

1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Intelligence Summary

Appendix

June

CASSINO

- Jun 1st Bn on training. Visit to Pt 36 for the Dedication of 10 Inf Bde Cemetery. Followed by discussion in the afternoon, led by each CO in turn as they walked over the ground, covered the advance and the way in which each action had been fought by 2 Beds & Herts, 6 Surreys and 2 DCLI respectively.
- Jun 2nd Warning Orders received from Bde for move to concentration area East of River Liri. Bn order for move issued. The CO congratulated personnel recommended for Awards, Mention in Despatches, and Commendations for their work during the recent action. CO, 2 i/c, Adjnt, all Coy Comds, SO, IO attended conference at Bde HQ on Exercise PRONTO.
- Jun. 3rd Recce party for new concentration area left at 0445 hrs. Bn prepared for move, and move orders issued at 1600 hrs. Bn left camp at 1930 hrs, and marched to TCV Harbour at HYDE PARK CORNER, remaining beside the vehicles until the convoy was ready to proceed.
- Jun 4th Bn moved from concentration area Alife in TCVs at approx 0315 hrs, and proceeded via Route 6 and Cassino to concentration area between Arce and Ceprano, just off Route 6. Bn HQ established in farm 1030 hrs. Bn settled in, cleaned and changed ready for a move at short notice. Orders issued for Khud March.
- Jun 5th Bn went on Khud March and climb to Mount Grandi and Mount Piccolo as ordered by Bde Comd. Returned to camp by 1300 hrs. A/Tk PI reorganised on a 4-gun basis, and TCP Section formed under comd Capt Ward from the surplus personnel.. Preliminary Warning Order issued 1900 hrs. Major WBE Brown (R Berks) reported for duty.
- Jun 6th 0300: Warning Order issued for move of Bn into line.
0600: CO left with IO to carry out recce of area to be taken over.
0830: Bn ready to move. Start delayed, finally moving off 0920 hrs embussed in TCVs via Route 6 – Frosinone – Valmontone – Zagaola – Lunghezza. Bn debussed, settled in fields beside road, and Bn HQ established in house at approx 1730 hrs. B Echelon moved one mile, and received orders from Bde for further move. German News Agency reported 'Invasion of Europe' at 0800 hrs, later confirmed by French personnel en route, and BBC News.
- Jun 7th 0001: OO No 8 received from Bde giving orders for Bn's advance.
0030: CO held conference of all Officers and Supporting Arms, and OP Order No 1 issued at 0300 hrs.
0315: Reveille, breakfast at 0400 hrs. *Haversack rations issued.* Bn moved off 0530 hrs, crossing Start Line at 0600 hrs with tank support.

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"B" and "C" Coys leading. (Int Summary gives "B" and "C" Coys crossing SP at 0445 and 0450 hrs)

0610: Bde reported that 4th Recce went as far as road junc 939772.

0622: "C" Coy reported making good progress.

0630: "B" Coy reported pushing on. Tanks to front.

0638: Carriers reported are at 919745. Have contacted friends and are investigating.

0640: "B" Coy reported advancing to 1st objective. No sign of enemy.

0645: Main Bn HQ moving forward.

0648: Sitrep to Bde: 'Over Start Line. Pushing on. No contact with enemy yet'.

0649: "C" Coy report 'Advance continues. Nothing to report'.

0652: Bde report that 4th Recce report space 1,000 yds East of road junc 939772 clear of enemy.

0707: Intercept 2 DCLI. Report they are on 1st objective.

0710: Sitrep to Bde: 'Pushing on. No contact with enemy'. "B" Coy report that enemy are supposed to have left AMBERLY two days ago. Now approaching BRIGHTON. "C" Coy report ½ mile South of rd junc 939772.

0725: "B" Coy report BRIGHTON. "C" Coy are at rd junc 939772

0726: Sitrep to Bde: 'Rd junc 939772 clear of enemy. Pushing on.

0735: "C" Coy report Recce car burning 945776.

0740: Sitrep to Bde: 'Pushing on beyond 939772. No contact with enemy'.

0741: "A" Coy nothing of interest to report.

0745: CO to Carriers to push up road 939772 to San Angelo and try to contact enemy.

0747: CO told "A" Coy to use left-hand fork at 939772

0750: "C" Coy report 1 Pl at barracks, remainder North.

0753: "C" Coy report one mine marked near burning car in road. May be others. Pioneers recceing.

0755: "B" Coy report white flag flying from fort at La Cassette.

0805: "B" Coy report in La Cassette. Bde informed.

0806: "C" Coy report at road junc 937784.

0813: "B" Coy report CROYDON.

0815: CO (Lt Col ROV Thompson) and IO Lt GH Gudgeon) killed when their jeep hit mine, signaller seriously wounded and died in hospital, jeep driver wounded. One carrier ("C" Coy) hit mine (1 killed and 1 wounded), and then MMG carrier also on mine (1 killed, one wounded). Major Plastow assumed temporary command.

0827: Carriers held up by reported minefield on road at 934797. Advance delayed along road while mines were cleared from verges.

0830: Sitrep to Bde: 'Leading elements held up by minefield on rd at

934797.

0835: "C" Coy report on road just beyond La Cassette

0850: "C" Coy report culvert at 933798 blown, and no transport can get through. Bde informed.

0923: "C" Coy report a wrecked tank blocking the road just beyond blown culvert.

0925: Carriers held up at 935784. Propose flanking to the left.

0930: "C" Coy require Pioneers.

0932: "C" Coy reached 934804.

0935: Hill 370 in Sq 9580 taken by DCLI.

Then a steady advance up road to San Angelo Romano.

0956: "C" Coy now entering San Angelo. No opposition. Bde informed.

"B" Coy very well received by townspeople. A Echelon brought up evening meal for all Coys in the area of San Angelo Romano. One civilian (acting suspiciously) and one PW captured by "C" Coy brought to Bn HQ. Two tanks seen, believed to be German – later found to be Shermans. First sight of Rome in distance with St Peter's cathedral showing up very clearly.

0957: DCLI report 30 Germans moving across their 2nd objective.

1030: REs – ambulance required at 939782. Major McAlester, MC arrived at Main HQ to take over command and went forward.

1110: DCLI report having taken Montacelio.

1130: Carriers now 1500 yds West of San Angelo.

1135: Int Sgt – road cleared to 'T' junc 929820.

1210: To Bde: 'Own location North side of La Cassette.

1212: Carriers making for road junc at San Angelo.

1320: Bde: ' Advance and seize objectives on Pt 151 and 171, 300 yds North of San Angelo. Advance on a wide front.

1335: Bde: ' Beds & Herts with 51 RTR u/c will not advance beyond San Angelo until Surreys are firm on their objectives. Then they will pass through to take Palombara Sabina

1340: Bde Comd orders that bull-dozer is to clear wrecked tank which completely blocks road North of Le Cassette.

1350: CO's rep went forward to confer with CO.

1400: Carriers reached road and pylon junc at 931813.

1415: CO reports that, owing to a wide dispersion of sub-units, advance will not commence until 1500 hrs. Owing to long carry, MMGs and mortars have just caught up with Coys.

1426: Bde Comd orders advance to commence as soon as possible.

1427: "B" Coy ordered to move down to main road.

1430: Intercept: 4th Recce report enemy tank and 7 infantry at 909815. Going to deal with situation (passed to CO for information).

