



# **LIBERATION OF ROSENDAAL OCTOBER 1944**



**Liberation of Roosendaal  
October 1944**

**1/7<sup>th</sup> BATTALION  
of  
147<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY BRIGADE, 49<sup>th</sup> (WEST RIDING) DIVISION**

*Compiled by DWR Archives Volunteers Team:  
March 2024*

**Scott Flaving, Richard Harvey  
with Keith Griffiths**

## CONTENTS:

### **1. Introduction:**

49<sup>th</sup> (British) Infantry Division - ORBAT, 1944  
Polar Bear badge design & history  
Maps

### **2. Primary sources:**

Unit War Diary

Lt Col Hamilton - letter to Depot, DWR, 1944.

Lt J Lappin - relevant extracts as published in Barclay and Delaforce, below.

### **3. Secondary sources:**

Brigadier C N Barclay, page 237-8

Mr Patrick Delaforce, page 169.

Mr Scott Flaving, page 91.

Major A C S Savory, page 317.

Edited - Iron Duke Journals, editions and access.

### **4. Casualties:**

Richard Macfarlane - Extract from 7 DWR Nominal Roll, Normandy Campaign.

### **5. Roll of Honour:**

Mr Scott Flaving - Extract from *Huddersfield Drill Hall War Memorials 1899-1902 and 1939-1945*.

### **6. Honours and Awards:**

Mr Scott Flaving - Extract from *Roll of Regimental Gallantry Medals and Civil Awards*.

### **7. Air Support:**

Mr Keith Griffiths - details of air reconnaissance, fighter and bomber support from the RAF and RCAF.

### **8. Heritage and Legacy:**

7 DWR - post war evolution.  
Memorials.

## ***1. INTRODUCTION***

This booklet, following on from a previous booklet relating to the Battles at Haalderen in 1944-45, has been compiled to give a basic background to the events leading up to the liberation of Roosendaal in October, 1944, which is being commemorated by the town this year, on the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Mr Lars de Graaf, the secretary of The Dutch Polar Bears Foundation (ANBI) has kindly invited representatives of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment to join them and this delegation will be accompanied by members of the 'Dukes' successor unit, the Royal Yorkshire Regiment. The new Regiment was formed from the amalgamation of the surviving three Yorkshire Infantry Regiments (with the Prince of Wales's own Regiment of Yorkshire, the Green Howards and The Duke of Wellington's Regiment).

Other Regiments from the 49<sup>th</sup> (Polar Bear) Division will also be represented (see Order of Battle (ORBAT) list below).

This booklet has been laid out to include as many sources as possible and so there will be a little duplication, I'm afraid. However, the various sources do include extra details which makes their inclusion useful.

I hope that some of you find some of it of interest.

Scott Flaving Cert Ed  
Nostell, March 2024.

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**49<sup>th</sup> (West Riding) Infantry Division  
Order of Battle - as at October 1944**

**146<sup>th</sup> Brigade**

4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lincolns  
1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion KOYLI  
Hallams Battalion (York and Lancaster Regiment)

**147<sup>th</sup> Brigade**

11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Scots  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Leicesters (from 6 Jul 1944)  
*1/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)*

**56<sup>th</sup> Brigade (from 19 Aug 1944)**

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion South Wales Borderers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Glosters  
2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment

**Artillery**

69<sup>th</sup> Fd Regiment RA  
143<sup>rd</sup> Fd Regiment RA  
185<sup>th</sup> Fd Regiment RA  
55<sup>th</sup> Anti Tank Regiment RA  
89<sup>th</sup> Light Anti Aircraft Regiment RA

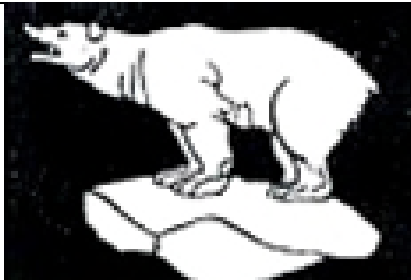
**Divisional Troops**

49<sup>th</sup> Signals Regiment  
49<sup>th</sup> Recce Regiment  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kensingtons - Machine Gun Battalion.

“In August the divisional newspaper, *The Midnight Sun*, appeared in print, as did the new divisional sign. The famous white polar bear was reproduced in his natural attitude - face lowered to look into a hole in the ice, preparing to grasp his next fishy meal.”

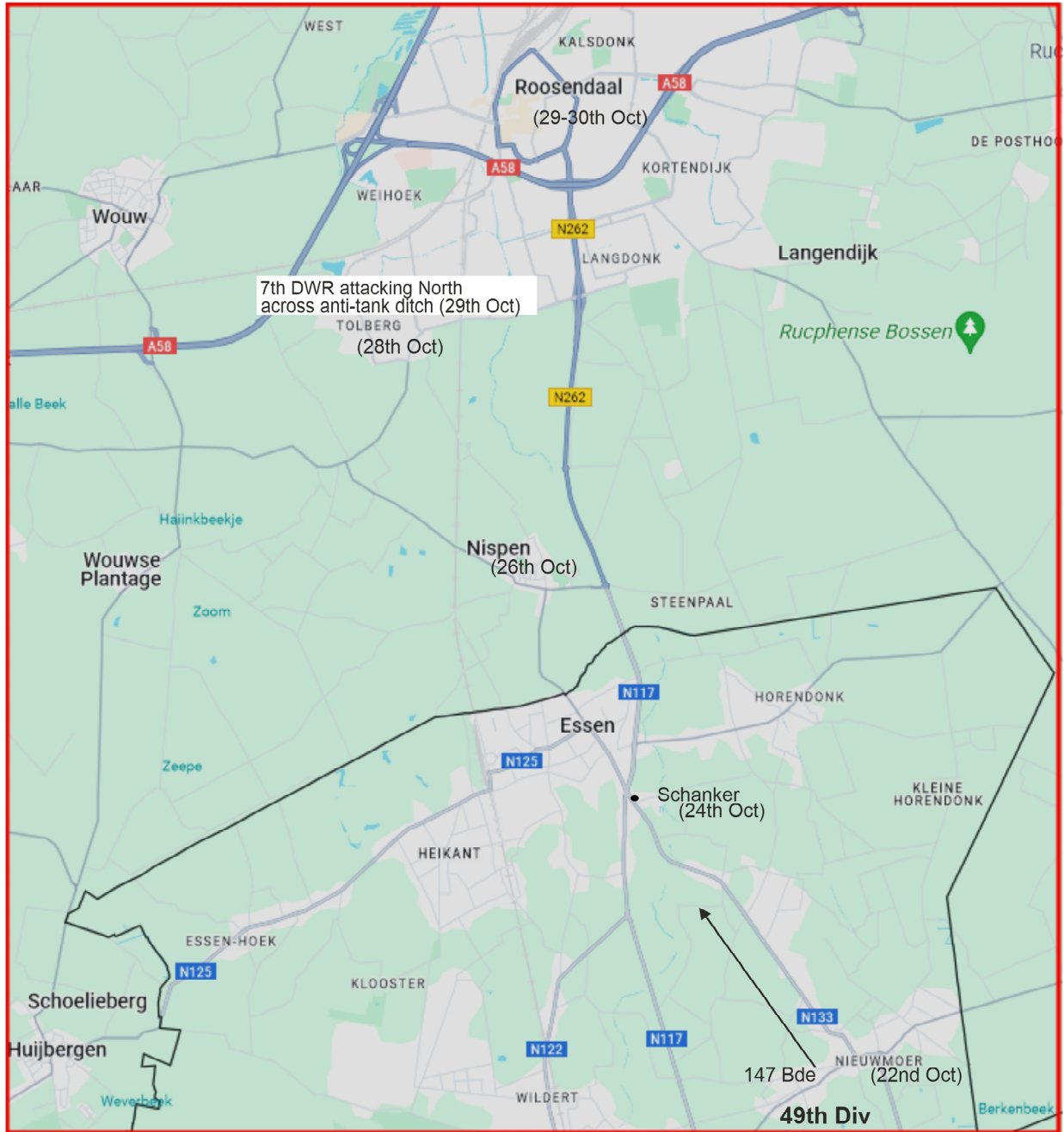
“General ‘Bubbles’ Barker evidently thought that the lowered head indicated a lack of martial intent. He wrote, “That Bear is too submissive. I want a defiant sign for my division, lift its head up and make it roar.” So 16,000 soldiers, each with two battle dresses and four divisional signs were issued with the new ‘aggressive’ signs design.”

