

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in F.S. Regs. Vol. 1.

# WAR DIARY

OR

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

MFMA 11  
40/P & S/37 (9/45)

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to O. i/c 2nd Echelon for disposal.

Title pages will be prepared. Page One

1st Bn The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR965608 Sheet 6	1 Apr 1945	0630	Reveille. Fine and clear. During the night B, D, and C Coys all moved through A Coy area on to the HOCHTELTON feature, also N.S.R. who were to take out the town of ELTON 910652 (Sheet 6). B Coy set up HQ at 941647 and C and D Coys in the area of RITEROEK 935652. A Coy then passed through to HOOGEHEIDE, MR 930600. No enemy were encountered and the Coys dug in.	786
		1600	"Q" Gp at BnHQ. Recces have driven ahead for a long distance and have met no opposition. We are to follow 7 Bde in TGV's in a mad dash to contact the enemy.	786
		2300	By this time all the Bn was in the marshalling area ready to move off. Part I Orders Part II Orders Affr Fd Returns OR's Fd Returns Map CLEVE, sheet 6, 1/50,000 Counter-Mortar Int. Summary No. 108 8 Cdn Inf Bde "I" Summary 8 Cdn Inf Bde SITREP	786 Appx 1 Appx 2 Appx 3 Appx 4 Appx 5 Appx 6 Appx 7 Appx 8
MR928667 Sheet 6	2 Apr	0015	The convoy moved off led by tanks of the SHERBROOKE FUSILIERS. But we soon bogged down after crossing the German-Netherlands border. The 7 Bde had met opposition beyond KILDER 970718 (Sheet 4003 DOETINCHEM 1/25,000). At approx 0300 hrs the Bn was told to bed down for the rest of the night. We spread out among the buildings along the road in square 9571 (DOETINCHEM Sheet).	786
		0800	"Q" Gp. Our job now to push on through 7 Bde and go on towards LAAGKEPPEL MR 963787 (DOETINCHEM Sheet).	786
		1030	We moved off on foot to our start line at WEHL 951748 (DOETINCHEM Sheet). Before reaching there, we were held up by the leading Coys (C and D) coming under mortar and S.P. fire at 947735. But, aided by the tanks, this was soon silenced. The rest of the march into WEHL was without incident.	786
		1315	The Bn started their attack, going through the R.R.R., C Coy going NORTH on the main road and B Coy to the right of the road. C Coy immediately ran into trouble from an enemy S.P. The tanks after considerable manoeuvring managed to remove this menace with their 17 pdrs. Both Coys then easily got on to their objectives. B Coy had a little trouble from snipers, which was soon dealt with. But C Coy were met as	786

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# WAR DIARY

OR

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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M.F.M. 11  
40/P & S/37 (3072)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR928667 Sheet 6	2 Apr (Cont'd)	1315 1400 1900	<p>fortunate. As soon as they were on their objective, the area was laced with mortar fire and S.A. fire. Their supporting tanks came up and dealt with this trouble. The Coy had 12 casualties.</p> <p>A and D now moved out, A to go through C, and D to go through B. On the road A Coy ran into mortars and snipers, but the troop of tanks with them blasted a path. They reached their objective and consolidated. An enemy mortar position was overrun during the advance and the weapons were captured intact. D Coy passed through B and against very light opposition they reached the objective. The coys were now in positions, A - 956773, B - 961754, C - 953755 and D - 962765 (Sheet DOETINGHEM). 75 P.W's. were taken.</p> <p>N.S.R. passed through the Bn and turned left through A Coy to exploit to the OUDEIJSSSEL.</p> <p>Map DOETINGHEM, 1/25,000</p>	<p>786 786 786</p>
MR954755	3 Apr	0130 0630 0900 1400 2300	<p>B Coy moved through A Coy and advanced to the OUDE IJSSSEL in the SOUTHERN outskirts of LAAGKEPPEL. Here they found the bridge had been blown.</p> <p>B Coy relieved by R de Chaud. During the night, the part of LAAGKEPPEL to the NORTH of the river had been cleared by the BLACK WATCH of the 2nd Div.</p> <p>B Coy again took over the river bank from the R de Chaud.</p> <p>The rest of the Bn was ferried across the river in assault boats by B Coy. There we took billets in the WESTERN end of the town. The people gave us a great reception and very few of the men slept on bare floors that night.</p> <p>The Bailey bridge across the OUDE IJSSSEL was completed and the vehicles moved over.</p> <p>8 Cdn Inf Bde SITREP</p>	<p>APPX 9</p> <p>786 786 786 786</p>
MR961787 Sheet 4003	4 Apr	0700 1300	<p>Reveille. Clear and warm.</p> <p>The Bn spent the morning resting and cleaning their weapons, while plans were made for our next move.</p> <p>The Bn started out again. C and D Coys leading. Our new plans called for C Coy to occupy RODENBURG 924840 and D Coy to go to HOEFKEN 931833 (both sheet 3903). A Coy to EKHORN 921853 and B coy ZWAARTE SCHAAR 920833 (both sheet 3902). The only trouble encountered on the move was by A and C Coys, who came under fire from an enemy S.P. gun on the other side of the IJSSSEL river and mortar fire from RHA 899853</p>	<p>APPX 10</p> <p>786 786</p>







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Page Three

# INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR961787 Sheet 4003	4 Apr	1300	(Sheet 3902). Each of these coys had 4 casualties. During the night B and D Coys had some fairly heavy shelling but no casualties. BnHQ was set up at 946825 (Sheet 3903). Map STEENDEREN, sheet 3903 1/25,000 Map DOESBURG, Sheet 3902 8 Cdn Inf Bde "I" Summary	 Appx 11 Appx 12 Appx 13
MR946825	5 Apr	0300	D Coy moved up and occupied EMMER 925860 (sheet 3903). This was done with no opposition and completed by 0500 hrs. A fairly quiet morning was spent, though there was an odd mortar bomb coming over.	 
		1230	"Q" Gp. Plans were laid for an attack that afternoon on the bulge on the EAST bank of the IJSSSEL.	
		1530	D Coy, taking advantage of enemy trench systems that had been abandoned, occupied the farm buildings t'HUISWEERD 914857 (Sheet 3902). There was no opposition. Meanwhile A and B Coys using other abandoned trench systems, moved into position. A Coy to attack RHA 899855 (sheet 3902) and B Coy to attack PIPELURE 907837 (Sheet 3902). B Coy didn't get very far before 11 and 12 pls were pinned down by intense mortar and MG fire. 10 pl came forward and gave them covering fire to withdraw back to ZWAARTE SCHAAR. They had four casualties (1 Offr killed and 3 OR's wounded). A Coy led by 9 pl went into their series of trenches, which were full of water, and followed them around to the outskirts of RHA. There was quite a lot of sniping and mortaring but the trenches gave them good cover.	
		2000	The end of the trenches was reached and 8 pl led off into town. It was getting night time but there was plenty of light from burning buildings. Our 6 pdrs had set them on fire earlier in the day. 8 pl took out the first group of houses against furious resistance. One feature of this resistance was the extensive use of Bazookas. Our own weapons were in very bad shape from the mud encountered in the trenches. 7 pl now went in and two sections got into a house near the centre of the village. Here they were counter-attacked and cut off from the rest of the Coy. Sjt Caverly got through and gave the story to the O.C. A Coy now got orders to withdraw to their original positions. Some more of 7 pl came back and the Coy withdrew. The final count of casualties was 5 wounded, five killed and six missing. Major Hogarth was wounded in the arm.	
			8 Cdn Inf Bde "I" Summary	Appx 14