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1440: *Int Sgt: Advance to be in three stages. KINGSTON, GUILDFORD and FREEDOM.*

1445: *Intercept: 7 Inf, previously reported, are now moving West (CO informed).*

1447: *Bde: Patrol on Blue route have reached rd junc 1,000 yds due West of San Angelo, and have turned North. (CO informed).*

1450: *Bde ' Tanks you had this morning have been ordered up, and will support you on your objective.' (CO informed).*

1500: *Road on right completely blocked at 968786. Shelldrake looking for diversion.*

1515: *CO – Right Coy out of touch. Left Coy moving well. No interruptions.*

1530: *Recce report minefield at 921822.*

1535: *Sitrep to Bde: ' Right hand Coy on Pt 242. Left hand Coy 2,000 yds at 10 o'clock from San Angelo.*

1602: *"A" and "C" Coys on GUILDFORD.*

1610: *To Bde: ' Civilians state that San Angelo was evacuated at 2200 hrs 6th June. 2 NCOs remained behind to blow up amn dump.*

1614: *"C" Coy report that house on GUILDFORD was unoccupied, but looked as if it had been recently evacuated.*

1625: *"C" Coy report on their objective. 1 PW taken (104 Regt).*

1635: *"C" Coy report tank seen at 943866*

1655: *SA fire heard forward of "A" Coys objective.*

1700: *Bde orders: ' You will consolidate tonight area of your objectives which you will firmly hold, drawing up your tail from area San Angelo. A Echelon is on its way up to you now. Beds & Herts have first priority on road, and then you can draw up.*

1705: *"C" Coy report two explosions thought to be mortars or shells on their left.*

1715: *"C" Coy report bridges at 934847 and 936844 have been blown.*

1740: *"C" Coy report mortaring of their positions. Bearing 345° mag.*

1800: *4 tanks 9779 moving NE. Unconfirmed identity.*

1850: *Own tanks moved forward from San Angelo.*

1920: *"A" Coy report 4 MMGs on Pt 151. Have dug in.*

1950: *CO orders send food up to "B" Coy.*

2020: *One Frenchman brought in He had blown up his truck, and hidden until we arrived.*

2050: *Beds reporting enemy vehicles observed moving North from Pamolbara.*

2136: *"A" Coy report situation normal.*

2300: *Main HQ arrived at new location. 923833.*

2350: *LC arrived from Bde with orders for advance for following*

morning. Orders: SL 930848 to 935948 to be crossed at 0600 hrs. Order of March: Right - "B" Coy + Assault Sec Pioneers + 2 troops tanks. Left: "C" Coy + Assault Sec Pioneers + 2 troops tanks. PI 255 Fd Coy RE. PI "A" Coy. Bn HQ. "A" Coy less one PI. Carriers. MMGs. Bulldozer. Intention: To push forward and select route for vehicles and supplies. A quiet night.

Patrol of "A" Coy was 'shot up' during the night. 2/Lt Brissended slightly wounded, 1 man killed, 2 wounded, 1 man wounded and missing.

Jun 8th

Reveille 0400 hrs. Bn moved off 0600 hrs for a short distance across country.

0615: "B" Coy moving forward. 3 shells from SP guns on SL before move off.

0630: "B" Coy are now at 938857. "C" Coy still advancing.

0635: "C" Coy report scrub is very thick and progress is slow.

0640: "C" Coy are at 942863.

0650: Sitrep to Bde 'Left hand sub-unit are at 938869. Right hand sub-unit are at 942863.

0655: Shelling of track junc at 935848.

0700: "C" Coy report enemy shelling forward slopes of Cretona.

0710: CO reports his position is at track junc 935848. "C" Coy report out of touch with 15 PI, and are asking "A" Coy if they have seen them.

0715: "B" Coy still advancing.

0717: "C" Coy report TIGRIS.

0725: "B" Coy reached 947874.

0726: "C" Coy are now at 937877.

0728: Carriers are held up by stream in sq 9386, and trying to find way round.

0730: Mortars report no further shelling of roads and track junc.

0731: Sitrep to Bde 'TIGRIS'.

0745: CO reports SP guns are on SL.

0750: "B" Coy report 'Shell Drake's vehicle has broken down. Mortars are still with them, and are pushing on.

0800: "C" Coy report themselves at 947887.

0810: "B" Coy report CAM 6 PWs.

0811: Main HQ started moving along road.

0813: "C" Coy report CAM.

0815: Sitrep to Bde 'CAM 6 PWs'.

0817: Main Bn HQ stopped on road.

0818: Brigadier 'Well done. Keep going. You will beat 12 Inf Bde yet'. (CO informed).

0820: "C" Coy report approaching Pt 179 in 9490.

0831: Sitrep to Bde 'Leading troops approaching Pt 179. Tracks good

for vehicles as far as CAM where track peters out. Sub-units pushing on across country'.

0838: Main Bn HQ moved forward.

0840: Main Bn HQ halted again.

0906: CO established his HQ 947875 track junc.

0908: CO wants extra Res on track.

0912: "A" Coy digging in.

0940: "C" Coy still advancing now on forward slope of Pt 179.

0941: "B" Coy on Pt 206.

0942: Sitrep to Bde 'Rt hand sub-unit on Pt 206. Left hand sub-unit on forward slope of Pt 179

1005: Main Bn HQ reached location 942863 track junc.

1006: "B" Coy report pushing on with tanks.

1007: Bde 'Res are getting sleepers to bridge your craters. He wants chaps with you to get barrels which are located about 935850. Can you help with carriers or tanks?'

1010: "B" Coy report not in contact with tanks.

1020: "B" Coy report waiting for tanks on ridge Pt 206.

1035: CO "A" Coy to report to Wadi junc 943893.

1100: "C" Coy report crossing river at 941908.

1105: CO "A" Coy ordered to push on to DON, and then the advance to NILE as soon as possible and consolidate.

1125: "B" Coy moving North of Pt 206, and hope to meet tanks on way.

1130: CO 'Civilians report track 927915 to 944928 heavily mined from river track junc to road. Bde informed.

1155: "C" Coy reached Pt 143. They were sniped crossing river. They came under light mortar, MG and rifle fire, believed coming from main road in front. Tanks flanking. "B" Coy are 300 yds forward of Pt 206. Very close country. No fire yet. Passed to Bde.

1200: "B" Coy report tanks have arrived, and are going to push on. HQ established about 1200 hrs, and dug in. "B" Coy sniped and machined. Casualties (4 killed, 3 wounded). Heavy mortaring of leading Coys ("C" Coy 1 killed and 7 wounded, together with 2 SBs wounded). Personnel of 6 BW, 1 RWK, 142 RAC, HQ RE, 225 Fld Coy RE and 59 Fld Coy RE evacuated through our RAP to 10 Field Amb. One man of RWK (Worsfold) dead when brought back to RAP, and buried by our Padre.

1255: "C" Coy report 4 of own tanks on ridge 1600 yds SW of road Sniping continues also some MG fire. No mortar fire at the moment. Coy HQ in a forward slope of of Pt 143.

1305: Sitrep to Bde 'Left hand sub-unit have not yet reached road'.

1315: Bde 'People on your left are 1500 yds West of ROEDEAN.

1320: "B" Coy report enemy hoses 950920 and want help from RA to clear it up.' Bde informed.

1345: "B" Coy report 1 Pl advanced 30 mins ago. They were heavily fired on, and suffered casualties. It will be impossible to evacuate them until dark as they are in an exposed position. Unable to call; down fire because of wounded. MGs hold feature Carlecchia where it runs round road.

1400: Ordered Coys to consolidate where they are as all pinned down. Tanks helping where possible, but not much use as country is very close. Locations: "A" on Pt 181 in sq 9389. "B" on Pt 206. "C" on Pt 179.

1425: Bde ' You will continue to try to cut road. Tanks should be able to assist you. Beds coming forward on your right. Every effort will be made to outflank enemy'.

1435: "C" Coy request send ambulance Jeep.

1440: "C" Coy now report 2 Jeeps required at 940909.

1443: "C" Coy report being heavily mortared and require 3 Jeeps. Bde informed.

1448: "C" Coy report mortars seem to come from due North.

1454: Bde 'Shell Drake know of your plight, and will try to deal with same'.

