

1 AIR LANDING BRIGADE.Operation 'MARKET'17th - 26th September 194417th September.

1330 The Brigade Group first lift consisting of the following landed after a quiet flight with virtually no opposition or flak:-

Bde HQ, Bde Sigs and Def Pl	9	Horsas.
7 KOSB - less Tpt Pl and carriers	57	"
1 Border - do	57	"
2 S Staffords - less 2 coys and certain sp arms	24	"
181 Fd Amb - less reserve section	7	"
Pl 9 Fd Coy RE		
RASC Tpt Pl	6	"
Section Provost	1	"

Of the above the following failed to arrive:-

7 KOSB	8 Gliders,	6 of which were sp arms
1 Border	6 "	including the Commanding Officer's
2 S Staffords	2 Gliders,	including B Coy HQ

Landing Zone was the open ground North and North West of WOLFHEZEN 6680.

1500 Units had by this time passed through their RV and moved to take up dispositions as under:-

Unit	RV	Moved to
(a) Bde HQ Gp	Cross roads 659810	House at 664807
(b) 7 KOSB	Woods at 657819	A Coy PLANKEN HAMBUIS 6683 B Coy point 48.2 at 6083 C Coy wood in 6182 D Coy wood in 6382 Bn HQ track junction 635821.
(c) 1 Border	Wood at 650811	A Coy wood in 6430 B Coy RENKUM 6276 C Coy wood in 6579 D Coy cross roads 633784 Bn HQ JONKERSHOEVE 6479
(d) 2 S Staffords	REIJERS CAMP 6681	2 platoons moved to clear WOLFHEZEN
(e) 181 Fd Amb	track junction 660812	houses at 665807
(f) Platoon 9 Field Coy	were ordered to form a stop on road running South East from WOLFHEZEN to main road at 679785 to catch any birds flushed out of WOLFHEZEN by 2 S Staffords. No contact was made with this platoon on landing, but they arrived at their RV and judging by the number of German dead, including a general, this project must have been entirely successful. Recce Sqn also claim this general.	

(g) Platoon RASC. They received conflicting orders from CRASC and from this Brigade. Their orders from CRASC were to go straight into the town and take over certain bridge. Their orders from this Brigade, under whose command they were and whose reserve ammunition they were carrying, were to RV at wood at 654807 and there to await further orders, the intention being to take over the ammunition and to release this platoon as soon as it was known that the road into the town was clear. The platoon did not appear at the RV and neither it nor the reserve ammunition was seen again.

(h) The Provost Section came to the Brigade RV.

1630 GOC visited Brigade HQ on way to 1 Para Bde.

1830 Commander Div Recce Squadron visited Brigade Headquarters and explained that he had lost most of his transport and was unable to proceed into the town with his whole squadron. One troop was left under command of the Brigade and ordered to watch the roads at 672804 and REIJERSHEIDE 6781. One battalion of Glider Pilots under Lieutenant Colonel J. Place had concentrated by this time and were given the task of holding WOLFHEZEN facing East and South East with a detachment at wood 672804. During the evening the MDS was established in the vicinity of Brigade HQ and casualties from all LZs and DZs were brought in. They amounted to about 100 by nightfall. There was little enemy activity during the night except for some slight mortaring of the railway crossing at WOLFHEZEN and movement North of the main ARNEEM - EDE road.

Night 17/18 No news of operations in the town and no real contact on the Brigade front. Some prisoners were taken during the evening, mostly from the Artillery and SS transit personnel. One German WAAF was found by 7 KOSB in civilian clothing. She refused food until it had first been tasted by British troops. There were only minor incidents during the night. Once the forward platoon of A Coy, 7 KOSB was attacked by enemy with an armoured car with a searchlight. This attack was held. The second incident was that B Coy, 1 Border occupied RENKUM unknown to the enemy who were billeted in the town. When they paraded next morning they were thoroughly shot up. Patrolling was carried out during the night by all units. Those from 7 KOSB penetrated to the barracks at EDE without meeting any opposition.

18th September

- 0700 Quiet night. B Coy 1 Border reported that they had enemy all round them but were not in difficulties. Support by 1 Light Battery was offered them and accepted.
- 0730 Brigade Commander to Division, the GOC being reported missing. Col Barlow, Deputy Commander, assumed command of the Brigade.
- 0900 About one platoon SS were reported by the Dutch to be in HEELSUM 6477. This and other similar parties were reported periodically and were always said to be SS. They constituted a permanent threat to Div HQ and to the withdrawal of B Coy 1 Border when the time came.