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40/P&S/37 (5028)

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Page Four

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR946825	6 Apr	0600	C Coy having taken over from A Coy, the latter moved back to C Coys old posn. A Coy had to get their weapons in shape and re-equipped.	
		1200	B Coy was shelled at dinner and had three men wounded. Our mortars, 6 pdrs and tanks gave RHA a good dusting off during the day. There was word of a move that night, but nothing definite about times. Counter-Mortar "I" Summary No. III	786 786
			DALTON force	
			8 Cdn Inf Bde "I" Summary	Appx 15
			8 Cdn Inf Bde "I" Summary	Appx 16
			8 Cdn Inf Bde SITREP	Appx 17
MR946825	7 Apr	0600	Reveille. Cloudy and cool.	Appx 18
		1130	Rece party of R.C.D., 1st Cdn Corps arrived and we got ready to move.	Appx 19
		1430	Bn embussed and had a fast ride NORTH to a reserve area EAST of ZUTPHEN. BnHQ being in an old mansion at 9/5949 (ZUTPHEN sheet 3803). The Coys had a good rest, which they needed. It was a very quiet night. Map ZUTPHEN, sheet 3803, 1/25,000	786 786 786
			Counter-Mortar "I" Summary No. 112	Appx 20
			8 Cdn Inf Bde SITREP	Appx 21
			8 Cdn Inf Bde "I" Summary	Appx 22
MR975949	8 Apr	0700	Reveille. Cloudy and cool.	Appx 23
			Quiet morning. "O" Gp at 0900 hrs.	
		1330	The bn, with the exception of D Coy took over from the S.D.&G. Highrs in the town of ZUTPHEN. D Coy were at MR949924 (Sheet 3803). The Bn was in a defensive role, also acting as police.	786 786 786
		1900	D Coy posn was shelled fairly heavily but fortunately there were no casualties. The people of ZUTPHEN gave the Bn a royal welcome. COUNTER-MORTAR "I" Summary No 113.	Appx 24
MR975949	9 Apr	0700	Reveille. Bright and cool.	
			During the morning, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands visited ZUTPHEN and received a great ovation.	786 786
		1000	Voluntary church parade for the Coys in town, which was well attended.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR975949	9 Apr (Cont'd)	1300 1530	The festivities in town were cut short for the Bn as at this time we once again moved. Embussed in TCV's and had a fast ride to MR969055 (Sheet BATHMEN 3703 1/25,000). Here we took over from the R.W.R. in front of DEVENTER. In our area was a former Gestapo concentration camp. Ten Dutchmen had been shot there just before the R.W.R. got there. Many of the Bn visited the area. There was some shelling during the night. Casualties were B Coy four wounded, and C Coy, 2 wounded. Map BATHMEN 3703, 1/25,000 Counter Mortar "I" Summary No. 114 8 Cdn Inf Bde "I" Summary Report lines and Ref. Points, 3 Cdn Inf Div 7 Cdn Inf Bde "I" Summary	78 78 APPX 25 APPX 26 APPX 27 APPX 28 APPX 29
MR969055	10 Apr	0400  1000 1330 1900	A Coy moved up to SNIPPLING 945072 (Sheet 3703), to take the bridge there. They came under very heavy fire. 8 pl got on their objective and were violently counter-attacked and cut them off from the rest of the Coy. A runner managed to get back to Coy HQ to say that Sgt Fox and the rest of the pl had been captured. Later some of them got back and the final score was 15 missing. The pls of C Coy moved up and strengthened the right flank of A Coy. A Coy area was heavily shelled from the other side of the river. They had 2 men killed and two wounded. "O" Gp at BnHQ and plans were made for establishing a bridgehead over the canal. Counter Mortar "I" Summary No 115	78 78 78 78 APPX 30
MR969055	11 Apr	0005  0300 1200	C Coy, with no preliminary barrage, crossed the canal at 944070 (sheet 3703). It was a complete surprise to the enemy and the Coy consolidated without casualties. The coy took fifteen P.W.s. The R.R.R. passed through C Coy and went on to clear out DEVENTER. C Coy then withdrew to their original posns. More P.W.s were taken out of cellars in The area during the morning. From other P.W.s it is learned that in yesterdays fracas with 8 pl, that there was one killed, two wounded and nine prisoners from that pl now in Jerry hands.	78 78 78

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR969055	11 Apr	1300	The coys started to move into DEVENTER to take over from the R.W.R. We arrived in position at 1400 hrs and received a tremendous welcome from the population. Our duties in the town was policing and contact patrols. Curfew was to be at 2130.	786
	(Cont'd)	1600	BnHQ and rest of Bn vehicles arrived and BnHQ was set up at 924077 (Sheet 3702) across the canal from the Railway Station. The Coys were confined to their own Coy areas. Fraternization was quickly started. Billets were good and everybody got a good nights sleep. Map DEVENTER sheet 3702, 1/25,000	786 Appx 31
MR924077	12 Apr	0600	Reveille. Stand to till 0630. Fine and warm.	
		0900	The Bn started to go on badly needed bath parades, by Coys.	
		1400	The K of C put on a show in town for 1/3 of the Bn at a time.	
		1630	Orders are received to get ready to move on again. More Germans have been pulled out of the cellars during the day. The 1st Cdn Inf Div have crossed the IJSSSEL further SOUTH of us. Our A/Tk pl were sent to aid them and word is received that they have knocked out an enemy tank.	786 786 786 786 786
		1915	"Q" Gp at BnHQ. Orders are that we are to be prepared to move at any time.	
		2000	No move tonight but we are to be prepared to move early in the morning. So we get another evenings collaboration. There was a party that night in the Offrs Mess which was attended by the GOC, 3 Cdn Inf Div.	
			8 Cdn Inf Bde "I" Summary	Appx 32
			3 Cdn Inf Div "I" Summary	Appx 33
			8 Cdn Inf Bde SITREP	Appx 34
			Counter-Mortar "I" Summary No 117	Appx 35
MR924077	13 Apr	0400	Reveille. Weather warm and dry.	
		0500	Everything ready to move off.	
		1030	The Bn loads on to TCV's and start off.	
		1130	Arrive at the area of 964133 (Sheet RAALTE 3603.)	786
		1200	Rece party leave for new area and dinner is served. We are to be ready to move on by 1500.	786 786 786 786
		1530	The Bn again embus and move off again. We go to the area of 988298 (Sheet 3503). Here we are to stay for the night and move on again early in the morning to cross the OVER IJSSSELCHÉ CANAL.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR924077	13 Apr	1530 (cont'd)	During the day Major Dunkelmann returned to the unit and took over D Coy again. Map BATHMEN sheet 3703, 1/25,000. Map RAALTE sheet 3603, 1/25,000. Map HEINO sheet 3503, 1/25,000.	<i>JB</i> Appx 36 Appx 37 Appx 38
MR998298	14 Apr	0630 0930 1200   1730	Reveille. Clear and cool. "Q" Gp at BnHQ and the Recce party leave for a new area EAST of ZWOLLE. Our travels start again. We load on TCV's and start off at a fast clip. Plans are changed and our recce party's work is all for nothing. ZWOLLE has fallen without a shot and we are to keep on going. It is like our old jaunt through France. Cheering people and waving flags in every town and village. One thing which interested everybody was the traditional Dutch costumes worn by some of the older people, mostly women. Their headdress in particular catching the eye. The padre, during one halt, talked three women into posing for a snapshot. After passing through MEPPPEL, recently liberated, we go on to NIJEVEEN (Sheet 3203) for the night. BnHQ at MR 946612. The rest of the Bn in a small area around them. We are at present in a non-tactical role, so only a small guard is mounted and the remainder get another good night's sleep. Map DALFSEN 3403, 1/25,000 Map MEPPPEL 3303, 1/25,000 Map HAVELTE 3203 1/25,000 8 Cdn Inf Bde SITREP 8 Cdn Inf Bde "I" Summary	<i>JB</i> <i>JB</i> <i>JB</i> <i>JB</i> Appx 39 Appx 40 Appx 41 Appx 42 Appx 43
MR946612	15 Apr	0630 0800 1300	Reveille. Rained all night and still hasn't stopped. However/as the morning went on the weather cleared but still very cool. Recce party leaves and we get ready to move again. The chase is really on and the roads are jammed with our traffic. We start off again and head for STEENWIJK. Now we leave the province of OVERIJSEL and enter FRIESLAND. The usual welcome is met with in STEENWIJK. By the orange ribbons we meet it looks like a celebration of the Glorious 12th in Canada. We passed through WOLVEGA 8276 (Sheet 331) and eventually arrived in HEERENVEEN 7886 (Sheet 325)	<i>JB</i> <i>JB</i> <i>JB</i>

