

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

SEPTEMBER 1942

- 1st Heavy sandstorms throughout day severely limited operations.
1500 hours. Area Barrani Tomb (1/5 Queen's) bombed. 1600 hours Area West side of minefield bombed ('B' Coy front) 5 men of 'HQ Coy wounded when truck bombed area N.W. gap. Two trucks damaged as a result. Our patrols report N.M.S. Bn ordered to light circle of sand and petrol burners 50 yards in radius by night to guide aircraft.
- 2nd Patrol activity during day (Bn patrol). Heavy sandstorms during afternoon. Visibility poor. Patrols report N.M.S. Two men injured by bombing on 1st died of wounds. 2/Lieut. A.G. Rich attached to 44 Div HQ as J.L.O. w.e.f. 23/8. Lieut. A.B.B. Beveridge posted to 44 Div as O.C. defence platoon and struck off strength. w.e.f. 3/9
- 3rd Lieut. R. Burton posted to Bn from 44 Div defence platoon and posted to 'D' Coy w.e.f. 3/9. Working parties sent to 11 Fd. Coy for mine laying. Patrols nothing to report,
- 4th 'B' Coy under 11 Fd. Coy for mine laying. Air activity through-out day several dogfights over area. Heavy bombing of enemy position S. of N.Z. Div. continuing all night.
- 5th 132 Bde. after heavy engagement in conjunction with 5 N.Z. Bde. return from front. 131 Bde. organise food and rest area for them. This Bn. looked after 5th R.W.K.
- 6th Majer R.H. Senior DSO left Bn. to assume command of 5 R.W.K. in 132 Bde. Bn. strength today 33 Officers and 710 O.R's.
Trig point re-erected and normal state of readiness declared. Bn. at 1 hours' notice instead of 4 hours. Training recommences and firing practice again allowed. Tactical patrols to come.
- 7th Weather fine – visibility good in morning Sandstorm in afternoon.
- 8th Order recd. that 154 Bde. would relieve Bde. 7th Bn The Argyll highlanders to relieve this Bn. Their C.O. & I.O. visited the area and inspected positions.
Orders for Bn. to move to temporary leaguer area in rear of N.Z. positions, E. of Deir El Heima, while positions are dug S. East of . Ref. 88922684 Map Sheet EL MIRIER 1/50,000.
- 9th EL HEIMA Advance party leaves under Bde. control Bn. arrives in new area during afternoon and immediately commence to dig in. "C" Coy and-Skeleton Bn. HQ remain behind to hand over to incoming unit.
During morning N.Z. posns. due West of here bombed.
"B" Coy spend day digging slit, trenches WEAPON PITS ETC. in area point 89.
- 10th "C" Coy & rear Bn. H.Q. rejoins Bn. from ALAM EL KHADIM.
. continues to dig in & parties leave for battle area to continue with preparation of posns.
- 11th Preparation of now positions continue. Heavy sandstorm in afternoon. Greek positions bombed in morning. Considerable enemy air-activity. All engaged by A.A. fire.
- 12th Considerable change in atmospheric conditions - early morning few spots of rain fell very cold. Work continued during day on new posns. minefield being rapidly completed. Very bad sandstorm during afternoon visibility rarely more than thirty yards.
- 13th HOGS BACK Bn. moves to now position S.E. Pt. 89. New posn. to contain whole Bde plus a Greek Bn. Clockwise from Pt. 89 posns. as follows 1/7 Queen's 1/6 Q. 1/5 Q. 1 Gk. Bn. strength this day 735 officers 716 other ranks.
Work digging in, wiring and mine laying continued throughout day. 1/5 Queen's area shelled.

