



BERNAVILLE		0800	2 PWs were brought in from B Coy, one was a C.S.M., both were poor specimens.
		0855	A mixed lot of prisoners were handed over to us by N Staffords. They included many units, air force, TODT organisation and four Mongols.
		0905	Bn at 1 hours notice to move after 1000 hrs to ST POL (H/5i3 1/250,000).
		1500	Move cancelled. No move for 48 hrs.
		2300	Warning order to move to ST POL. Bn to be in position by 0630 hrs tomorrow.
ST POL	5th Sept	0230	Bn moved to ST POL.
		0630	Bn arrived ST POL where we were told that our duty was to garrison the town and guard rds heading eastward into the town. Bn attached to Bde for this purpose. Visit by Brig Siegmond of 158 Bde.
		1500	
		1700	Pipes and drums played in the main street of ST POL. The local population was quite pleased with the performance. Maquis capture dozens of German prisoners whom they handed over to us.
ST POL		1730	March of collaborators (women with their heads shaved) through the town. During the night cable running through the town was cut by saboteurs in several places. There was no trouble in town so far as the Bn was concerned and we spent a quiet night.
	6th Sept	0300	Warning order to move to COURTRAI. No move before 1500 hrs.
		0900	Bn came under command 227(H) Bde once again.
		1130	No move before 2300 hrs.
			Went through a German barracks on the ARRAS road 2 miles from ST POL. Camouflaging taken to great length as far as building accurate dummy buildings of hessian over workshops etc. Trees were even planted along side slit trenches for concealment. War map in canteen showed situation up to date with nothing concealed.
ST POL	7th Sept	1030	Move to COURTRAI 8557 on SKYE route.
		1845	Stopped just outside COURTRAI at TOURCOING as enemy was reported from the COURTRAI area. Bn moved into hedgehog fmn at ST GENOIS 9248.
		2040	Crossed the Belgian border at MOUSCRON.
BOSSUIT		2100	Bn moved into hedgehog fmn at BOSSUIT 9547.
		2350	"O" Group for move at 0730 hrs tomorrow to area Ghent to hold three bridges at 992692, 0172 and 046732. Tremendous ovation given to convoy as it passed through the towns. Everybody was heaped with pears, apples, plums, tomatoes, wine, coffee etc.

			We were kissed, hugged and squeezed by everyone from 3 year old blondes to 90 year old bewhiskered men. DRs were brought to a standstill by enthusiastic crowds.	
BOSSIUJT	8	0730 0800 1700 1800 1900	Convoy ready to move off. Move postponed. No move before 1030 hrs. Tps under command: 1 Sqn Royals, 1 Pl 20 Fd Coy RE, 181 Fd Regt RA, MG Pl 1 Middlesex, 2 Tps 17 pdrs ATK 346 Bty RA. Bn arrived in location with Bn HQ at MACHELEN. Two GAF gave themselves up. Very stubborn, morale appeared to be high. Four more bosch gave themselves up. Weather cloudy with heavy rain showers. Convoy moved head to tail. GAF did not put in an appearance.	
MACHELEN	9	1800 1900	Pipes and Drums played in front of the war memorial at Machelen. Hundreds of people turned out to listen and cheer. As the playing finished about 20 prisoners were brought in by A Coy. The local population showed their disapproval of the bosche. Pipes and Drums played in DEYNZE. P/M Graham presented with a bouquet of flowers, with speech of welcome enclosed. Flowers were placed on local war memorial. Orders to move at 1200 hrs tomorrow to conc area NE of Brussels. O.C. B Coy Major Moreton was treated as town major and was feted by the populace. A dance was held for the troops and invitations to dinner came to him every minute of the day. He was received by the town dignitaries in the town hall where he was given a speech of welcome and lavished with champagne.	
MACHELEN	10	1000 1400 0200	No move until further orders. Bn on 2 hrs notice. No move before 0900 hrs. Bn on two hrs notice after 0900 hrs. Weather was bright but wind was cold. Another 30 PWs making a total of 56. Most of them were deserters and their morale was very low.	
MACHELEN	11	0900 1445 1700	Bn still on two hours notice. Bn moved to new location. Arrived at ST BRIXIUS RHODE 6067 (Sheet 44 Thermonde) with Bn HQ at Burgomasters farm. On arrival the Bn was told it would be in new area for four days before going into battle near Antwerp. Orders given out for maintenance on weapons and vehicles.	

