

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

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Appendix

April SLOUGHIA BRIDGE

- Apr 1st 0730: Sector password RICHARD. Bn. now under command 11 Inf. Bde in 1 Div. reserve. "A" and "B" Coys. have now rejoined the Bn. from Medjez sector, but "C" Coy. is still under command 1 Irish Guards. "D" Coy. is still at 5 Corps H.Q. in area between Thibar and Souk El Khemis..
Locations: B.H.Q. and H.Q. Coy. : 503279, "A" Coy. : 504279
"B" Coy. : 505278, "C" Coy. under command 1 Irish Guards: 525320 (2 Secs. 545344), "4" Coy. (5 Corps Defence Coy.): 516272
1400: Sitrep: No enemy activity observed. Tracks passable.
1430: Respirators worn during stand-to. 11 Inf. Bde. Sitrep: No contact with enemy. Weather windy and showery. Visibility poor.
- Apr 2nd Sector password ROOKIE.
1400: Sitrep: No enemy activity.
1800: 11 Inf. Bde. Sitrep: Owing to bad visibility no observation of enemy positions to-day. 1 Surreys Inf. Summary No 18 issued. 11 Inf. Bde. operation Order No 20 issued (Orders for defence of line south of Oued Zarga to Medjez Road held by 11 Inf. Bde.
- Apr 3rd 1400: Sitrep: No change. 700 own mines reported laid on 700 yd. frontage 448314 – 451308.
1800: Bde Sitrep: Increased air activity during day. Unidentified aircraft crashed in area 5129 at 1500 hrs. Weather fine. Tracks dry.
1930: Bn. sent recce patrol to area 4537, in front of objective for coming attack. "D" Coy. returned from 5 Corps H.Q. and est. near H.Q. Coy.at 503279. "C" Coy. return from I.T.G. to same area. Fd. Returns (Officers and ORs)sent in.
- Apr 4th 0945: Patrol to 4537 has nothing to report. Bn., now complete, is resting in in area of the gulley 5027 preparatory to going into a Div. attack aimed at clearing the road Oued Zarga to Medjez which, since the enemy occupied Toukabeur and Recce Ridge at the end of February, has been closed to our traffic.
1430: Sitrep: Some enemy air activity. Tracks hard (and dusty). Weather fine.
1930: Further recce patrol to area 4537. The Bn. is moving into a battle assembly area in the hills behind Djebel Et Touila 4431 where it will lie up concealed until the advance begins.
- ### DJEBEL ET TOUILA 4431
- Apr 5th 2030: Bn. begins move to assembly area.A large number of Officers and Ors, including all 2 i/cs, are 'Left out of Battle' (L.O.B.) and remain at area 5027 from which C.Q.M.S.s will take supplies forward to Coys. Most of the Bn. transport which is not at "B" Ech. will also remain in this area which is now "A" Echelon. Assembly area is at 4431 (behind Dj. Et Touila). 11 Inf. Bde. Operation No 21 with Appendices, of which part of 'B' (Aerial Reconnaissance + 1 photo) is attached., received. 11 Inf. Bde Admin. Order received. These orders outline the plan of attack down to the capture of Pt 512 4839 (West of Toukabeur), by 11 Inf. Bde, with 1 Surreys on left, 5 Northampton on right, and 2 L.F. in reserve.

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Apr 6th 0600: Concentration of Bde in assembly areas complete at first light. Bn. plan of advance: Patrol, under Capt. P.S.S. Heal to go forward, followed by "A" Coy. on right, "B" Coy. on left, with "C" and "D" Coys. behind. Axis of advance: Track 438347 – 462373. Initial objective: Dj. El Ouathia 4437, 4537. 5 Northamptons Operation Order No. 5 received.
2230: Bn. begins to move forward from Concentration Area.

