

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

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

3/19A MFM 11
40/P&S/37 (5028)

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to OIC 2nd Echelon for disposal.

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1st BN THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR696115 AMERICAN SHEET 1:25,000	1 May	0700	Reveille. Cloudy and cool.	
		0800	A number of reinforcements for the Bn arrived.	
		1300	A Coy supplied a work party of 1 Sjt and 36 ORs to help the RCE lift mines near the bridge over the EMS.	
		1900	"Q" Gp at BnHQ. The bn is to cross the River EMS in the morning and move to a concentration area near HESSEL. Part I Orders Part II Orders Offrs Fd Return - AFW 3008 ORs Fd Return - AFW 3009	APPX 1 APPX 2 APPX 3 APPX 4
MR696115	2 May	0500	Reveille. Cloudy and cool. The vehicles were soon loaded and the Bn was ready to move.	
		0830	Men were all in TCV's and we moved off through BUNDE 6810 (Sheet 2809). Crossed the River Ems at MR 792138 (Sheet 1, 1/50,000). Passed through LEER 8115 (Sheet 1). This town had taken quite a pasting. Now the civilians were just beginning to emerge from their cellars.	
		1200	Arrived in HESSEL 905236 (Sheet 71). The road from LEER to HESSEL had been badly cratered by the retreating enemy. A large number of aerial bombs had been used and some were still lying beside the road. Our old friends, the Polish Armoured Div, was once more encountered. They were heading in the general direction of WILHELMSHAVEN.	
		1300	"Q" Gp at BnHQ. The coys settled down in a fairly tight formation around BnHQ. In the afternoon a venturesome Fokke-Wulfe roared low over the town. He was possibly on recce, but no more trouble came. Map AURICH, 1/50,000, No 71. 3 Cdn Inf Div "I" Sum	APPX 5 APPX 6
MR905236	3 May	0600	Reveille. Rain and cool. The Bn was ready to move by 0700, but it was postponed for a while.	
		0800	The Coys crossed the S.L. and moved NORTH to BAGBAND 9128 (Sheet 71). BnHQ being at 914287. The Bn was on one hour's notice to move on again.	
		1300	"Q" Gp at BnHQ. Now on ten minutes notice to move.	
		1500	The Coys started to move NORTH again towards ULBARGEN 8931 (Sheet 71). We reached there without any trouble, except cratered roads. Then kept on moving. A halt was made for supper, after which the march continued.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR905236 (Con't)	3 May	1930	The Coys finally stopped for the night. BnHQ at MITTE GROSSEFEHN 889335 (Sheet 71). A Coy at 892333, B Coy 888339, C Coy 886338 and D Coy 886347. D Coy had one casualty from an enemy sniper. The bridge across the canal at 889339 was blown just as D Coy were approaching it. There was some desultory firing during the night, but no damage. Two more of D Coy were injured by a 4.2 mortar bomb which fell short.	JS
MR889335	4 May	0600	Reveille. Fine and clear.	JS
		0100	At 0100 D Coy had crossed the canal without further opposition and were now at 889340. B Coy went on before first light and passed through D Coy at 0310 hrs and went out to OSTER SANDER 855363.	JS
		0630	OSTER SANDER was cleared without opposition. 14 PWs were taken.	JS
		1200	C Coy moved out to attack X-rds 873369.	JS
		1330	C Coy was pinned down by S.A. fire just short of objective. Supporting arms went into action and cleared a way for the Coy. Two of our men were killed and one was wounded.	JS
		1500	C Coy were all on their objective. This is believed to be the last attack in N.W. GERMANY. Shortly after C Coy took the X-rds. Lt-col Haurumz of the WEHRMACHT came in with a white flag to negotiate surrender and he was followed a few minutes later by the Burgomaster of AURICH.	JS
		1530	The order has now come through that we will not fire on the enemy unless we are definitely being attacked. Rumours of a general surrender in this area are being circulated.	JS
		1900	The greatest news since D Day is officially announced. All German troops in N.W. Germany, Denmark, Holland and the islands on the coast have surrendered unconditionally. There is no celebration but everybody is happy. Narrative, Part IV PLUNDER	JS Appx 7
MR889335	5 May	0600	Reveille. Rain and cool.	JS
			We will probably stay here today and move tomorrow to our occupational zone.	JS
		0800	"Q" Gp at BnHQ. B Coy moved back to MR889339. The rest of the coys stay where they are. There was coy parades during the morning.	JS
		1500	The Bn paraded to the church at MITTE GROSSEFEHN 887334. Maj Dalton (acting C.O.) gave a short talk on the present situation, our future role, the Pacific war and return to Canada. This was Maj Dalton's first appearance in a pulpit, he should go a long way as a preacher.	JS