ST BIXIUS- RHODE	12	1130 1400 1800	Warning order to move tomorrow. 50% of Bn went on recreational tpt to Brussels. Though the stay was short most of the lads enjoyed themselves. Remaining 50% of Bn went to Brussels and all agree that it is a great place.	
" MOLL	13	0830 1800 1930	Moved to new location. Recce move entirely up to area MOLL 1790. Reached the other side of the ALBERT CANAL where C Coy entanked on one sqn SHARPSHOOTERS. Crossed canal on a class 9 Bridge at STEELEN 073843. Objective to capture bridge at DONK 170952. Plan C Coy leading to attack on left A Coy to march and attack on right B & D Coys in depth. Reached objective. Bridge blown, came under fire. Accurate and heavy shell fire on road leading to canal. No casualties, except Capt McHattie 495 Bty who was FOO with C Coy who was slightly wounded. One 88mm gun was located in house over canal sighted to fire on X rds. Bn took up positions astride main axis. Bn HQ situated at ACHTERBOSCHE. Under command 131 Fd Regt, 1 Pl 4.2 Mor, 1 Pl MMG.	
DONK	14	1300	Patrolling in forenoon. Patrolling later stopped. No enemy seen on opposite side of canal bank. 88mm on the other side of canal however observed. No shelling or mortaring of our forces by the enemy. Thought likely that Bn would cross canal that night. It was never sure whether the crossing might after all be made in daylight. No definite orders all day. Bn at 3 hrs notice. Patrol from B Coy went out.	
DONK  DONK	15	1510 1900	Still no definite news. Enemy 8 men strong fired on by A Coy. One man was either wounded or killed. Shelling of area took place especially C Coy factory area 170950. Gunners report bosche seen wearing equipment. This was confirmed by A Coy. Previous to this, Bosche had been seen with no equipment. At first it was thought that he was pulling out. An attempt to fell the factory chimney by the enemy with AP shot substantiated this. Their gunnery at this target was extremely accurate. Of about 15 rounds only one missed the target. The chimney remained standing. Warning order for BDE crossing of canal early tomorrow morning. Crossing to take place at 1594. Gordons to make crossing and remain as firm base. HLI to pass through with objective DESSCHEL 1696 and ourselves to face EAST between DESSCHEL and the canal. Discussion whether we should take	

