off on the east side of the road and one party on the West side. It is thought that we inflicted some casualties on these patrols.

0840 hrs. Considerable tracked vehicle movement was heard in the area 4640.

0930 D Coy reported they had found two dead SS near a section posn. Evidently they had been killed by one of our booby traps. They were both members of the 20th Pz Ers. Bn.

1100-1500 hrs. Considerable enemy arty harassing fire onto B & C Coys. No casualties.

During the day our arty engaged enemy seen at 481376 and also enemy gun posns. in the rear.

Our Mortars engaged enemy seen at 483381. Enemy Mortars were also active particularly against C Coy.

2100 hrs. B Coy sent out an ambush patrol of one Offr. & five men to rd. junct. 477368 at the northern end of METZENDORF but unfortunately no enemy came their way.

Patrol returned at first light next morning

D Coy reported considerable movement of enemy transport in area 464403.

Defensive fire was brought down by our medium artillery but the noise of transport moving continued for some time and later it was thought the noise was faked by broadcasting apparatus.

Casualties:- 2 Offrs. & 3 O.R's wounded.

24th April. Tuesday, (D+311).

Weather, bright and sunny.

0300 hrs. A Coy sent a recce patrol of 1 Offr. & 3 men to investigate the area around 474377 where it was suspected that enemy were digging in. Patrol found enemy dug in in cops 474378

and the gain at 475377. Total strength was estimated at about 20 men. Our patrol returned safely at 0445 hrs.

1035 hrs. The Carrier platoon reported that a party of enemy was digging in at 49137.

1825 hrs. C Coy observed six enemy moving about in corner of wood 474394.

Day generally was quiet. There was a little shelling of our forward areas from time to time and also Mortars.

1900 hrs. A Coy sent ambush patrol of 1 Offr. & 6 men to 478345.

2230 hrs. B Coy relieved C Coy. C Coy moved into reserve at HINTELN 445345.

with one sec. at 471369 and one at 473366. The third sec. was in reserve with Pln. HQ at 469367.

These changes took place without incident.

25th April. Wednesday, (D+312).

Weather, bright and sunny.

0230 hrs. B Coy sent a recce patrol of 1 Sgt. & 3 men to the area 471389. The patrol returned at 0415 hrs. and reported much noise in area 474390 including wood chopping, felling of trees and a motor vehicle moving about.

0230 hrs. D Coy sent a recce patrol of 1 Sgt. & 3 men to the area of an enemy anti-tank ditch running from 458397 to 46339. The patrol actually got as far as 45939 and reported hearing track vehs. and m/c's on main road at 463397 and some noise along the anti-tank ditch itself.

Patrol returned at 0400 hrs.

0430 hrs. The Carrier Pln. reported 30 enemy in two parties at 476364. Arty fire was brought to bear on them, and they withdrew.

0500 hrs. The ambush patrol sent out the previous evening too 478370 returned and reported that no enemy had come their way. However, the Offr. in charge of the ambush patrol took a small recce party forward to houses at 47937 at 2230 hrs. and bumped a party of eight Germans whom they engaged with stands before withdrawing. It was not known if they inflicted any casualties.

It was fairly quiet in the Bn. area during the day and there was no shelling although enemy mortars were active from time to time.

It was decided not to send any patrols out that night because of bright moonlight throughout most of the night.

26th April. Thursday, (D+313).

0305 hrs. B Coy (our right fwd. Coy) was attacked by about 50 enemy who were supported by 1 tank. They came in from the north and forced our Standing Patrol to withdraw.

The enemy then came up against the Coys defence is an after some time B Coy supported by 3" Mortars and Arty. were Able to drive the enemy off and retake the Standing Patrol posn. inflicting Casualties on the enemy including a few dead. B Coy suffered one casualty only.

According to a wounded prisoner who was taken the enemy's intention was to capture the high ground in area 467390. 4 Coy 12 S.S. Ersatz Bn. was identified.

One corpse a rat faced little Horst Wessel who was found next morning by B Coy carried an unopened letter from his sister addressed "To a nice unknown SS man" And hoping that the N.U.S.S.M. To whom her dear brother delivered it would come and have some fun with her. Corpse also carried a photo of his girlfriend a muscle bound BRUNNHILDE topping the scales at some 300 lbs. Her name was EDELTRAUT and the photo was inscribed "in memory of many happy hours together from your TRAUTI" poor TRAUTI!.