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR889335 (Cont'd)	5 May	1530	On the conclusion of the speech there was a voluntary church service. The R.C.'s had theirs at Bde. Very few Protestants left the church, they stayed for the THANKSGIVING SERVICE. Hon Capt Mowatt took the service. It was followed by Holy Communion. Order of Thanksgiving Service for Bn.	<i>[Signature]</i> Appx 8
MR889335	6 May	0700	Reveille. Cloudy and cool. The only activity in the morning was around radios. Everybody wants news of the other fronts. There is much speculation as to how long the rest of Germany and Norway will hold out.	<i>[Signature]</i>
		1330	Recce group leaves to look over the new location that we are going to tomorrow.	<i>[Signature]</i>
		1800	Film at BnHQ by K of C. Very poor attendance. Most of the coys are too far away.	<i>[Signature]</i>
MR889335	7 May	0500	Reveille. Cloudy and cool. The bn was ready early, to embus. We started off at 0800 hrs. It is a big area that we have to occupy. BnHQ is at PHILLIPSBURG 840189, A Coy at HOLT LAND 898203, C Coy also in HOLT LAND 895205, B Coy at NORTMOOR 884170, D Coy at LEER 817147.	<i>[Signature]</i>
		1000	The Bn was all in position and they immediately began clearing up. This area had been fairly heavily hit but enough buildings were secured to give the men a fairly comfortable place to live. An Officers' Mess and Sjets' Mess was set up.	<i>[Signature]</i>
		1800	A regimental guard was mounted at BnHQ by B Coy. This was the first in a long time and was carried out well.	<i>[Signature]</i>
MR840159	8 May	0700	Reveille. Fine and clear. An early announcement on the radio caused much speculation in the Bn. This may be VE Day. Winston Churchill is to speak at 1500 hrs and the King at 2100 hrs.	<i>[Signature]</i>
		0900	Coy parades. The rest of the morning was spent making the billets more comfortable. The K of C arrives and places are fixed for films. A Ech is with us now and we will soon have B Ech also. Thus the bn will soon be all together again for the first time since we left England.	<i>[Signature]</i>
		1330	Sports by most of the coys. There was also films at B Coy, "The Mark of the Whistler." It is to be shown tonight and tomorrow to the rest of the Bn.	<i>[Signature]</i>
		1500	Everybody who could, got around the radios to listen to Winston Churchill. It is big news. The German High Command has surrendered unconditionally.	<i>[Signature]</i>
		2100	We again gather at the radios to listen to HM King George broadcast to the Empire. Victory Message from Gen Crerar.	<i>[Signature]</i> APPX 9

