1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary August 1944

AUGUST 1944

1st Aug. Area 716604.
0115 hrs. Having travelled through LA BELLE EPINE, PARFOURU L'ÉCLIN & LA PAUMERIE, the Bn. arrived in its leaguer area and settled in for the rest of the night.
0800 hrs. The C.O. and I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.
0845 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group.
0940 hrs. Bn. HQ left the leaguer area and the Bn's column moved along the Divs. Axis, the order of march being, Carrier Pln. "C" Sqn. 5 R.T.R. "C" Coy, Tac HQ, "O" Group, Support Group, "D" & "B" Coys, Main HQ, and "A" Coy via ECORIGNY 7057 and CAHAGNES 7356. 131 Bde. Objective was the high ground in the area of BREVIL 7752. 1/5th Queen's led Followed by the 1/6th & 1/7th Bns.
1330 hrs. Orders were received that the Bn. continued to move along the Div. Axis until the Fwd. body reached 740552 where "C" Coy debussed and advanced on foot.
1715 hrs. "C" Coy had reached area of wood 743536 but were unable to advance further as they were being fired on by 3 Panthers. Tac HQ and "B" & "D" Coys were halted in area 738542.
Meanwhile Main HQ and "A" Coy had reached 740552. "A" Coy debussed and moved up to "B" & "D" Coys.
1900 hrs. The Panthers having withdrawn "A", "B" & "C" Coys moved up to the high ground area 755530 and dug defensive posns. "D" Coy remained in reserve with Tac HQ at 744536.
Area 740552.
2045 hrs. A P.O.W. was brought in and identified as a Pole from 751 GR of 326 Inf. Div.
2315 hrs. Main HQ moved off the rd. into a field at 742550 and leaguered for the nigh.
2345 hrs. Another Polish P.O.W. from the same GR was brought in.

2nd Aug. 1000 hrs. The C.O. and I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.
The Rifle Coys remained in their defensive posns. but the Carrier Pln. During the morning recce'd down the rd. running S.W. through JURQUES 7551. Just beyond JURQUES the Carriers were pinned down by 2 A/Tk. Guns firing from the hill straight ahead. Leading 5 R.T.R. and 3 R.H.A. to deal with these, the Carriers Pln. Returned to the Bn. area.
1315 hrs. Main HQ moved up and joined Tac HQ at 744536.
1600 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group. He announced that 7 Armd. Divs. Immediate objective was AUNAY-SUR-ODON 8251. The Bn. was to attack and occupy by night the ground in the area of pt. 188 along the line of the track 793524 – 73514 to form an A/Tk. Screen and make possible the progress of the Tks which up to now had been prevented from advancing beyond the rd. junction 773525 by heavy fire from tks. And S.P. guns.
1800 hrs. The Rifle Coys pulled out from their posns. and assembled in the area of Bn. HQ.
The C.O. went to 131 Bde. HQ.
2045 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group at which he issued his orders for the nights operation.
2400 hrs. The attack began from the Start Line at 773525 with "A" Coy leading on the left and "D" Coy on the right followed by "B" & "C" Coys.

A creeping arty. Barrage from 778526 to 797516 supported the attack. The leading Coys encountered slight Inf. Opposition from the flanks but this was dealt with and the objective was reached and the Bn. firmly established in its posns. by 0400 hrs.

