

STICHTING WINGS TO VICTORY

AIRWAR MUSEUM / AIRMEN MEMORIAL ZEELAND



Crash No 517

Lancaster LM618

02-11-1944

Lewedorp



02 november 1944

Main Headquarters No. 84 Group.

There were no very spectacular developments of the Walcheren operations, which had to continue until nearly midday without the support of air forces owing to foggy weather.

As soon as conditions allowed, every effort was made to assist both the forces in Flushing and those advancing south-east and north-east from Westkapelle and the bridgehead in the east of the Island. In this latter sector quite a large number of gun positions and strongpoint targets were taken on but these did not appear to have any direct effect on the progress of the battle, which resulted in very little territorial change.

In the Flushing area the FCP was busy with targets such as pillboxes and strongpoints. In the Westkapelle sector however, very few requests were forthcoming. However, by nightfall the advance north-east had secured the area behind Domburg and towards Flushing the Commando force advanced beyond Zoutelande gun position W.287.

The situation in Walcheren is now considered satisfactorily.

Thirty missions – involving 204 sorties – were flown by the Group in the Walcheren operations. The First Corps front was given quite a lot of support with particular reference to the Polish sector, where the bridgehead was finally relinquished and the Polish Forces retired south of the river Mark.

Targets in this sector included heavy artillery concentration areas and for the most part were attacked by squadrons of the Polish Wing. It is unfortunate that the ground forces in this sector were unable to take advantage of the attacks which were fairly well concentrated and in consequence it must be assumed that the effectiveness, whether moral or material, has had time to wear off.

Further to the West, 4th Canadian Armoured Division was supported in two attacks later in the evening by fighter-bombers of 146 Wing and for the first time the 500 lbs cluster bomb was used against open field strongpoints. Pilots reported that the visual effects of these bombs is spectacular.

The reduction of the Knokke strongpoint continued and assistance was given by Spitfire bombers.

In addition to these operations, an attack was made by Spit bombers against a fairly accurately identified V-2 launching site north of Numansdorp D.75. This attack was precipitated by the sudden descent of a rocket projectile on the GCC and was the first occasion on which the Group has made a direct attack on such a site. Further attacks will undoubtedly be made if reports continue to indicate the presence of V-2 in this area.

Interdiction operations were impossible owing to weather conditions.

Intentions for tomorrow.

In the opinion of the Army Commander the situation in Walcheren is now satisfactory.

However, in order to establish firmly the divisions bridgehead on the east of the Island, first priority will be given to these operations tomorrow, though at the outset forces will be allotted to the support of First Corps, whose operations to clear the south bank of the Maas is the most important project at the moment.

First Corps intend attacking in the centre with 104 US-Division and 49 British Division tonight and to advance on Moerdijk bridges tomorrow. The 4th Canadian Division will cross the Maas and advance on Willemstad and the Poles on the right flank will cross the river in the area of Oosterhout.

extracts from war-diaries.

- **4 squadron:** The weather in the morning was very foggy and misty but lifted towards midday although there was 8/10ths to 10/10ths stratus-cumulus in all the operational areas most of the day.
Nine high-level photographic sorties were carried out during the day of which four were abortive owing to 7/10ths to 10/10ths stratus cloud from 7000 to 10000 feet persisting in the Walcheren-Breda areas.
(Form 541) Spitfire Mk.XI PA891 with Flt.Sgt.J.J.Hutchings for high level photo recce.
This sortie was only partly completed and only two runs were made in the Dunkirk area and none were made over Walcheren owing to 10/10ths cumulus at 7000 feet.
Time up/ down 1411 - 1535
Spitfire Mk.XI PL764 with Wr.Off.E.M.Seeley for high level photo recce in the Walcheren area which was abortive due to 10/10ths strato-cumulus at 10000 feet.
Time up/ down 1412 - 1443
Spitfire Mk.XI MB949 with Flt.Lt.P.B.Buckley for high level photo recce north of Bergen op Zoom with six runs successfully completed from 24000 feet as there was no cloud.
Time up/ down 1533 - 1704
- **33 squadron:** The squadron moved from Merville to our new base at Maldegem. The Commanding Officer, Sqn.Ldr.I.G.S.Matthew took 12 aircraft to attack a german strongpoint on Walcheren, southeast of Veere. The target consisted of fortified farm buildings and earthen works. The building was left ablaze and the area was strafed successfully whilst red smoke was provided by the army. On this operation the squadron took off from Merville and landed at Maldegem, the remainder of the aircraft being flown direct to Maldegem.
Time up/ down 1145 - 1240
- **74 squadron:** Flt.Lt.D.E.Liewellyn led 12 aircraft bombing houses and fieldworks at Nieuwland (Walcheren D.709/zes.3). Six direct hits and four near-misses were observed after which the target was thoroughly strafed.
Again Flt.Lt.D.E.Liewellyn led the squadron bombing an artillery position east of Middelburg and 12 x 500 lbs GP's 0.025 seconds delay were dropped from 5000 to 2000 feet and seven near-misses were scored. The target was thoroughly strafed and strikes were observed in each gun pit.
Intense accurate light Flak was encountered over the target and as a result one Spitfire was damaged category Ac.
Times up/ down 1130 - 1230 and 1345 - 1440 respectively.
- **164 squadron:** At 1145 hrs two aircraft were detailed for tactical recce on the east-side of Walcheren Island at a height from 5000 to zero feet. No movement was seen except friendly aircraft and very intense light and medium Flak throughout the town of Veere.
Time up/ down 1145 - 1225
At 1205 hrs four aircraft attacked strongpoints on Walcheren and several direct hits with R/P's and many cannon strikes with proportion of buildings demolished and left burning.