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MR840189	9 May	0700	Reveille. Fine and Clear.	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>
		0900	Coy parades. C Coy had a bath parade. D Coy are in an enviable position. They are next door to a mobile bath. Other coys may have to wait for a bath as the troops who will make up the Canadian contingent in the Berlin garrison have priority on both mob baths and mob laundries.	
		1000	Pay exchanges for coys. Those who have guilders left, exchange them for marks.	
		1330	Sports for the bn. Plenty of softball games. From the accounts of the scores, it seems we lack pitchers. A Coy defeated C Coy 10-5. That seems to have been the lowest score. B Coy went to the ranges.	
MR840159	10 May	0700	Reveille. Fine and clear.	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i> Appx 10 Appx 11 Appx 12 Appx 13
		0900	Coy parades. Coys were given areas of responsibilities. These areas are to be thoroughly searched for military equipment, arms and ammunition and all Nazi emblems etc. This is a big job.	
		0930	The big search gets under way. A large variety of ancient and modern weapons found also many German respirators, a large number of them civilian.	
		1330	Coy parades. Men not engaged in searching got out for sports.	
		1600	Six men from 7 Recces brought in to RAP after their scout cars had hit a mine. Four of them were badly burned and had bones broken.	
		1800	Canteen at C Coy opened. BnHQ have taken over the village barber shop and Rfn Jim Burns has his shingle out. Every day a large number of repatriated PWs come through the village on their way through LEER to home. They are a very happy bunch.	
			Victory message from Premier MacKenzie King Victory message from H.M. The King Map WESTERSTEDE 91, 1/50,000 Trace, areas of responsibility.	
MR840159	11 May	0700	Reveille. Fine and clear.	<i>[Handwritten initials]</i> Appx 14
		0900	Coy parades. Then back to the job of searching the area.	
		1330	Coy parades. Sports and films in the afternoon.	
		2000	Some of B Coy men put on a play in their own area. The great topics around the bn these days are the Pacific and Canada. The great majority want to get home for a while, but quite a number are seriously thinking of going to the Pacific Zone. Victory Order of the Day by Gen. Eisenhower.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR840159	12 May	0700	Reveille. Fine and clear.	
		0900	Coy Parades. The morning saw the finish of the search in the area. There was Q.M. parades for the Bn to be outfitted for the Bde parade tomorrow. Black belts and black gaiters are being issued and they really look good. Almost forgotten stores of brass polish are unearthed and the boys get to work on the brasses. Boots are polished to a glossy finish. Irons are procured and clothes are pressed. The Bn looks a lot different than it did a week ago.	
		1330	Swimming holes have been discovered and some of the coys organise swimming parades. Others who didn't go are busy catching German army horses and staging a rodeo.	
		1800	A Coy had a coy dinner which was attended by the C.O., 2IC, Padre and other officers. The Padre said Grace. Then toasts were drunk to the King, The Queen, Fallen comrades and to the Q.O.R. After dinner Lt-col Lett, Major Dalton and Maj Secord spoke to the Coy. This was followed by a beer issue and a show. It was a very pleasant evening.	
MR840159	13 May	0700	Reveille. Fine and warm.	
		0900	The morning was spent in getting ready for the Bn Church Parade in the afternoon. This is to be a Thanksgiving service for Victory in Europe. The searching of the area also was carried on during the morning.	
		1400	The Bn loaded on to vehicles and proceeded to the Sports Field in Support Coy area.	
		1500	The Bn was inspected by Brigadier J A Roberts, DSO. He presented Rfn Watson of A Coy with the M.M. Following this the Brig addressed the men. Then followed the Thanksgiving service. Despite dust and a very hot sun, this parade was a smart turnout. The black belts and black gaiters showed to good advantage. Sheet Thanksgiving Service	Appx 15
MR 840159	14 May	0600	Reveille. Fine and warm. Breakfast was early and we got ready to go to BAGBAND 9128 for inspection by the Corps Comd.	
		0830	We were debussed and formed up for the inspection.	
		0900	Lt-Gen G Simonds, GOC 2 Cdn Corps, inspected the Bde. Following this he spoke to the men. He congratulated the Bde on the fine work that they had done. This was his farewell to 3 Cdn Div as we are going under command 1 Cdn Corps.	
		1330	The Bn began to get ready for the move back into Holland, tomorrow.	

