

## 1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

### September 1944

1st Sept.

Area 639299.

During the night 8 P.O.W's were rounded up in the area of GRUMESNIL 6329.  
0820 hrs. Bn. HQ left the leaguer area the Bns. Order of March being the same as on the previous day.

The Bn. advanced through SARCUS 7737, FOUILLOY 7442, BETTEMBOS 7950, THIEULLOY-L'ABBAYE 8352 and MOLLIENS-VADAME 8958.

1515 hrs. The Bn. leaguered in the area of FAYEL 8861,

Bn. HQ being at 884613. The Bn. was halted while the enemy who were in ETOILE 9173 covering the bridge over the R. SOMME at 914734 were being dealt with by 1/5th Queen's, 8 H. & 3 R.H.A.

1730 hrs. C.O. & I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.

1755 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group at which he announced that 7 Armd. Divs. Axis had been changed and that the R. SOMME would be crossed by the bridge at 073608.

2nd Sept.

0250 hrs. The Bn. commenced to leave the leaguer area.

The column returned to MOLLIENS-VIDAME 8958 and proceeded along the AMIENS rd. The R. SOMME was crossed at 073608 and the Bn. then moved N.W. along the rd. towards ST. VAST-EN-CHAUSSEE.

0630 hrs. The column halted at 063644 and the Bn. leaguered while 22nd Armd. Bde. pushed on ahead along two axis to ST. POL 1621 and to LIGNY 0911.

0945 hrs. The Bn. moved off from the leaguer area along the left hand axis i.e. towards LIGNY.

The Bn. passed through VIGNACOURT 0371 to BERTEAUCOURT-LES-DAMES 0075 where the Coys debussed. A few small pockets of enemy had been left behind by the tks. in the area of ST. LEGER-LES-DOMART 9976 and these were now cleared up by the Bn. 7 P.O.W's were taken, 4 from 346 Fus. Bn. 1 from 344 Fus. Bn. 1 from 857 G.R. 346 Div. and 1 from 858 G.R. 346 Div.

1200 hrs. Having reported ST. LEGER-LES-DOMART clear the Bn. moved on passing through DOMART-EN-PONTHIEU 9978, BERNEVIL 0285, BERNAVILLE 0285 and BOISBERGUES 0687. The next enemy encountered by the Bn. were in the area of MÉZEROLLES 0890. Before these could be cleared up the Bn. was ordered to disengage.

1640 hrs. Bn. HQ was established at 079882.

1950 hrs. Having been ordered to move on to the right hand axis the Bn. moved back through AUTHEUX 0685 to FIENVILLERS 0683 and then proceed N.E. to DOLLENS 1487 thence N. through BOUONEMAISON 1592 to FREVENT 1200. Here "A" & "B" Coys took up posns. "A" Coy in the area of the station and "B" Coy at 126996. Bn. HQ was at 127982. "C" Coy had not travelled fwd. with the Bn. being u/c of 5 R.T.R.

3rd Sept. 0730 hrs. 8 P.O.W's were brought in by "A" Coy who had found them hiding in the station.  
 1050 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ.  
 1110 hrs. "A" Coy stood to as they had observed a column of enemy approaching along the rd. from AUXI-LE-CHATEAU 9996. The enemy did not however reach an area where they could be engaged.  
 1430 hrs. 150 P.O.W's were handed over who had been rounded up by the F.F.I.  
 1915 hrs. "O" Group was held by the C.O.  
 1945 hrs. Bn. HQ left the area, the Bns. Order of March being "B" Coy, Support Group, "A" Coy & Bn. HQ, "C" Coy was acting as protection for 7 Armd. Div. HQ. The Bn. moved along the Div. axis through NUNCQ 1203, TERNAS 2007 & AUBIGNY 3407 to CAMBLIGNEUL 3610 where the Bn. took up a defensive posn. "A" Coy was at 368113, "B" Coy at 369111 & Bn. HQ at 364102. "A" Coy found P.O.W's hiding in their area.