Time up/ down 1205 - 1250

Fifteen minutes later - at 1220 - another strongpoint on Walcheren was attacked with all R/P's reaching the target area but no results seen.

Time up/ down 1220 - 1300

At 1400 hrs four aircraft attacked gun positions on Walcheren and 29 R/P's and cannon all reached target area which were four gun positions identified around pinpoint.

Time up/ down 1400 - 1445

Again 15 minutes later - at 1415 - five aircraft attacked pillbox on Walcheren and 1000 yards along coast north-west of pinpoint with R/P's and cannon. The pillbox was hit by gunfire but no movement was seen and no results were observed.

Time up/ down 1415 - 1445

At 1555 ten aircraft were detailed to attack four concrete gun positions on Walcheren with 75 R/P's and cannon. The R/P's were well concentrated but effect of hits not observed. The targets being sites with camouflage nets covering several guns or gun emplacements along the coastline in the north of the island.

Time up/ down 1555 - 1640

- **183 squadron:** Six Walcheren shows, the last one being an eight aircraft attack on pillboxes in Flushing.
- **193 squadron:** Close support targets were the order of the day! The Commanding Officer again taking out two shows after Flg.Off.Smith and Flt.Sgt. Robertson reported favourable on the weather just after noon. No Flak met either show and bombing results against gun positions near Steenberg, where clusterbombs were used for the first time, were good.

(Form 541) Two Typhoons carried out an eventful weather recce.

Time up/ down 1255 - 1345

A dive-bombing attack was carried out against infantry and mortars in some houses at Langeweg and this was followed by strafing with good results. It is believed that some of the bombs failed to explode but no Flak was encountered.

Time up/ down 1400 - 1445

Anti personnel bombs were dropped on a road near Steenberg and all bombs were seen to burst on or on the sides of the road. There was intense light Flak from Steenberg.

Flg.Off. Statters was ordered to return to base before the attack was carried out because the fins fell off one of his bombs.

Time up/ down 1655 - 1725

- **198 squadron:** A-Flight resumes duty this morning, being engaged on FCP in close support with the troops on Walcheren Island. The pilots were very much heartened when a signal was received from the army congratulating the squadrons of 123 Wing on their work yesterday, which was carried out in very poor weather.

At 1110 hrs our Commanding Officer Sqn.Ldr.R.W.Ridler took off leading the first section of four aircraft and, as usual, a target located at pinpoint 0827 was given. Not much was seen however but the whole area was literally strafed with cannon, while R/P's were also fired and seen to fall around the pinpoint.

There was no Flak making this a very unspectacular operation.

At 1145 hrs Flt.Lt.Sweeting led the next section and by way of a change he was given a blockhouse on a pier very near Flushing at pinpoint 126237. There was no Flak and attacks with R/P's and cannon proved very accurate and several direct hits with R/P's and cannon strikes on the target were observed. Our pilots experienced much satisfaction to see the blockhouse smoking when they left the area. At 1330 hrs B-

Flight took up duty when Flt.Lt.Kirsch took off leading four aircraft to attack a target which was a blockhouse situated at pinpoint 104241.

Although no direct hits were seen, the target was well strafed with cannon and left smoking. "Straberry" arrived from the army for this show, saying that following the attack, our troops entered the area almost immediately afterwards.

The fourth show was led by Flg.Off.Allan at 1350 hrs and was an attack on 3 guns at 091251 and direct hits were obtained with at least one salvo and one pair of rockets while many strikes with cannon were also seen. There was no Flak and the only inconvenience being that many more aircraft were operating in the same area.

- **222 squadron:** The early show was canceled at the last minute because the squadron had to move to Maldegem. The morning show with eleven Spitfires was a dive bomb attack on mortars etc on Walcheren with good results. Flt.Lt. MacDonald led the squadron, having taken off from B.53 and landing at B.65.