SOUTH OF DJEBEL EL OUATHIAH 4437

Apr 7th 0300: Adv. B.H.Q. est. 448358. Rear B.H.Q. 443347.
1350 – 0430: Arty concentration put down on all enemy posts.
0400: Coys. on way to objectives.
0430: Objectives secured. "A" Coy. 464374 "B" Coy. 458377. No communication with "C" Coy, advancing to Pt 322 4538. 5 Northamptons established 467375.
0500: P.W. taken by 5 Northamptons identified as 9 Coy. 3/756 Mountain Reg't.
0600: Sitrep: "A" and "B" Coys. objectives secured without opposition. Enemy mortar and M.G. fire on "A" and "B" Coy. areas and adv. B.H.Q. at first light. All digging in. No patrols yet sent out. No news of "C" Coy. but firing heard from that direction.
0615: 5 Northamptons meeting opposition. Told by Bde to use tanks if opposition continues.
0630: 56 Recce Reg't report fighting still in progress on Dj. Nahel 4240.
0635: 142 R.A.C. report shells falling at 460368.
0645: Heavy mortaring continuing on "A" and "B" Coys., with casualties.
0700: "C" Squadron 56 Recce Reg't report line Pt 235 (4337) to Pt. 254 (4338) clear. Firing ceased on Dj. Nahel. Own troops on southern slopes and in farm 421338.
0730: Pt. 343 470377 5 Northamptons objective still not taken.
0805: "C" Sqn. 56 Recce Reg't exploiting East from Pt. 235 4337 to next boundary.
0835: 5 Northamptons being troubled from East end of Dj. El Dourat 485363, from gully 500 yds to N.E. and from Eastern slopes of Pt. 290 490367. Arty. fire requested on thee targets.
0825: "C" Sqn. 56 Recce Reg't have occupied Pt. 332 4538. 6 P.W. taken, of 9 Coy. of III/756 Mountain Reg't. Enemy appear to have withdrawn from area of Carriage (high ground at 4538).
0850: "C" Sqn. 56 Recce Reg't. report that "C" Coy. do not appear to have reached their objective Pt. 332 4538.
0852: "C" Sqn. report that "C" Coy. are approaching their objective from from direction of Dj. El Ouathia. Gunners engaging targets for 5 Northamptons. "C" Sqn. report that "C" Coy. appear to have a large number of P.Ws. with them.
0945: Bde Cmd. orders that communication must be restored with "C" Coy. Gunners must be used in full weight whenever possible to meet opposition.
0950: "C" Sqn. report that they have contacted "C" Coy. on Carriage. Enemy are approaching from N.E. coming in with their hands up.
1000: Bde. Cmd. orders 142 R.A.C. to assist "C" Coy. to get to their objective.
1035: Enemy A/Tk gun (later reported as dummy) at 475375 mounted in Mk VI tank.
1050: 9 Ju 88 approaching from North in direction of Beja. Turned back under heavy A.A. barrage dropping some bombs on Rd. 4235.

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From Bde: P.W. to go to J 325368.
1150: 26 P.W. taken by "C" Coy. identified III/755 Inf. Reg't..
1215: "C" Coy. casualties estimated at 50%. Coy. very weak on the ground.
1345: 2 L.F. reported on the move.
1405: "C" Sqn. 56 Recce Reg't report their patrol captured 1 Offr. and 30 ORs. on Coach (high ground N.W. of Pt. 235 4337) together with considerable booty. Officer stated that top of Coach was heavily mined.
1430: Enemy M.G. and mortar located 439395, mortaring Coach and holding up progress. 2 L.F. order to move across our front in N.E. direction.
1450: 56 Recce Reg't report further 30 P.W. taken on carriage.
1510: 2 L.F. concentrating 443383 with 2 Sqns. Churchill tanks.
1520: "C" Coy. reported being heavily shelled (through 142 R.A.C.). Will probably have to withdraw.
1530: Enemy line roughly 430390 – 445395. M.G. at 439395 still firing. "C" Coy. survivors thought to be only about 10 men.
1600: Sitrep: Objectives still held. All Coys. under shell, mortar and sniper fire. Not practical to send out patrols. "C" Coy. casualties 3 Offs. and about 100 ORs. Weather windy and cold. Tracks good. Considerable air activity. Bde. Sitrep: On rt. 5 Northhamptons attacked Dj. Dourat, and by 1000 hrs held general line West end of Dj. Dourat 468373. On left 1 Surreys advanced beyond Dj. Ouathiah and occupied area of Cactus 456388 ("B" Coy.)and, assisted by 142 R.A.C. and 56 Recce Reg't, reached Pt. 322 N. of Dj. Ouathiah ("C" Coy.). Enemy still holding series of strong positions on commanding features on Bde front.

Apr 8th

0530: "A" Coy. sniped at. "B" Coy. patrol fired on from area of Pt. 343 470377. Weather cold and windy. Tracks good. During night 7/8 L.F. reached pt. 533 4538. 11 Inf. Bde H.Q. established farm 455377.
0600: Arty shelling to cover advance of 2 L.F. to Pt. 512 482397. 2 L.F. being relieved on Pt. 322.
0730: 142 R.A.C. on forward slopes of Pt. 512. Enemy withdrawing after slight resistance. 2 L.F. reported to have reached first objective. P.W. cage now 343,398.
0830: 1 Surreys putting down by mortar fire on Dj. Dourat to dislodge enemy and help 5 Northhamptons on to their objective.
0945: From Bde Cmd: 1 Surreys axis of advance is track running N.E. from present position. Get everything moving forward as quickly as possible.
1030: 2 L.F. now 500 yds forward of Pt. 512 (Silk). Enemy withdrawing in area 4943. 100 enemy being engaged by tanks. "A" Coy. supporting 5 Northhamptons halfway up ridge to Pt. 343. 1 Surreys' carriers on top of ridge. Enemy mortar fire on Dj. Dourat. H.Q. 2 L.F. at 481350.