*Polar Bears, P Delaforce, pp 12, 21:*

To follow		To follow
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Polar Bear badge design</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Polar Bear badge design</i>	<i>Insignia as worn in Normandy</i>



# Battle for Roosendaal



Map base, obtained from Google Maps

Route of the final approach to Roosendaal, 49<sup>th</sup> Division - 147<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade  
from Nieuwmoer-Shanker-Essen-Nispen-Tolberg-Roosendaal, 22<sup>nd</sup> - 30 Oct 1944

*Google maps, enhanced by R Harvey*

## ROOSENDAAL - ANTI TANK DITCH

**Map to follow**

*Sketch map of the anti-tank ditch constructed by the Germans, using local labour, 1944.*

## 2. PRIMARY SOURCES

### *Unit War Diary 27 - 30 Oct, 1944.*

Place	Date	Time	Summary of events and Information	References
Schenker	27	1930	CO, IO to 147 Inf Bde HQ. Bn is to adv at first light to obtain br head over the A Tk ditch S of Roosendaal.	
		2230	Bn 'O' Gp Bn to move embussed to secure Tolberg before sending patrols fwd to A Tk obstacle and secure br head.	
	28	0750	A Coy report 2 PW captured.	Identified 12 Coy 732 Gr
		0815	D Coy reports enemy digging in 718303. Mines located at 718293 on rly.	
		1844	Bn ext in area Tolberg. Bn HQ est 695262. A, C and D Coys patrol fwd to cross A Tk obstacle.	
		0930	Civ reports 60 enemy digging in 720295 - 725291.	
Tolberg		2300	CO issues orders for silent infiltration across obstacle by Bn to get behind his defences. Owing to increased opposition the operation was cancelled at 0015. Enemy mortaring of approaches to br site very accurate.	
	29	0600	A Coy's br head attacked by 40/50 Boche covered by accurate mortar and MG fire from flanks and rear. Both pls in br head overrun. Several men withdrew after short sharp engagement.	2Lt Judge and 25 ORs missing, presumed POW and safe.
		0800	B Coy ordered to restore situation at br head. Heavily opposed by enemy on other side of obstacle. Mortaring very accurate causing some cas.	
		1135	D Coy in continuing attempt to get fwd to line of obstacle still meeting opposition from SA, mortar and arty fire.	Lt Lappin MC wounded.
		1300	B Coy still 70 yards from obstacle unable to get fwd.	
		1545	Pressure on Bn front now eased by Bn attack of 1 Leics.	
		1620	Two pls B Coy now able to cross obstacle getting a firm hold on the other side.	
		1730	31 PW taken.	Identification 743 Gr, 723 Gr, 9 Para Bn.
Roosendaal		2000	Bn to adv into Roosendaal 730310 during night, H Hr 0300. D Coy still strongly opposed but able to secure a posn across A Tk obstacle.	
	30	0600	Bn firmly est on its objective. Roosendaal 730310 reported clear of enemy.	Total cas during op were: 1 Offr missing
		1600	Bn having completed its task moves into Roosendaal for a well earned rest.	2 Offrs wounded 11 ORs killed
	31		Bn at rest re-organising and refitting.	26 ORs wounded 41 ORs missing

***Extract from letter sent to Major S E Baker by Lt Col C D Hamilton, dated December, 1944, and published in the Iron Duke Journal, edition 060, February, 1945, page 19:***

“With high hearts we received orders to move back to Nieumoer and rest for 24 hours, having handed over our black bog to friends. But it rained heavily as we moved back and this omen meant little rest. We were right. By 5 am we were loaded and on the move into a new line - the anti-tank ditch of Roosendaal.

This was a sticky sector. C Coy, under Major G V Fancourt, had to cross a lateral ditch and advance 800 yards over bare, open fen. The Company was sniped during their advance by all weapons, including German SP guns. It was only possible to crawl and, where crawling was possible, one crawled in water. And yet the Company gained their objective and by doing so made the first valuable bridgehead over the defences.

A Coy, in a series of attempts to cross the main ditch, killed and captured many Boche and, themselves, suffered casualties by sniping, shelling and counter-attack. B Coy spent a most uncomfortable day pinned down in water ditches by close range sniping and mortaring. D Coy protected our right flank and wholly engaged the enemy’s attention on that side of the offensive and very gallant patrols and raids. Battalion HQ was shot at from front *and rear*; mortars, anti-tank guns and carriers all had a selection of targets which pleased even their greedy hearts and, of course, the Pioneers had a ditch to look at, measure and help bridge! The operation was, in fact, one which kept the whole Battalion employed continuously for two days and two nights.

By 0300 hours of 30<sup>th</sup> October the enemy had had enough and under the general pressure and artillery shelling he left in a hurry. The Battalion advanced and entered Roosendaal at 0600 hrs, to meet yet again the infernal anti-personnel mines, which caused our leading Companies some casualties. In the Boche way, the mines were left for soldiers and civilians alike to walk on. No Boche defended these minefields and in fact some Boche coming in to surrender to our leading Companies walked on their own mines and suffered a well deserved fate. We stayed in Roosendaal for some days resting. We certainly needed sleep and a clean-up. C Company having proved themselves such master crawlers were ordered out one night into the real below sea level Polder country further north. But apart from some practice digging below sea level the journey was unnecessary and they returned to the flesh pots next morning!

And there we must leave you. Needless to say we have made up our sleep and are spick and span again. The Roosendaalians were most hospitable and kind. The people of Turnhout were tumultuous, the Roosendaalians reserved. But in both cases we own them our thanks for their kindness in looking after our simple needs of accommodation, warmth, hot water and, no doubt, a fair amount of darning! This is rather a long story. But we have come a long way.”

***Extracts from the Lappin Diary:***

**Capt John Lappin MC.**

**1/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Duke of Wellington’s Regiment  
147<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 49<sup>th</sup> Division  
Jun - Oct 1944**

11 Jun	Our little ship LCI had quite a record – took part in Anzio landing and took the Airborne boys over to this show on D+1 [ <i>presumably back-up and support troops</i> ]. On the return journey ‘she’ shot down a Junkers 88. We had all our rations on board for this trip and boy – what an orgy. It would have made any housewife green with envy. By the end of the trip we were giving away tins of salmon salad in mayonnaise, fruit pudding, canned beef
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	and soup. The soup tins were ingenious. You applied a cigarette end to the special top and in five minutes – hey presto – a tin of hot soup.
8 Jul Sat	Our GOC Division, General Barker, came to see us – waited all afternoon – Rather ancient but quite a nice old stick. They say he knows his modern war alright – fair enough!
13 Jul	<i>Tessel Bretteville.</i> By this time it was light; off we went by the same route and walked straight out of the corn into the trees in front of the house. There we found several weapon pits with signs of occupation but the whole bloody lot were asleep! I dropped off a Bren gun there to cope with the occupants when they awoke and went round into the house. That was easy – it was empty but in the back garden were three more Jerries in their dug-outs. Simpson got one with his Sten gun and I got the two others with a grenade followed by Sten. Strangely enough I had no compunction about it. It just seemed the obvious thing to do. By this time the hullabaloo had roused the other Boche and the Spandau teams woke up on our right and started something. My right hand Bren was outnumbered so decided to withdraw but not before getting at least 3 Boche in the process. Simpson got another with his Sten and Wright bagged another with his rifle. Getting too hot so we withdrew into the cornfield, made for base, jerry firing wildly at us from the trees. None of my blokes hurt.
11 Sep	<i>Le Havre.</i> Things were going well – the General eager to get into Le Havre decided to push the ‘Dukes’ forward into the town on armoured troop carriers. D Coy leading, my platoon in front. We tore down the road towards the town. The Canadian Kangaroo crew kept us amused. Two kangaroos struck mines and were disabled, but only two casualties. The General and Brigadier took a look at our catastrophe and decided to pull us out of the battle. We sat down in the suburbs and had the unpleasant job of watching the Glosters going in to do our job for us. They seemed to have a whole Regiment of tanks in support. Just before dark we moved up to occupy the high ground overlooking the river. What a mess! It was another Caen, not a house worth having, everything blasted and cratered.
29 Oct Fri	<i>Roosendaal.</i> Leicesters were attacking a strong point to cover the advance forward by the Polish Armoured. We acted as flank protection. Up at 0300, breakfast 0330, move 0430. D Coy were 1,000 yards ahead of us. We moved up in the dark with the battle raging ahead of us. Jerry tried to reach us with mortars but missed by several hundred yards. When we came into the open in front of our objective we started to get it good and heavy from the Spandaus. The troop of Shermans came up in support and blasted away with MGs and 75 mms whilst we moved up the ditch beside them. The Boche opened up with ATK guns. One tank was hit several times – an unlucky shot put it out.  Pte Preston was wounded in the leg and arm. Godley was slightly wounded with a bullet and shell wound. Walt Horne’s platoon was sitting right on the enemy’s doorstep and taking everything. The Leicesters were in a very tight spot 200 yards to our left. D Coy were on our right. During the afternoon the German Commander asked for a truce to evacuate wounded.

A ridiculous situation for an hour. The red cross flag went backwards and forwards and one just walked up and down in the open. Jerry could see where we were. We could see him. The Leicesters and A Coy had a number of casualties coming through us. Back to the battle as before. About 1500 hrs the smoke cover dropped. The Leicesters, poor blighters, they'd certainly caught it.

*Sources:*

*Extracts for personal diary quoted in The Polar Bears by Patrick Delaforce..*



Liberation of Roosendaal 1944. 15 platoon, C.Company, 1/7th DWR.  
John Hey to right of centre in middleground.

### 3. SECONDARY SOURCES:

#### ***Barclay History, page 237-8***

“It rained continuously on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October, when the First Canadian Army was attempting to clear up the south bank of the River Maas. For ten days the 7<sup>th</sup> pushed on with 34<sup>th</sup> Tank Bde (‘Clark Force’). It was an interesting operation, in which the Battalion carried out a variety of offensive and defensive roles, sometimes with and sometimes without tank support. This phase of operations ended with a night advance to the outskirts of Roosendaal. A few days later they moved back to Nieumoer for a few hours’ rest; but it almost immediately moved back to Roosendaal to occupy the line of an anti-tank ditch in the vicinity of the town.

This was an unpleasant sector. C Coy, under Major G V Fancourt, had to cross a lateral ditch and advance 800 yards over bare, open fen. The Company was sniped during their advance by all weapons, including German self-propelled guns. It was only possible to crawl and, where crawling was possible, one crawled in water. A Coy, in a series of attempts to cross the main ditch, killed and captured many Germans and, themselves, suffered casualties by sniping, shelling and counter-attack. B Coy spent a most uncomfortable day pinned down in ditches by close-range sniping and mortaring. D Coy protected the right flank and engaged the enemy’s attention in that area by several fine patrols and raids.