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Page Eight

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR946612	15 Apr	1730 (Cont'd)	We are to stay in HEERENVEEN for the night, so the Coys get settled in billets around BnHQ which is at the station 770867 (Sheet 325). The people again give us a great welcome and the Boys spend an enjoyable evening. The K of C put on a show for A&D Map STEENWIJK 3203, 1/25,000 Map WOLVEGA 331, 1/25,000 Map JOURE 325, 1/25,000	<i>JS</i>  Appx 44 Appx 45 Appx 46
MR776867	16 Apr	0530 0630 1200 1400 1800	Reveille. Clear and cool. "O" Gp at BnHQ. The Bn is to go on TGV's towards the causeway across the ZUIDER ZEE, until the enemy are contacted. The recces have met no opposition so far. But the enemy is known to be trying to evacuate from the posts around the ZUIDER ZEE. The enemy were contacted by B Coy in the village of WONS 451011 (Sheet 313). There was a brisk exchange of shots but the enemy withdrew and B Coy occupied WONS without casualties. A Coy now passed through B Coy but soon came under fire from snipers and arty. The tanks with A Coy attempted to get them through but were forced to fall back. Flame throwers did manage to deal with some of the snipers. There was still plenty of opposition, so the coy consolidated at the bridge at 443026 (Sheet 313). D Coy had occupied the village of WITMARSUM 478030 without opposition. But C Coy had encountered stiff opposition in their advance on KORNWERD 428012 (Sheet 313). They were going ahead slowly and had no casualties yet. Patrols are sent out ahead and at approx 2100 hrs it is reported that the village is clear. Map DENHELDER 2 A 1/100,000 Map LEEUWARDEN 1 A 1/100,000 Map ZURIG 313 1/25,000	<i>JS</i> <i>JS</i> <i>JS</i> <i>JS</i>  Appx 47 Appx 48 Appx 49
MR451010	17 Apr	0100 0330 0800	At 0100 hrs C Coy had moved into KORNWERD and occupied the place. C Coy were ordered to go to the dyke in the area of 4201 (Sheet 1 A), while A Coy were to take over from them in KORNWERD. On the dyke C Coy was to make a firm base for further operations. Around this time both A and C Coys went into action against several small groups of the enemy who were attempting to get away on bicycles. They were badly shot up, all	<i>JS</i> <i>JS</i> <i>JS</i>



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR451010	17 Apr (Cont'd)	0800 0900 1200 1530	being either killed or wounded. D Coy also put on a shoot, with supporting arms, against PINGJUM 460048 (Sheet 1 A). B Coy sent a patrol out to GODUIM 438031. They returned to say that this place was clear, so the coy moved off with tank support to take out ZURIG 430044 (Sheet 313). B Coy reached their objective. They were subjected to some fairly heavy shelling on the way, but no SA fire. The town being occupied with no opposition there. D Coy had meanwhile set out for PINGJUM and were now closing in for the kill. They encountered plenty of SA fire but, with the aid of tanks, they reached the outskirts of town. 18 pl took over the lead and Lieut Hancock walked out ahead and called on the enemy to surrender. His effort was successful and the remnants gave themselves up. The enemy commander and two of his aides attempted to escape and were shot and killed. Sjt Taylor and two men from C Coy, went out to bring in some Germans who were waving a white flag. As soon as they came into the open, an MG 42 opened up near the flag and Sjt Taylor and Rfn Colville were wounded. There was no further incident during the night except a little shelling. 3 Cdn Inf Div "I" Summary. Defence Plan, ZUIDER ZEE Causeway (GERMAN)	786 786 786 786
MR451010	18 Apr	0700 0900 1030 1300 1800	Reveille. Fine and clear. At 0900 hrs a patrol from D Coy brought in 45 P.W.'s. The 45 had been out looking for somebody to surrender to. C Coy, after a preliminary barrage, put in an attack on the end of the causeway 450027. They met with no opposition. Some guns were fired on them from the causeway but no damage was done. There was considerable enemy equipment left behind on their objective. 3 quadruple 20 mm AA, 3 single 20 mm AA, 3 HMG, 3 Hotchkiss MG, 2 5 cm A/Tk guns, 3 Hispanos and numerous rifles and LMGs and bazookas. The N.S.R. had taken out the port of MAKKUM and that finished German resistance on the EAST side of the ZUIDER ZEE. "O" GP. Tomorrow the Bn is to move back to police a large area near here. operation "Plunder"	APPX 50 APPX 51 786 786 786 786
MR451010	19 Apr	0600 0800	Reveille. Fine and clear. Recce party left to look over new area. The Bn loaded on TCV's and at 0830 we moved off.	APPX 52 786 786