1455: "C" Coy report bearings on mortars 30° true.

1506: CO ' Send 4 Sbs to "C" Coy immediately.

1610: "B" Coy report situation unchanged. Some sub-units still to come.

1612: Tanks report that tanks of 12 Inf Bde have reached DON, but only in small numbers.

1700: CO 'Mines in 966893. 12 lifted. There are a lot more' Bde informed.

1725: 'Terrific explosion in sq 9393. Shelling of same area but not by us.

1900: "C" Coy report mortars from 34° and SP gun from 355°

1950: 12 Inf Bde's leading troops now established at HARROW. They are astride the road 500 yds North of HARROW, and 1000 yds East & West of it.

1951: Leading sub-unit of Beds have gained 1st objective, and are patrolling to contact with right hand units.

2010: Bde 'My Sunray wishes to congratulate you on your reporting today'.

2015: Bdes 2nd sub-unit moving to SL. Elephants are moving up too, but are late. Surrey will order the advance when both are tied up.

2045: "A" Coy report 6 bombs fell in their area.

2130: Beds Sitrep ' Tanks taken away. Start delayed to take

advantage of poor visibility. Crossing SL now.'

2200: *Both sub-units progressing slowly owing to hard going over difficult country.*

2300: *Bde 'Objectives of DCLI for tomorrow: Casone 9393. Colle Lunga 9493. Objectives of Beds tonight: 1 Castelle 9690. 2 960915 to 970912. 3 Pt 221 at 9692. 4 High ground between two roads 981921 to 960945 to 956931.*

2300: *From Bde 'Patrol reports must be passed back as soon as possible throughout the night. Full reports for confirmation must be ready for Brigadier who is coming to see you at 0530 hrs. During the night you must pass all information, including negative as a Bigger Sunray wants it.*

Jeeps brought forward the evening meal as far as Bn HQ, but were unable to get to the leading Coys until after dark. B Echelon moved from area Ceprano to area Valmontone. Owing to heavy traffic on Highway 6 move took about 10 hrs – a distance of 45 miles.

Jun 9th

0200: *Three considerable explosions reported from N15 at 0150 – believed 2 amn and 1 petrol carrier.*

0515: *CO 'Patrol that went out at 0100 is expected back at any moment, and another party has gone up to locate it.*

0545: *"A" and "C" sending out patrols.*

0655: *"A" Coy report patrol that went out very early this morning have returned, with 4 escaped PWs (3 S. African and 1 Englishman)*

0800: *CO ' "B" Coy and carriers moving to stream junc at 943893.*

0812: *"C" Coy report that their forward Pl are now on Pt 227, which is just over the road.*

0840: *CO "A" are still advancing, and have now reached "B"'s old position.*

0844: *"C" Coy report progress good. Nothing to report.*

0913: *"A" Coy have now reached road. "C" Coy report NILE.*

0920: *Main HQ joined up with Tac HQ at stream junc 943893.*

1045: *"A" Coy 300 yds short of Colle Lunga. "C" Coy on Pt 227.*

Bde ' Location of 10 Inf Bde not Pt152 at 953887. "B" Coy ordered to make track 927914 to 943928 usable by transport.

1250: *"B" Coy report having reached track and stream junc 927914.*

1330: *DCLI report their location is 943879.*

1345: *DCLI report on tracks. Route Ref F now passable for tracks and 4-wheel drive vehicles using diversion already notified. Main route at Ref E will take approx 4 hrs. This could be reduced by 2 hrs by bulldozers. Empty barrels for making route very urgently required at Ref E. Minimum number 12. Provost marking route. A 4-wheel drive has been to Ref F, a few mines found, and whole route is now being swept.*

1445: *Bde 'All units to concentrate in present locations. No move tonight'.*

1500: *CO 'Move main HQ to rd junc 943928. Main HQ started moving at 1530 hrs.*

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Bn HQ moved forward a short distance across country, and established Bn HQ near orchard. "B" Coy moved back, and was ordered to concentrate on improving the track where possible to allow forward movement of tracked and wheeled vehicles. An attempt was made to move the transport forward across country, but the going was too bad and, on the orders of the Bde Comd, all transport turned back and took an alternative route to the concentration area. All tracks were extremely difficult and inches deep in dust which cause every movement by a vehicle to raise chocking clouds of dust. Bn marched across country to the concentration area and was joined by the transport.

1540: Wireless carrier lost on track. Remainder of transport had to return to 942863 track junc, and thence by Blue route to rd junc 943928.

1700: Wireless carrier started moving again, and followed route taken by transport.

B Echelon left Valmontone at 1700 hrs and, owing to heavy demolitions, covered only 13 miles in 13 hrs.

1745: Wireless carrier arrived at Main HQ.

2000: Sitrep to Bde 'Bn consolidated SW of Monte Libretto. "A" Coy at 946528. "B" Coy at 942928. "C" Coy at 957928. Bn HQ at 944927.

2115: "A" Coy report isolated MG fire on their feature. Their patrol of the afternoon report no enemy, but plenty of demolitions. 5 escaped PWs (2 South African and 3 British) picked up by patrol say there are no enemy within 3 miles of Route 4. A quiet night.

Jun 10th

1330: Bn moved to Bde concentration area at 943862. Transport by Blue route and marching troops across country.

1430: Bn complete, and this fact reported to Bde.

8 South African and 2 British ex-PW brought in to Bn HQ, supplied with tea, food and cigarettes. Despatched through Bde. Mobile bath unit set up, but only few men able to use it owing to sudden move. Transport and Bn HQ moved off at 1330 hrs back to concentration area by stream. Enquiry bureau set up in Monte Libretto to attempt to deal with civilian problems, sickness, pro-Fascists etc had to be closed owing to move at short notice. 1 South African ex-PW brought in to new location, and passed back through Bde. Bn cleaned up as far as possible. Remainder of "A" Echelon arrived and PRI truck – NAAFI supplies issued. B Echelon arrived at area Fosse at 1000 hrs, then moved from Fosse to area Pratolungo at 2200 hrs.

Jun 11th

1100: Orders for move West of River Tiber received from Bde. Op Order issued (see App)

Bn continued cleaning up and resting. Intermittent rain during the day. Move Order issued to Coys at 1515 hrs. Bn moved off in Bde convoy at 1735 hrs. TCVs and part of convoy passed through Rome before dark, enjoying a good view of various parts of the city en route. Carriers and rest of Bn convoy came by second route to North of

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Appendix

Rome. Bn HQ established new location near Monte Rotondo at approx 2215 hrs. B Echelon moved to Pratolungo arriving at 0900 hrs. Orders to move B Echelon from the area to new location received from Bde at 1130 hrs.