By the early morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> October the enemy had become exhausted and under general pressure and artillery fire he left in a hurry. The Battalion advanced and completed the occupation of Roosendaal at 0600 hrs, to meet yet again the infernal anti-personnel mines, which caused the leading Companies some casualties. Major Smallwood stepped on an S-Mine which ‘clicked’ but did not detonate. The Battalion stayed in Roosendaal for some days resting.”

#### ***Delaforce, page 169.***

“By 28<sup>th</sup> October, Tilbury and Breda had been captured and the Polar Bears were ordered to take Roosendaal, a large country town some 2 miles north of Nispen. The main attack was to come from 147<sup>th</sup> Brigade from the south, the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters on the left and the 7<sup>th</sup> ‘Dukes’ on the right, with the 4<sup>th</sup> KOYLI and the 11<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots Fusiliers to pass through and capture the town. Initially the Hallamshires were ordered to capture the villages to the west of Roosendaal - Vinkenbrock and Boeink.

At first, all went well with the Hallams attack. Supported by 9<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment’s Churchill tanks and artillery barrage, A Company went in with the bayonet and took Vinkenbronck, capturing a dazed and ‘bomb happy’ enemy Company. Then B Company pushed through and occupied Boeink without meeting further resistance. Lt Col Hart Dyke had asked for the 9<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment troops to stay on the final objective for only 15 minutes after it was taken. Unfortunately they stayed on, and enemy 88mm anti tank guns picked off 10 Churchills - one after the other.

About 1,000 yards in front of Roosendaal was a stream which had been converted into a formidable anti-tank ditch, covered by well-constructed defence works. On their way north towards Roosendaal, the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters had had a battle at Brembosch where, on the 26<sup>th</sup>, B Company forced a bridge head over a dyke/anti-tank obstacle. Sgt J H Corbett won a MM here when, wounded in the leg, he took his platoon forward in spite of heavy casualties, until the supporting tanks could get across at 1545 hours to form a bridgehead over the anti-tank ditch in front of Roosendaal. Under a huge barrage, using cover of hedges, D Company, under Major Upcher, led, with B Company under major Pollard and C Company under major Walstell to follow through. By nightfall the Leicesters, having suffered 17 casualties, were in the town outskirts despite heavy shelling.

The ‘Dukes’ from Neumoer had, by the 24<sup>th</sup>, taken Schanker. By the night of 28/29<sup>th</sup> they were holding the line in front of the Roosendaal ditch, and they had put two platoons across but were forced to withdraw. Next, C Company, under Major G V Fancourt, led the attack under sniping from all weapons, including SP guns. They could only crawl forward in water. A Company managed to cross the main ditch, and they killed and captured many Germans, but they incurred casualties

themselves through shelling, sniping and counter-attack. B Company were pinned down most of the day in ditches by sniping and mortaring. D Company, on the right, carried out several fine raiding patrols. Lt John Lappin wrote:

*“Friday 29th (October) [1<sup>st</sup>] Leicesters were attacking a strong point to cover the advance forward by the Polish Armoured. We acted as flank protection. Up at 0300hrs, move 0430hrs. D Company was 1,000 yards ahead of us. We moved up in the dark with the battle raging ahead of us. Jerry tried to reach us with mortars but missed by several hundred yards. When we came into the open in front of our objective we started to get it good and heavy from the Spandaus (German machine guns). The troop of Shermans (tanks) came up in support and blasted away with machine guns and 75mms whilst we moved up the ditch beside them. The Boche opened up with anti-tank guns. One tank was hit several times and an unlucky shot put it out.”*

Lapin pulled his platoon back into a fir plantation. He continued:

*“Pte Preston was wounded in the leg and arm. Godley was slightly wounded with a bullet and a shell wound. Walt Horne’s platoon was sitting right on the enemy’s doorstep and taking everything. The Leicesters were in a very tight spot 200 yards to our left. D Company was on our right. During the afternoon the German Commander asked for a truce to evacuate the wounded. A ridiculous situation for an hour. The Red Cross flag went backwards and forwards and one just walked up and down in the open. Jerry could see where we were. We could see him. The Leicesters and A Company had a number of casualties coming through us. Back to the battle as before. About 1500hrs the smoke cover dropped. The Leicesters - poor blighters - they’d certainly caught it.”*

When the 11<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots Fusiliers and the 1/4<sup>th</sup> KOYLI passed through the ‘Dukes’ and Leicesters early on the 30<sup>th</sup>, they soon cleared the town, which the enemy had evacuated, losing 80 prisoners. Lt Col Hart Dyke of the Hallams recalled:

*“I had to tell the Brigadier that we could not effect an entry into Roosendaal from the west without a full scale set piece attack. A stretch of about 1,000 yards of completely flat ground lay between us and the wide moat and earthen ramparts of the city’s defences. Under cover of an early morning mist a patrol slipped into Roosendaal the next morning to find the western outskirts and defences evacuated by the enemy. Our forward Company followed in but was forestalled by our friends the KOYLI who received a rapturous reception from the populace. The city had not been damaged and the whole division was luxuriously billeted. The day after, all Divisional COs were ordered to days rest and recreation in Brussels.”*

Rex Flower of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> KOYLY remembered:

*“We entered the town with D Coy. The enemy had gone. All the people were waving, cheering. The welcome was fantastic. Orange coloured flags with the message, Orange Boven. They were frantic with joy. Boy! How they hated those Germans. We stayed with Piet, a railway worker, his wife and four lovely children.”*

Maj Godfrey Harland recalled:

*“A Coy HQ was being royally entertained and waited on by some very good looking Dutch girls. The CO had to break up the party and tell Andrew Rutherford to move his Company to less salubrious surroundings.”*

### **Flaving, page 91.**

“From 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October the Battalion was attached to Clarke Force and attacked Schanker, many enemy killed, wounded and taken prisoner, only one man wounded in B Company. Returned to command of 147<sup>th</sup> Brigade at 1730, remained in the front line until relieved on 27<sup>th</sup> October.



The same day the Battalion received orders to seize and hold a bridgehead over the anti tank ditch in front of Roosendaal in Holland, was embussed and moved to Nieumoer to carry out a reconnaissance of the obstacles in front of the town. Patrols were sent out to gauge the state of the defences, they were soon in contact with strong German forces, coming under fire from small arms, artillery and self propelled guns from elements of the German 6<sup>th</sup> Parachute Division and 9<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division. By 30<sup>th</sup> October the Battalion had infiltrated the front line under cover of darkness and liberated Roosendaal, where it remained at rest and training until 8<sup>th</sup> November. During the rest of the month reinforcements arrived and rehearsals for the operations to cross the River Maas were conducted. The Regimental cap badge can be seen carved on the rear of the 49<sup>th</sup> Division Memorial in the town square [of Roosendaal] (see page 32).

### ***Podmore, page 209***

Eschen, astride the Dutch/Belgian border, was captured by 1/4<sup>th</sup> KOYLI, supported by elements of the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Division, enabling the 49<sup>th</sup> Division to pass through for an assault upon Roosendaal, a large city which was an important road and railway junction. In the first phase of the Division's assault, the Hallamshires, 146<sup>th</sup> Brigade, supported by the 9<sup>th</sup> Royal Tank Regiment captured the outlying villages of Vinkenbrock and Boeink to the west of Roosendaal. The main attack was then made by the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters on the left with 7<sup>th</sup> 'Dukes' on the right. Close behind followed the 11<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots Fusiliers and 1/4<sup>th</sup> KOYLI (146<sup>th</sup> Brigade) in readiness to pass through to capture the main part of the town. Their approach was blocked by a substantial enemy anti-tank ditch which was covered by fire from numerous carefully sited enemy posts harbouring all types of weapon. The 7<sup>th</sup> 'Dukes' attacked under terrible difficulties which required them to advance across open fenland often crawling through water.

*"Friday 29th (October) [1<sup>st</sup>] Leicesters were attacking a strong point to cover the advance forward by the Polish Armoured. We acted as flank protection. Up at 0300hrs, move 0430hrs. D Company was 1,000 yards ahead of us. We moved up in the dark with the battle raging ahead of us. Jerry tried to reach us with mortars but missed by several hundred yards. When we came into the open in front of our objective we started to get it good and heavy from the Spandaus (German machine guns). The troop of Shermans (tanks) came up in support and blasted away with machine guns and 75mms whilst we moved up the ditch beside them. The Boche opened up with anti-tank guns. One tank was hit several times and an unlucky shot put it out."* Lieutenant John Lapin MC

Lieutenant Lapin prudently pulled back into a plantation where he assessed the state of his platoon:

*"Pte Preston was wounded in the leg and arm. Godley was slightly wounded with a bullet and a shell wound. Walt Horne's platoon was sitting right on the enemy's doorstep and taking everything. The Leicesters were in a very tight spot 200 yards to our left. D Company was on our right. During the afternoon the German Commander asked for a truce to evacuate the wounded. A ridiculous situation for an hour. The Red Cross flag went backwards and forwards and one just walked up and down in the open. Jerry could see where we were. We could see him. The Leicesters and A Company had a number of casualties coming through us. Back to the battle as before. About 1500hrs the smoke cover dropped. The Leicesters - poor blighters - they'd certainly caught it."* Lieutenant John Lapin MC

Early the next morning, 30<sup>th</sup> October, the Hallamshires and 1/4<sup>th</sup> KOYLI passed through the 'Dukes' and Leicesters' positions under cover of a mist to attack Roosendaal. By this time the German defenders had become exhausted and had begun to withdraw from the town which was quickly cleared. The West Riding Territorials received a warm welcome from the local population who were waving the distinctive orange-coloured flags that were to mark their progress through Holland. Also by 0600hrs the 7<sup>th</sup> 'Dukes' had completed the occupation of the town. Even though the enemy had

left, the area was still liberally sprinkled with mines which caused a number of casualties. Major Smallwood, B Company, had a very lucky escape when he stepped on an S Mine which clicked but failed to explode.”