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Page Ten

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MR451010	19 Apr (Cont'd)	1130	We were all settled in our new areas. BnHQ being in JOURE 691876, A Coy also in JOURE 691875, B Coy at LEMMER 645740, D Coy at SCHERPENZEEL 745722 and Sp Coy at HEERENVEEN 732868 (all sheet 1 A). C Coy was at WOLVEGA 824689 (Sheet 331, 1/25,000). A round trip of all the coys was nearly 60 miles. The civilians in each place gave everybody a royal welcome and billets were quickly arranged. An Officers' Mess and a sergeants Mess were set up and we all prepared to spend a good time. Our work in this area is to be mainly contact patrols and policing.	786
MR691876	20 Apr	0700	Reveille. Fine and clear. A Good night's rest had been had by the Bn. The morning was spent in getting settled for a few days stay. The K of C Supervisor arrived and made arrangements for shows and dances.	786
		1300	Our hopes for a stay are dashed. We are to move on again tomorrow. And it is to be a long move.	786
		1800	Rece party from The Toronto Irish, 5 Cdn Armd Div arrive to take over from us.	786
		2100	"O" Gp at BnHQ.	786
MR691876	21 Apr	0530	Reveille. Cloudy and cool. Rece party left at 0600.	786
		0830	TOV's loaded and at 0900 we started off. Our route is to HEERENVEEN-LEEUWARDEN-GRONINGEN-WINSCHOTEN. The last named at MR 5305, (Sheet M 1 East). We are to pick up guides to take us to our area.	786
		1500	Arrived in WINSCHOTEN and find plans are again changed. We have to go further than was at first thought. The roads are in bad shape. The enemy in retreating has cratered the roads and blown bridges. EAST of WINSCHOTEN we cross into Germany. Here we meet one Polish Armd Div.	786
		2030	We arrive at our final destination RHEDE MR 682964 (Sheet 2909). Here the cooks are quickly set up and a meal is served. BnHQ is in an old Hitler Jugend Kintergarten. The coys are in the immediate vicinity in a defensive role.	786
			Map M 1 GRONINGEN WEST, 1/100,000	APPX 53
			Map M 1 GRONINGEN EAST, 1/100,000	APPX 54
			Map ASCHENDORF 2909, 1/25,000	APPX 55
MR682964	22 Apr	0600	Reveille. Cloudy and cool. The morning was mainly spent in maintenance of vehicles and weapons.	



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WAR DIARY  
OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to O. i/c 2nd Echelon for disposal.

Title pages will be prepared.

page Eleven

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR682964	22 APR (Cont)	1500 1730 1830  2345	"Q" Gp at BnHQ followed by another one at 1600 hrs. The job set for 8 Cdn Inf Bde is to take the RHEIDERLAND peninsula, across the river EMS from EMDEN. Marching troops set out for assembly area at BRUAL MR 687017 (Sheet 2809) Arrived at assembly area and immediately moved off to DIELE MR 18030 (Sheet 2809), now held by the N.S.R. From there D Coy moved into their first phase. They met with no opposition and moved into their objective MR 721042 (Sheet 2809). B Coy moved through them and occupied the village of STAPELMOOR MR 724048 without opposition. C Coy then went through to X-rds at 719058 also meeting no opposition. A Coy immediately passed through to the buildings at MR 719062 also without opposition. However both coys were shelled after they obtained their objectives. There was no casualties. Map L 1 EMDEN 1/100,000 Map NIEUWE SCHANS 2809, 1/25,000	786 786 786 786 Appx 56 Appx 57
MR682964	25 APR	0200  0330 0700  1400 2100  2300	At 0200 hrs C Coy moved into HOLTHUSEN, again with no opposition until they had consolidated. Then there was shelling and sniping. One man of C Coy was killed. B Coy now passed through A and C Coy and took out the X-rds 717068 without opposition. D Coy now passed through the other coys and completed the final phase. This being the securing of the X-rds at 734069. They met some snipers, who were quickly eliminated. One man from D Coy was killed. They were in position by 0900. During the day a large number of French, Russian and Polish P.W.'s were released by us. They had been working on the farms in the neighborhood. Some had been in captivity since 1939. All were very happy. "Q" Gp at BnHQ. The Bn moved into a concentration area between WEENER 7408 (Sheet 2810) and BUNDE 6810 (Sheet 2809) "Q" Gp and plans are made for following day. 8 Cdn Inf Bde SITREP Map WEENER 2810, 1/25,000	786 786 789 786 786 m Appx 58 Appx 59
MR/12093	24 APR	0500 0600 0730	Reveille. Cloudy and cool. By 0600 the Bn was ready to move but plans are changed and all go back to their billets. Major Pickup, C Coy, was injured by being crushed between a Crocodile and a carrier. The extent of his injuries are, as yet, unknown. Later in the morning A and C Coys	786 786 786



# WAR DIARY

M.F.M. 11  
40/P & S/37

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## WAR DIARY

OR

M.F.M. 11  
40/P & S/37

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR712093	24 Apr	0730 (Cont'd) 2200 2359	moved off but A Coy returned. C Coy went on to 752144 (Sheet 2709). They met a few snipers who caused a little trouble but no casualties. 8 P.W.'s were taken. "O" Gp at BnHQ. C Coy move on towards DITZUMER VERLAAT. Map DITZUMER VERLAAT, 2709, 1/25,000	<i>786</i> <i>786</i> <i>786</i> A ppx 60
MR712093	25 Apr	0700 1400 1600 2200	Against very little opposition, C Coy took their objective, Rd June 694183 (Sheet 2709) and B Coy went through to Rd June 688183. A and D Coys now went through to DITZUMER VERLAAT 686184. They met some snipers and fairly heavy shelling. A Coy had three wounded, D had four killed and three wounded. One of those killed was Sgt Jones who was acting as CSM. C Coy was also heavily shelled during the morning. They had two men wounded. Also they had two different HQ's burnt out. The third one that they took over was lucky. A patrol from A Coy returned to report that the bridge at 686184 was blown. The coy then moved off to cross the stream. A Coy was unopposed and established a bridgehead. The HQ being at 685188. "O" Gp at BnHQ.	<i>786</i> <i>786</i> <i>786</i> <i>786</i> A ppx 60
MR691184	26 Apr	0600 1200 1300 2200	Reveille. Cloudy and cool. During the morning the village was shelled by heavy calibre guns. No casualties. D and B Coy passed through A Coy. B Coy to go to POGUM 6825 (Sheet 2609). They met some snipers who caused a short delay. However they were soon eliminated. D Coy, going to DITZUM 6924 (Sheet 2609), had reached MR 687209. Here both D and B came under very heavy shell fire. This slowed them up, but they kept on going. C Coy moved up behind them and stopped at MR 685213. They were to help if needed. The other two coys went to ground to wait for darkness. "O" Gp at BnHQ. Map EMDEN 2609, 1/25,000	<i>786</i> <i>786</i> <i>786</i> <i>786</i> A ppx 61
MR691184	27 Apr	0030 0900	The advance continued and there was no opposition. Both B and D Coys were on their objectives by 0300 hrs. Over 200 P.W.'s surrendered in DITZUM and POGUM. C Coy on looking over their area found four 10.5 Cm guns and four 12.8 cm guns. They were in fairly good shape, except for two 10.5's.	<i>786</i> <i>786</i>



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Page Thirteen

# WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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M.F.M. 11  
40/P & S/37

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR691184	27 Apr	1500	Orders came for the Bn to move back to a rest area. The offensive in the RHEIDERLAND peninsula had been successfully completed. Our losses have been extremely light and we have taken a large number of P.W.'s.	JLB JLB
		2359	By this time the whole Bn was in the area around BnHQ at 696115 (Sheet 2809). Aerial Photos of RHEIDERLAND Peninsula. 3 Cdn Inf Div "I" Summary	
MR696115	28 Apr	0700	Reveille. Cloudy and cool. The day was spent very quietly. There was bath parades during the morning.	JLB JLB JLB
		1830	ENSA show in A Coy lines. They have a very large barn, well suited as a theatre. It is almost big enough to seat the whole Bn.	
		2100	Party and film at the Offrs Mess.	
MR696115	29 Apr	0700	Reveille. Rain and cool.	JLB JLB JLB
		1000	The KofC put on a show, Phil Baker in "Take It Or Leave It". There was also voluntary church parades for the coys. After dinner there was bath parades.	
		1500	Another show put on by K of C "Donald O'Connor in "Patrick the Great". There was a second showing of the same film at 1830. After which it was shown at the Offrs Mess.	
MR696115	30 Apr	0630	Reveille. Rain and cool. The coys did some training and were given lectures during the morning. The weather cleared for a while, then rained harder than ever.	JLB JLB JLB JLB
		1330	The rain was still heavy, so the barns in the neighborhood were pressed into service as lecture rooms for the coys.	
		1900	Film by K of C in A Coy area. Peter Lorre in "The Mask of Demetrius."	
		2100	Also shown in Offrs Mess. Word was received of probable move tomorrow. 3 Cdn Inf Div "I" Summary	

*[Signature]*  
(S M LEFT) Lt-col  
Comd 1 Bn The Q O R of C

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1st BN THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES  
OF CANADA

OPERATION "PLUNDER"  
(Phase 1)

Operation "Plunder" was to be the final "heave." Its purpose was to leap the RHINE and fan out to destroy all organized resistance in what remained of GERMANY.

