

**WAR DIARY**  
**2nd/6th Battalion the Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment**

**November 1943**

Area 076877

- 1st Nov. 0600 hrs. Working parties continues Maj. Taylor to take over traffic control duties from 1500 hrs. Appendix E1 and E7  
1000 hrs. 2/5th Queens takeover TRANZI features from 7th Ox and Bucks Bn. to provide a further hundred men to act as reliefs for those already carrying. All drivers and every available man used. I.O. to proceed to PUGLIANO to take over forward administration post. Bn. concentrated at 076877.  
1500 hrs. Tac established 027920. Cooking arrangements are underway for whole working party.  
1700 hrs. C.O. sees 167 Bde. and arranged there should be no more carrying today. Men have good nights sleep, new socks brought up.
- 2nd Nov. 0600 hrs. C.O. sees Brigadier and arranges to concentrate Bn. in SPARANISE area. 167 Bde. and others reported on Corps objective.  
i.e. MOUNT CROCCE line of hills. Bn. to be relieved by Italian mule carrying parties.  
1200 hrs. and onwards Bn. begins to move back to SPARANISE with Bn. HQ in house at 076 865.  
1700 hrs. Bn. concentrated as above officers Mess started from 0800 hrs. tomorrow. 167 and 168 Bde's to continue to line through MOUNT CROCCE then 201 Guards Bde. to go through and patrol to line of river GARIGLIANO.  
1830 hrs. C.O's conference. Whole Bn. to have 48 hrs. rest.  
Then maintenance of vehicles commencement of training especially junior leaders. Bde. patrolling Coy to be formed 2 Sections required from Bn. area SPARANISE.
- 3rd Nov. Bn. settles in. Interior economy and 48 hrs. off for everyone. "A" Coy send party to NAPLES. Capt. Charles King appointed P.M.C. Lt. WM Frost posted to comd. "A" Coy (Major Lavender in hospital with tonsillitis).  
2/Lt A.C. Row appointed Bn. sports officer. Appendix G2
- 4th Nov. Italian officer interpreter leaves us for Div. (good thing for he was very bomb shy). I.O. visits Div. and C.O. and Brigadier conference on patrolling Coy. Lt. Elverson to go to Bde. for patrolling Coy. as from 6th Nov. Brigadier comes to dinner and later Bde. training instruction issued:-  
(a). Training for about a fortnight and then?  
(b). Discussion and sand model for officers.  
(c). Special attention to be paid to smartness and drill.  
(d). Every man to have one day off per week. Appendix E2

AREA 0730

- 5th Nov. Bn. drill parade including all odd bodies.  
0830 hrs. C.O's training conference. PT in the mornings drill parades cadres for N.C.O's. Football pitch to be made.  
Reveille to be at 0600, PT at 0605, Training 0815 to 1230.  
Afternoons for recreation. Information on war news displayed in hall of Bn. HQ and I.O. and staff visit Coys and give short information talks. 2/Lt. GW Irish posted to "C" Coy on joining the Bn.  
Half Bn's vehicles off the road for maintenance.
- 6th Nov. 4 N.C.O's and 7 O.R's left on posting to HQ Coy to form Bde. patrolling Coy. Appendix G5
- 7th Nov. Bn. beat Bde. at soccer 5-0. Church parades. Appendix G6

- 8th Nov. Preparation for junior N.C.O's cadre course. Parties continue to visit NAPLES.
- 9th Nov. Cadre Course begins and Lt. Colonel Kealy returns from hospital after successful operation. He resumes command of the Bn.  
Sgts Mess opened. 2/5th carrying for Guards in area of GARIGLIANO river as mules find mud too much for them.
- 10th Nov. Bn. standing to to act as carrying party as from tomorrow. Appendix G7
- 11th Nov. Capt. A.F. Hales joins Bn. and is posted to "C" Coy. Lt. Frost to be acting Capt. as from 30th October. Appendix G8  
1100 hrs. 400 men leave to act as carrying party for 201 Guards Bde. in the M. CAMINO area. Harboursing area for them and for "A" Echelon beyond ROCCAMONFINA 988009.  
Party in charge of Major Renshaw.  
1200 hrs. 2/Lt J.S. Lee-Wilson and 2/Lt. B.C. Levett both R.A.C. on joining the Bn. are attached to and "C" Coy respectively. Appendix G9  
1800 hrs. Bn. received warning order from Bde. to be prepared to move at three hrs. notice from 0900 hrs. 12th Nov. 2 ROCCAMONFINA area.
- 12th Nov. 0900 hrs. C.O. visits Bde. Bn. ready to move with ammunition, all Coys, Mortars and one Section Carriers only. The rest too concentrate here. C.O. goes to new area to recce.  
1315 hrs. Bn. less portering party move to area West of Road junction 993998 Tac and Main moved together "B" Echelon A/Tks two sections Carriers remain area SPARANISE. "B" Echelon Brigaded. Appendix D 2  
1330 hrs. Bn. moves to concentration area at 988009.  
1830 hrs. carrying parties for 201 Guards Bde.

