

and lying all over the area, so we fetch them in and look them over – torn ones are turned into scarves. Of course, we now have vast quantities of cigarettes and chocolate, at least for the time being. At 09.50 hours a messenger from the Battalion Commander arrives ordering us to headquarters to discuss the new situation.

It turns out that this really is the Allies' big day – which unfortunately means that it's ours too. In the Regiment's sector the only airborne landings have been in our sub-sector, so the two other Battalions have been thrown straight in to the coast to join the battle against the Allies there. So far as we can tell, many more enemy airborne troops and landing parties have landed in the Vire-Mündung region. Even bigger units are said to have dropped and landed at St Marie du Mont and I Battalion has gone into action against them. According to various recce reports, the remnants of the companies that dropped in our area have withdrawn to the villages at Graignes and Tribehou. To prevent these from attacking us from the rear, our entire Battalion will move against them. The withdrawal of the necessary troops for this purpose, and the continued occupation of the region against further airborne forces, are to be ensured by the following measures:

1. 9 Company – apart from Schenkendorfer platoon, which is to guard the old sub-sector – to advance immediately on a wide front through Sainteny on the main road to St André de Bohon, to comb the countryside and then to return to the rest of the Battalion.
2. 10 Company: Hoppe's platoon to stay by the church, along with Binder's heavy machine-gun group. The rest of the Company to advance to the main road and to stay on guard until all sections of the Battalion have gathered.
3. 11 Company to leave one platoon in its former position, the remainder also to advance to the main road.
4. Each Company to receive one LKW, 12 Company to get two and a motorcycle.
5. Movements to begin immediately, maximum speed.

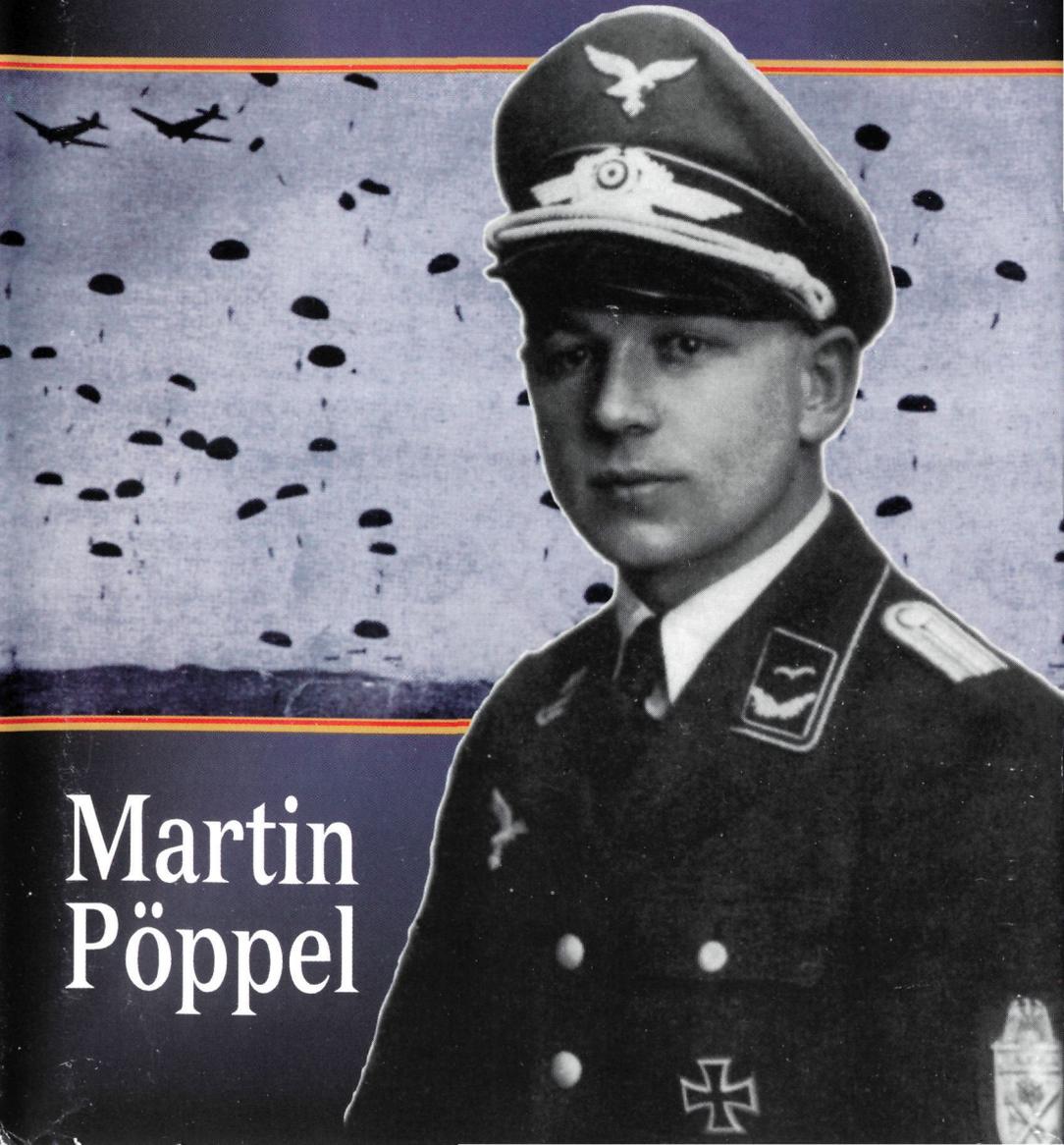
These movements start immediately after the return of the commanders, but take longer than envisaged because of the difficulties encountered by 9 Company. It advances to Tribehou, keeping guard on all sides, and holds the location against attack. I've put my heavy gun platoon leaders in the picture and the positions

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## THE WAR DIARY OF A GERMAN PARATROOPER

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