3rd Aug. Locations – “A” Coy N. of rd. 791521, “B” Coy astride rd. 791518, “D” Coy S. of rd. 793517, “C” Coy in area of Tac HQ 786519.
A Jarguat? was later discovered overturned and abandoned at 787520 having apparently fallen into the sunken lane during the attack. A small number of casualties was sustained including some caused by medium arty. Shells falling short at the commencement of the barrage.
23 P.O.W’s were taken mostly from 326 Div. but including 1 from 654 Hy. A/Tk. Bn.
Main Bn. HQ was established at 765528.
During the morning some recce tks. of 8 Hus. And 5 R.T.R. passed through towards LA LANDE 8051. Enemy M.T. apparently unaware of our progress in the night continued to use the rd. running N. to S. at 793518 and 3 soft skinned vehicles were shot up and the occupants killed or captured. An enemy D.R. was also captured carrying dispatches.
1450 hrs. The enemy counter-attacked with tks. and Inf. 1 Mk IV was brewed up in front of “B” Coy by a 17 pdr. and the attack was speedily dispatched.
1530 hrs. The enemy renewed their counterattack in greater force undercover of a smoke screen from the E. D.F. fire was brought to bear on the danger area with some success.
1550 hrs. Leading tks. reached an area 50 yds. In front of the fwd. Coy posns. “A”, “B”, & “D” Coys.
1600 hrs. “D” Coy and part of “B” Coy were overrun by tks. & Inf.
1620 hrs. “A” Coy fell back slightly to conform with the posn. On the right.
1630 hrs. "B” Coy was ordered to withdraw slightly to link up with “A” & “C” Coys.
1700 hrs. The attack was being held. 12 enemy tks. were reported in the area and 1 Panther was brewed up. 3 x M10’s were K.O’d and several of the 17 pdrs. were out of action.
1705 hrs. The assistance of more Inf. Was called for.
The Assault Pioneer Pln. Moved up from Bn. HQ area. Elements of 1/7th Queen’s reported being prepared for reinforcement or counterattack role.
1715 hrs. A Sqn. Of 8 Hus. Arrived to assist the tks. on both flanks. Several D.F. concentrations were fired by 3 R.H.A. during this period in the neighborhood of the x rds. 786518 and to the N. and S. of the rd. and around pt. 188.
1800 hrs. The enemy attack had been halted. Tks. had withdrawn to concealed posns. and Inf. Were much less in evidence.
1900 hrs. The situation was now quiet, the enemy having apparently withdrawn after suffering considerable casualties amongst their Inf.
During the action the Bn. had sustained the following casualties:-
“A Coy, 1 Officer & 9 O.R’s wounded.
“B” Coy, 2 O.R’s killed, 1 Officer & 39 O.R’s missing, 11 O.R’s wounded.
“C” Coy, 4 O.R’s wounded.
“D” Coy, 2 officers & 19 O.R’s killed, 2 Officers & 40 O.R’s missing 6 O.R’s wounded.
HQ Coy, 7 O.R’s missing, 1 Officer & 4 O.R’s wounded.
The remaining men from “D” Coy were amalgamated with “B” Coy & fresh posns. of all round defence were taken up around the area of Tac HQ 786519.
1910 hrs. The C.O. attended a conference at 131 Bde. HQ at which it was decided to withdraw the Bn. to the area of Main HQ in the rear of 1/7th Queen’s.

4th Aug. 0001 hrs. The Bn. withdrew by Coys leaving a small contingent of Inf. To protect the tks. which were the last to leave the area.
0130 hrs. The troops then rode out on the tks. the withdrawal was carried out without loss.
Area 765528.
0900 hrs. The C.O. held a conference at which he announced that the Bn. was to take up defensive posns. in the area of LE MONDE ANCIEN 7753 to protect the rear of 1/7th Queen's.
1010 hrs. The C.O., 2i/c & I.O. recce'd the area after which the 2i/c rtn'd. to Bn. HQ and held an "O" Group. The Coys then moved up to their new posns. and Bn. HQ was established at 779530.
Area 779530.
1330 hrs. The Bn. was now complete in the area. Soon after its arrival the enemy shelled the Bn. area with a Nebelwerfer causing 1 casualty.
1445 hrs. Two patrols were sent out, one from "C" Coy & one from Carrier Pln.
1900 hrs. "C" Coys patrol went to LA BUTTERIE 7854 and LA VALLEE 7953 and found both villages unoccupied. The Carrier patrol was sent to 779538 to deal with an A/Tk. gun that had been reported by flanking troops. No gun was found but there were signs that one had been in that posn. and had since withdrawn.
2015 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group after a visit from the Bde. Comdr.
2300 hrs. The C.O. held another "O" Group at which he issued orders for the Bn. to withdraw early on the following morning to an assembly area near A" Echelon. 749543.
Night 4/5th August.
A patrol was sent from "C" Coy to woods 7753 which were W. & N. of the Bn. area and found nothing to report.

