

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

MAY 1943.

AREA LE KRIB.

1st May. Bn. concentrated at LE KRIB. The Bn. was at (T) O. 2593 (LE KEF 1/200,000) TUNISIA the C.O. and .IO. Went to MEDJEZ – EL -BAB to see the ground with a view to future operations.

AREA EL AROUSSA.

5th May Bn. moved to concentration area (T) J 4604 (Ref. map Sheet 5 TUNIS, 1/200,000).

6th May. 1405 hrs. Bn. moved off prepared to follow 22nd Armd. Bde. when the track through was made. The battle for Tunis had begun. See O.O. Attached.
The infantry achieved this objection objective without meeting serious opposition.
At 1615 hrs. the Bn. took up a position at 740415 (Sheet 27 MEDJEZ-EL-BAR 1/50,000.
Appendix A.

7th May. Bn. moved to 834462 (sheet 20 TUNIS 1/50,000). An 88 mm gun shelled area of Bn. HQ. There were 2 O. Rs wounded and evacuated.
1400 hrs. Bn. moved to 897519 and made a firm base.
1500 hrs. Patrol of 11th HUSSARS reported to be in Tunis. 1/7th Bn. went into picket the streets.

8th May 0930 hrs. Moved to K 012660 to make a firm base. "D" Coy was detached to make a P.O.W. cage and by the evening had nearly 7000 POWs.

AREA PROTVILLE.

9th May. 0630 hrs. Bn. moved to take up a position in PROTVILLE to protect R.E's Who we're going to bridge the river.
PM. The enemy in offering no resistance and prisoners are wading the stream to give themselves up. By last light over 2000 had passed through the Bn. "D" Coy rejoined Bn.

AREA K 025674.

10th May 1215 hrs. Bn. rejoined the Bde. having been relieved by 5th Northamptonshire Regt.

11th May. 50% of Bn. moved to Tunis on the day pass.

AREA BOU ARADA.

12th May 0600 hrs. Moved to Divisional concentration area. J 6103 (TUNIS sheet 5 1/200,000).

13th May Leave to Tunis. Lt. N.H. FRY accidentally wounded and evacuated.

15th May 1000 hrs. Distribution of medals by Major General J. ERSKINE DSO. MC. To Maj. H.C. LEON, Capt. D. GRANT, Capt. D MACRAE, Capt. V.C. TWEEDIE. MM. to Cpl. H TRACE and Pte EASTLANDS T.E.M. to A/Sgt. (RSM) G. CHAPMAN, Sgt. E. CRANSTONE, CSM A. EDGE. Clasp to T.E.M. R.Q.M.S BURROWS.

AREA BAR ARADA.

19th May 0650 hrs. Bn. move on the first stage of its journey to the TRIPOLI area traveling via PONT DU FAHS, DJEBINA, KAIROUAN to area (T) P 1010 where it harboured for the night. Map ref TUNIS sheet 5 1/200,000 TUNIS Sheet 5.

Appen. B

AREA P 1010.

20th May 0600 hrs. Bn. moved via X roads. (T) U 1199, X Rds. (T) U 1658, X Rds. (T) U 5245, 623, X Rds. (T) U 5245, EL AGAREB, (T) U 6232, track junction (T) U 5321, MAHARES, then along coast road to Z 2344 where the Bn. harboured for the night. Map ref KAIROUAN, sheet 11 IBEITLA Sheet 14 IFAX Sheet 15, MAHARES Sheet 19, GABES SH 23, - 1/200,000 TUNISIA

AREA 2744?.

21st May 0600 hrs. Bn. moved via OUDREF to Y track and then to coast road at E 9279 and then by road to BEN GARDANE, J 6106 where it harboured for the night. Map ref, GABES SH 27 MEDENINE SH 28, ZARZEL? SH 24 & 29 1/200,000 TUNISIA.

22nd May 0600 hrs. Bn. moved via coast rd. via ZUARA, SABRATHA and thence to (R) L 3853 where the Bn. harboured for the night. Map ref, TRIPOLI SH 2 1/200,000 TRIPOLI.

23rd May. Bn. moved to X Rds. (R) 4767, X Rds. (R) L 5167 thence by coast rd. through CASTEL VERDE and HOMS to LEPTIS MAGNA, (R) M 5337, being the new BN. area.

AREA LEPTIS MAGNA.

24th to 28th May.

BN. resting & refitting etc. Days leave to HOMS & TRIPOLI organised, bathing facilities much enjoyed.

4 days leave, 1st party on May 28th

29th May. Lt. Gen. B.G. HORROCKS MC debriefed Officers & S.N.C.O's of 7 Armd. Div. of the ? and execution of the plan for the battle for TUNIS.

30th May. N.T.R.

31st May. N.T.R.

Maj. A.G. Neale,
Comdg.
1/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regt.

31/5/1943