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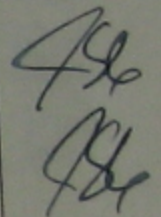
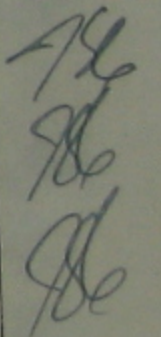
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR840159 (Cont'd)	14 May		OP "Fraternise" Warning Order for move	Appx 16 Appx 17
MR840159	15 May	0530	Reveille. Fine and warm. Soon after breakfast the TCV's were loaded.	 Appx 18 Appx 19 Appx 20 Appx 21 Appx 22
		0530	The convoy started for the SL which is the bridge at LEER. The route was through LEER, WEST to GRONINGEN, SOUTH through ASSEN to RIJSEN, then WEST to DEVENTER and S.W. to APELDOORN finally arriving at BARNEVELD 5396 (Sheet BARNEVELD, 30 EAST 1/50,000.) Here the Bn was billeted for the night, ready to move on in the morning. Meals had been served on the move and everybody was glad to get to bed. Map OLDENBURG, 1/100,000 Map GRONINGEN, 1/100,000 Map ALMELO, 1/100,000 Map UTRECHT, 1/100,000 Map BARNVELD, 1/50,000	
MR525958	16 May	0500	REVEILLE, Fine and warm. Everything was soon in readiness for moving on again.	 Appx 23 Appx 24 Appx 25
		0730	The convoy left on the last stage of the journey.	
		0915	The Bn arrived in AMERSFOORT and relieved the ESSEX Regt of the 49 Br. Division. The Bn was soon settled with the various HQ's at, BnHQ, 385960; A Coy, 38209565; B Coy, 36779602; C Coy 37429659; D Coy 37409350 and Sp Coy, 36779602 (Sheet AMERSFOORT: 32 WEST, 1/50,000.) Our duties in this area is to guard concentration of German troops and various dumps of German equipment, weapons and amm. It seems to be a very nice town and our billets are good. The balance of the day is spent getting settled. Map AMERSFOORT, 1/50,000 Map AMERSFOORT, 377, 1/25,000 TRACE Enemy P.W. Concs	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR385960	17 May	0700	Reveille. Fine and Warm.	
		0900	Coy Parades. The various HQ's were besieged in the morning by civilians with problems to be solved. 14 Pl of C Coy went to take over P.W. guard in the R de chaud area.	
		1330	Sports parades were general throughout the Bn.	
		1800	A regimental club, The Big Two, is opened at MR377968. There is dancing every night. Beer is being sold and tea and biscuits are supplied by the K of C. The club is immediately popular and fraternisation is the order of the day. A good time was enjoyed by all those who took advantage of the club. There was also a stage show, the Kit Bags, in the Grand Theatre, AMERSFOORT. By the appearance of the men, morale has hit an all time high.	
MR385960	18 May	0700	Reveille. Fine and warm.	
		0900	Coy parades. Some of the Boys are using German P.W.'s under escort for various fatigues in their areas. The Jerry's seem to like doing the work. So there aren't any complaints from the men. On the Coy parades, a lot of attention is being paid to foot drill. Also many of the men are getting their first taste of rifle drill, many of them have only done infantry drill before.	
		1330	Sports parades, In the evening the Big Two and the Grand Theatre claimed lots of the boys.	
MR385960	19 May	0700	Reveille. Fair and Warm.	
		0900	Coy parades. Bath parades during the morning. The baths are at DOORN.	
		1330	Sports in the afternoon. Kit inspections for some of the boys.	
			At night the Big 2 and Grand Theatre got good support from the Bn.	
MR385960	20 May	0700	Reveille. Fair and warm.	
		0900	Coy parades. Sports and walking out were the order of the day. This hot weather has been a break for us. It has been fine for over two weeks now.	
MR385960	21 May	0700	Reveille. Cloudy and warm.	
			Shortly after reveille the rain started. Parades were called off and lectures and discussions went on in the coys. The favourite subject seemed to be Rehabilitation.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR385960 (Cont'd)	21 May	1700	Some excitement at D Coy. A few of the P.W.'s under their control, got a little obstreperous. Warning shots were fired over their heads but one stray shot killed one of them.	JH.
MR385960	22 May	0700	Reveille. Rain and cool.	JH
		0900	Coy parades. C and Sp Coys start to move German P.W.'s. They are to go near AMSTERDAM and be taken over by 12 Fd Regt, RCA. The Germans take horses and wagons. No incidents on the journey.	JH
		1200	News has been received that Sjt Aubrey COSENS has been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry during the fighting in the village of MOOSHOF on the 26 Feb 45.	JH
		1300	Recce party left for probably new area around RENKUM 6277 (Sheet WAGENINGEN EAST, 1/50,000.) This area was firmly turned down by Maj Dalton, who was in charge of the Recce. Map WAGENINGEN, 1/50,000	JH Appx 26
MR385960	23 May	0700	Reveille. Fair and cool.	JH
		0900	Coy parades. C and Sp Coys move more P.W.'s to the same area as yesterday. This move is now completed.	JH
		0830	HQ Coy personnel went on a sight seeing tour of AMSTERDAM. A good time was enjoyed by all. D Coy had planned a trip there this afternoon. But a Corps order that no vehs could be used until they were repainted, prevented this.	JH
		1330	Another Recce party left to look over area of LUNTEREN 5589 (Sheet BARNEVELD, 1/50,000). This area looked better than the one yesterday. A party was left to hold the buildings. MAPLE LEAF, 23 May 45, V.C. awards	JH Appx 27
MR385960	24 May	0700	Reveille. Rain and cool.	JH
		0900	Coy parades. During the day, work was started on the "Ontario Provincial Election. All men from that province, filled out the necessary form to obtain a vote. The vote is under direction of Captain J Choppin who has been appointed Seputy Returning Officer.	JH
		1400	C Coy are making a recreation room. Dutch civilians have lent them 2 billiard tables and a table tennis outfit. A lot of work was done on the room and it was officially opened at 1800 hrs.	JH



