

## 1/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment War Diary September 1944

SEPTEMBER 1944.

1st Sept. Area M 610226.

0830 hrs. Bn. moved fwd. Order of march:- Carriers, 'C' 'B' 'A' 'D' Coys Route:- "BOTTLE" X rds. 609248 – T Junc. 642300, rd. junc. 639302 – rd. junc. 671342 rd. junc. 673339 – rd. junc. 691351 – X rds. 730354 – SARCUS 775373 – X rds. 753415 – 733467 – 779472 – 792503 – 816497 – 835525 – 841533 – rd. junc. 857566 – 899583 – 876614.

Area M 876614.

1600 hrs. Halted.

2100 hrs. C.O.'s 'O' Gp. plan to cross SOMME via AMIENS and leaguer on N. side prior to move N.E.

2330 hrs. Left 876614. Order of march Carriers, 'C' 'B' Bn. HQ 'A' 'D' Coys route via MOLLIENS VIDAME 8958 br. 0761 to 0664. Arrived 0200 hrs. 2 Sept. and leaguered. Local protection only.

2nd Sept. 0800 hrs. 'C' Coy u/c 8 Hussars moved N. on Bde. Centre Line.

Area 0664.

1030 hrs Bn. moved. VIGNACOURT N 0372 – CANAPLES N 0577 – 036819 – FIENVILLERS 0783 – HEM – DOULLENS 1587 – FREVENT.

1500 hrs. Bn. stopped 1 km S. of FREVENT on order from Bde. C.O. sent Carrier Pln. fwd. to FREVENT to clear small pocket of resistance endangering the route this allowed the arty supporting the 8 Hussars to pass through. Carrier Pln. captured 3 P.O.W's, total 80 P.O.W's surrendered in village to F.F.I. and O.R's. Column was further delayed by fallen masonry on rly. Br. In FERVENT.

1500 hrs. Bn. moved on.

Area 1507

1730 hrs. Halted in wood. Bn. formed firm base. Bn. HQ at H 153068. 'A' Coy H 156074 'B' Coy 153079 'C' Coy 158087 'D' Coy 149071 Carriers 147068. Secs from 'C' Coy were with 3 tks. dets. Cutting the main rds. leading into ST POL H. 11 from E., W. and N.W. from E. 'B' Coy provided standing patrols.

2030 hrs. 2 N.C.O's from 'C' Coy went fwd. on recce. 2 Rifle shots were heard and their equipment has been found but the men are missing.

2145 hrs. 2 x 88mm and 1 x 170 shelled HUTIN LE SEC 1508. 'C' Coy had 1 casualty.

3rd Sept. 0830 hrs. Sec. of 'C' Coy returning from patrol with Tks. to WAYRANS 1316 engaged 15 enemy X rds. 105128 PIERMONT suffered 3 killed 2 wounded 3 captured the latter were later rescued by Tks. Maj. D.C. SLENECK joined Bn. from 2 Herts.

First light 'C' Coy sent strong patrol to recce ST POL. Reported it still held by enemy.

1000 hrs. 'C' Gp. for attack on ST POL. Plan 'A' Coy followed by 'D' Coy to move round left flank via strips of wood running N. at 1409 and line of rly. From 145106 to centre of town. 'A' Coy to clear centre of town. 'D' Coy to form up in the town as soon as clear and attack S. astride rd. ST POL – FREVENT to clear enemy dug in on reverse slope about 161110. 'B' & 'C' Coys in Reserve areas 160105 and 170080 respectively prepared to move N. through ST POL to high ground at TROISVAUX 170140.

1300 hrs. 'A' Coy held up at 158118 by A/Tk. gunfire and rifle fire from Inf. It was very difficult to locate the enemy.

1630 hrs. 'A' Coy still held up and ordered to disengage as the Bn. had been given another task. 2 75mm A/Tk. guns were put out of action and 6 enemy killed.

1700 hrs. Bn. moved back from its posns. immediately S. of ST POL.

1900 hrs. Concentrating preparatory to the move.

2030 hrs. Bn. moved to new conc. area. Route S.P. 141058 BUNEVILLE TERNAS 239091 TINCQUES 335067 Conc. area CAPELLE – FERMONT 3507.