- Jun 12th Part of B Echelon arrived at new location 0645 hrs. Bn settled own to clean up and reorganise.
- Jun 13th RSMs' Drill Parade held. Major Wood, "A" Sqn 12 Canadian Armoured Regt gave a lecture on 'Tank Tactics and Co-operation with Infantry' to all Coys.
- Jun 14th CO spoke to Bn after RSMs' Drill Parade.
- Jun 15th 2 Canadian Armoured Regt invited small parties of Officers to 'Get Together' with them, and later attended a film show. CO prepared a suggested distribution of Class 3 Stores and Vehicles for Bde. Intelligence Summary No 41 received from Bde. 19 ex-hospital personnel rejoined the Bn from CRU, and reposted to their original Coys.
- Jun. 16th Move Order received from Bde 1500 hrs. Move Order for Bn prepared. A further party of ORs visited 12 Canadian Armoured Regt for film show. Heavy baggage – kitbags and surplus stores handed in to 4 (Brit) Dump in Rome. Regimental News Sheet No 2 issued and distributed to hospitals etc.
- Jun 17th Move Order issued 1000 hrs. Harbour recce party moved off to recce new area at 1200 hrs. Section Competition held, one section from each Rifle Pl, carriers and mortars taking part. Int. Summary No 42 received from Bde.
- Jun 18th Reveille 0430 hrs. Breakfast 0530. Bn moved off on TCVs at 0715 hrs via Route 3 – Civita Castellana – Nepi – Ronciglione – Viterbo to concentrate astride the main road. Information received from Bde that daily parties of 2 Officers and 38 ORs would be permitted to visit
- Jun 19th Rome under special arrangements, guides being provided by Cooks. Intelligence Summary received from Bde. 40 reinforcements arrived from CRU. Instructions for parties visiting Rome issued. Additional allotment granted for purpose of permitting all Roman catholics to attend a Special Thanksgiving Mass in the Church of Santa Mariua di Angeli, and afterwards being received in audience by the Pope.
- Jun 20th Operation Order issued for Bn Exercise 'JEEP' on 21 June. Further details issued re Day Leave in Rome.
- Jun 21st Bn prepared for Exercise 'JEEP', leaving camp at 1030 hrs to proceed to concentration area preparatory to commencing scheme. For full details see Intelligence Log No 2 att. 13 Corps Sitrep received. Note

on 'Chemical Warfare' issued to Coys. Further details of visits to Rome issued. *For move to conc area and narrative leading up to move see OO No 1 Exercise JEEP.*

1200: *Bn concentrated South of railway. Bn HQ established at Ref A 4 o'clock 400 yds.*

1230: *CO's 'O' Group. Following information and intention was given.*

1 *Ref points for use on scheme (see att list).*

2 *Beds meeting stiff opposition at Pt 330. DCLI fighting on outskirts of Monteflascone. Surreys to push up centre and cut lateral road.*

Method: On the right - "C" Coy + 2 details mortar and assault sec Pioneers +FOO. On the left - "D" Coy + 2 details mortar and assault sec Pioneers +FOO.SL at Z hr. To cross at Z + 12. "B" Coy who will follow "D" Coy. To cross at Z + 15. "A" Coy, balance of Pioneers, Tac HQ, MMGs.

The following bounds will be made good:

CROYDON, which was Pastello on right and Pt 404 on left.

COBHAM, which was Pt 418 on right and Pt 442 on left.

ESHER, which was Pt 472 on right and Pt 488 on left.

RICHMOND, which was Pt 462 on right (for "C" Coy only).

KINGSTON. which was high rd N of rd on right and high ground N of rd in area 484.

The carriers will cover the left flank, and to follow this route: Ref Pt B, Pt 404, Pt 468, Pt 435.

SL for Coys is bridge on railway track to Ref Pt A + 1,000 yds W.

Bearing of initial advance 337°. Rate of advance 100 yds in 3 mins.

Zero hr 1330 hrs. Main HQ with RAP to move to Fastello on receipt of instructions from Tac HQ. Coy carriers to move with main HQ.

1325: *"C" Coy reports moving to SL*

1330: *"B" Coy reports position behind 3*

1331: *"C" Coy reports crossed start line (reported to Bde).*

1335: *Tac R report that small party of enemy seen digging in on Pt 488 in 4242 (passed to CO).*

1345: *"C" Coy report 600 yds N of Ref Pt A No contact with enemy (to Bde).*

1349: *"C" Coy report 800 yds N of Ref Pt A.*

1350: *Tac R report enemy vehicles seen 432396 (passed to CO).*

1351: *Tac HQ report enemy shelly SL.*

1352: *"B" Coy report were held up by shelling, but have now crossed SL (to Bde).*

1405: *"D" Coy report seeing SP guns retiring Northwards.*

1415: *"B" Coy report 1,000 yds NW of Ref Pt A.*

1417: *"D" Coy report still advancing.*

1430: *"D" Coy report 2 sub-units pinned down by MG fire from red-*

roofed house 1,200 yds N of Ref Pt B Trying to outflank them. (to Bde).
1432: "C" Coy report on track 1,000 yds N of Ref Pt A.
1435: "B" Coy reports vehicles may cross gully at 442372.
1440: "C" Coy report 2,100 yds N of Ref Pt A.
1500: "A" Coy reports they are behind 2, are on left of ourselves and have halted.
1502: "D" Coy report CROYDON.
1505: "C" Coy report 1,800 yds 10 o'clock of Ref Pt C.
1312: "B" Coy report CROYDON.
1519: "C" Coy report CROYDON.
1520: "A" Coy report following "B" Coy. Tac HQ report no demolitions in village 3,000 yds NW of Ref Pt C (to Bde).
1545: CO detailed "A" Coy to go 2,000 yds of Ref Pt B where there is track junc. 2 to go and consolidate RANNICCI.
1550: "D" Coy report re-organising on COBHAM and preparing to advance.
1600: "C" Coy report 600 yds 1 o'clock of CROYDON.
1625: "C" Coy report pushing on to COBHAM, harassed by MGs on right.
1630 "C" Coy report COBHAM.
1631: Carriers report West of COBHAM. Slight mortar fire, but unable to locate mortars.
1635: "D" Coy report 500 yds North of COBHAM. Everything normal.
1650: "C" Coy report 500 yds North of COBHAM, and calling for Shelldrake.
1700: "D" Coy report ESHER.
1708: "C" Coy report 3 MGs holding up advance.
1725: "B" Coy NTR.
1730: "C" Coy report MGs are located on forward slopes of Pt 472.
1743: "A" Coy give location as 2,300 yds W of Ref Pt D, and are consolidating.
1750: "D" Coy report being counter-attacked by approx 1 Coy strong.
1751: "B" Coy report location is 419408.
1800: Tac HQ moving to new location 1,500 yds 5 o'clock of Ref Pt E.
1801: "A" Coy moving to RANNACCI.
1805: Carriers have just left Pt 468, but progressing slowly as going is very difficult.
1830: "D" Coy have moved back to new location which is 400 yds South of ESHER.
1835: Tac HQ have completed move.
1836: CO called for Battle Patrol.
1855: Tac HQ ordered Main HQ to move to within 200 yds himself.
1900: "B" Coy report present position is 418422, which is South of

ESHER. Held up by mortar and MG fire.

1930: "D" Coy have consolidated 800 yds 5 o'clock of Ref Pt B. Have destroyed a number of the tps who were cut off. "C" Coy report consolidated. Mortars and Shelldrake assisting them. Position is 800 yds 2 o'clock of Bn HQ. Click "B" Coy report still pinned down. "A" Coy are near CO's location together with Battle Patrol.

1945: "B" Coy have moved to position 1,000 yds 5 o'clock of Ref Pt E.
 2000: CO gave following patrol objectives. Coys to follow when all reported clear: "B" Coy to La PICCHI and then to Pt 480. "C" Coy to Pts 472, 462, and then to rd junc 2,500 yds 1 o'clock "D". "D" Coy to Pt 488, and then to Wadi Magioni. Battle Patrol to Pt 546. "A" Coy to occupy rd junc S of Pt 546 on receipt of all clear message from Battle Patrol. Zero hour for patrols 2200 hrs.

2130: Sitrep to Bde '2130 hrs "A" Coy area 428409. "B" Coy consolidated 428418. "C" Coy consolidated 435414. "D" Coy 428419. Battle Patrol lying up area Bn HQ 429409. Mortars area Bn HQ. 1730 "D" Coy counter-attacked area ESHER by approx 1 Coy strong. Arty fire dispersed c/a. 1830 "D" Coy cut off by enemy. 400 yds due South of their position 426428 and East 500 yds. Ordered to withdraw after dealing with enemy due South of their position. "C" Coy met MMG fire at 1610 hrs area 4440. Bypassed this, and advanced to present position. "B" Coy from Ranucci sent to assist "D" Coy at 1725 hrs on their left flank. 1845 hrs "B" Coy held up at Caratella and asked for Shelldrake. 1853 "B" Coy held up by MG and mortar fire at 418422. Consolidated in that position. 1957 "B" Coy still held up and withdrew to present location. Nothing further to report'.