Time up/ down 1125 – 1215

- **266 squadron:** A-Flight and 4 of B-Flight took off to attack two different targets on Walcheren, the former on gun emplacements in support of the army north of Nieuwland and the remaining four on another gun position near Middelburg and both missions were successful.

(Form 541) Army support to attack guns at Walcheren! The squadron operated in two sections of six aircraft. The first section attacked at D.17622 and fired 48 R/P's which landed all in the target area but no results could be observed.

The second section attacked at D.177349 and fired 48 R/P's as well which also landed in the target area from which moderate light Flak was encountered.

- **268 squadron:** Six tactical recce's were flown during the course of the day during which Flg.Off. R.B.Garside's Mustang was hit by enemy Flak. He was able to return behind our lines making a successful forced landing.

He was picked up by the Canadians and returned to base later in the day.

(Form 541) Two P-51 Mustang - FD444 and FD558 with Flg.Off.R.B.Garside and Flg.Off. C.I.Smith - for tactical recce Schouwen, Bergen op Zoom and Schelde area during which Flg.Off. Garside was hit by Flak

Time up/ down 1223 – 1310

Two Typhoon Mk.1B's - EK440 and EK380 with Flt.Lt.O.R.Chapman and Flt.Lt.A.D.Mercer - for tactical recce Schouwen, Bergen op Zoom and Schelde area with little movement seen.

Time up/ down 1423 - 1500

Two Typhoon Mk.1B's - JP371 and EK905 with Flt.Lt.K.O.Jenkins and Flt.Lt.R.I.MacIntosh - for tactical recce Schouwen, Bergen op Zoom and Schelde area with barge movement and fires seen.

Time up/ down 1610 - 1706

- **302 squadron:** Recce to Veere during which two barges were strafed and two small boats north-west of Veere sunk.

- **329 squadron:** The weather is much better, the sun is shining but it is very cold but as the pilots remarked the sorties we did on the Leopold canal were a piece of cake.

The first operation was to bomb a heavy gun position on approximately two miles west of Knokke scoring six hits in the target area and, with no opposition at all, they raked the position with cannon and browning. The second sortie was to bomb and strafe four guns east of Middelburg placing three hits in the target area and four near-misses, leaving the target well and truly strafed.

Lt.Boisot came back with his kite from one of these sorties having jettisoned his hood which was hit by Flak and in fact the whole of his aircraft was well raked. The rear of the hood and the aerial were missing, just missing Lt.Boisot's head by inches.

(Form 541) The squadron took off with 12 Spitfires at 1100 hrs to bomb heavy gun positions approx. 2 miles west of Knokke.

Time up/ down 1100 - 1150

The squadron's next mission was to bomb and strafe four guns east of Middelburg placing 3 hits in the target area and 4 near-misses after which the target was truly well strafed.

A considerable amount of Flak was experienced over the targets.

Time up/ down 1320 - 1415

- **331 squadron:** Three aircraft led by Lt.Woxen, took off from base at 1634 hrs to carry out a leaflet raid with nickel bombs. The raid was carried out in the Knokke-Heist-Westkapelle areas and the leaflet bombs were dropped according to plan.

All our aircraft returned to base at 1724 without incidents.

Four aircraft led by 2Lt.Stousland, took off from base at 1640 hrs for dropping leaflets over Walcheren but the section was recalled to base due to the prevailing weather conditions and all the planes returned safely to base at 1705 hrs.

- **332 squadron:** The squadron took off at 0835 hrs on a bombing mission (target not specified)led by Capt.Tvedte but they were recalled due to weather conditions.

Eleven aircraft landed at B.58 at approximately 0910 hrs and one aircraft landed at B.55 at 1005 hrs after which it returned to base at 1620 hrs.

- **341 squadron:** Fine morning with bright sunshine! The squadron of twelve aircraft, led by Capt.Girarden, took off at 1115 hrs to attack a strongpoint one mile west of Knokke. Twelve bombs were dropped ranging from 4000 to 500 feet and seven near-misses were scored. The target was not actually observed but the pinpoint was bombed and trenches in the area strafed as well.

There was no Flak and the squadron returned to base landing at 1206 hrs.

Eleven aircraft, led by Capt.Andrieux, took off at 1344 hrs to bomb an artillery position east of Middelburg. Ten 500 lbs were dropped with six hits being seen in the target area, four near-misses and one being dropped in the sea. There was slight Flak at the target and the squadron returned to base landing at 1505 hrs.

- **349 squadron:** After a series of delays we moved to Maldegem B.65! The squadron took off at 1305 hrs from their new location to bomb gun positions north-east of Middelburg.

On arrival over the target heavy clouds came up und the pilots were forced to come down to 1000 feet to do their bombing. They intended following it up with a strafing attack but the Flak was so accurate and intense and the weather not helping, that they decided against a strafe.