0700 hrs. D Coy reported one dead and two wounded Germans near their fwd. posns. These enemy were apparently members of a patrol which attacked in D Coys direction at the same time as the main attack went in on B Coy at 0305 hrs.

Left hand neighbours the 2nd Devon's were also attacked at the same time. But the enemy attacked here in greater strength using 2 Coy 12 S.S. Ers. Bn. and 2 Coy 20 Pz. Ers. Bn. and achieved some penetration. The posn. was restored later on in the morning with heavy loss to the enemy including 53 POWs and about 40 dead.

0930 hrs. The ? say C Started an operation to clear the wooded areas stretching in an easterly direction from 4535 to 4835 where it was there that odd groups of enemy were lying up. No enemy were met however the operation was completed by 1600 hrs.

There was no shelling during the day in the Bn. area. B Coy reported Spasmodic Spandau and 20mm fire And in the afternoon some enemy chopping down trees at 472393. Our 3" Mortars engaged the latter.

Casualties, one O.R. wounded.

27th April. Friday, (D+314).

0200 hrs. D Coy Sent out a recce patrol 1 Sgt. and 2 men to find out if the enemy were digging in along the wood at 458396. Patrol found no enemy in this area but heard tracked vehicles and m/c's on main road at 463397.

0200 hrs. B Coy sent A recce patrol of 1 Sgt & 2 men to the area 472393. This patrol met no enemy but heard much noise including felling of trees at 463397.

0430 hrs. The 3" Mortar pln. put down 60 rounds of harassing fire on to 470395, known enemy locality.

1000 hrs. Two Spitfires were engaged by 2 20mm guns firing from 461397. Our 3" mortars engaged the 2 guns and got direct hits on both of them wounding 3 enemy.

1400 hrs. Our 3" Mortars engaged an enemy O.P. at 468397. 2 direct hits were reported.

1600 hrs. The 3" Mortars put down 100 rounds on a 20mm gun area at 462402 and silenced the guns.

During the evening C Coy relieved A Coy and A Coy relieved D Coy who then moved into reserve. No shelling was reported during the day. No patrols were sent out at night.

Bagrep, 3 RW (deserter's).

28th April. Saturday, (D+315).

Weather, cloudy, light showers.

A very quiet day. B Coy Standing Patrol 467891 sent in some excellent observation reports from time to time which were acted on by our 3" Mortars.

0600 hrs. Three enemy standing at 465397 were engaged by the Mortars.

0800 hrs. Some enemy was seen cooking their breakfast at 466398, breakfast was spoilt by our mortars.

1130 hrs. The Standing Patrol so 2 sentries at 469394.

1500 hrs. Three enemy pushing a barrel at 470391 were scattered by our mortars.

2100 hrs. Enemy were seen manning trenches at 470394 and were engaged by the mortars.

2155 hrs. The Carrier platoon reported an enemy working party at 473379. A tracked vehicle was heard moving about in the same area and men could be seen driving stakes into the ground. We put down arty & Mortar fire on the area.

2250 hrs. B Coy reported merrymaking in the enemy lines. Somebody was playing a trumpet very happily. The party continued into the night.

2359 hrs. A recce patrol of one NCO and three men which had been sent out by C Coy at 2130 hrs. to the area 470378 came back and had little to report except enemy coughing in cops 473379 and a pneumatic drill working at BECKEDORF 4838.

General WOLZ which asked us to refrain from shelling the phoenix rubber works 498425 which had been converted into a hospital and which was owned by the civilian member. One of the party a2/Lt. Interpreted from general WOLZ HQ said the general would not be averse to opening negotiations for the surrender of Hamburg.

We sent no patrols out during the night.

29th April. Monday, (D+317).

Weather, Overcast, showery, rather cold.

1030 hrs. The German civilian who had come in from HAMBURG the previous day with the white flag delegation was sent back through our lines to HAMBURG carrying a letter from the G.O.C. 7 Armd. Div. addressed to Maj. Gen. WOLZ Kampfkommandant HAMBURG demanding the surrender of HAMBURG.

2215 hrs. Slight shelling of our fwd. posns.

2200 hrs. Three recce patrols were sent out, one each from, A, C, & D Coys.

Bagrep, 1 POW. (Deserter).