**Savory. Page 317-8**

“At the end of July the Allies broke out of the Normandy beach-head and by the end of August the River Seine had been reached, which the 1/7<sup>th</sup> crossed on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. It now became important to liberate Le Havre and repair the dock area in time to help the winter build-up of the Allied armies. The task was given to 1 British Corps (49<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Divisions). The attack on Le Havre began on 10<sup>th</sup> September. The 1/7<sup>th</sup>, which was at that time 30 Officers and 864 Other Ranks strong, took part in the very successful operation. Le Havre fell on 12<sup>th</sup> September by which time the rest of 21<sup>st</sup> Army Group was 200 miles to the east. However, 1 Corps quickly rejoined and, by 23<sup>rd</sup> September, the 1/7<sup>th</sup> had moved through Brussels and was on the southern bank of the Leopold Canal, about 18 miles east of Antwerp. The task now was to clear the Belgian/Dutch frontier area northwards to the River Maas. By 30<sup>th</sup> October this had been achieved and the 1/7<sup>th</sup> had advanced to Roosendaal in south Holland.”

**Iron Duke Journal entries:**

Title	edition	year	vol	pages
Battle of Roosendaal, 30 10 1944	060	1945	21	19
Unveiling of Roosendaal Polar Bear Memorial, Holland, 05 5 1960	117	1960	36	89
Coy of 1/7th, Roosendaal, 1944	213	1990	59	68
Museum at Roosendaal to commemorate 49 Div and 1/7th Bn in WW2	218	1992	61	31
49th Div Memorial, Roosendaal	226	1994	63	116

*The Iron Duke editions are available on-line, listed by edition number and year. These can be downloaded free of charge and are accessed through the Regimental Website – [dwr.org.uk](http://dwr.org.uk) – family history page.*

*There is a basic Index to this series which will help you select the editions containing articles and items of relevance to your interest.*

**Wikipedia:**

The division received the order to move, arriving, after travelling some 200 miles, in the south of the Netherlands at a concentration area on 21 September, ten miles south of the Antwerp-Turnhout Canal. Over the next few days, the division liberated Turnhout and crossed the Antwerp-Turnhout Canal. It was during this period that the division was awarded its first and only Victoria Cross (VC) of the Second World War, belonging to Corporal John Harper of the Hallamshire Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment. The Division, after being on the offensive since landing in Normandy, then spent the next few weeks on the defensive along the Dutch frontier, before returning to the offensive. Operation Pheasant commenced in the third week of October, with the objective, after Tilburg and Breda had fallen to the 49<sup>th</sup>, being the capture of the town of Roosendaal, which fell after ten days of vicious fighting. Major General Barker described the town as, "not much of a place, bombed by USAF early in the year... We have crossed 20 miles in 10 days and had to fight every inch of it." Further fighting continued until the division ended up at Willemstad at the Hollandsche Diep. The division then transferred from Lieutenant General Crocker's 1 Corps to Lieutenant General Neil Ritchie's 12 Corps<sup>[8]</sup> and helped in the clearing of the west bank of the River Maas, along the Dutch border, fighting in very wet and muddy conditions.

#### 4. CASUALTIES

*Macfarlane R, Nominal Roll extract (by date and alphabetical order):*

Name	No & Rank	Regt	Killed, Wounded, Missing	Home	Notes
<b>Bates,</b> Leonard Isaac	14719002 (14719202?) Pte	G.S.	KIA 28.10.44 (age 20)	Milnsbridge, Huddersfield, Yorks	
Bloomfield, A	5253791 Pte	Worcesters	W 28.10.44	Bromsgrove, Worcs	
Booth, H	14660658 Pte	G.S.	W 28.10.44	Huddersfield, Yorks	
Butters, J	14405558 Pte	G.S.	W 28.10.44	Bradford, Yorks	D Coy
Cockroft, H	14579234 Pte	G.S.	W 28.10.44	Halifax, Yorks	
Gauden, T	4919328 Pte	S Staffs	W 28.10.44	Kidderminster, Worcs	
Harker, Raymond	4617199 Cpl	DWR	KIA 28.10.44 (age 26)	Todmorden, Lancs	C Coy
Lee, W	14693622 Pte	G.S.	W 28.10.44	Leeds, York	
Leppingwell, L P	4627077 Pte	DWR	W 28.10.44	Bradford, Yorks	HQ Coy, Sigs wia, hand
McDougall, J	14697177 Pte	G.S.	W 28.10.44	Liverpool, Lancs	
McNamara	4616176 Pte	DWR	W 28.10.44	Colne, Lancs	
Sale, R W	4923258 Cpl	S Staffs	W 28.10.44	Smethwich, Staffs	
Shaw, John Henry	1114934 Pte	R.A.	W 28.10.44 (age 38)	Mansfield, Notts	died of wounds
Ward, E F	14706155 Pte	G.S.	W 28.10.44	Ilford, Essex	
Whitehouse, E J	4919002 Pte	S Staffs	W 28.10.44	West Bromwich, Staffs	
Allen, E	14430625 Pte	G.S.	W 29.10.44	Leeds, Yorks	
Amers, C L	4627016 Pte	DWR	M 29.10.44	York, York	
Appleton, J F	4394757 Pte	Green Howards	M 29.10.44	Hartlepool, Co.Durham	
Barnett, A	4623354 Pte	DWR	W 13.8.44 : M 29.10.44	Barnsley, Yorks	
<b>Beer,</b> L	4754078 Pte	Y&L	KIA 29.10.44	Colerne, Wilts	(not on CWGC)
<b>Begley,</b> John	5053570 Pte	N Staffs	KIA 29.10.44 (age 31)	Burslem, Staffordshire	C Coy, Sigs
Bellamy, W	4749136 LSgt	Y&L	M 29.10.44	Sheffield, Yorks	A Coy
Blamires, N.	14406002 LCpl	G.S.	M 29.10.44	Bradford, Yorks	
<b>Brindley,</b> James David	3771448 Pte	Kings	KIA 29.10.44 (age 24)	Willenhall, Staffs	Sp Coy, pioneers
<b>Brook,</b> Gordon (D.?)	14677008 Pte	G.S.	KIA 29.10.44 (age 19)	Shepley, Yorks	D Coy
Brown, A	6023080 Pte	Essex	W 29.10.44		C Coy, Carrier driver
Calpin, W	14620264 Pte	G.S.	M 29.10.44		

Cartwright, J	4693074 Pte	KOYLI	W 18.6.44 : M 29.10.44	South Kirby, Yorks	
Coates, L F	14516830 Pte	G.S.	M 29.10.44		
Davies, G	14708728 Pte	G.S.	M 29.10.44	Ton-Pentre, Glamorgan	
Downhill, J	14677035 Pte	G.S.	W 29.10.44	Leeds, Yorks	
<b>Evemy, Reginald James</b>	14204889 Pte	G.S.	Died of Wounds whilst PW 29.10.44 (age 21)	Winchester, Herts	
Finan, G	4613775 Pte	DWR	M 29.10.44	Stalybridge, Cheshire	
France, D	14666058 Pte	G.S.	M 29.10.44	Huddersfield, Yorks	
Green, A G	14215952 Pte	G.S.	M 29.10.44	Smethwick, Staffs	
Green, K S	14710541 Pte	G.S.	M 29.10.44		
Healey, R	14647565 Pte	G.S.	W 29.10.44	Halifax, Yorks	
Hick, John G	Lt	DWR	W 29.10.44	York, Yorks	A Coy
Hughes, B	4924331 Pte	S Staffs	M 29.10.44	Breasley Hill, Staffs	
Jenkins, J	14676169 Pte	G.S.	W 29.10.44	Talybent, Cardiganshire	
Jones, N	5950668 Pte	Beds & Herts	W 29.10.44	Bedford, Beds	
Judge, R J	333687 Lt	DWR	M 29.10.44	Sheffield, Yorks	A Coy
Kalaher, K (A?)	4624378 Pte	DWR	W 29.9.44	Wigston Fields, Leicestershire	A Coy, MM
Lamberth, B	14315786 Pte	G.S.	W 29.10.44	Oldbury, Staffs	
Lappin, John	247723 Lt	Royal Berks	W 29.10.44	Reading, Berks	MC
<b>Lefevre, Thomas William</b>	4916400 Pte	S Staffs	KIA 29.10.44 (age 24)	Walsall, Staffs	C Coy
Lumsden, R	4399774 LCpl	Green Howards	M 29.10.44	Gateshead, Northumberl'nd	
Marsden, G	14647582 Pte	G.S.	M 29.10.44	Sheffield, Yorks	
<b>O'Brien, Patrick Michael (Leonard?)</b>	4690371 Pte	KOYLI	KIA 29.10.44 (age 24)	Prudhoe, N'umberland	C Coy
<b>Ollershaw, Harry</b>	4609203 Sgt	DWR	KIA 29.10.44 (age 36)	Mossley, Yorks	Sp Coy, mortars
Ormerod, T	4615406 LCpl	DWR	M 29.10.44 : W 18.6.44	Stalybridge, Cheshire	
Parkin, W L (W H?)	4744600 Sgt	Y&L	M 29.10.44 : W 10.8.44 ?	Sheffield, Yorks	CinC Cert for Gallantry
Parnell, F J	4979991 LCpl	Sherwood Foresters	W 29.10.44 : W 26.6.44 ?	Leicester, Leicestershire	
Pearce, W H	4619431 Sgt	S Staffs DWR	W 29.10.44	Redrith, Worcs	CO's NW Europe Cert
Post,	4620681 Pte	DWR	M 29.10.44	Hampton,	HQ Coy, Sigs

