

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

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Tripoli L 509667 (Ref map 1/20000 SH 1374 – Tripoli)

- 1st Sept. 2 O.R's posted to Bn.
- 2nd Sept. Lt. ERNEST FRANCIS JARMAN killed in a Mortar accident.
- 3rd Sept. National Day of Prayer – Bde. Church Parade. Lt. D.B. BARTON promoted to Capt.
- 4th Sept. 1 Officer posted to Bn. (Lt. SHAW).
- 5th Sept. N.T.R.
- 6th Sept. N.T.R.
- 7th Sept. 1/5th O.O. No. 1 received.
Lt. E.W. SARGINSON becomes O.C. Mortar Pln. Capt. R. ELLIOT resumes command of A Coy.
- 8th Sept. 1 Officer (Lt. PLUMLEY) and 5 O.R's posted to Bn.
- 9th Sept. Bn. at 6 hrs. notice to leave waterproofing area. Embarkation Tables issued.
- 10th Sept. N.T.R.
- 11th Sept. N.T.R.
- 12th Sept. N.T.R.
- 13th Sept. Bn. transport left Tripoli on L.S.T'S in early hours, 4 rifle Coys and Battle Patrol remained at 201 rest camp.
- 14th Sept. Personnel at rest camp embussed for Tripoli harbour at 0600 hours. and embarked at 1400 hours on L.S.T's. Those carrying the rifle Coys leaving later that afternoon in convoy.
- 15th Sept. Battle patrol and H Coy marching personnel left Tripoli at first light. Bn. transport arrived at the Bay of Salerno having taken the direct route through straits of Messina and across the Tyrrhenian Sea as did following troops also. At approximate 1800 hours owing to the Bay being congested with ships and a heavy air raid and ensuing landing was deferred after attempts till after midnight. The air raid was met by heavy ack ack which accounted for at least three enemy aircraft.
Warships in the Bay were firing at enemy concentrations in the foothills.
- 16th Sept. Bn. transport disembarked from the L.S.T'S just after midnight and early in the morning landing on the beach respectively at (R) N 7419 and 7617 thence proceeding to concentration area at (R) N 763259 just South of Pontecagnano. Their role here when joined by the rifle Coys was to counterattack should the enemy gain ground in the approaches from the north to Salerno. There was heavy enemy shelling of the main road SALERNO - BATTIPAGLIA to the north of the Bn. position CO & R group recced area held by 139 brigade 6431.
- 17th Sept. Rifle Coys disembarked on beaches from landing craft in morning and marched to concentration area at (R) N 777179 where they were joined by Bn. transport the whole Bn. proceeding to (R) N 809207 where they relieved the 9th Royal Fusilier's (167 brigade) and the Coy positions were respectively A, B, C, & D at (R) N 816205, (R) N 804213 (R) N

811205, & R) N 808208 to secure the line S LUCIA (R) N 8121 to bridge at (R) N 800223. 1/6th Queen's were on our left with junction at ? and 141 Combat Group U.S. on our right, junction X roads (R) N 80920. Patrols from A and C Coys reached 837222 and 832205 but no enemy seen.

- 18th Sept. Battle Patrol having arrived the previous day disembarked during early hours of morning and proceeded by transport to Bn. HQ. At 0900 hours Capt. Tweedy I/C a patrol group of Carriers and Mortars with A/k in support proceeded towards BATTIPAGLIA by two routes.
- X roads 833208 to 847211 (some abandoned Mech. & Mk. iv tank) to Road junction 851225 from where enemy were seen on hill 856230 and gun position engaged, a direct hit being scored on houses at 858223 were shelled thence to BATTIPAGLIA.
 - Along track past B Coy to 828232 debris demolitions on BATTIPAGLIA preventing entrance into town.

The two parties contacted at 830231 and returned by 1800 hours.

Standing patrols from A and B Coys took over and were established on roads at 830225 and 839209 respectively. During the day our aircraft-maintained patrols. A Spitfire crashed through engine failure, the pilot landing safely by parachute near us. There were only very slight enemy air activity directed in main at shipping in the Bay.

Ref. Maps 1/100,000 Sh 198 CAMPAGNA,
1/100,000 Sh 186 S. ANGELO DI LOMBARDI,
1/50,000 Sh 198 IV CAMPAGNA
1/50,000 Sh 197 I MONTE CAGMANO,
1/50,000 Sh 186 III MONTECORVINO ROVELLA.

- 19th Sept. At 1400 hrs. Bn. relieved 2/5th Queen's (169 Bde. of 56th Div.) in positions astride valley S. of MONTECORVINO ROVELLA, Bn. H.Q. being at 830268.

- 20th Sept. N 830268 At 0600 hrs. Battle Patrol recce'd to MONTE CORVINO ROVELLA meeting no opposition,
2 P.O.W's (5 Coy 2 Bn. 9 P.G.R. of 26 Pz. Div.) were brought in.
A/Tk Pln. went to MONTE CORVINO as A/Tk screen.

21st Sept. N.T.R.

22nd Sept. N.T.R.

23rd Sept. Bn. at 1 hrs. notice to move.

24th Sept. 2 Allied P.O.W's reached BN. area from central Italy.

25th Sept. N.T.R.

26th Sept. 2 P.O.W's (64 P.G.R. of 16 Pz. Div.) brought in.

27th Sept. Bn. moved at 1300 hrs. to 680287

28th Sept. (R) N 680287 Map ref. 1/100,000 Sh. 185 Salerno.
1/50,000 Sh. 185 III CASTELLAMARE DI STABIA

At first light Bn. moved to Salerno to CAVA de TIRRENI arriving 1015 hours.

At 1200 hours Bn. moved along main road through 46 Div. to NOCERA INFERIORE thence N 2497399 where some shelling caused slight casualties 2 O.R's killed 3 O.R's wounded.

At 1415 hours. D company encountered 3 mark four tanks just north of bridge at 501420 they scattered but later supported by A/T's advanced finding the bridge intact. During the night

there was heavy shelling and mortaring of the company area and S. MARZANO which caused no casualties.

29th Sept. R N 497399. B company harassed by MMG fire. D company found S Valentino 5043 clear and road 3 kilometres north.
At 1730 hours house Bn. move to SCAFATI 445385 in rear of 1/6th and 1/7th Queen's.

30th Sept. SCAFATI R N 445385. 2 reports by Italian civilians of presence of enemy (small parties of Germans) near SCAFATI were investigating without result.
A company preceded to RASSANTI 422417 to cover road junction.

M. Elrington,
Lt. Colonel.
Commanding 1/5th Queen's.

30/9/1943.