

1/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary February 1943.

FEBRUARY 1943.

AREA Pt. 32.

1st Feb. P.M. Bn. moved to pt. 32 Q P 7564 ref map TRIPOLI 1/500,000 a Ridge running North and South between the road and the sea.

2nd Feb. Lt. W. CORMACK and 2 O.R's killed by a mine at Q P 8862.

Area P4579.

3rd Feb. At 1430 hrs. Bn. moved to (Q) P 4579 and took over from 1/7th Bn. the Queen's.

4th Feb. "B" Coy. was moved forward to pt. 15. (Q) P 3192

AREA PISIDA.

5th Feb. The Bn. moved to (Q) P 1795 Debussed and took up a position at (Q) P 1695.

6 Feb. Active patrolling by night westward to find enemy positions near the frontier was carried out and by day two carriers found a defensive screen in the area of pts. 162 (Q) K 0501. Bn. area attacked by 4 enemy aircraft. No damage or casualties.

AREA PISIDA.

7th Feb. Bn. moved 2 miles West to (Q) P 1396 and the Bde. made a firm base. There was intermittent shelling throughout the day at long range. The usual patrols went out at night.

8th Feb. Artillery exchanges during the day and patrolling by night.

9th Feb. Artillery exchanges during the day. Patrols at night located enemy M.G. posts near the frontier.

10th Feb. 1/6th Queen's on the left moved back to ZELTEN where 1/7th Queen's were. Minefield from sea to edge of marsh completed.

11th Feb. Advanced party of 5/7th GORDON'S arrived.

12th Feb. Bn. was relieved by 5/7th GORDON'S 153 Bde. 51st Div. and by last light was concentrated at (Q) P 1696.

AREA EL ASSA.

13th Feb. Bn. moved off at first light along Rd PISIDA ZUARA then southwest on a track and leaguered at (Q) P 0472.

AREA (Q) 8987.

14 Feb. 1100 hrs.. Bn. moved to take over a position from 10th Buffs at (Q) 08987. Progress was slow as it had rained for two days previously and the Royal Engineers had to make a Causeway across the salt marsh at (Q) 09485. O.O. No. 11. Appendix A.

AREA BEN GARDANE.

- 15th Feb. AM. Bn. moved in desert formation and took up a position at (Q) J 8507. "B" Coy was detached to cover the road in from ZARZIS.
- 16th Feb Bde. area bombed by 8 enemy aircraft. Enemy rearguards had withdrawn now approximately 12 miles W. Of MEDENINE but the roads and approaches were heavily mined.

AREA NEFATIA.

- 17th Feb. Bde. moved to NATASHA and there found a firm base.
Two carriers were blown up on mines in Bn. area.
- 18th Feb. 3 inch Mortars and 25 pounders fired their DF. Tasks. Enemy reported holding West of MEDENINE.
- 19th Feb. Lt. (QM) J. ALLWOOD rejoined from hospital.
- 20th Feb. 0900 hrs. Bn. moved towards MEDENINE. 1200 hrs. MEDENINE reported clear.
Bn. took up a position southwards from pt. 104. Enemy aircraft attacked the Bde. area during the day. 2 reconnaissance patrols from the Bn. went 9 kms along the road towards METAMEUR during the night without contacting any enemy.

AREA Pt. 104.

- 21st Feb. A message was received from the Brigadier congratulating our patrols for the good work done the night before.

AREA N.W. OF METAMEUR.

- 22nd Feb. AM Bn. moved to (T) E 6882. There were many mines in the area.
- 24th Feb. 2100 hrs. Bn. moved to (Y) E 6488 N. of road METAMEUR ARRAM.
- 25th Feb. 1900 hrs. Bn. took up a position around pt. 140 (Y) E 6190.
- 26 Feb. After last light the Bn. was relieved by 1 B.W. and move to positions covering the passes N. & S. of the feature ZEMLET EL LEBENE (Y) E. 6087.

AREA ZEMLET EL LEBENE.

- 27th Feb. At night patrols 3000 yards West found no enemy.
- 28th Feb. Patrols at night made no contact with the enemy.

Lieut. Colonel L.C. East
Cmdg.
1/5th Bn. Queens Royal Regiment.

28/2/1943.