Time up/ down 1300 - 1355

- **485 squadron:** The squadron skip-bombed target D.718 in pairs from all directions and obtained two direct hits in centre and two near-misses in the south-west corner of the target.

Time up/ down 1245 – 1345

- **609 squadron:** Another busy day began at 1110 hrs when Flg.Off.Hue, Flg.Off.Wathieu, Flg.Off.De Bueger and Flg.Off. Crekillie go off on D.710 to attack gun positions in the Flushing area. The target was seen without red smoke and all R/P's fell in the target area which was left billowing black smoke.

Time up/ down 1100 – 1205

A quarter of an hour later Flg.Off.Jaspis, Flg.Off.Goblet, Sgt.Deschamps, Flt.Sgt.Laforce and Flt. Sgt.Mathys were off on D.710. The target was identified and direct hits were made on camouflaged guns and houses. A farmhouse on the south side of the dyke at 188274 was destroyed and left blazing fiercely and the whole area was cannon strafed three times. All came back with the knowledge that the flight had made a good show.

At 1310 Sqn>Ldr.Wallace, Flt.Sgt.Mathys, Flt.Sgt.Reynolds and Flg.Off.Goblet took off on FCP and the target was given as a blockhouse at 125238. Direct hits were seen but no apparant damage and a further attack was made with cannon.

A quarter of an hour later Flt.Lt.Cooreman goes off with Flt.Sgt.Laforce on FCP and the target is a control post of the sea at 104244. Direct hits were scored and the target was left smoking.

The last show of the day started at 1650 hrs with Plt.Off.Merrett, Plt.Off.De Bruyn, Flg.Off.Fromont and Sgt.Deschamps and they were orderd to attack coastal targets at 0925/0727 where two blockhouses were seen and attacked.

Samenvattingen Seekommandant Süd-Holland.

0700 Ankunft in Renesse (2./202), dem ich wegen den besseren Nachrichten-Verbindungen den Vorzug vor Westenschouwen (3./202) gebe.

1000 Anruf bei Führer der Motorbootsverbände.

Ich bitte Olt.Vaupel um Gestellung eines Bootes nach Burghsluis, um eine Erkundung der Lage in Veere durchführen zu können. Das boot wird mir zugesagt.

1240 4./203 (Stützpunkt Bathuis) gibt, nachdem sie um 0142 noch um Entsendung von drei Sturmbooten zum Verwundeten Transport gebeten hatte, als letzten Funkspruch durch:
Grüsse an die Heimat; wir schalten ab.

1758 Es geht die Meldung ein, daß der Feind in die 8./202 (Dishoek) eingedrungen ist und in Vlissingen zwischen Boulevard und Wasserturm Straßenkämpfe stattfinden.

2345 In der Batterie geht folgender Lagebericht des stellvertretenden Seekommandanten ein.

Zustand 4./202 mit 3 Scharren klar und ein Rundumgeschütz bedingt nach Volltreffer. Der Ort Westkapelle ist feindbesetzt.

Von 7./202 keine Meldung ob in eigener Hand.

8./202 mit drei Geschützen einsatzbereit und ein Geschütz ausgefallen! Bei der leichte Flak ist der Muni-Bestand (nur) 100 Schuß und es gibt 2 Tote und 10 Verwundete.

Stützpunkt 203 erneut angegriffen und bei AK-Stand abgeschlagen.

KTB Admiral in den Niederlanden.

0140 Ich führe ein Ferngespräch mit dem Gefechtsstand Seekommandant in Vlissingen und erreiche dabei den dort zusammen mit dem Hafenkommendanten gebliebenen Olt.Lüning.

Irgendwelche weiteren Meldungen über die Lage in Vlissingen selbst kann er nicht geben, da wegen der Dunkelheit und der meist ausgefallenen Sprechverbindungen keine Übersicht möglich.

Auf meine Frage nach augenblicklichen Aufenthalt Seekommandanten erhalte ich die Antwort, daß er zur Zeit nicht bekannt sei; am Abend habe er noch mit ihm gesprochen. Seekommandant habe dabei zum Ausdruck gebracht, daß er nach Norden auszuweichen beabsichtige.

Ich benutze dieses Gespräch um den dort im Gefechtsstand Vlissingen noch aushaltenden Offizieren usw meine Anerkennung dafür und für die bisher erfolgte Durchgabe von Nachrichten auszusprechen, die für uns von besonderem Wert seien.

