

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

### JANUARY 1945

- 1st Jan. (D plus 206). Weather cold, bright and sunny.  
3 standing patrols were out 1720 hrs. 0700 hrs.
1. At 730701.
  2. At 742697.
  3. At 749696. All had little to report.
- During the night there was considerable aerial activity that by the enemy was considerably more than for some time past.  
Changeover of Coys affected during morning from 0800 hrs to 1000 hrs as follows, D company with a Coy & B Coy with C Coy.  
0915 hrs. Sitrep to brigade had N.T.R.  
0920 hrs. Gunners report enemy a/c Junkers flying in W. Direction and then on bearing of three 323° grid and large explosion and column of black smoke seen.  
At least 2 Sqns. of enemy aircraft flying W. over 7574.  
0945 hrs. Gunners report enemy fighter plane crashed at 762703 burnt furiously pilot failed out but parachute failed to open. Also, two more planes down in the area of SITTARD. Brigade informed us of a plane crash in area of Corps at 426703, obviously the one reported by Gunners above.  
1020 hrs. Mortar fired 7 bombs on bearing of 60° grid from the Gunners O.P. 733695.  
1025 hrs. Gunners fired retaliatory fire of 12 rounds on 751705.  
1050 hrs. From Gunners O.P. three guns fired 3 rounds of H.E. on a bearing of 42° grid.  
1100 hrs. Gunners report fire burning in wood at 748715.  
1118 hrs. Factory chimney in HONGEN is no longer there.  
1125 hrs. 3 airbursts over 748761 reported by Gunners fired by gun on a bearing of 42° grid.  
1300 hrs. This gun is still firing (B Coy report air bursts in the area.  
1418 hrs. O.P. reports house on fire 600-700 yds. Why on bearing of 18° grid.  
1900 hrs. D Coy Report fire over 1000 yds. Away on bearing of 45° grid C Coy).  
1930 hrs. C Coy Report 2 gun flashes at 60° grid and 38° grid.  
1950 hrs. D Coy Have automatic firing 600 yds. Away on bearing of 312° grid.  
A Coy Claimed that at 0945 hrs. an ME 109 suddenly appeared out of the clouds and flew N.W. over the edge of the wood towards KLEINWEHRHAGEN and that as some S.A. fire went up from the Coy. this plane burst into flames and crashed as reported opposite. NB this claim should not be mentioned in the presence of the other Coy commanders.  
1 x O.R. Wounded.
- 2nd Jan. Weather cold, weather overcast, some sun during the afternoon.  
Patrols. Night 1-2 Jan.  
Standing patrol at 730701 past a quiet night, they heard a German yodelling in copse 726703 at midnight, the same voice was reported at 0400 hrs in the direction of HONGEN 7370.  
At midnight the same voice was reported at 0400 hrs in the direction of HONGEN 7370.  
At 742697 heard a working party at 1815 hrs at 749686 had N.T.R.  
This was the most quiet night for Arty. And other activities we had experienced during our stay on this sector of the front.

0905 hrs. Enemy seen to leave an enter rear of house at 753704 possible position.

1030 hrs. C Coy Report from 745691 on a bearing of 20° grid guns firing.

1100 hrs. Gunners engage area 736705 HONGEN.

1120 hrs. 3 enemy seen at 753704 and at 1156 hrs one further enemy seen.

3rd Jan. Weather. Thor sets in overcast with some showers strong south-westerly wind.

Patrols night 2nd 3rd.

A fighting patrol at 1900 hrs provided by D Coy consisting of 1 officer and 15 men and 2 assault pioneers.

Their task was to capture the enemy in copse at 726703 and if no enemy found the patrol were to cover booby trapping of copse. The patrol made a firm base at 730701 and without sending a recon party forward assaulted the copse at a steady walk from the north. No enemy were found and the copse was successfully booby trapped. The patrol returned safely.

Standing patrols.

No. 1 At 730701 were attacked at 2320 hrs by a party of Germans about 20 to 25 strong. Our patrol managed to withdraw using fire and movement to the forward defence locality and the artillery stonked the former position of our patrol. At midnight our patrol resumed it's former position and nothing further was seen of the enemy.

No. 2. At 742697 passed an uneventful night and had nothing to report except battle which was going on between patrols on our right flank which was later established as between 6 Cameronians and enemy.

No. 3 At 749696 passed a quiet night but reported the noise of stakes being driven into the ground somewhere in HONGEN area 7370 and also heard the noise of the battle reported by No. 2 S.P.

0900 hrs. Sitrep to brigade had N.T.R.

1610 hrs. Gunners fire 20 rds. on house at 763703 no direct hit on house observed most rds. fell to South.

1650 hrs. Gunners fire retaliatory shoot on mortars at 739712 and also engage target at 752727.

1700 hrs. One enemy gun fired one round on a bearing of 325 degrees grid from 742697 the shell falling at 738696.

1820 hrs. Flare report on right flank and fell 800 yds. Distance of fwd. Coys also Spandau firing tracer (D Coy report) C Coy Report on more Spandau and also, it's S.P. report small arms fire on bearing of 40° mag (this was engaged by our Arty).

1900 hrs. D Coy R.H. Coys Report 2 yellow very lights about 300 yds. away to N.W. followed by green very light to east.

1910 hrs. C Coy report Spandau firing on bearing of 315° grid also very light.

1830 hrs. 2 more flares reported by D Coy and a Spandau firing.

1900 hrs. C Coy report seeing V1.

The determination to get a prisoner is now very definite. The fighting patrol of last night is an indication of the battalions luck in this regard.

4th Jan. (D+208).

Weather. Still mild having become colder a night time slight snow showers.

Patrols night 3rd 4<sup>th</sup>.

3 Standing Patrols.

At 731699 passed a quiet night and saw no enemy.

At 742697 also passed an uneventful night.

At 749696 reported a patrol battle between 2000 hrs and 2100 hrs which appeared to be taking place in the 6 Cameronians area otherwise N.T.R.

1950-2300 hrs. Recce patrol by "C" Coy of 1 N.C.O. & 3 men Whose task was to lay up for one hour in the area of the railway 745706 and observe the main Rd HONGEN- KLEINWEHRHAGEN and report any enemy defences seen in area of the Calvary. The patrol did as ordered but saw and heard nothing and the area they were in appeared to be devoid of enemy defences, patrol returned without incident.

1845-2130 hrs. Recce patrol by carrier platoon of 1 NCO and three men whose task was to report on enemy defences South of HONGEN. This patrol went as follows 731699, 726703, 727709, 733704, 731699.

It encountered freshly laid Teller mines at 727704 which were in clusters stretching Northwards to a point About 727706 and then in a S easterly direction to a point about 732704.

There was nothing else to report and returned without incident.

0930 hrs. Gunners engage mortars just South of HONGEN.

0955 hrs. Carriers report 2 grenades exploded in copse at 726703.

1000 hrs arty engage copse 726703.

1011 hrs. Arty. engage hostile battery at 733759.

1430 hrs. C Coy O.P. Report Spandau firing from north towards them.

1455 hrs. 3" Mortars engage Spandau fire in area 746706 and nothing heard from this area after stonk.

1500 hrs. Gunners put down Harrison fire on KLEINWEHRHAGEN.

1650 hrs. C Coy Report enemy movement between HONGEN and GROSSWEHRHAGEN.

1830 hrs. Carriers report TPT movement on road to their front.

1835 hrs. C Coy Reports Spandau's firing on both left and right flanks and also Schmeizer fire coming from north and 800 yards away.

Recce patrols have started up again in real earnest now that the nights are becoming darker. 2 formation the enemy that's about a fortnight old must be confirmed before we can attempt any raids or ambushes.

Lt. J.T. Peasley MC promoted A/Capt.

5th Jan. Friday (D+209).

