

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

### FEBRUARY 1945.

- 1st Feb. Thursday, (D + 233).  
Weather, mild, some rain during morning afterwards bright and sunny.  
Slight shelling of W. of POSTERHOLT 798829 and N. of REUTJE 793827 during night.  
Very quiet and uneventful morning.  
1500 hrs. Occupied enemy dug out at 81758445 by arty O.P. 3 R.H.A. Engaged several small gps. of enemy Inf. on N. Bank of river ROER.  
1605 hrs. Occupied enemy dugout act 81668504 – by arty O.P.  
1800 hrs. Changeover of fwd. posns. D Coy 9 D.L.I. no longer u/c. D Coy go to PAARLO 812842, Carriers & 1 Pln. of B Coy to HOLST. B Coy (2 Plns. & HQ) to D Coy's old position. C Sqn. 1 R.T.R. take over B Coy's position in POSTERHOLT.  
2115 hrs. D Coy call for D.F. Enemy patrol herd moving to the front. Arty came in 3 mins. & very effective.  
One POW brought in by M.M.G'S (attached) a deserter of 4 months standing a Pole. (from 5 Hy. Bty. 9 Regt. 159 Div.).  
C.O. Congratulates Sgt. Dando on being awarded the C-in-C certificate for good service.  
29 Rfts. received and posted A Coy-13, B Coy 9, D Coy 6, H Coy 1.
- 2nd Feb. Friday, (D + 234).  
Weather, mild, bright and sunny, strong wind.  
Night 1/2 2 standing patrols maintained at 802829 and 797880 had N.T.R.  
0755 hrs. Enemy standing to in dugout 81668504. Arty O.P. with D Coy.  
Enemy occupied posns. at 81908455. 2 men seen to enter dugout at 8180 8466.  
0915 hrs. Occupied enemy dugout at 81878453.  
0945 hrs. Posns. in which enemy observed being engaged by mediums.  
1115 hrs. Fwd. Sec. of Carriers at HOLST 813882 report S.P. Gun firing on a bearing of 53° grid.  
1120 hrs. D Coy Report same (shells landing in their area). and believed fired by tank or S.P. from VLODROP area; gun firing on bearing of 60° grid from 812841.  
1450 hrs. D Coy Report that their Pln. at 812841 have seen on bearing of 20° grid and approx. 800 yds. away a 75mm A/Tk. gun and also on bearing of 31° grid and 8-900 yds. a multi barrelled mortar.  
1930 hrs. Suspected 20mm A.A. gun being engaged by arty at 805856  
1930 hrs. Sitrep to Bde. states that enemy mines in area 817836 have been dealt with and also arty have stonked enemy Mortar at 815852 (a NBW).  
2010 hrs. D.F. fire call for from D Coy at PAARLO, enemy S.A. fire from 811844. Enemy patrol heard moving to N. of PAARLO.  
2 Standing patrols we're out at 798829& 801827 for night 2/3 and had N.T.R.
- Feb 3rd. Saturday, (D + 235).  
Weather, very mild, bright and sunny.  
0751 hrs. D Coy O.P. reports 2 enemy standing to outside dugout 81668504 apparently enemies stand out for 0700 - 0800 hrs.  
0845 hrs. Enemy A/Tk. gun engaged by arty at 813851.  
1025 hrs. Civrep - 20 Germans seen at 82008385, similar number at 828839.

1115 hrs. M.M.G's attached engaging target at 829839 (20 enemy).  
1225 hrs. Mines from X rds. 818839 N. to river in fields (from Bde.).  
1800 hrs. Coys changeover – locations, B Coy 813832, D Coy 699779 (ECHT) Carriers 799828, B Coy D.L.I. u/c at 813842.  
1930 hrs. Very heavy raid on bearing of 70° grid from 794823.  
1950 hrs. 2 planes believed to have crashed at 15° grid approx. 5 miles distance and 25° grid from 794823. Very severe A/A fire at 70° grid from same reference.  
2015 hrs. 3 Large enemy Searchlight cones, 55°, 65°, and 35° grid 12-18 lights in each observed for 30 minutes.  
This was R.A.F. Raid on Duisburg and Essen.  
1900-2040 hrs. B Coy sent recce patrol to area 819839 to recce route and houses there for enemy occupation. Patrol reported enemy seen digging at corner of wood 817838 And movement as though mines were being laid. Arty engaged.

