

De unieke dagboeken van het Canadese leger tot aan het Twentekanaal



Infantrymen of *Le Régiment de Maisonneuve* moving through *Terborg*, Netherlands, 1 April 1945. Photographer: Dean, Michael M. Source: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca>

Bron: [Jan Baartman](#)
[Kaartoverzicht](#)
[The 3rd Division](#)

War diary's April 1, 1945

The Calgary Highlanders CA (O):

Weather – cloudy, cold windy

At approx. 0600 hrs. RSM V. C. Bowen arrived at Tac with the breakfast for all

Coys, and at approx. 0800 hrs the Bn kicked off on the advance to **Terborg** which was to be out SL for the attack on **Doetinchem**. From reports of civilians it was thought the enemy had withdrawn some distance, and as a result of this the advance was carried on through **Terborg** with Capt. I. J. Coady leading in his jeep, and followed by the CO's Carrier, the remainder of Tac HQ and Sp Coy

By 0900 hrs. Tac HQ had captured the first two objectives and were proceeding on down the main road, only to have the bridge at 035717 blown up in their faces. A section of carriers and one of the pioneers were called up to discover extent of damage.

When they arrived another bridge was blown, further up to the right; at the same time five enemy were seen leaving the area and were engaged. Though several bridges were blown, a Class 9 bridge was found near by, and the transport moved on. By this time the Rifle Coys were well ahead with "D" and

“C” left along the road, and “A” and “B” right along the railroad. “D” Coy had a stiff fight for their third objective, *and took 22 POW’s*.

Very good progress was made until such time as the Coy reached the actual objective at 007671, but “D” Coy seemed to be hitting a stone wall at the entrance to the town square. On patrols of “D” Coy by-passed the square and took up posn at the bridge at 003751, while the remaining patrols tried every angle to get by the road block at 006750, but were not successful.

Tac HQ set up opposite “A” Coy HQ at 1800 hrs, and at 1900 hrs, the CO left to look over the situation at “D” Coy “B” Coy remained in position on the tracks and “C” Coy by passed the Square on the north and took up their position at 005756.

By this time it was dark and a complete clean up could not be assured until morning. “D” Coy under Capt. M. Tennant tried by patrols from every side to penetrate the main part of the square, and found it impossible. The enemy was out off, but clung tenaciously to the square, and until such time as the road block of cement filled rail cars could be moved to allow flame throwers or tanks in, it was considered unwise to commit more men.

5 Canadian Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery (5 Cdn FD Regt RCA)

Weather – cloudy, cold, windy

Very heavy shelling during the night – the day was miserable with rain off and on and overcast all day – a small fire plan was engaged at 0100 hrs in sup of CH – attack successful – three “M” tgts were engaged during the afternoon also one “U” tgt – these tgts were also engaged in sup of CH – Recce (reconnaissance) parties left at 1200 hrs and the move was carried out a battery at a time – new locn of RHQ 04712 **Terborg** sheet 4004 1/25000 – amn exp 9 rpg’s.

6 Canadian Field Regiment RCA

Moved to area in **Terborg**, map reference 044702. We did no firing except empty guns.

1 Bn The Royal Regiment of Canada

At 530 hrs the Bn moved off to a new posn in the area of **Wieken**, MR 0464. The enemy seemed to be beating a hasty retreat. No contact was made. After a brief halt, a recce party moved fwd at 1200 hrs followed by the Bn at 1300 hrs to area of **Warm**, MR 0170.

Still no Germans except one who had deserted in Sept and had been hidden by the Dutch Underground until our arrival. He surrendered to our recce party. Another recce moved fwd at 1630 hrs followed by the Bn and arrived at an area south of **Doetinchem**, MR 015742, at approx 1900 hrs. At 2330 hrs the CO attendend an “O” Gp at Bde.

1st Bn. The Essex Scottish Regiment Canadian Army

Wals near Isselburg (Duitsland)

Weather was clear and cool

In the early hours we crossed the German border back into HOLLAND once again. At 0750 hrs. we arrived in our new location and had hardly settled in when another operational move was ordered. Once again in the early afternoon we started off only to have the orders cancelled – then shortly put into effect again and continued on original route.

At 1530 hrs. we arrived at new location only to have another move on our hands and arrived at our new location just outside of **Doetinchem** from which the Germans had retreated only five or six hours previously. The CO and IO went on an “O” group at Bde around 2300 hrs. and got the plans for crossing of the **Twente Canal** – which was passed to Coy Commanders at midnight.



Officers of The First Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, 24 September 1943

Front Row: *Captain R.E. Bennett, Captain E. Motzfeldt, Captain J.P.W. Taylor, Captain V.E. Traversy, Lieutenant-Colonel S.S.T. Cantlie, Field Marshal Lord Wavell, Major B.R. Ritchie, Major A.G. Stevenson, Captain F.P. Griffin, Captain J.L. Duchastel de Montrouge, Captain J.P.G. Kemp.*

Middle Row: *Lieutenant R.A. Horwood, Captain G.A. Demers (RCAPC), Lieutenant R.D. Yuile, Lieutenant E.S. Duffield, Captain A.P. Bates, Lieutenant J.P. Cowans, Lieutenant A.R.W. Robinson, Lieutenant M.H. Cassils, Lieutenant G. Birks, Lieutenant I.H. Louson.*

Back row: *Lieutenant J.G. Smith (RCCS), Lieutenant J.E. Fox, Lieutenant F.A. Heubach, Lieutenant C.G. Bourne, Lieutenant S.E. Griffin, Lieutenant F.T. Rea, Lieutenant D.A. McAlpine, Lieutenant G.S. MacInnes, Lieutenant J.K. Neil.* (Names of officers mentioned in text are italicized.)

1st Bn., Black Watch (RHR) of Canada

Weather – fair, clouding up later.

Operation Plunder. At 0100 hrs. the attack on the town of **Terborg** commenced. Progress was good until the area of the windmill at 064697 was reached, when A Coy came under heavy fire from automatic weapons. Some of the tanks from the **Fort Garry Horse** were located on the lower rd at approx. 062694 with others on the right flank near **Vinkschebeek**, and they were called upon to give cross fire upon the windmill area.

Shortly following this the Scouts attached to A Coy brought in *10 prisoners (PW's) and two – one of whom claimed to be an Ober-Lieutenant- were*

questioned by Maj. E. Motzfeldt, the Acting C.O.. The [German] officer asserted that he had been left with 25 men to guard the approaches to the town, but that the ten who were made prisoner were all who remained, the others having been killed or taken their departure. Further prisoners were brought in from this area and they were a pretty 'mixed bag'.

A section from the Carrier platoon took the road on the left flank of the advance and proceeded beyond the tanks. From there they reported that they had been able to spot the flash of an enemy gun near the Lovink Iron Works (Terborg) , and also that they had seen two vacated gun positions along the road they had travelled.

The Coys., for this operation, have been issued with #46 sets, and up until now these proved most satisfactory except in the case of B Coy where some difficulty in maintaining contact was experienced.

A Coy was again held up temporarily by m.g. fire just short of their objective, but the men of the Coy went in fiercely and after some hard work at close quarters gained their objective, the area around MR 0670.

In one instance two of the men of the Coy were crawling forward when one of the enemy appeared from a slit trench and, possibly because he was out of ammunition, clubbed one of the men with the butt of his rifle. The other A Coy man rolled over and shot the German. While the man who was clubbed was decidedly groggy for a spell, he was able to continue with nothing worse than a headache.

Only five slight casualties were sustained by the Coy in the attack while eighteen prisoners were taken by them. Since communication with B Coy following through A were not of the best, the Acting C.O., Maj. E. Motzfeldt went forward at 0422 hrs. to see for himself how things were progressing. B. Coy, under Capt. R.F. Davey, had a long street of houses to pass down to reach their objective, and they started off searching each and every one of them.

After half the distance had been covered Capt. R.F. Davey felt that the progress being made was too slow and decided to go right in on his objective, without any more searching being done so the Coy walked down the street the remaining 500 yards to their area, around the church at 0570, having not a shot fired at them en route.

One of the stretcher bearers with the company was endeavouring to dress the wound on a German prisoner they had taken when the wounded man grasped him and bit his ear.

Tac. H.Q. moved up to "Bowline I" , A Coy area at 0500 hrs.. At 0620 hrs. Brig. W.F. Megill, D.S.O., Commanding 5 C.I.B. called there and found everything

proceeding satisfactorily. C Coy moved on to their objective, and gained it without firing a single shot. The last Coy to go in was D Coy and for a short spell they experienced quite a little action.

From the short road at 06156970 they cut south to the end of the woods and then started working their way north/west up through the woods. Here they came under intense fire from rifles, machine-guns, and rifle grenades.

One platoon disengaged and made its way round to the northern end of the woods. *Some prisoners were taken* as they endeavoured to escape across to the belt of wood on the left of D Coy's line of advance and as the squeeze-play started to work *more prisoners were taken* and more attempted to escape to the wood on the left.

Lt. A.E. Tweddell of B Coy, had been out with a patrol to check the bridge at 04606975 and on the return trip this patrol picked up the escapees from D Coy's attack. At 0725 hrs. we were able to report "Bowline" clear.

Rear B.H.Q. moved up and established at 064697 around 0800 hrs.. The morning was spent in checking the Coy areas and then cleaning up and resting. In all we took *61 prisoners and suffered 11 casualties, only one of which was serious.*

At 1230 hrs. the acting C.O., Maj. E. Motzfeldt was called to Bde., and upon his return a 'Huddle Green' was called for 1315 hrs. at which time the Coy Cmdrs. were advised that it is the intention that we clear to the north of **Doetinchem**, beyond the positions in which the **Calgary Highlanders** are presently engaged.

The move was scheduled for 1430hrs. and the Bn. moved off on time. We had not progressed very far before we had to vacate the road. Our Bde's. was held up and the other Bdes. in the div., whose axis will be to our right, were to pass beyond us.

Accordingly, while the men occupied fields to the side of the road, Tac. H.Q. was set up at 03147191, temporarily. At this spot the Bn. remained for the duration of the afternoon, and at 1650, Maj. E. Motzfeldt, the acting C.O. went to a meeting at Bde.. Upon this return an O Gp. was held the purpose of which was to delineate new objectives laid down for the **Black Watch**.

Once again the men will be riding in in the tanks of the **Fort Garry Horse**, and our support Coy vehicles. The move up started at 1900 hrs. but when we had reached a point at 009747 it was discovered that we had gone one block too far.

Since we could not proceed farther through the town it was decided, at an O Gp. held in a somewhat demolished building by-the roadside, to go back a block and swing round on our objective from the east following the route from the SP at 00957460 up the road leading around to the right of the town to the

junc. at 01247525 – cross roads at 00967533 – to the right again to road junction at 011756 and left to our objectives.

