

REPORT ON 1ST ACTION OF 2 TROOP, "A" SQUADRON.

BY CAPTAIN MUIRHEAD.

Date:- 27th March, 1945.

As the Troop passed up through the forward troops, we met a battalion of Canadian Paratroops who reported that they had attempted to take a wood at 305495 but had been driven back by heavy Spandau, Bazooka and Infantry gun fire, with the loss of eight men. They were then preparing to engage it with mortar and artillery fire before attacking again.

Major Fraser decided to try and take the enemy unawares by coming up some dead ground on the left flank. He led his twelve jeeps up the left flank of the wood and approached to within thirty yards of the enemy position before they realised what had happened. A camouflaged Spandau opened up at Major Fraser's jeep, driving it into the ditch and wounding Major Fraser in the hand. The troop immediately fanned out in front of the wood, Lt. Riley's section engaging the infantry gun which was swinging into position, and destroying it together with its crew.

Lt. Jensen's section on the left engaged Bazooka and Spandau positions, destroying them one by one. Lt. McLellan engaged a group of houses on the right flank. Sgt. White's jeep was detailed to tow out Major Fraser's jeep, and this was covered by Capt. Muirhead's jeep while Tpr. Docherty rendered first aid to Major Fraser.

The troop then dismounted, and covered by the jeeps, cleared the wood on foot, dealing with enemy sniper positions.

The action took place at 1130 hrs. and was completed by 1145 hrs. We released one Airborne prisoner (English, 11th Airborne), knocked out one infantry gun, seven Pandefaust, 3 Spandaus (found), killing 10 Germans, taking 32 prisoners and enabling the Airborne to advance some 2,000 yards. Our Casualties:- Major Fraser shot in hand.

At 1500 hrs., Lt. Jensen's section were detached from the troop at 320454 to reconnoitre the roads in front of the wood at 3345. This was completed successfully, and he reported enemy in strength at the end of the wood. Later, when the American 101 Airborne swept the wood, he informed the Commander of the enemy positions and helped them forward by sweeping the wood with fire from his section, thus neutralising the enemy and keeping their heads down. He suffered no casualties.