4th Feb. Sunday, (D + 236).

Weather, mild showery after midday.

0400 hrs. B Coy report several Spandau's firing across river on our left flank.

0745 hrs. 2 Standing patrols as before had N.T.R.

1035 hrs. Enemy shelled PAARLO with long range guns from approx. 5000 yards also with 75mm's at 1037 hrs. This caused 2 casualties to 9 D.L.I. (B Coy).

1040 hrs. Enemy shelled HOLST.

1105 hrs. PARLO still being shelled, guns cannot be heard firing.

1138 hrs. 1 x 75mm firing at 3000 yards range and bearing 49° grid on PAARLO.

1210-1220 hrs. Our arty fired "V" Tgts. on Enemy battery positions, enemy shelling ceased.

1657 hrs. PARLO was again shelled no casualties.

2108 hrs. Area of POSTERHOLT shelled.

1900-2130 hrs. B Coy Recce patrol with task to recce houses for signs of enemy occupation in area 819835, patrol reached 817837 without incident and a few yards past this point heard signs of coughing and movement at 81808375. Patrol laid low for few minutes and then tried to move N. around this point, after going few yards fired upon by rifle. The patrol Comdr. thinking he had been detected returned and stated that it was probably a German standing patrol at 81808375.

5th Feb. Monday (D + 237).

Weather, mild considerable rain.

0730 hrs. 2 Standing patrols at 802829 and 797830 had N.T.R.

1100 hrs. Enemy movement between houses and trenches at 79408565, Engaged by arty.

1800 hrs. Coys Change over, locations A 812842, B 792825, carriers 815832, B Coy 9 D.L.I. at 798827.

1900-2130 hrs. Ricky patrol as for previous night reports whole area clear, no mines found and no enemy detected. Houses 819839 clear.

6th Feb. Tuesday, (D + 238).

Weather, mild, some rain showers but many bright intervals.

0220 hrs. A Coy Report enemy patrol of three men came down main road from VLODROP; what scene act 813840 when they started to crawl; grenades were thrown by both sides at 20 yds range; Bren fire was given and enemy withdrew along Rd.

0245 hrs. Carriers in HOLST report Enemy in woods at 818833, firing 2-3 Spandau's or Schmeiser's into their position; this was returned and DF brought to bear.

0300 hrs. D.F. Fire raised 200 yds, enemy now running.

0310 hrs. Carriers report "all quiet".

0730 hrs. 2 Standing patrols as before had N.T.R.

1810 hrs. Carriers report shelling of HOLST by 105mm gun.

2200 hrs. 1 wounded POW from 14 Coy of 1219 G.R. Was brought in by A Coy; he had been lying in front of F.D.L's act 811844 for approx. 6 days and 7 nights; i.e. Since counterattack on PAARLO; he still retains sufficient life to drink tea, he was in a very perilous state.

7th Feb. Weather, Mild with some rain.

0245 hrs. Enemy Patrol bumped fwd. Sec of A Coy at 810843, strength not known, they were engaged by S.A. withdrew & two explosives were heard believed to be mines which we had laid in that area.

A whistle was blown. And a bazooka fired one bomb. This was repeated and DF was called on to the area 810845.

Relief of Bn. Less D Coy at ECHT and A Coy 1 Pln. of B Coy & Carriers remained at PARLO in HOLST respectively. started by 2 Coys of D.L.I. in HOLST & PAARLO. 1 R.B. took over our HQ at REUTJE and a composite company of tanks and drivers took over POSTERHOLT.

Bn. moved via SCHILBERG and SUSTEREN to MAISGECH? and were concentrated in barracks at 628796.