The light was very bad and due to this and the numerous roads, C Coy, the leading company, pancaked at 00647584 instead of at 00447606. A Coy, following, turned left towards their objective and 003755, when they ran into trouble.

A S.P. gun, firing from the south-west scored a direct hit upon one of the tanks upon which the men were mounted setting it on fire, while another S.P. firing from the south, hit another tank and damaged the locking piece, causing the tank to cast a track.

A Coy were now under considerable fire, and with **8 men wounded and 12 missing**, Maj. E. Motzfeldt granted the Coy Commander, Maj. V.E. Traversy permission to withdraw to reorganise.

43rd Reconnaissance Regiment (UK)

Regt task to protect left flank of 43rd Div and 8 Armd Bde (Brig Prior-Palmer), by patrolling to a depth of 7000 yards. The Royals were operating a further 3000 yards in front of us. 0530 H Hour It was hoped to flood the country with armour. Axis Road junction 088818-RUURLO 1188. Start delayed, but good progress made with fast movement. Small number of isolated enemy pockets were encountered, but not sufficiently strong to delay advance.



Personnel of the 7th Field Company, **Royal Canadian Engineers (R.C.E.)**, reconstructing the bridge joining **Terborg** and **Doetinchem**, 1 April 1945.

Enemy morale low and in most cases, only too anxious to surrender. *92 POW taken*. Tp of A Sqn shot up enemy horse drawn transport column. A staff car was nearly captured. Document captured indicated that a counter attack planned to go through Regt area. Sqns deployed, but no attack.

War diary's April 2, 1945

5 Cdn Fd Regt RCA

Very dull during the morning and most of the afternoon – recce parties went out again this morning. We moved at 1430 hrs to square 0077, a new locn of RHQ 007773d sheet 4003 **Doetinchem** 1/25000, engaged an “M” tgt on an SP gun and armed car at 1345. A small fire plan was engaged at 1930 hrs and later some M.L’s in sp RHC, attack was successful with the **R de M & RHC** holding their objectives, amn exp 34 rpg’s.

4 Canadian Field Regiment R.C.A.

Weather – Cool with showers

Activity. At 0015 hrs the 2 IC returned from the CRA’s O Op and gave orders for another move, a long one. Bde were to cut the **Twente Canal** to-day and the Regt would be prepared to supply clos support. Bty was ordered to report immediately to their Bn (RRC). Recce parties at 0500 and the remainder of the Regt ready to move by 0645 hrs.

During the remaining hours the picture changed again. The enemy withdrew to the line of the **[Twente] Canal** but as a pocket remained in **Doetinchem** we bypassed as it was . Bde show. We moved at 0715 hrs and the Regt was located in **Vorden** by 1330 hrs. RHQ at 025906 A 037907 B 032906 C 032950 D 032952 E 035942 F 037941. Some firing as RRC’s moved into posn for the assault, an “O” Smoke screen by 2 Bty, 3 or 4 “M” tgts and about 20 HF tgts.

Toronto Scottish Regiment (MG) CIC

MR 064650, **Genderingen**

10 Pl is at MR 034875 and accounted for *about a dozen PW*. About 1400 hrs D Coy HQ moved to the edge of **Doetinchem**, then skirted the town as the centre was not yet cleared and took up posn at MR 005671. Cal **Highrs** are clearing the town and are accounting stiff opposition as the enemy have erected strong street blocks.

1st Bn., The Essex Scottish Regt. Canadian Army

The Bn moved off in TCV’s following the **Royals** – we moved very slowly with numerous stops and finally arrived in a wooded area near **Zutphen**. In the afternoon an armed recce patrol went out in the direction of **Zutphen** to feel out the enemy and get information on the bridges over small streams and mainly a bridge over the Twente Canal.

The patrol was fired on and had to return **suffering two lightly wounded casualties**. During the afternoon, the Mortar Officer Captain R Learn in search of an observation post, *captured 28 Germans*. At 1715 hrs. the CO went to Bde to get further orders regarding the operation of crossing the canal and on his return passed news on to the Coy Commanders.

8 Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (14 CH)

Whether: – Cold and raining.

At 0730 hrs RHQ began a long drawn out move. We left the town of **Etten**, and moved to 029946 near **Zutphen**. Traffic was very heavy on the up route, which caused all the delay. We arrived in our present position at approximately 1600 hrs.

During the day “A” and “B” Squadron were probing along the **Twente Canal**, trying to seize a bridge intact, *but Jerry blew them all*. One in particular was blown up when our troops were within 300 yards of it. “C” Squadron are under command of 3rd Cdn Division, who are working on our left along the **IJssel** River. Information on our Squadron is not too good, but we found out that they *took at least 65 P.W.s during the course of the day, which makes a total of 90 for the day’s work of the Regiment.*

Lieu Heward I.O. has been transferred to “C” Squadron, and has been replaced by Lieut. P. Lloyd-Craig. Lieu Lloyd-Craig, has been the 7th Officer that has had this job since the Regiment came overseas. *We have air personnel attached to us, but as yet this Holland weather had not given us a chance to use them. If the weather clears up we hope to have them give **Zutphen** a dusting.*

10 Cdn Armd Regt (Fort Garry Horse)

A036930

Cloudy with rain

The pursuit was in full swing. RHQ woke in the morning and found that B sqn was beyond the range of the 19 set. C sqn was halted by road blocks at **Doetinchem** and A sqn was following B sqns advance mopping up. RHQ and D sqn moved from harbour at 1230 hrs arriving, after numerous short halts at new harbour A036930.

This harbour was a number of miles past the spot that had been chosen. Evening found B sqn on the south side of Twente Canal area A019966, C sqn still around **Doetinchem** E987768, A sqn relieved from action harboured area A026933, D sqn with RHQ, E sqn A065650.

1 Bn The Royal Regiment of Canada

Windy with occasional rain.

An “O” was held at 0030 hrs and warning orders given. We changed zone “E” time – an advance of one hr at 0200 hrs. The Bn moved off at 0600 hrs to approach the **Twente Canal**. Land reached assembly area at MR 036924 at 1100 hrs. The “O” Gp for the canal crossing was held at 1700 hrs.

B Coy moved to remnants of bridge at MR 037975 to see if crossing there was possible, but reported the undertaking impossible. At 1830 hrs A Coy was to

cross in 18 man MIII assaults boats followed by D, C and B Coys quickly followed to complete Phase I.

Phase II then started and Coy areas were increased to a firm bridgehead in area of MR 023975. PW's taken were mostly enemy engns who were preparing posns for enemy inf formations who did not arrive in time to stop this successful op. D Coy of th **RHLI** crossed at 2200 hrs and moved in to strengthen our left flank. 15 OR Rfts were received today and allotted as follows: HQ Coy – 1, A Coy – 5, B Coy – 1, C Coy – 5, D Coy – 3.

43rd Reconnaissance Regiment

C Sqn U/C 214 Bde to recce ahead of advance into NE Holland. Axis to be **Aalten** 2070-**Lichtenvoorde** 1977-**Beltrum** 1986-**Geesteren** 1794-**Diepenheim** 1977-**Goor** 2104. 0630 C Sqn move out from **Sinderen** 1268, to join Bde column behind Sqn of **Royals**.

Progress slow, delayed by transport of **Guards** Armd Div. Route changed to **Ruurlo** 1188 -**Borculo** 1691. More delays. 129 Bde transport. 1100 **Royals** enter **Borculo**, but held up by mines.

12 Tp sent forward to clear mines. Advance continued via **Geesteren** and onto original axis. 1430 **Royals** lose vehicle to bazooka fire at **Diepenheim**. 12 Tp deployed and discover firmly established enemy. Vanguard attacked through 12 Tp's firm base and clear village in 1 hour. 1830 C Sqn ordered to protect left flank of Bde. Scout Tps deployed to cover approaches to **Geesteren** and **Gelselaar**. Remainder of Regt continue to cover left flank of Div. B Sqn ordered to concentrate and to be U/C of 8 Armd Bde from first light.

ROYAL REGIMENT LED DRIVE ACROSS TWENTE

By **JOHN CLARE**

Star Staff Correspondent

With the Canadians in Northern Holland, April 5—The Royal Regiment of Canada, a Toronto unit, led the assault across the **Twente** canal and held its bridgehead through 15 counter-attacks.

A company led by Major Bob Suckling of Toronto was the first

CAMOUFLAGED ARMS SUPPLIED TO NAZIS

By **JOHN EVANS**

Special Cable to The Star

Moscow, April 5—German civilians have been given all sorts of

Newspaper clipping. Quite a lot of firing

War diary's April 3, 1945

6 Canadian Field Regiment RCA

044918

FMRs moved north-west and met some opposition on the bank of the IJssel, west of our position. We engaged with one battery. Enemy were driven north along the main road east of the IJssel towards Zutphen. Three M targets fired in support of 4 Cdn Inf Bde. Three bombards and four U targets fired. H F fire during the night and we fired approximately 12 rounds per gun. SSRs and Camions moving up.

Toronto Scottish Regiment (MG) CIC

Cloudy with showers in the morning and afternoon.

Bn HQ moved off at 0945 hrs following Main convoy, route Terborg Doetinchem to the new posn at MR 023880. Inf advanced some 15 miles yesterday and Coys are beyond there issue of 1/25,000 maps are shooting from 1/50,000.

A Coy HQ had an unusual day, in that they did not move and 3 patrols remained in their posn. 2 patrols located at MR 024965 where they fired 160 bombs at 13 targets. 4 patrols are near Almen at MR 017065 from which point the scored direct hits with their first bombs on 2 enemy guns. 5 and 6 patrols crossed the Twente Canal today and are located at MR 005981 and 017978.

7 patrols remained in its same posn today and fired in sp of 4 bde when it was counter attacked twice between 1830 and 2100 hrs. The attacks were repulsed. D Coy moved to new posn in town of Vorden MR 025905, patrols conc in that area also. Town of Doetinchem cleared today.

3 Div advancing towards Zutphen, 4 and 6 bdes are at Twente Canal, east of Zutphen. Some of their tps crossed the canal but were recalled awaiting advance of 3 Div as the right flank was unprotected. Enemy had intend to make a stand in the woods south of the canal *but the Dutch resistance stepped in* and while no actual fighting took place the enemy withdrew to the other side of the canal.

1 Bn The Royal Regiment of Canada

B Coy reported enemy digging in on their right. 3" mortar fire was brought to bear on enemy posn. Enemy tps were reported moving north-west in area MR 042985 at 0955 hrs. During the night a class 40 raft was built by engr and was in op, bringing over SP tps by 1000 hrs.