4th Sept. Area 364102.  
 0130 – 0300 hrs. The Bn. Stood to on the orders from 7 Armd. Div. who stated that the enemy inf. & tks. were moving W. towards BARLIN 3718. "B" Coy was sent fwd. as protection for 131 Bde. H.Q.  
 0500 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.  
 0930 hrs. 2 P.O.W's from 6/1252 ? ? arty. Regt. who had been taken in CAMBLAIN 3709 were handed over by the F.F.I.  
 1100 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.  
 1130 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group.  
 1220 hrs. Bn. HQ left the area, the Bns, Order of March being the same as on the previous day. "B" Coy. Had returned from 131 Bde. HQ during the morning. The Bn. moved along the Divs. Axis passing through HERSIN 3917 to MAZINGARBE 4421. Here the Bn. halted, and orders were received that the Bn. was to come u/c of 22 Armd. Bde. and that 7 Armd. Divs. Objective was GHENT.  
 1615 hrs. The Bn. moved off from MAZINGARBE and proceeded along the Divs. Axis through LENS 5215, SECLIN 6727, HEM 7838, crossed the FRANCO-BELGIUM frontier near TOUFFLERS 8238 at 1950 hrs. and went on through PECQ 8941 to BOSSUYT 9548 where Bn. HQ and Support Group and "A" Coy leaguered for the night. "B" Coy was fwd. u/c of 5 R.T.R. and "C" Coy in rear with 7 Armd. Div. HQ.

5th Sept. 1015 hrs. Bn. HQ left the leaguer area following "A" Coy who were u/c of 5 D.G. The Bn. proceeded through AVELGHEM 9751 to AUDENARDE 0957 where the R. ESCAUT was crossed and continued N.E. to OOSTERZELE 2468 where the Bn. leaguered while 22 Armd. Bde. pushed on towards GHENT. Meanwhile "B" Coy remained W. of the R. ESCAUT following 5 R.T.R. along the AUDENARDE-GHENT Rd.  
 Area 244663. 1500 hrs. 7 P.O.W's were handed over by 1 R.B. comprising 1 Lt., 2 Sgts. 1 Cpl. And 2 Ptes. from the GAF (A/A and Med.) and 1 Pte. From ? Arty.  
 1700 hrs. "C" Coy rejoined the Bn. in the leaguer area.  
 1810 hrs. "A" & "C" Coys left the leaguer area and proceeded to 297755 where 5 D.G. had a bridgehead across the R. SCHELDE.  
 1930 hrs. Bn. HQ left the leaguer area and moved onto 242717.

Carrier Pln. who were with a sqn. of 5 D.G. advancing along the rd. to GHENT from MELLE 2474 reported that the enemy were shooting up civilians in GHENT. They were unable to enter GHENT as the General Comdg. The Garrison refused to surrender.

6th Sept.

0900 hrs. The Carrier Pln. reported that numbers of enemy were crossing the R. SCHELDE by barge.

5 P.O.W's from 2/627 Sicherings Bn. and 1 Belgium Fascist who had been taken in the outskirts of GHENT were brought in.

The Assault Pioneer Pln. went fwd. to hold the bridge over the R. ESCAUT at 200789. 1500 hrs. 1 P.O.W. a Cpl. From 745 GR. 712 Div. was brought in having been taken by "A" Coy.

1700 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group at which he ordered the following dispositions:- "A" Coy to WETTEREN 2974, "B" Coy to GAVERE 1368, "C" Coy u/c of 5 D.G. to 309781, Carrier Pln. to MELLE 2474 and Ass. Pnr. Pln. to remain on bridge at 200789. Bn. HQ subsequently moved to 238678 while Tac. HQ remained at 247716.

7th Sept.

Area 238678.

The Bn. remained in posn. without incident during the night 6/7 Sept. and the following day. In the evening the Bns. area was decreased and Coys occupied the following posns.:- "A" Coy at SCHELDERODE 178713, "B" Coy on bridge at 186746 and "C" Coy with Carrier Pln. at WETTEREN 299745. Main HQ moved to 251728 and Tac. HQ to 216720.

Night 7/8 Sept.

The Assault Pnr. Pln. guarding Bn. HQ captured 2 P.O.W's who were attempting to escape along the railway at 257731.

8th Sept.

0900 hrs. The A/tk. Pln. found 3 P.O.W's hiding in a house at 246727. 2 were from I/34 Jaeger Regt. 17 GAF Div. and 1 who was wounded from a flak Regt.

1730 hrs. The Bn. reverted to Comd. of 131 Bde. which was relieved by 64 Inf. Bde. 15 (S) Div.

After being relieved the Bn. moved N.W. into GHENT and leaguered for the night. Bn. HQ was established at 195800.

