

1st/6th BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Intelligence Summary

Appendix

August

MONTEVARCHI (C.M.F.)

Aug 1st Bn continued its period of individual training and refitting

Aug 2nd Bn continued its period of individual training and refitting

SYLVIA

Aug 3rd 6 ORs despatched to No 50 Rest Camp, Cappanelli Ippodromo, Rome on leave from 3 – 10 Aug (6 clear days) . Orders for move into the line issued. Bn spent the morning and early afternoon packing, and moved out in TCVs at 1500 hrs approx, leaving B Echelon in area previously occupied by Bn. Intentions for night 3 - 4 Aug received from Bde.

0900: Prepared to move forward.

1500: Crossed SP as per Move Order issued.

1630: Passed Dispersal Point at Dudda

1745: Head of column reached Sylvia, and Coys debussed and concentrated in the area. Bn HQ established in house 841538.

2235: From Bde. No move before 0630 hrs. For intentions see Appendix E1

Aug 4th Bn remained in reserve awaiting orders to move forward.

1000: Intercept. Div Tac HQ leaving old location now, and moving to LUDLOW. People on right now at BIGGAR. Leading troops of people on left now DEVIZES half past eight 2500 yds.

Aug 5th Bn remained in reserve awaiting orders to move forward. 10 Inf Bde Summary received.

1000: Bde. Prepare to move to forward concentration area.

1100 – 1430: IO on recce of area.

1430 – 1500: Move cancelled. No move imminent.

Aug 6th B Ech moved from Montevarchi and established in the grounds of a large house near Figline. 1 Off and 14 ORs reported direct to the Bn from CRU. Information received from Bde to move forward. Orders for Bn to move to forward concentration area issued. Appendix A to D2 issued. Detailed route and instructions for move issued.

1100: Bde. Prepare to move to forward concentration area

1130: CO and IO went on recce forward.

1730: A/3 issued.

1830: App A issued.

1900: CO and IO returned from recce.

1930: A/4 issued.

2145: Head of column passed Bn SP.

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2200: *Head of column passed Bde SP.*

2300: *Head of column reached new location, and Bn HQ established in house 852627. Coys debussed and concentrated in the immediate area.*

Aug 7th

7 NCOs reported to B Ech from No 1 CRU (5 ex-hospital). Admin details for 8 Aug issued to Coys etc.

0030: *All Coys reported present.*

1320: *Enemy stonked road at S Giorgio 8663.*

1330 – 1350: *We stonked DARWIN and valley DYCE – BUDE – DIDCOT.*

1930: *Intercept. Enemy appear to be strong on slopes of Pt 437, and also (Beds Herts) in Castelonchia. Cannot pin-point them yet.*

2015: *Bde. No move before 0615 hrs. Bn will then be at very short notice to move (less A Ech).*

Aug 8th

Orders for move to new area issued. Orders received from Bde for night 8/9 Aug. Verbal orders for attack issued – see rough draft.

Reveille 0400 hrs. Breakfast 0500 hrs

0630: *Move Order No 2 issued (A/2).*

0845: *See A/3*

0925: *See A/4*

1015: *2 Coys DCLI on DAWLISH. 6 Surreys at no specific notice to move. Coys to rest as much as possible.*

1300: *Bde. "A" Coy to proceed to BOLTON under command DCLI.*

1500: *"A" Coy arrived at BOLTON.*

1600: *"A" Coy proceeding to BROUGHTON.*

1630: *Bn to move as per A/3 (less "A" Coy) at 1700 hrs to BOLTON.*

1700: *Intercept from DCLI. 1 SP gun and 6 inf seen retreating from DARWIN.*

1715: *Bn on move.*

1745: *Vehs arrived at new location. Bn HQ (Main) established 879638.*

1800: *"A" Coy report that they are 500 yds to 10 o'clock BOLTON.*

1800: *CO's "O" Group.*

1835: *To Bde. Reported all Coys in new location.*

1915: *Bde Comd arrived.*

2015: *Bde Comd left.*

2130: *Several shells in immediate area.*

2200: *Orders for tomorrow's attack. See attached. All issued verbally.*

2345: *Tac HQ left for DAWLISH.*

TERZANO

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Aug 9th

2/Lt DJ Dempster wounded and evacuated. 1 OR killed in action. 10 Inf Bde Op Instr No 35 received. 10 Inf Bde Admin Order No 18 received. 10 Inf Bde Move Order No 1 received. Congratulatory message received from 8th Army Commander. For full details of the Bn operations between 3 – 9 Aug see Int Log B.