0800 **Lage-Entwicklungen auf Walcheren von 0000 bis 0800 Uhr.**

(soweit aus eingegangenen und vorgelegten Funksprüchen erkennbar)

Auf Dünenkamm, der sich von Westkapelle nach Vlissingen hinzieht sind nach der feindlichen Anlandungen infolge des Vordringen des Feindes die FuMO-Stellung Monika und die Batterie Zoutelande verloren gegangen; über die Lage der Batterie Dishoek besteht zur Zeit noch keine volle Klarheit und sie ist anscheinend noch intakt. Sicher ist dagegen, daß sich der Kommandeur der MFA 810 noch in seinem Kommandeurstand, der nicht weit westlich von der Deicheinbruchstelle Nollepark liegt, befindet und kämpfen wird!

Weiter gibt es Häuserkämpfe in Vlissingen.

In dem sich von der Deicheinbruchstelle Westkapelle nach nord-osten in Richtung Domburg hinziehenden Deich – und Dünenstreifen ist der Feind nach den vorliegenden Meldungen bereits in den Mittagsstunden der 01/11 in die Batterie Westkapelle eingebrochen und hat diese sich zäh wehrende Batterie anscheinend um 1500 Uhr überwältigt.

Weiter vordringende feindliche Infanterie durch Panzer unterstützt, hat in den weiteren Nachmittagsstunden die Batterie Domburg überrant und auch den Kommandeur MAA 202 aus seinen am nord-oststrand Domburg gelegenen Kommandeurstand herausgedrängt. Das Gebiet nordöstlich Domburg und damit die Batterie Oostkapelle befinden sich noch in eigener Hand.

Wie weit der Feind hier vorangekommen ist, ist nicht zu übersehen und auch ist noch nichts Näheres über den Zustand der Batterie Oostkapelle bekannt.

Über den vom Heer verteidigten Raum Arnemuiden – Middelburg sind Einzelheiten nicht bekannt. In Veere müssen sich noch die Flakbatterie 4 x 7,5 cm und mittlere und leichte Flakwaffen befinden. Sonst sind über die Lage Veere noch keine weiteren Einzelheiten bekannt.

Durch eigenen Gegenangriff Feindeinbruch bei Landenge Arnemuiden bereinigt und Sprengstelle am Damm besetzt. Einzelne Feindpanzer sind östlich und südöstlich Kamperland gesichtet.

Landlage Schelde-Süd.

Feind setzte Zerschlagung Festung, deren tapfer kämpfende Truppen im Endkampf stehen, fort.

Batterie Cadzand (MAA 203) hält sich weiter.

- 1320 Im Verlaufe des Vormittags war noch aus Funksprüchen von Vlissingen bekannt geworden, daß nach Meldung Kommandeur MAA 203, der Feind bei Cadzand durch einen Parlamentär um Waffenruhe zur Bergung der eigenen Verwundeten gebeten hatte.

Korv.Kapt.Schleeweiß hat diesem Ersuchen stattgegeben, obwohl Gegner gestern abend den Abtransport deutscher Verwundete, die schwer verletzt in größerer Zahl im AK-Stand lagen, abgelehnt hatte.

- 1400 **Lage-Entwicklungen auf Walcheren bis 1400 Uhr.**

Über Kampf in Vlissingen selbst sind keine näheren Einzelheiten bekannt geworden.

Mittlere und leichte Flakwaffen bei Flakgefechtsstand MFA 810 sind noch im Einsatz. Auf dem Dünenkamm nordwestlich Vlissingen ist Batterie Dishoek noch in eigener Hand und feuert auf feindliche Schiffsziele mit noch drei einsatzklaren Rohren aber liegt selbst unter schwerem Schiffsartillerie Feuer.

Da Munitionsbestand auf 100 Schuß abgesunken ist, muß damit gerechnet werden das Feind im Laufe des Tages die Batterie zu nehmen versuchen wird.

Nordöstlich Westkapelle ist Feind nach den vorliegenden Meldungen über Domburg noch nicht weiter nach nordosten vorgestoßen. Batterie Oostkapelle ist größtenteils noch klar, liegt jedoch unter schwerem feindlichen Artillerie Beschuß.

1600 Jabo-Angriffe mit Bomben auf Hafensblockierung Vlissingen und Flak-Wachen an Einbruchsstelle Nollepark sowie stärkeres Artillerie Feuer aus Nord-Beveland auf Hafen und Minendepot Veere.

Middelburg liegt ebenfalls unter Artillerie Beschuß und Domburg brennt nach einer Meldung des Heeres. In Vlissingen starker Feinddruck gegen den Mäuseturm.

1626 **WBN meldet nach Meldung der Lufts-Stelle "Lumeso" wurden um 1610 Uhr 5 bis 6 km westlich Walcheren 25 mittlere Kriegsschiffe festgestellt.**

1724 Chef der Rheinflottille meldet daß ein SN-Geleit ab Veere nördlich Volkerak Artillerie Beschuß von See aus erhielt.

2400 **Lage-Entwicklungen auf Walcheren im Verlaufe des Nachmittags und Abends.**

Forsetzung der Kämpfe in Vlissingen Stadt und am Boulevard.