			<p>place in crossing or not or whether Bde crossing even should take place not to be decided upon until 0200.</p> <p>This was about the 6th plan that had come down to us that day. Other plans included the crossing over at 44 Bde area, another which held up to about 1800 hrs was a diversion made by 20 men of the Bn swimming the river at our own area.</p>	
DONK	16	<p>0230 Orders to move came through.</p> <p>0610 Bn HQ moved to conc area with remainder of Bn in ACHTERBOSCHE 1692.</p> <p>0900 Gordons crossing held up by well dug in MGs. Brig calls off the crossing.</p> <p>1030 Returned to old location. Bn remained in posn and carried on as normal.</p> <p>1700 Orders to move to conc for one days rest preliminary to new op. Move to take place tomorrow morning.</p>		
DONK	17	<p>1030 Bn had moved out.</p> <p>1230 Bn in conc at the gun area near Gheel.</p> <p>1400 Airborne divs pass over our posns.</p> <p>1515 "O" Group for crossing of canal into 44 Bde area. Bn to come under 44 Bde and take over from RSF.</p> <p>1630 Recce party leaves for contact with opposite number in RSF.</p> <p>1815 Recce crosses canal, no difficulties encountered. KOSB &amp; RSF in bridgehead found to be completely intermingled. No differentiation of areas. Recce take over made very difficult by this. Coy and Pl comds had to recce different areas with reps both of RSF and KOSB. Heavy shelling taking place all the time.</p> <p>1930 Enemy counter attack estimated one coy strength comes in while take over is going on.</p> <p>2000 Difficulty in getting back over the canal because the three boats were on the other side, only means of attracting boat mans attention was by shouting. Lack of proper comm between bank and bank.</p> <p>2330 Bn crosses and takes over from RSF. Take over was successfully completed without one casualty although shelling was taking place.</p>		
	18	<p>1630 Typhoons came over and bombed and machine gunned our forward tps. D Coy area was bombed and machine gunned. They appeared to have taken the road running in front of D Coy as the bomb line. Yellow smoke eventually stopped the bombardment. Luckily no one in these coys suffered casualties. One pioneer was killed by machine gunning.</p>		

		1845	Bosche counter-attack put in of Bn strength. Main thrust against C Coy from the north. Enemy as near as 50x from coy posn. Enemy of one Sec strength also penetrated into D Coy posn where they were pushed off by Lt McCall's pl using 2" mor HE. The enemy S.P. that was one of main troubles in the Bridgehead was used considerably apparently along the main axis road between C & D Coys.	
		2045	Counter attack successfully repulsed. Bn ably supported by gunners and 4.2 mortars and MGs wrote off many of the enemy. During the attack the following offrers were wounded. Maj HM Fyfe of C Coy, Lt A Pierce (Canadian) B Coy and 2nd Lt Yockney (D Coy).	
AART	19	AM	Misty, visibility only 50x up to 0900 hrs. No shelling and little mortaring. D Coy who saw enemy movement in slits 150x in front of their posns last night report no movement today. Slight shelling and mortaring in afternoon but not so heavy as yesterday.	
		1400	Maj LE Moreton OC B Coy was killed by shell splinter whilst visiting his platoon posns. 2/Lt A Mull wounded by same shell.	
		1830	Reinforcements arrived 3 offrers + 17 ORs. The offrers were Capt Reid, Lt McDonald (Canadian) and Lt Lawrie who was wounded at Gavrus in the Scottish Corridor advance CAEN sector. No counter attack this evening, the first free night without interference.	
		2315	HLI arrived to take up posns on our left. Major Kempston (Gordon Highlanders) takes over C Coy. Capt Shaw (car pl comd takes over B Coy). 2 offrers and 19 casualties. Lt McCall (D Coy) wounded by shell splinter.	
AART	20	AM	Shelling and mortaring increase	
		1000	Class 9 bridge started had to be abandoned at 1230 owing to shelling.	
		1630	Some transport taken across on raft.	
		1900	Orders for withdrawal over canal of Bde.	
		2000	First coy of H.L.I. move out.	
		2350	Last man leaves other side. Withdrawal a complete success. Enemy never in contact during whole operation. Only one difficult time when spandau opened up on right flank beside B Coys posn firing down the canal. B Coy had by that time withdrawn. Bn HQ with 2 Bren gnrs from C Coy acted as right flank protection.	