Weather cold and frosty bright and sunny.

Patrols night 4th 5th.

3 Standing Patrols.

1. At 721699 reported automatic fire at about 2000 hrs. Which seemed to be coming from the area of copse 726702, a little later there was more automatic fire which appeared to be from a point about 200 yards South of this copse.
2. At 742097 pass an eventful night and had nothing to report except a battle about four miles to the east.
3. At 749696 had nothing of interest to report.

Recce Patrol.

1800 to 2200 hrs. B Coy of 1 NCO and 3 Men whose task was to penetrate to the rear of GROSSWEHRHAGEN 7570 and report on enemy defences in the area of 749708 in addition to report on movement between GROSSWEHRHAGEN and BRUCK 750713. Mobile we sold in the

country it moved out fire SP connected at 742697 go and after having gone 300 yards north was fired on by a Schmeisser from approximate 744700 our patrol went to ground and listened for some time, they heard coughing along track which runs from 744700 southeasterly, further north clinking noises were heard which patrol now considered was a mine laying operation in progress with a covering party in front. Our patrol returned to S.P. at 742699 and after a stonk was laid on the enemy party the patrol went out again but discovered that the enemy covering party was still there, the patrol commander then decided to make a wide detour to the right but they were prevented from doing this by a German patrol dog which growled every time they moved. Our patrol then returned.

Just after midnight I report received from Bde. That 20 enemy paratroops had been dropped in area of 7163 at approx. 2300 hrs. Later it was ascertained that the report came from unreliable sources (Dutch civilian) and could be discounted.

0900 hrs. Sitrep to Bde. had N.T.R.

0935 hrs. D Coy Report police dog scene during night at 0145 hrs to emerge from would at right flank and go towards the enemy lines.

1120 hrs. C Coy O.P. Report 88mm firing approx. due north and approx. 2 miles distant.

1145 hrs. Vapour trail of V2 seen on bearing of 35° grid.

1200 hrs. C Coy Report Mortars firing directly to front an approx. 1200 yards distant, bearing of 35° grid and bombs did not fall in our area.

1335 hrs. Coy Report a motorcycle heard going from KLEINWEHRHAGEN to HONGEN also Spandau heard firing on a bearing of 330° grid from L.H. Platoon and approx. 1200 yards away.

1400 hrs. C Coy Report on a stonk landing to E. of HONGEN (not our Gunners, probably 1 RTR) also muffled explosion from area of KLEINWEHRHAGEN (heard at 1130 hrs).

1500 hrs. C Coy Report enemy guns firing on a bearing of 345° grid some distance away and shells are landing well over to left of C Coy.

#### Harassing fire plan "H" Hour 1735 hrs.

1735-1740. C Coy Bren Gp. & carrier also 2 mortars-	KLEINWEHRHAGEN.
1735-1745. 3" Mortars (2 secs)	KLEINWEHRHAGEN.
1715-1910 " (1 sec)	S.E. End of HONGEN.
1735-1745 4.2 Mortars (from HALT area)	GROSSWEHRHAGEN.
1735-1745 3 R.H.A.	750712 & 757713.
1755-1805 3 R.H.A.	N.E. HONGEN.
1755-1800 Bofors	N.E. HONGEN.
1800-1810 Bofors	S.E. HONGEN.

The enemy response to this Harassing fire plan was not very considerable he Mortared our forward areas and two or three Spandau's fired on fixed lines.

1835 hrs. C Coy standing patrol report German voices to the front due north and 600-700 yds distant.

1845 hrs. D Coy R.H. Pln. report Spandau firing & Very lights on a bearing of 65° grid & approx. 800 yds. distant. The L.H. Pln. reports grenades exploding in wood occupied recently by their Standing Patrol.

1850 hrs. C Coy report at 1830 hrs. from 742698 on a bearing of 35° grid Mortar firing, bombs landing at 742699, also.

1840 hrs. Spandau firing on a bearing of 56° grid from W. & E. across front, also reported by D Coy.

Lt. A.M. Traplin, B Coy S.O.S. on posting to 33 R.H.U.

6th Jan. Saturday (D+210).

Weather Cold & Frosty, Bright but slight ? haze.

Patrols Night 5/6<sup>th</sup>.

1730-1730 hrs. 3 Standing Patrols.

1. At 731699 had little to report. They saw four enemy patrol dogs in the area of the two copse 731701 which later disappeared in the direction of HONGEN.
2. At 742697 had N.T.R.
3. At 751695 had an exciting night at 0300 hrs. the patrol Comdr saw a party of 12 Germans move from area of KLEINWEHRHAGEN 7570 to a point about 746703, this party was followed immediately by a succession of groups of men which all went to the same point. In a very short time there were more than 100 enemy in the area who appeared to be forming up for an attack, our standing patrol withdrew to give warning. Our 25 pdrs. Stonked the area at approx. 0330 hrs. our standing patrol went out again and on this occasion saw 2 Germans with a Spandau 200 yds. N. of S.P. position, the large body of Germans were still there and a cart was heard messing about amongst them which appeared to be issuing hot drinks. By this time it seemed that the Germans were either carrying out a mine lifting or mine laying operation. Visibility then steadily decreased & nothing further could be accurately observed.

1800-2200 hrs. Fighting Patrol of D Coy, 1 Offr. & 8 men will task to take offensive action against any enemy who might be in area of copse 730701 & copse 726702, if nothing heard to carry out 2 reces of this area. The patrol heard no movement of any kind & carried out the two reces as ordered, during the second they fired their weapons in order to provoke the enemy but without result.

1900-2200. recce Patrol of B Coy, 1 NCO & 2 men, task to recce general area of 746703 where on the previous night the enemy had been reported mine laying. The patrol moved out this S.P. at 751695 & went in N.E. direction to approx. 744698, here they heard coughing slightly N. and some stamping of feet, patrol endeavoured to circumvent this position but owing to the frozen nature of the ground they could not do this silently & returned.

1900-2230 hrs. Recce Patrol of B Coy. 1 Offr. & 2 men, tasked to penetrate to rear of GROSSWEHRHAGEN and BRUCH 700713.

Because of the frozen ground the patrol Comdr. decided to move quickly as it was impossible to do so silently, he arrived at the Calvary 745706 crossed the main rd. here & laid up for a short time about 10 yds. N. of the Calvary. The patrol heard noise in HONGEN & GROSSWEHRHAGEN. A German ran quickly across their front from HONGEN to GROSSWEHRHAGEN.

The Patrol then moved to 747708 where they met wire which ran to about 750708 and then Eastwards.

Patrol then moved to 749908 and there they saw a German sentry at 750706. They then returned to the Calvary 745706 and were suddenly chased by 12 Germans who came out of the cutting at 742703. Our patrol doubled hard and managed to avoid their pursuers arriving safely. The enemy did not fire at them.

During morning changeover of companies affected locations being as follows A Coy 738693, B Coy 732693, C Coy 724682, D Coy 741679.

0900 hrs Sitrep to Bde. had N.T.R. Save arty. stonk mentioned above on 100 enemy at 746705.

1150 hrs A Coy Report gun fired 8-9 shells on bearing of 70° grid.

1250 hrs M.M.G'S report enemy guns firing at following bearings from 752704 160°, 230°, 348°, 324°, 55° and 39° grid.

1145 hrs Gunners O.P. Report 88mm firing on bearing of 349° and 335° grid.  
1155 hrs Gunners O.P. Report 88mm firing on bearing of 349° & 335° grid.  
1515 hrs A Coy O.P. at 742698 reports gun flashes on bearings of 340° and 354° grid.  
1844 hrs D Coy S.P. report Spandau firing on bearing of 29° grid  
Lt. P. Hoggarth S.O.S. On posting to 7th Armoured Div. w.e.f. January 3rd.  
Lt. H.L. Baker Evacuated sick.

