

1/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary November 1944.

NOVEMBER 1944.

- 1st Nov. Area DONGENSCH VAART E. 0842.
1000 hrs. Bn. moved to WAALWIJK E 1546. Route X rds. 085419 – X rds. 098398 – LOON-OP-ZAND 1539 SPRANG 1444 – X rds. 156448.
1200 hrs. Bn. arrived at WAALWIJK 1546. While Bn. HQ was in the main square 155469 it was shelled by the enemy. No cas., the Comd. veh. was hit by shrapnel for the second day running.
1300 hrs. Bn. H.Q. est. at 153466. The Bn. relieved 5 Cameronians in this area.
For Bn. layout see trace att. (missing).
- 2nd Nov. Owing to the operational situation being fairly quiet the Bn. rested as much as possible. All troops were living in comfortable billets and entertainments were arranged in TILBURG.
- 3rd Nov. For details of patrols see att. trace. (missing).
- 4th Nov. For details of patrols see att. trace. (missing).
- 5th Nov. Area WAALWIJK.
0500 hrs. A/Tk. Pln. report large demolition on a bearing of 38° grid from 151469. It was subsequently discovered by observation in daylight that the br. at 193518 had been demolished by the Germans.
1230 hrs. Orders received that the Bn. would relieve the Gordon's who were holding the line of the R. MAAS between the 23 & 47 eastings.
1400 hrs. The Bn. having been relieved by the Netherland Bde. would first conc. in the area of KAATSHEUVEL E 1343 during the afternoon with a possible move to the new area before nightfall or definitely early the following morning. Adm. Recce parties under the 2i/c Bn. left to recce conc. area.
1405 hrs. C.O. summoned to meet the Bde. Comdr. at E 205493 as soon as possible, tactical recce parties to follow. The Bn. would not conc. as previously ordered but would proceed to the new area directly.
1445 hrs. Tactical recce parties (O.C's of Coys & Spec. Plns.) left Bn. HQ and proceeded on rout X rds. 157448 – track junc. 179453 where "D" Coy Comdrs. carrier ran over a mine. Maj. BARNESLEY O.C. "D" Coy and the driver of the carrier were both wounded. Maj. Barnesley received extensive leg injuries. The Recce party eventually arrived at the RV after taking another route.
1645 hrs. The Bn. conc. in WAALWIJK leaving only the Carrier Pln. on the line of the F.D.L's. The posns. were taken over by Coys of the Netherlands Bde. There was considerable delay in moving due to incomplete orders as to the route to the new area and parties being away from the Bn. at the same time. It was decided in view of the accident which had occurred to the tactical recce party that the Bn. should move down the Bde. axis as far as its junc. with the Highland Div. axis and then follow this axis into the new area. Route :- X rds. 157447 – X rds. 144447 – X rds. 144437 to junc. 167445 – track junc. 178438 – X tracks 197437 – br. over canal at approx.. 197444 – DRUNEN 2046 rd. junc. 210463 – ELSHOUT 2047.
1715 hrs. The Bn. was held up on the rd. between X rds. 144437 and rd. and track junc. 155437 for ½ hr. by a coln. Of H.D. vehs. Which were moving in the opposite direction. The move became increasingly difficult as the light failed and as the track was narrow, very twisting & passed through the most part through thick pine woods.
1815 hrs. "C" Coy leading managed to cross the pontoon br. at 196445 but the last veh. The Coys cooks truck stuck on a steep incline immediately at the N. end of the br. The remainder of the coln. Was held up for an hr. while three TCV's were sent back from DRUNEN to tow the truck up the hill away from the br. This was unsuccessful but the truck slid off the track and the remaining

vehs. Were able to get by. Meanwhile "A" & "D" Coys had debussed and were marching fwd. it was pouring with rain.

At about this time a searchlight was switched on to give "Artificial Moonlight" for Sappers building a rly. Br. across the canal and this very materially aided the move of the Bn. across the the pontoon br. and along the narrow ditch-lined rds. to the N.

Without the artificial lighting the move would have been more hazardous and much slower.

About 5 vehs. Were ditched en route to the new area,

Area ELSHOUT.

2100 hrs. Bn. HQ est. at 205480. Temporary posns. for the Bn. were as follows:- A/Tk. Pln. acting as Inf. – HEUSDEN 2051, "D" Coy OUDHEISDEN 2050, "A" Coy around area 198508. "C" Coy in Reserve in DRUNEN 2046.

