

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

June

SOUTH OF TORRICE (5034)

Jun 1st Major MBA Hunter, MBE. was promoted Lt Col, and assumed 8640
command of the Bn vice Lt-Col HBL Smith, MC vacated. 8641
Bn concentrated overnight in area 500349 South of Torrice. 78 Div 8642
advancing on Alatri (4547) following capture of Frosinone (4637) by 8643
other troops. 11 Bde to advance with (Right) 2 LF and (Left) 1
Surreys. Reserve, 5 Northhamptons. Start Line for 1 Surreys the 37
Grid Line (Torrice Rd.). H Hour 0830. One sqn. of tanks
(Warwickshire Yeomanry) in sp. Bounds were fixed for adv. and
code-words arranged as follows: 'FREEMAN' 506378, 'HARDY'
512390 (Pt. 320), 'WILLIS' (or 'MARTIN') 522396 (Pt. 325). "C" Coy
to lead Bn followed by "A" Coy
0630: Comd Offr established Tac Bn HQ at Torrice.
0830: Leading troops passed Start Line.
0905: "C" Coy and tanks reported 'FREEMAN' (506378).
0952: "A" Coy reported 'HARDY'.
1025: Main Bn HQ est. at 509367.
1115: 5 Buffs (on Bn left) reported 1 ½ miles West of Monte Nero
(5140)
1200: "B" Coy report 'WILLIS' (Pt 325). Advance was made without
opposition from enemy. Mines were encountered at Rd. end Tr.
Junc. 510367 and were dealt with by Bn minesweepers. Roads were
badly cratered, causing delay in movement of vehicles. Conditions
on 2 LF line of advance were so bad that they were ordered to use
the Torrice Rd. on which 1 Surreys were advancing.
1250: Bde Comd ordered Bn to use tanks, mainly on left, with a
small party on right. Advance continued.
1300: Main Bn HQ est. at 517387.
1513: Bde reported enemy at 454427, about Company strength,
some dressed as civilians.
1600: Final location of Coys.: Bn HQ - 517387, "A" - 515395, "B" -
507394, "C" - 508402, "D" - Monte Nero 5140. Arty. and 4.2" Mortar
D.F. Tasks were arranged and patrols ordered. Weather during day
was fine. During the night patrols to Santoro 495415 ("B" Coy) and
S. Giuseppe ("D" Coy) made no contact.

Jun 2nd Divisional intention today – to continue the advance towards Alatri
with 36 Bde left and 11 Bde right. 5 Nns. lead 11 Bde with 1 sqdn.
Warwick. Yeo. in sp. followed by 1 Surreys and 2 LF Bounds:
'OAKHAM' – 416424 – 441430, 'PENNAL' – 417451 – 431455,
'SHEERNESS' – 409474 – 426482. Objectives: 5 Nns. P1 439448, P2
439450, P3 447458, P4 425455.
0830: Bn moved Westwards towards main Frosinone – Alatri road.

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

Order of march: "B" Coy, Bn HQ, "C" Coy, "D" Coy, "A" Coy, "S" Coy

0840: Comd Offr ordered all minesweepers forward.

0900: Bde reported 5 Nns. on way to first objective. No sign of enemy.

1000: Bn arrived in harbour area at 462402 (North of Frosinone).

1110: Enemy reported in NE corner of Alatri. Bn remained in harbour while 5 Nns. continued advance. Second bound ('PENNAL') was reported at 1440 hrs, and at 1635 hrs. the Bn was placed under one hour's notice to move.

1735: Bn moved in T.C.V. Order of march: "B" Coy, Bn HQ, "C", "A", "D" and "B" Coys.

N.W. OF FROSINONE 4342

1815: Bn HQ and Coys. est. in area 433429, NW of Frosinone. By nightfall 5 Nns. were est. on M. Lungo 4346 to 420457, with patrols to M. Castello 4145 and Madonna del Grazie 4146. There had been no contact with enemy during the day, although forward tps. reported increased mortaring and shelling in the afternoon.

Meanwhile (at 1850 hrs) "B" Coy moved to area 411437 and at 2000 hrs remaining Coys. took up new posns. as follows: "A" Coy 437427, "C" Coy 431427, "D" Coy 430432 covering the Convent of Tecchiena 433427. At last light "B" Coy, with one tp. of tanks, est. at 413438, preparatory to an advance along the road to Fumone 4047 ('SHEERNESS'). A patrol of carriers and pioneers with a tp. of Honey tanks, which had been sent out at 1120 hrs with instructions to probe towards the second and third objectives, returned at nightfall without having reached their objective owing to difficult going. One carrier, with Sgt. Carter (Pioneer Sergeant) had broken down and did not return until midnight. Sgt. Carter reported capture of a German 88mm gun at 407465. He and his party observed a number of enemy around the gun, and dispersed them with small arms fire and then took possession of the gun. During the night a detachment of 237 Fd. Coy R.E. cleared the Fumone road of mines, covered by a patrol from "B" Coy. A crater 130 ft wide was reported on the main Ferentino – Fumone road.