In the initial stages, units participating under command 21st Army Group for this operation, were the 2nd British Army and the 9th US Army. 1st Cdn Army did not operate as an entity until the bridgehead was secure, but Seven, Eight and Nine Cdn Inf Bdes were under command 30 British Corps for support on the left flank. 9th US Army were returned under 12th Army Group after the operation had progressed for a week.

25 March 45

On the night of the 24-25 March the operation commenced. In the darkness behind one of the greatest barrages of history Commandos and Scottish troops assaulted the RHINE on a broad front inclusive REES and WESSEL (BOCHOLT and ESSEN sheets: Central Europe 1/100,000.) Bombers dropped tons of HE in direct support of the ground forces. Paratroop and Airborne landings were made 5-6 miles inland to secure bridges on the IJSEL river. When morning dawned all first objectives had been reached and progress was steady. It was not long before the main body of troops had linked up with the Airborne.

9th Cdn Inf Bde with the North Shore Regiment under command, crossed the RHINE late the first day. 7th Cdn Inf Bde began crossing late on the 26 March. 8 Cdn Inf Bde less the N.S.R. crossed on the 28 March.

28 March 45

At 0200 hrs in the morning this Bn mounted TCV's and began its move forward from the rest area in the REICHSWALD forest. It was just turning daylight when the convoy crossed the bridge over the RHINE at REES (REES sheet: Germany 1/25,000) and by 0700 hrs the Bn was digging in near SPELDROF in the Divisional Assembly Area northwest of REES.

In the early afternoon they moved on, by foot this time, to a Bde Assembly Area near DORNICK (0158: EMMERICH: Germany 1/25,000.) Here the night was spent and there was some slight shelling.

29 March 45

In the afternoon of the next day the Bn began moving up to the eastern outskirts of EMMERICH. Charlie and Able Coys



who moved first took up position in an area held by 7th Bde (approx 987606.) Baker and Dog Coys who moved in the early evening took up position forward of the other two Coys (approx 990608.) Here there was considerable shelling during the night and some casualties were suffered.

30 March 45

With the exception of Dog Coy the Bn remained in these positions the following day. 7th Bde had not yet succeeded in completely clearing the town.

At noon Dog Coy moved up 600 yds to a building area occupied by RWR (986612.) In the move the signal carrier was blown up by tellermine and two casualties were suffered. Three of the enemy were found hiding in a cellar and were taken prisoner. There was some sniper fire in the area but its effect was negligible.

31 March 45

By this time EMMERICH had been completely cleared of the enemy and the three Bdes were returned under command 3rd Cdn Div. In the early hours of the next morning, 8th and 9th Cdn Inf Bdes prepared to attack out of the positions held by the 7th Bde west and north beyond EMMERICH. 8th Bde on the left was attacking with R. de C. left, Q.O.R. right and N.S.R. reserve.

Through the shattered tomb that once was a town, the Bn moved up in darkness that was crowded with hushed voices and scuffling boots, Charlie Coy in the lead.

At approx 0200 hrs, Charlie Coy was committed, thrusting forward west of the town to form a firm base in a group of buildings around 956621. There was no opposition. Then Able Coy passed through to consolidate beyond around two groups of buildings at 955624 and 955625. Dog Coy then took the lead moving northwest through Able Coy to a road junction and building area around 956630. At 0600 hrs Baker Coy was committed finally to push beyond Dog Coy into INGENHOF (946628.) Thus far no opposition had been encountered and no casualties had been suffered.

Shortly after noon, Charlie and Dog Coys moved on again, Charlie on the left attacking a group of farm buildings and a road junction in the woods beyond it (942632). Dog Coy on the right attacking HASSENT (948636.) Dog Coy met no opposition but Charlie Coy encountered the enemy holding the buildings in an estimated strength of one platoon. With the supporting tanks the resistance was rapidly overcome in a short time. The major part of the defenders fled into the woods to be later captured by Able Coy and the R. de C. No casualties were suffered.

Because of the lack of serious opposition, it had been decided that the Bde should push on that afternoon to take out the HOCH ELTON feature (9264, 9265, 9364, 9365.) As a result our attack continued non-stop.



At 1330 hrs Able Coy passed through Charlie Coy, clearing northwest through the woods. No opposition was encountered but at the far end of the woods fourteen of the enemy came out of hiding to surrender. Here the coy stopped and consolidated.

After a brief "Q" Group, the bn moved on again, Able Coy continuing as lead coy. At approx 1500 hrs they moved out of the woods to attack, across open fields, VORTHEIZEN (942647) at the base of the HOCH ELTON feature. No enemy was encountered but as the coy consolidated the position was raked with fire from MG's and heavy mortar and artillery concentrations. Casualties were inflicted.

By 1600 hrs the situation was satisfactory enough for Baker Coy to pass through. They attacked from VORTHEIZEN across the stream and up the slope to high ground and buildings just beyond the road 944648 to 942647. In VORTHEIZEN heavy shelling had slowed down their movements and several casualties had been suffered. Sniper fire from their right flank was engaged by the supporting tanks but no real opposition was encountered. Their objectives were consolidated under sporadic MG fire. No shells fell in this area.

At approx 1700 hrs Dog Coy began to move forward to pass through Baker Coy. In VORTHEIZEN they too were caught in the intense bombardment and were pinned on the road. They were able however to scramble forward in parts to proceed beyond Baker Coy some 200 yards. Several casualties were suffered from the shellfire.

In the darkness the N.S.R. began to move forward on our left, their right hand Coys passing through Able Coy in VORTHEIZEN. About midnight Charlie Coy passed through moving silently in the darkness and encountering no opposition, to consolidate in and around RITBROOK (935652.)

#### 1 April 45

In the morning Able and Baker Coys moved forward northwest on the HOCH ELTON feature to take up positions overlooking the main road running north to DORTINGHEM. Dog Coy moved up near Charlie Coy in RITBROOK. The enemy had withdrawn and the area was quiet.

Thus phase 1 of Operation "Plunder" came to a successful conclusion.



1st BN THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES  
OF CANADA

OPERATION "FLUNDER"

(Phase 2)

The RHINE had been leaped. Fast armoured columns were prying deep into the heart of GERMANY. Disaster faced the German Army in the west. On the left flank of this onrushing tide the 1st Cdn Army had breached the pivot defences of EMMERICH and HOCH ELTEN and the road to their part of the operation--the liberation of northern HOLLAND---was almost clear. The days of flags and glory were at hand.