Night 5/6th It continued to pour with rain and was most uncomfortable for the rifle Coys. Capt. D.C. SLEMECK appt. O.C. "D" Coy.

6th Nov. 0605 Heavy demolition heard in the area of the br. at 913517.

The Germans had completed the destruction of the br.

0645. The C.O. with the Bty. Comdr. (J Bty. 3 R.H.A.) and O.C's "C" & "D" Coys went to HEUSDEN to carry out a first-light recce of the Bn. areas. For final Bn. layout see att. trace. (not available).

During the day there was occasional shelling of the area of HEUSDEN 2051 & DOEVEREN 1750.

Enemy digging and movement was observed in the general area 1952. One P.O.W. belonging to 21 Pz. Gren. Regt. was picked up by the A/Tk Pln. in HEUSDEN.

Difficulty was experienced in supplying "C" Coy as the only route which could be used by day was via the bund from 187503 to 173502.

By night this was almost impassable for vehs. Two Carriers were bogged on the bund.

1430 hrs. Bn. HQ moved to E 206473.

7th Nov. Area ELSHOUT.

During the day enemy were seen using dug-in posns. along the line of the Dyke from 205523 to 208523. These posns. were engaged by our arty. Other posns. along the Dyke from 197525 to 190523 were engaged with 4 x 2" mortars with good effect. A troop of tks. from 8 H. engaged the church tower at 172519 and towers at 199525 and 197525 which were all suspected to be enemy O.P's.

The enemy shelling of "C" Coy area decreased noticeably after this had been done. Demolition charges consisting of 4 x 500 kg aerial bombs removed from br. at 189512 also mines removed from the E. W. track at that pt. The track was then available for supply to "C" Coy by night. Lt. G.W. BEVAN posted to 1/5th Queen's as Mortar Offr. Lt. R.C. NICHOLLS & 2/Lt. B.C. MADDISON posted to Bn.

8th Nov. Area WOLFSHOEK 207473.

2100 hrs. Enemy activity during the day was very limited.

C.O. held "O" Gp. at Bn. HQ The Bn. would be relieved by a CDN unit on the night 9/10 Nov. and would conc. in either ELSHOUT 2048 or NIEUWKUIJK 2346 preparatory to move across to the eastern flank of the DUTCH Salient. The "O" Gp. would leave at 0800 hrs. on the 9 Nov. prepared to remain in the new area. For details of Standing Patrols see attached trace.

9th Nov. 0800 hrs. C.O. & "O" Gp. left for new area.

C.O. en route, attended Bde. Comdr. conference at the Bde. A.D.S. accompanied by the Bn. 2i/c who afterwards rtn'd. returned to the Bn.

1100 hrs. 2i/c Bn. held "O" Gp. for Coy 2i/c's. The Bde. would relieve 71 Bde. of 53 Div. and the Bn. would relieve 4 RWF. who were in Bde. Reserve in the area of KESSENICH 664855 on the 10 Nov. The Bn. would conc. at NIEUWKUIJK on relief by the Canadians during the evening.

1200 hrs. Recce parties A & SH of Canada arrived.

2100 hrs. Relief by A & SH of Canada completed.
2130 hrs. Bn. HQ est. at 235467.
2300 hrs. "C" Coy who had had furthest to march arrived in the conc. area.