- 0905 Platoon 9 Field Coy R.E. were ordered to west of wood at 656803. They, with the Brigade RASC Officer, were given the task of carrying out a thorough recce of WOLFHEZEN for enemy stores and transport. A large amount of transport was discovered but it had all been immobilized by the Germans and only a bus and an old ambulance could be made to work. These were handed over to the MDS.
A German gun park of 21 105 mm guns, new and still labelled and in grease was found. They were all spiked.
- 0945 Information received that 1 Para Brigade were in difficulties in their advance on the bridge. 2 S Staffords were given orders to move to their assistance down route WOLFHEZEN - KOUDE HEBBERG 6878 - DEN BRINK 7277 and the lower road running along the river, remainder 2 S Staffords to join up as soon as possible after landing with the second lift. 2 S Staffords therefore passed to Comd 1 Para Bde.
- 1000 Second lift due and situation well in hand on all LZs and DZs. The only serious opposition was felt by one platoon D Coy 7 KOSB who were cut off at the settlement 631833. D Coy tried to go to their assistance but failed and became involved in wood fighting for the remainder of their time in the first position. This enemy opposition arrived from the North and was strongest in the wood West of Z GINKEL 6284.
- 1100 LZs strafed by ME109s, some gliders set on fire.
- 1400 B Coy 1 Border at RENKUM were now completely surrounded and being heavily mortared. All their transport had been destroyed. They were ordered to withdraw as far as HEELSUM. With great difficulty they fought their way back along the bank of the NEDER RIJN having had to abandon most of their support arms through lack of transport. Only the MGs were saved by being carried out.
D Coy 1 Border was mortared and attacked throughout the day but all attacks were driven off.
- 1500 Second lift gliders started coming in: this included
remainder of 2 S Staffords and 181 Fd Amb
transport platoon and carriers of 7 KOSB and 1 Border
any gliders which failed to arrive on the first lift.
- OC 1 Border took off with the second lift but again failed to arrive.
At the time of the arrival of the second lift the position on the LZs and DZs was as follows:-
- (a) 7 KOSB were closely engaged all round but succeeded in keeping the enemy so busy that 4 Para Bde had an almost unopposed drop. As the drop took place Bn HQ and HQ Sp Coy charged along the edge of the wood led by the OC. This ensured an unopposed landing and Commander 4 Para Bde thanked 7 KOSB for their efforts. Major Hill, OC Sp Coy was killed in this operation.

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(b) 2 S Staffords had moved off and left their LZ unguarded. There was no opposition here. A JLO from Brigade met the second in command on landing and gave him instructions to move into the town with all speed to join up with the advance of the battalion.

(c) 1 Border. In the South the enemy were kept busily engaged by the gradual withdrawal of B Coy. In the centre some machine gun fire came on to the LZ from LAURA 6378. This was dealt with by mortar fire but some casualties must have been caused during the unloading of the gliders.

1515 Orders were issued for the move towards the town for Phase II. These could not go according to original plan on account of the absence of 2 S Staffords :- The orders were issued as follows:-

(a) 7 KOSB to co-ordinate the time of his withdrawal with Commander 4 Parachute Brigade, but H hour to be 1900 hrs if agreed to by the latter. New position was to be astride the road at 710801 on the high ground running from NE to SW through that point from HOOG ERF 7180 to the railway in 6979.

(b) Battalion Glider Pilots to hold point 63.5 in 6878 up to excluding the railway.

(c) 1 Border to hold from the Glider Pilots left to HEVEADORF 6877.

(d) Three separate routes were given, time to move to be 1900 hrs.

7 KOSB North of the railway through JOHANNA HOEVE 6980
Glider Pilots SE through WOLFHEEZEN

1 Border East along the main RENKUM - ARNHEM road.

(e) The MDS during the course of the afternoon had overflowed from the houses near Brigade HQ and all patients were being concentrated gradually in an empty factory in WOLFHEEZEN. A party was ordered to make a recce for a building in the area of the cross roads at 696784 and ferrying was to start immediately, only those wounded who were too serious to move to be left with a few orderlies. Ferrying started at 1500 hrs and continued throughout the night and next morning, no patients being left behind.

(f) Brigade HQ Group and platoon 9 Field Coy were to move off at 1900 hrs to a new HQ in the area of KOUDE HERBERG 6878 to be reconnoitred by the GSC III in advance.

(g) Troop Recce Sqn was to cover the rear during the move and then revert to command own Squadron.

The orders were issued verbally to the battalions and in message form to the small units. 2 i/c 7 KOSB received them on behalf of his battalion and must have partially misunderstood them because the coy at PLANKEN WAMBUIS started moving immediately and was through REIJERSHEIDE before it was discovered. It was finally halted beyond SCHNEIJZERHOHE 6881. The remainder of the battalion moved according to plan at 2000 hours to conform with 4 Parachute Brigade.

