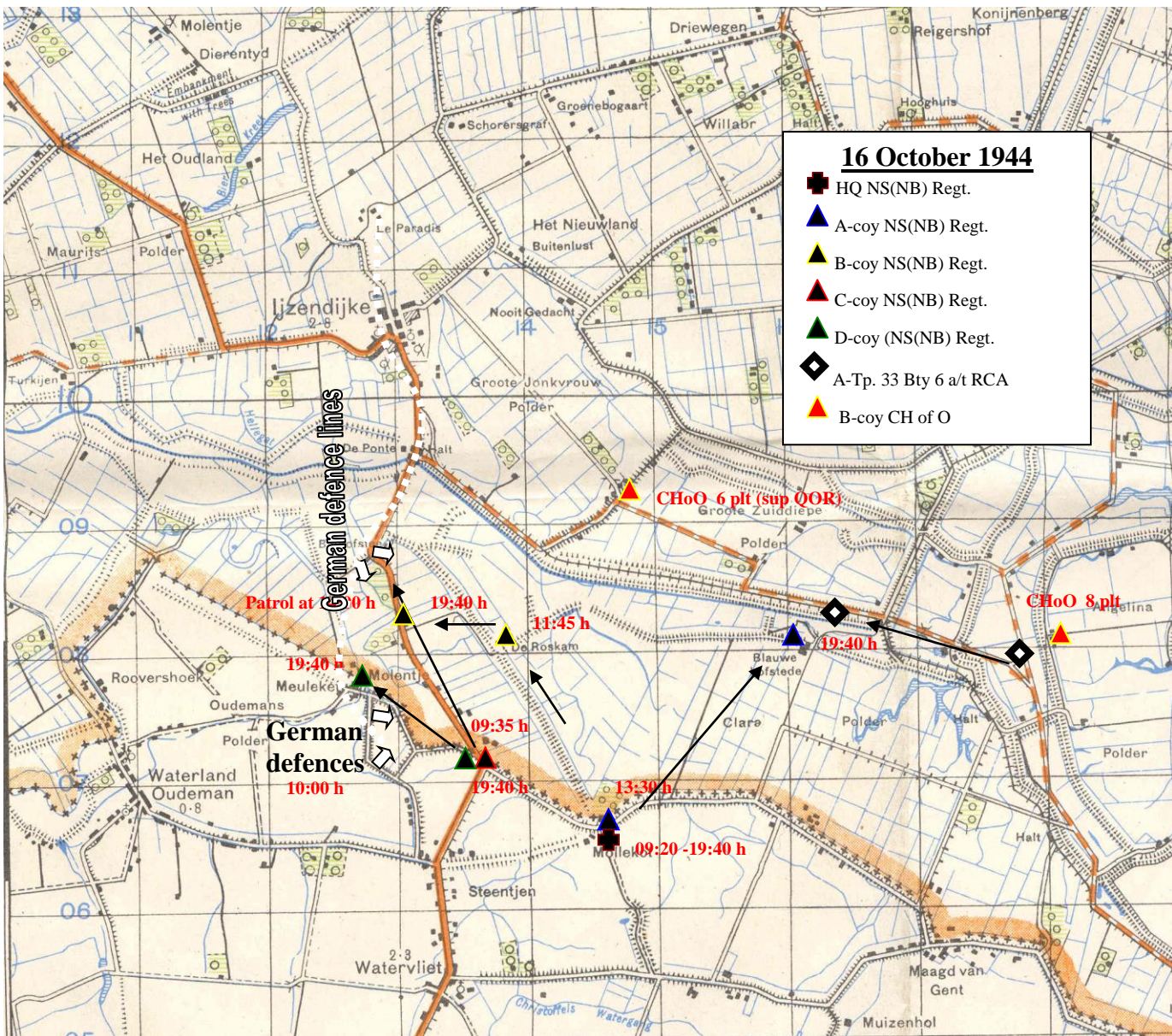


NORTH SHORE (NEW BRUNSWICK) REGIMENT, 16 OCTOBER



The 16th October was a clear but cool day, with some showers that afternoon.

At 05:30, no reports were made by the divers patrols that went out; everything was quiet. The target to clear for today was the area south of the Passageule, between the main road towards IJzendijke and the blauwe hofstee, code named 'Burgundy'.