- 4th Sept. 0030 hrs. Report from Bde. F.F.I. report enemy T/Ks. And Inf. moving S. from BETHUNE in direction of BARLIN 3719. Coys warned.  
0530 hrs. C.O. attended Brig. Conference.  
1230 hrs. Bn. moved. SERVINS 1814 – AIX 4316 – GRENAY 4517.  
1515 hrs. Arrived GRENAY 4517.  
1730 hrs. Left GRENAY 4517 – MAZINGARBE 4620 – VERMELLES 4722 – ANNEQUIN 4524.  
1900 arrived CAMBRIN. Concentrated with rd. stops in area 4624.  
Prepared to go to assistance of 1/5th Queen's N. of LA BASSEE Canal. F.F.I. Interpreter reported 12 F.F.I. in hands of enemy immediately S. of LA BASSEE. 2 Secs. Of Carriers ordered to go to their assistance. After 2 hrs. recce Sec. rtn'd. with N.T.R.
- 5th Sept. 1300 hrs. 'O' Gp. Bn. ordered to move to area S.E. GHENT in order to reinforce a Br. Head E. of River ESCAUT by 5 D.G.  
1400 hrs. Bn. moved. Route :- VERMELLES H 4621 – CARVIN H 6121 – SECLIN 9144 – AVELGHEM H 9750 – AUDENARDE J )(%&. Until about 1900 hrs. move was slow due to congestion of traffic on rd. Area 827387.  
2030 hrs. Bn. crossed frontier between FRANCE & BELGIUM. The move from PECQ to AUDENARDE where Bn. halted was carried out in the dark.  
Fairly CONT. SERIES OF BRIGHT FLASHES WERE SEEN TO THE n. AND n. w. OF ROUTE.
- 6th Sept. 0230 hrs. Bn. halted AUDENARDE awaiting further orders. Head of coln. At junc. J 100570.  
0300 hrs. Conc. of Bn. in town square completed by Maj. W.G.L. COCKCRAFT.  
At this time the C.O. was further fwd. at Div. HQ.  
0630 hrs. 'O' Gp. Bn. to proceed to GHENT J 18 by direct route, Carrier Pln. leading followed by 'D' Coy.  
0730 hrs. Bn. moved off.  
0800 hrs. Carriers bumped enemy in EYNE J 1060. It appeared that there was a party of Inf. with Spandau's plus 2 armd. cars and 75mm gun in the area. They were vigorously engaged by 2 plns. of 'D' Coy who advanced through the village on the right and left of the Axis.  
The wood at 109599 was mortared by 3" Mortars. There was no immediate arty. support at this time. The C.O. decided to turn the Bn. round and take it through AUDENARDE and endeavour to reach GHENT following the Div. Axis via COSTRZEELS 2468.  
0800 hrs. Further reports were continuously received of enemy being located at OYCKE 0863. Elsewhere in small parties to N.W. of Div. Axis  
0900 hrs. Bn. ordered to remain AUDENARDE pending disengagement of 'D' Coy. and Carriers from EYNE 1060. 3 R.H.A. passed through Bn. on Div. Axis.  
1100 hrs. Sec. of 'B' Coy patrolled area of hospital as far as rly. Line 091573 to drive out enemy who were sniping the hospital. They reported area clear.  
C.O. issued orders for the defence of AUDENARDE. Coy locations, 'A' Coy astride rd. about 077579, 'B' Coy rly. And rd. junction 092563, 'C' Coy 097575 with elts. covering br. 099570 and with field guns at 104577, 'D' Coy astride rds. 090588 and 084587. Bn. HQ moved from town square at 093574 to 093577. Weather cold S.W. wind, much rain during evening and night.  
1300 hrs. 'C' Coy arrived EYNE J 1060. Task to stop infiltration and occupy the village. When they arrived they found an armistice between 50 Div. recce and the Germans (10 Pz. Div) so that wounded could be moved out. Very little progress seemed to be made so O.C. 'C' Coy gave the Germans until 1400 hrs. to surrender or he would shell the village. As nothing had developed at 1400 hrs. the x rds. immediately N. of the village was shelled with 500 shells.

1600 hrs. White flag displayed again by the enemy they wanted to move wounded but O.C. 'C' Coy gave orders that they were to come out with their wounded and that an armistice would not be granted.

1700 hrs. F.F.I. reported EYNE clear except for large number of wounded approx.. 40 stretcher cases.

1800 hrs. R.E's blew br. in EYNE.

