

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

**October 1943**

**Area SARNO 0509477**

- 1st Oct.      0550 hrs. Bn. moves from town (flank guard) and is strung along Rd with head at 498478. TAC at 509497. "A" Coy to move along Ridge to clear enemy O.P's at 495485 and "C" to go through to cover R.E's at 483484.  
1200 hrs. PALMA reported clear of enemy Recce and "C" Coy push on "D" Coy stand by. 14 pln. stop enemy Sappers blowing bridge at 450542.  
1305 TAC and Supporting Arms move forward on PALMA road.  
1400 hrs. Moving to PALMA.  
1420 hrs. TAC at 466516. 2/7th Queens pass through to lead column.  
1830 hrs. Bn. column concentrated S. of PALMA. We appear to be catching up with enemy, now find demolitions lessening NOLA next bound.
- 2nd Oct.      0800 hrs. Bn. waiting to move 2/7th Queens advance into NOLA.  
0920 hrs. Bde. Comdr gives us concentration area South of S. PAOLA.  
0930 hrs. C.O. returns for Bn. I.O. Recces area and awaits harbour party.  
1100 hrs. Bn. moves - rain commences.

**Area 457507.**

1200 hrs. Bn. in concentration area - heavy rain - troops put in houses where possible.  
1245 hrs. C.O. goes forward "C" & "D" & 5 pln. to move N. and N.E. NOLA to form defensive screen against Bosch withdrawing West in front of Americans.  
1320 hrs. Whole Bn. moves N. and E. of NOLA. ---? ----? Left.  
Road and tracks mined and demolitions booby trapped. Patrolling forward by "A" & "D" Coys.  
2310 hrs. "D" inform us that they have contacted 1 Bn. 15 Regt. 3rd Div (Americans) in Main AVELLINO Rd. Bde. Informed.

**Area 452577**

- 3rd Oct.      0745 hrs. Div. Comdr. arrives and invite US with C.O.  
0810 I.O. 1/7th Queens arrives for 131 Bde. future.  
452577 Orders to concentrate West of NOLA.

**Area 419570**

- 1030 hrs. Bn. moves up to main road. TAC at 419590.  
1315 hrs. Slight shelling of area rear of Bn. 2 "D" & 2 "A" Coy wounded.  
1750 hrs. Bn. to move towards ACERRA.
- 4th Oct.      0700 hrs. Bn. move to area airdrome 3257 behind 2/5th who have cleared this area. Ariel O.P's of us and Americans flying around. No sounds of enemy activity some demolition.

Area 325574.

Bn. concentrated at 0820. Little progress owing to demolitions & minds.

- 5th Oct. No move before first light tomorrow. Bn. on internal economy & first houses for some days, most welcome.  
1000 hrs. Bde. "O" Group. Recce to find way round CAPUA.
- 6th Oct. 0830 hrs. Bde. moves with us as rear Bn. Fast progress. "O" Group SANTA MARIA.  
1200 hrs. 2/5th take CAPUA.  
1430 hrs. Bde. concentrated 2/5th Queens South of CAPUA 2/7th S.E. and 2/6th in Reserve at SANTA MARIA 260746.  
1645 hrs. Bn. established conc. area. Day ends? with 169 on objective and 167 to take over tomorrow.
- 7th Oct. First day of rest for Bde. Day of heavy rain 201 Guards take over from 2/7th 167 from 2/5th and we got into houses and barns along the road location CASERTA PALACE (Bde. HQ) and SANTA MARIA. Officers Mess established.
- 8th Oct. Still resting mail arrives and replies written. Visits of small groups to Naples. Rain on and off.
- 9th Oct. 1400 powers Bde. Comdrs. lecture at Palace. summary up of past ops. and hints for future fighting Lt. Edwards to take over as I.O. and Capt. Taylor goes to command "B" Coy gains majority and Capt. Ridings goes to B Echelon as ----?
- 10th Oct. 1700 hrs. Bde. "O" Group. Information that Americans to attack and cross VOLTURNO. Americans on right 56 Div. at CAPUA, 7 Armd. Div. Left, 46 Div. by coastal Sector. 46 Div. to be main thrust.
- 12th Oct. 0900 hrs. Tews on advance Guard for Coy and Pln Comdrs movement.  
2330 hrs. Our Mortars shoot in Support of 167 Bde's attack.
- 13th Oct. 1100 hrs. C.O. goes to hospital. Bn. taken over by Maj. Renshaw.
- 14th Oct. 1830 hrs. Bde. "O" Group. Div. failed to cross by CAPUA.  
2030 hrs Bn. "O" Group. Bn. at 1 hrs. notice to move from 0800 hrs. 15th. ----? to clear north bank of river & to chase enemy north (according to situation) using Americans bridge.
- 15th Oct. 0730 Bn. "O" Group.  
1330 hrs. Bn. move "D" Coy Adv. Guard.  
1520 hrs. Carriers reported at 1st bend. TELFLISCO reported clear by Recce.  
1600 hrs. Carriers in TELFLISCO held up by crater. Bn. established TAC and Coys on line 207814 & 209817 "A" Coy in reserve filling in crater. TAC at 214815.
- 15th 16th "A" & "B" patrols attack enemy area 1881. Lt. Bowen wounded by M.G. and mines. Total fatal casualties one Officer 2 O.R's "B" Coy patrol BELLONA rd. Report it clear and evacuated German positions. Heavy shelling and Mortaring on Bn. area throughout the night several casualties from this and from mines.