DJEBEL OUATHIAH 4637

1145: Adv. B.H.Q. now relieved "A" Coy., who are advancing, at Cactus 464374Rear B.H.Q. 448358.

NORTH OF DJEBEL OUATHIAH 4638

1400: Adv. B.H.Q. to Pt. 340 468381. Rear B.H.Q. to Cactus 464374. "B" Coy. pushing forward South of Pt 512. "D" Coy. at Xtracks 489390. "A" Coy. on Pt. 343. 2 L.F. now holding Pt. 512 and Pt. 447 4840.

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1445: 5 Northamptons now have all of Dj. Dourat in their hands, but are held up by mortar and M.G. fire from Roman Ruins 482369, and are unable to advance to Pt. 290. Heavy fire also from Recce Ridge 5037. Arty fire on Roman Ruins.

1605: Bde Commd. tells 2 L.F. to move on before 1 Surreys can also move. A.P. at 404330.

1645: 5 Northamptons making progress to Pt. 290 489367.

1800: Instructions from Bde: 2 L.F. will attack Chaouach on capture of Toukabeur, moving round left flank. 1 Surreys will concentrate at Toukabeur with one Coy. at 482397(Pt. 512) . 5 Northamptons, on capture of present objective will consolidate area 5138 (astride road Toukabeur – Medjez). R.A.C. will continue to support as before.

1810: Sitrep: Coys. in positions: "A" and Adv. B.H.Q. 471378, "B" 485392, "D" Xtracks 4838, Rear B.H.Q. 464374. 90 P.W. taken by "A" Coy. in area Pt. 343. Carriers patrolling up track to Toukabeur.

TOUKABEUR

2145: Toukabeur occupied by "B" and "D" Coys. Adv. B.H.Q. moves to Toukabeur with 19 Sect.

- Apr 9th
- 0820: Bde Cmd. at 1 Surreys B.H.Q. at Toukabeur orders Bn. to advance and occupy Chaouach, and 2 L.F. to move forward when ordered from Pt. 512."A" Coy. 1 Surreys to remain on Pt. 447 North of Toukabeur.
- 1040: Enemy opposition reported on Dj. Chaouach Pt. 542 5141.
- 1115: H.Q. 2 L.F. at 495398. 2 L.F. reported to be dealing with opposition North of Chaouach. "A" Coy. 1 Surreys remaining at Pt. 447 4840.
- 1220: Gunners report "B" Coy. in possession of Pt. 542 5141, and about 128 prisoners taken, all 10 Coy III/756 Mountain Reg't. No officers among these prisoners, they having apparently left with their W.Os. and selected men, leaving remainder to hold the posn.
- 1400: Locations now: "A" Coy. 483400, "B" Coy. Pt 542 515412, "C" Coy. Pt. 474 500402, "D" Coy. 517408 (North of Chaouach) B.H.Q. Toukabeur. "B" and "D" Coys. are pushing out patrols rounding up prisoners. Their posns. are under mortar and inf. gunfire. Weather fine and windy. Tracks good.
- 1500: 5 Northamptons reported established at area 513383.
- 1530: 11 Inf. Bde P.O.W. cage now at 470343.
- 1900: 11 Inf. Bde H.Q. now 300 yds West of Toukabeur.
- Apr 10th
- 0530: Sitrep: No change during night. Present situation: Bn. locations: "A" Coy. Pt. 512, "B" Coy Pt 511 500413, "D" Coy. Pt. 474 498402. 2 L.F. in area Chaouach. 11 Inf. Bde holding line South of Chaouach. Recce patrols out today to locate enemy posn. Report that enemy evacuated Heidous during night with 200 vehicles.
- 0930: "B" Coy. report enemy movement on hills left of their posn. in direction of Dj. Bou Diss 5244.
- 1005: "B" and "D" Coys. ordered to send out patrols at 1030 to Dj. Bel Rherarif 5243.
- 1055: 5 Northamptons report shelling on forward slopes of Pt. 305 5138 and road running East.
- 1130: 2 L.F. posns. N. and E. of Chaouach. 5 Northamptons still astride road S.E. of Toukabeur.
- 1530: Patrols of "B" and "D" Coys. fired on from Pt. 412 526436.
- 1815: A 2 Echelon moved by M.T. to area 494350.

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Field Returns (Officers and ORs) sent in.

Apr 11th 1400: Sitrep: 14 JU 87s, attacked by Spitfires, jettisoned bombs in front of "A" Coy. wounding one man. Two JU 87s shot down. "A" Coy. moved during night to Pt. 511 500413 ("B" Coy. still in this area). Other locations unchanged. Recce patrol on one Officer + 3 to Dj. Bel Rherarif found no enemy and no signs of occupation. Weather fine and warm.
1755: 8 enemy bombers flying North. One brought down by A.A. fire. Pilot baled out.
1930: Bombs dropped on or near 5 Northamptons posns.
2000: "A" Coy. moved to Pt. 562 5243 (Rherarif).