2200: Battle Patrol moved off. "C" and "D" Coy patrols moved off. (To Bde).

2240: "C" Coy report enemy MG firing on Coy position, but no action taken owing to patrol being out.

2300: "B" Coy patrol moved off (to Bde).

2312: "C" Coy report MG being dealt with by automatics.

2330: "C" Coy report MG still firing. Posn is 800 yds 42° from posn.

2350: "D" Coy report being mortared. No casualties.

2359: "C" Coy report white Verey light on bearing 45°.

Jun 22nd

0030: "C" Coy report at Wadi.

0035: "C" Coy report MG fire still troublesome.

0040: "D" Coy Sitrep normal. "C" Coy bypassing MG fire. Battle Patrol on objective. No enemy in sight. (to Bde).

0045: "A" Coy ordered to advance as arranged.

0055: "C" Coy sending out fighting patrol to eliminate MG. "B" & "D" Coys Sitrep normal.

0105: Battle Patrol told to stay put.

1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT***Intelligence Summary***

0115: "C" Coy fighting patrol make no contact with MG post, presumed withdrawn.

0117: "C" Coy 300 yds North of Wadi.

0130: "A" Coy 600 yds N of last position.

0146: "B" Coy commence advance to KINGSTON.

0153: "C" Coy report leading sub-unit RICHMOND.

0155: "D" Coy Sitrep normal.

0206: Battle Patrol report enemy mortar firing on feature 200 yds rt of rd. Diesel engines heard.

0225: "C" Coy report leading sub-units in KINGSTON. One sec on rd. Coy HQ at ESHER.

0235: "C" Coy HQ moving forward.

0250: "C" Coy forward patrol ambushed a platoon of enemy plus transport at KINGSTON (released by umpire).

0252: "D" Coy send PW and Sitrep back.

0255: Battle Patrol report enemy active 500 yds along road. Gunners told to shoot SOS. CAT.

0305: "D" Coy preparing to move.

0310: "C" Coy HQ reached RICHMOND.

0315: "B" Coy leading sub-unit at KINGSTON.

0335: "B" Coy report KINGSTON.

0338: "C" Coy complete on KINGSTON.

0347: "A" Coy report KINGSTON.

0350: "C" Coy consolidating.

0415: "D" Coy 200 yds S of ESHER.

0420: "D" Coy report ESHER

0443: "D" Coy report KINGSTON.

0500 Exercise closes, and Coys return to camp independently.

Move Order from Bde giving information of Bn move to concentration area 2 miles North of Citta della Pieve on 24 June. Bde Int Summary No 43 received. Notification received that Major CGS McAllester, MC (Bn 2 I/c) had been appointed Lt Col and Commanding Officer, vice Lt Col ROV Thompson, killed in action on June 7th.

Jun 23rd Move Order issued for move to concentration area on 24 June. Bn spent remainder of day packing up and preparing for move.

Jun 24th Bn moved to concentration Area 2 miles North of Citta della Pieve. , and arrived at 1200 hrs. Enemy shelled road and the Div concentration area on either side, but there were no shells in Bn concentration area and no casualties. Shelling was believed to be by German SP gun. Bn HQ was established in gully at 376904. (Bde informed).

1100 – 1500: Light intermittent shelling of Bn area.

1600: Staff captain visited Bn HQ.

1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

Intelligence Summary

Appendix

1944

1900 – 1930: Sudden downpour flooded all trenches in Bn area.
2100 – 0200: Heavy rain.
2/Lt NWC Nicholas reported with 4 ORs (ex-hospital) from No 1 CRU.
A quiet night.

Jun 25th

Intermittent shelling of Bn area by enemy long range guns, appeared to be counter-battery action against our own guns.
0825 5 shells just forward of Bn area.
1200: Established OP 500 yds N of Bn HQ.
1205: Observed hits by our Med guns on large dump behind CHIUSSI on bearing of 297°. (Bde informed).
1229: Large explosion seen in rear half of Chiussi village (BDE inf).
1530: Brigadier visited Bn HQ.
1600 – 2130: Intermittent shelling of Chiussi and area. Demolitions heard in rear of Chiussi.
A quiet night.

Slight air activity during the day. Bde Int Summary no 14 received.

Jun 26th

0900: Preparing for move to conc area.
0945: Harbour recce party left.
1000: At an hours notice to move.
1300: Orders received to move to conc area, B Echelon remaining behind.
1400: Bn HQ started moving.
1430: Bn HQ arrived at new location, and established at 389864.
1500: Marching troops left old locations.
1630: Bn reported complete (Bde inf)
1740 - 1750: Shells seen bursting on tower of castle in CASTIGLIONE.
1915: CO attended Brig's 'O' Group Conference.
2100: CO held 'O' Group Conference.
Bn moved to forward concentration area prior to relieving 2 Kings (28 Inf Bde) leaving B Echelon in present location. Verbal orders for move issued.

Jun 27th

0130: CO gave orders for move to forward conc area.
0300: 4 shells S of Bn area.
0455: Marching troops left this location
0730: Bn concentrated area BUXTON. Bn HQ 892372.
0751: Bde 'People on rt (2 LFs) will not go from BRISTOL to BASINGSTOKE. They are playing 2nd fiddle to us. If they would at W - 2 ½ hrs it would help us a lot'.
0823: Report from Shell Drake that enemy withdrawing in considerable numbers from Pt 373 (339916) to NW.
0850: Beds location in houseS of rd 500 yds south of BRISTOL.

0925: *Enemy mortar located at 367940.*

0940: *Enemy mortar sq 3394*

0950: *4th Recce report enemy on feature left of BULFORD, and that they themselves are halfway between BRIGHTON and BULFORD.*

1000: *4th Recce held up by MG fire from 337914.*

1003: *4th Recce sending out patrols on axis BRIGHTON – DOVER, and are keeping Bde informed.*

1019: *Shelldrake report gun flashes from 336942. Coping with them.*

1050: *Barrage commenced in support of DCLI who are now moving forward.*

1105: *2 sections of enemy at CREWE. Recce engaging.*

1108: *DCLI ask for more arty fire. Told it was continuing for another 10 mins.*

1110: *Recce report 5 enemy leaving CREWE, and going by cycle towards CAMBRIDGE.*

1112: *DCLI ask for fire on Pt 373.*

1113: *Brig wants heavy mortars to fire Pt 373.*

1120: *DCLI ask for slow rate of fire to continue as it is keeping enemy heads down.*

1130: *“D” Coy DCLI progressing favourably through high corn.*

1145: *Heavy arty firing on CAMBRIDGE.*

1215: *DCLI fighting forward in high corn.*

1235: *DCLI held up by fire from BASINGSTOKE.*

1245: *Line CAMBRIDGE – BASINGSTOKE is strongly held.*

1355: *Both forward Coys of DCLI held up.*

1410: *Civilians report mines at 348918, 352915 also strong point at 324942.*

1420: *Friends on left are going to try to get on Pt 373.*

1430: *Number of enemy seen withdrawing across the canal. Recce held up SW of CREWE by fire from both sides of the house.*

1530: *Patrol of recce has reached rod junc 400 yds W of CREWE.*

1550: *FOO reports Nebelwerfers firing from 352936.*

1655: *DCLI forward sub-units still held up.*

1705: *Heavy stonk on left hand forward sub-unit, and exchange of SA fire.*

1728: *Sub-unit of Nfs to be in posn S of BEDFORD to support the Beds in the morning.*

1805: *Air OP reports Nebelwerfer in Pozzuolo, and also MT moving both ways through the town.*

1845: *DCLI forward sub-unit still pinned down, but “A” Coy working forward more.*

