

1/5th Bn. The Queens Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary April 1943

APRIL 1943

Area WADI HADJAR.

- 1st April. Bn. still in area T (Z) 403136 (Map ref DJEBEL TOUAL 83. S.W. TUNISIA 1/50,000) when as 30 Corps reserve it was awaiting the result of the attack on the WADT AKARIT positions where it would carry out its role as Lorried infantry to the 7th Armoured Division.
- 4th April. Lts. CLARKE and COMLEY and 100 O.R's join the Bn.
- 7th April. 1200 hrs. Bn. moved just before midday and leaguered for the night at 182498 (ref map ZEMLET EL BIDA 74 N.E. TUNISIA 1/50,000).
The attack on AKARIT positions had been entirely successful.
- 8th April. AM. Bn. moved at first light and passed through the AKARIT positions, following the 22nd Armoured Bde. leaguered for the night N.W. SKIRRA Z 1787 (ref map sheet 19, MAHARES 1/200,000 TUNISIA).

AREA U 5207.

- 9th April. AM. Bn. moved at first light and took up positions just before sundown in an olive grove U 5207 (ref map sheet 19 MAHARES 1/200,000 TUNISIA) about 6 miles due West of MAHARES where it formed an anti-tank screen.

AREA U 7047.

- 10th April. 0900 hrs. Bn. moved across country North at U 7247 by 1600 hrs. it had formed a defensive position pivot 5 (ref map sheet 19 MAHARES 1/200,000 TUNISIA).

AREA KAIROUAN.

- 13th April. 1530 hrs. Bn. moved to a concentration area South of KAIROUAN area at 0.9115 (ref map sheet 11 KAIROUAN area 1/200,000 TUNISIA).

Area PT. 193.

- 15th April. AM. Bn. moved shortly after first light North through KAIROUAN to P 0570 where they debussed and marched into a defensive position in the area of Pt. 193, Pt. 0376 (ref map sheet 8 MAKTAR, 1/20 000 TUNISIA). Heavy shelling
- 17th April. 1100 hrs. Pt. 193 was heavily shelled some falling in Bn. HQ area causing two fatal casualties and one wounded. 40 O.R's were also wounded during the day in "D" Coy.
- 18th April. 2100 hrs. Bn. moved by March route to the mosque at P 041722 (ref map 48 DJEBEBINA, 1/50,000 TUNISIA) where it embussed and preceded to a concentration area around Pt. 171 P 130773.

AREA PT. 171.

- 19th April. 0200 hrs.. Bn. arrived at area Pt. 171 P 130773 (ref map 48 DJEBEBINA 1/50,000).
PM. Bn. cross start line after last light to hold area mosque P 168831 (ref map 43 ENFIDAVILLE, 150,000 TUNISIA which had been cleared by 1/6th Bn. Queen's who started at 2100 hrs.

PM. Slight machine gunning and heavy shelling was experienced as the Bn. moved into position. Capt. L.J. POUND and Lt. J.R. Morrison-Scott were slightly wounded and evacuated.

AREA KEF EL HADJ.

20th April. Bn. in area of mosque P 168831 (ref map 43 ENFIDAVILLE, 150,000 TUNISIA).

21st April. Occasional heavy shelling during the day 1 O.R. killed, one died from wounds and one wounded.

23rd April. 1 O.R. wounded by shelling. Our patrols were active during the night of 23rd 24th April.

25th April. 1 O.R. wounded by shelling. Our patrols were active on the nights of 24th 25th April and 25th 26th April.

26th April. 1 O.R. killed by shelling.
2100 hrs. patrols were active during night of 26/27th April.

AREA KEF EL HADJ.

27th April. 1 O.R. killed by shelling. At 2030 hrs. Bn. moved to area P 1474 (ref map sheet 9 SOUSSE, 1/20,000 TUNISIA where transport was harboured.

AREA P 219719.

28th April. 0615 hrs. Bn. moved by transport to a concentration area P 219719 (ref map Sheet 49 SIDI BOU ALI and HALK EL MENNZEL 1/50,000 TUNISIA).

29th April. 1600 hrs. Bn. moved destination TEBOURSOUK, J 2810 (map ref Sheet 5 TUNIS, 1/200,000, TUNISIA).

AREA OUSSELTIA.

30th April. 0545 hrs. Bn. moved and by 1200 hrs. leaguered at o. 1489 (ref map Sheet 7 LE KEF, 1/200,000 TUNISIA).

Capt. J. Hardy,
Adjutant.

Lt. Col. N.D. Leslie,
Comdg.
1/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regt.

30/4/1943.