The Brig visited Tac HQ to tell of bridge being built at MR 013975. Essex Scots and RHLI to move across tonight. CO met Coy Comds at A Coy to outline ops to come and suggest improvements in present posns. Bn area was subjected to heavy shelling starting at 1400 hrs.

An "O" Gp at Bde at 1530 hrs to co-ordinate. ops. Enemy mounted several counterattacks in A and C Coy areas but were beaten off with a number of enemy killed. Engr's had to halt work on the bridge at approx. 1730 hrs as shelling was heavy and accurate.

The raft was smashed by direct hits at about 2100 hrs. **RHLI** crossing was held up til raft repaired. Our arty and tanks took over enemy guns about 2200 hrs and shortly after the raft was repaired and the **RHLI** continued crossing. Strong counterattack was driven off at 2230 hrs. **Casualties today were 3 ORs killed, 4 missing, 23 wounded.**

1st. Bn. Black Watch (RHR) of Canada

969797, Ref Sh 3903

Steenderen

Weather – warm and sunny.

. Quite a *number of prisoners* were taken in the attack on the town, and during the night *many more were brought in* from the various areas around the town, and from the town itself. From interrogation the C.O., Maj. E. Motzfeldt, elicited the information that the enemy had moved *320 men* into the area yesterday afternoon.

Many of these are now prisoners, and our bag for this attack is in the neighbourhood of *150*. The men were able to relax somewhat today, and wash and clean up. *From many civilian and Dutch underground sources information was tendered today on the dispositions of the enemy in the area.*

The leader of the *resistance movement in the area was most helpful* in drawing sketches of the area and in the vouchsafing of information, all of which was immediately passed on to Bde.

During the morning the 4th. Bde. pushed on beyond us and established a bridgehead across the **[Twente] canal**. Tac H.Q. was a most busy place today, seeing a constant procession of visitors – *local inhabitants offering information* and representatives from other formations seeking it. At 1800 hrs. Maj.E. Motzfeldt, the acting C.O. called an O Gp. to give details for a move scheduled for early tomorrow morning near **Noordink**.

The Calgary Highlanders

Weather – Cold and showery

Most of the morning was rather hectic in that civilians were a big problem. Everyone wanted to help or be helped and as a result the "I" Section, in particular Sgt Willems was harassed from every side.

Brig. W.J. Megill visited the Bn and gave the C.O. particulars for a move to a new area to concentrate for a new job. Coy comdrs were called in and route and order of march were laid on with a recce party under Cpt. R.J. Kerfoot to leave in advance.

At approx. 1400hrs the Bn moved off in TCVs and after a short delay on the road arrived in the new area at about 1600hrs with Bn HQ at **Hengelo**. A few minor patrols were laid on and at 2000hrs a *civilian policeman* reported a sending set at **Wichmond** and the information was passed on to Bde.

5 Cdn Fd Regt RCA

Rained quite a bit last night and again to-day although it cleared up for a short time this afternoon – it even hailed at times during the different rain squalls.

Rece parties left this morning and we will now proceed to 4 CIB area - engaged several “U” tgts in sp CIB who were being counter-attacked on the other side of the **[Twente] canal** – engaged several ML tgts at 2007, 2010, 2135 and a couple of bombards – the new locn of RHQ 058948 sheet 3804 Lochem 1/25000 – amn exp 52 rpg’s.

4 Canadian Field Regiment R.C.A.

Weather – Rain

Activity – Fairly quiet until about 1030 when a flurry of “M” Tgts came down and for the balance of the day we were busy. About 1500 hrs we began to move, by Btys, to another new posn, an adv of about 3 Km, and settled as follows: – RHQ 048949 A 028946 B 029946 C 032950 D 032952 E 035942 F 037941.

There was quite a lot of firing from the new posn until about 2300 hrs. **Gnr Locke, H.W., OP Sig was killed in the afternoon**, 20 HF tgts during the night.



W.R. van Herne of the **Galgary Highlanders** receiving a injection

1st Bn. The Essex Scottish Regiment Canadian Army (Overseas)

The weather was murky and overcast.

During the morning a recce party under the command of Lieut. Fraser went to feel out the enemy near **Zutphen** and ran into trouble. **We suffered one killed and three wounded** and Lieut. *Fraser himself, was missing until the evening when he returned under cover of darkness, wounded in the shoulder, and gave us valuable information of enemy positions.*

At 1630 hrs. the CO and IO went to Bde and received the movement order which was to take us over the **[Twente] canal** by ferry to a new concentration area in the RRC lines. Around 1730 hrs. the CO passed his orders on to the Coy Commanders. In the meantime, our 'B' Coy took over from 'B' Coy **RHLI** to release it for the crossing of the **[Twente] canal** and strengthen the bridgehead. The crossing was delayed due to enemy activity and we finally got across with our Company intact about 0245 hrs.

8 Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (14 CH)

029946

Weather: Cloudy with slight rain

Our intentions to move this morning have been cancelled for the moment. "I" Section personnel are gradually losing their hair, after changing the setting of maps about four times, due to the fact that there seems to be a general mix up in the intention of our next role.

Lieut.-Col. Alway is away to see the G.O.C. Nouw, (1200 hrs) We hope he will return with something a little more concrete. "B" Squadron is trying to pass their people over the **Twente Canal** now, but it will probably take some time, as they are using a raft. Major Good left for # 1 C.A.C.R.U. to-day for a tour of duty as Instructor.

In the afternoon "B" Squadron got about half the Squadron over the **Twente Canal**, and bumped the enemy about 20 minutes later in Square 0498. Unfortunately lost 4 vehicles, and at 2000 hrs 6 men were still missing. Some of them are believed to be wounded. As contact had been lost this is still unconfirmed.

Jerry's sent in 4 tanks at approximately 2100 hrs, which were reported as *Panthers*. The **Fort Garry's** knocked out at least one, but are not sure of the second. "C" Squadron have returned from under command of the 3rd Cdn Division. They apparently put on a damn good show *by taking more prisoners in one day* than the rest of the 3rd Division.

10 Cdn Armd Regt (Fort Garry Horse)

Rainy, cool day.

Bridgehead over **[Twente] canal** established with two troops of B sqn on the other side. A sqn stayed in harbour all day. C sqn moved from **Doetinchem**

making a harbour at AO 035929. In the evening plans were firmed for B sqn to complete move over [Twente] canal and for A and C sqns to follow in the morning.

43rd Reconnaissance Regiment

0130 C Sqn released from flank protection. Revert to Regt control at 1200. Regt responsibility ceased during afternoon, due to advance of Canadian Forces, positions made redundant. Orders to Sqns, probably cross Twente Canal on 4th

War diary's April 4, 1945

Pushing towards Laren

Detail from War Diary Black Watch

1 Bn The Royal Regiment of Canada

Weather today was moderate with showers

By 0300 hrs the RHLI completed the crossing of the Twente Canal and were in posn. The Essex Scots started crossing, pushed through us and the RHLI and reached objectives by 0930 hrs.

At 1200 hrs Tac HQ crossed the [Twente] canal to posn MR 031978. 5th Bde led by R. de Mais pushed north-east through our rt flank Coys. Shelling was fairly heavy throughout the day until approx 1500 hrs. Casualties today were Lt J M Henderson killed, 9 ORs killed and 4 ORs wounded.

Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)		Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
<p>on 3 April 1945 After the initial crossing of the TWENTE CANAL by the Royal Regiment of Canada in assault boats there was a large area between A and D Companies still in the possession of the enemy. Sergeant Eldridge was commanding Number 18 Platoon, and was ordered to move forward and try to contact A Company. He moved his platoon as far as a railway crossing where they came under a deadly hail of enemy machine-gun fire that was soon thickened by the devastating explosions of many bazooka and mortar bombs.</p> <p>He quickly located the enemy position on a high feature. Realising that unless the enemy position was cleaned out our situation on this side of the canal would become untenable, Sergeant Eldridge hastily conceived a plan to destroy the enemy.</p> <p>With no concern for his personal safety he ran from section to section, outlining his plan and encouraging the men by his example and words. When the platoon was ready, he sprang up and led his men over the open fire swept ground</p>		<p><i>W. J. [Signature]</i> Lt-Col (Periodic) CO 2 BROT C (HG Arrell) Lt Col - A/Comd 4 Cdn Inf Bde</p>	<p>MaJ Gen Comd 2 Cdn Inf Div</p>	

Garnet William Eldridge

6 Canadian Field Regiment RCA

044918

By 0800 hours all of 4 Cdn Inf Bde was across the **Twente Canal**. 10 bombards fired. 3 Cdn Inf Div moved up around **Zutphen**. 14 ML targets recorded in support of 5 Cdn Inf Bde as they passed through 4 Cdn Inf Bde area just north of **Twente Canal**. Also fired a series of D F tasks. 3 M L targets fired in support of 5 Cdn Inf Bde. Bridgehead enlarged despite heavy enemy mortar and shell fire.

5 Cdn Fd Regt RCA

The day started out fairly well – it was a little cloudy but cleared up a little later in the day, a strong wind was blowing all day. Nine bombards were engaged throughout the day. Several ML tgts were also engaged in sp of 5 CIB. HF tgts were engaged seven times during the night. 5 CIB put in an attack on the N side of the **Twente canal** this evening – things are going fairly well but sticky in some spots – amn exp 42 rpg's.

10 Cdn Armd Regt (Fort Garry Horse)

A036930.

A cloudy day, but dry, mostly.

The pursuit pace of our advance slowed down today, and for once, we did not break camp. RHQ stayed in the woods at 036930 and the **Garry Brains Trust** rubbed its red-hued eyes to consider the results of its early-morning bull session.

Our staff officers had agreed that command within the regiment was too diffuse, information still too scanty. By common consent, *a proper Command Post on wheels* was declared the solution to the problem of a location to which squadron leaders could come for informed directives.

Lacking such a vehicle, and because our C.O. had to be at the elbow of our formation commander (a safeguard against misuse of armour), the compromise involved a rotating officers' wireless watch at night, and a duty officer system in the adjutant's HUP at night.

On the information side, the Sigs officer volunteered to have all transmissions on the 2nd Div comd net decoded, and passed to the Intelligence staff: a means of keeping embattled squadrons to the constant touch with the operations picture on their flanks.

Meanwhile, B squadron, having been rafted across the **Twente canal** the previous day and night continued to help 4th Brigade hold and expand their bridgehead. Late in the afternoon A squadron was rafted to the other side too (to support 5 Bde, eventually).

C sqn enjoyed a lazy day, recuperating from their recent tour of constant ops.

At day's end, A sqn was reported A008980, B sqn 014993, and C sqn 035929,
D sqn 036930, E sqn E981704,

8 Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (14 CH)

M.R. 029946

Weather: Cool and cloudy.

The day started off with our Infantry in a hell of a mix up. However, with a little time, the Recce will straighten out the situation for them, all we need is a bridge.