1950: *DCLI, assisted by tanks, are nearing objective. Tanks are on it.*

2135: *Bde order no move by Surreys before 0500 hrs. A quiet night.*

1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Intelligence Summary

Appendix

*Orders from Brig for 28th. Beds are to advance and take BENTLEY. On capture of BENTLEY, Surreys will go forward and capture POZZUOLO. DCLI to complete capture of yesterday's objective.
2 ORs killed in action.*

Jun 28th

*0630: Marching troops left for BEDFORD. Barrage commenced in support of Beds.
0640: Resistance at CAMBRIDGE. 2 Ms located. 78 Div are moving 2 Coys into BASINGSTOKE and, if unoccupied,. Are moving forward 900 yds 10 o'clock of BASINGSTOKE.
0655: 2 Assault Secs Pioneers sent to head of column as requested by CO.
0657: Bde Comd asks CO to visit him at same location as yesterday.
0745: Beds are approaching BENTLEY, and have been ordered to consolidate there and detach a sub-unit to cut road above Ref Pt D.
0755: "A" and "B" Coys report arrival at BEDFORD.
0810: "C" Coy report arrival at BEDFORD, and report road not practicable for wheels.
0812: Mortars report Comd's carrier only 500 yds E of BEDFORD.
0825: "D" Coy concentrated S of "C" Coy.
0830: Enemy are forming up for counter-attack W of Beds forward troops.
0842: Beds calling for help from Shelldrake. Forward troops being very heavily stonked.
0845: Tac HQ report that wheels can get to BEDFORD, but CO doesn't want any up until he gives orders.
0855: Beds dig in and consolidate on rt side of BENTLEY. Bde Comd ' Do not carry out 2nd phase until ordered. Do not worry about task at Ref Pt D'.
0900: Beds report Sunray worried about counter-attack from West. Would like more tanks.
0925: Mortars ordered main body of mortars to BEDFORD.
0926: 4 A/Tk guns being sent up to each of Surreys and Bedfords.
0940: Kings have been stonking for some time, and are sending one sub-unit into BEDFORD at Z – 90.
0956: Bde report forward Coys lost heavily, and are now under one command under "B" Coy Comd. Not possible to send reinforcements to them owing to heavy enfilade MG fire. Another party needed to consolidate BENTLEY satisfactorily, and Sunray is not happy about the situation. There are no tanks on Bentley, and they are needed urgently. Not practicable to go on to 2nd phase with present strength.
1020: 4 A/Tk guns arrive at BURTON.
1025: 15 mortars and carriers have arrived at BEDFORD.
1043: Bde to Beds 'My Sunray says hold on and consolidate as quickly*

as possible. Sending over slow-rate barrage on to high ground to your left to prevent enemy annoying you. The intention is to proceed later with Surreys as suggested by your Sunray.

1050: Carriers report in position.

1129: Friends on left are now 900 yds West of CREWE.

1130: Beds report there is a Mark V near tall chimney at 348930.

1202: Sub-unit of Beds report party of enemy 30 strong West of their area.

1205: 88mm gun at 948932. 4 enemy tanks seen West of rd at 950935.

1210: Inf & tank attack coming in on Beds. Situation deteriorating.

1230: Our tanks badly depleted.

1235: Beds to Bde: Getting all arms possible into the area to protect Coy on forward ridge.

1235: Tac HQ order our A/Tk guns to report to BEDFORD immediately.

1236: CO calling 'O' Group.

1240: Beds forward Coy told to hang on as enemy movement on left is thought to be a steady infiltration and not a counter-attack.

1250: Bde report an additional troop of 209 A/Tk Bty is allotted to us. Arrange to meet them at ALDERSHOT.

1320: Beds forward Coy Comd says he can hang on OK as he now has plenty of support.

1323: "C" Coy moving forward now.

1340: Inf and tanks forming up for counter-attack in 3594.

1400: Tac HQ report 2 sub-units are 300 yds from BUDE, and other 2 sub-units are moving towards CAMBRIDGE.

1405: Rear link moving forward.

1420: Rear link reached BEDFORD.

1430: "C" Coy location is now 500 yds 7 o'clock of "A" Coy.

1500: Bde 'CO is to carry out orders brought by IO. Support is unlimited'.

1505: Bde confirm DORCHESTER unoccupied by our troops as it is proposed to cab-rank this place.

1520: "B" Coy are now 800 yds S of "A" Coy.

1530: "C" Coy held down by Spandau fire.

1532: "B" Coy 400 yds SW of cemetery. Unable to contact DCLI.

1540: DCLI 'I can complete all my arrangements by 1620 hrs (passed to CO).

1545: Tac HQ CO making full arrangements with Shelldrake, tanks etc.

1600: "C" Coy posn 800 yds 8 o'clock of "A" Coy.

1605: Bde Comd. Brig gave OK for CO to use rear Coys in projected attack. CO's reason was that he could not get better co-operation with tanks, better direction and his forward Coys will be able to

provide flank protection.

1615: *Brig asking for results of cab-ranking (bombing) of DORCHESTER.*

1618: *Sheldrake says results were tremendous.*

1630: *"A" Coy still moving. Mortars are 600 yds W of Tac HQ.*

Carriers are 200 yds W of Tac HQ. Tac HQ message for DCLI 'We start moving at W + 5 hrs'. (DCLI informed).

1635: *Bde Comd 'Although I stressed need for speed, do not walk too fast, and do not expect too much in the way of results'.*

1700: *Barrage opened in support of "A" and "D" Coys in attack on CAMBRIDGE. (see att note for details).*

1715: *"D" Coy report SPOON. (Bde informed).*

1729: *"A" Coy report SPOON. Going well. (Bde informed).*

1730: *"A" Coy report situation normal.*

1732: *BDE Comd promised a cab-rank if necessary*

1735: *"D" Coy held up 500 yds S of objective. Having trouble with snipers.*

1755: *"A" Coy have reached 3 red houses and are waiting for tanks to come up so they can go straight in. "D" Coy report Signal terminal pinned down by snipers, but are now trying to catch up with Coy who are approaching village.*

1800: *Bde Comd 'Use elephants, smoke too, and set place on fire if necessary. Village must be taken.*

1805: *Tac HQ ordered "A" and "D" Coys to enter village.*

1812: *Tac HQ report "A" Coy now in village, but have not yet reported.*

"D" Coy to left (elephants say they are entering). "C" Coy not moved.

"B" Coy now moving to left, and are at Ref Pt B. 300 yds 4 o'clock.

1820: *"D" Coy signallers pinned down by snipers and are unable to move. They have two casualties with them. Want Sbs.*

1826: *"A" Coy say "D" Coy are trying to contact them, but there are enemy between them.*

1827: *Tac HQ sent back for ambulance Jeep.*

1840: *"D" Coy signallers still pinned down.*

1843: *"A" Coy started to clear village, but met one enemy tank coming up from NE which is holding them up.*

1845: *Tac HQ report 'elephants' going to assistance of "D" Coy.*

1900: *To Bde. Sheldrake engaging tank. Situation on objective is confused. Flag seen flying in village, which was pre-arranged signal with tanks.*

1905: *Tac HQ CO requires IO from A/Tk unit attached troop who were allocated to us.*

1915: *Tac HQ report partisans in village have captured a PW.*

1944: *Tank Comd reports 'Elephants in CAMBRIDGE. Tank Comd says*

it is alright for "D" Coy to enter village. ("D" Coy informed).

