

1/5th Bn. The Queens Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary November 1942

November 1942

1st	Bir El Themid	a.m. The Bn. came under command of 7th. Armoured Div as Lorried Infantry. "Beachy Head" 44478940 (Ref Map EL HAMMAM 1/100,000)
2nd	EAST of SPRINGBOK RD.	The Bn. moved off following 22 Armoured Brigade, objective GAZAL STATION, 852310 (Ref map EL ALAMKIN Series Western Desert 1/100,000). The night was spent at 88602880 on STAR TRACK, 2 miles EAST of SPRINGBOK RD. See O.O. No. 3 attached. Appendix "A".
3rd`	As above	Major R.J.A. Kaulback attached to the Bn. as 2 i/c
4th	As above and area 860293	The Bn. moved off at first light and harboured for the night near Barrel 42-860293 (Ref map EL ALAMEIN series Western Desert 1/100,000) former H.Q. of D.A.K.
5th	Area 79582973	During the afternoon, progress of the Bn. was delayed by scattered mines and the night was spent with vehicles head to tail on a known safe track. Area 79582973 (Ref map KANAYIS EAST 1/100,000).
6th	As above and area 75203200.	The Bn. moved off at first light and at about 1500 hrs ordered to occupy the landing ground at point 155 75013240 (Ref map EL DABA 1/250,000). The Bn. was diverted to avoid a tank battle. The L.G. was not reached that night, and the Bn. harboured in area 75203200. Heavy rain in the afternoon had slowed up the transport; this continued throughout the night and most of the vehicles were bogged.
7th	As above	This day was spent in extricating vehicles and getting them on to firm ground.
8th	Area 75203200	The Bn. occupied the landing ground at 75013240 (Ref map EL DABA 1/250,000).
9th		The Bn. continued to advance Westwards on the axis of advance of 7 Armd. Div.
10th	Area 572301	The advance was continued and the night spent at 572301.
11th	Area Khamba	By the end of the day the Bn. reached KHAMSA area 58003038 (Ref map SIDI-BARRANI-MATRUH 1/250,000). The Bn. led the Bde when, in the early afternoon, we passed through the wire into LIBYA.
12th	As above	a.m. The Bn. moved at first light and in the afternoon "C" Coy (Comd. Capt. C.A. Howard) was detached to guard wagons at BELHAMED railhead 434414 which were being looted by Bedouins. The Bn. harboured near Barrel 592 area 44054000 (Ref map SALUM TOBRUCH 1/250,000)
13th	TOBRUCH	a.m. The Bn, entered TOBRUCH. Coy. positions were taken up on the perimeter at the BARDIA rd entrance and EL ADAM rd entrance and guards were placed on dumps in the Bn. area.
14th	As above	Lts. Cormack, Marshall, 2/Lt. Dunston were posted to the Bn.
16th	As above	The Commander of Eighth Army, General Sir B. Montgomery K.C.B. visited the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel L.C. East.

17th As above (Major A.G. Neale rejoined the Bn. The Brigadier, Col. Stamer having been evacuated, Lieutenant-Colonel L.C. East assumed command of the Bde and Major R.J.A. Kaulback assumed command of the Bn.

23rd As above a.m. Lieuts. A.J. McGowan, P.N.P. Plunkett and 2/Lieut. Probyn and 25 other ranks joined the Bn.

24th Martuba a.m. The Bn. was ordered to move to the BENGASI area (Ref (s) R 97).

See movement order No. 4 with appendices "A" & "B".

25th Barce a.m. The Bn. moved on from the above harbouring area.
p.m. The Bn. stopped for the night 14 miles WEST of MARTUBA (See map of EGYPT and CYRENAICA Sheet one Ref (S) 7519)

26th a.m. The Bn. moved on from the above harbouring area.
1420 The rear of the Bn. tpt was bombed 12 miles SOUTH of BENGHAZI by a Junkers 88. There were 3 casualties- No. 6089747 Wittington. R. 1/5th. Bn The Queen Royal Regiment killed and two R.A.S.C. drivers were injured.
Sidi Magrum P.m. Bn. proceeded 50 miles SOUTH of BENGHAZI to SIDI MAGRUM (Ref (3)0702) where it harboured.

27th p.m. The Bn. moved from the above harbouring area to take up positions around SIDI MAGRUM aerodrome.

28th As above a.m. The Bn. was ordered to move to JEDABYA area (Ref X 1220)
p.m. The Bn. Harbouring Party moved to JEDABYA (Ref x 1220)

Sidi Magrum See Movement Order No. 5 with appendices "A" and "B"
p.m. Move to JEDABYA (Ref X 1220) cancelled and the Bn. was ordered to move to BENGHAZI (Ref (S) R97)

See message – "Appendix 'A'.

29th a.m. One small bomb dropped by a M.E. 109 in the region of SIDI MAGRUM Aerodrome (Ref (S)0702)

30th a.m. Two bombs dropped by enemy aircraft at Ref 0702.
0900 The Bn. proceeded to move to BENGHAZI Ref 7595.
p.m. The Bn. arrived at BENGHAZI and occupied harbouring area.

Lt. Col. L.C. East
Commanding Officer.

Field Return of Officers 29th November 1942

T/Lt. Col	L.C.	EAST	Queen's	
T/Major	A.G.	NEALE	" "	
T/Capt.	R.F.H.	COWEN	" "	L.O.B.
T/Capt.	H.C	LEON	" "	on leave
T/Capt.	H.C.	HOWARD	" "	
T/Capt.	A.C.J.	BORRETT	" "	
A/Capt.	T.E.M.	ADAMS	" "	
A/Capt.	K.	HARDY	Lincs.	
A/Capt.	D.A.	GRANT	Queen's	
A/Capt.	B.T.	OPPERMAN	" "	
A/Capt.	G.L.	LILLY	R. Norfolk's	

A/Capt.	M.R.	JOHNSON	“	“
A/Capt.	E.F.	WINSER	R. Fus.	
Lieut.	P.N.P.	PLUNKETT	Queen's.	
Lieut.	K.	PRIEST	D/W	
Lieut.	H.	SANCTUARY	D/W	
Lieut.	J.R.	MORRISON SCOTT	Queen's	
Lieut.	J.S.	CORMACK	R. Warwick	
Lieut.	R.J.C.	MARSHALL	Devon	
Lieut.	N.H.	FRY	S.L.I.	
Lieut.	A.J.	MACGOWAN	Queen's	
Lieut.	A.	REED	D/W	
Lieut.	T.I.D	HEATHCOTE	Queen's	
Lieut.	A.G.	SHAW	E. Surrey	
Lieut.	T.G.	HILL	QNS	
Lieut.	E.W.	SARGINSON	Beds & Herts	
Lieut.	A.J.	DUNSTON	R. Warwick	
Lieut.	K.H.	WHEELER	R. Fus.	
Lieut.	J.	SINGLETON	N. Staffs.	
Lieut.	F.W.	HOWELL	S.L.I.	
Lieut.	K.R.	PROBY	E. Surrey	
Lieut. QM	J.	ALLWOOD	QNS	

Officers who quitted Bn. during week

2/Lieut.	D.	WATSON	S. Staffs	Hospital
Capt.	S.G.	DEAR	Queen's	“
2/Lieut.	J.H.W.	HAYES	Queen's	“