Night 8/9 Sept.

There was occasional indiscriminate shelling of GHENT by 88mm guns and 210mm guns presumed to be mounted on trains on the railway running N.E. from GHENT beside the canal.

9th Sept.

1200 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group and issued his orders for the attack which the Bn. was to make across the bridge at 193824 with the object of forming a bridgehead in the factory area 185818 - 192830. Following the "O" Group the attack commenced. "A" sqn. of 5 R.T.R. moved up the east side of the BASSIN DE COMMERCE from the Bn. Start Point at 200806 to an area east of the bridge at 193824. From there they gave covering fire while a detachment of 4 Fd. Sqn. R.E. connected the end of the swing bridge to a tank by means of a cable. The bridge was then opened and the Sqn. of tanks crossed followed by "A" Coy who occupied the houses immediately self of the railway running W from the bridge. "B" Coy crossed after "A" Coy and cleared the houses on their left. "B" Coy occupy the buildings in

- the area 187819. Several POWs were taken, and casualties were sustained from enemy shelling and mortaring.
- Night 9/10 "B" Coy pulled back to the buildings in the area 189819 as that the Bns. posn. would be more concentrated and enemy infiltration prevented. There was again enemy shelling of GHENT and also of the Bns. fwd. posns.
- 10th Sept. During the morning !C! Coy occupied the buildings to the north of the railway at 191825 and the Carrier Pln. formed a firm base to the S.E. of the swing bridge in the area 194823. Numerous P.O.W's were taken. Meanwhile a Bn. of 15 (S) Div. (Glasgow Highlanders) u/c of 131 Bde. had formed a bridgehead in the area of KERKSTRAAT 1782 to protect the Bns. left flank. 1530 hrs. An attack was carried out by 8 rocket carrying Typhons on the enemy posns. in the factory area N. of the Bns. bridgehead.
- Night 10/11<sup>th</sup> The Bn. maintained its posns. under heavy enemy mortar and shell fire. Ghent itself was again subjected to indiscriminate shelling.
- 11th Sept. Area 195800. During the morning 12 rocket carrying Typhons made another attack on the enemy posns. N. of the Bns. bridgehead. 1730 hrs. A Bn. of Polish Armd. Div. which was to relieve 7 Armd. Div. commenced taking over the Bns. posns. When the Bn. had been relieved it left GHENT by the S.E. rd. through MELLE 2474 and leaguered for the night in the area 2573, Bn. HQ being at 252735.
- 12th Sept. Area 252735. 1200 hrs. The I.O. went to 131 Bde. HQ to receive orders for the BNs. move to a new area and the Bns. Recce Party left for the area of WILLEBROECK 6378. 1530 hrs. The Bn. commenced leaving its leaguer area. 1550 hrs. The Bn. crossed the Bde's. Start Point at 270721. The route then lay through ALOST 4066, TERMONDE 4576, by-passed WILLEBROECK 6378 via BOOM 6481 and REETH 6783, passed through the northern outskirts of MALINES 7175 and the Bn. finally reached its new area at PETTE 8277 by 2020 hrs. Bn. HQ was established at 823782.
- 13th Sept. Area 823782. 0915 hrs. The C.O. and I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference. 1730 hrs. All Officers attended a lecture by the Bde. Comdr.
- 14th Sept. The Bde. spent the day in cleaning up and in maintenance of vehicles.
- 15th Sept. Maintenance of vehicles was continued, and parties went on a day trip to BRUSSELS. 2300 hrs. Orders were received that the Bn. was to be prepared to move on the following morning to an area to the E. of ANTWERP S. of the ALBERT CANAL.
- 16th Sept. 0800 hrs. The C.O. and I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.

0900 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group and explained the Bns. role which was to occupy the ground S. of the ALBERT CANAL between 71 Easting and LA PETITE NETHE (running N.E. from LIERRE 7886) For this role the Bn. was u/c of 8 H.

0930 hrs. Leaving the non-essential vehicles the Bn. commenced to leave its rest area. The Order of march was "C", "B" & "A" Coys BN. HQ, Support Plns and 14 Pln. R.N.F. The Bn. passed through DUFFEL 7482, LIERRE 7886, and RANST 7892 where the Bn. halted while the C.O. held an "O" Group.