7th Jan. Sunday (D + 211)

Weather cold and frosty dial and overcast low visibility.

Patrols night 6/7th.

Free standing patrols.

1730 - 07/30 hrs

1. A Coy at 751695, N.T.R.
2. D Coy at 742697 N.T.R.
3. B Coy at 730699 N.T.R.

2400 – 0500 hrs

Fighting and Recce Patrol.

A Coy 1 Off. & 14 men, Task to take offensive action if and when possible in the area between S.P. at 751695 and main Rd HONGEN - WEHR exclusive.

At 0015 hrs recce patrol party went out through S.P. Patrol at 742697 and proceeded N. Along tracks to X tracks 743701 there it laid up the patrol Cmdr. sending Bren gps. Two area of 745702.

From there Bren Gps. Fired Several bursts into the cutting at 742702, the intention being to draw enemy fire from cutting there was no reply to the fire so Patrol Cmdr. withdrew Bren Gp. back to X tracks at 743701. Again fire was directed into cutting but no return fire again. About 0115 hrs three light blue flares were fired from area 739703 shortly after automatic fire which resembled Bren fire was shot from same area towards KLEINWEHRHAGEN.

Before the patrol returned Lt. Black to the southern end of the cutting he states that there was no wire or slit trenches. Patrol returned by same route the patrol purposely making a noise to see if they could attract any attention from enemy patrols likely to be in the vicinity, nothing was however encountered and reported in at 03/15 hrs

Fighting and Recce patrol.

B Coy of 1 Off. & 14 men with task similar to previous patrol save it operated in area between S.P. at 730699 and HONGEN inclusive of rd. HONGEN – WEHR and also to Bn. Left hand boundary. The recce portion of the patrol went out to copse at 726703 and proceeded round it from the northern point East to West, nothing was seen or heard during the whole period of recce and the patrol returned without incident. 1 x O.R. Accidentally wounded.

8th Jan. Monday, (D + 212).

Weather snowing hard, very cold, Poor visibility.

Patrols Night 7th 8th.

3 Standing Patrols.

1730 - 0730 hrs

1. D Coy N.T.R. visibility 300x.
2. B Coy N.T.R. “
3. C Coy N.T.R. “

1900 – 0015 hrs. Fighting Patrol, D Coy 1 Off. & 14 men.

Task. To take offensive action if and when possible in the area between our standing patrol at 751695 and main Rd WEHR – HONGEN (exclusive).

Visibility was at least 300x and consequently movement was very difficult. Patrol moved out to a point about 748703 where I laid up. Nothing was seen or heard of the enemy except about 10 or 12 Germans near KLEINWEHRHAGEN who were too far away to be engaged. Patrol returned without incident carrying three members of the patrol who were frozen stiff. No casualties.

2200 - 0300 hrs Fighting Patrol. C Coy, 1 Off. & 14 men.

Visibility was much too good. Patrol went out to copse 726702 but saw nothing.

They began to move northwards but were fired on by a Spandau which was somewhere in HONGEN at least 700x away. They went to ground and were mortared fairly heavily. Patrol then moved westwards but could see and hear nothing of the enemy and came in. Casualties Nil.

Harassing Fire Plan 0805 hrs. 0815 hrs.

0805-0810	3" Mortars (1 Sec.)	60 bombs (20% smoke)	East end HONGEN.
0810-0815	3" Mortars (1 Sec.)	60 bombs (20% smoke)	West end HONGEN.
0805-0815	4.2 Mortars	80 bombs	KLEINWEHRHAGEN.
0805-0810	Artillery		North end HONGEN
0805-0810	" "		Area BRUCH 750714.
0805-0815	Bofors		Bridge 789715.
0805-0815	" "		HONGEN.

The enemy response to this shoot was absolutely nothing.

9th Jan. Tuesday, (D + 213).

Weather intermittent snow heavily overcast.

Patrols. Night 8/9th Jan. 1945.

Standing Patrols.

1730-0730 hrs.	D Coy. N.T.R.
	A Coy N.T.R.
	B Coy N.T.R.

There were no fighting or recce patrols sent out.

10th Jan. Wednesday (D + 214).

Weather snowing bitterly cold.

Patrols. Night 9-10th Jan 1945.

Standing Patrols.

1730-0730 hrs.	D Coy N.T.R.
	A Coy N.T.R.
	B Coy N.T.R.

1815 hrs C Coy Provided a recce patrol of one Offr. & 3 men whose task was to recce the enemy defences just South of HONGEN and take offensive action if possible. The ground was covered with snow and the patrol were clothed in whitewashed denims.

They returned at 2100 hrs but had nothing to report. They had fired their Bren gun on two occasions in order to provoke the enemy but without success.

1430 hrs. The Bn. was relieved by the 2nd Devons. Relief was carried out without incident. The Bn. then moved back to GELEEN in Holland (Map ref. 6765) Where it was anticipated that it would stay for a week as reserve battalion to 131 Brigade. The battalion was housed in civilian billets and the troops made themselves very comfortable quite a change after living in snow covered dugouts for the past fortnight!  
C.O. Proceeds on leave, Maj. Nangle A/C.O.

- 11th Jan. Thursday (D + 215).  
Weather snowing very cold.  
Bn. Still in reserve area.  
1730 hrs. Bn. 'O' Gp. Was held. The Comd. Offr. gave out orders for an attack on BAKENHOVEN 6676 to be carried out by D Coy with Carrier and Mortar platoons supporting, to take place night 12/13th Jan.  
Tac Bn. HQ, 666658, A Coy 665665, B Coy 662651, C Coy 664652, D Coy 661653.
- 12th Jan. Friday, (D + 216).  
Weather, Occasional snow, very cold.  
1800 hrs. D Coy moved to GEBROEK 6575 preparatory to making an attack on BAKENHOVEN 6676. The remainder of the Bn. stayed at GELEEN.
- 13th Jan. Saturday, (D + 217).  
Weather, cold with sky heavily overcast but not snowing.  
0430 hrs. D Coy attacked BAKENHOVEN 6676 with Carrier & Mortar Plns. One trp. 15 L.A.A. Regt. and Flails supporting. (See R.A. 7 Armd. Div. O.O. no. 44 attached).  
The attack was very successful. The Flails breached an anti-personnel mine field South of BAKENHOVEN 6676 and D Coy attacked through the gap and cleared the village of enemy by zero 500 hrs. Strength of enemy was estimated at 1 Pln. D Coy Casualties were one killed 2 wounded. The enemy reacted with slight shelling and mortaring. After D Coy had reorganised on the objective they then came under Comd. of 9th Battalion D.L.I.  
1800 hrs. D Coy Was counter attacked by about one company of German infantry. The counterattack was preceded by a heavy mortar barrage.  
The enemy were dressed in white camouflage suits. 2 S.P. Guns gave them close support. The enemy managed to infiltrate into our positions and close fighting ensued. Some houses at the northern end of BAKENHOVEN were occupied by the enemy but D Coy organised a counterattack and drove them out. After much close and confused fighting the enemy finally withdrew about 2100 hrs leaving about 12 dead behind. Our casualties were 11 wounded A few men missing.  
Casualties:- 2 x O.R's killed, 3 O.R's missing, 12 O.R's wounded.
- 14th Jan. Sunday (D + 218).  
Weather, Cold and clear, Freezing.  
0300 hrs. B Coy relieved D Coy at BAKENHOVEN 6676.
- 15th Jan. Monday, (D + 219).  
Weather, Cold, Frosty & overcast.