For this day A-troop of 33rd Anti-tank Battery of 6th A/T-Regiment, equipped with M-10 tank destroyers, came available for the coys. Further support was provided by the heavy machine guns of 8th platoon B-coy of the Camerons of Ottawa who had a position on the western edge of the Angelina polder.

The orders for the day were to continue the advance towards passageule (coming from eastern direction). C-coy reported the arrival at the customs house on the main road from Watervliet to IJzendijke at 09:35. In the early afternoon B-coy arrived at the Roskam coming from Mollekot. They were under heavy fire from high calibre guns resulting in the destruction of 2 carriers. This fire probably originated from Balhofstede which was a key defence point in the German defence around IJzendijke.

The C.O. commanded C-coy to conduct a reconnaissance patrol towards Balhofstede, if not held by the enemy they were to hold until B-coy moved up. While moving towards the Balhofstede farm, C-coy became under heavy M.G. fire. Consequently they reverted to their original position and B-coy

took over the advanced position halfway the dike towards Balhofstee. D-coy reported the enemy digging in behind the dike south of Molentje.

During the advance, many road blocks made from felled trees were encountered by the North Shores that day. At 10:30 the representative of 6th field company RCE visited the battalion HQ and together with the infantry, the roads were cleared by the sappers.

At 16:55 Spitfires attacked C-coy's positions at the customs house by accident. One civil casualty was reported. Apparently about 6 bombs were dropped. According to Major Corbett (C.O. C-coy) he had just left his jeep when he was blasted off the road by the concussion of one of the bombs. Company HQ was caught in the open and the spend cartridges showered the trenches of the men. A-Coy was supported by the tanks from A-troop 33 Bty (6 a/t RCA). They drove up the main road towards the groote zuiddiepe polder and supported A-coy during their advance. A few targets were engaged without any visible result. Ammunition went low as A-echelon of the brigade was requested to supply more. 5 Germans were taken prison by the gunners while Lt. Heath and L/Bdr. McKeogh were wounded. Close to the blauwe hofstede, the night was spend. The machine guns of the Camerons fired in support, but were unable to report any concrete results either. During the evening things were quiet and 13 field fired defensive tasks for all coy's in position. It had been a buzzy day for the artillery. As the road from Phillipine to Ijzendijke was open, the road was packed with traffic to supply the troops in the pocket. While one battery kept on firing continously, the two other batteries were on the road. After the regiment was complete again, the evening brought an expenditure of 200 rpg to fulfill the defensive fire tasks for the North Shores.

Casualties of the NS(NB) Regt at 16 October 1944 (other units unknown).

Fatal casualties:

Pte Frank Agnew

Pte Hazen C. Allen

Sgt. Elles Knowles

Pte MacPehrson Samuel H.