- 7th Sept. 1100 hrs. 'O' Gp. Bn. to be responsible for the defence of X rds. at 114670 and br. over R. ESCAUT 134668.  
1300 hrs. Bn. relieved of defence of AUDENARDE by 2 Glasgow Highlanders.  
1400 hrs. Bn. moved to GAVERRÉ J 1366. Route : \_ LAETHEM ST MARIE J 1662 -BEIRLEGEN J 1763 – GAVERRÉ. The Bn. took over from one Coy of the 1/6th Queen's. Coy locations 'A' Coy 1 pln. X rds. 114670, Coy less 1 pln. about rly. And rd. crossing 122668, 'B' Coy (1 pln. only) 140658, 'C' Coy about X rds. 154669, 'D' Coy astride rd. 136668, Bn. HQ 137667.  
1700 hrs. Bn. settled in in new area. N.T.R.  
2300 hrs. One Coy 1/6th Queen's located immediately S. of R. 1569 placed temporarily u/c 1/7th Queen's and come onto Bn. fwd. wireless net. Weather earlier in day had been very cold & wet but improved in the evening. N.T.R. Carrier pln. sent standing patrols out in the day to 152648, 150627 & 135696 and a patrol of one Sec. went N.W. along rd. GAVERRÉ – DEYNZE 1473.  
They reported DEYNZE clear of enemy but all the brs. in the town were partially blown.
- 8th Sept. 1600 hrs. Bn. warned to move to TERMOND to come u/c 4 Armd. Bde. on reaching TERMOND J 4576 preparatory to an attack Northwards to ST NICOLAS J 3884. Recce parties u/c Maj. W.G.L. COCKCRAFT left immediately afterwards to proceed to TERMOND. Owing to the very late arrival of the 9 Cameronians who had been ordered to relieve the Bn. at GAVERRÉ the Bn. was subsequently ordered to remain in the area of GAVERRÉ prepared to move at first light on the following day.  
2130 hrs. Bn. HQ less Comd. vehicles established at 153655.  
2300 hrs. Relieved by 9 Cameronians. Bn. conc. in area of DICKLEVENE 1565.
- 9th Sept. 0615 hrs. Bn. commenced move to TERMOND. Route rd. junc. 167644, OOSTERZELE 2468 – X rds. 270722 – ALOST 4066.  
0900 hrs. Bn. halted on main rd. 4275.  
1000 hrs. 'O' Gp. Orders issued for an attack on ST NICOLAS. 44 R.T.R. were to clear the CL as far as rd. from rd. junc. 507897 to X rds. 477895. The Bn. then to advance and clear the town. However 44 Tks. were able to push 1 Sqn. into town and reported it clear of enemy, the attack of Bn. was therefore not carried out.  
1100 hrs. Bn. moved off from 4275 and moved fwd. to ST NICOLAS 'A' Coy leading.  
1200 hrs. The town went mad with joy and hampered the movement of Coys to the posns. which were necessary to the defence of the town.  
1400 hrs. The C.O. had lunch with the Burgomaster. Coy posns. 'A' Coy 500904, 'B' Coy 488912, 'C' Coy 500918, 'D' Coy 485924, Bn. HQ 489913.  
1430 hrs. C.O. called to Bde. Bn. ordered to conc. in square.  
1500 hrs. Message from 44 Tks. that enemy Inf. and Tks. advancing on town from N. & N.N.E. and they were unable to contain them. Coys were ordered back to their posns. 'D' Coy found the enemy in occupation of their old positions and after a short battle drove them out. The night passed quietly.
- 10th Sept. Carrier patrols were active but did not contact enemy.  
1400 hrs. C.O. went to Bde. 'O' Gp. Bn. relieved by 1 R.B. 2i/c held 'O' Gp.  
Bn. ordered to proceed to MELSELE 5897 and make a night attack on CALLOO 5800.

1600 hrs. Bn. conc. at MELSELE 5897.

1730 hrs. C.O.'s 'O' Gp. 582982. Plans for night attack on CALLOO under arty. barrage. During the 'O' Gp. a body of F.B.I.'s attempted to attack CALLOO and were badly mauled by automatic fire and a 20mm gun. Bn. HQ at 583980.

2000 hrs. Night attack on CALLOO cancelled by Bde.

2100 hrs. 'O' Gp.

2200 hrs. Assault Pioneers patrolled along rd. to within 200 yds. CALLOO until they contacted an enemy outpost.

