

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

SEPTEMBER 1942

- 1st Munassib depression. At 0100 hrs "12 Bore" received and the Battalion immediately stand to. Information was received that the enemy was pushing 4 columns of tanks & M.T. through our Southern minefields, Battalion manned 100% throughout day. Enemy were pushing through in strength and 7th Armd. Div. were retreating S.E. according to plan harassing the enemy's flanks. Enemy was turning N.E.
- 2nd Enemy leaguered in Diein Regel? throughout night. Bn. sent patrols to Hallewage? and Pt. 77. & Pt. 69. Patrols were in wireless communication. Enemy continued to advance slowly N.E. in direction of El Halfa & El Kadim. At 1800 hrs. enemy were about 9 miles south of Bn. posn. and at 1830 hrs. several shells fell in "D" Coy area. Bn. was still at 100% manning.
- 3rd Enemy lines up South of box after leaguering overnight in Dier Agram – his intension was presumed to be to breakthrough gap between El Halfa and New Zealand Box 23rd & 22nd Armd. Bde's. took up positions between enemy & gap. Tank battle took place throughout day. A flight of Italian bombers bombed El Khadim box dropping bombs near Bde. & 1/7th positions. There were 5 casualties. British tanks leagued overnight in El Khadim box and moved out in early hours of 4th.
- 4th Message was received from Army Comdr. in which he stated there would be no retreat and calling on the troops to stand firm. A message from the King was also received. Bn. was at 100% manning. Patrols reported heavy concentration of enemy M.T. in Dier Agram and movement of enemy tanks S.E. of Hallewuya.
- 5th Capt. Kilshaw & Lt. George were congratulated by Div. Comdg. For good work on patrols. Enemy were beginning to retreat S.E. and had brought up heavy concentration of A/Tk and Arty. guns to cover his retreat. At 1730 hrs. several shells fell on "D" Coy area. Bn. was still manning 100%.
- 6th Message was received from Army Comdr. congratulating Eighth Army and stating enemy had suffered a severe defeat and was retreating. Enemy M.T. columns were attacked by bombers & by 4th Hussars who accounted for many M.T. 120 out of 150 being destroyed in one engagement.
- 7th Enemy forces begin to retire through minefields in Himeimat area & they were continually attacked by our Airforce. The C.O. ordered "Stand down" at 1800 hrs. and patrols. Bn. ordered to commence laying mines in a new posn. S.E. of New Zealand positions with front on N. edge of Munassib depression. Working party commenced work at dusk 100 men in party. Bn. to remain in present locality until positions are prepared.
- 8th Preparation of new posn. continues. Some shelling just behind new area. Recce party of 154 Bde. arrives. Orders received to move to a bivouac area to N. of new area. Bn. to move in three or four parties tomorrow.
- 9th Bn move to bivouac area S.E. of N.Z. positions where it is to live until it's positions are finished on the N. of Deir El Munassib. "B" Coy was left behind until the 1st Bn. The Black Watch took over our vacated posn. Bn. moved in three parties.
- 10th "B" Coy arrived at Bivouac area. Working parties still working on minefield. C.O. and Coy Cmdrs. recce Coy posns. 2/Lt. D.V. Smith injured when his carrier ran over a mine. Evacuated.

11th	Bn. preparing new positions and minefield. Shelling on ridge behind "D" Coy new posns. also on fwd. edge of Munassib depression. Orders received that 1/5 Queen's will take over our D & B Coy areas on right of our positions. We to complete our posns. before handing over. "D" Coy to move to posn. in depth and "B" Coy to move to our Left Flank to take over posns. occupied by 1/7 Queen's.
12th	Work on new posns. 2/Lt. D.V. Smith evacuated after injuries received when his carrier ran over mine in minefield gap.
13th	Moved into new posn. by evening stand to. Completing positions.
14th	Shelling in "B" Coy area.
15th	Digging in new positions continued. Coys improved positions. Patrol programme laid down. Coys were responsible for areas ½ mile West of Cannons gate ? Nuts Minefield.
16th	Digginy and improving of posns. continued. "D" Coy and carrier platoon were made responsible for 1/7 Queen's area Our patrol area was responsibility of "A" "B" & "C" Coys.
17th	Routine training and improving positions was carried out. Patrols had nothing of importance to report.
18th	Coy training continued under Coy arrangements. Patrols at 0600 hrs. – nothing to report.
19th	Capt. Kilshaw and 2 O.R's carried out patrol West of Hurricane Gap to verify reported posn. of enemy gun, patrol returned and reported gun not in stated posn.
20th	Training under Coy arrangements. Nil report from patrols.
21st	Coy carried out routine training throughout day and improved defensive posns. Patrols had nothing to report.
22nd	H.Q. Coy carried training to practice moving at night across country on foot. Patrols had nothing of importance to report.
23rd	C.O. was informed that the Bn. would undertake operation against enemy in area of Munassib Depression in the near future.
24th	Troops were informed of intended operation, and preparations were made to move to East end of New Zealand box. We were relieved by 5th R.W. Kents.
25th	Bn. transport moved throughout afternoon in small groups to N.Z. box and at 1800 hrs. the Bn. began to move out "A", "B", "C". "D" Coys marched and B.H.Q. and H.Q. Coy personnel moved on remaining M.T. Move was completed 2330 hrs.
26th	Recce of area of forthcoming operation were carried out by Coy Comdrs. At 2100 hrs. rehearsals for move up to Starting Lines was carried out. Start Lines were laid out by Int. Section in day light. Rehearsal was completed by 2330 hrs. This rehearsal was in S.E. corner of N.Z. box.
27th	Recce of operational area continued. Local patrol reports from 132 Bde. on area were received. Preparations for full dress rehearsal in area East of Nuts and South of Greek minefield were made.