Bei der Batterie Kernwerk und bei der Flakbatterie Ost – beide östlich der Hafeneinfahrt gelegen – sind sämtliche Geschütze ausgefallen und letzter Kampfeinsatz dieser Batterien gegen feindlichen Fährverkehr von Breskens nach Vlissingen war am 01/11 abends.

Seit 1900 Uhr starkes Artillerie Feuer auf Gefechtsstand des Seekommandanten am Boulevard wo sich auch der Kommandant des Verteidigungsbereichs befindet.

Der stellvertr. Seekommandant meldet im Verlaufe des Nachmittags ferner, daß Batterie Dishoek um 1500 Uhr 34 Einheiten, darunter 3 schwere im Deurloo Fahrwasser querab Westkapelle, in Sicht habe. Batterie Dishoek hat unter Feuer zweier schwerer Kreuzer gelegen!

Die Batterie selbst habe gegen vorgehende feindliche Infanterie nordwestlich Dishoek gefeuert.

Das Ende der Batterie Dishoek.

Auf dem Dünenkamm nordwestlich Vlissingen ist die Batterie Dishoek nach schwerem feindlichen Schiffsartillerie Feuer und wahrscheinlich Verschuß gesamter eigener Munition vom Feinde im von der nördlichen Flanke kommenden Angriff in den Nachmittagsstunden – voraussichtlich um 1600 Uhr herum – überwältigt worden.

Die Batterie ist nach Funkmeldung des näher an Vlissingen herangelegenen Kommandeur MFA 810 wahrscheinlich noch während Eindringen des Feindes gesprengt worden.

Der Kommandeur MFA 810 richtet sich auf den Nahkampf ein und erwartet den Angriff des Feindes aus der Richtung Dishoek. Meldung, daß "alles vernichtet" liegt vor.

Über Lage bei Oostkapelle nichts Neues aus der Sichtmeldung von vier amerikanischen Schlachtschiffen in den Nachmittagsstunden in 250° von der Batterie. Ferner mehrere Landungsboote außer Bereich der Batterie.

Feindposition auf See vor Walcheren.

Der Gegner tritt mit seinen großen Schiffen genau dort auf, wo er seinerzeit Minen geräumt hat.

Auf diese Wahrscheinlichkeit ist von hier damals rechtzeitig hingewiesen und Neuverminung durch S-Boote erbeten worden. Es ist bedauerlich, daß diese Verseuchung nicht – auch unter Inkaufnahme eines Risiko's – mittels S-Boote durchgeführt worden ist.

S-Boote sind einmal bei 3 Seemeilen Sicht, bei der die ganzen Vorposten-Positionen vor der Küste besetzt waren, ausgelaufen aber wegen unsichtigen Wetters umgekehrt. Mehrmals ist das beabsichtigte Auslaufen wegen nicht ausreichender Sicht entfallen. Bemerkenswert ist dabei, daß eigene VP-Positionen in See bzw feindliche S-Boote vor der Küste waren.

Durch diese Unterlassung hat der Gegner die Möglichkeit die mittleren Batterien auf Walcheren mit schweren Geschützen fast gefahrlos zu bekämpfen.

KTB Führer der Motorbootsverbände.

0630 **AF 93** und **AF 61** laufen Hafen Zijpe ein.

0700 **AF 94** und **AF 95** laufen Hafen Zierikzee ein.

Die Boote melden bis 0200 Uhr bis Höhe Wolphaartsdijk von einer Landung auf Nord-Beveland nichts zu bemerken.

1300 **AF 93** und **AF 94** Heute Abend rottenweise Sicherung Linie Zierikzee, Stavenisse und Mastgat.

Ablösung durch 1^{ste}. Artillerie Flottille gegen 2330 Uhr, danach zurück Dordrecht.

1930 **AF 94** und **AF 95** laufen aus Zierikzee auf Position.

2000 **AF 61** und **AF 93** laufen aus Zijpe auf Position.

2045 **AF 44**, **AF 47**, **AF 91** und **AF 92** laufen aus Dordrecht nach Süden.

2200 **HR20** und **HR61** laufen mit den Schleppern "**Frans**" und "**Gent**" aus nach Zierikzee zur Unterstützung dort liegengebliebenen SN-Geleits.

2358 Ausgang FT: An Gruppenführer Zijpe – HR63

Mit Störungsfeuer eigener Artillerie-Träger im Mastgat in Richtung Oud-Vossemeer (Tholen) ist zu rechnen, der Durchfahrt nach Zierikzee jedoch unbehindert.

24 eigene Motor-Kleinschnellboote auf Marsch nach Süden!

KTB der Rheinflottille.

--/-- Position 11 war mit den Booten **HR04**, **HR09**, **HR45** und **HR61** besetzt und Position 12 mit den Booten **HR02**, **HR10**, **HR24** und **HR52**.