- 11th Sept. 0100 hrs. Assault Pioneers patrol returned and 'D' Coy patrol left on same task, bumped enemy outpost approx.. 200x from village.  
0500 hrs. Patrol rtd.  
1200 hrs. C.O. went to Bde. 'O' Gp. Bn. ordered to BEVEREN WAES to defend town.  
1330 hrs. C.O. holds 'O' Gp.  
1400 hrs. Bn. moves to BEVEREN WAES. 'A' Coy loc. 560957, 'B' Coy in Res. 588968, 'C' Coy 567966, task to defend main rds. 'D' Coy 586974, Bn. HQ 972967. Carrier patrols by day at T junc. 547983, this task was taken over by 'C' Coy at night, the other Carrier patrol during the day at 551973 taken over by 'A' Coy at night. 'A' Coy patrol at x rds. 554963 'C' Coy patrol at X rds. 566983, (1 Sec. strong), 2 Secs. Area 575977. 1 Pln. fwd. by night. There were various reports by the F.B.I. of the movement of enemy Inf. and Tks. to the E. & N.
- 12th Sept. 1430 hrs. 'O' Gp.  
1815 hrs. Bn. relieved by 1 Coy Inf. & 1 Sqn. tks. from the Polish Armd. Div.  
Bn. moved to area S. of TERMONDE. Route, S.P. 578940 – HAESDONCK 5592 – T junc. 4887 – HAMME 4883 – TERMONDE 4576. The Bn. rested the night with Bn. HQ at 464737.
- 13th Sept. 1000 hrs. Bn. moves off. Route, S.P. 454756 rd. & ryl. crossing – TERMONDE 456766 – 508760 – X rds. 620789 – rd junc. 640821 – X rds. 701838 – MALINES 718749 – PASBRUQ 740756, E. along main rd. Bn. HQ 767758. 'A' Coy PEULIS 795755 – 'B' Coy 776778, 'C' Coy 760773, 'D' Coy 772768, A.2 Ech. 772758, Carriers 774757, A/Tk. 777756.  
1400 hrs. C.O. attended Bde. Conference.  
1730 hrs. All Offs. attended Bde. Conference. Bde. Comdr. outlined possibilities for future. Offs. to consider the problem of fighting in areas with a hostile population and the conduct of soldiers in such areas. The Bde. was likely to be resting for three or four days during which extensive maintenance would be carried out.
- 14th Sept. Organised parties allowed out to BRUSSELS. Offs. allowed 24 hr. passes to the same area.
- 15th Sept. 1730 hrs. C.O. & Adj. attended Div. Comdrs. conference.
- 16th Sept. Lt. H.A. BAKER MM rtd. From hospital and rejoined 'A' Coy.
- 17th Sept. 1200 hrs. C.O. held 'O' Gp. to issue orders concerning the "tightening up" of discipline and turn out of Bn. during the rest period.  
1900 hrs. C.O. went to Bde. Comdrs. conference.  
2000 hrs. C.O.'s 'O' Gp. 131 Bde. to cover left flank of 12 Corps between HERENTHALS 9790 and GHEEL 0888. Order of march, Carriers – 'C' Coy, 'B' Coy, 'D' Coy, Bn. HQ, 'A' Coy. Rout, Bn. S.P. X rds. 768757. Bde. S.P. X rds. PUTTE 824797 – MOISSCHOT, 9276 – X rds. 046813 – HET PUNT.
- 18th Sept. 0530 hrs. C.O. left with 'O' Gp.

0630 hrs. Bn. due to leave but T.C.V's delayed.  
 1200 hrs. C.O. attended Bde. Comdrs. conference.  
 1230 hrs. Bn. crossed S.P. 768757.  
 1300 hrs. C.O's 'O' Gp. 046855. C.O. allotted posns.  
 1600 hrs. Bn. HQ arrives BORKELE 019892. Bn. Layout – 'A' Coy 019000, 'B' Coy 012905, 'C' Coy 022911, 'D' Coy 020890 Bn. HQ 019892. Bn. relieved one Coy from SEAFORTH'S and one from CAMERONIANS. The enemy could be clearly seen digging and working from the O.P. in 'C' Coy area, church 022911.  
 During the afternoon and evening there was some enemy sniping in 'C' Coy area. 'C' Coy replied with 2" Mortar fire. 'A' Coy patrolled to bridge 904917 N.T.R. There were standing patrols in fwd. Coy area.  
 1800 hrs. Visibility 1,500 yds. There was a heavy mist during the night.  
 2000 hrs (Approx.) Enemy small arms fire from area 0191. During the night enemy digging was heard in areas 013915. D.F. fire was brought down in that area.  
 2330 hrs. Contact made with 1/5th Queen's. Visibility in the night was approx. 1,000 yds.