8643

Jun 3rd

Intention today: to patrol to Fumone. Bounds: Ferentino – Fumone red. at 390448 'SHANGHAI', De Cesari 395459 'MANDALAY', Fumone 409473 'HONG KONG'. Order of March: "B" Coy plus tp. of tanks. "D" Coy plus tp. of tanks. "C", "A" and "S" Coys. Sqn. of tanks less two tps.

0600: "B" Coy reached 'SHANGHAI'.

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

0715: "D" Coy reported 'SHANGHAI'.
0810: "D" Coy reported 'MANDALAY'.
0810: 5 Northamptons reported that they were firmly established 300 yds. South of Fumone.
1025: 5 Northamptons reported in Fumone. 3 enemy killed there.
1120: Final positions of Surreys South of Fumone: "C" Coy at Deago 408455. "D" Coy on M. Di Capua 397460. "A" and "B" Coys. on rd. behind "D" Coy 6 Armd. Div is now passing through 78 Div Bn to withdraw. Bn re-established in area South of Convent at 433429. Tps. being ferried in M.T. back to this location. No casualties to this Bn One P.W. (deserter) from 10 Coy 3 Para. Regt.

CONVENT TECCHIENA 433427

Jun 4th	By first light Bn was concentrated in the Convent area (including A and B Echelons). 5 Northamptons in Fumone. 2 LF area 460399. Bde HQ 457434. Administration carried out. Fd. Return of Offcrs. and ORs sent.	8644
Jun 5th	Administration carried out. Capture of Rome announced.	
Jun 6th	Opening of Second Front in France. An hour-to-hour service of news of progress of invasion was provided by Int. Section, which also established a War Information Room.	
Jun 7th	Bn preparing to move to new area of operations North of Rome.	
Jun 8th	Bn Harbour Party under command Major H.J. Bellamy left for new area. 1900: Bn moved in unit transport and T.C.Vs. in Bde convoy. Distance approx. 65 miles along Route 6 through Ferentino and Valmontone.	

SOUTH OF RIGNANO

Jun 9th	0100: Convoy passed through Rome and proceeded along Route 3. 0615: Bn HQ established South of Rignano at 752009. Bn concentrated in same area Maximum rest ordered. Weather remained fine.	
Jun 10th	Administration.	
Jun 11th	Administration. Heavy rain fell during day.	
Jun 12th	Preparations for move. Weather fine.	
Jun 13th	0730: Bn left in M.T. convoy for concentration area North of Viterbo. 1030: Bn concentrated in area 457373.	

NORTH OF VITERBO 4537

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

slightly wounded, but remained in action until the evening.

1400: This phase of the battle ended with the hoisting of the white flag over the cemetery at 425709 after two of our tanks had been knocked out. C.O. had directed the infantry battle from a command post on the road below Nibbio at 432704. The action continued in the afternoon, and Ficulle 4172 was cleared by "D" Coy operating with the tanks. Resistance was slight, and by 1730 hrs Ficulle was reported clear, with our tanks 500 yds. beyond. "D" Coy were ordered to consolidate, while "A", "B" and "C" Coys. moved up by march route.

1840: Main Bn HQ est. at 432705.

2100: Bn situation: Main Bn HQ at 432705 (Tac. at 418720). "A" Coy 422721. "B" Coy 418721. "C" Coy 416721. "D" Coy 429709 (with 2 pls. in area of cemetery at 425709). 4.2" mortars 423713. A carrier patrol to S. Cristoforo 4173 found the village clear, but was fired on by A/Tk guns from the N.E. Casualties during the day were 1 Offr and 1 OR wounded.

2230: Bn moved forward and established new positions around S. Cristoforo. Locations as follows: Bn HQ S. Cristoforo 417722. "D" Coy area 415738. "B" Coy area 417748, "C" Coy area 415742, "A" Coy area 422733. Intention for night 15/16: 1 Surreys to patrol to river Chiaha and if possible to secure river crossing. 1 Surreys and 2 LF to establish bridgehead early on 16th. 5 Northamptons remain concentrated. (Patrols made no contact and 2 LF were ordered to establish a bridgehead).

Jun 16th

Four P.W. taken by 2 LF were passed back through Surrey's HQ They were an Officer and 3 ORs from 1027 P.G.R. 8647

0815: Bde Situation Report stated that 2 LF had crossed river Chiaha to area 404765. 5 Northamptons have passed through F.D.Ls. and are now advancing on Montegabbione. 4481. Last location in area 4277. Today was one of heavy fighting for the towns of Montegabbione (finally secured by 5 Northamptons with tank support) and Citta Della Pieve (3785).