L/Cpl Larsen of the "I" Section, left today for "A" Echelon, where he will stay the night, and then start back for Canada on leave. *There are 18 men going back, having finished their 5 years overseas service.*

"A" and "B" Squadrons are over the **Twente Canal** now (2000 hrs). "C" Squadron is to cross to-morrow morning at first light. Then the three Squadrons will pass through 5th Bde to recce north and east. RHQ expect to move over about 0730 hrs.

4 Canadian Field Regiment RCA

Activity – Support of the crossing continued, as subsequent events showed this was the last reasonably strong def put up by the enemy for some time. 5 Bde went through 4 Bde and our guns were on call to aid this op. Altogether we fired 11 "M" tgts, 2 "v" tgts and 2 "U" tgts, in addition to a HF programme at night.



Toronto Scottish Regiment (MG) CIC

Weather clear and sunny.

A Coy moved again. 4 pl locn MR 04329858 arriving at 2400 hrs were called to sp 5 Bde. After firing several HF tasks, 1 pl crossed the **Twente Canal** and took up posn at MR 027979. 3 pl report a quiet day in their area. 2 pl now located at MR 03359775. 7 pl B Coy crossed the [**Twente**] canal and established their gun posn at MR 025978. 5 pl report by enemy shelling in their area and at 2030 hrs they engaged an enemy SP 88 at 900 yds range. Their fire was very effective as nothing further came from the SP for the remainder of the night.

D Coy on the move again with 5 Bde convoy. Route took them NE from **Vorden** to **Wildenborch**, then north to Xrds 0795, then went to br over **Berkel Canal** 027965 into **Almen** where they rest their HQ at MR 017966. D Coy patrols had advanced with the inf and took up posns in conc area 035957.

Roads are narrow but in good conditions, mostly paved. Little signs of battle on the route from **Doetinchem** to **Almen**. Engineers are having trouble bridging the **Twente Canal**, one br sank. Enemy appear to be using 88's also 105's in batteries. But opposition troops at the canal are apparently pioneer corps sent to build defences for paratps.

Royal REGT of C hold posns north of canal. **R. de Mais** crossed at 1900 hrs but held up at railway, advanced later in the night pushing towards **Laren**. 11 pl accompanied the **R de Mais** and took up posn at MR026997 but did not fire.

1st. Bn. Black Watch (RHR) of Canada

MR 0286 **Noordink** Ref Sh. 3903 **Steenderen**

Weather – sun and wind

At an early hour the Bn moved to a concentration area near **Noordink**. Tac H.Q. was to establish at 01658592 but when we arrived there it was to find elements of the **Calgary Highlanders** in occupation, so we moved on and set up at 023866. The acting C.O., Maj. E. Motzfeldt, and the I.O., Lt. J.G. Roberts, were called to Bde. and upon their return we were ordered to prepare for a further move, up to the **Twente Canal**, across which the 4th. Bde. had a bridgehead.

The move up commenced at 1520 hrs. and we proceeded to the woods in sq. 0496. Here we settled in again and at 1900 hrs. Maj. E. Motzfeldt called an O Gp. to outline the task which lies ahead of us. **The Regiment de Maisonneuve** and the **Calgary Highlanders** will enlarge the bridgehead across the **Twente Canal**, and the **Black Watch** will go through and take the town of **Laren**.

At 2130 hrs. the Bn. crossed the canal and moved up to a concentration area. One 88mm gun persistently fired in the neighbourhood of the canal crossing, and the region of Rear B.H.Q., causing however, no casualties, though there were some anxious moments in the neighbourhood of the company cooks.

Calgary Highlanders

Sheet 3803 HQ 033977

Zutphen

Another cold morning

The Bn was well rested and ready to go on. At 1000hrs Major W.D. Heyland took over the Bn as the C.O., Lt-Col. R.L. Ellis, was confined to bed by the M.O. At 1100hrs the A/C.O., I.O. and Major Degen (Shelldrake) were called to Bde for a huddle. A huddle was also called for Bn at 1200hrs and the information was passed on.

At 1330hrs the TCVs reported to the Coys and at 1400 the Bn was on the road again to a concentration area in square 0395, arriving at 1500hrs. At 1600hrs another huddle was called at Bde and more definite information was passed down to Coys at 1700hrs. Supper arrived at 1800hrs and the Bn was ordered to move at 1930 hrs.

The Bn started to cross the bridge at 013975 at 2015hrs and proceeded east along the road to 033977 where Tac HQ set up. At 2230hrs "A" and "B" Coys were taking over from their respective Coys of the **R de Mais** and reported in at 2305hrs.

Regiment de Maisonneuve

Map 3803 1/25000

Beautiful sunny day.

This morning everybody was up by 0730hrs. Around twelve o'clock our C.O., Lt-Col. J. Bibeau, went to Bde to an O Gp. He held his own O Gp shortly after coming back. Major G.L. Lalonde started to go on a recce immediately after.

We left our concentration area by 1430 hrs and en route we met our fellows from A each which had moved up in the morning.

Our BN concentrated near the **Twente Canal**. The Brigadier was waiting for our C.O. They discussed a plan to attack on the other side of the canal. After that, our C.O. had an O Gp and gave his orders for the attack. The men were fed and they started on foot to their objectives. At 1800hrs the BN moves across the canal and makes contact with the enemy around 2000hrs. T

he attack starts immediately and goes on all through the night during which time our Coys secured eight objectives. Lieut G. Benoit the A/Adjt stayed at the concentration area. Lieut R.C. Saey and 12 men came back from a 48 hr leave in Brussels. Two of our men went back on rotation leave to Canada.

1st Bn., The Essex Scottish Regiment Canadian Army (overseas)

Sheet 3803

Zutphen, near Twente Canal

Around 0310 hrs. the Coy Commanders came in for a conference with the CO where a plan was devised to enlarge the bridgehead over the [**Twente**] Canal.

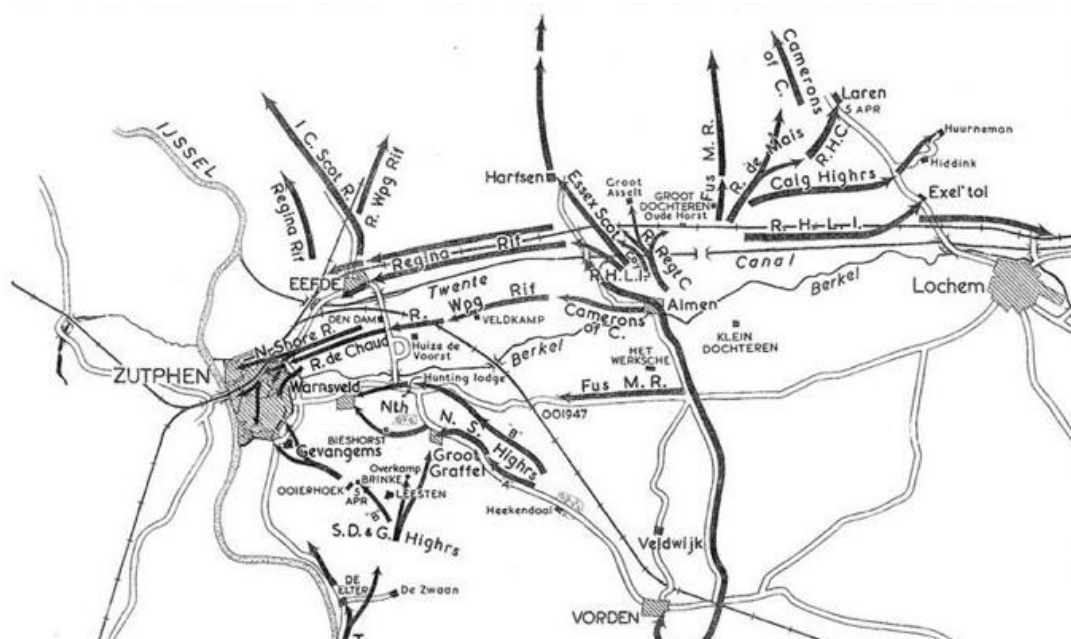
Coys moved out independently and by 0700 hrs. all Coys had consolidated on objectives under heavy enemy small arms fire and occasional artillery. Patrols were arranged to feel out the enemy and contact was made.

Whilst expanding and consolidating *about 60 POW's were taken* chiefly by C & D Coys. **Our casualties were exceedingly light despite the opposition.** By 1118 hrs. we were able to report positions firm and enemy cleared from area. To protect our flanks a squadron of tanks came across the newly constructed bridge.

Annoying enemy shellfire resulted in our supporting arms neutralizing the enemy guns. *Various reports came to us from civilians. We were able to sift the valuable information and take appropriate action.* A contact patrol programme laid on inter Bn and inter Bde.

43rd Reconnaissance Regiment

B Sqn recce roads ending to [Twente] Canal (2706-3306) and set observation positions overlooking bridges. Regt recce parties to 3805.



Movements across the Twente Canal

War Diary's April 5, 1945

1st. Bn. Black Watch (RHR) of Canada

Laren MR 0600 Ref Sh. 15, Lochem, 1:50,000, Holland.

Weather – mild, and bright sunshine.

Rockets in the barn yard. Around 0100 hrs. the C.O. was called to Bde. where the final Bde. plan was outlined. The **Regiment de Maisonneuve** and the **Calgary Highlanders** had already been committed with the former meeting

determined opposition largely in the form of Panzerfaust (the German equivalent of our Piat), s.a.fire, and the occasional mortar. The task undertaken by the **Regiment de Maisonneuve** was to enlarge the bridgehead farther north, and to secure the approaches to **Laren**, establishing a firm base for the **Black Watch** attack on the town.

The **Calgary Highlanders** would push eastward and secure the right flank which they did with little difficulty. On his return to Tac H.Q., Maj.E .Motzfeldt briefed the CoyCmdrs who then returned to their units to await the announcement of the zero hour which would depend on the progress of the **Regiment de Maisonneuve**.

Order of march:- C, B, D, and A Coys.. At 0745 hrs. the Bn. moved to the F.U.P. behind the positions of the **Regiment de Maisonneuve**. The leading two Coys. were mounted on the tanks of the **Fort Garry Horse** (A Sqn.) and our own Sp. Coy vehicles. While moving up the axis, about 100yds. beyond the F.U.P., the leading Coys. came under heavy s.a. and anti-tank fire from a position which we had understood to be held by the **R. de Maisonneuve**, and from the town itself, and the men on the tanks had to take cover in the ditch.

Following immediately the deployment of the rifle Coys. on the axis and the establishment of Tac H.Q. at 050995, about 300 yards behind the leading Coys., the German announced his determination to defend the town in the form of shells from an S.P. gun, s.a. fire, and 8cm. rockets. **C. Coy suffered quite heavy casualties** in the initial bombardment and one of the tanks was knocked out.