1200 hrs. After the C.O.'s "O" Group the Bn. occupied the following posns. "A" Coy 739963, "B" Coy 769949, "C" Coy 813925 and Carrier Pln. 755944. Bn. HQ was established at 750935.

Night 16/17. Very slight enemy mortar fire was brought down on a Pln. of "A" Coy in posn. near the bridge at 764970 but no casualties were sustained.

Patrols along the stream from 726980 to WYNEGHEM 7597 had nothing to report although horse drawn transport was heard on the enemy side of the canal. "B" Coy heard 2 enemy M.G. firing occasionally from 773968.

This was presumably the fire that met a Patriot patrol which attempted to cross the bridge 764970. "C" Coys patrols had nothing to report except for the sound of transport and a tk. in OELEGHEM 8094.

- 17th Sept. 1845 hrs. Enemy movement and a sniper were observed by "A" Coy in the area of SCH))TEN 7399 and mortar fire was brought down on the area.
- 1900 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. went to 131 Bde. to receive orders for the Bns. move on the following day.
- 2300 hrs. Two Belgium civilians who had swum the canal gave "A" Coy a report of enemy strength and locations in the area N. of the canal.
- 18th Sept. 0200 hrs. A patrol sent out by "A" Coy contacted a Cdn. Unit on the Bns. left flank at 717977. M.T. movement was heard on the N. side of the canal.
- 0700 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group and issued his orders for the Bns. move. The Bn. was to move to the area of VOORTKAPEL 9883 and remain there in Reserve while the remainder of 131 Bde. protected the left flank of 12 Corps between the ALBERT CANAL and the JUNCTION CANAL W. of GHEEL 0888.
- 1100 hrs. The BN. commenced to move the Order of March being Bn. HQ, Specialist Plns. 14 Pln. 3 R.N.F., "A", "B" and "C" Coys and Sigs & A2 Echelons.
- The Bn. passed through LIERRE 7886, PUTTE 8277 and BOISSCHOT ("&^ and reached the leaguer area at VOORTKAPEL 9883 at 1500 hrs. Bn. HQ was established at 989837.
- 19th Sept. The day was spent in cleaning up and maintenance of vehicles.
- 20th Sept. Area 989837.
- During the morning "B" Coy passed u/c of 8 H. and took up posns. in the area of BOUWEL 9089.
- 1445 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. went to 131 Bde. for a lecture by the Div. Comdr.

1600 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. and "A" & "C" Coy Comdrs. made a recce in the area N.W. of GHEEL 0888 to the right of 1/7th Queen's where the Bn. was to relieve a Bn. of H.L.I. 15 (S) Div.  
2000 hrs The C.O. held an "O" Group and issued his orders for the Bns. move on the following morning.

21st Sept.

0700 hrs. Bn. HQ following "A" & "C" Coys left the leaguer area. The Bn. passed through TONGERLOO 0282, HET PUNT 0485 and GHEEL 0888 to LARUM 0588. Positions were taken up as follows:- "A" Coy at 043907, "C" Coy at 065916 and Bn. HQ at 050889. Coys fwd. posns. covered the JUNCTION CANAL bridges at 043912, 057915 and 065924.  
Meanwhile "B" Coy remaining u/c of 8 H. moved to 107913.  
1150 hrs. "A" Coy observed enemy movement at 046916 and brought down 3" mortar fire.  
1500 hrs. A small number of enemy with an L.M.G. were observed at 051917 by "A" & "C" Coys and were engaged by 3" mortars. Further L.M.G's were observed later by "C" Coy and delt with in the squares 0591 & 0692.  
1900 hrs. A Belgium girl alleged to be one of a family of collaborators was handed over to "A" Coy by members of the White Brigade. After interrogation at 131 Bde. and confirmation from the police at WESTERLO 0280 that members of the family were already under arrest the girl was handed over to the F.S.S. attached to 7 Armd. Div.  
1930 hrs. "B" Coy u/c of 8 H. moved to 242946.  
15 reinforcements were received at Bn. HQ.

22nd Sept.