1400: Bn detached from 11 Inf. Bde and came under Comd of 9 Armd. Bde, now attacking Citta Della Pieve. C.O. to meet Brig. of 9 Armd. Bde

1900: Bn embussed in T.C.Vs. and crossed the Chiaha eriver, proceeding towards Citta Della Pieve. The road was heavily congested with traffic, but all vehicles were brought to a standstill to enable the Surrey's troop carriers to reach the battle area. At approx. 3 miles S.W. of Citta Della Pieve the convoy came under fire. The head of the column turned about, and withdrew to a farm at 388831 where Main Bn HQ was established. It now appeared that

the town was still in enemy hands and that, moreover, there were enemy between the Bn and the tanks. Considering these facts, and the approach of darkness, the C.O. decided that the Bn could not attempt to take over ground held by the tanks. The Bn was to take up defensive positions on the spot, to be used as a jumping-off place for a full-scale attack with tanks in the morning. Positions were accordingly taken up astride the road at approx. 385833. The night was dark, and communication with Coys. proved difficult. The situation was not improved by the presence of a number of enemy within our F.D.Ls. A Bn despatch, rider. who was sent out to contact a forward Coy was captured by one of these enemy parties. His motor cycle was found at the side of the track. He was within hailing distance of the nearest friendly troops.

S.E. OF CITTA DELLA PIEVE 388831

Jun 17th	<p>0415: "B" Coy moved by march route to Y junc. at 378840. From here a patrol under Lt. L.A.S. Harborne advanced towards the town. Patrol returned and reported 'All quiet'. At first light the Coy advanced towards Ciutta Della Pieve with the intention of occupying the town. While deploying to enter the town the Coy came, for the first time, under fire from enemy M.G. 42s. Troops took cover in the high corn at either side of the road and returned fire. Supporting weapons (M.Gs. and 3" mortars) came into action immediately with heavy fire on the town. Enemy also used mortars and an S.P. gun. A Pl. of "B" Coy succeeded in working round to the right flank, and occupied a building on the S.E. of the town. This battle continued for some time, and the Coy suffered serious casualties, including its Comd (Capt. G.E. Allden) killed by a sniper.</p> <p>0950: Tank support arrived, and "A" Coy went into action to storm the town. Under cover of tank fire "A" Coy (Capt. E.H. Giles, M.C.) advanced into the town. Troops literally ran into the town, one man was following another at intervals, a tactic which saved many casualties. The Coy met opposition in the town, but succeeded in the sheer momentum of their attack in clearing the enemy from some 20 houses. Officer casualties in this stage of the battle (in addition to Capt. Allden) were Lt. Lottenberg (died of wounds at R.A.P.) and Lt. J.F. Louis (wounded). C.O.'s Command Post was established at 372843, and at 1200 hrs the Main Bn HQ moved to 377838. With "A" and "B" Coys. fully committed and unable to make further headway, "C" Coy were called upon to attempt an outflanking movement on the left. The Company came under heavy fire from many types of weapon, but succeeded in crossing the road running S.W. from the town. Here, however, they were counter-attacked, and had to withdraw to positions South of the road. In this</p>	8649
----------	--	------

engagement Major E.S. Bird was killed, and the only other Coy Officer, Lt. Spall, was wounded. Command of the Coy was taken over by C.S.M. W. Attewell who organised strong positions and directed mortar and arty. fire on to the German strong points. One house was attacked at short range by a Piat mortar. During the whole action support had been given by the tanks, but these were unable to make headway themselves owing to strong enemy A/Tk gunfire. Heavy rain fell during the afternoon. The position had by now become stabilised, and at 1500 hrs. locations of Coys. were reported as follows: "A" Coy 372851 (entrance to Citta). "B" Coy 373848. "C" Coy 364846. "D" Coy astride road at 374842. Heavy enemy arty. and mortar fire continued throughout the afternoon but slackened in the evening. The forward Coys. were in a sad plight. They had been fighting hard since the early morning and had suffered casualties., and had gone without hot food since the previous evening. The M.O. (Lt. W.A. Smuthwaite R.A.M.C.) visited "C" Coy to attend wounded. Four wounded men of the Coy and two enemy wounded were cared for in a house to which they were carried under M.G. and sniper fire. Bn Padre (Rev. H.C.C. Lannigan R.A.Ch.D.) called out in German to tell the enemy that German as well as British wounded were being tended, but the fire continued. The M.O. finally left, and the Padre remained with the wounded. The party were without food or water.

1625: Following message was sent by the C.O. to Comd 9 Armd. Div 'Would like instructions for the night as soon as possible. Am not in a position possible to hold at night. Would have to hold Line 5 (Rd. junc 378840) or forward of Citta when taken. Shelling and mortaring fairly heavy, also S.A. fire. Casualties include two Coy Comds. and three other Officers. One Coy strong and hardly committed. On present plan could not take town, but can stay present positions in daylight'. There were now some rain showers during the evening. By nightfall the situation was quiet and all firing had ceased. Orders were received for relief of the Bn by 5 Buffs (36 Bde).