#### Area 988009

- 13th Nov. 1430 hrs. Bde. "O" Group Div. concert party at Bn. location. Bn. receives warning order to move night 14/15th. 2/7th Queens takeover carrying tasks.  
1800 hrs. Bde. commander Bde. I.O. and C.O. injured by S mine while recceing area FRIELLO 9906. Colonel Whitfield acting Bde. commander  
Bn. 2 I/C Major Renshaw MC acting Bn. Comdr.
- 14th Nov. 1045 hrs. C.O. Bde. Comdr. and R.E's go to recce FRIELLO.  
201 Bde. and 167 Bde. to come into reserve 169 Bde. to act as stopgap on Div. right flank. "B" Echelon moves to 0502 approx.  
Bn. ready to move by 1400 hrs

#### Area 993080

- 15th Nov. Heavy rain again. "B" Coy go back to main to dry out. Standing patrol at vital points. 2/6th to provide carrying party of 1 platoon for 42nd field Coy at bridge 984070.
- 16th Nov. "B" Coy take over from "C" Coy, our patrols contact units of 142 U.S. regiment in CASPOLI area.
- 17th Nov. Still more rain. Contact made with 2/5th Queens in GALUCCIO area. Routine patrols find nothing. Two men of the Coy killed by house collapsing on them.  
2359 hrs. fighting patrol contacts U.S. forces at CASPOLI. Period of great liaison between all ranks of U.S. and ourselves everyone becomes terrific pals and frequently there is a general swap round of rations.

- 18th Nov. 1030 hrs. Tac area shelled throughout the day. Bn. given task of finding out if enemy in saddle between M. CAMINO and M. LA DIFENSA.  
Shelling of TAC area at night. American guns move out.  
2100 hrs. 38 shells fell area 994063. Patrol to MEILI, NT.R. Lights observed from monastery on MONTE CAMINO. M.G. fire from same area.
- 19th Nov. A.M. Recce for patrol to saddle. Captain Frost to make top and collect identifications if possible.  
Shelling on forward slopes of FRIELLO and over to route 6.  
Bn. established forward patrolling base at cash Poly.
- 20th Nov. 1100 hrs. Capt. Stevens and 4 "I" Section to CASPOLI to form advance O.P. Americans report movement to right of Monastery feature.  
1200 hrs. Capt. Frost and patrol leave. Shelling of square 9907 and route A6  
1225 hrs. Brigadier (Colonel Whitfield) calls.  
1400 hrs. Heavy shelling of U.S. area 0007.  
1450 hrs. The strange and unfamiliar sight of three enemy planes flying low down over road machine gunning. Tremendous (and highly dangerous) A/A. reception.  
Routine patrols N.T.R. Patrol contacted 142 U.S. Regt at CASPOLI who reported having captured small Boche fighting patrol.
- 21st Nov. "C" Coy to move to CASPOLI at night to continue patrols at top of mountains. Mortar platoon used as carrying party.  
Base at left forward Cos position at 978070. "C" Coy patrol sent out.  
1100 hrs. Enemy shell area 9907 and at 1200 hrs.  
1300 hrs. Heavy shelling of US gun positions. Patrol to saddle met enemy M.G. fire from fixed lines in two places. Found one dead American could not move forward.
- 22nd Nov. A.M. U.S. and own arty to stonk SADDLE feature. Sun! everything out to dry.  
1000 hrs. Slight shelling of area 9907.  
1630 hrs. Patrol left CASPOLI to destroy enemy M.G. Fort at 957085.  
O.P. left for 24 hrs. to establish itself with line at 959082 halfway up mountain. Patrol To saddle to wipe out M.G. Post did not make it owing to sheer Cliff face. O.P. established at foot of monastery peak. N.T.R.
- 23rd Nov. Rain again.  
1130 hrs. Brigadier's conference for C.O's only. Gives C.O's details of forthcoming Ops. But to be kept secret.  
1430 hrs. C.O's conference for "O" Group in doctor's cave 3/4 mile behind Tac.  
2 patrols to points in Wadi 964085 to act as two ambushes up each of the forks. One officer and 10 men to leave at dusk.  
Americans produce civilian report of cave between PIMPLE'S 1 and 2. Italian officer Freddie takes 2 N.C.O's to investigate.  
One platoon only now to remain at CASPOLI to save maintenance difficulties.  
Rest to stay with Coy centred round 978070. Maj. DALLAS returns and commands "B" Coy as Maj. TAYLOR has jaundice. Capt. FROST commands "D" Coy. Capt. BLUMSON to be adjutant. as Capt. HOOPER also down with jaundice.  
Patrols to Wadi fork N.T.R. also patrol to cave N.T.R. as sheer cliff makes it impossible to reach.
- 24th Nov. Standing patrol reports M.G. fire from 2/5th area at 0545.  
0545 hrs. probably our own harassing fire.  
1000 hrs. M.G. fire on spotter plane from monastery.  
1200 hrs. Div. and Corps commanders visit Bn. O.P. near tack. Seem impressed.  
New patrol inst. issued. Right Coy to bridge at 984070 three times during night cut across country and back by rd.