1945: *"D" Coy 400 yds short of village.*

2000: *Rear link moved to Eastern side of BEDFORD.*

2015: *Tac HQ. "A" Coy in village. "B" Coy 1,000 yds SW of "A" Coy. "C" Coy S of rd 800 yds 7 o'clock of Ref Pt A. "D" Coy moving towards "B" Coy.*

2050: *Bde Comd 'Continue with your original task, that is consolidate CAMBRIDGE, and then push N of Ref Pt D as soon as possible. Disregard orders of DCLI Comd insofar as they differ from these. IO arriving in 1 hr to settle details.*

2100: *Bde Comd 'Brigs intention is to be solid on BENTLEY by first light, with Surreys and Beds forward. This is paramount. If your Sunray considers he can do that by carrying out that will be best. If not possible, plan brought by DCLI to bring about same result. Brig is very pleased with today's effort, and he thinks we have done exceedingly well. (passed to CO).*

2125: *Tac HQ report thugs are looking out for sniper around Tac HQ.*

2200: *Tac HQ order send 1 sec of carriers to link up with "A" Coy in village.*

2300: *Sgt White returned after trying to go by Goiella to fetch out wounded. He found Goiella deserted, and turned back on far side of village because of possible mines, and also lack of promised party of Kings.*

2345: *Enemy MT and tracks moving along rd from DORKING to DORCHESTER. This was reported by friends on right.*

Regimental News Sheet No 3 issued. 5 ORs wounded in action. 5 ORs reported from No 1 CRU.

Jun 29th

0005: *"D" Coy report sounds of MT going North on their front.*

0015: *Bde received intentions 28/29 and 29*

0030: *Tac HQ issued orders for Battle Patrol's tasks (see att note). Sunray to report to CO Rations left by Jeep for Coys.*

0045: *Sunray to report to CO.*

0108: *Tac HQ Acorn sending Sitrep re CAMBRIDGE to Adjt.*

0145: *"C" Coy report situation normal.*

0150: *Tac HQ "A" Coy to push out patrol to contact friends on right.*

0200: *"A" Coy report non-arrival of ambulance Jeep, and one must reach them as soon as possible.*

0215: *Holdfast reported to Bde that they have cleared the road to within 600 yds of CAMBRIDGE.*

0230: *"B" Coy report Battle Patrol visited "B" Coy, and are now halfway to objective.*

0237: *Tac HQ told "C" Coy to send out patrol to contact Beds on rt and to report progress.*

1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT***Intelligence Summary***

0250: Tac HQ CO told "C" Coy to send out patrol to BENTLEY at first light.

0320: "C" Coy have Col/Sgt of "D" Coy with them. He was wounded and dazed when Jeep blown up by mine. Location of Jeep is 500 yds 7 o'clock of "A" Coy. (Bde informed).

0345: "C" Coy search party returned, but had been unable to find anybody although there had been three other occupants – "A" Coy C/Sgt, Capt Grigg and Signal Officer.

0425: Patrols to be sent forward at once.

0500: Tac HQ Battle Patrol returned against orders after being on objective.

0515: "B" Coy on way to Ref Pt D.

0530: "C" Coy report Signal Off brought in badly wounded, and Capt Grigg and C/Sgt Inch killed.

Lt JWW Davies evacuated as battle casualty. Lt C Nicholson, Col Sgt Hussey wounded, and Capt Grigg and Col/Sgt Inch killed when the jeep in which they were taken rations forward to the leading Coys hit a mine.

0545: "C" Coy moving forward.

0550: Tac HQ "D" Coy told to consolidate where they were.

0615: Tac HQ "C" Coy to provide section for protection of REs working on clearing road.

0616: "B" Coy report just contacted elephants and are moving off.

0627: Tac HQ told all Coys that rd from 354924 Westwards to CAMBRIDGE is mined.

0630: Carriers report that personnel of section who were with "A" Coy have returned.

0650: Battle Patrol (Thugs) are now with "A" Coy.

0652: Beds report having contacted our people 400 yds 9 o'clock rRef Pt C. Our people (Surreys) are now forward on left-hand

0705: "C" Coy patrol has reached BENTLEY, and contacted Beds en route.

0706: Tac HQ told patrol to stay put as another Coy is on its way there with elephants.

0715: "B" Coy in posn on Pt 353.

0725: Rations for Coys left Main HQ by Jeep, and are going to "C" Coy from where they will be distributed. Bde asking for information re observation of DORCHESTER.

0735: To Bde. Mines on road where Jeep was blown up are laid roughly in mortar holes, and are fairly easy to detect.

0740: Tank Comd unable to see DORCHESTER owing to mist.

0745: "B" Coy have contacted Thugs on Ref Pt D

0746: "B" Coy have sent out party to contact neighbours.

1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT***Intelligence Summary***

0750: Tac HQ to "B" Coy. Intention today. Patrol forward carefully to DORCHESTER. Do NOT enter town. Report back immediately whether town is occupied or not.

0752: Tac HQ to "C" Coy. Establish locality one sub-unit strong on BENTLEY.

0755: "B" Coy on objective. Report thugs with them (high ground above "D" Coy).

0800: "B" Coy report there was large explosion in DORCHESTER at 0300 hrs.

0801: Carriers 'Understand we are to move up to BEDFORD. Is this OK?'

0805: Tac HQ to Carriers: You are to RV here now.

0810: Tank Comd. Mortars have reached posn but have not yet set up.

0820: "C" Coy report ration Jeep has reached us.

0825: Rear link moving forward.

0840: Rear link arrived at Giolla.

0850: "D" Coy in urgent need of PIAT amn.

0910: Tac HQ informs that civilians report that DORCHESTER is heavily mined and booby-trapped.

0912: "B" Coy patrol all ready to go to DORCHESTER.

0920: To Tac HQ. Big Sunray has been told by civilians that enemy have left SUNBEAM. He has ordered Beds to CLAPTON. He wishes us to push on to DORCHESTER and beyond. Not as a whole unit, but as many sub-units as CO thinks fit.

0930: "C" Coy patrol. Bad visibility. Progress slow. Where are Beds? They reached Ref Pt C and didn't find Beds.

0940: Road CAMBRIDGE to BASINGSTOKE clear of mines. Large crater 400 yds along rd West of BASINGSTOKE.

0950: "B" Coy patrol has reached 94 Northing overlooking DORCHESTER, and report it clear of enemy.

1010: "B" Coy patrol went as far as ordered, and observed Dorchester from 338942.

1020: Bde orders for unit to push forward first to SUNBEAM and then to RAPIER (high ground between SUNBEAM and FORD). First consolidate DORCHESTER and then push out sub-units to RAPIER.

1025: CO questions for Bde. 1 What is situation on right and left? 2 What is Holdfast situation, as he thinks they should be close at hand.

1035: Bde reports 'Chaps on right are going to CLAPTON. Chaps on left are behind, but are coming up. No clear picture of their location yet.

1040: Tac HQ CO's orders. "B" to push forward. "D" to take over "B"'s posn. "C" to come here, and to carry on to CAMBRIDGE where

they will meet up with "A".

1050: Tac HQ to "B" Coy. Push on with all haste to Dorchester.

Sunray has arranged everything. Shelldrake.

1107: Civilian brought to Bn HQ. He claims to be able to guide troops through mines and booby-traps of Dorchester. He was sent up to "B" Coy by M/C.

1110: Tac HQ. Sub-unit of "C" Coy to return to main body immediately.

1111: Friends on left in CREWE. Friends on rt in CLAPTON. No opposition.

1130: Bde Comd. Get "A" and "C" Coys on move now so as to be able to draw up tail quickly. Leave one sub-sub-unit in CAMBRIDGE if necessary.

1140: "B" Coy entering DORCHESTER. "D" Coy have taken over "B" Coy's position.

1045: "A" Coy. Civilians report snipers in Tarignalo.

1150: Friends on left have reached DOVER.

1210: Tac HQ. Advance of vehicles held up 200 yds 4 o'clock B where there is large crater in road.

1215: "C" and "D" Coys just moving forward. "B" Coy passed through DORCHESTER, and are consolidating on high ground North of town. No opposition, but some mines found.