5th Aug. 0645 hrs. The Bn. commenced leaving the area by Coys and reassembled in area 749543 where the rest of the day was spent waiting the order to move.
Area 749543.
1600 hrs. 4 officers & 88 O.R's joined the Bn. as reinforcements.
2030 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group at which he explained that 7 Armd. Div. column of which 1/6th Queen's formed the rear was making slow progress on its route to AUNAY-SUR-ODON 8251 owing to mines and demolitions. The Div. Axis was rd. junction 773548 – LA POSTE 7855 – MAISONCELLES PELVEY 7955 thence S. along the VILLERS BOCAGE – AUNAY-SUR-ODON rd.
Nevertheless the Bn. could expect to move as far as leaguer area near LONGVILLERS 8254 sometime during the night.
2255 hrs. Having received the order to move the Bn. commenced leaving its assembly area.

6th Aug. 0145 hrs. Bn. HQ at the head of the Bns column reached the leaguer area and Bn. HQ was established at 820546.
0830 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. attended a conference at 131 Bde. HQ.
0930 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group.
The Bn. remained in its leaguer area throughout the day resting & cleaning up.

7th Aug. 1120 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group & a recce party was sent fwd. to the area of ST AGNAN-LE-MALHERBE 8753. The 22nd Armd. Bde. and 1/5th & 1/7th Queen's who had

reached the area N. & N.W. of MT. PINCON 8445 were being subjected to heavy shell fire and it had been decided not to move up 1/6th Bn. for the time being.
1330 hrs. The Bn. moved off from the leaguer area the Order of March being "C" Coy, Support Group, "A" Coy, BN. HQ remainder of A/Tks. & Mortar Pln. and "B" Coy.
Area 869534.
1410 hrs. The Bn. arrived in the area of ST. AGNAN-LE-MALHERBE.
1830 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. attended a Bde. Cmdrs. Conference.
1900 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group.
2000 hrs. The Bn. recce party went fwd. to recce a Bn. leaguer area for the night.
2035 hrs. The Bn. left the area and proceeded through BAUQUAY 8452 and AUNAY-SUR-ODON 8251 to its leaguer area at 827495 which was reached at 2220 hrs.

8th Aug. Area 827495.
0640 hrs. The Bn. left its leaguer area. The order of march being the same as on the previous day and proceeded through ROUCAMPS 8347. Some shelling was encountered while advancing along the rd. from 837462 – 842457 at which point the leading Coy, "C" dismounted and proceeded on foot. On nearing the village of LE PLESSIS GRIMAULT 8444 they met small arms fire from the houses at ROUGE DOUIT 8444 and 14 Pln. was sent to deal with this trouble. 13 & 15 plns. Continued through LE PLESSIS GRIMAULT where some troops of DCLI (43 Div.) had already penetrated. There were many mines in the village and a Ferdinand was reported firing from 840438. 13 pln. and a tank of 8 H, made attempts to deal with this but the tk. was hit and the Inf. were unable to advance close enough to contact. A few snipers were still in the area of the village and surrounding orchards.
Some of these were rounded up and the houses at LE PLESSIS GRIMAULT were cleared. The Bn. consolidated in positions covering the E. and S. of the village, the DCLI being responsible for the W. flank. Bn. HQ remained at 844456.
2300 hrs. One 6 pdr. A/Tk. gun was blown up by a mine whilst getting into posn. at 844443 and 3 of the crew killed.
Other casualties sustained during the days action were 6 |O.R's killed I Off. & 5 O.R's wounded.

9th Aug. 1200 hrs. The Bn. was relieved by a unit of 50 Div. and Coys concentrated in the BOIS DU ROL 8445 before moving across to protect the left flank of 50 Div. With this object the Bn. was directed on to the village of LA FRESNEE 8644 and the Coys formed up for the attack in the area 852454. "C" Coy sustained some casualties from enemy mortars in the forming up area. With "A" Coy leading the Bn. advanced on either side of the axis with the support of two tps. Of 5 R.T.R. using "Bocage drill" The very close country made progress slow and difficult but the objective was gained and about 25 P.O.W's taken by the BN. in addition to others captured by 5 R.T.R. Some were from the area of the houses 859451 and others near LA FRESNEE. Some mortar opposition from LA LANDE 8644 was dealt with by the mortar Pln. and 3 R.H.A. Casualties sustained by the Bn. were 2 O.R's killed, 2 Offs. & 18 O.R's wounded.
Night 9/10th Aug.
The Bn. was relieved by the S.L.I. of 43 Div. and the Coys concentrated in the area of Bn. HQ.

10th Aug. 0630 hrs. hrs. Bn. moved off from its assembly area and travelled back to the area of NOIRE NUIT 8349 having been withdrawn with other units of 7th Armd. for a rest.