Following move will take place when crossings between BAKENHOVEN and DIETEREN are open. First, Tpt. Of 9 D.L.I. from BUCHTEN and GEBROEK to DIETEREN for 30 mins. Second, one Sec. A.D.S. from BUCHTEN to DIETEREN. Third, 1/5th Queen's up from BUCHTEN GERBRORK and BAKENHOVEN to Concrete Wks. Forth 2 Devon's up from BORN to DIETEREN. Fifth, A Sqn. 5 D.G. from PAPHENHOVEN to BAKENHOVEN. Probable timings, 9 D.L.I. 0200, A.D.S. 2140, 1/5th Queen's Gp. 2200 , 2nd Devon's 0500, A Sqn. 5 D.G. Not before 0530 hrs.

16th Jan. Tuesday, Weather very cold, heavily overcast, slight ground mist.  
Operation "ANGEL". See 1/5th Queen's O.O.  
0800 hrs. Bn. moved with Tac Bn. HQ at BUCHTEN 6473 and Main Bn. HQ at HOLTUM 661739.

Phase one was carried out successfully by 9 D.L.I. and by 1100 hrs both DIETEREN 6777 and the concrete works 6771 were in our hands.

The latter was captured by A Coy 1/5th Queen's which came u/c 9 D.L.I. For this operation and no casualties were suffered or serious opposition met.

B Coy we're still at BAKENHOVEN 6776.

D Coy were at GEBROEK.

Casualties:- 1 O.R. killed & 1 wounded.

17th Jan. Wednesday, Weather, overcast, Thaw setting in.  
0230 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moved to 674767 but just before first light owing to enemy shelling it had to move to 676768.  
0745 hrs. Bn. Commenced attack on SUSTEREN 6775. With B Coy left & D Coy right. Determined opposition was met and after having penetrated into the S.W. End of SUSTEREN were counter attacked by infantry and six tanks, (5 Mk III's & 1 Mk VI) we had no tanks or heavy equipment available to counter the German A.F.V's but one Mk III was K.O'd. by a P.I.A.T. of B Coy this tank was however recovered by the enemy being towed back by the enemy when they retired.  
1000 hrs. 1 Sqn. of 1 R.T.R. arrived at Tac Bn. HQ And at 1015 hour's less one Tp. remaining at Tac preceded into SUSTEREN but as soon as they entered the enemy retired as above taking with them a number of prisoners from B Coy.  
It was impossible to determine exactly how many men were taken P.O.W.  
The brunt of this counterattack was met by B Coy. D Coy meeting some opposition were not directly affected by the enemy tanks.  
1125 hrs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Devon's started Phase 2 with the attack on ECHT 6980 met moderate opposition succeeded in taking the village and securing numbers of POWs.  
1330 hrs. A Coy Launch attack on N. & N.E. end of SUSTEREN and captured it without opposition. B Coy Then sent a patrol to the S. end of SUSTEREN and found that this also was clear.  
1545 hrs. A Coy of 9 D.L.I. Came down road from DIETEREN 6777 and reinforced us in SUSTEREN coming under our command.  
A Coy were to maintain an O.P. at railway 689758 overlooking HEIDE 6976.  
1720 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moved to SUSTEREN 683757.  
Casualties:- Lt. C.W. Taylor and Lt. A.N. Stone and 9 O.R's killed,  
39 incl. Maj. J.E. Evans & Capt. L.J. Wheatley wounded & 26 O.R's.  
29 incl. Lt. B.C. Maddison & 28 O.R's missing.

39 P.O.W's collected during day so far as records show but it is probable fact in the confused fighting several were passed back without Tac Bn. HQ hearing of them.

18th Jan. Thursday, Weather, high wind occasional snow squalls.  
1000 hrs. A Coy Reported one enemy Pln. In HEIDE 6978, 50 were counted during the night coming N. From the station along the embankment to the W. HEIDE.  
1058 hrs. A Coy Send a patrol to Recce railway bridge 691759 and reported this to be OK.  
1140 hrs. B Coy 5th K.O.S.B. Came under command with task to attack HEIDE 6978 with 1 Tp. tanks (5 K.D.G.) in support.  
1400 hrs. Attack starts and meets no opposition but flooding around railway bridge 691759 impeded progress.  
1453 hrs. 5 K.O.S.B's are 150 yds into HEIDE and no opposition met.  
1457 hrs. Tac Bn. HQ moved to 682757 (slight change of position to more adequate quarters previous location having received a direct hit during night).  
1458 hrs. B Coy K.O.S.B's in HEIDE Report 2 enemy tanks in Main St, enemy infantry retreating in a S. E. Direction.  
1516 hrs. We report to Bde. that four enemy tanks East of HEIDE all being dealt with.  
1530 hrs. 60 to 80 enemy infantry seen around station 689751, Arty. were called on to deal with them to greatest possible extent.  
1536 hrs. Station 689751 being stonked by 2 Fd. Regts. 3 ? Regts. & 1 Hy. Regt. Firing 10 rounds gunfire. A Coy report all rounds in target area and enemy running east from station, stonk raised 200 yds. and further 10 rounds gunfire laid on again very effective.  
1554 hrs. Enemy Inf. still being engaged barrage lifted 200 yds. South and further 10 rounds gunfire. A Coy say dead on target.  
1538 hrs. 1 R.T.R. report rd. Running east from HEIDE 4 ft. underwater.  
1601 hrs. B Coy K.O.S.B's are 300 yds into village, meeting no opposition and have taken 8 POWs.  
1612 hrs. B Coy K.O.S.B's 400 yds into HEIDE.  
1756 hrs. 18 POWs (1218 G.R. & 1220 G.R.) How by us also one civilian.  
1900 hrs. Sqn. of one R.T.R. with K.O.S.B's report secure in HEIDE.  
2000 hrs. Fdo report HEIDE clear of enemy leading Coys at 762766 and 705760.  
2030 hrs. We report enemy dead found West of HEIDE belong to 3 Bn. 22 J.I.G. Regt.  
2115 hrs. Bde. Report SCHALBRUCH 7174 entered fighting continuing GEBROEK 6979 clear. HAVERT 7172 clear. Fdo. in KLOOSTER ? 7277. 40 enemy seen at 736845.  
2217 hrs. A Coy report one POW of 1219 G.R.  
2330 hrs. 131 Bde. Report enemy in this area are from 176 ? Bn. with two Tigers and five X 75mm S.P. guns.  
37 POWs taken during day.

19th Jan. Friday (D + 220).  
Weather, very cold some snow otherwise bright intervals with strong gusty wind.  
Maj. G.R. Ball DSO evacuated sick.  
0100 hrs. A Coy Report 17 POWs (10 from 1176 G.R., six from 1220 G.R., one from one Coy P.z. Jaeger Komp 715.  
0130 hrs. 2 Devon's report route not clear between SUSTEREN and SCHILBERG, ECHT to SCHILBERG is clear.

1000 hrs. 9 POWs brought in by A Coy.  
1030 hrs. 10 POWs (stragglers) mainly of 1220 G.R. brought in.  
1120 hrs. Bn. to remain in SUSTEREN and later clear wood 7075 assisted by K.O.S.B's (from Bde.)  
1200 hrs. A Coy Send in six POWs (5 from 4 Coy 1176 G.R. One from 1220 G.R.).  
1150 hrs. A Coy Patrol to 685755 light up for a time there and saw nothing in area of station. In woods S. of station 6 Germans seen walking about.  
Plans for wood clearing task ready, A Coy to carry out phase one i. to clear houses on W. Side of railway, ii. D Coy to go through A Coy and clear wood. Maj. Tyrell with Tp. of tanks under command to move round E. of wood and shoot up any enemy trying to escape that way. iii. Carriers to cover railway with Bren gun fire with A Coy moving S. on E. Side of railway and D Coy moving S. on W. side of railway.  
1335 hrs. A Coy To carry out phase i.  
1345 hrs. D Coy Report in position.  
1354 hrs. Tanks report in position.  
1404 hrs. A Coy Report 1 Pln. On railway and no opposition met.  
B Coy To be ready to move in 10 mins.  
1414 hrs. a Coy Report on objective no opposition all houses clear.  
1425 hrs. Mortars cease-fire.  
1417 hrs D Coy report on railway.  
1420 hrs. 1 R.T.R. (Tp. u/c) report Coys going S. Roundwood stopped by mines but are shooting from present position.  
1427 hrs. 4 POWs volunteered to bring out friends if any there.  
Broadcast made to enemy in wood saying they would have 15 mins to come out if not two regiments of 25 pdrs. would engage and if not sufficient heavies would open up and flamethrowers attack.  
No enemy coming out with hands up would be fired on.  
1430 hrs. 4 POW's Entered would with time limit of 30 mins they returned with report of no Germans there.  
1543 hrs. Phase iii start.  
1615 hrs. D Coy report half of phase iii completed, enemy at 679742 met and being dealt with.  
1630 hrs. D Coy Attack enemy positions but no opposition, a false alarm.  
1631 hrs. Phase iii completed (A & D Coys reports) no opposition.  
42 POWs collected during day.