- 28th Rehearsal was carried out smoothly. Int. Section laid start lines in dark (0100 hrs.) and guided Coys onto start line at 0325 hrs. Coys were finally lined up at 0410 hrs. They crossed start line at 0500 hrs. P.R.I. truck returning from bulk NAAFI caught fire and about £100.00 worth of goods was destroyed. There were no casualties. operational area was recced and C.O. issued operational order in which he stated the embussing area and debussing point (P882, 890262). Guides from Int. Sect. to meet Coys and guide them to Start Line. Start Line taped by Int. Sect. in dark. Location of Start Line approx. 88552635.
Objectives were (A) enemy locality in area 883263, Pimples 88332639, Spur 88212635, First objective area East of Pimples at about first light. Zero hour 0515 hrs.
After capture of objectives patrolling as ordered by C.O.
Inter patrolling boundary; All incl. 1/6 Queen's – Caien 78-88152625 to Pimple 87852632. One det. 6 pdr. Area of Spur firing S.E. M.G's one Pln. area Spur firing S.E. A/Tk. (Inf. guns) one detachment each to B. C, D, Coys.
- 29th Preparations for operation were completed. Final recces made and patrol report on area received from 132 Bde. Bn. prepared to move after dark and first party (Int. Sect. + a covering patrol) moved out 1900 hrs.
- 30th Int. Sect. laid tapes for Start Line by 0030 hrs. main body moved from debussing point and were guided up to Start Lines. Bn. was in position by 0435 hrs.
R.A. barrage was opened and Bn. moved forward at 0515 hrs. Only slight opposition in the form of a patrol in depression which retreated before our advance causing very slight casualties. By 1000 hrs. Bn. were well dug in and transport was arriving bringing up A/Tk and essential supplies. Enemy harassing fire on our posns. continued throughout the day increasing in intensity at 1200 – 1230 hrs. and from 1745 – 1830 hrs. over entire Bn. area – casualties were caused throughout the day. Capt. Priestley and Mr. Hazel were killed by exploding mine and Mr. Anderson I.O. was seriously injured about the same time (1000 hrs.) in a carrier by exploding mine.

Lt. Col. D.L.A. Gibbs

Comdg. 1/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment

Nominal Roll of Officers 20th September 1942

T/Lt.-Col.	D. L. A.	Gibbs	Queen's	
Major	R.	Tudor Smith, M.B.E.	"	"
T/Major	A. R.	Trench, M.C.	"	"
T/Major	G. J. H. D.	Collins	"	"
Capt.	J. R.	Priestley	"	"
Capt.	F. A. H.	Wilson	"	"
T/Capt.	A. J. S.	Cox, M.C.	"	"
T/Capt.	G. F.	Pescod	"	"
T/Capt.	G. E.	Smith	"	"
T/Capt.	I. P.	Thomson	"	"
T/Capt.	J.	Jack	Kings Regt.	
T/Capt.	T. J.	Kilshaw	Queen's	
T/Capt.	J. H.	Mason	"	"
A/Capt.	V.R.	Goodridge	"	"
A/Capt.	W.A.	Souttar	"	"
A/Capt.	C. J. G.	Woolley	"	"
Lieut.	K. D.	Kettle	"	"
Lieut.	U. G.	Spratt	"	"
Lieut.	C. M.	Wilson	"	"

A/Capt.	V. R.	Goodridge	“	“	
Lieut.	R.T.	Shaw	“	“	
Lieut.	B. G. D.	Miller	“	“	
Lieut.	K.D.	Kettle	“	“	
Lieut.	U.G.	Spratt			Lincs. Regt.
Lieut.	D. W. M.	Anderson			Queen's (I.O.)
2/Lieut.	T. K.	Maybee	“	“	
2/Lieut.	H.	Owen	“	“	Course
2/Lieut.	R. G.	Pearce	“	“	
2/Lieut.	W.L.	Johnson	“	“	
2/Lieut.	J. S.	Logan	“	“	
2/Lieut.	I. R.	Reid			Kings Regt.
2/Lieut.	A. C. F.	Norman			Queen's
2/Lieut.	G.	Scott			Kings Regt.
2/Lieut.	D.M.	Groom			Queen's
					Course
Lieut.	A. D.	Foster (Quartermaster)	“	“	
Capt.	J.	Pretsell			R.A.M.C.
Rev.	B. J.	Grant			R.A. Cl. D