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
MR385960	25 May	0700	Reveille. Fair and mild.	
		0900	Coy parades. Squad Drill and Route Marches. Eighth Cdn Inf Bde now concentrated in Amersfoort area with R de Chaud and N Shore R situated in Infantry Barracks MR386970, Ref Sheet 377, 1/25,000.	
		0930	Baseball game, Sp Coy versus C Coy. Sp Coy wins with score of 7-4.	
		1330	Bath parades to DOORN for Coys.	
		1800	Baseball game between C Coy and Sjts. Final Score Sjts 10, C Coy 6.	
MR385960	26 May	0700	Reveille. Mild with rain.	
		0900	Coy parades. Transportation section is extremely busy these days overhauling and painting vehicles. Softball game between B and A Coys postponed on account of rain.	
		1415	S/Sjts, Sjts, WO's, have group picture taken.	
		2000	B Coy parades in AMERSFOORT at the Dutch Memorial.	
MR385960	27 May	0700	Reveille. Mild and cloudy.	
		0900	Coy Parades. Educational Cpl now available in Padres Office each Wednesday from 0900-1700 hrs for men wishing to take a vocational course.	
		0910	Protestant Church Parade.	
		1000	R.C. Church Parade.	
		1330	Remainder of day declared a holiday for men not on duty.	
		1930	Concert Party in UTRECHT (E.N.S.A.)	
MR385960	28 May	0700	Reveille. Fair and mild.	
		0900	Coy Parades. Squad Drill and Route Marches. Our coy locations at present are:- Sp and B Coy at MR368960, Ref Sheet 377, 1/25,000. A Coy at MR382976, Ref Sheet 377, 1/25,000. C and D Coys at MR374966, Ref Sheet 377, 1/25,000. It is very difficult for coys to adhere to their training syllabus as laid down, owing to numerous escorts required for German P.W. work parties, which coys usually supply.	