Apr 12th 1400: Sitrep: No change. Patrols have made no contact with enemy. 6 enemy seen at Dj. Ang. (Pt 668) 5445, from Rherarif. About 5 enemy bivouacs seen on ridge 5645 (Et Tiour). Enemy air activity slight. Weather fine and warm.

DJEBEL BEL RHERARIF

2000: B.H.Q., "B", "C" and "D" Coys. moved by march route and mule transport to Pt. 562.

2200: Aircraft and flares seen in area Oued-Zarga.

Apr 13th Bn. now concentrated South of Pt. 562, preparing for further Bde. attack to N.E. 5 Northamptons concentrated Kelbine 5343. 2 L.F. in reserve South of Pt. 562. 1 R.W.K. (4 Div.) on left of 78 Div. in area Dj. Bech Chekaoui 4843. 6 R.W.K. (36 Bde) also in area Pt. 562 (Rherarif).
0840: From Bde: Single-engined aircraft will be operating over 78 Div. area in moonlight. Flares will be lit in neighbourhood of Oued Zarga under Divisional Orders. During the day 5 Northamptons in the concentration area have been under enemy mortar and sniper's fire, sustaining casualties. No firing has been observed from Dj. Mahdouma 5344. Enemy activity during day – several bombs in recently occupied areas in hills. Some air combats. Major H.B.L. Smith relieved C.O. at Cmd. Post. C.O. returned to A 2 Echelon for 24 hrs rest. 11 Bde Operation Order No. 23 received. 11 Inf. Bde Admin. Order received. The above orders outline the plan for the capture of Dj. Bettieur 544 by 5 Northamptons, Dj. Mahdouma 5344 by 1 Surreys, Tef Et Tiour by 5 Northamptons, and Dj. Tanngoucha 5645 by 2 L.F. and 5 Northamptons. General aim is to turn flank of Longstop (Dj. Ahmera) which is enemy's main hill posn. dominating road Medjez – Tebourba.
2359: Coys. begin to advance towards objectives under cover of Arty barrage, "B" and "D" Coys. leading.

Apr 14th 0010: Barrage ceased.
0015: All first objectives secured. B.H.Q. moving forward with "C" Coy. (with "A" in reserve). Comes under arty fire (evidently a D.F. task). "C" Coy. disperse, and mules carrying equipment and wireless sets are lost. Signal Officer and Adjutant wounded.
0330: Situation had become confused owing to lack of communication, but mules carrying wireless sets were recovered. Firing, which had been heard from forward positions, has now ceased. "D" Coy. report capture of 25 prisoners. Situation satisfactory and all quiet. (It later became known that "B" and "D" Coys. were established at Dj. Mahdouma 5344. B.H.Q. remained in area 524436. "A" and "C" Coys. were ordered to go through "B" and "D" on to Dj. Ang 5445. "A" Coy. were eventually strengthened by

"B" Coy. 2 L.F. as "C" Coy., remained weak.

SOUTH OF DJEBEL MAHDOUMA 5344

0515: Artillery barrage on Dj. Ang begins covering advance of "A" Coy. and "B" Coy. 2 L.F.

0640: Dj. Ang taken. "D" Coy. report fire on their positions from Dj. Bou Diss. Bde say 6 R.W.K. are on Bou Diss, and "D" Coy. correct position of enemy to 526447.

0700: Bde Cmd. says "B" Coy. 2 L.F. may now return to their Bn.

0710: "Uncle" shoot of 120 rounds of own arty. on on hostile bty. at. Fme Du Bed.

0715: Now known that 6 R.W.K. not in full possession of Dj. Bou Diss and that there is definitely a pocket of enemy resistance there. Bde requested to arrange for 6 R.W.K. to clear it.

0740: Enemy on Bou Diss now liquidated or surrendering to 6 R.W.K. or "D" Coy. 1 Surreys. "A" Coy. report fire from about 150 enemy from feature West of Dj. Ang. Engaged by R.A.

0900: Mortar fire on Dj. Bettiour 544.

0945: "A" Coy. being counter-attacked on Dj. Ang. Coy. have sent in prisoners but have withdrawn from the hill.

0950: Arty fire now being put down on Dj. Ang. Bde Cmd orders that hill must be retaken. "D" Coy. given the task.

1015: "A" Coy. reforming behind Dj. Mahdouma. Bde Cmd. orders that Mahdouma must be held at all costs, but that the Ang will for the time being be dealt with by arty.

1115: After very heavy arty concentration on Dj. Ang, the enemy withdrew. The feature will now be occupied by "D" Coy. and 2 Coys. 2 L.F. 2 L.F. have occupied Kef Et Tiour 4555. 5 Northhamptons are on Bettiour 5444.