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- 1 Border was given their orders direct by the Acting Brigade Commander who visited their HQ. A plan was laid on for an attack by A Coy on to LAURA to extricate D Coy if required and subsequently for the same Coy to make a demonstration to the South from there to extricate B Coy from the RENKUM-HEELSUM area, B Coy having said that they did not expect to be able to move in daylight. In point of fact the move went according to plan and these attacks were not necessary.
- 1700 After the early withdrawal of A Coy 7 KOSB the North flank had been left open and the enemy occupied REIJERSHEIDE and part of the wood to the South of the main road. The Recce tp was ordered up there to watch them.
- 1800 At various times about now reports were received chiefly from RA sources of parties of SS up to 250 strong moving up from HEELSUM and up to 50 strong moving East along the railway line in the vicinity of point 29.4(6580). These never came to anything though fire was opened on some figures on the railway in the vicinity of Brigade HQ without result.
- 1815 Recce Tp reports that the Southern edge of the wood South of REIJERSHEIDE was free of the enemy but that considerable numbers were in the Northern half. The Tp Comd reported that one of his recce patrols had been captured and that they must have been murdered as they were all found dead, shot through the head, at some distance from their weapons.
- 1900 Brigade HQ Group moved off in order of march:-
Glider Pilots
Brigade HQ
Pl 9 Fd Coy
Tp Recce Sqn
- 2000 Brigade HQ established in BILDERBERG HOTEL 683787. This had the disadvantage of being:-
(a) An obvious artillery or mortar target
(b) In the front line
(c) Almost entirely composed of glass
- but it was in the true Airlanding Brigade tradition of being the most luxurious building in the area. The Dutch proprietors were most hospitable to us and seemed to have been the same to the Germans as they produced a number of chits signed by individual German officers. It was decided to leave this HQ at dawn the following morning.
- 2100 No communication with 7 KOSB owing to screening by the woods 7 KOSB passed to command 4 Parachute Brigade. 1 Border reported occupation of new position.
- Night quiet for units under command.
- 18/19 2 S Staffords second lift party rejoined own unit by first light. 7 KOSB moved in front of 4 Parachute Brigade along road to JOHANNA HOEVE with C Coy directed on point 56.5(6979) and B Coy on to 54.2(7080). The main axis followed B Coy. It was found that these positions were strongly held with prepared MG posts which were difficult to locate in the dark. It was therefore decided to occupy a position based on JOHANNA HOEVE until first light. A Coy remainder in area 686813.

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19th September.

The Brigade task this day was to hold the approaches to ARNHEM from the West and to cover the landing of the third lift gliders in the area North West of JOHANNA HOEVE. The former task was carried out by the Glider Pilots and 1 Border : the latter by 7 KOSB now passed to command 4 Parachute Brigade. The plan for the latter task was for 7 KOSB to stand fast in their present positions while 4 Parachute Brigade passed through them. OC 7 KOSB adjusted his dispositions accordingly expecting the gliders in not later than 1000 hrs.

- 0445 2 S Staffords resumed their advance into the town.
0500 GSO III left to recce new HQ in the area VALKENBURG 685782
0730 The GOC having returned, the Brigade Commander reassumed command and decided to move Brigade HQ to the houses at 694779.
0800 Brigade HQ already on transport ready for the move was strafed Messerschmidts. No casualties or damage. Col Barlow left to take command of operations in the town and was not heard of again. Lt Comd Walters, RDN, left for Div HQ.
0900 Brigade HQ established in new location. The dispositions of units under command at this time were:-

Glider Pilots	Point 63.5(6878) extended to railway
1 Border HQ	house at 682785
A Coy	GRAFTCOMBE 6878
B Coy	area of WEG 6877
C Coy	astride main road at 679784
D Coy	Point at 63.2(6778)
Pl 9 Fd Coy	houses at 694778

One squadron Glider Pilots under Major A.J.Dale DFC was in reserve disposed for the local protection of Brigade HQ from the East.

- 0930 Major Simmonds reported that he had a small detached party of 2 S Staffords under command in area point 55.1(691785). This party requested permission to rejoin own unit and consisted of:-

A/Tk guns under Capt Woodward
BB Mortar Pl under Lieut Withers MC
One rifle pl under command Lieut Edwards

Div HQ decided to keep this party in reserve for the present and they remained in former location except that the A/Tk guns with two 17 prs were ordered to join 1 Border.