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MR385960	29 May	0700	Reveille. Fair and mild.	
		0900	Coy parades. Sp Coy moved German vehicles from Enemy Vehicles park, sq 3794, to Utrecht Area. The convoy made an amusing spectacle, as it was not uncommon to see a Canadian 60 cwt towing from three to five German staff cars at once.	
		1000	Provincial elections commence for Bn.	
MR385960	30 May	0700	Reveille. Fair and mild.	
		0900	Coy parades. Squad drill without arms, route marches, weapon inspections. RCOC inspection of bn wheeled and tracked vehicles in transport area.	
		1330	Route marches and interior economy for coys.	
		1900	Cinema show in AMERSFOORT run by Auxiliary Services.	
MR385960	31 May	0700	Reveille. Fair and mild.	
		0900	Coy parades. Bn recce party which has been residing in our area of LUNTEREN returns.	
		1000	First Canada Draft, leaves Bn in very high spirits.	
		1400	Bath parades.	
		1900	Cinema show, Amersfoort, (Christmas Holiday.)	

(S M LETT) Lt-col.
Comd 1 Bn The Q O R of C (Cda)

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APPX # 7
1ST BN THE QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES
OF CANADA

OPERATION "PLUNDER"

(Phase 4)

21 April 45

The war in Europe was fast becoming a debacle for the doomed German Armies. On three sides the allies were attacking successfully and relentlessly.

On the Russian Front the great drive for BERLIN had begun and already some of the Eastern suburbs were in Russian hands. In Italy, BOLOGNA had been captured and 5th and 8th Army columns were smashing forward into the plains of Northern Italy, threatening the rear door of the German fortress "Redoubt" itself.

In the West the First French Army had reached the Swiss frontier West of LAKE CONSTANCE. The 7th US Army driving 40 miles Southeast from NUREMBURG had already established a bridgehead over the Upper DANUBE. The 3rd US Army were fighting in CZECHOSLOVAKIA and the 1st US Army had cleared LEIPSIQ. The RUHR valley was completely mopped up and over 200,000 prisoners taken. The Br 2nd Army were on the ELBE far to the North of the American bridgehead at MAGDEBURG, and BREMEN on their left flank was falling rapidly. Complete victory was not far distant.

The plan for the 2nd Cdn Corps now was the clearing of the Peninsula which included EMDEN, OLDENBURG and WILHELMSHAVEN.

It was to this area that this Bn set out at 0900 hrs on 21 April after a two days rest in a rear area. North and East from HEERENVEEN through LEEUWARDEN, GROMINGEN AND WINSCHOTEN, the convoy moved to finally halt at 1800 hrs in the village of RHEDE (682964: sheet GROMINGEN EAST; Central Europe: 1/100,000) approx 20 miles South of EMDEN. Here we took up tactical positions, relieving a unit of the Polish Division. Forward of us was the NSR.

3 Cdn Divs responsibility was for the operation in the EMDEN area. On the far right the 2nd and 4th Cdn Divs were responsible for the OLDENBURG area. In the centre the Polish Div was to clear into the WILHELMSHAVEN area.

The plan for 3 Cdn Div was briefly, to clear North on the left of the EMS river and then to force a crossing either in the vicinity of EMDEN or further South in the vicinity of LEER (810150: sheet OLDENBURG; Central Europe; 1/100,000). 7 and 8 Cdn Inf Bdes were to attack with 7 on the left and 8 on the right on the line of the river. 9 Bde in reserve was to make the river crossing.

22 April 45

After a quiet night and the morning spent in preparation for the initial attack, the Bn marched from RHEDE late in the afternoon to assemble in BRUAL (695008).

Dog Coy led the Bn from BRUAL at 2000 hrs to DIELE (718033) and under cover of darkness at 2200hrs began the attack out of the NSR position. Thrusting to the outskirts of STAPELMOOR (723047) against no opposition they were consolidating by 2230 hrs when Baker Coy passed through them to clear the town itself. Here again there was no opposition.

At 2330 hrs Charlie Coy passed through to take the crossroads beyond the town. Although no enemy were encountered, shellfire began to harass the attack.

23 April 45

Following closely behind Charlie Coy, Able Coy at 0030 hrs passed through to push on to the bldg area around TMR 719060, North and North-east of the crossroads. The lead platoon was subjected to fire from two automatic rifles as they neared the final objective but as the advance continued the enemy fled, leaving their weapons. While the coy consolidated, enemy shellfire began to bracket their position but no casualties were suffered.