At the same time, *two of the rockets landed in the barnyard of Tac. H.Q., wounding the Acting C.O., Maj. E. Motzfeldt, the Scout Officer, Lt. A.G. Guam, the I.O., Lt. J.G. Roberts (who was not evacuated), and Cpl. Sharpe, G.D., C120579, of the Scout platoon, who later in the day succumbed to the injuries sustained.*

The I.O. called upon *Maj. V.E. Traversy to take command*, and the Maj., after going up on foot to see the commanders of the leading companies, quickly sized up the situation and ordered these companies to withdraw and dig in, and deploying the anti-tank guns on the F.U.P., formed perimeter defence of that area.

Maj. V.E. Traversy, after a consultation with the 5th. Field Artillery rep. , Capt. E. Billow, and the Sqn. commander of the **Fort Garry Horse**, formulated a new plan which among other things consisted of assaulting the town in three phases instead of the original two. The first phase being, of necessity, the elimination of the opposition emanating from the two points which the **Regiment de Maisonneuve** were reported to have taken.

A brief O Gp. was called when the new plan was outlined to the Coy Commanders, The revised plan called for a heavy concentration of field and medium artillery on the town of **Laren** , during which the Coys. would go in on their objectives. The Brigadier and Capt. S.E. Griffin, I.O. at 5 C.I.B. called at Tac H.Q. at 1000 hrs. and found Maj. V.E. Traversy in complete command of the situation.

The attack on the start line commenced at 1115 hrs. and all the Coys. moved on to their first objectives, experiencing very little difficulty in so doing. The final phase was then commenced calling for the Coys. to move forward to cover the northern end of the town. The enemy was dug in in the wood beyond the town but was not aggressive except to the movement of A.F.Vs.

One of the carriers of Sp. Coy was knocked out as it was moving up to C Coys. position. The town and its approaches was securely held by us by 1600 hrs. though B and C Coys. had not a little trouble from m.g. fire for some time longer, and our 3" mortars had to be called in to reduce some sniping activity . The **Calgary Highlanders** contacted A Coy on the right flank every three hours from 2000 hrs. on.

South Saskatchewan Regiment

MR 02459155

Sh 3803

At 0630 hrs the bn was put on one hour notice to move. And with the warning *the eager gleam returned to the eyes of the bn scouts*. At 0830 hrs Lt JD. Cade left for HQ 6 Cdn Inf Bde to gather infm on a probably time of movement. Evidently the staff had *rather a tough evening at the farewell party* for Lt-Col KJ. Coates, 11 Cdn Fd Amb, as no infm was available.

At 1100 hrs Major AJ. Fraser, MC, arrived at Comd Post and infm the CO he was to be under comd of **S Sask R** with his squadron of Kangaroos. The boys are all looking forward to their ride in these Iron Steeds. *The last ride which took place in the battle for Kalkar Heights [D] is still fresh in everyone's mind.*

At 1400 hrs Lt-Col V. Scott accompanied by Lt JD. Cade left for HQ 6 Cdn Inf Bde to attend an O Gp made necessary by a change in plans. However, everyone is still in high spirits and hope sooner or later things will be straightened out.

At 1415 hrs the Bde O Gp got under way with Capt B. Pearson giving a short sitrep on the enemy on our immediate front. It was interesting to note the 6 *Para Div* is still the controlling div on our front. However, a new element has been identified, namely, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Coys of the *Fuchs Bn*. However, these troops are poorly equipped, without mortars or inf guns.

This group was last identified on the *Maas River*. Brig JV. Allard, DSO and Bar, then took over and orders were given. In support of the bde we have one

sqn of Kangaroos, 1 sqn of tanks, div arty plus 1 med regt and 2 sqns of 8 Cdn Recce Regt (14 CH). The intention of the bde is to pass through 5 Cdn Inf Bde and seize and hold a bridgehead at the [Twente] Canal by Schipbeek MR 078060. Method Brig JV Allard, DSO and Bar, mentioned there are two alternatives.

(1) If opposition is light, 2 sqns 8 Cdn Recce Regt (14 CH) to break through followed by the S Sask R in Kangaroos with the Cams of C mopping up on the left and the Fus MR working towards their objective on the right. (2) The second alternative is to move by bn bounds up to the [Twente] Canal by Schipbeek and then over.

Brig JV Allard, DSO and Bar, told the bn comds they would be infm which of the alternative plans would be used after the move to the conc area. This depends on the results of the actions of 5 Cdn Inf Bde and 8 Cdn Recce Regt (14 CH). Brig JV Allard, DSO and Bar, closed the O Gp by infm the bn comds their recce parties could leave immediately to recce the conc areas.

At 1500 hrs the recce party left for the conc area sq 0598. It is becoming quite common around the bn now, as soon as a recce party leaves to see the boys start to line up for meal parades. *Lt D. Fairgrievs claims he has missed six meals in three days and is now trying to draw living-out allowance.*

At 1545 hrs Lt-Col V Stott held a short O Gp. Coys comds were given the latest role the 6 Cdn Inf Bde is expected to play. The enemy pictures was also given. The CO then gave out the orders for the move to the conc area.

The bn is to cross the start line at 1940 hrs at MR 024930. Order of march: Bn HQ, A Coy, C Coy, D Coy, B Coy, Sp HQ and 17 pdrs. Guides will meet the column at the bde DP at MR 043987. Routes and areas as per trace. Density 30 VTM. Speed 25 mph. Housing lights only.

A Tk guns to remain with the cous the are allotted but to move immediately after breakfast to the same area as Bn HQ. Troops to be in their Kangaroos ready to move by 1915 hrs. At 1600 hrs the bn was placed on 1/2 hour notice to move to conc area. At 1940 hrs the bn moved off, but, much to the disappointment of the Provost Corps, took another route which bde had laid on. It seems the provost were holding a one-way road open for the convoy, all for nothing.

MR 056984 Sh 3804 At 2215 hrs the bn had arrived in their conc area and by 2220 hrs all Coys had reported complete. The disposition of the Coys are as follows: Cmd Post – MR 056984, A Coy – 059988, B Coy- 055987, C Coy – 056980, D Coy – 059986, Sp HQ – 049985. During the move word was received that HQ 6 Cdn Inf Bde was now located in the conc area at MR 057986.

A great shortage of food seems to be felt throughout the bn and everyone, incl D Coy, is eagerly looking forward to the time they arrive back in Germany where food is plentiful. During the night word was received there would be no move before 0900 hrs the next day, so all Coys settled down for a good night's rest.



10 Cdn Armd Regt (Fort Garry Horse)

A018979

Weather: Overcast with scattered thunder showers.

This morning the C.O. attended four O Groups, and rebounded at RHQ for lunch with the strange news that half of D sqn and half of Hq sqn would move across the [Twente] Canal. The adjutant, having reorganized the regiment into compact packets designed to meet the needs of pursuit warfare, looked pained at this untidy improvisation, especially as the cook trucks seemed to have been forgotten.

Major Bray, transformed overnight from an admin to an operations officer, left the remnant of Main RHQ to assume command of Tac Headquarters.

Meanwhile the discussions about a mobile command post continued, as our

unwieldy Tac Hq solved part of the relay station problem but failed to meet the military requirement of simplicity.

While the Battle of Organization occupied the forefront of staff minds, the Battle of Bullets affronted the optimism of newspapers by making itself all too apparent. A sqn fought until 0500 hours, withdrew to replenish its ammunition supply, and then continued the attack on **Laren** (MR063004).

Two tanks were reported knocked out: **Lieut Livingstons was lightly wounded, his driver George Halasz, was hurt seriously.** B sqn continued to support 4 CIB (which had A sqn in support) to help the 6 CIB forward.

Tac HQ plus blobs were now at 018979. It was a rainy day with one flurry of hail. Capt Beatty, back from the assault group (Rhine), assumed command of Hq sqn, and amused all hands by *his luxurious twirl of a moustache* and his abundant, curly, unkempt hair. The “clown” made a welcome addition to the RHQ group.

8 Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (14 CH)

MR 029978

Weather: Cloudy and cold

“C” Squadron, and RHQ moved across the **Twente Canal** at approximately 0800 hrs. “C” Squadron are working on the left, making contact with the 3rd Cdn Division. “A” Squadron on the right trying to get around **Laren**, and contact the 4th Cdn Div on our right, at **Holten**, if possible.

It was learned this morning **that Tpr Morrison of “B” Squadron was killed on the night of the 3rd of April. He was one of the six men still missing.** Air Contact people who are attached to us are not getting much for their people to do, due to weather conditions. Progress throughout the day, was not to good, owing to difficulty in crossing streams and canals.

Régiment de Maisonneuve

Raining

During the attack last night, **we had 23 casualties** and we *captured forty prisoners.* **Lieut P.Y. Boudreau was wounded but not seriously. Lieut C. Racicot is missing; Major Robert, his Coy commander is pretty sure he is a prisoner of war.** This morning, it is raining but the Coys are still pushing on and captured three more objectives.

There was a contra attack against D Coy but it was quickly repulsed. In the afternoon, the whole BN moved up to a new position. Rations came up in time for suppers. The A/Aditi, who was left behind, rejoined TAC HQ. Lieu J.P. Chicoine is briefed by our I.O., Capt. W.E. Sutherland, to make a contact patrol.

Our C.O., Lt-Col. J. Bibeau is well pleased with the day's work. Two pers left for a 48 hr *leave to Brussels and seven went to Paris*. Let us hope they have a good time because they well deserved it.

5 CDN FD REGT RCA

The day was overcast with rain several times
The ground in this area is becoming quite muddy – engaged several ML tgts in the wee small hours of the morning – engaged in fire plan in sp 5CIB at 1115 hrs and another at 1245 – several more ML's were engaged during the day – many bombards were also engaged during the day for the CMO and a couple for the C.B.O. – infantry are making fair headway but sticky in some spots – recce parties were warned to stand by about four times today but each time it was cancelled – amn exp 107 rpg's.

6 Canadian Field Regiment, R.C.A.

044918 - 058962

We fired approximately 10 rounds per gun H F fire during the night. 6 bombards fired 5 rounds per gun rate 1 fired in support of 5 Cdn Inf Bde in the area of **Laren**. 4 Cdn Inf Bde advanced along the East bank of the **[Twente] Canal**. At 1730 hours the regiment moved to area 058962. 2 M targets fired in support of 5 Cdn Inf Bde, area south-east **Laren**. D F tasks laid on by the Commanding Officer in area north-nest of **Laren**. Several more ps passed to RCA. 6 Cdn Inf Bde north-west of **Laren**.