1125: "D" Coy. now on the move.

1135: 2 L.F. report no enemy on Dj. Ang, but enemy mortaring the hill.

1210: 3 Churchill tanks going forward posn. B.H.Q.

1312: "D" Coy. with R.A. F.O.O arrives on Dj. Ang. "A" Coy. later joined "D" Coy on the Ang.

1400: Sitrep. Situation quiescent. Two parties of 24 and 50 P.Ws. taken, identified as 9 & 10 Coys. III Bn. 756 Mountain Reg't., A24, and Marschbataillon 50. III/756 Mountain Reg't now reported to be only 250 strong, before receiving a draft from Marschbataillon 50.

1430: Report from "D" Coy. that Churchill tanks have reached Dj. Ang, and are now proceeding to Bettiour. Dj. Bou Diss being counter-attacked.

1540: Report that attack on Dj. Tannougoucha 5645 has started with no opposition as yet. Small enemy pocket, pl. strong, is to be cleared by dusk by 6 R.W.K and "D" Coy. 1 Surreys from Dj. Bou Diss.

1605: 2 L.F. and 5 Northhamptons nearly on Tannougoucha but enemy seen approaching from area of Longstop.

1740: Pt. 622 and 620 (Dj. Tannougoucha) definitely reported occupied.

DJEBEL MAHDOUMA

Apr 15th

C.O. returned to Cmd. Post from A 2 Echelon.

0520: Enemy arty and mortar fire for past half hour over Bde area.

Tannougoucha fired on from Longstop, Kelbine and Mahdouma probably from area Fme Du Bed. Very heavy mist. Practically no visibility. 1 R.I.F. have arrived during night to relieve Bn., but appear to have been lost in the mist.

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Locations at present: Adv. Bn. H.Q. 524436, "A" and "D" Coys. Dj. Ang 544453, "B and "D" Coys. Dj. Mahdouma 536446.
0745: Visibility improving rapidly. R.A. fire on Kef Et Tiour from which 2 L.F. have presumably withdrawn. Enemy appear to be infiltrating towards Dj. Ang, on which "D" Coy. report mortar fire and sniping.
0800: "D" Coy. report that 50-60 Germans have reached rt. shoulder of Dj. Ang. Some losses inflicted, but "D" Coy. is counter-attacking.
0805: "B" Coy. report that Dj. Bettiour also being attacked.
0810: 1 R.I.F. now reported in occupation of Dj. Bettiour and rt. end of Dj. Mahdouma.
0825: 2 Coys. 1 R.I.F. moving to Dj. Ang.
0905: Situation at present: Enemy on Kef El Tiour and on a small spur to rt. of Dj. Ang. Our mortars in action against them.
1010: 2 Coys. 1 R.I.F. on Dj. Mahdouma.
1020: Enemy again attacking Dj. Ang. "D" Coy. and 2 L.F., with supporting M.G. and mortar fire from "B" Coy., dealing with them.
1130: Enemy entrenched on northern slopes of Dj. Ang. Our Coys. holding on. Report that Dj. Tannboucha now definitely in enemy hands. 2 Coys. 5 Northhamptons missing.
1415: Enemy shell and mortar fire ceased, some mortar fire being exchanged on Dj. Ang, but enemy now inactive.
1700: Six Focke-Wulfs bombed Heidous area.
1800: Spitfires patrolling our area.
1900: Situation still quiet, but enemy still shelling intermittently, and mortaring all Bn. forward positions. "D" Coy. report that top and N. slope of Dj. Ang are still occupied by enemy. 2 L.I.R. have arrived in the area.
1930: Heavy barrage on Heidous and Tanngoucha begins to cover attack by 5 Buffs on Heidous, 1 R.I.F. on Tanngoucha, while 2 L.I.R. take over part of positions of Surreys and 5 Northhamptons, and 1 Surreys "B" Coy. moves up to Dj. Ang.
2030: Dj. Ang now reported clear of enemy who probably withdrew during R.A.barrage.