- 10th Nov. 0715 hrs. L.O. arrived from Bde. with the move order.
0745 hrs. 2i/c held "O" Gp. for move.
0830 hrs. Bn. moved off from conc. area.
Order of March :- Carriers, Bn. HQ, "A" Coy, "C" Coy, "D" Coy, A/Tk. Pln. A.2. Ech.
Route :- VLIJMEN 2646 – S'HERTOGENBOSCH 3146 – VUGHT 3143 – TILBURG E 12 – POPPEL – rd. junc. E 108162 – X rds. E 052142 – MERXPLAS E 0010 – LEMON BR D 9907 – GIERLE D 9900 – LICHTAERT K 0395 - CASTERLE K 0697 – GHEEL K 0888 – MOLL K 1790 – LOMMEL K 3091 – X rds. K 3493 – OUPERELT K 3892 – X rds. K 393948 – ST. HUBERT K 4294 – PETIT BROGEL K 4088 – PEER K 4084 – X rds. K 408839 – BREE K 5084 – KINROY K 6085 – X rds. K 653850 – KESSENICH K 6685.
On the rd. between VLIJMEN and S'HERTOGENBOSCH the Bn. coln. Was shelled by guns situated to the N. No casualties resulted. The coln. Was held up for one hr. in TILBURG by Cdn. Transport moving in the opposite direction.
2000 hrs. Bn. arrived in new area and relieved 4 R.W.F.
Bn. est. at 603854. For Coy areas see trace att. (now missing).
- 11th Nov. 1400 hrs. "A" Coy moved to GEISTINGEN 6583 where it relieved a troop of 11 H. See Trace. Coy Comdrs. warned that there would be a task for the Bn. in the forthcoming operations to clear the MAAS pocket. During this period there was little enemy activity affecting the Bn..
- 12th Nov. "D" Coy prepared for the attack on the canal lock at 690878.
For patrols night 12/13 Nov. (see trace att).
- 13TH Nov. 1445 hrs. C.O. held "O" Gp. for the attack on the Canal Lock. At this stage two Coys "A" & "D" were scheduled to take part in the attack.
2000 hrs. C.O. held final "O" Gp. for the attack. See report attached and air photos.
- 14th Nov. 0900 hrs. "C" Coy relieved by 11 H. in GEISTINGEN area and moved to conc. area at THORN K 6786.
1200 hrs. "C" Coy relieved "A" Coy 1/6th Queen's in general area of orchards 682873. "A" Coy 1/6th Queen's came u/c 1/7th Queen's in area of KESSENICH.
1300 hrs. "A" Coy arrived in THORN K 6786. Tp. tks. of 8 H. moved to right flank and drew fire.
1310 hrs. "D" Coy left KESSENICH en route for F.U.P. for attack.
1400 hrs. Bn. HQ moved to area of Convent 676863.
1600 hrs. "D" Coy in F.U.P. area of woods 683874. 9 pln. "A" Coy left THORN on route to assembly area near Tac. HQ.

(ACCOUNT OF BATTLE).

1600 hrs. Beginning of arty. support for the attack on the br.
"D" Coy formed up in orchard at 683874. Tac Bn. HQ est. at buildings 683874.
1615 hrs. H Hour for the attack. See photo att. "D" Coy crosses start line as marked on air photo. The left pln. made good progress and reached its objective with only one casualty Mr BURRELL, the Pln. Comdr. who was wounded by a sniper. The right pln. ran into heavy shelling and mortar fire coupled with M.G. fire from an un-neutralised posn. at M. The Pln. suffered heavy casualties including the pln. Comdr. Lt. MCARTHUR who was wounded. The pln. was pinned down 200 yds. S.W. of M.
During the assault Maj. D.C. SLEMECK was wounded and Capt. J.B.L. AINSWORTH was sent fwd. to take over but he was also badly wounded on the way to the objective.

1625 hrs. The Reserve pln. failing to receive orders from Coy. Comdr. advanced from the S.L. on the order from its Comdr. Lt. WILKINSON-COX. This pln. in spite of enemy defensive fire and the fact that the pln. on the right was pinned down made straight for its objective and arrived on the canal bank 100 yds. N.W. of the lock gates within 10 mins. of starting.

1630 hrs. 9 Pln. of "A" Coy arrived at Tac. Bn. HQ.

1645 hrs. Report that the lock gates were closed and intact received at Main Bn. HQ and passed onto Bde. HQ immediately.

During this period enemy D.F. fire came down in the area of Tac. Bn. HQ which made it most unpleasant.

1655 hrs. Left Pln. on P. & O. Centre Pln. on R. Right Pln. on B still pinned down. C.O. asked one Sqn. 8 H. to conc. fire on M. Arty. to bring down further concs. On the far side of the lock. The R.A. officer, Capt. STOKES was ordered to take Comd. of the situation on the right flank pending the arrival of Lt. WILKINSON-COX the only off. Still in action at that time. 9 Pln. "A" Coy ordered to advance to N. and to attack M. from the rear, that is from the N.

This Pln. as it advanced to the S.L. was caught by enemy D.F. fire and the Pln. Comdr. Lt. B.C. MADDISON and five others of the pln. were wounded. Maj. E.S. CORBETT MC Comdg. "A" Coy and Lt. R. HUGHES the I.O. who were accompanying this pln. at the time were also wounded by the same fire. Lt. REGINALD ALFRED HUGHES, 276394 (Devonshire Regt. Attach.) died the same evening at the A.D.S.