Wounded

Lt. Osborn A. Robertson

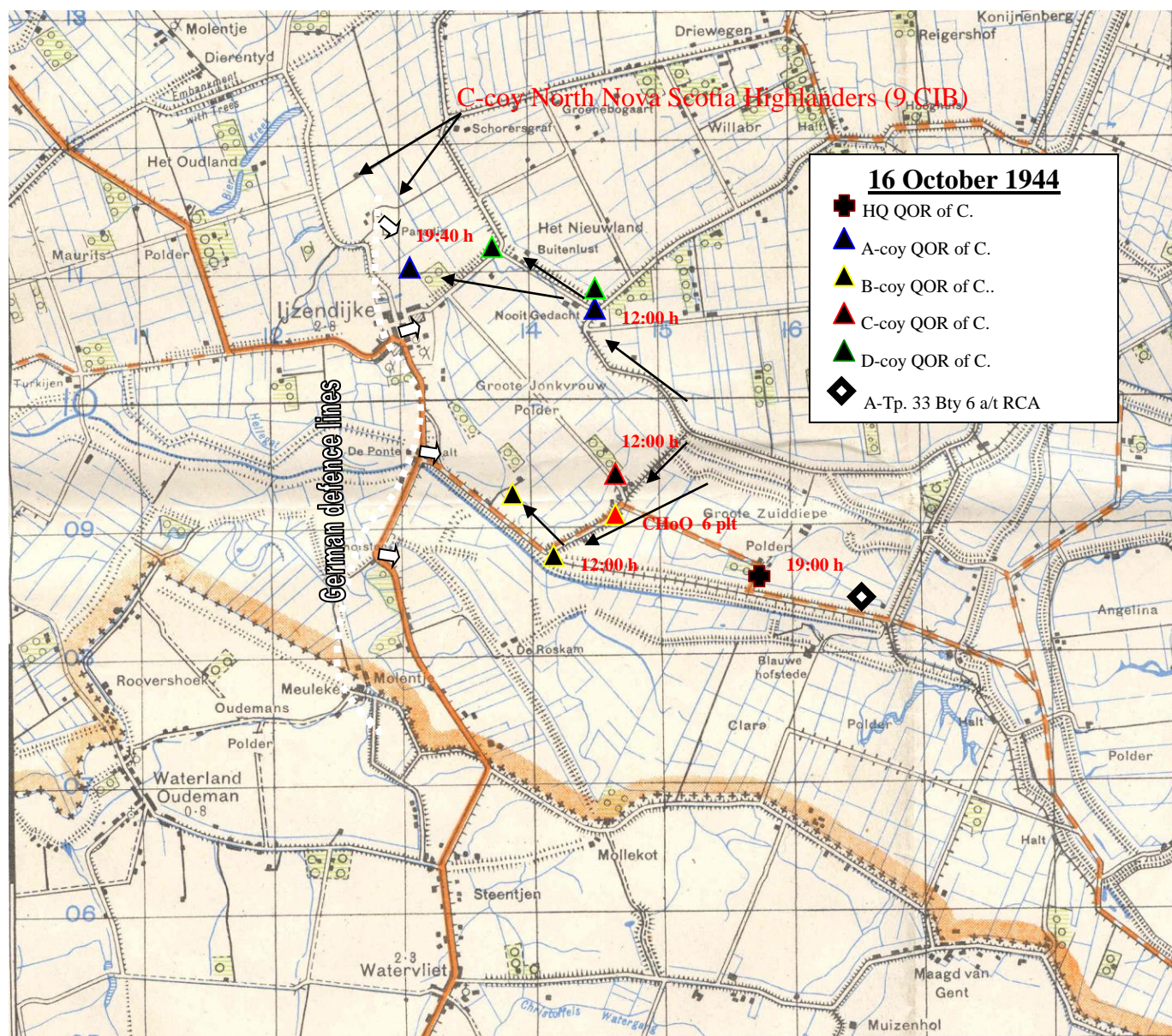
Pte John E. Deakins

Pte Donald R. Featherstone

Pte Leo Lauber

(Bron: Robert W. Catsburg)

QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES OF CANADA 16 OCTOBER



The morning started with the capture of quite a few prisoners. The Queen's Own were surprised by the variation of type, size and age. Apparently the Germans were hitting the bottom of the barrel as for reinforcements concerned.

At 12:00 h the companies reached their objectives and A and B-coy consolidated their positions around IJzendijke. No 6 platoon of the Camerons took up a position between B and C-coy and fired a number of belts before and after lunch. Further in support were the heavy mortars of 15 platoon (D-coy CHoO), their location is unknown.

The opposition had been light during the move. Only a few casualties were taken and another bag of prisoners. A-coy was shot at by M-10's of 33 Bty (6 a/t RCA). Probably a section attached to 9th brigade fighting north of IJzendijke. Lt. King (A-coy) was wounded by shrapnel, while Rfn Sawka got a leg blown off by an explosion of a big calibre gun shell.

The plans to proceed were to advance in three steps; to start at 13:15 with A-coy by moving to the north of IJzendijke, followed by the advance of B-coy towards De Ponte and finally to advance of C and D-coy towards the centre of the Groote Jonkvrouw polder. Now the opposition stiffened, though A-coy advanced without too much difficulties. ON the north flank of the 8th Brigade the C-Coy North Nova's had cleared le Paradis and the farm north of it after a short artillery barrage. They took 22 prisoners. However at 18:30 in the evening, the Queen's Own reported that B-coy had difficulties to make further progress. Due to their exposed position up front, the primary idea was to pull the company back, especially while C and D-coy were still in their original positions. After discussion with the brigade and the North Shores, who spotted the movement of B-coy up front, the company was ordered to hold in the vicinity of the de Dobbelaere farm.

By the end of the day 68 prisoners were taken by the battalion.

The next day the QOR of C. took IJzendijke after heavy street fight on the town square.