Apr 16th

Message received from Army Group Commander. Locations at first light: Adv. Bn. H.Q. 524436, "A", "B" and "D" Coys. on Dj. Ang, "C" Coy. on Dj. Mahdouma 537446, 5 Northhamptons H.Q. and "C" Coy. 542417, "V" Coy. 545434, 2 L.F. Bettiour 545445, 1 R.I.F. Kef Et Tiour. 2 L.I.R. 1 Coy. on Dj. Ang one Coy. on Dj. Mahdouma, remainder on Dj. Bettiour. Heidous shelled by both sides during night, and not occupied by either. Enemy on North end of Tanngoucha.
0937: "Uncle" shoot on Pt. 620 Dj. Tanngoucha.
0942: "Uncle" shoot on Heidous, then on Pt. 393 547449.
1300: 1 R.I.F. report that they had contacted enemy on northern slope of Tanngoucha during night, and were fired on by M.G. and snipers. Took 60 prisoners (lately prisoners include men from 956 and 962 I.R. ' probably landed at Tunis as late as 11 April).
1600: Rapid enemy shelling from East on southern slopes of Dj. Bettiour.
1610: 2 L.I.R. B.H.Q. established 546443 (Dj. Bettiour)
1635: "D" Coy. being heavily mortared. "C" Coy. moving up to Dj. Ang have had some casualties. 1 R.I.F. have 2 Coys. at Pt. 622 (Tanngoucha) and 2 Coys. at Kef Et Tiour.
1800: 6 Innisk. arrive area Kelbine.
1845: From 11 Bde: 6 Innisks. attacking Tanngoucha tonight 2400 hrs. 2

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L.I.R. patrolling to Heidous.

1852: 11 Bde. Sitrep 1600 hrs: Own troops now hold posns. as follows: 56 Recce Reg't patrolling right flank 5441. 5 Northhamptons 5443 covering approach from Heidous. 2 L.I.R. Bettour 5444. 1 R.I.F. Kef Et Tiour and Pt. 622 (Tanngoucha). 2 L.F. East end of Dj. Mahdouma 5444. 1 Surreys Dj. Ang 5445. 6 Innisks. in reserve area Chaouach. at 1800 hrs 11 Bde Sector divides as follows: Right – 38 Inf. Bde. with under command 5 Buffs and details 56 Recce Reg't, all including Tanngoucha, Tef Et Tiour, Bettour, Chaouach. Centre – 11 Inf. Bde, Dj. Ang, Dj. Mahdouma. Left – 36 Bde less one Bn. area Dj. Bou Diss and Dj. Chekaoui. 11 Bde H.Q. 524408 (N.E. of Chaouach). Heidous and Tanngoucha subjected to harassing fire during day. About 50 P.W. passed through cage during day. Field Return (Off's and ORs) sent in.

Apr 17th 0001 – 0015: Heavy arty barrage on Tanngoucha covering attack of 6 Innisks.
0830: 11 Bde reports Tanngoucha not taken.
0900: 11 Bde Sitrep. reports that 6 Innisks were unable to dig in as mules carrying tools were shot, and Bn. was withdrawn to Mahdouma.
1400: Enemy shelling and mortaring of Dj. Ang continues with some casualties. Tanngoucha now unoccupied by either side, guns of both sides having the hill well registered.
1600: 5 Northhamptons to relieve 1 Surreys after dark, 2 L.F. to cover relief by patrolling area Bde Sitrep: Dj. Ang shelled from Fme du Bed area during day with a few casualties. 5 Northhamptons concentrated area 5243.
2000: 1 Surreys now being relieved by 6 Innisks. and not 5 Northhamptons.

Apr 18th 0030: Bn. under Commd. 38 Inf. Bde.
0100: Relief by 6 Innisks completed.

DJEBEL RHERARIF

Bn. now concentrated South of Pt. 562 (5243 Dj. Bel Rherarif).
1500: Int. O.P. est. Pt. 562 to observe and report enemy mortar and shell fire
1630: B. Ech. moved by M.T. from Teboursouk to area West of Beja. Column bombed on leaving Teboursouk. No casualties.

Apr 19th 1600: 11 Bde Sitrep: Units remain concentrated for reinforcement and re-organisation. 2 L.F. 497397, 5 Northhamptons 496399, 1 Surreys under command 38 Inf. Bde 5243. Strength of Units: 2 L.F. 23 & 592, 1 Surreys 24 & 538, 5 Northhamptons 16 & 479.
1830: 38 Inf. Bde. report results of patrols of 5 Buffs 2 L.I.R and 56 Recce Reg't to Heidous area. 11. Inf. Bde O.O. No 24 covering relief of 6 R.W.K. by 1 Surreys received. 11 Inf. Bde Admin. Order received.

Apr 20th 1600: 11 Bde. Sitrep: Enemy activity confined to early morning air recce. Bn. relieved at dusk by 5 Northhamptons and moves to relieve 6 R.W.K., coming under cmd. 11 Inf. Bde. The move is a short one, round the corner of Dj. Bel Rherarif with "B" Coy. as forward Coy. behind D. Bou Diss.
2130: Move complete. B.H.Q. 513433, "A" Coy. 519434, "B" Coy 518488, "C" Coy. 500433, "D" Coy. 510445. During day large numbers of our bombers seen flying to and from enemy areas. Warning Order re. move to under cmd. 36 Inf. Bde. received.

Apr 21st 1400: Sitrep: Situation unchanged. Weather showery but tracks still good.