0900 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.  
1130 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group at which he issued his orders for the Bns. move to a new area after being relieved by a Bn. of H.L.I. 15 (S) Div.  
1215 hrs. The Bns. Recce Party left for the new area.  
1300 hrs. Bn. HQ left the area. The Bn. travelled through GHEEL 0888 and MOLL 1690.  
1520 hrs. Bn. HQ arrived in the new area and was established at 234944. "B" Coy was already in the area and was reverted to the Comd. of 1/6th Queen's. The complete Bn. however was placed u/c of 8 H. Coys took up the following posns.:- "A" Coy at 251955 covering the N. and E. edges of the wood, "B" Coy at 222954 covering the bridge 220963 and "C" Coy and Carrier Pln. in Reserve at 242947 and 228942 respectively.  
1700 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group after which "C" Coy moved up between "A" and "B" Coys with Coy HQ at 233955.

Night 22/23 Sept.

Coys kept contact by means of patrols which had nothing to report.

23rd Sept.

0915 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ.  
1200 hrs. 31 Teller mines were lifted by the Assault Pioneer Pln. from a minefield that had been laid by the enemy S. of the lock at 246963.

1215 hrs. A P.O.W. from II/6 Para Regt. was brought in by "A" Coy to whom he had been handed over by members of the White Bde. who had found him N. of the JUNCTION CANAL 2496, P.O.W. stated that he had been left behind when his unit had withdrawn the previous night.

1230 hrs. A patrol from "A" Coy returned after going to 243974 without contacting enemy.

The patrol found much abandoned enemy equipment and contacted a patrol of the Monmouthshire Regt. 53 (W) Div.

1415 hrs. Bn. HQ moved to 242947.

1500 hrs. A Yugoslav deserter in civilian clothes and without means of identification was brought in by a member of the White Bde. who had found him at 220985.

1830 hrs. Another P.O.W. from 6 Para Regt. who had been found by the White Bde. at 237963 was brought in in by "C" Coy.

2030 hrs. Orders were received that the Bn. was to revert to the Comd. of 131 Bde. and be prepared to move with the remainder of the Bde. on the following morning.

Night 23/24 Sept.

A patrol from "C" Coy crossed the JUNCTION CANAL at 237963 and advanced for 1000 yds. without contacting the enemy.

24th Sept.

Area 242947.

0630 hrs. The Bns. Recce Party left for the 131 Bde. concentration area at Broeckhoven 3609.

0830 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group and issued his orders for the Bns. move.

1125 hrs. The Bn. commenced to leave the area the Order of March being Bn. HQ, Sigs. Echelon, Carriers, A/Tks., and Mortar Plns. "A", "B" and "C" Coys and A2 Echelon. The Bn. followed 131 Bde. axis through LOMMEL 3095, crossed the DUTCH-BELGIUM frontier 312989 at 1215 hrs. and continued through LUYKSGESTEL 3101, BROEKSTRAAT 3304, WESTERHOVEN 3706 and RIETHOVEN 3608 to the leaguer area.

1320 hrs. The BN. reached the leaguer area and BN. HQ was established at 388098.

2000 hrs. A warning order was received that the Bn. was to move on the following morning.

Area 388098.

25th Sept.

0645 hrs. The Bns. Recce Party left for an area N. of EINDHOVEN.

0745 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group at which he issued his orders for the Bns. move. The Bn. was in Reserve and was to travel in rear of 131 Bde. 131 Bde's. task was to clear the rd. between ST. OEDENRODE 4232 and VEGHEL 4837 which had been cut by the enemy Armd. Forces from the W.

0830 hrs. The Bn. commenced to leave to leaguer area the Order of March being the same as on the previous day. The Bn. followed 131 Bde. axis which passed through STEENSEL 3411 and by-passed EINDHOVEN

1015 hrs. The Bn. reached its new leaguer area and Bn. HQ was established at 408229.

2200 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group at which he stated that the Bn. had been placed u/c of 22 Armd. Bde. and would be moving early on the following morning. During the night however orders were received that the Bn. would be at 1 hrs. notice to move from 0600 hrs.

26th Sept. 1020 hrs. The Bn. reverted to comd. of 131 Bde. and the C.O. & I.O. went to Bde. HQ for orders.  
 1055 hrs. Bn. HQ left the area, the Bns. Order of March being Carrier Pl. "B" & "A" Coys A/tk. Pln. Bn. HQ, Mortar Pln. and "C" Coy. The Bn. travelled via the rd. junction 422197, ZON 4426, and ST. OEDENRODE 4232, until it halted at 425328.  
 The Bn. then debussed and leaguered in the following posns.:- "A" Coy 423328, "B" Coy 425329, "C" Coy 426324 and Bn. HQ 426326.  
 1430 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.  
 1630 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group after which the Coys took up the following defensive posns.:- "A" Coy 413325, "B" Coy 413335, "C" Coy 419339.