The roads from REUTJE to SCHILBERG were in a very bad state resulting from the recent thaw and rain but all transport managed to get through.

8th Feb. Thursday, (D + 240).

Weather, mild and bright and sunny.

A & D Coys, 1 Pln. of B Coy and carriers rejoined Bn. at MAISGECH? During day.

At C.O. Conference during morning it was stated that big things were pending shortly but after our recent commitments it was most likely we should not be needed immediately but possibility remained of a swan if things went well, maintenance was a prior necessity. All kit was to be checked deficiencies made good weapons stripped and cleaned and ammunition ditto.

Gas equipment to be overhauled and respirators cleaned etc. Numerous entertainments were to be provided with all speed and the general idea was that if above requirements were rapidly fulfilled men could then have free time as possible.

41 Rfts. Received and posted, A - 12, B 15, D - 12 H - 2.

9th Feb. Friday, (D + 241).

Weather, very wet morning cleared too bright intervals later.

Capt. W.G. McLaughlin joins Bn. & posted to B Coy.

Lt. J.A. Knight apptd. A/Capt. w.e.f. Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>.

Lt. W.E. Gell apptd. A/Capt. w.e.f. Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.

10th Feb. Saturday, (D + 242).

Weather, heavy rain during morning bright and fine later.

11th Feb. Sunday, (D + 243).

Weather, Cold, overcast, rained heavily during night.

Capt. N Marsden, Lt. F.R. Jeffrey & 2/Lt. Fletcher joined Bn. & posted to H, B, A Coys respectively.

12th Feb. Monday, (D + 244).

Weather, cold, overcast with low cloud, fine misty rain fell most of day.

C.O. Congratulates Pte. H.E. Howard I'm being awarded MM for gallantry in action at SUSTEREN.

13th Feb. Tuesday, (D + 245).

Weather, fine and bright turned to rain at last light and rained heavily but intermittently during most of night.

1100 hrs. Bn. moved. Owing to extensive flooding of the river Maas the bridge is at MAASEIK, BERG & BORGHAREN were closed to traffic.

Bn. had Therefore to make the lengthy detour through MAASTRICHT thence via SITTARD 6868, SUSTEREN 6775, SCHILBERG 7180, DIERGAARD 7578, POSTERHOLT 8082 to REUTJE 7982.

Locations, Bn. HQ 790825, A Coy 786827, B Coy 787843, D Coy 784843, Carriers 792825, Mortars 787835.

A/Tks. did not travel with Bn. as they were attending for practice the Lommel Range 3095.

3 Standing Patrols were established at 792844, 791842 & 781842 from 1800 to 0730 hrs.

Lt. F.R. Jeffrey transferred to Mortars (2 i/c).

14th Feb. Wednesday, (D + 246).

Weather, Mild, bright & sunny.

0700 hrs. Sitrep to Bde. -N.T.R.

0730 hrs. 3 Standing Patrols had N.T.R.

0800 hrs. Sitrep to Bde. N.T.R.

0935 hrs. B Coy L.H. Pln. report smoke coming from area MELICK 792855.

1245 hrs. D Coy report Mortar fire on R.H. Pln. from 1235-1240, no bearing.

1500 hrs. D Coy report single gun firing into this area on bearing 75° grid.

1820 hrs. D Coy reports M.M.G. firing on bearing of 325° grid & 400 yds. from 785848.

1800-1900 hrs. Patrol by B Coy of N.C.O. & 6 plus Assault Pioneers from 790845 thro S.P. at 8792844 to X tracks 796843 to recce route for mines found no mines; recce posns. for harassing houses at HEINGEN 796844 and report on flooding. they found post E. of S.P. a roadblock of 4 large trees not booby trapped. From X tracks houses in full view, no flooding up to houses but beyond to river & to east there was some flooding. Most of route there was good cover provided by trees.

2000 hrs. Sitrep to Bde. – Snipers went out to E. of B Coy but no results. 2" Mortars claim hit on 20 men at 788853.