At 0230 hrs Charlie again moved up to attack, their objective being HOLTHUSEN (719062). Against slight opposition the coy had completely cleared the area by 0530 hrs with only one casualty. Five of the enemy were killed.

With the coming of daylight Dog Coy moved up to attack the last objective, the "Y" road (734068) before WEENER (7408). SA fire from the right flank harassed the advance. Halfway to the objective an MG opened fire from the open field to the right. Two secs of 18 platoon gave covering fire as the other section, in a fast frontal assault, stormed the post and took five prisoners. By 0900 hrs the objective was cleared and the position firm. One casualty had been suffered.

While the MSR now moved beyond to clear WEENER and the R de C advanced on the left toward BUNDE (690100) this Bn remained in these positions till 2100 hrs that night. At that time the Bn moved up to the R de C area to concentrate in a village (711094) between BUNDE and WEENER.

24 April 45

For the next day a Bn flanking attack on the approaches to the EMS river opposite LEER was planned. Due to the extensive cratering however this plan was altered. Our attack continued straight North into the RHIEDERLAND Peninsula.

At 0730 hrs in the morning Charlie Coy pushed forward from the concentration area to ST GEORGE WOLD (723140) and the road junction beyond (723145). Against only slight opposition the coy had attained its objective by 1100 hrs with one casualty. One of the enemy was wounded and five others were taken prisoner. Shortly after this the area began to flood due to enemy action. At 2000 hrs the coy was withdrawn into the Bn Assembly area on the road between BUNDE and BUNDER (710140) behind the R de C.

25 April 45

At midnight Charlie Coy was again committed to the attack. Moving Northward through BUNDER, their responsibility was the approaches to DITZUMER VERLAAT (686183) and the road junction (694166) before the town. Against SA fire and one Bazooka the coy took the objective without loss. Two of the enemy were killed.

At 0200 hrs Baker Coy pushed on from Charlie Coy's firm base to clear up the road to the outskirts of the town. Again only weak resistance was offered by the confused enemy.

At 0600 hrs Able Coy was committed. Their objectives were the bridge in the town and the road junction at 682185. Shellfire began to fall heavily on all the coy areas and on the attacking troops. For Able Coy's loss of three casualties, eight prisoners were taken.

Immediately following Able Coy's success Dog Coy pushed through to clear the remainder of the town and the Northern outskirts. Seven casualties were suffered from shellfire but no enemy were encountered. They were consolidated by 0800 hrs.

While this had been taking place at 0730 hrs a group of the enemy were observed forming up for an attack on the right of Charlie Coy. Before any assault could materialise however, Charlie Coy took effective counter action. 25 casualties were inflicted and five others taken prisoner. Charlie Coy suffered no casualties in this action, but shortly after two casualties were suffered under a severe concentration of shellfire.

Beyond DITZUMER VERLAAT the road over a small stream had been destroyed by the enemy. In the afternoon at approx 1430 hrs Able Coy pushed from the town to establish a bridgehead. There was no opposition.

At 1700 hrs Dog Coy moved up through Able up the road to take up position near DYKSTERHUSEN and prepare to clear through, with Charlie and Baker Coys, to the South bank of the river facing EMDEN. On the right POGUM was Baker Coys objective. On the left DITZUM was Dog Coy's objective, with support from Charlie Coy.

Baker Coy, committed at 1730 hrs, was forced to withdraw because of resistance and rising water on the Southern approaches of POGUM. Dog and Charlie Coys were also withdrawn and a Bn "O" Gp was held.

27 April 45

Under a different plan of attack Dog Coy at 0100 hrs in the morning was committed first to take DITZUM.

The lead sec was split up in the darkness and the Sec Comd found himself alone when he heard a challenge from German sentries. In the face of two Schmeisser automatics he raised his pistol and demanded surrender. The two sentries promptly threw down their weapons. On being asked if there were more of their comrades in the house they declared that there were only civilians. The Sjt entered and brought out the "civilians"--15 of them, complete with steel helmets, uniforms and kit.