19th Sept. 0630 hrs. 'A' Coy took over 'B' Coys posns. in the factory area 007907. 'B' Coy went to 017900 and by careful recce found posns. inside the factory actually looking down on the enemy posns. just the other side of the canal.  
 The riflemen proceeded to dominate the area.  
 0815 hrs. Our snipers shot 2 of the enemy. During the morning considerable enemy Inf. activity was reported N. of the canal. 'A' Coy engaged with S.A. fire and dominated the area. There was occasional enemy mortar fire upon our fwd. posns.  
 1130 hrs. Enemy reported displaying Red Cross and in some confusion.  
 1245 hrs. Area 020919, 022919 three enemy parties having food. They were shot up.  
 1500 hrs. Visibility approx.. 100 yds.  
 1600 hrs. Visibility became poor and the night was very misty. Our snipers bag 16 killed 8 probable's.  
 1640 hrs. House area 021914 set on fire by incendiary bullets, enemy and civs. Evacuated the house. They received casualties from our mortar fire.  
 1900 hrs. Considerable enemy sniping of our fwd. posns. 3 or 4 FLAK towers area 016914 have enemy dug in underneath them.  
 Enemy casualties estimated at 23 killed 8 probable's and a considerable number of wounded.  
 Heavy morning mist began to clear after mid-day.

20th Sept. Very little enemy activity during the night. There was enemy movement from time to time on the N. side of the canal.  
 There was less enemy movement during the day then on the previous one owing to continued harassing from S.A. fire.  
 1630 hrs. A party of enemy with Red Cross flag went out to pick up wounded.  
 1700 hrs. Slight enemy shelling of BOEKEL 0189.  
 1900 hrs. Shelling again from same source believed to be 105mm. the enemy continued to snipe at intervals throughout the day.  
 None of the enemy movement was very aggressive. Two 24 hr. patrols of the Carrier Pln. were at 030909 and 032894. Mist again during the night and morning cleared to about 1000x between 1500 & 1700 hrs but became worse at dusk. Our sniper's bag 8 killed, 4 possibles.

21st Sept. Slightly more enemy activity than on 20<sup>th</sup> chiefly sniping of our posns. in area of br. 021914 and factory 0190 which was answered by counter sniping from our own snipers.

Considerable enemy movement in wood 004913. The enemy were occupying posns. to the left of 035911.

1330 hrs. Enemy shelling with S.P. guns area 015904. The S.P.'s were engaged by arty. in the general area 980920.

1715 hrs. Bn. area shelled at intervals.

1800 hrs. A direct hit was scored on a water tower 003911. Very little happened from dusk onwards. Some enemy M.G. fire reported by 'A Coy's left fwd. Pln. The last light SITREP was N.T.R. A patrol from 'D' reported enemy digging in area 994908 visibility improved during the afternoon up to approx. 2000x but at 1800 hrs. the mist came down again and the night was very misty.

Our sniper's bag 16 killed 4 possible.

22nd Sept. Very little enemy activity throughout the night.

0100 hrs. Slight enemy movement in area FLAK tower 016914 and on track.

1100 hrs. Visibility improved and enemy activity increased, this was dealt with by small arms and supporting weapons.

1130 hrs. Arty shoot conducted by 'A' Coy. the target a house at 003917 received a direct hit and the enemy was shaken up.

1230 hrs. 'D' Coy moved to new posn. at 044908.

1025-1510-1630 hrs. intermittent shelling of Bn. area.

1645 hrs. Civs. Reported enemy had withdrawn from canal to wood 017933.

2100 hrs. C.O.'s 'O' Gp. Bn. to be relieved by 7 Duke of Wellingtons, the 1/7th Queen's were to take over a section of the canal to the right of our present posns. as far E. as far E. and inclusive of canal crossing 0792. Our snipers bag 5 killed, 3 possibles.

2215 – 2300 – 2345 hrs. Explosions on N. side of canal were reported. A patrol from 'B' Coy reported enemy M.T. and H.D. tpt. Apparently moving N.