The Bn. settled down for a rest and clean up.
All men visited the Divisional mobile bath and laundry unit and a party was sent to the 2nd army rest camp.

11th Aug. During the morning all officers and N.C.O's attended a lecture at 131 Bde. HQ by 30 Corps Cmdr. Lt. Gen. Horrox who congratulated 131 Bde. on its achievements in the campaign and described the general situation and outlined possible developments.

12, 13, 14, & 15th. August.
The Bn. remained in its rest area and took advantage of the divisional canteen and recreational facilities provided. On 14th August 44 the party rtn. From the Rest Camp and another was sent.

16th Aug. 0600 hrs. The 2i/c and 2i/c's of Coys left the area for a recce E. of the R. ORNE.
0730 hrs. The Bn. commenced to leave its rest area, the order of march being Bn. HQ, "A", "C", & "B" Coys, A/Tks., Carrer, Mortar Plns. & A2 Echelon.
When the end of the column reached the X rds. at 978631, after passing through AUNAY-SUR-ODON, VILLERS BOCAGE, NOYERS & VERSION the Bn. halted and awaited further orders from Bde.
1320 hrs. The Bn. moved on passed through ÉTERVILLE, crossed the R. ORNE passed through St. STANDRE-SUR-ORNE and then proceeded S.E. parallel with the CAEN-FALAISE rd. leaving this at CRAMESNIL 0856 the column turned E. and proceeded through ST. AIGNAN-DE-CRAMESNIL 0856 the column turned E. and proceeded through ST. AIGNAN-DE-CRAMESNIL and CONTEVILLE to POUSSY-LA-CAMPAGNE where Bn. HQ was established at 129565.
2200 hrs. Area 129565.
The C.O. & I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference and received orders for the Bns. move on the following day. 7 Armd. Div. was now under Comd. of 1 Corps. And had been given the objective of LISIEUX 5387. 131 Bde. was to lead in this advance with 8 Hussars under Comd. and 22 Armd. Bde. following. 131 Bde's. order of march was 1/6th Bn. on the Northern Axis, 1/7th Bn. on the Southern Axis with 1/5th Bn. in Reserve.

17th Aug. 0800 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group and issued his orders for the Bn's move.
0830 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ.
1130 hrs. The Bn. commenced leaving its leaguer area the Order of march being "B" Coy u/c of 8 H. Carrier Pln., Tac HQ, "C" Coy, Support Group, "A" Coy and Bn. HQ. The column passed through St. SYLVAIN and GLATIGNY until it reached MAGNY-LA-CAMPAGNE where it leaguered. Bn. HQ was established at 214527.
1400 hrs. The C.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.
1440 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group at which he announced that 131 Bde's. objective had been changed to LIVAROT 4672.
1530 hrs. The Bn. commenced leaving the leaguer area in the same order as before. It crossed the R. DIVES at ST. PIERRE-SUR-DIVES and advanced along the rd. to LIVAROT.
1650 hrs. "B" and "C" Coys debussed at 273498 and advanced on foot. "B" Coy S. of the rd. and "C" Coy to the N.
1740 hrs. Bn. HQ was established at 278496.
1830 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ.
1930 hrs. By this time "C" Coy had reached the area 3149 where they were held up for

a time by small arms fire. "B" Coy were dealing with a small number of enemy Inf. dug in at 310483. Meanwhile "A" Coy had debussed and were moving along the rd. to pass through te fwd. Coys.
2100 hrs. 4 P.O.W's wee brought into Bn. HQ and identified as being from 272 Fus. Bn.
2110 hrs. The C.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.
2130 hrs. 2 more P.O.W's were brought in from 272 Fus. Bn...
2200 hrs. Bn. HQ moved up to 302490. The Coys by this time had cleared BOISSEY 3249 and were established around it. Small pockets of enemy however were still being cleared up and 8 more P.O.W's were brought in from 272 Div.

Night 17/18. Recce patrols went fwd. N. & S. of the rd. towards St. MARGUERITE-DES-LOGES 4274. They reported the rd. clear and also the ground on each side but vehicle movement was heard in the village itself.