1 Bn The Royal Regiment of Canada

The weather today was moderate with scattered showers.
Bn area was shelled most of the day, shelling was also intense in **Essex Scots** and **RHLI** posns. Rear Bn HQ crossed the **[Twente] canal** at 1100 hrs and moved into bldgs at MR 034977.

The Brig held a conference at **RHLI** Tac HQ at 1400 hrs where it was decided **RHLI** would go east along **[Twente] canal** bank to east a bridgehead at MR079989. A and B Coys of R Regt C to take up **RHLI** posn, to link up with **Essex Scots** and protect the left flank.

C sqn of the 8 Recce were in sp. **RHLI** reported firm on objective at 2000 hrs. 31 OR rfts were received today and allotted as follows: HQ Coy – 4, A Coy – 4, Sp Coy – 2, B Coy – 11, C Coy – 5, D Coy – 8.

Toronto Scottish Regiment (MG) CIC

Cloudy and cool with light rain most of the day.
4 pl supporting 6 Bde MR 049998 also supported 5 Bde attack firing 80 bombs, enemy shelled and mortared their posns, no casualties. 2pl at MR046987 occupied on the heels of the enemy, engaged two targets with 52 bombs. They moved in the evening to MR 066000. 3 pl supported 5 Bde attack later moving to MR 063999.

Coy HQ kept busy supplying sb units with amn [...] etc owing to frequent moves. B Coy at MR 035968. 5 pl supporting the RHLI took op posn at 083986 forward of our FKLs. Civs reported four enemy tanks had evac the posn shortly before. The pl spent a quiet night an moved in the morning. 7 pl occupied 5 pl posn. 12 and 13 patrols moved to D Coy HQ MR 017966, the pl moved to 057994 to support RHC.



Enemy shells wounded the CO of the RHC. Lt. Baye was wounded and B.76626 Cpl R. *Wilson was killed by mortar shrapnel when a shell landed in front of them as they were walking down the road. Cpl Wilson was buried on the outskirts of Almen.* 11 pl remained in psn near Laren rest of Coy moved up in bde convoy. **Casualties: Lt. Baye wounded, B.76626 Cpl R. Wilson killed**

The Calgary Highlanders CA (O)

Lochem

Shet 3703, HQ 065988

Weather – Cloudy and cold

At 0130hrs “C” and “D” Coys reported into their objectives and Tac HQ moved up at 040985 and prepared to get a little shut-eye. A few more PWs were sent in and were found to be members of a Fortress Battle Group. A Scout Patrol was laid on for first light, out ahead of “D” Coy to find out if there were any enemy holding them.

Cpl. Potts and Pte. Levesque reported in no enemy and “D” Coy, under Capt M. Tennant, moved in. A Recce Party from FMRs arrived at 0745 hrs and looked over the area. Major W.D. Heyland, A C.O., and the I.O. went to Bde and were given orders for the day’s activity.

The Bn huddle was called for 0900hrs and the Bn was ordered to exploit east approx 2000 yds to new positions, “A” Coy leading, followed by “B”, “C” and

then "D". At 1400hrs all Coys reported complete with "D" and "C" Coys encountering considerable opposition in small arms fire. By using their Piat's to good advantage they were able to make 'Heinie' "up anchor" and move, *taking seven PW's*. One of the latter had a map up his sleeve, showing Coy location, including Coy HQ, which was engaged at once by medium Arty.

A little more cleaning up was arranged between "C" and "D" Coys and "A" Coy was moved to a left flank position to maintain contact with the RHC. Tac HQ was moved to 065988. Scout Patrols were sent to investigate the wood in square 0697 and reported it clear.

More Scouts were sent out to "C" Coy and were put to work under Cpl. Potts. No enemy were reported in the area up to 900 yds from our forward areas. Plans were then made for "A", "B" and "C" Coys to exploit further east the following day. All objectives were patrolled and found clear. The whole area seemed to be unusually quiet and the Bn settled down for a good rest with an alert guard on.

1st Bn Regina Rifle Regiment

MR 013904 **Vorden**

Sheet §3803 1/25000 **Zutphen**

0700 Weather—Drizzling rain all day.

0100 Moving has been delayed somewhat, but vehicles get on the move and after a delayed trip get into position ready to attack. H-'Hr is set for 0536 hrs.

BnHQ set up at

MR 009977 **Scheggert**

MR 009977 **Zutphen**

0530 Attack goes in as planned with B Coy left, C Coy right. Fighting is not hard, with some mortar fire, and the Coys get to the objective. 0820 B Coy in position at MR 972972

C Coy in position at MR 972975. A Coy left and D Coy right, then pass through and with little difficulty get to the objectives, A Coy at MR 966971, and D Coy at MR 968976.

MR 971972 **Eefde**

1400 BnHQ moves into position at MR 971972. Engineers have started bridging in A Coy loc and CSR and RWR expect to move through North as soon as it is complete. 2100 DF tasks with Arty, MMG and 3" Mortars laid on and everyone hopes to get full night of sleep.

1 Scot R (AF)

109890

Steenderen

Sheet 3903 Holland 1/25000

Total Strength: Officers: 40 Other Ranks, 818. 0200 The Bn moved and within two hours was concentrated in the following positions: CP 011924, the Coys in

sq 0092 with Admin Bn still at 018890. There is generally a thought behind every move; this change in location now putting us on the axis for our next advance. This is to secure a bridgehead over the **Twente Canal** in sqs 9696 and 9697 so that the Engineers can put a bridge across under our protection.

However the Winnipeg's met no opposition in their advance toward the **[Twente] canal** and instead of us passing through them to form a bridgehead they continued on to our Trace 6 proposed positions. The **Reginas** crossed the **[Twente] canal** and secured the northern bridge-head, thus leaving us somewhat jobless for a short period.

The Coys "stood-down" and listened to the artillery pound away at **Zutphen**, which incidentally, hadn't yet been taken even if the newspapers said that it was. 2117 A warning order came from the Bn, supported by tanks, to move at 0700 hours next morning across the **[Twente] Canal** and follow the Div axis of advance. Casualties: NIL.

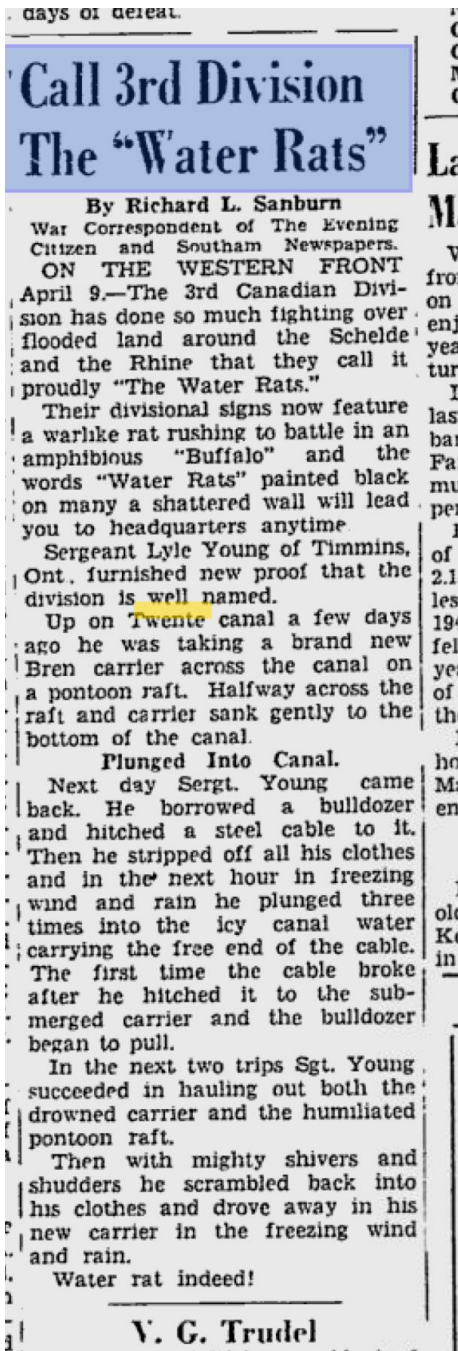
THE ROYAL WINNIPEG RIFLES

Cloudy and cool.

At 0045 hrs the Bn was on the move to a FUP at 001965. Comd Post was set at 007965. A and C Coys started the adv at 0540 hrs. They adv to 986967 with no opposition and B and D Coys passed through and with light opposition secured their objectives at 975959 and 967966 respectively. Comd Post was set up at 985967. Enemy mortaring continued throughout the day and night but **cas were light**. *Several PWs were taken in this op.*



Sergeant Lyle D. Young , **Royal Regiment of Canada**, who helped salvage his Universal Carrier which fell off Molson's Bridge into the Twente Canal north of Almen, Netherlands, 6 April 1945. Foto: Dean, Michael



(Zie foto hierboven)

War Diary's April 6, 1945

Régiment de Maisonneuve

The weather is fair and mild.

A dive into the **Twente Canal** near **Almen**. Our BN is still in the same area. The recce patrols were successful and we did not suffer any casualty. Our C.O., Lt-Col. J. Bibeau, went to an O Gp at Bde around 1630 hrs. Lieut L.J.A. Woods comes back from his snipers course in ZON Holland.

The morale of the troops is good; we had 23 reinforcements today. "A" each moved up close to our positions. It started to rain about 1700 hrs tonight. We

had two *movie representations*, one at 1630 hrs and the second one at 1900 hrs; these were representation were given by the K of C *in a barn where cows were spectators as well as soldiers.*

8 Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (14 CH)

MR 029978

Weather:- Cloudy.

Our Squadron are out probing around again this morning, trying to find a bridge that isn't blown, across the **Schipbeek Canal**. *One German casualty was brought in at 0900 hrs, with a stomach wound.* At 1030 hrs, three airman were brought in, 2 Flight Sergeants, and a Flight Lieutenant. *The Sergeants had been down for 7 months, and the Lieutenant had joined them about 3 months ago. Since then they had been hidden by the Dutch people.*

Later on the day, *two prisoners were brought in, who claimed to be Italian* (they are still P.W.s as far as we are concerned). In the same vehicle an Officer from the **R. de Mais** was returned to us. *He had been taken prisoner by Jerry* when his Regiment had been attacking Laren, a few days ago.

Since that time he was taken to Holten, and then started for Deventer on foot, on the road *he knocked down one of his guards*, and put the boots to him. The other escort (an Austrian) went one way, while the **R. de Mais** Officer headed back for our lines in another direction. He was picked up by the "C" Squadron.

1st. Bn. Black Watch (RHR) of Canada

Weather – overcast.

Early this morning the **Fusiliers de Mont Royal** went through Coy at MR 065011. Today Lt-Col. Sydney W. Thomson, D.S.O., M.C., late of the **Seaforth Highlanders of Canada** was appointed C.O. of the **Black Watch**. Capt. R. Davey O.C. of B. Coy was today promoted to the rank of Major.