23rd Sept. Demolitions were again heard N. of the canal in the early hrs. of the morning.

0730 hrs. Guides were ready for the Duke of Wellingtons.

0830 hrs. Their tps. arrived and took over our posns.

0930 hrs. The move of 1/7th Queen's was completed. The Coys. Moved independently to the new area, their locs. Were :- 'A' Coy 077910, 'B' Coy 043912, 'C' Coy covering br. 075928, 'D' Coy 060918, Bn. HQ 077902. Civs. Reported N. bank of canal clear of enemy as far N. as CASTERLE 0696.

1400 hrs. C.O. to Bde. Conference. Div. to conc. S.E. of EINDHOVEN. 131 Bde. probably in area BROEKHOVEN E 3609.

1600 hrs. C.O.'s 'O' Gp. Bn. to move next morning.

24th Sept. 0530 hrs. Recce party left.

0745 hrs. Carriers passed S.P. GHEEL X rds. 080885. Order of march :- Carriers, 'D' Coy, 'B' Coy, Bn. HQ, 'A' Coy & 'C' Coys. Route :- GHEEL K 0888 – MOLL K 1790 – LOMMEL 3195 – WESTERHOVEN E 3706 – STEENSEL E 3411.

1120 hrs. Crossed frontier between BELGIUM & HOLLAND at K 312989.

1200 hrs. Bn. conc. area HEERS E 3713. Bn. HQ 373132.

2330 hrs. 'O' Gp. Infm. Received that enemy had cut the CL at two points between the canal crossing at E 472368 and OEDENRODE 4232.

TASK, 131 Bde. to reopen CL and contact tps. from Guards Armd. Div. which were being sent S. from NIJMEGEN and to protect the Corps. CL on the W. side between the canal crossing and ST OEDENRODE. 'C' Coy u/c 1 Sqn. 8 Hussars to move at 0630 hrs. N.E. of ST OEDENRODE. Remainder of Bn. to follow up and if possible to establish itself on the line of the rly. About 442370.

25th Sept. 0630 hrs. 'C' Coy left with 8 Hussars.

0830 hrs. Bn. left HEERS 3713. Order of march :- 1 Sec. Carriers, 'C' Coy, remainder of Carriers, 'D' Coy, 'A' Coy, Bn. HQ, 'B' Coy. Route, rd. junc. E 373141 – GESTEL 4216 – EINDHOVEN E 4218 – ST OEDENRODE 4232.

1030 hrs. 1 Sec. of Carriers patrolled from rd. and to junc. 437328 to the junc. 468327. When they reached 469337 an outpost of D.L.I. was contacted. The patrol continued on to the junc. 467348 X tracks 461346. At this point the patrol dismounted as they were coming under indirect M.G. fire from area 455348. It was then ordered to contact 506 US Paratroop Bn. who were attacking on the right.

1145 hrs. Bn. arrived at ST OEDENRODE. Bn. HQ at 430322. The rest of the Bn. moved further fwd. along the rd. to VEGHEL E 4737 and Coys conc. on right of the rd. area 434324.

1200 hrs. Tac HQ moved fwd. to 433325. C.O. issued orders from Tac. HQ.

At this stage the situation was very confused as there were small pockets of enemy and American Airborne tps. scattered in the area between ST OEDENRODE and VEGHEL and it was difficult to distinguish between friend & Foe.

1230 hrs. Contact made with Bn. of American Airbourne tps. supported by a Sqn. of 44 R.T.R. The patrol remained in a posn. of observation and contact with the Americans while it cleared WOOD E. and W. of X tracks 461346.

1930 hrs. Patrol was ordered to withdraw. 'C' Coy were to have followed this Carrier patrol and put in an attack on the Wood 4534 from the E. this did not materialise as the Americans were putting in an attack.

2000 hrs. Bn. advanced to limited objectives. Last light locations – 'A' Coy about X tracks 444353, 'D' Coy about X tracks 441350 – 'B' Coy about track junc. 445345, 'C' Coy about rd. junc. 445438, Bn. HQ at 445340 less non-essential vehicles which remained u/c Sig. Off. At 430322. 'I' Sgt. sent as Liaison Off. To HQ 502 American Airborne Regt. at 446343.