2200 hrs. B Coy report red & white Very light 200 yds. from S.P.

2205 hrs. D Coy report Spandau firing at 43° grid & approx. 500 yds. from 785848.

2300 hrs. D Coy report explosion (of mine) at 777845, human cries heard afterwards.

15th Feb. Thursday, (D + 247).

Weather, Mild, Fine but overcast.

Patrols, 3 Standing Patrols at 792844, 791842 & 781842.

A Coy Recce patrol of NCO & 2 men out 0645 hrs. & returning when finished to check route for mines went from 783830 to 784832 to 781834 to 785838 had N.T.R.

0400 hrs. D Coy C Pln. report hearing movement of enemy tpt. over river.  
 0945 hrs. D Coy report 2 Spandau's firing 1/. 25° grid & 6-700 yds. 2/. 295° grid & 400 yds. from 783844.  
 1100 hrs. Harassing fire started by A Sqn. 1 R.T.R. – tgts. 20 men & guns first engaged at 79258515.  
 1150 hrs. Tks. report on tgt. but more ammo needed to K.O. gun.  
 1225 hrs. Two rds. land on edge or in gun pit.  
 1245 hrs. R.H. Pln. of D Coy report they are being mortared – may be in retaliation for shoot by tks. C.O. D Coy says he is strafing guns & houses behind them with incendiaries.  
 1250 hrs. Roofs of houses hit but they did not catch fire.  
 1308 hrs. B Coy report 1 mortar fired 8 bombs on to houses area 789845 from 1245 – 1255 hrs. fired on sound bearing of 25° grid & approx. 1200 yds from 788846.  
 1310 hrs. 3 further hits on edge of gun pit probable gun damage.  
 1350 hrs. 11 Pln. of B Coy report hy. gun firing on bearing of 100° grid suggest this may have been the one which used to fire on them at first & last light when they were in PAARLO.  
 1520 hrs. B Coy report that from 1500-1504 hrs. 4 guns fired 8 shells into area 784847 on bearing of 355° grid from 798845.  
 1500 hrs. B Coy O.P. reports smoke coming from courtyard at 791854 & Spandau firing 800 yds. away on bearing of 31° grid.  
 1750-1800 hrs. A harassing fire programme on E. MELICK from 804859 to 806860 by 4.2" mortars (40 rds. per mortar) and M.M.G's – 5 belts per gun  
 1800 hrs. Enemy retaliated with a few intermittent shells.  
 1945 hrs. Sitrep to Bde. Snipers claim 2 Germans shot in area of BOSCHBERG 777847.

16th Feb. Friday (D + 248).

Weather V. fine bright & sunny with good visibility.

Patrols Night 15/16.

Standing Patrols.

1. 792844 had N.T.R.

2. 791842, At 2030 hrs. S.P. engaged small party of enemy at approx. 793840. This made off & bumped 2 men of B Coy HQ walking at 789843 who challenged them to which they replied by clicking rifle bolt at which our men realised they were enemy made off. At 2100 hrs. enemy patrol had gone to 790844 & was engaged by S.P. after this no more was heard.

3. at 780832 had N.T.R.

4. at 181842 act 2300 hrs. S.P. Engaged enemy patrol act approx. 778842 & 1 "S" mine was heard later to go off at 780844. S.P. Thought the enemy were working round so open fire on five men suddenly approaching them these were a line party sent out to restore comms. to S.P. Unfortunately there were three casualties one proving fatal. Nothing further was heard of the enemy patrol.

Recce patrol of 1 NCO & 6 men plus 4 A/pioneers to clear road from 796843 to 799842 found no mines, the road having a good hard surface. A dog was heard barking near house at 797843 & birds in trees act 799843 flew up as if disturbed but no enemy met. Patrol were held from 1815 hrs. - 1930 hrs. Feb 15<sup>th</sup>.