Night 26/27 Sept. A patrol was sent out from the Assault Pioneer Pln. to a mill at 403323 which was thought to be used by the enemy. An explosive charge failed to do any substantial damage to the mill, but 1 German bolted from the vicinity.  
 Patrols from "A" Coy found approx. 50 enemy in the area 404328 and defensive posns. extending from the rd. in a northerly direction for 2-300 yds.  
 1 P.O.W. was taken and identified as being from 1 Coy I/1035 G.R. 59 Div.  
 "B" Coy sent patrols to 399334 which had nothing to report.  
 Patrols from "C" Coy found the wood at 402341 unoccupied but at 404343 there was a small number of enemies dug in who opened fire with rifles only and at 402345 the enemy fired a white Very light and opened fire with a heavy mortar.

27th Sept. 1000 hrs. "A" Coy reported approx. 50 enemy at 404328 moving S.W. They were engaged by 3 R.H.A.  
 1100 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.  
 1315 hrs. The C.O. held an "J" Group at which he issued his orders for the Bns. move to a leaguer area for the night after being relieved by 7 R.W.F. of 158 Bde. 53 (W) Div.  
 1600 hrs. The relieving of the fwd. Coys. Commenced.  
 As Coys were relieved they embussed and proceeded along the ST. OEDENRODE – VEGHEL rd. to the Bns. leaguer area. By 1800 hrs. the Bn. was complete in its leaguer area and Bn. HQ was established at 451347.

28th Sept. Area 451347.  
 0515 hrs. The Bns. Recce Party left for an area S. of the ZUID WILLEMSVAART.  
 0630 hrs. The Bn. commenced to leave its leaguer area the Order of March being "A", "B", "C" Coys, Mortars A/tks, and Carrier Plns. & Bn. HQ.  
 The Bn. moved along the Divs. Axis to a new leaguer area 4635 Bn. HQ was established at 464359.  
 0700 hrs. The C.O. & I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference.  
 0730 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group and issued his orders for the attack which the Bn. was to make on the woods at 4438 through 501 Regt, 101 U.S. Airbourne Div.  
 1030 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. visited Bn. HQ after which the C.O. held another "O" Group and announced that the Bn. would not carry out the attack as planned.

Instead, patrols would be made along the N. bank of the ZUID WILLEMSVAART with a view to the Bn. making the attack on the woods at 4438 from the N. bank of the canal.

During the afternoon patrols from "B" Coy and Assault Pioneer Pln. reced N.W. from VEGHEL 4737 between the R. AA and the ZUID WILLEMSVAART. No enemy were contacted until one of "B" Coys. Patrols reached the two sluice gates at 437401 when a small number of enemy on the Southern end of the second sluice gate opened fire on the patrol with one L.M.G. causing 2 casualties.

1600 hrs. The Bde. Comdr. had a conference with the C.O. at Tac HQ 470378 and it was decided that fighting patrols would cross the canal at 437401 during the night passing through 1/5th Queen's fwd. posns. at 443407.

1745 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group and issued his orders for the night's operation.

2000 hrs. The Bn. moved from its leaguer area crossed the ZUID WILLEMSVAART and moved along the VEGHEL – DINTHER rd. astride which tactical leaguer posns. were taken up as follows:- "A" Coy 457405, "B" Coy (who were to provide the nights fighting patrols) 440404 and "C" Coy 481402, Bn. HQ was established at 470396.

29th Sept.

Area 470396.

0130 hrs. When "B" Coys patrols attempted to cross the canal at 437401 they were fired on from a house on the southern bank. Another attempt was made further along the canal but now the enemy was using searchlights which lit up the canal even though the moon had set. On further observation it was seen that the enemy had dug in posns. at 200 yd intervals along the southern bank of the canal.

Consequently, the operation as planned was considered impractical and the attempt was abandoned at 0500 hrs.

1130 hrs. The Bn. was placed u/c of 22 Armd. Bde. and the 2i/c went to 22 Armd. Bde. HQ for orders.

1300 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group at which he stated that the Bn. would be working in Support of 1 R.T.R. and that "A" Coy would be u/c of 1/5th Queen's.

