

## 2/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary March 1944.

### ANZIO beachhead area 844294.

1st Mar. 0400 hrs. Bn. in position having relieved Royal Berks. less one Pln. "C" Coy at B. Echelon this Pln. having been relieved by Sherwood Foresters at previous position one day later.  
Situation, "C" and "D" Coys in Wadi 842304, "B" Coy near Tac HQ, 845294.  
Our A.D.S. Tent 842295 gave name of A.D.S. house to house at 841295.  
Take over of fwd. Coy positions included long track via Wadi 838300. 200 yards north of A.D.S. tent party including porters harassed by mortars, several casualties.  
0800 hrs quiet morning. Heavy rainfall.  
1000 hrs. Four wounded Royal Berks. in fwd. positions were carried by our stretcher bearers under large Red Cross flag to A.D.S. via road 846300 and lateral rd. 846293. Though in full view of enemy at close range they were uninterested.  
The supply route being over such difficult country it was impossible to evacuate wounded that way.  
2100 hrs. Remaining "C" Coy Pln. takes up positions in forward area.

2nd Mar. 0500 hrs. One officer and 13 O.R's reported missing by "C" Coy following an attack on their positions. In addition, Capt. Frost O.C. "C" Coy wounded.  
0600 hrs. O.P. at 837301 manned throughout this day.  
1000 hrs. Fine sunny day. Great aircraft activity by our bombers subsequently reported as 1000 sorties before 1000 hrs. Three planes seen brought down including a Marauder and a Mortar established in Wadi 842289 using super charge.  
Bde. HQ 845278.  
1530 hrs. Jeep with large red flag meets stretcher bearers at 845302.  
Attempt entirely successful and system used throughout the rest of our stay Driver of original vehicle (Pte. Hooker) subsequently received MM. for this feat.  
2200 hrs. Carrying parties leave for Coys and return without incident. Maj. Taylor O.C. "D" Coy and fwd. force changes with Maj. Campbell O.C. "B" Coy.

3rd Mar. 1000 hrs. C.O. and Maj. Taylor visit Marine Commandos in rear 843288 to describe our forward positions.  
During morning enemy Coy Comdr and escort both armed and carrying white flag arrive at "D" Coy HQ with request for assistance in extricating their wounded from house destroyed by our Arty.  
Thus, obtained full of view of our positions in addition to be armed when carrying white flag, the request was refused as enemy would not surrender and officers and escort taken prisoner.

4th Mar. 0100 hrs. One troop Royal Marine Commandos guided to fwd. positions. They subsequently attacked house "CROCUS" 842305 inflicting about 10 casualties, taking one prisoner. Their own casualties, one officer and two O.R's wounded.  
1100 hrs. Visit to Tac HQ by Bde. Comdr.

### Area ANZIO 844294.

2000 hrs. C.O. visits fwd. Coys.  
2200 hrs Ration carrying parties leave and return without incident.  
2230 hrs. Guides supplied 4 Commando Pln. via tracks 845307 to forward positions.  
Further guides expected at house 843303 but enemy found in occupation resulting in one killed and two wounded from Commando party. Commandos withdrew and returned to Tac HQ.

5th Mar. 0500 hrs. Attack on forward Coys repelled with loss to enemy of at least six killed and capture of enemy Coy Comdr and 3 O.R's. "I" Section greatly appreciative of days rest at "B". Echelon.  
1630 hrs. Further attack on "D" Coy resulting in three enemy killed and one wounded.

6th Mar. 0830 hrs. Mortars observe area in front of "C" and "D" Coys from OX and Bucks positions on our left, 834306.  
11 - 1200 hrs. Mortar fire on evening positions directed from O.P.  
1215 hrs. Visit by Bde. Comdr. to Tac HQ.  
1400 hrs. Shelling and mortaring of Tac HQ.  
1545 hrs Shelling and mortaring of Tac HQ..

7th 8th Mar. Bn. relieved by London Scottish and troop of Marine Commandos.

8th Mar. 0400 hrs. Hand over completed. With a nearly full moon the movement of troops to and from fwd. positions became dangerous and resulted in enemy sighting the movement immediately rear of fwd. positions, fortunately enemy only able to bring two M.G's to bear resulting in two being wounded.  
0615 hrs. Bn. all back in B Echelon resting. A summary of the Bn. 's experiences in fighting at the ANZIO beachhead is attached.  
Elaborate precautions were made by B. Echelon for the resting this day of all troops from the forward areas.  
0800 hrs. Bn. on cleaning of arms and kit. Honours and Awards for period up to crossing of GARIGLIANO announced, DSO. Lt. Col. A.J. Renshaw MC and Maj. F.P. St M. Shiel. M.C. Maj. A.G. Dallas, Maj. P.M.A. Taylor. DCM Sgt Drewett 6092915, MM L/Cpl Norman H. 6106493, Pte. Green 14288212. Everyone delighted at magnificent achievement for the Bn.  
F. Remainder of day spent in resting, weather fine and sunny for a change.

9th March. Advance party under Maj. King left for NAPLES area with Bn. heavy baggage.  
Hot showers for all personnel. Performance of Cat's Whiskers by Div. Concert party in the afternoon with address by Div. Comdr. Maj. Gen. Templar congratulating everyone on their fine performance during the fighting and outliving programme of he hopes 2 months training.

10th March. Advance party of Camerons arrive in Bn. area and commence taking over transport G1098 and ammo etc. well is all the which is all to be left in the beach head and handed over to the incoming Division.