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Enemy fired a few rounds H.A.B. near B.H.Q. area. Some shelling by own guns in late afternoon. Order of the Day by G.O.C.I.C. First Army received. 1 Surreys Int. Summary dated 21 April issued. 36 Bde O.O No 26 dealing with attack on Longstop received. 36 Bde Admin. Order and Signal Instruction received.

Apr 22nd Heavy rain during early morning, making tracks difficult. Visibility poor. Bn. moved as soon as visibility permitted and concentrated on Toukabeur, under Cmd. 36 Inf. Bde.

TOUKABEUR

1100: Concentration completed. 11 Inf. Bde. O.O. No 25 received. 11 Inf. Bde Admin Order received.

2130: Bn left by M.T. and T.C.V. for area behind Longstop. Order of March: "D" Coy, B.H.Q., "A", "B", "C", H.Q. Coys.

RAHAL 5638

2359: Bn. debussed at Fme Rahal 562389. 4 casualties caused by S mines. March to Chassart Tefaha delayed by mines on road which were cleared by R.Es.

CHASSART TEFFAHA 5741

Apr 23rd 0200: "D" Coy. capture 2 prisoners at Chassart Steffan from enemy standing patrol. Identified as III/754 Grenadiers. First identification of enemy on Bde. front.
0300: Bn. arrived 543711, West of Chassart Steffan, under mortar and gun fire. Shells were mainly "air bursts" with very loud reports. Shortly afterwards two squadrons of Churchill tanks (North Irish Horse) passed through Bn. in direction of Longstop.
0600: 5 Buffs report all points (Longstop foothills) taken. Established at 578426.
0615: P.W. taken by 5 Buffs on Dj. Bechtab 5843 Passed through B.H.Q. Identified as III/754 Grenadier Reg't.
0700: 5 Buffs in Sitrep claimed full success and were consolidating and digging in. Captured 50 P.W. of 10 and 11 Coys. III/754 Grenadier Reg't.
0750: 8 Argylls report they were unable to reach their start line (595426) owing to failure of 6 R.W.K. to take first objective (Chaibine 5982).
0810: 6 R.W.K. reported located at 591423. Ordered to use strong patrols to assist tanks in mopping up enemy. 1 Surreys Command Post at this time was moved to near X-tracks at 573413. 36 Bde. Cmd. visited C.O. Frequent enemy shelling of Chassart during morning causing some casualties.

DJEBEL BECHTAB 5842

1130: Cmd. Post and 4 Rifle Coys. moved to Dj. Bechtab 584423 prior to assault on Longstop. B.H.Q. remained Chassart.
1200: "A" and "B" Coys. moved to assault, followed by "C" and "D" Coys. Bn. was in rear of 8 Argylls who formed first wave. Attack supported by N.I.H. Churchills deployed at foot of Longstop. Cmd. Post moved forward with "C" and "D" Coys., and passed through to join up with "A" and "B" Coys. at 595438. In absence of transport, Bde 21 set (L/C. Plaster R. Signals I/c) was man-hauled up the hill by Bn. Int. Sec. Assault continued.

DJEBEL AHMERA (LONGSTOP) 6043

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Appendix

1600: Dj. Ahmera captured by Argylls and Surreys. Cmd. Post established, and Coys. concentrated Pt. 220 601433. Coys. suffered heavy casualties.
1700: Message received at B.H.Q. requesting stretcher bearers and water – also mortars and Vickers guns. 6 R.W.Ks. arrived to assist in defence of hill. During night rations were brought up by carrier. Mortars and carriers concentrated blow rear slope of Pt. 220.. Fine night. Some enemy M.G. fire. 78 Div. Int. Summary.

Apr 24th

Fighting strength 23 Off's and 331 ORs.
0900: 8 Argylls to Pt. 280 611411 with 6 R.W.Ks.
1000 – 1100: Bn. under heavy shellfire. About 20 casualties including I.O. M.O. Capt. Robinson R.A.M.C. attended wounded under fire. Snipers and mortar O.P. at Mosque 612432 engaged by Tk guns and Bn. M.Gs. Major H.B.L. Smith relieved C.O. at Cmd. Post. Orders given for mopping up operations in area of Mosque 6143 to be carried out by troop of Churchills and two mixed platoons of Surreys. Major B. du B.F. White M.C. to command inf.
1300: Arty concentration on area 6143.
1320: Bn. area heavily shelled. Major White disabled by near burst and unable to lead operation.
1325: 36 Bde. message – enemy about to counter-attack Ahmera. Some S.A. fire already observed.
1330: Enemy shelling continued. S.A. and M.G. fire from direction Argylls' and West Kent's posns. C.O. orders Vickers and mortars to watch left flank. Churchills began mopping up operation on right as planned, but unsupported by us as inf. pinned down by arty. and S.A. fire.
1345: Mortars fired concentration to left of Argylls posn. to break up enemy inf. attack.
1415: Situation on left now normal – Churchills continuing sweep on right.
1600: Small party (approx one sec.0 including R.Es. sent under Lt. Allden to occupy Pt. 140 (Si Ali Hassine) 613432. Enemy shelling continued during afternoon. Churchills continued clearing up gullies.
1830: 11 Bde Sitrep reports confused fighting on Dj. Rhar. Lt. MacMillan and small party to reinforce sec. at Mosque 6143.. Churchill tanks remained in posn. around Mosque 6143 to deal with enemy counter-attack during night. Sec. Churchills arrived below Bn. to guard right flank. 11 Bde Int. Summary. Field Return (Off's and ORs). Intermittent shelling during night.