26th Sept. 0100 hrs. A sec. of 'D' Coy shot up two halftrack vehicles. It was subsequently discovered that they contained wounded American & Germans. Approx. 15-20 enemy P.O.W's and two Americans brought to R.A.P. in an enemy halftrack vehicle by CSM EDWARDS of 'D' Coy. CSM EDWARDS ret'd. To his Coy to bring in remainder of P.O.W. wounded and on his way back to the R.A.P. he disappeared. It is not known whether he was captured or killed.

0930 hrs. 'D' Coy started to advance on Axis X tracks 442350 to rly. At 423369 'A' Coy remained temporarily in their overnight posns. until the Americans started an advance N. on the right of 'A' Coy.

1030 hrs. 'A' Coy advanced along Axis X tracks 444353 to track junc. 441367.

1055 hrs. 'A' Coy report at least 1 Coy of Americans moving up their axis. C.O. ordered 'A' Coy to change direction to N.W. and maintain contact with Americans on right and 'D' Coy on left. Axis of advance to pass through track junc. 439361 to track junc. 433368.

1100 hrs. Report from sec. of 621 Fd. Sqn. R.E. that they had met Sappers working from N.E. to S.W. along Corps C.L. The rd. was expected to be clear of mines by 1300 hrs. and of "Brewed up" vehicles by approx. 1400 hrs.

1115 hrs. 'D' Coy reached X tracks 438353 and report 2 enemy M.G's firing from area of track running N.E. to S.W. through X tracks 435356. One of these M.G. posts was soon knocked out. The ground to the N.W. astride 'D' Coy axis of advance was very open and movement across it brought down enemy arty. and M.G. fire.

16 Pln. led by Lt. R.D. CLEARE continued to advance along the line of the watercourse from 437353 N.W. to 433355 while another Pln. moved round to the left flank on the track at 433348 where there was more cover. They continued to advance N.W. from this point as far as 428356. At this point where the watercourse crosses the track running N.E. to S.W. at 433355. Lt CLEARE'S Pln. was shot up by enemy M.G. fire. Two secs. were pinned down N.W. of the track and were unable to withdraw as the culverts at the point where the track crosses the stream was broken down by tanks

of the 8 Hussars which moved N.W. to engage the enemy. In trying to gain assistance for the 2 secs. Lt. RAYMOND DENNIS CLEARE, 149277, (Beds & Herts Regt. Attach) was killed by a burst of M.G. fire. The two secs. Eventually got back by burrowing through the culvert. 1 Off. & 6 men were killed in this action. 1 off. Lt. J.A. HOWE (Beds & Herts) wounded also of 'D' Coy.

1400 hrs. C.L. was opened to double line traffic.

1500 hrs. Plns. of 'A' Coy were approx.. posns. at 438361, 438362. 'D' Coy pulled back S.E. during the afternoon and reorganised in area 438348.

1600 hrs. 'C' Coy ordered to move N. to cover area between rly. And rd. crossing at 442369 & 443365 and to contact the American forces on their right flank and 'A' Coy on their left.

1900 hrs. (Approx.) 'D' Coy advanced N.W.

2020 hrs. 'D' Coy had pushed one Pln. as far as 433354 with the remaining 2 Plns. approx. 500x in rear between 437353 and 435351/ Last light locs. 'A' Coy about 438362, 'B' Coy about 444353. 'C' Coy from 442365 to 442370 and keeping contact with the right flank of 'A' Coy. during the day 10 P.O.W's were taken. Five American and 1 British soldier were released from enemy hands.

Two full tracked vehs. 2 BMW's and 2 enemy M.G's were accounted for.

27th Sept. 0905 hrs. 1 Sec. 'A' Coy area 438361.

1050 hrs. 1 Sec. 'D' Coy at 434355.

1150 hrs. patrols sent out by 'C' Coy to 436366 and 438368 returned with N.T.R.

1600 hrs. 2 Plns. 'D' Coy 435356 and 432353.

1800 hrs. Report received from 131 Bde. HQ that enemy Inf. strength unknown were moving S.E. in area 4348 presumably in a counterattack against the Americans on their immediate right.

1825 hrs. 'C' Coy report counterattack coming in against the Americans on their immediate right.

1850 hrs. 'C' Coy report situation quiet enemy appear to be withdrawing.

The C.O. arranged a harassing shoot by arty. to follow up the retreating enemy. This shoot was successful.