He moved to A Ech., now also established in Laren, and will proceed to England tomorrow on a short course. Lt. T.J. Larkin, of the Anti-Tank platoon was promoted to the rank of Captain. The of C. *showed a movie tonight in a somewhat damaged cafe on the edge of town.* The day was spent in re-equipping and regrouping.

Toronto Scottish Regiment (MG) CIC

Lightly cloudy and cool, occasional showers during the day
1 pl moved twice today, first to MR 06502285 then to 08520522 where a few mortar bombs landed nearby, no cas. They did not fire during the day. 4 pl are located ad MR 05730557 fired 84 HE and S smoke in sp of 6 bde driving some of the enemy from their posns.

At 1800 hrs, 2 pl moved to 08430512 ran into some enemy MG fire on the way, no casualties. They saw a fluid riddles spitfire near their posn. 3 pl fired several tanks during the night. B Coy spent *a quiet day with bath parades and a*

cinema in the afternoon. 5 pl moved to MR 107978. D Coy patrols remained conc in same area. **Laren** is reported to be cleared, 6 bde are passing through .

In the afternoon **Schipbeek Canal** was reached and Coys of the Cams of C crossed, SSRs and FMRs to follow. Little opposition encountered and enemy is believed to have withdrawn to **Holten**.

The Calgary Highlanders CA (o)

Sheet 3703 **Lochem**

Tac HQ 064996

Weather – Cold and showery; visibility – poor

At 0800hrs the two first Coys, “A” and “C”, moved off and reported on their objectives at 0830hrs, when “B” Coy moved on to theirs. No opposition was encountered and patrols were sent out immediately, *taking 6 PWs*, all told. Brig. W.J. Megill visited our Tac HQ, which had been moved to 064996; and gave the A/O.C., Major W.D. Heyland, instructions for the day. “A” and “F” Each were moved up to the Bn area and small packs were delivered to the Coys.

During the afternoon two Americans and one French pilot were brought into Tac by a member of the [Dutch] Underground. They had been in hiding for a year and had some great stories to tell. At 1630 the A/O.C. and I.O. attended a huddle at the Bde to receive instructions on the coming operations. “B” Coy, the Carrier Pl and a Sec of A/YKs, along with a troop of tanks, were despatched to square 0304 to provide flank protection for the 6 Bde Axis. The Bn bedded down fully expecting to be wakened in the early hours and be on the move.

10 Cdn Armd Regt (Fort Garry Horse)

6 Apr 45. On this gloomy day, troops worked with battalions, and squadron headquarters assumed regimental airs, “coordinating this and that. Late in the day, the blob of RHQ and D sqn remaining on (...)

Royal Hamilton Light Infantry

MR 078982 **Lochem**

Sheet 3804

0800 It is a little cooler this morning with visibility of 500 yards.

0900 A each moved up and set up in farm buildings adjacent to BnHQ area.

0945 *Essex Scot* report 8 PW have arrived with four more on their way. *These PW report that the enemy in this vicinity want to surrender. Yesterday the Essex took 100 prisoners.*

1100 Rear BnHQ with all Fl each moved off under the direction of Major WH Burton, A/2 IC, for the bn area. 1300 Rear BnHQ arrived at the RAP old position. The RAP had quite a time taking possession of this spot, as they were forced by the enemy to become combatant and chase Jerry from the buildings they were to occupy. Rear BnHQ set up and finally had sigs tap a line into Bde. 1335 Tac HQ moved to their new area at MR 102976 Sheet 3804 **Lochem**, and

set up in the town hall. The situation proved to be much the same as we experienced back in France, where *the enemy had confiscated all civilian radios in the district*. These were mostly battery sets and all stored *in the attic of the town hall*. Tac HQ had designs on quite a number of these sets but a little persuasion by the CO on behalf of the Dutch civilians, convinced us otherwise, so they were promptly returned to their resting place in the attic.

1500 *The unit Padre*, H/Capt HW Johnson, held a burial party at MRO22976, **Zutphen** Sheet 3805, *for our own and enemy dead*. 1615 Th IO visited Coys and checked *the identity of one Jerry NCO was killed*. He turned out to be *from the famous Herman Goering Regt*. He is the first of the kind this bn has come in contact with.

1700 *Mines* were reported in C Coy area. Serval of these were double Teller mines, piled two high with their fuses and detonators joined, but held apart by a spring and both held in place in a square steel casing. When stepped on or run over, the spring would collapse allowing the two detonators to explode simultaneously. *It is a type our pioneers had not run across operationally before*.



Double Tellermine

1730 A patrol of the carriers with Capt KW Wharton in command, was sent out with a view to scouting the area along the [**Twente**] canal. This patrol proved to

be fruitless and no enemy were contacted. The proceeded to MR 130985 and walked from this point to MR 110990. *The only discovery the patrol made was a RAF warrant officer who had made a forced landing in this area a week ago.* He reports that the enemy have withdrawn from our area and that *they are very short of food.* 2100 The RAF chap was sent back to Div for interrogation and transport to his own unit which is here in Holland.

The RAF chap probably was Frank Roberts (reg nr 1349787), who crashed with his Spitfire TB750 of the 341Sqd on March 30, 1945 just south of the **Schipbeek canal**. *Roberts was hidden by the family Schottink in Markelo.* Roberts was picked up by 2 Canadian carriers, *directed by members of the [Dutch] resistance.* (information provided by Benny Schreurs)]

**1st Bn., THE ESSEX SCOTTISH REGIMENT CANADIAN ARMY
(OVERSEAS)**

North of **Twente Canal**

Ref **Zutphen**

SHEET 3803 1:25000

During the night patrols were sent out but no contact with enemy was made. Vehicles were heard and slight shelling occurred, however no casualties resulted. *According to PW information,* they had withdrawn 6 Km. information was passed to Bde and the Brigadier visited us around 1120 hrs. and we were ordered to move forward.

Our CO issued his orders at 1230 hrs. and our leading elements started to move at 1335 hrs. During the morning *our bag of prisoners amounted to 14.* At 1600 hrs. in the afternoon all Companies were on their objectives and had met very little opposition. Around 1650 hrs. the CO and the IO were able to visit all Coys.

1 Bn The Royal Regiment of Canada

Weather today was fair and warm.

The Brig visited Tac HQ at 1000 hrs. **Essex Scots** moved north with A Coy R Regt C moving up to protect their rear. **RHLI** posn was found not suitable by engr for bridge site and **RHLI** had to proceed farther east to east another bridgehead. Bn stayed in the area for the day until C and D Coys and one tp of 10th Armd Regt acting as mobile counterattack unit for **RHLI**. 19 OR rfts were received today and allotted as follows: Sp Coy – 1, B Coy – 8, C Coy – 2, D Coy – 8.

1st Bn Regina Rifle Regiment

Eefde MR 971972, **Zutphen** Sheet §3803.

0700 Wheather–Scattered clouds and showers.

130 Bde advise us we are to move at 1200 hrs north toward **Deventer** (Sheet §3703, BATHMEN, 1/25,000). **CSR and RWR** are moving north now. 1200 Coys commence to move. By 1400 hrs all the Coys have moved into position as

follows (Sheet §3703, **Bathmen**, 1/25,000). A Coy-967030, B Coy-§71022, C Coy-964025, D Coy-967032. BnHQ is located at 964028. **RWR** are into sq 9605. **CSR** are sq9404. There are scattered sp and mortars firing and scattered snipers. It appears there are defences out in front of **Deventer** which will have to be taken out. We set up DF and SOS fire plan and wait for further orders. A patrol from the Scout platoon went east and contacted **Essex Scots**, 2 Div at MR 00320.

South Saskatchewan Regiment

Weather: Sunny, fair, with cool wind.

At 0830 hrs Lt JD Cade went to HW 6 Cdn Inf Bde to gather infm on the bde movements. He was infm the Cams of C had pushed 1,000 yds northwest of **Laren** and the Fus MR 1,000 yds northeast of **Laren**, were, at that time consolidating. Enemy opposition was reported as light, mainly small arms fire with a few mortars landing in the general area.

At 0830 hrs Bn HQ moved to MR 06019883, sh 3704.

At 0900 hrs Lt-Col V Stott visited HQ 6 Cdn Inf Bde to be put in the picture on any possible bn move and all the latest developments.

At 11.30 hrs the bn was put on a half hour notice to move.

At 1300 hrs recce parties were warned to report to Comd Post and moved off at 1330 hrs under Comd Capt WGA Lane, OC Sp Coy. At 1330 hrs Lt-Col V. Stott, DSO, called an O Gp for orders on the move to the new start point MR 058956.

Time past start point 1445 hrs. Order of march for (a) gp C Coy, A Coy, D Coy, B Coy and Bn HQ. Order of march for (b) gp Bn HQ, C Coy, A Coy, D Coy, Sp Coy, MMGs and 17 pdrs. All vehs will report to Capt K. Koltman at assembly area MR 051985 and be ready to move by 1500 hrs. Guides will meet the Coys at MR 066023. Supper to be at 1700 hrs *with sandwiches and a hot drink* at 0030 hrs. Fl

Each to remain in present area and recce a place closer to the bn in the morning in sqs 0603 or 0703, along the main road. A Tk guns to be sent back to Sp Coy Enforced rest upon reaching conc area and rum to be issued. At 1445 hrs C Coy of gp (a) reported the start line. At 1505 hrs gp (b) crossed the start line and arrived in conc area at 1530 hrs. Gp (a) reported in conc area at 15456 hrs.

At 1545 hrs a recce party of one sec of carriers was sent out to recce a route to the **Schipbeek Canal** for an assault crossing, the bn is planning on during the night. They returned at 1700 hrs and infm th CO of the route up to the canal.

The Posns of the bn in the conc area at 1700 hrs are as follows: A Coy – MR 076037, Comd Post – MR 069029, B Coy – MR 069032, Sp HQ – MR 065027, C Coy – MR 071033, MMGs – MR 064024, D Coy – MR 065034, MR 06102,

At 1900 hrs word was received that Brig JV. Allard, DSO & Bar, would hold an O Gp at S Sask R Comd Post. At 1940 hrs the O Gp got under way and plans for the **S Sask R** assault crossing of the **Schipbeek Canal** were given. Support from other arms was laid on. At 2050 hrs an O Gp by Lt-Col V. Stott, DSO, got under way.