- 16th Oct. 0600 Lt. Colonel Kealy resumes Comd. of Bn. "C" Coy to patrol area 1881 and carriers patrol of BELLONA road.  
 0930 hrs. "O" Group. Patrol report fast bend but found mines by road with enemy "M" signs. 1015 hrs. Bn. "O" Group "A" Coy to go through to 184806 and "B" Coy to follow through to main road.  
 1100 hrs. Carrier patrol find out at X roads 192835 by M.G. and 20 mm A/Tk.  
 "A" Coy report now past bend in road. Carrier patrols withdraw & Recce take on that area.  
 1740 hrs. TAC established.  
 2100 hrs. Bde. "O" Group and Bn. "O" Group dawn attack by "D" & "C" with Tanks & 5 Fd. Regts. in Support on X roads in 1842.
- 17th Oct. 0600 hrs. Posn. occupied without opposition. Heavy rain all night and during attack. Guards reported in complete possession of Mt. GRANDE on our right.  
 0700 hrs. Carrier patrol with tanks along main road to canal bridge 165816. Sappers commence clearing roads.  
 1220 hrs. TACK established 187806. Carrier patrol report rd. cratered. Enemy map captured in "D" Coy area showing past and future Defence lines. Noted and sent back to Div. Fire base established with 2/5th up main road North and 2/7th ready to take lead. Bn. in Reserve.

#### Area 187805

- 18th Oct. Bn. ordered to move 0900 – then cancelled as Bde. are to far forward.  
 Bridge to be built over VOLTURNO at CAPUA.  
 1330 hrs. Bde. "O" Group. Bde. to sit astride main road with 2/7th Queens to lead Inf. Div. axis North. 2/7th in area 1286 2/5th at 1285 and awaiting in Reserve.  
 1530 hrs. Bn. moves to take over old 2/7th area.  
 1545 hrs. TAC established 156874.  
 1600 hrs. Guards report mines at MONTICELLO 165567 and civilians report Bosch holding GIANO feature 1459 and woods -----? N.E. from main road 1388.  
 1600 hrs. Latrines erected for Officers – Mosquitoes terrible.  
 1930 hrs. Bde. report 2/5th & 2/7th encountered Mosquitoes in their areas. Bde. Bde. strong point fairly established.  
 Some enemy tanks & A/Tks guns in 2/5th area by rly. Station. We lost 3 tanks. American bridge close to at 2000 hrs.

#### Area 156824.

- 2130 hrs. Bde. "O" Group. Bn. at hrs.' notice to move from 0800 hrs.  
 Bde. to complete job of today depending on Guards getting objective on Right.
- 19th Oct. 0730 hrs. Bn. "O" Group.  
 1115 hrs. Bn. move to occupy pt. 180 and to push one Coy into village CALVI VECCHIA.  
 1500 hrs. Bn. on first location & shelled heavily (28 casualties).  
 Bn. temporarily disorganised – eventually moved to pt. 180 with TAC at 127886. Too dark to send Coy forward at this stage. Food etc. arrived at last.
- 20th Oct. 0600 hrs. Bde. Comd. at 180. B Coy to Patrol CALVI VECCHIA.  
 1200 hrs. Bde. "O" Group rapidly disposed by accurate enemy shelling.  
 1300 hrs. "B" Coy patrol report guns & Mortar positions on opposite bank of wadi CALVI VECCHIA.

1500 hrs. Enemy fighting patrol overrun & kills F.O.O. on 180.  
1 "O" sec. O.P. wounded – 2 enemy ----? Killed, 1 prisoner from H. Goering Div. "D" Coy 2 killed, 1 wounded & 1 missing. Heavy shelling of whole front.  
1530 hrs. Maj. Walford killed by shell. Attack expected?.  
1700 hrs. "B" & "A" moved up & Carriers to right rear flank of TAC.  
We shelled WADI in front of 180 passing through CALVI VECCHIA. Patrols reported movement by M.T. in village & wadi area.