0215: Tac HQ has made contact with Battle Patrol.

0309: DCLI report that our patrol to BULFORD reported place unoccupied. Found only one dead German.

0518: "D" Coy just North of BULFORD.

0520: "A" Coy want permission to climb CHERRY.

0522: Shelldrake asked to stop shelling CHERRY.

0525: Shelldrake said 'Too late now', and is carrying on with fire plan.

0630: "A" Coy - CHERRY easy. "D" Coy getting on to DROITWICH.

0635: CO to "A" and "D" Coys. Keep off the skyline and report any enemy shelling.

0638: "D" Coy report they are being mortared.

0645: "D" Coy - DROITWICH easy.

0700: "A" Coy everything quiet with them.

0715: "D" Coy report that our shells are landing in their area (being dealt with by IO).

0720: CO to "A" Coy. Send out a strong patrol to BURTON.

0723: CO to "C" Coy. Proceed to BULFORD and then to DARJEELING

0800: Line communication established with Tac HQ.

0810: CO Sitrep. "A" on 491 patrolling to Burton. "D" on 497 patrolling to 486. "C" moving to clear DURHAM and DARJEELING.

"B" to move to BULFORD.

0845: Bde. Say rd BOLTON – BROOKWOOD – CHENIES – CHESHAM is now open.

0900: RAP established 890653.

0930: Rear link moved off to find route to CHESHAM and recce area.

1130: Arrived at new location of Main HQ. Ref CHESHAM 4 o'clock 400 yds.

1245: "B" on way to DUNMOW. "C" 1 Pl at DARJEELING and 2 Pls at DURHAM. "D" on northern pimples of DROITWICH. "A" on southern pimples of DROITWICH.

1300: Bde suggests that HQs move forward nearer to Coys as soon as possible.

1310: RAP moving to BULFORD.

1420: Tac. Movement reported beyond DEAL. This movement is definitely unfriendly, and tanks are going to deal with it.

1435: Tac. 4 PWs from 104 PGR. They were taken by "C" Coy in front of leading positions,. They report that rest left yesterday. PWs being

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sent back as soon as possible. (passed to Bde).

1450: *Tac. Tanks fired on enemy near IDBURY, and dispersed them.*

1450: *"S" Coy report all in new location area of CHESHAM.*

1500: *"C" Coy. Light shelling of heavy calibre 300 yds North of DARJEELING. Bearing from Durham 300°.*

1505: *Bde. Rd from COLNE to BULFORD via BLACKDOWN is now open. Verges not yet clear.*

1530: *"B" Coy forward elements have just captured DUNMOW.*

Civilians say that Boche left at 1300 hrs. (passed to Bde).

1530 – 1555: *Light shelling of CHESHAM area.*

1630: *Intercept. Friends on right have occupied BURTON.*

1700: *Tac. "B" Coy are firm on DUNMOW.*

1900: *Final positions – "A" on Pt 491. "B" on DUNMOW. "C" 1 Pl on DARJEELING, 2 Pls on DURHAM. "D" on DROITWICH and Pt 486. RAP at BULFORD. Tac HQ at BULFORD. Main HQ at CHESHAM. "A" Coy Beds and Herts on BURTON come under comd Surreys from 0600 hrs 10 Aug.*

Quiet night. Intermittent shelling of Bn area ceased after 2200 hrs.

Aug 10th

B Ech moved to Div Concentration Area at Viole near Assisi. 1/6 ESR Op Instr No 1 issued to Coys etc. 1/6 ESR Admin Order No 1 issued to Coys etc.

Orders issued for relief of Bn. Light intermittent shelling of area DAWLISH and CHESHAM during afternoon and evening.

Patrol Afternoon 10 Aug. Patrol by Lt LeGrange reached a wadi 500 yds short of the river, and found two bridges intact. Lt LeGrange left a covering party and crossed the bridge. He was fired on at close range by Spandaus. Shots missed him, and he shot the machine-gunner dead and took the two PWs. He returned to the bridges, and took out the charges which had been placed there in readiness.