This was typical of the opposition in the town, and Baker Coy passing through to take POGUM from the flank, found the same situation. Approx 500 prisoners were taken during the action.

With this the enemy had all been cleared from the RHEIDERLAND Peninsula and the Bn moved back to a rest area near BUNDE.

Here we remained for three days while the 9th Bde forced a crossing of the EMS river at LEER and 7 Bde followed through to strike North and Northeast from the bridgehead.

The Div Plan now was to attack and capture AURICH (8241: sheet WILHELMSHAVEN; Central Europe: 1/100,000), key road centre, and then to strike West into EMDEN and Northwest to the North Sea coast.

7 Bde, breaking out of the bridgehead were to form a SL for 8 Bde to clear the approaches to AURICH. Then 7 Bde again was to pass through to clear AURICH itself, and in conjunction with 9 Bde to secure a SL for 8 Bde's assault on EMDEN itself.

2 May 45

At 0900 hrs in the morning the Bn proceeded by convoi from the BUNDE area to cross the river at LEER and roll Northeast to a concentration area in HESEL (905235). Here the Bn delivered at approx 1130 hrs to take up a non-tactical position in the town for the rest of the day and night.

3 May 45

In the morning at 0830 hrs the Bn moved off from HESSEL northward to BAGBAND (915285), arriving at 1030 hrs. Here we waited while the NSR on the right secured STRACKHOLT (9330) and the R de C secured ULBARGEN (900312) and the bridge at MITTEGROBSEFERN (890235).

The QOR responsibility was to complete the Bde plan by clearing up to OSTERANDER 6855363 and HOLTRUP (885375), the SL for 7 Bde.

At 1600 hrs the Bn began to move into the R de C area to assemble for the attack.

Dog Coy at 1615 hrs crossed the SL to begin the attack, their objective, the crossroads at 879359. Moving along the road the coy had reached the bend at 886347 when the lead platoon was pinned down by MG and BA fire from both flanks. The flat terrain afforded no cover and the coy was forced to remain in this position and attempt to neutralise the enemy by fire. A/Tk fire was called to bear on probable targets in the vicinity and several fires were started. Mortar and Arty support was called for harassing tasks while the coy dug in along the road. Three casualties were suffered.

4 May 45

At 0100 hrs under cover of darkness Dog Coy moved from this position to continue its attack. Blown bridges and road craters were the only opposition encountered and the objective was reached by 0200 hrs.

Baker Coy now began moving up to pass through Dog Coy at 0300 hrs and thrust West and North into OSTERANDER. It appears that the enemy had withdrawn, leaving only rear guards in the area, for the coy met no opposition and were consolidated by 0600 hrs, 14 of the enemy surrendered.

In the early afternoon Charlie Coy commenced the attack toward HOLTRUP, its objective the crossroads at 873369. Despite fierce resistance from SA fire and a 20 mm AA gun the coy was on the crossroads by 1500 hrs. Three casualties were suffered while known enemy losses were one killed.

It was shortly after this that Lt-Col Harms, comd of the troops defending AURICH, accompanied by the Burgomaster, came into Charlie Coy's lines under a flag of truce to negotiate the surrender of AURICH.

While the Brigadier discussed terms with the Commandant all arms were ordered to cease fire unless an actual counter attack took place. All afternoon the Bn waited. Late in the afternoon Lt-Col Harms received instructions from his HQ to cease negotiations and it seemed that the battle was to be resumed. The real reason for this was however soon apparent. At 2000 hrs it was officially announced that the unconditional surrender of all German forces facing the 21st Army Gp, in NW Germany, Holland, the Frisian Islands, Heligoland, Denmark and all ships in the adjacent waters, had been negotiated by Field Marshal Montgomery and representatives of the German General Staff. The cease fire was to begin officially at 0800 hrs the following morning, 5 May 45.

OPERATION "PLUNDER" was complete. No greater success had ever been achieved and no happier men than the soldiers of 21 Army Gp had ever fought, and won.

(S M LEFT)

Lt-Col

Comd 1 Bn The QOR of C