- 0945 Various reports received from civilian sources that enemy in large numbers had passed through HEELSUM 6477 and NOERDEBERG 6476 and were crossing the river from the South at DOORSWERTH 6676. 1 Border informed.
1100 Information received that 4 Parachute Brigade held up in woods East and North East of JOHANNA HOEVE with main area of resistance along the line of the road running parallel to grid line 70. A sgt of 156 Parachute Bn arrived at this HQ having been pinned to the ground near the railway crossing at 699791 for some hours. He reported an SP gun and an Armoured Car in the orchard at 699791 which ran along the road from 698795 to 699793 and fired either West or South as required. This sgt was sufficiently close to watch the gun in action and hear the words of command. The sgt was sent on to Div HQ

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- 1115 2 S Staffords now working direct under Div asked for their A tk guns: all except two were sent up, the two being kept at Brigade HQ as a reserve. For remainder of story of 2 S Staffords see their narrative attached at Appendix 'C'.
- 1500 A plan was laid on for a small party from 1 Border under Major Montgomery to stalk the tracked vehicles notified by the Para Bn Sgt as being in the orchard at 698794.
- 1515 It was decided by Div that it would now be impossible for 4 Para Bde to move East north of the railway. They were therefore to withdraw South leaving 7 KOSB to cover the Landing Zone for the landing on the Polish transport and the crossing of the railway by 4 Para Brigade. 7 KOSB were then to rejoin this Brigade in the area 679793. This Brigade was not informed of this decision as regards 7 KOSB.
At this time the third lift gliders started arriving, preceded by a resupply drop. In spite of heavy flak the gliders made good landings and were unopposed on the ground. 7 KOSB providing part of B Coy to assist the Poles in unloading. A few minor incidents occurred with the Poles firing at the KOSB protecting force and they attacked Major Montgomery's stalking party as they approached the orchard. This stalk had then to be called off.
- 1530 The Deputy Commander, Colonel Barlow and the whole of 2 S Staffords HQ were reported missing.
- 1700 7 KOSB complete except for part of B Coy, which had gone astray and the whole of A Coy Group which got cut off, crossed the railway. The transport went via WOLFHEZEN less certain vehicles which crossed with the troops and some of which got stuck.
- 1900 Just after 7 KOSB were clear of 1 Border, all Coys 1 Border were attacked lightly, the attacks being driven off without difficulty. Coy positions were readjusted as a result of a decision by Div to hold a perimeter West of ARNHEM. During the course of the day 2 S Staffords, with elements of 1, 3 and 11 Bns had finally been driven out of the town by weight of gunfire and tanks, and the party had to be reformed in the area of OOSTERBEEK station 703774 under Major Cain, Major Simmond's party less the rifle platoon was ordered to join them and the defence of the South East part of the perimeter was re-organized under Lt.Col.Thomson, 1 Lt Regt RA with its HQ at the Church 696773. A 22 Set was provided by this HQ under whose command the party was placed, and a party of Glider Pilots under Major Dale given the task of finding a standing patrol with orders to fight a delaying action between the railway bridge at 711774 and OOSTERBEEK station. This patrol was withdrawn after dark.
- 1930 7 KOSB arrived in Div HQ area. GSO II ordered them to hold the Northern flank of the perimeter between on the right with the Recce Sqn and on the left 21 Indep Para Coy in OMMERSHOL 6979. The area selected by the CO was that of the woods at 696791.
- 2245 Coy position of 1 Border were adjusted as follows :-
B Coy in area of cross roads 688772 with one platoon in houses at 685770.
C Coy in area of KOUDE HERBERG cross roads.
D Coy on the road at 686775.

2300 Major Cain reported the strength of his force as :-

2 S Staffords	100
1 Para Bn	116
3 Para Bn	40
11 Para Bn	150
Glider Pilots	30

2400 7 KOSB reached new location and started digging in; no communication with them.

20th September.

0230 Liaison Officer arrived from Div with 4 Para Bde plan for following day.

0445 Div informed this Brigade that 7 KOSB had reverted to our command.

0730 Heavy mortaring on all positions including Brigade HQ.

0800 Strength return from 7 KOSB gave battalion as about 270.

0830 Direct hit on Brigade HQ caused the death of :-

Capt E.A.Moy Thomas	Oxf & Bucks	Staff Capt.
Capt R.Burns	Border Regt	Bde IO
Capt S. Blatch	Royal Sigs	Bde Sig Offr.
Lt. A.E.Thomas	Border Regt	Def Pl Ccmd.

A number of men were wounded at the same time.

1000 Attacks on a small scale developed along the main road against 1 Border and intense activity in the woods North of the railway reported by 7 KOSB also developed into infiltration attacks. All these attacks were supported by tanks and SP guns, a number of each being destroyed by each battalion.