18th Aug. 1000 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group at which he issued his orders for an attack on the high ground N. of St. MARGUERITE-DES-LOGES 4274.
1030 hrs. "A" Coy commenced to advance and made steady progress meeting no opposition.
1200 hrs. "A" Coy reported the objective clear. Bn. HQ moved up to 325493 and "B" & "C" Coys prepared to move up and consolidated around St. MARGUERITE-DES-LOGES.
1205 hrs. A Spitfire strafed the rd. area 4075 killing 2 and wounding 3 O.R's.
1300 hrs. "B" Coy advanced as far as the cross tracks at 438787 and "A" Coy to 429734 while "C" Coy held firm on pt. 115, 422738.
1415 hrs. 5 P.O.W's including 1 wounded gave themselves up and were identified as being from 272 Fus. Bn.
1430 hrs. 3 P.O.W's were brought in to Bn. HQ who came from 5/20 Flacksturm Regt.
1630 hrs. A carrier recceing fwd. along the LIVAROT rd. was knocked out by an A/Tk. gun after all but one of the gun crew had been killed.
1700 hrs. A P.O.W. from 980 G.R. 272 Div. was brought in.
The Coys pulled back to the area of St. MARGUERITE-DES-LOGES and took up defensive posns. around the village. As "B" Coy was withdrawing a German who had been hiding fired a Bazooka at a carrier, missed but succeeded in getting away.
1745 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ.
2000 hrs. 2 Spitfires again strafed the rd. in the Bn. area causing a few casualties.
2225 hrs. Main Bn. HQ moved up and joined Tac. HQ at 425743.

Night 18/19. Patrols that went out during the night along the LIVAROT rd. saw an enemy working party possibly laying mines.

19th Aug. 0800 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group.
0845 hrs. "A" Coy supported by 4 Trp. "A" Sqn. 8 H. started to advance along the LIVAROT rd.
1125 hrs. The C.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.
1230 hrs. "A" Coy reached 432730 but 4 Trp. (8 H.) were held up by small arms fire from the buildings 200 yds. ahead. When "A" Coy went fwd. to deal with this opposition it proved to consist of 3 snipers who succeeded in escaping.
1315 hrs. "A" Coy formed a firm base in the area of 433727 while the Tks. dealt with an S.P. gun in area 4371.
During the day a report was received from civilians that the enemy had shot about six civilians and that the bodies were lying in one of the houses near the cross tracks 438737 reached by "B" Coy the previous afternoon. The report was investigated and

proved to be correct.
1630 hrs. The C.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.
1950 hrs. “A” Coy pulled back to the area of St. MARGUERITE-DES-LOGES and Bn. HQ was established at 418744.
The Bn. was thus concentrated for an early move on the following morning.

Night 19/20. A patrol sent out by “B” Coy contacted 1/7th Queen’s on the Bde. right.
During an enemy air raid bombs were dropped in the BN. area. There were no casualties but the Assault Pioneer Pln. ammunition truck was destroyed.
Enemy Inf. who appeared in front of “B” Coys posn. were dealt with by 3 R.H.A.

20th Aug. 0600 hrs. “O” Group was held by the C.O.
0730 hrs. “B” Coy formed up with 3 Trp. 8 H. in preparation for the advance along the LIVAROT rd.
1110 hrs. The carrier Pln. moving down parallel tracks to the right contacted 1/7th Queen’s and entered the village of MONTVIETTE 4272 which was reported clear.
1130 hrs. Meanwhile “B” Coy had advanced without encountering any enemy and had reached the road and track junction at 437721 where they made a firm base “C” Coy moving up behind them passed through “B” Coy and continued to advance.
1155 hrs. “C” Coy reached the bridge over the R. VIE 461730 having met no opposition.
1245 hrs. the C.O. held an “O” Group and then crossed the river into LIVAROT on a recce.
“A” Coy moved up to “B” Coys area.
1400 hrs. Bn. HQ was established at 446727.
1430 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ and the C.O. held an “O” Group.
1510 hrs. 4 P.O.W’s were brought in by “C” Coy 3 from 2/305 Flack artillery and 1 from I/185 Arty Regts.
The Coys commenced to move across the R. VIE to take over the ground held by 1 Bn. R.B. astride the LIVAROT – ORBEC Rd at pt. 172 4772. The Bn. was to hold the right half of the perimeter from pt. 172 to the R. VIE S. of LIVAROT with 1/5th Queen’s holding the left half of the perimeter including the bridge at 465745.
Area 446727.
1510 hrs. While taking up posns. “A” Coy sustained a few casualties from enemy mortaring but by 1800 hrs. the Coys held the following posns. “A” Coy, 474730, “B” Coy, 466726, & “C” Coy 464716.
1800 hrs. A ? P.O.W. from 1054 G.R. was brought in who had given himself up with a “Safe Conduct Leaflet”.
2230 hrs. 4 P.O.W’s were taken by “B” Coy from 185 Fd. Erd.? Bn.