- 14th Bn. positions bombed during morning no casualties but one Portee damaged. Sandstorm during afternoon visibility very poor. Bn. ordered to relieve 1 R.B. in Coy posns, west of Deir El Tarfa on MAY Minefield. Positions reced during day. It was decided that A & D Coys plus H.Q. Coy & Bn. HQ should occupy these posns. & "B" & "C" Coys. occupy posns. in rear area of 22 Armd. Bde. H.Q. Ref. EL HALFA 429880 (Pepsodent Battle Posn.)
1/6 Queen's to take over our area and guard gaps etc.
- 15th DEIR EL TARFA Bn. relieves 1 Rifle Bde. - Command passed 11.00 hrs 44th Div Recce Unit on left (2 Sqns) responsible for Gap in Minefield.
- 16th Occupation of posns. consolidated digging and camouflaging posns.
Leave to Cairo and Alexandria opened.
- 17th DEIR EL TARFA Recco of "PEPSODENT" Battle posns. C.O. proceeded on Senior Offrs. course M.E.T.C. Comd. assumed by Maj. B.W.D. Stillwell. Work on defence proceeds.
- 18th Orders received to take over posns, occupied by Div. Recce Regt. on NUTS & MAY-Minefields extending Bn. Front on MAY by 5000 yds. and front, extending over 2000 yds on fwd. or NUTS Minefield.
Recce. of posn, carried out.
- 19th 1400 hrs. relief completed. 44 Recce Regt, withdrew. Positions now held with "B" . Coy on NUTS and MAY minefield held with "A", "C", & "D" Coys all fwd. o/o No.1 (NUTS and MAY) issued.
Weather fine and warm.
- Appx A (attach).
- 20th Occupation of positions NUTS & MAY completed. Coys, digging in. Bn. strength this day 34 officers, 711 O.R's.
- 21st Orders for relief of Bn. on 22 Sept by 1 R.B. recd. 10.30 hrs.
Corps Comdr.(Lt-Gen. Horrocks M.C.) visited Bn. areas, Recce party from 1 R.B. visited Bn. area.
- 22nd Bn. ordered to take over posn. in rear of ALAM NAYLIN posn. from R.W.K. Relief of Bn. by 1 R.B. effected 16.30 hrs. Bn. marched to new area Leaguering on route. Amendments Nos. 1 & 2 to 1/7 Queen's o/o No. 1 (Nuts & May).
- Appx A1 & A2 (Attach).
- 23rd ALAM NAYLIN New area organised. No tactical commitments. Training programme organised and training commenced.
- 24th All Coys, out on 2 day march and night attack training. Intensive Training.
- 25th Coys, still out training, Returned evening. Slighting Bombing to N. Weather fine and clear. Cold night with morning mist,
- 26th received orders to take part in Attack on MUNASSIB DEPRESSION.
Attack to take place night 29/30 Sept. 1/5 Queen's left, 1/6 queen's right. 1/7 Queen's rear.
- 27th Night 27/28 Brigade sight approach and attack exercise, training for the attack on MUNASSIB. Very successful exercise.
Strength this day 33 Officers 706 O.R's.
- 28th 10.30 hrs. officers of Bde. lectured by 44 Div Comdr. for the coming operation. o/o No. 2 issued. L.O.B. personnel organised under Capt. A.F.W. Parsons
All arrangements for attack put in train. Issue of desert boots made to tps. Heavy sandstorms in afternoon.

29th (D-1 day) Preparation for operation concluded. 2340 hrs. Bn. embussed.

30th (D-Day) 0040 hrs, Passed Start Line, 0240 hrs Bn .debussed.

0340 hrs. on start line with 3 Coys up "D" "C" "B" and "A" in reserve. Objectives as per o/o.

0525 Move off. Artillery concentration started.

0730 Objectives reached. No casualties, no opposition.

0930 Some mortar Fire, 1 Casualty "C" Coy.

1130 To "O" Group Bde. HQ 1/5 Queen's held up. 1/7 prepared to reinforce with Coy.

1230 hrs to Dusk some shelling. 2/Lt Rich injured.

1500 hrs 2 Coys 1/5 Queen's captured, "O" Group Bde H.Q.

1/7 Queen's to stage evening attack NORTH on points 92 Ref 88152619 and May? 7101 Ref 8852663. meanwhile Bn. to concentrate.

16.30 hrs Bn. concentrated. Order cancelling evening attack received. Bn. to be prepared to attack during moonlight. Meanwhile Bn. to move to former "B" Coy area and hand over responsibilities to 2nd Buffs whose advance party arrived.

1730 hrs Bn moved to area point 94 ref. 88392602. Seme heavy shelling during move.

Major E.W.D. Stillwell.

Major Comd.

1/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regt.

Comd. 1/7th Queen's

Field Return of Officers September 1942

THE OFFICERS, September 1942

T/Lt-Col.	R. M.	Burton	Queen's
T/Major	E. W. D.	Stillwell	" "
T/Major	J. C.	Colebrook	" "
T/Capt.	R.	Fairbairn	" "
T/Capt.	A, F. W.	Parsons	" "
T/Capt.	E. H.	Ibbitson	" "
T/Capt.	N. J. P.	Hawken	" "
T/Capt,	W. D.	Griffiths	" "
T/Capt.	R. O.	Henderson	" "
T/Capt.	J. R.	Mills	" "
T/Capt.	E. V.	Isaac	" "
T/Capt.	C. J.	Havill	" "
A/Capt.	P. C.	Freeman	" "
A/Capt.	K. A.	Jessup	" "
Lieut.	D. L.	Fennell	" "
Lieut.	R.A.	Burton	" "
Lieut.	G. S. D.	King	" "
Lieut.	J. J.	Graydon	" "
Lieut.	C. W. M.	Plumley	" "
2/Lieut,	H. C.	Albery	" "
2/Lieut.	O. R.	True	" "
2/Lieut.	C. R.	Clarke	" "
2/Lieut.	W. C. F.	Cross	" "
2/Lieut.	T. C.	Godfrey	" "
2/Lieut.	H. C.	Relhan	" "
2/Lieut.	E. G.	Sandys	" "
2/Lieut.	A. B.	Leach	" "
2/Lieut.	T. H.	Kemp	" "

2/Lieut.	A. G.	Rich	“	“
2/Lieut.	E. G.	Dever	“	“
Capt.	W. G.	Edwards,	RAMC	
Rev.	C. D.	Widdicombe	Padre	