2200: Leading troops of 5 Buffs arrived. Coys. were relieved in order: "D", "B", "A", HQ, "S" and "C" Coys. Troops marched to a point on road at 326832 where they embussed. "C" Coy, who had furthest to march, did not arrive at embussing point until 0330 hrs. All troops were hungry and exhausted, but in amazingly good spirits. The battle of Citta Della Pieve was perhaps the bitterest fight the Bn had waged throughout the Italian campaign. It was fought against German parachutists who held strong and carefully prepared positions, and were prepared to fight to the last man. Our armour was unable to break through the enemy defences, and this tough role fell to the infantry. That they succeeded in getting g into the

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

town at all is a tribute to their courage and offensive spirit as well as to their training. The following casualties were suffered: KILLED: Major E.S. Bird ("C" Coy), Capt. G.A. Allden ("B" Coy), Lt. L. Lottenberg ("A" Coy), and 11 ORs of "A", "B" and "C" Coys. WOUNDED: Lt. J.F. Louis ("B" Coy), Lt. R.E. Spall ("C" Coy), and Lt. E.F.E. Cobb ("S" Coy) and 24 ORs MISSINF: 5 ORs 4 wounded of "C" Coy remained in a house in the front line in the care of the Padre.

SOUTH OF MONTEGABBIONE 4480

Jun 18th 0500: Bn completed concentration South of Montegabbione. Bn HQ 8651 est. at 441804. "A", "B", "C" and "S" Coys. est. at 427788. "D" Coy est. at 441801.

0800: Bn now under command of 11 Inf. Bde and under two hours notice to move from 0900 hrs. Bde reported occupation of legaro by 2 LF Town badly damaged by our shelling and streets being cleared. Heavy rain fell during the day, waterlogging tracks and rendering diversions virtually impassable. During the morning the R.M.O. (accompanied by R.S.M.) returned to "C" Coys. position near Citta Della Pieve to attend the wounded. They took food and water and a supply of cigarettes and chocolate for the men. During the day 2 LF advanced to the high ground North of Piegaro. 5 NNs. were advancing at end of day towards Panicale 4584. Bn was standing by to move but, owing to the state of the tracks and exhaustion of the men, no night move was ordered.

Jun 19th Divisional intention today to continue the advance. 11 Bde to continue advance on Bde axis. 5 Northamptons to complete occupation of Mt. Parapella and occupy Paclano 4283. If necessary Warwick Yeomanry to come under command 5 Northamptons who will use full resources to capture Panicale 4584. 2 LF to complete occupation of M. Castellaro 4182. 1 Surreys to move embussed to Piegaro as soon as conditions permit (see 11 Bde Op. Order No. 8 dated 118 June).

0900: 2.LF in position on 4182 and 4482. Coy 5 NNs. now approaching Panicale and Montegiovino 4883. Bn moved by M.T.

PIEGARO

1050: Bn arrived at Piegaro. Troops halted in town a short while, and convoy then proceeded towards Panicale.

1315: Bn debussed. Bn HQ est. off road at 467828 (North grid). Rain fell in afternoon. During afternoon 5 Northamptons occupied the town of Panicale 450840 overlooking Lake Trasimeno.

PANICALE 4584

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

1900: Bn concentrated in Panicale. The situation at last light was that Warwick Yeo. had reached outskirts of Macchie 432870 without encountering opposition. Coy of 5 NNs. of Tanks established in area of houses at 437870 and moving towards Macchie. 2 LF concentrated in Panicale and Missino 451814. 1 Surreys left Panicale at 1945 hrs advancing along axis of track towards canal junc. at 421864. Intention for night 19/20 to continue the advance. 5 NNs. to capture Macchie (Phase 1). Phase 2: Right 5 Northamptons, Left 1 Surreys, to advance to i) line of canal from 405855 to 422864, thence 415867 to 446902 (codeword PETER). ii) line of road from 800865 to Pt. 404868, thence Pt. 270 410872 to road junc. 414875 to Pt. 266 424887 to Pt. 278 428890 to stream 436878 to Lake at 440904 (codeword PAUL). Inter-Bn boundary: Line of road Macchie (incl. 5 NN.) rd. junc. 427881 – road junc. 417893 – 414895 – to road junc. 407900, thence rd. (incl. 1 Surreys) to 395914. See 11 Bde Op. Order No. 9.

1930: Bn begins advance from Panicale. “D” Coy leading, followed by “C” Coy. Line of adv.: Rd junc. 441848 – long track to track and canal junc. 432864 along line of canal to blown bridge 422864. From here “D” Coy exploited to left and “C” Coy to right.

2030: Remainder of Bn left Panicale and concentrated with Bn HQ at 438842 West of Panicale. The night was fine after heavy rain in evening.

WEST OF PANICALE 4284

Jun 20th 0415: “D” Coy established on PAUL. “C” Coy established area 421868. This Coy (Lt. E. Heppell), while moving along line of canal 4287, received information from a wounded OR. of 5 NN. that enemy were in area of factory at La Chiusi 422880. A patrol from the Coy approached the factory and fired at an enemy sentry. This action produced M.G. fire from the factory. The Coy moved back along the road towards Macchie 4387 and contacted “C” Coy 5 Northamptons, who reported that there were 4 or 5 M.Gs. in the factory. The Coy finally established in area 421868. “B” Coy advanced along the road from Bn HQ area, and by first light were firmly established in area of the demolished bridge at 422864. “A” Coy remained with Bn HQ in Bn reserve. No casualties had been reported up to first light. Weather fine.