21st Aug. 0830 hrs. A Mk. IV appeared at 477726 and K.O’d a 6 pdr. A/Tk. gun.
0855 hrs. The Mk. IV advance up the rd. and opened fire on the house at which was “A” Coy HQ causing several casualties including the Coy. Comdr. (Maj. L.C. YOUNG) slightly wounded and the 2i/c (Capt. D.M. GROOM) wounded. About 20 enemy Inf. then made a bayonet charge and cut off the fwd. Pln. The mortar Pln. brought down a conc. which wiped out the enemy and 5 D.G. K.O’d the Mk. IV. The fwd. Pln. had sustained a few casualties.
By 1100 hrs, the counter attack had been dealt with and everything was quiet. The Bns. posns. were reorganised as follows:- “C” Coy with carrier Pln. 464719, “B” Coy 470720, “A” Coy 473727.
On the left of “A” Coy were a Sqn. of 8 H. and “D” Coy 1/5th Queen’s both u/c of the

Bn. Tac HQ was at 456721.
1500 hrs. The C.O. and I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.
"B" Coy reported a Spandau at 476725 which was engaged by mortar Pln.
1930 hrs. "C" Coy reported 150 enemy Inf. and "B" Coy 120 enemy Inf. 1000-1500 yds in front of their posns.
2030 hrs. 2 P.O.W's were brought in to Bn. HQ, 1 from 12 SSPz. Div. who had walked into "A" Coys. Lines in error and 1 unidentified Russian deserter.
"B" Coy reported an enemy Tank. or S.P. gun in the area of pt. 172 firing on rd. at 470723. Fire was brought down by 3 R.H.A.

22nd Aug. 0645 hrs. The C.O. held a conference with the officers of the Cdn. Unit which was to relieve the Bn. and the Bde. Comdr. also visited Bn. HQ.
0745 hrs. The C.O. held a "O" Group at which he issued his orders for the Bns. move. The Bn. was being relieved by a Cdn. Unit and was to move along the 7 Armd. Div. Centre Line (the LIVAROT – LISIEUX) 131 Bde's. Order of march being 1/5th. 1/7th & 1/6th Bns. 22 Armd. Bde. was already in an area on the Southern outskirts of LISIEUX.
0930 hrs. Bn. HQ moved off from 446727. The Bns. Order of march was Carrier Pln., "D" Coy of 1/5th Queen's, "C" Sqn. of 8 H. "A" , "B", "C" Coys, Bn. HQ, A/Tk. and Mortar Pln., Support Group and A2 Echelon.
1130 hrs. Bn. HQ was established at 465765 and the Coys leaguered in the area of CR. MATHIEU 4676.
1330 hrs. 3 P.O.W's from 980 GR, 272 Div. were found hiding in the Bn. area. Also an Italian was handed over by 1/5th Queen's who had escaped from the Germans.
1430 hrs. The Bn. moved off again along the LIVAROT – LISIEUX rd.
1520 hrs. The Bn. leaguered in the area of LA GENDRERIE 5182. Bn. HQ being at 511826.
Area 511826.
1915 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. Conference.

23rd Aug. 0730 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. again went to 131 Bde. HQ.
0830 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group.
The Bn. spent the morning awaiting the order to move and at 1445 Bn. HQ moved off. The Bns. Order of march was carrier Pln., "C" Coy, Support Group, Tac H.Q, "O" Group, "B" Coy, Bn. HQ., "A" Coy and remainder of the Supporting Arms.
1800 hrs. Bn. HQ was established at 537854 and the Coys leaguered in the area around.

