

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

OCTOBER 1943.

- 1 Oct. N 423497 (map ref.) 1/100,000 Sh 185.
At 1st light Bn. moved via PASSANTI 421417 to 421431.
Motors and carriers formed an A/k screen at 434473.
At 1430 hrs. Bn. less D Coy moved to 423497.
- 2nd Oct. N.T.R.
- 3rd Oct. At 2330 hrs. Bn. moved.
- 4th Oct. (R) N 192697 map ref 1/100,000 Sh 184, 185.
At 0230 Hrs Bn. arrived at 291567, CASALNUOVO DI NAPOLI.
At 0930 hrs. Bn. moved to 214623.
At 1215 hrs. Bn. moved to 185638, AVERSA which the enemy had just vacated.
At 1630 hrs. Bn. moved to 192697 on CANAL REGNI LAGNI.
At 1815 hrs. this was forded by A and D Coys with tank support. Later C Coy went through to Rd junction at 200713.
- 5th Oct. (R) N 176657 map ref 1/100,000 SH 172.
During morning Carriers, Mortars and A/Tk's patrolled N. towards CAPUA and during afternoon into SANTA MARIA CAPUA VETERE. no contacts were made with the enemy.
At 1545 hrs Bn. moved back to 176657 FERTILIA.
- 6th Oct. (RN 129732. At 1400 hrs. Bn. marched via 190748 SAN TAMMARO to 129 32. B Coy were forward in S. MARIA LA FOSSA.
33 O.R's posted to Bn.
- 7th Oct. During night 6/7th patrols made by the Coy and Battle patrol of possible crossings of river VOLTURNO, received written appreciation from Major General Erskine's G.O.C. 7th Armd. Div. Heavy shelling and Nebelwerfer fire on GRAZZANISE resulted in 1 O.R. being wounded.
- 8th Oct. (R) N 129732 Ref. Maps 1/100,000 172, 1/100,000 172 III.
During night 7/8th patrol by 20 O.R's of A Coy over river received commendation of Brig. L.G. Whistler O.C. 131 Bde.
Places suitable for crossing prepared by Coys.
Spasmodic shelling during day resulted in 2 O.R's being wounded.
- 9th Oct. During night 8/9th Lt. J.T. PEASLEY and 1 O.R. swam river at 112770 to find out depth and current.
Some shelling and Nebelwerfer fire during day led to Lt. R. McEwan & 2 O.R's being wounded.
After last light C Coy relieved at GRAZZANISE by 1/7th Queen's
- 10th Oct. Slight shelling and Nebelwerfer fire during day.
- 11th Oct. (R) N 1/25,000 Sh 172 III.
During night 10/11th patrols from A & C Coys met strong resistance. Lt. J. Singleton (North Staffs. Attached.) was wounded and later died. 1 O.R. also wounded.
- 12th Oct. (R) N 117746.
At 1800 hrs. Bn. H.Q. moved to 111746. Slight shelling encountered.

- 13th Oct. At 0630 hrs. and 0715 hrs. Patrols from A & C Coys crossed river at 113772 but were soon pinned down and later withdrew with some difficulty having 2 O.R's wounded.
- 14th Oct. During night 13/14th B Coy patrols meeting strong resistance could not cross the river and sustained 1 O.R. wounded.
At 0650 hrs. 6 enemy a/c strafed and dropped 1 bomb on SAN MARIA LA FOSSA.
Patrols during day by Coys and Carriers with 1 Sqn. of tanks (C.L.Y.) in support along our bank made enemy react strongly.
- 15th Oct. During night 14/15th patrols showed enemy alert and in position along N. bank of the river.
- 16th Oct. (R) N I II 746 1/100,000 Sh I II.
Fighting patrols of Coys cross river from 0720 hrs. meeting slight opposition.
2 PW'S of 104 P.G.R. (15 P.G. Div.) were taken by the Coy who had 10 O.R's wounded.
- 17th Oct. (R) N 097793 1/50,000 SH 2.
At 0930 hrs. Bn. HQ moved via GRAZZANISE to 094793.
Coys marched to secure crossing of CANALE REGIA AGNENA NUOVA at 089804 with standing patrols to the north of the canal.
- 18th Oct. 1/25,000 Sh 172.
A, B, & C Coys established positions north of canal at 082826, 063816 091830 and 103826 contacting 1/6th Queen's and 169 Bde. on left and right flanks.
Some shelling caused one O.R. wounded.
- 19th Oct. Extensive patrols. B Coy to 052846 A and C Coys to 078860 and 093859 on Strada No. 7 and D Coy to 121852. No contacts made with enemy. 11 O.R's posted to Bn..
- 20th Oct. Bridge built by Bn. at 089804 in operation.
Capt. SG Dear assumes command of C Coy and Lt. MURRAY-PLUMLEY of A/k platoon.
- 21st Oct. Standing patrols maintained along Strada #7.
- 21st Oct. At 0700 hrs. B Coy forward platoon contacted 30 enemy at 045838 with support of Carriers and Mortars C Coy cleared position taking 2 PW's of 129 P.G. (15 P.G. Div.) 20 O.R's killed and three O.R's wounded Lt .MURRAY-PLUMLEY appointed Capt., Lt. G COLE assumes command of Battle Patrol.
- 23rd Oct. N.T.R.
- 24th Oct. N.T.R.
- 25th Oct. (R) N 108768 1/100,000 Sh 172.
At 1145 hrs. Bn. HQ moved and at 1600 hrs. rifle Coys marched to SAN MARIA LA FOSSA having been relieved by 139 Bde. and 7 O.R's posted to Bn..
- 26th Oct. O.O. No. 2 issued.
- 27th Oct. (R) N 139617 1/100,000 Sh 172 & SH 184.
At first light Bn. moved to PARETE with Bn. HQ at 139617.
- 28th Oct. N.T.R.
- 29th Oct. Lt. Col. M. ELRINGTON DSO assumed command of 131 Bde. and Maj. RFH COWAN of the Bn.

30th Oct. (R) N 930745 ref. map. 1/100,000 Sh 171 & 172 1/50,000 Sh 171 II, 172 III.
At 1245 hr's Bn. HQ moved via CANCELLO to 980745 rifle Coys going via CASTEL VOLTURNO
and assembled for attack on MONDRAGONE.

31st Oct. R N 907788 1/25,000 Sh 171 II.
By last light Bn. had controlled MONDRAGONE with Bn. HQ at 907788.
Considerable shelling during move caused five casualties in A/Tk platoon 1 O.R. later died.

M. ELRINGTON,
Lt. Colonel commanding
1/5th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

31/10/1943.