Apr 25th

C.O. relieved Major H.B.L. Smith at Cmd. Post. Enemy shelling and mortaring began soon after first light and continued at intervals during morning. Fighting strength reported as 27 and 396.
1415: Pt. 622 (Tangoucha) and Butler's Hill captured by 38 Irish Bde. Enemy shelling of Bn. area slackened during afternoon.
1830: Bn. heavily shelled. Some casualties.
1910: Heidous reported occupied by 38 Bde. Enemy shelling and mortaring continued with brief intervals throughout night without causing casualties. Occasional small arms fire from direction of Argylls and R.W.K. posns. 78 Div. Int. Summary.

Apr 26th

0800: 5 Buffs supported by arty and N.I.H. began attack on Dj. Rhar. Intense enemy shelling and mortaring of whole forward area.
1150: 5 Buffs reported on objective with 100 P.W. Bn. Vickers and arty engaged retreating enemy 6443. Bn. posns. under long-range shelling from

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Appendix

666478 and and Toungar 6949. Mediums and heavies engaging.
1400: Whole of Longstop now occupied.
1900: Bn. relieved by 5 Northhamptons and concentrated at Chassart Tefaha. 78 Div. Int. Summary. 11 Bde O.O. No 27 received. 1 Surreys revert to command 11 Bde and in reserve area Chassart Tefaha while Bde hold Longstop.

CHASSART TEFFAHA 5741

Apr 27th F.S. Return 27 Off's and 420 ORs

Apr 28th Bn. at Chassart Tefaha. 4 Med. Reg't Int. Summary. 78 Div. Int. Summary No 37. 11 I.B. Int. Summary. 78 Div. Int. Summary No 38. 1 Surreys int. Summary issued.
1700: Bn. moved by March Route to occupy Dj. Rhar.
1730: Dive-bombing attack on Medjez El Bab.
1820: Intercepted report from 1 Div. that enemy counter-attacking with 35 tanks and inf. against Pt. 212 7043. Situation in hand. Battle continuing area 6943.

DJEBEL RHAR 6144

1900: Bn. relieved 2 L.F. on Dj. Rhar 61441. Bde H.Q. remaining 607411.
2100: Forward Coy. 2 L.F. in Oued 4545. 2 L.F. ordered to consolidate area 661451 and 5 Northhamptons area Pt. 160 and Pt. 202.
2305: 2 L.F. now occupying Wadi 6545 but 2 Coys. still out of touch. 5 Northhamptons occupying Pt. 160 and Pt. 202.

Apr 29th Locations: B.H.Q., "A", "B" and "C" Coys. area 617433. "D" Coy., less one platoon, area 626432. Platoon at 613433.
0600: Bde Sitrep: 5 lorryloads enemy debussed Pt. 160 6247 early this morning and infiltrated between 5 Northhamptons posns. forcing withdrawal. 5 Northhamptons now concentrated area 6246. Enemy contacted by 2 L.Fs. at 645546 and at Sidi Bou Baiter and 657445. Enemy Coy. observed in Wadi 662450 and along river to 670450. 2 L.F. H.Q. 643440 – 2 Coys. at 645545. 2 L.P. H.Q. 643440 – 2 Coys. at 645455.
1400: 4 enemy tanks seen moving S.W. from 711521 to 704510.
11 I.B. to be relieved by 36 I.B. tonight. 11 I.B. O.O No 28.
2400: Bn. left Dj. Rhar on relief by 6 R.W.K.

CHASSART TEFAHA 5741

Apr 30th 0300: Bn. arrived Chassart Tefaha and concentrated area 574413. 151 ORs arrived as reinforcements. 78 Div. Int. Summary 39 and 40. 5 Corps Int. Summary 148. 11 Bde O.O. No 29. Bde to be under cmd 4 Div. and to relieve 12 I.B. area Peter's Corner night 30 Apr/1 May. 1 Surreys to relieve 2 D.C.L.I. area El Azabi 7133.
1000: Recce party left for new location. Memorial Service in Chassart Cemetery for fallen in recent battles. Bn. issued with K.D. dress, replacing battle dress.
2100: Bn. left by M.T. for new location.
2400: B.H.Q. established 703227. 1/25,000 maps Tebourba 4 & 5.