Fighting patrol of Offr. NCO & 12 men of B Coy from 2030 hrs. to 2330 hrs. Feb 15<sup>th</sup> to destroy enemy at HEINGEN 796845, searched all round house which was securely bolted two dogs barked in the courtyard but nothing else heard or seen.

Security patrol. NCO & two men of A Coy from 0645 hrs. to 0730 hrs. to check Rd 784830 - 784832 - 781834 - 785838 for mines had N.T.R.

0800 hrs. Sitrep to Bde. Tk. engine & H.D. tpt. Heard in MELICK during night.  
 0925 hrs. B Coy Reports mortar fired 8 shells into 793845 on a bearing of 83° grid from 789843.  
 1000 hrs. We send to Bde. 2 harassing fire plans for tonight – 79158563& 796-585970.  
 1010 hrs. 3 R.H.A. Engage enemy seen digging in trench at 791851 hit the trench.  
 1020 hrs. Barrel of 20mm gun engaged yesterday has been removed.  
 1230 hrs. Tks. (as yesterday) engage enemy posns. area school 796857.  
 1315 hrs. Tks. cease fire, have hit houses in area several times.  
 1340 hrs. 3 R.H.A. engage 20mm at 793815 with sniping gun.  
 During afternoon Hy gun (170mm?) fired at long intervals shells into S. POSTERHOLT, some landing close to 9061 HQ.  
 1600 hrs. 3" Mortars engage BORSCHBERG 777849 where enemy movement seen, 37 rds. fired all in target area.  
 1615 hrs. Enemy 20MM guns(3+) are engaging our a/c N. of St. ODILIËNBERG .  
 1620 hrs. 3 R.H.A. Have been engaging enemy positions S. of X at 791854.  
 Our snipers have also been active against enemy movement here & claim 3 certs. and 2 probable's.  
 1700 hrs. Arty O.P. says enemy has replaced barrel of 20mm and they will engage it again in consequent.  
 1715 hrs. Spandau reported firing from MELICK area.  
 1730 hrs. Mortars (3") from 1810- 1842 fired 58 rds. own 792851 where are enemy & 20mm gun and many near misses on gun.  
 1855 hrs. B Coy report from 1837-1842 2 mortars fired smoke into 788847 on bearing of 30° grid from 787844.  
 1930 hrs. Sitrep sent to Bde.  
 1940 hrs. D Coy Report heavy raid by US about two miles to N. of them.  
 1950 hrs. B Coy send in flash bearing of Hy. gun mentioned above 52° great from 787844.  
 2130 hrs. B Coy Report Spandau fired 2 bursts from MELICK area.  
 2340 hrs. B Coy S.P. has seen 3 white flares 300 yds to their left.  
 Capt. L.J. Wheatley MC returns to Bn.  
 Lt. W.E. Gell posted to Div. School.

17th Feb. Saturday, (D + 249).

Weather, fine but overcast; misty & low visibility, turned to misty rain after last light.

Patrols Night 16/17.

Standing Patrols.

1. at 792844 N.T.R.
2. at 791842 "
3. 781842 "
4. 780832 "

Recce Patrol. Offr. & 8 men of B Coy from 0630 hrs.-0730 hrs. to find out if HENGEN 796845 is occupied by enemy, route 789845-796843 796845. Patrol arrived at house and found it securely fastened. Patrol Comdr. knocked on door which was opened by a civilian. Comdr. searched house which contained two other men three women & one boy there were no signs of German occupation but they were told that five Germans slept in house a night 14th Feb and spent following day in the house; this man was brought in for interrogation& the rest were evacuated during morning.

Security Patrol. of A Coy of one NCO & two men + 2 A/Pioneers to check route 784830-784832-781834-784838 for mines there was N.T.R. T.o 0645 hrs. T.i. 0730 hrs.

Offensive patrol of B Coy of 1 Offr. & eight men from 0300-0500 hrs. To shoot up any enemy scene on route 789845-799842-800834-797832 (here contact made with carriers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Devs.) 794837-789845 had N.T.R.