0545: By this time “D” Coy, advancing from PAUL, had occupied Ridge 400865 to 405868 (Pt. 297) Patrols to both flanks found areas at each end of ridge clear of enemy. A further patrol found house at 393868 clear, and then turned towards house at 399871. While moving along the edge of a cornfield the patrol was fired on by M.G. from house at 402875. Seven enemy appeared from the corn

behind the patrol, and took four prisoners. Fire was opened by "D" Coy on the enemy who made good their escape over the next ridge. "D" Coy (Major C.H.P. Genillard) ordered 17 Pl. to attack and capture the house at 402875, covering fire to be given by Brens and mortars of 16 and 18 Pls. 17 Pl. advanced to within 100 yds. on either side of the house, but were then pinned down by heavy M.G. fire, as well as by rifle fire and grenades. Owing to lack of cover and absence of heavy supporting arms the Pl. was unable to make further headway, and finally withdrew to its original position, having suffered one casualty. During this time there was no communication with forward Coys. 18 sets were unable to cover the long distances between Bn HQ and the Coys., although it was eventually found possible to relay messages. Later in the day line communication was established. Lt. Heppell reached Bn HQ at 0900 hrs to report location of "C" Coy. A signal from "D" Coy brought first information of that Coy's position. During the morning the enemy used mortars and artillery in a steady harassing of forward Coy areas. Our own arty. came into action and engaged known enemy strong points.

1225: From a report by Major Genillard (O.C. "D" Coy): "Am now manning good O.Ps. and am sniping all enemy movement. Enemy are holding two houses on ridge at 402875 and 405877. Enemy are about 400 – 500 yds. away, and can be plainly seen moving around in the corn round the houses.

MAZZARELLI 421864

Night: Patrols to house at 383679 and 411882 found no sign of enemy. At first light enemy M.G. fire was opened on "A" Coy from Paderanie 411881. The village was sharply strafed by 3" mortars, and at 0800 "A" Coy were ordered to patrol to investigate results of shoot.

Jun 21st

A further attack was made this morning on S. Fatucchio by two Bns. (Right 2 LF and Left 2 L.T.R.) The attack was successful and the town was clear by the end of the morning. Following the mortar shoot referred to above, "A" Coy found Paderanie clear of enemy and occupied the village.

1245: "D" Coy cleared Pt. 301 402882, and now hold line from 400882 to 391877. One P.W. taken ("A" Coy 756 I.R.).

1340: Bn OP. Instruction issued. Enemy reported retreating from S. Felice 405895. Bn to hold line from (Right) Paderanie to (Left) 391877.

COLLELUNGO 404868 (LAKE TRASIMENO)

1430: Bn HQ and "B" Coy moved from Mazarelli area.

8655

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

1600: Bn HQ est. at Pt. 297 404868. "B" Coy est. in area Pt. 301 402882, and took over house at 400882 formerly occupied by "D" Coy and Gunner O.P. "C" Coy in Bn reserve at 403868. "D" Coy adjusted positions to occupy line from 394878 to 391882. B Echelon moved to Mazarelli 421864. The final position on the flanks was as follows: Right: 38 Bde: 2 LT.R. on line 411903 – 409898, 6 Innisks. area 420903. 11 Bde: 2 LF around S. Fatucchio. Left: 36 Bde: 5 Buffs area 3887. 6 R.W.K. area 3585. On left of 78 Div 4 Brit. Div was coming into line.

1830: Int. O.P. established in "B" Coy area Pt. 301 402882. This house was evacuated after being hit during heavy enemy shelling. 2nd Int. O.P. est. in "A" Coy area 411882. Shelling of "B" Coy area continued on heavy scale until 2000 hrs and then intermittently until 2105 hrs.

1945: There was also heavy Nebelwerfer fire on "D" Coy posns. at 1945 hrs. From 11 Bde Op. Order No 11: Enemy line from Pucciarelli 415906 – San Fatucchio 400891 – Lake Chiusi was intended to be held until night 23 June. Since this line has now been broken it is concluded that the enemy will continue to resist strongly along both roads leading North from Pucciarelli and San Fatucchio. 1 Surreys to hold present forward F.D.Ls., leaving one Coy in area iof Mutta (junction point with 36 Bde 389875).

Night: Arrangements were made for "D" Coy to contact a patrol from 5 Buffs at X tracks 389877, and this contact was maintained at hourly intervals throughout the night from 2030 hrs onward. "A" Coy patrol to houses at 409887 made no contact. The enemy remained quiet during the night.