1 April 45

Upon the capture of the HOCH ELTEN feature, Recce units had dashed swiftly forward into HOLLAND. In the afternoon of 1 April they were reported 15-20 miles north without having contacted the enemy.

Third Cdn Division was ordered to "advance to contact." Seven and Nine Bdes were to lead, seven left through BEEK--WEHL--LAAG KEPPEL; nine right through s'HERRENBURG--ZEDDAM--BRAANT; Eight Bde in reserve following seven with the purpose of passing west through Seven at LAAG KEPPEL in the direction of DOESBURG and finally crossing the IJSEL river at DOESBURG. (sheet BOCHOLT: CENTRAL EUROPE: 1/100,000).

2 April 45

Fifteen minutes after midnight the Bn moved off in convoy from ELTEN. Heading the convoy was a squadron of tanks from the Sherbrooke Fusiliers. But the advance too quickly bogged down to foot-slogging. Seven Bde moving in front of us had met opposition beyond KILDER. While they deployed to wipe out this resistance, our convoy halted before KILDER and consolidated around farm buildings to spend the remainder of the night.

Seven Bde cleared north as far as WEHL. The plan had been changed and now Eight Bde was to pass through Seven Bde here, attacking north toward LAAG KEPPEL.

At 1030 hrs the Bn moved off by foot to WEHL. The Coy routes were left of the main road, and just south of WEHL the leading Coys were held up by mortar and S.F. harassing fire from the woods further left. Tanks were dispersed to remove the opposition. The Bn assembled in WEHL shortly after noon.

At approx 1300 hrs the attack beyond WEHL began with supporting tanks--R. de C. left, Q.O.R. right, M.S.R. reserve. Charlie Coy led the Bn north up the main road while Baker led forward on the right of the road.

Charlie Coy while in WEHL had encountered some shelling from an S.F. gun. After crossing their S.L. their tanks almost immediately found serious trouble with this S.F. It was finally out-maneuvred and destroyed, and the advance



continued. The Coy had no trouble reaching its objective, farm buildings about 1,000 yds north of WREH. The opposition was ragged and after a brief skirmish about 20 prisoners were rounded up. While they consolidated the area began to be laced with sniper and mortar fire. As Able Coy passed through them at approx 1400 hrs, Charlie Coy was still clearing the area of snipers. Their casualty count was 12.

Baker Coy advancing on the right had encountered only token resistance from a few snipers. They suffered no casualties.

Dog Coy, passing through Baker at approx 1400 hrs, were attacking farm buildings in and beyond MR 962705 just south of LAAG KEPPEL. Here again there was only slight resistance. The enemy as a general rule would not fight at close quarters but rather sniped until our troops were close, then surrendered. Twenty-five prisoners were taken here with the loss of four of Dog Coy. Shelling was slight.

Able Coy at the same time had blasted their way beyond ELDRK (956772) against the same sort of resistance. The tanks had pressed forward ahead of the infantry blasting as they went and the movement of the Coy was fast. An enemy mortar position was overrun intact, and the objective was reached with no casualties.

In these areas the En consolidated while the N.S.R. passed beyond to secure the line of the OUDE IJSSEL river on the right of us, and to the southeast of LAAG KEPPEL.

In the meantime 2 Cdn Division had already crossed the OUDE IJSSEL in the vicinity of DORTINGHEM to the east. During the night it was their plan to swing west and take out LAAG KEPPEL from the right flank.

3 April 45

To assist this manoeuvre Baker Coy at 0130 hrs in the morning attacked through Able Coy into the southern outskirts of LAAG KEPPEL up to the OUDE IJSSEL where they found the bridge blown. There was no opposition and here the Coy remained until 0630 hrs when they were relieved by the R. de C. and moved into reserve.

The greater part of LAAG KEPPEL beyond the river had been taken in the night by the Black Watch of 2 Cdn Division. A sudden change of plan brought Dog Coy up to take over the R. de C. position on the river at 0900 hrs while the R. de C. on vehicles raced around to the DORTINGHEM bridgehead, crossed the river, and raced westward again through LAAG KEPPEL and onward to take out the woods around HUMMLO and HOOG KEPPEL to the northwest.

In the early afternoon the Coys moved across the river into the town by assault boats and took up position in the western outskirts. Rations were ferried across and horses and carts were pressed into service to distribute them. By approx 2300 hrs the Bailey bridge had been completed by the Engineers and the Coy vehicles and Tac BnHQ joined the rest of the En in the town. The area was completely quiet.



4 April 45

In the morning the Bn rested while plans were discussed for the capture of DOESBURG.

Seven Bde was now operating to our south moving east toward the OUDE IJSEL beyond ZEVENAAR. Nine Bde continued to move north, proceeding on the left flank of the 2 Cdn Division in the direction of ZUTPHEN and the TIENTHE CANAL.

Eight Bde began moving in the early afternoon. R. de C. was on the left to the area of DRECHT (925801: sheet STEEN-DEKEN: EASTERN HOLLAND: 1/25,000), N.S.R. on the right to the area of STEENDEREN and beyond, and Q.O.R. in the centre in the area between them.

Charlie and Dog Coys led the Bn marching northwest at 1300 hrs to move into ROTENBURG (924840) and HOFKEN (931833) respectively. At 1330 hrs Able and Baker coys moved off, finally passing through the other coys at approx 1530 hrs to take up position beyond--Able around EKHORN (921853: sheet DOESBURG: EASTERN HOLLAND: 1/25,000), and Baker south of them on the river at ZWART SCHAAAR (920833).

There was no opposition to the move. However Charlie Coy in ROTENBURG began to be mortared shortly after reaching the position. Able Coy passing through them suffered four casualties in the area, and in their move to EKHORN were spasmodically harassed by S.P. fire from across the river and mortar fire from RHA (899853). During the evening and night the Coy areas were mortared intermittently and some long range sniping harassed Able and Baker Coys.

5 April 45

At 0300 hrs in the morning Dog Coy began a night move from their position around HOFKEN to EMMER (925860). There was no opposition and by 0500 hrs the position was consolidated.

It was now known that the enemy was holding DOESBURG and that bulge in the river above DOESBURG which included RHA in some strength. That he would fight with great tenacity we could expect.

In the afternoon of the 5 April a three Coy attack on the bulge began. Baker Coy was to attack from their position in ZWART SCHAAAR along the line of the river northwest and then south into PIPELURE (907383). Able Coy was to attack west from EKHORN into RHA. Dog Coy was to attack southwest from their position in EMMER into buildings and orchard at HUIS-VAARD (914857) above RHA. Charlie Coy was to take over Baker Coys position and remain as the reserve Coy.

The attack commenced at 1600 hrs. Dog Coy on the right, taking advantage of the cover provided by the extensive trench system that criss-crossed the area, was on its objective by 1700 hrs. But for the mud and water that half-filled the trenches there was no opposition.



Able and Baker Coys however were encountering difficulties. By 1730 hrs Baker Coy had almost reached its objective when the two forward platoons, 10 and 11, were pinned down by savage M.G. and mortar fire. The situation rapidly became hopeless. Lacking the necessary support the Coy could not make further advance. The reserve 12 platoon was sent forward to cover the withdrawal of the other two platoons and at 1900 hrs the Coy began to retire to their former position. Several casualties had been suffered.