Contact Patrol of D Coy of NCO & 3 men from 0715 hrs. - 0930 hrs. To contact 3<sup>rd</sup> Cdrs. At 772837, route 781842-776839-772837.

The patrol contacted Tks. At 772837 who had taken over from Cdrs. 0600 hrs. Otherwise N.T.R.

0730 hrs. B Coy Reported 2 mortars firing approx. 15 bombs landing to there West from 0725-0730 hrs. and fired on sound bearing of 29½ grid from Coy HQ.

0830 hrs. B Coy Wound that 2 Devs. will have snipers operating in area 8084.

0955 hrs. We inform 131 Bde. Our 2 Harrison fire areas for tonight are at X tracks 792866 & 804858.

1107 hrs. B Coy report smoke coming from 2 houses 200 yards other side of bridge & on bearing of 11° grid from 989847.

1200 hrs. Arty claim 2 X 20mm guns knocked out at 792851& 791853.

1300 hrs. B Coy report considerable smoke from first house in MELICK bearing 4° grid from 789847, 7-800 yds away.

1440 hrs. B Coy reports 2 mortars fired 12 H.E. bombs into area 796846 on bearing of 20° grid from 789847.

1500 hrs. 3 R.H.A. engage enemy targets in MELICK & secure direct hit on house near school.

1800 hrs. 3 R.H.A. Engage enemy Inf. seen standing to at 790856 first class shoot all in target area, visibility later good became poor.

1830 hrs. Mortars report trip flare near D Coy rear Pln. Set off (by dog). at 1541 hrs. 3" Mortar fired 12 bombs on a bearing of 355° grid from fwd. Pln.

2200 hrs. B Coy report 1 Med. or Hy gun at 2150 hrs fired shell into PAARLO area. Snipers were out during day but made no claims.

18th Feb. Sunday, (D + 250).

Weather, mild overcast low visibility persistent light rain.

Patrols night 17/18.

Standing patrols.

1. 792844 N.T.R
2. 791842 "
3. 781842 "
4. 780832 "

784822- Security patrol of NCO and two men and 2 A/Pioneers (A Coy) To check route 784830-781834-785838 for mines had N.T.R. T.o. 0645 hrs. T.i. 07/30 hrs.

772837 Contact patrol of NCO and three men (D Coy) from 0630 to 0730 hrs. to control Cdos. at went via 781842-776839-772837 and contact otherwise N.T.R.

789845- Offensive patrol of one off & 14 men (B Coy) from 1830 hrs. to 2200 hrs. to Layout in area of HEINGEN 796845 and two destroy any enemy attempting to use the house went from 796843-796845. There was N.T.R.

0442 hrs. D Coy report rifle shots L.M.G. Fire and 4 small explosions at 778 847.

1415 hrs. D Coy report one mortar fired into Coy area on a bearing of 340° grid sound from 783844 & approx. 1000 yds distant.

1645 hrs. Arty are engaging S.P. gun at 86268406.

1810 hrs. 3" Mortars report at 1300 hrs. engaged area 791854, 15 rds. all in tgt. area and at 1745 hrs. same tgt. 10 rds. all in tgt. area.

1800 hrs. M.M.G's Have Harrison fire shoot on area HOVERENBOL.

1840 hrs. B Coy reports gun firing on bearing of 110° grid from 789847.

1915 hrs. B Coy reports Spandau and 20mm gun have fired short bursts into their area.

1930 hrs. B Coy report one mortar fired 6 bombs into area 789847.

19th Feb. Monday, (D + 251)

Weather, V. Mild overcast but fine.

Patrols night 18/19.

Standing patrols.

1. 796846 (with recce 279-6846).

2. 791842 N.T.R.

3. 780832 "

4. 781842 "

Security patrol by A Coy NCO + two men + 2 A/Pioneers along route 784832-781834-785838 to check for mines had N.T.R.

Contact patrol by D Coy of NCO + three men via 781842-776889-772837 to contact Cdos. at 772837 had N.T.R.

