

1/7 Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) War Diary November 1942

November 1942

1st BIR EL THEMID (Beachy Head).

Weather good. Bn. preparing for move. "O" Gp. Conference. Bn. to move first light in rear of 7 Armd Div. for general advance Westward with object of moving to, and capturing GHAZAL STATION. and thus cut the lines of retreat of the enemy.
Bn. strength 28 officers and 641 O.R's.

2nd Weather good. 0715 hours Bn. passes start point.
1145 Bn. at area 88282946.
1830 hrs. "O" Gp. re continuation of advance. Bn under 5 mins notice to move.

3rd 88282946. Weather good. 1430 hours Div "O" Gp. Diamond track area TELL EL-BISA STATION to trig point 24 reference 87292996 recced.
2200 hrs. Bn. "O" Gp. BN. to move at first light.

4th 0630 hrs. Bn. to move to trig point 24 reference 07292996 thence to 862293 leaguering for night area 86852935. Bn formed into "Desert Formations" with Bde. for move Westward.
Owing to rapid withdrawal of enemy our objective altered from GHAZAL STATION to EL DARA. 55 miles covered. Bn notified that Rev W. Metson had been posted to Bn.

5th 86852935 Weather good. Bn. moved first light. Bn. on Bde left flank. First halt at 850292 then to 843298 and thence to 841304. 48 miles covered. "O" Gp., Bde objective altered. Advance to continue westward.

6th 841304 Capt. Mills with "C" Coy and 1 tp. A/Tk Guns under command left at first light for P.O.W. duties with 22nd Armd. Bde. Rain all day Advance continues to QABR CHULA ref 753314. 1400 hrs. Bde. "O" Gp. Bn. to move to Landing Grounds 101 and 102. Point 155 ref 750324 to hold until arrival of the R.A.F. On account of a tank battle on our left flank Bn. leaguered for night area 754321. Heavy rain all night. 149 miles covered.

7th Bn. moved first light. Some transport bogged in wet sand. Weather intermittent heavy showers.
1200 hrs. Landing grounds 101 and 102 ref 75032 reached., Bn taken up defensive position.

8th 750324 Weather good. Bn held up by lack of petrol, etc. Day spent on maintenance and cleaning equipment. 2/Lt. Cross evacuated to R.A.P. On strength 27 officers und 641 O.R's.

9th Bn. moves first light. Continuing advance Westward. 1/7 navigating Bde. Gp. from centre. Weather good, continued trouble with bogged transport. Bn leaguered for night area 683313. 54 miles covered.

10th 683313 Weather good. Bn advance continued towards Egyptian border. Bn leaguered area 573303 having covered 75 miles, CSM and 40 O.R's of "C" Coy returned from P.O.W. duties.

11th 573303 Weather good. Bn spends morning on maintenance and awaiting supplies. "O" Gp Conference. Bn to move across Egyptian border and thence to move North and occupy BARDIA.
1400 hrs. Bn moved off on left flank of Bde. Gp. Bn leaguered at HAMRA area 540324. 34 miles covered.

12th 540324 Weather good. Bn moved first light crossing Egyptian border at 498348 thence to 497385. 1030 Bde. "O" Gp. Plans altered due to rapid enemy withdrawal.

The Bde will now capture and occupy TOBRUK. Bde to move in rear of 22 Armd Bde. to points B 402, B 403, ref 418408. Plan for the capture of TOBRUK would then be made. Bn leaguered pt. 592 ref 446400. Distance covered 104 miles.
2130 hrs. Bn. "O" Gp. Bn. on entering TOBRUK will take up a defensive posn. at Western entrance to town. Bn will also report on condition of Water Points N.W. of town.