Sgt ALLEN took comd. of the pln. and with only 14 men and very brief orders from the C.O. lead a spirited dash for the canal. The outflanking move was successful and the posn. at the rd. junc. 689878 was overrun and prisoners were taken.

1800 hrs. Enemy patrol attempted to cross the lock gates shot up by fwd. pln. of "D" Coy. at least 4 Germans were killed. Capt. A.R. LUGG took Cond. Of "D" Coy.

Total casualties for the battle – Officers, 6 wounded, 1 killed.

O.R's 25 wounded, 5 killed.

2300 hrs. No. 8 Pln. of "A" Coy u/c Lt. E.C. READ taken fwd. to occupy the area of the right hand lock gate by Capt. M. HODSON T/Comd. "A" Coy. (End of Account of Battle).

15th Nov. Area KESSENICH.

During the night 14/15 Nov. the situation remained quiet.

0600 hrs. Three men of "A" Coy ration party were wounded by Schu mines.

During the morning the enemy shelled the area between the houses at 685875 and the wood at 684874. This shelling was brought down every time movement took place on the track running N. through the rd. junc. at 679874. During the afternoon the shelling stopped and it became apparent that the enemy was moving his guns back as later shelling was from a greater distance. During the day "C" Coy exchanged positions with "C" Coy 1/6th Queen's. new posns. for "C" Coy were one pln. 679864, one pln. area 686858, one pln. area 679856.

1600 hrs. Bn. HQ moved back to KESSENICH. Carrier Pln. responsible with A/Tk. Pln. and one tp. of 17 pdrs. For defence of KESSENICH.

During the evening "D" Coy and 2 Plns. of "A" Coy on the PANHEEL lock posn. relieved by "A" Coy 1/6th Queen's who reverted to comd. of 1/6th Queen's.

16th Nov. 0100 hrs. "A" & "D" Coys complete in billets area KESSENICH with no operational commitments. Capt. H.J. KILLICK joined the Bn. and posted to "D" Coy as 2i/c. for details of patrol night 16/17 Nov. see trace attached. (missing)

17th Nov. 1600 hrs. Two Secs. Of Carrier Pln. relieved by "A" Coy in KESSENICH. Bn. warned of possible move to relieve 2 Monmouthshire's at BEEGDEN 7384 in the near future. For layout of Bn. see trace att.

- 18th Nov. 0815 hrs. Tactical recce party under 2i/c Bn. (in absence of C.O. in BRUSSELS) went to BEEGEN 7389 to recce the posns. of 2 Monmouthshire's.
0930 hrs. Arrived at HQ 2 Mons.
1100 hrs. Recce completed. Party rtn'd. to KESSENICH.
1300 hrs. "D" Coy relieved remaining two Secs. Of Carrier Pln. in KESSENICH. Carrier Pln. ret'd. To original posns. about X rds. 653851.
- 19th Nov. Capt. L.W. KARN evacuated sick, Lt. K.J. HARRIS joined the Bn.
- 20th Nov. N.T.R.
- 21st Nov. C.O. rtd. From BRUSSELS. Bn. at 12 hrs. notice to move to new area. 2/Lts. P.G. HEYS, J.R. WILLIAMS & C.D. WESTOBY joined the Bn. For details of patrol see trace att.
- 22nd Nov. Order received that the Bn. would move at about 0900 hrs. on the following morning.
1700 hrs. C.O. held "O" Gp. The Bn. less "D" Coy and A/Tk. pln. would move to BEEGDEN 7389 on 23rd Nov. leaving KESSENICH at 0840 hrs.
The Bn. would relieve 2 Mons. In the new area by 1200 hrs. however 2 Mons would not be leaving the area until the evening of 23rd Nov. or the following day. For this reason "D" Coy and the A/Tk pln. would remain behind in KESSENICH until the following day.
- 23rd Nov. Bn. less "D" Coy and the A/Tk pln. left KESSENICH. Route:- X rds. 655858 – ITTERVOORT 6687 – HUNSEL 6589 – br. 653937 – rd. junc. 662942 – BAEXEM 7092 – rd. junc. 730918 – X rds. 718911 – BEEGDEN 7389.
0945 hrs. Coln. Halted with head at 726897 by 2i/c as the 2 Mons. were not expecting Bn. to arrive and as the village was liable to be shelled.
1015 hrs. Bn. moved into village. Bn. HQ est. at 729893.
1340 hrs. Enemy shelled village. he had registered the X rds. 729895 which made it uncomfortable for the Bn. HQ. Capt. H.L. HODSON proceeded on compassionate leave and Lt. A.E.B. BEVERIDGE took over temporary comd. of "A" Coy.
- 24th Nov. 0650 – 0800 hrs. Enemy shelling of village and X rds. 729895. During this period the enemy also mortared the village making it difficult to take bearings on the guns. This "Stonk" was caused by the 2 Mons. Moving out and making a noise. Lights were also displayed at the same time. One man wounded and 3 vehs. Hit.
1700 hrs. Sharp shelling of village and particularly area of rd. junc. 733895. By pre arrangement enemy posns. across the R. MAAS were shelled immediately by 5 R.H.A. and M.G. engaged near areas. "I" Sec. O.P. hit but no casualties.
1915 hrs. Slight shelling of village. no casualties. for Bn. layout see trace att. and also photos.
- 25th Nov. During the day enemy posns. across the R. MAAS were engaged by 5 R.H.A. and 4.2 Mortars.
- 26th Nov. Area BEEGDEN 7389.
During daylight there was little activity.
2150 hrs. Sounds of heavy enemy traffic on the rd. LINNE 7485 – ROERMOND 7789 possibly S.P. tracked vehs. These were harassed by own arty.
- 27th Nov. 0015 hrs. Enemy shelled area of BEEGDEN 7389. One shell landed 12 yds. from Bn. Comd. post. During this period the height of the river rose rapidly flooding over both banks. The area in the loop of the river S.W. of OOL 7589 was completely covered forcing the enemy to evacuate his posns. on the bank of the river.
The C.O. & adjt. attended an address by the new Div. Comdr. Gen. LINES at BREE.