20th Jan. Saturday, (D + 221).

Weather, very cold, bright & sunny.

02/30 hrs. Bn. Moved (less B Coy) via X rds. 699783 to SLEK 7077.

0400 hrs. Bn. arrived, locations Bn. HQ 704777, A Coy 705774, D Coy 704779, Carriers 705775, A/Tks. 706775, Mortars 702778.

Mines were laid at 705778.

1020 hrs. A Coy Bring in five POWs of 1219 G.R. (Stragglers).

1100 hrs. Mortars report finding one complete 81mm Mortar.

1200 hrs. B Coy arrive from SUSTEREN and established at 702779.

1305 hrs. 2nd Devon's report enemy South of HINGEN 7080 which they will investigate and deal with.

1625 hrs. 258 A/Tk. Bty. Report brewing up tank or S.P. gun at 718795.  
1730 hrs. Bde. Request recce patrol from us to KLOSTER LILBOSCH tonight (7277).  
1844 hrs. Bde. Report to us presence of enemy patrol believed to be 7-8 strong seen at 711783.  
1900-2100 hrs. A Coy Send Ricky patrol of 1 Offr. & 3 O.R's to KLOSTER LILBOSCH along rd.  
Directly there and back, they had N.T.R. (K.O.S.B's On our right flank were reported in woods S.  
End of square 7376). This patrol ensured that we had no cause for alarm as to our exposed right  
flank.  
Capt. H.S. MOORSHEAD & Lt. R.C. Nicholson joined battalion and posted to D Coy.  
1 X O.R. Wounded.

21st Jan. Sunday, (D + 222).

Weather, cold, some snow, otherwise bright and sunny.

Bn. Spent a quiet day at SLEK. Though there was slight enemy shelling of Bn. Area during  
afternoon and again at last light causing no damage or casualties to us though 5 R.H.A. had two  
men wounded.

1900-2100 hrs. As on previous evenings a recce patrol to KLOSTER LILBOSCH 7277 had N.T.R.  
During day report from 52<sup>nd</sup> Div. On our right flank indicated that WIELDFAUCHT 7775 had been  
taken but situation was uncertain there for some time owing to presence of at least five enemy  
tanks supported by approx. 1 Coy who endeavoured to recover town.

2nd Devon's in area of SCHILBERG 7079 reported numerous small bodies of enemy to their  
immediate N.

These were engaged by Arty. as reported and a possible attempt to form up for counterattack  
was frustrated, civilians and fwd. troops reported A.F.V's (Tanks or S.P's) up to 8 in number in  
area. St. JOOST was said to be strongly held but further to left it appeared to be clear as far as  
and inclusive of MAASBRACHT 7185. There was a heavy aerial attack by us on MONTFORT 7482.  
Lt. D. Wilkinson Cox MC evacuated sick.

22nd Jan. Monday, (D + 223).

Weather, cold but bright and sunny.

Bn. Moved during late morning on relief by 9 D.L.I. And by 1320 hrs Tac Bn. HQ 691798, A Coy  
693803, B Coy 691797, D Coy 692798, Carriers 691803, Mortars 694800, A/Tks. (did not arrive  
till approx. 1600 hrs.) 691796.

1530 hrs. Bn. warned at 30 mins. notice to move (now under command of 22<sup>nd</sup> Armd. Bde.) with  
1 Coy (D Coy) to be at immediate notice to move and to support 8th Hussars in Montfort area  
7482. They eventually moved with supporting arms (Carriers and Mortars). At 2000 hrs  
proceeding to AANDENBERG 7482 via SCHILBERG 7079, STEIL 719814 & bridge 734820.  
Patrols by 11 Hus. during day found. 1. little opposition into MAASBRACHT reaching 707851. 2.  
had to withdraw owing to opposition after reaching 728838 & 720837. 3. proceeding from SLEK  
found KLOSTER SILBOSCH clear, Br. at 733779 prepared for demolition but not blown &  
contacted friends to right. DIERGAARDE 7577 reported clear.

8 Hus. patrol found bridges blown at 734820 & 747809 but despite mines reached outskirts of  
MONTFORT & established themselves in AAN DE BERG 7482 by last light. Later situation  
deteriorated and not satisfied with support of D Coy they asked for rest of Bn. to proceed  
there.

RSM Chapman G. S.O.S. on receiving home posting and appt. as Lt. QM.

23rd Jan. Tuesday (D + 224).

Weather, cold overcast at first but cleared to bright and sunny later.

0145 hrs. Bn. H.Q (Main) remind at ECHT rest moved via SCHILBERG 7079 to HENGEN 7180.

Here marching troops were to be transported on M10's but with only 1 Coy needed to support D Coy in AANDENBERG A Coy remain in HENGEN B Coy only proceeding there & TAC HQ going to St. JOOST 7181. Location 715815, arriving 0445 hrs and coming u/c 5 D.G.

0745 hrs. Owing to infiltration by small groups of enemy armed with bazookas and Spandau's resulting in the cutting of the C.L. to AANDENBERG A Coy with Carriers and Mortars were ordered to advance to deal with this threat. This same state of affairs was apparently happening to our north where the R.B's were similarly affected.

One POW of 5 Coy Regt. Hubner Brought in at first light.

0950 hrs. A Coy In position at 784821.

1010 hrs. D Coy (with B Coy) at 746827.

Later A Coy also moved up into position at AANDENBERG.

1245 hrs. D Coy Reported heavy and accurate Spandau fire coming from woods immediately to the North of AANDENBERG. There was also spasmodic but accurate mortar end shellfire (75mm).

A/Tks. & Mortars during morning located their HQ's at TAC Bn. HQ and during afternoon carriers HQ was established at 716823.

After last light D Coy where to patrol to bridge at 748825 and if no opposition was met were to secure this & to use houses in that neighbourhood as billets.

In order to relieve situation made very trying by enemy in woods 7483, 2 Devons were to put in an attack coming in from the north to clear this area. Our troops were warned to give this every support by Harassing S.A. fire and mortar fire no not to become involved in the attack.

The heavy enemy shelling was later indicated as being due to probably 4 X 105mm firing from area 7785.

Casualties. Capt. H.S. MOORSHEAD & 6 X O.R's Killed and 9 X O.R's wounded.

Reinforcements, received – 1 Offr. Lt. J.W. THOMAS & 71 O.R's and posted to B Coy 1 Offr. & 27 O.R's, D Coy 28 O.R's H Coy 16 O.R's

24th Jan. Wednesday, (D + 225).

Weather cold otherwise bright and sunny.

By first light A & D Coys reported that all objectives set them in MONTFORT had been obtained without opposition.

Contact was established with 2nd Devon's coming from the north and situation was now considerably easier.