24th Aug. 0900 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group at which he issued his orders for the Bns. attack on pt. 156, 5887 which was to commence at 1200 hrs.
Bn. H.Q left the leaguer area and proceeded to LISIEUX where it was found that an attacke would not be necessary as the enemy had withdrawn and 7 Armd. Div. was not in contact.
Bn. HQ remained at 542872 until 1420 hrs. when the Bn. moved off along the LISIEUX – THIBERVILLE rd. until it leaguered for the night in the area 5587. Bn, HQ was established at 558876.
During a halt in the area 5587 a Tk. went over a mine and the O.C. and 2i/c of "C" Coy (Maj. V.G. SPRATT and Capt. E.W. WALKER) and the Comdr. of the carrier Pln. (Capt, V.G. DOCTON MC) were wounded.

25th Aug. 0630 hrs. The Bn. Recce Party left for the area of GIVERVILLE 7891.
0745 hrs. Bn. HQ left the leaguer area at the head of the Bns. column. The Bn. travelled via L'HOTELLERIE 6686, ST. AUBIN-DE-SCELLON 7189 and GIVERVILLE 7891 and reached its leaguer area ST. GEORGES-DU-MESNIL at 1010 hrs. Bn. HQ was established at 784925.
1715 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group.
1905 hrs. The Bn. commenced to move from its leaguer area in the following order:- "B" Coy, "C" Coy, "A" Coy, Bn. HQ and Specialist Plns. Along the axis GIVERVILLE 7891 – SAINT-GEORGES-DU-VIÈVRE 8096. The Bn. leaguered at different points along the SAINT-GEORGES-DU- VIÈVRE to PONT-AUTHOU rd. "A" Coy being with Bn. HQ in SAINT-GEORGES-DU- VIÈVRE 8495, "B" Coy in FRENEUSE-SUR-RISLE 8696 and "C" Coy in SAINT-GEORGES-DU- VIÈVRE 8096.

26th Aug. Area 843958.
0100 hrs. 5 P.O.W's were brought in from 331 Div.
0930 hrs. 2 unidentified Russian P.O.W's were brought in to Bn. HQ.
1720 hrs. Bn. HQ left the leaguer area, the Bns. order of march being "B" & "A" Coys, "C" Coy and Specialist Plns. The Bn. crossed the R. RISLE at PONT-AUTHOU 8895 and proceeded along the rd. to MONTFORT-SUR-RISLE at 8601. On reaching 871007 "B" Coy debussed and proceede on foot. "A" & "C" Coys also debussed and followed "B" Coy while Bn. HQ was established at 872000. The Coys took up defensive posns. as follows:- "A" Coy at rd. junction 863019, "B" Coy at APPEVILLE 8503, and "C" Coy at MONTFORT-SUR-RISLE 8601.

27th Aug. Area 872000.
0815 hrs. 6 P.O.W's were brought in to Bn. HQ who had been handed to "B" Coy by 11 H. 2 were Russians, 2 were from 559 G.R. 331 Div. 1 from 344 Arty. Regt. and 1 from II/462 Inf. ? Bn.
0945 hrs. 2 more P.O.W's were brought in who had been passed to the Bn. by 11 H., 1 from 16 Arty. Regt. 16 G.A.F. Div. and 1 from 558 G.R. 331 Div.
1330 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group.
1445 hrs. 11 Hussars handed over to the Bn. 7 Russian P.O.W's in civilian clothes.
1500 hrs. Bn. HQ left the leaguer area, the Bn's order of march being "B", "A" and "C" Coys each with 17 pdr. A/Tk. guns of N.Y. in Support, Bn. H.Q, and Specialist Plns. The column passed through MONTFORT-SUR-RISLE and APPEVILLE 8503 to a conc. area at LES MARETTES 8505, Bn. HQ being at 856054.
1600 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group.
1630 hrs. The Bn. moved further along the axis until the x rds. at 854083 were reached. The Bn. then established a firm base in the area, "A" Coy at 848078, "B" Coy at 860075, "C" Coy at 855082 & Bn. HQ at 852074.
1845 hrs. Enemy were reported by "C" Coy to be in the village of ETREVILLE 8609. This was confirmed by French civilians who reported 100 men, 3 A/Tk. guns and horse drawn transport to be in the village.
Later civilians reported that these enemy had left ETREVILLE along the ETURQUERRAYE (8909 rd.
2200 hrs. 2 unidentified Russian and 1 Pole were handed to the Bn. by 11 H.

Night 27/28. Patrols were sent out W. & S.W. of the Bn area who had nothing to report. A patrol that went to ETREVILLE confirmed that the place was clear of enemy and no mines were seen.