28th Nov. Enemy shelled area of BEEGDEN. One man wounded.

29th Nov. 1100 hrs. C.O. had interview with the G.O.C. who informed him that 1/7th Queen's would be leaving the 7 Armd. Div. and going to the 50th Northumbrian Div. as a training unit in company with 1/6th Queen's. these two Bns. would be replaced by 2 Devon's and 9 D.L.I. from 50 (N) Div. 1400 hrs. C.O. held "O" Gp. Bn. to be relieved in present area by two Coys of R.W.F. on 30th November. Bn. would then move to Bde. conc. area S.W. of MAESEYCK where all G1098 equipment and transport would be handed over to the relieving units of 50 (N) Div. The Bn. after joining 50 (N) Div. would rtn. to England. However all but approx. 100 O.R's and a few offs. would be posted to other units remaining in 21 Army Gp. Coy Comdrs. were ordered to prepare "short lists" of personnel with long service overseas together with remarks on ability as instructors and character. The men to remain with the Bn. would be selected from these lists. 1430 hrs. Bde. "O" Gp. I.O. attended. Orders for relief and move to conc. area. Capt. L.W. KARN rtn'd. To Bn. from an R.H.U. took comd. of "A" Coy again.

30th Nov. 0900 to 1200 Bn. relieved by two Coys 4 R.W.F. 1215 hrs. Bn. left BEEGDEN and formed up with the Bn. on the rd. ITTERVOORT 6687. 1315 hrs. Bn. passed across br. at 681886. Route :- - rd. junc. 653850 – KINROY 6084 – MAESEYCK – 6379 – NEEROETEREN 5778 – area 5878. Area NEEROETEREN. 1515 hrs. Bn. HQ est. at 587783. For Bn. layout see trace att. 1630 hrs. C.O. addressed the whole Bn. formed up outside Bn. HQ. He said that the Bn. had finished its fighting career – an unbroken record of victories in spite of hard knocks at various times. He bade farewell to those who would be able to accompany the Bn. home to England. The Bn. stood with bare heads for one minute in honour of those of its ranks who had fallen in the present campaign. 1700 hrs. C.O. held "O" Gp. to decide who from the Bn. would be posted to the 1/5th Queen's and to the new 7 Armd. Battle School as instructors. 2000 hrs. C.O. held conference to discuss the appointment of Offs. and O.R's to fill the new W.E. for the Bn. which would rtn. home to England.

Lt. Col. W.D. Griffiths, DSO, MC.
Comdg.
1/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regt.