Die Position 12 wird eingezogen und die Boote laufen nach Zierikzee ein.

HR20 und **HR61** geleiten von Dordrecht die Schlepper "**Gent**" und "**Frans**" nach Zierikzee, die zum Schleppen von Leichtern für Verwundeten Transporte aus Veere und Vrouwenpolder Verwendung finden sollen.

Verliezen bij de bevoorrading van Duinkerken.(Bron RL 491/492)

- Heinkel He 111 S3+DH (W.Nr.700802) van 7./KG55 vom Feindflug nicht zurückgekehrt! Auftrag war Versorgung der Festung Dunkirk.

Uffz. Wilhelm Gans mia

Uffz. Karl Reißmann mia

Ogefr. Walter König mia

Gefr. Friedrich Wenze mia

Gefr. Dietrich Zander mia

Geallieerde vliegtuig verliezen in en om Zeeland.

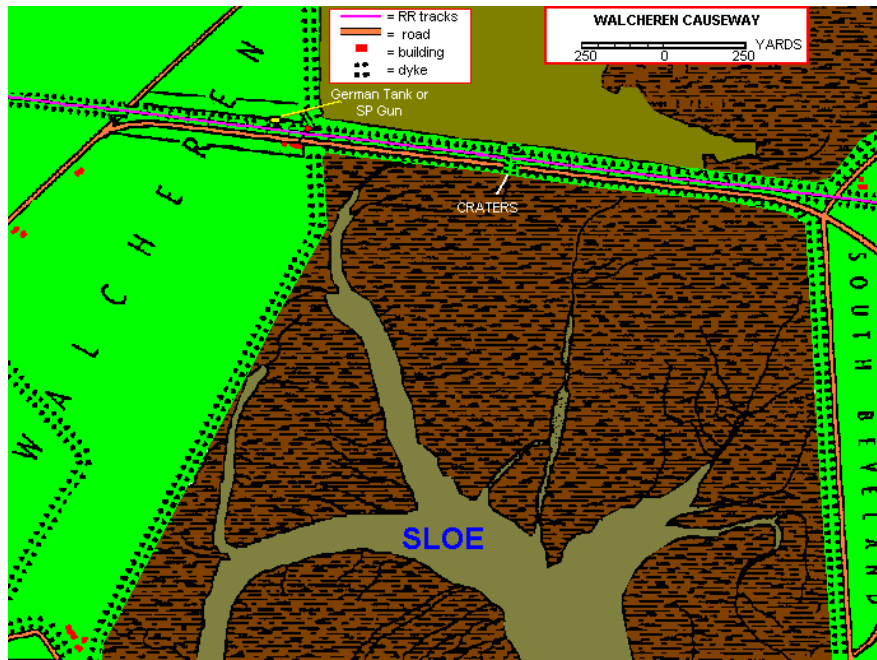
- P-51 Mustang Mk.II FD444 van 268 squadron werd tijdens een verkenningsvlucht boven Walcheren door Flak getroffen waarna de piloot gedwongen werd om een (geslaagde) "wheels up" landing uit te voeren op circa drie kilometer ten noordwesten van Goes.

Flg.Off. R.B. Garside safe

Na deze landing werd hij door een Canadese jeep patrouille opgepikt en de volgende dag was hij weer terug bij zijn onderdeel.

- Een Spitfire Mk.IX van 74 squadron werd tijdens een missie nabij Nieuwland door lichte Flak getroffen. De piloot slaagde er echter in om het beschadigde toestel terug naar de thuisbasis te vliegen alwaar schade category Ac werd vastgesteld.
- Spitfire Mk.IX NH520 van 329 squadron werd tijdens een strike op de resten van de 64^{ste} Infanterie Division nabij Knokke-Cadzand door grondvuur zwaar beschadigd. De piloot slaagde er desalniettemin in om terug te vliegen naar de thuisbasis.
Lt. M.Boisot safe
- Lancaster Mk.III LM618 van 186 squadron – gestart om 1129 van Tuddenham Suffolk om een aanvalsmissie naar Homberg uit te voeren – voerde omstreeks 1510 uur een noodlanding uit nabij de boerderij Notenhoeve in de Nieuwe Craaijerpolder te 's-Heerenhoek.
De machine had door Flaktreffers zware beschadigingen opgelopen.
De War-Diary van het 186th. Field Regiment Royal Artillery geeft aan dat op positie 229242 – ten westen van 's Heerenhoek – omstreeks 1500 uur een beschadigde Lancaster cirkelde boven gebied van het regiment waarna soldaten seinden en hun identiteit aangaven. De Lancaster maakte daarna een noodlanding in square 2424.
Flg.Off. G.E.Williamson RAAF safe
Sgt. A.E.Piggin safe
Flt.Sgt. K.H.Turner safe
Flg.Off. E.Winton safe
Wrt.Off. A.E.J.Stiles RAAF safe
Flt.Sgt. W.P. Burton RAAF safe
Flt.Sgt. H.K.Coombe RAAF safe

Bijlage 1 – The Calgary Highlanders and the Walcheren Causeway 31 October – 2 November 1944



At 0950 hours on the 31st. of October Operation Switchback – the effort by the Third Canadian Division, Fourth Canadian (Armoured) Division and 1st. Polish Armoured Division, to clear all Germans south of the West Scheldt – was completed.