1100 The perimeter defence at ~~COSTERBEEK~~ station was reorganised with 11 Para Bn holding the coast road area with the A tk guns and MMGs belonging to 2 S.Staffords. All Staffords were withdrawn and occupied the area of the Laundry at 697775.

1330 Information received that the follow up troops were held up South of the NIJMEGEN bridge and that they were putting in an attack immediately.

1430 GSO III accidently wounded in the arm and taken to the ADS.

1445 Visit from Lt.Col.Marrable, Comd 181 Fd Amb, and Major Rigby Jones who said that the MDS had been captured that morning but that the wounded and medical staff were not being molested and that the doctors had free access.

1550 C Coy 1 Border on the main road was attacked by flame throwing tanks and SP guns. They were forced to withdraw somewhat but counter-attacked and regained all former positions. The Brigade Commander visited 1 Border.

1530 Lieut Colthard, 1 Border arrived as replacement Brigade IO and Lieut Schwartz 2 S Staffords as GSO III.

1730 Resupply dropped all over Brigade area. Panniers were collected by units of the Brigade and reported to CRASC for collection.

Sheet 9

- 1800 Two carriers from 7 KOSB sent to Div HQ to rush ammunition to bridge and distribute supplies. Position in hand on all fronts.
- 1815 11 Para Bn ordered to establish post at bend in road 697777 and patrol between there and OOSTERBEEK station.
- 1830 Major Winchester, Comd 9 Fd Coy, arrived at Brigade HQ to enquire whether the ferry at 6876 was still under our control. On being informed that it was he went down to recce it.
- 1920 Brigade Commander visited Glider Pilots, 7 KOSB and Div HQ. He told Div that he was not confident of the OOSTERBEEK area as 11 Para Bn are in a very nervous state.
- 2330 KOSB reported intense enemy activity with tracked vehicles on their front. A conc from the Lt Regt was brought down in the area an hour later.
- 2400 Report received that NIJMEGEN bridge had been captured intact and that the armour was pouring across with a view to making a flat out rush for ARNHEM bridges.

21st September.

- 0350 Carrier patrol to try and get ammunition to the 1 Para Bde party on the bridge failed to get through. Ammunition was therefore handed over to 11 Para Bn.
- 0545 11 Para Bn were ordered to send patrols East to the railway-road bridge.
- 0600 Various attacks developed against 1 Border right and centre : all were broken up or driven off with the help of 1 Lt Regt.
- 0730 Div O Group held and the perimeter divided between 1 Air Landing Bde and 4 Para Bde. Our area of responsibility was from the area of the road at 699790 round to HEVEADORP and included in order of position from right to left :-

Recce Squ
7 KOSB
21 Indep Para Coy
Div RE
Glider Pilot Bn
1 Border.

- 0900 Advanced platoon of B Coy 1 Border at HEVEADORP attacked by a number of Tiger tanks and overrun. A counter-attack put in by the Coy destroyed three tanks but failed and the force temporarily disintegrated, having lost its commander, Major Armstrong. Stragglers without arms came back to Brigade HQ where they were reformed under Major Stewart and Captain Reese and ordered to hold the line of the wood at 692774. Later this party was reinforced by the platoon of 2 S Staffords under Lieut. Edwards which had remained in reserve in the area of Div HQ. Major Breese took over command of this force, Major Stewart having been wounded.
- 1000 The mortaring which had been intense all the morning died down and work was completed by 9 Fd Coy platoon on slit trench command post. These slits were occupied during the day while a cellar in an outhouse was being prepared for occupation.