Mines, Teller & Box were to be found on roads leading East from MONTFORT But in the main they had not been laid but still in crates.

0945 hrs. Germans were reported to be pulling out of SINNE.

1430 hrs. Bn. On relief by 2nd Devon's returned to old location at ECHT, Rifle Coys & Tac Bn. HQ etc. Moving there independently. (Rtd. Comd. 131 Bde.).

Locations, Bn. Tac HQ 691798. A Coy 692802. B Coy 691797. D Coy 692798. Carriers 692803. Mortars 694800. A/Tks. 693804.

1623 hrs. Bn. Reported itself neat and tidy to Bde. (Returned to Comd 131 Bde.).

Major G. Bull DSO and Lt. H. Baker return to Bn. And former resumes as 2 I/C.

25th Jan. Thursday (D + 226)

weather cold, overcast but no snow.

1110 hrs. Main Bn. HQ remind at ECHT Tac Bn. HQ and rest of Bn. Moved via SCHILBERG, PEPINUSBRUG 733799 X rds. 758770 DIERGAARDE 761775 – (arriving 1200 hrs.) – X tracks 759775 x tracks 758784 – T Junc. 767788 – x tracks 766798 – PUTBROEK 773801.

Coys had task of cleaning woods to east of PUTBROEK and establishing on road POSTERHOLT - REUTJE - St ODILIËNBERG.

This was achieved without opposition though there were recent tank tracks in the woods and mines were encountered at Rd junction particularly at 784816 covering approach to Beek towards which tanks were moving.

1500 hrs. (Tiger tracks N.E.).

1530 hrs. Mines located by us at 785816 & 771804.

1540 hrs. Subunit 1 R.T.R. at 798815 reports bridge blown.

1544 hrs. 9 D.L.I. report bridge at 806810 blown & impassible to tks.

1549 hrs. 2 Devons making good progress, going to 778824.

1557 hrs. POSTERHOLT definitely held, not strongly, all bridges blown & covered by S.A. fire, shall not occupy tonight.

1603 hrs. Bn. Locations – Tac Bn. HQ 773801, A Coy 785819, B Coy 783814, D Coy 783814.

1625 hrs. D Coy report bridge at 785820 is blown.

1630 hrs. Civrep of man from POSTERHOLT says about 20 enemy there laying mines. Up to 1000 enemy have withdrawn over R. ROER at VLODROP late yesterday.

1750 hrs. Locations A – 793824, B – 784825, D – 781825.

1800 hrs. Civrep mines on rd. at 814817 & around 808842 & 830835.

Bridge at 788847 blown. Br. at 845831 intact this morning & 6 Tks. & approximately 1000 Inf. moved N.E. over it last night.

1824 hrs. 9 D.L.I. report POW (Romanian) says 40 enemy Pioneers laying mines in POSTERHOLT & felling trees, no booby traps in houses.

1900 hrs. Locations, A – 793824, B – 784817, D – 791825, Carriers 774801.

2030 hrs. Civrep from D Coy gives mines at 787847, 786847, 799827 & 802849.

2045 hrs. D Coy report 25 enemy Inf. left village to cross R. ROER.

When D & A Coys found bridge at 785820 blown they asked permission to rebuild and proceed to occupy REUTJE 7982. This was accomplished by D Coy with civilian help using logs etc. & it was possible for jeeps, a Weasel & D Coy Carrier to cross. this was done without assistance from R.E's.

26th Jan. Friday (D + 227).

Weather still very cold, dull & overcast, some snow spells.

0730 hrs. Tac moved from PUTBROEK & at 0825 hrs. arrived at REUTJE 792825, route via X rds. 773801, X tracks 752808 x tracks 778812, bridge 784821. (A scissor bridge which was rather difficult to surmount impossible to Weasels).

0650 hrs. A Coy send Civrep reporting mines act 795822.

1000 hrs. Tac. Bn. HQ Established at 793823.

12:30 hrs. Locations A, 792825, B 802823, D 798829, Tac 798822.

1930 hrs. Bridge 806810 is expected to be finished by 2100 hrs. (Report from Bde.).

A quiet night up to 0100 hrs.

C.O. Returns from leave but is A/Brig. 131 Bde.

27th Jan. Saturday (D + 228).

Weather, very cold, some cloud but many bright intervals.

Lt. Newell R.G. Appointed T/Capt. & Adjt.

0100 hrs. D Coy Report a pack dog seen running from our lines towards enemy lines, it was fired at but not hit.

0925 hrs. D Coy report 8 Germans in farm in HOLST 8183 with a telephone thought to be an O.P.

Civrep, Germans in VLODROP 8382 are digging trenches.

1130 hrs. D Coy Report S.P. Firing on a bearing of 27° mag also civilian interrogated and reports MG in farm at 799843 and 800843. Guns at 793854. An improvised footbridge at 816849 of doors and floorboards which was used by German patrols to withdraw N.

This believed to be still intact.

1345 hrs. Mortars engage Spandau firing from 806838.

1350 hrs. 3 RHA engage Spandau firing from 800835.

1527 - 1533 hrs. Bn. area shelled 4 approx. one hour.

2010 hrs. Br. At 787819 is out of action, (from Bde.).

2/Lt. R. Maxwell joins Bn.

28th Jan. Sunday, (D + 229).

Weather, very cold, bright and fine slight snow.

Patrol night 27/28

A fighting patrol of one officer and 17 O.R's from 20-30 hrs. 2300 hrs. With task to destroy enemy in houses 813833; route from 798828 N.E. 813832, 813833 reached 814882.

Recce Sec. 1 Offr. and 4. Proceeded to 813831 then round house 813832 at 100 yds. Distance. Sentry seen in trees at rear of farm buildings 813833.

Recce Sec to ground, and patrol Comdr. Return to fighting Secs which were left at 813831. Plan was made as follows:- Recce Sec to capture Sentry without fighting if possible and return.

Should fighting occur fighting Secs to PIAT farm buildings 813833 (6 bombs) and shoot up area with 2" Mortars and small arms.

Operation. Patrol Comdr. Rejoined Recce Sec and move towards farm buildings 813833. After going 30 yds. Two enemy was seen over hedgerow round house 813832 pointing at Recce Sec. Patrol withdrew and was heavily fired upon by small arms. Fire was returned by the two covering Secs one German believed hit. Patrol met enemy DF coming down on 800830.

Estimated enemy strength 30 definitely seen 23 moved from farm buildings 813833 to house 813832.

Casualties 2 of Recce patrol wounded.

0730 hrs. D Coy Report shells falling in their area on bearing of 100° mag.

1020 hrs. Civrep on the night 27/28 20 enemy crossed river from PAARLO 8184, leaving 11 enemy with MG's in village.

Sitrep to Bde. Small body of enemy Inf. In white set off trip flare at 1930 hrs Jan 27th in front of D Coy's F.D.L's they were fired on and withdrew. At 2015 arty engaged small party of Inf. At 795830, who set off trip flare.

11:30 hrs. One POW from 10 Coy 3 Bn. Habner Regt. Walked into A Coy's F.D.L's from ST. ODILIENBERG 7884.

1400-1440 hrs. D Coy Report three large explosions of unknown origin bearing 62° - 70° mag synchronised with MG fire (Spandau) on N.E. of HOLST.

1650 hrs. Mortars fired 17 rounds at 6 white clad people and two in dark clothes at 807832, arty. also fired.

1730 hrs. B Coy Report large explosion 60° grid and brew up at 803824. Area of POSTERHOLT well shell three times this morning.

1830 hrs. Nebelwerfer firing on bearing of 295 degrees grid (D Coy) two guns firing on bearing 5° and 15° Mag.

29th Jan. Monday (D + 230).

Weather, very cold but generally fine.

Patrols Night 28/29.