Able Coy was in an even worse state of affairs. Advancing in the mud and water of the trenches, 9 platoon had taken the lead. M.G. and sniper fire harassed the advance but the cover of the trenches was adequate protection. The end of the trench leading to the outskirts of RHA was reached with no great difficulty. Then 8 platoon took the lead, moving out of the trench system to a group of buildings at the fork of the road in front of the town. The enemy allowed them into the area and then began pounding from three sides of the position with every weapon at his command. In the confusion the platoon was unable to give any support to 7 platoon who now had bypassed this area on the right and were attacking buildings beyond them in RHA itself.

By this time night was approaching but light from the burning buildings set afire by our 6 pdrs and Arty support left the area brilliant. Two sections of 7 platoon managed to gain the first building of the objective meeting furious resistance. Then the enemy counter-attacked. A nightmare battle took shape. Bazookas were used at point blank range. Dozens of the enemy emerged from slits and dugouts on all sides. The first attack was driven off only to be succeeded by another. The reserve section battled its way into the building through one of the counter-attacks. Casualties were mounting but the building was held. By this time the situation here too was hopeless and the Coy was ordered to withdraw. In dwindling light from the fires they retired into the darkness taking five wounded with them, and leaving five dead and six missing from 7 platoon. They took up position again in KEEKHORN with the aid of one platoon from Charlie Coy.

#### 6 April 45

At 0600 hrs in the morning Charlie Coy took over in entirety from the tattered Able Coy and Able moved back into reserve to re-organize and re-equip.

In the afternoon the Bn was content to sit back and blast the strong points in front of it with mortar, anti-tank, sherman and M.G. fire. Baker Coy was shelled and received casualties. In the evening the Bn was warned of an impending move.

#### 7 April 45

At 1130 hrs on the following morning the advance party of the Royal Cdn Dragoons, 1 Cdn Division, arrived to begin the "take over." The 1st Cdn Corps was now being committed for the first time on the Western front.



By 1430 hrs the "take over" was complete and the Bn began moving off by TCV. After a fast journey north, the Bn debussed in a reserve area east of ZUTPHEN and bedded down for the night.

8 April 45

In the early afternoon of the next day the Bn with the exception of Dog Coy moved into ZUTPHEN relieving the S.D.C. Highrs, 9 Bde. Dog Coy moved into an area just west of BRONSBERGEN (949924) south of ZUTPHEN. The Bn role was defensive and disciplinary. In the evening Dog Coys area was shelled but no casualties were sustained.

9 April 45

For the newly liberated people of ZUTPHEN this was an historic day. Into this town of waving flags and cheering people came Prince Bernard, Crown Prince of the Netherlands. The enthusiastic welcome the liberating troops had received was infinitesimal in comparison to the stirring ovation that greeted the Prince.

But for the Bn the festivities were short. At 1300 hrs in the afternoon we began moving out of ZUTPHEN to embus on TCV's and race further north.

While we had been left behind to battle at the gates of DOESBURG, 9 Bde had breached the defences of the TWENTHE CANAL and stormed forward. Then 7 Bde had passed through them and by now had encircled DEVENTER, eight miles to the north.

It was to the outskirts of DEVENTER that we now moved to take over positions of the RWR inclusive and south of the main road just east of the enemy held SNIPPELING (945072: sheet BATHMEN: EASTERN HOLLAND: 1/25,000.)

In the evening shelling harassed the Coy areas and several casualties were inflicted. The night passed in comparative quiet.

10 April 45

To attack DEVENTER from the east, the approaches to the canal surrounding the outskirts of the town had to be taken. To accomplish this, at 0400 hrs in the morning Able Coy moved into position to attack SNIPPELING along the line of the main road.

While 9 platoon followed by CHQ and 7 platoon attacked up the main road, 8 platoon moved fwd on the left. After a brief battle against fairly heavy opposition, 9 platoon gained its objective and CHQ and the reserve platoon moved up into SNIPPELING to consolidate. Then the news arrived by runner that 8 platoon was not on its objective and needed help.



In the half light of dawn the platoon had met a violent counter-attack. They had been surrounded and cut up. In the resulting confusion the Platoon Commander (a Sergeant) and 14 men had been captured. At 1000 hrs however a platoon from Charlie Coy arrived on the scene to aid the remnants of 3 Platoon and secure the left flank of the Coy position. Total casualties in the Coy numbered two dead, two wounded and seventeen missing.

Under "88" and mortar fire from DEVENTER the Bn remained in these positions for the remainder of the day. In the evening plans were organized for the attack on DEVENTER itself and Charlie and Baker Coys made preparations for the crossing of the canal and the establishing of a bridgehead for the 7 Bde.

11 April 45

At 0005 hrs in the night the attack commenced. Charlie Coy, dashing across the narrow foot bridge (945070) just south of the destroyed bridge on the main road, had all reached the opposite side of the canal before the enemy realized what was happening. No barrage had preceded them and surprise was complete. By 0100 hrs against only light resistance the Coy had attained all its objectives and 25 P.W. were taken. At 0300 hrs the R.R.R. began to pass through them.

At 0600 hrs Baker Coy crossed the canal by assault boat to proceed along the main road to contact the R.W.R. At STADSBEELT (935074) the contact was made and the Coy returned, bringing with them eight P.W. they had collected along the way.

In DEVENTER only slight resistance had hindered the progress of 7 Bde. By late morning the town was reported clear and this Bn made preparation to move into it by TGV. The convoy moved off at 1300 hrs to enter the town from the northeast. The streets were jammed with cheering crowds.

By 1700 hrs the Bn was settled in its areas and looking forward to a brief respite from battle. Thus came to a conclusion Phase 2 of operation "Plunder."





1st BN THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES  
OF CANADA

OPERATION "PLUNDER"

(Phase 3)

13 April 45

With the RUHR encircled, the British fighting towards BREMEN and HAMBURG, and American troops already on the ELBE river before BERLIN, 1st Cdn Army continued its liberation of HOLLAND, pushing into the province of UTRECHT on the left and into FRIESLAND and GRONINGEN on the right.

2nd Cdn Corps purpose for the final stages of the battle now became clearer. While 1st Cdn Corps on the left battled toward AMSTERDAM and ROTTERDAM, 2nd Cdn Corps was to fight through to the North Sea coast east of the ZUIDER ZEE, and then switch right into the coastal area of GERMANY.

To fulfil this purpose 3 Cdn Division's objectives for the third phase of operation "Plunder" were the eastern shores of the ZUIDER ZEE, LEEUWARDEN, and the NORTH SEA coast north and northeast of LEEUWARDEN.

After one day of rest and "cleaning up" in DEVENTER, at 1030 hrs in the morning of 13 April this Bn moved off in convoy to begin the race northwards.

Northwest the convoy moved, crawling along a highway already jammed with convoys; past RAALTE (008223: sheet ALMOLO: central Europe: 1/100,000) and turning off at HEINO (978277) to bed down in a non-tactical position just northeast of the town.

14 April 45

Shortly after noon the next day the convoy moved on again. The R. de C. had encountered no opposition in ZWOLLE (890360) and instead of halting northeast of ZWOLLE as planned, our convoy continued on. Through village after village of cheering Dutch people it rolled, through MEPPEL (955570) and on, finally coming to a halt for the night in the village of NIJVEEN (943627: sheet GRONINGEN: Central Europe: 1/100,000) halfway between MEPPEL and STEENWIJK (910670).