- 1030 GOC and CRA visited Brigade HQ and said FOU was now in touch with Medium Regts of Gds Armd Div. We were told to select targets for the time when they would be in range.
- 1100 Lieut Clark, JLO, sent to Cainforce with a message escorted by a DR. He ran into an ambush and was reported by the escort killed. (Later reported wounded).
- 1217 Two mortars offered by Recce Regt were sent to Lieut Withers who was commanding mortars of 2 S Staffords in area of Div HQ
- 1235 Information received that 43 Div would be directed on HEVEADORP ferry and might be expected to pass one battalion and ammunition across the river in the evening. Slidex for today reported compromised.
- 1445 Resupply drop in Brigade area badly shot up by flak and ME 109s. One container of 6 pr ammunition dropped free and landed on Brigade HQ. exploding and wounding some of the Provost Section.
- 1515 Recce reported SP gun had broken into their area and that 156 Para Bn had amalgamated with them. 21 Indep Para Coy reported that heavy attacks were starting on their front supported by SP guns. At their request Scale 3 was put down by the Lt Regt on 689794.
- 1615 30 Corps were reported at ELST.
- 1630 A determined attack at coy strength preceded by heavy mortaring was put in against 7 KOSB right on the White House at 697791. The attack was broken up and a counter-attack with a bayonet charge led by Lt Col Payton Reid cleared the enemy from the vicinity except for a large number of dead. This battle was reported by 21 Indep Para Coy who said that 7 KOSB had been liquidated and that only a few stragglers were left in their area. This alarmist report was probably caused by the fact that there was a 400 yds gap between 7 KOSB left and them. As touch was temporarily lost with 7 KOSB by wireless, the Recce Sqn on their right were asked the situation. They confirmed that 7 KOSB were still in position.
- 1800 KOSB decided to close the gap between them and 21 Ind Para Coy by side-stepping and to shorten the line owing to the large number of casualties caused in the White House battle. Preparations were put under way and the RAP was moved, the MO and all walking wounded, including the second in command, falling into enemy hands. A new MO was asked for and 7 KOSB were told to send a carrier down to the ADS to collect him.
- 1905 A heavy attack developed along the main road against A and C Coy positions. A safe area for shelling was notified and the medium guns of 30 Corps brought down with great success. This was continued for about an hour and the enemy finally withdrew. This fire was brought down and observed entirely by the infantry. Observers were put out by 1 Border to watch and report on the drop of the shells. Observations and calls for repetitions were passed over the Brigade command net and relayed over the Brigade A wave to the G staff at Div.
- 2058 A series of crumps were put down on HEVEADORP culminating in Scale 5 from the Mediums.

- 2152 21 Indep Para Coy given orders to withdraw to the Div Maint Area by 0200 hours. to come into Div reserve.
- 2200 The Div perimeter was shortened in the North by withdrawing further South. 7 KOSB were moved to the area of the edge of the wood at 693788, with contact on their left with the Glider Pilots, and Recce Sqn on their right. 9 Fd Coy were in reserve just behind them. In the event of the Polish Brigade being ferried across during the night they were to take over 1 Border positions and 1 Border was to come into reserve. In fact the Poles did not arrive.

22nd September.

- 0730 After a comparatively quiet night, the usual hour's morning hate of shelling and mortaring started. A number of men of Brigade HQ were killed and two officers wounded. They were
- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Lieut Schwartz | 2 S Staffords | Acting GSO III |
| Capt Lockyer | RASC | Bde RASC Officer. |
- Both were removed to the ADS where Capt Lockyer subsequently had a leg amputated.
- 0900 Decision taken to move Brigade HQ to an area less easily selected as a mortar target. Location selected was in a wood at 692778, the local defences moving also. Dispositions now were :-
- (a) Glider Pilot Sqn holding a line from the monument at 688779 to HEMELSCHE BERGE 689776.
 - (b) Two anti tank guns of 2 S Staffords were sited, one to cover the approach from the East and the other at the road junction at 690777.
 - (c) Platoon 9 Fd Coy was released to command own squadron.
- 0910 1 Border reported that their ammunition dump had been blown up by a direct hit.
- 1300 A plan was laid on for Breese force to attack HEVEADORP at first light next morning with a view to recapturing the ferry so as to get the Poles and follow-up troops across. Orders for the attack were issued and Capt Lee of the Light Regt was to get the whole of the artillery available from 2nd Army registered before dark.
- 1600 Heavy attack on D Coy 1 Border in the centre locality. They reported themselves as nearly surrounded and that their strength was 2 and 35. They beat off the attack and stood fast. This was the last communication with them for some days.
- 1700 Last touches were being put to the Brigade HQ command post trenches when heavy mortaring came down and tree bursts caused a number of casualties, including Major Normal-Walker, Comd 1 Lt Bty our affiliated bty. An immediate replacement was asked for and Capt Taylor of the Lt Regt arrived with Capt McMillan with a FOU set.
- 1715 Report from Div that 30 Corps had overcome the last obstacle holding them up and that they should be up to the river very shortly.
- 1725 Arrangements made to receive a number of Poles who were to cross the river tonight. Glider Pilots were to meet them and lead

- 1800 Visit from ADMS, OC 181 Fd Amb and Capt Rigby-Jones who informed us that the Brigade HQ Padre, Rev Benson had lost an arm when the MDS was shelled by an SP gun at short range. They also said that Capt Robson the GSO III would be ready to come out tomorrow and rejoin for duty.
- 1945 An SP gun was reported in the vicinity of our former Brigade HQ. This was subsequently confirmed by 4 Para Bde. Biv troops undertook to deal with it.
- 2145 The attack by Breese force on the Ferry was cancelled by GOC it not having been possible to carry out any registration owing to bad visibility.
- 2245 Information received that 5 DCLI can be expected to cross the river in DUKWS tonight.
- 2345 Some Poles started arriving across the river in the area of the Light Regt. They missed the guides owing to crossing at the wrong place. They were collected at the Church and numbered in all about 35. They were given to Major Breese to reinforce his party. As they were not battle inoculated they did not dig satisfactory slit trenches and were quickly reduced by half by shelling. Capt Wilson GSO 2 with Liaison Section, crossed with them and reported to Brigade HQ.