Standing patrol 2805831, one NCO 8 O.R's D Coy and 2 sigs, Out from 2400 hrs. to first light, did not report on arrival at this post, consequently a recce patrol of one NCO and two men were sent out to investigate.

When they arrived at 805831 no signs of the standing patrol could be seen apart from a drum of cable and I telephone found lying in the snow. Sergeant Goldsmith search area Charlie call in out to patrol but with no result and then returned to report. He then returned to 805831 with another standing patrol where he stayed till Bn. attack passed through him in the morning.

At 0610 hrs. the 2 signallers returned to this Coy HQ They stated that on nearing their objective their drum ran out and they stayed to join on another drum the patrol proceeded and then the sigs heard Germans talking in houses nearby an shots rang out and they dived into a nearby slip trench where they heard sounds of more shooting and scuffling then quiet nurse the six heard Sergeant Goldsmith calling later and also the other standing patrol he brought up but were taking no chances and did not disclose themselves. The body of Sergeant Cox riddled with bullet fired at very close range has since been found in a barn near HOLST he had been searched and stripped coma it could only be presumed that the others were taken POW in fact soon after first light A Coy reported seeing the seven men being marched northwards near the Bank from PAARLO.

At approx. 0100 hrs. a German patrol in white bumped the left-hand platoon of D Coy & on being engaged moved off.

Bn. attack on PAARLO & HOLST S.L. (Orange) 798828-797832 C.L. For each company were lines along roads directly from S.L. to PAARLO & HOLST respectively and were named Cow and Pig routes.

A Coy were to take PAARLO & B Coy HOLST. H hour. 0500 hrs. and arty would fire from H + 20. PAARLO where to be firm based for a patrol operating centre. HOLST was to be occupied for 24 hrs. (This was later changed to holding unfortunately). Bn. Consolidation both companies were to receive 2 X M10's each before first light carriers to relieve B Coy who would return to their original position.

At H + 27 – H + 36 Arty would engage tgts. 1000 yards behind PARLO 2 Med. & 1 Hy Regt. We're firing a barrage on VLODROP (mixed H.E. & smoke) as from here PARLO & HOLST in daylight were under direct observation. MG's to fire on HOLST from H+20 - H+27 & 1 R.E. Sect. attached to A Coy. Tac Bn. HQ during attack would be at D Coy HQ. Object of attack besides securing the two villages was indirectly to force him to blow bridge at VLODROP to stop us from crossing ROER although that was never our intension.

At 0500 hrs. Both Coys report "Orange"

0505 hrs. B Coy on move.  
0513 hrs. A Coy are half way to "Cow".  
0526 hrs. 11 Hus. report enemy tk. movement on E. side ROER River to S. of VLODROP.  
0540 hrs. B Coy fired on from right flank.  
0557 hrs. A Coy are sure of enemy in PARLO.  
0558 hrs. B Coy report Capt. Franklin lost, (he was killed with signaller by direct mortar bomb).  
Capt Cole was ordered to assume comd. of B Coy.  
0559 hrs. B Coy 400 yds. from HOLST.  
0603 hrs. A Coy report Spandau post at 806843 & 809844.  
0610 hrs. D Coy report 2 Sigs. from S.P. have turned up.  
0620 hrs. B Coy Report HOLST clear.  
0641 hrs. A Coy Report fwd. Coys at PAARLO.  
0650 hrs. A Coy in PAARLO but not yet neat and tidy.  
0658 hrs. A Coy 811841, Neat and tidy.  
0715 hrs. B Coy Send in one POW of second company 1219 G.R. (Pay book) he said he was 1218 G.R.  
0807 hrs. M10's are firm in PAARLO.  
0812 hrs. Carriers location, 815832. Have relieved B Coy.  
0813 hrs. A Coy report enemy dug out at 809847 are occupied.  
0835 hrs. B Coy O.P. Report three guns firing onto area 815834.  
0915 hrs. Sitrep sent to Bde. Includes act 06/13 hrs. 15 Germans ran from house in HOLST at 0639 hrs. fwd. Coys of A Coy in PAARLO Germans running about with bazookas at 0915 hrs. POW was one of three of Spandau post others killed. HOLST being mortared and shelled by heavy gun.  
0935 hrs. Civrep Spandau posts at 826846 and 827846, guns at 80458675. These were engaged by arty.  
0955 hrs. One German seen digging trench at 815849.  
1034 hrs. A Coy report enemy dug in at 817847, 8 men seen, arty engaged. Enemy O.P. in windmill at MILICK 8085, engaged by M10's.  
1112 hrs. A Coy Report enemy dog in a long line of R. Roer and can be seen moving continuously in area 817847 and to S.  
1130 hrs. Casualties, 1 Offr. & 1 O.R. killed, 1 Offr. & 50 O.R's wounded & 1 Sgt. & 8 O.R's missing.  
1146 hrs. A Coy Report 3 enemy digging in at 877842, 3 with ? 816844.  
1300 hrs. C.O. returns from Bde. With sudden orders that D Coy will clear areas 8083 & 8484 to river; C.L. ? 805831 - 801842. 2 report pockets at 804835 ORANGE & LEMON 801842.  
2 Tps. of 1 R.T.R. In support. Firm base at HAAR VLODROP and send patrol of Pln. Strength with Trp. Of tanks to shoot up any bridge is found arty to put creeping barrage along S. bank and smoke laid continuously along N. Bank of river. Company were to return on completion of task.  
1430 hrs. D Coy move.  
1452 hrs. D Coy reach 804834, no opposition.  
1511 hrs. D Coy reach 802837 no opposition.  
1540 hrs. D Coy at 801843 and searching area.  
1545 hrs. D Coy bumped enemy and having a "Battle Royal".  
1547 hrs. D Coy report much enemy S.A. Fire and are returning attacking and expect to deal with it.

1551 hrs. D Coy report they are right flanking on houses 800843.  
1554 hrs. Tanks stonking all houses in area.  
1600 hrs. D Coy report enemy running N. to river. Pln. of B Coy joins carriers at HOLST.  
1609 hrs. D Coy report battle over and "Neat and Tidy".  
1627 hrs. D Coy report Hy. M.G. fire from N. of river. Area 2 river is now completely clear.  
1635 hrs. A Coy being shelled by heavy gun.  
1645 hrs. D Coy return to old positions.  
2200 hrs. A Coy Being very heavily shelled (60 rounds approx.).  
2220 hrs. A Coy Report enemy attacking and in N. end of PAARLO, Call for 2 D.F. tasks.  
2240 hrs. Enemy forced way into fwd. positions (8 Pln.) and overrun these.  
2253 hrs. A Coy call for more D.F. tasks.  
2305 hrs. A fierce S.A. battle in N. part of PAARLO; position obscure.  
2305 hrs. Enemy commenced long range shelling with Hy. guns & nebelwerfers firing to our N.  
2325 hrs. Position of secure in north of PAARLO. Spandau Now engaging A Coy HQ And shooting at all windows.  
2335 hrs. Maj. Watson counter attacks with two small subunits surrounding Spandau position but Brens were frozen and could not fire.  
One half of fwd. Pln. Holding out but enemy still in other half of farm building.  
2340 hrs. 8 pln's position now at 810844.  
2347 hrs. Tp. of 1 R.T.R. in support of A Coy say are OK and having a good shoot, can see all enemy clearly to front, several lying dead in snow.  
2350 hrs. Arty stonk 819847, a possible F.U.P.  
0015 hrs. Spandau in house 810843, to close to be engaged by arty dealing with it by S.A.  
8 platoon now OK but are only in contact by shouting.

30th Jan. Tuesday, weather very cold overcast bright intervals.