28th Sept. 0020 hrs. Report from patrol sent out by 'A' Coy. Area at 433365 clear

1000 hrs. (Onwards) Sporadic shelling of the rd. at 447340 by air burst shells from enemy S.P. gun. Several of the shells burst over Bn. HQ. Pte. HARRY FRANCIS MATTHEWS, 6093088, (L/Cpl. CWGC). Assault Pioneer Pln. was killed by a shell splinter during one of the periods of shelling. By sound bearings the enemy gun was plotted as being roughly in the area 424366. However it remained unlocated throughout the day and continued shelling at approx. hourly intervals in spite of counter Bty. Fire. During the day there was some shelling of the rd. between 457350 and 443336 by 10.5cm. No damage to vehs.

1315 hrs. Notification the Bn. was to be relieved later in the day by 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. E. Lancs. Coy. guides were sent for.

1740 hrs. 'O' Gp. When the Bn. is relieved it will go into the area held by 159 Bde. For this purpose 1/7th Queen's were to be u/c 8 Hussars.

1800 hrs. Relief started.

2115 hrs. Completed. Bn. were in conc. area EVERSE. Locs. 'A' Coy 444332, 'B' Coy 442333, 'C' Coy 438328, 'D' Coy 442327, Bn. HQ 441328.

29th Sept. 0930 hrs. Arrival of Mobile Bath Unit. The whole of Bn. bathed during the morning.

1515 hrs. 'O' Gp. Bn. u/c 8 Hussars for counterattack role in 158 Bde. Sector. For this purpose 3 Battle groups were formed.

Battle posns. were :-

Left. 'B' Sqn. 8 Hussars & 'A' Coy area 4232

Right. 'C' Sqn. 8 Hussars & 'C' Coy area 4536

Centre. 'A' Sqn. 8 Hussars & 'D' Coy 4334



'C' Coy moved to area House 462358 with 'C' Sqn. 8 Hussars.  
The other Coys remained in their old posns.  
Codewords to implement the plan were as follows:-

Cart	Stand by Tanks.
Dog	Stand to Left sector.
Cat	Stand to Centre sector.
Pig	Stand to Right sector.

1700 hrs.) Stand to of Coys and Sig.  
1900 hrs.)

30th Sept. 0545 Hrs.) Stand to of Coys and Sig.  
0630 hrs.)  
1700 hrs) Stand to of Coys and Sigs.  
1900 hrs.)  
1815 hrs. C.O's 'O' Gp. Bn. to move to area LOCSBROEK 4545 when relieved by 1/5th Queen's at  
1000 hrs. on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct.

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

#### Officer List 30th September 1944

A/Lt. Col. W. D. Griffiths, MC	Queen's		
T/Maj. W.G.L. Cockcroft	R. Berks.		
T/Maj. P.E. Barnsley	Hereford.		
A/Maj. E.G. Sandys	Queen's.		
A/Maj. E. S. Corbett	Hamps.		
T/Capt. D. L. Fennell	Queen's.	Lieut. P.M. Jones	Queen's.
Capt. I.W. Karn	Queen's	Lieut. P. Greenall	Queen's.
Capt. D.C. Sleneck	Herefords.	Lieut. E.C. Read	Queen's.
T/Capt. H.L. Hodson	Beds & Herts.	Lieut. E.D.J. Martin	Queen's.
T/Capt. G.H. Courchee	Essex.	Lieut. A.E. Lawrence	R.C.A.S.C.
T/Capt. J.B.L. Ainsworth	S. Staffs.	Lieut. R.N. Wilson	Cdn.
T/Capt. A.R. Lugg	Hamps.	Lieut. G.I.S. Burnett	Queen's.
T/Capt. B. G. Meara	S.W.B.	Lieut. N.F. Burrell	Oxs & Bucks.
A/Capt. A. Reed	Duke of W.	Lieut. G.W. Bevan	Queen's
Lieut. D.B. Waterhouse	Beds & Herts.	Lieut. H.A. Baker MM	Queen's.
Lieut. S.E. Brown	Hamps.		
Lieut. E.G. Dever	Kings.		
Lieut. J.D. Cuthbertson	Beds & Herts.		
Lieut. A.E.B. Beveridge	Queen's.		
Lieut. B.F. Harley	R.C.A.		
Lieut. R. A. Hughes	Devons.	Rev. J. Macintosh	R.A.Ch.D.
Lieut. J.A. Howe	Cdn. Inf.	Capt. J. Sheehan.	R.A.M.C.