Jun 22nd	<p>0430: One sqn. (less one troop) of tanks of Warwick Yeo. in support of Bn (in counter-attack role) moved into tactical positions. One troop in rear of "D" Coy at 395877, one troop in rear of "B" Coy at 402878, and two in reserve at 403872.</p> <p>0540: Our arty. engaged an enemy working party at 398892. Weather fine. "B" Coy area was shelled by enemy from first light. Shells fell near Coy HQ but there were no casualties.</p> <p>0915: Reported that 38 (Irish) Bde are carrying out operation to clear enemy from area 409904. Throughout the morning our arty. engaged enemy movement in a number of areas on Bn front. An example of the tenacity of German troops facing the Bn was given by one man Page missing</p>	<p>8656</p> <p>8657</p>
Jun 23rd	<p>1210: Patrol from "D" Coy, accompanied by Bn interpreter, moved forward to Bracacci 398887 and found it clear of enemy. A firm base was established for a further patrol to o Di Ceraso 3989 and Pt. 306 388891.</p>	<p>8657</p>

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

1235: British tanks seen behind San Felice
1745: Enemy movement seen in houses at La Villa, and our medium arty. carried out a destructive shoot on the villages
1250: 16 Pl. "D" Coy ordered to be prepared to occupy Pt. 306 388891.
1330: White flag seen in Ceraso. The advance to Pt. 306 was carried out without opposition, and 16 Pl. were in position on this feature by 1500. Remainder of the day was quiet except for some enemy mortaring in the evening. 11 Bde Op. Order No 12 stated that enemy appeared to be in close contact in front of 38 Bde but had carried out a limited withdrawal on front of 1 Surreys. On front of 28 Bde (4 Div) enemy still hold Vaiano 3687. % Northhamptons taking over part of 38 Bde front previously occupied by elements of 6 Innisks. between Lake Trasimeno in sq. 4291 and Route 71 at 417907. Div Intentions for 24 June: 38 Bde to capture Ranciano. 11 Bde to engage enemy and if possible make ground. 38 Bde, after capture of Ranciano, to pass through and cross river Pescia. 4 Div to take advantage of 78 Div attack and if possible occupy Poggio Del Papa 3788 and La Villa 3589. Valano to be bypassed. 1 Surreys (with under Comd 1 sqn., (less 2 troops Warwick Yeo.) to make good, if possible, ridge from La Villa 392902 to Bedvedere 184999. Tanks to be used well forward to engage enemy and prevent his concentrating fire on 36 and 38 Bde fronts.
Night: The night was quiet. Div Adv. Party left for unknown destination.

Jun 24th	<p>0530: Heavy barrage by our arty. on enemy positions. The enemy reacted by heavily mortaring the ridge from Pt. 306 388892 to Ceraso. 0630: "A" Coy occupied Pt. 306, and "D" Coy took Ceraso after advancing through enemy barrage. "D" Coy suffered 5 casualties (2 killed 3 wounded) and "A" Coy one wounded from enemy shelling. There was no opposition at the points taken. Final posn. of Coys.: "D" Coy Ceraso 397893, "A" Coy Pt. 306 388892, "B" Coy area 402882, and "C" Coy area 391887. Following this operation there was heavy shelling by our arty. of the area of La Villa. 0805: 38 Bde report 'SAUSAGE' (411913 – 404904) 0830: Front now quiet. 0930: Barrage opened again on area La Villa and Ranciano 3991. 0940: 38 Bde infantry on 'TURKEY' (stream 410914 – 400906) 1005: 12 Pl. "B" Coy to 398881. Tac HQ to 400882. 1115: 38 Bde reported 'CHICKEN' (village of Pescia 402914). 1455: By this time Ranciano 396914 had been cleared, and the Warwick Yeomanry were on the line of stream 406922 – 394919. La</p>	8658
----------	--	------

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

Villa 393903 had not yet been cleared.

1600: "D" Coy reported that they had been pinned down all day by M.G. fire. "C" Coy reported that they had been shelled and mortared in their positions at 892888 from first light until 1400 hrs. No casualties. "B" Coy reported one casualty from enemy shelling. 1620: Two Pls. "C" Coy, with troop of tanks in support, occupied two houses at De Capanne 386886. Contacted Pl. of 2 S.O.M. L.I. A patrol found Pt. 328 382888 unoccupied. Operation was completed by 1700 hrs. No casualties. 78 Div Adm. Instruction No 27 received. Coys. reported a quiet night. Day mainly quiet. Weather fine.

[Check for missing page](#)