28th Aug. 0700 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ. 0745 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group at which he stated that the Bn. was to clear the area of ETREVILLE 8609 and ETURQUERRAYE 8909 after which it would be withdrawn for a rest and to receive reinforcements. "A" & "C" Coys carried out the operation meeting no opposition and by 1200 hrs. the Bns. task had been completed and the following places reported clear:- LES BEAUDOINS 8808, ETURQUERRAYE 8909, VIENNE 8810, LA GUARDE RUE 8710, LE GUERRIER 8610, and ETREVILLE 8609.
10 P.O.W's were taken by "A" & "C" Coys from 857 G.R/ 346 Div. and 1 was unidentified.
1300 hrs. Bn. Recce Party left for the area of S. PIERRE-DES-IFS 8398.
1400 hrs. Bn. HQ left the area at the head of the Bns. column.# 1445 hrs. The Bn. arrived at its rest area and Bn. HQ was established at 832988.
1930 hrs. Reinforcements consisting of 3 Officers and 90 O.R's arrived at Bn. HQ.

29th Aug. 0900 HRS. The Bn. Recce Party left for area E. of LE NEUBOURG.
1130 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group and issued his orders for the Bns. move to a new conc. area.
1720 hrs. Bn. HQ left the area the Bns. Order of March being, "B" Coy, Support Group, "A" Coy, BN. HQ., "C" Coy, Sigs Echelon, A2 Echelon. The column passed through ST. GEORGE-DU-VIÈVRE, PONT AUTHOU, BRIONNE, HARCOURT and LE NEUBOURG.
2045 hrs. The Bn. was now complete in its new area and Bn. HQ was established at 079799.

30th Aug. Area 079799.
1700 hrs. The C.O. and I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.
1800 hrs. All Officers attended a lecture by the Bde. Comdr. who outlined the Divs. Role in the coming operation which was to be one of the most decisive of the war. This information was later passed on to all ranks.
In view of the long distances shortly to be covered the day was spent on maintenance of vehicles.
200 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group and issued his orders for the Bns. move early in the following day.

31st Aug. 0535 hrs. Bn. H.Q left the conc. area, the Bns Order of March being the same as on 29 Aug.
The Bn. proceeded along the Divs. Axis throughout the day crossing the R. SEINE by MUIDS BRIDGE 3189 at 1130 hrs. and passing through LES ANDELYS and GOURNAY-EN-BRAY. The Bn. finally leaguered for the night in the area of the village of GRUMESNIL 6329, BN. HQ being at 639299.
2300 hrs. 6 P.O.W's were found hiding in a barn in the area by the carrier Pln.

Cont/...

ORDER OF BATTLE

1/6th Bn. The Queens Royal Regiment
Week Ending 18/8/44.

BN. HQ

90298	Lt.-Col. J. H. Mason	Comdg. Off.
182133	Major W. L. Johnson MC	2i/c
177568	Capt. P. Kime MC	Adjt.

HQ Coy.

148185	Major J. Tack	O.C. Coy.
112892	Capt. H. S. Morshead	2 i/c, P.R.I.
214540	Capt. N. E. Aldridge	A/Tk. Pln
180150	Capt. V. G. Docton MC	Carrier Pln.
245987	Capt. C. H. Nice	Mortar Pln.
277931	Lieut. J. A. Knight	R.S.O.
276870	Lieut. C. A. Marvin	A/R.S.O.
164788	Lieut. R. H. Smith	M.T.O.
240399	Lieut. R. J. G. Dunn	2 i/c A/Tk.
251608	Lieut. J. W. Greenslade	2 i/c Carrier Pln.
301898	Lieut. C. W. Litton	(Q.M)

"A" Coy.

42395	Major L. C. Young
226552	Capt. D. M. Groom
CDN.20	Lieut. B. A. Hogarth
219297	Lieut. A. F. Perdue

"B" Coy.

153053	Major V. R. Goodridge
257363	Capt. G. A. Warren
284288	Lieut. G. E. Roache
261648	Lieut. M. B. Marsh

"C" Coy.

138460	Major U. G. Spratt
149282	Capt. E. W. Walker

"D" Coy.

113744	Capt. B. G. D. Miller
132296	Capt. D. F. Snowden

Attached Officers.

248712	Capt. R. G. Graham, R.A.M.C.
202618	Rev. J. F. Devine, R.A.Ch D.