23 rd September

- 0730 Morning hate started again. It was noticed that heavy mortaring and shelling invariably started about this time and went on for an hour. Fire seems to be brought down later during the day on areas indicated by SP 88 mm guns firing signals into the air. This was particularly noticed during the rest of the battle when the SP guns got inside the perimeter.
- 0800 Infantry and some tanks and SP guns had infiltrated into the wood at 694778 and were taken on by the Light Regt.
- 0930 A heavy attack estimated by 1 Border as being at battalion strength with many Spandaus was launched against their right. Enemy were said to be Rumanian SS. This attack developed strongly and was supported by SP guns and flame throwing tanks.
- 1200 A Coy 1 Border had their north flank turned and there was much confused action until a counter-attack by the battalion reserve restored the position. Medium guns of 30 Corps assisted throughout. The GOC sent his congratulations to 1 Border.
- 1452 A heavy attack developed against 7 KOSB and continued at intervals during the day. Support fire on 693787 given by heavy guns from the South bank of the river. This shoot was most successful but caused some alarm among the KOSB as they thought it was firing short. It subsequently transpired that the enemy was firing at the same time and that the drop of our own shells was difficult to differentiate. Corrections were given and the main attack broken up.
- 1520
- 1600 Resupply drop and activity by our rocket firing Typhoons. Some of this drop fell in the Brigade area and was collected by us. There being no transport left at Div it could not be distributed. Brigade transport was by now reduced to the three Signal Jeeps.
- 1800 Recce reported that they had been blasted out of their houses and had withdrawn about 100 yards. The situation was well in hand and the troops' morale high.

- 2000 A ration distribution, the first at Brigade HQ, worked out at one sardine and some biscuits per man.
- 2355 Liaison Officer from Division arrived to explain the details of the reception of the Polish Para Brigade which was due to cross complete during the night. It was arranged that the GSO III who had returned from hospital during the morning should meet them with a party of guides from the Defence Platoon and bring them to the area of the ponds at 691778 where they would pass the night in slit trenches which were already there. In the morning they would be given a task as required.

24th September.

- 0145 Polish Liaison Officer arrived after having got lost on the way. A party of Signals with a wireless set had already left for the Church for the Poles. During the course of the night about 125 Poles crossed the river and were met by our guides. They were difficult to control and were very noisy, causing alarm to all troops in the vicinity. Some went astray and fetched up at the Church with the Light Regt. All Poles were brought to the Div HQ area whence 100 were sent to reinforce 4 Para Brigade. The remainder were put under command of the Glider Pilots in the area of the cross tracks at 688781 to contact 1 Border on the road. The GSO III with the Poles who had been captured by the Germans during the night in the vicinity of Brigade HQ was sent on to join the main party of Poles with 4 Para Brigade.
- 0900
- 1100 Sitrep from 7 KOSB reported no major activity by Germans during the night. They were now busy hunting out parties who had infiltrated into the lines in the darkness with MGs and were causing a lot of damage. A light attack at this time was broken up with shellfire.
- 1200 Enemy infantry established themselves in strength about 30 in the wood at the cross roads at 693778 and started to infiltrate into the wood across the Brigade HQ side of the road. One complete section of them was wiped out by a Signals Bren but other individuals got across. Individual effort on the part of spare men from Brigade HQ accounted for a number of them but they remained in possession. A small party under Lieut Austin JLO, and CSMI Morgan of the PT staff tried to drive them out but they had established themselves in some old slit trenches and both the above were reported killed. Later a party of about 20 Glider Pilots in their usual willing manner, under Lieut Doyd, tried without success to drive them out. This was found impossible because two tanks appeared at the road junction 693777 and covered the road. A tank hunting party from the Defence Platoon tried to stalk them with PIATs but without success and the PIATs were lost owing to casualties.
- 1230 The Glider Pilot Bn was badly shot up by flame throwing tanks. They held on and two were knocked out by 17 prs. They approached 7 KOSB and asked them to dispose themselves in greater depth so as to cover the Glider Pilots rear. The suggestion was agreed to by Lt Col Payton Reid, who shortened his front accordingly.
- 1407 An attack preceded by heavy shelling and mortaring came in on the Glider Pilots right. This continued for the rest of the day but they said they could hold out till dusk. Finally they evacuated the wood in the area of 692787 and took up positions behind 7 KOSB. This left the left flank of 7 KOSB badly exposed as the enemy could now form up under cover about 50 yards away from them.
- 1700