0040 hrs. A Coy call for D.F.  
0050 hrs. 10 Germans retreating N. to river DF called for to catch them.  
0058 hrs. A Coy report position clearer but not yet re established.  
0105 hrs. Communications being reestablished with 8 Pln. of whom half are still in action.  
0110 hrs. Most of 8 Pln are OK; Germans in bottom floor our chaps upstairs. Spandau firing from 811842.  
0111 hrs. 8 Pln. now in contact, Germans still in their area and still a lot of shelling.  
0115 hrs. A Coy C.O. Report it was a full-scale attack by at least one Coy; it was held and then beaten off. Enemy are now retreating and arty are engaging. O.P. report large number of enemy retreating.  
0125 hrs. D.F. for Germans running away wanted.  
0135 hrs. 3 POWs of 14 Coy 2 Bn. 1219 G.R. Their commander badly wounded at 816843, they crossed river by rubber boats about 50 men took part from 176 Bn. with HQ at MILICK, orders to take PAARLO at all costs. 2 more POWs, (1 wounded later died). 3 Bn. 1219 & 1218 G.R.  
0220 hrs. A Coy report Searchlight illuminating this area; Mortar fire for last 10 minutes.  
1 P.O.W. from 14 Coy 2 Bn. 1219 G.R.  
Capt. J.T. Peasley M.C. assumes command of B Coy.  
1440 hrs. A Coy, 20 enemy seen at 811856, one at windmill at 812854.  
1540 hrs. A Coy, 3 – 4 M.G.'s firing across riverbank between 817849 and 817842 at our tanks. Arty engaged. Two enemy by large house at 817851.

1800 hrs. Relief of fwd. Coys starts. A Coy by D Coy of 9 D.L.I. u/c 1/5th Queen's at PAARLO & 2 Plns. of B Coy relieved 1 Pln. carriers at HOLST. A Coy Return to area REUTJE & Carriers return to old B Coy area at POSTERHOLT.  
1 O.R. of A Coy accidentally wounded.

31st Jan. Wednesday, (D + 232).

Weather Very cold at first but by last light thaw started with drizzle and sleet.

0630 hrs. B Coy report large explosion at 95° Mag. from 814832 believed to have been the bridge at VLODROP (reliable civilian report that this was done after our shell fire had damaged bridge).

1228 hrs. 2 men seen digging at 819842, 26 rds. fired on them.

1305 hrs. Mortar & Spandau fire in area of wood 825835.

Slight shelling of POSTERHOLT, PAARLO & HOLST occurred during the day.

2000 hours. Fighting recce patrol by D Coy to see if any bridge is over river ROER 809846 & 802847 & to shoot up any enemy met.

Patrol went out taking 2 S. Bearers Who were to follow out and pick up wound did German on route who could be heard shouting in front of our F.D.L. After going some 30 to 40 yards they hit a mine 2 explosions ensued. Casualties were one killed and five wound did. The German was not recovered.

C.O. Congratulate all ranks of Bn. On their conduct during actions of last few days. 7th Armoured Div. Summary number 231.

Last night 50 enemy counter attacked our tps. at PARLO 8183.

The attack came in at 2330 hours. Preceded by a sharp arty conc. on our posns. with many enemy casualties. 8 POWs were taken three died the remaining five were identified as 14/1219 G.R.

P.O.Ws say the attack was made by a scratch Coy formed from II/1218 G.R. 50 men under Oblt Vom HOEVEL (O.C. 14/1219 G.R. Which has been under Comd. II.1218 G.R. since 20 Jan.) The attack was planned for yesterday morning which made movement impossible. The object was to retake PARLO and if successful HOLST 8184 as well and hold these places. The Coy moved from conc. area HAMMERHOF 8185 and cross the ROER in rubber boats at 816843 and were to attack frontally and two Secs. from the right flank. Vom HOEVEL according to POWs what's severely wounding.

P.O.Ws say that our str in PAARLO was estimated at 2 Coys with four tks: if this is so it is difficult to see why the enemy attacked with one company unless he was convinced that Arische Waffenfroende would knock the decadent Jewish Bolsheviks for a ball of chalk.

Part of a report on the German Attack by unknown officer.

At approx. 2215 hours I heard my Brens open up with repeated bursts.

Almost immediately there was a bazooka hit on the right flank Bren wounding all three men in the room and putting the gun out of action. The remainder of the section in the house cellar as well as the Pln. Sgt. and myself scrambled for the upstairs to man our positions, I delayed long

enough to send a wireless message to Coy HQ reporting an attack in some strength and requesting D.F. fire. Before going up the cellar stairs a bazooka hit on the lower front of the house gave me quite a blast and at the same time though we didn't know it till later blew the cellar door ajar. The wounded men (L/Cpl. Dennis, Pte. Brooks & Pte. Martin) Reach the cellar (Pln. HQ) Before I got up the stairs. The S.B. Pte. West immediately took them in charge.

Five Sections under Cpl. Jopson manned the upper floor windows while Sgt. Bateman and myself went to the rear door which overlooked the other buildings where 4 and 6 Sections were. Fire was being brought to bear on our buildings from three sides and we were returning it with interest at any moving objects that could be seen. Fearing an even larger attack than was at first anticipated I started to go down to the cellar to send another message to keep the D.F. fire coming down. The cellar was occupied by the enemy earlier bazooka hit the Bren on the flank being knocked out. Grenades, Stens & Schmeizer fire was exchanged between us above and the enemy below but a stalemate was reached. Meanwhile there were three more bazookas hit on our house with no casualties. At least six enemy grenades exploded in the cellar and there was a terrific amount of small arms fire. I at last reach the conclusion that men in the cellar room had all been killed. I then threw an 80 smoke grenade down the cellar steps as the enemy showed signs of trying to attack us from that area. The smoke grenade plus fire which we put down the steps affectively stopped his efforts.

Before this time we were receiving fire support from the rest of the company Bren fire from the supporting tanks was raking our exposed flanks and the D.F. fire continued to come down to good effect. Leaving the Sgt. i/c the 6 men in my own the house I ran across to my other buildings and found the situation there well under control. The NCO there Cpl. Brown, L/Cpl. Harrison & L/Cpl. Beck with their 11 men had manned all available windows and doors and proceeded to shoot up anything that moved. One man had been killed by small arms fire and one man wound did buy a bazooka hit on the building. All the time that Sgt. Bateman I myself had been guarding the rear of the house and overlooking the rear of their building they had been doing the same for us. I checked each position and found all the men cheerful and determined to see things through even though the ammunition supply was reaching an acute stage. Since the situation in the house I had left seemed the most dangerous I detailed three men from 4 and 6 sections to assist them.

About this time I was contacted by Lt. Maxwell and 2 sections from 7 Pln. Who had managed to reach my Pln. after knocking out a Spandau post. A similar attempt had previously been made by Maj. D.J. Watson and 2 sections from 14 Pln. But they were pinned down by this Spandau post. While 8 Pln. kept up their defensive fire Lt. Maxwell and his men proceeded to clear the part of the cellar occupied by the enemy.

The enemy by this time was definitely on the defensive and trying to withdraw. He was seriously hampered by the fire of all our weapons and suffered more casualties. The situation was restored by 0300 hrs. no penetration beyond our position was achieved by the enemy.

Then came the most dramatic the announcement of the entire battle. Every man in the cellar (3 wounded-S.B. and Sigs) whom I had thought finished was OK. The room they had occupied (Pln.

HQ) had only 1 doorway over which hung still curtain. The German grenade hitting the curtains had failed to explode in their room and at the same time L/Cpl. Dennis the wound did in the hand kept spraying the Germans occupied boom with his Sten. Though repeatedly called upon to surrender by the enemy they replied with fire and bad language.

Estimated German casualties at least 50% of entire attacking force. Own casualties 1 killed and four wounded some seriously. The men were magnificent and stuck to their posts with no thought of personal danger, surrender or flight.