That same day, South-Beveland was at last cleared of Germans. To the east, Canadian troops had taken Bergen op Zoom and the allies were pressing north. However the great port of Antwerp, so essential to easing the Allies logistical problems, was still unusable because of the German batteries located on Walcheren Island. South-Beveland was connected to Walcheren Island by a narrow causeway; just 40 yards wide it stretched for a mile “straight as a gun barrel.” On it was a road, a set of railway tracks, a bicycle path and a thin line of poplars. While many Germans retreated over the causeway to Walcheren Island, others chose to surrender to the Allies instead; their losses in dead and wounded had been heavy!

Canadian intelligence maps, printed on the 23rd, showed German defences east of the causeway in detail, but none at the western end. It was hoped that the Second Canadian Division could “bounce” the Causeway, take it in a lightning move from the confused and reeling Germans. Middelburg, the capital town on Walcheren Island, was only 4000 yards inland.

On the 30th of October, the Royal Regiment was only half a mile from the eastern end of the Causeway. The Division’s commander ordered them to prepare to drive over the narrow strip of land and enable another brigade to pass through on to Walcheren itself. The Commander of 4th Brigade however, saw that the Causeway was bordered on each side by mud flats which were hidden at high tide. He thought a water crossing would have a better chance of success than a charge down the Causeway. The Second Division had trained in assault crossings in England in anticipation of the need to do so at the Seine. Since his troops were tired and since only two units of the Second Division had taken assault boat training (the Calgary Highlanders being one of them), the job was passed on to the Fifth Brigade.

The Calgary Highlanders found that boats could not cross the Sloe-Channel (also referred to as “Sloe”) and last minute plans were drawn up. A company of the Black Watch went forward on the last evening of October and Canadian guns of all calibres, including light and medium artillery, anti-aircraft guns and mortars bombarded the dykes along the far end of the

Causeway. The Black Watch managed to get halfway across the Causeway before being stopped by heavy casualties.

B-Company of the Calgary Highlanders went forward next, finding even the entrance to the Causeway under enemy fire; the most alarming enemy weapon was the high velocity anti-tankgun that fired straight down the length of the Causeway. The Highlanders could see enemy shells bouncing off the pavement. The company could go no further than the crater in the middle of the Causeway. The crater, blown by German engineers, not only provided cover but also prevented any armour from crossing over. Any entry on to Walcheren Island would have to be by unsupported infantry.

A new fireplan was drawn up and shortly before dawn D-Company moved down the Causeway, managing to inch their way to a German roadblock at the far end. The leading troops rushed the roadblock, seized 15 prisoners and radioed back their success. Soon the other three companies were coming forward to reinforce the bridgehead. By 0933 am the objectives at the western end were reported secure.

The four companies fanned out on the eastern end of Walcheren Island but the fighting was bitter and intense. D-Company lost all its officers killed or wounded, prompting the Brigade Major of the 5th Brigade (a staff officer) to volunteer to take over. Permission was granted and George Hees (future Minister of Veterans Affairs) went forward with an Artillery Forward Observation Officer as his second in command.

As the fighting raged into the afternoon on 1 November, German counter attacks took a deadly toll of the Highlanders on Walcheren Island. Sergeant Emile Jean Lalogue of 18 Platoon found himself picking up German grenades and throwing them back at the Germans. Lalogue earned the DCM several times; when a Bren gunner was killed, Lalogue repaired the gun and turned it on the Germans. When the PIAT man was also wounded, he turned this weapon on the enemy as well.

In the face of heavy opposition however, the Calgary Highlanders were forced to withdraw from the island, handing over a small bridgehead to Le Regiment de Maisonneuve on the evening of 1 November.

The Calgary Highlanders suffered 64 men killed, wounded or missing during the battle of Walcheren Causeway. To this day, the Regiment considers their battle there a testament to courage, determination and endurance. They rank it alongside the Battle of St.Julien, for which they wear their cherished oak leaf shoulder titles.

To the Calgary Highlanders on 2 November 1944 however, nothing was more important to them than hearing that, for the first time since arriving in France, the Second Division would be pulled out of the line for a period of protected rest. It was a welcome respite!