- 21st Oct. 0820 hrs. "A" Coy patrol reported wadi clear.  
0835 hrs. Civilian report village & patrols clear – Demolitions abound in this area. "B" Coy move into CALVI VECCHIA area. On Right L. Scottish take over from Scots Guards.  
"C" Coy to patrol to rd. junc. 095900. "B" Coy met enemy patrol in wadi – 10 missing (subsequently 6 found shot by M.G.) patrol reported.  
0945 hrs. Enemy patrol in Wadi 10 missing "B" Coy. still shooting but 1 Pln. across Wadi.  
1230 1 Pln. "A" Coy. sent to strengthen "B" Coy. "B" call for Arty. on suspected Mortar position beyond C.V.  
PM "B" Coy. contact 2/7th left also patrolled village.  
1430 hrs. Bde. "O" group.  
1530 hrs. 5 "B" Coy missing found dead.  
1545 hrs. Heavy enemy shelling on 2/7th area.
- 22nd Oct. 0600 hrs. Recce parties from London Irish arrive for ----?. "B" Coy. ----?.  
Mortaring on "B" Coy. area.  
1200 hrs. Bde. "O" Group. Lt. Curtis to take his Pln. to next wadi ahead of "B" Coy. "C" Coy. move further down to strengthen "B" Coy. Div. attack by night.
- 23rd Oct. Mr Curtis Pln. comes in. Brigade have reached a 1200 hrs.  
"B" Coy. pulled out to rest. "D" Coy. to area 109876 with 1 Pln. "A" Coy. TAC at 109507 with "C" behind.
- 24th Oct. 0900 hrs. Bde. "O" Group.  
1100 hrs. Bn. to move to take over from Rifle Brigade at pts. 226 & 210 on left of MONTANARO high ground.  
1600 hrs. "D" on pt. 216 "B" on 210 "C" in valley between.  
TAC at 076877, "D" Coy. bring in two P.O.W's from 129 Pz G. During night Coy. patrol forward and around feature no sign of enemy.
- 25th Oct. S----- positions left on 226 and 210 during day 169 Bde. ordered to actively patrol no man's land.  
1200 hrs. "C" Coy. patrol shot at by M.G. at 054881 bridge over railway badly blown here.  
By night "B" Coy. patrolled 130 and 150. Hello
- 26th Oct. 0530 hrs. "C" Coy. patrol to enemy post at 054881 returns having surprised the Boche in their ----? Toilet 2 killed for certain the rest believed suffered?.  
No enemy fire when our patrol exposed itself.  
1430 hrs. Div. concert party presented "Band Waggon" by TAC H.Q. accompanied by our g ---? & the Div. Comdrs. A good time had by all.  
1700 hrs. Bde. Comdrs. Arrived with information that "C" Coy. patrol met up with 2/7 and was shot at by enemy posts in sunken rd. to Westwards of wadi. Swam across at 055890.  
Shelled by Mortars and forced to withdraw after shelling Mortars ----? In his pit. Bren group also arrived and saw Boche.

Area 076877

- 27th Oct. Rained all day.  
1400 hrs. Bde. "O" Group. "C" Squadron to take over Bn. area. 2 Coys of 2/7th crossed River SAVONE and engaged enemy in sunken rd.
- 28th Oct. 0700 Recce parties to ----? All ground leading to TRANZI feature. Polish ----? Stated there were 30 Poles in his Coy ready to desert. "C" Coy move to MONTANARO area as working party for 2/7th.  
1800 hrs. Bde. "O" Group – Maj. Renshaw now in comd.  
2/7th to extend bridgehead and tanks to go through at first light.  
2000 hrs. "B" Coy to patrol wadi to left of crossing at first light.
- 29th Oct. 0600 hrs. Bn. at 1 hrs. notice to move. "C" Coy to patrol to left of wadi & "B" Coy patrol West to bridge 055912 where they found stray enemy post and ???.  
1200 hrs. "C" Coy patrol returns with nothing to report save the finding of two dead Boche. B.M. says no move today.  
1830 hrs. Patrol by "A" Coy to house at 056904? And found nothing.  
2000 hrs. Bn. ordered to provide 200 men for parties to 167 Bde. who were to go through us tonight. Also, to have 1 Coy permanently maintaining Bridge built at 056892.  
2/5th capture 13 P.O.W's.  
2345 hrs. "A" Coy patrol report no sign of enemy.
- 30th Oct. 0700 hrs. Ox & Bucks capture 51 Boche and are reported at TRANZI. Bn. required to provide 200 men as carrying party for 9 R. Fusiliers.
- 31st Oct. 0700 hrs. continue to supply working parties (a) to maintain bridge and to act as parties for 167 Bde. Advance continues well and by 1400 hrs. whole Bn. engaged in carrying forward food & ammunition. Special Advance "A" Echelon H.Q. set up with cools & Adjutant & Signals at 044907. Lt. Frost and Maj. Peet return to Bn. and so we pass to November and this month War Diary closes.

D.R. Edwards,  
Lieut.  
I.O. 2/6th Queen's

Lt. Col. J.B.H. Kealy  
Commanding.