

1/6 Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary December 1942

DECEMBER 1942

- 1st. BENGHASI. Bn. supplied working parties for unloading etc. at docks. Remainder of Bn. cleaning up training and guards.
- 2nd As 1st.
- 3rd As 1st.
- 4th 0400 hrs. Air raid on harbour, Ack Ack concentration very heavy. First NCOs cadre commenced. Remainder as 1st.
- 5th Second day cadre. Fatigues at Docks. Training and guards continued.
- 6th Air raid approx. 0430 hrs. Ack Ack heavier than hitherto. Third day cadre. Fatigues, training and guards
- 7th As for 6th. Last day first N.C.O. cadre.
- 8th – 9th Fatigues, training and guards. cadre commenced on 9th.
- 10th – 11th Fatigues, training and Guards. Prepared to move on 11th. R.A.S.C. transport rejoined Bn.
- 12th Bn. crossed start line at 0900 hrs. with Bde. behind 1/6. Travelled all day no stops. First on Zero track subsequently on A track. Bn. leaguered for night just after last light. Wet night.
- 13th Again travelling all day. few stops.
- 14th Bn moved slowly up to Mersa Brega - Gioffer line. Warned to prepare for action at approx. 1600 hrs. A Coy and one platoon B Coy lost en-route so 1/7 went in instead. No opposition encountered. 1/6 leaguered for night.
- 15th Dec. Bn. moved up slowly to junction of Gioffer rd. and coast rd. (PxB 021670 Sheet 8 Agheila 1:250,000) Bn. travelled approx. five miles W. on coast Rd turned N. off rd at kilo 19 and debussed approx. 1730.
Prepared for action. Op was to be a probe but armour having bumped enemy, and not known what opposition was there. In covered area between coast and Road, 1/7 was straddled on Road. Bn. crossed start line at 2100 hrs. A Coy on left. B Coy on right. C Coy in rear.
Moved up 11000 yards and gained objective without opposition. The bird had flown. Bn. dug in at approx. 0200 hrs. by enemy A/Tk ditch just E. kilo 27. Bn. B.H.Q. suffered several casualties from a mine at approx. 2400 hrs. One Sgltmn. Pte. Irwin was killed practically outright and two men from signals – Cpl. Freeman and Pte. Balchin rather badly hurt. Several more slight casualties from splinters.
- 16th Bn reorganized. Had to wait for transport owing to armour pushing on, and road forbidden to anyone but 8th Armd Bde. Bn. moved off 1645 this progressed W. slowly. Alternatively N. and S. of road for approx. 6 miles. Leaguered for night at Kilo 37, just N of road. Petrol and water becoming short.
- 17th Bn. moved off 0700 hrs, Proceeded W. N. and S. of road again road being mined and booby trapped. Passed Marble Arch approx. 1500 hrs. South of road. Leaguered for night at V 515925 in Wadi El Gtaf. R.A.S.C. vehicles left Bn. at approx. 1700 hrs. for purpose of petrol carrying etc. R.S.M. Lee was injured in arm when his Jeep passed over a mine. He was evacuated.

18th Bn. remained same posn. having dug in for all-round defence. Preparing to move.

19th Bn. ready to move off at 0900 hrs. but move cancelled.

20th Dec. Bn. moved off at 0830 hrs. Stores carried by MT. men marched. Arrived Matratin at approx. 1400 hrs. and dug in.

21st Coys preparing battle posns. As many men as possible went for swim in the Med. Sea.

22nd Bn. In same posn. More men went for swim. Normal training, fatigues and guards Three men wounded in bombing attack A7777.

23rd Bn. same posn. Normal training, fatigues and guards. Food and water getting very short.

24th Same as 23rd, one of men injured on 22nd died of wounds.

25th Christmas Day observed as holiday as far as possible, concert in marquee in the evening.

26th Bn. moved off at 1100 hrs keeping to coast road as much as possible. Many bridges blown up. Leaguered for night just off road.

27th Bn. moved off at 0830 hrs. approx. keeping to coast track South of coast road. Halted about midday and leaguered in same posn. for night.

28th Dec. Bn. moved off at 1200 his approx. and got on to road again. Made good going and passed through Sirte about 1700 hrs. leaguered at kilo 18 between road and sea.

29th Bn. carried out training and bathing parades.
Bn. skeleton night attack, to practice maintenance of direction and intercom.

30th Bn. moved off at 0830 hrs to brigade posn. E. of Wadi Jamet. Time of arrival 1400 hrs. Bn. dug in.

31st December. Bn. prepared defensive positions. three enemy aircraft passed over Bde. position and were fired upon by A.A. defences.

Lt. Col. R.J.A. Kaulback,
Comdg. 1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Nominal Roll of Officers 26th December 1942

T/Lt.-Col.	R.J.A.	Kaulback	R. Irish.
A/Major	F.A.H.	Wilson	Queen's.
A/Major	R. d' A.	Mullins	" "
T/Capt.	T.J.	Kilshaw	Kings.
A/Major.	J.H.	Mason	Queen's.
A/Capt.	J.	Tack	" "
A/Capt.	S.C.	Butterfield	S.W.B.
A/Capt.	A.R.B.	McGillicuddy	S.L.I.
A/Capt.	V.R.	Goodridge	" "
A/Capt.	W.L.	Johnson	" "
A/Capt.	B.G.D.	Miller	" "
A/Capt.	U.G.	Spratt	Lincs.
T/Capt.	B.D.	Carey	Devons.
T/Capt.	I.B.	Wakefield	Gloucester's.

A/Capt.	C.J.G.	Woolley	Queen's.
Lieut.	N.G.	Buxton	" "
"	B.J.	Ambler	R. Fus.
"	P.	Kime	Lincolns.
"	V.G.	Docton	S.W.B.
"	D.M.	Blessley	Essex Regt.
"	E.B.	James	Queen's
"	M.S.	Davies	Essex Regt.
"	A.C.F.	Norman	Queen's
"	N.E.	Aldridge	R. Fus.
"	H.S.	Morshead	Queen's
"	J.S.	Logan	" "
"	H.	Broad-Davies	S.W.B.
"	N.	Goodhew	S.W.B.
"	K.D.	Kettle	Queen's
"	G.A.	Warren	R. Berks.
2/Lieut.	I.R.	Reid	Kings Regt.
Lieut.	A.D.	Foster (Quartermaster)	" "
Lieut.	J.	Pretsell	R.A.M.C.
Rev.	M.J.	Newman	R.A. Cl. D