Frank L.				Middlesex	
Pringle, W A	4622201 Pte	DWR	W 29.10.44	York, Yorks	
Radford, W	4697363 Pte	KOYLI	M 29.10.44	Bradford, Yorks	
Reid, J	14206548 Pte	G.S.	M 29.10.44	Neath, Glamorgan	
Revill, S	4617040 LSgt	DWR	M 29.10.44	Sheffield, Yorkshire	
Rowe, L	4753848 LCpl	Y&L	W 29.10.44	Bristol, Somerset	
Scholey, F	4615010 Pte	DWR	M 29.10.44	Leeds, Yorks	
Sheppard, F	2064711 LCpl	RE	M 29.10.44	Lenton Abbey, Notts	
Slipper, J	14720121 Pte	G.S.	M 29.10.44	Newcastle, N'umberland	
Spencer, L F	4614011 LCpl	DWR	W 29.10.44	Sowerby Bridge, Yorks	
Stanton, M (N?)	14408881 Pte	G.S.	M 29.10.44	Liverpool, Lancs	
Stead, L	14411428 Pte	G.S.	W 18.6.44 : M 29.10.44	Bradley, Yorks	
Surgey, A	4616588 Pte	DWR	M 29.10.44	Askern	
<b>Taylor,</b> Cyril Henry	1740136 Pte	R.A.	KIA 29.10.44 (age 24)	Belper, Derbyshire	
Thompson, D	14556990 Pte	G.S.	W 29.10.44	Leeds, Yorks	
Thorp, G A	14677180 Pte	G.S.	M 29.10.44	Selby, Yorks	
Walstow, D	14430079 Cpl	G.S.	M 29.10.44	Sheffield, Yorks	
Walton, F	4618562 Cpl	DWR	W 27.9.44 : M 29.10.44	Huddersfield, Yorks	
<b>Watson,</b> Walter	4616257 Pte	DWR	KIA 29.10.44 (aged 27)	Stalybridge, Cheshire	B Company, killed by sniper Roosendaal
Watts, H	5729453 LCpl	Dorsets	W 29.10.44	Beaminster, Dorset	
Whyld, F E	4982059 Pte (4980059?)	Sherwood Foresters	M 29.10.44	Alfreton, Derbyshire	
<b>Wilcock,</b> Reginald Arthur	14550916 LCpl	G.S.	Died of wounds 29.10.44 (age 20)	Nelson, Lancs	
Willer, O F	4754626 Pte	Y&L	W 29.10.44	Sheffield, Yorks	
Wilson, H	4624245 Pte	DWR	M 29.10.44	Leeds, Yorks	
Wood, J T	5049908 Pte	N Staffs	W 12.8.44 : M 29.10.44	Newcastle, Staffs	

*Missing from above list:*

Powell, C, 4607649 Cpl, DWR, kia 30 10 1944, Leeds, Yorks

Roberts, H, 14423956 Pte, DWR, kia 30 10 1944, Knottingley, Yorks.

[12 killed in action, 2 died of wounds, 37 wounded in action (incl 2 missing), 32 missing].

## 5. THE ROLL OF HONOUR

7<sup>th</sup> Battalion DWR World War Two War Memorial, Huddersfield Drill Hall:



7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Huddersfield Drill Hall

Entries from the Memorial for 28-30 October 1944:

### **BATES, Leonard Isaac, 14719002 Pte, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

Son of Samuel and Matilda Bates, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield, Yorks.

**Killed in Action:** 28 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 20.

**Buried:** Bergen Op Zoom War Cemetery, 9, A, 14.

**Commemorated:** **7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 1.**

Barclay History RoH, page 368.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** Over 33, page 79.

“SOME CORNER OF A FOREIGN FIELD THAT IS FOREVER ENGLAND. REST IN PEACE”

### **BEGLEY, John, 5053570 Pte, B Company, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

Son of Mark and Annie Begley, Burslem, Stoke on Trent, Staffs.

**Killed in Action:** 29 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 31.

**Buried:** Bergen Op Zoom War Cemetery, 7, C, 12.

**Commemorated:** **7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 1.**

Barclay History RoH, page 368.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** Over 35, page 139.

“ETERNAL REST GIVE TO HIM, OH LORD; AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HIM R.I.P”

### **BRINDLEY, David, 3771448 Pte, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

Son of Benjamin and Florence Brindley, Willenhall, Staffs.

**Killed in Action:** 29 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 24.

**Buried:** Bergen Op Zoom War Cemetery, 9, A, 16.

**Commemorated:** **7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 1.**

Barclay History RoH, page 368.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** Under 34, page 41.

“HE IS SHELTERED FROM THE STORMY BLAST AND GONE TO HIS ETERNAL REST.  
R.I.P”

**BROOK, Gordon, 14677008 Pte, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

**Killed in Action:** 29 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 19.

**Buried:** Bergen Op Zoom War Cemetery, 9, A, 19.

**Commemorated:** **7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 1; D Coy Memorial, Col 1.**

Barclay History RoH, page 368.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** Over 33, page 79.

**EVEMY, Reginald James, 14204889 Pte, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

Son of Ernest Frank and Maude Mabel Evemy, Pitt, Hants.

**Died of Wounds as POW:** 2 Dec 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 21.

**Buried:** Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery, 14, B, 12.

**Commemorated:** **7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 2.**

Barclay History RoH, page 369.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** OVER 31, page 16.

“FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS”

**HARKER, Raymond, 4617199 Cpl, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

Son of Elizabeth Harker, husband of Doris Harker, Todmorden, Lancs.

**Killed in Action:** 28 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 26.

**Buried:** Bergen Op Zoom War Cemetery, 9, A, 20.

**Commemorated:** Todmorden War Memorial.

St Andrew’s Church, Finghall

**7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 2.**

Barclay History RoH, page 369.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** TED 17, page 20.

“HE THAT DWELLETH IN THE SECRET PLACE OF THE MOST HIGH SHALL ABIDE...”

**LEFEVRE, Thomas William, 4616400 Pte, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

Husband of Ellen Lefavre Blakenall, Bloxwich, Staffs.

**Killed in Action:** 29 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 24.

**Buried:** Bergen op Zoom War Cemetery, 9, A, 13.

**Commemorated:** **7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 3.**

Barclay History RoH, page 369.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** OVER 35, page 133.

**O’BRIEN, Patrick Michael, 4690371 Pte, C Coy, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

Husband of Naomi Cecily O’Brien, Prudhoe, Northumberland.

**Killed in Action:** 28 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 24.

**Buried:** Bergen op Zoom War Cemetery, 9, A, 18.

**Commemorated:** **7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 4.**

Barclay History RoH, page 370.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** OVER 35, page 134.

“IN GOD’S TIME WE WILL MEET AGAIN. HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTERS”

**OLLERENSHAW Harry, 4609203 Sgt, Sp Coy, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR**

Husband of Hilda Ollerenshaw, Mossley, Lancs.

**Killed in Action:** 29 Nov 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 36.

**Buried:** Bergen op Zoom War Cemetery, 9, A, 21.

**Commemorated:** **7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 4.**  
Barclay History RoH, page 370.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** EB 9, page 41, enlisted Mossley.

“THE LOVE, IN LIFE, I HAD FOR YOU IN DEATH GROWS STRONGER STILL”

**POWELL, Charles, 4607649 Cpl, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

Son of John and Elizabeth Powell, husband of Beatrice Powell, Ovenden, Halifax, Yorks.

**Killed in Action:** 30 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 38.

**Buried:** Bergen op Zoom War Cemetery, 7, C, 10.

**Commemorated:** **7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 4; D Coy Memorial, Col 3.**  
Barclay History RoH, page 370.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** EB 7, page 130 & Depot 1919-32, page 78, enlisted Leeds, 1924.

“HE DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE”

**ROBERTS, Harold, 14423956 Pte, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

Son of Harold and Mary Roberts Knottingley, Yorks.

**Killed in Action:** 30 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 19.

**Buried:** Bergen op Zoom War Cemetery, 7, C, 17.

**Commemorated:** **7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 4; D Coy Memorial, Col 3.**  
Barclay History RoH, page 370.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** OVER 32, page 14.

“SO BRAVE AND YOUNG HE MET HIS FATE. REWARD HIM, O LORD, AT THY HEAVENLY GATE”

**TAYLOR, Cyril Henry, 1740136 Pte, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

Son of Henry Sturgess and Isobel Annie Taylor, Belper, Derbyshire.

**Killed in Action:** 29 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 24.

**Buried:** Bergen op Zoom War Cemetery, 7, C, 11.

**Commemorated:** **7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 5.**  
Barclay History RoH, page 370.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** UNDER 30, page 97 & OVER 30, page 97.

“NOT JUST TODAY BUT EVERY DAY IN SILENCE WE REMEMBER. MOTHER AND DAD. BELPER”

**WATSON, Walter, 4616257, Pte, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

**Killed in Action:** 29 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands, aged 27.

**Buried:** Bergen op Zoom War Cemetery, 9, A, 15.

**Commemorated:** **7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 5.**  
Barclay History RoH, page 371.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** TED 16, page 26.

**WILCOCK, Reginald Arthur, 14550916 LCpl, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

Son of Arthur and Lillian Wilcock, Nelson, Lancs, husband of Winnie Wilcock.

**Died of Wounds:** 29 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Belgium, aged 20.

**Buried:** Bergen op Zoom War Cemetery, 9, A, 22.



**Commemorated:** Barnoldswick War Memorial; Nelson War Memorial.  
**7 DWR WW2 War Memorial, Col 5; D Coy Memorial, Col 1.**  
 Barclay History RoH, page 371.