also once by night to be at CASPOLI 972084 via forward Coy HQ at 978070. Left Co to bridge at 978070 to contact forward Coy HQ by night. Forward Coy patrols from CASPOLI as instructed by C.O.

- 25th Nov. 0600 hrs. Patrol to top of saddle fired on by 5 M.G'S and grenades thrown. Much valuable information gained from this patrol.  
1100 hrs. R.A. To fire if visibility improves.
- 26th Nov. CASPOLI O.P. withdrawn and established at dawn at 977074, arc left 230° to right 356° degrees magnetic. Fighter bombers promised for today.  
0930 hrs. "D" Coy has two casualties from shelling.  
1000 hrs. Blasting on left hand of SADDLE?  
1100 hrs. Bombing and machine gunning by our planes on enemy positions on mountain range.  
1130 hrs. Shelling of U.S. gun positions.  
1200 hrs. Shelling of area 9907.  
Lt. MILLS and two O.R's see little movement by day on SADDLE area. Reports on bombing very accurate. One officer and 20 O. Rs to go tonight to 961083 to recce and to return 0500 hrs.
- 27th Nov Rain again. Recce patrol N.T.R. Could not scale feature scrub too thick same patrol leaves by day. Poor visibility. Slight enemy shelling near Tac.  
1100 hrs. Our dive bombers again. Very exciting and heartening to watch.  
We patrol from CASPOLI to CAMPO. N.T.R.  
Tac moves 300 yards nearer to road. Carrying party tonight for 2/5th Queens 25 men.  
"A" Coy 3 tonne with 25 men goes over edge of cliff and crashes down several 100 feet while Coy on its way back to Main. One killed and the rest injured some seriously.
- 28th Nov. Recce patrol one officer and 2 O.R's found way round monastery hill up spur from CASPOLI and then right side of monastery peak. No enemy heard.  
1430 hrs. Bde. "O" group.  
1630 hrs. Bn. "O" group. Details now as far as Coy commanders.
- 29th Nov. Brigadier LYNE returns. "C" Coy to remain at Main for one more day.  
1000 hrs. enemy shelling of road about 3/4 mile forward of Tac.  
Patrol of one Section to contact 168 Bde. Support Coy at 971061 leaving 0200 hrs. from left Coy.  
Patrol of 1 officer and two O.R's to PIMPLE'S on right of saddle. Are there any Bosch there if so who.  
1400 hrs. C.O's conference. Fixed timings up with Coy Comdrs and allot tasks for next operations. Still secret.  
1500 hrs. rain again.
- 30th Nov. Patrol returns from pimple's N.T.R. Lt. DAVIES to Bde. as L.O. or to Div as Div. Defence Platoon Cmdr.  
Cloudy damp rain and cold.

D.R. Edwards, Lieut. I.O. 2/6th Queens.

30/11/43

Lt. Colonel A.J. Renshaw, MC  
Commanding, 2/6<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment,