

WAR DIARY
2/6th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

July 1943.

- 1st July. Second T.E.W.T. on Minefield Gapping by Bde. Comdr. some officers will attend. "C" Coy complete with O.C. Capt. ? with 2i/c Capt. LANGFORD and Lts ELVERSON and HARRIS move to take over Employment and ? Coy of 8th Army HQ. Bn. defeats 7 ? and Depot at soccer 4 0.
- 3rd July. Lecture by Div. Field Security Officer to all Officers, W.O's & N.C.O's. Owing to heat daily routine altered to ? for more night and early morning work.
- 4th July. Night of 4th 5th July Bn. Night Attack exercise.
- 5th July. Demonstration to Bn. on tank hunting and house clearing. Dances for officers and O.R's 67 Bde. at Black Cat Club on ?. Nursing sisters as ?. Capt. MILLIGAN posted X list on admission to hospital 3rd July 43.
- 7th July. Demonstration Minefield Gapping by pln. of R.E's with Infantry support. Bn. attends Div. sports. Bn. wins 100 X and Long jump.
- 9th July. Battle instructions No. 1 Night Attack issued.
No. 2 Pln. of Inf. and R.E's is acting as task force for Minefield Gap.
- 10th July. T.E.W.T. for officers and sergeants Minefield Gapping.
- 12th July. Blood? Group team arrives. Div. S.B. Competition. Bn. Exercise.
- 13th July. Attack by night minefields and tank ditch. Security lecture.
- 14th July. Night? Fighting demo.
- 15th July. Advance party leaves for Mountain Warfare training area near CASTELL BENITO.
- 16th July. Bn. arrives Mountain Warfare area. Capts. Hogan?, & P.P. WILSON, Maj. A.J. RENSHAW awarded MC and Pte. A. FIDO (S.B.) MM.
- 17th July. Mountain Climbing – All Ranks. Bde. T.E.W.T. on Mountain Warfare.
- 20th July. Coy Test Exercise Attacking of ? Hill Objectives.
The u/m promoted War substantive, Lts. D.R. EDWARDS, W.A. MILLS, T.H.G. HARRIS, A.E. SANFTLEBEN & G.B. CURTIS.
- 22nd July. Intell. Course begins.
- 24th July. Bn. returns to camp ? coming down from the hills.

26th July. All Officers "Combined Operations" Course.

27th July. Lts. W.M. FROST, J.G.B. SAYER, A.W. LAVENDER & J.W. SCAIFE joins Bn.

28th July. Gen. ERSKINE 7th Armd. Div. Comdr. talks on SICILY Operation & talk by 2i/c "Tanks by C.O. of "Greys".

31st July. Bn. "Dryshod training begins – TRIPOLI.

Lt. Col. J.B.H. Kealy,
Comdg.
2/6 Bn. The Queen's R.R.

31/7/1943.

The question marks are where we were unable to read the original writings.

An account of the travels and experiences of "C" Coy.

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| Left Bn. | 2nd July. 43 | Syracuse | 16th July 43 |
| Sailed | 3rd July. 43 | left | 14th August 43 |
| Malta | 4th July. 43 | | |

The Coy less 15 Pln. and Coy HQ left the Bn. on 2nd July and stayed in Tripoli for the night. The next day we sailed for Malta in an L.S.I., at about 1700 hrs. arriving at Valletta harbour the next day at about 1400 hrs. There we joined 8th Army HQ finding a guard of two NCO's and six men on general Montgomery's villa. The Coy was billeted at Camerata barracks which although it had been condemned in peacetime was a luxury compared to Tripoli sands. The civilians were very friendly and their spirits very high.

As well as general Montgomery General Eisenhower General Alexander Lord Louis Mountbatten and Admiral Cunningham were on the island.

Unit of the H.D. and transport left the island on the evening before the invasion. After the invasion had been on about two days the grand fleet came in to the grand harbour to refill.

On 16th July we sailed in an L.S.I. for Syracuse leaving at 1800 hrs and arriving at 1200 hrs the next day. We then went to a place just outside Syracuse and were there for about 5 days. Our duties there were to find a guard on the army commanders caravan and G (OPS) and take up defensive positions in case of an alarm. There was some very good swimming there. During the whole operation we had situation talks from G (ops) every day. We stayed there for about four days and then moved to Lentini. The roads were very bad and we took four hrs to do 20 miles. The civilians were extraordinarily friendly and all had smiles as we went by. On the town hall in Carlentini was a banner with Long live the allies Long live liberty in Italian. Lentini overlooks the Catania plain with Etna towering behind it. We climbed up some of the hills behind us and had quite a good view.

After we had been at Lentini for about 3 days the rest of the Coy joined us from Tripoli. When enough transport had arrived the Coy split up. 14 Pln. going with Tac HQ who went to 30 Corps HQ at Ranmaren? 13 Pln. and Coy HQ staying with Main HQ and 15 for two at rear HQ both of which stayed at Lentini for the rest of the battle. Tac HQ move pretty often first close to Catenanuova for the attack on Centuripe and Adrano by 78 Div. Then to Santa Maria on the Etna circuit route where we stayed for one day. There to a place on the sea about 5 miles north of Catania.

We left Sicily on 14th August and rejoined the Bn. on the 20th.