1220: "A" Coy moving forward now.

1225: Beds report two sub-units on ridge 800 yds North of SUNBEAM.

1240: Tac HQ reports 2 sub-units through DORCHESTER. CO just South of DORCHESTER waiting for two sub-units to come through from rear.

1255: "D" Coy North of D.

1300: Rear link moved forward.

1330: Tac HQ have met with elephants, and expect Shelldrake up shortly.

1330: Rear link stopped moving.

1425: Sitrep to Bde "'D" Coy 400 yds 2 o'clock G. In contact with enemy 300 yds to West. "C" Coy 300 yds 7 o'clock of F. "A" Coy 200 yds 5 o'clock F. "B" Coy at G. Tac HQ 200 yds S of F.

1430: Uncertainty in DORCHESTER. Sending patrol into village.

1440: Tac HQ ordered rear link to establish at Pt 200 yds North of Ref Pt D.

1500: People on left moving from DOVERTON to BEXHILL.

1530: Rear link + F Echelon established at 300 yds 2 o'clock Ref Pt D.

1645: "A" Coy one platoon just short of FORD. Moving to FORD at 1700 hrs.

1650: Tac HQ report "A" and "C" Coys have contacted tanks and have

crossed SL. CO and party riding on tank.

1705: Tac HQ report going well. Will inform us when they reach objective.

1720: "A" Coy 500 yds North of SUNBEAM.

1726: Bde HQ leaving for CLAPTON.

1757: "C" Coy 500 yds North of G.

1800: "A" and "C" Coys report FORD. MG position 434954 being attacked.

1820: "C" Coy making way to H. "A" Coy are pushing on beyond H.

1830: "C" Coy are at Ref Pt H with tanks.

1835: Beds. 'Surreys are attacking enemy on hill 500 – 600 yds on our left and 800 yds North of FORD. Hill dominates whole advance.

Contact Platoon sent to Surreys to tie up things in general.

1900: Bde Comd 'Can you get into CHARD tonight if possible, and it is a day's rest tomorrow'.

1910: Tac HQ report sub-units between RILEY and ROVER. MG post dealt with successfully. CO requires information regarding which is rather obscure. CO sees no reason why he should not take DOUGLAS tonight.

1945: IO brought intentions from Bde for night 29/30 and 30. Take DOUGLAS- Surrey CHARD and Beds road above ROVER – and form compact body with support arms giving full protection. If unable to push forward and take Douglas, consolidate where you stop. Beds will try to contact 2 LFs or 1 Surreys on right. Surreys will try to contact RWKs on left. Both units will carry out contact and protective patrols during the night. DCLI will push through Beds FDLs at first light. Recce to pass through on Bde front. W hr 1300.

2010: "C" Coy position is now at H. 3 platoons are now 400 yds North of H.

2030: Tac HQ report heavy opposition. Forward sub-units pinned down by MG fire. Tanks also held up by enemy A/Tk guns. Position is now near RILEY.

2045: Tac HQ to send ambulance Jeep to Pt H.

2050: Carriers position now at Ref Pt F.

2051: Tac HQ position now 200 yds 4 o'clock Ref Pt G.

2052: Bde. 'Consolidate North of RILEY. Forward sub-units dig in'.

2100: Moving to Tac HQ position.

2110: To Bde. 1 wounded PW taken by forward sub-unit identified as 754 PG Regt.

2120: Bde to Beds 'Consolidate on line with Surreys'.

2135: Tac HQ will call for food when possible to bring it up.

2155: Tac HQ 'Bring food up now'.

2215: Tac HQ 'Carriers to report to CO's location'.

1944

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2245: DCLI location is 800 yds 1 o'clock of Ref Pt H.

2255: Enemy planes shooting up surrounding gun parks. Bombs dropped South of our position which started fire.

9 ORs wounded in action.

New Bn 2 I/c Major PCS Heidenstan reported for duty.

0100: CO reports all sub-units fed.

0120: CO asked for location of flanking units

0125: Answer to above question. Left – 2,500 yds 8 o'clock H. Right – sub-unit 200 yds 11 o'clock of Ref Pt H right of road.

0200: Location statement to Bde. Tac HQ 400 yds 11 o'clock of Ref Pt H. "A" Coy 400 yds North of H on left of road. "C" Coy 400 yds North of H on right of road. "B" Coy sent to "A" and "C" Coys to strengthen them. "D" Coy 400 yds 2 o'clock G. Carriers 500 yds North of Ref G. Mortars location Tac HQ.

0215: Bde require DR to meet IO at rd junc in DORCHESTER. DR sent.

0515: Location of Beds: 1 sub-unit 800 yds 11 o'clock Ref H. 1 sub-unit 500 yds 1 o'clock H. 1 sub-unit 300 yds 3 o'clock Ref H. 1 sub-unit 1,000 yds Ref H.

0535: Bde to Recce to report CHARD.

0615: "C" Coy report Comd Recce has contacted us and is going forward later.

0630: Tac HQ to "C" Coy. Recce are going forward, followed by DCLI. We are to follow later, but not likely to go by foot. No move before 1000 hrs.

0720: Recce report further contact on left, indicating BEXHILL still held.

0735: Bde Comd to DCLI. Prepare everything for an attack.

0910: Tac HQ. Ambulance Jeep required at Ref Pt H immediately.

0915: MO reports one ambulance Jeep blown up during night.

0920: "C" Coy report 5 casualties suffered during heavy shelling.

1005: Bde Comd. 'There are enemy MGs at 320970. Can we engage with mortars?'

1007: Tac HQ 'Mortars are dealing with MGs at once'.

1025: Tac HQ 'Our friends have contacted us, and are passing through "B" Coy. Our A/Tk guns are to report to this location at once.

1055: Beds report 2 PWs of 755 PG Reg't.

1100: "B" Coy report DCLI leading troops are in line with cemetery.

1115: DCLI have reached second objective, which is Pt 325.

1130: Beds report 4 PWs of 755 PG Reg't.

1141: Tac HQ report DCLI are level with "C" Coy.

1045: "A" Coy report 1 Officer and 2 ORs killed and 5 OIRs wounded during shelling of area.

Lt CH Handbury killed in action. 4 ORs killed in action, and 10 ORs

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wounded and evacuated (2 died in hospital).

1157: "A" Coy report 2 PWs are being sent back. From 759 PG Reg't (Poles).

1245: "C" Coy 'Can we contact DCLI to send ambulance for DCLI in our area?'

1246: Tac HQ. There are now 16 PWs coming back down the road.

1250: Tac HQ. 2 Polish PWs say there are few enemy in front of us, with many killed and wounded. Enemy artillery is at Cortuna.

Transport broken up.

1330: Tac HQ report 4 A/Tk guns have arrived at this area.

1335: Tac HQ. 'RAP to move to Tac HQ at once'.

1403: "B" Coy report stonking of Coy area by mortars.

1451: Tac HQ report RAP now established here.

1505: Bde Comd. Have report of Mk VI tank in your area. Is this true?

1506: To all Coys: Is there a Mark VI tank in your area? Negative answer received.

1510: To Bde. No Mk VI in our area.

1530: Recce report that they have had casualties by an HQ in a house being blown up by delayed action mine. Resting troops will on no account enter houses. (sent to Coys).

1609: Tank Comd. Enemy tank seen 325971 in an olive grove.

1800: To Tac HQ. 5 enemy tanks seen in cemetery 500 yds South of CHARD. (being dealt with by tanks of friends on left). 2 enemy tanks approaching CHARD from North.

1920: From DCLI. Enemy seen withdrawing to wards Pt 336.

1950: From DCLI. Enemy streaming away. 2 Mark IVs brewing up.

2030: Bde Comd to Surreys 'You will not have to carry out move forward. Round up snipers etc.'

For full details of the period 26th - 30th June see Intelligence Summary No 3.