11th March. Bn. standing by to move. Equipment scrubbed clean of mud and everyone much smarter after bath's and issue of new battle dress to replace the very battle worn suits men came out of the line with.

12th March. Heavy rain for Bn. move. Embarked on L.C.I's at 1400 left ANZIO harbour 1600 hrs. arrived POZZUOLI 2400 hrs.. Tea and cakes outside Naples then by road to NOCERA arriving at dawn.

#### Area NOCERA.

13th March. Billet's disappointing. Some rooms in large Italian Garrison. People soon settle down however and everyone has own bed.

14th March. Bn. moves through cleaning centre. In one end naked out the other washed with complete new set of clothes. Only boots retained later Bn. very smart in new battle dresses.

15th 17th March. Rest period.

Some recreational transport to NAPLES, POMPEII ETC and two cinemas and local performances by NAPLES Opera Company. Personal kit made fully up to scale. Party under Capt. Hales takes over transport and G1098 left behind by 5th Div. on embarkation for ANZIO. In very poor condition compared with our own. Major S.W. PEET MC. Lt. S.N. PENLINGTON, Lt. J.G.B. SAYERS rejoined from hospital also Capt. G. STEVENS.

- 18th March. Advance party left for GRAVINA (0848) near BARI.
- 19th March. Warning order for Bn. move.
- 20th March. 0900 hrs. Bn. moves. Minimum party by road. Remainder take cattle truck accommodation on the train which moves very slowly with it but to our surprise gets us there in about 36 hrs. Maj. S.W. PEET MC leaves on posting to UK. 3 times wounded in action by artillery.
- 21st March. 1200 hrs. Rail party arrives at BARI. Met by transport and guided to billeting area after Hot meal on the station. Billet's very clean and plenty of room for everyone.
- 22nd March. Drawing of kit and settling in.
- 23rd March. 1345 hrs.. Bn. "O" Group. Division returning to M.E.F. for refitting Bn. will leave G1098 in present location and embark carrying only personal Kit and 50% cooking equipment. Maj. Shiels leaves as Bn. advance representation.  
2000 hrs. previous "O" Group cancelled. Bn. will not now move with reminder of Division but comes under Comd. 266 Force for special task as from midnight tonight. Previous arrangements cancelled and minimum M.T. and stores will be retained and packing for transport also commenced at once hoped that reinforcements will be received before leaving Italy.
- 24th March. C.O. addresses Bn. Mentions fishing and swimming but not to be a holiday. Everyone under impression that Malta or Gibraltar is the destination.  
Immediate Honours and Awards announced for the fighting in ANZIO announced MC, Maj. R.M. Campbell, 2/Lt. B. CARNEY, DCM, CSM A.G. TROSTER. MM, 6093325 MM, CSM ELLIOTT R. 6084673, Sgt. FANCETT D. 6091418, Sgt. LELONG 5732273 L/Sgt. RYAN 6090148, Pte. HOOKER E. 5338701

#### Area GRAVINA.

- 25th March. Advanced party leaves. Lt. E.H. LAWRENCE appointed entertainments officer with instructions to collect all possible comforts for the Bn. within the first week.
- 25th 31st March. Normal routine. G1098 handed in for concentration prior to handing over reissued. Pick of Bde. transport to make to Bn. up to scale.  
Maj. DALLAS MC rejoins Bn. Discharged as fit but still limping heavily from wound received in crossing the GARIGLIANO.

R.J. Renshaw DSO, MC. Lieut. Colonel.  
Officer Comdg.  
2/6th Bn. The Queens Royal Regiment.

31/3/1944

Officers List 29th April 1944.

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lieut.-Colonel A. J. Renshaw        | Queen's R. Regt.    |
| Major F. P. St. M. Sheil            | S.W.B.              |
| Major A. D. G. Dallas               | Queen's R. Regt.    |
| Major P. M. A. Taylor               | " "                 |
| Major C. King                       | " "                 |
| Major R. M. Campbell                | Black Watch.        |
| Capt. I-I. F. Hales                 | Queen's R. Regt.    |
| Capt. T. G. Blumson                 | " "                 |
| Capt. G; P. Stevens                 | " "                 |
| T/Capt. H. L. Bailey                | " "                 |
| Capt. J. W. Evans                   | R.W.K. Regt.        |
| Capt. W. A. Mills                   | Queen's R. Regt.    |
| Capt. G. B. Curtis                  | " "                 |
| Capt. R. K. Purdon                  | (S. Africa). U.D.F. |
| Capt. G. E. Smith                   | Queen's R. Regt.    |
| Lieut. E.M. Lawrence                | R. Norfolk's.       |
| Lieut. I. P. Macgregor              | R.A.C.              |
| Lieut. W. Carlile                   | East Surrey Regt.   |
| Lieut. A. E. Sanftleben             | Queen's R. Regt.    |
| Lieut. W. R- Tomkins                | (S. Africa). U.D.F. |
| Lieut. J. G. B. Sayer               | Queen's R. Regt.    |
| Lieut. J. S. Lea-Wilson             | R.A.C.              |
| Lieut.' W. F. Nethercott            | Devon's             |
| Lieut. A.G. Bourne                  | Queen's R. Regt.    |
| Lieut B. Carney                     | D.L.I.              |
| Lieut. L.W. Harding                 | Queen's R. Regt.    |
| Lieut. D.S. Fawcett                 | " "                 |
| Lieut. W. Roadnight (Quartermaster) | " "                 |
| Capt. McAuliffe,                    | R.A.M.C             |
| Rev. G. B. Fairhurst                | R.A.Ch.D.           |