**DWR Enlistment Book:** OVER 32, page 77.

“IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEAR SON, REG. HE GAVE HIS LIFE THAT WE MIGHT LIVE”



*Missing from the above roll and not on CWGC Lists:*

**BEER, Leonard Alfred, 4754078, Pte, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**  
**Killed in Action:** 29 Oct 1944, Normandy Campaign, Netherlands.  
**Buried:** No known grave.  
**Commemorated:** Not listed on 7 DWR WW2 War Memorial.  
**DWR Enlistment Book:** TED Over 36, page 79.

## 6. HONOURS and AWARDS

The following citations are for those awards that can be positively identified as having been specifically submitted for consideration for the actions at Roosendaal in October, 1944. There may be others, especially Commander in Chief's and Commanding Officer's Gallantry Award Certificates which may have been given to individuals at the time but not recorded as concerning this particular action. The following extracts from the Regimental Gallantry Medal Roll includes all the awards to each of the three individuals:

**HORNE, Walter, 333686 Lieutenant, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR**

(formerly 4616429 Sgt Walter Horne, DWR), r. Crook, Co Durham.

**Military Cross**, for Roosendaal, NW Europe, WW2.

**Announcement:** "The King has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in North West Europe."

*LG: 1 Mar 1945, page 1176.*

**Citation:** "On 30th October, 1944, this Officer's platoon was engaged with the enemy who were holding a portion of the anti-tank ditch defences north of Telberg, near Roosendaal. The approaches to the enemy defences were over bare, open fields and throughout the day efforts to approach nearer to the ditch were subject to observed enemy small arms, mortar and artillery fire. As part of larger operations, 2Lt Horne's platoon was ordered to gain a footing by night as near the ditch as possible to protect the right flank and keep the enemy engaged. An enemy minefield was suspected as covering the enemy position. That night, in bright moonlight, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Horne led his platoon across open fields, located, and found a passage through, the minefield and passed his platoon through to their objective. On arrival near the objective it was found to be held by an enemy post. This was captured. The platoon was subjected to close and heavy fire from at least four MGs and one 2cm mortar from a dug-in enemy platoon 30 to 40 yards distant on the ditch defences. 2Lt Horne ordered his platoon to withdraw from such an exposed position to another position a short distance back which was less exposed. Under conditions of bright moonlight, noise and the enemy minefield, this was a hazardous operation. With great courage patience and skill, 2Lt Horne conducted the withdrawal personally, passing through the minefield twice and exposing himself to heavy fire at short range in the moonlight. With the aid of 77 Grenades he covered his sections out and withdrew every man to the new positions. Lt Horne, by his actions, showed great courage under fire, skill and patient leadership and achieved with conspicuous success his task of fully engaging the enemy's attention during a difficult and anxious period of the operations."

*LG: 1 Mar 1945, page 1176. Unit WD, MC award, 15 Dec 1944. Unit WD: MC award, Mar 1945, page 16. ID, 1945, pages 20, 33 & 96, Iron Duke: 1979, page 138.*

**KAVANAGH, Aveling Barry Martin, Major 95620, 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR, later 1 DWR, r. Kensington.**

**Mentioned in Despatches**, WW2.

Citation currently unavailable.

*LG: 22 Mar 1945, page 1559. Unit WD: MID award, 31 Mar 1945, page 16.*

**Military Cross**, Roosendaal, NW Europe, WW2.

**Announcement:** "The King has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in North West Europe."

*LG: 12 Apr 1945, page 1942.*

**Citation:** "On 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1944, this Officer's Company was engaging the enemy, holding a sector of the anti-tank ditch defences on the perimeter of Roosendaal (D2321). The approaches to the ditch were over bare, open ground and, throughout the day, efforts to close the ditch resulted in heavy casualties from observed fire of small arms, mortars, artillery and two SP guns which repeatedly shelled the Company. Major Kavanagh's Company was given the important and difficult task of forcing the ditch soon after darkness to protect the flank of a larger operation later, thus drawing off

enemy reserves. The first platoon met an enemy minefield which necessitated a complete change of plan and direction. Major Kavanagh swiftly issued these fresh orders and another platoon led off in another direction. In bright moonlight this platoon, together with major Kavanagh's command party, advanced across the fields, found a passage through the minefields and arrived on the objective where a pill box and its garrison on the anti tank ditch were captured. Because of the urgency and the fact that orders had been given so quickly without detailed reconnaissance, Major Kavanagh went back himself for the rest of the Company.

During the consolidation the Company was subjected to heavy MG fire from close range and ten minutes later by a considerable heavy calibre artillery concentration in which several men were killed and wounded in the open. Due to Major Kavanagh's remarkable calmness and personal courage, the Company maintained its position and casualties were successfully evacuated. Orders were then received from Battalion Headquarters that, as the ditch had been forced in strength elsewhere, its task was complete and the Company should be withdrawn. This difficult undertaking under close fire and return through an unmarked gap in a minefield was accomplished through Major Kavanagh's ceaseless example and his cool disregard of all enemy fire. Eventually, the Company returned to its start line, where it was reorganised and took part, three hours later, in the final storming, at 5.00 am, of the inner defences of Roosendaal, in which the Company took several prisoners and broke the enemy resistance. All these operations were carried out at short notice because of the necessity to force the town before the enemy reinforcements could arrive. That the two attacks by 7th DWR this night were so successful was in no small measure due to the remarkable tenacity of D Company who, though tired after fourteen days of ceaseless fighting, were inspired by the patience, leadership, skill in planning and complete disregard of personal safety of Major Kavanagh."

*LG: 12 Apr 1945, page 1942. MIC: 68/Gen/8039, dated 12 Apr 1945. Unit WD: MC award, 31 Mar 1945, page 16. Iron Duke: 1945, page 97.*

**Bar to MC, Korea, 1953.**

**Announcement:** The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Korea during the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1953.

*LG: 8 Dec 1953, page 6653. ID 1954, page 26.*

**Citation:** For nine months Major Kavanagh has commanded a rifle Company with success. Under his guidance the Company reached a high standard of morale and fighting efficiency.

For many days before the Chinese attack on the Hook position, his Company was subjected to very heavy shelling and repeated probing by enemy fighting patrols. Although often exposed to danger, he moved freely around his position, encouraging his men, tending to the evacuation of the wounded and supervising the building of his defences. During the main attack, which was accompanied by intense artillery and mortar fire, the Company, under Major Kavanagh's leadership fought with great tenacity and bravery. Throughout the battle, Major Kavanagh directed the fire of his own and other supporting weapons with superb skill and boldness. For displaying the highest qualities of leadership, sense of duty and personal courage in this action and throughout the Korean campaign, Major Kavanagh has maintained the highest traditions of the British Army."

**Officer, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire,**

"The Queen has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of the celebration of Her Majesty's Birthday, to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. To be ordinary Officers of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order."

*LG: 12 Jun 1965, page 5476. Iron Duke: 224-1994, page 37.*

*Son of Capt KAVANAGH, H R MBE see below; his great grandfather was awarded the VC for the Indian Mutiny, 1857, see Appendix 1.*

**MEASEY, George, 5106143 Sergeant (later Company Sergeant Major), 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR.**

**Distinguished Conduct Medal**, for Roosendaal, NW Europe, WW2.

“Sgt Measey has been with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion in action since D Day plus 4 except for a short time when he was wounded. For a good proportion of this period he has been a platoon commander through the shortage of Officers, and several times has acted as Sergeant Major.

When acting as platoon commander in the fighting around the Depot de Mendicité in early September, 1944., Sgt Measey was wounded in the head but, although in great pain, he completed the engagement before obeying the order to have his wound attended at the RAP.

In September, 1944, at Schanker (7423) the Company, after a first-class assault, were counter-attacked by a self-propelled gun and 40 enemy. Ammunition ran low in one platoon, which was temporarily isolated. Sgt Measey led a relief party with further ammunition through very heavy shelling and his example undoubtedly saved an extremely delicate situation.

In the following week, Sgt Measey led an ammunition party to his forward platoons which were isolated and pinned down in the flat open ground around the anti tank ditch at Roosendaal. Later in the day he personally crawled 300 yards while being sniped to take 2 inch mortar smoke ammunition which was required to allow the platoon to disengage.

During the four and a half months on ‘The Island’ salient across the Rhine at Nijmegen, Sgt Measey was constantly employed on standing and fighting patrols in the most difficult conditions and, here as on countless occasions, his bravery became a legend and example to the many young soldiers in his Company.

Sgt Measey’s courage, calmness, interest in his men and his constant cheerfulness have made him a proud landmark in the Battalion and the guide for many inexperienced soldiers when actions was particularly fierce.”

*LG: 24 Jan 1946, page 644. MIC: 68/Gen/8212, dated 24 Jan 1946. Iron Duke: 1946, pages 81 & 92.*

**Commander-in-Chief’s Gallantry Certificate**, for Normandy campaign, NW Europe, WW2.

*Battalion Journal, Victory Edition, 1945.*

## 7. AIR SUPPORT

### Liberation of Roosendaal

#### Introduction and Background

The provision of air support to ground forces engaged in the liberation of the Low Countries, and the defeat of Axis forces in Europe, was based on four underlying principles and divisions of responsibility:

**1. Bomber Command and the Main Offensive:** Relying principally on the heavy bombers of the USAAF and RAF (Lancaster, Halifax, B-17 Flying Fortress and B-24 Liberator aircraft), the Main Offensive was to concentrate on the strategic bombing of industrial, manufacturing, and communications targets. This would deprive the enemy of raw materials, power generation, production capacity, and transportation – in short, the means to fight a war and defend occupied territory.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Air Force:

**2. Air Interdiction (Volume):** The use of medium bombers (mainly B-25 North American Mitchell and, to a lesser extent, A-20 Douglas Havoc/Boston aircraft) to strike major tactical targets such as main railway junctions, bridges, and troop concentrations/movements where medium altitude volume bombing would be most effective.