The Recce patrol, from no. 1 S.P. Left 797844 at 2100 hrs. Through orchard at 797843 then left to hedgerow leading to house at 797843 where flood water was 200 yards from rear of house; no enemy here and going along shoreline of flood to house at 799843 where again no enemy and flood water was about 50 yards from rear of house. Patrol then investigated house at 801843 again no enemy all along route no evidence of crossing places found and opinion was that any attempt would be difficult at present only possible places being 796844 & 799 844.

0045 hrs. B Coy report Spandau firing one burst from E. to W. The flash bang on bearing of 40° grid from 789847 to approx. 900 yards.

0730 hrs. B Coy Report 2 flashes from N. & approx. 800 yards distance could have been caused by lighting of cigarette.

0930 hrs. Arty engages Hy. or Med. gun at 7:00 97861 all rounds in tgt. area.

1050 hrs. Arty engages 20mm gun at 790855.

1125 hrs. 4 direct hits on parapet of gun pit above.

1230 hrs. D Coy Report their fwd. Coys have seen 1 or 2 enemy apparently fixing booby traps between trees at BOSCHBERG 777847.

1620 hrs. D Coy Informed that US tps. Have relieved 3<sup>rd</sup> Cdos. to their left, Usual contact will take place tonight they have established a new S.P. at 776839.

1625 hrs. 3 R.H.A. Report a well camouflaged gun probably 20mm at 788851.

1630 hrs. B Coy Report considerable smoke coming from houses in MELICK particularly at 802859.

1720 hrs. 3 R.H.A. have Regt. tgt. on 796857.

1915 hrs. A Coy report 2 mortars fire 6 bombs into area 788845 on bearing of 41° grid from 789847 & 1000 1200 yds away.

1925 hrs. Snipers – B Coy no claim, D Coy 2 certs. at 793851.

1930 hrs. 4.2 Motors report That during day they have been engaging area MELICK 7985 with 1000 bombs & claim one brew up and many hits on houses.

M.M.G's From 1800-1900 hrs. Fired 80 belt on same area.

3" Mortars at 1420 hrs. Engaged enemy movement a BORSCHBERG 777 842, 20 rounds fired all in Tgt. area at 1820-1900 a Pln. shoot on S.W. end of MELICK 7985, 200 bombs fired all in Tgt. area.

2115 hrs. B Coy S.P. reports at 100° grid bearing & 700 yds. away brew up of house probably to bazooka.

2330 hrs. B Coy B Coy reports 1 X 20mm gun find approx. 12 rounds into area 789846 on bearing of 40° grid sound & 1000 yds. distance from 790844.

1 O.R. was slightly wounded.

20th Feb. Tuesday, (D + 252).

Weather, Overcast, rained most of day; cleared by last light to fine evening.

Patrols night 19/20.

Standing patrols.

1. at 796846 act 2016 hrs. reported S.A. Fire and explosions of grenades or small mortars in area 806803. Act 2100 hrs. A house brewed up in approx. same area. At 0720 hrs. area 808843 was shelled by a heavy gun possibly 20mm.
2. at 791842 act 2030 hrs. 2 patrols appeared to clash in area 806842. at 2200 hrs. Patrol heard what appeared to be squeaks & noise of a w/t set operating the patrol Comdr. Went forward a short distance and listened for about 45 mins but heard or saw no more; at the time it was thought the word attention was said twice.
3. at 781842 had N.T.R.
4. at 780832 “.

Security patrol of A Coy From 0645 hrs. To return when completed to check for mines along route as on previous evenings had N.T.R.

Contact Patrol of D Coy of NCO & three men from 0630 to 0730 to contact at 772837 had N.T.R.

During early morning a section from D Coy out to inspect a belt of our S. Mines mistook route and thought upon two of the mines with the unfortunate result that 5 members (2 Offrs. Lts. Fletcher & Nicholls & 3 O.R's were injured none severely.

21st Feb. Wednesday, (D + 253).

Weather fine, bright and sunny.

Patrols, night 20/21.

Standing patrols,

1. at 796846 had N.T.R.
2. At 791842 “
3. at 779840(NCO & 80 O.R's N.T.R.
4. at 780832 N.T.R.

Security patrol of A Coy to check root for mines as on previous nights had N.T.R.

Contact patrol as previously to U.S. troops at 772837 had N.T.R.

0640 hrs. B Coy S.P. Reports a dog with bell attached turned back just before their position after approaching from 11 Pln. posn.

0645 hrs. B Coy Report their area shelled by 1 gun firing 7 shells.

1000 hrs. B Coy O.P. reports smoke coming from house in MELICK W. & just to E. smoke coming from ground.

1045 hrs. D Coy report 1 shell just outside this area fired from approx. 3000 yards away.

During morning Bn. Was being relieved by elts. of 8 Armd. Div. US This was completed by approx. 1500 hrs.

Bn. moved via MAESEYCK 6379 KINROY 6084 to WEERT T 5897.

Locations:- Bn. HQ 583973, A Coy 582975, B Coy 576980, C Coy 570978, D Coy 569979, Carriers 588984, Mortars 593980, A/Tks. 588978, A2 584974, B Ech. 571981.

22nd Feb. Thursday, (D + 254).

Weather mild bright and sunny.

23rd Feb. Friday, (D + 255).

Weather, overcast but no rain somewhat colder and strong wind.

Notes on C.O's conference issued q.v. covering actual foreshadowed for Bn. during stay in WEERT. Main points covered were C.O's Admin inspection, Veh. Inspection, weapons inspection, entertainments, medical inspections etc. Training (to start Feb 27<sup>th</sup>) discussions and "Griff Talks" and Div. Competitions.

Lt. B.G. MEARA joins Bn. & apptd. M.T.O.

24th Feb. Saturday, (D + 256).

Weather, bright sunny day.

25th Feb. Sunday, (D + 257).

Weather, overcast but no rain till evening when slight showers.

At 1600 hrs. Representative from Bn. Going on exercise tomorrow collected at D Coy to be shorted into respective troop & LVT Groups.

4 O.R's Wounded by mine explosion (accidental) of whom 2 subsequently died. (on 26-28 Feb.).

26th Feb. Monday, (D + 258).

Weather, overcast and cold with fine rain during morning cleared later to bright intervals.

The exercise on which Bn. was represented was stated to have no operational significance, we being used only because we were the only troops readily available.

It was designed to give practise to the "Buffaloes" crews of 33 Armd. Bde. Individually and to their collective uses in operations.

At 0800 hrs. Bn. moved to ROTHENE 6074 there they embarked on board the Buffaloes as Settled the previous day and after proceeding across country to the R. MAAS the crossing was made the first experience we have had of this means consequently to quite a number a trip of some interest and excitement. On reaching the further bank without undue incident the Bn. Reformed and M buffing again at PAPENHOVEN returned at once to WEERT via MAESEYCK & KINROY.

Despite our role of "Guinea pigs" it was readily seen that the main details of scheme as outlined had been achieved i.e. The rapid assembly and loading, advanced to the crossing points in groups with assault parties leading the follow up of Buffaloes carrying heavy equipment and vehicles the immediate unloading on the further bank and return of empty Buffaloes for further loads.

C.O. Congratulations to the following offrs. & O.R's On award for gallantry and distinguished services gained during exercise "Blackcock" Maj. H.J. Nangle, Bar to D.S.O., Maj. C.V Lilley, MC, & L/Cpl. Dennis D.C.M.

27th Feb. Tuesday (D + 259).

Dates for Adm. Inspection amended to Feb 28th March 1st March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.

C.O's Congratulations to following Offrs. & O.R's on awards for gallantry and distinguished services gained during exercise "Blackcock", Lt. M.L. Baker MC, 2/Lt. R Maxwell. MC & Cpl. Dolly MM.

12 Rfts. Received & posted.

28th Feb. Wednesday, (D + 260).  
Weather, overcast.