1415 hrs. "A" Coy left its leaguer area and moved up the rd. to DINTHER 4441 to join 1/5th Queen's.

1630 hrs. The remainder of the Bn. left the area and moved up the rd. to DINTHER 4441 where the column turned off along the rd. running N.E. and continued via HEIBLOEM 4443 to the area occupied by 1 R.T.R. The Bn. consolidated the ground taken with "B" Coy at 400450 and "C" Coy at 398455. "A" Coy with 1/5th Queen's were at 406429. Bn. HQ was established at 419444.

1930 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group.

2200 hrs. A P.O.W. was taken by "C" Coy at 393454 where he walked into their fwd. posns. by mistake. He stated that he was formerly in 6 Para Regt. but at the time of his capture was in B.G. BLOCH which was 4 Coys strong and had been ordered to make a fighting withdrawal.

Night 29/30th

During the night there was occasional enemy shelling and mortaring, and slight casualties were sustained by "B" Coy.

A patrol from "C" Coy contacted an enemy patrol at 388451.

30th Sept.

0730 hrs. "A" Coy u/c of 1/5th Queen's moved up from 406429 towards DOORNHOEK 3845.

Considerable opposition was met and several casualties were sustained from enemy mortar fire but the area 395444 was reached and 24 P.O.W's were taken. These were identified as being from 85 Div. fighting in B.G. DRIER.

1130 hrs. 11 P.O.W's were taken including one wounded gave themselves up to "C" Coy. They had arrived in position the previous evening with 732 G.R. 712 Inf. Div. and had taken their first opportunity to desert.

A patrol was sent out by the fwd. Pln. of "C" Coy at 394453 towards DOORNHOEK 3845 which came under enemy fire and suffered several casualties.

1230 hrs. The 2i/c and I.O. attended a Bde. Comdrs. conference at which orders were received that the Bn. was to revert to Comd. of 131 Bde. and was to withdraw slightly in order to make a firm line with 1/7th Queen's on the right and 1/5th Queen's on the left.

1600 hrs. The C.O. held an "O" Group and issued his orders for the Bns. move "A" Coy reverted to the Bns. Comd.

1800 hrs. The Bn. commenced to leave its posns. and move back to the new area. By

2100 hrs. the Bn. had taken up fresh posns. as follows:- "A" Coy 424437, "B" Coy 428462, "C" Coy 435444, and Bn. HQ 441443.

Night 30/1st Oct.

A patrol from "A" Coy went fwd. as far as the 40 Easting without meeting any enemy. "B" Coys patrol went to area 396447 where the enemy was thought to have a standing patrol but none was contacted.

"C" Coy had a standing patrol on the bridge at 423472 which had nothing to report.

## ORDER OF BATTLE

### 1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment

Week ending 25<sup>th</sup> September 1944.

#### Bn. HQ.

Lieut.-Col. J. H. Mason	C.O.
Major W. L. Johnson MC	2i/c
Capt. P. Kime MC	Adjt.
Lt. R. G. T. Duns	I.O

#### HQ Coy.

Major J. Tack	O.C.
Capt. H. S. Morshead	2i/c P.R.I.
Capt. N. E. Aldridge	A/Tk. Pln.
Capt. C. H. Nice	Carrier Pln.
Capt. D.F. Snowden	Assault Pioneer Pln.
Lt. J.E. Greenslade	2i/c Carrier Pln.
Lt. L. G. Woodbury	Mortar Pln.

Lt. J.A. Knight	R.S.O.
Lt. C.A. Marvin	A/R.S.O.
Lt. R. H. Smith	M.T.O.
Lt. & QMmC. W. Litton	Q.M.
Capt.	

**“A” Coy.**

Major L. C. Young	Major V.R. Goodridge
Capt. C. V. Lilley	Capt. H.E. Weatherill
Capt. A. F. Perdue	Lt. G. E. T. Roache
Lieut. H. W. Longstaff	Lt. M. B. Marsh
Lt. B.A. Hogarth	Lt. W.S. Spencer

**Recently Attached**

**“C” Coy.**

Major G. A. R. N. Warren	Capt. R.C. Graham
Capt. F. W. Holder	Capt. The Rev. J.W. Devine
Capt. E. Brown (Cdn.)	
Lieut. L. A. Stilling (Cdn.)	
Lt. G. N. Wise	