A general picture of the enemy was given, followed by the plans for the 6 Cdn Inf Bde. The CO then gave the plans for the **S Sask R**, setting the zero hour at 0300 hrs. Tea and sandwiches plus a rum ration are to be issued to the men at 0030 hrs (See appx for orders)

The Royal Winnipeg Rifles

Clear and warm

Bn on the move once more with C Coy leading at 1000 hrs. Comd Post was east at 96503s2 when the coys cleared their areas. The Coys were east as follows. A

Coy 969030, B Coy 964027, C Coy 96034, D Coy 964034. There was no opposition. At 1447 hrs the Bn was moving again with B Coy leading. At 1540 hrs D Coy was at 968052 and C Coy at 973054. At 1600 hrs B Coy was east at 977054. A Coy and Bn HQ were east at 974048.

Sniping and mortar fire accounted for a few of our cas but *we took several PWs* at this stage. *An interesting point about the building occupied by the Bn HQ was that just the day before it was occupied by a branch of the German Gestapo. Here also was a solid brick building which was used as a prison and a garage which housed several German autos. A dismal sight awaited us when some of the tps discovered a brick firing bay. On this brick was smattering of blood and flesh.*

The earth at the base of the wall was extremely soft and one of the men was curious enough to start digging. In a few minutes time the battered body of a middle-aged man appeared. This was only part of the dismal and gruesome sight for after a few hours ten similar bodies lay on the surface. The bodies were identified the following day by a member of the Dutch Underground.

He told us that the German Gestapo had held these people as prisoners for they were suspected to be members of the Dutch Underground. We were also informed that when the Gestapo heard that we were coming they murdered their prisoners and evacuated the camp [..].

At 1600 hrs the CO held an O Gp and it was decided that D Coy was to secure brhead on the other side of the canal. The br was discovered to be blown but with the help of the Bn Pioneers a footbr was quickly erected and under by fire D Coy moved across and secured the brhead. In doing this **D Coy had a few cas** but *took several PWs*. At 2200 hrs B Coy passed through D Coy and consolidated at 967060

6 Canadian Field Regiment R.C.A.

044918 – 061001 **Lochem**

Sheet 3804

H F Fire on escape routes north-west and north-east of **Laren**. @ M L targets fired in support of FMRs. 6 **Cdn Inf Bde** advanced North of **Laren** with little opposition. Moved to area 061001. M target fired in area 2 miles west of **Holten**. Several shellreps received. D Fs recorded north of **Schipbeek Canal** in support of 6 **Cdn Inf Bde**. DFs recorded further west and south in support of 5 **Cdn Inf Bde**.

1 C Scot R (AF)

948025 – 011924 **Bathmen**

Weather: Cloudy and variable showers

Total strength: Officers, 40 Other Ranks, 822.

0630 Mobility is second nature to us and within an hour the head of the column had crossed the Start Line, but the tank support seemed to be lacking. Light artillery was our only opposition in the first phases. As we approached Report Line "MARK" Trace at 952008, *civilians told us were 20 or 30 Huns in the woods* in sq 9300. Lt-col L.S. Hendeson sent A Coy to clear out the woods but the enemy had left before they arrived. The Bn carried on with the odd bit of nuisance resistance and Command Post was established at 948025.

Coys took up temporary positions and "Main BnHQ" was set up a stone's-throw from Command Post. There was no question in our minds that the enemy was fully aware of our presence as MG bullets whistled around, and in some cases, through the houses. No casualties were caused by this harrassing fire, but the sound of mortar crumps and airbursts kept us on the qui-vive.

Five prisoners were brought in to the Command Post, two of whom were wounded about the face but still walking. L/cpl Winkleman W., the interrogator of the "I" Section questioned the Cpl among them. He found out that they had been sent form a strong-point at 935057: the Cpl also told that the bridge had been blown at this point and the enemy were digging in on the north bank of the river.

B Coy fired on two motorcyclists who were evidently making a road recce without the knowledge that we had advanced so far. However, they made a rapid retreat before we could add them to the PW Cage. At dusk, the Coys moved to **Epse** (sq 9404), took up a tactical position, an prepared to send out patrols. Command Post was established at 957042.

B Coy captured a 75 mm gun as well as 3 PW's when the advanced into their new position. The Bn area was quite heavily shelled as we were under observation. D Coy patrolled up to the bridge at 936057 to confirm the report of it being blown. *They observed 30 Huns digging in on the north side of the Canal.* The other patrols had nothing new to report. In all we turned in 9

“Tyffie Targets”. Casualties: Officers: Sick, Major H.F. Bailey Other Ranks: Wounded 3.

5 CDN FD REGT RCA

Engaged several HF tasks from 0100 to 0600 hrs – engaged three ML’s at 0500 hrs scale 1 three times each for 45 mins- the rest of the day went fairly quietly – recce parties went out this a.m. and regt moved in the afternoon – RHQ located 054998 sheet 3804 **Lochem** 1/25 – amn exp 27 rpg’s

12 CANADIAN FIELD REGIMENT R.C.A.

The weather continues very favourable and visibility is excellent. Received the order “Prepare to Move” at 0500 hrs and the first bty moved at 0830 hrs. When they got into action at **Almen** MR 015965 we were told to move the remainder of the Regiment up and to stay on wheels. Recce parties left at 1300 hrs to go to **Gorssel** and the Regiment took up position during the afternoon. From this intermediate position *the 43 Bty went into action for a short while to fire propaganda shells into **Zutphen**.*

The propaganda was brought to us by a rep from Army. We fired a considerable number of targets for our Bde, one subunit having cleared the area of 935057. Our OPs reported that our arty fire knocked out two SP guns during the day.

activities and to tie in one or two small points.
hrs B coy reported on objective "Lead" with no enemy opposition. decided lack of enemy shelling during the day and it was expected bring it on, but much to everyone's surprise it still remained c
hrs C coy reached B coy objective and reported 1 enemy 40 mm gun
4.
hrs A coy reported 2 pls on "Tin" and that Lt Dick Kerr had been
hrs Lt McKenna of Tor Scots Regt reported with his MMG pl to the now under comd of the S Sask R.
hrs A coy reported "Tin" complete and approx 15 enemy inf withdr
ards "Copper".
hrs A-coy reported 1 PW, the first to be captured during this be
rence from the crossing of the SCHIPBEEK CANAL.
hrs C coy reported on "Lead" and asked for some targets.
hrs C coy reported "Copper" complete and were then told to send
of "Copper" to clear any enemy out of the woods in that area.
hrs D coy reported "Iron" complete. The Wasp Flamethrowers were
ctive. Major G Stiles at one time was OC of Carrier Pl and has
e of the proper use of this wpn.
hrs the RAP moved to "Lead" and all coys were infm of the new lc
hrs B coy reported "Silver" complete and that they had captured

Tin, lead, copper, iron were code names for locations across the **Schipbeek Canal** After the crossing of the **Schipbeek canal**

War Diaries April 8, 1945

South Saskatchewan Regiment

MR 074074 Sh 3704

At 1045 hrs Brig JV Allard, DSO and Bar, visited Comd Post and gave Lt-Col V

Stott, DSO, infm concerning future ops. At 1100 hrs Lt-Col M Harris visited the CO in connection with the rounds of arty falling short in C Coy area previous to and during the crossing of the **Schipbeek Canal**, the night before. At 1140 hrs Lt-Col V. Stott, DSO, held a short adm O Gp. First the general situation on the Cdn front was given and then strength chits and rfts personal were gone over and allotted to Coys.

At 1445 hrs Lt-Col V. Stott, DSO, called a “Huddle Green” which means an ops O Gp and to be prepared to move off immediately it is over. At 1500 hrs the O Gp got under way with the CO giving the general enemy picture. Following this he detailed the intention of the **S Sask R**, namely to capture and hold main road and railway line area MR 055096. Method – it is to be done by Coy infiltration. Code words, objectives and routes were marked on cy comds maps by the Int Sec (see trace).

The remainder of the bn supporting arms to report to Comd Post after the O Gp. The leading Coy to start its objective by 1630 hrs. RAP to remain at MR 084066 and on ordrs from Lt-Col V. Stott, DSO, to move to codeword “Lead”. Comd Post to remain in present psn and then move to “Lead” and then on to “Copper”. Mortars to move to “Lead” with Comd Post and then on to “Tin”.

IN support the bn has 2 tps of tks and the 6 Cdn Fd Regt RCA. At 1540 hrs the O Gp ended and the cou comds returned to their Coys. At 1550 hrs Capt HA Osborne, IO, visited LtCol V. Stott, DSO, with the latest infm from 6 Cdn Inf Bde. At 1550 hrs Brig JV. Allard, DSO & Bar, visited the CO with infm concerning the 2 Cdn INf Dv activities and to tie in one or two small points. At 1715 hrs B Coy reported on objective “Lead” with no enemy opposition.

There has been a decided lack of enemy shelling during the day and it was expected B Coy’s attack would bring it on, *but much to everyone’s surprise it still remained quiet*. At 1830 hrs C Coy reached B Coy objective and reported 1 enemy 40 mm gun firing from MR 059094. At 1853 hrs A Coy reported 2 patrols on “Tin” and that Lt Dick Kerr had been wounded. At 1854 hrs Lt McKenna of Tor Scots Regt reported with his MMG pl to the Comd Post. It is now under comd of **S Sask R**.

At 1905 hrs A Coy reported “Tin” complete and approx 15 enemy inf withdrawing northwest towards “Copper”. At 2000 hrs A Coy *reported 1 PW*, the first to be captured during this battle. Quite a difference from the crossing of the Schipbeek Canal. At 2009 hrs C Coy reported on “Lead” and asked for some targets. At 2030 hrs C Coy reported on “Copper” complete and were told to send a patrol 300 yds south of “Copper” to clear any enemy out of the woods in that area.

At 2123 hrs D Coy reported “Iron” complete. *The Wesp flamethrowers were used at their objective*. Major F. Stiles at one time was OC of Carrier Pl and has

a very good knowledge of the proper use of this wpn. At 2135 hrs the RAP moved to "Lead" and all Coys were infm of the new location. At 2210 hrs B Coy reported "Silver" complete and that they had captured a German smb. A guard was placed on it until CO and MO could have a look at it in daylight. At 2313 hrs A Coy reported "Gold" complete with no shots being fired. Enemy activity during ths bn operation has been very light with shelling and mortaring nil.

At 2330 hrs word was received that **Lt RK. Kerr had died of wounds**. *Lt Kerr was a sgt with the bn during the Dieppe Raid and later returned to Canada for his commission. He returned overseas and rejoined the bn in Holland where he fought up to the present time. His services with the bn will long be remembered by those who knew him.*

The rest of the night passed quietly with no fire coming from the Jerry lines. *The boys were quite happy to leave things as they were in exchange for a good night of sleep.*

[Kaartoverzicht](#)

Over de Bevrijders van Zutphen: [Le Régiment de la Chaudière](#)

Scans van de originele War Diaries van de [Queen's Own Rifles of Canada](#)

[Le Régiment de la Chaudière | On The War Memorial Trail Research Project..... with Pieter and Daria Valkenburg](#)