1900: *Main body of Main HQ left for A Ech.*

2030: *Relief of "A" Coy Beds and Herts reported complete.*

2235: *"A" and "D" Coys relief reported complete.*

2345: *Relief of Coys complete.*

Aug 11th

The Bn arrived at Viole pm 11th. Bn HQ was established in houses, with the Coys in farmhouses and olive groves nearby.

0107: *Skeleton Main HQ left CHESHAM for A Ech.*

0200: *Arrived at A Ech.*

0415: *Bn left for Montevarchi as per Move Order.*

0630: *Arrived at Montevarchi and stayed until 0900 hrs.*

1600: *Head of convoy arrived at new location Viole 889854.*

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VIOLE near ASSISI

- Aug 12th - 13th The Bn settled in, rested, cleaned up and reorganised where necessary
- Aug 14th As much recreation and entertainment as possible was organised by 4 Div in Foligno, Spello and Assisi, and facilities such as canteens were arranged. Daily allotment of passes for day leave to Foligno, made by Bde, was 23 because available facilities were limited. 25 ORs despatched to No 50 Rest Camp, Rome (6 days). Instructions regarding security measures received from Bde, and all Coys informed.
- Aug 15th Bn began individual and PI training. 27 ORs reported from CRU (all, except 2, ex-hospital).
- Aug. 16th Details of visit by Army Commander to Bde Gp received from Bde
- Aug 17th 150 ORs despatched to 4 Div Rest Camp established at Castel Gandolfo near Rome for 6 days leave. 180 ORs and all officers of the Bn were on parade when 8th Army Comd. (Sir Oliver Leese) addressed the Bde Gp. He spoke of the good work of the Bde and Div in recent actions. He also gave up-to-date information about the work and organisation of the 8th Army, naming many of the Divs which were now under his command – among them the Polish Corps of 3 Inf Divs, and 1 Arm'd Div, the NZ Div, SA Armd Div, and the 4 Indian Divs (4, 8, 10 and 18), all of whom had worked in the closest co-operation with the British Divs (1, 4, 5, 46, 56 and 6 Armd) during the campaign.
- Aug 18th The allotment of vacancies for day leave to Foligno was increased to 95 in view of better facilities now available, and these vacancies were allotted to Coys in rotation. 30 LORs were sent to Cdn Rest Centre, Rome for leave (2 days) and 5 ORs to No 50 Rest camp, Rome (6 days).
- Aug 19th - 20th Individual and PI training.
- Aug 21st 8 ORs sent to fill vacancies at 50 Rest Camp, Rome (6 days), and 37 to Piediluco Camp (3 days).
- Aug 22nd 7 ORs sent to 50 Rest camp, Rome (6 days)
- Aug 23rd Owing to shortage of transport, the full number of 150 ORs could not be despatched to 4 Div Rest camp, Rome, but 50 were sent, the remainder proceeding on the 24th.
- Aug 24th 7 vacancies for 6 days leave at No 50 Rest Camp, Rome were filled. Bn News Sheet No 4 prepared for circulation to all hospitals, Con Depots and Transit Camps etc where men of the Bn were known to be.

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- Aug 25th 8 ORs posted from IRTD (ex-hospital) reported to the Bn. Message from HM The King published in Bn Routine Orders for the information of all ranks. Orders for Div Church Parade and March Past on 27th issued to Coys etc.
- Aug 26th 5882418 CSM Arthur, R posted from No 2 CRU (ex-hospital), and appointed WOI (RSM) to fill vacancy created by the appointment of RSM CA Smith to a commission as Lt QM.
- Aug 27th 15 ORs sent to Cdn Rest Centre, Rome (2 days)
- Aug 28th 10 ORs reported to Bn from No 1 CRU (ex-hospital)
- Aug 29th 29 ORs reported to Bn from No 1 CRU (ex-hospital)
- Aug 30th Invitation received from 2 Royal Fusiliers for all Officers to attend Garden Party at 12 Bde HQ on 2 Sep was accepted.
- Aug 31st 150 ORs proceeded to Div Rest Camp, Rome on 3 days leave.