AART			Lt Reilly (Middlesex MMG Pl Comd) wounded. Major C Wilson (Bty Comd 495 Fd Bty 131 Fd Regt) wounded. Casualties 1 Killed 5 wounded 8 Killed 53 wounded	
GHEEL	21	0200 1430	Bn in posn in conc area original posn. Move to just south of Gheel. Men bathed, rested and got clean clothes. M.B.U. did good work right up to dark. It was considered that the Bde would be out of the line for about 4 days for a refit, but we had our minds prepared as usual for a move [at] short notice. We were also informed that 227 Bde was now under command 7th Armd Div.	
MEERVELDHOVEN	22	0730 1345 1653 1830 2358	Long reveille played by Pipes and Drums. Move to MEERVELDHOVEN (3814 Sheet 4) South of Eindhoven in Holland. Crossed into Holland north of LOMMEL over a class 40 br on the Escaut Canal. Bn in posn. Order to move north of Eindhoven. 227 Bde to come under direct command 2nd Army.	
MENSVOORT	23	0745 1515 1600	Moved to MENSVOORT 4123 B Coy and Car Pl sent on special job. Intention to protect bridge at ZON (442255 Sheet 4 1/100000) on 30 Corps axis. Airborne divs seen going overhead. Visit by Gen Barber 15(S) Div.	
MENSVOORT	24		Bn spent a quiet day. C of E and RC church parades. Brig orders men to get all rest possible. Very wet day.	
	25	0745 0800 0900 1030 1130 1400	Bn moved to conc area just north of Wilhelmina canal at 390253. Recce party look at ground from OP in boot factory. Ground very flat and open. Heathery with little scrub. Bn in posn NORTH of canal, along south side of wood. Gordons in attack on left flank. Object to clear ground from canal westward and northward to provide left flank protection and firm base for the attack by H.L.I. and ourselves on NAASTEBEST 371274. Two Gordon coys come under heavy and accurate fire from spandaus dug in on railway embankment on the advance forward. The Bn suffered heavy casualties from MGs and hand grenades. This last during close fighting which ensued. Later forward elements withdrawn and bn tries to work round to deal with opposition. Typhoons make one attack on enemy north of Gordon posns.	

N of WILHELMINA CANAL		1600	Gordons have suffered so many casualties and the ground is so open that further attempts to advance will only mean more casualties that Div withdraws them.	
		1830	Bn freezes in present area. 2000 hrs orders to move North	
		2000	tomorrow to F.U.P. on road at 386284 to H at 388284. Object to clear country northwards and wood South of LIEMDE 3632. Plan HLI on right, ourselves on left with Gordons in reserve.	
	26	0730	Bn moved to FUP.	
		1030	Fwd coys A left D right crossed SL. Little opposition, a few snipers on left, nothing on right. Country close and difficult for fwd tps to keep contact.	
		1200	Typhoon raid. Prisoners taken by forward coy.	
		1330	Fwd coys run into extremely difficult country, woods and undergrowth so thick that control becomes about impossible. Visibility cut down to a matter of one or two yards. Spandaus opened up on us. Major Robertson was killed at 6 yards range. Lt Dawson was also killed. Capt Shaw who took over when Major Robertson was killed was himself mortally wounded a few moments later. He died a short time later.	
VLEUT	27	1030	Brig EC Colville paid us a visit.	
		1130	Typhoon raid.	
		1400	Cpl Elliot and two other ranks of D Coy went out on patrol and brought in 43 prisoners.	
		1500	Typhoon raid. Contact patrol with HLI and BDE. Prisoners were mostly German, 2 were Mongols. Reinforcements: Capt J S Hale (A Coy) Capt E M Marling (D Coy) Capt Potter.	
VLEUT	29	1030	Visit by the Brig.	
		1300	Patrol from A Coy to wood in front of B Coy saw 3 Germans.	
		1600	Sgt Woolerton of B Coy with 9 ORs patrolled up main axis track 200x. Were fired on and came back. They were sniped first.	
		2030	Flare went up 200x in front of fwd posns. Enemy opened with spandau and rifle fire. Fire fight started and we brought down DF 25 pdr and 3" Mor.	
		0130	All quiet.	
VLEUT	30	1300	Patrol from car pl found enemy in U shaped wood.	
		2000	) Contact patrols to 2 Gordons and from 10 HLI reported all	
		0400	) clear. Capt Potter posted to 2 Gordons.	