13th 464400	0615 hrs. Bn moved off on left flank of Bde. Gp. 1300 hrs. Bn entered TOBRUK. No opposition. The Queen's Bde were the first infantry motorised troops to enter the town. Defensive posns. at Western entrance to town taken up. Rev. W. Metson joined the Bn. notified by Lieut. Lugg 'C' Coy through 22 Armd Bde that Capt. Mills had been killed and 10 O.R's. injured at b 1715 hours 11th Nov by booby trap attached to a mine 2 miles South of BARDIA. Weather good. En spends day on maintenance and checking equipment.
14th TOBRUK	Bn provides guard for large clothing dump. Lieut. Lugg and 52 OR's of 'C' Coy and one tp A/Tk guna return from P.O.W. duties. Lieut. Lugg reports that he and 30 O.R's of 'C' Coy (plus one Coy of Rifle Bde) were first to enter BARDIA at 1745 hours 11th Nov.
15th	Weather cloudy, some rain. Church service held by Padre. Capt. Sandys posted from 5 Pl. to O.C. "C" Coy (vice Capt. Mills). Bn. strength 26 officers and 622 O.R's.
16th	Heavy rain in morning. Personal message from Gen. B.L. Montgomery G.O.C.-in-C Eighth Army read to troops congratulating Eighth Army on its good work. The brigadier taken ill and removed to Hospital. The C.O. went to Bde, to meet Gen. B.L. Montgomery G.O.C.-in-C Eighth Army.
17th	Rain in morning, weather dull. Bn. training and cleaning area of Camp, collecting salvage etc.
18th	Weather dull. Bn. training and cleaning area of camp. C.O. held a discussion with all officers on "Post war conditions for soldiers and the many things to be considered prior to demobilisation".
19th	Weather dull high winds and dust storms. P.T. commenced in mornings. Training continued. Lt. Col. East (acting Brigadier) visited Bn.
20th	Weather dull, Training continued. Bn. received orders to move to BENGASI for defence of town. "O". Group conference on move.
21st	weather dull. 0815 hrs. Bn moved on main coast road to (S) P. 4737 turned left for MARTUBA EL CARMUSA. 1615 hrs. Bn. leaguered for night at area of wells Ref. O. 0437 having travelled 118 miles.. 1415 Capt. H.C. Albery and 1 O.R. wounded by bomb splinter during attack on convoy area rd. junction ref. O. 4737
22nd O. 0437	0830 hrs. Weather dull and cold Bn. advance continued along road passing through ACQUAVIVA, DE MARTINO, SOLONTA, MARAUA leaguering for the night N. at BARCE ref. N. 7219. Distance travelled 107 Miles. Bn. strength 27 officers 613 O.R's.
23rd BARCE	0745 hrs. Advance party under Major W.D. Griffith leave for BENGASI. 0830 hrs. weather dull. Bn, advance continued to BENGASI passing BARACCA TOCRA pass, TOORA, DRIANA TOGRA pass blown and progress difficult. 1315 hrs. BENGASI reached, Distance 65 miles, "A" Coy area docks, "B" Coy EL BERKA area, "C" Coy went as temporary protection of HQ 30 Corps area N. 8747. Carrier Pln. patrolled streets at night without carriers.

24th BENGASI Weather dull slight rain. Bn. continued guards of docks, dumps water points etc. "C". Coy returned to Bn. taking up defensive posns. on main coast rd. South of town area R. 9752 – R. 9672.

25th Bn. moves to the outskirts of town to avoid casualties from bombing. Guarding of docks, dumps and water points to continues Bn. notified Capt. H.C. Albery died of wounds on 21.11.42, Major Kaulback posted to this unit as 2nd in command w.e.f. 9.11.142.

26th Weather dull. Bn, duties in town of BENGASI continues. 2 supply ships enter BENGASI harbour.

27th Weather good. Bn. Provides 100 O.Rs for labour in the docks. 2/Lt. I.G. Hughes "B" Coy posted to this unit from I.T.D. .w.e.f. 27.11.42 9 O.R's from I.T.D. posted to Bn. A concert is held by H.Q. Coy arranged by the padre,

28th Weather good. Bn. duties in BENGASI continue.

29th Weather good, Church service held by padre. Brigadier Whistler visits the Bn. Bn. strength 28 Officers 611 O.R's.

30th Weather good. Brigade moved in BENGASI. Bn. duties continue.

Lt. Col. R.H. Senior,
Comdg. 1/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Nominal Roll of Officers on Strength 29th November 1942.

T/Lieut.-Colonel	R. H.	Senior, DSO	Queen's	
T/Major	R.J.A.	Kaulback	" "	Attach. 1/5th Queen's
T/Major	W. D.	Griffiths, M.C.	" "	
T/Capt.	A. S. S.	Playfoot	" "	
T/Capt.	K. A.	Jessup	" "	
A/Capt.	R.	Carver	" "	
A/Capt.	F.G.	Sarah	" "	
A/Capt.	E. G.	Sandys	" "	
A/Capt.	A.B.	Leach	" "	L.O.B.
A/Capt.	T. A.	Kemp	" "	
Lieut.	W.G.	Davis	" "	
Lieut.	E.M.	French	" "	
Lieut.	A. C.	Worrall	" "	
Lieut.	D. T.	Hodson	" "	L.O.B.
Lieut.	G. H.	Courchee	" "	
Lieut.	R. A.	Burton	" "	
Lieut.	G.S.E.	King	" "	J.L.O. 131 Bde.
Lieut.	S. E.	Brown	" "	
Lieut.	E. S.	Corbett	" "	J.L.O. 131 Bde.
Lieut.	A. R.	Lugg	" "	
T/Lieut.	G. W.	Bevan	" "	
2/Lieut.	C. R.	Clarke	" "	Course
2/Lieut.	T.C.	Godfrey	" "	Course
2/Lieut,	H.C.	Relhan	" "	
2/Lieut.	H.F.	Burdett	" "	
2/Lieut.	E.G.	Dever	" "	

2/Lieut.	B.G.	Meara	“	“
2/Lieut.	I.G.	Hughes	“	“
A/Capt.	P. Z.	Henderson	“	“
A/Capt.	J.	Fraxis	“	“
Lieut.	J.M.	Skillington	“	“
2/Lieut.	L.H.	Cockcroft.	“	“
Rev.	W.	Metson		Padre
Capt.	W.G.	Edwards	R.A.M.C. (M.O.).	