**3. Air Interdiction (Targets of Opportunity) and close air support:** The deployment of heavily-armed ground attack aircraft (Hawker Typhoons armed with Rocket Projectiles or Bombs, and 20mm Cannon) to strike at targets of opportunity (railway trains, enemy armour, artillery, and emplacements/fortifications) as observed by armed reconnaissance flights or called in by ground forces.

**4. Air Superiority:** Squadrons of high-speed, agile, fighter aircraft (Supermarine / Vickers Spitfire Mk IX and, with the RR Griffon engine, Mk XIV) armed with cannon and machine guns would provide escorts to medium bombers, engage enemy aircraft on sight, and, where requested, provide strafing close air support to ground forces.



Air Marshal Sir Arthur 'Māori' Coningham,  
KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, DFC, AFC

Air Officer Commanding 2<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Air Force, was a New Zealander with years of service, and experience, dating back to the First World War.

He was a Fighter “Ace” and the officer responsible for the development of forward air control parties directing close air support, which he developed as commander of the Western Desert Air Force between 1941 and 1943.

Coningham was a firm believer in close inter-service liaison and mutual respect who saw air support as “one edge of the blade”. He was responsible for introducing the “cab rank” system of close air support.

Sadly, Arthur Coningham was killed in 1948 when the civil airliner in which he was a passenger mysteriously crashed into the sea off the coast of North America.

For the purpose of this account, we will look at the activities of 83 Group, RAF, and 2 Group, Bomber Command – the Groups tasked with providing air support to British Forces engaged in the battles for the Scheldt. 84 Group RAF provided similar support for Canadian forces fighting alongside the British.

### **83 Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Air Force**

From 1<sup>st</sup> October 1944, No 83 Group, 2 TAF, had its HQ at RAF Eindhoven in The Netherlands and, at the end of October, 1944, comprised the following:

121 Wing RAF – 174, 185, and 245 Sqns all flying Spitfire Mk IX aircraft

126 Wing RCAF - 401, 411, and 412 Sqns RCAF all flying Spitfire Mk IX aircraft

127 Wing RCAF – 403, 416, and 421 Sqns RCAF all flying Spitfire Mk IX aircraft

143 Wing RCAF – 438, 439, and 440 Sqns RCAF all flying Typhoon aircraft

144 Wing RCAF – 441, 442, and 443 Sqns RCAF flying Spitfire Mk IX aircraft.

These units were supplemented by:

39 Reconnaissance Wing RCAF – 400, 414, and 430 Sqns RCAF flying P/R variants of the Spitfire and Mosquito.

#### No 2 Bomber Group RAF (Bomber Command):

137 Bomber Wing – 88, 226, and 342 Sqns RAF

138 Bomber Wing – 107, 305, and 613 Sqns RAF

139 Bomber Wing – 98, 180, and 320 Sqns RAF

140 Bomber Wing – 21, 464, and 487 Sqns RAF

All units of No 2 Bomber Group flew North American B-25 Mitchell medium bombers.

*AVM Harry Broadhurst*



Although Air Marshal Coningham and Air Vice Marshall Harry Broadhurst ..... *Wait for it* GCB, KBE, DSO\*, DFC\*\*, AFC (Air Officer Commanding No 83 Group) were both advocates of flexibility of response and “deployment of resources as demanded by the day”, the various components of 83 Group were generally deployed as below:-

Battlefield reconnaissance: (obviously) 39 Reconnaissance Wing. Since these squadrons were operating specialist, and generally unarmed, aircraft, they were restricted to the reconnaissance role.

Volume bombing: The bombing of more strategic, or major tactical, targets was undertaken by the squadrons of No 2 Bomber Group.

Bomber Escort and Air Superiority: 126 and 144 Wings.

Close Air Support: 143 Wing (Rocket Projectile Typhoons) and 127 Wing (Spitfire Mk IX fighter bombers)

121 Wing was used to flexibly support all other squadrons - being tasked, literally on a day by day basis, as requirements and priorities changed. All squadrons were encouraged to seize opportunities to engage targets of opportunity.

Ground Force commanders had, therefore, access to the striking power of 360 + aircraft – a figure which would have been significantly higher had not RAF squadrons equipped with the Griffon-powered Spitfire Mk XIV and North American Mustang Mk IV been redeployed to the UK to counter the V-1 threat and/or provide long-range escort cover for the Main Bomber Force attacking V-1 and V-2 production and launch sites.

### **Aircraft - The Principal Players**

#### **Hawker Typhoon Mk IB Fighter Bomber**

Arguably the most successful ground-attack fighter bomber of WW2, the Typhoon was designed by the famous Sydney Camm and entered operational service in late 1941 and early 1942.



*A 440 Sqn Typhoon at Melsbroek October 1944*



#### **Typhoon Mk 1B: Facts & Figures**

Power plant: Napier Sabre IIC rated 2,260 hp

Speed: 420 mph Range: 520 miles

Ceiling: 32,000 ft. Crew: 1 pilot

Armament: 4 x 20 mm Hispano autocannon and 8 x 3 inch Rocket Projectiles or 2 x 1,000 lb bombs

#### ***Armourers loading 3 inch Rocket Projectiles***

Although introduced initially as a pure fighter interceptor, in operational service it became apparent that the aircraft's rugged construction, power, and flight characteristics (including a very low stalling speed) made it a robust and stable gun platform. In short, the perfect ground-attack fighter bomber which the RAF would need to support the liberation of Europe.

*Little Snippet – Although unguided rockets were not very accurate and rather difficult to aim, it was calculated in 1944 that the firepower of a single Typhoon's Rocket Projectiles exceeded that of the broadside of a RN Tribal Class Destroyer. Boom!*





### North American B-25 Mitchell Bomber

The North American B-25 Mitchell medium bomber was the most-produced medium bomber of WW2, 9,800 being manufactured. The RAF had 900+ Mitchells in service and the main facts and figures for this aircraft, in RAF service, were as below:

Power plant: 2 x Wright Twin Cyclone radial engines rated at 1,700 hp each.

Speed: 272 mph (cruise – 230 mph) Range: 1350 miles (2,500 with auxiliary tanks) Ceiling: 24,200 feet.

Crew: 1 x Pilot, 1 x Navigator, 1 x Wireless Operator/Air gunner, 1 x Air gunner.

*Note: USAAF B-25 aircraft had a crew of 5, the additional crew member being a co-pilot.*

Armament: 6 x 50 calibre Browning machine guns:

1 x F/F in the nose, 1 x Co-axial also in nose, 2 x dorsal turret, 2 x tail turret.

Bombs: 3,000 lbs, (2,000 lbs with auxiliary fuel tanks).

*Little Snippet – Many RAF pilots suffered from “Mitchell’s Ear” – hearing loss in the left ear. Apparently the Wright Cyclone engines were particularly loud and the mounting of the engine nacelles so close to the fuselage meant that noise and exhaust gases were directed towards the cockpit. Keeping the sliding window closed might have solved the problem of fumes but it obviously didn’t do much to reduce the noise.*

### Supermarine/Vickers Spitfire Mk IX



The iconic RAF fighter of WW2, the Mk IX was the last volume-produced variant to use the RR Merlin engine.

Most, but not all, of the squadrons deployed above the Battle for the Scheldt were Mk IX LF (LF indicating Low-altitude Flying) variant.

Mk IX Facts and Figures:

Power plant: Rolls Royce Merlin 63 or 66 engine rated at 1720 hp.



Speed: 408 mph max at 25,000 ft. (360 mph at lower altitude) Range: 440 miles, Effective ceiling: 42,000 ft.

Armament: 2 x Hispano 20 mm cannon, 2 x 50 Cal (or, 4 x 303) machine guns.

### Other Aircraft

**Supermarine Spitfire** (Photo Reconnaissance) PR XII1 – Effectively, an unarmed PR variant of the Mk IX aircraft which were to be deployed on low-level battlefield recce missions; could be armed with 4 x 303inch machine guns.

**DH Mosquito** (Photo Reconnaissance) PR XVI – powered by 2 x RR Merlin engines and generally unarmed,,but they were fast!



*Armourer loading photoflash bombs ▲ into Mosquito bomb bay, Melsbroek, October ,1944*

### No 83 Group and the ‘Dukes’

#### The Fighter Bomber Squadrons

It is very difficult to actually place particular aircraft over particular places at specific times, as the essence of such support had to be flexible and responsive and often the only orders given to fighter bombers would be “Patrol a line between X and Y and await instructions or opportunities”.

Pilots who see likely targets will rarely know precisely where they are - “German armour approaching river crossing East of Sometown” – and will have very little opportunity to record details other than outcomes. Further, Squadron Operations Record Books are ‘Summary of Events’ documents, based on de-briefings, and so can provide only limited information.

*That is why so many Squadron Intelligence Officers were prematurely grey and/or balding with permanently frustrated expressions.*

That said, there are exceptions to every rule:-

**29 October 1944** 438 Sqn 1140 hrs Armed Recce – Tolberg Roosendaal Area

“5 Typhoon fighter bombers bombed and strafed enemy light artillery and mortars and poss small ammo dump S. of wide tank obstacle? All bombs in target area.”

*This may well tie in with the 7 DWR Unit War Diary entry for 1130 hrs on 29 October 1944 which refers to B Coy coming under mortar and artillery fire. Further:-*

**29 October 1944** 411 Sqn 1535 hrs Infantry Support – Southern Approaches, Roosendaal

“Squadron carried out strafing attack on enemy defences WSW of N262 road at request of advancing Allied infantry. Attack reported as effective.”