15 April 45

In the early afternoon of the following day the race began again, through STEENWIJK, to halt at 1730 hrs in HEERENVEEN (780865): sheet DEN HELDER: Central Europe: 1/100,000). Here the Bn dispersed into Coy areas for the night, on 2 hrs notice to move.

The enemy was known to be ahead of us definitely holding the LEEUWARDEN area. It was to the ZUIDER ZEE flank of this area that this Bn was to proceed as soon as bridges could be provided to allow our move.



16 April 45

At 0700 hrs in the morning the Bn moved off on tanks and carriers through SNEEK (610950: sheet LEEUWARDEN: Central Europe: 1/100,000) and BOLSWARD (515285) to half abruptly at approx 1200 hrs in the area of MR 461016, northeast of WONS (449012).

The Carrier platoon had led the advance well in front of the convoy. On the main road near HAJUM (447021) they had encountered a road block. When they stopped, MG and LAA fire raked them from the road block and from the direction of WONS, knocking out two carriers and inflicting several casualties.

It was at this time that the main body of the Bn arrived with Baker Coy in the lead. Baker Coy went into action almost immediately, its purpose to take out WONS and the road block. After a brief battle against only SA fire and one MG the Coy by 1330 hrs held all its objectives. Six of the enemy were taken prisoner. The LAA gun crew was killed in the fight and the gun captured.

Able Coy now moved up to the road block in preparation for an attack through to the causeway (427012). Dog Coy prepared to attack northwest to ZURIG (430045).

As the plans were being discussed information was received from the NBS (the Dutch freedom movement) that PINGJUM (460048) was occupied by the enemy and that a bridge near WITMARSUM (480031) on the road between WITMARSUM and PINGJUM was being held by the NBS to deny the enemy access to WITMARSUM. Dog Coy switched plans and prepared immediately to move into WITMARSUM. By 1700 hrs the Coy was in position in the town and covering the bridge. There had been no enemy encountered.

In the meantime Able Coy was pressing forward down the main road to the causeway. Reaching the bridge at 423027 against only slight sniping action by the enemy, 7 and 9 platoons began to pass through 8 platoon to proceed further on. The SA fire became more intense and MG fire began to harass the advance. The tanks, which had been supporting the advance by fire, were now brought forward to give closer support. Fire from both a 75 mm and a 37 mm A/Tk gun forced them to withdraw again. The two platoons were by this time unable to advance further under the weight of the enemy MG fire and, supported by the fire from the tanks, withdrew back of the bridge. A Wasp was brought forward to assist the attack but again the Coy was forced to withdraw, and the Coy decided to consolidate astride the bridge.

By this time it was nearly night fall. Charlie Coy endeavoring to reach KORNWERD were now pinned on the approaches by LAA fire from the ZUIDER ZEE dyke to their west. Under cover of darkness a patrol went forward to reconnoitre KORNWERD before the Coy pushed on.

17 April 45

At 0100 hrs a runner returned from the patrol reporting that the area was clear of the enemy. By 0230 hrs Charlie Coy was consolidating in the town but at 0330 hrs because of the lack of opposition it was ordered to consolidate farther forward on the dyke west and northwest of KORNWERD. Able Coy was ordered to move from their position on the main road to hold KORNWERD.



By dawn the two Coys were firm in their areas.

At approx 0700 hrs the enemy on the dyke north of Charlie Coy opened up with SA and LAA on the Coy area. This fire continued most of the morning in gradually increasing intensity under our Arty, Sherman, and mortar counter fire.

At approx 0730 hrs Typhoons roared out of the almost cloudless sky to blast the enemy in a strong point at 922023. Able Coy was in position to observe this area and called down mortar fire on numerous targets where the enemy could now be seen moving about.

At approx 1000 hrs Baker Coy moved from their position in WONS to push through GOOTUM (438031) to ZURIG, Dog Coy's original objective. But for severe shellfire during the move, no opposition was encountered and the Coy was consolidated by noon.

In the meantime at approx 1030 hrs a group of five of the enemy on bicycles had blundered into Charlie Coys area from the direction of MAKKUM (434989.) Both Able and Charlie Coys opened up on them when they attempted to turn back, killing one and wounding the other four.

In the early afternoon the Sp Coy Wasps, under cover of mortar smoke and HE, dashed out from Charlie Coys position to race north across the fields and along the line of the dyke spewing flame at all probable enemy positions. They returned without casualty.

Late in the afternoon a group of the enemy in front of Charlie Coy showed a white flag. A small patrol led by a Sjt ventured out to bring them in but were met with withering MG fire. The Sjt and one other were wounded but were able to be assisted back.

In the evening 3 of the enemy surrendered to Baker Coy in ZURIG. They gave information to ent effect that approx 100 of the enemy were in position north of ZURIG.

Dog Coy at approx 1330 hrs, after a day of vigorous and successful patrol activity against opposition on the approaches to PINGJUM, began a concentrated attack on the town from the northeast. By 1900 hrs 17 platoon had secured a start line at the crossroads at 470054 which had been cleared by a patrol earlier in the day. Though sniping fire was severe and two casualties suffered the position was firm. It was then the plan for 18 platoon to pass through 17 platoon. In the face of increased SA fire this move became impossible. After a short discussion of plans the tanks were sent forward of the Coy to engage all possible targets with their HV guns and MG's. Then 18 platoon began to move down the road in full view of the enemy. Well in front of them calling to the enemy to surrender walked the Pl Comd. By this sheer bravado the situation was saved and the much-impressed enemy began to come out in large numbers to be taken prisoner. At the first line of defences (469051) 37 were taken and five killed, but the count was soon lost by the time the Coy reached the town itself. There was no further resistance. The commandant and two of his aides were killed while attempting to evade capture. By 2015 hrs the area was completely clear and the Coy consolidated.



18 April 45

At 0200 hrs in the morning a group of 25 of the enemy ran into Baker Coy in ZURIG, presumably attempting to reach the causeway. A fire battle commenced that lasted approx 15 minutes when the enemy finally withdrew, leaving two wounded behind them.

At 0300 hrs the Commander of the group from which these 25 men had come made a formal surrender to the Coy. The prisoners numbered 116, three of them officers.

A little later a patrol of 3 men from Dog Coy encountered 49 of the enemy northwest of PINGJUM who surrendered with no resistance.

At 1030 hrs Charlie Coy began the final attack, the attack on the causeway itself. The enemy, however, had retired, and the only opposition was from 88 or 75 mms, five kilometers down the causeway. On the objective were found 5 dead Germans, 3 quadruple 20 mm LAA guns, 3 single 20 mm LAA guns, one 75 mm A/Tk gun, 3 HMG's, 3 Hotchkiss MG's, two 50 mm A/Tk guns, three Hispanos, and numerous bazookas, LMG's and rifles. There were no casualties sustained by the Coy.

In these positions the Bn rested for the remainder of the day. In the afternoon the NSR took MAKJUM against only slight resistance.

With this the enemy had been entirely cleared from the eastern shore of the ZUIDER ZEE and Phase 3 of Operation "plunder" came to an end.

(H E DALTON) Major  
T/Comd 1st Bn The Q O R of C