Officer List 25th November 1944

A/Lt. Col. W. D. Griffiths, MC	Queen's		
T/Maj. W.G.L. Cockcroft	R. Berks.		
A/Maj. E.G. Sandys	Queen's.		
T/Capt. D. L. Fennell	Queen's.		
Capt. H.J. KILLICK	R. Berks.		
T/Capt. H.L. Hodson	Beds & Herts.	.	
T/Capt. G.H. Courchee	Essex.	.	
T/Capt. A.R. Lugg	Hamps.		
T/Capt. B. G. Meara	S.W.B.		
A/Capt. A. Reed	Duke of W.		
Lieut. D.B. Waterhouse	Beds & Herts.		
Lieut. J.D. Cuthbertson	Beds & Herts.		
Lieut. G.I.S. Burnett	Queen's.	Lieut. E.J. Harris	Bufs.

Lieut. A.E.B. Beveridge	Queen's.	Lieut. B.F. Harley	R.C.A.
Lieut. E.C. Read	Queen's.	Lieut. E.D.J. Martin	Queen's
Lieut. A.E. Lawrence	R.C.A.S.C	Lieut. R.S. Nicholls	Queen's
2/Lt. D. Wilkinson-Cox	Queen's	2/Lt. J.R. Williams	Norfolk's?.
2/Lt. C.B. Westoby	Norfolk's?.	2/Lt. H. Heys	Norfolk's?.
Lieut. C.R. Frost (QM)	Essex.		
 Capt. J. Sheehan.	 R.A.M.C.		
Rev. J. Macintosh	R.A.Ch.D.		

1/7th Battalion The Queens Royal Regiment.

November 1944.

WAR DIARY

appendix H.

It was the intention of 12 Corps to clear the sector of the MASS pocket N.W. of ROERMOND and enclosed by the VAN NEDERWEERT and NORD canals.

In order to accomplish this 51 Div. would cross the NORD canal N.E. of HULSEN 6199 and 53 Div. the NEDERWEERT canal in the area E 6691.

The success of these two attacks depended on the maintenance of a steady water level in the canals once pontoon bridges had been thrown across them.

In order to ensure that the enemy would not interfere in this respect the 1/7th Queen's were given the task of capturing the PANHEEL lock at 690879 which controls the water level in the canals. In addition it was essential that an immediate report on the condition of the lock gates should be sent back to 12 Corps HQ.

The gates were to be prepared for demolition by Sappers of 4 Fd. Squadron and the following alternative actions to be taken by the attacking force were laid down.

Lock gates intact and closed - Forced to hold the lock at all costs no demolition.

Lock gates closed but leaking, - Force to hold the lock until gates demolished by Sappers if considered necessary.

Lock gates blown, - Force to withdraw.

The enemy F.D.L's followed the line of the NEDERWEERT canal with the area of the lock was held by Battle positions astride the canal. The area of the lock was held by Battlegroup GRAFING of 344 German Inf. Div. It was estimated that the lock position was held by two platoons.

For the operation the battalion had under command,

One Sqn. 8 Hussars.

Det. 4 Fd. Sqn. R.E.

And in support 8 Hussars less one Sqn.

3 RHA, 5 RHA .

Two Medium Regts.

2 MMG plns, 1 X 4.2-inch Mortar pln.

The attack was carried out by "D" Coy Comd. by Maj. D.C. SLEMECK with in support "C" Sqn. of 8 Hussars.

The plan was as follows:-

1. One troop of tanks to expose itself on the right flank towards the area of WESSEM 7086 and draw fire and mislead the enemy about 3 hrs. prior to H hour.
2. Preliminary bombardment by artillery of all known posns. possible assembly areas etc. in between the bridge at 698874 and the bridge at 672885 for 15 minutes prior to H hour.
3. At H hour the medium guns to lift from the lock area and to fire a barrage approximately 1000 yards in rear of the locks.
The field guns would fill the gap on the lock area from H 5 to H +5. The field Arty. would then lift from the centre onto either flank thus forming a box into which the infantry and tanks could assault. The barrage on the flanks would be thickened up by the fire of two Sqns. of 8 H. one on either flank.
4. Assault by "D" Coy with two plns. up and one in reserve from the area of the buildings at 675875. The right platoon (no. 18) capture positions about the rd. junc. 679878 and to dominate the southeastern lock gate. The left pln. (No. 17) to capture posns. about Rd junc. 677878 and dominate the enemy post at 677878 on the N.E. bank of the canal. The reserve platoon (No. 16) would remain on the start line until called forward by the Coy Comdr. when it would pass between the two fwd. plns.