Jun 25th	<p>1405: Message to Coys: "A" Coy and that part of "C" Coy est. on Pt. 328 – No change. Remainder concentrate personnel in buildings where possible and get maximum rest. One O.P. per Coy to be manned. 1 Kens.: 1 mortar and 1 M.G. O.P. only manned. Tac HQ closes 400881 at 1400 hrs. Forward signal centre and step-up wireless remain.</p> <p>1800: Evening Sitrep to Bde: "A" Coy patrol to search area around houses on Pt. 311 383891 returned at 0830 hrs. Area clear of enemy. At 1300 hrs enemy, estimated from 15 to 20 strong, seen in area 381903 – 376901. At 1430 hrs arty carried out shoot on area, and enemy were seen running from one house to another as each was shelled. Nebelwerfer fire on "A" Coy HQ Pt. 306 at 1630 hrs damaged the house but caused no casualties. "C" Coy: New positions taken up since this morning as follows: Coy HQ 389885. Pl. Pt. 328 382888. Pl. area 386886. Pl. area 392888. One P.W. found on Pt. 328. "D" Coy reported a quiet day. No casualties. Weather fine. Visibility good.</p> <p>1830: A German M.G. posn. at 376901 was neutralised by 3" mortar fire. Quiet night. Bn remained in passive role pending developments to its front and on both flanks.</p> <p>1800: All Coys. report quiet day. Bn Int. Summary issued.</p> <p>1915: Latest situation: 2 S.O.M. L.I.: Coys. at Pt. 331 379901 and 375901. Have been in Badia 379907 but have withdrawn to make way for 2 LF 2 L.T.R.: Coy in La Villa. Troops at bend in road 385901. 2 LF tonight securing Baika and ridge to S. Biagio 385918.</p> <p>2100: 11 Inf. Bde Op. Order No 13. Enemy resistance has stiffened, and there are elements of a new formation (104 P.G.R. of 15 P.G. Div) on 78 Div front. Certain pockets of enemy still believed to be uncleared from area Posticcia 383924 at Pt. 282 379929.</p>	<p>8659</p> <p>8660</p> <p>8661</p>
Jun 26th	<p>Div intention: 11 Bde to take over from 38 Bde between river Pescia and the boundary with 4 Div, and conform with any advance on its flanks.</p>	

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

- Jun 27th 78 Div Admn. Instruction No 24. Bde report 2 LF took up advanced positions (ie. Badia to Colle S. Biagio) during night without opposition.
1200: Coys. moved forward to new positions to conform with recent advances.
1600: Final locations: Bn HQ Pt 306 388892. "B" Coy 393900 (Pls. at 384901 and 383901) "A" Coy area Pt 307 383898. "D" Coy remains Cebaso. Slight enemy shelling during afternoon.
2000: From Bde Situation Report: one Coy 2 LF advanced from Badia to 375919 without opposition. Three remaining Coys. along ridge Badia – Pt 310 385916. Weather during day was fine.
- Jun 28th 0700: Attack by 2 LF towards Frattavecchia now in progress to conform with advance of 10th Bde (4 Div) on left. 11 Bde boundaries fixed as under: Right: Inclusive river Pescia to 374945 exclusive bend in Fosso Paganico 381949 – Fosso Paganico to 360982 – 337992. Left: Exclusive cross-roads 3790 – cross roads 3101
0845: 2 LF now in Fratavecchia
1030: Coys. standing by to move.
1110: 2 LFs going for Stoppa 366929 under cover of barrage.
1235: Our Coys. on the move.
1345: "A", "D" and "C" Coys. in new positions.
1435: "B" Coy in position.
**Missing text 2 LF gain high ground at Colle Stoppa 366929
.... Report: Coys. advanced and established as follows:1600:**
"B" Coy area Colle S. Biagio. "C" Coy area Badia. "A" Coy to "C"'s old position in area of La Villa. Tac Bn HQ at 382906. Main Bn HQ remains Pt. 306 38892. Weather fine.
Heavy MGs. of "B" support group (1 Kensingtons) carried out a programme of long-range harassing fire on enemy positions during the night. At 0345 hrs a large explosion was observed in the direction of Pozzulo 3394.
- Jun 29th Weather fine at first light with ground mist in valleys.
1130: Bn at two hours notice to move.
1235: Message to Coys.: 'Enemy appears to have broken contact on 78 Div front. 8 Argylls, 2 LFs patrolling forward in effort to make contact. Civilian reports state enemy taking up position along the river Spina, North of Castiglione along the 00 Northing.'
Night: 1320: Bde Report Lines for to-day's operations: 376969 – 3351959 – stream 365955 – 354948 'ROMSEY'. Track 373969 – 351959 'SOUTHEND'. Stream 370971 – 350957 'SOUTHAMPTON'. Rd. 360983 – 345962 'PETERBOROUGH'. Stream 356980 – 344963 'STAUNTON'.
1330: CO held 'O' Groups at Coggiato 375918: "C" Coy to

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

concentrate at Frattavecchia. "B" Coy to concentrate at 376924. "A" and "B" Coys to concentrate at Badia. Carriers plus MGs. and 1 mortar to concentrate area 376915.

Beds. and Herts. reported at 352953. 1/6 Surreys at Pozzulo 3394 reported contact with enemy at ...

Main Bn HQ established at Badia with "D" Coy "A" Coy left Badia for 365929.

1512: Orders to Main Bn HQ to leave present location for area 363935.

PO DI MERCANZIA 363936

1630: Main Bn HQ established at Po Di Mercanzia 363936. This was Assembly Area for Bn for new operation. Plan for Bn to advance on two Coy front astride the river Pesca. Tanks to lead the advance and take forward one Pl of each forward Coy. Coys crossed Start Line (rd. 372947) at 1730 hrs. "A" and "B" Coys in Reserve Bn area.