- 1740 Brigade Commander visited Div HQ and returned with orders as to what was to be done in the event of the Div being overrun.
- 1915 The enemy laid down a smoke screen and started forming up in front of 7 KOSB. This attack was broken up by the Mediums before it started.
- 1930 It having proved impossible to clear the wood in the vicinity of Brigade HQ at 693777 it was decided to bring the Mediums into it. They were registered in, one gun at a time, by Capt Taylor. When all were 'on' a number of concs were brought down and the enemy kept quiet for the rest of our stay at ARNHEM.
- 1935 Attacks on 1 Border centre and right were broken up by fire from the Mediums. D Coy in the centre were reduced by this time to 1 and 19, the Coy Commander Capt Hodgson being still in command.
- 2145 The enemy started ferrying our wounded from the MDS established by 181 Fd Amb into hospitals in ARNHEM. The MDS being in enemy hands all units had to hold their wounded at their RAPs those from Brigade HQ being sent to Div HQ dressing station.

25th September.

- 0445 Liaison Officer arrived to find out whether we had made contact with the follow-up troops who were said to have crossed the river with supplies and ammunition. No contact had been made and it subsequently transpired that the crossing had taken place 1000 yards to the West in the HEVEADORP area. Lt.Col. Haddon, OC 1 Border crossed with this party to rejoin his battalion but never made contact with his unit and has since been reported as prisoner of war.
- 1000 After a comparatively quiet morning heavy mortaring and shelling broke out all along the front. No major attack was put in anywhere but under its cover parties started infiltrating at all points and the morning was very sticky everywhere. A party estimated at one section occupied the houses at 693781 and ambushed all traffic passing along that road between Div and Brigade HQ. This was successfully dealt with by Major Dale's party of Glider Pilots. 3 SP guns and a Tiger Tank were now firmly established at the road junction 693777 and started moving North up to the entrance to Brigade HQ. The leading tank stopped with its nose just visible round the corner of the gate but no alarm was felt because that part was covered by a concealed anti tank gun. Unfortunately the breech got jammed as a result of mortar fire and another 6 pr had to be fetched. This gun fired 3 rounds and immobilised the tank but did not destroy it. When darkness fell it was towed away by another tank. The presence of that 6 pr deterred the enemy for the rest of the day.
- 1030 Div O Group at Div HQ.
- 1051 An SOS call came from the Light Regt saying that they were being very heavily attacked, the object being apparently to cut the Div off from the river. They asked for immediate infantry support and PIATs. As nothing was available from us the request was passed to Div HQ who replied that nothing could be found for them and that they must hang on.

1330 Orders for Operation BERLIN issued, i.e. orders for the evacuation to the other side of the river during the night. The order of move as far as the Brigade Group was concerned was -

D Coy 1 Border
7 KOSB
Brigade HQ Group
Glider Pilots with Poles under command
1 Border less D Coy
Breeseforce

The time of move as far as Brigade HQ Group was concerned was 2240 hours but all timings were later postponed 20 minutes.

1430 A corporal from D Coy 1 Border Regt got through to Brigade HQ giving their strength and fighting state. This was the first contact with them for two days as WT had failed and patrols had failed to get through. He was sent back immediately to order the withdrawal of D Coy forthwith to the line of the track South of the monument at 688779. He returned to Brigade HQ some time later saying that he had arrived back at the coy just as it was being overrun. Nothing further was heard of any of this coy.

2300 Brigade HQ personnel went to the RV at the road junction 690778 in parties holding hands. On arrival there it was found that units which should still have been in position were already moving past. Brigade HQ joined in and crossed the start line on time but well back in the queue. The move to the river bank as far as most units were concerned was uneventful except that 7 KOSB ran into a barrage and part of their tail got cut off.

26th September.

0200 7 KOSB completed their crossing in assault boats.

0600 Evacuation by boat ceased at first light, about two thirds of Brigade HQ being left on the North bank. Thereafter no further evacuation took place except for a few swimmers and a small party which arrived the following night.

1200 A strength check carried out at NIJMEGEN showed the following survivors :-

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Strength returning</u>	<u>Strength at take-off</u>
Brigade HQ Gp and Sigs	4 and 52	10 and 92
7 KOSB	4 and 72	41 and 734
1 Border	10 and 225	41 and 754
2 S Staffords	5 and 119	43 and 736
Provost Section	1 and 3(+1 PW)	1 and 12