*This could tie in with the Unit War Diary report of 1545 hrs, which referred to an attack by 1 Leicesters.*



*Little Snippet – In July 1944, Flying Officer (later Flight Lieutenant) Charlie Fox of 411 Sqn RCAF was the officer who, piloting a Spitfire Mk IX, strafed the staff car conveying Irwin Rommel back to his HQ causing the vehicle to crash, seriously injuring the general and effectively taking him out of the War.*

*Fl Lt Charlie Fox DFC*

### No 2 Bomber Group - Bomber Command

Reports of medium bomber actions are somewhat easier to access and interpret in that they were usually pre-planned with a known target and location. The following entries from the Operations Record Books are typical of the sorties flown during the liberation of North Brabant.

**28 October 1944** 98 Sqn 1452 hrs Deventer

“15 (Liberator) bombers attacked the railway bridge crossing of the River Ijssel at Deventer. Direct hits claimed. Sqn subject to accurate heavy flak and aircraft V & Y were badly damaged and lucky to return to base.”

Of the squadron’s third sortie of the day, the ORB records that “the railway lines on both banks were taken out.”

Note: The railway line under attack was one of the main rail routes between Germany and the Scheldt (via Roosendaal) and was used for the transportation of supplies to the battlefield and the withdrawal of German forces. The official report states that the bombing by Allied forces on the 28<sup>th</sup> October was the heaviest suffered by the town during its liberation.

*Little Snippet – The Arnhem Bridge scenes in the film, A Bridge Too Far, were actually shot using the Deventer road bridge over the River Ijssel.*

During the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October 1944, aircraft of No 2 Bomber Wing flew numerous sorties aimed at river crossings and railway lines/bridges at Venlo, Zwolle and Veule – all major links in the German supply chain.



Following the liberation of Roosendaal, 2 TAF continued to support ground forces in the liberation of the Scheldt and Walcheren Island.

#### *Acknowledgements:*

The Imperial War Museum and the National Archives

MoD Air Historical Group (RAF)

Dr Stephen Hart, MA Dept of War Studies, Royal Academy, Sandhurst

The Canadian War Museum

The Spitfire Society

*Keith Griffiths*

*March 2024.*

## 8. HERITAGE AND LEGACY

The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion returned to the United Kingdom in 1946 and was placed into suspended animation. It was reformed on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1947, Headquarters at Milnsbridge, later moving to Wellesley House, Longwood, Huddersfield. On 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1957, the battalion was amalgamated with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, becoming 5/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion (West Riding) (TA), Headquarters at St Paul's Street, Huddersfield.



*Huddersfield Drill Hall, St Pauls Street*

In July, 1961, the TA was again reorganized, the 5/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion being re-titled the West Riding Battalion. until 1967, when the West Riding Battalion was reduced to Cadre Strength, under the administrative control of the Yorkshire Volunteers, which had been formed on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1967, Headquarters in York. The Halifax Company and Keighley detachment became C Company of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion the Yorkshire Volunteers.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1971, the original Yorkshire Volunteer Battalion was redesignated as 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions of the Yorkshire Volunteers were raised. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Headquarters in Huddersfield, incorporated the cadre from the former West Riding Battalion (Huddersfield) and the Keighley detachment, formerly C Company, Yorkshire Volunteers, transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion.

On 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1992 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion the Yorkshire Volunteers was amalgamated with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, raised in South Yorkshire on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1988, Headquarters at Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1993, the Yorkshire Volunteers was disbanded, the 3/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Yorkshire Volunteers becoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding), Headquarters at Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1999, 3 DWR were amalgamated into the East and West Riding Regiment, Headquarters in Pontefract.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2006, the 'Dukes' were amalgamated with the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire and the Green Howards to form the Yorkshire Regiment (14/15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup>/76<sup>th</sup> Foot). As the youngest Regiment, the 'Dukes' became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. Each Battalion Retained their antecedent's Regimental name in brackets. Following further mergers, in 2012, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion was redesignated as the new 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (1 YORKS) of the Regiment. At this point the antecedent Regimental names were discontinued from the battalion titles. The Territorial units were

amalgamated into the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment. In April, 2023, the Yorkshire Regiment was granted the title Royal Yorkshire Regiment by King Charles III.

## Memorials:

A Number of memorials have been erected to honour those men who fought, and commemorate those who fell, in the liberation of Europe from German occupation following the invasion of their western neighbours in 1940, these include:



Polar Bear Memorial, Roosendaal

*R Harvey*



Rear face of the Polar Bear Memorial, Roosendaal

*R Harvey*

## Roosendaal and the 'Polar Bear' Division

*By the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen K G Exham  
(published in the Iron Duke, edition 117-1960, page 89).*

On May 5<sup>th</sup> I attended the unveiling of a memorial erected by the town of Roosendaal in Holland to commemorate the liberation in 1944 by the 49<sup>th</sup> (West Riding) Division.

Roosendaal was liberated by the 49<sup>th</sup> Division on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1944: 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR played a leading part in the operation and Major Barry Kavanagh won his MC there.

The celebration started on the evening of May 4 with a 'silent march' through the town to it memorial to the victims of the German occupation. Here I laid a wreath on behalf of the Division and this was followed by a requiem mass in church.

Next morning we again marched through the streets to the main central square of Roosendaal where the Polar Bear Memorial was unveiled by the Burgomaster.

The memorial is a stone column, about 20 ft high, surmounted by a polar bear and designed by a local sculptor, Mr Vlak. The base of the column is square; on two of its four faces are carved the crests of the DWR and Leicesters and on the other two the arms of Roosendaal and the province of Brabant.

After the unveiling there were speeches and the laying of more wreaths. I had to follow the Burgomaster's speech; I then had to light the 'flame of liberation' and lay my wreath.

The final ceremony was a reception in the Town Hall.

My wife was invited to accompany me as an official guest for the unveiling of the memorial. We were received with the very greatest kindness and everything possible was done to make our stay



enjoyable and comfortable. We were the guests of the town for the occasion and were made to feel very much at home.

The Polar Bear Division, as it is always called there, is still remembered with admiration and affection as the liberators of Roosendaal. The town is most anxious to keep its association with the Division alive and hopes that old comrades will visit them and see the memorial.

I hope that we can develop a link between Roosendaal and the 5/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the descendant of the 1/7<sup>th</sup> DWR and perhaps interest Huddersfield, the home town of the 1/7<sup>th</sup> in the association.

### **The Liberation of Roosendaal.**

*Letter to the Editor of the Iron Duke (edition 226-1994, page 116) from Mr G Marsden, Sheffield, dated 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1994:*

“In the last week of October Tom Simpson and I were invited to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Roosendaal in the Netherlands. We are both former members of the 1/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion which played a major role in the liberation of the town and, in the process, had many men killed, wounded or taken prisoner. Our Dutch hosts could not have been more kind and turned out in large numbers to greet us. Homage was paid to our many friends who are buried in the nearby cemetery of Bergen-op-Zoom and a wreath was placed on the 49<sup>th</sup> Division ‘Polar Bear’ memorial.

Both of us would very much like to hear from any ex-members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion who served in the campaign in the Netherlands.” Yours sincerely, G Marsden.



*49<sup>th</sup> Division ‘Polar Bear’ Memorial, National Arboretum Memorial, Alrewas, Staffordshire.*

### **Cemeteries:**



Those who died in this phase of the fighting are buried in Dordrecht General Cemetery, Bergen op Zoom Canadian War Cemetery, Bergen op Zoom British War Cemetery (left) and Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery.

## LEST WE FORGET

Further Reading:

Author	Title	Publisher	Printer	Date	Description	ISBN No
<b>Archives Team: Edited</b>	The Journal of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment - The Iron Duke	DWR	Various	1925 >	thousands pp, editorials, portraits, plates, maps, letters	<a href="http://dwr.org.uk">dwr.org.uk</a>
<b>Archives Team: Scott Flaving</b>	Huddersfield Drill Hall Boer War & WW2 War Memorials - 2 Vol Bn, 5 & 7 Bns DWR	Valence House Museum	Lightning Source/ Amazon	2023	130 pp, maps, illustrations, plates, portraits	978-1-911391-96-8
<b>Archives Team: Flaving M S Harvey R L</b>	7th Battalion - Defence of Haalderen 4 Dec 1944 Breakout from Haalderen 2 Apr 1944	DWR Museum	DWR Website	2012	66 pp, plates maps, tables, citations	<a href="http://dwr.org.uk">dwr.org.uk</a>
<b>Barclay C N</b>	The History of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, 1919 to 1952	Regtl Council	William Clowes and Sons Ltd	1953	398 pp, plates, maps	<a href="http://dwr.org.uk">dwr.org.uk</a>
<b>Brereton J M Savory A C S</b>	The History of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) 1702 - 1992	RHQ DWR	Amadeus Press, Huddersfield	1993	446 pp, portraits, plates, maps	0-9521552-0-6 <a href="http://dwr.org.uk">dwr.org.uk</a>
<b>Delaforce, Patrick</b>	The Polar Bears Monty's Left Flank	Chancellor Press	J H Haynes	2001	234 pp, maps, plates, illustrations	0-75370-265-7

Most of these books are now out of print but may be obtained from your local lending library, or Amazon, eBay, etc. Some are also available to view or download from our Regimental website - [dwr.org.uk](http://dwr.org.uk), family history page.

The Savory History is also available in hardback from the reception desk at Bankfield Museum, for a small donation.

The Iron Duke editions are available on-line, listed by edition number and year. These can be viewed or downloaded free of charge and are accessed through the Regimental Website – [dwr.org.uk](http://dwr.org.uk) – family history page.

There is a basic Index to this series which will help you select the editions containing articles and items of relevance to your interest.

The Delaforce History may still be available to order through lending libraries or bookshops.