Advancing troops with the tanks come under enemy shellfire. Three ORs of "B" Coy wounded during initial stages of the advance.

1750: "C" Coy reported 'ROMSEY' (line of stream 360950 – 365055).

1840: "C" Coy reported 'SOUTHEND' (T junc. 351952). "B" Coy nearing 'SOUTHEND'.

1930: C.O. forward with R.A. Officer and I.O.

1945: The Bde Comd in a W/T message asked for 'PETERBOROUGH' (350965) on left, but midway between 'SOUTHAMPTON' and 'PETERBOROUGH' on right, will meet requirements for tonight.

2000: "B" Coy reported 'SOUTHAMPTON' (370971). 2 ORs of "A" Coy wounded by shelling in Bn HQ area.

2055: "A" and "D" Coys. moved forward.

2350: Final position of Coys. at end of day: "B" Coy 363973 Pernici). "D" Coy 359960. "C" Coy 350965. "A" Coy 368958. The night was quiet except for raids by enemy aircraft. These raids covered a wide area, and aircraft dropped fragmentation bombs and machine-gunned roads. No casualties to Bn

PALAZZI

Jun 30th	0600: Weather fine. "C" Coy moving at 0700 hrs to limit fixed by Brigadier. "B" Coy to conform by moving on 'STAUNTON' (356980)	8662 8663
	8664
	0803: "C" Coy reached 347976.	8665
	0820: 4 Div forward troops now on line 337967 – 332967 – 327960.	
	0915: "C" Coy in contact with enemy at 349978.	
	0955: "B" Coy' moving forward.	
	1028: "B" Coy in position in area Pieracci 362983.	
	1040: "B" Coy require medical assistance. The Coy was under	

mortar and M.G. fire. Coy Comd Major H.J. Bellamy wounded. 1100: Positions of Coys.: "B" Coy 362983. "C" Coy 345977. "A" Coy 363973. "D" Coy 358961. C.O. directing battle from Tac HQ at 354957. From 1200 to 1330 hrs there was harassing fire by 3 S.P. guns (enemy) on line of road in area of bridge 372947. At 1315 hrs "B" Coy reported that the road running North from Pieracci was mined, and that there were Schu mines in the verges. Bridge at 357983 blown.

1420: "C" Coy had been advancing cautiously since 1100 hrs, and had now established a defended area at 347976 (Pls. at 347976 – 346976 and 346977). During a patrol Lt. Carpenter and 6 ORs came under enemy fire and dispersed. Lt. Carpenter was reported missing, and was later found to have been killed. Enemy strong points at 365983 and 357985 were engaged by 4.2" mortars and arty. Enemy shelling was continuous along the line of 'PETERBOROUGH'.

1600: R.A.P. established at 365983. Medical carrier, which had been sent forward to evacuate casualties from "B" Coy, drove into enemy lines and was captured. Two ORs missing. Harassing fire from enemy S.P. guns on road at 372947 continued at intervals during the afternoon.

8 Argylls (36 Bde) at 377974 – 383971 and 387968. 4 Div troops on left to Palazzi 362959.

1900: Tac HQ rejoins Main. Special state of alertness ordered for tonight in view of relief of 8 Argylls by 5 Northhamptons on our right.

2030: Bde Sitrep: 1 Surreys continued advance during the day through heavy shelling and mortar fire. Enemy still in occupation of Pt. 304 349979. 5 Northhamptons moving up to relieve 8 Argylls on right flank, subsequently advancing to conform with 1 Surrey's FDLs. 2140: "B" Coy took a PW who stated that there were now some 100 enemy in wood at 361988. RA 'UNCLE' and mortar DF tasks were arranged.

2200: Enemy were reported at Pt 278 375988 and Pt 279 377983, and at 2245 hrs 100 enemy were reported to be attacking "B" Coy from the rear. The situation was very confused, but by 2330 hrs "B" Coy were reported to have withdrawn to area 360976. A heavy concentration was immediately brought down on to their former F.D.Ls. By midnight the situation was quiet, and "B" Coy remained firmly established at 360976. The PW sent back by "B" Coy was from 12 Coy 104 PGR. This was the first positive identification of this unit on our front. He was of the Nazi type and his morale appeared good. He admitted that his Bn had orders to withdraw tonight, and the large patrol of enemy that attacked 5 Northhamptons was probably covering the withdrawal. 5 Northhamptons successfully

1st BATTALION, EAST SURREY REGIMENT

1944

Appendix

passed through 8 Argylls, and occupied areas 308983, 376981 and 375988. Casualties during the day were as follows: Killed: Lt PJ Carpenter and one OR. Wounded: Major HJ Bellamy and 8 ORs Missing: 2 ORs.

During the month the Bn had taken an important part in the offensive that brought about the destruction of the German 14th Army. In the battles of Citta Del Pieve and Lake Trasimeno it had fought with great courage and skill.

Casualties from 1 to 30 June totalled: 1 Officer and 14 ORs killed. 5 Officers and 51 ORs wounded. 14 ORs missing.